



# The Strongest Man in the World

Louis Cyr was born on October 10, 1863, in a little town near Montreal, Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville. He was a big baby — around 8 kilograms at birth — and he grew up to be a big, powerful, 135-kilogram man. His 61-centimetre biceps were the size of some women's waists, and his 91-centimetre thighs were bigger than the waists of many men.

After he won competitions to determine the strongest man in the United States, and then in Canada, Cyr's fame as the Canadian Hercules began to spread. In his twenties and early thirties he won every strongman and weightlifting competition in Canada and the United States. When he went to London, England, in 1892 and lifted 1652 kilograms on his back and 250 kilograms with one finger, everyone agreed that he was indeed the strongest man in the world.

# Funny Money

For nearly 80 years, starting in 1685, playing cards were as good as gold in Canada. During that time, they were used like money in New France, France's colony in North America back then.

When real money was in short supply, the governor would have some playing cards cut into quarters, and assign each part a value equal to a certain number of French coins. To make them official, the cards were marked with the treasurer's wax seal, and signed by the governor and his intendant or business manager.

When supply ships finally arrived from France with money from the king or from the sale of furs sent back to Europe the year before, people could cash in their card money for the real thing.



## **The Buck Stopped Here**

And speaking of money, it was a chemistry professor working at Montreal's McGill University who came up with the ink the United States chose to print their money with, from 1862 onward. Professor Thomas Sterry Hunt's special green ink couldn't be reproduced by photography, making it almost impossible for forgers to churn out fake "greenbacks," the nickname given to American bills.



## Ice Cream, Anyone?

July 24, 1988, wasn't just another workday for the folks at Palm Dairy in Edmonton, Alberta. Under the watchful eye of supervisor Mike Rogiani they shovelled and shaped 20 313 kilograms of ice cream into a huge mound. Then they ladled on 4404 kilos of syrup, followed by 244 kilos of toppings. *Voilà* — the world's biggest sundae!

DID  
YOU  
KNOW...



... that tornadoes in Canada  
have been known to strip  
the feathers right off chickens  
running around the barnyard?

