

Editor's notes:

There is harmony in autumn,
and a luster in its sky,
Which through the summer is
not heard or seen,
as if it could not be,
as if it had not been!

-- Percy Shelley

This month is named after the Latin word "septem," meaning "seven." September was the seventh month until 700 B.C.E. when Roman king Numa Pompilius switched from a 304-day calendar to a 355-day lunar calendar.

Here are a few dates to reflect on this month:

Labour Day, September 3 -- According to the International Labor Organization, a United Nations agency, Americans put in the most hours among workers in industrialized countries, logging an average of 1,966 hours a year. Australians, Canadians, the Japanese, and Mexicans work roughly 100 hours less than their American counterparts.

125th Anniversary of electric lighting, September 4 -- In 1882, three years after Thomas Edison demonstrated his first incandescent light bulb, he established the first commercial power station. It provided light and electricity to nearly 60 customers in a one-square-mile area in lower Manhattan.

Toronto International Film Festival, September 6 -15 -- For more than 30 years, Toronto has hosted this event to showcase Canadian films. Last year, it showed more than 350 films in 23 theatres; nearly 300,000 people attended.

International Literacy Day, September 8 -- This day is sponsored by the United Nations to recognize that there are roughly 1 billion illiterate adults worldwide. The United Nations believes that the ability to read and write promotes community and economic development and is fundamental to social progress.

Anniversary of the Discovery of the Pacific Ocean, September 25 -- In 1513, 494 years ago, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean. While living in Panama, natives told him of a vast ocean to the west. After a 25-day trek through the jungle, Balboa spotted the Pacific, which he deemed the South Sea.

"Henderson scores for Canada!" -- The most famous day in the history of hockey did not occur in the depths of winter, but on a warm fall day, 35 years ago. On September 28,

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1972, Paul Henderson scored the winning goal in the first summit hockey championship. He did it with 34 seconds left in the game between Team Canada and the Soviet Union. Final score: 6-5.

When Henderson scored the winning goal, Canada went crazy. People ran out into the streets, embraced total strangers, shouted and danced. Paul Henderson became a hockey hero. Coming as it did in the depths of the Cold War, the championship meant more to Canada than just hockey; the series became a rallying point for Canadian nationalism.

Fall begins September 23

The autumnal equinox occurs on September 23 this year, ushering in a new season. The equinoxes (both autumnal -- fall, and vernal -- spring) mark the points in the year when the sun crosses the equator, so that every place on earth experiences an equal amount of daylight and darkness. The equinoxes have been observed and celebrated for thousands of years and have significance for many different cultures.

Evidence suggests that ancient Britons built Stonehenge to determine the spring and fall equinoxes and the winter and summer solstices.

Christians celebrate Michaelmas, in honour of the Archangel Michael, shortly after the autumnal equinox. In the Middle Ages, it was a time of great feasting.

After the French Revolution, from 1793 to 1805, the Republicans' new calendar placed New Year's Day on the autumnal equinox.

In England today, people celebrate Harvest Festival near the date of the full moon that occurs closest to the equinox. They sing, pray, and decorate churches with baskets of fruit and food.

Autumnal Equinox Day is a Japanese national holiday, when people mark the change of the seasons and pay respects to deceased family members.

"Autumn Leaves" is a much-recorded popular song. Originally a 1945 French song "Les feuilles mortes" ("The Dead Leaves") with music by Joseph Kosma and lyrics by poet Jacques Prévert, English lyrics were written in 1949 by the American songwriter Johnny Mercer. It has become a pop standard and a jazz standard in both languages.

The film *Autumn Leaves* (1956) starring Joan Crawford featured the song, sung by Nat King Cole over the title sequence.

Quotable Quotes:

The mind is like the stomach. It is not how much you put into it that counts but how much it digests. -- *Albert Nock*

A society that gets rid of all its troublemakers goes downhill. -- *Robert Heinlein*

Not being able to govern events, I govern myself. -- *Michel de Montaigne*

History of the lottery

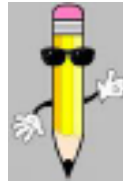
Lotteries have been around for a surprisingly long time. According to the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, they were used to finance construction of the Great Wall of China in 100 B.C.E. In 1567, Queen Elizabeth I, started one of the first English state lotteries, offering 400,000 tickets to win cash, tapestries, and precious metals. In 1612, a lottery was used to help finance the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, and the Continental Congress ran a lottery to help fund the American Revolution.

During the late 1700s and early 1800s, a number of states ran lotteries to finance the construction of hospitals, courthouses, and libraries; but, as corruption increased, many states began to ban them.

However, as cash-strapped governments everywhere saw the potential to raise funds without raising taxes, more and more got into the game. Today, every Canadian province, 42 U.S. states, and the District of Columbia offer government-operated lotteries. In 2005, U.S. lottery sales totalled more than \$50 billion, and Canadian sales topped \$8 billion.

The largest jackpot so far was \$365 million in a 2006 Powerball lottery, operated by the Multi-State Lottery Association, won by eight co-workers at a Lincoln, Nebraska, food processing plant.

Sharpen Your #2 Pencils *The Parable of the Pencil*



The pencil maker took the pencil aside just before putting him in the box. "There are five things you need to know before I send you out into the world," he told the pencil. "Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be."

- 1 *You will be able to do many great things but only if you allow yourself to be put into some one's hand.*
- 2 *You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.*
- 3 *You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.*
- 4 *The most important part of you will always be on the inside.*
- 5 *On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.*

Question of the Month



According to the National Football league Players Association, what is the average annual salary and length of career for most professional football players?

- A. \$950,000/four seasons
- B. \$1.1 million/three and a half seasons
- C. \$2.3 million/seven seasons

Answer: B

Labour Day Quiz

Can you match these items to the appropriate professional?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. toenail clippers | A. ornithologist |
| 2. rocks | B. optometrist |
| 3. file cabinet | C. meteorologist |
| 4. telescope | D. ichthyologist |
| 5. fishnet | E. geologist |
| 6. rare stamp | F. lexicographer |
| 7. fossil | G. horticulturist |
| 8. contact lenses | H. astronomer |
| 9. seeds | I. podiatrist |
| 10. rain gauge | J. philatelist |
| 11. dictionary | K. archivist |
| 12. birdcall | L. archaeologist |

Answers: 1I; 2E; 3K; 4H; 5D; 6J; 7L; 8B; 9G; 10C; 11F; 12A