

The last gasp

Number of Christmas tree farms in Canada: 4077
Number of trees produced annually on these farms: 4.5 million
Total cash receipts from Canada's Christmas tree industry, 1999: \$71 million
Weight of press releases received by *CMAJ*'s news and features editor from Jan. 1 to Nov. 9, 2000: 78 pounds (35.5 kg)
Distance covered by the 950 000-plus patient files stored at University Hospital, Laval, Que.: 6 to 7 km
Thickest file: 21 folders
Time needed to accumulate thickest file: 5 years
Date on oldest file: 1970
Average per capita distance travelled by Canadians in 1995: 17 000 km
Proportion of Canadian air travel going through Toronto's Pearson International Airport: 40%
Number of police-reported cases of air rage at Pearson in 1998: 256
In 1999: 283
Number of visitors to Quebec City during Winter Carnival: 1 million
Number of visitors to New Orleans during Mardi Gras: 8 million
Population of Quebec City: 700 000
Population of New Orleans: 500 000
Average daytime temperature in New Orleans in February: 18°C
In Quebec City: -6°C
Number of lights strung in downtown Ottawa as part of the "Christmas Lights Across Canada" program: 150 000
Number of these lights strung on Parliament Hill: 20 000
Number of lights strung on the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center, New York: 26 000
Number of calories a 180-lb person would have to ingest daily to match the caloric intake of a hummingbird: 204 300
Proportion of Canadian men who are obese: 35.2%
Proportion of women: 25.8%
Proportion of Canadians who believe their nutritional habits could improve: 39%
Total value of snack foods (potato chips, etc.) shipped by Canadian snack-food manufacturers in a year: \$1 billion
Total value of Canadian greenhouse vegetable production, 1996: \$221 million
Per capita consumption of cranberries (processed and fresh) in Canada, 1966: 0.11 kg
In 1996: 0.76 kg
Proportion of Canadian students accessing the Internet from school: 78%
Proportion of US students: 59%
Proportion of students in urban China: 13%
Estimated number of Internet users worldwide, April 2000: 300 million
Number of Internet users worldwide who have made purchases online: 120 million
Proportion of Canadian Internet users worried about releasing personal information when they make online purchases: 80%
Number of units of blood required to treat the average gunshot wound: 15
For heart bypass surgery: 1 to 6
For brain aneurysms: 4
Annual loss to Canada's economy from unintentional injuries: \$8.7 billion
Loss due to health care costs: \$4.2 billion
Due to lost workplace productivity: \$4.5 billion
Proportion of Canadian parents who consider their homes to be childproof: 91%
Proportion of same parents who do not lock up potentially deadly household cleaning products: 55%
Proportion of Canadians who take nutritional supplements to avoid illness: 63%
Proportion of Canadians who, given the opportunity, would like to live forever: 24%
Proportion of men who would take a drug to double their lifespan, despite serious side effects: 14%
Proportion of women who would take the drug: 6%

These data were compiled by Shelley Martin, physician survey analyst with the CMA's Research Directorate.