

Did You Know? – Perils of Persephone Edition

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Play Author Dan Needles

Grew up taking care of cows on a farm near Rosemont Ontario and spent a year working on a dairy farm with sheep in Australia. He also worked in a sawmill in British Columbia and spent time tending bar and picking crops in England and France.

[Biography of Dan Needles – Dan Needles Author and Playwright](#)

Curie

Mary Curie is the only woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize twice. Curie won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911 for her discovery of radium and plutonium. Previously, she was one of three scientists who shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of spontaneous radioactivity. She died at the age of 66 from a blood disease that is often associated with overexposure to large amounts of radiation.

[Marie Curie – Biographical - NobelPrize.org](#)

Ontario Fossils

Fossils in the Ottawa Valley region date back to between 485 million and 445 million years ago when the region was located near the Equator.

[Fossils of Ontario Guide | Mining Matters](#)

Wolly Mammoth

Mammoths once roamed Southern Ontario and had tusks that could be up to four metres long and weigh over one hundred kilograms each (13 feet and over 220 pounds).

[Ice Age Mammals - Woolly Mammoth — Canada \(Ontario\) Beneath Our Feet](#)

Artificial Insemination (AI)

The first calf conceived through Artificial Insemination was born in 1936 at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. Since then, over 1.7 million AI calves have been born.

[EastGen](#)

Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP)

Ontario maintains a Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan to be activated in the highly unlikely even of a nuclear emergency. The plan includes the transportation of radioactive materials.

[PNERP Implementing Plan for Other Radiological Emergencies | ontario.ca](#)

Tritium

Tritium is used in exit signs, emergency lighting in buildings and on airport runways. It is used as a tracer in medical research related to heart disease, cancer and AIDS. Tritium levels are closely monitored and do not pose a health risk, including near nuclear facilities.

[Tritium in drinking water](#)

Nuclear waste transport containers

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission requires that containers used to transport nuclear waste be able to survive, completely in tact, the combined effects of “a 9-metre drop onto an unyielding surface, a 30-minute thermal test at 800 °C, and immersion in 15 metres of water for 1 hour without a breach of containment.”

[Transportation of radioactive waste](#)

“beside the Shalimar.”

The Shalimar Gardens were built in 1641 in modern-day Pakistan as a royal retreat for Emperor Shah Jahan. It represented a heaven on earth and was declared a World Heritage Site in 1981. Over its approximate 40 acres there are 410 fountains and continues to be a major tourist attraction.

[Shalimar Gardens: History, Architecture & Preservation Of Lahore's Mughal Masterpiece](#)

Spin Doctor

The term Spin Doctor was first used in the *New York Times* in 1984 and refers to individuals who specialise in presenting issues in a positive way, even if the circumstances indicate otherwise. They are known to be able to influence public opinions and is usually associated with politics, business and advertising.

[spin doctor: Idiom Meaning and Origin - The Village Idiom](#)

Fast Breeder Reactors

Fast Breeder Reactors convert uranium to plutonium to produce energy to generate electricity. The technology was first developed in the United States in 1951. Beginning in the 1960s, Russia, China, India and Japan built and operated Fast Breeder Reactor facilities.

[Breeder reactor | Description, History, & Types | Britannica](#)