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North Muskoka Edition Feb. 4 – Feb. 18, 2026

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At Easy Reader, we believe communities thrive when neighbours support neighbours. That's why our publication is dedicated to showcasing the businesses that shape our streets, shops, and shared stories. Reach engaged local readers who want to shop close to home — and want to discover you.

For advertising possibilities please contact
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THE SWEET GRANDMOTHER

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Michael's Hospital. She timidly asked "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?" OPERATOR - I'll be glad to help dear, What's the name and room number of the patient?

GRANDMOTHER - Gertrude Collins Room 369

OPERATOR - Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room.

After a few minutes the operator returned to the phone

OPERATOR - I have good news - Her nurse just told me that Gertrude is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine, her blood test just came back normal and her Physician Dr. Mellish has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow.

GRANDMOTHER - Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news.

OPERATOR - You're more than welcome. Is Gertrude your daughter?

GRANDMOTHER - No, I'm Gertrude Collins in Room 369 and it's hard to get any answers until now. Thanks again.

OLYMPICS WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble the Winter Olympics sports listed below?

Answers on back page.

- ① RNIUCGL
- ② YOEHKC
- ③ EELTOSNK
- ④ IBAHOTLN
- ⑤ TSANKGI
- ⑥ GBIBHSEOL
- ⑦ DSWOAONBR
- ⑧ GIS KJMUNPI



TRYING YOUR BEST

Jerry was sitting on the edge of the bed, observing his wife, looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off he asked what she'd like to have for her Birthday.

"I'd like to be six again", she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her Birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Fruit Loops, and then took her to Canada's Wonderland. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Behemoth, Leviathan, and finishing up with a go on the SlingShot. Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake.

Then it was off to a movie, popcorn, a bottle of pop, and her favorite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well Dear, what was it like being six again?" Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. "Jerry!" she exclaimed, "I meant my dress size!"

Every one has their own point of view.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. How many continents are there?
2. What gas do humans need to breathe to survive?
3. What is the capital of France?
4. Which ocean is the smallest?
5. What color are emeralds?
6. How many days are in a leap year?
7. What animal is known as the "Queen of the Jungle"?
8. What planet is known as the Red Planet?
9. How many zeros are in a quintillion?
10. What movie won the 2026 Golden Globes award

Answers on back page

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Energy builds steadily this week, pushing you toward action. Think before reacting, especially in conversations.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) A practical decision brings lasting comfort and peace of mind. Trust what feels stable rather than rushed.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20) Conversations open doors you didn't expect. Stay curious and follow up quickly.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22) Home and emotional security take priority. Small adjustments make a big difference.

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22) Be more direct with those you work with. Don't circle around the point, tell things as they really are.

Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22) Confidence grows when you focus on progress, not applause. Lead by example.

Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22) Details matter more than usual this week. Slowing down improves results.

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21) Balance returns when you address what you've been avoiding. Honest dialogue clears tension.

Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21) Your instincts are sharp and reliable now. Trust them in financial or personal matters.

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19) Structure restores control and reduces stress. Stick to what works.

Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18) Creative thinking breaks you out of routine. A new idea deserves attention.

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20) Rest brings clarity and emotional renewal. Protect your energy.

INTERPRETING DREAMS

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight." he said.

That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it - to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams."

BROTHERS CAN BE SO KIND

Eddie is learning how to play the violin. "I'm good, don't you think?" he asks his big brother Jim. "You should be on the radio" was Jim's reply. "Wow! You really think I'm that good!" exclaims Eddie. "No, but at least if you were on the radio I could switch you off."

MISTAKEN PATIENT

A man walks into a pharmacy and asks an assistant if she can give him something for the hiccups.

The Assistant promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asks.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore do you?" says the assistant.

The man replies "No, but my wife does, and she's outside in the car."

THAT'S ONE WAY OF CREATING MORE PARKING



Olympics Word Scramble Answers

1. CURLING	4. BIATHLON	7. SNOWBOARD
2. HOCKEY	5. SKATING	8. SKI JUMPING
3. SKELETON	6. BOBSLEIGH	How did you do?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

How come you never see a headline like...

"Psychic Wins Lottery." Jay Leno

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ANSWERS

1. Steven	5. Green
2. Oxygeen	4. Arctic Ocean
3. Paris	9. 18
7. The Lioness	8. Mars
6. 366	10. Hammet

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