

My Journey to Queen City

by Negrone

My journey to Toronto to join fellow puzzlers was quite interesting. Let me tell you about the last segment in my own cryptic way.

Answers come in two flavors: Lines and Jaunts. Every Line is completed with two answers placed next to each other, in the order that they appear. Every Jaunt begins in its numbered cell, moves in any direction, and makes any number of 90 degree turns (including zero) on the way to its terminus in a cell marked with an x. The Jaunts do not cross, and all of the cells are used up.

The rules:

Odd Combination: 15 Jaunt clues have a word that must be altered in a manner to be determined before you solve them. When the alteration procedure is said a certain way, it will describe what I did at my journey's origin, and strangely also be evocative of my destination. The first letters of these clues as written, in order, spell out, generally and appropriately, where I ended up.

Westward: In honor of my westward travel, 7 Line clue answers must be entered into the grid backwards (one entry is a proper noun). The last letters of these clues, in reverse clue order, spell out my journey's origin.

Did you know that Toronto has many nicknames? In addition to the one in the title, the final four rules are named after four additional nicknames, as follows:

416: Remove the 4th, 1st, and 6th letters (and whitespace/punctuation) from one word or phrase in 4 Jaunt clues before solving. The 4 letter triplets that are removed, in clue order (the letters within the triplets themselves can be in any order), name a stop on my journey.

Toronto the Good: A word in each of 9 Line clues needs to have the letter G prepended before solving. If the word to which the G is prepended is the *n*th word in the clue, circle the *n*th letter from the start of the clue, as written. The circled letters, in clue order, spell out another stop on my journey

T-Dot: Kill the middle letters of a word or word combination (and any whitespace/punctuation) in 12 Line clues and replace them with the letter T before solving (at least 3 letters will be replaced). Each of the T replacements will give you a piece of information hinted at by the rule name; these will, in clue order and in groupings of equal length, give you another reference to Toronto.

The Six: Each of 10 Jaunt clues has a word where the sixth letter of one word must be replaced by a different letter before solving. In honor of the six former cities that merged to become modern Toronto, the sixth letters of these clues as written, in clue order, spell out one more stop on my journey.

That leaves 4 unaltered Jaunt clues. The first letters of each of these clues, in clue order, spell a word that describes my journey.

Once you fill in the grid, it can be regarded as a map of my journey. The origin can be found in the lower right corner of an appropriate square of cells. Feel free to outline this square as a rough representation of the larger area around my journey's origin. A visual representation of my journey can be found, mapped out by letters, with each letter after the origin representing one of 20 stops along the way, including the destination stop (one letter is technically two stops, but it's essentially the same). The letters of the stops only (so *not* including the origin), spell out my mode of transport. My journey can move up, down, left, right, or in any diagonal direction as it goes from stop to stop, based on actual approximate direction. I suggest highlighting the journey to clearly mark it. Once you figure out which stop each letter represents, the 3 stops you learned about from the rules above, in rule order, spell another word to describe my journey, given the mode of transport.

Now that you know my journey in detail, it's time to get to the royalty alluded to in the title. First, the intro text to the nickname rules, and the text of those rules, hide the name of a famous person from Toronto who is associated with one of the nicknames. Not all are thrilled with the nickname, but some would certainly consider this person royalty, at least in their genre.

Next, start in Toronto on the map and trace out the name of a beloved famous person associated with Toronto, using the same rules of movement as my journey (this journey crosses itself) and using only cells in a square of cells. Feel free to outline the resulting square as a rough representation of the larger Toronto metropolitan area. Up through the middle of the square is a fitting farewell to such royalty.

Finally, start with the appropriate farewell phrase, composed of the farewell word followed by the name you traced, and replace the farewell word with the rule answer that the person is most closely associated with. Remove whitespace from that new phrase and apply all of the alterations performed in the six rules, in order, to get another famous person associated with this region, who is considered by many here the greatest royalty short of the Queen herself.

I hope you enjoyed my journey!

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|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| A | | x | | | | x | 1 | | | x | | |
| B | 2 | | | x | | x | 3 | | | | | |
| C | | 4 | | 5 | | | 6 | x | | x | | |
| D | 7 | | | 8 | 9 | | 10 | | | x | | |
| E | | 11 | | x | | x | 12 | 13 | | | | |
| F | | x | | 14 | 15 | x | | | | 16 | 17 | |
| G | 18 | x | | 19 | | | | | | | x | |
| H | | | 20 | 21 | | | 22 | | | | 23 | |
| I | | | | | | x | | x | x | 24 | x | |
| J | | | | 25 | x | x | x | | 26 | x | | x |
| K | | | | | x | 27 | | x | | x | 28 | |
| L | x | x | | | | | | x | | | | |
| M | 29 | | | | | 30 | 31 | | | 32 | | |
| N | x | | x | x | | | | 33 | | | x | |

Lines

- A** At one on outside, established pregnancy (9)
Dope captures California with less kick (5)
- B** Monsoon-porous magical creature is badger in India (6)
Do away with a door, letting in partial owner (8)
- C** Town in mountains of Switzerland with round chaplain lacking interest (7)
Upset communist holds breathing bear (7)
- D** Adaptive skier Monte who medaled in Slalom and S Ho, head of fancy hotel in Davos (8)
Coils of yarn? Weaving posse, unfinished, admitted spinning length zero (6)
- E** Career-useful haul at Amazon (7)
Cat's fat, eating mysql-query writer from behind (7)
- F** Creature I'm bisecting excessively orderly (6)
Damsel or Bust in Terrick—Stories of a Nobleman (8)
- G** Tiberian II worried I have ambition (10)
Sense knife and needle tips - ow! (4)
- H** Mega-seller in Jersey City real estate group (7)
Root for Mama Ardner (7)
- I** Singer declared health club as vital energy that animates the body (3 5)
Moves plant for attorneys accepting overtime (6)
- J** United Airlines net-surfing pocket with not a single thing in Spanish for North American region (3/6)
Track Utah-copper penny (5)
- K** Mirrors disturbed seers ripping nude emblem (9)
Person not available for gift from heaven (5)
- L** Recorded folks in Mexico losing ram and embarrassed (7)
Fantastic ear tat of sailboat race (7)
- M** Taco-chile process the Spanish found in snorkeling area retreats (6)
Coach approaches Howie Mandel in bar area for unlimited speed (8)
- N** Son to sneak around for Tribune reading decks of cards (6)
Imperious Rowling creature (male) with a tremor (8)

Jaunts

- 1** Gave reception about ACA having many functions (7)
- 2** Perturbation of silver ion source with positron initially rejected (9)
- 3** Ruler in France held gala for soprano Lisa Marie (6)
- 4** Swiss hero in ski racing informally regrets medical test while wearing medal (6)
- 5** Moor Church beheaded Iranian (5)
- 6** An action word is driven by components (4)
- 7** Enthusiasm in Meg's novela collections (8)
- 8** Apod in the underworld, where energy is unlimited source (4)
- 9** Tangled forest without end near Crimea is providing assistance (2 7)
- 10** Wound John aped (6)
- 11** Learned literary society of California left Los Angeles (4)
- 12** Washington's eighty after dreadful, slowed lawless period in the 19th century (3 4)
- 13** Hang, mostly in Spain, with small companions on dude ranch, perhaps (5)
- 14** In fort containing energy, great rains flooded proposed telecommunications network (8)
- 15** Israelite priest with a high grade roan (5)
- 16** Throaty sound from farm near North Korea, e.g. (4)
- 17** Unassertive rakes broker (5)
- 18** Extract from strait: jurel's tear (6)
- 19** Element 22: Alatar star pattern headwear (5)
- 20** Oakwood hub with iron in German town in Brandenburg (6)
- 21** Near Toronto, university with 1,000 country awards starts to tell everyone around (8)
- 22** Objectively promptly, on the internet, Scandinavian Airlines going after AA (4)
- 23** Nova's occurrence somewhat related to vessels (4-)
- 24** Repressed, hoarse, sometimes embracing new (4)
- 25** Green, large item in Baroque conceit, perhaps switching out long entrance for echo (5)
- 26** Thoughtful piece of entertainment following saga (4)
- 27** *Abe Flat*, a KCA broadcast favorite in England (5 3)
- 28** Dense island with soul, despite endless brown (9)
- 29** Stunt force devout (4)
- 30** Ghanaian dish with beans, ginger, and cherry (3 3)
- 31** Having self-start power, gold tomcat moved without AI (9)
- 32** Seat of judges' bar at Colorado capitol (4)
- 33** Unwin novel's twist: stodger with head of small lice (3'1 4)