



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
April 2016 Volume 11, Issue 8

March's meeting

It was nice to see a few faces that haven't been out for a little while ... which made March's meeting a lot of fun!

Mark Hogan started things off with a Bill Goldman Nest-of-Boxes mentalism effect. A large envelope was shown, and a spectator named a letter of the alphabet which was written on a Post-It note and stuck to his chest. The envelope contained another envelope the spectator's choice of a number was stuck to his hand. Inside that envelope was a deck of cards where a final selection was made. Inside the deck was a drawing of a person holding the selected card and the number, with the letter written on his shirt!

He also showed a combination of two different effects – a card selection was made and the cards were wrapped in a rubber band and tossed into a clear bag. The magician failed to find the card, but later found the card stuck to the back of his hand by the rubber band.

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, April 13

Time: 7:30 PM

Topic: ROUND ROBIN!

**Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
T-253**

Next up was **Domenic St. Jacques** with some excellent card tricks. A spectator deals cards into two piles and selected one – which happened to match a card sticking out of his wallet the entire time! He also took a shuffled deck, took out a prediction, and showed the spectator their selection. The spectator spelled the value of their selection and there was another card of the same value. Then the next card also matched the value – which also matched the value of the prediction!

Dom also wrote a prediction on a business card and had a pile of cards selected from the deck and a selection made. Dom correctly predicted both the number of cards in the pile as well as the selection!

And **Greydon Gilmore** impressed everyone with a coin effect where the spectator put a coin in his hand and was able to determine which hand it was in – time and time again – and finished by correctly stating if it was heads or tails!

Thanks for those who came out and shared their magic!

Mark Hogan

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to:

magic_london@yahoo.ca

April's Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 13
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Beal Secondary School
T-253

TOPIC: ROUND ROBIN

The idea is simple – we go around the table to each person & they present anything they have or can think of. We keep going until we run out of tricks ... or collapse from exhaustion.

Bring anything you have that you want to share ... and as many of them as you like ... or just do something impromptu that comes into your head. Everyone gets their chance to shine ... and we all get to see a LOT of magic.

We've done this a few times now and it seems to be working really well. Dust off some tried-and-true effects or demo something you've never done ... we'd love to see them all!

News Of Interest



CAMaraderie 2016 in Quebec City

Artists include **Jeff McBride, Christian Schenk, Shin Lim, Shawn Farquhar, Matthew Bich, Vincent Hedan, Luc Langevin, Yannick Lacroix, Marc Trudel, Michel Huot,** and **Marion & Ted Outerbridge.**

Package deal includes:

- 8 world-class lectures
- 2 shows
- 1 magic competition (stage and close up)
- 1 competition winners show
- 1 world class Gala Show at the Capitoile de Québec
- And more...

Rooms are available at the *Hotel Chateau Laurier* (the CAMaraderie hotel) for \$119 per night (single or double occupancy) + \$20 parking.

CAMaraderie is alive and well once again. The 2016 CAMaraderie is being held in beautiful Quebec City next April so now is a good time to start planning to attend. There is lots to see and do in Quebec City. The crown jewel of French Canada, Québec City is one of North America's oldest and most magnificent settlements. Its picturesque Old Town is a *UNESCO World Heritage site*, a living museum of narrow cobblestone streets, 17th- and 18th-century houses and soaring church spires, with the splendid Château Frontenac towering above it all. There's more than a glimmer of Old Europe in its classic bistros, sidewalk cafes and manicured squares.

You can get a taste of the city in a single day, but linger at least a weekend if you can. The city's compact size makes it ideal for walking, and it shines brightest when you slow down. The main focus of your visit will be CAMaraderie but try to include the *Old Town*, split between the Old Upper Town (Haute Ville), perched above the St Lawrence River on the Cap Diamant cliffs, and the Old

Lower Town (Basse Ville), where **Samuel de Champlain** established the first French foothold in 1608. The Old Town is packed with museums, mansard-roofed houses and cobblestone streets just begging to be explored.

Outside the walls, through the historic town gates of *Porte St-Louis* and *Porte St-Jean*, four additional neighbourhoods are easily accessible: *St-Jean Baptiste*, *Colline Parlementaire*, *Montcalm* and *St-Roch*, each boasting wonderful restaurants, shopping and nightlife. Also noteworthy are the vast Plains of Abraham, where the British defeated the French in 1759; nowadays enshrined as a national park, this area offers superb recreational opportunities. Québec City goes to great lengths to entertain visitors.

All summer long, musicians, acrobats and actors in period costume take to the streets, while fantastic festivals fill the air with fireworks and song. The annual Quebec City Magic Festival will be taking place at the same time as CAMaraderie so there will be lots of magic to enjoy. Just look at the line-up of performers scheduled to be a part of the great event: Our very own **Shawn Farquahar**, past president of the *Canadian Association of Magicians* and also of the *International Brotherhood of Magicians*. **Shin Lim**, participant in this year's FISM competition in Rimi, Italy who tied for first in Card Magic and representing Canada; **Christian Schenk**, creator of the *Phoenix Deck*; **Harry Allen**, magic purveyor; **Mathieu Bich** and **Vincent Hedan**. The Quebec team has planned great workshops, great performances, great dealers, and first and foremost great CAMaraderie.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Set the dates aside and plan to be there. Did we mention the dates. They are April 21 to April 24 in Quebec City. We have a great venue right near the parliament buildings. It's a close walk to Old Town. You should plan to make that a part of your visit to Quebec City. Once again set the dates aside and plan to attend. This will be the highlight of your year.

To register, go to <http://www.festivaldemagie.ca/>

Texas congressman declares magic as a ‘national treasure’

(MSNBC.com)

Rep. **Pete Sessions** is skeptical of global warming and says big government is a waste — but he believes in the power of magic.

The conservative Texas Republican introduced a House resolution this week that would officially recognize magic as a “rare and valuable art form and national treasure.”

Dropping the names of magicians like **Harry Houdini** and **David Copperfield** and referencing writer **Arthur C. Clarke** and artist **Leonardo da Vinci**, Sessions’ resolution declares that magic needs to be “preserved, understood, and promulgated.”

And it ticks off several reasons why any opposition to “*H. Res. 642*” should be made to disappear.

“Whereas magic is an art form with the unique power and potential to impact the lives of all people; Whereas magic enables people to experience the impossible; Whereas magic is used to inspire and bring wonder and happiness to others; Whereas magic has had a significant impact on other art forms,” the resolution states.

Sessions also mentions **Eric Hogue**, a former professional clown who is now mayor of Wylie, Texas, and “who learned the art of magic as a child, continues to use those skills to teach elementary school students about the different roles and responsibilities of local government.”

One of the most conservative members of Congress, Sessions has tried before to get magic officially recognized as an art form, Politico reported.

But so far he’s not been able to pull that legislative rabbit out of a hat.



Tom Mullica 1948-2016

(MagicCompass.com)

The Magic Compass has just confirmed that **Tom Mullica** passed away on February 18. Tom had gone into the hospital for a routine hernia operation and due to complications, blood clots formed and he had multiple strokes. He was placed into a medically induced coma after he suffered organ failure and finally on February 18th he was taken off life support.

Tom Mullica born in Waupun, Wisconsin on August 19, 1948 and was a comedy magician and impressionist who performed on television specials, and appeared on television many times including *Late Night with David Letterman*, *World's Greatest Magic*, *Viva Variety*, *Penn & Teller's Sin City*.

In 1984 Tom was awarded \$5,000 cash for winning the *Siegfried & Roy Golden Lion Award* at the *Magic Desert Seminar* in Las Vegas. He also performed at the *Just for Laughs Comedy Festival* and countless other magic conventions. At many of these conventions Tom would team up with **Karrel Fox** and Duke Stern and perform routines that could only be appreciated by other magicians.

Tom Mullica also toured the US and Canada with *RED – A Performance Tribute*, a **Red Skelton** Tribute show which Tom wrote and stars in as Red Skelton and his characters. RED is the only Red Skelton tribute show authorized by the Red Skelton Estate. In July 2013 Tom helped dedicate the *Red Skelton Museum & Education Center*. Here is part of Tom's Red Skelton Tribute Act.

At the time of Tom's Death, he and **Jon Racherbaumer** were finishing his memoir about his long and fascinating relationship with Red Skelton. The book was to include anecdotes about Red's family, the *Red Skelton Performing Arts Center*, and the *Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy* in Red's hometown of Vincennes, Indiana. At this time, we do not know that status of that book.

Tom was one of the very best, the funniest and most the unique magicians of our time. His act was not like anyone else's. Many nights at his *Tom-Foolery* nightclub in Atlanta, he would perform only 4 magic tricks over the course of a 90-minute show. He was known for taking 20 minutes or more just to find a spectator's chosen card. Here is an edited clip from one of those shows at Tom-Foolery in Atlanta. This was filmed in 1984.

<https://youtu.be/UNWtvYA7tUs>

In addition to being an incredible magician and hilarious comic he also worked with his sidekick *Duke* performing a ventriloquist act. In this video Tom is bringing Duke out of retirement.

In 1988 Tom performed his cabaret cigarette act at *FISM* at *The Hague*.



Dynamo phone trick goes wrong

(NewsWeek.com)

Magician **Dynamo** was probably left wishing he could disappear in a puff of smoke when one of his magic tricks went horribly wrong on Wednesday. And to make matters worse, it all aired on live TV.

The Bradford-born star, real name **Steven Frayne**, invited two members of the audience at *The O2* in London to join him onstage for the trick, in which he makes a mobile phone appear inside a glass bottle.

Fan Tom reluctantly offered up his phone, but when it came time for the stunt's big climax, the phone ringing inside the bottle, there were crickets in the arena.

"I hope you've got signal in there, mate," Dynamo joked as Tom's friend tried to call his stubbornly silent phone.

As the seconds slowly passed, feeling more like minutes, he added: "It's a live magic show people, anything could happen."

Indeed.

If it wasn't bad enough that the 33-year-old's trick fell flat in front of a sell-out crowd of 20,000 fans, U.K. channel *W* was airing the entire show live—meaning many more at home were left disappointed.

Twitter lit up with bemused responses to the stunt gone wrong, though many rightly pointed out that Dynamo did manage to get the phone in the glass bottle in the first place.

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Concept by: Steve Seguin

The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magicians Guild.

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