

2023/2024 Club Membership Dues are now due!!

Please bring your **\$40** membership renewal dues to the next meeting, or send an Internet e-Transfer to magic_london@yahoo.ca



Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community
November 2023 Volume 17, Issue 3

October's meeting

When this October rolled around, we "brought out the scary" and turned our attention to *Halloween magic!*

Andrew Olmstead lead off by showing us his *skeleton key* presentation for both adults and kids. He also performed a card routine for **Leonardo Martins** where he revealed the card in his native Portuguese!

Al Coombs performed his *Card thru Handkerchief* routine and **Peter Mennie** helped him via **Mark Wilson's** famous version.

Mark Hogan showed an **Other Brothers** routine where two spectators exchanged taking shots where one of the shot glasses contained acid! (No worries – fortunately no one drank the acid!)

Steve Seguin brought out a *voodoo doll* and performed a *voodoo card trick* where a selection was turned face up and its mate was also found face up; then the selection was torn and the mate was found torn; then the selection was burned and the selection was found burned! Her also presented **David Regal's** *Long and Short of It*, where 4 pieces of coloured wood seemed to change size right before our eyes!

Next Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 8

Time: 7:00 PM

Topic: FORCES AND REVEALS!

**Location: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

It was a fun (and scary) evening – thanks to everyone who attended!

Mark Hogan

November's Meeting

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DATE: Wednesday, NOVEMBER 8

TIME: 7:00 PM

**PLACE: Beal Secondary School
525 Dundas Street, London
Room 253**

TOPIC: FORCES AND REVEALS!

Back by popular demand! What your favorite forces and reveals? And not just with cards – we're talking *non-card* forces and reveals as well. Anything you use to force a spectator to select a card, a number, a person, an item, ... anything! ... and then reveal their "selection" in a cool way.

Bring your favourite forces and reveals to the November meeting – we'd love to see them!

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks!

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

magic_london@yahoo.ca

News Of Interest



Browser's Den of Magic

Canada's Oldest Magic Shop



Browser's Den 48th Store Anniversary Party

(The Browser's Den)

Date: Friday, November 19
Time: 11:00am – 5:00pm
Place: Browser's Den of Magic
3220 Dufferin St. (Unit 19 A), Toronto

Big discounts on all magic all day; Mini Magic Auction (1:00pm); Magic Trivia Quiz with big prizes; Len Cooper Memorial Award; Free Magic Show (4:00pm); Birthday Cake

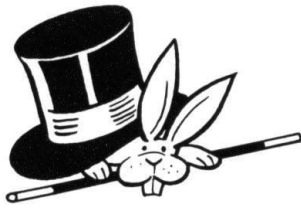
You are invited to join us to celebrate our *48th year in business!* Many of you have been with us since the beginning back in 1975.

This is also the day when we remember the shop's founders, **Len** and **Bernice Cooper**. **Jeff Pinsky** took over *Browser's Den* in November 1995.

Len Cooper passed away in 2003. Since then at each anniversary party we hand out in Len's memory a full set of the *Tarbell Course in Magic* books to a deserving magician under 25 years of age who has shown a dedication to the art of magic.

PLUS - In appreciation of your devotion to our shop this is the only day of the year where EVERYTHING in the shop is on sale all day long including magic in the *Used Magic Room!*

We hope you can join us - **The Jeff's & The Browser's Den Team**



Survey for possible club public show in the spring

Date: ???
Time: ???
Place: ???

As discussed at the October meeting, we'd like to put together a public show for the club this Spring. What is being considered is partnering with a charity, finding a venue, putting together a show using our club members, and sell some tickets to raise money for the charity.

The goals are to raise awareness of the club; give members a chance to perform, give us a goal to work towards and have fun.

Club members are asked to complete the following brief survey to capture interest. Please take a moment to respond.

[2024 Magic Show Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com)



Will Chat GPT Destroy Magic?

(InsideMagic.com)

[The following was written in part by an AI algorithm. We have removed the cuss words.]

As many of our loyal followers know, we embraced the *AI movement* years ago and most of our articles are generated solely by intelligent software. In the early years, we would mail our story ideas to a person with a computer and that person would photocopy the letter and push it into a slot on their desktop computer. Within minutes, the computer would print out a perfectly edited and crafted article, fit for instant publication. We think that is how it worked. We didn't know the person or see the process but he or she would send us the articles by first class mail within weeks of our submission.

The 1980s and early 1990s were a heyday for magic-oriented computer-generated article copy. We rented time on a *Cray Supercomputer* and typed in our story idea. Within seconds, we had a fully fledged (as opposed to the occasional "partially-fledged" articles from the postal version provided) story with an image to post. Yes, *Cray Supercomputer* time was expensive (about \$1,700 per five minutes of computing time, accounting for inflation), but it was well worth the money. The *Cray Supercomputer* could scan hundreds of pieces of data quickly and assemble something worth posting to this site.

Readers may be surprised that these stories were computer generated: "Magic Things," "Things Like Magic," "Stop Magic Doing," "Area Codes of Famous Magicians," "The Cherry Orchard," "Cup in Ball," "What Smells?" "Wand Magic," "Don't Type So Hard," and of course our Pulitzer Prize Nominated (by us) expose on the vast *Rough and Smooth industries* practices, "Not Smooth, Rough."

Yes, the AI process has developed by leaps and bounds – or at least "leaps" – and it is clear it will eventually take over humanity and humans will need to comply with its commands and whims, struggle is futile. But the real question for us is does AI expose secrets of magic?

We entered into **Chat GPT** the names of some classic magic tricks and asked how to perform them. While the response generated was written well, the substance of the answer was terrible. Not just terrible, but misleading and possibly dangerous.

We asked, "How do they do that thing?" and it gave us a nonsense response about not understanding our request.

We asked, "How do they do that *magic* thing?" and it said magic is fictional and accomplished by trained performers.

In reality, magic tricks and illusions are performed by skilled magicians or illusionists who have mastered various techniques to create the appearance of magic. These techniques may involve misdirection, sleight of hand, optical illusions, and the use of props or special devices. By manipulating the audience's perception and using clever techniques, magicians can create seemingly impossible or mysterious effects.

Useless. It completely omitted a magician's keen sense of smell and soft pads on his or her feet. There was nothing about the magician's whiskers being used to determine the width of an opening or ability to see in the dark.

Until computers can mimic the human shoulder, there is little to worry about. Peoples will always be able to lift heavy objects even if they are not magic.

Finally, there is much we don't know about AI and we should not look into it too closely. It would be like looking into the sun or flying too close to the sun.

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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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