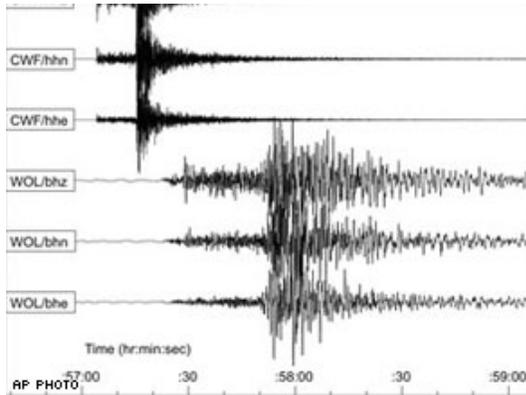


## Earthquake Hits UK



Britain was shaken by a huge earth tremor at 12.56am on February 27th 2008 which was felt by people from Yorkshire to the South Coast. Thousands of people reported their homes being shaken violently and furniture moving and hundreds more took to the streets for safety and to check for damage. The epicentre of the tremor, which measured 5.3 on the Richter scale according to

the British Geological Survey, was centred on the village of Holton cum Beckering, about 15 miles northeast of Lincoln and 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) from the Earth's surface.

A senior seismologist at the British Geological Survey (BGS), said: "It's an extremely large earthquake in UK terms but not large in world terms; we'd classify it only as a light earthquake."

People reported buildings as large as blocks of flats shaking for up to 30 seconds and there was damage to property and localised power cuts but no reported deaths or serious injuries. The country experiences a magnitude 5 earthquake on average every ten years. A magnitude 4 earthquake occurs on average every two to three years. Between 200 and 300 quakes occur in Britain each year, but only about 10 per cent are strong enough to be felt.

### Eye witness comments:

"My whole house shook like it was going to fall over and it felt as if the whole roof was coming off. I thought a tree had been thrown into the roof by a tornado or something. Everyone in Scunthorpe was out on the streets talking about it."

"It was as strong as I have ever felt anywhere and I lived on the west coast of America for four years."

"The house started creaking and then the bed started shaking, it was very spooky and completely frightening. It was like the house was sort of coming away from itself. It was like a giant was walking about in the garden."

"I was absolutely petrified. The front of my chest of drawers fell out and my candles fell on the floor and broke. I thought it was a ghost. All my neighbours came out and people from all over the country have already started sending me messages saying they felt it. I'm still a bit panicky; I don't think I'll be able to sleep."

### Timeline: Quebec A chronology of key events:

**15th century**  
**1492** - For the Queen of Castile (later, Spain), Christopher Columbus crosses the Atlantic ocean.  
1497 - John Cabot reaches the island of Newfoundland, which he claims for England

**16th century**  
**1524** - Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian in the service of the French crown explores the East coast of America from Florida to Newfoundland.

**1525 to 1530**  
- Basque fishermen and whalers regularly sail in the St. Lawrence estuary and the Saguenay River.

**1534** - On June 30 and July 1, Jacques Cartier wades ashore on a rocky beach at present-day Prince Edward Island.

## Earthquake facts

- British earthquakes have killed 11 people since 1580. Six were killed by falling stones, two fell from upper floors, two died of shock and one committed suicide
- The largest earthquake recorded in Britain had a magnitude of 6.1 and struck offshore in the North Sea on June 7, 1931, about 75 miles northeast of Great Yarmouth
- Britain's largest onshore tremor struck in Lleyrn, North Wales, on July 19, 1984, with a magnitude of 5.4. It was felt over an area of about 240,000 sq km
- The last big British earthquake was in 1990, when a 5.1 tremor hit Bishop's Castle, Shropshire
- The most damaging quake to date was the magnitude 4.6 Colchester earthquake of 1884. It shattered walls and brought down a church spire
- Homes in Folkestone, Kent, were damaged on April 28 this year when a magnitude 4.3 earthquake struck a few miles away in the English Channel. One woman was taken to hospital with a neck injury
- A magnitude 5 earthquake occurs on average every ten years. A magnitude 4 earthquake occurs on average every two to three years
- There are 200 minor tremors in Britain every year, but 90 per cent go undetected by the public

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

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## New powers for police to shut rowdy venues and cut drink-related crime

Ministers are to give the police and local authorities powers to create "alcohol-free zones" through the wholesale withdrawal of licences from pubs and clubs in city-centre problem areas. The tougher enforcement regime to tackle the worst hotspots of binge drinking was disclosed as police pressed for a compulsory levy on pubs and clubs in order to pay for the extra costs of dealing with disorder.

The research shows that "24-hour drinking" may be a misnomer, with the average pub closing time being pushed back by just 21 minutes from 11pm. Only 470 pubs, clubs and nightclubs out of 200,000 across the country have applied for 24-hour licences, and only a handful operate on that basis. There has only been a small increase in opening hours, with half of all pubs only applying to stay open to midnight. Home Office research showing that 56% of pubs still close at 11pm on a typical Saturday night, and most of the rest only open half an hour longer. The extra hours are not routinely being used, with 87% of pubs using them only at the weekend.

The lack of impact on crime and disorder levels was also reflected in people's perceptions about how safe it is to visit town centres at night, with the proportion of those saying they felt a bit or very unsafe remaining at the same level before and after the changes, at 16%.

The Home Office research team said that there was considerable evidence to support the idea that extended opening hours have produced only limited changes to drinking patterns. "Many licences were extended on the basis that it was better to be safe than sorry, and, in practice, they were not exploited to the full. In areas serving as focal points for late-night economies, saturation policies dampened down the extent of the change."

The culture secretary, Andy Burnham, described the results as a "mixed picture" and promised new legislation if necessary to tackle the "small but unacceptable" amount of violence in the small hours.

But he also promised immediate action using existing powers to identify problem premises and impose tougher sanctions on those who breach their licence conditions, including use of instant closure powers.

## HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE

28 Wharf Road, Hudson, Quebec, 450 458 5361

Hudson Village Theatre (HVT) is an English professional cultural venue and community theatre. It is housed in Hudson's historic train station in the heart of this delightful village located on the shores of the Lake of Two Mountains. HVT is currently presenting its winter/spring season and will soon release its dynamic and exciting Summer 2007 theatre selections in preparation for its 15th season. This charming 148 seat fully air-conditioned theatre still looks like (and serves as) a train station but the interior has been transformed. With its lobby bar in the old baggage room, its modern changing and green rooms for the actors, its excellent sight lines and acoustics, and wheelchair accessibility, it serves patrons on a year-round basis. Treat yourself to a great afternoon or evening of professional theatre, concerts, musicals, classic film festivals, children's productions, community events and more. Free parking on the premises, wheelchair accessible. Dinner theatre packages available. HVT is a registered non-profit organization.



**History:** Village Theatre West, a professional summer theatre company, started in 1993, working out of a tent in St Lazare where it operated up until 1996. This entailed erecting and dismantling a large tent at the beginning and end of the summer season. Having done this for 5 years they realized that a change of venue was needed. It was decided that the old Hudson railway station would be suitable.

The Hudson Railway Station had been left to local vandals and was in a neglected, ramshackle state. C.P. Rail wanted to demolish the building, but the local Historical Society decided to try and save it. A sub-committee of the Historical Society, Heritage Hudson, got together and raised funds to save the building. They put on a new roof, repaired the plumbing, and secured the building against trespassers, spending a total of \$50,000.00.

Village Theatre West leased the train station in 1997, and for two years produced a summer season in the building. After the theatre company signed the lease in March 1997, they raised \$50,000.00 and carried out basic renovations, taking down a chimney, rewiring the building, removing a wall, insulating and dry walling the interior, painting the exterior, installing theatre seats and a stage.

All funds were collected from the community and theatre supporters and Village Theatre West and Heritage Hudson volunteers did much of the renovation. The renovations made theatrical productions possible but there were a number of difficulties and without air conditioning, heating and toilets, the premises were very rudimentary.

In October 1999, Heritage Hudson and Village Theatre West came to an agreement and Village Theatre West bought the old train station. The agreement made provisions for a Heritage Committee, chaired by the President of Heritage Hudson and including one Board member from Village Theatre West, to advise on the heritage aspects of the project and to ensure these were safeguarded. Village Theatre then went ahead and bought the land around the station from Canadian Pacific and started their Year 2000 Capital Campaign.

The architect Richard Schmidt, came up with a very practical, attractive design for the interior and Richard Chicoine, the contractor began work in the spring of 2000. The grants were not forthcoming that year but \$300,000 was raised from individual and corporate donations and so phase one of the project went ahead. This phase included the installation of toilets, heating and air-conditioning.

The following year Village Theatre received a grant from Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund for \$100,000.00 allowing phase two of the Campaign to take place, the complete remodelling of the interior of the theatre. The renovations were finished in May and the 2001 season opened in a unique and beautiful venue, an intimate theatre seating 148 people.

Village Theatre West has created a year round facility, suitable for use by the whole community. The renovations were completed by June 2001. With the newly renovated theatre, the audience can enjoy the plays in comfort at any time of year and Village Theatre West has been able to extend their schedule to include performances during all four seasons, offering more matinees and a broader range of activities. New and more experimental work is being done and Village Theatre West continues to go from strength to strength. - <http://www.villagetheatre.ca>

## Proms not inclusive, says Hodge

The Proms attract too narrow a section of society, culture minister Margaret Hodge has suggested in a speech. She praised "icons of a common culture" from Coronation Street to the Angel of the North and said culture could "enhance a sense of shared identity".

But the Proms was one of several major cultural events many people did not feel comfortable attending, she said. Tory leader David Cameron said she did not "get it" and said the Proms were a "great symbol of our Britishness". He also stressed the numbers of other Proms during the concert season - such as Proms in the Park and the Electric Proms.

In a speech to the IPPR think tank on Britishness, Heritage and the Arts, Mrs Hodge said a "shared sense of common cultural identity" was a key part of social integration and cohesion. She said she wanted to "challenge our sectors square on".

"The audiences for some of many of our greatest cultural events - I'm thinking particularly of the Proms - is still a long way from demonstrating that people from different backgrounds feel at ease in being part of this," she added.

Just as culture pushes the boundaries it can make some people proud to belong, it can make others feel isolated and deeply offended.

"I know this is not about making every audience completely representative, but if we claim great things for our sectors in terms of their power to bring people together, then we have a right to expect they will do that wherever they can."

In her speech, Mrs Hodge praised other institutions for "creating the icons of a common culture that everybody can feel a part of" - such as the Angel of the North, the British Museum and the Eden project as well as TV and radio shows "from Coronation Street to the Archers" and shared public holidays.

But she acknowledged that culture could also be divisive - citing the examples of Jerry Springer: The Opera, which Christians said was blasphemous and Behtzi, a play which depicted sex abuse in a Sikh temple and was cancelled after protests.

"Just as culture pushes the boundaries it can make some people proud to belong, it can make others feel isolated and deeply offended," she said.

She also suggested that British citizenship ceremonies be held in historic British buildings like castles, theatres and museums to help people "associate their new citizenship with key cultural icons".

And Mrs Hodge added that talk of national mottos and shared values had to be backed up with "equal economic and educational life chances" if they were to mean anything to ordinary people.

A key part of the classical calendar for more than 100 years, the Proms aims to make music more accessible, but critics say the size of the programme makes it daunting and the traditional Last Night has been overwhelmed by jingoistic flag-waving.

A Downing Street spokesman has said Mrs Hodge's comments were not intended as an attack and that she supported the Proms as a "wonderful, democratic and a quintessentially British institution".

Mr Cameron said: "I think Margaret Hodge is wrong. I think we want more things where people come together to celebrate Britishness and more occasions when people think the Union Jack is a great symbol of our Britishness, rather than sniping at it. "It is a classic example of a Labour politician just not getting something."



Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk> (Have your say send your thoughts to [mick@britclub.ca](mailto:mick@britclub.ca))

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## Immigrants better educated than general population

Increasingly, newcomers to Canada are bringing with them a level of education that exceeds that of the general population and accounting for a growing proportion of those with university and advanced degrees.

Close to one-third of immigrants are university graduates, compared with 23 per cent of the general working-age population, according to numbers from the 2006 census released yesterday. Those numbers also show a huge jump in qualifications of the newest arrivals, with more than half of those who came to Canada between 2001 and 2006 holding a university degree.

At more advanced levels, the gap is even wider. Immigrants now account for close to half of all those in Canada who hold a PhD and 40 per cent of those who have a master's.

"These figures are quite dramatic," said Claire Morris, chief executive officer of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, which has long called on governments to increase funding for graduate studies. "Given the growth in jobs for advanced-degree holders, we haven't been producing the number of graduates we require."

The census figures indicate that about 57 per cent of all those who hold a PhD - both immigrants and Canadian-born - earned their degree in Canada.

What the numbers do not indicate is whether these recent, highly educated arrivals are putting their credentials to work. "The whole skills recognition issue is a complicated topic. It is one we are hoping to do more research on," said Roland Hébert, an analyst with Statscan's Centre for Education Statistics.

By and large, the new census numbers paint a picture of a country in which education levels are generally on the rise, but where specific groups and regions still lag behind national averages. They show the most educated population is concentrated in major cities and in the youngest group of working Canadians, those between 25 and 34. About 29 per cent of young adults in this group had a university degree in 2006, compared with 18 per cent of those between 55 and 64. By contrast, younger adults were less likely than this older group to be educated in a trade.

Sixty per cent of all working-age adults had some form of postsecondary education in 2006. At the other end of the spectrum, 15 per cent had less than high school.

Young women are more likely than their male counterparts to have a university degree - 33 per cent, compared with 25 per cent. Business is the top choice of study for both genders, with one in five graduates from colleges and universities specializing in this area. The top 10 choices of areas of study were quite different for men and women after that No. 1 pick. Women favoured the health professions and education, men mechanics and repair technologies and engineering.

Individuals with higher levels of education were also more likely to pull up stakes and move to other parts of the country - especially the booming provinces of Alberta and B.C. The census numbers show Alberta gained more than 10,700 residents with university degrees between 2001 and 2006 and British Columbia added about 9,900 to its population.

Saskatchewan lost more than 5,400 university graduates during this same period, and Manitoba shed about 4,400.

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### Eight British children safeguarded from sexual abuse

Eight British children have been identified and safeguarded from sexual abuse as a result of an international police investigation. The two-year operation, led by the FBI and the Queensland police in Australia, has led to 400,000 indecent images being seized worldwide after police managed to infiltrate an online newsgroup. Police were able to safeguard the British children after tracing their addresses in the UK, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) said.

As a result of the investigation 22 people were arrested last week, including two men in the UK, as police attempted to dismantle the paedophile ring. Six other men from Britain have previously been jailed for trading and receiving indecent pictures through the online network.

Source: <http://www.inthenews.co.uk>

## Finance

Need a good financial tip? Here are ten common sense financial tips that can help you keep more of your money and reach your goals faster.

1. Treat your money as if it were going into three separate buckets.
  - The first bucket is for the money you need to cover your immediate expenses such as loan payments and other household costs.
  - The second is your short-term savings bucket. This should contain enough money to cover at least six months worth of your fixed expenses.
  - The third bucket is for the money you regularly contribute to retirement savings such as an RRSP.
2. Pay the least amount in taxes possible. Consult a qualified expert to help you pay less tax. For many people, the cost of their advice is more than offset by the savings.
3. Don't invest your money in things you don't understand. Take the time to learn about an investment before you jump in.
4. Make monthly contributions to your RRSP rather than a single annual amount. Many investments see an increase in value brought about by significant last minute contributions near the end of the RRSP season. The value of these funds can sometimes decline once the season ends leaving you with less than the alternate value had you spread out your contributions.
5. Don't procrastinate about your investment choices. If you know you need to do something about your money, be proactive. Time can be your friend, but if you wait too long, it will be your enemy.
6. Be aware of your investment fees and reduce them whenever possible. Even a small decrease in your investment fees can add several thousand of dollars to your savings over time.
7. Ignore investment hype. There is a ceiling to how high any investment can go and eventually the bubble will burst and values will fall. It is often better to wait until the hype passes and then buy the investment while it's low.
8. Never get into any financial arrangement with friends or relatives unless all terms and conditions are clearly understood and in writing. Nothing can drive people apart like a disagreement over money.
9. Never take your good health for granted. Purchase protection like life and disability insurance. Age and health factors will increase the cost and the older you get; the greater the likelihood you'll not be able to buy this coverage.
10. Surround yourself with trusted experts. Be realistic about your own knowledge and skills and seek out companies and people who have proven themselves trustworthy with others you know.



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## Other News & Events

### National Minimum Wage Up In October

The national minimum wage is to increase by 21 pence an hour to £5.73 from October, boosting the pay of almost a million workers, Gordon Brown has announced.

Many set to benefit The Prime Minister told MPs in the Commons that the statutory rate will have risen by 60% since it was first introduced in 1999.

The hourly rate for 18 to 21-year-olds will increase from £4.60 to £4.77, while the statutory wage for 16 and 17-year-olds will go up from £3.40 to £3.53.

Two-thirds of those who will benefit from the increase are women.

The Government also announced tough new penalties against rogue employers who underpay workers by increasing spending on enforcing the minimum wage.

<http://news.sky.com>

### 'Illegals' Sneaking Through Calais Fences

Illegal immigrants are still sneaking into Britain from France because of bad fencing in Calais.

Hundreds of people have apparently been able to climb through barriers and get on board lorries across the Channel - even after supposedly fool-proof searches were carried out.

A House of Lords committee revealed that inadequate fencing at the French port allows "determined" illegal immigrants to stow away after the vehicles had passed through security.

The peers, who visited Calais as part of a probe into Europe's borders, said 1,500 "illegals" a year were found in parked vehicles after official checks

The revelation will be embarrassing for the Home Office, which has spent millions providing hi-tech scanning equipment in Calais and other European ports.

<http://news.sky.com>

### Rev Ian Paisley quits front line after 40 years

After more than 40 years of saying No and just one of affirming Yes, the Rev Ian Paisley announced last night that he was bowing out of politics in two months' time. Mr Paisley bowed to the inevitable by stepping down before he would wish as Northern Ireland First Minister and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, which he founded, after concerted pressure from colleagues and grassroots discontent.

The forced resignation of his son, Ian Paisley Jr, last month as his right-hand man was the final straw for Mr Paisley, who was beginning to look isolated in office. Without his son at his elbow to steer him through, his agenda was going to be almost impossible.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

### Property prices fall in February

Prices are down for the fourth month in a row House prices fell in February by 0.5%, says the latest survey from Nationwide.

The fourth consecutive monthly fall in property prices pushed the cost of the average UK home down to £179,358.

The annual rate of house price inflation fell from 4.2% in January to 2.7% in February, the lowest since November 2005. But the building society warned against gloomy predictions for the housing market, claiming that recession was "a remote risk for the UK economy".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

### February sunshine sets new UK record

Provisional figures released by the Met Office revealed that February was the sunniest since UK-wide records began in 1929.

Sunshine totals for the month up to and including Wednesday revealed the figure for the whole of Britain was 106.1 hours, beating the previous record, set in 1970, of 94.4 hours.

The winter as a whole was one of the sunniest since records began. Although Feb 27th marks the end to the meteorological winter, mean temperatures across the UK were on course to exceed the long-term average.

Despite some wide variations during the winter, rainfall totals for the UK were above the long-term average.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

### Canadian soldiers sentenced for beating British man

A Cyprus court has sentenced two Canadian soldiers for beating up a British man. Guillaume Simon, 26, was fined \$3,000 in court in Paphos, Cyprus, after pleading guilty to assault causing bodily harm. Matthew Louis Pelletier, 31, pleaded guilty to assault and was fined \$750.

The soldiers, who were in Cyprus for decompression following a tour in Afghanistan, beat James Sanford on Saturday night.

Sanford was out with his wife and says the two soldiers made advances on her.

After words were exchanged, one of the soldiers struck him with a bottle, cutting him for a dozen stitches.

<http://winnipeg.sun.com>

## ***And Finally***

### **Things "Fall over" as Quake hits UK**

A relatively massive earthquake measuring an enormous 5.3 on the Richter Scale has 'rippled' through the UK causing widespread joviality among residents the length and breadth of the country who had got out of their beds to go for a wee.

The quake, which had its epicentre in Market Rasen in Lincolnshire, was the worst in living memory, and was strong enough to cause "tea to shake in the cup", and to "make dogs bark" according to those who witnessed its force.

Some petrified clods reported hearing a 'terrifying grinding sound' which was a bit like "the next door neighbours car".

For many people though, snoring carried on unabated.

Earthquakes are thought to be caused by 'underground movemental activity within the Earth's core' whatever that means. The last reported quake of a similar magnitude in the UK was in Dudley in 2002 when a telephone box fell over.

One of the terrified witnesses was Tanya Smith of Lincoln who was visibly shaken.

"It sounded like a train was coming through my living room",

She told reporters from her home which is situated next to the East Coast Main Line.

Another, Mick Wapp, from Salford, said:

"It wer scary. All the dogs sta-id barkin, the winders rat-led, me stomach rumbled and the friggin telly wen' on the blink. Proppa scar-er. Ar nearly shit me sen."

Structural damage was not as extensive as in recent quakes in other parts of the world, although supermarkets have this morning reported increased 'panic buying', and essentials such as bread, milk, cigarettes and beer are currently in short supply.

The International Community has been quick to rush to Britain's aid, and has pledged its support for the UK, with promises of an international relief package. A statement from Downing Street in the last few minutes says that

"Donations of food and clothing are thought to be 'in the pipeline'. There might be a problem with fags though."

Source: <http://www.thespoof.com>

**For a graphic example of the devastation caused by the earthquake visit [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca) and click on Britannia's shield!**

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