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## NOVYDOMO



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Pravda vítězí!



#### CZECH AND SLOVAK BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER www.masaryktown.ca

## CANADA POST AIMS TO REDUCE COSTS...

By Andrea Hill

Less than two weeks after Canada Post announced it would end doorto-door delivery for urban Canadians, the Crown Corporation is looking into standardizing rural mailboxes and adopting widespread use of reaching devices and right-hand drive vehicles to cut costs of rural mail delivery.

The belt tightening proposals were outlined Friday in the Canada Gazette, the government's official publication with information on laws and government appointments.

Canada Post says some of its 4,500 rural and suburban mail carriers have complained of "ergonomic concerns" related to reaching across their vehicles to deposit mail out their passenger-side windows into rural mailboxes. The corporation notes that these "awkward movements" increase risk of repetitive strain injuries and generate additional expense for the corporation due to costs associated with injury on duty, replacement workers and paying additional people to ride in delivery vehicles and assist with depositing mail.

If measures are not taken to facilitate rural mailbox delivery, it can be expected that employees will continue to raise concerns about strains and related injuries," Canada Post writes. Current legislation mandates that rural mailboxes be "approximately 100 centimetres above the roadway" and attached to fixed posts or cantilever arms that allow them to swing out of harms way when bombarded with snow from snowplows.

But Canada Post argues more precise wording is needed to ensure mailboxes are high enough to be comfortably reached from vehicle windows and that cantilever arms be banned because these can be "physically difficult" and "dangerous"

"Preventing the use of mailboxes with cantilever arms would allow more efficient access to the mailbox by delivery employees and reduce the risk of personal injury," Canada Post writes. Canada Post estimates approximately 15,000 to 20,000 rural mailboxes will need to be modified if the proposed regulations come into effect. The majority — 90 per cent — of changes will involve raising mailboxes so they are between 105 cm and 115 cm above ground, while the remaining modifications will involve replacing cantilever mailboxes with ones fastened to fixed posts.

The modifications - which Canada Post said can be made "at no cost, or with very minimal cost to the customer" - are expected to save the financially ailing corporation between \$10 million and \$15 million annually. In addition to requesting regulatory amendments, Canada Post said it is introducing two job aids to address its workers' ergonomic concerns: reaching devices - poles with hooks that allow mail carriers to deposit letters into mailboxes while sitting with their seat belts on — and right-hand drive vehicles. One thousand righthand drive vehicles will eventually hit the roads to service some of the country's 740,000 rural mailboxes, Canada Post said.

Interested parties can comment on the proposed regulations until the end of January, after which time the government will consider the regulations. If the regulations come into effect. Canadians who need to modify rural mailboxes will receive notification within a year and, once they receive that, will have 30 days to make the changes.

Sourc:http://www.canada.com/news/ national/Canada+Post+aims+reduce +costs+injuries+associated+with+rur al/9315948/story.html, Dec 23, 2013,

# Don't mix sport and politics says Zeman ahead of Sochi, while Čáslavská boycotts him

By Ian Willoughby

Evidently concerned over Russia's human rights record, some European leaders have rejected invitations to attend the opening of the Winter Olympics in Sochi in three weeks' time. Among those who will be there is Czech President Miloš Zeman, who takes the view that sport and politics should not be mixed. Meanwhile, a great Czech Olympian is boycotting a related event in Prague because of Mr. Zeman's presence.

The presidents of EU countries such as Germany, France and Poland have turned down invitations to attend the opening ceremony of what will be one the biggest sporting events of 2014, the Winter Olympics in the Russian city of Sochi. The refusals came in the wake of international criticism of Russia's treatment of homosexuals.

One head of state who will be in Sochi is Miloš Zeman. In a town hallstyle debate at a secondary school on Tuesday, the Czech president told students that the issue of human rights ought to be addressed on the political level alone.

Insisting that sport and politics should not be mixed, he described the Olympics boycotts of the 1980s as nonsense - and illustrated his view with a curious literary reference.

"Once, for political reasons, they didn't go to the Olympic Games in LA. And not long afterwards, four years later, they didn't go to the Olympic Games in Moscow. It was a case of 'you killed my uncle, so here's a smack in the teeth', as it goes in Švejk."

President Zeman, who is regarded as having warm relations with Moscow, says it is better to raise criticisms

regarding human rights issues on the ground than to stay away completely. One person who seems to prefer the latter strategy is ex-gymnast Věra Čáslavská, one of the country's greatest Olympians and honorary



chairwoman of the Czech Olympic Committee.

In a letter to the head of the COC made public this week, she declined an invitation to attend a ceremony at Prague Castle announcing the Czech team for Sochi due to Mr. Zeman's planned presence. Ms. Čáslavská outlined her reasons on Czech Radio

"I think that by some of his decisions, which are provocative, Mr. President has unnecessarily spread public unease and a negative atmosphere. But my position is not political. I just have an ordinary right as a person to turn down accept or not accept an

seven-time Olympic gold winner's stance is perhaps consistent with her previous involvement in politics. She supported Mr. Zeman's rival Karel Schwarzenberg in last January's presidential election, and served as an advisor to one of the current head of state's predecessors. "I had the great fortune of being able to experience - at very close quarters - the rule of Václav Havel. And it was very pleasant, not fear and tension. And with my non-participation at the Prague Castle event, that's what I wanted to get across."

Source: http://www.radio.cz/en/section/ curraffrs/dont-mix-sport-and-politicssays-zeman-ahead-of-sochi-while-caslavska-boycotts-him, Jan 15, 2014

#### Ontario raises minimum wage By Lauren Strapagiel

As on June 1, Ontario's minimum wage will rise to \$11 — a 75 cent raise from the current \$10.25.

The government also announced plans to introduce legislation that would tie future minimum wage increases to inflation. If passed, any increases would be announced by April 1 and come into effect on Oct. 1

The last time Ontario raised the minimum wage was in 2010, before it was frozen. There are about 500,000 people in Ontario working at minimum

Ontario sets a lower minimum wage for students, liquor server, hunting and fishing guides and home workers, who will also all see a raise in June. Liquor servers have the lowest set wage, justi-

fied because they earn tips, and their wage will rise to \$9.55 from \$8.90.

"Increasing the minimum wage will help improve the standard of living for hardworking people across the province, while ensuring that businesses have the predictability necessary to plan for the future," said Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne in a statement.

The change will put Ontario on par with Nunavut for the highest minimum wage in Canada. Most provinces and territories hover within the \$10 to \$10.50 range, while Alberta has the lowest minimum wage in the country at \$9.95 per hour.

These are the current rates across the country, including the change in On-

Despite the rise, a full-time, minimum-

wage worker in Ontario will still fall below the poverty line making \$11 an hour. At that rate, a minimum wage worker would earn \$20,020 before taxes if they worked 35 hours per week every week for a year, or \$22,880 at 40 hours per week. That is, of course, assuming a worker could obtain that many hours and not lose hours to time off or illness.

The poverty line in Ontario sits around \$23,000 for a single person, reports The Star, and earning a comfortable living is another figure entirely. According to a report from the Canadian Centre For Policy Alternatives, a living wage for "a decent quality of life" is as high as \$18.69 per hour in Halton and \$16.60 per hour in Toronto.

Anti-poverty activists have been pushing for a minimum wage of \$14 an hour, or \$25,480 per year assuming a 35-hour work week. Source:http://o.

canada.com/news/ontario-raises-minimum-wage-to-11, Oct. 8, 2013. ■

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Pavel Vančata is a respected Czech aviation historian, author and journalist specializing in Czechoslovaks who served in the RAF in World War 2. He is author of six books and he has also co-authored several other books on this subject with other Czech aviator authors. Since 2000, he has been a regular contributor to Czech aviation magazines: Letectví + kosmonautika, REVI and he published also in French Aéro

Journal.



His writings are noted for their meticulous and extensive research into the subject often uncovering new facts and photographs. Pavel's research sources include his extensive private archive, personal contact with many of those who served in the RAF or their families, either in the Czech Republic or from elsewhere in the world as well as military and local archives in the Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

From 2003 he made numerous research trips to the United Kingdom to visit many RAF airfields where Czechoslovak airmen were based, cemeteries to photograph and document graves of Czechoslovak air-

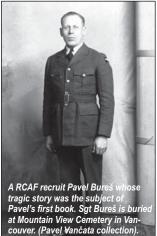


men buried there, museums and archives, and also Czechoslovak RAF veterans living there. Amongst Pavel's most memorable achievements from these trips was in May 2007 when he visited the crash site of the Oxford PH404 aircraft, from 311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron, which had crashed at Beinn a-B'huird in the Cairngorm Mountains, Scotland, on 10th January 1945. During the exhausting trip which took 11 hours on foot accompanied by the local Philip Kammer he experienced all weather appearances from sun to little snowstorm. The result was photo documentation of the crash site where five Czechoslovak airmen lost their lives. Pavel is still visiting United Kingdom annually and preparing new projects on 311 Squadron and their members. He also runs personal website dedicated to the 'Czechoslovak Airmen in the RAF 1940-45' presenting photos and findings from his research trips and presenting his projects: http://cz-raf.hyperlink.cz.

Pavel is Prague born and bred and in 2003 graduated as a Telecommunication Engineer from the České vysoké učení technické (Czech Technical University) in Prague. He is currently employed as a teamleader in the Technical Support Department of an international telecommunication company.

Pavel's books always grab reader's interest and most of the older ones are sold out now. Books authored by him are: 'Mechanikem RCAF' (2002) - first fruit describing a story of Czech immigrant to Canada Pavel Bureš who worked as a driver and miner before the war. As fun of motorcycles and cars he joined RCAF as Aero Engine Mechanic. In December 1942 he joined a pilot for testing flight of Beaufort which crashed on takeoff and Bureš suffered severe burns which led to his death

'Klikař Roger' (2004) – biography of Jaromír Bajer who escaped to France via



Poland serving in the French Foreign Legion in summer 1939, later he fought with Czechoslovak Army on the French front and finally he retreated to the United Kingdom. He joined the RAF and after training for Wireless Operator and Air Gunner he commenced operational duty with No. 311 Squadron. At the end of 1942 his Wellington was shot down to the sea and five of six crewmembers were rescued from dinghy next day. After the war he flew with Czechoslovak Airlines till the 50s when was fired out by the Communist



▲ Terry Zieglowski, Gail Jesshope, Noelle Kidd, Bridgid McQuinn and Frances Puczylowski by shelves with boxes of gifts for who needs it. These ladies meet every Thursday afternoon throughout the year and donate their time and the cost of materials (that are not donated), to knit and crochet, hats, mittens, afghans ets to donate at christmas time to the homeless shelters, battered womens shelters, churches etc. in the community that appreciate the time these ladies have donated so they can be given these well needed items.

► Frances is the main organizer of this volunteer project. She can talk not only about the work which the women are doing but also tell the people's story - of the mothers and their children who need the help of the women of Masarvk Park Homes in Scarborough. The women are not expecting anything in return; they don't expect money or letters of thanks for their activity. Their only reward is the fact that they helped those in need when help was needed. They are already preparing for a new project - knitting and handicrafts are an inspiration which fills their lives. Then they talk about it over tea. We would like more such people in our midst. THANKS LADIES!

By Janet Saunders, Barunka Sherriff and photo Vera Kohout







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### SEVEN OF THE FREAKIEST PLACES ON THE PLANET

Human bones, headless dolls, a death ward. That abandoned house on the outskirts of town has nothing on these truly frightening places

Where Stephen King could get inspired: the abandoned Chernobyl Amusement Park. (Image courtesy Jeroen Koch)

Scary sells. Whatever the nature of their flesh, the spirits of the dead rake

in very real profits when it comes to sightseeing.

The Haunted House Association in the United States claims profits of up to US \$500 million from domestic haunted house ticket sales

The tourists shelling out are doing so for a giddy but ultimately safe experi-

The places featured on our list below are less about the sort of commercial scare that you can buy at an amusement park. This is the real deal.

These sites are authentically and unintentionally weird, macabre and mysterious.

1. Deserted amusement parks can be creepy enough, but at Chernobyl Amusement Park, in the ghost town of Pripyat, Ukraine, the reason for abandonment makes the place not only creepy, but hazardous.

The 1986 nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant closed down the plant and caused the evacuation of the entire city, rendering this amusement park useless. While the people have long since departed, the radiation remains.

Britain's Lupine Travel and Ukrainebased Solo East Travel both conduct tours to Chernobyl and its park.

2. Sedlec Ossuary: Czech Republic The Sedlec Ossuary is a small Roman Catholic chapel in Sedlec, Czech Republic. It also contains the skeletal remains of about 40,000 human beings dispersed throughout the interior in artistically arranged designs.

The most notable creations made of human bones are the chandelier in the center of the room and the coat of arms of the Schwarzenbergs - the most blue-blooded of Bohemian aris-

It's difficult not to let your imagination run wild when pondering the sort of sick mind that conceived of things like a chandelier of human bones.

But the real motive behind it all is quite prosaic: it was simply a matter saving space.

These bones were freely given from the bodies of devout Roman Catholics all over Europe who clamored to be buried here after the Abbot of Sedlec went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 1278 and brought back soil from Golgotha where Jesus had supposedly been crucified.

So many wanted to be buried in Golgotha's soil that the chapel was turned into an ossuary. The remains of the previously buried were dug up and rearranged in the 16th century: a practical if somewhat disquieting way to use limited burial space in a thrifty way.

Open daily (except December 24 and 25) 9 a.m.-4 p.m., give or take an hour, depending on the date. Check the website for the updated schedule. Admission is 60 korun (about US \$3) per person. It is worth noting that the council in charge of the ossuary's preservation considers it a sacred place.

3. Aokigahara Forest: Mount Fuji



Aokigahara Forest, at the foot of Mount Fuji in Japan, is a densely wooded forest that's sometimes called the "Sea of Trees" and sometimes called the "suicide forest."

It's become something of a mecca for those who want to take their lives; 54 people committed suicide in Aokigahara Forest in 2010. The denseness of the woods means that it's likely that not all the bodies have been discovered.

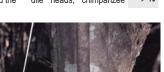
The magnetic iron in the soil also renders compasses useless, and the

forest itself is uncannily quiet and said to be haunted by angry Japanese spirits.

4. Akodessewa Fetish Market: Lomé, Togo

As the largest fetish market in the world, Akodessewa Fetish Market in Lomé, Togo is a haven for voodoo practitioners

By fetish, we're referring to talismans that are used in voodoo heal-Things like crocodile heads, chimpanzee











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#### 311 SQUADRON

regime and forced to work as a manual worker.

'RCAF bylo jejich osudem' (2008) -covering the life stories of three RCAF airmen who were all of Czech origin and all three got killed during the war. Vladimír Havlíček trained as navigator in Canada sailed to United Kingdom to serve with of No. 240 Squadron. One landing in December 1941 on the heavy sea became fateful for the Catalina and half of her crew including Havlíček. Otto Najemník was an America born of Czech father. He joined the RCAF for pilot training and got killed in the final stage of elementary training. Vladimír Sopuck passed observer training in Canada before being posted to the Transport Command RAF to fly new American built aircraft to United Kingdom and Africa. It was already after the war end in Europe when one engine of Mosquito cut after takeoff and the plane crashed killing both airmen aboard.

'Letec po hvězdách' (2009) – personal diary completed by biography of John Gellner, CD, DFC, pre-war Brno lawyer who joined the RCAF in 1940 and after observer training in Canada sailed to the United Kingdom to serve with No. 311 Squadron. In Late 1942 he returned to Canada as instructor being allowed to made pilot training later. After the war he stayed in Canada and served with the RCAF till 1958. Later he became well known journalist. He was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1983.

'Z deníku radiotelegrafisty' (2013) - personal diary incorporated into biography of Pavel Tofel, Wireless Operator of No. 311 Squadron. He flew several raids on town in Germany and occupied continent before starting Anti-Submarine patrols over the Atlantic in summer 1942. His Wellington was shot down over the Bay of Biscay in August 1942. Book can be ordered via Pavel's website: http://cz-raf.hyperlink.cz.

'311 Squadron' (2013) - latest project released in November 2013 and it can be ordered at publishers website: http://www.mmpbooks. biz/mmp/books.php?book id=224. This Pavel's first book in English language is a comprehensive history of 311 (Czechoslovak) Squadron RAF during World War 2. Total of 160 pages of glossy paper is covering the squadron service history illustrated by more than 220 black & white photos plus few unique color ones.

Appendices add operational statistics and roster of the flying personnel, roll of honour, Prisoner of War list and many more information including 25 color profiles of squadron's Ansons, Wellingtons and Liberators.



One of more than 220 historical snapshots published in Pavel's last book No. 311 Squadron - Air Officer Commanding No. 3 Group Bomber Command RAF, AVM J. E. A. Baldwin CB DSO OBE (left), passes the squadron badge to the Commanding Officer W/C Josef Ocelka DFC on 24th December 1941. (Pavel Vančata collection)



#### Seven of the freakiest places on the planet

hands, cobras and > from pg. 9 bones. Lots of bones. These things (or parts of things) are sold as

ingredients to be ground up, mixed with herbs and cooked over a fire. The resulting black powder is rubbed into a cut on the patient's chest, hopefully curing him of whatever brought him there in the first place.

This makes the market, in effect, one giant pharmacy, and while there's nothing bad about that, it may be difan impressively ghastly collection of dismembered, broken dolls and hung them on tree branches around the island, where they hang to this day, like sacrifices. It looks cruel and disturbing, but the back-story is surprisingly

Although there are several versions of the legend, they all converge upon the idea that Don Julian dedicated the dolls to the spirit of a little girl who had drowned in the canal.

Whether he communicated with the



ficult to keep your cool amidst tables piled with the desiccating, grinning heads of cheetahs and hyenas or unidentifiable, vaguely humanoid skulls laid out like melons at the local arocer's

5. La Isla de las Muñecas: Teshuilo Lake Mexico

La Isla de las Muñecas, or the Island of the Dolls, is the stunningly morbid creation of a man named Don Julian Santana, who lived as a hermit on an island for some 50 odd years until his death in 2001.

During his time there he amassed

spirit, or whether the drowned airl had actually existed, are all points of contention.

But Don Julian just wanted to give his ghostly friend some toys to play with. The otherwise uninhabited island is located 29 kilometers away from Mexico City, Mexico, on Teshuilo Lake, near the canals of Xochimilco.

6. Battleship Island: Nagasaki, Japan Hashima Island, also known as Gunkanjima (meaning "Battleship Island" as the island resembles a warship) is a 60,000-square-meter cluster of concrete ruins in the sea by Nagasaki, Japan.

In the 1950s it was the bustling home of thousands of coal mine workers. Hashima Island has been abandoned since 1974 when the coal mines shut down.

There's always something a bit sinister about deserted islands.

Isolation is a double-edged sword; being surrounded by sea might mean an excellent vacation getaway, or getting stranded with no place to run. A visit to Hashima Island feels like the latter. The dilapidated buildings and abandoned belongings of the former coal miners make this place feel like the most desolate island on Earth.

Although Hashima was entirely closed off until 2009, travelers are now allowed to visit.

For more information, check the Nagasaki Tourist Information Center: +81 95 823 3631: 1-1 Onoue-machi. Nagasaki City, Nagasaki

7.Gonjiam Psychiatric Hospital: Gyeonggi, Korea

The story of this abandoned psychiatric hospital reads like a textbook plot of a horror film.

According to local legend, patients started dying mysteriously at the hospital 10 years ago, eventually forcing its closure.

It is now an abandoned, dirty building with only the most disturbing remnants of its former life, such as rusted wire fences and disintegrating examination chairs.

The hospital is famed as one of South Korea's three major haunted sites, the others being the Youngdeok haunted house, roamed by ghosts from the Korean War, and the Neulbom Garden, a former restaurant where it's said that you can still hear the sound of dishes being washed in the kitchen.

Source: http://travel.cnn.com/freakiest-places-around-world-681626, By CNNGo staff 31 October, 2012

### Calgary's historic \$40 million lottery winner Tom Crist donates it all to charity By Matthew Coutts

Trouble is he will need a silo in his backyard to store all the solicitations from other charities and begging letters from the public that he is about to receive in the months ahead!

A Calgary man has embodied the holiday spirit by donating \$40 million in lottery winnings to various charities. The sudden act of kindness, inspired by the loss of his wife, comes little more than a week before Christmas.

Calgary's Tom Crist won the \$40 million LottoMax jackpot in a draw on May 3, but didn't realize he won until he was contacted during a golf trip in California.

"I wasn't even sure which game I'd won on, or what the numbers were," Crist told the lottery agency. "I've paid for the Subscription when I get the renewal notice every year, and then I just file it sometimes I'd get a cheque for \$10 or \$20, but I never expected

Crist's \$40 million jackpot makes him Calgary's largest lottery winner ever. It also makes him one of its largest charitable donors. According to CBC News, Crist is giving all of the money away to charities. Crist lost his wife to cancer last year.

Crist said he plans to put the money into a family trust fund to be doled out to charities he and his kids pick over the years. Charities such as the Canadian Cancer DM BAKER Society and Calgary's DER CENTRE Tom Baker Cancer Centre will be at the top of that list, he says.

"I've been fortunate enough, through my career, 44 years with a company. I did very well for myself. I've done enough that

I can look after myself, for my kids, so they can get looked after into the future. I don't really need that money," he said.

An impressive and inspiring act, made in the honour of the love of his life. Thank you, Tom. From anyone whose family has been affected by cancer, thank you.



http://ca.news.yahoo.com/ blogs/dailybrew/calgary-historic-40-million-lottery-winner-tomcrist-142923751.html, Dec 17, 2013



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