

Canadian Maple Syrup Heist - A Citizen's Report

Background:

Maple syrup is big business for eastern Canadian provinces. It is a business that depends on the weather. In bad years there isn't much sap. Too little sap means not much maple syrup and the price of maple syrup jumps up! In good years there is a lot of sap and a lot of maple syrup and the price of maple syrup falls. This fluctuation of price from good years to bad years makes it difficult for the maple sugar industry to keep its customers happy.

If there are too many bad years in a row then the customers may forget about maple syrup because not as many people can pay the high prices. But there are also problems when there are too many good years in a row. The farmers do a lot of work for much less money. The customers believe that the low price is a good price for the maple syrup.

Quebec maple syrup producers decided to do something to even out the good years and the bad years. In good years, some of the maple syrup is not sold. Instead, it is stored in large metal barrels and kept in warehouses. Then, when the weather is poor and there is little maple sap flowing, the maple syrup stored in the barrels is sold. This plan has helped to keep the price of maple syrup from jumping up and down.

But....

One day in July 2012, a worker checked what was in barrels of maple syrup because he found water on the floor around the barrels. The worker made a horrible discovery. Some of the barrels were no longer filled with maple syrup. In fact, he discovered that many of the barrels were filled with water. 6 millions pounds of maple syrup was gone!

It took two years to figure out the Great Maple Syrup Heist. In the end 26 people were arrested.

Your Task....

1. Research the theft on the internet.
2. Take on the role of a citizen living next to the warehouse. Describe the following:
 - What you might have noticed that was out of the ordinary in the year preceding
 - What you noticed during the week of the theft's discovery
 - What you might have noticed has changed at the warehouse in the time since the robbery

Sources:

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