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SEARCH RESULTS - STORY

Our cultural icons: the flag, beer 'Two-fours,' Shania Twain, brewskies with Trudeau top list of Canadiana

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CanWest News Service

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If we had our way this Tuesday, most beer-drinking Canadians would spend Canada Day ogling Shania Twain while sharing a brewski with Pierre Trudeau in Quebec -- home to Canada's sexiest people -- before closing out the festivities with sex on a beach in the Maritimes, a new poll shows.

According to the poll of beer drinkers, commissioned by Moosehead Breweries, four in 10 of us plan to wear boxers on Canada Day, though one in 10 will wear a thong.

But we seem a bit impractical: 61 per cent of those polled said that if stranded on a desert island they'd take Canadian beer before their partner, melons, ice, and even their televisions. One respondent would want to take singer Rita MacNeil.

And how about this: The second most "Canadian" term, after "eh?" is "two-four." As in: "Strap that two-four to the back of the Ski-Doo, eh?"



Some of Canadians' favourite things, from top to bottom: A 'two-four' of beer, a canoe, former prime minister (Pierre Trudeau), left, and singer Shania Twain.



Some of Canadians' favourite things, from top to bottom: A 'two-four' of beer, a canoe, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, left, and singer (Shania Twain).



" 'Two-four,' for beer," marvelled Derek Oland, chairman and chief executive of Moosehead. "That's something I guess you don't hear anywhere else in the world. It sure defines a Canadian."



Some of Canadians' favourite things, from top to bottom: (A 'two-four' of beer), a canoe, former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, left, and singer (Shania Twain).

Other bits of Canadiana that you might not have known: Nearly one-quarter of respondents would change their hair colour to blond if they could. Three-quarters have skinny-dipped, apparently, mostly with their friends.

Boxers are beer drinkers' favourite Canada Day underwear, with briefs the second favourite and thongs third. Still, five per cent chose "I don't wear underwear" -- a fact that might put your friends and neighbours in a somewhat different light.

The poll was conducted by SES Canada Research Inc., between June 7 and 12. It surveyed 500 randomly selected people who defined themselves as "beer drinkers," meaning they drink at least four beers a week. It is considered accurate within 4.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



Of the poll's 500 respondents, 32 per cent said the country's sexiest people come from Quebec, followed by 20 per cent for Ontario and 19 per cent for B.C.

Ms. Twain, the country-rock goddess, took the title Canada's sexiest celebrity by a kilometre, with 37 per cent of the vote. Pamela Anderson, the Baywatch babe whose anatomy precedes her, took 16 per cent of the vote, while Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the poll's third-sexiest Canadian, took nearly five per cent.

Stompin' Tom Connors, Liberal leadership contender Paul Martin, former B.C. premier Mike Harcourt and late night gasbag Mike Bullard -- all known more for talents other than toothsome -- each took a single vote on the sexiness scale, or 0.2 per cent apiece.

Of the most interesting places to have sex on Canada Day -- "On a beach in the Maritimes" took nearly 31 per cent. "In a canoe" took 14 per cent.

And Canadians would seem to rather have a beer with a dead politician than with any who count themselves among the living.

Mr. Trudeau took the "What Canadian politician, living or dead, would you most like to have a beer with?" category, claiming nearly 29 per cent of the vote.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was a distant second place, with 11 per cent. Further down the list, Mr. Martin snagged three per cent, while poor Heritage Minister Sheila Copps and Finance Minister John Manley, also Liberal leadership contenders, got just four votes each, or 0.8 per cent.

Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, whose name the poll misspelled as "Gilles Doucette" claimed just three votes, for 0.6 per cent.


"It shows where he stands in Canada's history," Mr. Oland said of Mr. Trudeau. "Almost 30 per cent of Canadians in this survey, anyway, would like to have spent time with him and, we were pleased to see, have a beer with him."

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