

Jewish prof pens unique crime-busting novel

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Quebec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL – Alain Hertz, a Jewish professor in the department of mathematical and industrial engineering of the École Polytechnique of the Université de Montréal, has used the expertise gained in his profession to write a fairly unique novel. It is a mystery based on mathematics.

The book has already been published in French and German, with the English version set to hit the shelves as early as this week.

Quick on the Draw: Crime-Busting with a Mathematical

Bialik Hebrew Day School to open second campus

VAUGHAN – One location of Bialik Hebrew Day School is no longer enough.

Breaking ground this summer on the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Jewish Community Campus, the Bialik board plans to offer another Jewish education option to families in York Region.

It will be equipped with a full gymnasium, art room and resource centre, the 800-student school is filling up quickly with early registration.

Scheduled to open in September 2013, the school is initially offering Junior Kinder-

garden, Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Monday, June 18 at 6 p.m. at 180 Ilan Ramon Blvd.

Moldova to host Limmud FSU

CHISINAU – Limmud FSU (Former Soviet Union), a program run entirely by volunteers, is a conference where Jews from Moldova and the southern region of Ukraine can come together and partic-



PROFESSOR ALAIN HERTZ

cipline with countless handy applications.

Hertz said that the novel provides the layperson with an excellent breakdown of a

science that's not very well known, using it to model a wide range of everyday situations.

"Thanks to its fun approach, it's great for both Sudoku and logic puzzle lovers and for math and science students and teachers," explained Hertz, a Swiss Jew who has called Montreal home for 11 years. "Learning while having fun. Isn't that what we'd all like to do?"

Quick on the Draw, Hertz said, speaks to having a fun approach to learning graph theory – a mathematical discipline with tons of everyday applications – using crime stories.

"Reading the novel is like taking an introductory course in graph theory without ever setting foot in a classroom," Hertz promised. "And since there are no prerequisites to understanding the mathematical logic laid out in the book, it's easy for anyone to read. The novel provides the layperson with an excellent breakdown of a science that's not very well known. The book is primarily intended for college and university students who enjoy solving puzzles, and for teachers who want to introduce their students to

graph theory. Teachers can use the companion lecture notes, which will help them integrate the book's cases into their course material with fun exercises. But anyone who loves logic games and Sudoku will enjoy solving the cases set out in the story."

Graph theory makes it possible to model a wide range of everyday situations. Inspector Manori uses this science to identify the criminals in the cases he leads. Because he's quick to draw his graphs, he's managed to nail a number of suspects, which has earned him the reputation of being quick on the draw! The book tells the story of four days in the life of Inspector Manori at an international forensics conference.

Every chapter of the book deals with a different graph theory concept, but without using any technical terms that might come across as daunting and get in the way of people's learning. The novel provides a broad view of the science while making it accessible to a wide audience.

"By the time they reach the last page of the book, readers will realize they've

learned quite a bit without even noticing it!" Hertz said.

Hertz said he has a lot in common with Inspector Manori. He studied in Switzerland, lives in Montreal and has immersed himself in graphs for some 25 years.

Hertz holds a doctorate in science from École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne. An internationally renowned researcher, he has more than 150 publications to his credit, most of them dealing with graph theory. He applies the science mainly to the fields of schedule-building and logistics system optimization. After conducting research in Jerusalem and Lausanne, he moved to Montréal in 2001 to join École Polytechnique.

His mission is to convey his passion for graphs by promoting them all over the world, especially by making them interesting and accessible to everyone.

"I am a professor who likes to get my students interested and motivated in what I am teaching them," he said.

For more information visit: www.gerad.ca/~alainh.

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