# Author foretold Titanic disaster 20 years before, says historian 

By BRENDA WEEKS
Twenty years before the Titanic named Titan of an ocean liner sank in the North Atlantic, an approximated those of the Titanic

## WORD POWER

## By BILL SHERK

Are you a sesquipedalian?
No, that's not a rare breed of tropical reptile. That's simply a person who is addicted to the use of big words. "Sesquipedalian" literally means "a foot and a half" (from Latin: "sesqui" - one and a half; "ped" - foot).

Sesqui" as a prefix will be widely used next year when the University of Toronto celebrates its sesquicentennial (one and a half centuries old). For those who like to plan ahead, Canada will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2017.

And now for "sesquibilingual" - a word that fills a gaping hole in our language between unilingual and bilingual. If you now speak one language and have spent years studying another language but have not yet gained complete fluency in it, then you are sesquilingual, as are millions of other people around the world.

But how do you measure half a language? It's here that we have to relax the rigid quantity of "one and a half" and apply "sesquilingual" generally to anyone who knows one language and a sizable portion of another. Even the term "bilingual" cannot be nailed down with complete exactitude in every case.

And now this week's test. Underline that choice which comes closest in meaning to the key word. Answers appear at the bottom 1) resilient

1) resilient - a) capable of quick recovery; b) ambiguous; c) vehement; d) quick; e) amenable
2) usurp - a) drink hastily; b) eat hastily; c) seize by force; d) hold tenaciously; e) move quickly
3) egregious - a) sociable; b) talkative; c) insipid; d) forard; e) glaring
4) desultory - a) hot and humid; b) rambling; c) vague; d) 5) euphonious
5) euphonious - a) conterfeit; b) discordant; c) monotonous pleasing to the ear; e) spurious
6) etymologist - one who: a) studies words; b) studies in7) plethora ecified issue; c) dearth; d) ling disease ; ) oversupply on a 8) entome, c) deart, d)
7) entomologist - one who studies: a) reptiles; b) insects; c) 9) d) fossils; e) precious stones
8) deuterogamy - a) husbands and wives in common; b) one husband, several wives; c) one wife, several husbands; d) second
9) entasis - a) skin ailment; b)
grammatical error; c) ar

ANSWERS: 1a), 2c), 3e), 4b), 5d), 6a), 7e), 8b), 9d), 10c)
being sunk in the North Atlantic from a collision with an iceberg. Fate had doomed the great ship, William Tantum IV told an audience of approximately 100 people in Bearpit 2, Thursday
The fictional Titan sunk in the Atiantic one cold April night after triking an iceberg exactly as did later," he claimed. Tantum who
Tantum, who is presently marine historian and vicepresident of the Titanic Historical his talk on ESP and Death that the Titanic had been built to be unsinkable and was thought to be so without reservation.
"With a passenger list of some 2,200, the Titanic had only enough life boats for 1,200 ", Tantum stated. "And yet, when she hit the iceberg, she didn't have a chance, going down in an hour and a half with only 700 people saved.

After that great shock, man learned that even with all his new technology, nothing could be un sinkable on the treacherous seas It was a very sobering act o fate," he said.
Delving into the trivial, Tantum told of the women in the life boats holding on to a lucky toy pig which played only until the rescue ship finally arrived
The wife of the captain of the Titanic awoke in a nightmarish fit after dreaming her husband was drowning in a stormy ocean, the very night of the disaster. The captain is supposed to have gone down with his ship, he told the audience.
Tantum also showed a collection of personal interviews in his film The Titanic and her Survivors, of which two characters stood out. A ship's steward got dead drunk the night of the sinking, feel overboard, and yet managed to survive. A wealthy female survivor of the ship went on to eventually sail on the Lusitania on her last voyage, and urvive that shinking as well.

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