



## The Sudoku Family and Friends Challenge

By [Myriam Saumure](#), Associate Editor, This Week @ IC

**May 19** — Have you ever found yourself squaring up to the 81 little boxes of Sudoku? The brainteaser game, which originated in the United States, can now be found in almost all of the daily newspapers in the National Capital Region and elsewhere, so it's easy to let yourself be carried away by it. Now, Ronald Séguin, an employee of Industry Canada, and his father Rosaire have created a multiplayer version of this captivating game and have set up the Sudoku Family and Friends Challenge.

### What is Sudoku?

The rules of Sudoku are relatively simple. The goal is to fill in each of several empty boxes with a numeral between one and nine. So far pretty straightforward, right? It gets tougher. The catch is that no line, or column or three-square-by-three-square block can contain the same numeral more than once. It's a game that demands a lot of logical thinking. Once you master it, though, you will never stop — which is what happened to Ronald and Rosaire Séguin. Feeling that they needed a new challenge, the father and son pair got together and created a group version of the game.



**Ronald, to the left and Rosaire, to the right, are having fun with their family**

### The creation of the Sudoku Family and Friends Challenge

It all started during the holidays. While visiting his son, Mr. Séguin's enthusiasm for the enigmatic game rubbed off on his son, and together they had a stroke of genius. They came up with a version of the game that can involve from two to five players and includes play variations that permit both young and old, novice and expert alike to share their enthusiasm without any serious competition.

The father-son team are doing everything they can to share the "new" game. The [rules](#) can be found on several Internet sites.

There are also group forums for interacting with others on the web. AmicaLien is one such online community where members can connect and share their interests, which is what the Séguins did. You can even play the [Sudoku Family and Friends Challenge](#) (French only) with others online — it's very interactive. It's this site that Rosaire and Ronald Séguin take part in, since it offers simultaneous game play with other members. Visitors may also explore the site as a guest.

Ronald Séguin had the good sense to register the rules of his game with the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#), an agency of Industry Canada. He has garnered nothing but positive results from the experience. "Our goal is to get people together for fun and enjoyment playing Sudoku. It's a great pastime." Rosaire and Ronald Séguin are so enthusiastic about their creation that it's impossible for us to remain indifferent about their success. So we're passing it on.



**Ronald and Rosaire hold their copyright**