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Calmar resident sees double with \$5 million LOTTO 6/49 jackpot

LOTTO 6/49 winner accidentally buys two tickets for the same draw; wins \$2.5 million on each

Calmar's Andrew Burke jokes that he's finally lived up to his father-in-law's expectations.

"On our wedding day, my father-in-law said 'I always wanted my daughter to marry a millionaire, but I got the next best thing – someone who spends money like a millionaire.' Well...now..." Burke trailed off into laughter while claiming a \$5 million windfall from the September 16 LOTTO 6/49 draw.

Burke's claim was unusual – he would've taken home the same \$5 million prize regardless, but this time, he accidentally picked up two tickets for the same draw using the same series of numbers he's been playing for years. As a result, he shared the jackpot with himself – winning \$2.5 million on *each* ticket.

"The first line is always birthdays – just like everyone else in the world," he explained with a chuckle. "The others are just what I call 'hmm' numbers" – after the sound he makes when he's picking them. Burke says that he'll play the same series of "hmm numbers" until he loses or wears out his last selection slip, and then picks new ones.

The last line of "hmm numbers" on both Burke's tickets matched the six LOTTO 6/49 main winning numbers drawn on September 16: 6, 12, 23, 29, 44, and 46.

Burke picked up both his tickets from Fas Gas Calmar Service, at 5001 50th Avenue in Calmar, where he's a regular. It's also where he found out about his win – to the excitement of the staff.

"The owner walked in and said 'what have you done Andy, have you broken my machine?'" he recalled. "The clerk then told me 'you've won \$2.5 million' – and I said she better check that other ticket, because it's the same numbers!"

Burke, who says he's now "on vacation" from his job until further notice, says the windfall probably means he's going to retire from playing the lottery.

"At \$5 million, I think I'll give someone else a chance," he laughed. He says he plans to use his windfall to do some renovations on his house, restore a vintage Land Rover he owns, and maybe take a trip back home to the United Kingdom when travel is safer.

"All I wanted out of the lottery was to be able to retire comfortably, keep up on the house, and have my Land Rover restored. I don't need anything else," he said. "I have everything I need."

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT •

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