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**SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY**

**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day.** On this day, many people in Canada say "thank you" to their mothers, or to people who are like mothers to them. They show their appreciation for all that their mothers do, for taking the time to care for them and help them through the challenges of life.

Some people give cards, flowers, or chocolates, and/or make handmade items or special meals on Mother's Day. Others take their mothers to the movies, a restaurant, café, or for a day in a park. Some mothers also receive special gifts such as jewelry, clothing, accessories, and gift vouchers for services or products.

**Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> is Victoria Day.** It celebrates the birthdays of both Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Victoria was born on May 24, 1819. It is a national holiday and schools and most businesses are closed. Many Canadians consider this the first long weekend of cottage season, (the time of year when people often spend weekends at the cottage, away from the city). Many towns will have fireworks displays on this weekend, so check your town's or city's website.

**Things To Do:**



JAPANESE CANADIAN  
CULTURAL CENTRE  
日系文化会館

The JCCC will be holding their annual Bazaar on the first Saturday of May, (May 2, 2015).

<http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/>



The Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival will be held on June 20 & 21 at Toronto Centre Island.

Find out more by clicking on the logo.



If you are feeling adventurous, maybe you would like to try Tree Top Trekking. More information can be found by clicking on their logo!



The Wind Climbers Kite Club is hosting the Dumfries Kitefest on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>. Click on the kite to find out more!

**WHAT'S HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER?**

*English Matters* took some students

- To **Allan Gardens** to see some of the beautiful flowers.
- To **Brooks Farms** for some fun.
- *English Matters* also hosted a **Zentangle** Workshop to introduce some students to this unique form of art.

Thank you, Janet-sensei!

**What can we do for you?**

**DID YOU KNOW?...**

**Level 1 (Beginner)**

The canoe is a Canadian icon. An icon is a picture that represents something.



**Level 2 (Intermediate)**

The Native People of Canada used canoes to travel on water. These canoes were made of cedar trees and the bark from Birch trees, (birchbark). People learned how to build these canoes from their parents.

**Level 3 (Advanced)**

The main way of travelling on water for Canada's Aboriginal people was the birchbark canoe. The frame was made of cedar. The frame was covered in birchbark and the joints were sewn with spruce or white pine roots. The seams were coated with hot sap from pine trees to make them waterproof. The skills to build canoes were passed down from generation to generation.

**African Lion Safari**

Canada's Original Safari Adventure™

Visit African Lion Safari

Where the people are in the cage, (their car), and the animals roam free. Click the logo to find out more!



The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Little Italy Festival will take place June 19 – 21 in Toronto. Click on the logo to get all the information!

**FATHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY JUNE 21**

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, Canadians will celebrate Father's Day. People will express their appreciation and love for their fathers, or anyone that is like a father in their lives. This could involve spending time with these special people, buying them gifts or making something for them. School children will often bring home gifts that they have made in class for their fathers.

**BERRY PICKING SEASON IS COMING SOON!!!**

A tasty, kid-friendly activity in the Summer in Ontario is Berry Picking. There are many farms that allow you to "pick your own". Here is how to find a farm near you:

Go to <http://ontarioberries.com/site/berry-info.html>

Click on Find a Farm by Location.

Click on the map until you find a farm close to you.



The weather will determine when the berries are ready to pick. In general, Strawberries are available in June/July, Raspberries are available in August, and Blueberries are available in August. Call the farm before going to the farm, to make sure the berries are available, and to find out what the picking conditions are, (for example, it could be very muddy). Some other suggestions are:

- 🍓 Check if the farm provides containers or if you need to bring your own. Flatter containers are better so you don't squish your berries.
- 🍓 Go picking early in the day to avoid arriving only to discover that the fields have been picked clean.
- 🍓 Do not pile the berries too high in your basket or they will get squashed.
- 🍓 Bring drinks and snacks.
- 🍓 Don't forget hats and sunscreen for the sun.

**HAVE FUN!!!**

The "Day Out With Thomas – Celebration Tour"

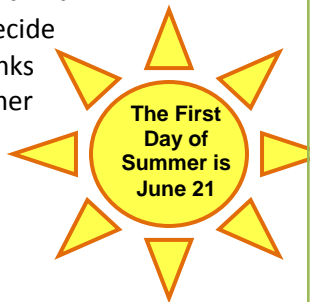
is coming to Uxbridge in August. Click on the picture to get all the details!



**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE CONTEST ON PAGE 3!**

The school year will be over in less than 2 months. If you want to enroll your child in a **Summer Camp**, now is the time to decide which ones you want to try. Use the links below to find information about summer camps near you.

- 🌟 [Summer Camps in Toronto](#)
- 🌟 [Find a Summer Camp in Markham](#)
- 🌟 [Summer Camps in Mississauga](#)



**FARMERS MARKETS** will start to re-open in May and June. They are usually open only on weekends. You will find a large variety of fruits and vegetables being sold by local farmers. Many markets also have meats, baked goods, flowers and crafts available for sale too. Click on the links below to find a market near you!



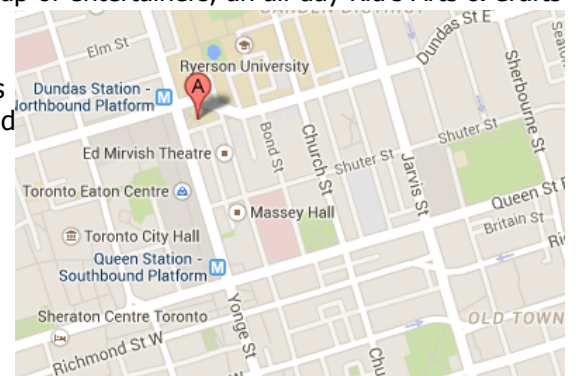
- 😊 [Farmers Markets in Mississauga](#)
- 😊 [Markham's Farmers Market](#)
- 😊 [Farmers Markets in Toronto](#)

**CANADIAN HISTORY & CULTURE CORNER**

**JUNE IS NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY MONTH**

The history of Aboriginal peoples, (original peoples in North America), in Canada is rich and diverse. This history begins long before the arrival of the Europeans to North America. The Aboriginal peoples played, and continue to play, an important role in the development and future of Canada. Every June, we celebrate National Aboriginal History Month. It is an opportunity to honour the heritage, contributions and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 12:00pm – 8:00pm, there will be a celebration at Yonge & Dundas Square. There will be an exciting line-up of entertainers, an all-day Kid's Arts & Crafts Tent, and authentic craft vendors exhibiting and selling their wares.



## A FUN CONTEST FOR ENGLISH MATTERS YOUTH

English Matters is having a fun contest for children of English Matters families, under the age of 18!

It is simple. Draw a picture of a time, or a situation where lessons from **English Matters** helped you.

Maybe it was when you had to make a presentation at school.

Maybe it was when you helped your mom at the store.

The first 3 students to send in a picture will win a small prize.

Your picture may be published in the next **English Matters** Newsletter!

Pictures must be submitted by **Monday May 11, 2015**.

**HAVE FUN!!!**

**STEP 1:** Draw your picture in the box below.

**STEP 2:** Add a few sentences in English telling us what your picture is about.

**STEP 3:** Submit your picture by scanning it and emailing it to [lorrain@englishmatters.ca](mailto:lorrain@englishmatters.ca)

**OR**

Take a picture of your picture and email it to [lorrain@englishmatters.ca](mailto:lorrain@englishmatters.ca)

**OR**

Give your picture to your **English Matters** teacher and they will send it to Lorrain.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

How Lessons with **English Matters** have helped me:

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