



In This Issue

Page 1

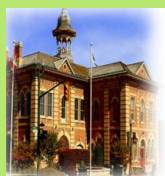
- Things to Do
- Important Dates
- Tell Me Why?
- Did You Know?

Page 2

- More Things to Do
- History & Culture Corner
- Christmas Spending
- Christmas Stockings
- Go Back In Time

Things To Do

The Artisans' Gift Fair
Every weekend in December
Stylish, one-of-a-kind items
Affordable, quality gifts
Free Admission!



Orangeville
Shop in the pretty town of
Orangeville
1 hour from Toronto
Click to find out more



Free Concert Series

145 Queen Street W.
Click for dates & ticket info

10 TYPES OF LISTENING

End the frustration & understand by clicking here

Boot Camp
Audio Lessons
Video Lessons
Try a free sample lesson TODAY



Learn to snowshoe
click to register
Lesson & snowshoes included
WYE MARSH

Click for the Free Annual
Christmas Flower Show
Allan Gardens Conservatory
for the month of December



Christmas Break

December 23 – January 3

This coincides with the school Christmas

Do you want lessons during the Christmas break?
Please ask your teacher.
If your teacher is available,
contact the office with your Christmas lesson dates.

PARKA

Is a fur-lined hooded coat designed originally by Canadian Inuit!

TELL ME WHY?



An English Matters student asks:

Why are hoods on Canadian parkas so big?

There are a few reasons why hoods are so big:

- ✓ Well-made winter hoods are built to extend beyond your face to break the wind and snow and provide protection.
- ✓ A large hood is needed if you have large hair, a big head, or are wearing a toque, (or some combination of all 3!).
- ✓ If you wrap a scarf around your neck, you will need a large hood to go over the scarf.

If you have a question for "Tell Me Why", please send an email to liza@englishmatters.ca

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER!!
If you are going to be away this winter,
DO NOT TURN OFF YOUR HEAT!
Your pipes will freeze and burst. You can turn your heat down, but not off.



It's Time To Get a Flu Shot!

Ontario has a Universal Flu Immunization Program. The best defense against the flu is to get the shot. Flu shots are available from a

- doctor or nurse practitioner
- local public health unit
- participating pharmacy

There may be special instructions for very young children or seniors so call ahead.

For more information click the needle:



What do elves learn in grade one?



IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

The elf-abet!

November 3	Daylight Savings Ends	Clocks get turned back one hour. We all get 1 more hour of sleep!
November 11	Remembrance Day	Wear a poppy. Take a moment to remember and honour our war veterans.
December 24	Christmas Eve	Santa will visit homes, and bring gifts to good boys and girls. Don't forget to leave out cookies!
December 25	Christmas Day	Open gifts, spend time with family, share a special dinner, usually with roast turkey & pie.
December 26	Boxing Day	Visit friends, or go shopping for amazing deals as stores sell off their inventories.
December 31	New Year's Eve	Gather with friends & family to say good bye to 2019. Stay up until midnight to welcome 2020!

DID YOU KNOW?

Beginner

The Christmas story of **The Elves and the Shoemaker** was brought to Canada from Germany. It is more than 200 years old.



Click the elf to watch on YouTube

Intermediate

The shoemaker and his wife are old and poor. He cuts the leather for one pair of shoes so that he can sew the shoes in the morning. But, in the morning, he finds the shoes have been sewn! He and his wife hide the next night and see some tiny elves sewing more beautiful shoes. They make handsome clothes for the elves to thank them.

Advanced

Elves, brownies, sprites, fairies, gnomes, pixies and leprechauns are just some of the mythical creatures of European lore. Most are rather charmingly depicted but they may fool you. They may be benevolent or malevolent. They are all fêted during various holidays throughout the year. Children gain awareness of them in fairytales and folklore. Many of them can be placated by leaving out a bowl of cream. If you want to impede their mischief, you can spill some salt or sugar in front of them and they'll feel compelled to stop and count each grain. Angels intrinsically embody Christmas because it is they who trumpeted the birth of Jesus.



Why Do We Hang Stockings at Christmas?



According to legend, there was a poor man with 3 daughters. Because they were so poor, he worried that his daughters would never be able to marry. They would remain poor forever.

St. Nicholas was in the village and heard about the family's struggles. One night he secretly dropped gold coins down their chimney to help them. However, the daughters had hung their freshly washed stockings by the fire, so they would dry. The coins ended up in their stockings!

Today some families hang plain, everyday socks, (just like the daughters did), on Christmas Eve in hopes that Santa Claus will fill them with presents. Other families use special, decorated socks. What will you use?



You can send a letter to Santa at:
Santa Claus
North Pole, Canada
HOH OHO

(Canada Post has elves that will respond)



CANADIAN HISTORY & CULTURE CORNER

THE HUDSON BAY POINT BLANKET



Keep warm this Christmas in a truly Canadian way!

In almost every mall in Canada, you will find a Hudson's Bay store...a large retail department store. However, back in 1670, it was a trading company operating in Canada. In the beginning, fur trappers would bring furs to the company to trade for other goods such as knives, clothing and blankets. Eventually blankets became the most popular item.

In 1798 the company placed an order for "30 pairs of 3 points to be striped with four colours (red, blue, green, yellow, according to your judgement". The Hudson Bay Point Blanket was born!

The blankets were 100% wool and dried quickly making them very popular with everyone and especially First Nations people. The stripes have become iconic in Canada, and Hudson's Bay now sells a large variety of products with these stripes.

However, the blankets are the most collectible and can be bursting with historical stories.

Depending on the age, condition, colour and size of the blanket, it could be worth thousands of dollars.



Canadians Will Spend, Spend, Spend in December!

The Christmas Season is a time for family and friends. It is also a time for parties, (with lots of food and drinks), gift-buying and travelling.



In December...

...Canadians spend more than they do in any other month of the year!

...Canadians will spend more than \$5 billion on food and beverages.

...Canadians will spend almost \$100 million on gift wrap, stationary, cards, party supplies and office supplies.

...Canadians will consume over 5 million litres of eggnog.

But all the eating and drinking and partying takes a toll. So, Canadians will spend over \$31 million on exercise and fitness equipment **in January**, (more than any other month in the year!!)



Go Back In Time...

The newsletters posted on the **English Matters** website in previous years have lots of information that can be helpful now. →



Click to learn about:

- Remembrance Day and poppies. (Page 1)
- Christmas and its symbols. (Page 2)
- How to make warm apple cider. (Page 1)

in the **November/December 2014 newsletter.**

Why didn't the turkey eat on Christmas Day?

Because he was already stuffed!

More Things To Do

WELCOME TO THE
TORONTO CHRISTMAS MARKET
 At The Distillery District
December 14-22, 2019
Free Mon – Fri
 Tickets needed Sat – Sun
 & Fri after at 6:00 p.m.
 Click for details

CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY
 NOV 30, 2019 - JAN 5, 2020
EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS 1890 CHRISTMAS 1940
 TODMORDEN MILLS
 CLICK ON 'EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS'

VISIT THE
 ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO
EARLY RUBENS
 Until January 5, 2020
 Book Now by Clicking

AURORA
 WINTER FESTIVAL
 Buy family tickets by clicking here
 Ontario Place

Feast your Eyes on the Festive Window Displays In Downtown Toronto

Stroll from one glamorous big store window to the next with a hot chocolate to keep you warm. Truly magical to behold!

- * **Hudson's Bay Co.,**
176 Yonge St.
- * **Saks Fifth Avenue,**
176 Yonge St.
- * **Holt Renfrew.**
50 Bloor St. West
- * **Tiffany & Co.,**
150 Bloor St. West

Calvacade of Lights
 Saturday November 30th
 Nathan Phillips Square,
 (100 Queen St. W.)

Join the official start to the holiday season with the **Calvacade of Lights!** Marvel at the lighting of Toronto's giant Christmas tree, & enjoy live musical performances, a skating party and a spectacular fireworks display!

! WARNING
 Daylight Savings time ends on **November 3rd.** Clocks will move back 1 hour on that day.