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**DON'T FORGET, THE NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE**

**ENGLISH  
..... matters** [WEBSITE](#)

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

#### English Matters:

- ☺ Enjoyed a day at Black Creek Pioneer Village with some students.
- ☺ Made butter with an old-fashioned recipe.
- ☺ Shared seasonal dessert recipes with students



Let us know how **ENGLISH  
..... matters** can help you!

English Matters posts Canadian information regularly on Facebook. "Friend" us today!

[CLICK HERE](#)

In English, we say something "rings a bell" if it is familiar, or if it triggers a memory.

### Things To Do:



**oneofakind  
SHOW & SALE**

Click the logo to go to the website

**November 24 – December 4**  
Enercare Centre  
Exhibition Place, Toronto  
100 Princes' Blvd.



**AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR**  
**NOVEMBER 4-13, 2016**

Click the logo to go to the website

Exhibition Place, Toronto  
100 Princes' Blvd.  
(Lakeshore Blvd & Strachan Ave.)



A Christmas Tradition

**THE  
NUTCRACKER**

From \$165

Canada's  
Ballet JORGE  
du Canada  
From \$52

Two Ballet Companies  
Choose your Budget  
Click on the logos to find  
out more about each!



**TORONTO  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

Click the  
logo to go  
to the  
website

One of the top 10 holiday  
markets in the world!

From Nov 18 to Dec 22

Toronto's Historic Distillery District.

**Sunday November 20 2016**

12:30

Find the route and  
more by clicking  
the logo

Don't forget to take  
your letter for Santa



### That "Rings a Bell" Quiz

Think back to the last issue for answers

1. What do Canadians roast for their Thanksgiving feast?
2. What can you find at the end of a rainbow?
3. Which province may have buried pirate treasure?

(Answers on page 2)

**On Sunday, November 6,**

**at 2:00 a.m.,  
we move our clocks  
back 1 hour.  
This ends  
Daylight Savings  
Time.**



**CHECK OUT PAGE 3 FOR  
INFORMATION ABOUT SKATING,  
SLEDDING & OTHER WINTER THINGS  
TO DO!!!**

### Puffins of Atlantic Canada

Along the east coast of Canada you may see a puffin. The odd behavior of this bird, and its waddle, (the way it walks), have led to its nickname "clown of the sea" and "sea parrot". It is the official bird symbol for the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Puffins mostly live at sea and mostly eat fish. They rest on the waves when they are not swimming. They use their wings to swim and their feet to steer. They also fly, and can go 80km/hour.

Each spring and summer, the puffins form breeding colonies on the coasts of the North Atlantic Ocean. Puffins begin to mate at 4 or 5 years of age. They create burrows in cliffs in the soil, or in between rocks. They build their nest at the back of the burrow.

The females lay one egg. Both the mother and the father look after the egg. Once the baby hatches, (it is called a chick), the parents take turns feeding the chick. Puffin couples mate for life.

Puffins live for about 20 years.

Click on the picture to see  
a short video of puffins in  
Newfoundland & Labrador.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

#### Level 1 (Beginner)

This is a poinsettia plant.  
The plant grows in Central  
America.



#### Level 2 (Intermediate)

There is a story about how poinsettias became part of Christmas. There was a poor, little girl that did not have a present to give Jesus on Christmas Eve. She picked some weeds as a gift. When she placed the weeds in the church they burst into bright red flowers. Everyone believed it was a Christmas miracle.

#### Level 3 (Advanced)

The poinsettia plant was named after Joel Roberts Poinsett. He was the first United States Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. He owned some greenhouses in the U.S. and when he returned home, he brought some of the plants with him. He grew more plants and gave them to friends and started selling them. People started referring to them as poinsettias when they found out who first brought them to the U.S.

## MORE THINGS TO DO:

## Old Fashioned Christmas Fun!



Christmas activities  
in late November and  
December.

1000 Murray Ross Pkwy  
(Steeles Ave & Jane St.)

Click the logo to go to  
the website

## Niagara Falls Winter Lights

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> to Jan 30

8 Kilometres & Millions of Lights

Click [HERE](#) for [Special Hotel](#)  
Packages

TORONTO CALVACADE  
of LIGHTS

Lighting of Toronto's  
official Christmas Tree  
Nathan Phillips Square

Saturday, November 26, 2016

Live music, fireworks, skating party!



Donkeys, shepherds, angels & a baby!

See the story of Jesus' birth  
in a manger in a live nativity play!  
Holy Trinity Church - Eaton Centre  
Click for more info!



Continues until

November 6<sup>th</sup>!

Eat, Drink, Buy Chocolate !



Skiing, snowshoeing, skating and tubing!

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING  
GREAT TO DO

## Nostalgic News

Click [here](#) to see a typical  
Canadian family's calendar  
for December.

(HINT: It is on Page 2 of the 2015  
November/December newsletter).

## Answers to Quiz

1. Turkey and cranberries
2. Leprechauns and a pot of gold
3. Nova Scotia

## CANADIAN HISTORY &amp; CULTURE CORNER—CANADIAN CHRISTMAS

## December is a Busy and Important Month!

Many Canadians celebrate Christmas. Christmas day is December 25 but the preparations begin weeks before. Christmas began as a Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time to honour things that Jesus Christ stood for: kindness, forgiveness, generosity, etc. Santa Claus was added in the 1800's to Christmas celebrations. He visits the homes of good boys and girls on Christmas Eve. He puts gifts under the Christmas tree, and in the hanging stockings. People decorate their homes with candles, wreaths, Christmas lights and Christmas ornaments.

## PARTIES AT CHRISTMAS

One type of party is a Christmas Open House. The invitation will tell you the time of the Open House. For example, the invitation may say from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Guests can come and go any time between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Here are some ideas for hosting an Open House:

- ☑ Send out invitations to family and friends.
- ☑ Decorate your house. Hang a wreath on the door.
- ☑ Wrap a garland around door frames or stair railings.
- ☑ Put Christmas lights on railings, door frames. Add mistletoe.
- ☑ Decorate a Christmas tree with lights and ornaments.
- ☑ Buy paper plates & serviettes with a Christmas theme.
- ☑ Put poinsettias around your house for a Christmas mood.
- ☑ Serve hot and cold appetizers for guests. Grocery stores have many appetizers in the frozen food section. (ex. sausage rolls, spring rolls, phyllo pastry with cheese and vegetables, etc.). Crackers with a cheese ball or goat cheese wrapped in cranberries are festive and available at grocery stores.
- ☑ Serve wine and cocktails. Traditional Christmas drinks are eggnog with rum, and cider.
- ☑ Wear sparkly or shiny clothes with gorgeous jewelry.
- ☑ Play lots of Christmas Carols and Christmas songs.



Mistletoe is Christmas tradition.  
If you stand under mistletoe,  
you cannot refuse a kiss!  
(Mistletoe is hard to get. Use  
anything green as a substitute.)

In December, malls &  
stores open early &  
close late. Check the  
website of your local  
stores.

A **carol** has a  
religious tone.

A **song** has a  
seasonal tone.



A traditional dessert for  
Christmas is Pumpkin Pie.  
Try baking one!

## Simple Pumpkin Pie Recipe

- 1 refrigerated rolled pie crust
  - 1 300 ml can pumpkin
  - 1 300 ml can sweet condensed milk
  - 2 eggs
  - 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
  - ½ teaspoon salt (optional)
1. Preheat oven to 425 °F. Unroll pie crust & place in 9" pie plate.
  2. Mix ingredients in bowl on medium speed for about 1 minute.
  3. Pour mixture into pie crust.
  4. Crimp pie crust edges with fingers. Cover edge of pie crust with foil so it won't burn.
  5. Bake at 425 °F for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 °F. Bake 40-50 minutes more until pie is set & knife comes out clean. Cool 2 hours. Serve with whipped cream. :)

IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER  
& DECEMBER





- \*All of November: Movember – Grow a moustache for your office charity
- \*Nov 6: **Daylight Savings Ends** - see p. 1
- \*Nov 11: **Remembrance Day** – wear a poppy above your heart
- \*Nov 25: **Black Friday** – Xmas shopping begins at stores
- \*Nov 28: **Cyber Monday** - Xmas shopping sales on-line
- \*Dec 24: **Christmas Eve** – with family
- \*Dec 25: **Christmas Day** – open gifts!
- \*Dec 26: **Boxing Day** – big retail sales
- \*Dec 31: **New Year's Eve** – have a big party or go to bed early :)

## Winter is coming!

The first day of winter is December 21.

Winter in Canada is very fun! You can join many activities.

Follow the links below!

MARKHAM	Skating	 CLICK ON THE PICTURE TO GO TO THE DETAILS.
MARKHAM	Sledding	<a href="http://york.foundlocally.com/Sports/Rec-TobogganHills.htm">http://york.foundlocally.com/Sports/Rec-TobogganHills.htm</a>
MARKHAM	Things to Do With Kids	<a href="http://www.childslife.ca/events/category/york-region/">http://www.childslife.ca/events/category/york-region/</a>
MARKHAM	Santa Claus Parade 	<a href="http://www.mainstreetmarkham.com/santa-claus-parade/">http://www.mainstreetmarkham.com/santa-claus-parade/</a>
TORONTO	Skating	<a href="http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vqnextoid=a3cadada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD">http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vqnextoid=a3cadada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD</a>
TORONTO	Sledding	<a href="http://www.gtarent.com/2010/12/some-great-places-to-go-sledding-in-gta.html">http://www.gtarent.com/2010/12/some-great-places-to-go-sledding-in-gta.html</a>
TORONTO	Things to Do With Kids	<a href="http://www.childslife.ca/events/category/toronto/">http://www.childslife.ca/events/category/toronto/</a>
TORONTO	Santa Claus Parade 	<a href="http://www.thesantaclausparade.ca/">http://www.thesantaclausparade.ca/</a>
RICHMOND HILL	Skating	<a href="https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/Skating.aspx">https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/Skating.aspx</a>
RICHMOND HILL	Sledding	<a href="http://york.foundlocally.com/Sports/Rec-TobogganHills.htm">http://york.foundlocally.com/Sports/Rec-TobogganHills.htm</a>
RICHMOND HILL	Things to Do With Kids	<a href="https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/families.aspx">https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/families.aspx</a>
RICHMOND HILL	Santa Claus Parade 	<a href="https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/santa-claus-parade.aspx">https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/things-to-do/santa-claus-parade.aspx</a>