



Volunteer Toronto

Most of us have privileged lives and 2020 will be a good year. But some people in Toronto need help. Please consider volunteering. Help people, interact with others and learn more English! **Click Now!**

VOLUNTEER

Happy New Year!

from everyone at
English Matters



Those born in the year of the rat are charming and shrewd. They are energetic and make good engineers and architects. 2020 will be a good year for those under the sign of the rat.



IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

JANUARY 1 – New Year's Day – Stick to your resolution for 2020

JANUARY 25 – Lunar New Year – Celebrate Year of the Rat and have a feast!

FEBRUARY 2 – Groundhog Day – Will the groundhog see his shadow to bring more winter?

FEBRUARY 14 – Valentine's Day – Be romantic, with or without children

FEBRUARY 17 – Family Day – Enjoy a 3-day weekend with your children (and spouse)

FEBRUARY 29 – Leap Year Day – An extra day to fold origami frogs



DIAMOND TOOTH GERTIES GAMBLING HALL

is a casino in Dawson City, Yukon.

It is named for a legendary young dance hall girl who had a diamond between her two front teeth. She lived in Dawson during the gold rush just before 1900. She married a well-known lawyer, amongst other husbands, and once escaped a fire in Monte Carlo. She misled another husband, telling him she was 32 when she was really 46! You can visit Gerties in Dawson City, Yukon, to gamble, watch a high-spirited vaudeville show and get a good drink, the old-fashioned Yukon gold rush way!



Q. How do people in the Yukon greet newcomers?

A. Ice to meet you!

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It's our Anniversary!

English Matters was established in 1995! So, now, we are 25 years old! Students can celebrate with us by coming on an excursion for FREE! Excursions are always fun and you can meet people and learn about Canada! Here are some great pictures from some past excursions:



DID YOU KNOW...?

Beginner

Land of the Midnight Sun

The Yukon can have snow 11 months of the year with 20 hours of sun in the summer and 5.5 hours of sun in the winter. The temperature is about +14°C in summer and -15°C in winter. Click to see Northern Lights:



Intermediate

The Aurora Borealis, or the Northern Lights, are bright lights that dance across the northern sky between August and April every year. The lights dance in every colour, but mostly, green and pink. The lights are caused by gases from the far-away sun's atmosphere. The Yukon is a great spot to see the Aurora Borealis and enjoy nature.

Advanced

The Yukon Quest is a mushing race 1,600 km from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Fairbanks, Alaska, every other year. It memorializes the labours of trappers & miners who established paths with no modern equipment throughout this rugged terrain and in severe conditions. Organizers take 4-8 weeks to groom and mark the trail in preparation. The next race, notwithstanding weather conditions, is February 1st, 2020. Participants can anticipate running for six hour stretches and then camp-resting for six hours at -45°C without a shelter.

Things To Do

Fort York Frost Fair

1793 Defense for Canada
See history unfold

Family lantern tours after dark
Bring Your skates for the Bentway later



NATIONAL CANADIAN SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Figure Skating
Mississauga
Jan 13 - 19, 2020

Free Skate

Nathan Phillips Square
rent skates, get treats, have fun
TORONTO

YAMATO

The Drummers of Japan
Roy Thompson Hall
FRI JAN 24 8:00 PM
Click for Tickets

BUY TICKETS

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Jan 31 - \$33-\$127 Click for Tickets

The Mozart Effect

A Symphony for the Senses

Valentine's Day

What does Your Wife Want?

Flowers are nice and chocolate is good. Your wife wants time with you and a small note or card with a kind message. Make time for you & your **LOVE**

on Valentine's Day



Test of English as a Foreign Language

You've studied hard. Now, take the TOEFL test in downtown Toronto for only \$245. There are several test dates on Saturdays in January & February in 2020. Check by clicking the icon



Become a member of The Sourtoe Cocktail Club

In the early part of the 1900's, some places in North America had a law prohibiting alcohol. So, people made and traded alcohol illegally and were called, "rum runners".

One man was driving his dog team through a blizzard with some illegal alcohol through the Yukon in a snowstorm. He was trying to escape the police. He kept running with his dogs. But it was very cold and he couldn't feel his toes. He took off his boot. His toe was frostbitten. He cut it off to stop his foot rotting and he put the toe in a

A Journal entry from Mrs. G

Last year, my family and I visited

BLOOR-YORKVILLE ICEFEST

I found out about this event from English Matters' Newsletter. It always keeps me informed about many interesting things happening in Toronto.

The theme for last year was Hollywood North, and there were 21 ice sculptures inspired by the film industry in Toronto. The live ice carving demonstration was very exciting! All of us were watching how ice carvers were working on ice blocks, turning them into beautiful crystal ice sculptures.

I was also curious about maple taffy, but unfortunately, I didn't try it because it was a very long line. But I would like to try it next time. It is very cold in Toronto during winter, but such a fun outdoor event encourages me to leave my home and enjoy it!



Q. What can you get from a Yukon cow?

A. Ice cream!

Click logo for more info

bottle of the rum he was running. His friends commemorated him by drinking from the bottle and the Sourtoe Cocktail Club was born.

Today, you can travel to the **SOURDOUGH SALOON** in Dawson City and pledge the 'Sourtoe Oath'. Then, drink your Sourtoe Cocktail (be sure the toe touches your lips - don't swallow it!) to become a member!



Q. What falls over and over again in Yukon but never gets hurt?

A. Snow!

February 2020 is a leap year!

The Gregorian calendar was designed by an Italian doctor and astronomer, Luigi Lilio and adopted in 1582 by many European countries. That year, people went to bed on October 4th and woke up the next day on October 15th! WHY?

OCTOBER 1582

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Previous calendars were always just a little misaligned and eventually, the calendar needed to be adjusted.

The Earth takes approximately 365.242189 days - or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds - to orbit once around the Sun, which is called a tropical year. That means that even the Gregorian calendar will lose 5 hrs, 48 mins, 45 secs every year. So, every 4 years we have an extra day - February 29th - a leap day.

However, not every four years includes a leap day. The year is not a leap year if it can be divided by 100 unless it can also be divided by 400. 🤔

More Things To Do

Winterlicious
Various locations in the GTA
Jan 31 - Feb 13, 2020
Find out more by clicking

BLOOR-YORKVILLE ICEFEST
WITH ICE SCULPTURES GLITTERING TO THE MAX
FEBRUARY 8, 12-8PM
FEBRUARY 9, 12-5PM
VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE PARK (CUMBERLAND ST. & BELLAIR ST.)

AUTOSHOW
Feb 14 - 23, 2020
Click the car for:
Early Bird Discount Tickets until January 15th, 2020

Romantic Light Fest at the Love Distillery District
Jan 18 - Mar 3

Fox Bay
On Lake Laberge Yukon
Retreat YUKON
KANOE PEOPLE
Guided Midnight Sun Summer Tours
Guided Aurora Winter Tours

CANADIAN HISTORY & CULTURE CORNER Yukon Territory

Gold! In 1896 gold was discovered in a river in the Yukon. In just a couple of years, 10,000's of people hurried to the area in hopes that they would get rich. This began the Klondike Gold Rush. Men searching for gold had to travel over frozen mountains with no roads and carry supplies for one year. Only a few found gold, but they became very rich. Others became rich selling goods to the men of the Gold Rush.

The Yukon became a territory of Canada in 1898 and Dawson City became the capital. In 1953 the capital was changed to Whitehorse. The south of Yukon is heavily forested and the tree line is moving north because of global warming. There are minerals and natural gas but it is far from markets.

The Yukon is one of the friendliest places in Canada. The population is 34,157 people in 482,443 square kilometres. There's lots of space in the unspoiled wilderness for you to visit!

Try dog sledding, horseback riding, cycling in the mountains, camping, hunting, snowshoeing, rafting, sky watching, snowmobiling and more!

You might catch a glimpse of Cougars, Mountain Goats, Alaska Moose, Snow Goose, Arctic Foxes, Muskox, Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bears, Polar Bears, Muskrats, Wolverines, Snowshoe Hares, Minks and more!