



# The Maple Leaf

No.100

Curitiba, April 2007

## THE CANADIAN ENGLISH CENTRE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Maple Leaf #100

In June of 1995 the first issue of the Maple Leaf was printed, and now, almost twelve years later we publish its 100th issue. The Maple Leaf was created to complement the mission of the Canadian English Centre to educate, give information about our school and promote Canada. Since its first issue, the Maple Leaf has also been publishing assorted news stories, which help more advanced students to practice their English and has received countless contributions in form of text, pictures, jokes and ideas. The Maple Leaf always highlights the Student of the Month, who is a student that stands out for his/her performance in our school and this person becomes a proud member of our Hall of Fame. Students of the Month also enjoy a special dinner every semester, which is also one more opportunity they have to practice their English. The present format of the Maple Leaf has been unchanged since its third issue, from August of 1995. This newsletter consists of two pages, each with three columns. The first column on the first page is the main text, which tells the students about the school or school-related subjects. The second column shows the Student of the Month, although the term "month" is not very accurate, once those students join a long line of outstanding individuals for many months before they are chosen. The third column is about education, featuring "Tips on English Idioms," which is a continuous source of new, common idioms for the students. This item is followed by "It's True," another educational feature, which presents proverbs, sayings and adages in English. The first column on the second page gives some information about Canada or the Canadian culture, followed by assorted news stories, our "Pause for a Joke" and our Friday conversation schedule, which can also be found on our home page. The Maple Leaf also has fans and readers in Canada and in Europe. Enjoy it!

### Our First Issue

You can find the first issue of the Maple Leaf on our home page! *The Student of the Month will be back next issue.*

### The Maple Leaf

Vol.1 No.1 Curitiba, June 1995

THE JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN ENGLISH CENTRE

Curitiba Has a New English School

The Canadian English Centre has just been founded and called Curitiba, a new and exclusive method, which takes students with no knowledge of English to communication level in just two years.

An innovative method, written during the past eight years by Prof. van Schellen, has recently been approved and passed to an efficiency and superior technique by a presentation of the University of Toronto in Canada. It is now designed a complete revision, which is supposed to reach by one and a half million more international English speaking students, which the van Schellen has brought from Canada.

Moreover, the new curriculum of the Canadian English Centre make your learning and life easier, since offering video facilities for students to reach American and Canadian programs, bringing them closer to the English spoken in both America.

The Canadian English Centre offer their own English courses at very affordable prices. It is worth checking it out. For more information call 945 1420.

English is the Future

The world is fast becoming one huge market, and English is the language it speaks. So don't waste your precious time. A language isn't something to be learned overnight. Invest in your future. Study English and take part in the world!

Conversation Classes at the Canadian English Centre:

at 945 1420

Something About Canada

Canada is the northern neighbor of the United States. Between these two countries you can see the longest undefended boundary in the world. It is very winter, though, make Canada a very hard place to live in, mainly for those coming from tropical or subtropical regions, such as Brazil.

Canada is the largest country in the Western Hemisphere and the second largest in the world, with a total area of 9,960,000 sq. km. It stretches north to south from Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island in Media Island in Lake Erie, a distance of 4,621 km. The greatest east-west distance is 5,114 km from Cape Spence, Newfoundland, to the Tolmie Alaska border. Within this vast expanse, Canada contains an extremely wide variety of geographical features: the towering peaks of the Rockies, the flat Prairies, the rugged north and the gently rolling landscape of the east. It is a great place to visit!

This Issue	
1	Something About Canada
2	White House Ghosts - Part One
3	English Muffins
4	Christian Touch

### Tips on English Idioms

**Road-hog** – Someone who drives carelessly. *That road-hog almost knocked the children over. To make a go of it* – To make something work out right. *We don't like living here, but we have to make a go of it. Home and dry* – Having been successful in one's aims. *It was a hard project but now we're home and dry. To know the ropes* – To know how to do something. *I can't do this job because I don't know the ropes. To ground someone* – To take away someone's privileges. *Little Tom misbehaved and his father grounded him. To fly high* – To be very successful in one's ambitions; to obtain an important or powerful position. *He's flying high these days, but he comes from a poor family.*

### It's True!

- **Common sense** is not so common. (Voltaire)
- **Beauty is** in the eye of the beholder.
- **Advice is least** heeded when most needed.
- **In time of prosperity** friends will be plenty; in time of adversity not one in twenty.
- **Skill to do** comes of doing.
- **If men are** good, government cannot be bad. (William Penn)
- **Liberty means** responsibility. That's why most men dread it. (G. B. Shaw)
- **Don't put** all your eggs in one basket.
- **Never judge** a book by its cover.
- **When the cat is** away, the mice will play.

**SEMI-INTENSIVE**  
**Beginning on April 15!**  
 Monday to Thursday from 2 to 4 PM  
**SPECIAL PRICES!**



**Canadian English Centre**

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### This Issue

- 1 One Hundred Maple Leaves!
- 2 The Canadian Shield
- 3 Joseph-Armand Bombardier
- 4 Cave Discovered in Britain

## 2 April 2007

# The Canadian Shield

A huge inland sea called Hudson Bay extends into the heart of Canada, and wrapped around this bay is a rocky region called the Canadian Shield. Canada's largest geographical feature, it stretches east to Labrador, south to Kingston on Lake Ontario and northwest as far as the Arctic Ocean.

The Shield is considered to be the nucleus of the North American continent and is made up of roots of ancient mountains. Its gneiss and granite rocks are 3.5 billion years old, three quarters the age of the Earth. Scraped by the advance and retreat of glaciers, the Shield has only a thin layer of soil that supports a boreal forest of spruce, fir, tamarack and pine.

The region is a storehouse of minerals, including gold, silver, zinc, copper and uranium, and Canada's great mining towns are located there: Sudbury and Timmins in Ontario, Val d'Or in Quebec, and Flin Flon and Thompson in Manitoba.

Source: wikipedia.com

**BUY NOW!**  
**Ray von Schmalz's Karaoke Party 2, 3 & 4!**

## Bombardier

**Influential Canadians Series** [contributed by Prof. J. Fedalto of Global Mission]

Born in rural Quebec in 1907, Joseph-Armand Bombardier envisioned a family-sized vehicle that could glide across snow and would end the isolation of the long winter months in villages and towns. He was the kind of inventor who used to build everything himself. It was 1936 when the first snowmobile was ready. It was in fact a kind of tank on skis with room for up to a dozen men. Bombardier continued to perfect his invention and came up with a 25-passenger vehicle used during the wartime. In 1947, however, the Quebec government announced a commitment to keep all major roads clear of snow. The huge snowmobile designed for mass transportation was over. But a compact version of the vehicle was then designed modelled more on a motorcycle. The one and two seat ski-doo (1959) became a way of life for the Canadian North making remote Inuit communities closer as a vital transportation means. Snowmobiles also invented a new winter sport in the 1960s. Bombardier died in 1964. By the 1990s his company had sold over 2 million ski-doo's around the world. The Montreal based Bombardier Inc. is today the most important transportation conglomerate in Canada manufacturing airplanes and trains as well.

## Quebec Birth Rate Highest Since 1909

The number of births in Quebec in 2006 climbed eight per cent, the biggest one-year jump in nearly 90 years. There were 82,500 births in the province last year, with the increase being the highest 12-month climb since 1909. The hike coincides with the introduction in January 2006 of a new parental leave program in the province.

The plan enabled nearly 100,000 Quebec parents to get time off work as well as better benefits than under the previous employment insurance program.

### Study in Canada!

Global Mission covers Canada from coast to coast, offering several courses in the best Canadian colleges and universities.



[www.globalmission.com.br](http://www.globalmission.com.br)

## Britain's Deepest Cave Discovered

A cave believed to be the deepest in Britain has been discovered in Derbyshire, in the country's central region. While the final measurements haven't been completed, it's believed Titan is about 60 metres deeper than the previous record holder, Gaping Ghyll in the Yorkshire Dales in northern England. Stretching about 140 metres deep, Titan was created by millions of years of water flowing through limestone under a farmer's field near Castleton, in the Peak District.

Local explorer Dave Nixon started searching for Titan after reading a 200-year-old journal written by a Cambridge University student named James Plumtree who explored caves and mines near Castleton. The student wrote about a mysterious crevice exposed by miners' pickaxes. Nixon and his team spent at least three years clearing away boulders, water and silt from an existing cave system called Leviathan, where they found the entrance to Titan, said the BBC. "It wasn't a matter of stumbling, it was a lot of research and a lot of hard work," he told BBC. "We were looking up and all we could see was blackness. We knew we'd found some-

## The Maple Leaf

thing really big but we didn't know how big at that time." Nixon said the local farmer who grazed his sheep on the land above the massive cave was astonished to hear of the discovery and said he'd driven his SUV over it many times, The Guardian newspaper reported.

\*\*\* **LAB TIME** \*\*\*

Our lab opens from Monday to Friday, from 2 PM to 10 PM, and on Saturday from 9 AM to 1 PM

### Pause for a Joke ☺

☐ Son: Mother, I want to **grow up** and be a **rock-n-roll musician**.

Mother: Now son, you have to pick one or the other. You can't do both.

☐ What happens if you play blues music backwards?

Your wife returns to you, your dog comes back to life, and you get out of prison.

☐ A man escaped jail by digging a hole from his jail cell to the outside world. When finally his work was done, he emerged in the middle of a preschool playground. "I'm free, I'm free!" he shouted. "So what," said a little girl. "I'm four."



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### Friday Practice

3 to 5 PM [with Jim]

7 to 9 PM [with Ray]

**November 3:** Free Conversation & Language Games with Newspapers

**April 6:** No class. Good Friday

**April 13:** Conversation & Real-Life Situations: At a Restaurant

**April 20:** Conversation: Life in Canada / Immigration Tips

**April 27:** Conversation & Story Telling Game

**May 4:** Conversation & Audio Challenge Competition

**May 11:** Conversation & Canadian Trail [Exclusive Board Game!]

**May 18:** Debate: In Search for Happiness

**Editorial:** *This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Canadian English Centre, in Curitiba, Brazil.*

**Editor:** Ray von Schmalz

**Contributors:** Global Mission, Students and friends