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# EEL Today

**Toronto:  
The Best Place to Be !**



*Building equity through community-based literacy*

**A Collection of Student Articles  
East End Literacy  
April 2005**

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# EEL Today

April 2005

## Toronto Is Number One

By Zehanesh

I have been to the Sudan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Italy, London, Calgary, Montreal, Germany, Saskatoon, Seattle, Washington and New York, but Toronto has a special place in my heart.

It is as diverse as the United Nations, but the people of Toronto are friendly, kind, considerate, and every culture is tolerated and respected.

Toronto has big buildings, so tall they touch the sky, but what makes Toronto different is its people. Toronto is a land of festivals and food from every culture, but what really makes Toronto so beautiful is the creativity of its people.

Toronto too is a world class city, not because it has a modern transit system, classy restaurants, huge stadiums, exciting nightlife, and clean streets, but because it is safe and our police serve and protect us. We are happy and proud of our city. With only 2.5 million people, this city is the fifth largest city in North America and one of the world's safest.

The word "Toronto" is a Native word meaning, "*Land Of Many Waters.*" Seeing this city for the first time I was impressed by the beautiful waterfront, Toronto Island, and the many little green parks here and there, and everywhere. Toronto, unlike many cities is more green than grey, more brown, white, black and yellow. Its people are like a rainbow of colours, and languages of over one hundred and fifty.

On arriving in this city I was humbled by its generosity: free Medicare, free assistance for New Canadians, and everyone willing to help.

This is my experience...this is my city!

# **EEL Today**

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## **City of Beauty, Globe and Maple Leaf**

By Funmi

Toronto is the beauty of the widow land  
It is as free as the wind  
Voted one of the best cities in the world by the United Nations  
Freedom of expression  
Charter of rights

Many faces, from different races, of many graces  
Working, Nurturing, Cherishing, Claiming

Unity, Unity, Unity

The CN Tower almost touches the sky  
Tallest freestanding building in the world  
Restaurants, Stores, Clubs

Dancing, Dancing, Dancing

Sports  
Winning Teams  
Hockey Town

Coffee Culture

Beaches, Beaches, Beaches

Fast Paced  
Changes

Give yourself over to the motion  
Give yourself time to explore

Richness, Dignity, Unity

That is Toronto

# **EEL Today**

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## **Toronto Is The Place To Be!**

By Brandy

The economic and cultural focus of English-speaking Canada is Toronto, the largest metropolis. Metropolitan Toronto is a rarity among major North American cities.

It sprawls across the northern shore of Lake Ontario. The vibrant skyline dominated by the CN Tower, the largest free standing structure in the world, huge shopping malls and sky-rise office blocks, reflect the economical success of the last two or three decades.

This significant increase of economic stability has attracted immigrants from all over the world. Toronto is best known for its multiculturalism and its diversity, among its urban blend of heritage it is like no other. We recognize and respect our traditional celebrations such as Hanukah, Chinese New Year, Greek Festivals, Winter Solstice, Caribana, Jamaica Day, and much more.

Residents of our city live a distinguished style of living, having equal rights and opportunities. We encourage our citizens to continue their educational training while positively contributing to our city. There are various resources that are available for all to participate in our community, continuing education programs, volunteering opportunities, work readiness programs, co-op placements and much more.

Residents take pride. Toronto is one of the cleanest and safest cities, not just throughout North America but across the world. Toronto has all of the advantages of a city of two and a half million. Major sports teams from Baseball, Basketball, Football, and Hockey leagues are the ultimate symbol of our sporting prominence and our patriotism.

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## Toronto Is The Place To Be!

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Getting the feel of Toronto's diversity is one of the cities greatest pleasures, but there are amazing breath taking tourist attractions as well. Most are conveniently located in the heart of the city. The most popular is the CN Tower; next to this is the modern hump of the Sky Dome now called the Rogers Centre.

The city's other celebrated attractions are: The Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, Casa Loma, The Harbourfront Centre, Hockey Hall of Fame, Centre Island, Ontario Place, The Metro Toronto Zoo, The Ontario Science Centre, The Air Canada Centre, and many more. Toronto has more than ten thousand restaurants representing more than eighty different ethnic cultures.

We also have a spectacular underground shopping outlet that lies between Yonge and York Streets. It is six blocks long and contains three miles of tunnel with a thousand shops, entertainment, bars, and restaurants complete with waterfalls, growing plants, and even trees. Our entertainment district surprisingly is quite energetic equipped with bars, night clubs, theatres, ballrooms, amusement arcades, cinemas, and live concerts.

Regardless of how you decide to set sights on Toronto, you can utilize our public transportation service that will conveniently take you from one destination to another at an inexpensive cost. While taking in the memorable sights and glory of Toronto, check out our parklands, beaches, and gardens which are a unique feature among North American cities.

The only way to truly understand our creativity and ingenuity is to experience it for yourself.

# EEL Today

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## Toronto is the Place to Be

By Elaine

Toronto is the place to be; the beauty of the city is breath taking. The streets are very clean, and there are lots of good restaurants all around the city.

In the summer there is lots of fun to be had. For instance, the celebration of the Street Festival lifts our spirits up, for fun in the sun. Then there's the downtown Jazz Festival, CHIN International picnic, C.N. Tower, The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Canada Celebrations, Afro fest at Queens Park, Nathan Phillips Square, Yonge Dundas Square, Caribana, Jamaica Day and much, much more.

My experiences living in Toronto are filled with fond memories. I enjoy myself with friends, doing lots of things. When I go to events, I always see someone I know. Lots of people visit Toronto every year, and when they come to visit again, they always bring friends and family to share some of the fun they have been enjoying.

And that's why Toronto is so outstanding!!



CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR

# EEL Today

April 2005

## Toronto Meets the World

By Maurice

Toronto is the capital of Ontario. With millions of people living here, there's so much diversity here. There are so many things going on here. This city never sleeps!

Toronto is fast paced and can get confusing. However, if you have a guide, it's easier to find your way around. There are many things to see and do here. There are all kinds of foods to try here and lots of interesting people that live here.

Toronto has the tallest free standing building in the world, the CN Tower and the biggest IMAX Theatre in the world at Ontario Place. Toronto also has the longest street in the world, Yonge Street. Toronto is always getting bigger and bigger, Toronto is a world class city, alright, and a nice place to visit.

Plus Toronto is also one of the biggest unofficial Reserves of First Nations Peoples in Canada, with an estimated 74,000 status and non-status First Nations Peoples living here. One would think that there are Native events going on all the time, but no. There are socials every week at the Native Canadian Centre, and there are a few Pow Wows that go on throughout the year, with a Pow Wow at the Rogers Centre at the end of the year. This is the main event of the year for Native Peoples of Toronto. It's a lot of fun to dance in this Pow Wow with all kinds of people from around the world.

These are some of the interesting things that go on here in Toronto. There are all kinds of cultures here and all kinds of celebrations going on. And that's why Toronto is a great place to be and visit.



# **EEL Today**

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## **Toronto**

By Kathy

I was born and raised in Toronto. I enjoy living in Toronto, because it has been exciting, entertaining and astonishing.

I admire Toronto because of its multicultural living, equal rights and tourist attractions. Toronto's tourist attractions are not just for show and tell. We take pride in our city, and we welcome visitors to come and enjoy our special events. Families in our big city and all over the world have enjoyed the events that happen in Toronto. There is just so much to see and do in Toronto that it all cannot be done in one day.

One of our city landmarks is The Sky Dome, now known as The Rogers Centre. It has plenty of events, such as sports. Our home teams, The Toronto Argonauts (the 2004 Grey Cup Champions) and The Toronto Blue Jays play at the Sky Dome. We also have hosted concerts and kids' attractions. When March Break arrives, there is a fun fair inside the Sky Dome. It's an indoor carnival and we call it The Spring Fling. There are fast and fun rides, great games, and lots of multicultural food to eat.

If you like sports and sports figures then, The Hockey Hall of Fame is the place to go. Our hockey team, the Toronto Maple Leafs, and our basketball team The Toronto Raptors can be seen at the Air Canada Centre, in the heart of downtown Toronto.

We have our CN Tower which is the biggest freestanding tower in the world. Inside this big tower are restaurants with a good view of the entire city. It also has stores, gift shops, hotels, and much more to explore.

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## Toronto

(Continued)

The Science Centre and numerous Museums have so much to explore, and the kids will have fun but learn as well. We also have the Metro Zoo, where you can see all kinds of different animals.

There is so much to see and do in our big city! And if you do not have a car, don't worry. The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is a great way to travel and see the wonderful sights that Toronto has to offer. The TTC public transit system has buses, streetcars, trains, and separate buses for those in wheelchairs, and anyone with a physical challenge.

Toronto is a great place to live or visit, so come and experience the many wonderful events and enjoy our multicultural food and people. For more information on Toronto Tourism, visit online [www.torontotourism.com](http://www.torontotourism.com), or call 416-203-2600, or toll-free 1-800-499-2514.



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## Toronto

By Leanne

One of the best things about Toronto is that it is a very multicultural city, and that is what makes Toronto so wonderful. I feel safe walking down the streets in Toronto even though we have a crime rate, because criminal acts are nowhere near that of other big cities in the world.

There are so many places to go for entertainment like the Paramount Movie Theatre, Medieval Times, The Toronto Exhibition, or the Toronto Zoo! For some educational entertainment you could go to the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario Science Centre, The Art Gallery of Ontario.

You could experience some of our restaurants. For Greek food you could go to the Danforth, or if you feel like eating Chinese food, you can go to China Town on Spadina, there are a variety of places to go.

To get to all of these great places you can use some of our transportation services, like the T.T.C (Toronto Transit Commission). It is a good and cheap way to get around the city.

We in Toronto also celebrate things like St. Patrick's Day, Chinese New Year, Caribana, and many joyful festivals.

One good thing about living in Toronto is that all these places are a half hour away from my house. Toronto is the best city in the world. Even though I haven't traveled much, I know ex-Mayor Mel Lastman has. And when he says there is no better place to be, I believe him!

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## Torontonians' Best Sights

By Darryl

The city of Toronto has a lot of people. What I mean by that is there are different cultures and cultural activities to participate in, such as Caribana.

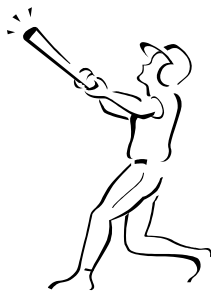
When I went to Caribana, the first thing I did was go on the Barbados float, the Jamaican float, and last but not least the China float.

I was on the Jamaican float dancing and jumping, I felt like I was in heaven. So for a person coming from a different country, you would love to come to Toronto and experience one of Ontario's top festivals.

Also there are plenty of clubs which tourists go to like Boda, Joker, Oxygen, and Envy. Boda Night Club is a more respectful club where people are asked to dress semi-casual. What I love about this club is its very respectful and it's very sophisticated. The Joker night club is for those 19-40 years old. Rappers and wanna-be rappers tend to go there.

The former Sky Dome is a very big attraction for tourists and families. I love to see the Blue Jays' baseball games and the cheerleaders dance.

I would recommend to anybody coming to Toronto to see these sights.



# EEL Today

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## Toronto is the Best City

By Peter

I am very happy to be born in Toronto. I have six brothers and two sisters. One of the fun adventures was when, as young children, we took the streetcars with our family to see the Santa Claus Parade. It was a joy for me helping with younger brothers and sisters.

The city has grown in the forty-two years I have been here. When I took the subway first, it was only up to Eglinton Avenue. Now the subway goes up to Finch Avenue where I visit my friend Ali. He is great and has lived in Toronto for five years. He loves the city, too.

The great part of Toronto was also going to school and meeting, playing and getting along with a wide range of people from different countries. I see that we care for each other. I make friends with lots of people from different cultures and background. The school I am in now is very helpful and I can see all walks of life are the same.

I love volunteering at the Y.M.C.A. This gives me a great time to work with others. I also love going to my church because I am a good Christian and they let me volunteer at the church. This lets me meet new people.

Finally, seeing the New Year's Eve party at the City Hall or a play is all about the wide good life of living in Toronto.



# **EEL Today**

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## **Why Toronto is a Great Place to Live**

By Shawn

Toronto! This is such an amazing place to live. Just walking down our streets is enough proof as to why anyone would want to reside in this city.

We have many different sights that tourists can come and explore! Some, for example, should include the CN tower and the Sky dome. The CN tower was named as the second tallest building in the world! Also, national baseball games, with such teams as the Blue Jays, are played at the Sky Dome.

Our city is filled with so many bright lights and colors. It is like living in a blissful dream. You can go to the grocery store and see such a variety of foods that blows your mind! Turn on the television and you can watch movies or TV shows, even listen to music and songs that are broadcasted in different languages.

What I mostly love about our city is how diverse it is. It's like welcoming every single culture, religion, colour and race into one big united city. All I can see in my head is all the different people and cultures surrounding me.

Toronto is so developed that many people can comfortably raise their families because there are just so many jobs being offered all around us. Children nowadays don't have to be ashamed to bring their food, like curry, roti, or even couscous for lunch! In other places, you probably wouldn't be as open-minded and free in your decision of what to bring for lunch.

No one particular group belongs in Toronto because the fact is everyone can be part of our city! Come and experience this excitement and joy for yourself! Everybody's invited! Come and have fun in our city of lights!

# EEL Today

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## **Toronto: There's No Other City Like It!**

By Rose

Toronto is so unique in many different ways. It never ceases to amaze me. The most amazing sight is to see people of every different race and nationality, in every place.

Toronto celebrates its multiculturalism in several ways. Diversity of various cultures is regularly celebrating in the form of street festivals, like Chinese New Year, Caribana and Gay Pride Week.

The city offers freedom of thought, belief and speech. And one can express one's self freely. It is possible to make one's dream come true because there are many opportunities. You can educate and better one's self through school at any age or level.

Toronto is beautiful with Lake Ontario stretching wide and long with its beautiful deep blue water. In winter the land is covered with soft white snow. And in summer the sunshine follows one wherever one goes.

Toronto gives me its diversity, freedom and beauty. And I wouldn't receive it from any other place else.

Diversity Freedom Beauty  
**Diversity Freedom Beauty**

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## Toronto is the Best City to Live

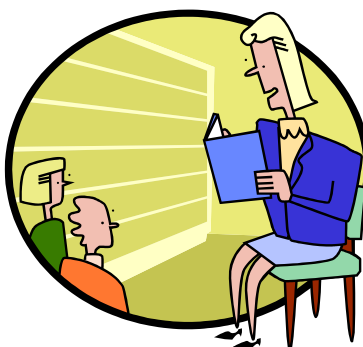
By Ainey



Toronto is a nice city. It is very clean. I like Toronto because it is multicultural and the people are friendly. We can find multicultural food in Toronto. For example, I am from Ethiopia and I can find food from my country at a restaurant called Shabalya. My friend is from Malaysia, she can find Malaysian food in Toronto, too.

There are lots of places to go in Toronto. I like to go to the museum in downtown Toronto. Also, I like to go to the library. I take my son to St. James Town Public Library. He likes story time.

Finally, Toronto is a great city because you can always find help. There are many organizations that help people. I love Toronto.



Story time at St. James Town Public Library



# EEL Today

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## Toronto is a Blessed City

By Gloria

I live in Toronto because it is the best place to live. Many wonderful events take place in the city throughout the year. The city also has many beautiful places to visit and have fun, such as the CN tower.

I love Toronto because of its diversity. When I go to the church, I see different people from different nations. In the streets of Toronto, I also see people from different races, colors, and religions going together.

Toronto is known for its freedom of speech, religion, and education. What I love most of all is its freedom of education for all, because it allows me the freedom to return to school at the age of seventy. That is one of the reasons why I live in Toronto today.

In Toronto, people who are in need of support get help from the government. They get shelter, food and medications from the government. Parents who need support to raise their children get help from the government. All children get equal opportunities and can go to school whether they are rich or poor.

I love Toronto from the bottom of my heart because it is a blessed city to live, raise your children and teach them to love God. Long may Toronto live and reign.

