

ESL News for the Week of June 13, 2016

<http://esldivlabs.vcc.ca/News.html>

Story 1: Queen Elizabeth Turns 90

In London, England Queen Elizabeth II and her family marked her 90th birthday on Saturday with a parade, a colourful military ceremony and an appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony. Crowds of people gathered in front of the palace to honour the longest-reigning monarch in British history. Prince William, his wife Kate, their daughter Princess Charlotte, age 1, and toddler Prince George, almost 3, stood next to the Queen and her husband, Prince Philip, who turned 95 on Friday.

The queen's birthday is actually in April, but the celebrations are held in June because of better weather. Ten thousand people who work at charities supported by the Queen were invited to the festivities. Street parties will also be held in many towns and cities throughout Britain and in other Commonwealth countries.

Source: www.thestar.com

Story 2: Italian Day in Vancouver

The seventh annual Italian Day took place on Commercial Drive in Vancouver on Sunday with thousands of Vancouverites showing up to celebrate and enjoy Italian food and culture. This was a special year as the city officially designated the area as Little Italy, which many in Vancouver have called it for decades.

This year's theme was "Mangiamo!" or "Let's eat!" and centered around Italians' passion for food. The street was closed to cars, and storeowners set up booths along the road, selling everything from spaghetti and meatballs to Italian-made shoes.

About 80 per cent of the businesses in that area are owned and operated by Italians, according to Melissa De Genova, the NPA city councillor who brought forward the Little Italy motion in April. De Genova, whose grandfather came from Italy and struggled as a newcomer, said that the event would help teach the next generation about Italian heritage.

Many dignitaries, including the Consul General of Italy and the Italian Ambassador to Canada were present to celebrate over 50 years of Italian heritage on The Drive. The city may install more Italian markers on The Drive in the future, such as red, green and white crosswalks, according to De Genova.

Source: www.metronews.ca

Story 3: Canada Says Goodbye to a Hockey Hero

Gordie Howe, a great Canadian hockey legend, died on June 10 at the age of 88. Howe started playing hockey when he was eight, and he left his hometown of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at age 16 to pursue his hockey career. He played his first NHL game for the Detroit Red Wings in 1946, at 18, and didn't retire until 1980, at 52, having scored more goals than anyone else. Howe led his team to four Stanley Cup championships and to first place in regular season play for seven consecutive years (1948-49 to 1954-55), which has never been done in NHL history.

He played twenty-six seasons in the National Hockey League (NHL) and six seasons in the World Hockey Association (WHA). In 1971 he retired and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame the next year. However, he came back two years later to join his sons Mark and Marty on the Houston Aeros of the WHA. Even though he was in his mid-40s, he scored over 100 points twice in six years.

He scored 20 or more goals in 22 consecutive seasons between 1949 and 1971, an NHL record. A 23-time NHL All-Star, he held many of the sport's scoring records until they were broken in the 1980s by Wayne Gretzky. He continues to hold NHL records for most games and seasons played. The term "Gordie Howe hat trick" was made after him, meaning that a player scores a goal, and records an assist and gets into a fight all in the same game.

Over the past decade, Howe's health declined from several ailments — heart disease, dementia and spinal stenosis.

In 2013 a TV movie was made about him called *Mr. Hockey: The Gordie Howe Story*. In 2014 he published his autobiography called *Mr. Hockey, Gordie Howe, My Story*, with a foreword by another hockey legend Bobby Orr.

Gordie Howe was famous for being a fierce fighter on the ice, but he was also known and respected for his decency, generosity, honesty and for being a family man.

A bronze statue of Gordie Howe is in Joe Louis Arena, in Detroit, Michigan. It is 12 feet (3.7 m) tall and weighs about 4,500 pounds (2,000 kg). Another statue is in downtown Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Sources: <http://nymag.com/> and <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Story 4: Assisted Dying in Canada

Assisted dying, meaning patients deciding to end their suffering by choosing to end their life with the help of a doctor, was previously an offense under Canada's Criminal Code. Therefore, it was prohibited. However, in February 2015, in the case *Carter v Canada*, the Supreme Court found that the prohibition on assisted dying violates section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and, therefore, is unconstitutional. As a result, it overturned this prohibition and declared that adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions are entitled to physician-assisted death. Examples in this category include "a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability". However, the court also decided that this ruling would not take effect until June 6, 2016 in order to allow time for the government to amend the Criminal Code.

A bill to legalize and regulate assisted dying in Canada's Parliament failed to pass by the time of the court imposed deadline. As a result, as of June 7, 2016, assisted dying is possible according to the court ruling. In the meantime, discussions for refinement of the proposed legislation continue in the Parliament.

The Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in every province and one territory have issued guidelines that doctors must follow in providing medical assistance in dying. To see these guidelines enter a search online for "A look at assisted-dying guidelines across Canada". Also, for more information visit www.justice.gc.ca.

Sources: www.theglobeandmail.com and <https://en.wikipedia.org>.