

Around the Towns

CSL SEEKS CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS

Côte St. Luc announced that it is looking for volunteers to help tidy-up four green spaces on Sunday, May 15 during Côte St. Luc Clean Up Day. According to the advisory, "volunteers can visit Yitzhak Rabin Park, Nathan Shuster Park, Donald Fletcher Park, or Bialik field to assist in the clean up between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.. They will receive gloves and garbage bags. Every volunteer will also receive a voucher for a free slice of kosher pizza or falafel."

"We think it's important to give people a way to take part in a group activity that combines ecological and community aspects," Councillor Steven Erdelyi said. "I think people who participate in a clean up day are less likely to litter and more likely to say something to their friends who litter." The event is sponsored by Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Montreal. For more information about the Côte St. Luc Clean Up Day, visit www.CoteSaintLuc.org/en/SpringFair2011

CSL SPRING FAIR

The fourth annual Côte St. Luc Spring Fair will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. between Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park and the Public Works Building on Mackle Rd., the city announced. "Our Spring Fair is a kid-friendly event with many games and activities, plus a community garage sale to keep the adults busy too," Mayor Anthony Housefather said. "But there is also an education aspect to the Spring Fair, with information about environmental matters, safety issues, and public works initiatives." The Côte St. Luc Spring Fair "includes the Mega Garage Sale, Public Safety Day, the Public Works Carnival, Eco-Action Day, and - new this year - Côte St. Luc Clean Up Day, where residents can pitch in to help pick up refuse at one of four green spaces," says the city announcement. "Highlights include inflatable games, face painting, arts and crafts, bike rodeo, colouring stations, environmental trivia game, child-seat verification, compost distribution, and the 60-table garage sale." For more information about all the activities, visit www.CoteSaintLuc.org/en/SpringFair2011.

ART LECTURE AT CSL LIBRARY

Côte St. Luc's Eleanor London Library announced that Canadian artist Phil Kurtz "will deliver a lecture Thursday, May 12 at 7 p.m. describing his interpretation of his own artwork. Subject matter will include a series of pictorial images based on the Erev Yom Kippur Hymn Ki Hinei Kachomer as well as each movement of The Planets by Gustav Holst. Admission is free. For more information, call 514-485-6900.

MOWEST ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION

Registration is ongoing at the John A. Simms Community Centre for Montreal West's summer recreational activities. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Côte St. Luc commemorates V-E Day

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc's annual commemoration of the World War II Allied victory in Europe was blessed by good weather this past Sunday, enabling the ceremony to be held outdoors in Veteran's Park next to city hall on Cavendish Blvd.

The event attracted hundreds, including diplomats, federal, provincial and councillors from Côte St. Luc and Hampstead - including host Mayor Anthony Housefather and Councillor Bonnie Feigenbaum, representing Mayor William Steinberg. Also on hand were veterans such as members of the Brigadier Frederick Kisch Branch 97 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Station 9 commander Sylvain Bissonette, clergy and many others. Wreaths were laid in memory of Canadian soldiers who fell.

Housefather told the crowd that some wars were fought "arguably for reasons other than justice.

"World War II was a war that was fought for principles and the right reasons," the mayor added. "It was a war that was fought against a cruel dictator who did not believe in democracy, did not believe in an independent judiciary, did not believe in human rights and who insisted on not only terrorizing people across Europe, but spreading his hatred throughout the continent.

"This is a day when we remember that the politics of appeasement does not work and that when somebody is terrorizing their population and forbidding democracy from existing, not respecting human rights, and killing people, we have a duty as Canadians to stand up and say no, this is not acceptable in the world of today."

Housefather also referred to the revolts and protests against the dictatorships of Egypt, Syria, Libya, Tunisia and Iran.

"Canada and our allies are standing up in Libya and saying [the denial of democracy



and human rights] is no longer acceptable," the mayor told the veterans. "Hopefully, we will do so in other countries like Iran as well... We must follow your example and pass that example down to our children and grandchildren."

Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler, whose birthday falls on V-E Day, praised Housefather's speech. "He spoke for all of us and Côte St. Luc really should feel privileged to have him as their mayor."

For his part, the MP said everyone must act upon the lessons of history, including state-sanctioned incitement to hate, anti-Semitism and the dangers of indifference.

"May we resolve that we will act, that we will always stand up and be counted like the veterans here, and not look around to see whoever else is standing before we make a judgment to do so," Cotler added. "I regret to say that in the world in which we live, there are too few who are prepared to stand up, still less so that are prepared to be counted."

D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman said those who fought in World War II could have come back to their communities and said "enough, now I'll worry about myself

and my family."

"But no, you took a different attitude and you continue to give your time and energy for the benefit of our community, our city, province and country."

British consul-general Patrick Holdich said Britain and Canada "were the only two of the main combatants to have fought throughout both of the First and Second World Wars.

"It was that determination and sacrifice we recognize today," Holdich added.

Hector Dana, a representative of the Israeli consul-general, remembered the atrocities committed against Jews during the Holocaust. "I have come here in solidarity and friendship to thank you and all of your comrades from the freedom-loving nations of the world for the courage and sacrifice you demonstrated in the fight to rid Europe of the great scourge that was Nazism."

Dutch honorary consul Michael Polak said Côte St. Luc "is one of the rare communities that still remember.

"This community was forged by World War II," he said. "We're here because you were here to make it all possible."

Community commemorates Yom Hazikaron

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

A standing room-only crowd at the Gelber Centre joined in the annual Yom Hazikaron ceremony Sunday, to honour the fallen soldiers who fell fighting for Israel's independence and its defence for the past 63 years.

The ceremony also pays tribute to Israeli and other victims of terrorism targeted at Israel.

During the ceremony, songs were sung, poetry was recited and prose read. The Shaare Zion Choir under the direction of Shimon Radu provided solemn music. Wreaths were laid on behalf of Israel and the Montreal Jewish community. In laying the wreath for Israel, Consul-General Yoram Elron was joined by Hana Eror, daughter of Menachem Frankel, killed Oct. 19, 1948 during the war for independence.

As well, Moshe Cohen lit a memorial candle. Cohen's grandson Yaniv Bar-On was killed July 12, 2006 during the Second



Moshe Cohen, who lost a grandson in the 2006 Lebanon war, lights a memorial candle.

Lebanon War.

Elron, speaking in Hebrew, English and French, told the crowd that the Montreal community was commemorating with all of Israel, "the memory of our loved ones, our friends, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the long and enduring struggle for independence, peace and security.

"We gather with you - parents, grandparents, widows, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters - and join you in sorrow, humility and gratitude. Included in our thoughts are the 11 Canadian volunteers - Jewish and non-Jewish - who fell in the struggle for independence," Elron added. "On this day of sadness and remembrance, we recall each and every one of those courageous souls who gave their lives for our country and the entire people of Israel."

A message was read in Hebrew from the Israel Defence Forces chief of staff, and Federation CJA President Jack Hasen also spoke. ■