Review of the Year

OTHER COUNTRIES
Canada

National Affairs

Canada enjoyed a relatively calm and prosperous 1999. Inflation remained in check, economic growth was good, unemployment declined to the lowest levels in years, and the dollar recovered from its record lows of 1998, as the country shared in the strong economy south of the border. Politically, the specter of Quebec secession receded as the provincial government was mired in efforts to balance its budget while maintaining a reasonable level of services. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Liberals dominated federal politics, with the opposition ineffectively divided among four parties.

The government, whose earlier attempts to prosecute Nazi war criminals had been undermined by an adverse court decision, proposed legislation to the House of Commons in December providing for the prosecution and trial of anyone accused of genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes. The draft legislation explicitly barred the defense of "following orders." Introducing the bill, Justice Minister Anne McLellan asserted that "Canada is not, and will not be, a safe haven for war criminals."

At the Ontario election in June the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Mike Harris won reelection with a majority. David Young for the Tories and David Caplan and Monte Kwinter for the Liberals were elected in Toronto-area constituencies. Young was named parliamentary secretary to the minister of education.

Manitoba went to the polls in September and replaced the Conservative government with one led by the New Democrats. All three Jewish candidates who ran were defeated.

Sheila Finestone, who had represented a suburban Montreal district with a significant Jewish population for 15 years, resigned from the House of Commons in August upon being appointed to the Senate. That immediately set off a scramble to succeed her in the November by-election. McGill University law professor and former Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) president Irwin Cotler, the Liberal nominee, won handily. With his background as an international human-rights advocate, Cotler promised to pursue that agenda and also announced his support for increased social spending.

In August Elinor Caplan, an MP from the Toronto area, was appointed to the sensitive post of minister of immigration. Very soon she had to contend with some
600 illegal immigrants from China caught trying to enter the country. In explaining her decision to admit them pending resolution of their refugee claims, Caplan cited the Talmudic principle that “if you save one life, you’ve saved the entire world.” Caplan, indeed, proclaimed her commitment to continued immigration, specifying goals for the year 2000 of 200,000 immigrants and 25,000 refugees.

Israel and the Middle East

In January Canada began a two-year term on the UN Security Council. Although welcoming the development, Brian Morris, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), pointed out the inconsistency of Canada’s UN record on Israel. While it had opposed efforts to expel or suspend Israel from the international body, it had supported resolutions that declared all Israeli actions in eastern Jerusalem and the occupied territories, especially settlement activity, illegal and even punishable. As the new term started, Morris called upon the government to withstand the pervasive anti-Israel bias in the UN system.

Less than a month later Canada antagonized pro-Israel groups by supporting a General Assembly resolution that called for an international conference to discuss the situation in the “occupied Palestinian territory” and the application of the Geneva conventions to the civilian population there. Subsequently the government reversed itself and worked to have the conference postponed. That effort failed, but when the conference convened in Geneva on July 15 Canada did not attend because, in the words of a foreign affairs spokesman, “it was unhelpful to the peace process.”

Prime Minister Chrétien’s remarks during Yasir Arafat’s March visit to Ottawa raised hackles among many supporters of Israel. While rejecting Arafat’s attempt to garner support for a unilateral declaration of Palestinian independence, Chrétien suggested that the outcome of Middle East negotiations should be a Palestinian state. Jewish leaders criticized him for the inconsistency of calling for negotiations while specifying the result in advance. Also in March, representatives of several key Jewish organizations met with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. They urged that negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians proceed without external intervention, argued against a unilateral Palestinian declaration of independence, and reminded the minister of continuing concerns about Canada’s voting record in the UN.

On another front, Syrian foreign minister Farouk al-Shara, visiting Ottawa in June, requested Canada to take a central role in any peacekeeping operation that might become necessary on the Golan Heights in the event of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. He also opened Syria’s first embassy in Canada.

After an investigation, the government announced in September that it had found no evidence that Israel was still using Canadian passports for clandestine purposes. A Canadian living in Israel had claimed in 1998 that he had been asked by Israeli officials to turn over his Canadian passport.
In October Canada and Israel signed a treaty pledging mutual legal assistance, designed to facilitate cooperation between the two states on criminal matters such as evidence, records, fugitives, and witnesses. Justice Minister Yossi Beilin of Israel visited Ottawa for the signing.

In May the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency revoked the charity status of the Press Foundation in Toronto because it was raising funds for the council of settlers in the occupied territories. Charities may not send money to bodies which further causes that are inconsistent with Canadian foreign policy, and the government considered Israeli settlements beyond the Green Line illegal hindrances to the peace process. The foundation appealed the decision.

In July rallies were held in several cities in support of 13 Iranian Jews who were arrested and awaiting trial on espionage charges. Jewish organizations asked the government to intervene with Iranian authorities to obtain their release.

Sergio Marchi, the minister of international trade, brought a group of Canadian businesspeople to the Middle East, including Israel, in March. Praising the success of the Canada-Israel free trade agreement, Marchi lauded the Israeli economy, singling out the trade opportunities made available by Israeli high tech. Marchi also used the opportunity to sign a trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority.

A major irritant in Canada-Israel relations concerned airline flights between the two countries. El Al, the Israeli national airline, had had a monopoly on the route until 1998, but was now rapidly losing its North American market share to Air Canada, which utilized its partner relationships to funnel U.S. passengers through Toronto on their way to Israel. Air Canada, allowed four weekly flights to Israel in the winter and seven in the summer, wanted more weekly flights, especially in the winter, than Israel was prepared to allow. When Israel threatened to terminate the air agreement, which would effectively have barred Air Canada from flying to Israel, Canada reportedly reminded Israel that its U.S. flights go over Canadian territory, and that if such overflights were barred, El Al would incur significant additional fuel costs and longer flight times. This led to a breakdown of the bilateral airline agreement and a crisis that threatened to terminate service between the two countries. Israel, however, backed down and allowed Air Canada daily flights throughout the winter. Then, at a meeting in November, El Al sought the right to transport passengers originating in the United States to Israel via Canada, but was turned down by Canada. Stanley Morais, El Al's Canadian sales director, declared that Canada's stance was "definitely not a fair competition" and the Israeli airline announced that it would terminate its non-stop service between Montreal and Tel Aviv at the end of the year, leaving that route to Air Canada. In the meantime El Al inaugurated twice-weekly nonstop service from Toronto. (In the past all flights from Toronto had stopped in Montreal.) In December the two countries finally hammered out a temporary agreement, good only until April 1, 2000. It allowed Air Canada to continue with its daily flights and authorized El Al to increase its service from five to seven flights per week, though it only planned to operate a maximum of three during the win-
Palestinian terrorist Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad, who lived in Brantford, Ontario, faced deportation after an immigration adjudicator cited him, in April, for an attack against an El Al plane in Athens in 1968. At that time, as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Mohammad and an accomplice shot at the plane, killing an Israeli passenger. Mohammad, who had been imprisoned in Greece for less than a year of a 17-year sentence, was released in response to a terrorist hijacking of a Greek airliner, and immigrated to Canada by lying about his past in 1987. Authorities had tried to deport him for over ten years but his application for refugee status tied up the deportation in procedural difficulties. Mohammad planned to appeal the deportation decision to the Immigration and Refugee Board.

A murder in Toronto complicated Canada-Israel relations. Dmitri Matti Baranovski, a 15-year-old Russian immigrant, was beaten to death in November. Police charged 19-year-old Daniel Weiz with second-degree murder, along with three younger teenagers whose identities were not revealed because of their age. Weiz was an Israeli citizen and had the status of a permanent resident of Canada. At the time of the murder he was visiting Toronto, though before being charged with the crime he returned to Israel, where he was on active duty in the army. He was arrested in Israel in December at Canada’s request, but denied any involvement in the killing. When a formal extradition request is filed Israel will have to decide what to do, in light of a recent Israeli statute that, for the first time, allows Israelis to be sent abroad for criminal trials.

The number of Israelis granted refugee status in Canada continued to decline in 1998, with only 24 accepted and 625 rejected. This was in sharp contrast to the situation four years earlier when some 50 percent of applications were approved, a development that harmed the Canada-Israel relationship. Israel had put considerable effort into persuading Canadian authorities that, in the words of the Israeli embassy, “In a democratic and law-based society such as Israel, there can be no justification for refugees, as there are sufficient judicial avenues for persons suffering grievances.” Many of the claimants had come to Israel from what had been the Soviet Union, and Israel believed that they had used the Law of Return as a device to pave the way for eventual immigration to Canada.

Minister of National Defense Art Eggleton visited Israel in September where he conferred with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Barak. One of the issues discussed was the possible use of Canadian troops as peacekeepers on the Golan Heights in the event of an Israel-Syria peace treaty. While in Israel Eggleton commented that “we will continue to make our contribution. Israel has a good friend in Canada.”

In remarks to Jewish community leaders in June, Louis Beaudoin, Quebec’s minister of international relations, said that the province—which pursues its own foreign policy—sought to enhance its economic, cultural, and technologi-
cal relations with Israel. A concrete manifestation of that interest was the visit to Israel in November of Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Bernard Landry, accompanied by the chair of the Quebec-Israel Committee, Thomas Hecht. Other participants included key industrial and financial leaders from the private and public sectors. The delegation met with Regional Cooperation Minister Shimon Peres and explored a number of possible avenues for commercial collaboration with Israeli counterparts. Earlier in the year a group of Quebec University rectors had visited Israel to discuss cooperative projects with Israeli universities.

In October it was revealed that Canada, through its embassy in Havana and with the implicit blessing of Cuban president Fidel Castro, had been instrumental in enabling some 400 Cuban Jews to immigrate to Israel since 1995. The immigrants entered Israel with Canadian travel documents.

Anti-Semitism and Racism

Holocaust denier and Nazi sympathizer Ernst Zundel had sued the major political parties and their leaders in 1998 for banning him from the Parliament buildings where he wanted to hold a press conference. Douglas Christie, his lawyer, was also banned early in 1999. In January, Justice James Chadwick dismissed Zundel’s case because there was no actionable legal issue raised and because the dignity and integrity of Parliament had to be preserved. In another case involving Zundel—his hearing before a human-rights tribunal in connection with his racist and anti-Semitic Web site—the publisher succeeded in forcing one member of the tribunal, Rita Devins, off the panel on the grounds of bias. Devins had been a member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission in 1988 when it issued a press release commending a guilty verdict in Zundel’s criminal trial for spreading “false news” (i.e., Holocaust denial).

The Human Rights Tribunal of British Columbia, acting on the complaint of a local businessman, ruled in January that journalist Doug Collins had published articles in the North Shore News that promoted hatred of Jews. He was ordered to pay a fine of $2,000, apologize publicly, and refrain from publishing further anti-Semitic material. The tribunal concluded that several articles in 1994 “collectively and through repetition of anti-Semitic themes, take on a vicious tone that taps into a centuries-old pattern of persecution and slander of Jews.” Collins’s lawyer appealed, contending that the province’s law against the promotion of hatred was unconstitutional. In September, when Collins and his lawyer held a “free speech” meeting at the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library to raise funds for the appeal, some 100 protesters demonstrated against them. In December the appeal was rejected.

In October George Burdi, a promoter of racist music who operated in the Windsor and Detroit areas, pleaded guilty to the charge of willfully promoting hatred and was given a conditional one-year jail sentence.
A frightening anti-Semitic incident in August shook the Toronto Jewish community. Two elderly men walking to synagogue for Friday evening services were accosted by two strangers and badly beaten with a crowbar. One of the victims was a Holocaust survivor. Also in Toronto, a Jewish cemetery was vandalized in October: six monuments and a Holocaust memorial were spray painted with anti-Semitic graffiti. Overall, Toronto police reported that out of the 110 hate crimes reported during the first half of the year, 11 were anti-Semitic.

Winnipeg Jews experienced the worst synagogue desecration in memory in August, when over 200 headstones were knocked over or uprooted at the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Cemetery. The damage was estimated at $100,000. Five young men between the ages of 15 and 21 were arrested and charged with mischief. The incident appeared to have grown out of a rowdy party at a home near the cemetery, and it was unclear whether the motive was anti-Semitism.

In March Jewish students protested against an anti-Israel and anti-Jewish campaign by pro-Palestinian students at Montreal's Concordia University. The Arab group was partially funded by the university, and the president of Montreal Hillel charged Concordia with "giving money to something that is blatantly anti-Semitic." In June anti-Semitic graffiti were repeatedly sprayed on the walls of a kosher food store in Montreal.

How to deal with racist propaganda on the Internet presented a challenge to law enforcement authorities. The Web site of the Nationalistes Quebecois Aryens attacked Jews and other minorities. After the Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center notified the Internet service provider, in January, the provider responded that it had a policy of zero tolerance toward threatening or harassing material, and shut the site down. The Wiesenthal Center also identified another racist Web site that was being disseminated through CadVision, an Internet service provider in Calgary. When notified of the content of the site maintained by the Society for the Segregation of the Races, the provider removed it. The Canadian representative of the Wiesenthal Center claimed to have shut down a total of some 50 such racist Web sites in Canada by intervening with the service providers. The Canadian government itself refused to take steps against extremist Internet sites despite calls from Jewish organizations for action either by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission or by the Human Rights Commission.

In January a Polish-language newspaper in Toronto, Gazeta, ran an anti-Semitic article by Father Jan Kurdybelski that accused Jews of treachery, greed, Bolshevism, and collaboration with the Nazis, and claimed that the Jewish nation is "perfidious and hated by God." CJC Ontario Region chair Keith Landy described this as "unbridled anti-Semitism of the worst kind" and the paper published a retraction in March.

CJC in Quebec complained to the provincial press council about an article in the French daily La Presse in February that used the word "juiverie," which the CJC considered highly offensive. The press council rejected the complaint in De-
cember, noting that the author had issued a clarification. The CJC’s additional claim that other pieces by this journalist about Israel and Jews were also marred by anti-Semitic stereotypes was also rejected.

Quinn McFarlane, an Ontario white supremacist with a long history of racist and criminal activity, had been given a conditional one-year sentence in 1998 for punching a reporter outside a Toronto court during the trial of a skinhead. In 1999 the Ontario Court of Appeal changed the conditional sentence into a mandatory year in jail because of the man’s previous record and the danger that he posed to the community.

The role of the CJC in Canadian life was dragged into a trial, in April, of seven skinheads charged with racist protests against Roma (Gypsy) refugees. The skinheads’ defense attorney subpoenaed Bernie Farber, executive director of CJC’s Ontario Region. The questioning of Farber was designed to suggest that the CJC had inordinate influence over politicians and law-enforcement authorities, leading to the allegedly selective prosecution of people such as the defendants.

Journalist and McGill University chancellor Gretta Chambers addressed a conference in Montreal in April about relations between Jews and Quebecois. Endeavoring to explain the identification of Montreal Jews with the anglophone community, which had subjected Jews to genteel anti-Semitism for so many decades, she suggested that Jews felt the need to be closely tied to English-speaking Jewish communities throughout North America. And she noted the irony that, over the last 20 years, Jews had assumed a leadership role in the life of English-speaking Montreal. She said that “the contribution of the Jewish component of the anglophone minority of Quebec has become an essential part of its vitality, of its institutional power, of its cultural roots and of its modern relevance.”

When British New Age writer David Icke spoke at the University of Toronto in October Jews and members of the Green Party protested outside. Bernie Farber of the CJC described his writings as “the worst anti-Semitic garbage I have ever read.” Police and immigration officials monitored his marathon speech for possible legal offenses.

Nazi War Criminals

Since the Supreme Court barred the criminal prosecution of people accused of Nazi-era crimes in Europe, the government sought, instead, to denaturalize and deport such individuals. This, however, took a very long time and did not always succeed.

In January the Federal Court of Canada found that Vladimir Katriuk had misrepresented his life history when applying to immigrate to Canada in 1951. The decision made it possible for the federal cabinet to strip him of his citizenship, leaving him vulnerable to deportation to his native Ukraine. Judge Marc Nadon held that Katriuk had voluntarily participated in the activities of Battalion 118,
a unit that operated as part of the Waffen-SS in what is now Belarus, and had been implicated in numerous atrocities between 1941 and 1944. Katriuk concealed his involvement and used a false name when he applied for admission to Canada. CJC national executive director Jack Silverstone welcomed the ruling, adding, "I personally believe the government is going in the right direction." Katriuk appealed to the Federal Court of Appeal, despite a provision of the Citizenship Act that does not allow appeals in cases of fraudulent entry into Canada. The appeal was denied, clearing the way for his deportation in 2000.

Prosecutors achieved another victory in the case of Serge Kisluk, who had been a police officer in Ukraine during the war. In June Allan Lufty, a judge of the Federal Court, ruled that Kisluk had lied to immigration authorities about his collaboration with the Nazis. Contrary to Kisluk's testimony the judge found that he had participated in the shooting of an innocent Jewish woman and the beating of a Jewish man: "Simply put, I do not believe the respondent's testimony on any contentious issue." Lufty's decision was based on testimony that Kisluk must have been asked certain questions when he sought to enter the country in 1948, which, if answered truthfully, would have disqualified him. Jack Silverstone hailed the decision, noting that it was at variance with the finding in the 1998 Dueck case, which had found that there had been no uniform procedure for interrogating prospective immigrants. The decision was expected to lead to Kisluk's deportation.

Eduards Podins, on the other hand, successfully defended himself against deportation by convincing a Federal Court judge that he had not been asked about his wartime experience when he applied to enter Canada from Britain in 1958. He was accused of having worked as a guard at a Nazi camp in Latvia, but the judge concluded that he had worked as a shopkeeper, despite being on the payroll of an auxiliary police unit.

Court proceedings against Michael Baumgartner, begun in February, had not been concluded by the end of the year. The government contended that he had joined the SS voluntarily in 1942, subsequently served in two concentration camps, and then lied about his associations when he applied to immigrate to Canada.

The case of Ukrainian labor-camp guard and alleged Nazi collaborator Wasyl Odynsky went to trial in March. He was accused of having served as a guard at the Trawniki and Poniatowa labor camps in Poland during 1943 and 1944, and then lying about his record when he applied to enter Canada in 1948. After historical testimony was presented about the mass killings of remaining camp inmates after the SS had liquidated most of them in the fall of 1943, Odynsky denied any involvement in the murders.

The government initiated a case against Jacob Fast, who was originally from Ukraine. It alleged that he had concealed his German citizenship, collaboration with the Nazi occupiers in Ukraine, and association with the SD. Fast's was the 16th and latest such case brought by the government.
Holocaust-Related Matters

Prime Minister Chrétien visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination complex in January, accompanied by CJC president Moshe Ronen, Ronen’s father—a survivor of Auschwitz—and Jack Silverstone. In ceremonies at the camp Chrétien stressed the need for tolerance and affirmed a “collective responsibility to make sure such things do not happen again.” It was the first visit to the site by a Canadian head of government. The trip was marred by criticism from the Canadian-Polish Congress for not being invited to participate.

Controversy about a proposed Holocaust museum in Ottawa continued to swirl. The Ukrainian-Canadian Civil Liberties Association brought together some 20 groups to form Canadians for a Genocide Museum (CFAGM), which would commemorate victims of all 20th-century genocides. Jewish groups declined to join this effort, fearing that such a genocide museum would lead to the abandonment of the Holocaust museum project. CJC president Ronen, pointing out that the idea for a genocide museum was being promoted primarily by Eastern European ethnic groups, charged that it was motivated by opposition to official recognition of the Holocaust’s uniqueness. In addition, Palestine Heritage Canada was among the supporters of the more general genocide approach, and one of its members was secretary of CFAGM. Ronen claimed that Prime Minister Chrétien had assured him, when they visited Auschwitz, that a suitable site for a Holocaust museum would be found.

While contending that humanitarian intervention was necessary in Kosovo, human-rights advocate Irwin Cotler rejected the relevance of Holocaust analogies. Writing in the Canadian Jewish News in May, Cotler drew a distinction between the Holocaust and contemporary events in the former Yugoslavia. As he put it, “to suggest that Kosovo is another Holocaust, runs the risk of trivializing the Holocaust, while minimizing the evil of Kosovo.”

Michael Marrus, the noted historian and dean of graduate studies at the University of Toronto, was appointed in November to a panel of experts that will review published Vatican archival material from the World War II period. Marrus is one of three Jewish historians on the six-member panel.

Jewish Community

Demography

Greater Toronto, already the country’s largest Jewish community, was expected to grow rapidly in the coming years. A study by Jay Brodbar, the Toronto federation’s planning specialist, suggested that the 2001 census may show a population in excess of 200,000, which would likely mean that over half of Canada’s Jews lived in and around Toronto. Brodbar found that the fastest growth was occur-
ring in the suburban area known as the York Region, containing the towns of Markham, Vaughan, and Richmond Hill, where about 60,000 Jews, primarily young families, lived in a number of heavily Jewish neighborhoods.

The Canadian Jewish community continued to receive immigrants, primarily from the former Soviet Union, but also from Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe. Jewish Immigrant Aid Services reported that it helped resettle over 3,000 newcomers during the 1998–99 fiscal year.

Poverty continued to be a problem for the community. Carleton University professor Allan Moscovitch estimated that 17 percent of Canada's Jews lived below the poverty line, a figure comparable to that for the general population. Moscovitch estimated that more than a quarter of the Jewish poor had arrived in Canada within the past five or six years. In a presentation to a conference on Jewish poverty in Winnipeg in November, he contended that "there's a reluctance in the Jewish community to acknowledge poverty." And Mark Zarecki, executive director of the Jewish family services agency in Ottawa, called upon the community to insure equal treatment for poorer Jews.

**Communal Affairs**

There was considerable excitement among Montreal's Jews over the construction of the new community campus, achieved by expanding and renovating existing facilities. Some $12 million was spent to remodel the Cummings House—the site of agency offices—the Jewish Public Library, and the Montreal Holocaust Museum, as well as to build a new conference center. Another $18 million was spent on the YM-YWHA across the street. The dedication took place in November even though the work was not yet complete. The federal, provincial, and local governments had each contributed $1.3 million to the project, and their representatives were in attendance: Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, Quebec premier Lucien Bouchard, and Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque. Outgoing Federation CJA president Stan Plotnick, the driving force behind the new campus, remarked that "I believe today the Montreal Jewish community stands a bit more proudly, is more secure, more understood, more recognized, more appreciated, and more encouraged about its future." No funds from the regular federation campaign were used for this privately funded undertaking. Indeed, after several years of budgetary restraint, increased campaign receipts in 1998 enabled the federation to boost agency budgets by 2.7 percent for 1999.

One of the changes connected with the new campus was the move of the Quebec regional office of CJC from its old downtown location to the new campus. As part of a reorganization, CJC also moved most of its national departments and personnel from Montreal to Ottawa, and then donated the Samuel Bronfman House, its national headquarters for over a quarter of a century, to Concordia University. Only the administrative offices and the archives remained in the Montreal building. Since the CJC has tended to focus increasingly on polit-
ical advocacy, the move to Ottawa would put it in closer proximity to the federal government. "That should have been done years ago," said National Executive Director Jack Silverstone. He added that the move had nothing to do with political developments in Quebec and was not meant to reflect on the status of the Montreal Jewish community.

Controversy over the circumstances surrounding the death of Herman Krausz at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal in 1998 led to a coroner's inquest in February 1999. Krausz died after physicians removed him from life support in the intensive care unit despite moral and religious objections raised by his two sons. The doctors testified that, despite the opposition from the family, they had followed hospital policy. In addition, there was some dispute over what the dying man wanted done. In August, summarizing the family's case, lawyer Peter Kalichman argued that the doctors had erred "morally, ethically, and legally." He also criticized the hospital's ethics committee, alleging that it "completely failed in its responsibility to resolve the conflict" between the family and the physicians.

Canadian Jews took up the cause of 13 of their brethren who were imprisoned in Iran, facing espionage trials and possible death sentences. At a June rally in Toronto, religious leaders from several faith communities joined Jewish leaders in condemning the arrests and calling for the speedy release of the captives. CJC regional chair Keith Landy proclaimed that "when one of us is threatened, all of us are threatened," while Ontario UJA Federation president Alan Sandler added, "we are here because for us, silence itself would be criminal." MP Jim Peterson assured the demonstrators that the government had expressed its concerns to Iran and was monitoring the situation closely. Rallies were also held in Montreal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, and Winnipeg.

The Communaute S@phareade du Qu@bec (CSQ) held a memorial service in August for King Hassan II of Morocco, who died in July. Speakers praised the late king for maintaining good relations between Muslims and Jews. CSQ president Moise Amsellem declared that the king was part of the "providential force that kept us at peace with our Muslim compatriots and sealed, as never before, the bonds of friendship and affection, of neighborliness, and tolerance."

Charles R. Bronfman, the longtime Canadian Jewish community leader, became the first board chairman of the newly formed United Jewish Communities of North America (UJC), an amalgamation of the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), the United Israel Appeal (UIA), and the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF). Steve Ain, a senior executive with CJF Canada, became the interim CEO of the UJC. In another major undertaking, Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt launched Birthright Israel, a project designed to insure a free trip to Israel for every young Jew.

Maxyne Finkelstein, the new executive director of UIA Federations Canada, was named to succeed Ain as the executive vice president of the organization when Ain moves to New York in 2000. She said that, in her view, the merger of CJF Canada and UIA Canada simply gave recognition to the way that the Canadian
community had already been operating. Finkelstein will be the first woman to hold the top professional position in any Jewish federation on the continent.

In a new edition of his book, *Coat of Many Colors*, historian and former CJC president Irving Abella expressed optimism about the community. He explained that the "sense of insecurity and marginality that has dominated the Canadian Jewish community for too much of this century" had been due to the country's small population and immense size. Canadian Jews, he argued, had internalized many of the "hang ups" of Canadians in general in addition to those common to Jews. But Abella found the situation vastly improved from a half-century before, when Canada was a "benighted, xenophobic, and anti-Semitic country."

Montreal's Mount Sinai Hospital won a court case in June against a Quebec government effort to eliminate its short-term beds as part of a health care reorganization scheme. After a favorable ruling from the Quebec Court of Appeal, the hospital will be able to maintain both its short-term and long-term beds. Had the change been implemented, Mount Sinai would have lost a significant portion of its funding.

Stanley Diamond of Montreal established Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, to provide a comprehensive source of information about individual 19th-century Polish Jews. The listing is expected to become an invaluable tool for genealogical research.

The *Canadian Jewish News* won several Simon Rockower Awards for excellence in Jewish journalism from the American Jewish Press Association, as well as an award from the Quebec Community Newspaper Association.

**Israel-Related Matters**

In January Toronto's UJA Federation asked the Israeli Knesset to drop two bills that were before it that would have cemented the Orthodox domination over the Jewish religion. One bill would have recognized only those conversions performed in Israel that were under Orthodox auspices, while the other would have required all members of local religious councils to pledge loyalty to the Chief Rabbinate.

**Religion**

In May, after the Central Conference of American Rabbis, meeting in Pittsburgh, adopted a new statement of principles emphasizing religious observance, Canadian rabbis in attendance did not anticipate any radical change in Canadian Reform congregations, since Reform in Canada had long been more traditional than in the U.S. The Canadian Reform movement opened its first summer camp, Camp George, north of Toronto, in 1999. A Jewish educational component formed an integral part of the program.

A rift developed in the Winnipeg community over the performance of mar-
riages. Rabbi Michael Levenson, who assumed the pulpit of Temple Shalom, a Reform synagogue, in 1998, obtained his board’s approval to perform same-sex marriages as well as mixed marriages, and announced his intention to do so in January 1999. The Winnipeg Council of Rabbis condemned the move in February, five of the eight members signing a statement to the effect that “this step is fraught with danger to the Jewish community,” and arguing that mixed marriages meant “communal suicide.” Levenson, however, the only Reform rabbi in Winnipeg, insisted that his policy “will strengthen the community by bringing in more people than we lose.”

In an action that created considerable publicity, the Vaad Harabanim (Orthodox rabbinical council) of Toronto, in June, barred the burial in a Jewish cemetery of a man who had become an ordained Christian minister. According to Rabbi Moshe Stern, head of the Vaad, Malvern Jacobs had accepted Jesus as the messiah, become a deacon of a Christian church, and worked to convert Jews to Christianity, facts that the Vaad discovered only after his death. The funeral service was held at a Jewish chapel, followed by a procession to the cemetery where Jacobs had owned a plot, but the gates were locked. After two hours of waiting on the street outside the cemetery, the hearse returned to the chapel. Jacobs was interred in a non-Jewish cemetery the next day. CJC Ontario Region chair Keith Landy, speaking on behalf of Pardes Shalom cemetery, said that Jacobs’s actions had “clearly left him outside the Jewish community.”

In Montreal, a 1998 court decision denying a condominium owner the right to build a sukkah on his balcony was appealed to Quebec’s highest court in March 1999. The League of Human Rights of B’nai Brith Canada intervened in the case on behalf of the aggrieved condominium residents, filing papers that argued that the judge had erred in accepting one of two conflicting expert opinions on what Jewish law required.

Levitts Kosher Foods, Inc., a Montreal meat producer, became involved in a dispute with the Council of Orthodox Rabbis (COR) in Toronto, which supervises kashrut in that city. The COR announced that it would withdraw certification from any store or restaurant that sold or used fresh meat from Levitts, even though the company had kashrut certification from Montreal’s Vaad Ha’ir as well as from a respected U.S. body. The reasons for this action were two policies that the COR had adopted during the 1980s, one barring ritually slaughtered meat from outside the community, and the other requiring that the principals in kosher firms be Sabbath observers. Levitts failed to meet either standard. Levitts took the case to court, but in July Madam Justice Mary Lou Benotto granted a stay to the three COR rabbis named as respondents in the case, essentially telling the parties to resolve their differences in a bet din, a court of Jewish law.

In April, in another court case, Rabbi Joseph Ben-David won a $130,000 judgment from his former employer, Congregation B’nai Israel in St. Catharines, Ontario, for wrongful dismissal. After serving the synagogue in several capacities for
25 years, his contract was terminated in 1994. Justice William Festeryga of the Ontario Court, general division, found that the congregation had acted in a "cruel, abusive, insolent, and hurtful manner."

Rabbi Allan Nadler, appointed by the Orthodox Congregation Chevra Kadisha B'nai Jacob in Montreal to officiate for the High Holy Days, dramatically walked out of the congregation after delivering his sermon at the beginning of the Kol Nidre service on Yom Kippur eve and did not return. At issue was the participation of non-Jews in the synagogue choir assembled for the holidays, in contravention of Orthodox practice. When the makeup of the choir became known after Rosh Hashanah, Nadler's rabbinical colleagues protested, and when the synagogue board denied his request to have only Jewish choir members for Yom Kippur, he decided to deliver his Kol Nidre sermon and leave.

Education

For some time the Ontario Jewish community had been trying to secure public funding for its Jewish day schools. Even though the provincial government funded Catholic schools, officials steadfastly refused to treat Jewish schools equally. Ontario, the province with the largest Jewish population by far, was the only province that discriminated in this way. CJC leadership met with Premier Mike Harris in February, but he refused even to discuss school funding. The most he would agree to was that the government should make health-support services available in Jewish schools.

During the spring election campaign Harris again dashed any hopes for a breakthrough by proclaiming his commitment to the public schools. Jewish leaders strongly criticized him for seeming to make the matter a Jewish issue when the fact was that other religious groups were also asking for school aid. Just before the election Harris sent a letter to the CJC saying that he would consider the Jewish community's request for $6.5 million for health services in Jewish schools, which included funds for the education of the handicapped. At an October meeting with the executive of CJC's Ontario Region, Minister of Education Janet Ecker listened sympathetically but gave no encouragement. No action was expected before mid-2000.

Later in October, in response to a complaint from a Toronto Jewish parent, the UN Human Rights Commission found that Ontario discriminated against non-Catholics in school funding, in violation of a 1976 human-rights covenant. In response, Ecker reiterated her government's determination to fund only the public and Catholic schools. Although the UN decision did not have the force of law, it did have the effect of embarrassing Canada, which claimed a leadership role in the international struggle for human rights and was a signatory to the covenant in question. The Ontario Region of CJC called upon the federal government to put pressure on the provincial government, since "in order for Canada not to be named a human rights violator, our country must remedy the situation quickly."
However even though the federal government was legally the respondent in this human-rights case, education was purely a provincial responsibility in the Canadian federal system, placing limits on what the federal government could do. In December Canada was given three months to comply, but Ecker vowed that under no circumstances would Ontario extend funding to private and non-Catholic religious schools: "Period. End of story." With the CJC insisting that "we are going to battle for justice," the situation was unresolved as the year ended.

Montreal's Jewish People's Schools and Peretz Schools were the surprise beneficiaries of an anonymous bequest from someone in South America. The $3.4 million will be used to set up a foundation in memory of long-time principal Shloime Wiseman. The four main emphases of the foundation will be the study and use of Yiddish language and culture, the love and appreciation of Israel, a pluralistic approach to Judaism, and study of the Holocaust.

Yeshiva Beit Yizchak in Hamilton announced plans to open Maimonides College in 2000. The college, expected to attract some 30 students, will be the first institution in Canada to ordain rabbis.

In an unusual collaboration, the Torah and Vocational Institute (TAV), with ties to Chabad, established a relationship with the Université du Québec à Montréal that will enable TAV to offer bachelor's degree programs in computer science and business administration. The courses, offered in the TAV facility in the western part of Montreal and taught by the university faculty, began in September.

An 11-person delegation from Israel's Ministry of Education visited several Canadian cities during May to study Jewish educational practices and to foster exchanges and other relationships between students and educators in the two countries.

Concordia University in Montreal established an Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. In August the university announced that the first holder of the chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies would be Norman Ravvin, a specialist in Canadian Jewish literature.

**Community and Intergroup Relations**

The question of prayer in the public schools was a major community-relations issue. In 1993, Unitarian, Muslim, and Jewish parents in Saskatchewan challenged the common practice of reciting the Lord's Prayer daily, contending that it had the effect of discriminating against non-Christians even though they were allowed to leave the classroom or remain without participating in the exercise. The case went to a provincial human-rights tribunal, which finally completed hearing testimony in July 1999.

Both the local Jewish community in Saskatoon and B'nai Brith Canada intervened in the case. Rabbi Roger Pavey, the retired leader of a local congregation,
testified that the manner in which the prayer was used was in fact coercive, and since real prayer was by definition voluntary, this religious exercise was meaningless. He also objected to the practice of singling out those who wished not to recite the prayer, which amounted, he said, to labeling them as “deviant.” Dr. Karen Mock, a psychologist and director of B’nai Brith Canada’s League of Human Rights, testified that the self-esteem of the non-Christian children was jeopardized. Late in July the tribunal issued a decision banning the Lord’s Prayer from classrooms in the province. Retired judge Ken Halvorson, who chaired the tribunal, found that mandatory prayers denied children their religious freedom. He urged the school board to “shed its image as a backwater of religious intolerance” and condemned the practice of leaving it to individual teachers to decide whether or not to have the class recite the prayer.

In another Lord’s Prayer case the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned a lower-court decision and banned recitation of the prayer at town council meetings in Penetanguishene. In affirming town resident Henry Freitag’s complaint, the court found that the purpose of the exercise was to “impose a Christian moral tone on the deliberations of council.”

In the Montreal suburb of Outremont there were strained relations between Hassidim, on the one hand, and their neighbors and the city government, on the other. For a decade a woman had complained that Vishnitzer Hassidim had established a synagogue in her building without obtaining a permit. With the support of the Outremont Residents’ Association, Celine Forget sued the congregation in 1997. The Hassidim claimed that they had asked the city several times to rezone the property from residential to public use, but each time had been rebuffed by the city council. They also claimed that since the property had once been zoned commercial, they had acquired rights to use it for a synagogue. The case was scheduled to go to court in June 1999, but just before the court date the congregation announced that it had found new premises a short distance away, making the matter moot.

In October Outremont Hassidim were again in the news, complaining that they were being harassed by numerous complaints lodged against them, primarily by the same Ms. Forget. A spokesperson claimed that members of the community were being bothered by verbal abuse and the petty enforcement of municipal regulations. Alex Werzberger, head of the Hassidic community council, added that his constituents perceived the police to be biased against them, since their own complaints were not taken seriously.

Forget ran for the city council in November and won, thereby raising apprehensions that she would use her position of power against the interests of the Hassidim. Forget claimed that all she wanted was to have the laws applied and enforced evenly, implying that the Hassidim were getting special treatment. She contended that Hassidim had insulted her and spat on her for objecting to the location of the synagogue in her building and organizing a petition to oppose the
rezoning. She claimed to have received some 60 intimidating or threatening phone calls over an 18-month period.

In another Montreal suburb there was also tension between a Hassidic group, this time Lubavitch, and the neighboring community, in this case Jewish. The city of Côte Saint-Luc is predominantly Jewish, as are the mayor and most of the city councilors. When a French Chabad group asked for a rezoning in order to establish Beit Chabad, a community center and synagogue, there were numerous objections. When the city offered to sell the necessary plot of land for the $3-million project ($800,000 of it contributed by the Quebec government) residents of the area protested, expressing concerns about increased traffic, noise, parking, encroachment on a senior citizens’ garden, and lowered property values. The proposed site was the third considered, since protests had blocked the first two. The dispute carried negative communal implications, as it publicly pitted one group of Jews against another. There were those who blamed the opposition on dislike of Orthodox Jews, of Hassidim, or specifically of the Lubavitch movement. But there may have been another reason: the clientele of the new center was expected to be made up mostly of francophone Sephardim, whereas most of the opponents were anglophone Ashkenazim. Rabbi Mendel Raskin, head of Beit Chabad, expressed puzzlement about the opposition, calling it a shame that there should be such a reaction in a Jewish neighborhood. A number of raucous public meetings only exacerbated the situation and intensified the bad feelings. After months of public posturing, matters came to a head in September when the city council finally voted the necessary rezoning. The eight councilors split evenly, and Mayor Robert Libman cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the project. He praised Chabad for its extraordinary work: “The city should be proud to have it in its midst.” Final approval was granted in October. However residents quickly collected sufficient signatures on petitions to force a referendum on the zoning change. But then, instead of putting the matter to a referendum, the city council reconsidered the issue in early November and reversed itself, effectively terminating the project at that location. A deeply disappointed Rabbi Raskin said that Chabad would continue to search for a suitable site in Côte Saint-Luc.

A school supervisor in Thornhill, a Toronto suburb, formally reprimanded a Jewish teacher for taking off the day before Passover in order to prepare for the seder. The teacher claimed that her absence was for a religious purpose, even though not on a religious holiday. Several months later the superintendent of the York Region Board of Education reversed the decision and excised the reprimand from her file.

After a long struggle, Jewish teachers in the Fort Garry School District in Winnipeg were given the right to take three days off with pay for religious holidays, instead of two. This was the first time that any Manitoba school board had enabled teachers to observe both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur without penalty.
The relationship between Jews and French Quebecois continued to be a subject of concern. A conference on the topic was held in April at Temple Emanu-El–Beth Shalom in Montreal, sponsored by the Jewish Public Library, Dialogue St.-Urbain, and a population-research institute. Gerard Bouchard, head of the institute, asked why Jews were not more sympathetic to Quebec nationalism and more sensitive to Quebecois fears about survival, and why they were quicker to criticize anti-Semitism in Quebec than in the rest of Canada. David Bensoussan responded by comparing the relative openness of English Canada to the "cultural exclusivity" of Quebec. He argued that excessive nationalism, especially the language laws, were symptoms of a lack of tolerance in Quebec, which adversely affected Jews and other minorities. Professor Ira Robinson of Concordia University lamented the failure to achieve real dialogue between Jewish and Quebecois intellectuals.

A young Jewish businessman, Mordechai Quezada, ran afoul of the Quebec language laws in June by publishing an advertising circular primarily in English, with some copy in Hebrew and Yiddish. He was cited by the Commission de Protection de la Langue Francaise for not publishing in French. The circular was directed primarily to Hassidic homes in Outremont. After reviewing the facts, officials found that his publication might indeed qualify for an exemption.

Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest addressed the board of the Communaute Sepharade du Quebec in October, praising the contributions of Sephardim to Quebec life as evidence of "exemplary citizenship."

A controversial M.A. thesis at Quebec City's Universite Laval, which soft-pedaled certain aspects of the Nazi treatment of the Jews, provoked an angry reaction from the Quebec Region CJC. After meeting with CJC officials in February, Francois Tavenas, the rector, acknowledged that the thesis had not been evaluated properly and undertook to insure that future research would not misrepresent historical facts. Dorothy Zalcman Howard, regional CJC chair, declared that the case "clearly illustrates the increasingly insidious nature of Holocaust revisionism and our ongoing, unconditional obligation to vigorously oppose, attack, and curtail this trend."

Controversial political scientist Esther Delisle claimed that she was the victim of a conspiracy to keep her off a panel on the subject of anti-Semitism in Quebec that was held in Los Angeles in February and sponsored by the Canadian Consulate General and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Delisle, a leading authority on the subject, was very unpopular in Quebec intellectual circles because of her view that Quebec nationalism has been historically anti-Semitic. An official of the consulate admitted that Delisle had been dropped after an invitation was already issued because the sponsors wanted to avoid the appearance of an unbalanced program.

Rabbi Eli Gottesman of Montreal, who served as chaplain at an upstate New York penitentiary, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Albany in September
to a charge of conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with accusations that he had smuggled drugs into the prison. He admitted bringing sundry items to prisoners, but denied knowingly bringing in drugs, even though marijuana and cocaine were found in a large shampoo bottle that he was bringing into the prison on the day he was arrested. In January 2000 he was sentenced to six months of home detention, two years of probation, and 500 hours of community service.

Culture

Miriam Schneid-Ofseyer, widow of the painter Otto Schneid, donated his art collection to the University of Toronto in November. The collection consisted of photographs, letters, and catalogs that chronicled the lives of European Jewish artists. Barry Walfish, the university's Judaica specialist, described the gift as "an important archive of Jewish art in the first half of the 20th century."

Two films produced by Niv Fichman, "The Red Violin" and "Last Night," won a total of 11 Genie Awards from the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television in February. Two of his other films won Emmy Awards in the United States.

Lea Pool's new film, "Emporte Moi," was an autobiographical story set in Montreal in 1963, when the filmmaker was 13. It related the experience of a young Quebec girl who is the product of a Catholic-Jewish marriage.

Among the Israeli films exhibited at the Toronto International Film Festival in September were Amos Gitai's "Kadosh," Jonathan Sagall's "Urban Feel," Arik Kaplun's "Yana's Friends," and Eyal Sivan and Ron Brauman's "The Specialist." The last of these was a documentary that utilized actual films of the Eichmann trial. The Toronto Jewish Film Festival in April and May featured some 60 films. "Shylock," a documentary by the National Film Board that traced the impact of Shakespeare's character, was one of the films featured at the Montreal Jewish Film Festival in May.

The Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture was held at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre in August and September. It featured dozens of programs including music, theatre, dance, film, visual arts, and literature, as well as lectures and workshops.

One of the highlights of the celebration of Jewish Book Month in Montreal was an evening of tribute to poet Irving Layton. Some 20 speakers recounted their experiences with Layton, and Prime Minister Chrétien sent a message characterizing him as "one of Canada's most gifted poets, who has made a lasting and unparalleled contribution to Canadian literature."

Radio Shalom, the continent's first 24-hour Jewish radio station, began broadcasting in Montreal in August. However it was on a frequency that is not carried by ordinary radios, and this severely limited the number of its listeners. Programming was half in English and half in French.
Publications

In *Fugitives of the Forest*, Allan Levine examined the Jewish partisan movement during World War II in great detail. Using interviews with over 60 former partisan fighters as well as documentary material, Levine showed how Jews from rural areas succeeded as partisans to a much greater extent than their urban counterparts. He also described the relationship the Jewish partisans had with the Soviet army and the peasantry.

Harold Troper's *The Ransomed of God* was a tribute to the work of Jewish community leader Judy Feld Carr on behalf of Syrian Jewry, which, between 1970 and 1995, resulted in freedom for some 3,000 people.

The life of a consummate Montreal community professional was recounted by Joel Yanofsky in *Architect of a Community: The Manny Batshaw Story*.

Other nonfiction works included David Bensoussan's three-volume cultural and analytical study of the Bible, *La Bible prise au Berceau; Surpassing Wonder: The Invention of the Bible and the Talmuds* by Donald Harman Akenson; *Politique et Religion* by Julien Bauer; Clara Balinsky's autobiographical *Clara's Clock*; Michael Brown and Bernard Lightman's edited volume, *Creating the Jewish Future; Voicing the Void: Muteness and Memory in Holocaust Fiction* by Sara Horowitz; show-business personality and actor Al Waxman's autobiography, *That's What I Am*; Gitel Donath's Holocaust memoir, *My Bones Do Not Rest in Auschwitz: A Lonely Battle to Survive German Tyranny*; and Arthur Lermer's *Toward A Brighter Dawn*.

*The River Midnight* by Lillian Nattel was a novel set in a late-19th century Polish shtetl. The focus was on four women and their families, but the beautifully described context of Jewish life during that period created a remarkable backdrop to their stories. *Katifa* by Peter Ginsberg was a futuristic speculation about Israeli-Palestinian relations. Chava Rosenfarb published two novels, *Bociany* and *Of Lodz and Love*. Other works of fiction included Nora Gold's collection, *Marrow and Other Stories*; a reissue of A.M. Klein's *The Second Scroll*; *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* by Kathy Kacer; *Then Again* by Elyse Friedman; *Tell You All* by David Brown; *Sulha* by Malka Maron; *Get on Top* by David Homel; and *Felix Roth* by Cary Fagan.


Two members of the community received the prestigious Governor-General's Literary Award. Sheila Fischman won in 1998 for her translation of a Michel Tremblay novel, *Bambi and Me*. In 1999 Matt Cohen received the award for his novel *Elizabeth and After*.

Jewish Book Awards were presented in Toronto in June to Lillian Nattel, Nora Gold, Gerald Tulchinsky, Kenneth Sherman, N.N. Schneidman, Allan Levine, Elizabeth Raab, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, and Irene Watts.
Personalia

A number of Jews were appointed to the Order of Canada. Officers: Howard Alper, Irving Pink, Frederick Lowy, Barry Posner, and Bernard Shapiro. Members: Sheldon Godfrey, Marnie Paikin, Gerald Rose, Paul Godfrey, Nathan Saul Mendelsohn, Rose Wolfe, and Herschel Victor. Sheila Kussner, Henry Mintzberg, and David Azrieli were named to the Ordre National du Québec while Susan Charness, Victor Feldbrill, and Maxwell Goldhar joined the Order of Ontario.

The prime minister named Robert Rabinovitch president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He had earlier been appointed chair of the board of McGill University. Ed Fitch was promoted to brigadier general and given command of Land Force Western Area. Dr. Lucien Abenhaim was appointed director-general for health in France while journalist Ghila Sroka received the gold medal of La Renaissance Française. Jack Grossman was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice.

Dalhousie University named Thomas Donald Traves president while Harvey Secter was appointed dean of law at the University of Manitoba. Victor Goldbloom retired as commissioner of official languages and was named head of the Jules and Paul-Émile Leger Foundation. Irving Abella was elected president of the Canadian Historical Association. A. Earl Kimmel became president of the Canadian Federation of Law Societies while Lynne Kassie was elected batonnier of the Montreal Bar.

Within the community Alan Sandier was elected president of UJA Federation in Toronto and Marilyn Blumer president of Federation CJA in Montreal. David Goldstein became president of UIA Federations Canada while Joseph Wilder assumed the chair of the Canada-Israel Committee. Manuel Prutschi was appointed national director of community relations for the Canadian Jewish Congress and David BIRnbaum became the Quebec regional director. Seymour Epstein was appointed director of the Toronto Bureau of Jewish Education and vice president of UJA Federation. Erez Anzel and Frank Guttman became copresidents of Canadian Friends of Peace Now. Doreen Green was elected president of the YM-YWHA in Montreal. Hy Goldman won the Dr. Hirsh and Dvora Rosenfeld Prize in the Yiddish achievement category.

Members of the community who died this year included lawyer and war-crimes prosecutor Arnold Fradkin, in January, aged 56; music teacher, composer and choir leader Yehuda David Weinberg, in January, aged 75; major community fund-raiser and organizational leader Lewis Moses, in February, aged 79; Alex Koenigsgberg, longtime Toronto synagogue sexton, in March, aged 80; social activist and Hillel benefactor Ann Bailey, in April, aged 95; intensive-care physician Dr. Allen Spanier, in April, aged 52; community leader Gerald Rose, in April, aged 78; Ruth Kelman, rebbetzin and educator, in June, aged 65; Lorry Greenberg, former mayor of Ottawa, in July, aged 65; organizational leader Jules Sundin, in September, aged 79; Agudah leader Moshe Nussbaum, in September,
aged 88; former professional football player George Klein, in October, aged 67; Rabbi Leib Kramer, founder and longtime head of Lubavitch’s Rabbinical College of Canada, in November, aged 80; distinguished novelist Matt Cohen, in December, aged 56; Holocaust educator and community volunteer Robert Engel, in December, aged 76; Lawrence Greenberg, former president of Ottawa’s Jewish Community Council, in December, aged 54; and Florence Kirshner, founding director of Montreal’s Golden Age Association, in December, aged 84.

HAROLD M. WALLER