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CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS CHARITIES COMMITTEE

National Archives Newsletter

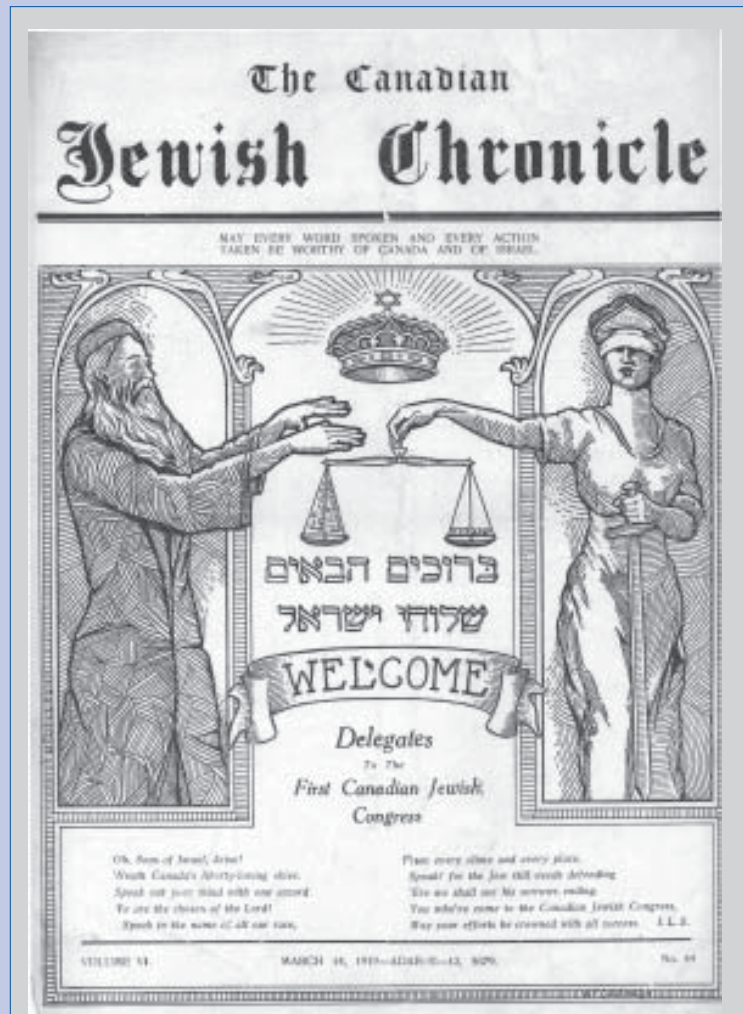
Janice Rosen
Director

APRIL 2009

Happy anniversary!

We have been helping with an unusual amount of “anniversary” projects over the past few months, most notably with Canadian Jewish Congress’s own 90th anniversary of its founding, in 1919. Watch for CJCCC National Archives historical photos in publicity for the upcoming CJC Plenary Assembly, to be held Sunday, May 31, in Toronto. We have also been consulted by the Jewish General Hospital, now celebrating its 75th anniversary, and by the Mount Sinai sanatorium, celebrating its 100th. The first wave of Moroccan Jews arrived in Canada 50 years ago, and wartime Jewish refugees who traveled from Iberia on the ship Serpa Pinto arrived here 65 years ago, both occasions for looking back and reflecting on the present.

In a final birthday note, we would like to point out that the CJC (now CJCCC) Archives Committee was founded 75 years ago, at the CJC Plenary Assembly of 1934.



The Canadian Jewish Chronicle newspaper cover announcing the Plenary Assembly of 1919.

RESEARCH AND RESEARCHERS

The past few months have brought what must be a record number of researchers to the Archives, many of them involved in major long-term projects. This has made for some lively exchanges of ideas between researchers and staff, and between researchers who



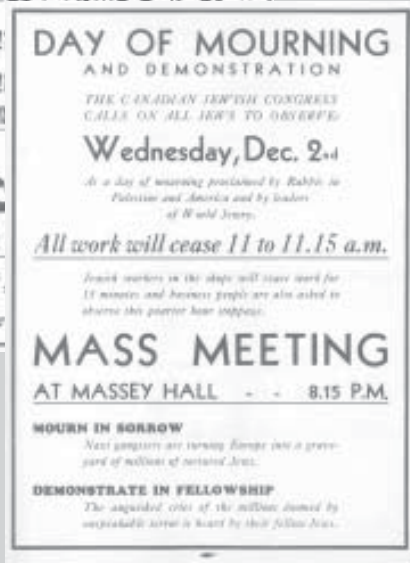
John Abbott College archival studies student intern Steven Panagakos

end up sharing tables. Being a multi-lingual group, some of these exchanges take place in a mixture of English, French and

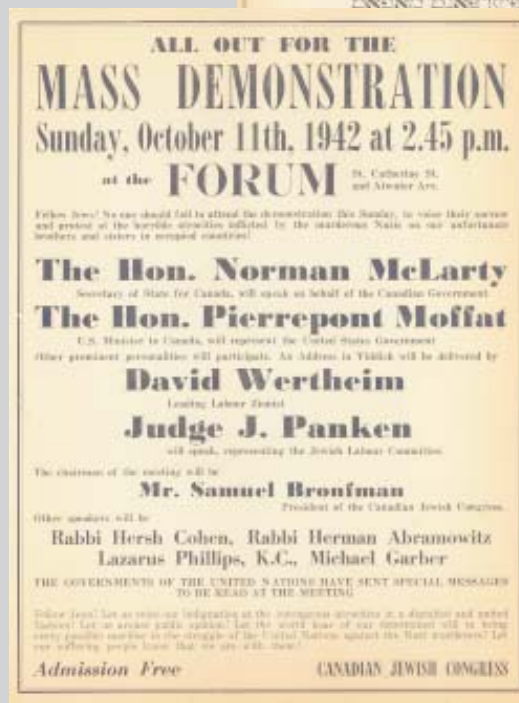
Yiddish, with a few words of Hebrew thrown in for emphasis. Consequently, Archives Assistant **Hélène Vallée**'s grasp of conversational Yiddish has been improving significantly.

Meanwhile, our winter-term student intern **Steven Panagakos** may have taken more cultural information away from his practicum experience than we or he had envisioned when we assigned to him the arranging of the **Sheila Finestone** archives that we received three years ago.

Researchers and volunteers frequently uncover interesting archival items and bring them to our attention. Volunteer **Willie Glaser** has been improving the descriptive labeling of CJC Chronological Series files from the 1930s and the war years, leading to the discovery of hitherto overlooked Yiddish posters for “mass meetings” protesting German fascism, and early, little-noted contemporary accounts by witnesses of the Holocaust.



The 1942 “Day of Mourning” and the protests against Nazi atrocities announced in these bilingual Toronto and Montreal posters are an eerie precursor of what was to become Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, which is usually held in April.



OUTREACH

CJCCC National Archives staff put a selection of archival teasers and treasures on display during a student orientation session held February 17, 2009, for McGill students from Dr. **Mary Anne Poutanen**'s class on the history of ethnicity in Quebec.

As the use of primary sources is required for the assignments in this course, these students have also become frequent users of the Archives over the past two months.

In February, Archives Director **Janice Rosen** attended a conference about the long-term preservation of electronic records, organized by GARM (le Groupe d'archivistes de la Région de Montréal), where she presented a paper at a roundtable about the challenges of archiving digital documents.

An article written by Janice about Jewish archival resources in Quebec will be published in the April edition of the online publication of the Association des Archivistes du Québec, "Archives au Présent." See *Les ressources archivistiques de la communauté juive du Québec* in the section "Archives et Société." (www.archivistes.qc.ca/spip.php?page=rubrique-webzine&id_rubrique=22)

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The German Jewish refugees sent from England to be interned in Canada during World War II continue to be a subject of interest for researchers.

We recently became aware of a collection of letters from former internee **Alfred Hans-Dieter Haiblen**, who is now living in New York City. (www.cjccc.ca/national_archives/archives/arcguideH.htm#haiblen.) The letters, which arrived at the Archives from Alaska via his daughter Barb, consist of exchanges between Haiblen, CJC personnel,



A dapper Alfred Haiblen, seen here in 1942, during his McGill days.

and various sponsors. Young Mr. Haiblen was eventually released from camp in order to attend McGill University, where he distinguished himself in electrical engineering before going on to a career in Ontario and subsequently the U.S.

In a coincidental twist, Mr. Haiblen lived at the home of **Percy Jacobson** (www.cjccc.ca/national_archives/archives/arcguideJ.htm#jacobson) while he pursued his studies, and he is mentioned several times in Jacobson's oft-quoted wartime diary, also housed at the CJCCC National Archives.

The Jewish Public Library recently transferred to CJCCCNA some interesting S.W. Jacobs-related photographs donated by **George Rosengarten**, thereby uniting these items with other Jacobs items here.

Renowned as a lawyer, a Jewish community leader and the second president of Canadian Jewish Congress, **Samuel William Jacobs** was the Liberal M.P. for the Cartier riding from 1917 until his death in 1938.

One of the donated items is a handsome framed Notman print showing the House of Commons in session in the 1930s, with Jacobs among the members. The photograph is now on display in our office.

In a category that might be called "Historical Archives of Tomorrow," we wish to note with gratitude the donation by **Dov Okouneff** of the complete series "Montreal Jewish Memories" (Stories of the Twenties, the Thirties, the War Years, and Postwar Stories), all on DVD. These films recently gained wide exposure through being shown, with commentary by filmmakers Dov Okouneff and Stanley Asher, during pledge drives on the PBS channels available to Eastern Canada.

Other acquisitions of future historical significance have come to us from researcher **Steven Lapidus**, who has donated copies of his photographs of Montreal's ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods and has been contributing copies of the newspaper *Vos is Neyis/What's New in Montreal*, an advertising weekly that is full of practical commentaries from a Hasidic perspective.

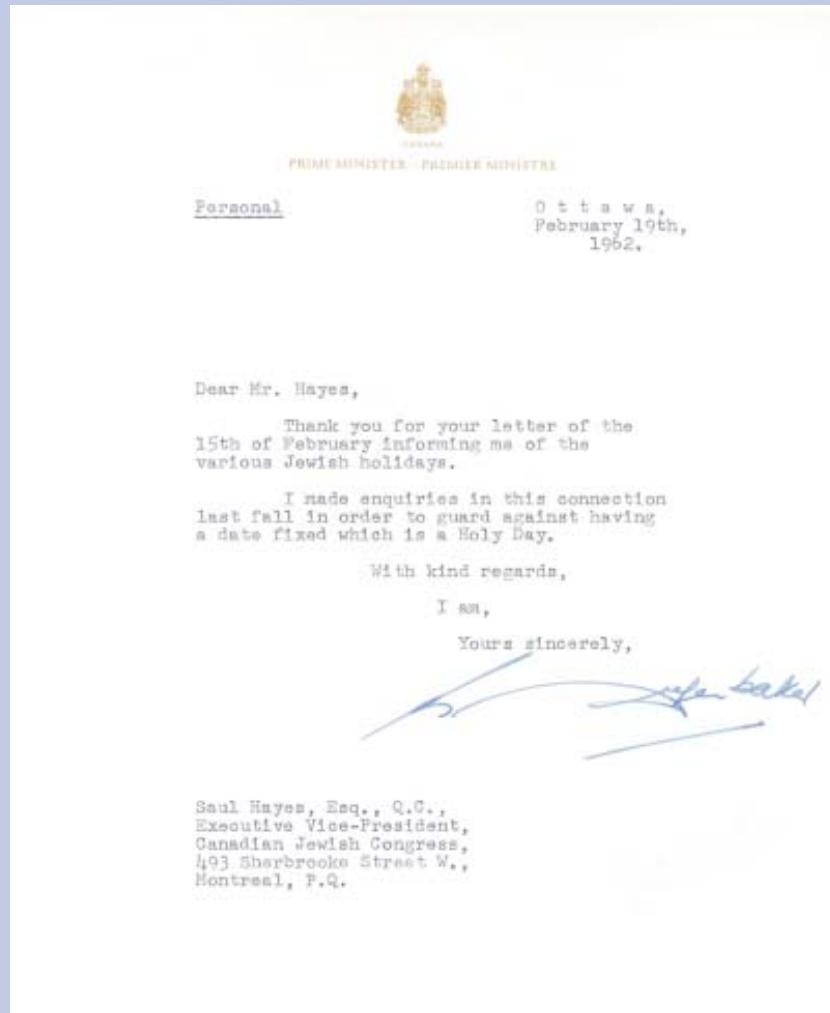
PARKS CANADA DEVELOPMENTS

In 2004 and again in 2005, CJCCCNA was asked to convene focus group committees to advise Parks Canada about Jewish people and events of national significance that could potentially merit a historical designation. The second committee's mandate was to put forward

suggestions about historically significant Canadian Jewish women.

Over the past months Parks Canada has informed us that this latter committee's suggestions of Hadassah founder and philanthropist **Lillian Freiman**, and the founding of the **National Council of Jewish Women**

are both receiving serious consideration. To date, three suggestions made by the first committee have been accepted by the Canadian Historic Sites and Monuments Commission and Parks Canada: poet **A.M. Klein**, newspaper owner **Hirsch Wolofsky**, and the founding of **Canadian Jewish Congress**, in 1919. □



In 1962 CJC Executive Director Saul Hayes wrote to Prime Minister John Diefenbaker before Passover, advising him of upcoming holidays in relation to the choice of a potential election day. John Diefenbaker signed this cordial letter in reply.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A HAPPY PASSOVER.