

## THE ENGLISH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The English Community of Montreal is one of the first Founding Nations of this beautiful and vast country. These English settlers traveled many miles across the Atlantic Ocean from their original birthplace in London, England to find prosperity and a better economy for their families. Due to the fact, that the economy was extremely poor in London, it was difficult to find jobs in order to secure an adequate living. Canada was a country of wealth and growth with rich land to farm, and greater stability for future generations to live.*

*These courageous settlers endured much strife in conquering a wilderness unknown to them, strange and foreign in discovering their new homeland Montreal, Quebec. The native peoples were generous to the English in giving them assistance and guidelines on how to adapt to their unfamiliar surroundings. However, at times, the harshness of the new world proved to be futile to these newcomers who eventually succumbed to loneliness and diseases such as, smallpox, T.B., Typhoid fever and so on. The inner strength and brave camaraderie that the English exuded eventually surpassed the uncertainty and fears that they suffered and made way for a more challenging journey into the future.*

*Although many English who immigrated to Montreal were in a French settlement Quebec, Canada became a British colony when Quebec succumbed to British reinforcement, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763. Much history and revelations played important factors amongst the English colonists who had undergone several transitions here in Canada and also abroad in their former homeland. When the Revolution broke out in America General R. Montgomery's troops moved in to Quebec in order to establish support from French Canada against the British. The English also suffered tremendous loss during the two World Wars. In the summer of 1940, England was attacked by Germany causing excruciating destruction to the population and also many buildings were destroyed or damaged by bombs. Many famous landmarks were also targeted such as, Westminster Abbey and Saint Paul's Cathedral. The Queen mother and her family were determined to remain at Buckingham Palace although she was urged to vacate the premises during these crises. Bombs fell near the Palace causing much anxiety and fear for the entire monarchy however, courageous and proud of their ancestral heritage they were spared from these attacks.*

*Most of the early settlers rarely travelled far from home. Traders and merchants did so more frequently to conduct business transactions. Land transportation consisted of horseback and buggy and proved to be a slow and treacherous way to travel. Skilled English craftsmen produced their own furniture and household items however, if you were wealthy in status you had your furnishings imported from England. Products of iron, wood, silver and glass were made. These works may be seen in many museums focusing on antiques of the colonial years.*

*The colonists constructed houses that closely resembled those that they had known in England. The furniture was plain but strong and sturdy. Chairs were made from blocks of wood or small barrels would be used. Mattresses were made of canvass bags, stuffed with straw or feathers. The fireplace was the centre place for the family in which it provided warmth and light and was used for cooking the daily meals. Family would gather in front of the fireplace for relaxation or entertainment with friends and neighbours. The early settlers raised cattle, hogs and chickens, they also hunted for wild game in the forest.*

*The English wore various types and styles of clothing depending on the stature or occupation that a person had. Most farmers wore garments that were homemade and rough for a hard days work. Breeches and linens shirts were also worn by the man. The women wore dresses of linen or wool with a petticoat and an undergarment called a shift. Merchants that were wealthy could afford the more elaborate styles made of imported materials and designed in fashionable English creations.*

*Chandeliers, candlesticks and spinning wheels were also present in the home and served as part of the household decor. The once popular Grandfather clock served as a centre piece where it stood on the floor in a tall wooden case. These homes may have not been luxurious and modern according to our standards, however, the warmth and love that generated from within these colonies made their dwellings most pleasant and homey environment in which to live. These English settlers collaborated with one another in maintaining strong family ties by providing a support network within the community. The hospitality and generosity that was demonstrated by these colonists served as a path of hope.*

*These new settlers who immigrated to the New World were proud of their heritage and traditions, the majority supported the Monarchy as they viewed it as a positive link with England's great history. The language which is English was developed mainly from the Anglo-Saxon and Norman-French Languages. Various dialects are noticeable for example, people in the western part of the country of England speak a flatter accent. In the North, the accent is somewhat musical to the ear. In the East End of London, people speak in a harsher tone of voice referred to as cockney.*

*The children of these settlers enjoyed taking part in their recreational activities such as flying kites, shooting marbles and also engaging in the tantalizing Blind-man's Buff Game. Colonial toys which included dolls were a popular favourite for the girls to enjoy. Most of these toys were homemade, however, children from rich families had these toys imported from England which consisted of dolls, tea sets and toy soldiers.*

*In the communities, weddings and holidays had a special significance and importance for these individuals and were often foreseen as a time of reflection and continued growth for the future. Much amusement and ample amount of feasting was derived from these events. The English enjoyed fine dining which consisted of roasted and grilled meats and plenty of vegetables were always consumed. Yorkshire pudding is a popular delicacy for the English, it is a batter cake baked in meat fat and is often served with beef, brussel sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower are common vegetables. Fish and Chips were indeed a real English delicacy.*

*In the field of sports, most English enjoy golf, horse racing, polo, rowing, swimming and tennis. the national game of England is soccer, football and cricket. Englishmen began playing cricket in the 1500's. The arts and literature in England plays an important role in the lives of the English. The English have won greater success in literature than any other arts. No other nation, has surpassed the English in the beauty and variety of its poems, plays and novels. The great English author, William Shakespeare captivated and influenced worldwide admiration and achieved numerous literary achievements. Novels of Charles Dickens, George Eliot and Virginia Wolf were also revered for their exquisite works in the literature field.*

*The architecture in England is of a Gothic influence with its high pointed arches and gray limestone buildings. It became popular in the late 1100's. London lies on the River Thames. Some tourist attractions are: Saint Pauls' Cathedral, Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament. The most famous and important historic landmark in England is Trafalgar Sq. is considered the heart of London. It is named for Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson's great naval victory over France in 1805. To commemorate this historic event a giant statue of Lord Nelson stands atop a tall column in the centre of the square.*

*I am very proud to be a descendant of English ancestry on my grandmother's side, her roots traces back to the pioneer days in Canada and Quebec. My grandfather's roots also goes away back in Canadian history, he was an Irishman and a soldier, he fought bravely in WWII in London, England and was wounded like so many other good soldiers before him. I am very fortunate to be his granddaughter. It has been an honour and a pleasure to have written about the English Community in Montreal. As my ancestors would say "Jolly Good". This is a great country we live in and it was built by many nations with love and compassion towards one another. We should all be proud of our accomplishments.*

*"Tallyho"*

## THE IRISH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Irish Community of Montreal is an extremely important society in this city. It is one of the First Founding Nations of this country. Thousands of Irish immigrants came to these shores from their much beloved homeland Ireland in search of better prospects for their families, the first arrival of Irish was in the 1700's. The hardships and the Great Famine of 1845 as it was known in Ireland, caused many more to re-establish themselves in the New World.*

*The strength and perseverance of these settlers to voyage across the cold Atlantic was indeed a long and treacherous journey into the unknown. The Irish suffered much anguish aboard these ships which were often overcrowded, lacked in proper hygiene and food resulting in the deaths of many from tragic epidemic. Thousands were buried at sea never to fulfill their dreams and aspirations of a new beginning.*

*The survivors many of whom were children were orphaned. As a result, the clergy played an important role by sympathizing and working endlessly in establishing a network to accommodate these unfortunate children with a foster home by many French Quebec families. The records of these fostered and adopted Irish orphans were accurately maintained. A great deal of preservation and respect was given to ensure that vital information was registered such as, the names of their biological parents, county of birthplace, parish and the ship that carried them to the New World. Many French Quebecers of Irish origin have had a great influence in maintaining and enriching our cultural diversity in this city.*

*Upon the Irish's arrival to North America, their ordeal had just begun, they endured much strife, hunger and fatigue. Their surroundings were unfamiliar and foreign to them, but their boisterous spirits were undaunted and eventually they surpassed these barriers to pave the way for a more prosperous light into the future. Many Irish were discriminated against and found it exceedingly difficult to find employment in Canada. A large majority only spoke Gaelic and were often unskilled and had to accept any job that was available.*

*However, over the years, the Irish struggled to maintain their dignity and not allow any individual to demoralize their well-being. They were determined to thrive in the academic and business fields. As a result, their courage and stamina they possessed paid off. Their many accomplishments and highly acclaimed achievements made Montreal a vibrant and proud city. Many notable Irish played a vital role in securing a positive image. To name a few were Dr. D. Hingston, who was responsible for the development of St. Mary's Hospital. Mr. Charles Curran, was one of the founders of St. Patrick's Orphanage. Mr. J.J. Curran and his son Frank held positions as judges of the Supreme Court of Montreal. St. Patrick's was the first English School in Montreal built by the French in 1841.*

*The country of Ireland is called "Éire" in Gaelic. It is one of the most breathtaking and majestic countrysides in Europe. The green hills and mountains are identified as the Emerald Isle. The Irish are known for their friendly and hospitable disposition as well as their close knit family ties. The Irish can fascinate you with storytelling of the past and present. We have all heard tales about the leprechaun, pot of gold and the blarney stone in Ireland that can transform your mind into a mythical blend of magic and mystique.*

*The ancestry of the Irish stems from the Celts, Normans, Vikings and the Englishmen. These groups of individuals contributed to the birth, uniqueness and character of the Irish. Saint-Patrick who was the patron saint brought Christianity to Ireland in 432 AD. He was born in Britain, and was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave, where he worked as a shepherd. During six years of captivity, he escaped and studied for the priesthood in France and later returned to Ireland to preach the Gospel of God. The Irish eventually accepted Christianity and as a result, on March 17th, his feast day is celebrated as a religious holiday.*

*The Irish are highly skilled craftsman producing lovely religious ornaments, exquisite decorated jewelry and utensils. Ireland is famous for its weavers who produce the finest and richest quality of woolen and linen fabrics.*

The arts and literature is of great significance. Several talented writers captivated our senses from their highly proclaimed works in this field. The "Irish Literary Revival" as it was known produced the most finest and admirable writers in Ireland's history. George Russell, William Butler Yeats and George Augustus Moore, are just some of the few artists who expressed their love and recollection of Ireland and transformed their masterpieces into brilliant creations of life and beauty in which some of the finest literature was written.

The Irish's love for nature especially horses and horseback riding is indeed notorious. In Ireland, horse races are held on a regular basis. Horse shows are another spectacular event for all to enjoy. The Irish excel in various sports, such as soccer, rugby, Gaelic football and field hockey. Fishing, hunting, golfing and swimming also play an important role of avid sports fans. However, the most popular sport in Ireland is boxing.

In the culinery field, one's taste buds are tantalized by the flavour and aroma of Irish Stew. Potatoes, lamb, chicken and sausages are also a favorite. The Irish's popular beverage is Irish Coffee, it consists of Irish Whiskey, coffee, cream and brown sugar.

Music is an important part of Irish life. Songs of love, sorrow and reminiscing of home are frequently played. To name a few, Connemara By The Lake, Danny Boy, I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, My Wild Irish Rose and many more splendid songs. The Irish sing to enrich their soul and passion for life. The surge and revival of the Irish roots has steadfastly swept across worldwide especially with the highly acclaimed dance troupe "Riverdance" which has mesmerized young and old alike.

I am indeed exceedingly proud to be of Irish ancestry on my grandfather's side. I can remember many years of happiness and excitement by attending the St. Patrick's Day Parade with my family by wearing of the green, it is one of the most cherished and enchanting events in this city. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was organized in Montreal in 1824, by the Honorable Michael O'Sullivan, Solicitor General and Chief Justice of Lower Canada.

My grandfather especially took great pride and self esteem for his heritage. While merrily watching the parade he would gallantly extend his greetings to the participants and cheerfully share a few Irish antidotes with his comrades. People from all walks of life come together by sharing the warmth and exuberance of the Irish. Smiles and laughter amid the emerald sea of green sparkles with glee along the parade route. Whatever the weather conditions, thousands of curious and amazed loyal onlookers scurry about downtown to experience the tradition and love of the Irish.

To commemorate the Irish that perished during the voyage to the New World a huge boulder was erected in Montreal near the Victoria Bridge, which pays tribute to the many Irish that were buried on that particular site. The most prominent reminder of all is a large celtic cross which stands over 45 feet high in Grosse-Pointe overlooking the river. This magnificent monument symbolizes the Irish souls that were lost during their exodus from the Great Famine in Ireland of 1845.

The Irish deserve much praise and recognition for their prestigious contributions in this country. Their intelligence, humour, and big Irish hearts expand from shore to shore to all humanity. They are a proud and strong people striving for excellence in their endeavours. They have survived the disappointments and uncertainties of the past, but have sustained within their hearts the hope and courage to rejuvenate their sense of existence in the future generations to come.

"Erin Go Bragh"  
(Ireland Forever)

COME AND ENJOY THE SPLENDOR OF THE ANNUAL  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE HELD  
IN MARCH. FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MTL.  
TELEPHONE NO.: 481-1346

## THE FRENCH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The French Community of Montreal is one of the first Founding Nations of "La Belle Province" du Québec. These settlers departed from their original birthplace of France to explore the New World and establish a prosperous future for their families.*

*The French were ambitious and thrived to succeed in their unfamiliar environment. The harshness of the wilderness and at times the inclement weather proved to be a real challenge for these immigrants who encountered tribulations into paving the way for a more encouraging destiny. The native people were instrumental in providing their skills and survival techniques to these newcomers who on a daily basis struggled to support their families.*

*The French of Quebec are notorious for their hospitality and their "la joie de vivre". Their passion for life is evident by their various talents. They are energetic in their quest to maintain and control the French culture and language and undoubtedly celebrate their traditions with great pride and flare.*

*However, the French population of Quebec in the past have suffered and were denied access to various opportunities especially in the job market. My own French cousins were affected by this practice for it was imperative in the Province of Quebec in the 1940's and 1950's to speak English in order to gain employment. Although many French Quebecers were employed in respectable professions such as doctors, lawyers, and members of the clergy, many were barred from many business ventures. The anguish and resentment of this system only resulted in the eventual promotion and acceptance of the French predominance in the city.*

*Over the years, the French were persistent in retaining their identity by contributing to the economic, political and developmental process of the beauty in this city. One individual who played an important role was the late mayor Jean Drapeau who was a significant figure in creating and enriching the metropolis. He was responsible for the construction of the Olympic Stadium where many sports events and other activities are currently being held. The STCUM Metro system was also masterminded by Mayor Drapeau and serves the metropolitan area. Place des Arts is yet another major venue where numerous concerts, performances and star attractions are featured every year.*

*The Montreal Biodome is an absolute marvel for the young and elderly to admire its animal kingdom. This environmental museum features the serenity of nature and plant life and captivates your mind to the mystique of the Americas. L'oratoire de Saint-Joseph is symbolic and religious in nature, thousands of faithful followers visit this famous landmark yearly.*

*The most breathtaking and enchanting French presence is the exquisite landscape of Old Montreal. This splendid and historic time of the early colonial days transcends the history of French Quebec and signifies the "Vraie Québécoise". Visitors and tourists sightsee this major attraction every year. I have felt the simplicity and retrospect of the French culture by their charismatic manner in promoting the French ambiance in its finest Québécoise fashion.*

*Museums depicting the history of Quebec during the colonial period are also present in Old Montreal. Many are fascinated by the old fashion caleche rides that take you through the cobblestone streets on a journey to explore the present and past French prominence. It absorbs your soul with a certain amount of nostalgia by creating a bond of identity and belonging with our French voisins.*

*Quebec city is a magnificent French milieu to experience the dynamic surroundings. The buildings are designed in a European manner in which its architecture is most inspiring. Several coffee shops and extravagant restaurants as well as enchanting gardens and parks to amuse all passerby's. Quebec city is known for its Bonhomme Carnival where this Winter Festival promises to be a winter wonderland of sheer fun and cultural bliss. Even today, the elders enjoy their traditional songs of the past, to name a few: "Voulez-vous danser grand-mère, and C'est l'aviron. I also recall hearing a few hymns, such as "C'est le mois de Marie and "Coeur de Jesus pardon".*

*The current entertainers of Quebec of the past and present are Ginette Reno, René Simard and Celine Dion who have been singing and mesmerizing the world with their endearing voice. We Quebecers are truly proud of them.*

*The most amazing and spectacular regions of Quebec that the French holds dear to their heart are the Eastern Townships, the Charlevoix and Saguenay regions. Picturesque villages and quaint little shops offer a multitude of history and tradition. It's majestic mountains and flowing rivers transforms ones senses to a paradise of intrigue. The forests captivates your attention with its deep darkness of mystery and embraces you along its path of emerald green. Quebec is distinct from the other provinces. It has a cosmopolitan glow with an atmosphere of French renaissance. It's uniqueness is truly unforgettable and it feels good to be home chez-nous.*

*The French have an enormous love for sports, especially in the world of hockey where great legends were born such as the late "Rocket Richard". He was a Québec sensation and he played an important role model for many to follow. Another sports figure was the late "Johnny Rougeau" who was a great wrestler and a sport entertainer to all his fans including children. Johnny visited the smallest of towns in Québec, he was the kind of person you could never forget. My mother was fortunate to have met him, when she was a child in Windsor Mills, Québec in a sports arena. Her three brothers enjoyed collecting and trading their many sports cards of wrestling, hockey and baseball with their friends in the neighbourhood. That's what it was like in the good old days!*

*The French are renowned for their excellent cuisine. One popular and frequently eaten meal is boeuf bourguignon and tortière or "meat pie" which is a Québec tradition. The "Bûche de Noel" or log cake is served during the festive periods. I am proud to have relatives of French extraction who introduced me to the Québec culture. I was deeply and profoundly touched by their sensitivity and warmth to preserve their identity and roots. The most colorful and memorable event is the Saint-Jean Baptiste Parade with its blue and white flags flying proudly in the night breeze, welcoming all the spectators. In the past, my parents and I attended quite frequently the celebrations of Québec's National Holiday, it brings everyone closer together.*

*People of French origin, as well as non-Francophones are welcome to attend and participate in the parade to share, learn and respect the French culture. Many organizers and participants agree that some of them have a touch of sweetness of Irish blood that enhances the quality and creates a special bond linking these communities together. Day and evening events mark this special occasion with folkloric dances and songs. Traditional Québécois meals are served amid the festive revelers. Smiles and cheering are heard throughout the crowd demonstrating their patriotic pride for their beloved Québec. Towards the end of the evening bonfires and an impressive array of fireworks conclude this blissful and colorful party of family and friends to unite.*

*The French have been subjected and burdened by several obstacles in the past that prevented them from expanding their horizons. However, their positive perception of life to surpass these injustices lead the way for the present success and commitment to fulfill their aspirations and destiny for the future.*

*Instead of suppressing individuals rights and freedoms to build and honor their homeland, we should all acknowledge the past atrocities and search for a solution to better educate ourselves from further misdeeds.*

*We owe much thanks and appreciation to the French people whose accomplishments and achievements have flourished to the mainstream in providing all Quebecers with a sense of pride and a realistic comprehension of the true legacy of Quebec.*

**Salut!**

**COME AND SHARE THE WARMTH AND VITALITY OF THE SAINT-JEAN BAPTISTE  
PARADE IN JUNE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL SOCIÉTÉ  
SAINT-JEAN BAPTISTE  
DE MONTRÉAL  
AT: 843-8851**

## THE HUNGARIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Hungarians of Montreal are a vibrant and vivacious community. Their obstentious character to pursue their goals and dreams for future generations were indeed evident in their native homeland in Hungary, especially during the October 1956 Revolution. Thousands of Hungarians were persecuted and imprisoned for their anti-communists beliefs, many were assassinated never to fulfill their aspirations.*

*The people of Hungary wished to live in a free and democratic country, however they were oppressed by the soviet regime and were limited to low wages and economic goods. This dictatorship virtually dominated every aspect of Hungarian life, casting an ominous cloud of darkness and despair evolving around this once serene countryside. One simply obeyed these repugnant policies, failure to do so, resulted in severe retributions.*

*My own father and his brother experienced the brutality of this system, they were political prisoners and had suffered much anguish at the hands of these heartless souls and endured many days and nights of total isolation, only to eventually succumb to gloom, loneliness and torture. When the uprising occurred, Hungarian Freedom Fighters held demonstrations in the streets and were determined to voice their views and discontentment with this corrupt government. As a result, mayhem broke lose, riots ensued and Russian troops were called to restore order.*

*Martial law was declared thus creating a hell-bent fury of devastation and loss of life. One could sense the doom of this buoyant nation deteriorate into oblivion. At one point, the Freedom Fighters seem to gain the upperhand at defeating this oppressive regime by commandeering soviet strongholds, namely their artillery and tanks. The men, even young women and sometimes children fought with resistance and courage to protect and save their fatherland. The lack of weapons that the Hungarians had in comparison to the magnitude of ammunition that the Russians possessed would never fully be sufficient in combating the communists. The enemy had many tanks and aircraft that invaded their country and terrorized its citizens.*

*During the day, machine gun fire could be heard as well as propeller-driven bombers launching their aggressive attack on these defenseless civilians. Into the evening hours, thunderous eruptions of gun fire illuminated the night skies. Haunting sounds of grief and dissolution lingered and smoldered into the night air only to further impose its rampant and evil power. The upheaval served as a reminder that all resistance by the Hungarians would be severely met by force. However, there were some Russian soldiers who sympathized with their cause and deplored any acts of violence against them. Hungary pleaded for the western countries to assist them, at the time of this turbulent onslaught of their people only to be denied and perhaps because the truth of genocide could not be imaginable to the western hemisphere.*

*Much suffering and loss was indeed apparent, family members were still in shock at the horrific outcome and disarray of their country. As a result, many chose to flee this shadow of fear and trek into a new beginning. My father's exodus began from Hungary and into the unknown. He was wounded by a stray bullet, but managed to make it across the border to Austria. However, his brother's fate was less fortunate, for he died at the hands of the communists.*

*During my father's travels to reach Canada, he briefly stayed in France and Italy before he eventually arrived in Montreal. Most of his family immigrated to Austria, Canada and the United States. My father has not seen his family since and has never returned to Hungary. He has made a new life and future in Canada and is proud to be a Quebecer of Hungarian origin.*

*Budapest, Hungary has a scenery of magnificent simplicity and grace. It is attractively divided by the Danube River. On one side of the river it is called Buda and on the other side is Pest. The Danube River flows gently downstream and enthralls ones senses with its tranquil surroundings. Lake Fertó, Valence and Balaton has a panoramic view that absorbs ones emotions and thoughts into the ancient roots of the Huns. My father's birthplace is a small city called Sopron and it is dominated by farmland. My grandfather and grandmother worked from sunrise to sunset harvesting the crops and tending to the livestock in order to provide enough food for a family of 16. Farming is a difficult way of life, however, in the long run it is very rewarding to commit ones life and energy to the family unit.*

The arts and literature in Hungary play a significant part in the lives of Hungarians. Their portraits, sculptures, landscapes and poems demonstrated the honor and history of the country. Numerous and talented perseverant artists accomplished much acclaim for their vigorous works. To name a few: Munkacsy Mihaly, Petofi Sandor and Izso Miklos contributed towards the beauty and vitality of Hungary. In the scientific field there were biochemists, physicists and mathematicians that made a major impact on our lives. Some of the scientists names were Eotvos Lorand (1848 - 1919), Newmann Janos (1903 - 1957) and Szent-Gyorgi Albert (1893 - 1986) who developed and experimented in this era.

Music is a great love for the Hungarians, their zest and passion for life accentuates itself through enchanting melodies of love and sorrow depicting the countryside of Hungary. Classical music composed by famous composers such as Bartok Bela, Kodaly Zoltan and Liszt Ference played an enormous role in the legacy of Hungarian culture. Gypsy music is another form of entertainment, played on a violin. Its sweet and endearing sounds surrender and romances your heart and soul through earlier times of Hungarian Renaissance. Hungarians love to dance to their folkloric songs, Csardas is the most popular and the revival of this dance attracts people of all cultural backgrounds. The dancers portray the legends of Hungary by their performances, which dazzle all with their vibrancy and spirit.

In the field of sports, Hungarians enjoy soccer, swimming, and horseback riding. One of Canada's leading figure skater is Elvis Stojko who is of Hungarian origin, he was chosen the athlete of the Millennium. His dedication and unique masculine artistic style mesmerized the world and made Hungarians proud of his achievements. He has won three figure skating championships and two silver medals for Canada.

Speaking of Hungarians, we must not forget to mention Steve Fonyo who continued the run for Terry Fox Cancer Research. Both young men had cancer and lost a limb. Unfortunately, Terry had died as a result of his illness. They have raised millions of dollars and it has helped save many lives young and old alike. May they remain in our memories forever.

The flair for Hungarian cuisine is evident in restaurants and in their homes, it is the most tantalizing and mouthwatering to savor. Favorite Hungarian dishes are goulash, chicken paprikas, stuffed cabbage and fish soup. I have always been willing to sample such gastronomic delights. Hungarians excel in their folk art traditions, namely pottery, which is beautifully decorated. Egg painting is another form of art with an intricate and delicate design drawn on and painted onto the egg illustrating the nations heritage.

The community celebrates Hungary's 1848 independence from Austria as well as the 1956 revolution. St. Stephen (997-1038) was the patron saint who Christianized Hungary. It's annual social event and Debutante Ball raises funds for university scholarships and other worthwhile causes.

In spite of the tumultuous events that Hungarians had to endure over the years in their native land they have proven to be a most influential and dynamic citizens of Montreal. Their stamina and vitality that they possessed ideally prepared them for the New World. I am proud to be of Hungarian origin, to learn and comprehend the struggle of these courageous people who fought so bravely and sacrificed their lives for democracy.

In recognition of their plight, we should be proud of their ongoing achievements and contributions to Canada and Quebec. Let us all reflect upon this tragedy and give support to all those who have suffered from atrocities and foreign domination world-wide. The red, white and green colours of the Hungarian flag can once again fly with patriotic pride for its nation. Justice has finally prevailed.

**SZIA!**

**COME AND CHARM YOUR MIND AND FASCINATE YOUR SOUL  
WITH HUNGARIAN CULTURE. FOR MORE INFO REGARDING EVENTS, FESTIVALS,  
ETC. PLEASE WRITE TO THE HUNGARIAN COMMITTEE OF MONTREAL AT:  
2580, RUE ST-JACQUES OUEST, MONTRÉAL, QC  
H3J 2M8**



## THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Italian community of Montreal is one of the largest in this city. Their rich culture is strongly reflected in various parts of the neighborhood. "Little Italy" as it is more prominently known portrays the life of Italian tradition at its best. Major immigration from Italy started in the 1800's, due to poverty and harsh village life. Many were laborers who worked for the CPR, mines and forest industry. They were also employed as teachers, craftsmen, physicians and merchants. In the 1900's the Italian men began to work for construction companies. Several important projects were with the Montreal Tramways and the Grand Trunk. However, in the past, the Italian community was subjected to some turbulent times, and have struggled with alienation from the public and government at large. In part, because of Italy's alliance with Germany in WWII over 700 Italian Canadians were interned. Even Montreal bridges were cordoned off in an effort to capture any Italians that should enter. As a result, of this, many lost their jobs, businesses were vandalized and their self worth gradually deteriorated. During the War Measures Act the Italian civil liberties were suspended and several were forced to work at Camp Petawawa in Ontario.*

*After the war, there was an increase in shortage of laborers in Canada thus resulting once again in the popularity of Italian immigration. Thousands began to embark in their new surroundings and remained as permanent settlers in Montreal and Toronto. In November 1990, Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney offered the governments apology to the Italian community for implementing such a stringent policy.*

*The country of Italy has a vast array of beauty and elegant surroundings to enthrall anyone who should trek along its inviting paths. Plenty of Mediterranean ambiance will embrace your imagination to far away villages and deserted beaches. The everlasting charm of this paradise will embody your soul with its enrapturing spirit of Italian Renaissance. The panoramic scenery holds much fascination by its enchanting landscapes, green alpine hills and mountains. It is almost a fairytale existence to marvel at. I am proud to have an uncle and cousins of Italian origin and understand first hand the significance of strong family values and commitment that play a major role in their lives. Their passion and love for life is evident in their interactions with people.*

*My uncle was born in Sicily and my family and I recall his recollection of the stories and memories of the old country. Sicily is rich with its historic roots and mountainous regions. Its hilly areas and flat valleys are quite picturesque to view. The Island of Sicily will captivate your attention with its past civilizations of cathedrals and castles. Scenic orchards and fields add a special blend of character to their serene state. In some Sicilian towns stone houses can be found, along with abandoned monasteries. Colorful folk festivals are also held in Sicily in appreciation of their forefathers and a multitude of concerts, classical plays and operas are also performed.*

*Italy the legend of Mediterranean bliss will sway your thoughts to the harmonious splendor and authenticity of the Roman period. Lake Como is better known as "the looking glass of Venus. The Isle of Capri, Naples holds a romantic fascination of ravishing beauty and the breathtaking landscapes seem endless. Various other regions such as Tuscany will delight all who should visit and the infamous wine regions of Montepulciano and Montalcino are of spectacular beauty. The enticing countryside is yet another of mother natures gift to relish. Tuscany is better known for its birthplace of its Italian cuisine. The fabled area of Cinque Terre or the "Five Lands" is between the French-Italian boarder. Promenading along its paths, the presence echoes its existence, by the luscious vineyards and enchanting olive groves. The Italian lakes are of stunning extravagance and its tranquil yet cascading effect will undoubtedly mystify one's mind with pleasure. The most riveting treasure of all is to journey through Venice's Grand Canals by gondola to explore the romantic serenade of Italy.*

Folk Art focuses on the past lives of the ancient times of Rome. Religious events maintain the tradition and preserve the Italian way of life. Tales of honor, soldiers and knights express and depict the history of the Kingdom of Sicily. Italy's unique wines are another fine example of Italy's reputation of producing and exporting more than any other country. Its distinct flavor and brands will amaze and tantalize your tastebuds.

Italians love for music is of an emotional and personal nature. Visions and memories of love, sorrow, hardships and the history of Italy are embedded into their hearts. Various styles of music and dance can be heard and seen around Italy. Whether the music is played vibrantly or slowly the effect is truly electrifying. I recall hearing some of the old songs of the past such as Volare, O Sole Mio and Santa Lucia. Opera is also a popular style of music, and world renowned greats such as Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli and Mario Lanza have astounded the world with their talented accomplishments. Italians are also exceedingly proud of their Italian American entertainers including Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Perry Como, Bobby Darin, Tony Bennette and Al Martino. Their sensual and polished glitzy style embraced the all american dream of the intense love for music and life, and it was for many Italians a rags to riches story of determination to pursue one dreams to reach for the stars, no matter what background you came from.

In the field of sports, soccer is the most prominent of all. Every four years, Little Italy prepares for the World Cup Series and much boisterous energy and enthusiasm can be found in shops, restaurants and cafes. The streets of Little Italy are painted with the red, green and white presenting the Italian flag. Souvenirs are available for sale such as T-Shirts, posters and key chains.

The culinary world of Italian food is simply extraordinary and I have on several occasions savored the gastronomical delights of Italian cooking. Dishes such as fettuccine, linguine, lasagna, pasta dishes and refined meat dishes will arouse your senses with its homey and hearty flavor. It is simply a classic of true Italian dining. An Italian Xmas meal is a celebration of family, faith and a shared hospitality between friends. Fish dishes are a typical Xmas Eve meal along with a vegetable antipasti and antipasto seafood salad. The Italian Xmas specialty is a sweet bread called panettone which is passed on as a gift to a friend or from one family member to another.

The Italians have enormous pride in their roots and they are forever bonded with the old country. The challenges and life experiences that this community encountered on our North American shores have shaped and paved the way in our Canadian history books. Their gratitude to Canada is of sincere appreciation and thanks. I have heard many Italians refer to their new homeland as "my beloved country Canada" and their loyalty is intensely patriotic. The ever growing popular status as Italian Canadians is expansive and personal reflections of their legacy that remain an influential part in our societies mainstream.

However, the Italians ordeal that they had to contend with only strengthened them to overcome the injustices that burdened them for many years. Their dynamic ability to contribute to Canada and Quebec have proven to be successful in symbolizing the Italian goodwill. The pride for their culture is evident by the continued efforts of maintaining the language, customs and strong family ties. A perfect example of a success story is that of Former Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. John Ciaccia and Mr. Alfonso Gagliano, Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party who have had a major impact on the lives of Italian Canadians, and we are all extremely proud of their achievements.

The Italian community deserve much praise and recognition for their ongoing endeavours. Their enlightening manner demonstrates the exuberance of their hospitality and generosity. Due to the Italians strong will and intuitive nature they have fulfilled their aspirations and commitments by ensuring that their children's children be treated equally and with dignity in their beloved country, Canada.

*Ciao!*

Explore the diversity of Italian culture & tradition. For information contact Club  
Recreatif Italo Canadien dt NDG at 484-2481 or 488-9796.

## THE EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Egyptian community of Montreal is a fascinating and prosperous society in this city. Many left their homeland in the 1960's due to a dismal future of political discontent and instability in Egypt. Several were highly educated businessmen and women, professionals and entrepreneurs who choose to build their dreams and establish themselves in a new and wealthy country. In my own personal relations with Egyptian people, I found them to be extremely motivated and expressing tremendous vigor for life. They are exceedingly hospitable by their expression of sincerity and friendship to their fellow man.*

*Egypt's history mesmerizes your senses with its Mediterranean character, luxurious hotels, shops and tree shaded avenues. The Nile attracts all people Egyptians and tourists alike who marvel at the glorious landscapes, luscious desert sands and serene cascading waters that flow gently. Colorful bazaars are a major attraction, where plenty of wares and accessories are offered for sale to perspective buyers. Cairo is yet another city of splendor and grace but since the Egyptian revolt in 1952 the only recollection of its supreme high society continent are the summer residences of the Cairo bourgeoisie. Exquisite mosques depict Islamic architecture, tombs of royal families and the Great Sphinx, projects the ancient history and birth of a magnificent nation.*

*Alexandria is the second largest city in Egypt built by Alexander the Great and it is on the site of an old fishing village which has a small harbor. With the introduction of cotton growing in the Delta, trade began to flourish. The greatest and profound impact was the opening of the Suez Canal where many industries were open. The city of Egypt's developmental progress in terms of agricultural and business commerce was extremely advanced. Several centers and temples that represented their Gods were constructed with mud, bricks and stone. Egypt was prosperous in trading their merchandise as far as the Black Sea. Talented and hardworking craftsmen produced textiles, gold, cosmetics, glass and other items which were transported world-wide.*

*The Castle Palace (4th millennium B.C.) was a vast array of prestigious architectural structures of royal simplicity destined to accommodate the Prince or Pharaoh. These decorative towers were meticulously built and adorned with an uniqueness of superior quality to properly house and provide functional units for the Pharaoh's residence and government. The garden and fish pond held an important significance in an Egyptian home. The water in the central pool rippled by the winds combined with colorful flowers and plants provided an ambiance of paradise. Trees and flowering shrubs aligned by an embarkment of fruit trees provided the finishing touches. The picture language or Hieroglyphic signs as the Egyptians called it were a form of writing. Primitive pictographs were slowly developed to create characters. In earlier times, hieroglyphics were carved in stone and colored.*

*The Egyptian (Arab) influence on western culture has been profound. Hundreds of years ago, Arab physicians were the first to describe the function of the bloodstream, identify measles and the chicken pox. The Egyptians created myths to explain their existence in the universe. They believed the sunrise was how the beginning of life evolved and that the sun was a goddess and the moon represented God. Egyptian Artifacts and sculptures depicted the earlier times of ancient Egypt. Amazing and entrancing portrayals of kings and Queens are exhibited in several of Egypt's finest museums. The elaborate richness of these masterpieces can truly transfix ones mind to the legacy of the Egyptian heritage and pride. Egyptians are humorous individuals and enjoy maintaining friendships. Egyptian coffee houses, restaurants and clubs are often frequented and serve as a major venue for entertainment. They enjoy participating in lively conversation and are highly jubilant by demonstrating good will and boisterous spirits.*

*The arts play a significant role in the lives of Egyptians. Several acclaimed writers have received numerous awards for their novels such as, Tawfiq Al Hakim and Taha Hussein. The most infamous was Naguib Mahfouz who was the first Arab to be awarded with the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988. His creative style produced numerous screenplays for which he was honored.*

Egyptian television and film production is an everlasting and extensive industry. It has captivated audiences all across the Arab world, and it is the most popular and recognized. The cinema has also enthralled and charmed many with its dramatic flair. In the 1940's and 1950's it was known as the Golden Age of Egyptian cinema, where famous actors such as Omar Sharif and his former wife Fatim Hamama were spotlighted and regarded as international stars.

Egyptian music and dance offers a magnitude of varying styles, folk, peasant, and belly dancing. I have on occasion enjoyed watching and listening to these ambitious dancers and singers perform. Their intimate and artistic grace entrance those who like myself remain in awe at the precision and expertise that is unveiled before your eyes. The dramatic opening steps portray the ancient times of Egypt caught up by a blend of nostalgia and modern day existence. At times, the music is vibrant and upbeat, swirling movements soft and graceful are often projected. Hips and arms sway as the dancer spins, creating the very essence of innovative Egyptian tradition. Costumes are exquisite, sparkling with sequins, beads and delicate fabric. Glittery accessories are worn to add a mythical dimension to them. Various ornaments such as a headress, hip scarves, macrame belts, vests and shawls are also worn.

In the field of sports, Egyptians enjoy watching and participating in tennis, swimming, weightlifting and athletics. However, soccer is the most popular sport in Egypt.

The delicacy of Egyptian cuisine is a suburb dining experience. I have savored various gourmet delights and have appreciated the quality of care and preparation that is taken by the chefs. Falafel, chicken in pita bread, and eggplant is the most commonly eaten food. After indulging oneself in Egyptian culinary delights, one can sit back and relax and savor the flavor of Egyptian coffee and taste one of their ever popular desert dishes called Baklava.

The Egyptian culture is steadfastly gaining world-wide recognition. The history of their forefathers serve as a constant reminder of the rich treasures and ancient past of Egypt that was bestowed upon them. "The Land of the Pharaoh" would be the most poignant and haunting recollection of the country's heritage. The ever growing atmosphere of the Egyptian presence, language, culture and tradition are currently experienced by many who venture the streets of Montreal. Busy shopkeepers display and offer for sale exquisite Egyptian artifacts and welcome all with a warm smile and charming manner. The Middle Eastern influence has resonated throughout our city and numerous restaurants are evident by the aroma of Egyptian cuisine which lingers in the air, enticing all to enter and treat themselves to fine Arabic cooking.

Egyptian Canadians are extremely proud of their heritage and continue to strive to ensure that their rights are protected. Although, their love and loyalty for Egypt will always remain in their hearts, they have also built their aspirations in a new homeland and are forever grateful to Canada for giving them the opportunity to pursue their goals. In the past, many Egyptians were perceived negatively and their rights and freedoms were suppressed. They were sometimes exposed to ignorant behavior from individuals who denounced their existence in our city. However, the Egyptians courage and strong character surpassed the injustices that they encountered. They have much to be proud of for they have extended their wisdom and knowledge along with their hand in friendship to all Canadians and Quebecers alike by contributing to this country's economy and growth.

Their numerous accomplishments have proven that their persistence and positive attitude only strengthened their destiny for future generations to come. Let us all share and express our opinions and beliefs by opening the door of prosperity and growth. In this way, we can achieve greater dialogue and understanding between all nations.

## Salama

Explore and journey through Egyptian culture & tradition. For more information contact the Egyptian Cultural Centre at Tel. No.: 683-2527.

## THE SLOVENIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Slovenians of Montreal are a very hospitable and friendly community. In my interactions with Slovenian people I have found them to be extremely work-oriented individuals who strive for perfection. Most Slovenians immigrated to our prosperous shores at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in search for a more successful and stable destiny. The Slovenians were employed as laborers, merchants and business professionals. They also worked in the steel and ironwork industry.*

*Slovenians were highly instrumental in establishing various community networks, such as cultural associations, churches, support groups and Slovenian newspapers. Their commitment to serve their people in order to retain their culture and roots is of utmost importance.*

*Many Slovenians resided in the neighbourhood of St. Antoine and St-Laurent area. This part of town was once inhabited by Irish, Blacks and Italian immigrants. However, by the 1930's it was a predominately culturally diverse setting thus creating an Eastern European ambiance.*

*The country of Slovenia is a landscape of outstanding fascination and beauty. Its charm will embrace you with ancient culture and civilization. A multitude of scenic sights will tantalize ones imagination to the serene mountains and emerald valleys that unfolds natures comforts and joys. Splendid green lakes enhance the ambiance of medieval castles and ancient temples. Slovenians are great wine connoisseurs and they produce some of the worlds' finest spirits. The country of Slovenia is most alluring with its historic and haunting caves. Many tourists are avid adventurers who flock by annually to marvel and explore through this enchanting passage. Slovenia depicts a countryside of a storytelling nature with its abundant glow of treasures and an array of attractive horizons. Breathtaking paths will lure you to its florescent forests and enrapture your soul to the panoramic view of their impressive snow-capped Alps. Tranquil rivers, trickling lakes and cascading waterfalls beckons visitors to its mesmerizing surroundings.*

*Slovenia's unique character blends its mainstream of delicate and exquisite old world charm with its baroque churches and historic villages. Ljubljana is the capital of Slovenia and is always bustling with energy and enthusiasm especially during the summer when the international festival opens. The performing arts are a national pride to the country. Ballet, operatic and symphonic companies are the major highlight of the year. One can embark on a plentitude of excursions and journey through a world of exquisite bliss of vineyards, thermal spas and museums, not to mention the home of Lipica where the notorious Lippizzaners (White Dancing Horses) dwell. They are wonderful riding horses, friendly and intelligent and their silky manes and graceful demeanor enhance the natural beauty and agility.*

*Slovenia will endear your heart to its welcoming destinations, peaceful and yet elaborate enclaves will nodoubtedly captivate your mind to this enthralling country. Its simplicities of life, such as horseback riding, water sports and tours through quaint towns and cities remind us of mother natures gift to the universe. National Parks offer a spotlight of natures finest animal kingdom and botanical life entwining with the serenity of beaches and coastal resorts.*

*The Slovenians specialize in the art of lacemaking or Cipka Lace. This craft derived much popularity in many parts of Slovenia. This handicraft of importance to practice especially in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when ones family depended on financial survival. Lacemaking is still prevalent in Slovenia and has flourished up until the start of World War I. It has since been passed on to future generations. Much perfection has since been incorporated to this art in order to preserve the excellence that is required.*

*Slovenians take great pleasure in maintaining the tradition of erecting the May Pole annually on April 30<sup>th</sup>. This custom is still practiced in various regions of Slovenia and is referred to as May Day. Young boys in the village search for a tall pine tree.*

*The taller the tree signifies and reflects the quality of the area. The tree is expertly crafted and a couple of branches are left in tact so those wreaths can be hung. In the evening, villagers dress in their finest attire and assemble to take pride in their community. At this time, people attempt to ascend to the top of the May Pole.*

However, this feat can be extremely tricky for the bark of the tree has been sheared off thus leaving it extremely slippery to maneuver. Whoever succeeds this climb is noted as the hero of the village. The pole is quite attractive to view with all its adornment notably streamers, fruits and flags. Bells from the church chime indicating to all that the May Pole is standing. Afterwards, an elaborate meal is prepared to celebrate this event.

Music and dance are mainly of a folkloric nature and traditional national costumes are worn, especially during festive celebrations. Weddings are symbolic and are highly celebrated with much rejoicing by singing and dancing. A special ritual called the removing of the brides wreath takes place around midnight. To conclude the day's festivities various styles of dance occur such as the Double Waltz, Mazurka and Polkas.

A combination of turns, spins and leaps add to the dancers exuberant performances. Impressive and fascinating footwork is combined into the routine. The knocking dance is a rhythmic knock of the dancers footwear into the floor. During the second part of this artistic display, is transformed into a waltz adding an elegant reprieve to its finale. Another exhilarating variation is making a dunna. This involves dancers forming a row of pairs and extending their hands into an arch. In this manner, a tunnel is formed allowing the first couple to run through taking the last place at the end of the row and vice-versa. Much entertainment and boisterous spirits prevail throughout this performance.

In the world of sports, Slovenians most popular is mountain climbing and skiing. Soccer, handball and gymnastics also play an important role in the lives of Slovenians.

Gastronomical delicacies are plentiful and delightful. These recipes have been passed down from generation. The origin of Slovenian cooking relays the family's intense passion and flair for fine dining. The food on the menu consists of roasted beef filet, fried zucchini and grilled tomatoes. Some meats are marinated, accompanied with a mixture of vegetables and seasoned herbs. Desserts are a scrumptious mouthwatering dining experience. Potica is a pastry that consists of dough, honey, grated lemon and orange rinds. Cinnamon is mixed with brandy and then sprinkled with raisins. Krofi (doughnuts) are a sweet and golden brown pastry. Its ingredients include a mixture of eggs, milk, butter and lemon rind, sour cream, juice and sugar. Once all this is mixed, a dusting of powdered sugar is then applied. After this is done, the consumption of this heavenly treat is more than welcome.

The Slovenians have made Canada their new home and are proud to have played an integral role in the developmental growth of this country. Immigrating to a new land in search for a more prospective future was indeed a major transition for these newcomers from Europe who had to adjust to a new culture and environment. The struggle and motivation to overcome hardships only strengthened their desire to surpass uncertainties. Families remained close knit and were determined to achieve their aspirations and goals for the future. By maintaining a perseverant manner they enhanced their ability to succeed any quest they choose to fulfill.

Although, departed many years ago from their beloved homestead Slovenia, they still hold a lingering and deep yearning embedded in their hearts for their far away land across the sea. Their contributions to Canada must not be forgotten, but appreciated and acknowledged by all Canadians who have made an inspirational impact to this country's wealth, freedom and democracy.

*Zdravo (Bye)*

For further information on this unique and dynamic community, contact the Slovenian Parish  
Saint-Vladimir Mission Slovene at: 3740 Boul. St. Joseph, Montreal, Quebec  
Telephone No.: (514) 254-8286

## THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Portuguese of Montreal are an extremely close knit community. Their perseverant demeanor is strongly reflected by their hard-working and ambitious nature. The majority of Portuguese immigration was after WWII. Many left their homeland due to hard economic setbacks and an oppressive political regime, low wages and the poor educational system. Many worked as laborers on the railroads and the farming and construction industry. The men who were bilingual maintained jobs as clerks. The woman often gained employment in the garment trade.*

*However, over the years, several Portuguese maintained a higher standard of education in various professions. In my own personal dealings with the Portuguese, I have found them to be very courteous and generous always willing to assist anyone who should require their hand in friendship.*

*This community however, has at times, felt the hardships and prejudice attitudes that was inflicted upon them by society at large due to their differences in their cultural characteristics including language, customs and work habits. Strong traditional roles were instilled upon the family. However, adolescents sometimes found it difficult to conform due to their own values which often conflicted with their parents. The father's primary role was that of providing financially for the family unit. He would sometimes work long hours in order to supply the appropriate necessities of life to his wife and children. It was exceedingly important for him to succeed and be prosperous. The role of the mother, is that of caregiver to her husband and children. She is responsible for the nurturing and general well-being of the family. Extended family plays a major signifigance as well. Strong affiliation amongst relatives is often seen especially during gatherings at Christmas, christenings, weddings and social events.*

*Lisbon, Portugal is phenomenal with its intriguing and glorious landscapes. Its splendid architecture will captivate your senses to the earlier times. Portugal is truly a dynamic country in which to visit. A vast array of shops, cafes and beaches will enchant your soul and invite you to journey through their exotic world of lively spirit, fascination and frolic. Enticing art galleries and museums will also charm your mind. Various regions in the heart of Portugal will no doubt fascinate you with its exciting blend of adventure and mystique. Ancient villages display the historic times of a spectacular city. In some mountainous areas festivities which include singing and dancing outline the pagan heritage with the old Christian rituals. Even some of the music has an apparent Celtic influence.*

*Several impressive regions will offer you much exploration by experiencing the wilderness and nature of canoeing and mountaineering. Magnificent cathedrals some of Gothic origin and unique styles of medieval castles will certainly endear your heart. The towns are famous for its 16<sup>th</sup> century religious monuments and its Baroque styles of elaborate designs will enthrall ones imagination to the olden days gone by. Exquisite annual carnivals will serenade you with its jubilant music festivals and multicolored parades transform the streets into a dazzling sea of glitter and celebration.*

*Portugal is notorious for its Nossa Senhora de Fatima (Our Lady of Fatima). The story that was relayed world-wide of the three young shepherds in Central Portugal who claim they witnessed an apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1917 and were visited several times thereafter. Such a blessed miracle, to unfold before three small children, brought much hope and faith in apparitions. As a result, a religious shrine has been built in honour of our Lady of Fatima and thousands of pilgrims journey from this day forward to pray and pay homage.*

*Another wonderful legend from the Portuguese is the red rooster, symbol of good luck. There are several versions of this story. One versions is that of a 16<sup>th</sup> century missionary who travelled far and wide preaching the good word. Weary and famished, he stumbled across an inn to have a meal and get a good nights sleep. The proprietor of this establishment was a beautiful women but with an evil nature and she was immediately attracted to this handsome young man and paid an enormous amount of attention to him. After the excellent meal the missionary wished to have a room in which to retire for the evening. The proprietor always accustomed to having her own way offered her companionship for the night.*

The gentle missionary being celibate declined her offer and explained he was very tired and wished only to sleep. Exasperated by the missionaries' refusal to accept her offer, the wicked proprietor crept up to his room late at night to place some gold coins in his coat pockets in an attempt to prove that he was a thief. She summoned the authorities and had the missionary arrested for stealing her money. Unfortunately, the young man was sentenced to death by hanging. A last meal was prepared the night before his death sentence and the missionary chose a beautiful red rooster with all the trimmings. He claimed that he was not guilty of stealing from the proprietor and that the rooster would stand up and crow proving his innocence. Needless to say during the meal the rooster did in fact stand up and crow, thus freeing the missionary from being hanged. And from this very day, the red rooster has been a symbol of good luck.

Portuguese music has varying styles classified as Regional Folk Music, classical and "Musica Ligeira" (easy listening music). Fado is perhaps best described as a sentimental melancholy musical expression that depicts the Portuguese character and spirit. It dramatizes the yearning of the past, heartbreak and passion of the people. The songs and music are played on a Portuguese guitar and violas (6 string guitars) are incredibly haunting to hear.

The folk dancing techniques vary depending in which town or region they reside. Inticing and electrifying performances will entrance the spectators attention. Dances may be of a swift and vibrant nature or a relaxed and composed style. The uniqueness of these dances are entertaining and heart warming. The costumes are decorative and colorful and the music is always stimulating and enchanting.

In the field of sports, Futebol (Soccer) is the most predominate. Loyal and major supporters of this sport are proud of their compatriots and are avid enthusiasts who constantly frequent soccer games to cheer on their favorite team.

The Portuguese are excellent cooks and their culinary delicacies include a vast array of seafood. Herbs and various ingredients including spices, garlic, olive-oil and wine are often incorporated into these fine dishes. Other traditional flavored gourmets are roasted duck "meat stews" and grilled chicken, sausage and lamb. A combination of sauces and seasonings and an abundance of vegetables often accompany the meal. On festive occasions the Portuguese enjoy the preparation of a special dinner and will spend a great deal of energy to lavish their family and guests with a scrumptious delicacy. The Portuguese are great wine connoisseurs. There are several brands to delight ones tasting pleasures. The most notorious wine is "Mateus Rose" and it is in a guitar shaped bottle. Other refreshing spirits that are much appreciated throughout the world are Madeira and Porto.

The Portuguese are exceedingly patriotic and their love and respect for their fatherland is truly well documented through several songs, literature and spoken word. Their desire to return to their homeland is intensely strong with much longing of the ancient days of the past. Although, they departed from their beloved land of their birth to start a new beginning in unfamiliar surroundings, their loyalty for Portugal will always remain dear to their hearts.

The Portuguese have strived and excelled for a more prosperous lifestyle. Their everlasting determination to accomplish their dreams as a community have proven to be successful. Many have strong bonds with one another and work endlessly to pursue their goals for future generations. Their dynamic manner to surpass injustices and barriers of the past have only strengthened their resolve to exist as a people of intense pride and dignity.

The Portuguese deserve much recognition and appreciation for their accomplishments to this country. Their ongoing efforts to embrace their democratic liberties demonstrate their persistent nature to survive and fulfill their future aspirations as citizens of this great nation.

*Adeus*

**For further information regarding festivals or events, contact Associaç o Portuguesa do  
Canada - Telephone No.: 844-2269**



## THE MAYAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

*The Mayan Community is a most fascinating and dynamic individuals that reside in our city. Their phenomenal history, culminating with their legacy add to the mystique and aura that will undoubtedly captivate you to the ancient Mayan civilization.*

*Many of these indigenous peoples departed from their beloved birthplace namely, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras & El Salvador due to political instability and human rights abuses. Civil wars have also played a contributing factor resulting in the deaths of thousands of Mayans. Much anguish, uncertainty and strife plagued the Mayan over several decades. However, their strength and perseverance would surpass these inhumanities of mankind to enable them to rebuild their future aspirations in a new homeland. Being culturally and ethnically unique from their new neighbours in Canada they blended in with their unfamiliar surroundings. They often sought employment as labourers or entrepreneurs. Their quick grasp of the English and French languages further enhanced their skills and knowledge to their advantage.*

*The Mayan heritage excels in their breathtaking architecture. On the Yucatan Peninsula, Temples and Kingdoms portray the once inhabited dwellings of their past ancestry. The Mayan's ancient cities consisted of a broad range of structural beauty. Thatched roof huts and temple pyramids housed many in the larger Mayan cities.*

*The Classic Period structures were developed and created by stepped platforms and masonry material. Architecture of the Mayan design symbolizes exquisite art and décor. Wall paintings and carvings provided much richness and class. The most prevalent and vibrant feature of a Classic Maya City would be its temple-pyramids. The construction of these were made from hand cut limestone blocks. Much speculation and archaeology findings suggest that perhaps noble rulers and the elite dwelled in these spectacular pyramids. Today's Mayan live in a basic dwelling made of a stone foundation and a thatched roof. The Mayan design reflects the human form and is often symbolized in their art. Their exotic murals, alters and stone work are of a baroque nature and are superbly perfected with intricate craftsmanship.*

*The Mayan are considered a most brilliant and intellectual individuals of ancient Mexico. They developed ceremonial architecture and their keen concept and ability allowed them to create astronomy. Due to the Maya's understanding of mathematics they formulated the lunar cycle thus providing us with a calendar system. The Maya's respect and reverence towards their Gods were often demonstrated by a number of festivals that outlined sacrificial and ritual offerings. The Maya's had a number of gods, many of these played important roles in the area of medicine, writing, arts and science. Clergy of the Maya were instrumental in the general control of rituals and learning. Their function was also as taking charge of ceremonies, cures for diseases and events. Blood sacrifice was an important ritual for the Mayan, this was to insure the survival of humans and gods alike. It would transform the human energy towards the heavens, thus receiving supreme power in return.. Another life and death association is that of the (Maize God) . He follows the direction across the sky and then disappears into the Underworld. The Maize God then emerges and is once again reborn and resurfaces to the Sky World. The Maya elite sometimes focused on flattening the forehead of their offsprings skulls to imitate the elongated head of the Maize God. This is usually performed by securing two boards against the child's head.*

*The Mayan were mostly a nomadic people. They hunted and cultivated the land and arrived some 11,000 years ago. They primarily settled in villages, produced a variety of crops namely, corn, squash, beans and tobacco. Much hard work was completed by both men and women. The men would be in charge of constructing their huts, tending to the planting and cornfields. The women were the general caregivers and took on the responsibility of the preparation of food and maintaining the family's basic everyday needs. These communities often lived in household compounds which was often occupied by extended family members. Many of these rural areas have maintained the exact standard of survival to this day. There are approximately six million people of Mayan descent. The most significant numbers reside in Mexico. The most prominent of all are the Yucatecs numbering in population of 300,000, the Tzotzil, numbering 120,000 and the Tzeltal 80,000. Many of the indigenous peoples dwell in the Tropical Yucatan Peninsula or in the highland of the Chiapas. There are 31 Maya groups throughout Central America, however, their dialect is distinctly different from one another. The rain forest of the Chiapas is a most splendid treasure that was bestowed upon mankind.*

*Its enchanting qualities will endear your heart to its unique and fairytale like existence. Its glorious variety of plant and animal life inhabit this majestic oasis of tropical sunshine and eternal bliss. The Lacandon indigenous population reside in the Chiapas rain forest and their lifestyle is sometimes of a primitive nature. Unfortunately, the fear for survival of the Lacandon to exist is perpetuated by the ever increasing encroachment from the outside world, such as from land developers and surveyors. The Yucatan Peninsula is a ravishing region of Mexico, its historic ruins will reveal the most intimate and well renowned archaeology sites. Magificent temples and pyramids will enlighten your spirit and mind to the Maya's extraordinary creativity and reverence that they possessed for their Gods. Archaeology findings have discovered the Maya writing system is one of the most sophisticated methods that was developed. Hieroglyphics were used by the Maya to communicate. (These were pictures representing words). Inscriptions were carved onto wood and stone. Other signs or glyphs were inscribed on pottery and architecture. Many Maya have written geographic and historic texts outlining their life and cultural heritage.*

*The music of the Maya is played on a variety of musical instruments, and the drum is used usually to initiate a religious ceremony. The echoing and haunting sounds of the flute is yet another of nature's wonderful gifts to the universe. The Maya are excellent skilled weavers and produce a multitude of colorful blankets and wall hangings. I have had the opportunity to see for myself these exquisite fabrics that were transformed into a vast array of intricate patterns and designs. Purchasing a wall hanging for myself, it was explained to me the significance and detail of the motif which often reflected their own lifestyle, customs and mythology.*

*In the state of Chiapas in Mexico one could find the most lovely weaving of all. Traditional Maya proudly wear their native clothing whose colour and pattern identify their region or village. A Mayan women's garment (huipil) is a multicolored expressive outfit adorned by accessories such as belts, jewellery and hair ornaments. The men wear decorated shirts, trousers called pantalones, hats and woven fringed belts.*

*In the Maya culinary world, their diet includes a variety of meats and vegetables. Scrumptious tortillas, corn and black beans are just some of the gastronomical delicacies. Tantalizing seafood, turkey and venison add to the delight of fine dining, especially with a little touch of chili sauce to complement the flavour.*

*The Maya indigenous community are an extremely hospitable and generous peoples. They exude much warmth towards their fellow man. Families are close knit and strive for excellence in their pursuit to fulfil their goals and achieve a rightful place in Canada. The Maya have encountered a tremendous ordeal of challenges over the decades in their homeland due to armed conflict and economic devastation. However, they have thrived through these insurmountable tribulations and put their best foot forward to surpass these injustices that was inflicted upon their people. We must pay homage to Rigoberta Menchu, a Maya from Guatemala who is internationally recognized for her ongoing work to eradicate human rights violations against the Indigenous population. She has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, the youngest and first Indigenous person to receive this award. This prize acknowledges the hardships of the native people and recognizes their plight to gain freedom and democracy from an oppressive regime.*

*In spite of these tumultuous times that have overshadowed the Mayan Community, their enlightening spirit has flourished. Their sense of pride has paved the way for future success and achievements. Although, at times, fearing the loss of their identity due to intermarriage with the Spanish, they have intertwined the two cultures and as a result have maintained the richness and embraced their cultural values to the ultimate. Let us all as Canadians be proud to accept and demonstrate our solidarity with the Mayan people. Only through ongoing dialogue can we establish a sense of understanding and respect of all the indigenous groups worldwide. The promotion of human rights for the indigenous people should be the responsibility of all Governments and citizens alike to ensure a more peaceful and humane dealings with future generations to come will prevail.*

**"Tu heel k'iin (until another day)**

**\*\*YUCATEC MAYA INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE, MEXICO\*\***

**For further information regarding festivals or events  
in the community, contact Centre Mexicane at: 725-3725 or  
Association des immigrants latino-américains de Côtes-des-Neiges at: 737-3642**

## THE SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

The South Asian culture of Montreal is characterized by its vibrant blend of mystical bliss and unique historical presence. Indo-Canadians comprise of the following roots, Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan and Bangladesh. Their religions include Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh.

The Indian Community immigrated to Canada in the early 1900's encountered stringent immigration policies. The Canadian Government had imposed a ban restricting Asian immigration thus creating such hardship and strife to this community. Their privilege to vote was also rescinded by the British Columbian Government even though this right should have been granted to them due to the fact that they were British subjects, just like all Canadians. Many South Asians were highly trained professionals such as doctors and teachers. Others were entrepreneurs, owning restaurants and shops. However, losing their right to vote subjected them to the grim prospect of being denied entry into governmental contractor beneficial and well paying jobs. Discrimination was indeed rampant in the job market where Indians were paid far less than their white counterparts for the same work. Undaunted, by these obstacles, which inflicted an inferior status upon them, they persevered with much tenacity and strong will to overcome these barriers. Segregation was another issue that the South Asians had to contend with, when in some instances "For Whites Only" signs were affixed outside restaurants, theatres and other commercial establishments.

The country of India has numerous attractions of simplicity and grace. Its stunning architectural displays an array of intricate design and superb craftsmanship that will captivate you to an oasis of Indian spirituality. India exudes a sentiment of warmth and portrays its existence by the varying establishments that reflect the country's past and present heritage. Exquisite mosques outline the Islamic religion and tradition as well as providing individuals with a centre designated to all faiths in order to come together and worship. These mosques transcends a captivating image and message to all who should venture inside. Its exuberant and breathtaking streaming towers instills its everlasting customs of equality and justice.

Temples and monuments of bewitching beauty transform India into a paradise of intrigue and fascination for any visitor or tourist who should explore this land of abundant richness and civilization. The most prevalent and heartwarming monument that was constructed was the Taj Mahal. Its radiance and lavish quality combined with its symbolization to honour and bestow love towards womanhood is world renowned. This illustrious masterpiece relays the true legend of Shah Jahan who in the 17<sup>th</sup> century paid tribute to his deceased wife, Mumtaz Mahal by demonstrating his everlasting devotion to her by building a taj as he had promised. Charismatic and romantic in nature, this snow white marble structure filled with a plentitude of jewels, depicts and commemorates the memory of his beloved wife. Their tombs lay to rest together in eternal and binding love.

India's vast loveliness is an existence of tropical sites, valleys of green landscapes and snowy tipped mountains and it is best described as haven of phenomenal enchantment. The Ganges River is known as sacred water or holy river. Worshippers descent upon its shores to purify themselves of their sins. The Hindu's believe that this river once flowed through heaven, making spiritual contact with God. Many use the river as a final resting place in which to bury their deceased. They are first cremated and their ashes are then ceremoniously dropped in the Ganges River. Their belief is that the soul will find its way to heaven and forever rest in peace.

New Delhi is the capital of Indian. Emperors and raja's who were wealthy once ruled Indian and resided in palaces. However, in 1858 the British once officially ruled India and all citizens were expected to abide by the regulations that was enforced. Unfortunately, the Indians were not granted the same privileges as the British and had no rights in their country's economy. India's supplies were used to make business transaction importing and trading which made the British profit greatly. However, in 1947 Mohandas Gandhi, an influential and powerful leader fought for India's freedom and independence from the British rule. His philosophy was to fight against tyranny in the world, however he was a peaceful and unique man who did not wish to gain India's freedom through violent uprisings but to fight in a diplomatic and non-violent manner. Gandhi's legacy has inspired many by his dedication and great deeds to his fellowman.

Many world leaders and citizens supported his views and followed his footsteps to maintain social justice and equality for all. In my personal dealings with the Indian Community, I have had the ultimate pleasure of experiencing the sights and sounds of South Asian fashion and dance. My friend introduced me to her family where I was exposed to the Indian lifestyle and culture. A variety of traditional and exotic Indian costumes were shown to me which comprised of a colorful array of sequences, beads and thread. The most common type of wardrobe that is worn by women is the Sari. A Sari is an elegant and feminine draping material which is basically wrapped around creating individual designs such as the gujarati, choli and bengali styles. The men's apparel consists of conventional western clothing, however, usually in the Indian villages the men wear their traditional outfits such as kurtas, lungis and dhotis as well as a variety of headgear to match. Alas, I was introduced to their mesmerizing world of dance and music which is a blend of religious, classical and folkloric in nature. Its soulful sounds will transport your senses to the ancient way of the past. While watching these expressive dancers perform, I felt the explosive and energetic moods that they possess. Swirling and swaying bodies gracefully move in celebration of their roots and pride. I was truly in awe of the beauty and attraction of such a spectacular display of artistic rhythm and communication.

For my grand finale of Indian culture sampling the delights of Indian delicacy was indeed a heavenly prospect. Spices by galore such as cinnamon, red chillie, mustard, grey pepper and cumin gave that extra little touch of perfection to any meal. The Indian Community celebrates a multitude of festivals and religious occasions which are characterized by an abundance of colour, pride and much joy. Prayers and rituals are often common during these events. India is notorious for its land of prophets, saints, gurus, gods and goddesses. However, the most prominent one is Diwali. This is a joyous celebration of a festival of lights symbolizing the victory of righteousness, the lifting of evil and spiritual darkness. Lights such as, oil lamps and candles are displayed in the homes, streets and entryways.

The South Asian community has greatly attributed to this country's wealth and prosperity. Their generosity to assist others in dire need have indeed been much appreciated and recognized. The Sikh Community for instance have been the most generous in their donations to the Sun Youth Center of Montreal. Their contributions to this city's impoverished and underprivileged citizens have greatly improved in the general well-being of the unfortunate population that reside in our city. The Indian Community at large are loyal Canadians and they thank Canada for the opportunity to expand their horizons upon these shores.

In spite of the past and sometimes present prejudices that the Indian Community have had to contend with, they have definitely demonstrated their strength and courage to overcome strife and hostility. Their perseverance to become dynamic individuals have paved the way for a brighter and more beneficial future for generations to come. All Canadians from different backgrounds should unite in brotherhood to accept and understand all of our cultural values. The South Asians have experienced turbulent times and injustices however, they were determined to gain the upper hand in order to succeed in a sometime uncertain world. I would like to say thank you to all Indo-Canadians who have personally touched my life by their gaiety, hospitality and wisdom. In closing, I would like to share with you a very poignant and touching song that was given to me by one of my friends, written by a little Indian boy expressing the Indian spirituality.

*Nagashir Sings His Song  
Delhi, India*

If you want to live, live with a smile,  
Live with love, don't cry.  
Don't shed your tears  
There are storms, there are disasters;  
In life there are up and downs  
But don't shed your tears.  
Smile - pain is part of life,  
But finally you get joy.  
If you want to live, live with new hopes.  
Love with new aspirations  
Live with love, live with a smile.

*Namasté (Goodbye)*

**For information regarding events and cultural programs  
in the South Asian Community, contact  
The Hindi Association of Quebec at: 620-6161 or 336-2337**