

Doncaster Ballyhoo

FOR LAURENTIAN WATERFRONT AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

Number 23

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Congratulations to the Lac des Sables lake committee for succeeding in promoting compliance with boating regulations. Erik Wang and Rémi Cloutier as co-chairmen of the committee have obtained the cooperation of Mayor Pierre Circé on a number of measures to improve safety on the lake in the coming season. Speed limits will be enforced. Thanks in no small part to their efforts, the Municipal Council has found grant money to begin regular boating patrols, especially on crowded summer week-ends. The grant comes in large part from the Société de sauvetage de Québec and the provincial government. Regulations limiting the size of boats and motors that non-residents can put on the lake are being tightened up. Information on boating rules on Lac des Sables will be posted on our web site at www.e-doncaster.com.

Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson of Trinity Church and Arthur Bruneau of Ivry have joined to organise a fundraising for the Laurentian Medical Foundation. Their specific focus will be on the English-speaking communities. Numerous other volunteers have joined a special committee established to raise money for a new scanner for the hospital. A scanner is an expensive piece of equipment that would not normally be supplied to a hospital the size of ours, but the Government has accepted to pay half the cost if the Foundation can raise the other half by the end of this year. This is quite a challenge and the community is going to have to pull out all stops to succeed. You can reach Reverend Irwin-Gibson at 326-2146 for more information or mail your donation to the Fondation médicale des Laurentides, 234 St. Vincent St., Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC J8C 2B8.

The new Heritage Walking Tour is back from the printer. Carmen Cloutier and Pierrette Boivin have a number of copies at the Information Office in the old railroad station and we have a few at our office. Thanks again to the Ste. Agathe municipal council and all those who contributed to this English-language version. Ste. Agathe has a very rich history and this pamphlet barely scratches the surface of all there is to discover. The Heritage Committee is exploring new ways to share that history and any archival material that you would be willing to share would be greatly appreciated. Contact us at our office or any one of the committee members.

Moisson des Pays-d'en-Haut wishes to thank Mazon Canada for its generous donation again this year. Mazon Canada is the Jewish Community's response to hunger and has given to the food bank each year since it was first approached in 1997.

The Moisson's second-hand store can now sell clothes along with furniture and household goods. Those things that you no longer need are sold at very modest prices to the needy, and all profits are poured back into the food bank's operations. For more information, call 326-0077 or drop in at the Bazar at 750 rue Principale (Route 117) just North of the Autoroute overpass.

This year our sixth annual Canada Day celebration falls on a Saturday. We hope to have many of the same activities as last year (and then some). We'd like to thank the various lake associations, merchants and the various other groups that have encouraged this event and contributed to its success each year since 1995. If you are scheduling local events for your lake association please remember that date. Ken Lefrançois has graciously accepted the responsibility of co-organiser this year since Sheila and I have a family obligation that will take us away for a part of June.

(819) 326-4963

WWWWhat's it WWWorth?

or

www.E-Doncaster.com

For a long time, we have contemplated 'going on-line'. We came to the conclusion that it would be a good idea only if it helped us develop our fundamental goals and vision. It must help us perform better or the investment of time and energy would not be warranted.

Well, we now have a web site. We hope that it enhances the service that we try to bring to our community and to that end we will improve and develop it. It will include a simple map outlining our primary market area, a mission statement, our company history, pertinent extracts from back issues of the Ballyhoo, a link to the heritage walking tour, a tenant registry and, of course, properties for sale. It will be in French and English.

While the site is accessible now, we have opened it up before completion only because there is a large number of people who wish to rent cottages for the summer. We hope that the Tenant Registry will help us find them places to rent. We invite you to consult the site or to contact us if you wish to consult the Tenant Registry. It will be available to homeowners who wish to explore renting their homes now and in the future.

Please check it out at www.e-doncaster.com or give us a call to learn more.

SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS (CONTINUED)

Wolofsky was right, and Davis made good by supporting the Talmud Torah schools to the tune of \$5,000 a year for the balance of his life. Wolofsky also states in his memoirs that Davis's contributions frequently amounted to more than 10% of the budget of many of the institutions that he supported.

Davis passed away in Cannes, France on March 22, 1928 and his funeral, held in Montreal, was among the largest in the history of Montreal's Jewish community. In his will, he left 75% of his estate to be used for the construction of a Jewish public hospital that would bear his name. He felt that his estate was not adequate in 1928, but that it would grow to be in 50 years. The Jewish General Hospital, which was started shortly after Sir Mortimer's death, eventually became the beneficiary of this estate and today it is known as the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital.

Sir Mortimer's only child was killed in a traffic accident in 1940. His divorced wife, Lady Davis, who also spent a long time in France, financed

hostels for refugees fleeing the Nazi advance. Upon her return to Canada, she gave the first Canadian Spitfires to the war effort and established and maintained three rest-houses for the air force. An estimated 500,000 servicemen used these houses at different times. She was named a Dame Commander of the British Empire after the war. Later, she established the Lady Davis Foundation, which helped relocate European scholars to Canada. She died in Montreal on December 24, 1963.

The Davis house in Ste. Agathe still bears the name he gave it: Chateau Belvoir, and today serves as a bed and breakfast. His Montreal residence is now Purvis Hall on the grounds of McGill University. Mount Sinai Hospital still exists and serves the community in Montreal, but the buildings in Ste. Agathe are looking for a new vocation.

**Inscription on Sir Mortimer's cemetery monument*

Thanks to Imasco Ltd.; Richard Davine, Honorary President, Share Zedek Congregation; Allan Raymond, historian, Temple Emanu-El.

SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS

PHILANTHROPIST*

Sir Mortimer Barnet Davis was born in Montreal on February 6, 1866 to Samuel Davis and Minnie Falk Davis. The senior Davis couple had emigrated from England in 1861 and Mortimer was their third son, one of seven children. He attended Montreal High School and upon graduation joined his family's cigar business: S. Davis and Sons. By the time he was 21, he was already someone to contend with. He experimented with tobacco and is credited with having established its cultivation in Canada. He founded Ritchie cigarettes before the turn of the century and merged it with the Imperial Tobacco Company of England, thereby establishing the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada. He was a director of many companies including the Union Bank, Henry Corby Distillery, Empire Tobacco and others.

For all of the foregoing, he is best remembered for his contributions to the community. Following the example of his parents, he gave to many charities including Notre Dame, Montreal General and Mount Sinai hospitals. He was not a religious man, and, while he remained a member of Temple Emanu-El which his father had helped to establish, he also gave to the Talmud Torah, the Baron de Hirsch Institute, and the YMHA. In fact, he underwrote the entire \$420,000 cost of a new YMHA building. The "Y" was opened at Mount Royal near Park shortly after Sir Mortimer's death.

He was knighted in recognition of his participation in the first war, not as a soldier, for he would have been 48 years old in 1914, but because he equipped a full division of the Canadian army.

On July 6, 1909, Sir Mortimer acquired lots 18a and 18b overlooking Lac des Sables in Ste. Agathe. Lord (Thomas George) Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, was the vendor of record, but he had acquired it himself only shortly beforehand, and the farm was just down the road from Mr. Shaughnessy's own property.

Within two months of his acquisition, Mr. Davis became involved in helping a group of erstwhile

farmers in Préfontaine. This group, headed by Max Ofner, may have been trying to set up a commune. Whatever their intentions, Davis ultimately acquired the property and, together with Mark Workman, Moses Vineberg, Jacob Jacobs and others, built the Mount Sinai sanitarium in 1910-11.

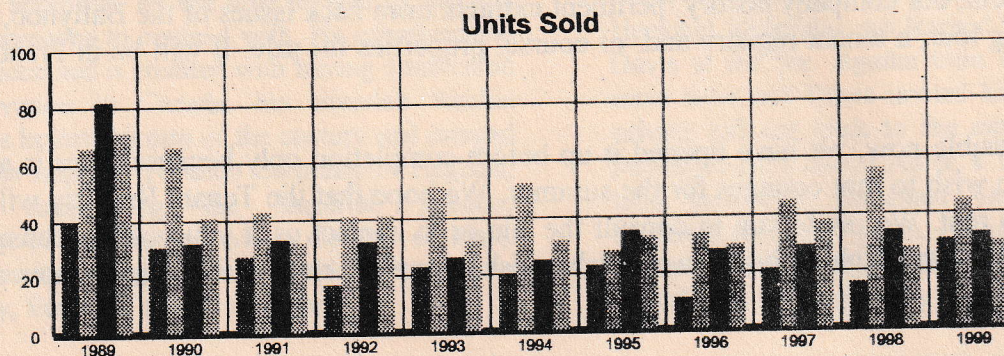
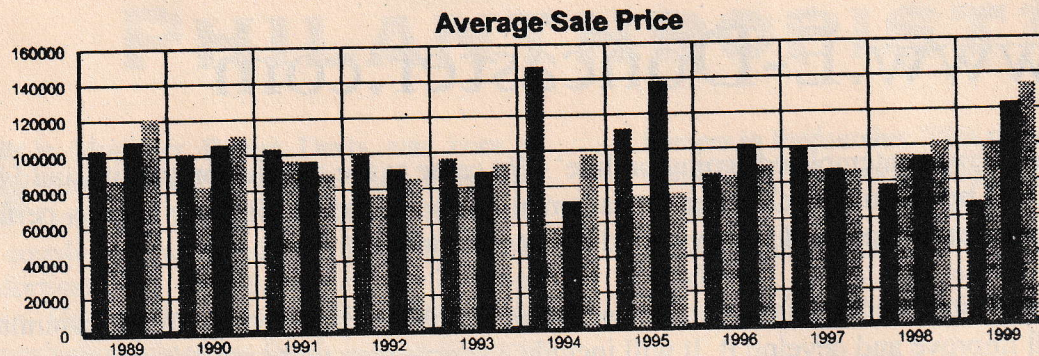
From the memoirs of Sheila's great-grandfather Herschel Wolofsky, we learned that Wolofsky met Davis at the Ste. Agathe train station around this same time and Davis invited him to travel in his private rail car back to the city. Wolofsky, who published the Kanadar Adler, a Yiddish newspaper, tells how they discussed various charities in Montreal and Ste. Agathe. Davis wanted to discuss a particular publication. Here is an excerpt from Wolofsky's book, *Journey of My Life*:

At about this time, I was issuing a broadsheet called "The Hammer". Here we presented a cartoon showing two masons working on a monument purporting to represent Sir Mortimer's communal activities. Each of the stones represented a different institution that had received his support. But the monument was not complete. Two stones still lay on the ground, one marked "Talmud Torah" and the other "Federated Charity". Beneath the cartoon a mason was represented as saying to his companion, "Hand over those two stones and the monument is complete!" The cartoon was reprinted in both the Eagle and the Chronicle, and copies of all these publications were sent to Davis.

As fate governs these things, Davis was saying that he saw no purpose in funding Talmud Torah (Jewish education) because, after all, these were modern times. Out the window of the train, the Shawbridge Boys' Farm was gliding by, and their discussion turned to the number of Talmud Torah-educated boys that were there, despite their education. Wolofsky claimed that he believed that there were none, and Davis told him if he proved to be right, Davis would reconsider his position.

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MARKET TRENDS



This graph charts the number of houses sold and their average prices in a defined area that we have chosen as representative of a combination of both the recreational and primary markets. It is made up of all sales of homes registered for Ste. Agathe Nord and that part of Ste. Agathe des Monts that was called that before its amalgamation with Ste. Agathe Sud. This encompasses Lac des Sables, Lac Brûlé, Petit Lac Long and a number of smaller lakes in the periphery as well as the town of Ste. Agathe itself.

The average sale price in the most recent quarter is skewed by the fact that one property sold for over ten times the average of the rest. As this property is subdivided and sold it will subsequently increase the average number of sales and the effects of this anomaly will tend to be lessened. While the overall volume is not significantly changed, this is a reflection of decreasing supply in the recreational sector.

If you would like back issues of the Doncaster Ballyhoo, give us a call or drop by. We will happily add the names of your friends or neighbours to our list if they would like to receive their own copy. Please let us know if you change your address. Having an accurate mailing list helps us keep our costs (and waste) down.

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Our office is open six days a week, closed Tuesdays.
 (Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale)

