

CONGRESS CONTACT

THE NEWS MAGAZINE of CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS ONTARIO REGION

Volume VI, Number 6

June 2003 / Sivan 5763



Grant Bristow addresses the CJCONT Executive in June

Grant Bristow, former CSIS agent breaks 9 year silence at CJCONT Executive meeting

Grant Bristow, the former CSIS agent who infiltrated the Canadian neo-Nazi movement spoke at June's CJCONT Executive meeting. Bristow still concerned with his security, would only agree to a photograph if it was not face on.

This was the first time that he spoke publicly about his time with CSIS and the Heritage Front.

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CJCONT participates at CZF Israel Day Festival

The annual Israel Day Celebration took place recently at Mel Lastman Square in Toronto. Organized by the Canadian Zionist Federation, the festival saw thousands come out to support Israel in song and dance as well as other main stage acts.

There were vendors from Israel and Toronto selling Israeli products and most Jewish organizations offered information at tables set up throughout the square.

*Pictured (right) is CJCONT office manager **Glenda David** and her six-year-old granddaughter **Abby** at the CJCONT information table. The event has traditionally been the last event before the summer break.*





CJCONT staff and families enjoyed an evening together at a Toronto Blue Jays game. The Jays may have lost the game but the evening was a winning one as far as the CJCONT group was concerned.

New Israeli consul introduced to CJCONT



*Effective August 2003 there will be a new Israeli consul for Toronto and Western Canada. **Ofir Gendelman** (right) will take on the consul duties while present consul **Zehavit Ben Hillel** leaves Toronto to begin a new position within the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Gendelman will be joining the new consulate general, who also comes to Canada this summer, and brings with him experience with the Arab media. He was the Arab media spokesman for the Israeli Ministry of Foreign affairs. This is his first North American posting. Ms Ben Hillel spent the last three years in Canada and was always available to CJCONT staff and the Ontario Jewish community. Pictured with both is **Bernie M. Farber**, executive director for CJCONT*



*Jewish members of police services from around the GTA once again got together for an evening at the CJCONT offices. This time they were joined by **Deputy Chief Bob Kates** (photo left seated next to Toronto Police Services Chair **Norm Gardner**) from the Sault Ste Marie Police services.*



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*CJCONT executive director **Bernie M. Farber** recently spoke to a residents' group at 2 Neptune about the current issues facing Jewish residents of Toronto. Pictured are (l to r) **Monty Mazin**, **Bernie M. Farber**, **Jerry Diamond** and **Reuben Cipin***



Grant Bristow addresses CJCONT Executive

Toronto -On Thursday, June 19, 2003 **Grant Bristow**, the former CSIS agent who infiltrated Canada's neo-Nazi organizations in the 1990's addressed the CJCONT executive giving an off-the-record historic presentation.

This marked the first time since being exposed in August 1994 as a CSIS infiltrator to the neo-Nazi Heritage Front that Grant Bristow spoke to any audience about his exploits of the time.

In order to allow Mr. Bristow to tell his story to Canadian Jewish leadership, CJC agreed that the specifics of Mr. Bristow's talk would be kept off-the-record. However, in general terms Grant Bristow addressed a number of the fallacies and misconceptions that were presented by the media as to his involvement with neo-Nazi organizations. He defended the role of CSIS and supported the findings in a thorough report undertaken by the Security Intelligence Review Committee, released in December 1994.

Mr. Bristow did acknowledge the work of CJC lay leaders and professionals during those tumultuous times. Bristow called CJC "courageous" for its work in getting out the message of the need to use Canadian jurisprudence as a means by which to shut down white supremacist organizations in Canada.

Bristow paid specific homage to past CJC President Irving Abella and CJC executive director Bernie M. Farber who he said were on the front line of the battle and were seen to be the key activists against white supremacists in Canada.



Former CJC national president Irving Abella (left) thanks Grant Bristow for speaking to the CJCONT Executive.

Letters and Op Ed contributions for the Congress Contact should be sent via email to bkurta@on.cjc.ca or via fax at 416.635.1408.

All submissions must have a name and contact number for verification purposes.

Editorial Finkelstein speaks again

The recent appearance of Norman Finkelstein at the campus of University of Waterloo provides us with an opportunity to meditate upon the behaviours, motivations and methods of those who stand opposed to the continued existence of the Jewish State.

Finkelstein is an academic who has gained an avid following for his staunchly anti-Zionist scholarship, and notoriety for his thesis that powerful "Jewish Elites" have instrumentalized the Holocaust to extort reparations from countries and corporations, and to shield Israel from "legitimate criticism" for its "criminal policies" against the Palestinians. This thesis is presented in his latest book, *The Holocaust Industry*.

Finkelstein represents a real find for anti-Zionists: he is a Jew who is critical of the Jewish state; he is the son of Holocaust survivors who is critical of the manner in which Jewish community leadership has lead the fight for reparations. He is embraced by the left (he counts Noam Chomsky as a personal friend) and is prominently featured on web-sites that are controlled by white supremacist, antisemitic and neo-Nazi organizations.

Attending a Finkelstein lecture is a painful experience. He presents the complex Middle East situation as a simple matter: Israel and the Zionists are responsible for all that has gone wrong in that region. Its practices against the Palestinians are reminiscent of those of the Third Reich, and those who support Israel, including members of the audience, are Nazis. This is all vintage Finkelstein, but what made his appearance at Waterloo more interesting was the way in which he blatantly pulled back the curtain to reveal his methods, and the way in which the student organizers of the event quickly emulated his tactics.

At the end of his presentation, Finkelstein stated that he had been scheduled to appear on the Michael Coren program, but that the Canadian Jewish Congress had thwarted his appearance. This was not true, and Michael Coren addressed this matter in his June 21st column in the Toronto Sun. (*The full text of this column can be seen at <http://www.cjc.ca/template.php?action=itn&Story=320>*) Not to be outdone, student organizers claimed that CJCONT professional staff acted in a "rude and unprofessional fashion" in an attempt to stop Finkelstein's lecture. In fact, CJCONT demanded that the Q&A portion of the lecture **continue** in order to provide pro-Israel members of the audience an opportunity to speak their mind.

We should be grateful to Norman Finkelstein for providing us with such a clear example of the workings of the mind of a propagandist: tell the people what they want to hear and they will believe you; keep it simple and the simple will follow you; never let the truth stand in the way of a good story.



In the Region

Summer Camp Project

It's that time of year again, the summer camp season is quickly approaching. CJCONT Region and Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO), along with the support of the Human Resources Development Canada Summer Student Program continue to offer services to day and residential camps throughout the province.

We have been fortunate to be a recipient of this summer grant for the past seven years. Each year our students have increased their range of services, both geographically and programmatically. Last year our students attended over twenty camps and we look forward to adding new camps to the list this summer.

University students, **Ruth Moses, Rachel Singer** and **Jackie Uram** have been working on filling the calendar, creating new programs, those that involve Israel, Jewish Customs & Traditions in fun games and activities, as well as working on the large Maccabia program. Maccabia is a four day event with over 200 campers from Camp Gesher, Camp Kinneret, Soleliem and Camp Massad . The CJC Students will be responsible for the programming of this event.

Our students will be with us until the end of August and along with their summer camp duties will be assisting with a High School Outreach Summer Program, as well as being part of the RJCO/CJC team where needed. We look forward to a wonderful summer.



Summer students (left to right) **Ruth Moses, Rachel Singer** and **Jackie Uram** join CJCONT for the summer for a seven year old program of providing Jewish content programs to summer camps in Ontario

CJCONT/RJCO professional travels to Poland

Toronto) – Carson Phillips, a Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region (CJCONT) professional, working in the regional communities of Ontario as a Holocaust educator, has been chosen as one of four people to travel to Poland this summer to participate in a scholarship program at the Auschwitz Jewish Centre.



Carson Phillips

The Centre, not far from the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp has selected Mr. Phillips – who is a student of Holocaust and Genocide Education at OISE/ University of Toronto – to participate in the third annual scholarship program.

“Mr. Phillips is devoting much of his life to the study of the Holocaust,” said **Richard Kizell**, chair of the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario, “and we are extremely pleased to have him continue his work in this vital field of study.”

The group of scholars will spend eight weeks in Poland, conducting research and facilitating programs on behalf of the Centre.

“I am very proud to be a part of this program,” responded Mr. Phillips. “I am very grateful to the Auschwitz Jewish Centre Foundation for the opportunity and I am looking forward to the next two months.”

Holocaust education programs for educators has been a focus of Mr. Phillips’ work since joining CJCONT/RJCO. He has traveled throughout the province with Michael Soberman, director of community development for RJCO, as well as survivors who speak to the visited groups. The program has been received extremely well by the boards of education, local and provincial politicians and the media.

Mr. Phillips will be returning to Canada in August.

**CJCONT is on the air
with 'Zelda'**

**every Sunday morning at 9:05 on
CHIN AM 1540**

**The week's events summarized by a
CJCONT representative.**

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