

The Suburban

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

ESTABLISHED 1963 • VOL. 59, NO. 18

Publisher: Michael Sochaczewski
Associate Publisher: Oliver Sutton
Sales Director: Amanda Lavigne
VP Natl. Sales & Marketing: David Broadman
Controller: Glen Provencher
Credit Manager: Julie Dilio
Classified Manager: Charmaine Worrell
Assistant Classified Manager: Susan Eidinger

Editor-in-Chief: Beryl Wajzman
Arts & Life Editor: Anthony Bonaparte
Sports Editor: Mark Lidbetter
Editorial Staff: Joel Goldenberg, Jennifer Cox, Joel Ceausu, Chelsey St-Pierre
Social Media: Jesse Ostroff
Production Manager: Stephen Balena

Editorial Contributors: Judie Amyot, Tracey Arial, Kristine Berey, Michael Boriero, Mike Cohen, Sean Farrell, Mitch Gallo, Bernard Mendelman, Harrison Rahajason, Walter J. Lyng, Elaine Sanders, Melanie Reffes, Dr. Mitch Shulman, Linda Zlatkin
Photographers: Rob Taussig, Rob Amyot, Philippe Serafino

Tomorrow's Israel Independence Day March... why it matters to us all

Thursday, May 5 at 11, thousands of Montrealers of all faiths and backgrounds will march from Cabot Square to Place du Canada to celebrate Israel's 74th Independence Day. It is important to all of us – as members of the family of free people – that we be there. It is always a pure celebration of freedom and the triumph of will over adversity.

This March was an annual event for two decades. The past two years, because of the pandemic, it wasn't held. Yet we all triumphed over adversity. What could be a better way to celebrate that message and metaphor.

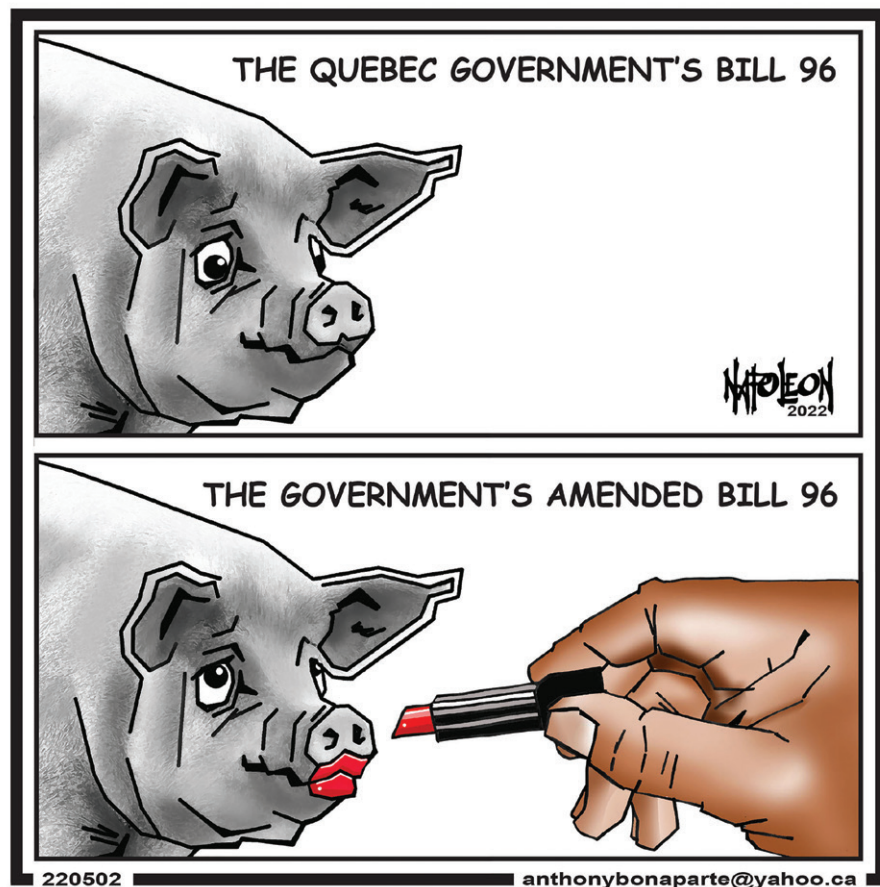
But there is more. So much happened in these years that all those of good will who value peace should celebrate. Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, made peace flourish broader and deeper than ever before. In addition to the peace agreements that existed with Egypt and Jordan, the Abraham Accords were concluded bringing the United Arab Emirates, Bahrein, Morocco and The Sudan into peace and economic agreements with Israel. Historic times.

Thursday's March represents not only a celebration of freedom, but a celebration of a hope that peace will continue to spread throughout that region. And it has positive repercussions for us here in Quebec. This new reality — this new optimism — may have led to the first official visit of the Legault government represented by Economy Minister Pierre Fitzgibbon who signed the first economic and research agreements with Israel. There is even talk of Quebec opening a permanent Trade and Economic Mission there.

If the Jewish people – in its national as well as religious manifestation — is the “canary in the mineshaft of history,” a phrase regularly employed by historians, then Israel is also the litmus test of the ability of western civilization to survive. It is the frontline member of the family of free nations facing the existential challenge of Islamist fundamentalism. It may very well be that as Israel goes, so goes the west. But it is heartening to see that Israel is making common cause with so many Arab governments against that very same fundamentalism. Israel may very well be the free world's hope for only with the alliances with Arab governments can the extremists be brought to ground. This is truly something to celebrate.



A12 • THE SUBURBAN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022



Letters to the Editor

Appreciate The Suburban's unbiased coverage of Pointe Claire

I was pleased to read the article by Chelsey St. Pierre covering the difficult situation that is currently taking place between developers and the new Mayor of Pointe Claire following the ‘freeze’ on development that was recently implemented. The Mayor has repeatedly claimed he is representing “all” citizens of the city and was elected on this platform. He seems to forget that he won the seat by a slim margin of 61 votes over the incumbent, with only 40.9% of eligible voters turning out to vote. I do not support a freeze on construction coupled with resident consultations playing a major role. I believe that the elected body of Mayor and council should be capable of deciding what is best for the city to insure growth and stability to meet the demands of both residential needs and commercial. Some consultation is a good thing but should not hold up all progress in regards to city development, and certainly should not cause such a public confrontation that we now see playing out.

I appreciate the unbiased coverage by *The Suburban*, which is far different from another small local newsletter that is circulated in the city which has been publishing very biased coverage from the start of the election campaign.

Marna Pennell
Pointe Claire

ESP

Political parties are not advocacy groups. They have to broker a variety of interests to be viable. The Equality Party elected its MNAs in Montreal ridings but its initial strength was due in no small part to the off-island Unity Party merging with it to make it an electoral fighting force. The infighting came later.

It doesn't take ESP to see that the two nascent parties should join forces to become one political party. It just takes English-Speaking People to realize that they are a collectivity in their own right in Quebec, and should broker their regional differences within the same party.

Me. Howard Greenfield
Montreal

Trudeau government scamming Canadians by trying to get back legitimate CERB payments

In the month of November last year, I received a notice, first by email and then by regular mail from Service Canada, stating that I had to pay back the \$2,000 initial payment from when I was on the CERB, back in April 2020. That was almost two years ago. I had contracted COVID-19, and for almost two months I was sick as a dog. I contracted it from my boss who died within days, and I was scared of dying myself.

Because of these unprecedented times, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stepped up with his CERB program to help Canadians through these very difficult times. So

CONTACT US Letters: editor@thesuburban.com | Entertainment: entertainment@thesuburban.com | Features: anthony@thesuburban.com | Sports: sports@thesuburban.com | Community Events: calendar@thesuburban.com | Advertising material: production@thesuburban.com



7575 Trans-Canada Highway, Suite 500, St. Laurent, QC H4T 1V6
(514) 484-1107
suburban@thesuburban.com www.thesuburban.com



Publisher's liability for error: The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. This project has been made possible by the Community Media Strategic Support Fund offered jointly by the Official Language Minority Community Media Consortium and the Government of Canada.

Entire Contents Copyright Michael Publishing Co. Inc., Wednesday, May 4, 2022. Distributed by Publisac Transcontinental.