SHAAR HASHOMAYIM CEMETERY

MAINTAINED IN PERPETUAL DIGNITY

SHAAR HASHOMAYIM CEMETERY
1250 Chemin de la Forêt, Outremont, Quebec H2V 4T6
Tel: 514.937.9474 loc. 171    Fax: 514.272.6010

CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM
450 Kensington Avenue, Westmount, Quebec H3Y 3A2
Tel: 514.937.9471    Fax: 514.937.2067
DIRECTIONS TO OUR CEMETERY

By Car (From Congregation Shaar Hashomayim)
Take Côte St. Antoine to Forden Ave. Right (north) onto Forden Ave. to Westmount Ave. Right (east) on Westmount Ave. to Le Boulevard. Right on Le Boulevard (east) to Ch. de la Côte des Neiges. Left (north) on Ch. de la Côte des Neiges to Ch. de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine. Right (east) on Ch. de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine to Ave. Pagnuelo. Right on Ave. Pagnuelo to Mount Royal Boulevard. Left (east) on Mount Royal Boulevard to Chemin de la Forêt.

By Bus or Metro
Take the Côte des Neiges bus 165 to Queen Mary Road, then take bus 51 east to Côte-Sainte-Catherine/Pagnuelo (stop 56199). Walk up Pagnuelo to Mount Royal Boulevard and then left (east) on Mount Royal Boulevard to Chemin de la Forêt.

Or
Take Metro until Edouard Montpetit station. Exit station and walk one block up Vincent d’Indy, then left (east) on Mount Royal Boulevard to Chemin de la Forêt.

Or
Take either bus 80 or bus 129 to Mount Royal Avenue. Walk along Mount Royal Boulevard to Chemin de la Forêt.
**Foreword**

Since Biblical days, Jewish tradition has taught the love and respect due to the deceased and their survivors. Our Congregation is proud of the beauty and serenity of our cemetery grounds which generations of our members and Montreal Jewry have appreciated in times of personal sorrow and seasons of holy remembrance.

**Historical Review**

The first Jewish cemetery in the city was located on St. Janvier Street on the south side of the present Dorchester Square. The land was purchased in 1797 by David David for the burial of his father, Lazarus David. The following year Mr. David offered the land as a burial ground to the Shearith Israel Congregation, also known as Spanish and Portuguese Congregation.

The cemetery was closed in the 1860s as a result of a cholera epidemic in Montreal which forced a ban on further burials within city limits. A few years prior, the Shearith Israel Congregation had purchased land beside the large Protestant cemetery on the eastern slope of Mount Royal. Shortly thereafter, an adjoining plot of land was set aside for the Congregation of English, German and Polish Jews – Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. The remains were removed from the relinquished St. Janvier site and buried at the boundary between the two cemeteries. Temple Emanu-El, having found its first choice of burial site in northeastern Montreal too swampy, soon purchased land on Mount Royal as well.

The Jewish burial ground at Three Rivers which was the resting place of many of Quebec's earliest Jewish inhabitants, including the famous Hart family, was plagued for years with problems of vandalism. In addition, the cemetery was first forced to relocate by the municipality and subsequently to remove itself entirely. As a result, it was arranged in 1909 to have these graves moved to a permanent resting place in the Shearith Israel Cemetery.

The growing community found it increasingly difficult to deal with the problem of burials of poor Jews who had no synagogue affiliations. While this responsibility was at first divided between the existing congregations, it was subsequently taken over in the late 1860's by the Young Men's Hebrew Benevolent Association, later known as the Baron de Hirsch Institute. As well, some immigrants had organized themselves into non-profit societies for the payment of burial costs. The Baron de Hirsch Institute purchased land for these burials in 1891 at Sault aux Recollets, known as the
Back River Cemetery. The Back River Cemetery was subdivided into sections for these different societies. Now called the Memorial Gardens Cemetery, it is located adjacent to the Sauvé Metro Station at the intersection of Sauvé and Berri Streets. Later on, the Baron De Hirsch Institute bought a larger piece of land in the Côte des Neiges area at its present site on de la Savane Road. These two locations now contain the plots of many congregations and immigrant burial societies.

Growth in the Montreal Jewish community led to the purchase of other sites: one in Laval known as Mount Pleasant Cemetery and two on the West Island, namely, Kehal Israel Cemetery (Dollard-des-Ormeaux) and Eternal Gardens Cemetery (Beaconsfield).

Cemetery Office

The clergy and staff of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim are always available to assist however possible. Please feel free to call upon them at any time.

The cemetery office will be pleased to assist you in locating a particular grave site. Maps of the cemetery are available at the office. Cemetery office hours are:

**Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Friday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (April – November)**

Floral Decorations

The Shaar Cemetery offers many styles of spring, summer and winter floral bed decorations as well as mum pots for Mother’s and Father’s Day, Rosh Hashanah and other special occasions such as Yahrzeits, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. You can request that these annual decorations be placed on standing order so that you will automatically receive statements for the floral decorations that you selected before the beginning of the planting season.

Alternatively, many Shaar members have opted for the convenience of our perpetual care floral program which offers a beautiful floral bed decoration of the grave site of a loved one every year in perpetuity. Our spring/summer perpetual care program comprises two plantings of annual flowers each year: a spring planting of mixed pansies is followed by a planting of begonias which lasts through summer and early fall. We can also modify flower preference for an additional cost. We also have available a winter perpetual care program, where spruce boughs are placed on the grave site in late fall until spring.
Please inquire at the cemetery office for a full description of floral decorations and shrubs available.

**CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- The Cemetery Committee shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Cemetery of the Congregation, and shall enforce all regulations governing it.

- Reservations in the Cemetery shall be conditional upon retention of membership in the Congregation. Failure to retain membership for non-payment of dues or for any other reason shall deprive a member of all rights, such that the Congregation will be free to accept a reservation for the plot from another applicant.

- Permission for burial shall be granted only if all indebtedness to the Congregation by the Estate of the deceased shall have been fully paid or arrangements for their payment made.

- Before any monument or tombstone shall be erected or placed in the Cemetery, or any excavation made, all outstanding indebtedness to the Congregation shall be discharged or arrangements with respect thereto shall have been made; and the design, style and location thereof, as well as the inscription thereon, must first be submitted in writing to the Committee for its approval. No tombstone on which is hewn, cut or carved, any image or ornament resembling, or in the form of, any person or animal, or the insignia of a non-Jewish religion, shall be placed in the cemetery of the Congregation. No fence, railing, post or enclosure shall be permitted in connection with or around any grave or plot in the Cemetery.

- No reservation of plots shall be transferred, assigned or made over, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Committee and ratification by the President of which notice shall be in writing.

- The right to accept reservations and to designate the location of any grave or plot shall be vested in the Committee subject to the approval of the Board.

- Should a member, or other person, responsible for the upkeep of a plot, neglect such plot, or the tombstone erected on it, so as to detract from the general appearance of the cemetery, or cause any damage, the Committee, after due notification is given to such person, shall have the right to make such repairs, to
do such work as the Committee may deem necessary, at the cost and expense of the person responsible.

- All burials must be made in strict accordance with the rites and customs of traditional Judaism. The burial and unveiling services shall be performed only by the Rabbi(s) or such other Religious Official of the Congregation as may be designated by the Cemetery Committee, unless permission is given that such services be performed by any other qualified person.

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE SIZE OF MONUMENTS ADMISSIBLE FOR PLACEMENT IN THE CEMETERY

FOR A SINGLE GRAVE
The overall size must not exceed 30" in width, 15" in thickness and 42" in overall height. These dimensions include the base.

FOR TWO GRAVES
The overall size must not exceed 42" in width, 15" in thickness, and 42" in overall height. These dimensions include the base.

FOR THREE GRAVES
The overall size must not exceed 52" in width, 15" in thickness, and 42" in overall height. These dimensions include the base.

FOR FOUR GRAVES (IN A SINGLE LINE)
The overall size must not exceed 62" in width, 15" in thickness, and 48" in overall height. These dimensions include the base.

FOR FIVE GRAVES OR MORE (IN A SINGLE LINE)
The overall size must not exceed 68" in width, 15" in thickness and 48" in overall height. These dimensions include the base.