



## Happy 150th Canada! 1867-2017



### *Jewish Canadian Involvement*



by Rochelle Burns, PhD ©

Canadian Parliament: The names of Barney Danson and Senator David Croll have honored places in the history of those hallowed buildings of democracy.

Toronto-born Danson (1921-2011), a well decorated veteran of World War II, (and one of the Founders and President of Temple Emanu-El), would become Minister of Defence in 1976 under Pierre Trudeau. He helped found Katimavik, Canada's homeland-type Peace Corps. Eventually a room in the Canadian War Museum was named after him for his service, along with four of his buddies who were killed during that War.

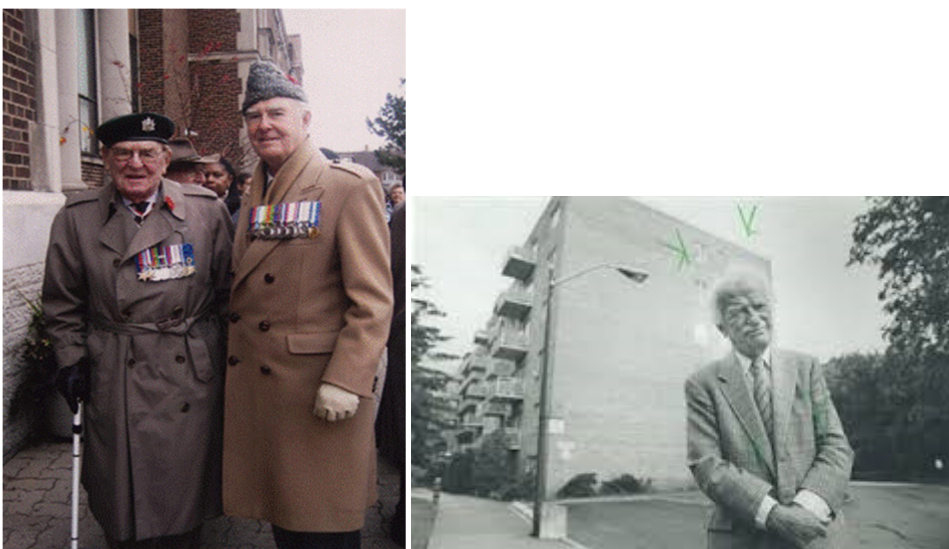
The Senate: In that august, and sometimes sleepy-time body, one name rose up loud and clear - Senator David Croll (1900-1991). Also a well-decorated World War II veteran, Croll served as mayor of Windsor, then as an Ontario Cabinet Minister, making him the first provincial Jewish cabinet minister in Canada. In 1955 he became Canada's first Jewish Senator. In 1971 he authored the "Report of the Special Senate Committee on Poverty" which began with the words "the poor do not choose poverty." Yet, he's best remembered for his work for seniors, way ahead of the times.

Notably, however, their accomplishments could not have occurred without the foundation set by Ezekiel Hart. Ezekiel was the son of Aaron Hart, who, in 1760 became what is considered the founding father of Canada's Jewish community.

Ezekiel was elected but not admitted to the Lower Canada Assembly in 1807 because of his faith. Admitted in 1808, he took his oath on the Hebrew Bible.

Three Jewish Canadian politicians who broke glass ceilings to help all Canadians.

*Dr. Burns is a social historian and member of Temple Emanu-El*



Barney Danson left and friend: Harbord Club Senator David Croll: photo Getty Images