



This month in Etzba HaGalil
*A review of the news for our partners from
Coast-to-Coast Canada
April 2007*

- Chaim Barbivai of Kiryat Shmona, Benny Ben Muvchar and Kobi Katz of Metulla are traveling to Canada to visit their partners abroad. The purpose of the trip is to build the personal connections between the communities and to bolster the regional partnership and its constituent programs.
- Kfir Maoz is stepping down after seven years as director of the youth department of Kiryat Shmona. "I would like to thank UIAC and the Jewish communities of Canada for their professional support, true partnership and personal devotion," said Maoz. "I've learned so much and I believe that the youth department of Kiryat Shmona will continue to support the youth of our city of become productive, caring, responsible citizens, and help them grow through the challenges they experience in the process." Maoz will be assuming leadership of the northern region of AMEN youth volunteers, a JDC initiative.
- Yarden and Zion Saadia, sister and father of Liron Saadia - one of the first soldiers killed in the Second Lebanon War - spoke at the Kiryat Shmona Yom HaZikaron ceremony. Yarden spoke about her last few days with Liron, and how he used to take her to the same ceremony each year to speak about his friends who had fallen. "I thought you were unbreakable; I never thought I would stand here one day to tell you story," she said.
- The Ottawa Yom Haatzmaut Mission celebrated Israel's independence in Metulla at the annual community picnic. They also visited the HaNadiv School in Metulla, Nahariya Hospital, and the city of Acco.
- On Yom Haatzmaut, Kiryat Shmona presented municipal awards of appreciation to Ze'ev Bielski of the Jewish Agency and Nochi Dankner of the IDB group for their great support and devotion to the city in the past year. Dankner is a well-known Israeli philanthropist who has partnered with UIAFC on several projects, including the Granovsky Auditorium.
- 400 students from Tel Hai academic college took to the streets as part of the nationwide student strike against proposed reforms and tuition hikes in higher education. The students are calling for representation on government panels regarding these suggested reforms.
- The Israeli government is meeting this week to discuss canceling Kiryat Shmona's unique tax benefits, enacted to encourage residents to move to the city and to help them maintain economic stability in the face of security uncertainty. Mayor Chaim Barbivai is acting against such measures, which will have serious economic consequences both to residents of the city as well as in the entire surrounding region.
- Students from Winnipeg's Gray Academy visited the Danziger School for social and educational activities this month, marking the 8th year of exchanges between students of the two communities.
- Students in the Ayalim project hosted a community Mimona celebration the day after Passover at a local park newly renovated through Jewish Federation support.
- The Granovsky Auditorium recently offered a bonus feature for guests, the hit Israeli movie "Aviva My Love." The event drew crowds and was a huge success.