JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH

ATrip to the Market







KULTURA COLLECTIVE קולטורה



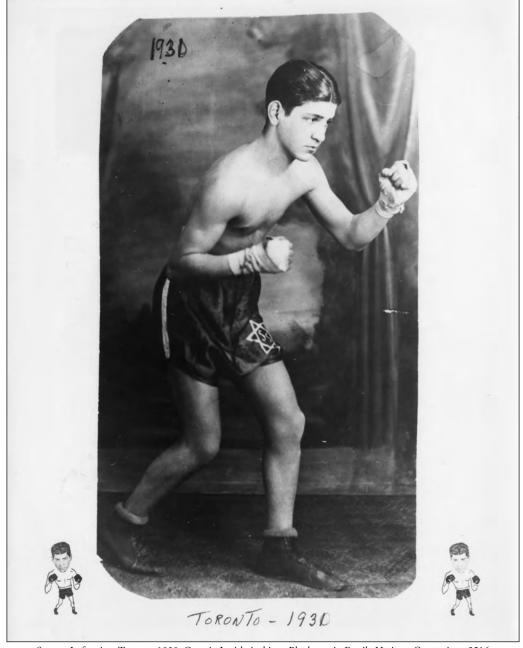






SAMMY LUFTSPRING

Jewish Canadian Boxing Legend



Sammy Luftspring, Toronto, 1930. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, item 2516

- Born May 14, 1916 in **The Ward** to working-class Jewish parents
- Parents emigrated from Eastern Europe
- Moved to Kensington Market when he was a child
- Became a famous boxer in the 1930s
- Known for his fighting skills and Jewish pride
- Always wore a Star of David on his boxing shorts

ANTI-SEMITISM

Discrimination on the Rise in Europe



Toronto Daily Star (1900-1971); Aug 8, 1933; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Toronto Star pg. 1

- 1933 Adolf Hitler becomes the leader (Chancelor) of Germany
- Hitler is leader of the **Anti-Semitic** Nazi party
- Nazis blame Jews for many of the problems in Germany
- Toronto newspapers report of German persecution of Jews

ANTI-SEMITISM

Apparent in Toronto



The emergence of "Swastika Clubs" in Toronto. The Evening Telegram, August 1, 1933; https://torontoist.com/2017/02/historicist-strike-hitlerism/

- Acts of aggression and intimidation toward Jews in Toronto
- High number of Jewish newcomers in the early 1930s
- The Great Depression when many people could not find jobs
- Swastika clubs recruit 400 members in Beach neighbourhood
- Gangs of young white protestants wearing Swastikas would patrol the eastern beaches to intimidate Jewish beachgoers

CHRISTIE PITS RIOT



- August 15, 1933 a riot breaks out at Christie Pits park
- Baseball tournament: Swastika Club members taunt Jewish team
- A white flag with a Swastika symbol was unfurled
- Jewish members of the crowd rushed the flag
- 6 hour brawl involved hundreds to thousands of people

BERLIN OLYMPICS 1936



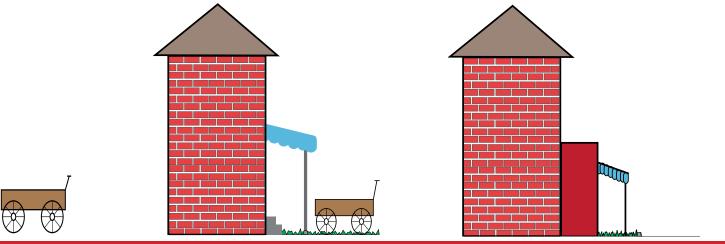
https://www.gettyimages.ca/detail/news-photo/the-olympic-torch-is-carried-into-the-stadium-during-the-news-photo/3046704

- 1936 Olympics held in Berlin (capital of Germany)
- Sammy Luftspring qualifies to box for Canada in these Olympics
- He boycotts the Olympics (choose not participate) in protest of Nazi Germany's anti-semitic policies

Houses become Shops



Toronto, street view of Kensington market. Library and Archives Canada; http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4315591



- First, Jewish peddlars sold goods from carts in the streets
- Later, peddlars parked carts at their home, people came to them
- Eventually, these entrepreneurs added extensions to their homes with awnings, turning living rooms into stores

Rules of Shabbat

Shabbat (hebrew) / Sabbath (english) / Shabboz (yiddish):

- a day of rest and spiritual enrichment
- observed from sunset on Friday to sundown on Saturday



Bella Tichberg and her cousin in front of Lottman's Bakery, 172 Baldwin St., Toronto, [194-]. Lottman family collection, Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, accession 2013-11-2

- Braided challah breads are a fixture of Sabbath dinners
- Challah was baked and ready for purchase on Fridays
- Most businesses were closed on Saturday to observe Shabbat
- In 1931, there were 6 different bakeries:
 - 3 on Kensington Ave.
 - 3 on Baldwin St.

Kashrut

Kashrut:

- laws about food that can/cannot be eaten and how it is prepared
- following kashrut means keeping a kosher diet
- "Jewish Market" businesses reflect the demand for kosher food





http://spitalfieldslife.com/2012/06/18/working-people-a-dog/02-a-kosher-butcher-e-2-62/

Kashrut: Meat and poultry must die in a very specific way

- Shochet (Shaw-het) was specially trained to do this work
- Jewish Shochets worked in alleys like this for years

Selling Live Poultry



Kensington Market, 1926 NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA PHOTO; https://www.cjnews.com/culture/entertainment/film-to-look-at-changing-kensington-market

Kashrut: Specific birds may not be eaten (e.g., Ostrich) Poultry (chicken, geese, ducks and turkey) are permitted

- Live poultry was sold all over the market
- In a time of poor refrigeration, alive means fresh!
- Taking live poultry to the shochet made sure it was kosher
- In 1931, there were 15 different poultry sellers:
 - 1 on St. Andrew St.
 - 8 on Kensington Ave.
 - 6 on Baldwin St.

Kosher Butchers



M. Grossman butcher shop, Toronto, 1940. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, fonds 33, series 4, item 12

Kashrut: Jews can only eat mammals with cloven hooves that also chew their cud (e.g., cows, goats, sheep and deer)

- Kosher butchers in the market sold only meat that followed Kashrut
- In 1931, there were 7 different kosher butchers:
 - 2 on St. Andrew St.
 - 4 on Kensington Ave.
 - 1 Baldwin St.

Dairies



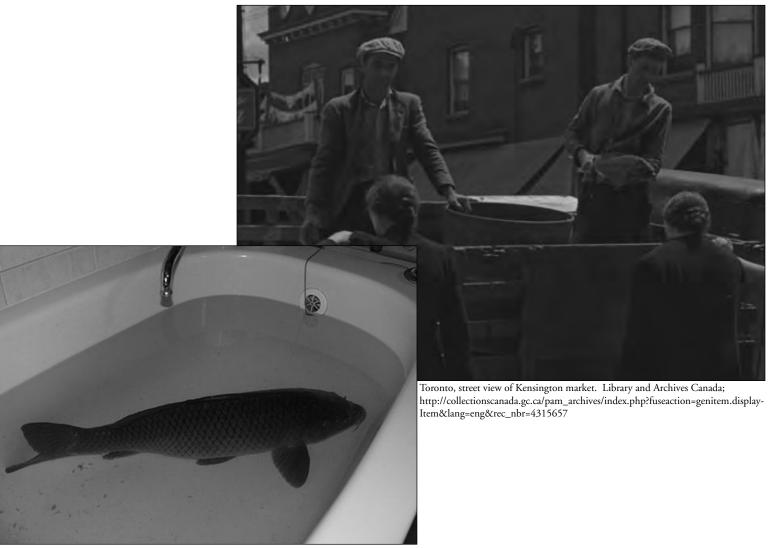
Trachter's Milk Store, 71 Kensington Ave., Toronto, May 1925. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, item 2947

Kashrut: milk products cannot be cooked or eaten with meat (e.g., cheese with mammals or birds)

- In 1931, there were 3 different dairies on Kensington Ave.
- Above is an example of "Yinglish" (mix of yiddish and english)
- Sometimes English words were spelled out in Yiddish
- Photo above:

English words: Milk Store written out in Yiddish: מילק פשאר

Fish Dealers



https://www.heritagefl.com/story/2017/04/14/features/remembering-that-carp-in-my-grandparents-bathtub/7827.html

Kashrut: fish, fruits, and vegetables are considered **pareve Pareve:** (Par-veh): neutral, can be eaten with dairy or with meat

- Many bought live fish (like carp above)
- Live fish kept in the bathtub until ready to prepare for Shabbat
- In 1931, there were 10 fish dealers:
 - 4 on Kensington Ave.
 - 6 on Baldwin St.

GARMENT WORKERS



Small Toronto garment workshop, [192-]. International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) collection, [192-]. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, accession 1978-4-6.

Look at this photograph with your team and discuss:

- What do you think is happening here?
- Does it seem like a pleasant occupation?
- Do you think these people enjoy their work? Why/why not?

GARMENT WORKERS



Image from Eaton's - Golden Jubilee (1869-1919) (T. Eaton Co Ltd., 1919). https://torontoist.com/2011/01/historicist_sewing_the_seeds_of_discontent/

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GARMENT WORKERS

Strike 1931



Pickets, Dressmakers General Strike, Dressmakers Union I.L.G.W.U, 1931. Ontario Jewish Archives, Blankenstein Family Heritage Centre, item 1440.

Look at this photograph with your team and discuss:

- Describe what you think a strike is.
- What you think is happening here?
- Why do you think people chose to go on strike?
- What perspectives are missing from this picture?

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http://www.mariaismyname.com/2014/



https://tayloronhistory.com/2015/02/26/capturing-torontos-kensington-market-in-art/ "Early morning—the corner of Kensington Avenue and Baldwin Street—Kensington Market," Doug Taylor



https://tayloronhistory.com/2015/02/26/capturing-torontos-kensington-market-in-art/ "Kiever Synagogue 2005—Kensington Market," Doug Taylor