



May 2002 – Canadian Ain-Ebel Association



Dear fellow members

One year went by and we, as committee members are taking the time to reflect on our achievements and future goals. In general it has been a good year where more and more families have come together under the umbrella of the CAEA. This club can not exist without your support and can not succeed without your contribution. Our coherence and harmony has never been so demanded. Our goals for the future have never been more focused and defined. We managed to layout the basis of a solid foundation for a strong and lasting organization. This past year was filled with activities ranging from organized Sahras to Xmas & Easter events to outings, picnics and special trips. We also managed to bring the children together under an exciting and educational program that allowed them to perform during numerous occasions. The best achievement of this year was the long waited: "Return of the YOUTH". This generation is currently presented by two full time board members: Paul Haddad and Tony Boulos.

Having said all that, we can assure you that this was only the tip of the iceberg. The CAEA committee has a 6 point layout for a futuristic view summarized as follows:

- 1. Bring all the Ain Eblis together under the CAEA wings. Achieve harmony and consistency amongst all members of all age groups.*
- 2. Establish a permanent physical and cyber link between our club in Canada, other Ain Ebli clubs throughout the world and the mother village in Lebanon. This step is highlighted by the introduction of a CAEA Web Site and a quarterly News Letter exchanged with other Ain Ebli news letters from other clubs around the world.*
- 3. Political involvement of the CAEA, locally, provincially and federally.*
- 4. Establish a permanent club house financed by direct contributions, revenues, events and sponsorships. With a modest but determined commitment, this dream is just around the corner from being a reality.*
- 5. Establish a database of all Ain Eblis abroad under one reference highlighting our strengths. This database will be the foundation of the new WWAC (World Wide AinEbli Congress) which consists of all clubs joined together under one authority to unite our work, expose our potentials and utilize our strengths.*
- 6. Introduce the "Immigrants Festival" (Mahrajan Al-Moughtaribeen) to take place in Ain Ebel on a yearly basis on the week of Eid El SAIDEH. The purpose of this festival is to bring as many Ain Eblis together as possible in order to keep and strengthen our ties for generations to come.*

*These are long and short term goals that can only be achieved by joining every little step that each one of us takes. For those of you who did not join because we had no goals, we say to you: its time you come on board; **we need you**. For those of you who have joined already, we thank you; **you made the big difference**.*

Director of Planning (J. Diab)

كلمة العدد

سألني مرة أحد الأطفال قال :
من نحن بالنسبة لهذا الكون ؟
أجبتة بكل جدية وتأتي محاولا أن
يكون لجوابي ما يبقي في طباط
ذاكرته قليلا من الفخر والاعتزاز .
قلت: نحن جماعة من المهاجرين إلى
هذه البلاد الخيرة لكل منا سبب دفعه
للقدوم ولكن يجمعنا الأصل والتراث
والحلم والرجاء...
يعود بنا الأصل إلى قريتنا الحبيبة
التي نعز بها حاضرة أنارت منطقة
الجنوب في لبنان العزيز وكان لها
مواقف وشهادات وستبقى منبرا
ومعلم.

وتراثنا بني على الانفتاح واحترام
الأخر، على قيم رافقتنا ولا تزال
تغزينا من نفحها فيميزنا عن الكثيرين
هذا الدفق من المحبة والاندفاع.

وحلمنا أن نكون دوما متحدين
طموحين لا يوقف تقدمنا حدودا أو
مخاوبا، نتعاون على الخير ونسعى
للأفضل وفي ذاكرة كل منا مهما
ارتفع في المنصب والجاه صورة
لعين إبل يجلها بريشته ويزينها
بألوانه وما أكثر اللوحات.

أما رجاؤنا ففي المسيح الذي ما جاءنا
فيلسوبا ولا قادنا مقاتلا أو أنزل علينا
الثراء، بل ذلك الذي حملنا ثقل الخير
وكبنا بالغفران والتسامح وصيرنا
الملح الذي يملح والخميرة التي تخمر
بمثاله ومحبه وقد أعطانا الرجاء في
هذا العالم وما بعده فصبرنا على
المشقات والضيم وسنبقى شهودا له
مهما تقلبت الأحوال وتغيرت الرياح
واشدت الأهوال.

ثلاثة هي ثوابت هويتنا: جذورنا
المشرقية الضاربة عمقا بالتاريخ،
ومجموعة تقاليدنا والقيم والمفاهيم،
وإيماننا المسيحي الواضح والغير
المتزعزع.

تلك كانت اجابتي على هذا الصغير
لسؤاله الكبير فهل سيبقى الجواب في
ذاكرته وذاكرتنا أم أن وهج الأيام
ومفاتيح الآتي سيجففان الجذور
لنصبح كالحشائش الربيعية جمال
فتان مؤقت يمر كسحابة صيف...
رئيس التحرير

Events

The children's activities

The children's Christmas party was held on December 9, 2001. It was attended by members of all ages and was a great success. The children's group performed some songs as well as demonstrated the traditional Dabkeh Dance. Following a delicious meal (which was prepared by ladies from our community), Santa Claus arrived bearing gifts and treats for all the children. To top the evening off, a raffle was drawn and various gifts (all donated from different members) were won by many. The evening was a great success, enjoyed by all.

The Easter party was held on March 24, 2002. Again, the children's group performed various songs that they had learned throughout the year. The Easter Bunny came hopping along with chocolate and candy treats for the young ones. The Easter gathering was also enjoyed by all that attended.

The weekly children's group came to an end for the summer season on April 29, 2002. We look forward to resuming a weekly children's group in the fall. Stay tuned for details.

جمع سهرة دافئة في ليلة من ليالي تورونتو القارصة

السهرة الثانية لهذه السنة كانت في المطعم اللبناني الجديد الذي افتتح في ميسيسوغا وقد جمعت حوالي المائة شخص من أعضاء النادي والأصدقاء . وكان الجو عائليا خيم عليه المرح والطرب وأضافت المازة اللبنانية والخدمة الجيدة مع صوت المطرب وموسيقى الفرقة، المسحة المطلوبة لتصبح إحدى أجمل السهرات التي تميزت فيها الدبكة العنبلية وفرضت نفسها على ساحة الرقص . ولكن المفاجأة الكبرى كانت عندما دخلت الراقصة بزى الرقص العربي لتسيطر على المكان وتضفي برونقها وخفتها ورشاققتها لونا آخر ذكرنا بليالي لبنان ...

ولكن اللجنة قررت أن تسعى لتأمين مكان يمكن فيه استيعاب ما أمكن من الأعضاء والأصدقاء وبنفس الوقت إحلال الجو العائلي واعطاء المجال أوسع لتقارب أكبر ولمزيد من الاختلاط فكانت فكرة اللقاء الشهري التي تبلورت بعد سهرة رأس السنة حيث شعر الجميع بالتقارب والعفوية التي تخيم على سهرات خاصة بالنادي تميزها عن المقاهي والملاهي العامة ولو كانت تحتاج لمجهود أكبر ولالتزام أهم من قبل الجميع، وأصلا ما هو النادي إذا لم يكن التزام وجهد وتعاون؟ ...

New Years eve Ain Ebel Style

After numerous discussions and deliberations, the board decided, at the last minute to have an impromptu New Year's Eve Party.

We wanted to show our appreciation to all those people who became members, and we thought that having a member's only party would be the way.

So within a matter of days, a party was organized, people contacted, and the party was on.

Bill and Antoinette Diab graciously donated the use of their office hall, and the rest of the board pulled the rest together. And what a New Years Eve party it was. Everyone brought their food and drinks, their dancing shoes, and their party attitude and it all began. The food was abundant; the music played on till the wee hours of the night, and 2002 was welcomed in good cheer and champagne.

Needless to say, it was a huge success, it was a chance to get together, celebrate and renew old bonds. It went so well that the board decided to have another there similar parties, with one exception, it would be open to non-members at a nominal fee.

For all those who attended and who made the evening a success, many thanks.

We hope these events, and attempts to bring us closer together, and to make sure that we stay a solid and connected group will continue for many years to come.

Activities for the summer

- Wonderland late June (contact Rim for info)
 - Bronte Creek Picnic July 07/2002
(Baseball B)
 - Wild Water Kingdom July 28/2002
- “Our Lady of Lebanon” Festival in Lemington
August 09, 10 & 11/2002
For reservation at the “Peelee Days Inn”
Room for a family of four for \$109/night
A personal reservation should be made two
weeks prior to the date mentioned above.
For more information call Nabil or Nora.

Notice

As you might know the election of a new committee should take place during the last week of May and the new elected team should start the work on June.

To be able to better prepare the summer activities we are suggesting that the election be postponed to the first week of September and the new year start at the same date.

Considering this, as a fact now that we didn't call for a general meeting and the election didn't take place yet if you disagree with our proposal please make your points in writing so we can take it into consideration.

Thank you.

مواهب فنية
يجب أن تشجع... من يدري؟..

ذكرى ... ولا تعداد...

نظرت في وجه الظلام ورأيت امرأة الطفولة
طفولة بكاء وعذاب طفولة بريئة مرمية
عند أقدام الجبال أولاد تركض متعريه
من عذابات الحياة ومن أخطاء الإنسانية

فبكيت وتذكرت يوما فيه ظلمات مخفية
كنت أركض وثيابي حمراء قاتمة مروية
بصريف الأسنان والذعر وبكاء الأطفال مدمية
"لقد أتوا" قالت امرأة وإذا برعود غربية
سيارات نازلة مسرعة وبالأصوات النارية
فنظرت ولم أرى أمامي إلا شعوبا غازية
أعداد وأعداد كثيرة لم تكن أعدادا خيالية
ساعتها عرفت ما الأمر ورأيته حقيقة مدوية
وداعا يا بلدي الحبيب ويا جنود الحرية

ليتها ترجع يوما تلك الأيام السنية
بل تفتح لي الأبواب لشباب روحه حيوية
والمجد والإخلاص لدموع من صخر البرية
واختفت المرأة والماضي وصورة أرض سماوية
بوعد رجوع الطفولة لكل الأنفاس الهنية

مارك دياب

Keep your eyes open for Men's Beach Volleyball starting in June of this year. You will receive an email from us with all the info.

We will be hosting a pool tournament at a local pool hall in June of this year. Look for an email from us soon.

If you are interested in playing beach volleyball and / or joining the pool tournament and would like to get more information, contact Paul Haddad by phone at (416) 579-3774, or by email at paulhaddadis@rogers.com, or Tony Boulos at (905) 890-0985.

Also we would like to inform you about a cultural activity starting in June concerning a series of Historical Sessions (one night per week) covering Lebanon's history and focusing on our region, more information will be e-mailed to you later on.

We kindly ask you to take a couple of minutes and send an email to paulhaddadis@rogers.com so we can record your email address for future notifications.

Thank you

“Lebanon, More Than Just A Country”

Written by: **Rachelle Mackeigan**

Each time I visit Lebanon, I am awestruck not only by the beauty of its landscape, but also by the beauty of its people. The famous Lebanese love for life, family, and God is something that is rare and unrivaled, perhaps anywhere else in the world. From the generous land of Lebanon come many wonderful things, but perhaps most wonderful of all is the saints that have been born there. The three saints of Lebanon, St. Hardini, St. Charbel, and St. Rafqa are all miraculous examples that Lebanon is more than just a country. It is a mission of civilization, love, and redemption for the Middle East and the entire world. Of the three saints that Lebanon has produced, the one that has most often touched my heart is St. Rafqa. Often described as “the salt of the earth and the light of the world,” St. Rafqa’s grace and faith is an example and a pillar of strength we can look to.

Her physical suffering was worse than anyone could ever imagine. As her suffering progressed, her right eye became like an empty hollow, with no eye. She could see a little, off and on, through her left eye but eventually she lost her sight completely. She suffered great pain in both eyes even after she became totally blind and the pain did not leave her, day or night, until the day she died. In addition to total blindness, St. Rafqa suffered from nose bleeding which caused the total weakening of her body. She used to bleed about four times a week, and each time she used to lose 1 liter of blood.

Pain spread all over her body that became dislocated. Her body was extremely weak, her bones were dislocated and she became paralyzed. She felt unbearable pain in her sides and toes. The bones of her right side became dislocated and moved backward from their original place, then disappeared from her body leaving a hollow with no trace of wound. So too, was it the case with her right knee. The bones of her left side became dislocated too, and went out of their place, piercing the skin and becoming apparent. The bones of her shoulders were also dislocated, piercing the skin and touching her neck. She stayed laying on her right side until her death.

Amidst all her suffering, St. Rafqa never complained at all. In fact, when her pain was the greatest she would pray, “For God’s glory, in participation with Jesus’ Passion and with Your crown of thorns, my Lord”. Through her great love of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph as well as through the sacrifice of her great physical suffering, God has performed many miracles through her. The first miracle made through her intercession, was with mother superior Ursula Doumit who was cured from an abscess in her neck after putting on it soil from St. Rafqa’s tomb.

Thousands of miracles have poured: resurrection of a dead, cure from cancer, cure from paralysis, cure from kidney and stomach diseases, cure from head diseases, cure from blindness, muteness, insanity, and bleeding... The news of her miracles has spread and people from everywhere now travel to her tomb, asking for some soil, in order to get the blessing of curing.

At dawn, on the 23rd of March 1914, St. Rafqa was finally granted peace. The secret of her sainthood is that she embodied the image of Jesus, the Savior, with her weak body and simple life.

All of you who come from the beautiful land that is Lebanon are truly blessed to belong to part of such a great miracle. All of us can take comfort in knowing that St. Rafqa, along with the other saints, is watching over Lebanon and the world.

St. Rafqa, the Lebanese Maronite Nun – (1832-1914)

عين إبل والهجرة

قصتنا مع الهجرة قصة طويلة بدأت بعودة الحياة إلى عين إبل يوم قدم الحدود مهاجرين من شمال لبنان حيث ضاقت الأرض بهم فكان الجهد رفيفهم والنشاط والخبرة التي اكتسبوها في الجبال عوناً لهم ليستقروا ويعمروا تلك الخرب فتزهر معهم التلال وترجع القطعان إلى المراعي وتجل الحفافي وتزين الأرض بالأشجار المعطاء ويدفق الخير مواسم وغلل.

وهجرتنا الثانية هي هجرة أيضاً نحو أفق جديد بدأت مع قوافل البحر البعيدة من مرفأ صور نحو أمريكا بلاد الخير الجديدة وكأني بهؤلاء المغامرين المرتحلين فينيقيي صور العتيقة يمخرون عباب البحر ليدخلوا المستحيل فينشؤا المدن والحضارات أو يعودوا بالكروز والبضائع. هجرتنا هذه دفعت بأفواج عاد بعضهم ليغني البلدة بالخير وبالأفكار الجديدة فتزدهر أكثر. ولكن القهر الذي لحق في الحرب الكبرى زاد من أفواج المهاجرين الهاربين من الجور إلى بلاد جديدة ونحو أفاق الخير ما وراء البحار.

وهجرتنا الثالثة كانت هجرة قريبة نحو المدن: حيفا أو بيروت يوم ضاق العالم على الفلاحين والرعاة وفتح العلم مجال الاستخدام صنعة جديدة أكثر أماناً وأقل جهداً. ثم دخلت الصناعات الحديثة باب رزق أوسع وصارت الهجرة إلى بلاد النفط خبز الناس اليومي وحلم الشباب الطالع. وهكذا يتربى الصغار، كما في صور العتيقة على حلم البحر والمغامرة، على أحلام الهجرة والانفلات من قيود المكان الضيق إلى بحار العالم والجزر البعيدة. ويحط في بلاد الصقيع، في سهول الشمال الواسعة، أحد هؤلاء العينبليين لتبدأ قصة هجرة جديدة إلى البلاد التي نحيبها اليوم بالجهد والعطاء بالنشاط والمثابرة بالإيمان والفخر لتكون واحدة من أكثر البلدان تطورا يتسابق الناس للانتماء إليها والإقامة في ربوعها.

هذا المغامر الذي سيحكي لنا قصته مطولا هو رئيس النادي وعميد العينبليين في كندا وخاصة منطقة تورونتو السيد طوني خليل دياب الذي هاجر إلى هذه البلاد منذ أكثر من أربعين سنة وقد عرفها من القطب إلى الشلالات وكان رأس الجسر لأفواج المهاجرين ومثالا للمثابرة والنشاط جعلت الجالية العينبيلية هنا تتميز عن الجاليات الأخرى في عدم الإكتفاء بتأمين الخبز بل بالاندفاع لتصدر المجتمع. وسوف نحكي في العدد القادم عن قصة هذا المهاجر ونلحقها بقصص العينبليين المغامرين في العالم أينما وجدوا لنتعرف على جاليات أخرى وأشخاص لهم تأثيرهم في تقدم مجتمعا ورقية ووربط تلك الحلقة الكبرى بالمدرسة الأم بالبلدة الحبيبة وآمالها في البنين المنتشرين في أقطار المعمورة يوزعون صورة الخير التي تربوا عليها والقيم التي نهلوا منها فصارت الأرض كلها ملعبهم يزينونه بالنجاح والإقدام ...