

Exhibit takes boomers back to the 1950s, '60s and '70s

Toronto artist Ian Leventhal, well-known for his colourful murals and whimsical sculptures, is one of the creative minds behind a new exhibit at Baycrest that celebrates growing up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

"Our exhibit combines lively artwork with nostalgic memorabilia that will instantly evoke fond memories for boomers," says Leventhal. "For our '50s display, we've borrowed a school desk of the era and have all the familiar books, such as 'What's a Mitzvah?' and 'The World Over,' as well as report cards and class photos from people in the community. We've created a 'Dinner at Bubbie's' scene, featuring sculptures of a grandmother and her grandchildren setting the table for the Shabbat meal.

"The 'Youthquake' display is a wild combination of the fashions, music and social life of the '60s," he adds. It includes a cake by Dufflet Rosenberg created to look like the one served at her brother's bar mitzvah. "And the centerpiece of our '70s display is a full-size wedding scene, with the bride, groom and bridesmaid in authentic dress of that time period."

Arlene Perly Rae has loaned the exhibit her confirmation photo and several well-known boomers, including editor Bonnie Fuller, have

contributed to a "Name That Baby" photo display.

Gary Topp, an award-winning music and film promoter who established The Original 99-Cent Roxy Theatre and brought The Police, Ramones and Dixie Chicks to Toronto, has contributed music memorabilia to the exhibit, including a Beatles pennant, CHUM Charts and a 1966 edition of "Hoot" magazine featuring a young Joni Mitchell on the cover.

"We're hoping that by re-creating fond memories of our growing up years, boomers will rekindle their pride in Jewish heritage and become more interested in what's happening at Baycrest," says Leventhal.

Get Back: The Boomer Experience, Growing Up Jewish in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, runs until September 2006, and has received generous support from David Buckstein, Barrday Inc., RBC Foundation, Downsview Chrysler, Harry Rosen Inc., and Danson, Recht, Voudouris, LLP, Barristers and Solicitors. Guided tours can be arranged by calling 416-785-2500, ext. 2802.

Committee members (left to right) Simmie Antflick, Sharyn Recht, Ian Leventhal and Debra Verk don their authentic 1960s garb to promote the new exhibit in the Baycrest Heritage Museum.

