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## Sod turned for Jewish veterans' memorial

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A soaring memorial honouring Jewish war veterans will inspire generations of Torontonians, Mayor David Miller said yesterday.

Miller joined a host of dignitaries and veterans at a sod-turning ceremony for "Flames of Memory," designed by renowned architect Daniel Libeskind.

The monument, at Earl Bales Park near Bathurst St. and Sheppard Ave., will recognize the Jews who have fought for freedom worldwide, and in particular Canadian Jews who fought in World War II.

"I want to thank the war veterans for ensuring generations in the heart of Toronto will remember those who fought to give us our freedom," Miller said at the ceremony, organized by the Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Also on hand were Ontario Community Safety Minister Monty Kwinter, federal cabinet minister Ken Dryden and Senator Art Eggleton.

The monument is expected to be completed next July at a cost of \$5 million, said Lou VanDelman, executive director of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada.

"We want to make sure the next generations understand war is not glorious. It is inhumane and gruesome," VanDelman said.

The Jewish veterans' group commissioned Libeskind, designer of the redevelopment of the new World Trade Center in New York, to create the monument.

New York-based Libeskind is responsible for two other local architectural projects — the makeovers of the Royal Ontario Museum and the Hummingbird Centre for the Arts.

Libeskind's 25-metre-high memorial will include a sunken amphitheatre and a swooping, angled wall topped with Hanukkah lights. There will also be a "flame" representing freedom, a Wall of Remembrance with the names of Jewish war veterans, and flags of 26 nations.

Libeskind told the *Toronto Star* he agreed to this small project "because of its profoundly Jewish subject, because there is nothing more important than honouring these people who must not be forgotten."

Organizers plan to pay for the monument mainly through a fundraising campaign. To date, they have

raised \$500,000. They are also hoping 30 per cent of the cost will be covered by Ottawa and the province.