

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

NORTH CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE: Visitors to the New Hampshire town of North Conway have many activities to choose from, which span all four seasons. This includes some of the finest skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, golfing, fishing, canoeing, camping, family attractions, scenic tours, shopping and leaf peeping in the entire country!

For shopping, the Settlers Green Outlet

Village on Route 16 and the White Mountain Outlet Stores on White Mountain Highway attract most of the traffic. Log on to www.northconwaynh.com. Storyland is nearby and a big favorite with the kids, who also have outdoor waterslides, mini-golf, go-karts, museums and trains from which to choose.

WHERE TO STAY: One of North Conway New Hampshire's newest hotels, the Hampton Inn and

Suites (www.hamptoninnnorthconway.com), boasts a four-storey, attached, indoor water park as well as an onsite fitness center. The hotel only opened in 2006, yet it still looks spanking new. When you check in, there is a large plate of soft chocolate chip cookies to welcome you.

There are 97 rooms and suites here. Our family decided to get connecting rooms, which translated into a very nice suite-like atmosphere. One room had a king size bed and a large walk-in shower; the other two queen beds. We requested a small fridge for

the room. A few doors down was an on-site laundry machine, with plenty of machines. People tend to come here for extended stays to enjoy all of the attractions in the area, so having such an option can be a real bonus.

The hotel has complimentary wireless high-speed internet access, a hot breakfast buffet served until 10 a.m. each day, "on the run" breakfast bags for folks on the go, an onsite fitness center, a business center with computers and a printer, an onsite suite shop convenience store and even a babysitting service.

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RAIZEL CANDIB (LEFT), PRINCIPAL OF MERTON Elementary School in Cote St. Luc is joined by Hanna Eliashiv (right), the new coordinator of the Hebrew PELO Heritage Language Program at the school. Eliashiv will oversee a growing and dynamic program that will provide for expanded lessons and experiences that will further help develop the students' connection to their Jewish culture and heritage.

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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

placed right behind the coffee bar. Drop by or make an appointment. Info: 514-739-4746.

MAYOR IN ISRAEL:

Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay recently returned from his first trip to Israel and the West Bank, having headed a high profile one week economic mission in cooperation with the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal and its team of experts in the field of international trade, known as the World Trade Centre Montreal. The delegation was made up of more than 40 officials representing businesses, universities and Montreal organizations. Several high profile members of the Jewish community were included. Among them were Israel Consul General Joel Lion, former Montreal city councillor and present-day real estate broker Saulie Zajdel, lawyers Aaron Makovka, Eric Maldoff, Alexandre Abecassis, David Berger, Harry J. Bloomfield, academics Rose Goldstein and Dr. Moshe Szyf from McGill University, businessmen Barry Kotler, Danny Lavy and Stephen Shiller and Nancy Rosenfeld from the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Family Foundation.

unlimited use of the indoor water park, home to Fernando the Frog, a six-foot amphibian with a mini waterslide connected to a heated pool. The water park

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Hampton's new Cloud Nine bedding boasts pillow top mattresses and all white duvets. I really appreciated the small portable cushioned laptop tables, which makes typing while sitting in bed or in a chair a real breeze. There is no extra charge here to bring your pet. Ditto for cribs or roll-aways. The hotel plans different activities, such as movie nights and BINGO games.

Rates here include

features dozens of interactive water activities and slides, twisting flumes, a raining umbrella, and more.

DINING: Close to the Hampton Inn and Suites is Merlino's Steakhouse (www.merlinosteakhouse.com), which features only Certified Angus Beef. They also serve some of the finest Italian food, using time tested family recipes, chops and ribs, fish and poultry,

Merlinos has a great children's menu, featuring

ziti with jumbo meatballs, kids smoothies, hot dogs, cheeseburgers, chicken fingers and pizza. You can even get a kids smoothie. There is a generous assortment of appetizers, soups and salads. I strongly recommend the Prime Rib, which comes in six, 12 and 18 ounce portions. The garlic mashed potatoes on the side are delicious. If Caesar salad is to your liking, a large bowl will be brought to the table for everyone to share. They even serve lobster, in the shell or a lazy man style (all cut up). I had the 14 ounce Delmonico steak and it was tender and juicy.

JEWISH CONNECTION: The closest Jewish community to North Conway is, yes, Bethlehem. It is about a 45 minute drive. Since 1919, the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation (www.bethlehemsynagogue.org) has maintained a house of Jewish worship to serve the religious, social, cultural and educational needs of New Hampshire's North Country year 'round and seasonal Jewish residents. It is located off Rt.302 on Strawberry Hill Road.

There are some 200 Jewish residents in Bethlehem, Littleton, Mount Washington Valley, Franconia, Easton and Sugar Hill. Hazzan Marlena Fuerstman notes that the Congregation does in fact have some members who commute regularly from North Conway to attend services. Fuerstman and her husband live in Jerusalem most of the year. They fly to New York in July, fill a cooler up with kosher meat and head to Bethlehem for the holiday period.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Readers can follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

We Join in Extending Rosh Hashanah Greetings to Our Jewish Friends and Customers
May the year ahead be blessed with peace and prosperity.

We Join in Extending Rosh Hashanah Greetings to Our Jewish Friends and Customers
May your year be blessed with happiness for family and friends.

Nous nous joignons tous pour souhaiter à nos amis juifs de Montréal et de la région, une Nouvelle Année heureuse, saine et prospère

We would like to extend our best wishes to the Jewish Community of the Greater Montreal area.

It is always a privilege to be able to be of service to the Jewish Community.

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