

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

BURLINGTON OVER HAMILTON: We had a family function to attend in Hamilton recently and after failing to find accommodations there that met with our approval, we turned to the neighbouring city of Burlington (<http://www.tourismburlington.com>).

Burlington is conveniently located between Toronto and Niagara Falls, at the centre of southern Ontario's "Golden Horseshoe" and has a population of 175,000.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: Burlington has a small Jewish community. The closest synagogues are in Hamilton and Oakville. In 1982, the Jewish community of Burlington merged with the Beth El congregation of Oakville. This amalgamation changed its name to Shaarei-Beth El. By 1986

the original Oakville synagogue proved to be too small and so new additions were added to the original building. The congregation became affiliated with the Reform movement in 1988. The synagogue continues to grow every year and has services on Shabbat and holidays, monthly Friday night services, and a comprehensive supplementary school for children from pre-school to Grade 10. Congregants at Shaarei-Beth El form a very active group with a strong sense of their Jewish identity. Congregants feel that simply being Jewish is not good enough, so they are constantly reaffirming their Judaism through synagogue activities and programs.

There is also Temple
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TAL MUSCAL (MIDDLE) LUFTHANSA'S CHARISMATIC Israeli-born director of group communications for the Americas, greets a passenger in Montreal. See item in Eye on Montreal, page 5.

Nous rendons hommage à la communauté juive et aux constructeurs, promoteurs, architectes et ingénieurs juifs qui ont contribué à la croissance de la région de Montréal.
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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

president of the Canada-Israel Committee-Quebec Region for over 15 years and was heavily involved in the rapprochement of cultural communities in Quebec

and Israel. He is perfectly bilingual and the worthy recipient of a number of prestigious awards for his community work and support of Israel, and of two

honorary doctorates.

Mr. Hecht and his wife, Riva established the Riva and Thomas O. Hecht Scholarship Program Teaching of the Holocaust for Educators (t-h-e-pro-

gram.org) 14 years ago as a way to promote Holocaust education for educators in Quebec.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca.

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Anshe Sholom Temple, another reform congregation and B'nai Shalom Congregation (Conservative) in Oakville. B'nai Shalom Congregation of Halton-Peel is a newly formed egalitarian Conservative shul serving Oakville, Burlington, Brampton and nearby Mississauga. The congregation currently consists of approximately 70 families and meets for monthly services in a local hall.

WHERE TO STAY:
The Hilton Garden Inn (www.torontoburlington.gardeninn.com) was indeed the deciding factor in our decision to base ourselves in Burlington, even though it meant a somewhat tiring 20 to 30 minute commute each day. Parking is free and the

hotel is located very close to a number of fun restaurants (Denny's, Milestones, Swiss Chalet, Harvey's, Kelseys and Montanas.) The hotel also has a good restaurant, the Garden Grille & Bar, which serves three meals a day and provides room service. There is a fitness center, pool and whirlpool as well. Each room has a mini-fridge, a microwave and a Keurig coffeemaker. A large Longo's supermarket is a few minutes away so we purchased a small order and had many of the essentials available. The rooms are spacious with nice comfortable sitting chairs, a fabulously comfortable working desk, plenty of light, a 37-inch

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Guy Ouellette

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flat-screen television, free Wi-Fi and generous drawer space. King suites are available for those who seek more space and you can also request connecting

rooms. The prices are more than reasonable, significantly lower than what certain two star hotels in Hamilton charge.

WHAT TO DO:
Spring, summer, fall, winter, Burlington is a city for all seasons with plenty to see and do.

The Royal Botanical Gardens are a draw, so is hiking on the nature trails, bird watching, museums, and the galleries at the Burlington Art Centre and presentations at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Spencer Smith Park is the large waterfront park where the pier, discovery landing (pond, rink, and restaurant) and major festivals are held.

In the summer the waterfront and downtown come to life with the annual Sound of Music Festival. Canada's largest free music festival kicks off summer festivities the week leading up to Father's Day. Stroll the downtown streets, lake-side boardwalk or Waterfront Trail; enjoy an invigorating mix of acclaimed Canadian and international performers, and emerging performers on bistro patios and the waterfront stages. There is also rock, jazz, folk, roots, pop, blues, Celtic, country and children's entertainment – musically something for everyone. Watersports, boating, golf and outdoor activities to enjoy at local parks and beaches add to the enjoyment. Burlington also has a swimmable and sandy beach, something which really intrigues me for a future summer visit. The Beachway Park Pavilion provides change rooms, outdoor showers, seasonal concession facilities featuring the snack shack and year round washrooms.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

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