

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

RETURN TO VANCOUVER: I recently returned from a trip to Vancouver (www.tourism-vancouver.com). It was my first time back in the province of British Columbia's largest city in five years.

WHERE TO STAY: There are more than 24,000 rooms in Greater Vancouver and more than 13,000 in the downtown core.

We split our stay between Vancouver and Whistler. In Vancouver we returned to the Rosedale on Robson (www.rosedaleonrobson.com), where we stayed in the past. Comfort, location, relaxation, entertainment, water and mountain views, this spot has it all! As historic Yaletown's only all suite hotel, the

Rosedale offers 217 one and two bedroom suites for the price of a conventional hotel room. You can choose from an array of suites.

The 21st floor penthouse suite is extraordinary. It features two bedrooms with king size beds and accompanying bathrooms, a nice glass table with four chairs, two sitting chairs, a pullout couch and a gorgeous patio complete with a propane barbeque and a table and chairs so you can dine or entertain outdoors with a beautiful view of the city. The galley kitchen has a fridge and freezer, a stove, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, sink, cutlery, dishes and plenty of counter space.

If you need time to relax head to the indoor

swimming pool or the second floor garden terrace. For the fitness minded, there is a second floor exercise area and equipment is at your disposal.

The hotel is situated on the corner of Hamilton and Robson Streets in Vancouver's turn-of-the-century Yaletown, a former warehouse district that has been converted into a hip and fresh destination. The Rosedale is perfect for the leisure traveller, being just steps away from the finest restaurants, shopping, galleries, live entertainment and sports Vancouver has to offer.

Some packages include a deluxe continental buffet breakfast in Goody's. This can also be purchased at an additional cost.

The hotel event desk offers sports packages to Canucks and B.C. Lions games. Other features include secure underground parking with in/out privileges, valet parking and safety deposit boxes. Jodi Sprackman is the manager of community relations. She is a proud member of the Jewish community, originally from Montreal and the daughter of Jewish cookbook legend Noreen Gilletz. Go to www.rosedaleonrobson.com or call Reservations at 604-689-8033 or toll-free at 1-800-661-8870. Among the community projects the Robson supports are the Jewish Book Festival and the Chutzpah Festival.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: Vancouver is home to

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Canada's third largest Jewish community, with 25,740 members. That is up from 16,565 in 1991 and 22,000 in 2001.

There are seven mainstream Jewish congregations in Metro Vancouver, one non-denominational congregation in White Rock, five Chabad houses and two Kollels. The Reform synagogues have the most members, closely followed by the Conservative and then Orthodox congregations. It is estimated that approximately one third of the identified Jewish community on the Lower Mainland are synagogue members.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver conducts the community's central fundraising initiative, the Federation Annual Campaign, which supports 40 partner agencies, locally,

nationally and in Israel. The Jewish education system includes five pre-schools, five day schools and nine supplementary schools. Youth and student organizations include Vancouver Hillel Foundation (<http://www.vancouverhillel.ca>), which serves Jewish students attending the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria, as well as other colleges in Metro Vancouver. There are additional Jewish youth organizations active in Metro Vancouver, says Becky Saegert, the Director of Marketing and Communications for the Jewish Federation.

PARKING TIP: Kevin Gillespie is now in his fifth year as general manager of the Sheraton Montreal
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OF ALL THE DANGER SPOTS IN THE WEST Bank, Hebron is probably the area Israelis fear the most. While there was no formal checkpoint as we entered Hebron, the Israelis had set up an "instant" checkpoint as they searched for those they suspected were plotting a terrorist attack. Also, since Jewish Israelis cannot legally enter Hebron without permission, Israelis checked our vehicle to ensure that our cab driver was Arab and that we were not Israeli citizens. Hostility among local Palestinians to the Israeli presence was palpable in Hebron, more so than anywhere else in the West Bank.



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EYE ON MONTREAL

(Continued from preceding page)

co-Chairs are Sarah Hutman and Lianne Routtenberg.

As an avid art collector, Nulman lends his creative strengths and sensibilities to this year's art auction. In addition to being a successful entrepreneur, he has been creating and leading major media projects for over three decades. He is the President, Festivals and Television, of Just For Laughs and is an acclaimed, thought-provoking public speaker/showman. He is also the author of three books amongst other accomplishments.

For almost 100 years, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) - a women's volunteer organization - has been dedicated to the support of Children, Healthcare and Women in Israel and Canada. Projects funded in Montreal include LOVE Quebec, the Montreal Children's Hospital, the Missing Children's Network, and women's shelters. For ticket information email :alanna@montreal.chw.ca or log on to www.chw.ca/montreal

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TRAVEL TALES

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Airport Hotel. This is the logical spot for you to park your car for a day, a week or longer rather than the

the airport itself. It is more secure, there is a convenient shuttle and you can even check in the night

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before your flight and not have to worry about that frantic last minute mad rush to catch your plane.

A recipient of the prestigious 2013 Prix Diamant Quatre (Four-Diamond Award), the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel is located less than a mile from the airport, near Via Rail, and a mere 25-minute drive from downtown. Completely remodeled in 2012, it is now under the banner of the Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide and is owned by the Aintabi and Varadi families

ilies. Well-respected in the hotel industry, Gillespie's presence is of particular interest to the Jewish community. Gillespie immersed himself in kashrut, Judaic customs and ceremonies, and the history of the Jewish people during the 1980s, when he served as sous chef at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel. He has brought that knowledge to Montreal.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

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tered a problem that forced them to seek alternate lodgings. The University now forbids the lighting of naked candles, thus preventing hasidim from the Shabbat

candles. The University claims that it has had serious issues with lit candles and that the decision was made in consultation with



WHILE ONE MIGHT THINK THAT THE ABOVE "Wall" protects Israel from terrorists entering from the West Bank, that is not the case. The above wall protects kibbutz Karem Shalom from terrorists infiltrating from Gaza. Still, it was "under" this fence and the barbed wire beside it that terrorists tunneled into the kibbutz in 2006 and snatched Gilad Schalit about 200 yards from where this photo was taken.

local fire officials. They point to the 2011 incident in which an elderly women was hospitalized with burns suffered from a Shabbat candle and to last year when a five year-old suffered severe burns when her dress caught fire at a kindergarten Shabbat party.

Attempts to mediate between the Orthodox and the university failed to produce a solution and hasidim chose to holiday elsewhere this year.

It is perhaps worth noting that both Chabad and Aish HaTorah have instituted fire safety pro-
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