

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO: My close friend Rob and his wife reside in Toronto. Twice a year they vacation virtually next door in Niagara Falls, Ontario. And they have good company, for this is the holiday capital of the world. Our family recently experienced our first winter visit there.

After spending the first several days in the USA, we stopped over in Canada, settling in at the

Sheraton By The Falls (www.niagarafallshotelsheraton.com). This place has a lot of things going for it, notably a passageway to North America's largest indoor waterparks and, if you are lucky, a breathtaking view of the actual Falls.

The Fallsview Indoor Waterpark (www.fallsviewwaterpark.com) is over 125,000 square feet of water park fun across from the Falls.

Located on the Falls Avenue Entertainment Complex, this is North America's largest indoor waterpark and hotel complex. It offers 16 water-slides (some up to six stories high), a 1,000 gallon tipping bucket, a full size wave pool, oversized adult only whirlpools, the Planet Hollywood Beach Club, a beach house, a tiny tots play area, a year-round outdoor pool and sundeck, the Canadian

Plunge Bowl and the Fallsview indoor beach. The waterpark features direct connections to the Sheraton, the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the Skyline Inn. Admission is \$34 per person. There is also a \$10 fee (\$5 refundable) for a small locker.

WHAT TO DO: Niagara Falls, Ontario is actually a great place to visit in the winter, from skating right near the
(Please turn to page 12)

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(Continued from page 6)

Falls to the Niagara Ice Festival which just wrapped up. Tourism Niagara (www.tourismniagara.com) is responsible for promoting all 12 municipalities that make up the region of Niagara and they do a fabulous job. Check out their website, which will lead you in the right direction. There is so much to do here. Looking ahead to the summer, make sure to experience Marineland (www.marinelandcanada.com), The Maid of the Mist and numerous other attractions. Just walking through the Clifton Hills district, a strip of the

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the major attractions and dining facilities of Niagara Falls, is a blast. Be sure to check out the Guinness World Records Museum, the Haunted House, Cinema 180 Adventure Dome, the Fun House and Mystery Maze, the MGM Experience and the Movieland Wax Museum.

For more information, call Tourism Niagara toll free at 1-800-263-2988. Stop at the Niagara Gateway Information Centre located at the Casablanca exit off the QEW in Grimsby where Tourism Niagara operates a year-round information centre. Travel counsellors can assist you with finding same-day accommodations at discounted prices, booking sightseeing tours, purchasing passports for wine events and even getting last minute theatre tickets. As well, visitors can save even more by purchasing discount tickets at Gateway for Niagara's most popular attractions. The Centre is open daily

from 9 am to 6 pm. and 8 am to 8 pm during July and August.

JEWISH COMMUNITY: There are about 500 Jews in the Niagara Falls, Ontario area. Congregation B'nai Tikvah (Reform) at 5328 Ferry in Niagara Falls may be small (about 50 families), but it is lively, with bi-weekly services, a religious school on Sundays for the children, an adult education program, and a very active youth group. Services are held every other Friday, usually at 8 p.m. There are extra services for the High Holidays. Visitors are always welcome. B'nai Israel Synagogue (www.bnaiisraelstcath.org) operates in nearby Ste. Catherines at 190 Church Street. This is a conservative congregation. You can call (905) 685-6767.

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