



Célébrons nos communautés inclusives

Celebrating inclusive communities



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Local athletes make a splash in Antagonish

Read about two local athletes who won big in Antagonish, and the 50th anniversary of Special Olympics in our feature on page 3.

Andrew Raymond Perez and Jessica Ipekian-Levitt at the Special Olympics Canada games in Antagonish, Nova Scotia. (Photo, Monique Levitt)





TRAVEL continued

By Mike Cohen

The Pan Pacific Vancouver exudes luxury



The beautiful pool area at the Pan Pacific.

VANCOUVER - While in Vancouver recently we had the pleasure to spend an entire day and evening at the spectacular Pan Pacific Vancouver (<https://www.panpacificvancouver.com>), located at Canada Place. If picturesque views and an urban getaway are what you are after, then the Pan Pacific Vancouver luxury hotel does indeed offer stunning vistas and is close to the city's best attractions.

A spectacular 23-storey, 503-room, deluxe property, the hotel debuted on Vancouver's downtown waterfront on January 8, 1986. This world-renowned property combines the warmth of Canadian hospitality with contemporary North American service excellence to provide a superlative experience for guests and visitors. Since its completion, the hotel has attracted royalty, visiting heads of state, and entertainment luminaries than any other hotel or resort property in Western Canada.

It was a beautiful summer day when we visited, so what better spot to stay than poolside at the sundeck. We thoroughly enjoyed the lovely outdoor facility, featuring a heated salt-water swimming pool and a hot tub. There is also an indoor sauna for total relaxation. The panoramic views of the city harbor and coastal mountains were impec-

cable. There is a ramp for wheelchairs at the entrance to the pool deck.

During high season you can order drinks and food poolside; at other times there is a telephone for you to call in orders. Pool attendant, Steve started us off with some drinks and provided us with a nice lunch menu. While I opted for a delicious grilled chicken sandwich and a small salad, the three other members of our party selected the house crafted Angus beef burger served on a sesame brioche bun. They also ordered small salads.

Located on the eighth floor, the poolside is so beautifully structured. We had plenty of room to spread out on the nice lounge chairs while a table with an umbrella provided us with the necessary shade and a spot to enjoy our lunch. The water temperature was ideal and we appreciated the assortment of noodles which enabled us to glide relaxingly in the pool.

I was fortunate to meet Stephen Peters, the distinguished and dynamic general manager. He was pleased to inform me that the hotel was 100 percent occupied at this time. We hope to come back and stay on the property when there is room somewhere down the line. I was very appreciative when Peters accepted my request for a personal tour. It was clear from the get go that he is a hands on GM.

There are more than 400 people on staff here. He clearly knew everyone who passed by us, from housekeepers to bellmen.

In 2017, this hotel concluded a massive renovation program for all of its rooms. Thirteen guest rooms are designed for the comfort and accessibility of special needs travelers. All public areas at the hotel, including meeting venues, restaurants and Canada Place common areas, are wheelchair accessible. As for wheelchair accessible rooms, they feature extra wide hallways, a peephole at the sitting level, sliding closet doors with bars, railings in the bathtub and beside the toilet, the sink counter is lower with no sink stopper, you can request items such as raised toilet seats, bath seats and health club passes for roll in shower usage from housekeeping. Hearing Impaired Rooms are equipped with strobe lights.

DINING AT OCEANS 999

We enjoyed a wonderful dining experience at one of the hotel restaurants called Oceans 999. Boasting amazing mountain and harbour views, the restaurant serves up a delightful selection of Pacific Northwest cuisine prepared using fresh local ingredients. Savour an array of exquisite Italian dishes ranging from succulent fresh fish to hearty pastas on Saturday nights, or an impressive range of the chef's favourites, including dim sum,

savoury carved roasts and delectable desserts on Sunday nights. Our party of five was expertly guided by our server Harry. We started off with some drinks and shared some appetizers: the shrimp gyoza (sustainable shrimp and chive dumplings with sriracha aioli and ponzu dipping sauce) and a tempura prawn dynamite roll (oceanwise prawns, wasabi mayonnaise, Japanese chili sauce, mango and cucumber). There are nice salads and soups of the day. We tried a variety of main courses: the fish of the day, a halibut served on a bed of couscous and some rice on the side; the butter chicken, with steamed onion and cumin scented basmati rice with crispy grilled poppadum; the tenderloin steak; lamb chops; and some fish and chips. The atmosphere was superb, with options to sit inside or on the terrace. A musician played nice music in the background. This is another way to experience this gorgeous property, especially if you are not staying here. The menu is on their website.

For more information about the hotel call toll free-free from Canada at 1 (800) 663-1515 and from the USA at 1 (800) 937-1515 or email reservations@panpacificvancouver.com.

