

NEWS

VANCOUVER

Home to growing Jewish community, Vancouver great place to visit

Mike Cohen

QUEBEC BUREAU CHIEF

The third-largest Jewish community in Canada continues to grow. Vancouver (www.tourismvancouver.com) is home to 25,740 Jews. 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 about a third of the identified Jewish community on the Lower Mainland are synagogue members.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver (www.jewishvancouver.com) 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 stu-



Hostess Tori Simons worked at Joe Fortes Seafood and Chop House before heading back to McGill. (Mike Cohen photo)

dent organizations include Hillel (<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, said

Becky Saegert, communications and marketing director for the federation.

As for accommodations when visiting, the Rosedale on Robson (www.rosedaleonrobson.com) offers 217 one- and two-bedroom suites for the price of a conventional hotel room.

Labelled as the "Hotel in the Heart of the Sports and Enter-

tainment District of Downtown Vancouver," the Rosedale on Robson was the recipient of the 2013 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence.

Jodi Sprackman, director of community relations, is the daughter of cookbook legend and *Jewish Tribune* columnist Noreen Gilletz. Among the community projects she works on with the hotel are the Jewish Book Festival and the Chutzpah Festival.

At the Vancouver Aquarium (www.vanaqua.org) you come face-to-fin with more than 70,000 animals, including beluga whales, steller sea lions, dolphins, seals and more. Eric

Solomon, the aquarium's Jewish director of Arctic connections, has more than 15 years of experience working in the field of science and environmental education and communication with museums, science centres and public aquariums in the US and Canada.

Check out the magnificent Arts Club Theatre Company (www.artsclub.com) at 1585 Johnston St. next to the public market. Shows are Tuesday through Sundays at what is called Western Canada's largest not-for-profit organization of its kind, having been in operation for 49 years. Coming pro-

ductions include Jewish playwright Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* and *Driving Miss Daisy*, starring Jewish actress Nicole Lipman.

There are some superb restaurants in Vancouver, including Joe Fortes Seafood & Chop House (www.joefortes.ca) on downtown Thurlow Street. It's owned by noted Jewish restaurateur David Aisenstat.

Tori Simons, a 19-year-old member of the Vancouver Jewish community, has been serving as a hostess at the restaurant this summer before heading to Montreal to resume her studies in anatomy and cell biology at McGill University.



Councillors present outgoing deputy mayor – and new MPP – with key to city

City councillors and Toronto Mayor Rob Ford presented outgoing Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday with a ceremonial Key to the City last week. Holyday will be taking a seat in Ontario's legislature after winning a recent byelection. "Doug Holyday has consistently been a strong supporter of Toronto's Jewish community and Israel. I could always count on his assistance with moving items through city council, including condemning the term Israeli Apartheid and updating the city's anti-discrimination policy," said Councillor James Pasternak. From left to right: Councillor Pasternak, Councillor David Shiner, Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, Councillor Norm Kelly, Councillor Frances Nunziata, MPP Holyday, Mayor Ford, Councillor Vincent Crisanti, Councillor Karen Stintz and Councillor Doug Ford.

EBay to cooperate with Israeli exporters

(JNS.org) – eBay plans to cooperate with the Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute (IEICI) for the first time.

For three months, the online retail giant will assist 10 Israeli

exporters with small businesses in the field of consumer goods by exporting their products through eBay's online commerce platform.

This is just the first stage in the planned cooperation.

"We see this support as a top value and hope to make it permanent in the future," said the head of eBay's business activity in Israel, Elad Goldenberg, according to Yedioth Achronoth

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