

Vancouver attraction FlyOver Canada has Montreal connection

Travel Spotlight

MIKE COHEN



VANCOUVER – A few years ago my family went to Epcot Centre at Walt Disney World in Florida and experienced Soarin', a flight simulator attraction that lifts guests on multi-passenger hang gliders for a scenic aerial tour of California.

Now this same experience has come to Vancouver (www.tourismvancouver.com). FlyOver Canada (www.flyovercanada.com) is a breathtaking, all-ages ride like no other. Here you take off into a huge domed screen with the latest in projection and ride technology, creating a true flying experience. The flight takes you from east to west across Canada, over some of the most spectacular scenery the country has to offer. High tech special effects and a beautiful original soundtrack all combine to make FlyOver Canada an unforgettable experience. This just opened on June 29. Operating hours are 10 am to 9 pm.

This \$16-million, 30-minute virtual flight ride experience is located at the Canada Place pier in the former IMAX theatre. The project has been nearly three years in the making and is financed by the Aquilini Investment Group, the owners of the NHL Vancouver Canucks. Participants, who are strapped to their seats, watch a scenic movie that fills their direct and peripheral vision. They are sprayed with mist when the movie shows a waterfall, smell trees when the movie shows a forest and feel the breeze when the movie shows a gusty landscape.

It begins with a pre-show called *Uplift*, produced by the Montreal-based **Moment Factory**. Guests of up to 60 in a group are brought into a room where they experience an audio-visual immersive show that builds context and audience anticipation prior to experiencing the main virtual flight ride.



One of several Beluga whales at the Vancouver Aquarium

Film shoots involved a small cast and a storyline that illustrates different Canadian lives at the “four corners” of the country. The pre-show is presented to guests in a custom-built room with state-of-the-art surround sound and multi-wall video projections.

We made our first visit to the Vancouver Aquarium (www.vanaqua.org), where you come to face-to-fin with over 70,000 animals, including beluga whales, Steller sea lions, dolphins, seals and more! Enjoy the dolphin and whale shows, sea otter feeds, and shark dives. Free-roaming animals abound in their popular Amazon Gallery. For a unique hands-on adventure, ask about the Animal Encounters program. You can call their easy to remember phone number: 604.659.FISH

The Rosedale on Robson (www.rosedaleonrobson.com) is a spot where Montrealers will definitely feel at home. Both general manager Jim Miller and director of community relations Jodi Sprackman are from Montreal.

This is historic Yaletown's only all suite hotel, offering 217 spacious one and two bedroom suites for the price of a conventional hotel room.

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.

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 event desk offers sports packages to Canucks and B.C. Lions games. Just steps away from the symphony, opera and live theatre, nearby venues include the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Centre For Performing Arts, and the Orpheum and Vogue Theatres. Sports enthusiasts can walk to Rogers Arena, home of the Canucks, and BC Place, home of the BC Lions. Close by are Granville Island, Chinatown, Kitsilano, English Bay, Stanley Park, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Grouse Mountain, Edgewater Casino, Vancouver Art Gallery, Telus World of Science, golf courses, and beautiful beaches.

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Echoes of Sun Youth

By Robert Ravensbergen

Sun Youth Communications Department



No Mulligans Necessary at Mordy Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament!

In celebration of both its 10th anniversary, and the life and contribution of Mr. Morris Gordon, the Sun Youth Annual Golf Tournament has been renamed the Mordy Gordon Memorial Golf Tournament. Mr. Gordon, who passed away last year, was a lifelong member to Sun Youth, always quick to offer new ideas and efforts to push the organization forward, including the founding of the Golf Tournament. The 2013 edition of the tournament, held on August 15th, attracted close to 150 golfers, and the proceeds from their participation and corporate sponsorships will go to Sun Youth's Sports & Recreation programs for children. Nearly \$90,000 was raised by this year's tournament alone, as the lifetime proceeds of the tournament have now exceeded \$500,000! The tournament is growing both in popularity and impact, and is acting not only as a financial boon for the organization, but as a living symbol for the exceptional contribution Mr. Mordy Gordon made throughout his lifetime to the organization - he may be missed, but he will always be remembered.

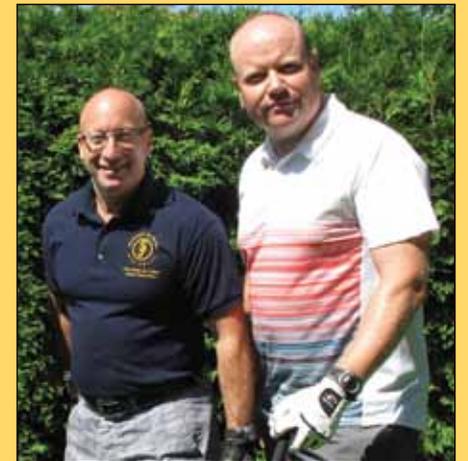


The Gordon family was honored for their continued support towards Sun Youth: (left to right) Robert Gordon, Frances Gordon, Michael Gordon and Ryan Gordon.



Former Montreal Canadiens players were among guests: (left to right) Carol Vadnais, Serge Savard, his daughter Catherine Savard and their friend Philippe Cholette.

the tournament, among them: National Bank of Canada, Des Sources Dodge Chrysler Jeep and Des Sources Fiat, Swiss International Airlines, Fabricland Distributors Inc., Jack Dym Investments Ltd., Scotia Bank and the RBC Foundation. “A debt of gratitude is owed to the tournament's organizing committee,” says Ernest Rosa, Director of Sports and Recreation at Sun Youth. “Without the help of private and philanthropic partners, Sun Youth would not be able to raise the funds necessary to continue to serve the community, taking innovative measures to ensure the safety, security and growth of those most in need.”



The Montreal Police have been supporting Sun Youth since the early days of the organization. SPVM Commander for Corporate Communications Ian Lafrenière (on the right) was among the guests at the tournament. Here, he poses with Tommy Kulczyk (on the left), Sun Youth's Assistant to the Executive Vice-President.



Sun Youth's cofounders Sid Stevens (left) and Earl De La Perralle (right) posing with Harry Schick (center) from Swiss Vienna Pastry. Mr. Schick was honored during the evening for his continued support towards Sun Youth.

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