

# Montrealers make Vancouver hotel feel like home

## Travel Spotlight

MIKE COHEN



**VANCOUVER-** As the city of Vancouver prepares to welcome the world for the 2010 Winter Olympics, a couple of native Montrealers are playing an important role in the tourism industry. When my family and I looked into accommodations at the Rosedale on Robson Suite Hotel ([www.rosedaleonrobson.com](http://www.rosedaleonrobson.com)), little did we know how much at home we would feel.

General Manager James D. Miller hails from Dorval while Director of Community Relations Jodi Sprackman grew up in Chomedey. She also happens to be the daughter of famous cookbook author Noreen Gilletz.

Miller attended Courtyard Park Elementary School until Grade 6 and then moved on to Lower Canada College in N.D.G. for Grades 7 to 12. He recalls his days as troop leader for the St. Mark's Sea Scouts and as a member of the Pointe Claire Yacht Club. Miller obtained his B.A. in Economics from Trent University in Toronto while working summers at the Jasper Park Lodge doing hotel training for CN Hotels. He has for the last 37 years been working in the hotel industry, squeezing in a management stint with McDonald's Restaurant Canada. When the Rosedale on Robson opened 13 years ago he was among the first employees.

I was floored when Sprackman told me who her mom was, particularly since the Noreen Gilletz *Second Helpings* publication has been my bible for cooking. Jodi graduated from McGill with a BA in 1984 and moved to

Toronto, originally working as a teller for Bank Leumi. She attended the University of Windsor from 1988 to 1990 to get her B. Comm. and moved on to work for Club Med as group sales coordinator and assistant sales manager in Toronto from 1990 to 1994. When she moved to Vancouver she found work as a sales rep in the travel, courier and publishing industries. Five years ago, the married mother of two, joined the Rosedale on Robson.

One of the hotel's commitments is to the community. Just a few days after we left Sprackman was organizing the hotel's second fundraiser for Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and The Tony Proudfoot Fund. Proudfoot, of course, is a former member of the Montreal Alouettes and the BC Lions, who is suffering from ALS.

The Rosedale on Robson 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 location is also convenient for those traveling on business, as it is just a few short blocks from the heart of the city's financial district.

Comprised of 219 spacious suites, all containing a galley kitchen complete with microwave, stove, oven, refrigerator, dishes, utensils, pots, pans, coffee maker, and complimentary tea and coffee, this truly is a home away from home. The hotel offers complimentary coffee, tea, hot chocolate and freshly baked goods every morning. There is also a heated indoor lap pool, fitness centre, sauna, steam bath and whirlpool as well as secure indoor parking. The popular Rosie's on Robson Restaurant and Pub is conveniently on site and an event desk represents your ticket to sports, theatre and concert packages. We went to see a BC Lions football game at BC Place – a mere two blocks away.



Photo: Mike Cohen  
**Former Montrealers Jodi Sprackman and James Miller, seen here at their hotel's private box at BC Place.**

Besides BC Place, nearby venues include the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver Playhouse, Centre For Performing Arts, and the Orpheum and Vogue Theatres, GM Place. 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. As for the Olympics, Miller reports that as of last week every last room in his hotel is already booked.

*I will follow-up with more detailed columns on Vancouver in the fall. Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Log on to his travel advice column at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel).*