



Consulate General of Israel
TORONTO & WESTERN CANADA

NEWSLETTER

Month of June, 2018



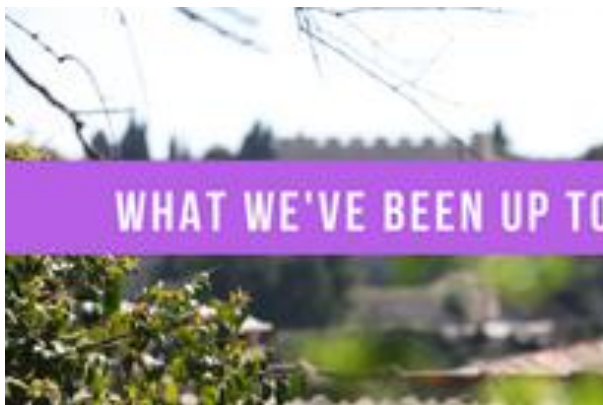
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Vancouver Trip



Consul General, Galit Baram was in Vancouver at the beginning of June. While there she had an extremely busy schedule of meetings and events. She met with MLA and Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Bruce Ralston as well as BC Innovation Commissioner Dr. Alan Winter.

The CG also had an opportunity address the JNF Vancouver gala alongside Major General Doron Amog of the IDF. Major General Amog is the founder of Aleh Negev, a rehabilitation village for children

and adults in southern Israel. Finally the CG broke bread with the Congregation Schara Tzedek community as part of their weekly Shabbat dinner.

'The Rescue' Film and 'Beyond Duty' Exhibit



On June 12th, The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto presented the movie "The Rescue," accompanied by a live concerto at Adath Israel Congregation. Deputy Consul General, Irit Stopper commended the heroic actions of the late Colonel Jose Arturo Castellanos for saving thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. The Israeli Consulate was happy to partner with this important event by bringing the "Beyond Duty" exhibition to the synagogue. This exhibition is dedicated to the Righteous Among the Nations and to the Holocaust survivors whose courage and resilience continues to inspire us .

Canadian Friends of Jerusalem College of Technology



On June 13, Deputy Consul General, Irit Stopper attended the annual Canadian Friends of Jerusalem College of Technology gala. In addition to being the regular headline event on the organizations calendar, the school chose the night to present former Prime Minister Stephen Harper with an honorary degree.

Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) is a unique and major Israeli academic institution of higher learning which specializes in the areas of high-tech engineering, electronics, business management, and life and health sciences.

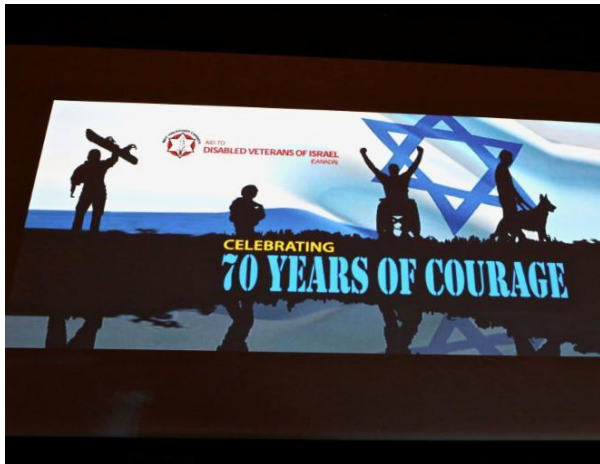
Windsor Visit



Economic Attache to Canada, Nissan Amdur visited Windsor, Ontario on June 12. While there he conducted a pair of meetings with Mayor Drew Dilkens and local MPP Percy Hatfield where they discussed ways to enhance the relationship between Israel, the city of Windsor and the province of Ontario. Later, he met with Dean Mitch Fields from the Odette School of Business at

the University of Windsor. Together, they explored ways in which the University could strengthen academic and economic ties with Israel. While in the city Attache Amdur also had the opportunity to tour the Windsor Jewish Community Centre and Federation and learn from CEO Jay Katz about the local Jewish community.

'70 Years of Courage' and Beit Halochem



Consul General Baram attended a special evening in June, hosted by Beit Halochem Canada called 'Celebrating 70 Years of Courage'. There she brought greetings on behalf of the Consulate and the State of Israel. Beit Halochem is an organization in Israel which provides support to and rehabilitation for injured veterans.

In attendance were a number of former members of the Israel Defense Forces, who shared their stories about their service and injuries in the line of duty. The crowd also had the opportunity to hear from famous IDF Brigadier-General and former minister, Avigdor Kahalani, a war hero who served in the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. He is a recipient of Israel's highest military honour, the Medal of Valor.

MP Rob Oliphant



Consul General, Galit Baram had a very insightful and constructive discussion with MP for Don Valley West, Rob Oliphant on June 26. Together they addressed the importance of interfaith dialogue and co-operation.

Lone Soldier Centre



The Consul General had a special opportunity on June 24 to attend and speak at the debut event for the Lone Soldier Center in Memory of Michael Levin. The event was co-hosted by Israel Bonds

Canada and was meant as a tribute to the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces. The event was held at Shaarei Shomayim synagogue in Toronto and was attended by special guest Col. Richard Kemp CBE.

Berkovsky-Mirzoev-Sarid Trio



The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, in partnership with Jewish Music Week was proud to present this high-energy hour of music. A live studio audience had the opportunity to discover one of Israel's newest musical treasures! The Berkovsky-Mirzoev-Sarid Trio performed an exciting repertoire by Israeli composers Paul Schoenfield, Ian Rechtman and more who fuse together jazz and classical tunes.

Date: June 1

Location: Zoomer Hall, The ZoomerPlex
(Toronto)

Amos Hoffman & Noam Lemish Quartet



For years, Amos Hoffman and Noam Lemish have been collecting Jewish melodies from around the world including Kurdish, Yemenite, Moroccan, Ladino, Russian and Israeli songs. Their lyrical and vibrant re-imaginings of these beloved Jewish melodies, presented in an inspired blend of cultures, captivated the audience in Toronto just like audiences around the globe.

Featuring Amos Hoffman (oud and guitar), Noam Lemish (piano), Andrew Downing (bass), Derek Gray (drums).

Date: June 3

Location: Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W (Toronto)

PRIDE Month Screening: 'Melting Away'



Film synopsis: When his parents find that he has been secretly wearing women's clothes, Assaf (Hen Yanni) is locked out of their home. Years later, a private detective learns that Assaf is now Anna, an enchanting woman who sings at a nightclub. A mesmerizing drama about love, loss and acceptance.

Date: June 3

Location: Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC (Toronto)

Baj El: The Hidden Jews of Ethiopia



Film synopsis: Following a hundred-year-old account of the prominent Jewish scholar Jacque Faitlovich, filmmaker and distinguished ethnomusicologist Irene Orleansky travels to Africa to discover and explore a small and secretive group of Ethiopian Jews known as Bal Ej (craftsmen).

Filmmaker Irene Orleansky did a Q and A via Skype after the film.

Date: June 21

Location: Borochoy Cultural Centre (Toronto)



Jerusalem Becomes the City of Light

Story from 'The Jerusalem Post'
June 29, 2018

8 Israeli Firms Named 'World Economic Forum Tech Pioneers'

Story and Photo from 'Israel 21c'
June 25, 2018



Eight Israeli startups were among the 61 early-stage companies recognized by the



Gaston Zahr, one of the artistic directors of the Light Festival in Jerusalem, doesn't have a favorite piece among the over thirty pieces of light art on display this year in the Old City.

"I like them all because they are [each] very different [from each other]," Zahr told The Jerusalem Post during a press tour on Wednesday night, the opening night of the festival. "I think what unites them this year is that all of them have a big impact. They are not small installations." He cited the interactive and immersive elements of some of the pieces - including performance art by actresses in illuminated costumes and a large dome made of lit-up triangles, which people can enter - and believes that "all of them are beautiful." For the tenth year in a row, the Light Festival in Jerusalem is shining through the Old City and nearby Jaffa Street every night (except Friday night) until July 5th.

The festival is jointly run by the Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Ministry, the Jerusalem Municipality, the Jerusalem Development Authority, and the Ariel Municipal Company. "This year is unique for Jerusalem... a year in which Jerusalem is definitely on the international map," Jerusalem Mayor Nir

World Economic Forum for their design and development of potentially world-changing innovations and technologies. Watergen, a Rishon LeTzion-based company whose technology generates clean drinking water from the air; Utilis, whose satellite technology detects leaks in underground water pipes, and six other Israeli startups in the fields of cybersecurity, software, solar energy, self-driving cars and 3D imaging sensors were awarded the title of Technology Pioneer 2018.

Israel had the second largest number of companies on the World Economic Forum's list, ranking second behind the US.

"Watergen and its fellow pioneers are front and center in shaping the ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution and we believe they will be transforming society and industry in a positive way in the years to come," said Fulvia Montresor, Head of Technology Pioneers at the World Economic Forum.

Other Israeli companies included on the list are Vayyar, based in Yehud, which makes low cost 3D imaging sensors; XM Cyber, a Herzliya-based developer of software that identifies and exposes attacks; Innoviz Technologies, based in Kfar Saba, which provides light detection and ranging (LiDAR) sensing solutions for autonomous vehicles; Aqua Security, a Ramat Gan-based cybersecurity firm that provides security for container-based and cloud-native applications; Precognize, based in Tirat Carmel, which developed a predictive maintenance software for industrial systems; and Raycatch, based in Tel Aviv, which offers an AI diagnostics technology for solar energy that enables automated management of solar assets.

This year's cohort is diverse both geographically and in terms of gender. 23% are female-led, and a majority (54%) come from regions outside the United States and

Barkat said in a release promoting the festival. "The festival celebrates a successful decade of millions of visitors coming to visit [the city], from its position as a capital of international culture."

Both veteran and student artists are displaying their work at the festival. Artists who have contributed exhibits hail from Israel and ten other countries, including Germany, China, and the Philippines.

Among the Israeli artists are students taking a Light Festival-focused course at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design.

Zahr said that the festival, which he co-directs with Meirav Eitan, took eight months to develop, and that artists were found and chosen through open calls, direct invitations, and visits to other light festivals around the world. Pieces were chosen by a jury based on budget, feasibility, and appropriateness for Jerusalem, among other factors.

During the festival's opening night, Israelis and foreign tourists inundated the Old City, interacting with the artwork and enjoying the festival. A festival representative told reporters that touring the entire festival could take up to four hours or more.

Arvin Quiwa, from the Philippines, designed and led the production of the Giant Lantern on display in Gan HaBonim A, along the wall of the Old City adjacent to Jaffa Gate. Quiwa told reporters that the flower-shaped lantern, filled with ornate patterns and swirls, was inspired by the Star of Bethlehem that guided the three wise men in the Christian narrative of the birth of Jesus.

This sort of lantern is used in Christmas celebrations in the Philippines, Quiwa explained, and he has been proactive about showing it off elsewhere: "I want to exhibit our artwork, the Filipino artwork; this giant lantern, to other countries. We've been, last

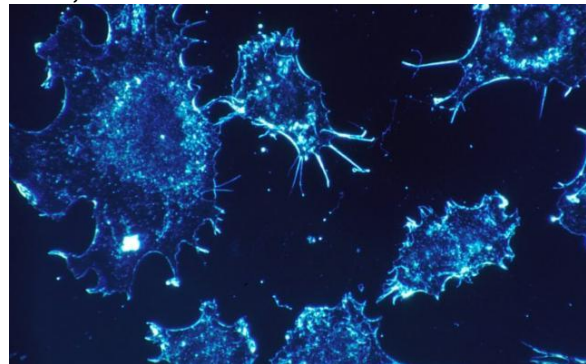
Silicon Valley, according to a statement from the World Economic Forum.

The newly selected Technology Pioneers will participate in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2018. This meeting, often called Summer Davos, will take place in Tianjin, China, September 18-20. Some of them will also attend the annual meeting in Davos in January 2019.

Companies recognized on the list of Technology Pioneers in the past include: Airbnb, Google, Kickstarter, Mozilla, Spotify, and Twitter, among others.

Israeli Researchers Say They Can Reprogram Cancer Cells Back to Their Pre-Cancer State

*Story and Photo from "No Camels"
June 5, 2018*



Cancer cells typically acquire a common set of properties, including unlimited proliferation potential, self-sufficiency in growth signals, resistance to cell death, and an ability to activate invasion and metastasis, as described in a seminal 2000 study by American biologists and cancer researchers Douglas Hanahan and Robert Weinberg. While cancers are diverse in type and etiology, the researchers also say they all share metabolism abnormalities,

year, to Singapore and Honolulu... to exhibit our artwork, so other countries will know that we have this kind of lantern and light piece." He said that they planned on exhibiting in Jerusalem after the Light Festival reached out to the Philippines' department of tourism; the lantern itself took two months to make.

FURTHER DOWN the wall toward Zion Gate, festival-goers wove their way through "Affinity," a structure made of lit-up glass spheres connecting by diagonal pipes, and when someone touched a sphere, it lit up more and sent light up the connecting pipes.

"['Affinity' is] inspired by the human brain and the connectivity in the brain," Simone Chua, one of the lead artists of the exhibit, told the Post. She said the structure, constructed from 18 spheres - which represent the brain's neurons - and 62 connecting pipes, took around eight months to create.

"The idea of ['Affinity'] is that it engages a large amount of people. They interact with the work, and they interact with one another," she said. "As people touch [the neurons]... it lights up, and the light travels throughout the brain... representing their memories, which are traveling through the network, through the brain."

Nearby, the path overlooking the Valley of Hinnom was lined by 40 statues of people made from steel wire, including knights, nuns, and even a cupid suspended in midair.

As festival-goers got up close with the figures, they noticed them glowing in ultraviolet light projected from nearby, making the sculptures appear to be ghosts frozen in place.

The installation's Alexander Reichstein, from Finland, says this installation - aptly titled "Ghostly Guests" - has been displayed in

regardless of cellular or tissue origin. Tumor cell metabolism is now seen as cancer's Achilles' heel, providing a unique therapeutic opportunity to effectively eliminate tumor cells by targeting their energy metabolism.

Now, a group of researchers from Israel's Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) have developed a new molecule that they claim inhibits the growth of cancer cells and reprograms them to act non-cancerous. The groundbreaking treatment is based on preventing the expression of the protein VDAC1, which is highly expressed in different types of tumors and found to alter cancer hallmarks, including the rewiring of pathways for growth and survival that underlie the malignant phenotype. VDAC1 is a "gatekeeper" of the mitochondria, the powerhouse of the cell, and is the "key to opening and closing the door to mitochondrial metabolism," says the head of the research team Professor Varda Shoshan-Barmatz of the Department of Life Sciences and the National Institute for Biotechnology in the Negev (NIBN), an independent research institute facilitating pre-clinical studies of biotech research located within BGU. VDAC1 is crucial for supplying the high energy demands that characterize malignant cells, the university said in a statement. "As VDAC1 controls cell energy and metabolic homeostasis, depletion of VDAC1 in cancer cell blocks the communication between the mitochondria and the rest of the cells," Shoshan-Barmatz tells NoCamels.

Cancer cells have a lot more VDAC1 than normal cells, she explains, so the team looked for ways to prevent their formation. The researchers developed a molecule called siRNA, which, when applied to the cells, began inhibiting their growth. When applied to mice with tumors, Shoshan-Barmatz says, it caused the tumor to shrink to about 10 percent of an untreated tumor, indicating a rewiring of the cells. The study

other countries already, but the makeup of the sculptures varies from place to place. "It depends a lot on the environment and on the history of the place, because [the installation] has connections to history," Reichstein told the Post.

"The installation is a kind of timeline, [showing] ghosts from different times and different places."

Because of Jerusalem's long history, he said, he had to come up with a long lineup of "ghosts" and crafted some new site-specific sculptures, including one of a rabbi.

Reichstein said he has lost track of how many hours he has spent on this project, but that it has been in the works for three years. He compared the artistic process to "drawing in 3D... something in between graphics and sculpture.

The final installation shown to reporters on the press tour, "Rainbow," was a massive display of colorful patterns and animations projected onto one of the walls of the Hurva Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter. The projection, accompanied by a cinematic soundtrack, was digitally mapped to precisely fit the outline of the building. The projection cycled through ornate patterns "drawn" onto the building and painting-like illustrations of skies, seascapes, and even a cherry blossom tree in bloom. The building itself at points - including its domed roof, which was also part of the "canvas" - seemed to be in motion, to the delight of the festival goers who crowded through the square.

"Rainbow" was designed by Visualsupport, a Polish company that specializes in multimedia services.

Chris Mazua, who helped design and run the projection, told the Post that the projection took two months to design and set

was conducted on mouse models of three different types of cancerous tumors - those of brain cancer, lung cancer, and breast cancer.

Applying the molecule resulted in inhibiting tumor growth, eliminating cancer stem cells, and leading the cell in the residual "tumor" to differentiate into normal-like cells, Shoshan-Barmatz says. In other words, the cells would resume the behavior of pre-cancerous cells.

"These normal-like cells have different properties from the cancer cells," she explains. "They are sensed by the immune system. The cells still have their original mutations, we don't fix the mutational genes. We do modify the activity of these genes to be like normal cells."

"No strategy like this has been studied. It controls cancer cells and cancer stem cells. We eliminate cancer cells that are resistant to chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy, which doesn't always kill every cancer cell," Shoshan-Barmatz said, "It's a very promising strategy."

She added that although the new approach was still in its early stages, the researchers were thrilled with the initial results "that demonstrate the potential of this novel molecule for cancer treatment." "Several of our findings are particularly noteworthy. First, VDAC1, which is overexpressed in most cancer cells compared to healthy cells, offers a potentially wide applicability for this treatment. Second, treatment with siRNA against VDAC1 inhibited growth of cancer cell but not of non-cancerous cell, pointing to a potentially safe treatment. And most significantly, siRNA treatment of several cancer types in mouse models resulted in reprogrammed cancer cell metabolisms, leading to reduced tumor growth, induced disappearance of cancer stem cells and prompted cell differentiation. Thus, we

up. "First we took a photo of the building, and then the graphic [artists] were preparing art... After art was prepared, we came here [to Hurva Square], and [during] the last two nights I was sitting here and fitting these graphics to the building."

Mazua emphasizes the motif of color as integral to the projection: "[We] tried to show that [the] colors all around us are great, and [that] the world is made of colors."

Israeli Museum Marks 100 Years of Holy Land Fashion

Story from 'Associated Press'
June 14, 2018



An exhibit showcasing 100 years of fashion in the Holy Land is opening this week at Jerusalem's Israel Museum.

Timed to coincide with Israel's 70th anniversary, "Fashion Statements: Decoding Israeli Dress" features over 150 outfits by local designers, ranging from the late 19th century to present day.

Curator Efrat Assaf-Shapira says the exhibit looks at "inspiration and influences" over the decades. She says the outfits also help

discovered a code for reprogramming cancer cells so that they lose their oncogenic features," Shoshan-Barmatz said in a statement released by BGU.

The researchers have teamed up with BGN Technologies, the technology company of Ben-Gurion University fostering entrepreneurship and bringing tech innovation from lab to market, in order to attract investors and raise funds, as they want to bring their findings to clinical trials on humans. While they are already in talks with some companies, Dr. Ora Horovitz, senior vice president of Business Development at BGN Technologies said, "We are now seeking partners for the further development and advancement of this promising patented treatment towards the clinic in the hope that it will lead to a novel path for cancer treatment."

Flying Cars May Have Found Their Launch Pad in Israel

Story and Photo from 'No Camels'
June 7, 2018



Mobility experts claim it's just a matter of time before flying cars will be swooping towards a location near you and it turns out some of the first prototypes of these autonomous aerial vehicles are being developed right here in Israel.

Just ask Rafi Yoeli, a veteran of aerospace

trace "historical moments" in the life of Israel. She says Israeli fashion has many cultural and ideological influences. One section even incorporates patterns of the kaffiyeh, the black and white scarf associated with Palestinian nationalism. One dress, styled by Rojy Ben-Joseph following the 1967 war, comes from her "hope for a dialogue" between Israelis and Palestinians, Assaf-Shapira said.

The exhibition runs through February.

Over 250,000 People Celebrate Gay Pride at Tel Aviv Parade

Story from 'Associated Press'
June 8, 2018



To mark the 51st annual Jerusalem Day, the cabinet approved a proposal to invest NIS 200 million to construct a cable car to Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday.

The plan carried out by the Tourism Ministry was announced at last year's 50th Jerusalem Day where the government approved the first phase of the project with a starting budget of NIS 15m. The cable car's 1,400 meter route is planned to run from the First Station in the German Colony to the Dung Gate of the Old City with two stations

research and development, who was recently noted as "one of the founding fathers of the unmanned vehicle industry" by US tech industry publisher TechCrunch. Yoeli has put together a team of experts from the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for his Yavne-based company Urban Aeronautics to develop a compact vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) vehicle to lift cargo or people in emergency situations, he tells NoCamels.

Yoeli spoke to a group of international and Israeli mobility leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors about whether flying cars are in their future at the TechCrunch Mobility Conference in Tel Aviv on Thursday, the publication's inaugural one-day event featuring notable industry experts and the best of Israeli tech in the mobility field. It wrapped up TechCrunch's five-day Tel Aviv Innovation Week, which began on June 3rd.

"There is an awakening of realization that the aerial taxi is a real thing that will happen in the next few years," Yoeli told NoCamels prior to the conference. At the conference, TechCrunch took a real interest in the concept of flying cars, asking Waze co-founder Uri Levine during a panel discussion titled "The Future of Transportation" if he would ever travel in one.

After a long pause, Levine replied "Why not?" before quickly pointing out that "flying cars will probably always be illegal in Israel," given its geo-political situation.

During the discussion, Levine said that travelers and commuters were looking at three main factors when considering transportation, speed, cost, and convenience and that while flying cars may be faster, traveling in them is not likely to be cheap.

Dave Waiser, the CEO and founder of Gett, seemed more enthused, saying the prospect

in between: Mount Zion and the Kedem visitors' center in the City of David.

According to the ministry, the route will pass through publicly owned land.

The ministry touts that the cable car is a solution, not just for tourists, but for tens of thousands of those who observe Jewish, Christian and Muslim holidays.

"Visitors to the Old City can range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of people," said the Tourism Ministry in a statement.

In honor of the approval and of Jerusalem Day, Tourism Minister Yariv Levin said: "The cable car project will change the face of Jerusalem, offering tourists and visitors easy and comfortable access to the Western Wall.

"There is no better time than Jerusalem Day to approve this decision and I welcome the next phase en route to constructing this important project," he said.

of traveling in a flying car "could be fun," though there is always the issue of safety.

Both entrepreneurs envisioned a future where cars are driverless, with Levine saying that the generation after the next one will "think we were crazy for driving our own cars." Waiser said that in 50 years, people will no longer have or need driver's licenses.

Yoeli was set to hold his own panel discussion about the future of flying cars alongside Eviation Aircraft CEO Omer Bar-Yohay, whose company is developing an all-electric aircraft that flies nine passengers plus two crew members from city to city.

Yoeli's Urban Aeronautics has been working on a prototype for what it calls the Cormorant, an airborne vehicle that company says will likely find use in war. It is set to be launched in 2021.

The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is a single-engine passenger drone in the works by Urban Aeronautics subsidiary Tactical Robotics. It would be capable of flying and operating inside complex and natural environments where it can be difficult for regular helicopters or other aerial vehicles to maneuver or land, the company says.

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[Israel Contributes to the Global Effort to Combat Desertification](#)

Although 60% of its land is desert, Israel is the only country in the world where the desert is receding. As a result, the UN determined Israel is an expert in combating desertification. Israel continues to contribute to the global effort to combat desertification by sharing its know-how, best practices and technologies for a better, greener & healthier world.

[Prince William's Historic Visit to Israel](#)

Israel had the pleasure of welcoming Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, on a historic, first-ever visit of a senior member of the British Royal Family to Israel. A visit which celebrates the profound Israel-Great Britain relations. Watch some of the highlights of Prince William's historic visit.

Consulate General of Israel, Toronto, 180 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S
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