

ISRAEL



Consulate General of Israel
TORONTO & WESTERN CANADA



NEWSLETTER: HOLIDAY EDITION (NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018)



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Queen's Park: 'Beyond Duty' Exhibition

Canadanse: Canada-Israel Dance 2019



On the eve of Holocaust Education Week, the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto held a reception and photo exhibition at Queen's Park (Legislative Assembly of Ontario). The event (Oct 30) was held in honour of global diplomats, who have received the 'Righteous Among the Nations' designation from the State of Israel. The Righteous designation is the highest award Israel bestows upon non-Jews. It is given to those who sheltered or gave assistance to Jews during World War Two, often at the risk of great personal peril.

Over 130 Members of Provincial Parliament, Jewish community leaders, foreign diplomats and parliamentary staff joined in a strong and clear voice against anti-Semitism and racism.

Deputy Premier Christine Elliott and MPP Laura Mae Lindo spoke on behalf of the Government and Official Opposition. It was an inspiration to see all-party support for this cause.

Delegation of Israeli Religious Leaders

The Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre in Tel Aviv is proud to begin its 30th year with CanaDanse, the first celebration of Canadian dance in Israel! Presenting a taste of the vast Canadian dance scene to Israeli audiences, three distinctly different works will be presented by some of Canada's most exciting artists. Coming to Israel for the first time are acclaimed Ballet BC with mixed repertory of Crystal Pite, Emily Molnar and Medhi Walerski; Vancouver's up and coming Shay Keubler; and Quebec-based, Le Carre Des Lombes with a work by Daniele Desnoyers.

The focus on Dance from Canada continues the center's long history of presenting the foremost Canadian dance artists such as Les Grand Ballets Canadiens, Marie Chouinard, Daniel Leveille, Kidd Pivot, and others. For their upcoming 2018/19 season, Ballet BC is excited to once again welcome extraordinary Israeli talent to Vancouver to work with Ballet BC. In their February program, they will feature a world premiere by Adi Salant, former Co-Artistic Director



of the Batsheva Dance Company, the first North American commission by the powerful choreographic voice in dance. She will arrive on February 17th and leave on March 5th. She will have the world premiere of the piece she'll create there and have a public discussion with the artistic director, Emily Molnar after the show. The performance will start on February 28th, March 1st and March 2nd.

In May of 2019, they are also proud to welcome back collaborators Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar for the North American premiere of Bedroom Folk; and to bring back an audience favourite-the acclaimed Minus 16 by Ohad Naharin. The performances will start on May 9th with a public discussion as well with the artistic director. There will be two other dates for their performance: May 10th and May 11th.

Consul General, Galit Baram welcomed a delegation from Israel on November 4. The group was comprised of leadership representatives from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Druze communities. They were in Toronto all week for the Parliament of the World's Religions where they lead a panel discussion about the 'Co-existence of Religions in Israel'. Highlights from outside the conference include: a meeting with Cardinal Thomas Collins of the Archdiocese of Toronto, an information session at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, a tour of Islamic art at the Agha Khan Museum and a visit to the Ismaili Centre in Toronto. The delegation was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the religious pluralism that exists in the Holy Land.

Trip to British Columbia

An Evening With Itzhak Perlman



Wednesday, January 23, 2019 | 8:00pm |
Orpheum Theatre
Otto Tausk conductor
Itzhak Perlman violin

MOZART



Consul General, Galit Baram arrived in Vancouver on November 5 for a series of meetings and events. Highlights from her visit include: a meeting at Ballet BC who will be sending artists to Israel, a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Environment, a meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education/Skills/Training, a meeting with Minister of Jobs/Trade/Technology, a meeting with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, a meeting with the leader of the BC Green Party, a presentation and discussion with Hillel BC.

Don Giovanni: Overture
SCHUBERT
Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major
MENDELSSOHN
Violin Concerto in E minor
JOHN WILLIAMS Theme from
Schindler's List

The legend returns...Simply put, Itzhak Perlman is one of history's greatest musicians, and we are fortunate to have him return to the VSO stage to perform Mendelssohn's Romantic Violin Concerto, "the heart's jewel" of violin concertos. Perlman has received more than a dozen Grammys, including the 2008 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also won four Emmy Awards for programs like Perlman in Russia, In the Fiddler's House and Fiddling for the Future. Known for his generous spirit, Perlman has worked as a teacher at Juilliard, and in 1998 co-founded the Perlman Music Program, an educational, multifaceted resource for young, developing musicians. In November 2015, the acclaimed violinist and conductor was named one of 17 recipients of the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom. Joining him onstage is Maestro Otto Tausk, the VSO's Music Director in his inaugural season. This duo accompanied by the incomparable VSO will make for an amazing evening of music.

'Righteous Among the Nations' in

British Columbia



The 'Righteous Among the Nations' award is one of the most prestigious designations granted by the State of Israel. It is given to non-Jews who assisted Jewish people during WWII, often at great risk to themselves and their families.

On November 7, Consul General Galit Baram was in Vancouver to present this honour to the late Dutch couple Dirk Pieter Kalkman and Klaasje Kalkman (nee Kuipers). The story of the Kalkman family is a remarkable one and emblematic of the bravery of many who put their lives at risk to protect European Jews in a time of chaos. At the request of the local Revered Post (brother of Johannes Post, a famous member of the Dutch resistance), the couple sheltered Catharina Six tot Oeterleek-Kuijper, a Jewish widow. She lived with the Kalkmans under the alias of 'Aunt Ina' and was therefore able to play a prominent role in the life of the family. Thanks to the help of the Kalkmans, Catharina survived the entire war until Dutch liberation in 1945.

In a very moving ceremony, the award was accepted on behalf of Dirk Pieter and Klaasje by their grandson Peter and his

son Matthew. The medal and certificate were presented by the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto and Western Canada and the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem. Many members of the Jewish community came out to show their deep appreciation for this noble act of human kindness. The Kalkmans spoke about their family during that terrible period bringing many in the audience to tears. During the ceremony, Israeli guitarist Liel Amdour and high school student, Ethan Doctor beautifully performed the Canadian and Israeli national anthems as well as a selection of classical music. Both artists were a fine representation of the young, thriving Jewish community in Vancouver.

Canadian Diplomatic Missions Meeting



Consul General Galit Baram and the Diplomatic team of the Israeli consulate in Toronto and Western Canada were honoured to host the annual diplomatic consultations on bilateral Canada-Israel relations (Nov 21). The consulate was pleased to welcome, David Roet, the new Director of the North America Bureau at

Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Ambassador Nimrod Barkan of the Israeli
Embassy in Ottawa
and Consul General David Levy of the
Israeli Consulate General in Montreal and
their teams!

Reena Foundation Gala Dinner



Consul General, Galit Baram was honored to bring greetings on behalf of the State of Israel on Nov 21st at the Reena Foundation Annual Gala Dinner. This years edition was held in honor of Ontario Premier, Doug Ford. For over 40 years, the Reena Foundation has been a leader in the community promoting access, employment opportunities and inclusion for those with developmental disabilities. It was moving to see elected officials, community and public leaders come together to support an important organization and a great cause.

Consulate Grand Opening/Chanukkah



On December 3, the Consulate, along with members of the local Jewish community, many partner organizations and elected representatives celebrated the grand opening of our new offices. It was an amazing opportunity to share our pride in the state of the art facility that will expand the Consulate's diplomatic capabilities and honor those who helped make it possible. The opening also fell on the second night of Chanukkah, which we marked with a very special candle lighting ceremony. Mayor of Toronto, John Tory and Attorney General and Minister of Francophone Affairs, Caroline Mulroney delivered touching words of support and participated in the lighting of the Menorah. Rabbi Chaim Strauchler of Shaarei Shomayim synagogue and Rabbi Israel Landa of Chabad Israel Centre also delivered blessings for the event.

Heads of Missions Meetings in Israel



The annual Heads of Mission meetings were held from Dec 9-13 at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Once a year, Consul Generals and Ambassadors from across the globe return to Israel to discuss their work, Ministry priorities for the coming year and get crucial updates on current affairs and economics. The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin both delivered briefs as well as congratulated the group on their success in promoting Israeli diplomacy. Our own Consul General, Galit Baram was in attendance.



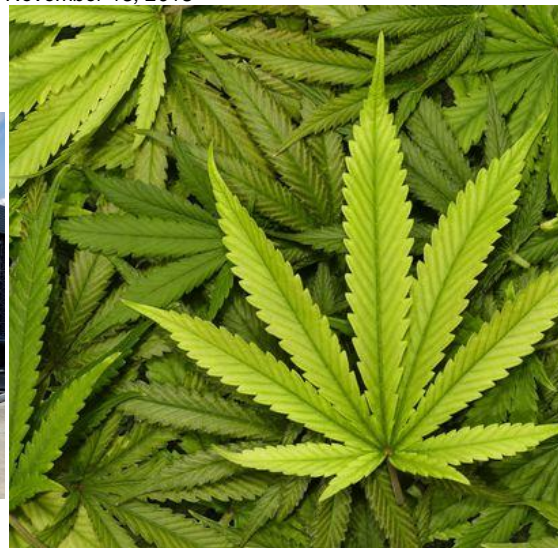
Expo Tel-Aviv Gears Up to Host Eurovision

Story and Photo from 'Jerusalem Post'
December 7, 2018



New Initiative Brings High Hopes for Canada-Israel Cannabis Tech Partnerships

Story from 'No Camels'
November 15, 2018



Cannabis technology partnerships are the

On any given week, the Expo Tel Aviv convention center could be hosting close to a dozen events. From conferences to concerts, exhibitions and trade fairs, the 45,000-sq.m. complex of indoor and outdoor spaces is almost always bustling with activity.

But for almost a month next spring, the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds' convention center will be closed off as it prepares for an event the likes of which the country has never seen before: Eurovision 2019. In less than six months, the Eurovision Song Contest will kick off in Tel Aviv, with a week of events, rehearsals, shows and activities. Participants from 42 countries, hundreds of journalists, thousands of tourists and enough sequins to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool are expected to converge on the city.

"On March 24 we're handing over Pavilion 2 to the production," said Iris Mazel, the vice president of sales and marketing at Expo Tel Aviv, during a tour of the site this week. "They have to set up the stage and the seats and everything. Then from the end of April we are giving them pavilions 1 and then 11, 12, 13 and 14." The Eurovision production team has yet to finalize the plans for all of the spaces and pavilions. Expo Tel Aviv is working closely with the KAN public broadcaster, representatives of the Tel Aviv Municipality and officials from the European Broadcasting Union as the show draws closer.

The 5,000-sq.m. Pavilion 1 is likely to hold the green room for the Eurovision contestants. Mazel said they will be building a tunnel between pavilions 1 and 2 - where the main show will take place - so participants can cross between the two without going outside. The other indoor spaces at the center will host the press,

focus of a new Canada-Israel-US initiative that hopes to connect North American growers with blue-and-white tech solutions for better consumption, yield, performance, quality of product, and packaging.

Can Innovation Finder (CIF) launched simultaneously in Canada and Israel in July 2018 to promote technology and innovation partnerships between licensed Canadian cannabis producers and the Israeli ecosystem. "There are incredible partnership opportunities for companies on both sides, and Canadian Licensed Producers can gain a huge market advantage by tapping into Israel's tech ecosystem," says CIF CEO Sarah Tahor. "Our role is to highlight opportunities that the market may not know about and provide the platform to enable new partnerships and business ventures. With contracts in place with the LPs to introduce them to multiple Israeli companies, we save them time and ensure they have access to top Israeli cannatech (cannabis tech), agri-tech and biotech innovation."

Indeed, Israel is a sought-after partner in the cannabis industry thanks to its renowned scientific innovation and tech expertise to grow consistent, high-quality, and varied strains of cannabis.

"There are tons of companies that deal specifically with technologies focused on growing and agriculture; some are focused on soil quality and climate control of greenhouses while others are focused on humidity and lighting," Oren Todoros, CEO of CannalImpact branding firm, tells NoCamels. He says there are between 70-100 cannabis-related ventures in Israel. "Despite the fact that there is no external export, there's a lot of growing technologies being produced here for the global cannabis market."

Israel has seen an influx of hundreds of

production teams and other necessities.

"It'll be a very long period - it's never been done before - where most of the convention center will be totally shut down for the event," said Barak Kfir, a PR consultant for Expo Tel Aviv.

FULL STORY: <http://bit.ly/2EsCXuC>

Canada's Month to Month Numbers Numbers to Israel "Have Exceeded All Expectations"

*Story and Photo from 'Travel Week'
December 10, 2018*



TORONTO - Israel is on pace to welcome more than four million visitors this year, making 2018 a record-breaker.

The Israel Ministry of Tourism updated the trade on all things Israel at a recent presentation in Toronto, hosted in partnership with Dan Hotels Israel and EL AL.

Jerry Adler, Director for Canada, Israel Ministry of Tourism, kicked off the evening

millions of dollars invested in its tech and academic ventures so far.

There is a \$300 million agreement between Israeli cannabis firm Together Pharma and an unnamed Canadian company for a supply of cannabis. Tikun Olam has an agreement with Massachusetts-based holding company MariMed, to cultivate, manufacture and sell the Israeli company's MMJ products in seven US states.

FULL STORY: <http://bit.ly/2OPdcFr>

Israel Announces New Gas Exploration Auction

*Story from 'Globes'
November 5, 2018*



A year after the failure of the first tender, Minister of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources Yuval Steinitz announced his decision yesterday to hold a second auction of natural gas and oil exploration licenses in Israel's economic waters. The auction documents will be published in the next few weeks, and bids may be submitted until June 2019.

The first attempt at opening up Israel's

by highlighting some of Israel's features and recent developments.

For Canada month to month in both 2017 and now in 2018 Israel's numbers have exceeded all expectations in 2017, says Adler. "We realized over 85,000 Canadian passport holder tourists to Israel, and we anticipate breaching the 90,000 level. In Canada, Israel is growing in popularity for tourists seeking and booking leisure travel packages which include fabulous hotels for unique niche experiences blended together with culinary, adventure, history and faith."

Part of a rebranding strategy that started just a few years ago, and buoyed by a years-long stretch of stability in the country, IMOT's move to marketing collateral highlighting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv - along with an emphasis on a wide range of niche product across the country, from eco-tourism to sports and adventure to culinary - has seen visitor figures to the country soar. Also at the presentation, Dinah Kutner, General Manager Canada for EL AL, says that starting Jan. 13, 2019, EL AL will be operating a new 787 Dreamliner from Toronto to Tel Aviv.

The Dreamliner will feature 32 flat beds in Business Class, 28 premium seats and 222 economy seats. The airline will use the Air France lounge in Terminal 3. Kutner says the plane will have a seat chat feature which allows passengers to conduct conversations with other passengers on the plane. As an added bonus, the flight will be one hour shorter: 11 hours instead of 12 hours.

Meanwhile Rafi Baeri, Vice President for Marketing and Sales, Dan Hotels Israel, gave agents an update on Dan Hotels' offerings in Israel and well as recent renovations and improvements to these hotels. Dan Hotels operates 13 hotels in

seas to international competition ended ingloriously: only two companies submitted bids, and won six of the 20 blocks advertised by the ministry. These were Greek company Energean, which in any case was already active in Israel (and is now traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange), and Indian company ONGC, which recently opened a representative office in Israel but has not yet announced a date for commencing exploration at sea. Energean will start exploration during 2019.

The ministry hopes that the auction will yield better results this time around, and sources there say that there is already considerable interest on the part of international energy majors. The sources say that teams from leading global companies have come to Israel to enquire about the auction materials, but they do not name names. As in the first auction, Delek Drilling, controlled by Yitzhak Tshuva, and Noble Energy, the US partner in the Tamar and Leviathan reservoirs, will be precluded from participating in the auction since they hold rights that produce more than 20% of the total amount of gas produced in Israel.

FULL STORY: <http://bit.ly/2SKKJTE>

New Israeli Technology Can Turn Human Waste Into Biofuel

*Story from 'Israel 21c'
November 18, 2018*

Israel including four in Jerusalem (including the storied King David Hotel), and three in Tel Aviv. This year marked the introduction of Dan Hotels' new hotel concept, LINK hotel & hub, targeted at Millennials with reduced service levels - and lower room rates to match - as well as new technology related features and more space in common areas, for a demographic where 'connectivity is king'. Properties also feature street art created by local street artists.



A \$1.5 Billion Plan Aims to Resurrect Portions of the Dead Sea

*Story and Photo from 'NBC'
November 29, 2018*



At the southern tip of the Dead Sea, Sameer Mahadin recalls when the shoreline was visible from the shaded veranda of his farmhouse. The once 10-minute walk to the water's edge now takes an hour trekking over cracked, salt-encrusted soil.

The Dead Sea is dying rapidly. The biblical body of water lying between Israel and Jordan is retreating by more than three feet a year, creating sinkholes that swallow

Just in time for World Toilet Day (November 19), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev publicized results of a pilot study demonstrating that raw human excrement potentially can be converted into a safe, reusable fuel and nutrient-rich fertilizer. According to the groundbreaking study published recently in the Journal of Cleaner Production, researchers at the Ben-Gurion University Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research refined a process using hydrothermal carbonization (HTC) to heat solid human waste in a special "pressure cooker" to create hydrochar, a safe, reusable biomass fuel resembling charcoal.

Last year, ISRAEL21c reported on BGU's similar research using turkey and other poultry excrement.

This new development, say the researchers, addresses two challenges prevalent in the developing world: sanitation and growing energy needs.

While access to waste treatment worldwide has expanded significantly in recent years, approximately 4.5 billion people still lack basic sanitation services, according to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Hundreds of millions of people - mostly in rural areas - relieve themselves

up buildings and roads, and forcing the rich seaside landscape on which the tourism industry relies to fade into memory.

It is the saltiest sea on earth. Some experts believe it will be gone by 2050, while others say it will never fully disappear but survive at a fraction of its current size.

But after two decades of discussions about how to resurrect the Dead Sea, there is a glimmer of hope but with a huge price tag: a \$1.5-billion project to build a desalination facility in Jordan to transform Red Sea water into drinking water, while pumping the remaining salty brine into the Dead Sea.

Meetings to finalize the technical details and its design are expected within weeks - a major step forward for the project. There are references to the Dead Sea in the Old Testament and the Quran, making it significant to Christians, Jews and Muslims. One of the oldest known manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, were found in the region, and a section of the Jordan River about six miles north of where it flows is also considered the baptism site of Jesus Christ.

The sea is not disappearing without vengeance, though, as roughly 6,000 sinkholes have formed.

"Even the devil is not here," said water management and environmental engineer Eshak Alguza, as the parched earth that was once underwater crunches and shatters like breaking tiles beneath his feet.

The heavy price of sinkholes has become apparent both in Jordan and on the sea's

in open fields.

The Gates Foundation launched the Reinvent the Toilet Challenge in 2011 to accelerate the commercialization and adoption of disruptive off-grid sanitation technologies. Earlier this month, the foundation sponsored a Reinvented Toilet Expo in Beijing.

FULL STORY: <http://bit.ly/2Ay33bb>

Israeli side.

At least two of the Israel's beaches and one tourist resort have closed, while parts of Highway 90 have vanished into the earth.

FULL

STORY: <https://nbcnews.to/2C9zqPv>



[President Rivlin meets with Canadian FM Freeland](#)

[PM Netanyahu meets with Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland](#)

[PM Netanyahu thanks Brazilian President-](#)

[Changing the World - 7 Israeli Inventions](#)

Did you know that there's a machine that turns air into water? And that there's technology that allows cars to drive on their own? It all happens right here in Israel! Get ready - here come 7 Israeli inventions that will truly

[Elect Bolsonaro on intention to move embassy to Jerusalem](#)

[PM Netanyahu thanks US President Trump on Iran sanctions](#)

[PM Netanyahu meets US Special Representative for Syria Engagement James Jeffrey](#)

[PM Netanyahu attends State Memorial Ceremony for David Ben-Gurion](#)

[President Rivlin meets with Pope Francis at the Vatican](#)

[President Rivlin meets heads of the Conference of European Rabbis](#)

[PM Netanyahu on Global Migration Compact](#)

[PM Netanyahu's statement on the passing of former US Pres. George H.W. Bush](#)

[PM Netanyahu meets with US Secy. of State Pompeo in Brussels](#)

[PM Netanyahu's statement about Hezbollah terror tunnels](#)

[PM Netanyahu on UNGA condemnation of Hamas](#)

[President Rivlin hosts Israeli ambassadors to Europe, North America, the Middle East and international organizations](#)

[PM Netanyahu addresses MFA conference of Israeli ambassadors to North America, Europe, International Organizations, the Middle East and Eurasia](#)

revolutionize our world.

[The Guy Who Saves Wild Animals](#)

Meet Avihu, the guy who dedicates his life to the rescue of wild animals. Instead of a living room and a guest room - Avihu turned his home into a sanctuary for wounded animals from all over Israel. Parrots, turtles, crows, possums, hedgehogs - all get treatment and a safe place to call home while they heal. Watch Avihu's incredible journey to help every creature he can.

[The Car of the Future](#)

Tired of driving? We have good news! The car of the future, greener, safer, faster - is being built right here in Israel. The car of the future is about software, AI, machine learning and computer vision. Why in Israel? The best startups and technology are already here.

[IDPD - How Israel is Advocating for People with Disabilities](#)

Israel is home to 1.6 million people with disabilities. On International Day for Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) Israel is proud to stand with the special needs community and will continue to advocate for it and work towards a more equal and tolerant world.

[Israeli Scientist Wins EU Innovation Award for Revolutionary Invention](#)

Does the thought of needles and blood tests make you cringe? This Israeli invention is a game-changer for pain-free medicine! Israeli-Arab Technion Professor Hossam Haick won the EU Innovation Award for inventing the Sniffphone - an electronic nose which can diagnose patients by analyzing their breath, making future medicine less and less painful.

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