



New home for Chabad Lubavitch

Cramped and crowded for a number of years now, Chabad Lubavitch has finally moved into a new location that is almost kitty corner from the Chinook Shopping Mall.

The new Chabad Centre is in an industrial style building at 134 Forge Road S.E. Although there is much work still to be done, the new facility, at approximately 11,500 square feet, almost doubles

the size of its old premises in the Woodbine area.

A major portion of the move took place during September 28-29. Touring the structure with Rabbi Menachem Matusof, it is obvious that this is a building with good bones. It's quiet to the traffic noise outside. With cleaning, painting and shampooing the carpets, the interior presents well. There's lots of room for offices, activity rooms, classrooms, and storage. The facility comes with an alarm system and outside security cameras. Plumbing and HVAC appear to be good, but as a former industrial building it has an oversupply of electrical power, which may have to be changed at some expense in the future.

The building is located on two acres of land, so there is ample paved parking and a good number of secure, weatherproof storage sheds. Rabbi Matusof says at some point in the future he would like to convert some of the parking lot into green space and playground – but that is down the road.

There is still lots of work to be done inside – getting

furniture set up properly, getting all the computers networked, and organizing classrooms and play areas for Chabad's many programs.

The move into a new location has taken on the flavor of a community event. Many people have volunteered their time to help with the move and do some of the cleaning up. Individuals and businesses have

Sam Switzer. Other major contributors were Avi Amir, Ben and Diane Docktor, Gord and Eva Hoffman, Marvin and Leslie Levant, Murray Robins, Robert Rothenberg, Leonard and Faigel Shapiro, and Naum and Alla Shteinbah. The generosity of these donors will allow Chabad Alberta to thrive for decades to come.

that the new location does not take Chabad out of the Jewish community, but that it expands the borders of community.

A tour with the rabbi on moving day showed lots of work still in progress, hundreds of packing boxes stacked in the parking lot and trucks coming and going all day long.

The new Chabad Centre includes improved facilities for the Calgary Friendship Circle Program. The Youth Centre will have available seven class and activity rooms. There will be room for a dedicated computer lab and for other children and teen programs. The previous owners even left behind a very good basketball court, which will be quickly used by youth and others.

Rabbi Matusof estimates it will take about \$200,000 to make the new Chabad Centre fully functional and he is hoping there is enough goodwill in the community for people to help out.

To give but one example of how small things add up – Rabbi Matusof said, “there were 26 Mezuzot in the old Chabad Centre. Here we need over 50 . . . and we don't use the cheap kind.”

Helping Chabad with planning and development is city architect Rick Balbi.

“Our philosophy is that we are going to live in the building for some time to establish what the real needs are, and then work to make it happen,” Rabbi Matusof said.

The concrete brick industrial building has two large automotive bays with 20-foot ceilings. One of the bays will serve as a Shul and space for the popular JLI programs. The other bay will be used as a social hall, for CTeen programs, Calgary Yachad Hebrew School and other programs.

These two automotive bays are large spaces with great potential after final renovations.

Among the immediate needs is a basic, simple kosher kitchen. Later Rabbi Matusof would like to create a commercial size kosher kitchen with proper facilities such as walk in freezer.

In the meantime the new Chabad Centre is operational and will give the organization time to organize a long term fundraising plan that will allow people to make pledges over a period of time to help pay down the mortgage and fulfill some of the costlier expansion plans.



On the left, Rabbi Zalmy with Rabbi Menachem Matusof surveying the work still to be done at the new Chabad Centre at 134 Forge Road S.E. on September 27.

donated good quality office furnishings, computer monitors and other goods and services.

Chabad put \$1 million for the down payment, contributed by private doors, led by

Rabbi Matusof says he has been trying for years to find a new building to house Chabad's numerous activities without success until this property became available. He argues

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