

Calgarians ready to celebrate at new Chabad Centre grand-opening

By **Shael Gelfand**
For the Jewish Free Press

It's a good thing the new Chabad Centre on Forge Road SE has so much space for the Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting and Lag B'Omer Celebration on Mother's Day Sunday May 14. Hundreds of people will be there to celebrate this exciting and significant milestone for Calgary's Jewish Community. In just eight months the former A-1 Cement building has been transformed into the Chabad Lubavitch of Alberta, Centre for Jewish Life, Calgary Campus.

The grand opening celebration promises fun for all with loads of free attractions including a DJ, garden planting, rock climbing, mini-golf, petting zoo, bouncy castle, games and cotton candy. Food booths will be set-up and selling Kosher eats. The official ribbon cutting and Mezuzah affixing ceremony will include

and community leaders and acknowledge key donors and contributors.

Alberta Co-executive Director. "Response to phase one of our building

far. We can't do it without you so come and see what's been accomplished."

Lab, JLI and Yachad Hebrew School classrooms and the C-Teen Centre are now open along with all the offices, administration and renovated washrooms.

"The campers from highly acclaimed Camp Gan Israel are in for the best year ever with all the extra space and facilities," adds Rebbetzin Rochel Matusof, Chabad Alberta Co-executive Director. "The kids and their parents are excited already and registration is well ahead of last year."

The 12,500 square foot Calgary Campus sits on two acres on Forge Road SE, just a few blocks east of Chinook Centre. "It's a great central location," says Rabbi Matusof. "We're highly visible. So many people have noticed our building from Glenmore Trail and we're much more convenient and accessible for many Jewish families." The campus hosts Friday night dinners open to the community at large and Shabbos and Holiday services. Shabbos and

Holidays services are also held at the satellite location in Woodlands to accommodate residents of the area.

Rabbi and Mrs. Matusof greatly appreciate the outpouring of support, a living miracle in this economy, of all the donors and dedicated volunteers who made the purchase a reality and the last eight months of the initial steps of phase one a success. They are looking forward to more involvement and partnerships in completing phase one and beyond.

"There's still much more to be done like completing the Kosher commercial kitchen, social hall, playground, and more" adds Rabbi Matusof, "but when people come in and see what we've done there's a real wow factor."

The community is invited to the Grand Opening and Lag B'Omer Celebration. Please visit www.ChabadAlberta.org/GrandOpening for more information. Celebrations start at 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 14. The location is 134 Forge Road S.E.



Former Mayor Al Duerr cutting the ceremonial ribbon alongside (l. to r.) Aron Eichler z'l, Rabbi Menachem Matusof, and Murray Robins, at the Grand Opening of the Calgary Chabad House in Woodlands - June 23rd 1996.

"We're turning a dream into reality," says Rabbi Menachem Matusof, Chabad

campaign continues to grow and we want to thank everyone who has contributed so

The Shul, Social Hall, Alberta Jewish Library, Youth Centre, Computer

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