

# Calgarians join 2300 Jewish teens in NYC Times Square

It was an experience that none will soon forget. Eight Calgary teens recently traveled to New York City to join the 9th annual International CTeen Shabbaton. A record

growing Jewish youth organization in the world.

A jam packed weekend included sightseeing tours of the city that never sleeps, an authentic Shabbat experi-

Additionally, teens were treated to a surprise concert by Israeli superstar Gad Elbaz.

Havdalah and a live concert in the heart of Times Square on Saturday night

other Jewish teens like me, singing Am Yisrael Chai, was extremely powerful," says Calgarian Jake Goldstein.

"I found the Shabbaton to be an amazing experi-

Co-directors of CTeen Calgary, who coordinated the Calgary contingent. A native of Brooklyn, Rabbi Zalmy was the perfect tour guide taking the teens on

Calgarian Talya Kitai.

Her fellow Calgarian Tal Zhuhovitsky adds, "The New York Shabbaton was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. The food, the liveliness, and most of all the Jewish connection between all of the teens was unbelievable. I enjoyed this experience so much and even became closer with the people I came with."

Tal's parents agree. "This 2017 New York Shabbaton encouraged Tal to strengthen her Jewish roots. From a small Jewish community in Calgary to this enormous event involving thousands of Jewish teens from all over the world, this was an eye opening experience."

CTeen is already busy planning for the 10th International Shabbaton in NYC while CTeen Calgary is busy planning the 1st annual Calgary's Teen Purim Party.

For more information about CTeen Calgary, please contact Rabbi Zalmy or Brochie (Matusof) Levin at 403-281-3770 or visit [www.CTeenCalgary.com](http://www.CTeenCalgary.com).



The Calgary group (standing l. to r.) Rabbi Zalmy Levin, Kevin Kojokar, Shays Bercovice, Jake Goldstein, Baby Mussia, Brochie Levin, Tal Zhuhovitsky, Sasha Korin. From left to right (bottom): Raz Abosh, Talya Kitai, Maya Kitai.

2300 Jewish teens from over 30 countries attended this historical weekend organized by the Chabad Teen Network, CTeen, the fastest

growing Jewish youth organization in the heart of Chassidic Brooklyn, the CTeen Choice Awards and a closing banquet which took place at Brooklyn's illustrious Pier 12.

was an unforgettable experience. "Being in Times Square is awesome, but with the Rebbe's photo on the huge screens, joining thousands of



Over 2000 teens at Havdalah and live concert in Times Square in New York City.

ence. It opened my eyes to my Jewish culture and gave meaning to my heritage," says Calgarian Shays Bercovice. "Everybody was so hospitable and had such pride for the Jewish community. Something that I now have," he adds.

The teens had a very busy schedule thanks to Rabbi Zalmy and Brochie Levin,

the subway to the tourist sites, which included the 9/11 Memorial, One World Trade Center, NYC Stock Exchange, Statue of Liberty, a Matzah factory, and a trip to the Rebbe's Ohel.

"It made me see the Jewish community, its diversity and how so many people from different backgrounds have come together as one," says

## Sefer Torahs find new home

Surrounded by song and dance, Sefer Torahs paraded their way from the Chabad-Woodlands location to the new Chabad Calgary Campus located at 134 Forge Road SE on February 27th.

A parade of cars made their way to the two-acre property where even the snow and the cold could not keep the joyous participants from celebrating and rejoicing as the Sefer Torahs were

danced and placed in the aron kodesh that evening.

Rabbi Menachem Matusof, senior rabbi and executive director of Chabad Lubavitch of Alberta, thanked everyone for joining in this celebration. He then turned his attention to send heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who spent countless hours of their time transforming the Chabad House to welcome the Sefer Torahs.

From donors, painters, plumbers, electricians, and office furniture donators, Rabbi and Mrs. Matusof were overwhelmed with the support and time put in by the community. That is why it is their goal to renovate and update the Chabad Calgary Campus building to deliver vital programs to

our community as soon as possible.

The Chabad Calgary Campus is now open for Shabbat services, with several rooms available for those wishing to spend Shabbat at Chabad.

For more information please visit [www.ChabadAlberta.org/PhaseOne](http://www.ChabadAlberta.org/PhaseOne)

