



The 69 rooms and suites at the new Glo Best Western Kanata Ottawa West have ergonomic desk chairs and playful decor. PHOTOS: GLO BEST WESTERN KANATA OTTAWA WEST

NEW GLO BRAND ADDS SHINE TO OTTAWA SCENE



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

The new Glo Best Western Kanata Ottawa West, the first of its brand in Canada, is a playful and practical addition to Ottawa’s growing hotel scene.

Kanata is a busy business area west of downtown Ottawa, with nearby attractions for families and interesting, casual restaurants. And for hockey lovers, Kanata also is the location of the Canadian Tire Centre, home of the NHL’s Ottawa Senators, who will host the Montreal Canadiens there on Jan. 11 and Feb. 22.

Glo is a contemporary getaway that offers comforts and conveniences such as free Wi-Fi, free parking, a full breakfast and 30-minute local calls.

Ideal for business travellers, the guest rooms feature desks with ergonomic chairs. And parents with young children have free baby cribs and access to the laundry room (\$2). Everyone likes the gel-topped mattresses that you can really sink into. On the tech front, there are multiple outlets for charging devices in each guest room and a bank of computers in the lobby.

The suites have kitchens so you can dine in and they also have sofa beds, so they are suitable for four people. Bathrooms are equipped with appealing toiletries by Pharmacopia, a California company that uses plant-based

IF YOU GO

GLO BEST WESTERN KANATA
Ottawa West: 343-417-4561, 800-780-7234, glo.bestwestern.com or bestwestern.com; 60 Hearst Way, Ottawa (Kanata), Ont. Glo hotels also operate in several U.S. cities, including the Brooklyn borough of New York, and Asheville, N.C. Loyalty points apply for 17 brands of Best Western Hotels & Resorts.
Price: Rooms start at \$157.50 for two people, suites start at \$224.96 for four, including full breakfast buffet, Wi-Fi, parking, fitness centre, 30-minute local calls, coffee corner. Conference rooms available.
Ottawa Tourism: 833-864-7839, ottawatourism.ca

lotions and soaps.

And Glo has something extra: It’s fresh and upbeat. The decor is minimalist, but not boxy or cold. The lobby is alive with a wall of foliage and brightened by a swirl of avant-garde light fixtures. The guest rooms each have a sunny yellow leather armchair, a striking cobalt blue headboard and patterned wallpaper.

“Glo is designed for today’s



The lobby features pops of colour and feels welcoming. Glo is just 22 km from downtown attractions, and has lots to do nearby as well.

connected, savvy traveller who wants good value and an attractive look,” said Brad LeBlanc, senior vice-president and chief development officer for Best Western Hotels & Resorts.

What to do: Glo is 22 kilometres west of Ottawa’s classic downtown attractions: the Rideau Canal, Parliament Hill, ByWard Market and in Gatineau, the Canadian Museum of History. But there is plenty to do west of

Ottawa’s core, closer to the hotel.

The Diefenbunker, Canada’s Cold War Museum, an underground bunker-turned museum, was commissioned in 1959 during the Cold War in case of a nuclear attack; Carp, Ont., 15 kilometres west of Kanata (diefenbunker.ca).

Valleyview Little Animal Farm: a varied menagerie, Bill’s Old Farm Museum of antiques and farm equipment, a tractor-train

ride, playgrounds, puppet shows. Open approximately Easter to end of Oct.; Nepean, Ont. (valleyviewlittleanimalfarm.com).

Ottawa is enchanting in winter. The Rideau Canal Skateway will mark its 50th season in winter, 2019-2020, with festivities along one of Ottawa’s most charming and romantic attractions.

And for the December holidays: The Magic of Lights is a holiday-inspired attraction at Wesley Clover Parks near Kanata, Nov. 21-Jan. 4 (magicoflights.com/Ottawa). Ottawa also is launching a new Christmas Market at Lansdowne Park on weekends, Nov. 29 – Dec 22 (ottawachristmasmarket.com). And Christmas Lights Across Canada is a multimedia show projected onto the Centre Block of Parliament Hill (first week of December until early January, see canada.ca).

Food/drink: Glo does not have an on-site restaurant, but Ottawa’s suburbs are popping with a variety of cool restos.

Kanata is one of Pure Kitchen’s four locations. It’s a vegetarian cornucopia of vegan-friendly burgers, bowls, salads and fresh juices. It’s an extension of Pure Yoga, a studio in Ottawa (purekitchenottawa.com).

With a totally different vibe, the Big Rig Kitchen and Brewery in Nepean is one of the largest craft brewers around Ottawa and shows off with tours every Saturday. The taproom is open for samples and the restaurant serves pub fare like pork belly and a Cobb salad. I haven’t sampled the peanut butter cheesecake, but it sounds like a Big Rig must-do (bigrigbrew.com).

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