

Vieux Foyer in Val David

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE SEPTEMBER 6, 2010



Auberge du Vieux Foyer in Val David celebrated its 50th anniversary by opening a new spa.

Editor's note: Some of the details might have changed since the original publication date. Please check with the establishment before heading out!

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VAL DAVID – The Auberge du Vieux Foyer has one side of its personality rooted in Laurentian tourism of the 1950s, when die-hard skiers needed only a hearty meal and a warm room.

That was then. Cut to 2010. Vieux Foyer now has a stylish, contemporary side, the result of an expansion and renovation to mark its 50th winter season. Vieux Foyer hasn't re-invented itself totally. Hey, why mess with a fully booked hotel that has been packing in hikers and cross-country skiers for a half century? However, it has modernized by updating rooms and adding flat-screen televisions, a spa, trendy cuisine, a new chic bar and a corporate wing.

"Travel to the Laurentians is different today," said chef-owner Jean-Louis Martin, who works with his wife, Danielle Miron, who is the director of banquets, and her son, Bruno St-Denis, the director of food and beverage.

"Today's clients like larger rooms and more things to do independently. Gone are the days when we had group singalongs and games at night, so this season we opened the bar for après-ski and after-dinner entertainment.

"Also travellers visit more frequently, but for shorter trips, maybe two or three nights instead of the once- each-season, seven-night vacation. And now they want more flexibility, so if Mrs. wants a massage, Mr. can head for the bar or the outdoor whirlpool. If the children want to ski, the parents can use the spa."

