

# **NIAGARA PARKS LICENCING STUDY & COMMENTARY GUIDE**

## **Introduction**

To ensure visitors to Niagara Parks have an enjoyable and quality experience, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) enforces regulations and guidelines that govern all sightseeing operations occurring on its property. These regulations include mandatory annual licencing for all Tour Guides and Sightseeing Vehicles.

This Study Guide contains the information required to succeed at the Niagara Parks' Tour Guide Licencing Test. The contents will also help Guides provide visitors with accurate and entertaining commentary about Niagara and the Niagara Parks' properties.

Additional details and photographs of all Niagara Parks' attractions and facilities are located at [www.niagaraparks.com](http://www.niagaraparks.com).

## **Contact Information**

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## **NIAGARA PARKS FACTS**

### **The Commission**

NPC was founded in 1885 as a self-funding Agency of the Ontario Government. The Commission is an "operational enterprise" reporting to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, meaning that it operates at no cost to tax payers.

When first established, NPC controlled 62.2 hectares (154 acres) of land adjacent to the Falls on the Canadian side of the Niagara River. Today this public Park system totals 1,720 hectares (4,250 acres), including 56 kilometres (35 miles) of roadway and recreation trail following the Niagara River from Fort Erie in the south to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the north.

NPC's Mission is *"To preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Falls and the Niagara River corridor for the enjoyment of visitors while maintaining financial independence."*

The Commission must be self-funding, so it generates income from restaurants, gift shops, parking lots, golf courses and attractions such as the Butterfly Conservatory, White Water Walk, Journey Behind the Falls and Whirlpool Aero Car. *Purchases at Niagara Parks help great things happen. Every dollar spent with us helps preserve the nature and heritage of the Falls and the Niagara Parkway.*

### **Employees**

NPC's policy makers consist of a board of 12 individuals (Commissioners) who meet on a monthly basis. Eight of these Commissioners, including the Chairman, are appointed by the Province of Ontario. Additional appointees come from the municipalities of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls as well as the Region of Niagara. Carrying out the policies and daily activities of the Park is a staff of approximately 320 regular (full-time) and over 1,600 seasonal employees.

### **Facilities & Services**

Niagara Parks operates just like a city and the revenues it generates must support, among many things, its own police force, garbage collection, engineering, horticulture staff and bus transportation system. Niagara Parks is also guardian of many significant heritage sites and nature areas, preserving and protecting the rich history and ecological environment of the Niagara River.

Niagara Parks' revenues are used in part to provide activities and facilities to the public FREE of charge, such as:

- A year-round Floral Showhouse filled with beautiful floral displays and free-flying tropical songbirds, with an outdoor fragrance garden signed in Braille for the visually challenged.
- Floral displays throughout the Park, including the Botanical Gardens, Centennial Lilac Gardens, the Floral Clock and Oakes Garden Theatre.
- Regular Falls Fireworks, concerts and entertainment.
- Dufferin Islands Nature Area, featuring festive lighting for the Winter Festival of Lights.
- Hundreds of hectares of lawn and shade trees, playgrounds and park benches.
- Boat launching areas.
- The Niagara Parkway - called "the prettiest Sunday drive in the world" by Winston Churchill - featuring benches to relax and enjoy the view or picnic along the route.
- The Niagara River Recreation Trail for jogging, biking, walking or wheelchairs.
- Over 100 historic plaques and monuments highlighting events and persons of local and national importance.

### **Parks Police**

NPC has its own police force stationed in Queen Victoria Park opposite the American Falls. It is one of the oldest Police forces in Ontario, established in 1887. They never close. Visitors can contact the Parks Police if they lose any personal items at (905) 356-1338.

### **Picnicking**

NPC maintains covered picnic pavilions at 5 locations: McFarland Point Park, Queenston Heights Park, Niagara Glen, Kingsbridge Park and Old Fort Erie. Groups may reserve space in any of these pavilions for a small permit fee by contacting Niagara Parks.

## **FALLS TRIVIA**

### **Seven Wonders of the World**

Niagara Falls is NOT as most people believe one of the listed SEVEN WONDERS of the Modern, Natural or Ancient World. About 50 other waterfalls in the world are "taller" than Niagara. The Angel Falls in Venezuela is the world's highest at 979 metres (3,212 ft.). However, some of the tallest falls in the world have very little water flowing over them. It's the combination of height and volume of water that makes Niagara Falls so unique and beautiful. You'll agree that it qualifies as a Natural Wonder like no other!

#### Seven Wonders of Ancient World (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1979)

1. The Egyptian Pyramids
2. The Walls and Hanging Gardens of Babylon
3. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
4. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
5. The Colossus of Rhodes
6. The Statue of Zeus by Phidias at Olympia
7. The Pharos (or light-house) at Alexandria

#### Seven Wonders of Natural Times (World Book, Canadian Edition 1982)

1. Mount Everest in Asia
2. Victoria Falls in Africa
3. Grand Canyon in Arizona
4. Great Barrier Reef in Australia
5. Natural Caves in France and Spain
6. Paricutin Volcano in Mexico
7. Harbour at Rio de Janeiro

#### Seven Modern Wonders (World Book, Canadian Edition 1982)

1. Suez Canal
2. Dneproges Dam in Ukraine
3. Atomic Energy Research Establishment in England
4. Alaskan Highway
5. Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco
6. Eiffel Tower in Paris
7. Empire State Building - New York

## **Meaning of the Word Niagara**

The word "Onguiaahra" (pronounced on-ge-a-ra) appears on maps as early as 1641. It and the later version "Ongiara" are Indian words usually interpreted as "The Strait" or "Great Throat", although the more romantic "Thunder of Waters" is sometimes given. By the time the first white man arrived at the Falls, the name in general use was "Niagara".

## **Old Scow**

The wreckage of an old scow in the upper Niagara Rapids is a reminder of a spectacular rescue that happened in August 1918. The steel barge, loaded with rock and with three men aboard, was being towed by a Hydro tug when its tow line broke. One of the men plunged into the river and swam ashore. The two men on board opened the dumping hatches in the bottom of the craft to let water in, grounding the barge on the river bottom.

Efforts then began to rescue the two stranded men. The only hope was to shoot a line from the roof of the nearby powerhouse and rig a breeches-buoy to it. After several attempts, the men were finally able to grasp one, but the line became tangled with the buoy. Red Hill Sr., a famous area riverman, volunteered to swing himself out to the obstruction, hand-over-hand above the raging water. He clung from the line by his legs while he straightened the lines with a Marlin spike, allowing the men to be rescued. For his daring efforts, Red received official congratulations from the government and a Medal of Honour.

## **When the Falls Stopped**

It's hard to imagine anything could stop the gigantic rush of water over the Falls, yet records show it happened once. For 30 long, silent hours in March 1848, the river ceased its flow. High winds set the ice fields of Lake Erie in motion and millions of tons of ice became lodged at the source of the river, blocking the channel completely. Local inhabitants, accustomed to the sound of the river, heard an eerie silence and those who were brave enough, walked or rode horses over the exposed basin. The self-made dam held the water back until a shift allowed the pent-up weight of water to break through to its accustomed route. This has been prevented from happening again since 1964 by the annual installation of an "Ice Boom" at the source of the river.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES \***

### **Niagara River Corridor**

- the river is 58 kilometres (36 miles) long and is the natural outlet from Lake Erie flowing north to Lake Ontario
- the Niagara River is technically a strait, a narrow waterway connecting two large bodies of water
- the elevation difference between the two lakes is about 99 metres (326 feet), with half of the drop occurring at the Falls
- water entering the Niagara River represents about 20% of the world's fresh water and comes from the upper Great Lakes drainage basin, that drains approximately 684,000 square kilometres (264,000 square miles) of land
- the vertical drop of the *American Falls* ranges from 21 to 34 metres (70 to 110 ft.) from the brink to the rock fragments heaped at its base known as a *talus slope*
- the *Canadian or Horseshoe Falls* for the most part falls 57 metres (188 feet) into the Maid of the Mist pool
- the Niagara Gorge extends north from the Falls for 11 kilometres (7 miles) downstream to the foot of the escarpment at Queenston
- over 169,000 cubic metres (6 million cubic ft) of water go over the brink *every minute* during peak daytime hours, enough to fill 1 million bathtubs!
- the American and Horseshoe Falls are separated by Luna Island and the small Bridal Veil Falls and Goat Island

**Volume of Water / Diversion**

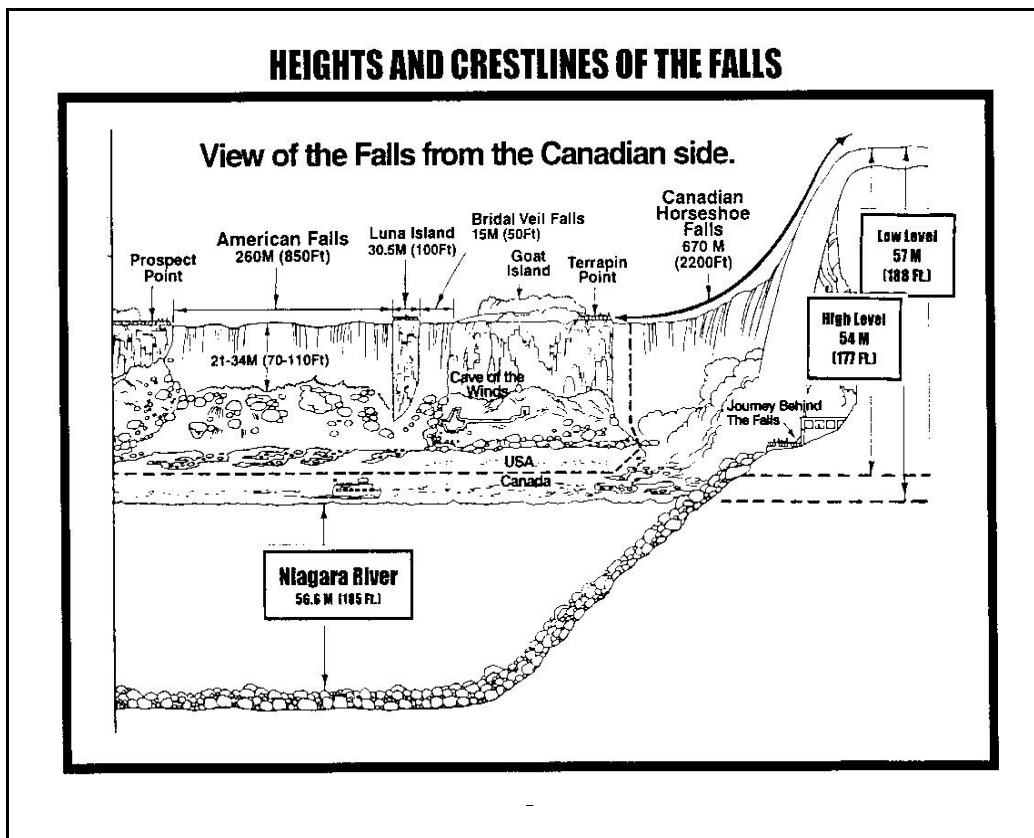
In 1950 the "Niagara River Water Diversion" Treaty was created between the United States and Canada to control the amount of water that could be diverted from the upper River for industrial and power generation purposes. The Treaty determined that the combined total volume of water flowing over both waterfalls during *Tourist Hours* (between April 1 to Sept. 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sept. 16 to Oct. 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) would be maintained at 2,832 cubic metres /sec. (100,000 cubic ft/sec) or 37.4 million Canadian Imperial Gallons per minute.

At all other dates and times, water is diverted and the flow reduced to no less than 1,416 cubic metres/sec (50,000 cubic feet/sec). Diverting water only at night ensures that the greatest volume of water flows over the Falls during daylight "tourist hours", keeping the beauty of the Falls at its peak for the enjoyment of visitors.

(\* Source: 2004-05 Operation of the Lake Erie - Niagara River Ice Boom, A Report to the International Niagara Board of Control, International Niagara Working Committee, Sept. 05)

**Crest Lines - Approximate Widths**

- Canadian Horseshoe Falls - 670 metres (2,200 ft) . . . . .
- American Falls - 260 metres (850 ft)
- Bridal Veil Falls, located on the U.S. side - 15 metres (50 ft)
- Luna Island - 30.5 metres (100 ft)



### **Erosion of the Falls**

Water crashing over the Falls has great erosive power and causes the brink to move back, or recede, each year. Prior to 1950 when the Niagara River Water Diversion Treaty was created between the United States and Canada, the volume of water flowing was greater than today, so the brink of the Falls eroded back more quickly, estimates being 3 to 4 feet per year. At today's volume, the rate of erosion is estimated to be approximately 1 foot or 30 centimetres every 10 years. It's estimated to have taken 10,000-12,000 years for the Falls to recede through the gorge, from its original position 11 km (7 mi) downstream at the Queenston Heights escarpment, to its current position at Table Rock.

### **Ice Boom**

Before 1964, each winter ice carried from Lake Erie would create ice jams along the Niagara River that seriously hampered power diversions and damaged shoreline installations and bridges. Since 1964, potential ice damage has been controlled by the installation of an "Ice Boom" at the source of the river. The 2.7 km (1.7 mile) long boom is made of floating 30-foot long steel pontoons and is placed between Fort Erie and the City of Buffalo to hold the ice back.

### **Ice Bridge**

The phenomenon of the ice bridge usually occurs each winter. Often in January, during a mild spell followed by a strong southwest wind, ice breaks up and travels down the Niagara River and over the Falls. The wet ice is forced up out of the water below the Falls, where it freezes into a huge mass, growing into a structure of considerable size looking like a glacier. It can build up to a height of ten stories. At the turn of the century it was a popular pastime to take part in entertainment and refreshments sold from huts on the ice. This continued until 1912, when during a mild spell the ice suddenly broke and three people trapped on an ice flow were carried to their deaths. Access onto the ice bridge has been strictly prohibited since that time.

### **Rainbow Bridge**

Opened in 1941, the Rainbow Bridge was built just 168 metres (550 feet) downstream from where the Upper Steel Arch or Honeymoon Bridge was pushed off its moorings by a massive ice jam in 1938. (Today such ice jams are prevented by the Ice Boom). A Carillon Tower is located at the Canadian end of the Rainbow Bridge and recitals are performed on the carillon bells on a regular basis during the summer and on special occasions.

### **Whirlpool**

There are many other waterfalls in the world, but there is only one Whirlpool. The Whirlpool Rapids are some of the most dangerous in the world - the highest rank of Class 6 - and flow at a speed up to 40 km (25 miles) per hour. The Whirlpool phenomenon is caused by the huge volume of water rushing through the Whirlpool Rapids, entering a sharp ninety-degree turn at high speed. As the water enters the turn, it is carried past the river outlet on the right, and circles counterclockwise around the pool, only to be cut off by the incoming stream as it goes by the entrance. Pressure builds up from behind, forcing it down under the incoming stream. The submerged flow surfaces near the outlet as dark boiling water. This circular flow does not happen at night when water is diverted for power generation and the water level is reduced.

### **ILLUMINATION OF THE FALLS**

Twenty-one Xenon lights, each with a 76 centimetre (30 inch) diameter are used to illuminate the Falls. Eighteen are located at the Illumination Tower beside Queen Victoria Place, and three are near the base of the gorge opposite the American Falls. Each Xenon spotlight has a brilliance of 250 million candlepower and coloured screens are used to create an array of colour combinations. The Illumination Tower building was originally a surge tank for a power station

located in the gorge. Group tours may book a dinner package with Niagara Parks that includes a tour of the Illumination Tower.

Since 1925 the Falls have been illuminated year-round as an international project funded and controlled by the Niagara Falls Illumination Board. Its representatives are from the City of Niagara Falls New York, the City of Niagara Falls Ontario, The Niagara Parks Commission, the Niagara State Park Authority of New York and Ontario Power Generation Inc.

## **HYDROELECTRIC POWER GENERATING STATIONS**

### **Canadian Niagara Powerhouse**

Located south of the Falls near the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse, this privately-owned powerhouse is part of the U.S. Niagara Mohawk power system. Built in the early 1900s, it was the first powerhouse to produce hydroelectric power for transmission and sale outside of Niagara Falls, Canada. Its eleven 10,000-horsepower generating units were the largest in use at that time. The discharge outlet for this plant can be seen at river level just to the north of the Journey Behind the Falls observation platform. As part of the Niagara Master Agreement signed in 2005, ownership of the facility will revert to NPC in 2009. Until that time it is still a functioning hydroelectric power generating station.

### **Ontario Power Station**

Built deep in the gorge across from the American Falls in 1904, this decommissioned station is visible from the observation platform at Journey Behind the Falls or from the Maid of the Mist. The tower next to Queen Victoria Place that is now used as the Illumination Tower, was originally the surge tank for the Ontario Power Station. As per the Niagara Master Agreement, ownership of this facility was transferred to NPC in 2007 and it is currently undergoing full structural assessments so it can be considered for adaptive reuse options in the coming years.

### **Schoelkopf Power Plant (Pronounced Shoal-koff)**

On the U.S. side of the River north of the Rainbow Bridge, a large brick wall and tunnels on the face of the escarpment are all that remain of the Schoelkopf Power plant that collapsed on June 7, 1956. The day began with a small but steady seepage in the back wall and by 4:00 p.m. the floor was buckling. Within the hour the entire back wall collapsed, demolishing the plant. All but one of the forty men working in the plant at the time made it to safety.

### **Sir Adam Beck Generating Stations 1 and 2**

Niagara's largest hydroelectric power development is at Queenston - the Sir Adam Beck Generating Stations 1 and 2. The first generating station was built in 1917 and was the largest construction project ever undertaken in the region at that time. Construction of the second station in 1950 employed over 7,000 workers. The Robert Moses Generating Station on the U.S. side began delivering power in 1963.

Water that is diverted upstream from the Falls is shared equally for hydroelectric power generation by Canada and the United States. Niagara's total generating capacity today is about 4 million kilowatts (5 million horsepower).

The power plants were built on the Niagara escarpment because it has the highest drop from the top of the gorge down to the river below, making it the most efficient location for hydroelectric power generation. The stations on both sides of the Niagara River use reservoirs at the top of the gorge to store water for generating purposes. The Canadian reservoir covers 300 hectares (750 acres). When water is released from the reservoir it passes through penstocks to generators below, where electricity is produced.

The reservoirs are filled at night with water diverted from above the Falls several miles away,

and transported through underground tunnels and open canals that are cut through the City of Niagara Falls. The water can then be used for power generation during the day when the demand for electricity is at its peak. Tours at the facility are offered by Niagara Parks, daily on the hour between March and November.

Construction can now be seen south of the Falls just past Rapidsview Complex. Ontario Power Generation is using the world's largest tunnel boring machine, named "Big Becky", to dig a new tunnel for water diversion to Sir Adam Beck Generating Complex at Queenston. The tunnel will boost capacity at the plant and increase the province's supply of clean energy. The machine is boring a 10.4 kilometre tunnel at a depth of up to 140 meters below the City of Niagara Falls, connecting with the Niagara River at Queenston. Approximately 80 per cent of the tunnel is located within Queenston Shale, a material used in making bricks. "Big Becky" travels at a speed of 15 metres a day. The tunnel is expected to be completed by 2009, increasing electricity output at the complex by 14 percent.

### **Toronto Power Generating Station**

Located across from the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse, this grand building was constructed in 1906. The Canadian-owned Electrical Development Company built this imposing powerhouse on the river's edge to supply power solely for the City of Toronto, 144 kilometres (90 miles) away. To make the most efficient use of the force of the water, it was built right on the river bed. It occupies an area that was once under 2.4 to 7.3 metres (8 to 24 feet) of water. The station ceased production in 1974 and its operations were transferred to the more modern facilities at Queenston. As per the Niagara Master Agreement, ownership of this facility was transferred to NPC in 2007. It is currently undergoing full structural assessment to consider adaptive reuse options in the coming years.

**NIAGARA NATURE TRAILS** - Nature lovers, wild-flower or bird enthusiasts, environmentalists, hikers, cyclists, amateur geologists and photographers - everyone will enjoy the trails that wind through woodland and conservation areas, deep in the Niagara Glen or along the Niagara River. Explore old growth forests, the great gorge and pristine nature preserves. Highlights include:

### **Dufferin Islands Nature Area**

In the early 1900s this area was enlarged with rock fill excavated from the river by the Ontario Power Company. Named after Lord Dufferin, one of Canada's early Governors General who helped create Niagara Parks, the area features trails that wind through eleven small islands connected by foot-bridges. A perfect spot for picnics, birding and fishing, Dufferin Islands and the upper rapids of the Niagara River are remarkable for bird and gull spotting. The Niagara River has numerous environmental designations, including the globally significant "Important Bird Area". During the annual Winter Festival of Lights from early November to early January, the Islands feature animated lighting displays.

### **Niagara Glen**

This area of the gorge north of the Whirlpool was carved by the erosive forces of the Falls as they moved through over 10,000 years ago. This nature reserve is a favourite place for hiking, bird watching or for spotting unique plants and wildlife. The Park also contains a large covered picnic pavilion. The Niagara Glen Park also contains North America's largest collection of hand-carved, one of a kind totems poles at the Totem Pole and Woodcarving Park, where Master Carver Frank Kim provides regular on-site carving and interactive demonstrations. Located at the Niagara Glen Park across the Parkway from the Whirlpool Golf Course.

## **Recreation Trails**

The Niagara River Recreation Trail is a paved trail parallel to the Niagara River, for walking, jogging, biking and wheelchairs, linking Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. From Old Fort Erie to Fort George, the trail covers 53 kilometres (33 miles) and passes through three local municipalities, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. At mid-point the trail intersects with the southern terminus of the Bruce Trail, a famous 740 km (460 mile) hiking trail that runs the entire length of the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston Heights Park to Tobermory on Georgian Bay in the north. It is part of the 15,000 km (10,000 mile) Trans Canada Trail that stretches across Canada linking the three oceans from St. John's, Newfoundland on the Atlantic coast to Victoria, British Columbia on the Pacific coast and north to Tuktoyaktuk and the Arctic Ocean.

## **NIAGARA HERITAGE TRAIL**

### **Chippawa Battlefield Park**

The Battle of Chippawa took place at this site on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1814. The monument at Chippawa Battlefield Park commemorates both the battle and the hundreds of American, British and Native forces who died there. Niagara Parks has preserved this land adjacent to Legends on the Niagara, creating a free self-guided walking tour that explains the battle in detail.

### **Laura Secord Homestead**

War of 1812 heroine Laura Secord, made a 32 km (20 mile) journey through the American lines and over wild, unsettled country to warn the British forces of an impending attack. Her warning helped the British and a force of Native Allies defeat the Americans at the Battle of Beaverdams on June 24, 1813. In 1913 the Laura Secord chocolate company was created and used her name to honour the 100th anniversary of her walk. The company purchased and restored the Secord homestead, then later, to ensure its continued preservation, they transferred ownership to NPC. Today, guides in period costume recount her adventure on tours through the lovingly restored homestead. In January 2003, Laura was recognized as "a person of national historic significance" by the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and in 2004 was ranked #35 on the list of the Top 100 "Greatest Canadians". Located in the Village of Queenston and open seasonally June to September.

### **Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum**

The Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum is Canada's largest working printing museum and is dedicated to preserving hot lead and letterpress equipment. The beautiful limestone building is the former home of William Lyon Mackenzie, a fiery newspaper editor who led an ill-fated Rebellion in 1837. Today the Printery is operated by Niagara Parks and features a hands-on environment with a working linotype and operating heritage presses. It is located in the Village of Queenston and is open seasonally June to September.

### **McFarland House & Park**

McFarland House is a beautifully restored circa-1800 Georgian home that was used as a hospital by both American and British forces during the War of 1812. It is situated in McFarland Point Park, where a large covered pavilion is a popular picnic spot. During the summer months, Niagara Parks' interpreters in period costumes provide guided tours and serve fine teas and home baked goods at the Tea Garden patio. The home features a period herb garden and is on the grounds of McFarland Point Park, just south of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Open seasonally June to September.

## Old Fort Erie

Old Fort Erie was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812 and U.S. forces occupied it twice. In 1937 Niagara Parks began restoration with the Canadian Federal and Provincial governments and it has been declared a National Historic site. Authentically dressed Guards and interpreters bring this recreated British Garrison to life, guiding visitors through period rooms and a War of 1812 museum. The annual Siege of Fort Erie takes place each year on the second weekend of August. Located at the southern end of the Niagara Parkway, 1 km (0.6 mi) south of the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie. Open seasonally June to October.

## Plaques and Monuments

Niagara Parks maintains over 100 historic plaques, monuments and commemorative markers along the Niagara Parkway and Recreation Trail and on its properties, that highlight historic events, persons and the natural history of this important region.

## Queenston Heights Park / Brock's Monument

*(Access to the top of the Monument is closed until further notice during restoration work.)*

Queenston Heights Park is the site of the War of 1812 battle in which Sir Isaac Brock was killed. A 50 m (164 ft) monument in his honour was built in 1856, perched high above the Niagara Escarpment. Visitors can climb a circular stone staircase to a small observatory at the top and on a clear day can see the skyline of Toronto across Lake Ontario to the north. The monument is owned and operated by Parks Canada, but the parkland around it is operated by Niagara Parks, including picnic areas, tennis courts, a concert shell, covered picnic pavilions, a children's splash pad, hiking trails, baseball diamonds and the Queenston Heights Restaurant.

## PEOPLE WHO CHALLENGED THE FALLS

Sixteen people are on record as having made intentional trips over the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, most in contraptions such as barrels, inner-tubes, kayaks, and jet-skis. Due to the many tragedies that have occurred The Niagara Parks Commission prohibits "stunting" on all of its properties under the authority granted under the Niagara Parks Act. Stunting now carries a maximum fine of \$10,000. In chronological order, stunters were:

No.	NAME	DATE	RESULTS
1.	Annie Edson Taylor	October 24, 1901	Survived
2.	Bobby Leach	July 25, 1911	Survived
3.	Charles Stephens	July 11, 1920	Died
4.	Jean Lussier	July 4, 1928	Survived
5.	George Stathakis	July 4, 1930	Died
6.	William "Red" Hill Jr.	August 5, 1951	Died
7.	William Fitzgerald PH. D.	July 15, 1961	Survived
8.	Karel Soucek	July 3, 1984	Survived
9.	Steven Trotter	August 18, 1985	Survived
10.	David Munday	October 5, 1985	Survived
11.	Peter DeBernardi/Jeffrey Petkovich	Sept. 27, 1989	Survived
12.	Jessie Sharp	June 5, 1990	Died
	David Munday (2 <sup>nd</sup> time)	Sept. 26, 1993	Survived
	Steven Trotter (2 <sup>nd</sup> time)/Lori Martin	June 18, 1995	Survived
13.	Robert Overacker	October 1, 1995	Died
14.	Kirk Jones	October 20, 2003	Survived

Summary: 16 Trips over the Falls by 14 different people (2 people went over twice). Five out of the 14 people lost their lives.

### ***The Miracle at Niagara***

There is only one instance of a person unintentionally going over the Falls and surviving. On July 9, 1960 Jim Honeycutt took his co-worker's children, 17-year-old Deanne and 7-year-old Roger Woodward for a boat ride in the upper Niagara River. Intent on giving the kids a good view of the rapids, he was soon past the point of no return.

He turned the boat around, but a shear-pin failure disabled the motor and left the boat wallowing in the swift current. Roger was already wearing a life jacket and Deanne quickly put one on. Seconds later the light boat flipped end over end. Honeycutt and Roger were whipped toward the brink of the Falls. Deanne was carried into the shallow rapids near Goat Island located on the US side of the Niagara River. Within a few feet of the brink of the Falls at Terrapin Point, Deanne clutched at the hands of rescuers and she was dragged to safety just in time.

Honeycutt was swept to his death in the tons of water that crash over the Horseshoe Falls each second. Roger was swept over the brink and outwards by the trajectory of the Falls. Moments later the captain of the Maid of the Mist could hardly believe his eyes when he saw an orange life jacket appear in the white water at the base of the Falls. Moving the Maid closer a life buoy was thrown and within minutes Roger Woodward was safely aboard. He was the first person to survive the Horseshoe Falls without a protective capsule.

## **Section 2**

### **SIGHTSEEING OPERATORS & TOUR GUIDES IN NIAGARA PARKS**

#### **A Licence is Required**

Under the NIAGARA PARKS ACT it is regulated that: "No person shall guide visitors through the Parks for compensation without a valid Guide Licence from the Commission."

#### **Driver and Tour Guide Services**

*Bus Call-back:* Coach drivers must use the Niagara Parks' *Bus Call-back* system in Queen Victoria Park. Drivers drop passengers at Bus Management and proceed to Rapidsview Parking to wait for their call-back.

*Ambassadors:* For Guides who are also Drivers, *Niagara Parks' Ambassadors* assist with guiding passengers from the bus to the check-in point of the attraction.

*Lounge:* For the convenience of Drivers and Guides using the Bus Call-back system, a Drivers' Lounge is located at the *Rapidsview People Mover Terminal*.

#### **Spare the Air Emissions Programme**

Niagara Parks together with several regional partners, promote a "Spare the Air" programme to help reduce air emissions caused by vehicles idling unnecessarily. *Drivers are encouraged to turn off their vehicles when parked or idling for more than two minutes.*

#### **Vehicle Advertising in the Park**

Companies or individuals are not allowed to display advertising on the outside of their sightseeing vehicle(s) in the Park without written approval from the Commission.

#### **Working with the Public**

*Be a Tourism Professional.* The visiting public and Niagara Parks both expect a high standard of performance.

*Know Niagara.* When you don't know the answer to a question, don't make it up. The facts must be correct, so if you don't know an answer, try and find out for next time.

*Be our Country's Ambassador.* You are much more than a Tour Guide. You may be the first person the visitor has ever met from Canada or the United States.

*Be Friendly and Courteous.* Enjoy being a Guide and let your visitors know you appreciate their business. Make visitors feel at ease and encourage them to make comments and ask questions. If you enjoy what you do, so will your guests.

*Show Integrity.* Leave your personal life and opinions on sensitive subjects out of your interaction with the public. Focus on information about Niagara and make sure your comments are tasteful and family-oriented. Tell your customers in advance about any additional charges they may incur at attractions you visit.

***Support the Ontario Government's Tourism Strategy - the "Customer Comes First".***

#### **Transportation**

##### **Falls Incline Railway**

The Falls Incline Railway began operation in 1966 and was designed to carry passengers between the Fallsview tourist area on the upper bank and the Table Rock Point area. It transports up to 1,600 persons per hour in twin Plexiglas-topped cars that travel 50 metres (165 feet) in just under one minute.

##### **People Movers**

Visitors are encouraged to use Rapidsview Parking Lot, where for one low fee visitors can park and receive a free shuttle to Table Rock Point, the starting point of the People Mover system.

The People Mover was created in 1985 to help alleviate traffic congestion in the Park and travels between Table Rock and Queenston Heights. Visitors may get on and off the buses all day for one fee or with the purchase of a Niagara Falls & Great Gorge Adventure Pass that is sold between April 16 and October 31. Tickets for the People Mover system and Adventure Passes are available at Rapidsview, Table Rock and all Niagara Parks Welcome Centers, stores and attractions.

## **ADVENTURE ATTRACTIONS**

### **Journey Behind the Falls**

Visitors travel by elevator down 46 metres (150 feet) to experience the Falls from observation decks at its base and viewing portals that are actually behind the thundering water. This self-guided attraction is open year-round and in the summer provides biodegradable souvenir raincoats for protection from the mist. The name Table Rock refers to a large, flat limestone ledge that used to jut out like a table at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls. It began falling in 1818 and to ensure visitor safety the rest was blasted off in 1935.

The first tunnel was blasted behind the Falls in 1889, and visitors were escorted by guides carrying lanterns. Due to the continuous erosion of the Falls, multiple extensions had to be made to the original tunnel, until 1944 when a new tunnel with concrete lining and electric lights was constructed. This is the same tunnel used today. In 1951 an observation plaza was located at the end of a branch of the old tunnel where a small outlook had been located. Previously called the Table Rock Scenic Tunnels, the name was changed in 1994 to Journey Behind the Falls to more graphically describe the attraction. Open daily from 9 a.m. except Dec. 25, timed ticketing is available.

### **Niagara's Fury**

Located inside the newly renovated Table Rock, this year-round experience is the highlight of any visit to Niagara Falls. Niagara's Fury tells the story of the evolution of the Falls while providing a thrill like no other!

### **Maid of the Mist**

Maid of the Mist is a private, family-owned company that leases land on the Canadian side of the river from The Niagara Parks Commission. One of North America's oldest tourist attractions, the Maid of the Mist boat tours have operated since 1846. Powerful diesel engines push the world-famous Maid of the Mist boats to the base of the American Falls and into the very basin of the magnificent Horseshoe Falls. Opening each season depends upon weather conditions - sometime from mid-April to mid-May - and closing is normally October 24.

### **Whirlpool Aero Car**

The Whirlpool Aero Car rides through the air on 6 cables suspended 76.2 metres (250 ft.) above the churning Whirlpool Rapids, covering a distance 539 metres (1,770 ft.) between two points on the CANADIAN shore, Colt's Point and Thompson Point. The attraction was originally named the Spanish Aero Car, because it was designed by a Spanish engineer. Open since August 8, 1916, the ride operates from late spring to fall. The attraction may close for safety reasons due to high winds or poor weather conditions.

### **White Water Walk**

The Whirlpool Rapids are second only to the Falls in natural beauty and awesome spectacle. Here the huge amount of water rushing from the Falls is forced through a gorge less than 95 metres (310 feet) wide. As the gorge descends 19 metres (60 feet) in less than a kilometre

(half a mile), the water creates some of the wildest "Class Six" whitewater rapids in the world. At this attraction an elevator takes visitors down 70 metres (230 feet) to an observation deck and a boardwalk that runs 300 metres (1,000 feet) beside the raging rapids. The layers of rock on the steep walls show the fascinating geological history that was revealed as the Falls slowly moved through the gorge over 10,000 years ago. Timed ticketing is available.

### **Sir Adam Beck 2 Generating Station Tours**

Since 1958, Sir Adam Beck Generating Station No. 2 has been Ontario Power Generation's largest and one of its most reliable hydroelectric facilities. Guided tours give a glimpse into the history of the region's power development and reveal the unique ways the natural splendour of Niagara and hydroelectric generation have existed in harmony. A power-themed gift shop is also located here. Open daily March to November.

**NIAGARA GARDEN TRAIL** - Discover our world-famous rose collections, spectacular flowering trees and shrubs and gorgeous annual baskets. From North America's largest daffodil displays to Heritage kitchen gardens, gardening and flower enthusiasts can always find something new to appreciate. Highlights include:

### **Butterfly Conservatory**

This popular attraction on the grounds of the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens opened in 1996. Over 2,000 tropical butterflies fly through a rainforest setting that includes networks of paths, exotic greenery, plants and a 20-foot waterfall. Newly emerged butterflies are released into the Conservatory each day at 9:30 a.m. The Butterfly Gift Shop features nature-themed items and light meals are served at the licensed Butterfly Café, located near the entrance to the Conservatory. The Conservatory opens daily at 9:00 a.m. except Dec. 25 and timed ticketing is available. Half price admission is available with the purchase of an Adventure Pass.

### **Botanical Gardens & School of Horticulture**

For over 70 years the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens have delighted visitors from around the globe with 40 hectares (100 acres) of dazzling manicured gardens and arboretum. The Botanical Gardens contain a diverse collection of formal and informal gardens that feature many well-known and unusual annuals, perennials, bulbs, trees and shrubs and a collection of roses. Established in 1936, the School provides a horticultural education experience that is unique in Canada. Students live on-site for the first 2 years of the 3-year program and as part of their training they maintain the grounds of the Botanical Gardens under the supervision of expert instructors. Located 10 minutes north of the Falls, admission to the Gardens is free from dawn to dusk throughout the year.

### **Centennial Lilac Gardens**

This beautiful garden blooms profusely in late May and early June. Over 225 varieties of lilacs are planted here, all with different colours and glorious scents. The Rotary Club of New York State originally donated the trees to establish a garden in recognition of Canada's Centennial year (100th Anniversary of Confederation) in 1967.

### **Floral Clock**

The Floral Clock is one of the most photographed sites in Niagara Parks. Built in 1950, it is one of the largest in the world at more than 12 metres (40 feet) in diameter. Its face is filled with over 15,000 small plants in elaborate designs that are changed twice each year. A wishing pond and a tower features Westminster chimes that sound the quarter hour.

### **Floral Showhouse**

Colourful floral displays are changed eight times a year to celebrate the seasons or holidays. Visitors are delighted by over 70 free-flying tropical songbirds that live among the beautiful annual and tropical displays. Outside there is a rose garden and a fragrance garden signed in Braille for the visually impaired. This is also where hundreds of thousands of plants are grown for use in the beautiful gardens throughout Niagara Parks. Open year-round except Dec. 25, free of charge, this attraction was previously called the Niagara Parks Greenhouse.

### **Oakes Garden Theatre**

Oakes Garden Theatre was built in 1937 at the foot of Clifton Hill on the former site of the Clifton Hotel that had been destroyed by fire. It was named after Sir Harry Oakes who donated the property to The Niagara Parks Commission in 1934. This beautiful beaux-arts structure incorporates colourful formal gardens, rockeries and lily ponds reminiscent of a Japanese garden. Sometimes used for concerts and special events, Oakes Garden Theatre is a favourite spot for wedding photographs.

### **Queen Victoria Park**

Queen Victoria Park is the centrepiece of Niagara Parks, and features beautiful gardens, fountains and areas for viewing both Falls. The Park was named after the reigning British monarch at the time and is the main entrance to Niagara Parks for visitors to the Maid of the Mist and Table Rock areas.

## **DINING IN NIAGARA PARKS**

The Niagara Parks operates several excellent restaurants, all offering great dining in spectacular settings. Table Rock Restaurant overlooking the brink of the Falls was closed for renovation in September 2007 and was reopened in June 2008 as Elements on the Falls, a new culinary event with an incredible view, unique flavors and an artisan twist!

Edgewater Tap & Grill and the Riverview International Buffet are both located at Queen Victoria Place facing the American Falls, and Queenston Heights Restaurant sits on top of the Niagara Escarpment at Queenston. An award-winning VQA wine cellar featuring Niagara wines is featured at Queenston Heights Restaurant and this historic venue also won the Readers Choice "Best Brunch" award. There are also restaurants and lounges at Legends on the Niagara and Whirlpool Public Golf courses. Fast food is available at most Niagara Parks locations, including Old Fort Erie, Maid of the Mist Marketplace, Whirlpool Aero Car and the Butterfly Conservatory. Table Rock features Tim Hortons, Pizza Pizza, Ah So Sushi, Burger Town and Yogen Fruz outlets.

## **NIAGARA PARKS GOLF**

*Legends on the Niagara* is a world-class golf facility just south of the Falls that features 45-holes of championship golf: a 9-hole short course, Chippawa and two 18-hole courses - Ussher's Creek and Battlefield - that in 2005 were both ranked in the top 20 courses in Canada by The Globe & Mail. The Legends complex includes a 360° driving range and a Golf Academy and a spectacular Clubhouse with a restaurant, banquet facility and patio, all overlooking a 19-acre man-made lake. Renowned Canadian golf course architects Doug Carrick and Thomas McBroom designed the courses at Legends on the Niagara. Peter Berton, the son of famous Canadian author Pierre Berton, designed the Clubhouse.

The beautiful and challenging 18-hole *Whirlpool Golf* course opened in 1950 and was designed

by Stanley Thompson. It is ranked as one of the finest public courses in North America. Whirlpool offers a public restaurant and lounge with beautiful views of the course and the Niagara Parkway, just 10 minutes north of the Falls.

*Oak Hall Par 3* is a picturesque 9-hole course located on the grounds of historic Oak Hall opposite Marineland. For more on Niagara Parks Golf visit [www.niagaraparksgolf.com](http://www.niagaraparksgolf.com).

### **NIAGARA PARKS ENTERTAINMENT**

Niagara Parks provides entertainment throughout the summer — fun, family-oriented programming that is free of charge for all our visitors. Fireworks and concert evenings are held in Queen Victoria Park every Friday, Sunday and holiday, from the Victoria Day holiday weekend in May until the first Sunday in September. Concerts are held at the Illumination Tower starting at 8pm and Fireworks are at 10pm. From June through August, daily programming is featured in front of Queen Victoria Place and at the Maid of the Mist Marketplace, featuring musicians, jugglers, stilt-walkers and much more.

Major events held in the Park each year include the “Winter Festival of Lights” held throughout Queen Victoria Park and the Dufferin Islands Nature Area starting in early November and ending in early January. Included is the New Year’s Eve event featuring free live entertainment and fireworks, including a live television broadcast across Canada.