

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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NIAGARA PARKS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT

Niagara Falls, ON – The Niagara Parks Commission is seeking public comments on its programs for prescribed burns, Gypsy Moth control, and controlled access into the Niagara Glen.

A public open house will be held to discuss these initiatives on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Niagara Parks Maintenance Centre (7805 Portage Rd., Niagara Falls, ON - Parking available on site). Staff will be on hand to answer questions on the planned prescribed burns, Gypsy Moth control, and changes at the Niagara Glen. For further information and to R.S.V.P. for the public open house, please contact Joan Green at: (905) 356- 2241 Ext. 234 or submit comments on-line to jgreen@niagaraparks.com

BACKGROUND ON INITIATIVES

PRESCRIBED BURNS: As it did last year, Niagara Parks plans to conduct four (4) Prescribed Burns along the Niagara Parkway this spring, to create a healthier and more sustainable environment for plant life and animals found within its naturalized areas.

As with any exercise of this type, weather conditions will be a prime consideration in order to avoid smoke impact on local properties near the burn sites. The prescribed burns are tentatively scheduled to take place at the following areas between the dates of April 14th and May 8th:

- **Chinquapin Oak Savannah**, located north of the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens
- **Paradise Grove**, located along the Niagara River Parkway north of East/West Line
- **Upper Whirlpool Wood**, located across from the Whirlpool Golf Course
- **Chippawa Battlefield**, located north of Ussher's Creek

NIAGARA GLEN: The Niagara Glen is an undeniable treasure. The rugged terrain masks a much more sensitive side that needs our help. Approximately 490 species of plants and animals call the Glen home and an unprecedented number of them are listed as either “at risk” or “rare” in the province, one of the largest concentrations anywhere in Ontario. The Niagara Parks Commission is in the process of gathering data on day use excursions into the Glen. These users typically include hikers, birders and people who fish and who are not members of an organized user group. This spring, a new turnstile gate will be installed at the top of the metal stairs. This structure is equipped with counters that will provide NPC staff with credible data on visitation. The turnstile can also be used to control access for search and rescue purposes and during the night time and winter months.

GYPSY MOTH CONTROL: In 2008, an organic spray program for the control of Gypsy Moths at Paradise Grove and Queenston Heights Park was a success in reducing the infestation of Gypsy Moth populations. NPC continues to monitor the population to determine the need for future control and may also undertake a controlled research program in conjunction with the Canadian Forestry Service this upcoming season.

The Niagara Parks Commission is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Tourism. NPC’s mission is to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Falls and the Niagara River corridor for the enjoyment of visitors, all while maintaining financial self-sufficiency.

For More Information Please Contact:

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