

**For Immediate Release**

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## **NPC Adopts New Governance Structure**

*Commission thanks retiring Vice-Chair for years of dedicated service*

**NIAGARA FALLS** – At its monthly Board meeting, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) today formally adopted a new governance structure to oversee the operations of the Park system dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Niagara Falls and those lands located along the Niagara River corridor.

“The effective governance and review of such an important organization as Niagara Parks requires that we continually evolve our ways of thinking and doing business,” stated Fay Booker, Chair of The Niagara Parks Commission. “In today’s complex and ever-changing economy, an effective oversight model is one that adapts with the times. I believe the changes we have made today will help guide our operations successfully for years to come,” Booker went on to add.

The changes announced today also recognize the retirement of Archie Katzman from the position of Vice Chair of the Commission. The long-time businessman and community fundraiser has served faithfully on the Commission Board for close to 40 years; 29 of which have been served as Vice-Chair. While retiring as Vice-Chair, Mr. Katzman has expressed his intention to fulfill his responsibilities as a Commissioner until his current term expires in October 2011.

In recognition of his service to the Board and Province, Chair Booker presented Katzman with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him by commenting, “I know of no one who better exemplifies the spirit of community involvement, caring, volunteerism and commitment to this place, than Archie Katzman; and for that we all thank you.”

In terms of corporate governance practices, NPC’s Former Chair had established an oversight structure in 2005 made up of five committees: Governance, Finance and Audit, Parks and Heritage, Golf, and Events/Marketing. In 2008, this structure was again revised to examine corporate practices and performance in the following areas: Revenue Operations, Operations, and Finance and Governance.

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Today's changes will now see NPC implement an oversight model based on the following committees: Governance, Ethics and Human Resources; Heritage, Infrastructure and Parks; and, Finance and Audit.

To lead these Committees, NPC Commissioners then selected the following as Chair and Vice-Chair to lead their respective committees: David Howes (Chair) and Italia Gilberti (Vice-Chair) of the Governance, Ethics and Human Resources Policy Committee; Ed Werner (Chair) and Fred Louws (Vice-Chair) of the Heritage, Infrastructure and Parks Committee; and Gary Burroughs (Chair) and Janice Thomson (Vice-Chair) of the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Niagara Parks Commission, an Agency of the Government of Ontario since 1885, operates to preserve and enhance Niagara Falls and the lands along the Niagara River Corridor for the enjoyment of visitors, all while remaining financially self-sufficient.

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