



October 11, 2021

In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that The Niagara Parks Commission announces the passing of our Chair, Sandie Bellows last evening following a brave battle with cancer.

Statement from The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

Sandie Bellows was a remarkable citizen, community leader and friend. Her brilliance, determination and above all kindness drew so many people to her, including me. She was my friend, my cheerleader, and my mentor. I'm devastated for her family, her constituents and for our entire team at The Niagara Parks Commission. Sandie was one of a kind and she left us way too soon.

We will miss her leadership in the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The fresh air, humility, and dedication she brought to the Niagara Parks Commission changed the agency for the better. She has left a lasting legacy on many counts – her courage being among them – so too is the generating station she opened a few short months ago which will be an anchor attraction for Niagara and a key economic driver for Ontario.

I will miss Sandie as I know so many others in the Niagara region and across Ontario will as well.

Statement from April Jeffs, Vice Chair, and David Adames, CEO of The Niagara Parks Commission

On behalf of The Commission and staff, we would like to express our deepest sympathies to Sandie's family, especially to her sons Spencer and Colton who were the lights of her life.

After joining the Commission in October 2018, Sandie became Chair of Niagara Parks in January 2019. Under her leadership, Niagara Parks welcomed a record number of visitors and set a new benchmark for revenue during 2019-20. Sandie also guided the Commission through the unprecedented impacts of COVID while staying focused on delivering projects that were important to Niagara Parks, to the Province and to the tourism industry. These accomplishments included the redevelopment of Table Rock Centre, engaging with community stakeholders and creating a new attraction through the adaptive re-use of The Niagara Parks Power Station, which was Sandie's biggest point of pride.



As Sandie said at the official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Power Station on July 28, 2021, the vision for the project was: "To restore this power plant to its former glory and bring it back to life, and to open it up for guests to explore and enjoy for generations to come". This major redevelopment will be Sandie's legacy.

In the near future, the Minister and the Commission will hold a ceremony to dedicate a special place at Niagara Parks in Sandie's memory and to celebrate her contributions to Niagara Parks and to Ontario.