



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission - Public Meeting

August 8, 2024



Niagara Parks

- Founded in 1885
- Operates under the Niagara Parks Act
- Two founding principles:
 - i. Niagara Parks would never be a burden to the taxpayers of Ontario
 - ii. Niagara Parks would as much as possible, be free to enjoy
- Board-governed operational enterprise under the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture
 - 12-member Board of Commissioners

Mandate: To be the environmental and cultural stewards of the Niagara River Corridor

Vision: To be one of the most spectacular parks in the world



Funding and Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; 1,800 headcount in peak season; \$60 million payroll.
- Operating budget covers payroll, operating expenses to run its revenue-producing operations and key operational projects.
- Capital budget covers investments into deferred maintenance and strategic projects to enhance Niagara Parks' visitor experiences
 - \$175 million worth of deferred maintenance across Niagara Parks sites
 - **Major capital projects for 2024-25:**
 - *Replacement of Niagara's Fury*
 - *Repairs and maintenance*





Stewards of the Niagara River Corridor

- Niagara Parks is a key demand generator, driving visitation and tourism to Niagara and Ontario.
- Responsible for maintaining 56km Niagara Parkway and 53km recreation trail, numerous parks, gardens and natural areas.
- Breadth of services include Niagara Parks Police Service, School of Horticulture.
- Re-established Niagara Parks Foundation focuses on raising funds to support additional environmental and cultural stewardship projects.
- As a self-funded organization, investments into enhancing our guest experiences that in turn, drive visitation and grow revenue, directly benefit our ability to deliver on our mandate of environmental and cultural stewardship.





Niagara River Lions Partnership 2024

- Thursday, July 11 - Niagara Parks Game Day Presenting Partner
- Ceremonial Tip-off, in-game activations and shared promotional opportunities







New Wedding Venue: McFarland House

- Staged photoshoot to capture assets to help promote McFarland House as one of Niagara Parks' newest wedding venues





Refresh at White Water Walk

- Refresh of external and internal design elements at White Water Walk
- Refresh project will also include new interpretation panels within the attraction





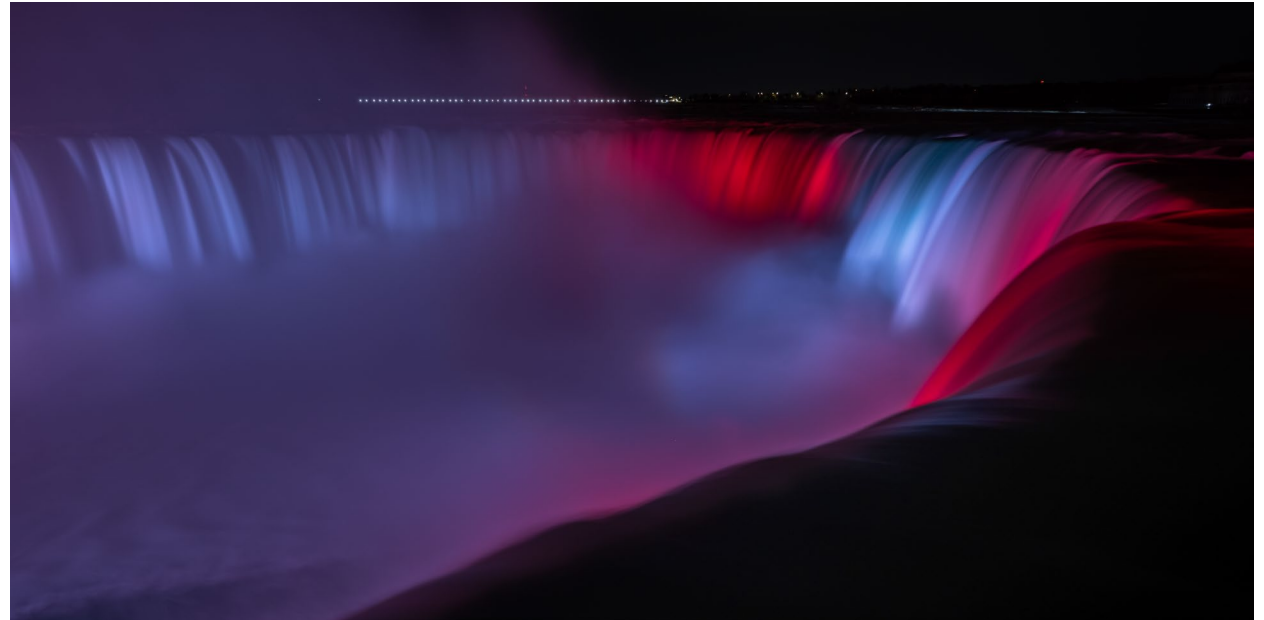
New Golf Cart Screens

- Golf carts at Whirlpool and Legends now feature new digital screens
- Will soon feature in-house promotional videos



Upcoming Events

- August 9-11: Special Binational Olympics Illumination in support of Team Canada & USA
- August 10-11: Siege of Fort Erie Battle Reenactment Weekend
- August 28: Red Arrows Flyover the Falls
- Aug 31-Sept 1: Labour Day Road Closures
- September 7-8: Majestic Monarchs Species Preservation Event





Coming Soon: New Exhibits at Butterfly Conservatory

- Beginning August 31, Niagara Parks will be hosting a temporary photography exhibit by Dr. Roberta Bondar
- Beginning September 14, Niagara Parks will be hosting a new art exhibit featuring signature glass sculptures installed throughout the Botanical Gardens and inside the Conservatory



NIAGARA PARKS POLICE SERVICE

Promoting Public Safety in the Parks

Traffic stop for speeding results in impaired driving charge.

Drugs charges and seizure.

Charges for possession of proceeds of crime under \$5,000.





NPC United Way BBQ

The Niagara Parks Police Service with Cst. Paul, Provincial Offences Officer Ayah Alkadi, and 18 student Provincial Offences Officer volunteers hosted an NPC BBQ benefitting the United Way. Great support from the Events team, Revenue Staff, and staff from all across the Parks who attended resulting in a successful fundraising campaign.

NIAGARA PARKS POLICE SERVICE



The Niagara Parks Police Service engaged a RIDE road safety check point on Jul 21st, 2024 in Queen Victoria Park. One impaired driver was arrested and charged. Sixty (60) warnings issued for seatbelt violations. One driver's licence suspension notice issued.





Recognition Garden at the Botanical Garden

- A collaboration between Niagara Parks, the School of Horticulture, and the Alumni Association of the School of Horticulture
- Created to bring attention to the generous contributions of those supporting the Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture
- Phase 2 completions: accessible pathway, irrigation, arbour structure, and plantings
- Phase 3: interpretation, dry stone wall, and signage



Vegetable Garden at the Botanical Garden

- Connects visitors with healthy local food initiatives
- Education and practice for Horticulture apprentices
- Produces fruit, vegetables, microgreens, and edible flowers
- Supplies the School of Horticulture residence, Niagara Parks restaurants, and local food banks





North Parkway

Completed Paving Projects

- Victoria Ave Intersection, ending 492 metres north on the parkway
- From eastern point of the Niagara River Parkway and Portage Road Roundabout to the bottom of Queenston Hill (Niagara River Parkway) at York Road
- Niagara Parkway just north of East and West Line to just north of the Ricardo Street intersection

Queenston Heights Park

- Niagara Parks will be using the caretaker's residence located on the grounds of Queenston Heights Park near the Queenston lookout as additional office space to house members of its Heritage & Legacy Team.
- Construction for the new tennis and pickleball courts will begin this September.





South Parkway

Paving projects

Work starting August 19, with an expected completion date of September 30

- Approximately 5 kilometres from south of Cairns Crescent to North of Bowen St. Intersection
- Approximately 1 kilometre from north of Wintermute Street to the joint on the south side of the Catherine Street
- Lakeshore Road from just before the new roundabout to Beatrice Street
- From Schweigler Road to 3255 Niagara Parkway
- Provisional resurfacing of field side lane of Cairns Crescent near Sutherland Drive

Additional Projects for this Fall

- Resurfacing of Service Road 18 and 27
- South Boulevard drainage improvements and culvert replacements





Central Parks

Paving Projects

- The Niagara Parkway from Mechanic Street to Upper Rapids Boulevard
- From the Bridge of Flowers to Murray Hill
- QVP Public Washroom Driveway Revamp

Recreation Trail Revamp

- Approximately 800 metres of concrete curb and sidewalk will be removed and replaced between White Water Walk and Whirlpool Aero Car

Table Rock Redevelopment

- Construction is underway near the main entrance to improve the north side fire exit.

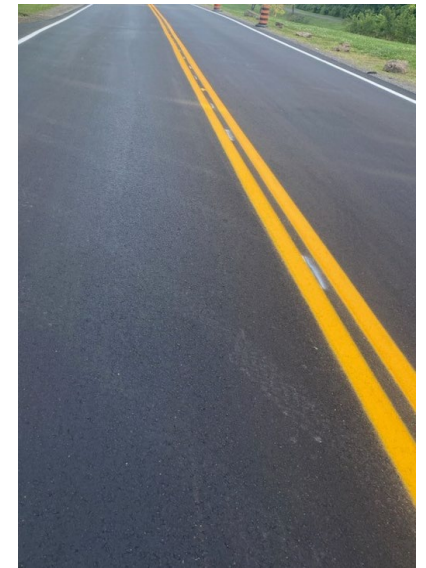
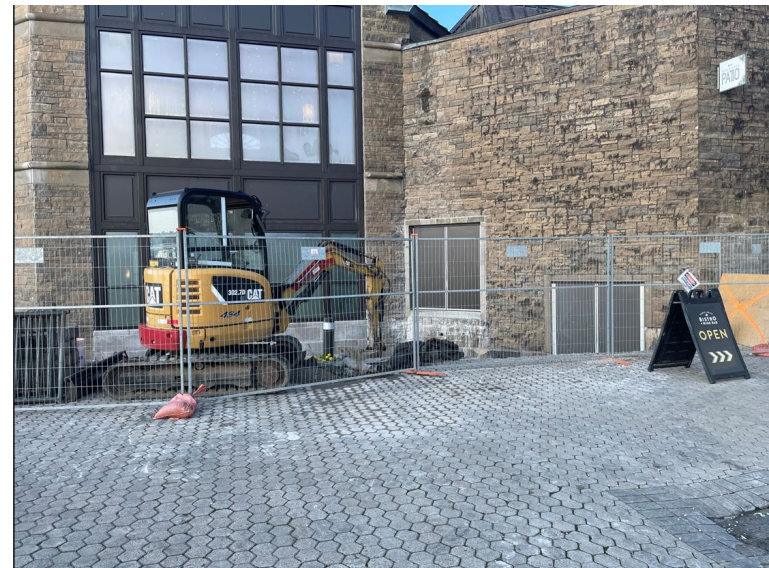
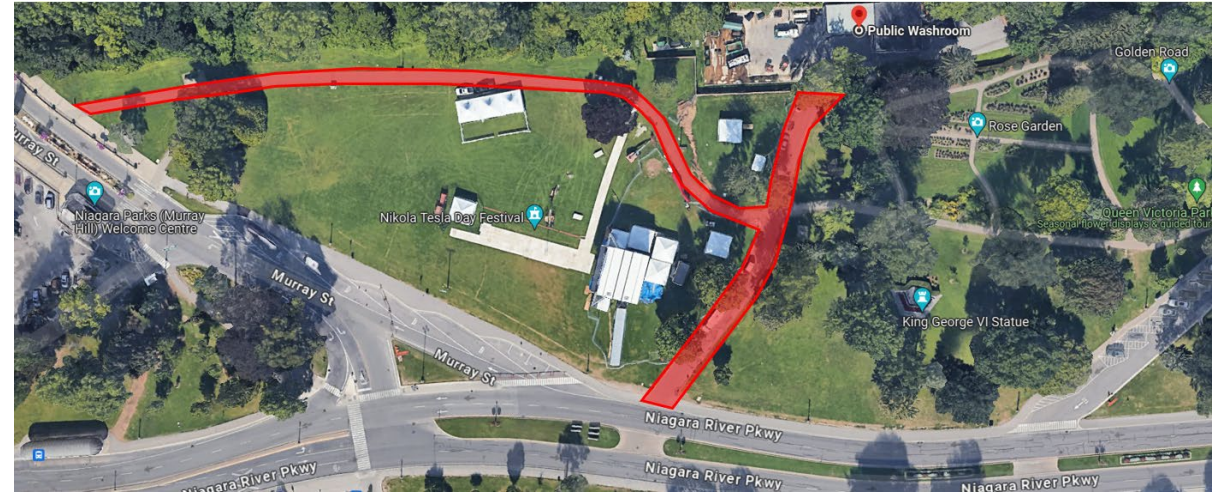




Table Rock Second Floor Welcome Centre and Washrooms

New guest washrooms and updated welcome centre are now open on the 2nd floor of Table Rock Centre

- 13 gender neutral stalls including 2 that are accessible





Closing Date for Niagara's Fury

- Labour Day, September 2, 2024, will be the final day of operations for Niagara's Fury
- The attraction and associated retail area will close to prepare for construction of new flying ride
- New second floor guest washrooms and welcome centre will remain open
- Information about the closure will be posted on Niagara Parks' website and digital store





Questions and Comments



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RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE



Vineland & The Niagara Parks Commission

Dr. Ian Potter
President & CEO



Vineland Research and Innovation Centre

Improving the economic viability, sustainability and competitiveness of horticulture in Canada

- Results-oriented Canadian organization dedicated to horticulture science and innovation
- Deliver products, solutions and services through an integrated and collaborative cross-country network
- Independent, not-for-profit launched in 2007



Vineland Programmatic Focus

Research and innovation support Canada's horticultural sector



Horticultural Technology Solutions

- Vision systems
- AI & machine learning
- Robotics
- Technology validation
- Systems integration



Biological Crop Protection

- Integrated pest management
- Entomology
- Plant pathology
- Biostimulants evaluation



Consumer, Sensory & Market Insights

- Consumer & sensory science
- Market research
- Value chain mapping
- Sustainability analysis



Plant Responses & the Environment

- Plant production science
- Soil restoration & health
- Abiotic stress
- Soil & substrate laboratory services



Crop Enhancement and Adaptation

- Plant breeding
- Variety performance evaluations
- Genomics
- Bioinformatics
- Biochemistry



Intellectual Property and Commercialization Management

Shared Goals & Interests



Ecosystem Management



Urban Forestry

Provide real benefits to creating transferrable knowledge and building capacity related to the urban forest and ecosystem management



Master Service Agreement

NPC and Vineland

- NPC and Vineland have signed a MSA for collaborative work on projects of mutual benefit
 - Cooperative relationship with an initial 5-year program of operations
 - Effective Date: February 8, 2024
 - Leveraging the expertise, resources, and capacities of the NPC, Niagara Parks School of Horticulture (SOH) and Vineland



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RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE

Activity 1: Soil Sampling

Identifying soil health challenges at future planting sites

- NPC has numerous properties prioritized for tree plantings
- Soil health testing and revitalization recommendations can optimize tree establishment
- Baseline data on soil health can improve plantings and demonstrate climate/ecological benefits of activities



Soil Sampling

Sampling Plan



1. Site priority identification and development
2. Soil Sampling and Software Training
3. Laboratory Soil Health Testing and Analysis ~90 samples at 6 sites

Soil Sampling

Demo: Rapids View Site



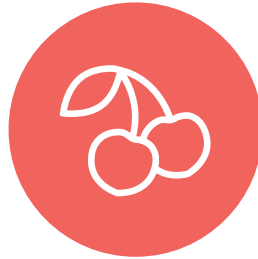
- Each sampling location at the site will contain two soil samples
 - Top-soil (0-20 cm)
 - Sub-soil soil (20-40 cm)
- Soil can be collected using an auger placed at the appropriate depth
- Top/bottom layer soil is divided into two separate buckets and placed in labelled ID bags
- Survey123 will be completed for each soil sample

Future Work

Collaborative Initiatives



Native seed source
road-mapping



Food forest planning
and development



Mini Forest planting
and monitoring



Improved integration
of green infrastructure
opportunities



Identifying opportunities
for greater tree
nursery integration



Collaborative learning
with the school of
horticulture



Community engagement
and promotion of
sustainable urban forests
and parklands



Thank you



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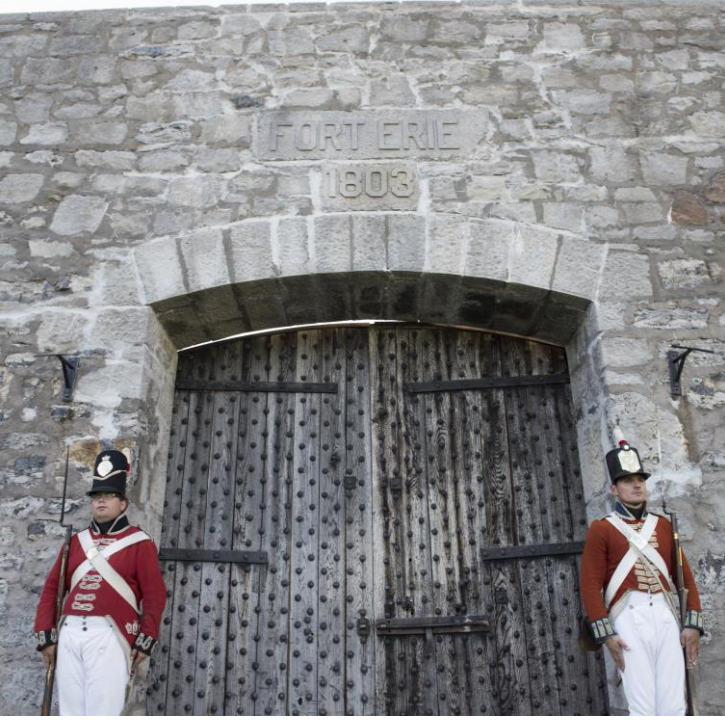


**NIAGARA
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Exploring Nation-Building Heritage & Legacy

Commission Meeting – August 8th, 2024





Key Interpretive Sites (North to South)

- McFarland House
- Laura Secord Homestead
- Mackenzie Printery
- Queenston Heights Park
- Chippawa Battlefield
- Old Fort Erie

Plaques, monuments and markers

- We currently have almost 250 commemorative markers on the lands we care for, highlighting all human history in Niagara.
- Niagara Parks is home to Canada's largest collection of sites, plaques, and markers in connection to the War of 1812.





McFarland House

- John McFarland was a master shipbuilder, earning 1,000 acres in Niagara for his service during the American War of Independence.
- His property was vital during the War of 1812 as a headquarters and hospital; today, McFarland House honours his generation's contributions to Canada.



Laura Secord Homestead

- The most iconic name in 19th century Canadian history.
- Laura Secord saved her husband's life in 1812 and helped save hundreds of Canada's defenders in 1813.
- Her story and her home stand as a testament to the sacrifice of Canadians.





Mackenzie Printery

- The home of Canada's famous rebel and reformer, William Lyon Mackenzie, who fought for good government.
- Mackenzie set the stage for Canadian confederation and democracy.
- Along with our Printery volunteer group, we highlight Mackenzie and centuries of printing history in Canada.



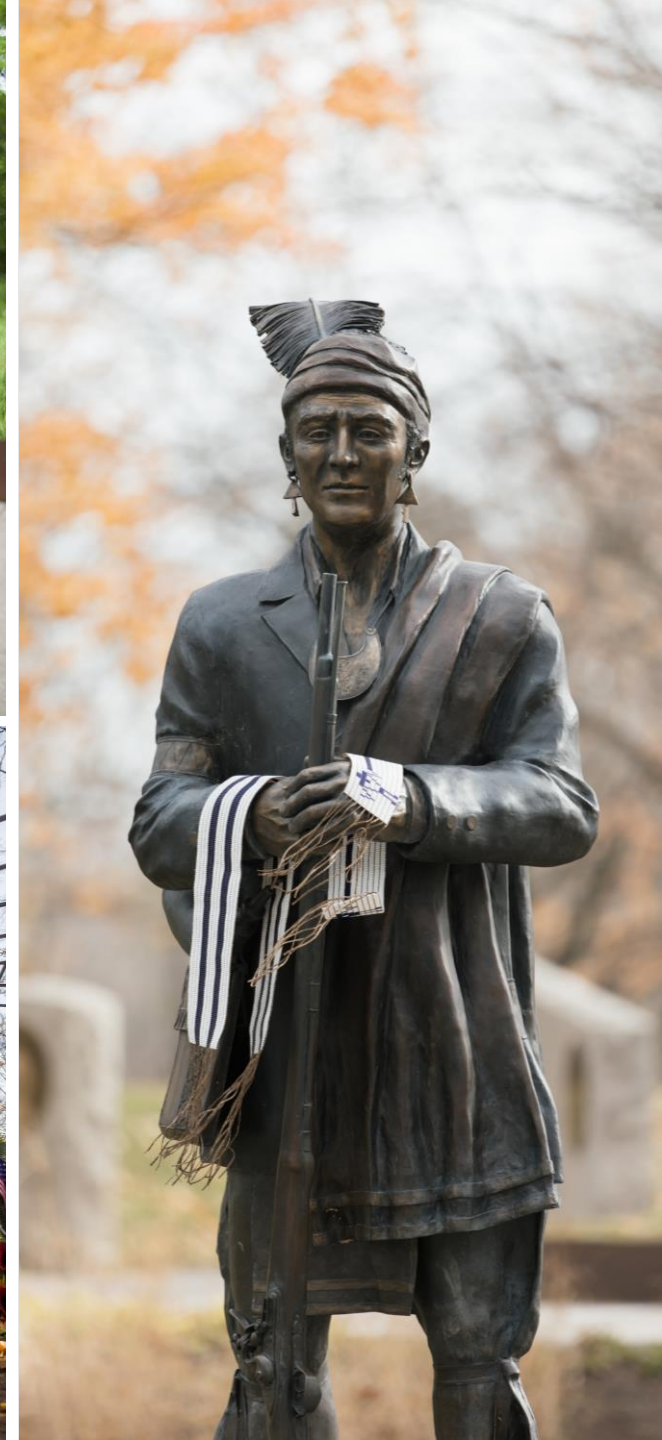


Queenston Heights Park

- The Heights mark the original location of Niagara Falls and a UNESCO World Biosphere.
- As a National Historic Site, it is a birthplace for Canada when a diverse group of defenders stood their ground.

Landscape of Nations

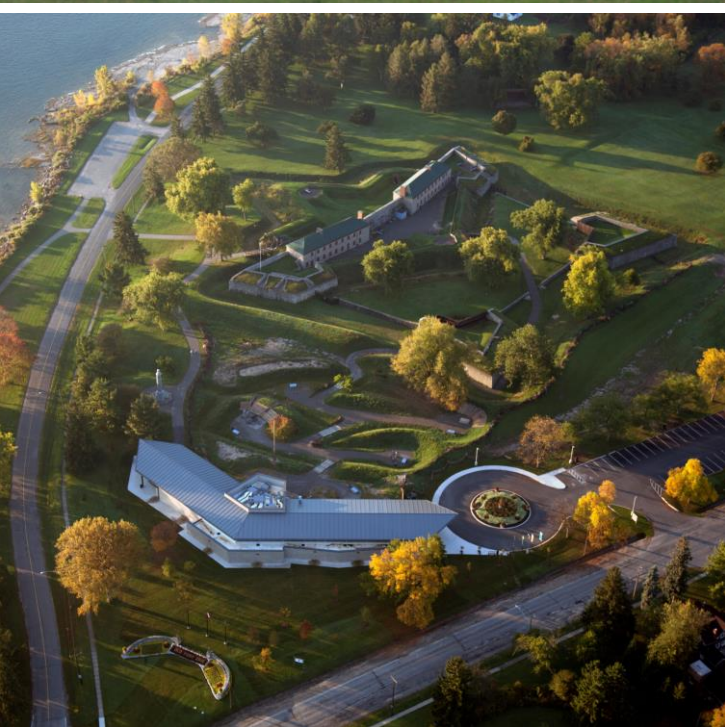
- This memorial is at the centre of our Indigenous interpretation at Niagara Parks.
- The memorial tells the story of brave Warriors and provides a much older story of Indigenous history here in Niagara.
- This fall, we will be honouring John Norton with a National Historic Site plaque.





Chippawa Battlefield

- Considered one of the most pristine and untouched gun powder era battlefields in North America.
- Niagara Parks and the community came together to save this important National Historic Site.
- Every July 5th, Niagara Parks and the community come together to commemorate the battle.



Old Fort Erie

- The site of the oldest British military post in Ontario from 1764.
- The scene of the worst fighting in Canada's history.
- This weekend, the host to Canada's largest annual battle re-enactment



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