



The Niagara Parks Commission

Minutes of the public meeting of The Niagara Parks Commission held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

Attendance

Members: Chair Bob Gale
Vice-Chair Graham Coveney
Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Natasha DiCienzo
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
Commissioner Ted Salci

Regrets: Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe
Commissioner Wayne Redekop
Commissioner Erwin Wiens

Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission
Marcelo Gruosso, Chief Operating Officer
Steve Barnhart, Senior Director, Planning Environment and Culture
Chris Giles, Senior Manager, Communications and Marketing
Laura Pingue, Director of Finance/Controller
Janice Spino, Chief Human Resources Officer
Katy Wassenaar, Manager, Public Affairs
Missy Sauer, Director, Retail and Attractions
Darla Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chair and CEO/Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair Gale called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

The following motion was moved by Commissioner Salci and seconded by Commissioner La Caprara:

That the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Gale provided the following land acknowledgement:

The Niagara Parks Commission wishes to acknowledge and honour the lands along the Niagara River corridor as the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek, the Neutral Nation, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia. Recognition of the contributions of Indigenous peoples is consistent with our commitment to making the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and play here and thank all those who have served and continue to serve as caretakers of this special place.

5. Chair's Opening Remarks

Chair Gale requested that the recording secretary read aloud the names of Commissioners and staff around the table.

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided the following remarks:

"Welcome to our October public Commission meeting here at the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. Early fall has been another strong time for visitation to Niagara Parks – the weather has certainly been on our side the past few weeks. On Friday, September 13, we hosted the official book launch for *Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist*. It was a full house at the Old Fort Erie visitor centre that afternoon and I understand over 200 copies of the book were sold. Thank you to Commissioner Salci for attending and speaking on behalf of the Commission. On September 14, the annual iMela South Asian festival took place in Queen Victoria Park, which includes a dance competition, musical performances, programming and vendors. Thank you to Commissioner Dan La Caprara who delivered remarks. September 15, we hosted the Barrelman triathlon with Kingsbridge Park serving as the official finish line for the event. On September 25, David attended and gave a presentation at the Brock University Board of Trustees Meeting speaking about the partnership between Niagara Parks and Brock. On September 28, we hosted the second annual Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (AMYA) Run for Niagara charity event at Smeaton's Cove near the Floral Clock. On September 30, we marked National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with special illumination of the Falls, attended by members of the Indigenous community with drumming by the Strong Water Singers. Also in September we wrapped up the first filming session for the Flying Theatre ride, including scenes at the Landscape of Nations Memorial, Whirlpool Aero Car and Jet Boats and a battle reenactment at Old Fort Erie.

We received an overwhelming response from the community to our call for extras – thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to take part so far. Tonight, we will host a very special event with Dr. Roberta Bondar in celebration of her new exhibit Patterns & Parallels that is on display now at the Butterfly Conservatory. Dr. Bondar will be delivering a lecture and Q&A session here at the School of Horticulture, followed by a private viewing of the new exhibit. Looking ahead, we are preparing to welcome guests during the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend – whether it's a hike to see the changing colours at the Niagara Glen, viewing the new Chrysanthemum Show at the Floral Showhouse or enjoying a Thanksgiving meal at one of our restaurants – Niagara Parks is an excellent place to visit this time of year. October is yet another busy month for events and programming which we'll hear more about shortly.”

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

The following motion was moved by Commissioner Insinna and seconded by Vice Chair Coveney:

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the minutes dated September 12, 2024 (COMM-2024-12).

Carried.

7. Presentations

7.1 Business Highlights

David Adames provided a presentation respecting Niagara Parks' Business Highlights.

The Commission received the Business Highlights presentation for information.

Staff will provide information regarding the type of information that is included on the tags for the Monarch Tag and Release Program.

8. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday November 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

10. Closed Session

10.1 Resolution to Move to Closed Session

The following motion was moved by Commissioner Diodati and seconded by Vice Chair Coveney:

That The Niagara Parks Commission move into the Closed Session.

Carried.

The Commission moved into the Closed Session at 9:21 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Members: Chair Bob Gale
Vice-Chair Graham Coveney
Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Natasha DiCienzo
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
Commissioner Ted Salci

Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission
Marcelo Gruosso, Chief Operating Officer
Steve Barnhart, Senior Director, Planning Environment and Culture
Chris Giles, Senior Manager, Communications and Marketing
Laura Pingue, Director of Finance/Controller
Janice Spino, Chief Human Resources Officer
Katy Wassenaar, Manager, Public Affairs
Missy Sauer, Director, Retail and Attractions
Darla Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chair and CEO/Recording Secretary

Bob Gale
Chair

David Adames
Chief Executive Officer/
Secretary to the Commission

Darla Jones
Executive Assistant to the Chair and
CEO/Recording Secretary

September 12, 2024



**NIAGARA
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Capital Projects Update

Property and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

November 7, 2024



**NIAGARA
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Capital Spending Summary

YTD Spend:	\$21,993,500
Committed:	\$20,384,332
Left to Spend:	\$26,622,168

Total: \$69,000,000



Incline Heated Pathway



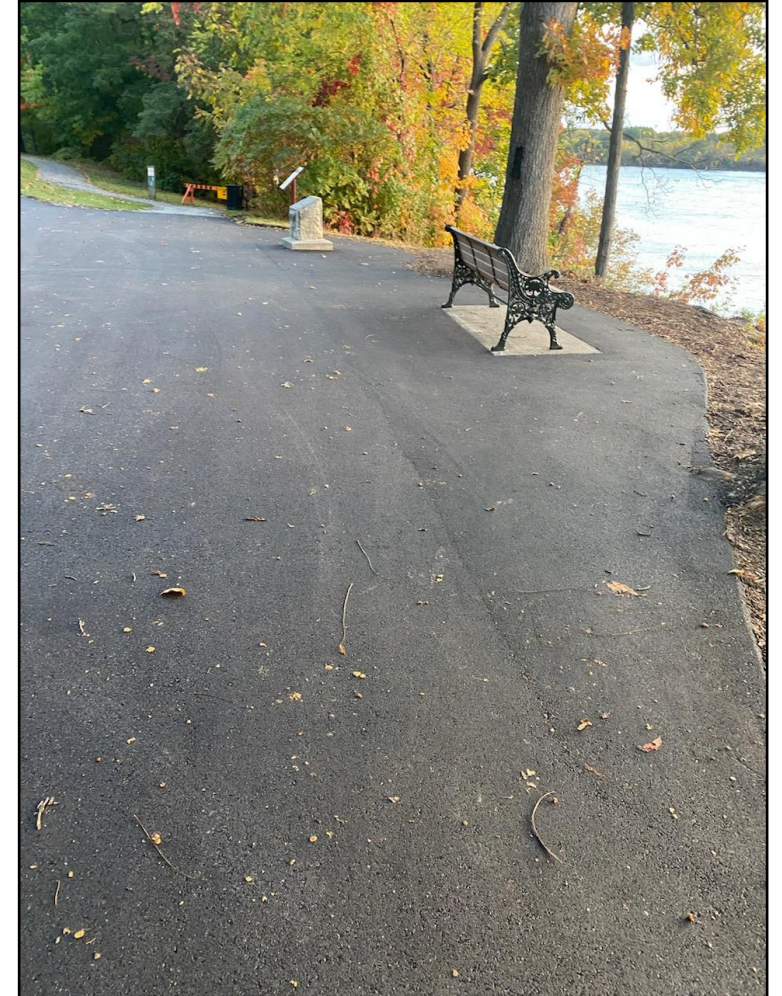
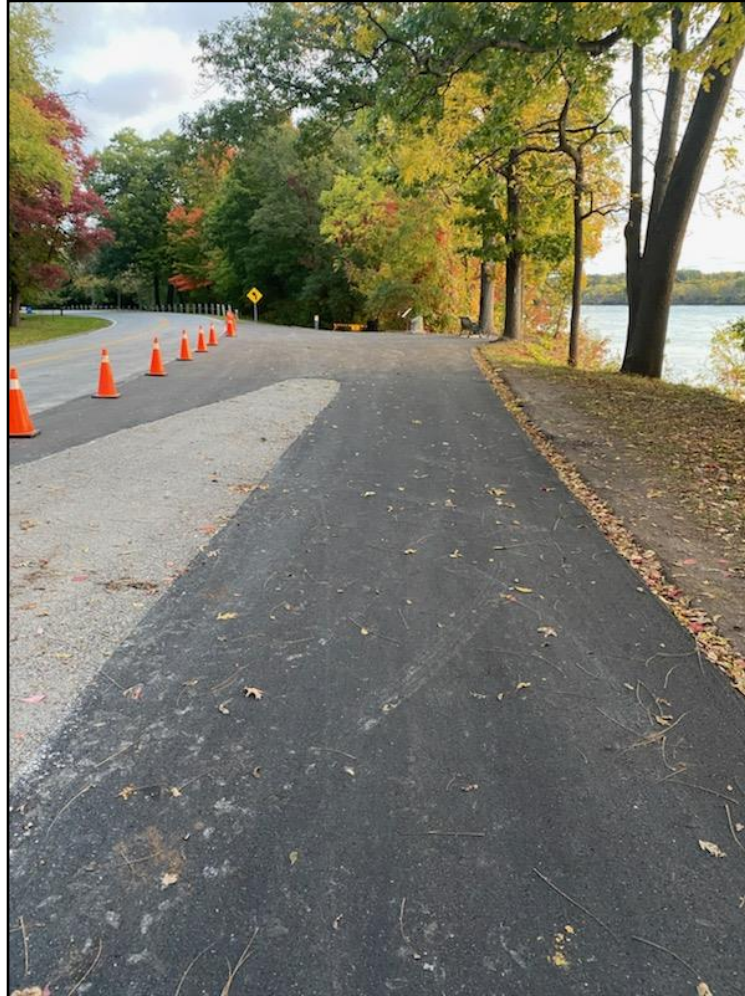
South Boulevard Repaving (Cairns to Bowen Road)





Brown's Point Recreation Trail Paving

(1km)



River Road Sidewalk and Curb Replacement Phase 3- WWW to Aerocar

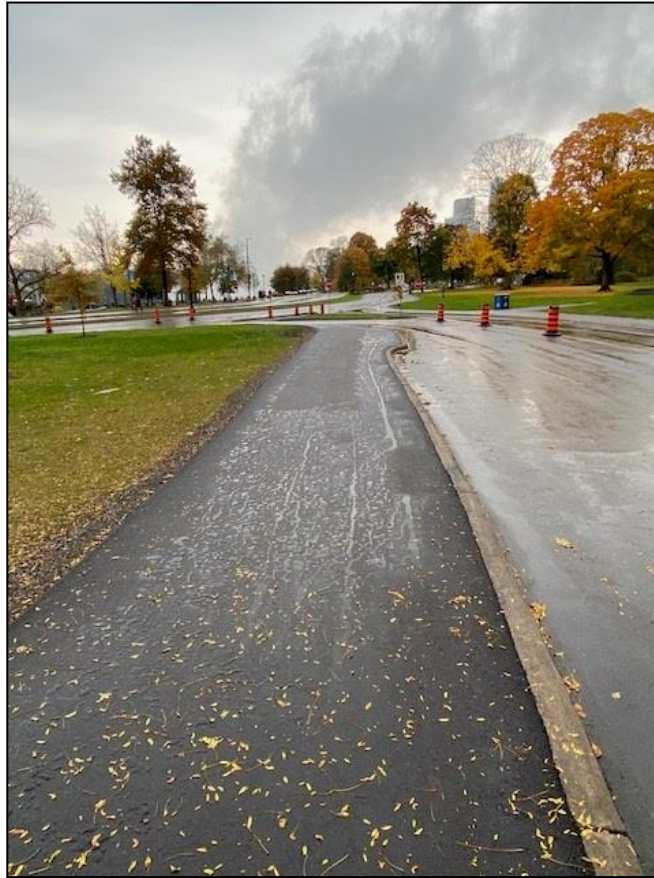




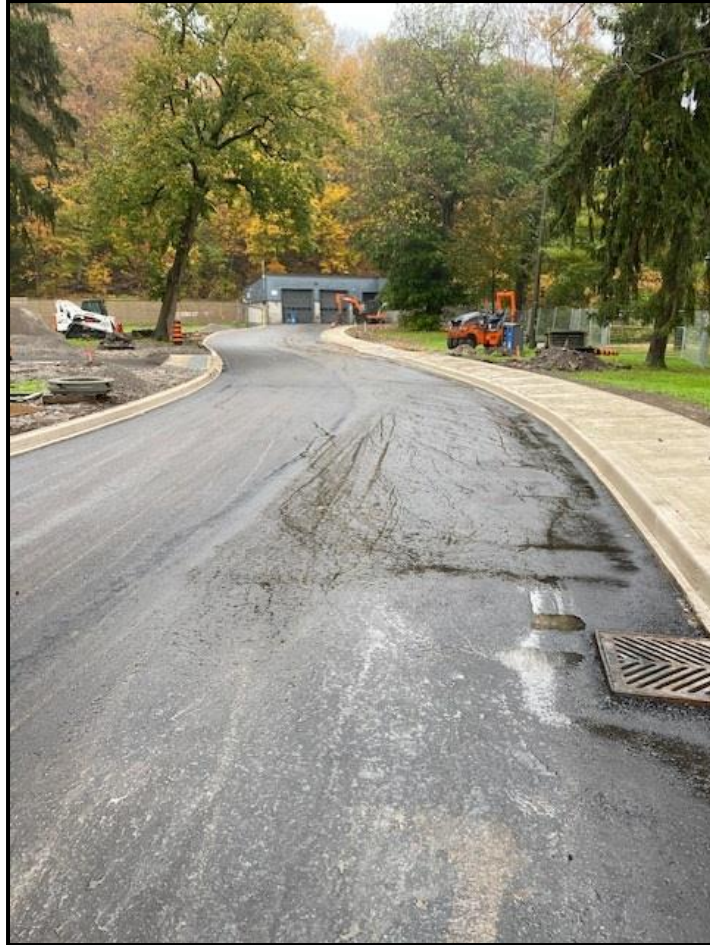
Recreation Trail Paving Near Bridge #35



Falls Avenue Sidewalk Paving



QVP Public Washroom Driveway (Old Yards) and Recreation Trail Rehabilitation





Resurfacing of Niagara River Parkway from Mechanic Street to Upper Rapids Blvd and Upper Rapids Boulevard



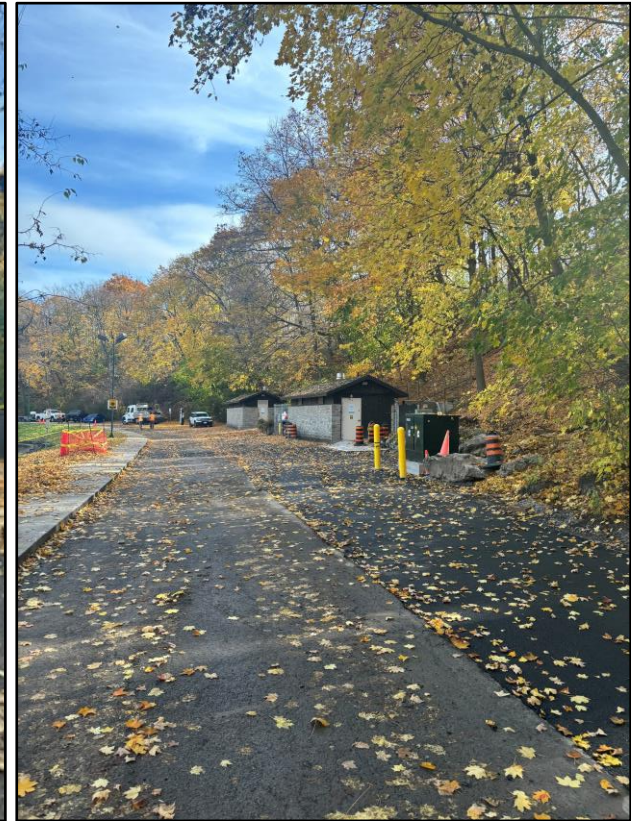
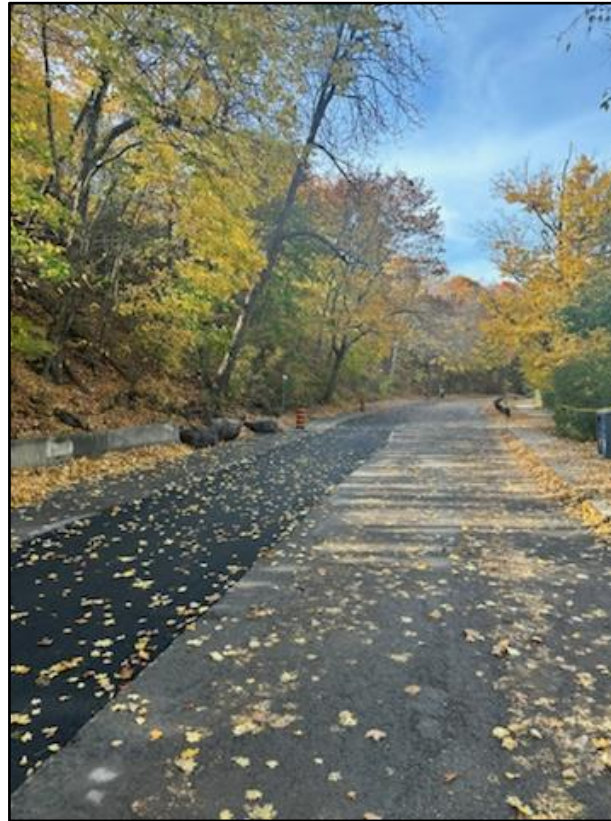
Willoughby Museum Sidewalk Replacement





Tesla Pathway Lighting

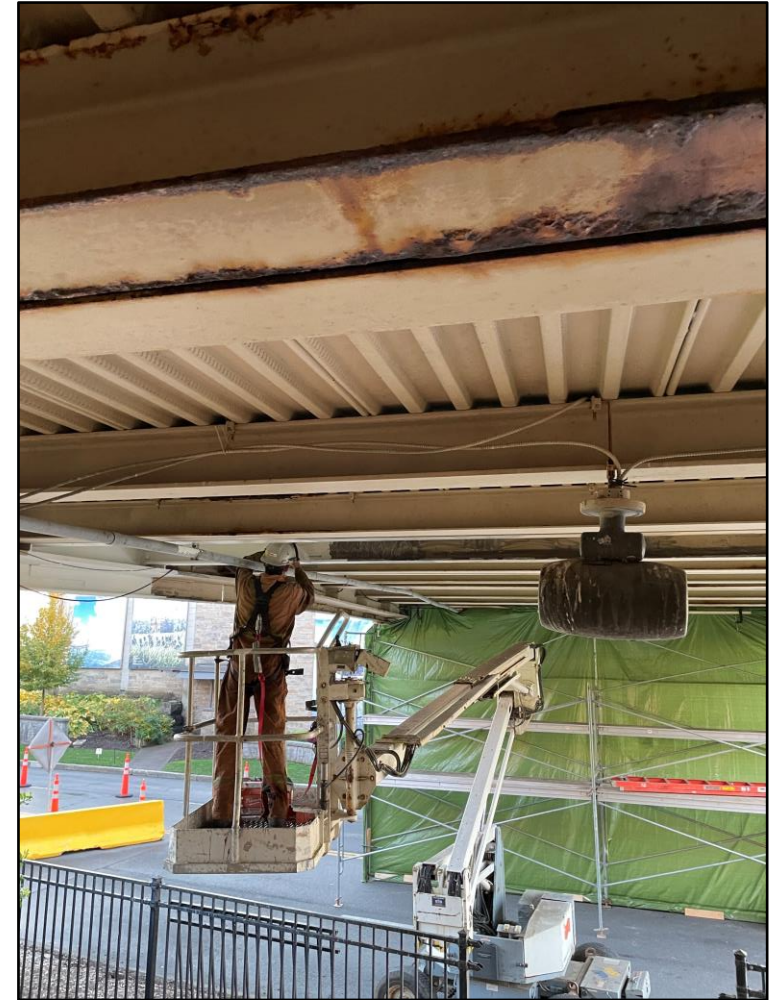
Dufferin Islands High Voltage Electrical Work



Dufferin Islands to Reopen for the afternoon of November 8th

Bridge of Flowers Painting

Expected Completion Date by November 15th





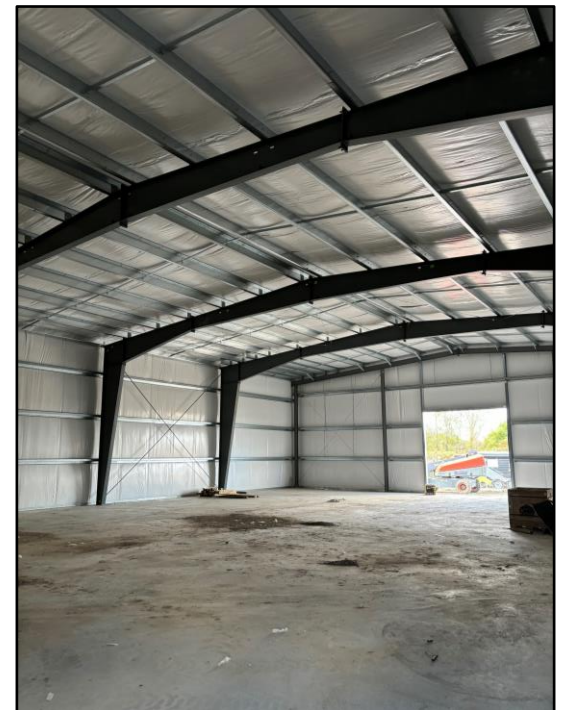
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2024/2025

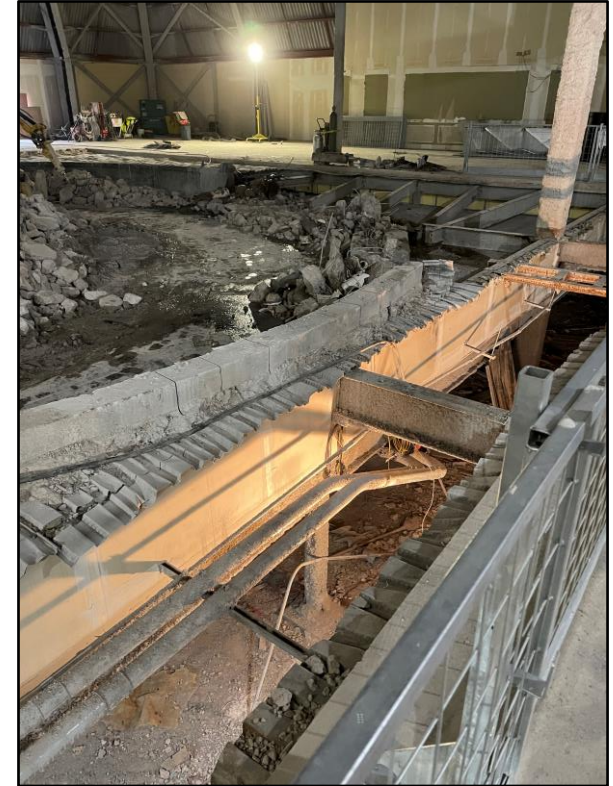
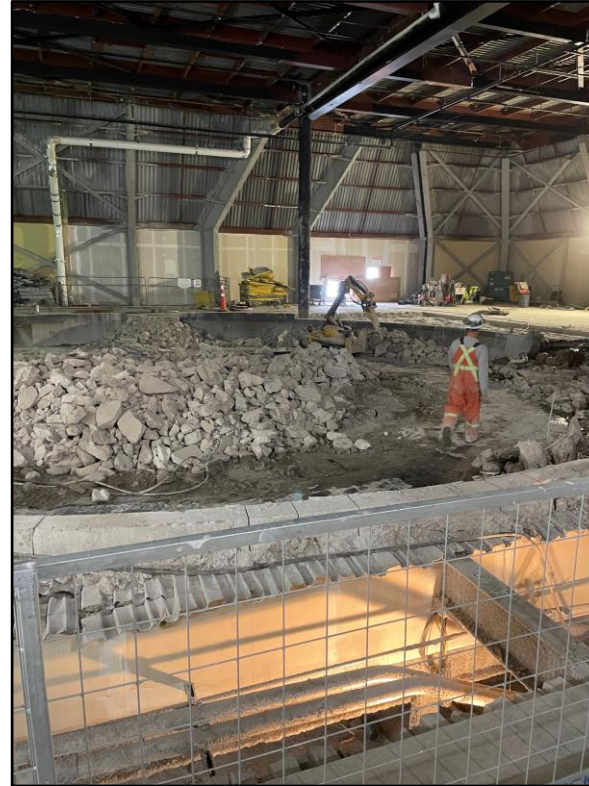
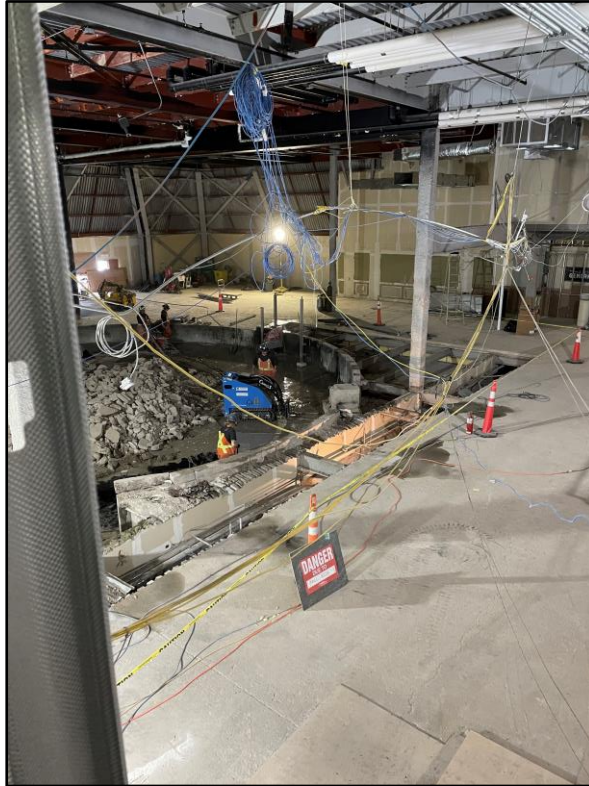
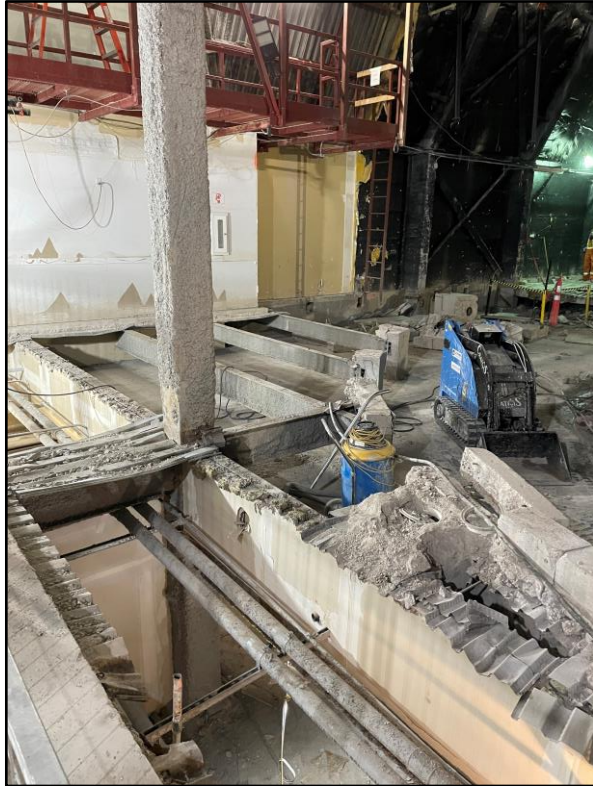
Strategic Projects



Winter Festival of Lights Building Expansion



Flying Theatre Preparation





Queenston Heights Tennis Courts





Report to The Niagara Parks Commission

RE: Summary of Recommendations from the Property and Infrastructure Committee

The following are recommendations of the Property and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting held on November 7, 2024.

Capital Projects Presentation

1. Receive the Capital Projects Presentation for information.

Prepared by: _____

Name: Darla Jones

Title: Executive Assistant to the Chair
and Chief Executive Officer

Submitted and

Authorized by: _____

Name: David Adames

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 7, 2024