



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Chippawa Battlefield Viewing Platform Project

January 9, 2025



Chippawa Battlefield National Historic Site

- Site of the last major American invasion of Canada on July 5, 1814
- Designated National Historic Site in 1921
- Annual recognition events are held on July 5 each year
- Self guided tour of monument and interpretive panels



Modern History

- Following the War of 1812, lands were primarily used for agriculture
- Home was known as Milford Lodge (removed mid-20th century)
- Prior to NPC acquiring lands, used for Angus beef farming, then left fallow
- Lands acquired by NPC as part of Legends on the Niagara Golf Complex development





Grassland Bird Habitat Restoration

- Starting in 2017, 50 ha (120 acres) were restored to native tallgrass prairieland to support grassland nesting birds.
- Half of site was restored in support of offsetting requirements for GE Canada's new Welland factory.
- Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink, both species at risk, have now returned and are successfully breeding.
- Funding support provided by:
 - Ministry of Natural Resources
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - GE Canada

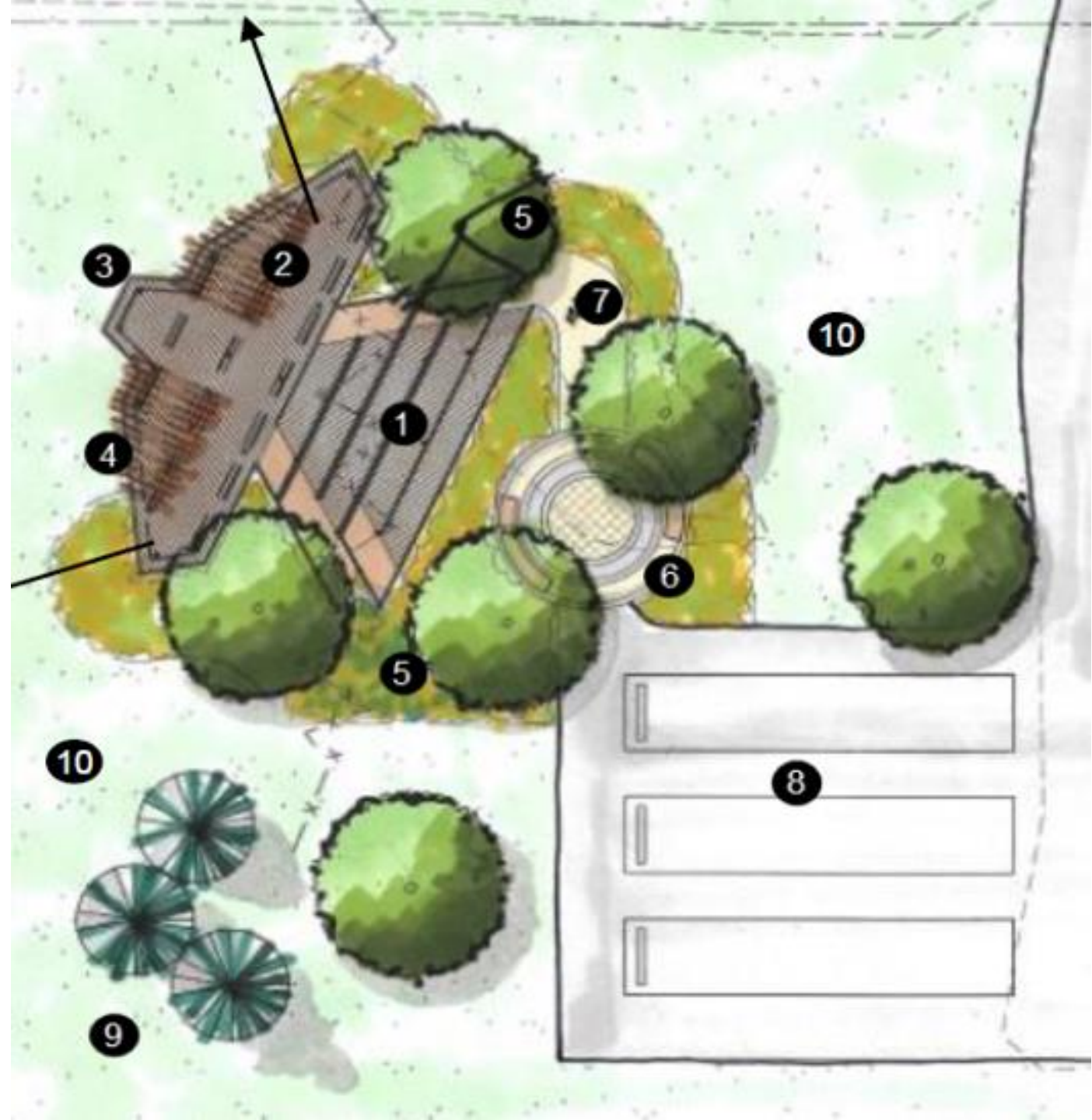


Site Overview and Study Area



Project Goals

- To design and build a signature, AODA-compliant viewing platform at the Chippawa Battlefield, overlooking the property, to provide interpretive and educational opportunities related to both natural and cultural heritage.
- To promote NPC's mandate as both cultural and natural heritage stewards.
- To support and promote Legends on the Niagara Audubon Certification.
- To support new and ongoing events.
- To support species at risk habitat and monitoring.
- To provide safe viewing opportunities for NPC's Prescribed Burn Program.
- To foster place-based learning and educational opportunities (birding, SAR, War of 1812, grasslands, etc.).

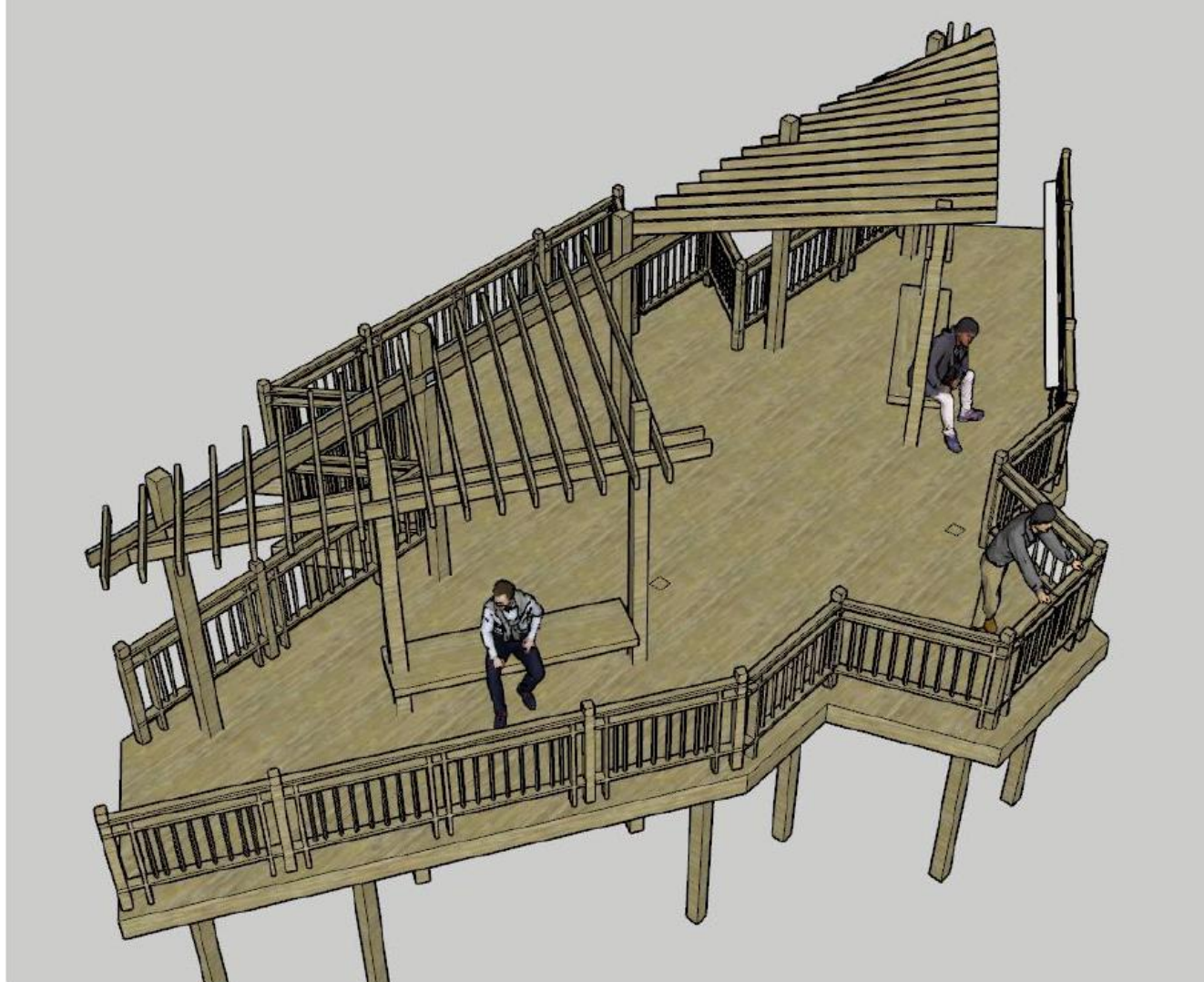


Indigenous Inspiration

- Consulting with Tim Johnson and Alyssa General revealed an opportunity to incorporate Indigenous symbolism.
- Platform was redesigned to reflect an Eastern Meadowlark.
- Mohawk term for Meadowlark is **Kahenta'kéha**, meaning “**of the field / meadow**”.
- The sun is a symbol of energy and life.



Viewing Platform Concept Design



Free Standing Interpretive Sign



Chippawa Platform

Next Steps:

- Detailed engineering: 95% complete
- Cost Estimate: \$560k
- Future funding opportunity through sale of Sarah Street lands to Niagara Region





**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Capital Projects Update

Property and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

January 9, 2025

Service Road 18



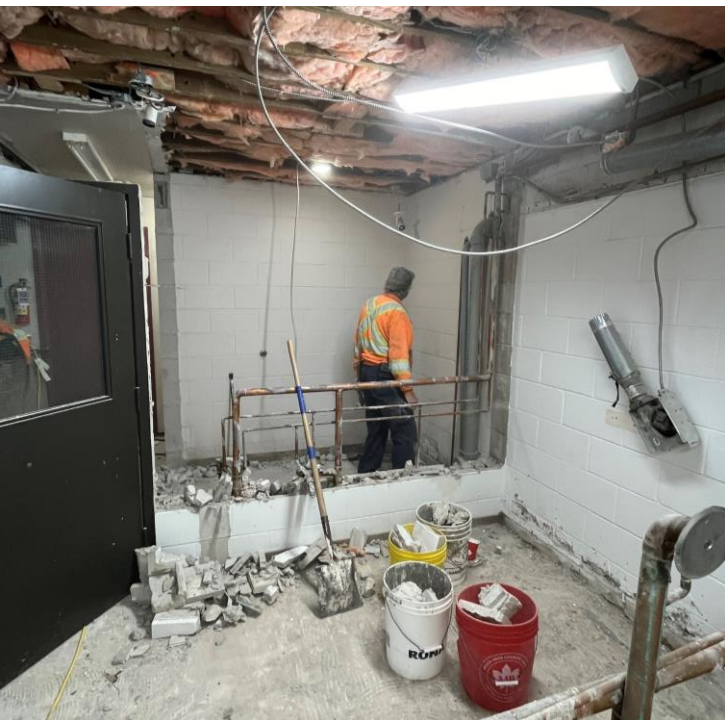
Service Road 27



Parkway Paving



Niagara River Parkway from Zimmerman Ave to John Street



Whirlpool Golf Course Halfway House Washrooms

- Framing Complete
- Washrooms to be open by start of golf season



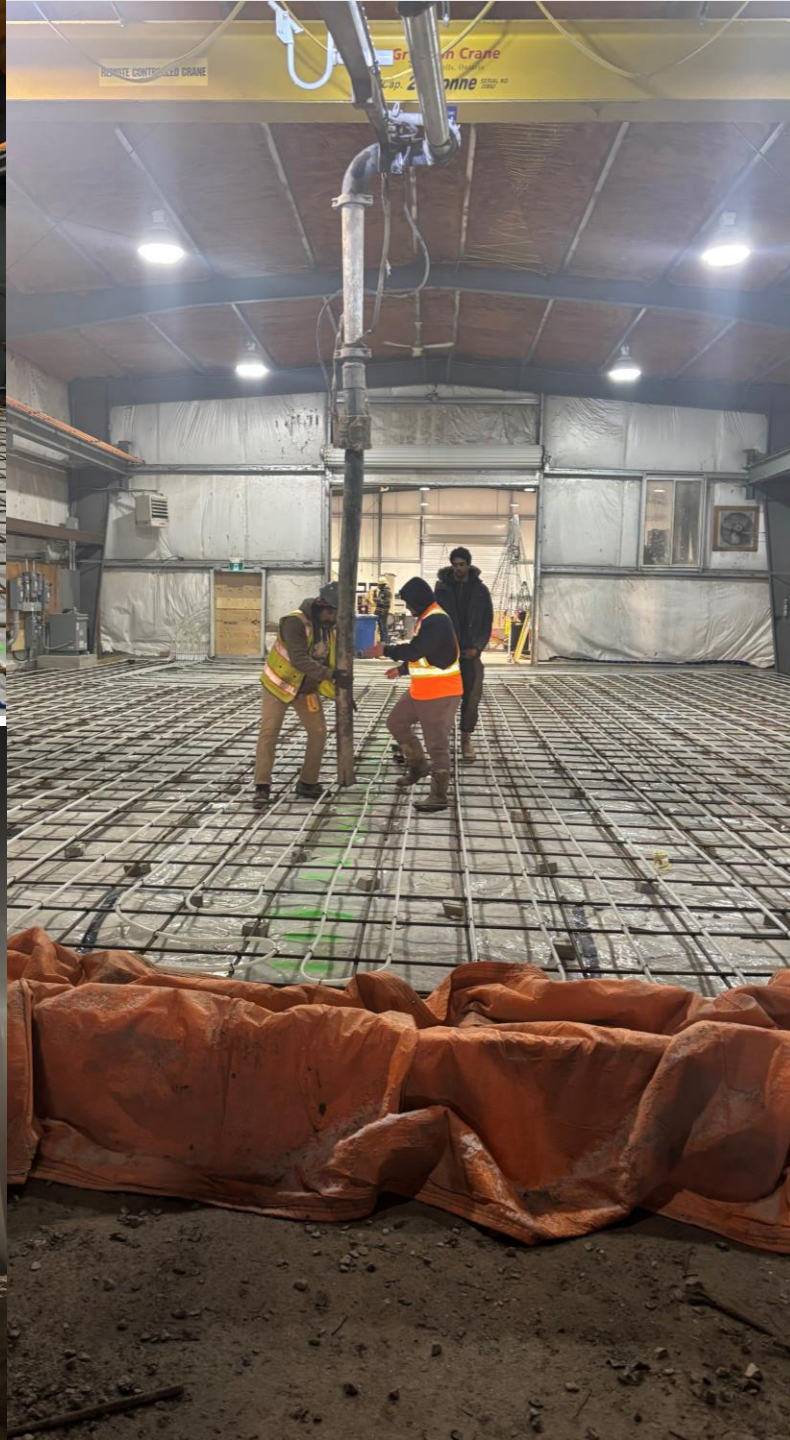
QVP Public Washroom

- Foundation Work Complete
- Structure to be Complete: End of January
- Washrooms Open to Public: End of May



The Tunnel Emergency Lighting

Emergency lights were added at each junction box in case of power failure in the tunnel.



WFOL Building Expansion

Work complete to install in floor heating and level floor between original structure and addition.





Falls Parking Curbs and Asphalt



Maintenance Centre Emergency Generator



Aerocar Improvements

Guest queueing area expansion completed.



Ticket Booth Updates;

- Reducing Ticket Windows from 4 to 3 (before image bottom right).
- Windows to open laterally for staff safety.
- Framing complete windows are being fabricated and will be installed by the end of February.



Fort Erie Breakwall Repairs



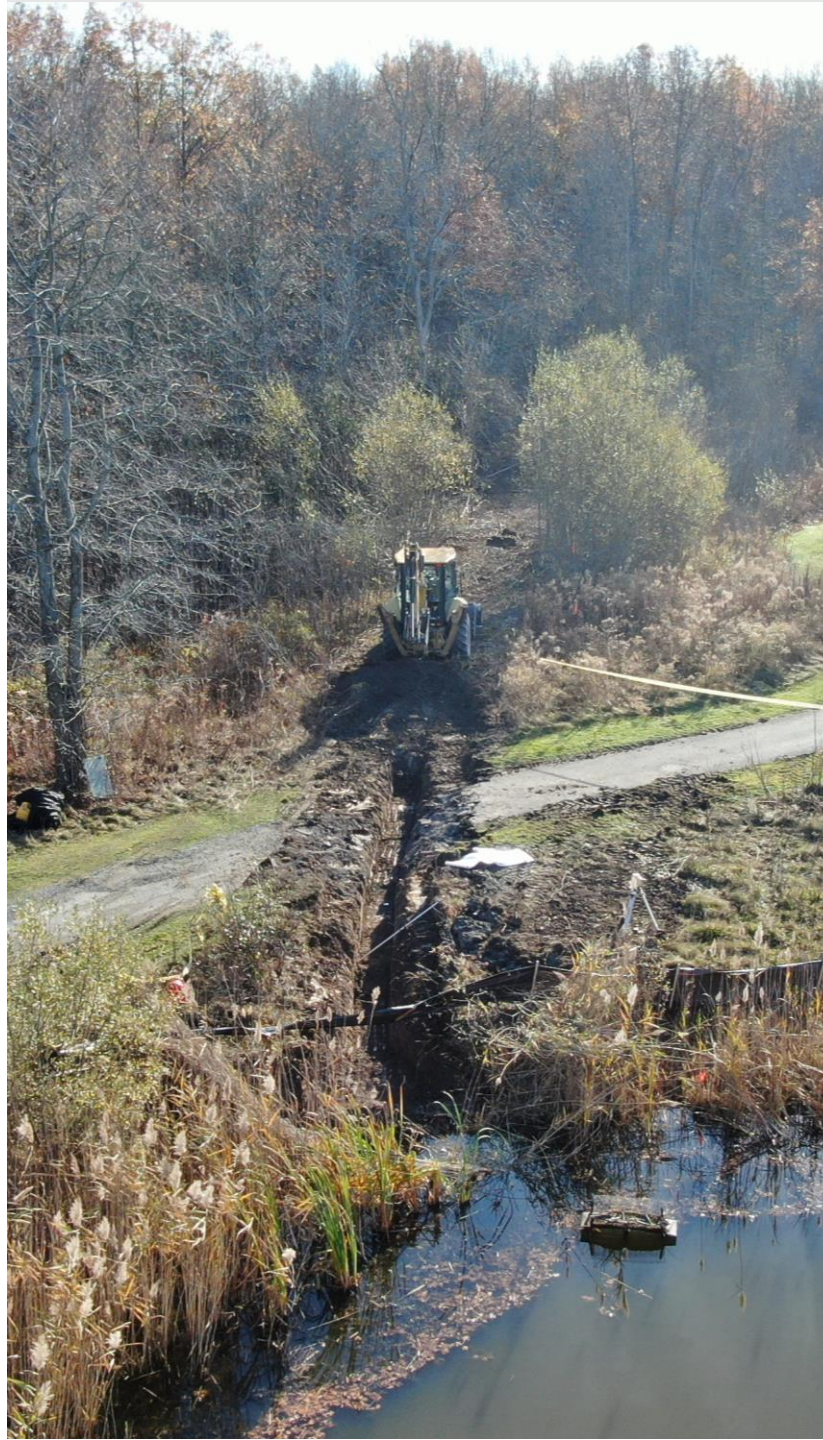
Gonder's Flat Wetland Enhancement

- Approval was received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in October 2024.
- Viewing Area Construction Complete.
- Trail remediation expected to be completed in December (weather dependent) with final remediation in the spring by NPC.
- A report on the project will be brought forward to the March meeting.



Legends Front Path Paving

Legends Front Path was paved from the main parking lot to east of the Clubhouse.



Legends Drainage Work Prior to Cart Path Paving



Legends Cart Path Paving

Total Length of Path System: 11km

Contractor Mobilization: February 10th

Granular Pathways Complete (Course Opening): April 11th

Paving Complete: May 30th

Project Complete with Restoration Work : June 13th



Legends Cart Path Reforestation Program

- Based on review, 37 trees are impacting the cart path and require removal or substantial pruning.
- Removed trees to be replaced at 5:1 ratio (185 trees) in spring 2024.
- New trees will be located throughout Legends Golf Complex and adjacent areas.
- Trees planted to offset tree removals are in addition to NPC's target of planting 5000 trees per year.



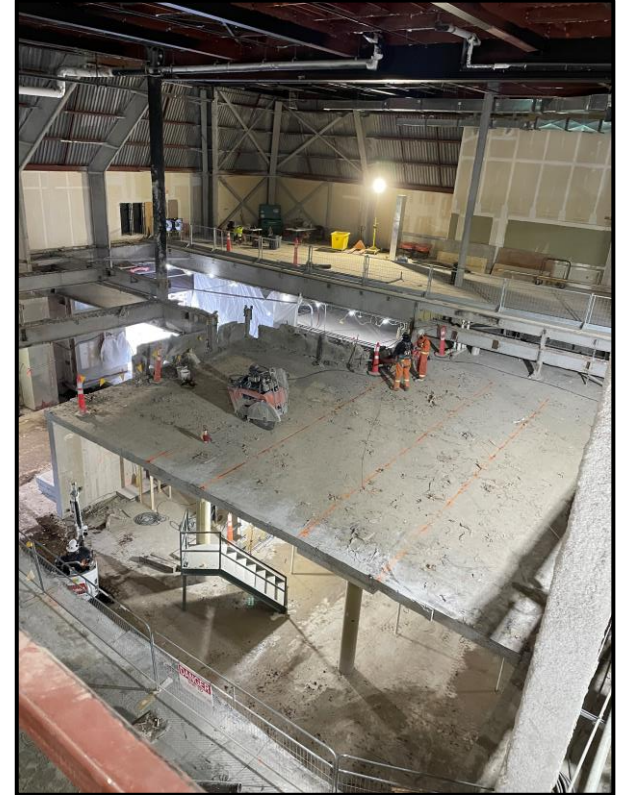
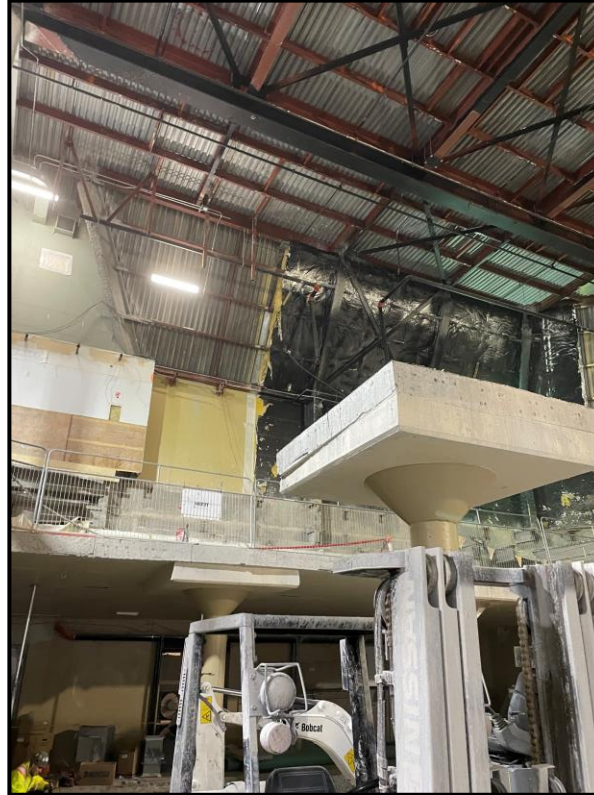
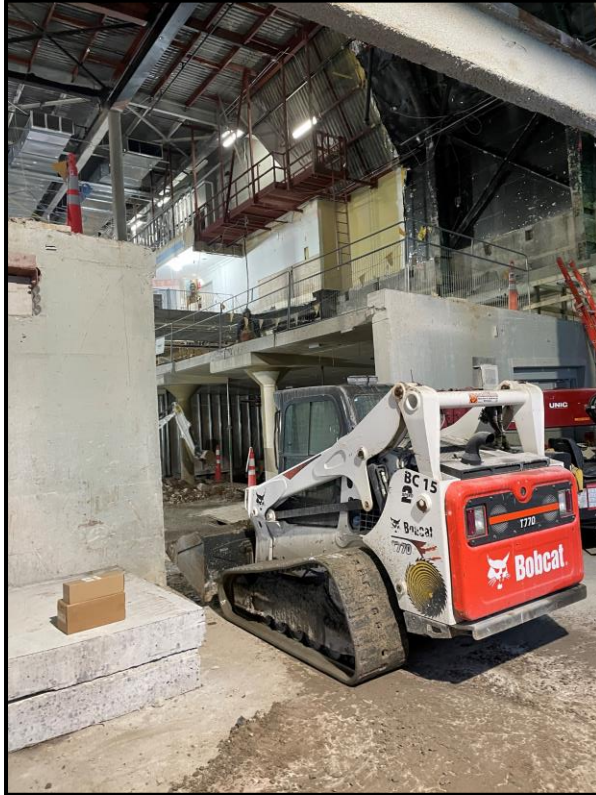
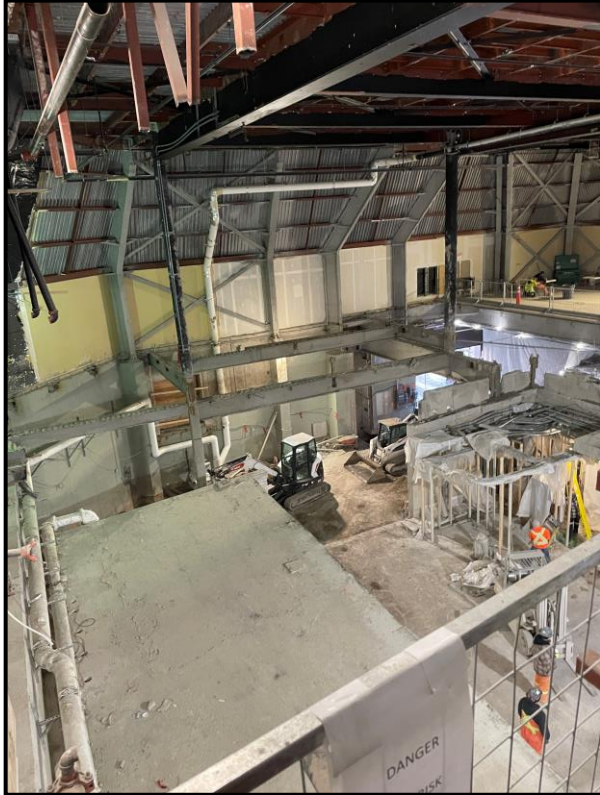


**NIAGARA
PARKS**

2024/2025

Strategic Projects

Flying Theatre Site Preparation

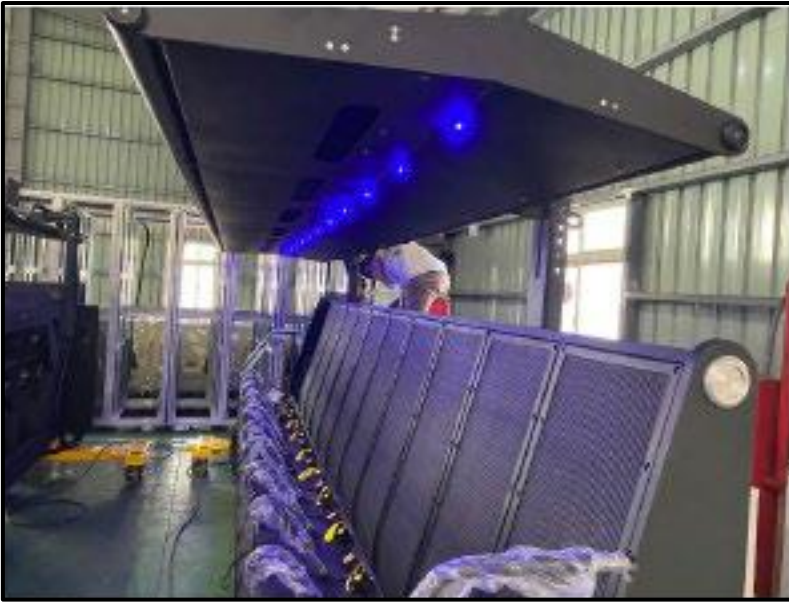




Flying Theatre Equipment Fabrication

Seat and Canopies are completed. The platforms are completed.

First shipment arriving January 25th





Flying Theatre Filming

- The final two scenes will be captured the week of January 13-17th including;
- The generator hall at NPPS.
- The Finale which incorporates a flight path along the parapet wall featuring the Falls at night, Falls Illumination, Festival lighting and Fireworks.



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission – Public Meeting

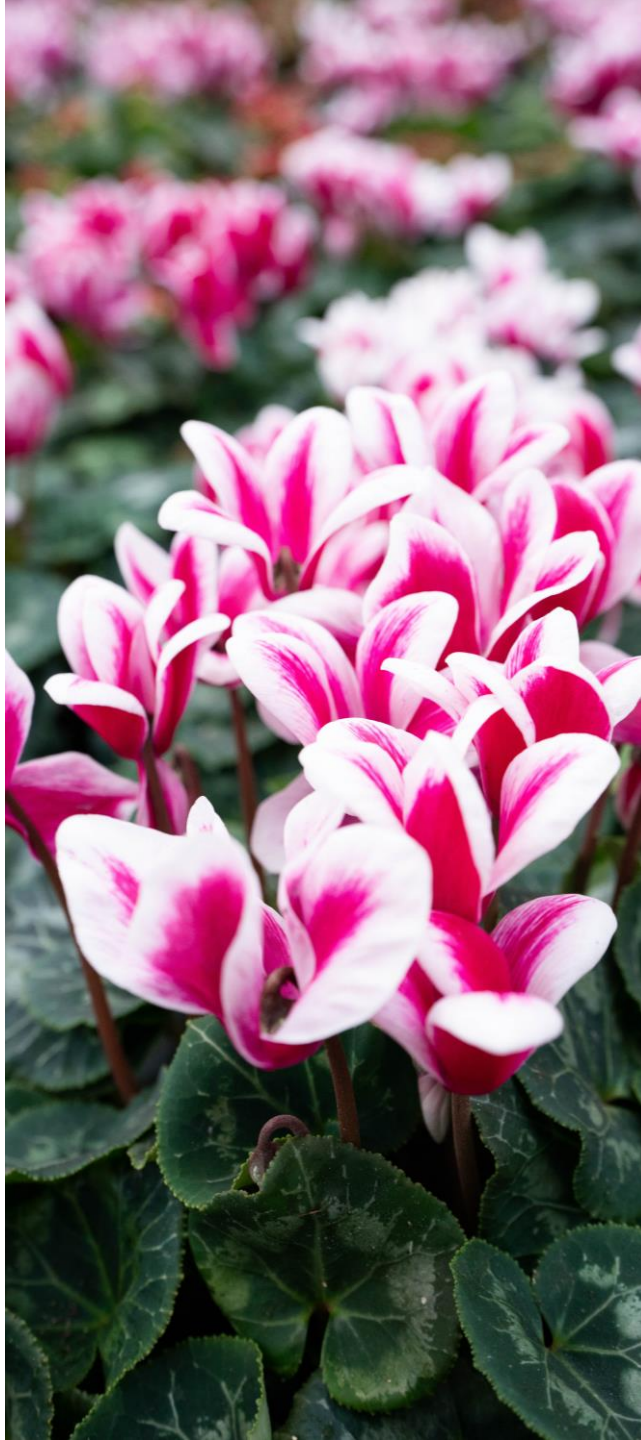
Thursday, January 16, 2025



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 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 Gaming
- 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 & Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; 1,800 headcount in peak season; \$70 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





Niagara Parks Partners with Food Recovery Centre

- New partnership between Niagara Parks Culinary and The Bridge in Niagara Falls to fight food insecurity and reduce food waste
- Leftover food from events is donated to The Bridge instead of being discarded
- Chef Rick Bieber's team packed surplus food (14 containers) from employee holiday luncheons
- Extra portions from a wedding reception were contributed
- Provides meals to those in need
- Supports sustainability and community care.
- Part of La Tablée des Chefs' national program, connecting businesses with charities to redistribute surplus food
- Niagara Parks is among 250+ donors in this initiative





Record-Breaking Year for Toonies for Trees

- Niagara Parks exceeded its 2024 tree planting goal by planting 7,351 trees
- This achievement was driven by the Niagara Parks Foundation's Toonies for Trees campaign, which raised a record-breaking \$40,000 in 2024
- Funds from this initiative support the planting of hundreds of trees annually along the Niagara River corridor
- The campaign contributes to Niagara Parks' goals of planting 5,000 trees per year and achieving 35% canopy cover by 2028
- Toonies for Trees is a key part of Niagara Parks' 10-year Urban Forestry Management Strategy, which aligns with its environmental stewardship mandate



Gonder's Flats

- Construction of two new viewing areas at Gonder's Flats in Fort Erie is complete and Parking lot and site access now open
- Trail remediation continuing into spring 2025
- New viewing areas and future interpretation at the site will help raise awareness for the wetland restoration project and sustainability at Niagara Parks, including:
- Goat Grazing Project at Gonder's Flats
 - Late June, the goats grazed on 0.45 acres of dense phragmites.
 - Entire project cost just \$6,000—significantly less than the labour-intensive alternative of manually removing phragmites.
 - Project generated widespread public and media interest, with 1.8 million media impressions highlighting the initiative's innovative approach and environmental impact.



New Year's Celebrations

- Guests were invited to ring in the New Year at Table Rock House Restaurant
 - Chef Chris Totah crafted an exceptional prix fixe menu
 - With multiple seatings offered, the sold-out event hosted approx. 220 guests
- Queenston Heights hosted two sold-out seatings.
 - Hosted approx. 150 guests for New Year's Day Brunch





Queen Victoria Place Signage

- New signage was installed at Queen Victoria Place
- Updated signage is more modern and better identifies washrooms, accessible entrance



Popular Cyclamen Display Returns

- Jan. 11: Cyclamen Display returns to the Floral Showhouse
- Guests invited to explore a tropical display featuring shades from pink, salmon and violet
- Show concludes March 2, 2025
- Admission is \$8 per adult; \$5 per child; children two and under are free
- Note: Off-season parking price is \$20 until April 18; After this date price will increase to \$35 to align with other parking lots in the core





Flying Theatre Filming

- Jan. 13 - 15: The final filming window for the Flying Theatre:
 - Niagara Parks Power Station
 - Outdoor fireworks
- Once again, volunteers were invited to be extras
 - Outdoor shoot was at capacity
- Road closures throughout QVP required to support filming
 - Media release, communications to staff, stakeholders, web content.
- Behind-the-Scenes look at the development of the new attraction will be rolled out on social media this year



Parks, Environment & Culture

- Two new salt boxes added to assist at the lower Zipline area
- Kingsbridge Park graffiti removal
- Fertilizer removed from Legends on the Niagara
- North Parks receptacle installations and expansion of public-space recycling program





Parks, Environment & Culture

Environmental services

- Floral Showhouse plant material composting
- Sweep of new Strabag building addition
- Bulk pallet removal/recovery and site cleanup supporting Whirlpool Golf Course
- Paint shop used paint recycling at hazardous waste depot.





Capital Projects

North Parks:

- Improved access to areas used to respond to rescue situations
- Sidewalk replacement between White Water Walk and Aerocar is complete
- Expansion of Aerocar Guest Queuing Area
- Drainage and road improvements completed at the rear of the Butterfly Conservatory





Capital Projects

Central Parks:

- Jan. 13: In partnership with the City of Niagara Falls, four-week project began to maintain the steep moraine embankment area located along Portage Road beneath the Marriott Hotel property.
 - Removal of invasive and hazardous trees
- Falls Avenue East sidewalk replaced
- Repairs to the inner trails in Dufferin Islands
- Expansion of Parking Spaces and Additional Curbing at Falls Parking
- Completed Resurfacing from Zimmerman Ave to John Street in Niagara Falls





Capital Projects

South Parks:

- Legends on the Niagara has seen vast front trail improvements
- Significant drainage and cart path enhancements on its Battlefield Course have begun
- Project is expected to be completed in July 2025
- Service Road 4 Culvert Replacement
- Resurfacing of Road 18 and Road 27



Niagara Parks Police | R.I.D.E Program

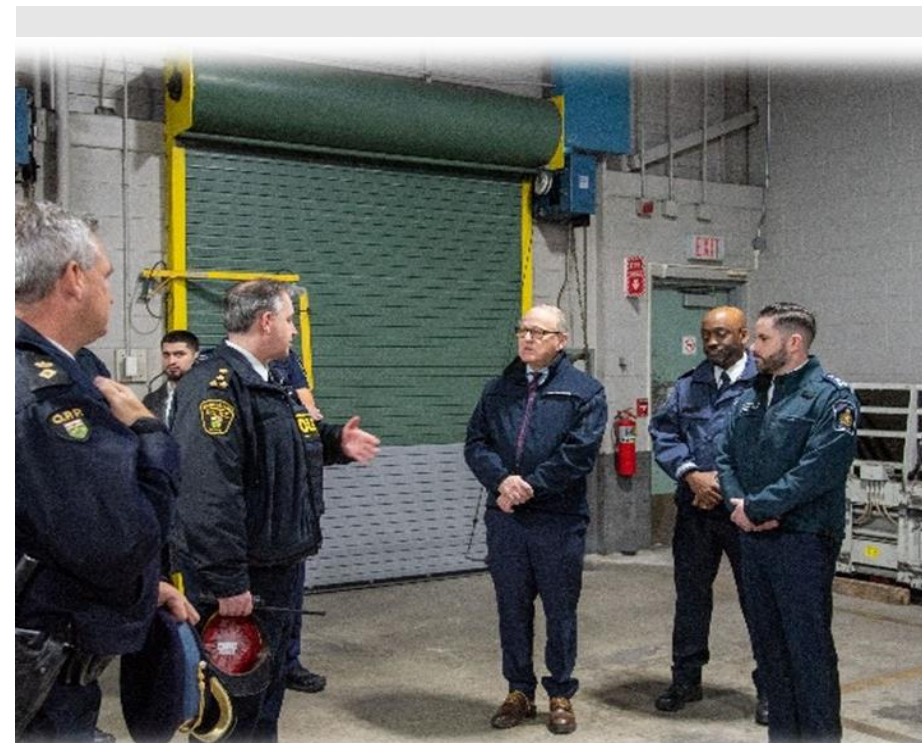
- Dec. 5: Approx. 300 vehicles screened on Niagara Parkway
- Two drivers charged with impaired driving
- Two drivers issued roadside driver's license suspensions
- G1 driver charged under the Highway Traffic Act for failing to be accompanied by a qualified driver
- Niagara Falls resident stopped and charged with multiple drug trafficking charges
- Dec. 28: Approx. 300 vehicles stopped and screened
- One driver issued a three-day driver's license suspension





Niagara Parks Police

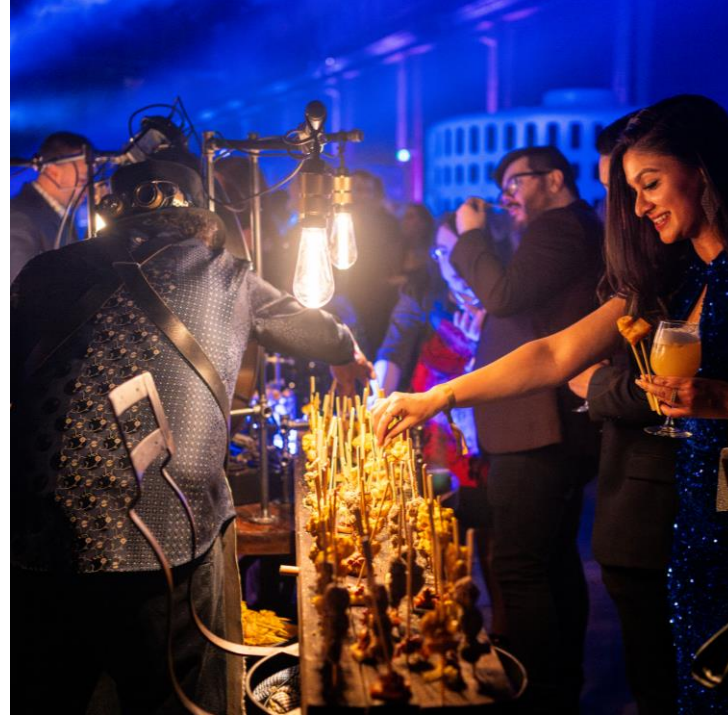
- Dec. 6: Chief Forcier participated in a virtual meeting with Provincial Offences Court representatives
- Dec. 9: Chief Forcier participated in a NG-911 meeting with representatives with Bell Canada, Niagara Regional Police Service, St. Catharines Fire Department
- Dec. 12: Chief Forcier attended the Ontario Police College for the March Past Graduation of Probationary Constable Brock Wunovic
- Dec. 14: Participated in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade
- Dec. 16: Chief Forcier participated in two NG-911 related planning meetings
- Dec. 17: Virtual border security initiative meeting with Ontario Chiefs of Police and the Commissioner of the O.P.P.
- Dec. 20: Represented NPPS in a multi-jurisdictional border security initiative meeting with the Solicitor General of Ontario





Cool As Ice Gala

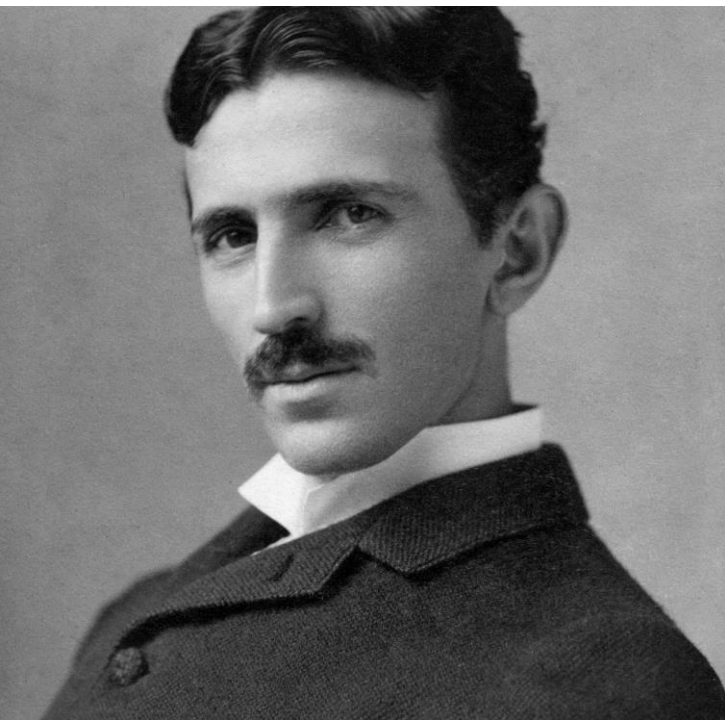
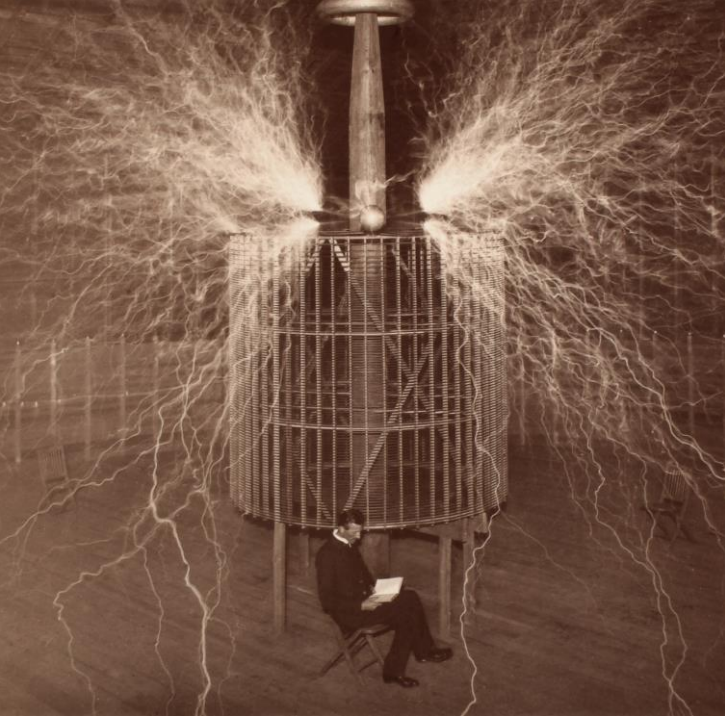
- Jan. 18: Cool as Ice Gala at Niagara Parks Power Station; 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- Enjoy a full evening of premium local wine, Icewine cocktails and mocktails, culinary creations inspired by the flavours of Niagara
- Live arts performances
- niagarawinefestival.com/cool-as-ice-gala





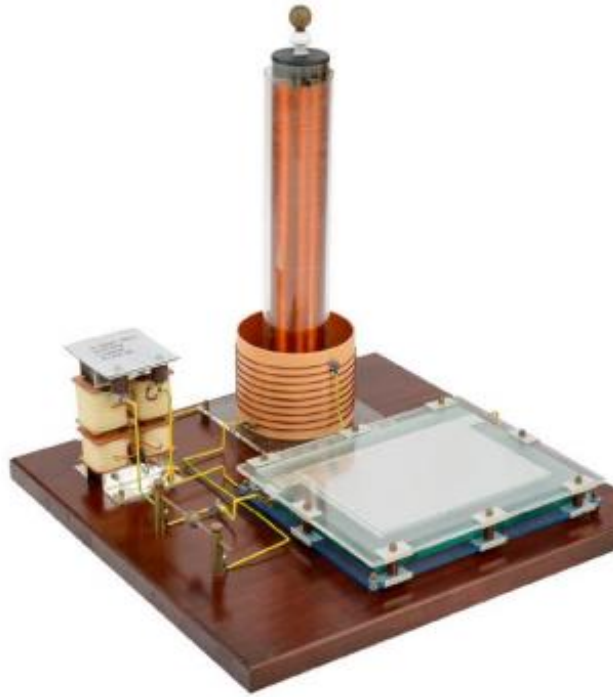
Niagara Jazz Festival Twilight Jazz & Blues Series

- Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025, at Table Rock House Restaurant
- Performances by Cinnamon Jones and Quincy Bullen Band
- 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Hosted in partnership with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival
- Three-course Prix Fixe Dinner Upgrade & appetizer menu will be available



Nikola Tesla: A Spark of Genius

- March 1: New temporary exhibit opening at Niagara Parks Power Station
- Exhibit is a partnership co-produced with the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Serbia
- Exhibit to focus on Tesla's life, his inventions, his connection to the NPPS and the Tesla Coil
- New exhibit on display through October 2025





Questions & Comments

