



## Niagara Parks Bulletin

### Vehicle and Guide Licence Information for the 2022/2023 Season

The Niagara Parks Commission monitors the activities of the sight-seeing and motor coach industries operating on Niagara Parks property to ensure its visitors receive fair value for their money and to make certain that accurate information is shared with guests regarding the Niagara Falls experience.

The Niagara Parks Act authorizes Niagara Parks to establish regulations for permits, licences and fees for all vehicular and pedestrian traffic, including vehicles for hire, their owners and drivers and/or guides operating within the Park.

Niagara Parks operates essentially like a city within a city, as the revenues it generates are used to directly support its own police force, garbage collection, engineering operations, horticulture work and visitor transportation system (WEGO). Niagara Parks is also the steward of many significant heritage sites and nature areas, preserving and protecting the rich history and environment of the 56-kilometre Niagara River corridor, which it has done without the use of tax revenue since 1885.

### Licensing Fees

Following consultations with the sight-seeing and motor coach industries in 2011 and 2012, Niagara Parks approached the Ontario government to update its licensing and fee structure governing the sector. Changes to Ontario Regulation 829 have since been enacted, with the following new license fees in effect:

### Annual Licences

Class 1 and Class 2 annual licence permits are defined under Regulation 829 of the Niagara Parks Act and include sight-seeing vehicles, which make regularly scheduled trips (two or more days each week) along the Niagara Parkway.

Class 1 and Class 2 permit holders must ensure their tour itineraries have been approved by the Commission and that all tours are conducted by guides who have been licensed by Niagara Parks. All approved itineraries will include a visit to Table Rock Centre (Table Rock Bus Management), allowing groups to spend at least 60 minutes at this important tourism location.

To retain this designation, Class 1 and Class 2 must abide by these requirements and ensure a 75 percent compliance rate throughout their operating year, or their licence may be revoked.



Beginning on December 5, 2022, yearly licences for Class 1 and Class 2 sight-seeing vehicles for 2023 will be available using the following link:

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/travel-trade/tools-resources/>

Licence	Description	Annual Fee
Guide Licence	Licence required for an individual to conduct tours on Niagara Parks land	\$65
Class 1	A sight-seeing vehicle operating two or more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission, that is designed to carry one to six passengers. Class 1 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.	\$250/vehicle
Class 2	A sight-seeing vehicle operating two or more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission, that is designed to carry seven or more passengers. Class 2 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school.	\$375/vehicle
Class 4	A sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school. (Not valid from July 1 to Labour Day).	No fee

### **School Groups (Class 4)**

School groups are defined in the Education Act as elementary and secondary schools.

The school year periods, and vacation periods are prescribed in the Education Act. The normal school period is Labour Day to June 30th. Accordingly, the Class 4 category will not be valid outside the normal school period.

Valid identification with the school name on it is required. All school groups (elementary & secondary) during the regular school year must show their itinerary to obtain a complimentary no-charge Niagara Parks Class 4 permit. Niagara Parks attraction and/or dining confirmation is not required.

### **Daily Vehicle Licence (Class 3)**

NPC's daily Class 3 sight-seeing licence fee has been amended and the new fee structure adopted (A Class 3 sight-seeing vehicle is defined as – A sight-seeing vehicle that does not operate two or



more days per week on a regular schedule approved by the Commission. Class 3 does not include a sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school):

Year	Class 3 Fee
2022	\$90
2023	\$95
2024	\$100
2025	\$105
2026 and subsequent	\$110

All other commercial vehicles must purchase a daily licence permit. Generally, charter groups fall into the daily licence category. If you are giving a tour, you must have a licenced guide. However, if you are not giving a tour and are simply dropping off or picking up at various points, you do not require a guide. A daily permit holder is not required to have a set itinerary. Daily licence permits are sold at the following locations during the year:

- Daily - Table Rock Bus Management
- Butterfly Conservatory Gift Shop

When facilities are open for the season, permits can also be purchased at the following locations: Grand View Bus Management, White Water Walk and Whirlpool Aero Car.

Daily permits can also be purchased online in advance using a credit card at [niagaraparks.com/bus](https://www.niagaraparks.com/bus).

## Testing Requirements for a Niagara Parks Commission Tour Guide Licence

Tour guide applications and payment are now online:

<https://www.niagaraparks.com/travel-trade/tools-resources/>

All tour guides who have written their Niagara Parks Guide Test and passed the test on their first attempt, with a minimum mark of 80 per cent or greater, will now be eligible to be exempted from rewriting the Niagara Parks Guide Test for the next two years.

If an individual fails the test on their first attempt, they are eligible to re-write the test at an additional cost, until they are successful. Unfortunately, in doing so, they will forfeit the privilege of automatic renewal and must return the next year to write the examination again.

## Guides Exempted from Rewriting the Test

Guides who successfully write and pass the Niagara Parks Guide Test on their initial attempt will be exempt from re-writing for two subsequent years. These individuals must continue to provide Niagara Parks with an updated, fully completed tour guide licence application (dated and signed), with the yearly licence fee of \$65.00 included. Once submitted, the Niagara Parks licence office will then mail a guide licence to the applicant as soon as it is processed.

## Bus Management and New Bus Drop Off Area



### LEGEND

 WEGO Bus Stop	 Welcome Centre	 Fast Casual Dining	 Niagara's Fury
 Group Bus Drop-off	 Parking Lot (No Buses)	 Restaurant	 Currents Sound & Light Show
 Path to Point of Interest	 Washroom	 Shops	
 Illumination Tower	 Gardens	 Journey Behind the Falls	

As a valued client of Niagara Parks, we wanted to provide an update to you on some important changes that will impact bus traffic in Queen Victoria Park, specifically around the Table Rock Centre bus loop and Niagara Parks Power Station.

The opening of the Niagara Parks Power Station in combination with the construction of new pathways to service the attraction and surrounding amenities has significantly increased pedestrian traffic in this area. In order to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists, while providing an efficient drop-off for bus tour groups, a new curbside drop-off area and crosswalk has been constructed on the west side of the Niagara Parkway, just north of the Power Station. This reduces



the traffic at this crossing to one lane in each direction, which will be monitored by a member of the Niagara Parks Police Service during peak visitor periods.

It is imperative that buses dropping off guests in this area do so via the south-bound lane only. Group tour buses letting off guests in this area should stop short of the crosswalk (see map attached) and allow their guests to exit onto the parkland to their left.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in providing a safe experience for your visitors and all guests at Niagara Parks.

### **Ambassador Service Fees**

Niagara Parks also works with the motor coach industry to better enhance the visitor experience by providing an Ambassador Service to safely escort visitors at both Niagara Parks' Table Rock and Grand View Marketplace locations. The fees for this value-added service are \$19.00 (including tax) per motor coach visit for the 2022/2023 season (note based on availability of service).

### **Bus Parking and Lounge**

Once a tour bus checks in at our Table Rock or Grand View Bus Management there is a 10 minute drop off or pick up time. Busses may then proceed and park at our Rapidsview Parking Lot and use the bus lounge located in the lower level of the building.

### **Winter Festival of Lights**

The Niagara Parks Commission has the legislative authority to control and licence the activities of commercial sight-seeing operators, their vehicles and guides, while operating on Niagara Parks' property. The Niagara Parks Act, Regulation 829, specifically outlines the responsibilities entrusted to Niagara Parks, as well as details the fees required to be paid by operators conducting business on Parks property.

The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Winter Festival of Lights commences on mid November 2022 to mid February, 2023. It is Canada's largest lights festival with more than 3 million lights and over 120 displays. Operators attending the Park during this period are still subject to Niagara Parks' licencing fees and they must have either an annual licence or purchase a daily permit (\$90.00 in 2022) at the Table Rock Bus Management station, in order to be legally permitted to operate in the Park.

The Niagara Parks Commission will be diligent in enforcing and collecting the required daily permit fees during the Festival, as it does throughout the year. Table Rock Bus Management will have



extended hours during the Festival, and all operators are required to stop at this location to purchase a daily licence or register their attendance as an annual licence holder.

Enforcement officers will continue to operate on a daily basis during the Winter Festival of Lights and vehicles without permits are subject to warnings, sanctions and/or the loss of the privilege to operate on Niagara Parks' property.

## **Non-Profit Organizations**

Niagara Parks has provided a procedure for absorbing the fee for non-profit organizations under strict criteria and guidelines. To qualify, the non-profit group must apply in writing (letterhead preferred) or by email with the details of the organization's name, address, phone number and purpose and declaring that there is no fee charged for the group attending Niagara Parks. In addition, any bus service provider must be donating their services to the group, or alternatively, the group must be operating on a strict cost recovery basis and not profiting from the trip. If your application is approved, you will receive confirmation in writing. That letter must be presented on the day of your visit at one of our bus management locations to receive a daily permit with the fee absorbed by Niagara Parks.

If you have a non-profit group that you believe qualifies for a daily permit fee absorption, as described above, please apply in writing to:

Non-Profit Permit Application, Niagara Parks Commission Licence Office,  
PO Box 150, 7400 Portage Road,  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
L2E 6T2

[licence@niagaraparks.com](mailto:licence@niagaraparks.com)

Please apply at least four (4) weeks in advance of your proposed visit.

For Vehicle and Guide Licence Information call:  
Niagara Parks Licence Office (905) 356-0943

For Attractions & Restaurant sales information or itinerary planning call:  
Abbie Arnott, Manager, International Leisure Trade Sales (905) 356-2241 ext. 2219

We thank you for your continued support of Niagara Parks