



Niagara Parks Bulletin

Vehicle and Guide Licence Information for the 2019 Tourism Year

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) monitors the activities of the sightseeing and motor coach industries operating on 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 NPC 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, as the revenues it generates support, among many things, its own police force, garbage collection, engineering, horticulture and visitor transportation system (WEGO). Niagara Parks is also guardian of many significant heritage sites and nature areas, preserving and protecting the rich history and ecological environment of the Niagara River, and it has done so without taxpayer operational support since 1885.

Changes to Licensing Fees – 2019

Following consultations with the sightseeing and motor coach industries in 2011 and 2012, NPC 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:

NPC's daily Class 3 sightseeing licence fee has been amended and the new fee structure adopted:

Year	Class Description and Fee
Year for which fee is payable	Class 3 sight-seeing vehicle – 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
2019	\$75
2020	\$80
2021	\$85
2022	\$90



2023	\$95
2024	\$100
2025	\$105
2026 and subsequent	\$110

Beginning on December 3, 2018, yearly licences for tour guides and Class 1 and Class 2 sightseeing vehicles will be available.

Class	Description	Fees
	Guide Licence	\$65/year
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/year/vehicle
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/year/vehicle
4	A sight-seeing vehicle conveying passengers on a trip from a school. (Not valid from July 1 to Labour Day).	No fee

Testing Requirements for a Niagara Parks Commission Tour Guide Licence

All tour guides who have written their Niagara Parks Guide Test and passed the test on their first attempt, will now be eligible to be exempted from rewriting the Niagara Parks Guide Test for the next two years.

All individuals must write the Niagara Parks Guide Test and have a passing grade of 80 per cent or greater on their initial attempt to be exempted from writing the 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. This can be done via mail or by visiting the NPC licensing office in person. Once submitted, the Niagara Parks licence office will then mail a guide licence to the applicant as soon as it is processed.

Ambassador Service Fees

NPC also works with the motor coach industry to better enhance the visitor experience by providing an Ambassador Service to safely escort visitors at both NPC's Table Rock and Grand View Marketplace locations. The fees for this value-added service are \$18.00 (including tax) per motor coach visit.

Vehicle and Guide Licensing Office and Hours

As of December 3, 2018, Class 1 and 2 and Guide Licence applications can be made at NPC's Rapidsview Licence Office (accessible from the Niagara River Parkway south of the Falls or from Marineland Parkway). The 2018/2019 hours of operation are as follows (subject to change, please visit our website for updates at niagaraparks.com/bus):

Period	Hours
Oct 9, 2018 – April 5, 2019	Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - by appointment only
April 8, 2019 – May 17, 2019	Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Last test at 3:30 p.m.
May 20, 2019 – Sept 9, 2019	Daily, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Last test at 4:00 p.m.
Sept 10, 2019 – Oct 7, 2019	Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Last test at 3:30 p.m.



Annual Licence vs. Daily Licence — Which do I need?

Annual Vehicle Licence (Class 1 or 2)

The Niagara Parks Commission (Niagara Parks) is a world class destination, offering a range of relevant and signature services and experiences that aligns with its mandate and engages visitors along the entire length of the 56-kilometre Niagara River corridor.

In order to continue to deliver these exceptional experiences for its guests, Niagara Parks monitors the activities of the sightseeing and motor coach industries to ensure visitors receive fair value for their money and to make certain accurate information is being shared with guests regarding the Niagara Parks experience.

The Niagara Parks Act allows Niagara Parks the ability 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.

This Bulletin has been prepared to provide information regarding recent changes, which have been made by Niagara Parks to the rules of compliance for Class 1 and Class 2 licence permits holders.

Class 1 and Class 2 annual licence permits are defined under Regulation 829 of the Niagara Parks Act and include sightseeing vehicles, which make regularly scheduled trips (two or more times 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.

All other requirements and thresholds previously established as part of Niagara Parks' ability to approve Class 1 and Class 2 operator schedules, have now been removed.



Daily Vehicle Licence (Class 3)

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 merely dropping 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: Rapidsview Licence Office, Grand View Bus Management, White Water Walk, Whirlpool Aero Car, Floral Clock, Old Fort Erie.

Daily permits can also be purchased online in advance using a credit card at niagaraparks.com/bus

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.

Winter Festival of Lights

The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has the legislative authority to control and licence the activities of commercial sightseeing operators, their vehicles and guides, while operating on Niagara Parks' property. The Niagara Parks Act, Regulation 829, specifically outlines the responsibilities entrusted to NPC, 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 November 3, 2018 to January 31, 2019. 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 NPC's licencing fees and



they must have either an annual licence or purchase a daily permit (\$75.00 in 2019) at the Commission's 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 e mail 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 failing that, 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

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

For Vehicle and Guide Licence Information call:

Cheryl Caughey, Rapidsview Licence Office (905) 357-7808 ext. 3354



For Attractions & Restaurant sales information or itinerary planning call:
Jennifer Thomas, Manager, Domestic Tour and Travel Trade (905) 356-2241 ext. 2213

We thank you for your continued support of Niagara Parks