

# REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

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## RE: Summary of Decisions from August 18, 2017 and September 22, 2017 Commission Meetings

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

For the information of the Commission.

### OVERVIEW

Below is a synopsis of the resolutions that were passed at the closed Commission meetings of August 18, 2017 and September 22, 2017:

#### August 18, 2017

##### Winter Festival of Lights

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend to the Commission to:

- a) Receive this report as an update to the strategic direction for Niagara Parks Commission's (NPC) participation in Winter Festival of Lights (WFOL) which aligns with NPC's winter events and programming plan;
- b) Approve the updated programming and lighting plans for 2017/18 season;
- c) Decline Winter Festival of Lights request to use temporary festival signage for the 2017/18 event in Niagara Parks;
- d) Decline the proposal received from Winter Festival of Lights from the China Zigong Lantern Festival and Trade Group regarding their request to install a light display at Niagara Parks in 2017 and to host a light display and festival in February-March 2018; and,
- e) Direct staff to develop a framework and procedure that aligns with Niagara Parks new 10-year strategic plan that would invite proposals for consideration of future light displays in Niagara Parks as part of Winter Festival of Lights programming.

##### Fort Erie Friendship Festival

That the Finance & Audit Committee recommend to the Commission to:

1. Authorize staff to charge \$3,150 as the approved venue fees for the 2017 Fort Erie Festival, which is reduced from the full venue fees rate of \$22,800;
2. Authorize staff to charge \$6,300 as the approved venue fees for the 2018 Fort Erie Friendship, which is reduced from the full venue fee rate of \$25,200;

3. Direct staff to amend the agreement with the Fort Erie Friendship Festival to reflect these approved venue fees for 2017 and 2018; and,
4. Direct staff to meet with the organizers of the Friendship Festival to review venue fees (as outlined in the Rates and Fees Policy) and event plans as part of future agreements for the Festival for 2019 and beyond.

### **The Niagara Glen Phase 1 Update, Phase 2 Proposal**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend to the Commission to:

1. Receive this report for information purposes regarding Phase I results at the Niagara Glen Nature Centre; and,
2. Approve Phase II – Washroom Renovation in the amount of \$190,000, to be funded from the 2017/18 Capital funding

### **Ontario 150 – Rooted in Niagara Professional Art Commission – Niagara Strait Sculpture**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend to the Commission to:

1. Approve the staff recommendation to award Gordon Reeve as the successful artist for the public art commission at Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens;
2. Direct staff to plan for the formal unveiling of the final design at the September Rooted in the Garden event; and,
3. Approve additional capital funding of \$150,000 toward the total project cost of \$200,000, to be funded from the 2017/18 capital budget.

### **Budget Planning Report**

That the Finance & Audit Committee recommend to the Commission that the Budget Planning Report be approved.

**September 22, 2017**

**16001 Niagara River Parkway Procurement Update (Smuggler's Cove Boat Club Area)**

That the Property and Infrastructure Committee recommend to the Commission to:

Approve a licence for access to the Smugglers Cove Boat Club for a one year period, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 and direct staff to issue the licence.

**Urban Forestry Management Plan**

That the Property & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission receive this report as information only regarding the development of an Urban Forestry Management Plan for The Niagara Parks Commission lands.

**Bird Studies Canada: Niagara River Corridor – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area**

That the Property & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission direct staff to pursue collaborative opportunities with Bird Studies Canada to promote the existing Niagara River Corridor – Important Bird and Biodiversity Area designation.

**Shade Structures and Tents**

That the Property and Infrastructure Committee recommend that the Commission:

Part A:

1. Approve the definitions of shade structures and tents as -

Shade structure means a portable shelter with a roof; without sidewalls, a floor, awning and stakes supported by one or more poles used to provide shelter such as but not limited to, sunshades, canopies, and portable gazebos. The overall dimensions shall not exceed (L,W,H) 12' x 12' x 8');

Tent means a portable shelter with a roof and sidewalls made of cloth supported by one or more poles, with or without stakes, used to provide shelter and privacy.

2. Direct Staff to update the web site and prepare an information leaflet regarding picnicking and the use of shade structures and tents on Niagara Parks property;

3. Direct Staff to prepare signage for parking areas and pavilions outlining the guidelines for picnicking including the use of shade structures and tents; and

Part B:

4. Direct staff to develop a comprehensive list of NPC requirements to regulate, protect and govern Niagara Parks so that everyone can enjoy the park experience equally. See Appendix A for an initial outline of subject headings.
5. Direct staff to draft the comprehensive list of NPC requirements and bring forward to the Commission for final approval at a February 2018 meeting.

### **2017/18 Capital Re-allocation**

That the Property & Infrastructure Committee recommend to the Commission to:

- a) Approve the re-allocation of \$985,000 within the existing 2017/18 capital budget to address deferred maintenance projects and additional priority projects; and,
- b) That the two bridges at Dufferin Islands (#22 and #24) be removed, and that both sites be restored to a natural state utilizing existing approved funding for bridge rehabilitation in NPC's 2017/18 capital program.

### **Additional Line for MistRider Zipline**

That the Property and Infrastructure Committee recommend that the Commission:

- a) Approve the addition of two (2) lines to the MistRider Zipline attraction, subject to NAE meeting NPC's conditions related to design and construction;
- b) Direct staff to work with Niagara Adventure Excursions (NAE) to develop a final project schedule, including a Go Live date no later than May 31, 2018; and,
- c) Authorize staff to work with NPC's legal counsel to appropriately document the approval including amending the Zipline Lease and Operating Agreement, for the Chair and Chief Executive Office to execute on behalf of the NPC.

### **Records Storage Strategies**

That the GEHR Committee approves Option 1, and directs staff to investigate alternatives to retain the NPC archives on premise through appropriate storage and access space in an existing NPC facility.

### **Boat Tour Lease & Operating Agreement – Extension Request to 2018-2022 Operating Seasons**

That the Commission:

- a) Receive correspondence from Hornblower Niagara Cruises (HNC), dated August 23, 2017, attached as Appendix A, representing HNC's request for consideration of extending the boat tour operating season;
- b) Approve the boat tour operating season as April 1 – November 30, for the period of 2018 to 2022;
- c) Direct staff to inform HNC that the approval for the extended operating schedule is for the 2018 to 2022 operating seasons only; and
- d) Authorize NPC's legal counsel to document the above approval in accordance with the Boat Tour Lease and Operating Agreement for execution by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the NPC.

### **Niagara Falls International Marathon**

That the Commission:

- a) Receive correspondence from the Niagara Falls International Marathon, dated August 31, 2017; and,
- b) Decline the event organizer's request to the NPC to waive the venue and parking lot buyout fees for the 2017 Niagara Falls International Marathon.

Presented by Chief Executive Officer:

Reegan McCullough \_\_\_\_\_



Date: October 13/17



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# **BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS REPORT**

OCTOBER 2017

COMMISSION MEETING

## Research & Development

- Planning is underway to discuss NPC's role in the interpretation of Black history along the Niagara River corridor. We now have plaques, panels and museum displays along the entire length of the Parkway highlighting Black history and the Underground Railroad.
- Culinary Services Weddings and Social Sales Managers participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Niagara Wedding Show on Sunday, September 17, 2017, held at the Holiday Inn Suites & Parkway Hotel, St. Catharines, ON.
- Emerald Ash tree removal and clean-up is continuing at Legends on the Niagara and Whirlpool Golf Courses.
- Parks staff provided several tours to external agencies of NPC's project sites who are looking at implementing similar projects.
- Parks Waste and Recycling staff toured Canada's Wonderland to view how they handle their frontline waste stream. We continue to research other venues to learn more about ways to improve our own waste systems.
- The Management team toured three unique horticultural locations in Philadelphia: Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer Gardens and Scott's Arboretum. This visit provided an opportunity to exchange industry ideas and make business connections.
- An auto cutter mower has been operating in a 2-acre section of the Botanical Gardens near the herb garden during the month of September. This trial has been sponsored by Husqvarna at no cost to the Commission and has been a qualified success. This trial provides insight to possible ways to assist the horticulture team to explore other activities to support horticultural excellence.

## Human Resources

- The Retail Buying Team assisted the Events Team by supplying product for the NPC Employee Appreciation Day.
- Staff participated in the 2017 NPC Dessert Social on August 24, 2017 and the United Way BBQ at the Maintenance Centre on September 13, 2017; both activities were coordinated by the Events team.
- During August and September, Parks staff attended training courses and workshops including: Arboriculture Canada, Working at Heights, Tick workshop, Fire Extinguisher and Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.
- Parks staff attended Centre for Applied Science in Ontario Protect Areas conference (CASIOPA) which focused on stewardship activities and research throughout Ontario's parks and protected areas.

- ❑ Parks has successfully recruited and filled the Lead Hand Design position at the Floral Showhouse. This position will assist the Manager of Design.
- ❑ Human Resources staff attended department meetings to provide support of business partners for organizational design, succession, performance management, investigations, and employee engagement.
- ❑ A Payroll/Human Resources team continues to work with managers and supervisors on implementation and application of the new ADP payroll/time and attendance system.
- ❑ The Executive Team continued its Park Tour program for 2017 to meet with staff across the organization and discuss issues of importance to them.
- ❑ Human Resources staff has commenced the process of reviewing and documenting procedures as the result of new technology implementation.
- ❑ A draft of the Human Resources section of the Provincial Business plan was completed.
- ❑ All-management meetings were held to present the new 10-year strategic plan and solicit feedback.
- ❑ Employee awards process was completed, including a breakfast event for all nominees. Awards to be presented at Fall Town Hall meeting.
- ❑ Human Resources staff commenced its work in support of the new SGAP continuous improvement plan.
- ❑ Harassment and Violence policies were updated in consultation with a working team of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.
- NPC worked with the Ministry to gather and provide requested information pertaining to the Government's Sex/Gender Identity Policy.
- ❑ A quarterly meeting was held with the OPSEU Executive.
- ❑ Golf staff hosted the annual employee golf tournament.
- ❑ Staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Lead Agencies Forum.
- ❑ A review is underway for the update and improvement of the Performance Appraisal process.
- ❑ A new module was created by staff for the Learning Management System on Interview Skills Training.
- ❑ Staff coordinated the annual Hearing Test program for those employees using workplace equipment with a noise level above 85db.



- On September 29, Sgt. Lance Dobbin and members of the Peel Regional Police Service participated in swift water training on Gull River.



### Partnerships

- Working with a Celebrate Ontario grant, Laura Secord Homestead is playing host to 'Coast to Coast: Canada's Literary Women'. We also partnered with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Doors Open Event in September. Staff also assisted Fort George and Fort Niagara with their annual events.
- Culinary Services partnered with Scotiabank Convention Centre; hosting a familiarization breakfast at Elements on the Falls Restaurant for Niagara Falls Business Events on Saturday, September 23, 2017.
- Culinary Services Director and Corporate Chef in partnership with Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance was featured in the September Blog; promoting champions of local food.
- Audubon initiatives updates at Whirlpool include, 12 bird nesting boxes erected and naturalized areas have been increased to 9 acres. Environmental sensitive area signs have been created and placed around the areas.
- Conducted by Golf Canada, the 2017 World Junior Girls Championship brought together 57 of the top 18-and-under female golfers from 19 countries to compete at the Marshes Golf Club in Ottawa September 24 – 29, 2017. Legends Teaching Professional Cathy Sherk was selected as the Honorary Chair of the prestigious championship and will be attending the event and taking part in the ceremonies.
- The Special Olympics summer golf program concluded in late August. The program provides weekly instruction, recreational golf and advanced training for Team Canada participants on the Chippawa golf course and practice facility. The program continues to be the only program that services the Welland, Thorold, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the -Lake and St. Catharines areas operating solely with volunteers under the Special Olympics umbrella. Five athletes competed in the 2017 Special Olympic Provincial Summer Games in Peel Region in July –

one of the five won gold in Women's Division 1 and will advance to compete at the National Summer Games in Antigonish Nova Scotia. Four other athletes participated in invitational tournaments in London and Oakville Ontario, while two others competed in a Special Olympics North America Invitational Tournament in Seattle Washington in June, and both returned home with medals (one gold and one silver). The athletes thoroughly enjoy and look forward to their summer Sunday afternoons at The Legends on the Niagara and thank the Niagara Parks Commission for their generous support of the program.

- Sales team members attended the following marketplaces:
  - August 21-23, 2017 – Incentive Works Conference and Tradeshow (IWORKS), Toronto, ON
  - August 24-29, 2017 – Student and Youth Travel Association (SYTA), Albuquerque, NM
  - September 20, 2017 – Meeting Professionals International (MPI) - Toronto Chapter Annual General Meeting, Toronto, ON
- The 2018/19 Niagara River Coastal Wetland Restoration Project is now underway. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry are providing \$100,000 towards the completion of another coastal wetland at Gonder's Flats, Fort Erie. An engineering consultant has been engaged to develop the coastal wetland design, as well as an over terrestrial wetland complex design for the site. Implementation of the coast wetland component will take place in the winter 2017/18.
- In collaboration with the Town of Fort Erie, the Fort Erie Recreation Trail Project, funded by the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program is underway. The engineering consultant (UEM) has developed plans for both on-road and off-road cycling infrastructure for consideration. A Public Information Centre was held at Old Fort Erie on September 14, 2017. Construction is expected to commence in October/November 2017.
- In collaboration with Forest Ontario, Niagara Parks will be holding a tree seed collection workshop on October 11. Staff will learn about the process of seed collection and how to identify tree seeds.
- This September marked the 70th Anniversary of the Alumni Association our long-time supporter of the School of Horticulture and Botanical Gardens, and our students. To conclude the weekend event, seven Magnolia trees were planted in the Botanical Gardens Arboretum representing each decade of the Association, commemorating their dedication to the progress of the School.

- As a continual effort in diversifying the course offerings, this fall the School of Horticulture in partnership with the Alumni Association has launched the Mentoring Program in Entrepreneurship to 3rd year students, running as a parallel option embedded in the Integrated Projects. This pilot course will aid in rounding out the School of Horticulture's long-standing philosophy of providing Experiential Learning opportunities to our students. The intent of the program is to develop the key competencies generally found to be critical to the success of new business start-up. This proposal tests out the measurable learning value gained from a program that effectively leverages on-line resources, volunteer business mentors, and independent student study and real-world business development.

- On September 2, Chief Mark K. McMullen presented a Chief of Police commendation to Niagara Parks employee David Thompson, a night janitor at Queen Victoria Place, in appreciation for his assistance which led to the arrest of a suspect vandalizing Niagara Parks property.



- Provincial Offences Officers with the Niagara Parks Police Service participated in a police baseball tournament hosted by the Niagara Regional Police Association on September 18 in support of the Special Olympics.



- On September 24, members of the NPPS attended the National Police Memorial in Ottawa, Ontario.



- Members of the Niagara Parks Police Service High Angle River Team trained with Search and Rescue Technicians with the Canadian Armed Forces at different Niagara Parks site on September 29.

### **Facilities & Technology**

- Heritage staff assisted with the re-dedication of Oakes Garden Theatre and conducted community tours at this important location.
- Culinary Services is working with Engineering as facilities prepare for seasonal closures to complete Capital Works Projects for the current fiscal, as well as, finalizing plans for F2019.
- Trail counter data continues to be collected from the Niagara Glen stairs, followed by monthly trail user reports. A total of 30,475 visitors used the trails between August and September this year, compared to 34,111 visitors during the same period in 2016.
- The second year of the Chippawa Grassland Bird Habitat Project is underway. Procurement of a contractor for the supply and installation of native grassland seed on 40 acres has been completed, with site preparations to begin October 2017 for seeding in spring 2018.
- Parks staff are developing a shoreline erosion mitigation strategy for a section of shoreline at Dufferin Islands (bird feeding area), which has lost 2.5 metres of shoreline in the past 5 years. Our staff will be trained on the installation of a relatively new product called 'Shoresox' which incorporates a fabric material filled with organic material to rebuild the shoreline without the use of aggregate.

- The United States Golf Association (USGA) prepared a report for the Whirlpool Golf Course during a site visit in August of 2016. One of the key recommendations was to have all of the greens serviced on an annual basis with a procedure called Drill 'N' Fill. The Operation is a process whereby a machine drills a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole into a golf green on 6" center spacing, approximately 12" deep. After the hole is drilled, the machine fills the hole with 100% dry USGA sand. The procedure will be performed by a procured contractor with the assistance of NPC staff. The procedure is scheduled to take place in early November taking 3 days to complete all greens, this will dramatically improve drainage and the profile of the greens over time and assist with winter injury prevention. An estimated 82 tons of sand will be injected into the putting greens.



### **Finance**

- Strong visitation and booked tours continue to support positive revenues in all culinary venues.

### **Products & Services**

- Heritage staff utilized their storytelling abilities as they participated in training and conducted VIP tours in September and October.
- Culinary Services held its annual "Sip, Sizzle and Savour" Harvest BBQ at Queenston Heights Restaurant on Sunday, August 27, 2017.
- Chefs are working on finalizing the menu for the NPC Annual Apprentice Dinner being held at Queenston Heights Restaurant on Thursday, November 2, 2017.



- A special Thanksgiving Brunch was offered at Queenston Heights Restaurant and a Thanksgiving Prix Fixe Menu was offered at Elements on the Falls Restaurant. The demand for reservations at the Queenston Heights brunch exceeded the restaurant's capacity, so a third brunch option was made available at Whirlpool Restaurant and also sold out.
- The Reiger Begonia Show is now on display at the Floral Showhouse. The show runs from September 11 to October 23.
- To date, the total number of trees removed from January – October 2017 is 1,360 of which 1,021 trees were Ash trees. The balance consisted of dead or hazardous trees.
- Within the first two months of operation, the Nature Centre has already begun to develop a strong engagement with the community as intended. Successful examples include:
  - Solar Eclipse Event with attendance reaching 2000 visitors. The event hosted interactive crafts, Solar Tours of the Glen and the Nature Exchange.
  - Nature Exchange Program has reached 1210 in Trades and registry of 337 new Traders. One exciting trade-in was a Triceratops skeletal fragment.
- Design Team – Aesthetic Support – The new team is continuing very successfully with support of many aesthetic initiatives. These include:
  - Ontario 150 Supported – Rooted in Nature Opening Ceremony
  - Ontario 150 Supported – Rooted in Gardens “Tea with Jam”
  - Ontario 150 Supported – Rooted in Gardens
  - Oakes Garden Theatre Anniversary Celebration and Citizenship Ceremony
  - Oakes Garden Theatre Pop-up Dinner – Rooted edition
- Rooted in Nature Exhibit Opening - Butterfly Conservatory. This Ontario 150 supported exhibit, “Saving the Pollinators; Our World Depends on It”, has been designed to educate visitors on the incredible pollinating species found in Ontario that play a major role in maintaining our environment. This new bilingual exhibit will provide visitors with information on the different types of pollinators and their habitats. The exhibit will spread awareness regarding the risks of pollination decline and how concerned citizens can make a difference in protecting and preserving natural habitats so that pollinators can flourish and continue their important work.

**Image**

- The Parks team, led by the Manager of Design, updated the décor of the Grand Hall at Table Rock for the autumn season.



- Oakes Garden Theatre played host to 'Rumble at the Falls'. This concert was a new effort to highlight Indigenous culture from a contemporary perspective and not just from a historical perspective. The concert utilized the improvements and restoration work at the theatre.
- The concourse display windows at Table Rock Complex were merchandised to highlight fall themes and products.



- Culinary Services in collaboration with Niagara Parks Nature and Garden Team hosted a “Pop Up” Dinner at Oakes Garden Theatre on Thursday, September 21, 2017, to support the NPC Brand.
- On August 8 delegates of the Garden Writers Association toured the Life on Display Gardens, as well as the behind the scenes production facilities at the Floral Showhouse, Ontario 150 Supported – Rooted in Life.
- Ontario 150 Supported – Rooted in Gardens. This annual celebration of the natural, cultural, and culinary profile of the Niagara region. The week-long event, provides guests with an experience that combines NPC Gardens with shows featuring local artists, talks featuring professional horticulturists, and the flavours of the region. Activities included:
  - Parkway Artists' Guild Art Show, Art competition, demonstrations and crafts
  - Pop-up Dinner Oakes Garden Theatre – Featuring Niagara Parks Culinary Talents
  - Garden Club of Niagara - Floral exhibit at Table Rock Complex, Floral Showhouse at the Butterfly conservatory, and floral demonstration
  - Tea with Jam – Botanical Gardens
- On September 17-19, 2017, the School of Horticulture hosted a delegation from the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) on a site visit to gain reaccreditation. NALP accredits schools which provide curriculum in



Horticulture/Landscape programs. The accreditation is an Industry recognition which recognizes that the School/Program meet all provisions of a model curriculum. The team's preliminary findings on the School of Horticulture curriculum has led to a recommendation of a full accreditation as a four year program. NALP accreditation recognizes the quality of the School of Horticulture program in the horticulture and landscape industry. This increases our Schools presence in the educational realm and furthers our student's access to possible industry internships and future employment with NALP affiliates.

- On September 14, members of the NPPS supported Niagara Helicopters and the Steve Ludzik Foundation Golf Ball Drop. The foundation is dedicated to helping people living with Parkinson's disease in Niagara.



- Members of the Niagara Parks Police Service attended the Niagara's Unknown Soldier Dedication and Re-Internment Ceremony in the City of Niagara Falls on September 16.



- Members of the Niagara Parks Police Service Ceremonial Honour Guard attended the Oakes Garden Rededication Ceremony on September 18.

- On October 6, members of the Niagara Parks Police Service volunteered at the Donation Drive supporting Project Share in the City of Niagara Falls.



## Appendix A

August 18, 2017 – October 19, 2017

### Media Releases

- August 18 – Niagara Parks Unveils New Pollinator Exhibit at the Butterfly Conservatory
- August 18 – Niagara Parks Hosts Solar Eclipse Viewing Event
- August 21 – Sip, Sizzle & Savour Harvest Barbeque Returns to Queenston Heights
- August 22 – Old Fort Erie Hosts Annual Soldiers' Field Day Competition
- August 25 – Murder Mystery Night Returns to Old Fort Erie
- August 30 – Waterfront Development Opportunity Update
- August 31 – Niagara Parks Introduces New Literary Speaker Series
- September 7 – Rooted: Celebrating the Natural, Cultural and Culinary Profile of the Niagara Region
- September 11 – Niagara Parks Hosts Public Information Centre
- September 12 – Niagara Falls Barrelman Triathlon on Sunday, September 17
- September 15 – Rededication Ceremony and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Oakes Garden Theatre
- September 18 – Rededication Ceremony and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Oakes Garden Theatre (with quotes)
- September 22 – Niagara Parks to Undertake Infrastructure Repairs Along Niagara Parkway in Queen Victoria Park

### VIP Tours

- On Tuesday, August 22, Niagara Parks hosted a visit from the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar and the Irish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency, Jim Kelley. The Taoiseach and his delegation were greeted by Niagara Parks Chair Janice Thomson, CEO Reegan McCullough and Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati. The group toured the brink of the Falls before enjoying a complimentary visit to Journey Behind the Falls and a lunch at Elements at the Falls.



- On Saturday, September 16, Niagara Parks hosted an Italian delegation visiting Niagara Falls, led by 3-star General, Emanuele del Casale, and his Chief of Staff. The General was also accompanied on his by Political Advisor, Ambassador Fabrizio Romano. The delegation visited the brink area of the Falls and enjoyed a complimentary tour of Journey Behind the Falls.
- On Saturday, September 23, Niagara Parks hosted a visit from the First Lady of the Ukraine, Maryna Poroshenko. The delegation arrived to Table Rock and was officially greeted by Niagara Parks Chair, Janice Thomson. Following a walkabout tour of the brink area of the Falls, as well as a complimentary tour of Journey Behind the Falls, the delegation enjoyed a private lunch at Elements on the Falls.
- On Sunday, September 24, Niagara Parks hosted an 11-person delegation from Italy, led by his Excellency, Claudio Taffuri, the Italian Ambassador to Canada. The Ambassador was joined by several military officials, in Canada to take part in the opening ceremonies for the third Invictus Games. The delegation took part in a walkabout tour of the brink area of the Falls, followed by a complimentary tour of Niagara Parks Journey Behind the Falls attraction.
- On Thursday, September 28, Niagara Parks hosted a visit led by the President of the second chamber of the German Parliament (Bundesrat). The delegation toured the brink area of the Falls, as well took part in a complimentary visit to Niagara Parks Journey Behind the Falls attraction. Following their visit to Table Rock, the delegation visited Hornblower Niagara cruises.



### Events

- August 18 – Official Launch of Pollinator Exhibit at the Butterfly Conservatory
- August 19 – Rumble At The Falls – Signature Free Live Concert Event
- August 21– Solar Eclipse Viewing Event at the Niagara Glen Nature Centre
- August 28 – Sip, Sizzle & Savour Harvest BBQ at Queenston Heights
- August 26 – Annual Soldiers' Field Day Competition at Old Fort Erie
- September 7 – Literary Speaker Series – Coast to Coast: Canada's Literary Women
  - Meredith Quartermain, U Girl





## Business Highlights Report

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- September 8-10 – Rooted Events at the Botanical Gardens
- September 9 – Murder Mystery Event at Old Fort Erie
- September 14 – Public Information Centre at Old Fort Erie – Riverwalk to Bridgeburg Project
- September 17 – Niagara Falls Barrelman Triathlon
- September 18 – Rededication Ceremony and 80th Anniversary Celebration of Oakes Garden Theatre
- September 21 – Rooted: Pop-up Dinner at Oakes Garden Theatre
- October 5 – Literary Speaker Series – Coast to Coast: Canada’s Literary Women
  - Dawn Dupont, Rose’s Run
- October 7 – 8 - Rogers Hometown Hockey Broadcast Event in Queen Victoria Park
- October 7 – 9 - Thanksgiving Feature Menu at Elements on the Falls
- October 8 – Thanksgiving Brunch at Queenston Heights Restaurant
- October 10 – NPC Employee Golf Tournament at Whirlpool Golf Course
- October 15 - Niagara Falls International Marathon & Schools Marathon Challenge
- October 19 – Niagara Parks Teacher Open House at the Niagara Glen Nature Centre

