

# REPORT TO THE COMMISSION

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## RE: Summary of Decisions from February 17, March 24, April 21 and May 19, 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 February 17, March 24, April 21 and May 19, 2017:

#### February 17, 2017

##### **Mackenzie Printery MOU Renewal**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the renewal of NPC's agreement, attached as Appendix A, with the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum group (The Printery Group) and acknowledge twenty-five years of service to NPC's heritage mandate; and,
- b) Authorize the Chair and CEO to execute the agreement.

##### **NPC Brand Initiative Update: Presentation by STC**

That the Commission schedule an internal workshop in advance of the March Commission meeting to review feedback from the February 17, 2017 Commission meeting discussion. STC presentation materials to be shared with Commissioners that were absent in advance of the meeting to bring them up to date. STC to conduct a focus group discussion and share the findings.

##### **Culinary Services – Full Service Overview & Plan**

That the Commission:

- a) Receive the report and appendices regarding NPC's strategic focus for Culinary Services Full Service operations;
- b) Provide further direction and input to staff regarding NPC Full Service Culinary Operations;
- c) Approve the development and implementation of a Quality Management Program, as a pilot project, for NPC's Culinary Services as part of the 2017/2018 Business Plan, and direct staff to report back to the June 2018 Finance and Audit committee on results from the first year of the program; and,
- d) Direct staff to develop a plan for culinary services at Table Rock, to include:
  - i) Plan for updating Elements on the Falls restaurant;
  - ii) Plan for upgrading the quick service operation to a fast casual operation

- on the first floor of Table Rock;
- iii) Concept plan for Horseshoe Landing Patio and Pop and Lolly's (located on the second level of Table Rock), and;
- iv) A report to the Finance and Audit committee by October 2017 regarding the whole plan.
- e) Staff include a comparative analysis regarding the option of outsourcing with third party operators as part of the complete business assessment of Elements on the Falls restaurant.

### **Niagara Glen Nature Centre Redevelopment**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the redevelopment of the Niagara Glen Nature Centre as a trailhead and welcome centre;
- b) Approve the purchase and acquisition of the Nature Exchange Package from Science North for a one-time fee of \$250,000, to be funded from NPC's 2016/17 operating budget; and,
- c) Approve \$150,000, to be funded from NPC's 2016/17 operating budget, to develop new interpretive displays, signage, information boards and purchase a bike repair station for the Nature Centre.

### **Queen Victoria Place Master Plan: Presentation by Moriyama & Teshima**

The Commission asks that staff provide sequencing of major initiatives including the NPC Strategic Plan, the Brand Project and Queen Victoria Place Master Plan.

**March 24, 2017**

### **Insurance Renewal 2017-2018 Term**

That the Commission approve the insurance program recommended by its Broker AON Reed Stenhouse Inc., in the amount of \$761,697.

### **Fruitbelt Development – 10235 Niagara River Parkway**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the acquisition via transfer of a 9.14 metre wide strip of land across the frontage of the land known municipally as 10253 Niagara River Parkway Niagara Falls, Ontario for service road purposes;
- b) Direct staff to submit an application to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport for an Order in Council (OIC) pursuant to section 7 of the Niagara Parks Act, authorizing The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) to accept the acquisition of the land;
- c) Authorize the Chair and Chief Executive Officer to execute such documents and agreements as may be necessary to give effect to the transfer and construction

of the service road and that the NPC Solicitor be authorized to register the transfer on title.

### **Renewal of MOU with Souvenir City Inc.**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve renewing the WEGO Green Line bus service southbound stop at Souvenir City, located on the Niagara Parkway;
- b) Renew the Memorandum of Understanding agreement (MOU) with Souvenir City Inc. (SCI) for a term of five (5) years, beginning August 13, 2017, and expiring on August 12, 2022; and,
- c) Authorize the Chair and CEO to sign and execute the MOU documents.

### **Pricing – Zipline Lease & Operating Agreement**

That the Commission:

- a) Receive and approve the proposed pricing, attached as Appendix A, submitted by Niagara Adventure Excursions (NAE); and,
- b) Authorize the NPC Solicitor to appropriately document the above approvals in accordance with the Zipline Lease and Operating Agreement for the Chair and CEO to execute on behalf of the NPC.

### **Set CEO's Performance Objectives for the Forthcoming Year; Set CEO's Evaluation Process**

These items will be deferred to the May 19, 2017 Governance, Ethics, and Human Resources Committee meeting for further recommendations from the Chair and CEO.

### **Executive Compensation Plan**

That the Mercer Report – Executive Compensation Framework – March 20, 2017, be approved; and,

That the following steps be undertaken:

1. Mercer to draft the content in a format that meets the Provincial requirements;
2. The draft plan is sent to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) for review;
3. Once the Ministry approves, the plan will be posted on the NPC website and the public is provided 30 days to respond;
4. NPC considers the public comments and posts the final document referencing any input received.
5. That a progress report be brought back to GEHR Committee at its September 2017 meeting.

## **Live with Kelly Television Broadcast**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the Niagara Parks Commission's participation in the promotional initiative to bring the "Live with Kelly" television show and production to Niagara Falls;
- b) Approve a financial contribution in the amount of \$50,000 and a value in kind contribution of services and fees waived in the amount of \$25,000 towards the initiative;
- c) Approve the use of Oakes Garden Theater from May 30 to June 6, 2017 as the venue for hosting the tapings of the Live with Kelly Television Show broadcast;
- d) Authorize NPC's Solicitor to develop the Agreement with the City of Niagara Falls for the Chair and CEO to execute on behalf of the NPC.

## **NPC 10 Year Strategic Plan Outline: Presentation by Moriyama & Teshima**

Next Steps:

1. Individual interviews/consultations with the Commission Board and Moriyama & Teshima Planners will be scheduled through D. Jones prior to April 25, 2017.
2. April 25, 2017 has tentatively been scheduled for the Commission Board and NPC Executive team to meet with Moriyama & Teshima regarding the NPC Strategic Plan. Further details regarding the session's agenda will be provided once the meeting date is confirmed.

**April 21, 2017**

## **Canadian Forces Snowbirds Display**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the request made by the Town of Fort Erie to use Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) parklands between Central Avenue and Dominion Road for the purposes of hosting the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Air Display on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm;
- b) Approve the request to support the event by waiving the associated venue fees in the amount of \$1,000 and provide the required logistical support including fencing and road closures through a value-in-kind contribution from the NPC (approximate \$5,000 value); and,
- c) Authorize staff to complete NPC's standard event agreement with the Town of Fort Erie for this event.

## **Special Olympics Ontario – Niagara Golf Program**

That the Commission:

- a) Waive fees for up to 25 Special Olympic athletes to practice and play on Legends on the Niagara's Chippawa golf course and practice facility, once per week for 10 to 12 weeks, from June to August, 2017; and,

- b) Waive fees for the Team Canada Special Olympics advanced athletes to play on the Championship courses at Legends on the Niagara for three to five times during the 2017 golf season.

### **Automated Banking Machines RGO**

That the Commission:

- a) Approve the supply, operation, and maintenance of Automated Banking Machines (ABMs) as a Revenue Generating Opportunity (RGO);
- b) Direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a vendor for a three-year term, with the option for two one-year extensions at NPC's discretion, commencing on June 30, 2017; and
- c) Authorize staff to finalize the terms of the Agreement with the successful vendor to the satisfaction of the NPC Solicitor for the Chief Executive Officer and Chair to execute on behalf of the NPC.

### **Oakes Garden Theatre Signage**

That the Commission:

- 1. Approve the commemorative brass plaque (Staff to revise the wording of the second paragraph in Appendix 3), and the stone markers for Oakes Garden Theatre and Rainbow Gardens; and,
- 2. Approve the removal of the sign at Rainbow Garden Gates on Falls Avenue.  
Carried.

### **Indo-Canada Arts Council Request**

That the Commission:

Approve a venue fee of \$3,125 (representing a 50% discount from NPC's venue fees) plus a \$1,056 in service fees for the use of Queen Victoria Park for the International Day of Yoga being organized by the Indo-Canada Arts Council in Queen Victoria Park on June 24, 2017.

### **Status of Municipal Agreements**

That the Commission approve:

- 1. The invoice from Niagara-on-the-Lake in the amount of \$23,743.84 for 2016 services and payment in lieu be paid; and,
- 2. The negotiations for a new agreement with Niagara-on-the-Lake commence with the 2017 calendar year.

### **Voluntary Payments – Town of Fort Erie**

That the Commission approve that the Chair and Chief Executive Officer be authorized to execute an Agreement for Services with the Town of Fort Erie.

**May 19, 2017**

### **Redevelopment of Niagara Glen Nature Centre Update**

That the Property & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission:

- a) Receive this report as an update on the progress of the redevelopment of the Niagara Glen Nature Centre;
- b) Approve \$253,000, to be funded from The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) 2017/18 capital budget, to implement the replacement of the Nature Centre roof, electrical and mechanical systems, and design for renovation of existing lower-level washrooms;
- c) Approve \$75,000, to be funded from The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) 2017/18 capital budget, to develop a site design for the Niagara Glen Nature Centre parking lot and WEGO stop.
- d) Direct staff to prepare a report for the July 19, 2017 Property & Infrastructure Committee meeting outlining the estimated costs to complete the lower level washrooms and the parking lot so that the Committee is aware of all costs associated with the project.

### **NPC Trail Rating Classification System**

That the Property & Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission receive this report as information only regarding the establishment of a Trail Rating Classification System within The Niagara Parks Commission.

### **Coal Docks Property – 602 Niagara Boulevard**

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

1. Authorize The Niagara Parks Commission to participate with the Town of Fort Erie and The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority to undertake an updated environmental site assessment and modified generic risk assessment for the Coal Docks site, as outlined in Appendix 1,
2. Approve a financial contribution of \$50,000, to be funded from NPC's 2017/18 operating budget, toward an equal three-way cost share with the Town of Fort Erie and The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority to fund the assessments; and,
3. Direct staff to report back to the Property and Infrastructure Committee regarding the outcomes of the study and options regarding the potential acquisition of the property.

### **National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Grant – Toronto Power Generating Station**

That the Property and Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission:

1. Approve a second funding program for the NPC with the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Grant program for the Toronto Power Generating Station;
2. Authorize the Chair and CEO to execute the amending funding agreement with Parks Canada; and,
3. Approve the allocation of \$53,000 of capital funds from NPC's current 2017/18 capital

budget (part of matching fund program) to complete the steel corrosion abatement project within the Toronto Power Generating Station.

### **Hornblower Upper Incline Proposal**

That the Property and Infrastructure Committee recommends that the Commission:

1. Approve the design for Hornblower Niagara Cruises' new group sales and upper funicular station, attached as Appendix 1;
2. Receive correspondence from Hornblower Niagara Cruises regarding its request to reduce Hornblower's line of credit to NPC, attached as Appendix 5;
3. Decline Hornblower's request to reduce its line of credit this year; and,
4. Authorize the Chief Operating Officer to inform Hornblower Niagara Cruises via written correspondence of the Commission's decision.
5. Direct staff to request that Hornblower review options for greening the queuing area pergola that will help to blend the structure into the environment.

### **Niagara Falls Illumination Board**

That the Governance, Ethics and Human Resources Committee recommends to the Commission to:

1. Approve the proposed amendment to nominate the New York Power Authority to become a member of the Niagara Falls Illumination Board.

### **Zipline Update**

That the Commission:

1. Approve a request from Niagara Adventure Excursions (NAE) to install a lift device at the Grand View Plaza to facilitate the movement of rider safety equipment;
2. Receive correspondence, dated April 24, 2017 attached as Appendix B, from NAE in relation to their request to add two (2) additional lines to the Zipline attraction; and,
3. Direct staff to investigate environmental, legal, structural and operational implications of NAE's request for additional lines at the Zipline attraction and report back to the Board at the June 2017 Commission meeting.

### **Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Contribution Agreement – Queen Victoria Place Complex**

That the Commission approve NPC entering into a Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program Contribution Agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario for the Improvement of Queen Victoria Place Complex in the amount of \$250,250.

**Draft Niagara Parks Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028 and NPC Strategic Plan  
Recommendations**

That the Commission approve the Strategic Plan components and timelines for key action plan.

Presented by Chief Executive Officer:  
Reegan McCullough



Date: June 16, 2017





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# **BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS REPORT**

**JUNE 2017**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

## Research & Development

- McFarland House staff have been mapping out generations of buildings that occupied the property over the last 200 years. Archaeology work conducted on a neighbouring property has located the McFarland brickyard.
- Emerald Ash tree removal and clean-up is continuing at Legends on the Niagara and Whirlpool golf courses.
- Culinary Services Director and Senior Manager of Culinary Operations attended the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago from May 20-22, 2017 to research current industry trends.
- Parks staff coordinated a site visit for Western New York Land Conservancy (NYLC) to discuss restoration strategies within the Niagara Gorge on May 8th. NYLC have been given significant funding to restore difficult natural areas within the Niagara Gorge on the U.S. side.
- A new trenching attachment was purchased in cooperation with the Winter Festival of Lights. This unit will be used to install new infrastructure for the WFOL as well as irrigation work.

## Human Resources

- A training session was held with golf department staff covering health & safety items, orientation and customer service training.
- In May, the Event Team coordinated the largest retirement in NPC's history, through two events hosted at Legends Clubhouse on May 11 and 12, 2017. NPC honoured 43 retirees and recognized 12 individuals for their 25 years of service.
- Culinary Services Employee Survey Committee and JHSC#5 continue to meet regularly to maintain and enhance employee relations.
- On June 8, the Event Team received the 2016 Award of Distinction on behalf of NPC employees in recognition of its outstanding support to the United Way (Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie Chapter).

## Business Highlights Report

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- During the week of May 8th, newly hired Provincial Offences Officers completed their induction training with the Niagara Parks Police Service. (Cst. Kitson in photo during throw-bag training).



- June 19th & 20th NPPS Relief Communicators are scheduled to attend Computer Aided Dispatch training with the Niagara Regional Police Service.
- In May, members of the NPPS High Angle River Team completed the requirements for the Ontario Police Fitness Pin Test.



- A smaller group of Parks staff attended the second Visioning workshop on May 12. This exercise mainly focused on developing a new Vision statement for the Parks, Planning & Properties Department.
- Human Resources staff attended department meetings to provide support of business partners for organizational design, succession, performance management, investigations, and employee engagement.
- Human Resources staff conducted a seminar with the Niagara College Human Resources program students on HR technologies. Staff has taught 3 classes on this topic at the College.
- 2017 mid-year staff appraisal process is underway.
- Two additional job fairs were held in May and June. As well, Human Resources is working with local schools to conduct job fairs at the school just prior to the summer break.

- A Quarterly meeting was held with OPSEU for information sharing and to discuss issues.
- Staff participated in the All Joint Health and Safety Committee meeting.
- Procurement was completed for the renewal of the Employee Assistance Program. Two procurements are underway for First Aid/CPR/AED and Mental Health First Aid.
- Staff attended a number of meetings as part of the Safety Group Advantage Program (SGAP).
- 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 conducted a number of Orientation sessions for new and returning staff.
- A number of meetings were held with managers and employees related to workplace accommodation requirements.
- Staff met with representatives from the Brock University Goodman School of Business to plan the next Supervisory training series.
- To date in 2017, there have been 6100 registrations for courses, modules and required policy/procedure review through the Learning Management System.
- A Human Resources/Payroll cross-functional team has been established to review post-ADP implementation processes and procedures to ensure appropriate assignment and efficiencies.
- United Way BBQs are being held across the organization.

### **Partnerships**

- Wilfrid Laurier archaeology students returned to Old Fort Erie and their work has unearthed an 18<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith shop and possibly the 1780's commander's home.
- Environmental initiatives are moving forward with preparation for Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Re-Certification at Legends on the Niagara Golf complex. On June 12, 2017 a site visit and recertification report was prepared following a meeting and tour with representatives of the Niagara Falls Nature Club (official reviewers). Recertification is anticipated to occur by the end of June. Legends first obtained certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 2014. Recertification occurs every three years. In addition to implementing stringent Integrated Pest Management practices, staff at Legends have established five pollinator gardens and a pollinator meadow on site to sustain and enhance the important ecosystems and wildlife, which call Legends their home. When completed, Audubon will issue a News Release, which will be

shared by Niagara Parks. The release will include a quote by Niagara Parks Chair, Janice Thomson.

- A section of Whirlpool golf course between holes 7 and 8 will now be considered a “naturalized area” and no longer maintained as part of the golf course. This will create efficiencies as well as assist with Audubon certification at Whirlpool.
- NPC partnered with destination stakeholders to host a very successful LIVE with Kelly and Ryan broadcast at Oakes Garden Theatre. Two shows were done before live audiences of 3,300 people. One show was aired live on June 5<sup>th</sup> and one was taped to air on June 6<sup>th</sup>.



- In collaboration with the Town of Fort Erie, the Fort Erie Recreation Trail Project, funded by the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program is underway. An engineering consultant has been hired and is currently developing plans for both on-road and off-road cycling infrastructure for consideration.
- In partnership with Forest Ontario, NPC staff coordinated the annual Community Tree Planting Event which was held on May 6 in front of the Maintenance Centre. Participation was lower than previous years due to poor weather but over 30 volunteers still participated in the planting of over 400 trees.
- The American Public Gardens Association asked an NPC staff member to be a representative to sit on the Program Selection Committee. The goal of the PSC is to create engaging, relevant, timely and quality programs for the Associations Conference and members.
- NPC Staff are assisting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in searching for the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insect in the Niagara Glen.
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Inspector Forcier attended a Community Safety Committee public forum held in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The public forum was held in



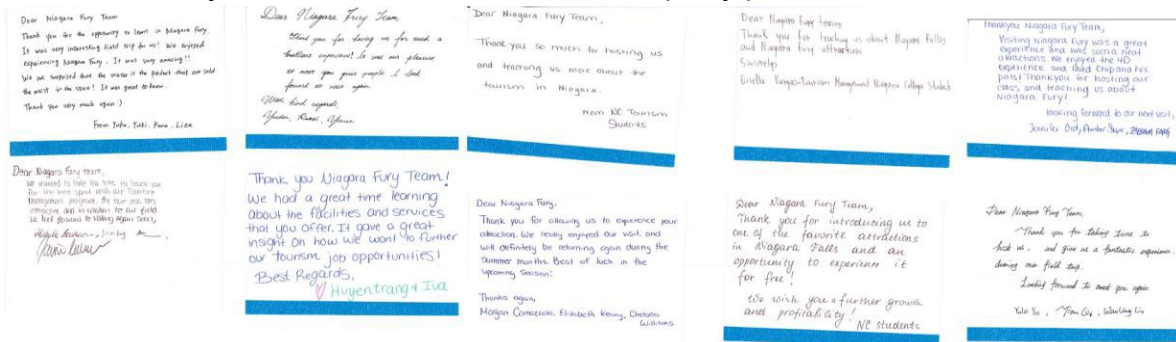
partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Niagara Parks Police Service, introducing the community to the many specialized functions provided by policing services in the community. Niagara Parks Commission Chair Janice Thomson was also in attendance. May 15<sup>th</sup>, members of the Niagara Parks Police Service – High Angle River Team – conducted emergency preparedness training with Hornblower Niagara Cruises in the lower Niagara River basin.



- May 24<sup>th</sup> – 26 members of the Niagara Parks Police Service attended the Canadian American Law Enforcement Organization conference held in Buffalo, New York.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> – Sgt. Chris Gallagher attended the Police Advisory Committee meeting held at Niagara College in relation to the Police Foundations Program. Sergeant Gallagher has assumed the role of committee chair.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – Sgt. Gallagher attended the Casino Police Security Alliance meeting held in the City of Niagara Falls.
- On June 7<sup>th</sup>, members of the NPPS High Angle River Team, along with Niagara Falls Helicopters, participated in a static display for the Homeland Security Conference - held in Niagara Falls, New York and hosted by the New York State Parks Police. The event was also observed by NPPS Chief McMullen.
- Sales Staff attended the following:
  - April 22-26 - Active America China, Portland, Oregon
  - May 7-9 – Meeting Professionals International Toronto Education Conference, Minett, Ontario, Muskoka Region
  - May 8-13 - Destination Canada Rendezvous Canada, Calgary Alberta
  - May 15-19 - Next Travel Trade Exchange, Cancun, Mexico
  - May 22-26 – Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Canada Tour Operator Sales Mission, Boston, Massachusetts

## Business Highlights Report

- June 12-16 – Niagara Falls Tourism Tour Operator Sales Mission, New York, New York
- The National Tour Association (NTA) featured White Water Walk and Laura Secord Homestead attractions as “Top Educational Attractions” in their 2017 NTA Trip Planner for Student Travel.
- Culinary Services Director participated in a panel seminar with the Culinary Tourism Alliance at the SIAL International Food Conference in Toronto on May 2, 2017, focused on local food procurement.
- Staff at Niagara’s Fury received very positive feedback from the professor and class that visited the attraction and retail shop as part of their class on Attractions Management. The professor noted that it was “one of the best field trips ever!” and the thank-you cards from students were equally positive.



## Facilities & Technology

- New fairway grass cutting equipment at Legends along with the purchase and rental of an entire new fleet of golf carts..
- Culinary Services continues to procure and install Capital Equipment in time for the peak season to minimize service interruption.
- Legends completed its accessibility upgrade to clubhouse restrooms and roof repairs. Through a new Celebrate Ontario Grant, the Event team has purchased 30 new collapsible picnic tables. The portability of these tables will reduce significant staffing and trucking costs for future events. Traditionally, staff could only move two picnic tables at a time with four staff required to lift each table on and off a truck.
- The Rooted in Legacy component of the Ontario 150 program is moving along. Of the twelve pollinator garden locations, which includes four existing gardens, eight sites are in the process of being planted, to be completed early June 2017. Signage has been developed and is currently being installed at all twelve sites. Launch is scheduled for June 23.
- Trail counter data continues to be collected from the Niagara Glen stairs, followed by monthly trail user reports. A total of 23,761 visitors used the trails

between April and May this year, compared to 31,599 visitors during the same period in 2016. The wet conditions experienced this spring were a contributing factor to the decrease in visitors.

- ❑ The new ADP Payroll/Time and Attendance system was officially launched.

### Products & Services

- ❑ During the month of May, members of the NPPS High Angle River Team worked with Niagara Parks Commission staff, conducting emergency evacuation drills at the White Water Walk, Incline Railway, and Whirlpool Aero Car.
- ❑ Heritage staff provided a cannon crew and historic background information at the Mather Arch Pop-Up Dinner. The Heritage staff conduct similar activities for corporate and wedding events throughout the park.
- ❑ The concourse display windows at Table Rock Complex were merchandised to celebrate Canada 150 and summer themes.



- ❑ Culinary Services new seasonal menus rolled out in all restaurants, featuring local inspired items including Canada 150 feature items and custom craft beer Voyageur Ale brewed by Niagara College Teaching Brewery.
- ❑ Wedding and Social Sales focus through online marketing and social media advertising on Swishlist ,Wedding Wire and Facebook, as well as, received new save a date magnets to promote the 2018 NPC Wedding Show.
- ❑ Despite the wet weather and cooler temperatures this spring, Legends on the Niagara and Whirlpool golf courses are in very good condition. Guest comments are positive and all of the golf courses are now open for the season.
- ❑ The Golf Academy at Legends is fully operational with a variety of instructional, private and coaching programs available for the 2017 season. Little Legends junior golf programs for girls and boys take place on the weekends and will continue throughout the summer.



- The NPC Golf ALL ACCESS program is available for sale to the public in limited quantities. The program features 20 or 50 round packages with additional incentives to play at NPC golf courses.

- May and June were busy months with Events and successful due to the extraordinary efforts of the Interdisciplinary Event Management Team. The launch of the Canadian Garden Tulip Promenade, Women's Half Marathon, Ride to Conquer Cancer, LIVE with Kelly and Ryan, Harriet Tubman Plaque Unveiling, and Metrolinx/GO announcement are just to name a few.



- To date, the total number of trees removed from January – May 2017 is 673 of which 391 trees were Ash trees. The balance consisted of dead or hazardous trees.
- The Northern Owls Exhibit in conjunction with Canadian Raptor Conservancy ended April 17. During this exhibit period, the Butterfly Conservatory hosted 43,901 visitors an increase of 1,288 visitors over 2016. The outdoor demonstrations were well attended and new born Great Horned Owlets made their first public debut during the event.
- Wild Ontario an ONT 150 Rooted in Nature initiative at the Butterfly Conservatory was launched April 29. The bilingual exhibit from Little Ray's Reptile Zoo features an array of Ontario animals including a porcupine, skunk, bats etc. The initiative includes an educational program that is booked through group sales. A media day was held on April 28 to promote this initiative to run until June 25.
- The Butterfly Conservatory hosted delegates from the National Association of Interpreters on April 26. The Curator at the Butterfly Conservatory provided a behind the scenes technical production tour.

- The feature wall at the Victoria Park Gift Shop was merchandised to highlight Made in Canada Roots items, a Roots initiative to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial, as well as other Made in Canada products.



- Victoria Park merchandised a special section within the Gift Shop to highlight Canada 150 products.



## Business Highlights Report

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- The front display windows at Victoria Park Gift Shop were outfitted with new fixturing and remerchandised.



### Image

- Two panels were unveiled honouring Harriet Tubman on Friday June 2nd. They are located along the Gorge wall near the White Water Walk northbound WEGO stop. This project was initiated through the work of students and a volunteer citizens' committee.



## Business Highlights Report

- The first phase of the Welcome Centre renovations at Table Rock have been completed with very positive feedback received on the new design and layout.



- The historical map documents displayed on the lower tunnel wall opposite the elevator at the White Water Walk were refurbished and reframed to complement the newly resurfaced stone wall, which now matches the exterior wall on the first platform.



- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Chief Carl E. Scott was pleased to receive on behalf of the members of the Niagara Parks Police Service, recognition from Big Brothers, Big Sisters for the fundraising efforts related to the 'Bowl for Kids Sake' event. It was Chief Scott's final official duty as Chief of the Niagara Parks Police Service. (Pictures attached)



- On June 7<sup>th</sup>, new Police Chief Mark McMullen (Photo Attached – Far left) attended the Rainbow Bridge for the 'Badges on the Border' event supporting Special Olympics. This was Chief McMullen's first official community event. Chief McMullen was accompanied by Sgt. Chris Gallagher and a number of our Provincial Offences Officers. Also in attendance, was Chief McGuire of the Niagara Regional Police Service, and athletes with Special Olympics.



- The Floral Showhouse Miniature train exhibit is being built for the Life on Display exhibit to commemorate the July 1 Canada Day 150 celebrations.
- Culinary Services worked with Marketing hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Culinary Crawl on Tuesday, May 8, 2017. The initiative targets food writers and bloggers in support of overall brand initiative promoting local food and beverages including VQA wine, craft beer and cider.
- Culinary Services with the support from other NPC Teams (Events, Marketing, and Parks) held its first pop up dinner of the season at Mather Arch in Fort Erie, Wednesday, May 24, 2017, promoting Culinary Brand Initiative, Heritage and special tastings of local foods involving Lake Erie Perch and Pickerel, Crystal Beach Candy Company, Brimstone Brewery and VQA Wine.
- The Horticulture team have collectively coordinated and improved the aesthetics of the parks not only of the seasonal displays but more recently with regard to events and initiatives such as:
  - Red Planter Program – support for all launches and press releases
  - Ontario 150 Launch
  - Retirement Dinners
  - Canada 150 Sign installation
  - Mathers Arch Pop up Dinner
  - Live with Kelly & Ryan Show

- The School of Horticulture had four students participate in the Skills Ontario Technical Competition which comprised of two teams entering two events; the Horticulture Landscape Competition and the Landscape Design Competition:
  - Horticulture Landscape Competition: student team captured the bronze medal with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place team finish.
  - Landscape Design Team: student team placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively for their individual scores.

Appendix A

April 21, 2017 – June 22, 2017

**Media Releases**

- April 21 – Prescribed Burns along Niagara Parkway
- April 25 – Niagara Parks to Unveil Ontario 150 Commemorative Programming
- April 26 – Media Preview: New Wild Ontario Exhibit at the Butterfly Conservatory
- April 27 – Niagara Parks to Host Community Tree Planting Event
- May 3 – Annual Hydrangea Display at the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse
- May 10 – Niagara Parks Introduces New Junior Golf Programs
- May 10 – Niagara Parks in Full Bloom for Mother's Day Weekend
- May 11 – Niagara Parks Invests in the Revitalization of the Niagara Glen Nature Centre
- May 12 – Niagara Falls Serves as Backdrop for Canada 150 Public Art Installation
- May 17 – Niagara Parks Celebrates Victoria Day Long Weekend
- May 19 – Niagara Parks and WildPlay Niagara Falls Officially Open Whirlpool Adventure Course at Thompson Point
- May 19 – Niagara Parks to Host Pop-up Dinner Event at Mather Arch
- May 24 – Mark McMullen Named Niagara Parks Police Chief
- May 29 – Media Advisory: Niagara Parks to Unveil Commemorative Panels Honouring Harriet Tubman's Historic Crossing into Canada

**VIP Tours**

- On Sunday April 9, Niagara Parks was pleased to host a trade delegation visiting from Austria. The group was led by Andr  Rupprecht, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management for that Country, as well as the Austrian Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Stefan Pehringer. Following their official welcome by NPC chair, Janice Thomson, the delegation of 39 individuals was taken on a walkabout tour of the brink area of the Falls, followed by a complimentary tour of Niagara Parks Journey Behind the Falls attraction.
- On Sunday, April 29, Niagara Parks hosted a 12 person delegation from Qatar, which was led by His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Mohammed S.A. Al-Thani, Minister of State. The Qatari Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Fahad bin Mohammed Yousif Kafood. Upon arrival, the group was greeted by NPC Senior Manager of Communications, Tony Baldinelli and taken on a walkabout tour of the brink area of the Falls, followed by a visit to NPC, Journey Behind the Falls attraction. The delegation was then able to experience a ride on Hornblower Niagara Cruises, before concluding their visit to Niagara.



- On Saturday, May 6, Niagara Parks hosted a visit from the Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Enda Kenny and the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Jim Kelly and accompanying delegation. The delegation was greeted by NPC Chair Janice Thomson and NPC CEO Reegan McCullough and then escorted on a walkabout tour of the brink area of the Falls, followed by a complimentary tour of NPC's Journey Behind the Falls attraction.



### Events

- April 29 – June 11 – Wild Ontario Exhibit at the Butterfly Conservatory
- May 2 – Official Announcement of Niagara Parks' Ontario 150 Commemorative Activities on the terrace of Queen Victoria Place Restaurant
- May 6 – June 2 – Hydrangea Display at the Floral Showhouse
- May 6 – Community Tree Planting Event held at Niagara Parks Maintenance Centre
- May 8 – Feast On the Parkway: Culinary Crawl
- May 10 & May 11 – Retirement and 25 Year Service Recognition Dinners
- May 14 – Mother's Day Weekend
  - Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at McFarland House
  - Mother's Day Brunch at Niagara Parks Restaurants
- May 16 – Installation of 3D Canada 150 Sign at Table Rock





## Business Highlights Report

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- May 19 – Grand Opening of Whirlpool Adventure Course



- May 19 – May 22 – Victoria Day Weekend
  - Falls Fireworks Series Begins (May 19, 20, 22)
- May 20 – Ragnar Relay Niagara – Popular relay race with stops at McFarland Park and finish line celebrations at Toronto Power Park.
- May 24 – Pop-up Dinner at Mather Arch Park
- June 2 – Harriet Tubman Commemorative Panel Unveiling Ceremony at Whirlpool Bridge Plaza



- June 2 – Wonder Woman march from Table Rock to Scotiabank Convention Centre to kick-off Niagara Comic Con
- June 3 – June 30 – Regal Geranium Show at the Floral Showhouse
- June 4 – Niagara Falls Women's Half Marathon
- June 5 – Live with Kelly & Ryan Broadcast at Oakes Garden Theatre
- June 9 – Friday Night Frights Ghost Tour at Old Fort Erie
- June 10 – June 11 – Ride to Conquer Cancer Cycle Challenge

## Business Highlights Report

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- June 12 – September 4 – Falls Fireworks Series begins a Monday – Friday schedule with daily fireworks displays at 10pm.
- June 14 – United Way Staff BBQ
- June 15 – Red & White Effects Dinner
- June 18 – Namaste Niagara
- June 22 – NPC to Host Niagara Day for APGA Conference