



**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission

Thursday, August 13, 2026



August 8 & 9 – Siege Weekend at Old Fort Erie

- [The Siege of Fort Erie weekend](#) featured reenactors from across North America engaged in War of 1812 battle reenactments, demonstrating why this site is known as the bloodiest battlefield in Canada.
- The two-day free event included artillery demonstrations, camp activities and children's programming. Admission was required to enter Old Fort Erie.
- Old Fort Erie offered a ticketed Lantern Tour on the Saturday night.





Sunday, July 26 – 90th Anniversary Celebrations

- Niagara Parks celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture with a special ceremony in the Rose Garden.
- Established in 1936, the Botanical Gardens remain a premier Niagara attraction, showcasing more than 80,000 annual plants produced by School of Horticulture students.
- Since its first graduating class, the School of Horticulture has produced more than 750 alumni who have contributed to horticulture, environmental stewardship, recreation and landscape architecture across Canada and beyond.
- As part of the Botanical Gardens' next chapter, Niagara Parks will begin construction on a four-acre Children's Garden in the fall 2026.





Thursday, July 23 – 75th Anniversary of Whirlpool Golf Course

- Whirlpool Golf Course celebrated its 75th anniversary with an invitational tournament and reception.
- The guest list included Commissioners, golfers, partners and individuals with a strong connection to the golf course, including local resident Cameron Calder, who also attended the official opening on July 2, 1951.
- Stanley J. Thompson, the nephew of Stanley Thompson who designed the course, made the trip from Kelowna, BC, to participate and shared stories of Whirlpool as he grew up working as a starter.
- Whirlpool Pub + Lounge hosted a post-round dinner for 100 golfers and VIP guests.





Niagara Takes Flight Earns Audiovisual Award

- Niagara Takes Flight, Niagara Parks' newest must-see attraction, was [recognized at the 2026 MONDO-DR Awards](#) in Las Vegas, which celebrates the best installation projects from around the world.
- Branch AV, the audiovisual architects who worked with Niagara Parks to bring Niagara Takes Flight to life, won the award for their groundbreaking audiovisual work within the Parks and Attraction category.
- Brogent Technologies, the recognized world leader in flying theatre attractions (Chicago, New York, Las Vegas) oversaw the ride construction and overall attraction development. Since opening in August 2025, Niagara Takes Flight has welcomed over 330,000 guests.





Whirlpool Golf Course Earns Environmental Honour

- In July Niagara Parks announced that the Whirlpool Golf Course has officially achieved designation as a [Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary](#).
- Led by Niagara Parks' Golf Environmental Technicians, the certification process was the culmination of years of environmental planning, habitat enhancement initiatives and sustainable operational improvements.
- With this achievement, Whirlpool Golf Course joins more than 900 certified properties worldwide recognized by Audubon International for their environmental excellence, including Niagara Parks' Legends on the Niagara Golf Course, which first received the designation in 2014 and was recently recertified for another three years.





July 18 & 19 – Canada Celebrates the FIFA World Cup 2026™

- As a featured stop on the national Canada Celebrates the FIFA World Cup™ route, [Niagara Parks hosted one of the final celebrations](#) held across the country as the tournament champion was crowned.
- Visitors watched the tournament's final matches on giant screens, while they enjoyed live music, soccer-themed activities, family entertainment and specialty food offerings.
- In addition to the Canada Celebrates activation at the Queen Victoria Park event field, Niagara Parks' Fan Zone by the Falls was open during the tournament's final weekend on July 18-19, turning Niagara Falls into one of Canada's top watch party destinations.





Business Development

Retail and Attractions

- Upper-level observation platform extension is now complete at White Water Walk, offering guests new vantage points and sweeping views into the Niagara Gorge, revealing perspectives many visitors have never experienced before.
- The new north exit at White Water Walk is now open, reducing congestion during peak periods. New wayfinding signage will encourage further use of the upgraded exit route.
- Successfully delivered Niagara Parks' annual Canada Day Staff T-shirt Initiative, coordinating in-house design and organization-wide distribution in partnership with Retail Purchasing and Warehouse Operations. Produced by a Canadian supplier using locally cut, sewn and printed shirts, the program supported Canadian manufacturing while fostering employee pride and engagement.





Business Development

Culinary

- Fanzone by the Falls concluded on July 19 following a successful five-week operation. Between the Parkway Kitchen and the Cargo Cantina, both locations generated a total of \$446,869.70 over the course of the activation.
- Relocated The Parkway Kitchen to a new pilot location across along the parapet wall and refreshed the menu with specialty treats and expanded grab-and-go offerings to better meet guest demand and improve service efficiency. Sales performance and product mix will be evaluated throughout the remainder of the summer.





Business Development

Sales – July

- Business & Social Events
 - Hosted 12 site inspections; 10 group visits; 12 site inspections.
- Travel Trade
 - Conducted 6 virtual trainings; hosted 4 fam tours.
- Weddings
 - Hosted 16 ceremonies; 9 receptions.



Planning, Environment and Culture

Heritage and Legacy

- The annual Battle of Chippawa Commemoration took place on July 5 with support from the Chippawa community.
- Old Fort Erie hosted a sold-out Murder Mystery weekend on July 10 and 11.
- Laura Secord Homestead welcomed two visiting heritage chickens as part of a pilot program that increased guest engagement and extended visits by up to 45 minutes. New interactive egg activities further enhanced the experience, and staff have recommended a second event in August.



Planning, Environment and Culture

Horticulture

- Completed Murray Hill median enhancements with salt-tolerant shrub and perennial plantings.
- Installed new Life on Display Garden mosaiculture sculptures, including a 25-foot Monarch butterfly, 13-foot Yellow Swallowtail butterfly and Monarch caterpillar.
- Increased Microgreen and Tower Farm production to support Butterfly Conservatory operations and visitor programming.

Environmental Stewardship

- Continued invasive species management, targeting Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, flowering rush and stiltgrass across Niagara Parks.
- Supported BioBlitz activities, hosted a Learn to Fish event with NPCA, and delivered public education on tick awareness at the Niagara Glen Nature Centre.

School of Horticulture

- The project continues to advance, with conceptual design refinement substantially complete and contractor prequalification underway. The RFPQ has been issued as the first step toward construction procurement, while utility coordination, cost estimating, geotechnical requirements and final design details continue ahead of tender.





Parks Operations

Forestry

- Continued hazard tree removal, tree planting, storm cleanup and installation of Floral Showhouse Mosaiculture displays.

Parks

- Completed garden enhancements at Niagara Parks Power Station.
- Installed armour stone edge at Table Rock South.
- Installed carpet bedding at Queen Victoria Park Police Building.

Environmental Services

- Supported FIFA-related waste operations and achieved 50%+ diversion during Canada Celebrates weekend.
- Prevented a boat from fully sinking at Miller's Creek Marina through early intervention.
- Improved waste collection infrastructure at White Water Walk.
- Park-wide waste audit data collection nearing completion.
- Recycled 30 bales of rain ponchos at no processing cost.



Parks Operations

Engineering and Project Management

- Journey Behind the Falls viewing platform in final design, with construction beginning September 2026.
- Queen Victoria Park water and wastewater project ongoing.
- Fort Erie breakwall and shoreline protection work underway.
- White Water Walk viewing platform opened; boardwalk reconstruction RFP to be issued for fall construction.
- Marina electrical upgrade underway.

Custodial Services

- Completed drone window cleaning at Niagara Parks Power Station and Police Building.
- Power washing completed at key Canada Day locations.
- Bird-dropping cleanup ongoing at Legends cart area.