

The Niagara Parks Commission 2009 Events Highlights

January

Project Tree Cycle: Sunday, January 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Throw out your Christmas tree and give back to the environment. Come to the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture for the annual Project Tree Cycle event. Bring your own bag and shovel to collect FREE wood chips recycled from discarded Christmas trees. Christmas trees will be collected on Saturday, January 12th through the Regional Waste Program and Niagara Parks Commission staff will mulch the trees on Sunday, January 13.

Location: Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls. *Wood chip mulch will be available in the north end of the parking lot.

February

Edgewaters Tap & Grill Hosts the Niagara Falls Grand Dinner Theatre: February – April

Edgewaters Tap & Grill, located in the center of Niagara Parks at Queen Victoria Place, is the new venue for Niagara Falls Grand Dinner Theatre. Come out and enjoy our full panoramic view of the American and Horseshoe Falls and a three course gourmet meal. For schedules and tickets, please visit www.niagarafallsgRANDdinnertheatre.com or call 1-866-845-SHOW.

International ‘Bug-a-licious’ Insect Food Festival: February 14 – 16 - 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wondering what to do over Family Day weekend? Fun for all ages - this event will include cooking demonstrations with insects as part of the “Out of Africa” bug tasting menu that Chef Jeff Stewart has created, inspired by edible insects that have been included in regional diets for thousands of years.

Admission to the Butterfly Conservatory will include insect menu samplings: \$11.50 for Adults 13+, \$6.80 for Children 6 - 12 years and Children 5 and under are admitted FREE (prices in Cdn plus tax).

Free Parking on-site. Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with last visitors admitted at 5:30 p.m. Located at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens, 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls. (905) 356-8119. www.niagaraparks.com

March

Frogs: March Break Tropical Frog Exhibit – March 14 – 22

Visit the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory over March Break and meet over 200 tropical frogs of 25 different species, from Peruvian poison frogs to rainforest tree frogs. Learn about these disappearing amphibians and discover what is being done to combat declining populations. Admission to the Butterfly Conservatory: \$11.50 for Adults 13+, \$6.80 for Children 6 - 12 years and Children 5 and under are admitted FREE (prices in Cdn plus tax). Free Parking on-site. Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with last visitors admitted at 5:30 p.m. Located at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory, on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens, 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls. (905) 356-8119.

www.niagaraparks.com

April

Annual Easter Display at the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse: April

The Easter show features a cross display of lilies surrounded by colourful and fragrant spring flowers such as daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and azaleas. The warm and serene setting is bursting with gorgeous blooms, orchids and exotic tropical plants as well as beautiful songbirds to get you in the mood for spring. Call 905-354-1721 for dates and times. 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls.

May***Annual Hydrangea Display at the Floral Showhouse: May***

Come to the Floral Showhouse to view these gigantic spheres of spring colour. Annual features include hanging baskets – some over five feet wide, overflowing with colourful Hydrangeas. In addition, forced Foxglove and Delphinium will complete the spectacular display of blues, pinks and white. Call 905-354-1721 for dates and times. 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls.

McFarland House Mother's Day: May 10

Bring your mum out for a tour and a cup of tea at McFarland House in honour of Mother's Day. 15927 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake (905) 468-3322

Pizza Pizza Falls Fireworks & Coca Cola Concert Series: Beginning May 15

Canada's longest running fireworks series will light up the skies every Friday, Sunday and holiday at 10 p.m., preceded by our Coca Cola Concert Series at 8 p.m. Additional fireworks shows have been added for every Wednesday in July and August, and every Friday from September 4 to October 9. It's the perfect family outing!

2nd Annual Spring BBQ: May 31, 4-9 p.m.

Join the fun at Queenston Heights Restaurant Patio, high atop the Niagara Escarpment, at the foot of Brock's Monument. Enjoy wine tastings, product samples from Molson, an unbeatable BBQ selection and LIVE entertainment. Cost is \$30 Adults; \$15 Children. Space is limited. Call (905) 262-4274 for reservations. Queenston Heights Restaurant, 14184 Niagara Parkway, Queenston, ON

June***McFarland House Summer Performance & Art Shows***

Contact McFarland House for information on shows by local artists and theatrical performers. 15927 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake (905) 468-3322.

Ride to Conquer Cancer: June 14

Details TBA. Visit www.niagaraparks.com for updates.

Friday Night Ghost Tours at Old Fort Erie: Fridays June 19 through October

A popular tradition – hear the eerie stories of the ghosts of Canada's bloodiest battlefield. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie. For reservations call (905) 871-0540.

Murder in the Old Fort: June 12 & 13

Experience a murder most foul in the creepy interior of the old stone fort. Don't miss the sequel on September 4 & 5. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie. For more information call (905) 871-0540.

Fenian Raid at Old Fort Erie: June 13 & 14

Canadian Militia and the Irish Republican Army do battle each day at 1:30 p.m. to mark the largest Fenian Raid of 1866. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie (905) 871-0540

Laura Secord in Real Time - June 20

Experience the events that led Laura Secord to leave her family and home to enter a dangerous No Man's Land to warn the defenders of Canada. 29 Queenston Street, Queenston (905) 262-4851.

Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: June 21- August 30 from 2-4 p.m.

The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series in Queenston Heights Park will feature the sounds of big bands, symphony orchestras, dixie and more. Nothing speaks more of summer than an enjoyable Sunday afternoon concert in the Park. 14184 Niagara Parkway, Queenston, ON. For concert listings, visit www.niagaraparks.com

RCMP Officer Meet and Greet: beginning June 26 – September 7 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Canada is known for many things but nothing is more notable than the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Come to Table Rock House, located at the brink of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls during the summer on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to meet a RCMP officer for photos and to answer questions. Don't forget to bring your camera!

July***Friendship Festival: July 1 - 5***

The Friendship Festival features spectacular concerts, entertainment, crafters and more in celebration of over 200 years of friendship between Canada and the US. Visit www.friendshipfestival.com for details. 25 Niagara Parkway, Fort Erie.

Friends at the Fort: July 1 - 4

During the two national holidays of Canada and the United States, the old fort is home to both the Canadian troops who garrisoned the post as well as their former American adversaries. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie (905) 871-0540.

Chippawa Battlefield Ceremony: July 5, 2009

This ceremony commemorates the Battle of Chippawa, fought on July 5th 1814, the opening engagement of the Niagara campaign of 1814, the longest and bloodiest military operation of the War of 1812.

August***'Simcoe Days' at Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum: August 1-3***

The Civic Holiday is known as Simcoe Day in some parts of Ontario. Stop by the Mackenzie Printery on "Simcoe Day" and learn how the nation's oldest printing press helped John Graves Simcoe shape the province of Upper Canada. 1 Queenston Street, Queenston (905) 262-5676.

'The Siege of Fort Erie', 1814: August 8 & 9

Witness the battles of 1814 that turned Old Fort Erie into Canada's bloodiest battlefield. On-going events throughout the weekend and Canada's largest Battle of 1812 re-enactment. Special evening lantern tours through the fort after the Battle re-enactment. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie. For information call (905) 871-0540 or visit www.oldforterie.com

Tour de Forts – Music by the Niagara Symphony Orchestra at Old Fort Erie: August 14

Come out to the Old Fort for a FREE outdoor performance by the Niagara Symphony. Don't forget to bring your lawn chair! 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie. For more information call (905) 871-0540.

End of Summer BBQ: August 31 from 4-9 p.m.

Join the fun at Queenston Heights Restaurant Patio, high atop the Niagara Escarpment, at the foot of Brock's Monument. Enjoy wine tastings, product samples from Molson, an unbeatable BBQ selection and LIVE

entertainment. Cost is \$30 Adults; \$15 Children. Space is limited. Call (905) 262-4274 for reservations. Queenston Heights Restaurant, 14184 Niagara Parkway, Queenston.

September

Annual Reiger Begonia display at the Floral Showhouse: September

This fall show consists of a mix of fall colours including orange, yellow, pink and white. The Reigers varieties produced have a double bloom and are approximately 1.5 inches in diameter. The Reigers will be combined with a fabulous display of coleus, tropical foliage plants and a mix of bright fall colours. Call 905-354-1721 for dates and times. 7145 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls.

Celebrate Culture Festival: September 1 - 30

Visit Niagara Parks for this exciting international festival showcasing the tastes, sounds and experiences of countries from around the globe. Details TBA. Visit www.niagaraparks.com for updates.

Murder in the Old Fort: September 4 & 5

Experience a murder most foul in the creepy interior of the old stone fort. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie. For more information call (905) 871-0540.

Majestic Monarchs Event: September 5 - 13

To celebrate the majestic migration of Monarchs in late summer, the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory will feature a special exhibit that will visually explore the life cycle and provide many interesting facts about the majestic Monarch Butterfly. Guests will be able to purchase their own Monarch Butterfly as part of a tag and release program. Located at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens, 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls. (905) 356-8119.

October

Estee Lauder Global Landmarks Illumination: October 23

Niagara Falls joins other significant landmarks and monuments around the world as they are lit pink to welcome the start of Breast Cancer Month.

Niagara International Kite Festival: October 23 - 27

Details TBA. Visit www.niagaraparks.com for updates.

Doors Open Niagara: October 17 & 18

The Laura Secord Homestead and Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum both participate in this much anticipated Bi-National Doors Open Niagara weekend. For more information, please visit www.doorsopenniagara.com. Free admission!

All Hallow's Eve at Old Fort Erie: October 16 & 17, October 23 - 25

Venture out to Old Fort Erie to experience the traditions of Hallowe'en, brought to life through the Ghosts of the Old Fort. Please call (905) 871-0540 for reservations are required. 350 Lakeshore Road, Fort Erie.

4th Annual Niagara Parks Apprentice Cooks & Chefs Showcase Dinner: October 22 - 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Support Niagara Parks' growing Apprentice Cooks program and enjoy a six-course meal featuring local Niagara wine pairings. Held at award-winning Queenston Heights Restaurant. 14184 Niagara Parkway, Queenston, ON. Call 905-262-4274 for reservations.

Niagara Falls International Marathon & Niagara Parks Schools Marathon Challenge: October 23 - 25

The Niagara Falls International Marathon is the only marathon in the world that starts in one country and finishes in another. This marathon boasts a full marathon, half marathon, half marathon walk, a 5 km marathon along with the Niagara Parks Schools Marathon Challenge. This fast paced course is set along the scenic Niagara Parkway. Visit www.niagarafallsmarathon.com for details or to register.

November

27th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Visit the Winter Festival of Lights, Canada's foremost illumination festival at its most famous address - Niagara Falls - as we capture the magic of the holiday season. A wintertime visit to Niagara Falls during the Winter Festival of Lights has become a family tradition for over 1 million local residents and visitors from around the world. This year, we celebrate our silver anniversary and we invite you to rediscover the many events and attractions Niagara Falls and the Winter Festival of Lights have to offer. Visit www.niagaraparks.com for updates.

Annual Chrysanthemum Display at the Floral Showhouse: November

The diversity of the Chrysanthemum's colour and form can be truly appreciated during a visit to this show, which features shades of pinks, yellows and bronzes. The displays are a combination of traditional bush varieties, cascading varieties in baskets, pillars and pyramids. Equally impressive are the single stem exhibition types, some with individual bloom diameters of over 8" across. The majority of these varieties is grown for exhibition purposes only and is traditionally not available in the commercial market. Call 905-354-1721 for dates and times. 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls.

December

Annual Christmas Display at the Floral Showhouse: December

Discover traditional red, white and pink Poinsettias as well as many unusual varieties and forms. Cyclamen, Azaleas, Christmas Cactus and Paperwhite Narcissus add to this spectacular Festival of Winter Colours. As final touches, the Floral Showhouse is adorned with lights, garland, ribbon and many other Christmas surprises. The free flying tropical birds throughout all the display houses add to the Christmas merriment. Come and experience the sights, scents and sounds of Christmas at the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse. Call 905-354-1721 for dates and times. 2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls.

A McFarland Christmas: December 4 - 6

The Garden Club of Niagara transforms McFarland House for the holiday season, with costumed heritage staff ready to welcome those looking to enjoy the festive feel and charm of a Victorian Christmas. McFarland House is a part of the Rotary Holiday House Tour and hosts its own Christmas Open House. 15927 Niagara Parkway, Niagara-on-the-Lake (905) 468-3322

New Year's Eve Niagara Falls in Queen Victoria Park: December 31

Celebrate Canada's largest FREE New Year's Eve Extravaganza. The party begins at 8:00 p.m. This free concert draws approximately 30,000 people each year, with two spectacular fireworks displays that will take place at 9:00 p.m. and midnight. Live television coverage will run from 11:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on CHCH and CanWest Global affiliate stations. As always, the presence of security and policing will be on-site to ensure people's safety throughout the night. Visit www.niagaraparks.com for the upcoming announcement of this year's exciting musical entertainment.

*Please visit www.niagaraparks.com or e-mail events@niagaraparks.com
for more information.*

PLEASE NOTE: ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE