

NIAGARA FALLS STORY IDEAS - WHAT'S NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Winter 2023 Edition - Quarterly News and Media Inspiration

EVENTS

NIAGARA FALLS WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS FUN CONTINUES TO FEB 20, 2023

Announcing added new entertainment and highlighting date night themed route

Celebrating 40 years, the [Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights](#), Canada's largest FREE outdoor light festival continues with a **focus on winter- and love-themed displays all the way through to February 20, 2023**, Family Day Weekend. Visitors can look forward to all there is to see and do during the Festival this winter including the Date Night themed Walking Route and added exciting family friendly entertainment at the Hilton Hotel and Suites during Family Day Weekend.

Quick Facts

- **101 Nights of Twinkling Lights continue through to February 20, 2023 (Family Day Weekend)**, with 3+ million lights and 75+ spectacular displays that transform Niagara Falls into a winter wonderland. Drive or bundle up and walk through **NEW displays and themed illumination areas**, including the Royal Promenade, Frosted Falls, Enchanted Forest, and Great Canadian North with downloadable maps for planning.
- Online planning tools are available at [WFOL.com](#) to plan a memorable visit
- [Displays](#) are listed on the website to help visitors plan their experience whether driving through or exploring the various walking routes to capture the best selfies and instagrammable moments up close at their favourite spots such as: 3D animals, JOY and LOVE, Fairy Tale Castle, Light Tunnel, and more
- **CHECK OUT** – [Date Night Themed Route](#) combining popular sites and displays for the perfect backdrops for reconnecting with loved ones all winter long and especially during February, the month of love.
- **40 nights of FREE indoor family friendly live entertainment** each weekend on Friday and Saturday nights, culminating over Family Day Weekend featuring top children's performers from magicians and musicians to jugglers and face painters and includes new programming at the Hilton Hotel and Suites. Visit the **Crowne Plaza Fallsview Hotel** for a full schedule of live performers and head to the **Americana Waterpark Resort & Spa** for face painters, balloon twisters, glitter tattoos and more.
- **NEW on Family Day Weekend don't miss the popular Splash N' Boots with two shows daily at the Hilton Hotel and Suites from Feb 17 to Feb 19 at 6:00 and 8:00 pm each evening**
- **40 nights of breathtaking fireworks** celebrating 40 Years of the Festival
- **NEW Hot Chocolate Trail** - This new self-guided trail leads you to all the delicious chocolatey concoctions at 17 locations with 23 unique flavours to sip and savour.
- **NEW Falls Illumination** program lights up the Falls each night of the Festival in celebration of four decades of 'Winter Sparkling Lights'
- **New Experiences in 2022** - The first [Niagara Helicopters Winter Nights and Lights Experience](#)

For More Information please visit [www.WFOL.com](#)

Media Photos and Video Reel visit <https://media.niagarafallstourism.com>



OLG STAGE GRAND OPENING – BILLY JOEL

February 25, 2023

A new world-class theatre complete with 5,000 soft seats, state-of-the-art technology, outstanding acoustics, and spectacular entertainment where you're never more than 150 feet away from the action. The new OLG Stage opens with Billy Joel. Having sold more than 150 million records, Billy Joel ranks as one of most popular recording artists and respected entertainers in the world. Tickets start at: \$175. A growing roster of entertainment continues to build including Impractical Jokers on March 9th and Comedian Dane Cook, who entertained a sold out crowd at Madison Square Gardens, on April 15th.

NIAGARA CULINARY EXPERIENCES

- **Celebration of Icewine, February 3, 2023**
- **Verona to Valpolicella, March 24, 2023**
- **Taste of Tuscany, April 28, 2023**

Massimo's Italian Fallsview Restaurant presented by Falls Avenue Resort. Take a culinary tour of Italy and the finest farm-to-table ingredients from Southern Ontario with Canada's renown Chef Massimo Capra.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY presents SOIL SUPERHEROES

January 13 – May 2, 2023

Beneath our feet, a league of tiny superheroes is continuously working to make life on earth possible. Niagara Parks is pleased to announce Soil Superheroes, a new interactive exhibit created by the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum. To learn more about this family-friendly exhibit, included with admission into the Butterfly Conservatory, visit niagaraparks.com/soilsuperheroes

BIRDS ON THE NIAGARA, INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION

February 17-20, 2023

With its proximity to the Niagara River corridor, one of the world's most biodiverse places, Niagara Falls is a four-season destination for bird lovers, adventure travelers and ecotourists alike. Every February, bird lovers and conservationists celebrate the vast diversity of northern birds that call the mighty river corridor their home each winter at [Birds on the Niagara International Bird Festival and Celebration](#), the only international bird festival in North America.

Visit [here](#) for birding resources:

- Bird species that can be found in Niagara Falls each season and where to find them
- Birds on the Niagara Festival
- Birding Etiquette
- Birding Conservation

TWO SISTERS VINEYARDS

- **ICEWINE & SPARKLING MIXOLOGY**
Experience icewine in new and exciting ways! Our Estate Sommelier (and budding mixologist) will guide you through the use of icewine in the creation of some delightful cocktails. You will watch the preparation of these unique libations, and then taste them as well! The recipes for these delicious drinks will be provided, so you can make your favourites at home. Available in January only. Friday & Sunday - 2:00 p.m.
- **THE ART OF FOOD & WINE PAIRINGS**
Successful wine pairing will enhance the dining experience – potentially heightening flavours, textures and qualities in the food. Pairing is not an exact science, but a subjective art form that can be learned.

There are philosophies and guidelines to consider when designing wine pairings and our estate sommelier will introduce you to these. Available in February only. Friday & Sunday - 2:00 p.m.

SKATING - WAYNE GRETZKY ESTATES (to mid March)

Niagara's only winery, brewer and distillery serves up world-class wines, whiskies, spirits and microbrews. Bring your skates to enjoy a favourite Canadian activity at this Canadian hockey legend's Estate. Relax on the heated Whisky Bar patio to enjoy wine, cocktails and a winter menu (non-alcoholic beverages, too).

Reservations required. More information [here](#)

NIAGARA FALLS 420 EXPO

April 20, 2023

Niagara Falls Convention Centre

Niagara Falls 420 Expo is a celebration of all things cannabis & community. This year's event will feature more than 30,000 square feet of all things cannabis, including; exhibitors, educational seminars, guest speakers, manufacturers, and more. North America's largest celebration of all things cannabis. More [here](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Niagara Falls, Ontario holds a place in history as one of the final destinations of the renowned 'Underground Railroad', a secret network of routes that freedom seekers followed from the United States to freedom in Canada arriving in Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and on to Niagara-on-the-Lake. For those who wish to retrace the final steps of the thousands who found freedom in Canada and pay homage to the heroes and heroines who helped them, [here](#) are some ways to explore the region.

Pre-book a unique and memorable bespoke tour with [Niagara Bound Tours](#) led by Lezlie Harper, a fifth-generation Canadian descendant of freedom seekers.

ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES

Tickets are \$15 per event or \$35 for all three

Laura Secord Homestead – Queenston Chapel, 29 Queenston Street, Queenston, Ontario

Niagara Parks will host a three-part speaker series exploring perspectives on Black history and culture in Canada, delivered by prominent historians, community leaders and commentators, partnering with leaders in the Black community to share this important history, while exploring contemporary issues and celebrating Black history change makers in Niagara. Additional event details and tickets are available at niagaraparks.com/blackhistory.

Photo and video assets are available [here](#).

- **January 29, 2:00 pm:** Lezlie Harper, Celebrating Black History in Niagara
- **February 26, 2:00 pm:** Saladin Allah, Present-Day Freedom Seekers and The Power of our Stories
- **March 26, 2:00 pm:** Kevin Cottrell, Interpreting The Underground Railroad in the age of Heritage Tourism and the built environment in the Niagara Region

VALENTINE'S DAY

ROMANTIC INSPIRATION

In a city renowned for romance, there's plenty of romantic inspiration to make special memories with places for the perfect kiss, romantic walks, thrilling flirty and fun competition for the young at heart and experiences to get your heart pounding:

- Itinerary featuring **48-Hours of Winter Romance in Niagara Falls** [here](#)



- **Top 6 Proposal Sites in Niagara Falls** [here](#)
- [Date Night Themed Route](#) at the Winter Festival of Lights provides perfect backdrops for reconnecting with loved ones all winter long and especially during February, the month of love.

FAMILY DAY

Niagara Falls is a four-season destination with plenty to do for kids of all ages! Here are some sources of family fun inspiration for upcoming Family Day Stories:

- This [itinerary](#) of 48 hours of Winter Family fun
- This Family Adventures Story Ideas [document](#) in the press kit offers an overview of experiences for families to enjoy all year round.

DON'T MISS - FINAL WEEKEND OF THE WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS UNTIL FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Enjoy the final weekend of the [Winter Festival of Lights](#). Visit [WFOL.com](#) to plan ahead.

- Visit the **Crowne Plaza Fallsview Hotel** for a full schedule of live performers and head to the **Americana Waterpark Resort & Spa** for face painters, balloon twisters, glitter tattoos and more.
- **NEW on Family Day Weekend don't miss the popular Splash N' Boots with two shows daily at the Hilton Hotel and Suites from Feb 17 to Feb 19 at 6:00 and 8:00 pm each evening.** Meet the [Misty Kids](#) - the Festival's friendly mascots!

MARCH BREAK / SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

There's a reason Niagara Falls is a popular March Break destination for multi-generational family getaways. When it comes to creating special memories, there are endless options and something to entertain family members and children of all ages.

- **MINI POP KIDS CONCERT**

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Niagara Falls Convention Centre

This jam-packed concert features songs by Justin Bieber, Dua Lipa, BTS, Harry Styles, and Olivia Rodrigo alongside throwback favorites that EVERYONE will love. This isn't just a show, it's an experience for the whole family! Don't miss your chance to sing, dance, and POP with Canada's best-selling kids music group, the original Mini Pop Kids! More info [here](#)

- **NIAGARA PARKS AND NIAGARA FALLS HISTORY MUSEUM PROGRAM**

March Break and Spring Break details will be posted shortly.

- Choose from a variety of family focused hotels and waterparks including the Americana, Best Western Plus Cairn Croft and Fallsview Waterpark. Each Niagara Falls water park has thousands of square feet of water slides, kiddie pools, and unique features like the aquaplay centre with a giant tipping bucket at Americana Resort's [Waves Indoor Water Park](#) or the full-size wave pool with 3-foot white caps at the [Fallsview Indoor Waterpark](#). Winter, spring, summer or fall, water parks offer hours of Niagara Falls entertainment.
- Nature: Get up close to nature at the [Butterfly Conservatory](#) or [Bird Kingdom](#), the largest free flying indoor bird aviary in North America.
- History: Discover the history and science behind hydropower at the [Niagara Parks Power Station](#)



- Fun & Adventure: Explore the Odditorium with over 400 exhibits and interactive displays at [Ripley's Believe it or Not](#), [WildPlay Zipline to the Falls](#) for a thrilling panoramic 70km/hour ride, 67 m above; [Dinosaur Adventure Golf](#) (weather permitting) one of the country's largest mini golf courses with over 50 life sized dinosaurs; Explore over 2,000 square feet of magnificent miniature railways and landscapes at [Locomoland](#), one of the world's most elaborate miniature railway systems!

SPRING BLOOMS

Did you know Niagara Falls is the Daffodil Capital of North America? Beginning in March, as winter turns to spring, parks and gardens in Niagara Falls come alive with some of Canada's most spectacular horticultural sights. Very well-known for its stunning daffodil, tulip and magnolia blossoms, Niagara Falls is also home to a variety of lesser-known (and equally beautiful) spring blooms. We've put together a list of all the [springtime floral blooms](#) as they appear each spring.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY – MARCH 17, 2023

**WINNER OF THE 2017 BEST IRISH PUB CHEF IN NORTH AMERICA (IRISH PUB GLOBAL AWARDS)!
MARCH 2022**

Doc Magilligan's brings a little taste of Ireland to Niagara Falls and is the perfect place to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, a pub *built completely in Ireland and shipped to Niagara Falls*, enabling us to celebrate the very spirit of the man himself through an inexhaustible outpouring of good cheer, great company and fantastic food and drink. More information [here](#)

WORLD RAINBOW DAY – APRIL 3, 2023

On any bright sunny day, you are guaranteed a rainbow when you visit Niagara Falls – where better to celebrate World Rainbow Day! When your back is to the sun, rainbows are seen in the mist created by the falling water. The sun shines through the water droplets, reflecting light into the colors of the spectrum.

EASTER

EASTER BRUNCH

Sunday, April 9, 2023

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS RESTAURANT, LEGENDS ON THE NIAGARA RESTAURANT AND TABLE ROCK HOUSE RESTAURANT

Celebrate Easter Sunday alongside family and friends with Niagara Parks' traditional Easter Brunch at Queenston Heights Restaurant, Legends on the Niagara Restaurant or Table Rock House Restaurant. Indulge in fresh spring flavours and ingredients sourced from right here in the Niagara region as part of your Easter Brunch experience with Niagara Parks Culinary. Reservations for our popular Easter Brunch service are strongly recommended.

ACCOLADES

INDUSTRY FIRST IN CANADA - NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTRE SENSORY INCLUSIVE

In December 2022, the Niagara Falls Convention Centre was recognized for its commitment to making the facility more accessible and inclusive to everyone attending an event. The Centre recently became the first convention centre in Canada to be certified Sensory Inclusive by Kulture City. Read the story [here](#)

[|fallsconventions.com](#)

Learn more about Niagara Falls Business Events [here](#)



JOHN PELLER NAMED AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

On behalf of Niagara Falls Tourism Board of Directors and membership we congratulate John E. Peller, President and CEO of Andrew Peller Ltd. on the occasion of being named an Officer of the Order of Canada in recognition for contributions to the Canadian Wine Industry, dedication to community and service to our nation. Andrew Peller Limited is one of Canada's leading producers and marketers of quality wines and craft beverage alcohol products including Peller Estates Winery & Restaurant, Trius Winery & Restaurant and Wayne Gretzky Estates. More information [here](#)

COMING IN 2023

NIAGARA FALLS COMIC CON – 10th ANNIVERSARY

June 9 - 11, 2023

[Comic Con](#) is a popular event that takes place at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre, Niagara Falls Canada, just steps away from the majestic Falls. This popular event features more than 200,000 square feet of exhibitors, comic books, movie cars, cosplay contests, celebrity autographs and photo-ops, a video gaming arena, Falls Horror Fest and so much more!

NIAGARA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

October 22, 2023

One of the oldest and most scenic racecourses in North America following the Niagara River and ending at the majestic Canadian Horseshoe Falls. [The Niagara International Marathon](#) is truly international with the start in Buffalo, NY and end in Niagara Falls, ON. The Half, 10k, and 5k distances all start and end in Canada.

LOOKING AHEAD

COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF WHAT'S NEW, SPRING 2023:

- Exciting 2023 Season Openings
- Niagara Falls Gardens are Blooming
- World Bicycle Day is Saturday June 3, 2023 – [Cycling in Niagara Falls](#)
- Honouring National Indigenous Peoples Day in Niagara Falls
- Golf Season Begins in Niagara Falls - Explore Ontario's Best Courses

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Niagara Falls Resources

- Hotel Packages: <https://book.niagarafallstourism.com/>
- Attraction Packages: [Niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/](https://niagarafallstourism.com/attraction-packages/)
- Niagara Falls Itinerary Ideas: [Niagarafallstourism.com/blog/itinerary/](https://niagarafallstourism.com/blog/itinerary/)
- Getting here: Toronto to Niagara Falls [GO Train Service](#)

Website: www.niagarafallstourism.com

Instagram: @NiagaraFallsTourismCanada

Facebook: @NiagaraFallsTourismCanada



Twitter: @NFallsTourism
#ExploreNiagara #NiagaraFalls

About Niagara Falls Canada

Overlooking the legendary Canadian Horseshoe, American and Bridal Veil waterfalls, Niagara Falls is a four-season destination renowned for its awe-inspiring natural wonders combined with world-class accommodation, thrilling entertainment and a burgeoning culinary scene. Visitors from Ontario, across North America and around the world who come to experience nature and adventure, discover family fun, feel the romance and explore unique and memorable experiences have made it Canada's premier entertainment destination and a world-renowned bucket list destination. Located within a 1-day drive of half the population of North America, more than 152 M people, Niagara Falls is the perfect getaway.

About Niagara Falls Tourism

Niagara Falls Tourism (NFT) is the official Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) for the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, representing almost 400 member establishments in Niagara Falls, including members throughout the Niagara Region. Welcoming almost 14 million visitors into the destination each year, NFT promotes the tourism and hospitality sector to visitors around the world. Dynamic marketing campaigns and signature events inspire visitors to explore Niagara Falls and support the success of local business. NFT fosters the international reputation of Niagara Falls as a four-season bucket-list destination and Canada's entertainment capital.