



BUSINESS NEWS HIGHLIGHTS 2018

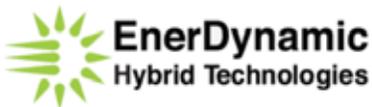
Business Development Department



MANUFACTURING



ENERDYNAMIC HYBRID TECHNOLOGIES RELOCATES TO NIAGARA FALLS



One of the newest businesses to move into the city's Stanley Avenue Business Park, EnerDynamic Hybrid Technologies (TSXV:EHT), brings years of expertise in building construction and solar energy to Niagara Falls. EnerDynamic was founded thanks to a desire to help solve the current global energy crisis and to deliver clean and renewable energy solutions that can be customized and deployed as quickly as needed. Originally focused on North American markets, EnerDynamic is now rapidly expanding into African and Latin American markets where bankable power solutions and efficient structures are needed more than ever.

EnerDynamic provides exceptional thermal energy efficiency in modular buildings, i.e. homes, cold storage facilities, residential/commercial outbuildings and emergency/temporary shelters. Known as **ENERTEC** buildings, they're constructed with a proprietary skin and foam core that is stronger than traditional wood or steel structural insulated panels. In addition to traditional support to established electrical networks, **ENERTEC** buildings excel where no electrical grid exists.

By combining solar energy with patented structural systems, EnerDynamic offers a uniquely robust and scalable energy solution.

ehybrid.com



SYNCHRO IS ON THE MOVE

In 2018, electrical engineering firm Synchro Engineering relocated to a newly renovated 4875 Kent Avenue facility. The new location provides expanded professional office space, in addition to enhanced production space for Synchro's skilled electricians and other trades to meet the demands of a growing and diverse range of clientele.

"Our new facility will allow our professionals to thrive," says Peter Zylstra, P.Eng., President of Synchro Engineering. "We take great pride in the experienced people that we employ and their contribution in making us an innovative, growing electrical engineering company."

Founded in 1966 by Peter's father, Synchro initially provided electrical contracting firm services in industrial maintenance, repairs and installations. Along with partners Dan Michitsch and Mike Dzugan, Peter deepened the company's capabilities and expertise in electrical engineering and engineering services.

Today, Synchro applies its engineering expertise to all types of applications: power systems, green energy, automation, panel builds, equipment service and general contracting. It works with a wide range of businesses, in multiple sectors including manufacturing, food and beverage, energy, utilities and mining.

powerundercontrol.com



E.S. FOX MARKS 30 YEARS SUPPORTING ONTARIO NUCLEAR POWER

E. S. Fox is a fully integrated, multi-trade industrial, commercial, institutional, power generation plant constructor and fabricator.

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) recognized E.S. Fox Limited for supporting the nuclear industry for over 30 years. The iconic Niagara Falls fabricator brings an integrative approach, which is central to its long-standing relationship with the nuclear program in Ontario.

E.S. Fox is fabricating thermal insulation cabinets for Ontario Power Generation's Darlington Refurbishment project, Canada's largest clean energy project that supports 14,000 jobs across Ontario. These cabinets will protect the refurbished reactor's concrete walls and feeder header frames from excess temperatures and will reduce the load on the reactor vault cooling system. Currently, E.S. Fox is supplying the cabinets in two massive orders: 654 carbon steel support frames and 3,792 stainless steel panels. The 10-year, \$12.8 billion refurbishment is progressing on time and budget and will ensure a safe, clean and reliable energy supply for the next 30 years.

Established in 1934, E.S. Fox is headquartered in Niagara Falls and maintains full-service regional offices across the province. With over 700 workers, E.S. Fox's wide-ranging integration enables staff to interact more readily with a full range of client's needs. From fabrication to construction to technical services and engineers, companies in Ontario turn to E.S. Fox for all types of heavy industry and institutional construction.

esfox.com



MANUFACTURING



CRIVELLER'S NEXT GENERATION PRESIDENT

Just ahead of its 40th business anniversary, Criveller Company Canada appointed Jessica Criveller as its new President. Founded by Jessica's father, Bruno, and uncle, Mario, in 1979, Criveller earned the reputation as one of the oldest suppliers of fermentation, processing, bottling and labeling equipment for food and beverage manufacturers throughout North America.

"Having been provided with the opportunity to carry on what my father and uncle created is truly an honour," says Jessica. "When you're given these types of possibilities, it's up to you to make the best of them so that the generations to come have those very same opportunities, should they choose to take them."

Jessica and her brother, Davide, grew up in the business. Davide is the President of its Criveller California division and together, this dynamic second-generation leadership team is strengthening opportunities to grow the business. The founding Criveller brothers, Bruno and Mario, remain active in the business and pass along years of experience to the next generation.

criveller.com



CAN-ENG FURNACES EQUIPMENT COMMISSIONED FOR SOUTH CAROLINA PLANT EXPANSION

Can-Eng Furnaces International Limited was recently awarded a contract to design, manufacture and install an Aluminum Automotive Casting Heat Treatment system for an Indian-based conglomerate's North American expansion in South Carolina. Primarily due to its unique modular design system, this new machinery was commissioned to serve in the manufacturing of die cast light weight aluminium components in the automotive sector. Can-Eng's modular systems have been very well received in the marketplace because of ability for manufacturers to plan and scale their equipment capital needs to their production capacity needs.

CAN-ENG Furnaces International Limited was established in 1964 and has grown to become a leading global designer and manufacturer of thermal processing equipment for ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

Headquartered in Niagara Falls, Canada, Can-Eng is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company.

can-eng.com



ARTCRAFT KITCHENS: AN INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING BUSINESS EXPANDS

"Combine the art of kitchen design with the traditions of fine craftsmanship"

This is the motto Niagara Artcraft Woodworking Company's founder Daniel Trabucco gave to his new company in 1961. Artcraft Kitchens' business is led today by Daniel Trabucco Jr. This 3rd generation cabinetry business is an industry leader who takes the most innovative technologies and seamlessly integrates them into traditional woodworking methods.

Expansion of Artcraft's temperature-controlled building on Kent Avenue will allow Artcraft's skilled and dedicated workforce to integrate state-of-the-art technologies to create custom cabinetry for homes and business across North America.

artcraftkitchens.com



FACTOR FORMS CELEBRATES NEW OWNERSHIP IN 2018

In early 2018, Chris Gleis and Derek Thompson purchased Factor Forms Niagara Ltd., a privately-owned printing wholesale company that continues to provide Canadian businesses with a wide variety of products and services. For over 20 years in Niagara Falls, Factor Forms has been the trade house for traditional printing, digital printing, digital labels and laser die cutting, always innovating to keep up to the ever-changing customer product demands. Factor Forms is proud to maintain its status as Canada's Largest Trade Only Forms & Label Manufacturer.

This holiday season Factor Forms donated over ten skids of toys valued at over \$50,000 to The Salvation Army of Niagara Falls, the most significant donation ever received by the organization. This was made possible with the leadership of Chris Gleis and Derek Thompson, with toys donated from customers, employees and suppliers.

factorforms.com



HAMILL AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING SOLUTIONS EXPANDS IN 2018

*One of the city's longest
standing manufacturers
is expanding!*

Established in 1948, Hamill Machine is a privately owned and operated manufacturing company located on Kent Avenue. What started as a general machine shop has evolved into a 15-employee operation that services the industrial sector, wine producers and food producers spanning Canada and the United States. Its special operations include CNC machining, machine design and building, millwrighting, dynamic balancing, fabricating, laser cutting and 3D engineering.

To accommodate the evolution, Hamill Machine is building a 3,900 square foot addition that will provide a clean environment for specialized welding of wine racks and accommodate the growing market for its micro-greens equipment product line. Construction is planned for a 2019 start.

Hamill Agricultural Processing Solutions is a new product division for cutting, washing, and drying microgreen agricultural crops. The release of cannabis equipment is planned in 2019.

hamillmachine.ca



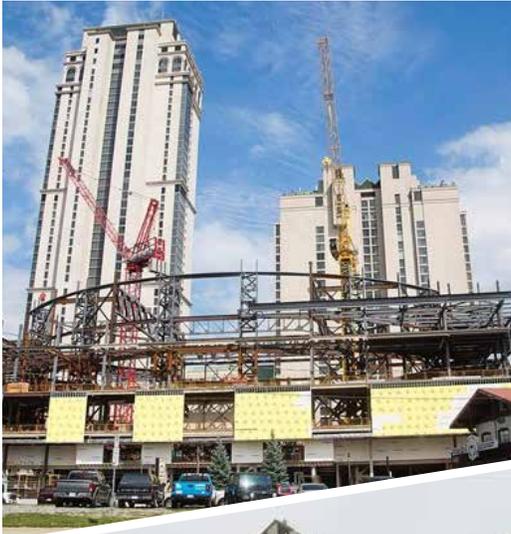
TIRE RESORT HQ UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NIAGARA FALLS

Tire Resort Inc. (TR) is currently building a new 26,000 square foot headquarters at 6150 Don Murie Street with one goal in mind: fill a distinct void in the automotive market. The company was established in 2017, offering both businesses and consumers a place to store their winter/summer tires in the offseason with an abundance of value-added services including custom powder coating services and rim repair. With over 40 customers in long-term contracts, spanning from Niagara Falls to Orangeville, TR works with prominent names in the industry such as Porsche, BMW, Mercedes and Canadian Tire.

The new headquarters complements TR's existing network of strategic centres in Niagara, Brampton and Hamilton.

tiresort.com

TOURISM



5,000 SEAT NIAGARA FALLS ENTERTAINMENT & LIVE PERFORMANCE CENTRE SET TO OPEN IN 2019

As anyone driving along Stanley Avenue in the city's Fallsview area will certainly have noticed, construction is well under way for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's (OLG), new 5,000-seat entertainment centre in Niagara Falls.

Located in the Fallsview Casino Resort district on Murray Hill, adjacent to the Hilton Hotel, the \$130 million new development has generated more than 800 jobs during the construction phase. Now set to open in 2019, the new entertainment centre will enhance the city's ability to accommodate larger concerts, shows and attractions. The new venue will ultimately draw more visitors to the city and help ensure long-term competitiveness for tourism stakeholders.

The project is said to be a 'missing piece' in the tourism industry and a catalyst for more development enhancing Niagara Falls' positioning as a world class destination. The building design character is inspired by the Falls in terms of material, palette, vision and iconography.

NEW FALLS CASINO OPERATOR SELECTED



Following an extensive competitive procurement process by the OLG, Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment (MGE) was selected as the service provider for the day-to-day operations at the Fallsview Casino Resort, Casino Niagara, and the 5,000 seat Niagara Falls Entertainment Centre.

MGE signed a 21 year operating agreement with OLG, effective summer 2019, part of the province's modernization of land-based gaming (ie. transferring operations and services to the private sector). MGE plans to leverage the portfolio to create a dynamic entertainment experience that is expected to drive increased visitation to Niagara Falls. Customers will be offered world-class entertainment and amenities while the region will benefit from economic development and increased job opportunities.

MGE currently owns, develops and manages integrated resorts throughout the U.S. and Northern Asia. The OLG continues to provide strategic and regulatory oversight of gaming in Niagara and throughout the province, and will continue to make payments to the City under the Municipality Contribution Agreement.

OLG.ca
fallsviewcasinoresort.com
casinoniagara.com

CASINOS UPDATE

Fallsview Casino Resort and Casino Niagara have established themselves as a key economic driver for Niagara's economy, with gaming facilities continuing to help establish Niagara Falls as a leading year-round tourism destination.

Key highlights for the Fallsview Casino Resort in 2018 include the new acceptance of Alipay and WeChat Pay at more than a dozen of its non-gaming amenities, becoming the first Ontario resort casino to launch the two digital payment solutions for Chinese customers. In the last decade, these two systems have reinvented the way Chinese consumers pay, trending towards a cashless society. The convenience of not having to carry a wallet to a restaurant, store, or entertainment facility has become a part of the lifestyle in China.

RECOGNITIONS:

- Wine Spectator's Best of Award of Excellence
- CAA Four-Diamond Hotel
- CAA Four-Diamond Award: Ponte Vecchio restaurant
- CAA Four-Diamond Award: 21 Club Steak & Seafood restaurant
- Hamilton-Niagara Top Employer Award (8 consecutive years)

A-LIST ENTERTAINMENT PERFORMANCES IN 2018:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| • Amy Schumer and Friends | • Tony Bennett | • Michael Bolton |
| • Jeff Dunham | • Tony Orlando | • Legends in Concert |
| • Blondie | • Sugarland | • Dane Cook |
| | • Jay Leno | • Ambrosia |

fallsviewcasinoresort.com



SCOTIABANK CONVENTION CENTRE UPDATE

With 300,000 square feet of convention space, a central location in the Fallsview Entertainment District, walking distance to 4,000 branded guestrooms and easy access to wine country, Scotiabank Convention Centre is Niagara's largest convention and meeting facility.

FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- 82,000 sq. ft. free span exhibit hall
- 32,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting & breakout space
- An exquisite 17,000 sq. ft. ballroom
- An intimate 1,000+ seat theatre offering live concerts and entertainment
- Set of five brand new meeting rooms with generous pre-function and service space
- Made-from-scratch menus featuring regionally sourced products and seasonal ingredients

2018 was the start of the second season of the Live by the Falls concert series that hosted Steven Page, Glass Tiger, April Wine and Platinum Blonde. The SCCN also hosted a variety of larger scale events including:

- Canadian Cheer Evolution
- Niagara Falls Comic Con
- Niagara Food and Wine Expo
- Greater Niagara Region Home & Garden Show
- Niagara Pet Expo
- KO Cancer Charity Boxing Event
- Frightmare in the Falls 2018
- Canadian Pool & Spa Conference & Expo

fallsconventions.com



TOURISM



NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN TOURISM, STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS



Since its establishment in 1885, the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has remained a self-financed agency of the Ontario government, entrusted to preserve and showcase the land surrounding Niagara Falls and the Niagara River. Today, Niagara Parks boasts gardens, a horticulture school, recreation, golf courses, restaurants, heritage and historic sites, gift shops and, of course, Niagara Falls. In short, natural landscapes, history, family fun, hiking, culinary delights, attractions and adventure. In 2018, NPC accomplished a number of achievements; such as the Niagara Parks and Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre partnership called the "Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Initiative" to provide an evidence based platform for NPC's current and future environmental stewardship practices, as part of NPC Strategic Plan (2018-2028).

EXPANDED FIREWORKS SCHEDULE

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the annual Falls Fireworks Series, Niagara Parks announced the 2018 Falls Fireworks schedule, with additional program support provided by the Tourism Partnership of Niagara to create a total of 111 displays, including daily shows throughout the summer season.

CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks in part to the generous support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's Bike Parking Capital Funding Program, Niagara Parks has undertaken a series of cycling amenity improvements, including new bike racks, repair stations, equipment lockers, water refill stations, lockers, solar lighting and waste receptacles. The investments totalled \$200,000 in improved cycling infrastructure all along the Niagara River Recreation Trail.

TABLE ROCK CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

Niagara Parks is investing in its flagship Table Rock Centre through a multi-million-dollar redevelopment project to fully renew its retail, culinary and attraction offerings and better enhance the true sense of arrival and experience for the millions of guests who begin their travel journeys at Table Rock each year. The first phase of construction includes upgrades to the lower level retail and concourse areas, and the Elements on the Falls restaurant.

NIAGARA PARKS AND BROCK UNIVERSITY SIGN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP MOU

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) promoting closer cooperation between The Niagara Parks Commission and Brock University was signed in 2018. Niagara Parks and Brock have a history of collaboration that goes back decades. This partnership is designed to enhance the stewardship and conservation practices, while providing tangible results and educational/research opportunities for Brock students and faculty through their work with Niagara Parks and its staff.



AMBASSATOURS ACQUIRES POPULAR DOUBLE DECKER TOURS

The iconic British double decker buses that regularly crisscross the city's tourist areas have a new owner.

In November 2018, Ambassatours, Atlantic Canada's largest sightseeing tour company announced the acquisition of Double Deck Tours. Ambassatours' existing livery of 25 buses expands by 12 with the acquisition, solidifying the company as the world's largest owner-operator of vintage Routemaster double decker buses.

"This acquisition is a unique opportunity to be part of the Ontario tourism landscape, in an iconic location," said Dennis Campbell, CEO, Ambassatours Gray Line, "We are no stranger to such highly sought-after, British double decker tour experiences, having operated themed touring aboard the same vehicles here in the Maritimes throughout our company's 31 year history."

Ambassatours purchased Double Deck Tours from Bert Watson, whose family has owned and operated the company for 54 years, over three generations. Double Deck Tours will continue to operate under its well-established brand, with its roster of daily sightseeing tours and charters expecting to expand under Ambassatours' guidance.

doubledecktours.com



OFFICIAL OPENING OF LUNDY MANOR WINE CELLARS

October marked the official opening of the new Lundy Manor Wine Cellars. The winery sits on a 24-hectare property on Lundy's Lane that was purchased in 2012 with the intent of being developed into a winery. The estate is home to 3.2 hectares of premium Riesling and hybrid grapes for the production of VQA wines.

The venue is able to host wine tours and tastings, private functions, weddings and corporate events. The winery officially opened its doors in March, with winemaker Adam Kern and assistant winemaker Chris Robinson — both graduates of the Niagara College winery and viticulture program — already winning awards with two wines now stocked in the Vintages section of LCBO stores.

Five more wines will be in LCBO stores in the 2019. The building has 5,000 square feet on each of two floors, with 2,000 additional square feet in the basement, in the tank area, and 3,000 more square feet in the barrel area. About 15 staff work at the winery, which continues to plant additional premium variety vines.

lundymanor.ca



NIAGARA SPEEDWAY OFF TO THE RACES!

It's tall, it's fast, it roars with excitement! Canada's first ever elevated go-kart race course opened in Spring 2018.

The Speedway is a world-class attraction that combines the adrenaline-inducing thrill of kart racing with the remarkable experience of a roller coaster ride. The course is spread out over four acres with over 2,000 linear feet of concrete racing surface, running through a four-storey spiral followed by a two-tiered coaster style ramp that runs into another spiral.

The karts are powered by a large 4 stroke Honda motor, boasting 9 HP with a maximum track speed of 32 km/hr. The colorful, low profile bodies are adorned with advanced lighting systems and open leg areas for ease of loading.

Now North America's largest elevated go-cart track facility, it's also the first of its kind in Canada. Test your driving skills along the straight away, negotiate the hair-pin turns and climb the elevated ramp as you head for the checkered flag!

The Niagara Speedway represents the final element of parent company HOCO Ltd.'s impressive multi-year redevelopment efforts along its Clifton Hill properties.

cliftonhill.com

BLOCKBUSTER EVENTS



CANADA SUMMER GAMES IN NIAGARA 2021

The Canada Games are the country's largest multi-sport event, held once every two years, alternating between winter and summer. In 2021, the Canada Summer Games will be hosted across all twelve Niagara Region municipalities, and attract over 5,000 athletes and coaches to the Niagara Region.

The opportunity to host the Canada Summer Games has truly captured the imagination and spirit of Niagara. The Games will be a powerful catalyst to help provide critical legacy assets in Niagara, and represents a tremendous opportunity for growth and national exposure.

Niagara's plan for the 2021 Canada Summer Games calls for new sport infrastructure, upgrades to existing sport infrastructure and new sport equipment. Much of this sport infrastructure and equipment is to be located at a new Canada Games Park that will be located in the heart of Niagara and adjacent to Brock University. Two key satellite facilities would be included as part of this plan - an accessible Rowing Centre at Henley Island, and a Baseball Centre in Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls was the natural choice to serve as the Baseball Centre. Niagara Falls is considered a popular destination for baseball and softball enthusiasts, having regularly hosted provincial championships events and even national tournaments in the past.

canadagames.ca/2021-canada-summer-games



FIREWORKS COMPETITION A BIG HIT FOR WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

In November, the 38th annual Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights inaugurated its Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition. Presented over the course of two weekends, Cascades of Fire featured 18-minute long pyrotechnic shows synchronized to music. This year's competition featured presentations from China, Finland and Brazil.

The competition, which was new to the festival this season, had an economic impact of \$4.2 million, and drew tens of thousands of people according to estimates.

In the end, Team Finland was judged the winning fireworks display, an inspirational performance synched to a medley of songs by Finnish metal band Nightwish.

The Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights is Canada's largest lights festival. Running from November 3 to January 31, the festival attracts over one million visitors annually and features a beautifully decorated eight-kilometre long lighting route that travels along the Niagara Parkway, through Dufferin Islands and surrounding tourist areas in Niagara Falls.

In addition to the Cascades of Fire, this year's festival showcased other new features, including six international exhibits and four Canadian exhibits — notably The Passage, a 25.2-metre-long illuminated tunnel, and Impulse, a series of interactive see-saws which changed colour when put into motion by people.

wfol.com



NIAGARA FALLS NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW 2018

Thousands packed Queen Victoria Park for Niagara Falls' annual New Year's Eve celebration. It was estimated that more than 15,000 people converged to help Canadian music icon Burton Cummings ring in the new year. In addition to the former Guess Who frontman, the New Year's Eve bash included performances by The Sheepdogs, The Carpet Frogs and Avenue Inn.

This was the first time Cummings, who celebrated his 71st birthday on New Year's Eve, played the Niagara Falls concert. The Carpet Frogs, a Toronto-based band currently touring with Cummings, has previously performed on Canada's Walk of Fame and at the Juno Awards.

Avenue Inn, which recently won Rock Group of the Year at the Niagara Music Awards, kicked off the night's festivities. The show was hosted by comedian Gerry Dee, marking the second year CBC broadcast portions of the concert, helping to promote Niagara Falls as a year round tourism destination. CNN's New Year's Eve show hosted by Anderson Cooper also broadcast footage from Niagara Falls.

The show was a partnership between the city, Niagara Parks Commission and several tourism stakeholders.

niagaraparks.com





BIZ ALUMNI

The Business Innovation Zone (BIZ) helps nurture entrepreneurial companies. In 2018, it applauded three businesses that made the move into their own locations:

- OE BIN, a wholesale transportation and equipment supplier who moved to its new location on Stanley Avenue.



- Digital Tree, a creative and integrated marketing agency with digital technology that creates content that excites.



- The Family Enhancement Centre, a full-service counselling centre serving children, youth, adults, couples and families.



SMALL BUSINESS



SMALL BUSINESS OFFICE PARTNERS WITH PORT COLBORNE

In October 2018, the City of Port Colborne and the Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre launched the Port Colborne Business and Entrepreneurship Support Services (BESS).

As a satellite centre of the Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre, services extended to the Port Colborne entrepreneurial community include one-on-one consultations, offered on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

SPARK NIAGARA

Spark Niagara provides new and emerging start-ups with a comfortable and accessible working space and an invaluable array of expert services that help move businesses forward. The collaborative and supportive environment includes marketing/PR support, business development and advisory services, and education workshops. 2018 saw the launch of the power panel series, a collaboration between Spark Niagara and the Small Business Enterprise Centre.

sparkniagara.com



SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

(BY THE NUMBERS)

NEW BUSINESS CONSULTATIONS

276

EXISTING BUSINESS CONSULTATIONS

132

87

BUSINESS STARTED

115

JOBS CREATED

TOTAL CONSULTATIONS

408

TOTAL INQUIRIES

1871

TOTAL SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

34



STARTER COMPANY^{PLUS}

TOTAL GRANT VALUE

\$120,000

36

BUSINESS STARTED

61

JOBS CREATED

27

GRANTS ISSUED IN 2018

SUMMER COMPANY 2018

Six entrepreneurial students had the opportunity to participate in the Summer Company program in 2018. Businesses included CT Photography, ASDBeauty, Edwards Performance Horses, Sand & Cycles Bicycle Rentals, PH Entertainment, and HeroHub. Students received training and mentoring, as well as a grant of up to \$3,000 to jump-start their summer businesses.



SMALL BUSINESS



R & T AUCTIONS BRING LIVE AUCTIONS TO NIAGARA FALLS



R & T Auctions launched in 2018 as a one-stop service for liquidating and treasure finding needs. With the help of Starter Company Plus, owners Robyn and Tracy launched their auctioneering service that includes estate sales, tag sales, cleanouts, live auctions and much more. This past year, R & T auctions quickly grew into their own store front location at 4995 Victoria Avenue where regularly scheduled live auctions take place.

rtauctions.ca



UPROAR MEDIA INC. EXPANDS INTO ONLINE MERCHANDISE

Founded by Niagara Falls brothers Igor and Bojan Ratkovic, Uproar Media Inc. is a company dedicated to the creation of video-based content catering to the Anime fan community. Through their popular YouTube channel AnimeUproar, these dynamic brothers boast over 200,000 subscribers with millions of unique video views. With the help of Starter Company Plus, Uproar Media Inc. took their business to the next level by leveraging their online followers to launch an e-commerce website dedicated to carefully curated Anime-related merchandise.

animeuproar.com



CREATIVITY THRIVES AT GRANDMA'S BASEMENT

Located at 6034 Main Street, Grandma's Basement offers a creative selection of vintage and bohemian décor, clothes, furniture and jewelry. Owned by Hondrea [on-dray-uh] Hunt-Charbonneau, Grandma's Basement is perhaps best described as "a bunch of cool stuff". With the help of Starter Company Plus, Hondrea was able to grow her hobby of refurbishing furniture into an eclectic retail store with a funky, creative vibe.

BISEP MOVES FORWARD WITH DYNAMIC ARMM DEVICE



Bisep is a Niagara Falls based company that creates new technologies and devices to enhance human performance in sport, exercise and rehabilitation. In 2018, Bisep received a Starter Company Plus grant to invest in essential tools for manufacturing their signature ARMM (Ambulation - Retraining - Mobility - Mechanism) device. During experimental trials, the ARMM device has shown to improve rehabilitation and quality of life experienced by patients. With new and improved manufacturing capabilities, Bisep is eager to bring the improved ARMM to market.

bisep.org

NIAGARA COLLEGE GRAD OPENS FIRE ALARM AND SECURITY COMPANY



After graduating with a Diploma in Electrical Techniques from Niagara College and spending a few years in the workforce, Viktor Dragutinovic used Starter Company Plus as an opportunity to launch his own business. Viktor was able to access funding through Starter Company Plus to purchase tools and equipment in order to expand his services to the public. Operating under the name Victory Systems, Viktor now installs Fire Alarms and Security Systems throughout Niagara.



NEW CANADIANS FIND SUCCESS IN COMMERCIAL CLEANING



When Colombian born Diana Giraldo and Luis Jimenez came to Canada as refugees, they knew that finding work was not going to be easy. After working a series of part-time jobs, the husband and wife duo decided to venture out on their own by starting a commercial cleaning company. Working in collaboration with the Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre and Venture Niagara, Diana and Luis launched Blue Gloves Cleaning Services. Through hard work and dedication, Blue Gloves has grown into a full service commercial cleaning company with several employees.

bluegloves.ca



CHIPPAWA WELCOMES WATERFRONT YOGA STUDIO



Motivated by a desire to help build their community, husband and wife duo Chris and Lisa Simone opened Bridgewater Yoga in the summer of 2018. Located in Chippawa, Bridgewater Yoga is a waterfront yoga studio offering yoga classes for everybody. No matter if you are a skilled yogi or beginner, Bridgewater Yoga strives to create a welcoming and kind community where people can have fun, laugh and feel inspired through the practice of yoga.

bridgewateryoga.ca



LITTLE SHOP OF BEAUTY OFFERS NEW APPROACH TO HAIRSTYLING

As one of the latest additions to the Queen Street hairstyling scene, Little Shop of Beauty Salon & Spa is challenging how the hairstyling industry works by offering gender-neutral pricing as an alternative to the traditional pricing model. Led by hairstylist Natalie Caruso, Little Shop of Beauty features an assortment of vegan and cruelty free products and has grown into a unique collaboration of creative and talented salon and spa professionals. Featuring a no judgment policy, the Little Shop of Beauty is a comfortable environment open to everyone.

littleshopofbeautyniagara.com



OWNER MEDIA SHOWCASES NIAGARA WITH NEW MAGAZINE



The Ownera Group made their mark on the local media scene in 2018 with the launch of Ownera Media, a modern magazine publication delivering engaging content to targeted audiences. The creative minds behind Ownera Media have since unveiled their first publication, Reveal Magazine. A captivating guide on how to experience all that Niagara has to offer, Reveal Magazine is available in print throughout Southern Ontario and digitally through ISSUU magazine.

owneragroup.com
revealmags.com

HOUSING



WARREN WOODS COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Imagine community located in Niagara Falls has come a long way from its humble beginnings. With about 680 homes, construction continues. Once completed, this community will be home to approximately 1,300 families. The company formed a partnership with Vaughan-based Empire Communities to create Imagine Centre, on 300 acres of land between Montrose Road and Garner Road.

The project is currently in Phase 3C with 88 single detached homes, and 28 townhouse dwelling units that now closed, with curbs and sidewalks being completed. Phase 4B is in the finishing stages of construction and Phase 5 is currently being serviced. Other elements of the community include a live-work village, retirement village and 25 acres dedicated to employment lands encouraging advanced technology investments from other countries. The complete development is expected to see an investment of over \$1.2 billion.

imagine.empirecommunities.com



TERRAVITA LUXURY NORTH END DEVELOPMENT

Terravita is an exclusive luxury detached development located in the Heart of Niagara. This subdivision, in the city's prestigious north end, will be the home of 80 architecturally controlled residences including two-storey, bungalows and bungalow lofts. Developed by award-winning builder Kenmore Homes, this sophisticated neighborhood is within easy access and close proximity to award-winning restaurants, world-class wineries, designer outlet shopping, schools and grocery stores. With the Haulage Road Recreational trail steps away, it is the perfect balance between earth and life.

terravita.ca



CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY FOR WELLNESS SUITES CONDOMINIUMS

The Wellness Suites Condominiums is a luxury, all-inclusive, 9-storey, adult living development that offers living options including independent and assisted living in a supportive environment. With a group of dedicated professionals operating from in-house functional medicine centre, there is a sincere passion for providing enriching experiences and personalized care and support to residents.

Unlike traditional condominiums, Wellness Suites provide precision services and medicine aimed to improve residents' nutrition and wellness, providing a clear path to greater health and a long, active life. Wellness Suites Development, led by Dr. Nick Vaccaro, has commenced construction based on a unique hybrid model, which combines luxury condominium living with an in-house functional medicine centre. The 97 unit building has a construction budget of \$30 million with completion scheduled for September 2019.

wellnesssuitses.ca



WELLNESS SUITES'
CONDOMINIUMS

LIVE LONG, LIVE WELL. REJUVENATE!

CURRENT & COMPLETED PROJECTS - 2018

Legends Estates, Willoughby Drive

119 Townhouse Units | 5 Storey | 12 Unit Apartment Building

800460 Ltd. (Fred Costabile), 8960 Willoughby Drive

119 or 104 Townhouse Dwelling Units and a 5-Storey 52 Unit Apartment Building.

NNN Construction Ltd. (Alexandre Nikitenko), Dunn Street

37 Townhouse Units

2351188 Ontario Inc. (Bernie Peters), 8004 Lundy's Lane

52 Unit Apartment Building

1006057 Ontario Ltd. (George Bahdi), Swayze Street

4-Storey Apartment Building, Total 61 Units

Land Ridge Development Inc., Marineland Parkway

8 Storey, 122-Unit Apartment Building and 42 Townhome Units

River Realty, McLeod & Garner Road

74 Single Detached Lots, 155 on Street Townhomes, 52 Block Townhomes



CLARET ON ST. PAUL

Claret Condos is a new preconstruction condo development by Capital North Communities and Go-To Developments located at 2334 St Paul Avenue in Niagara Falls.

Claret Condos will be 10 storeys with a total of 106 condo units residing on Eagle Valley Golf Course in the north end of Niagara Falls. The estimated completion date is set for May 2020 with amenities including a party room and pool.

condopromo.com/claret-condos-niagara-falls/

KNOWLEDGE BASED & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



NIAGARA ORTHOPAEDIC INSTITUTE

In November 2018, the Niagara Orthopaedic Institute relocated into Niagara Sports Medicine Centre (NSMC) at 6387 Morrison Street.

Owner Jeff Aird, a Registered Physiotherapist, has invested in the Niagara Orthopaedic Institute with his health care team of therapists for a client-centred approach providing the most advanced and innovative physiotherapy services in the Niagara region.

This new location provides enhanced performance centre space within the building for both amateur and professional athlete clients.

Niagara Orthopaedic provides rehabilitation services such as Physiotherapy, Sports Rehabilitation, Performance Coaching, Orthopedic Device Prescriptions, Kinesiology, Massage Therapy, Fitness and Nutritional Counselling, and Naturopathic Medicine developed with each client's unique individual needs.

Another professional also relocated to the NSMC in March 2019, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Luke Bristow,

niagaraortho.ca



BATTLEFIELD GOSPEL ARENA REPURPOSES A HISTORIC CHURCH

Battlefield Gospel Arena located at 6085 Lundy's Lane celebrated its Grand Opening on March 31, 2018 with a prayer breakfast officiated by Pastor Albert Dawkins of the St. Catharines Worship Centre.

Owner Carlton Francis had a vision to create Niagara's first Gospel Café and banquet hall, providing a faith based focus and multi-purpose space for powerful, positive and affordable experiences for business, weddings, special events, theatre, sanctuary, hall rentals, wellness and spiritual services. The setting - the former Lundy's Lane United Church - is ideal for providing wholesome fun, food, and fellowship to serve, heal and grow our local community.

Moreover, Carlton is owner and board member of Church of God of Prophecy, which also operates at this location, and owner of the popular Kool Katts Caribbean Restaurant on Lundy's Lane which will serve up Canadian and Jamaican fare with a side of gospel music for the soul!



ESSENTIALS CREMATIONS AND BURIALS SERVICES OPENS

Essentials Cremations and Burials Services Inc. held a Grand Opening on January 27, 2018, at its location at 4300 Drummond Road.

"Celebrating life one family at a time" is its motto, with a dedicated and caring staff available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

This licensed funeral establishment can help arrange and provide cremation, entombment or burial services, as well as help plan a unique celebration of life tailored to your beliefs and wishes.

essentialscbs.com





JUL SEL
SPA LOUNGE INC.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU AT JUL SEL SPA LOUNGE

Jul Sel Spa Lounge Inc. opened on June 15, 2018 at 3645 Portage Road.

Owner Selena Wu creates a friendly, comfortable home feeling environment that invites you to relaxation, renewal and rejuvenation. Jul Sel's mission is to uphold an atmosphere of professionalism, personal attention, and excellence in care, dedicated to the highest quality and most advanced technology, as well as using the best therapeutic and aesthetic services available. It focused on educating clients on treating and preventing the signs of aging.

At Jul & Sel Spa Lounge, a range of spa face and body treatments are reinterpreted for today's lifestyles such as Acne treatments, CIT Microneedling, Injectables, OxyGeneo Facial 3 in 1, RF Body Contouring, TriPollar Skin Tightening, HydraFacial MD, and Customized SkinCeuticals Facial Treatments, and Pain-Free Laser Hair Removal.

jsspa.ca



GREAT MOVES AT INFINITE MOTION DANCE STUDIO

The Grand Opening for Infinite Motion Dance Studio at 6131 Virginia Street took place August 28, 2018.

Brianne Steinburg is the owner of the fastest growing dance studio in Niagara Falls. Brianne offers Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, Tap, Lyrical, Acro, Yoga Fusion, Jitterbugs, and Adult Dance classes. Open Monday to Thursday Infinite Motion Dance Studio welcomes various age categories from Juniors ages 3-5 years, Intermediate ages 6-13 years, to Senior ages 14 years and up.

infinitemotionniagarafalls.com



COLOUR ME CRAZY OPENS IN PRIME LOCATION

Niagara Falls welcomes Colour Me Crazy Hair Salon! Tanya and Jason Fossey celebrated their Grand Opening on December 1st, 2018 at 7172 Dorchester Road.

This new boutique offers professional hair styling and hair colouring and specializes in tape-in and fusion extensions for everyday or that someday special in your calendar. Makeup artistry services are also available by appointment.

Whether it is your regular 6-week hair cut or your wedding day, Colour Me Crazy can assist you in creating a style that is your own.



LOCAL CHILDREN JUMP FOR ZIPPY ZOOM

In March 2018, Zippy Zoom Dino & Inflatables expanded its business space from 6,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet of fun!

Previously known as Cheeky Monkeys, this indoor playground at 4465 Drummond Road is loads of fun with bouncy castles, interactive games, a virtual sandbox, a 3 level play structure, a plasma car race track and so much more. Kids can look forward to their newest play-structure addition, "The Volcano Slide" that will be built soon!

Fully TSSA certified, Zippy Zoom is also equipped with Atlantis Inflatables and is now the second largest Inflatable company in the Niagara Region. Customers can rent a wide variety of bouncy houses and all kinds of other products that add fun to any event, delivered right to homes or businesses.

zippyzoominflatables.com

RETAIL & COMMERCIAL



NIAGARA SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT BEGINS

A \$25-million redevelopment of Niagara Square on Montrose Road has begun. The mall will be turned into an “open-air” shopping centre with existing big box stores. Bayfield Realty Advisors is a partner with RioCan Real Estate Investment Trust Co. in the ownership of Niagara Square. They are also partners with RioCan on four other shopping centres across Canada.

To accommodate the redevelopment work, the enclosed area of Niagara Square closed on April 30, 2017, marking the end of the 40-year-old shopping centre. When the closure was announced, a RioCan representative said the company will be making a “significant investment” into a redevelopment plan that will “transform” the Niagara Square into an updated retail environment.

Large box tenants that are currently operating at the site will remain open during the redevelopment and after its completion include:

Winners
Michaels
Mandarin
The Brick

Cineplex Odeon Theatres
JYSK
Bouclair
Hoops Sports Bar & Grill

World Gym
CIBC
BMO

The work is making way for an as yet undisclosed new major North American retailer that will serve as the Centre’s anchor, and is expected to open in 2020. The involved party anticipates a retail space of over 100,000 square feet

The revitalization plans are being undertaken to ensure an offering of retail spaces will meet the evolving needs of today’s shoppers and businesses serving Niagara Falls.

Opening in relocated space is BMO, new Niagara Falls walk-in-clinic and in spring, Choom’s Ontario certified recreational cannabis store.

WINNERS RELOCATION AT NIAGARA SQUARE



To accommodate the redevelopment work at Niagara Square, retailer Winners undertook a comprehensive relocation initiative on the mall property.

Approximately 50 full/part time staff rose to the challenge as they quickly and efficiently familiarized themselves with their new environment. The temporary closure began August 2, and the new store location was already welcoming eager customers by August 7.

Winners offers its customers value through a combination of rapidly changing fashion and home décor, brand, quality and priced 20%-60% less than department and specialty store regular prices on comparable merchandise, every single day.

WINNERS®

CUTENESS REIGNS AT LITTLE MOOSE AND BEAR COMPANY



It started with a snap! Two young local parents simply grew tired of snaps popping off their baby boy's body suit.

That incident began the hunt to find better-quality, locally-made clothes that are high quality, affordable and made in Canada. Little Moose and Bear Company was born, focusing on a new line of locally manufactured children's clothes.

Made with love in Canada, Little Moose and Bear offers original designs for babies and kids alike. The company's unique clothing and accessories are guaranteed to impart some Canadiana style to little cuties and wee ones!

littlemooseandbear.com

NIAGARA FALLS CHEVROLET, CADILLAC, BUICK & GMC



In 2018, Niagara Falls Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, and GMC dealership purchased adjacent land to provide future growth at their established site located at 5900 Thorold Stone Road

The expansion of the local Chevy dealership enables the company to offer both new and certified pre-owned vehicles, tires and accessories, as well as service and repair on a grander scale thanks to an enhanced facility.

The family owned and operated dealership has been faithfully serving the Niagara Region since 2001. The business is driven by an overriding goal to make people happy - both customers and their own team - through a commitment to a friendly and professional atmosphere.

fallschev.com

GRAND OPENING OF ARCTIC NAILS AND HAIR SALON



Arctic Nails and Hair Salon held its Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on April 14, 2018. Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati was on hand to welcome the new business to the community. The Mayor presented owner Bay Nguyen with a plaque to hang on the wall to commemorate this wonderful day.

Located at 5846 Drummond Road, Arctic Nails currently has a staff of ten and provides a range of beauty services including hair styling, manicures, pedicures, waxing, spa treatments, facials and paraffin treatments.

arcticnailsandhair.com

RETAIL & COMMERCIAL



PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH AT GOOD NATURE'D HEALTH STORE

Tamara McIntyre NNCP is the proud owner/operator and Holistic Practitioner and Supplement Specialist of Good Nature'd Health, located at 8279 Lundy's Lane. She celebrated the Grand Opening of her retail store on March 24.

Good Nature'd Health is dedicated to providing customers with well-researched and high-quality vitamins and minerals, herbs, amino acids, proteins, omega oils, probiotics, herbal teas, cold and flu alternatives as well as all natural food choices, such as sprouted grains, gluten free breads, fermented foods, yogurt starter, and apple cider vinegar all from well-known brands such as Natural Factors and private label companies such as Genestra, Pure and Biomed.

Tamara's expertise comes from her education and experience. Good Nature'd Health Store offers outstanding customer service - staff eagerly provide Holistic guidance for their customers and the theory behind their best selection from a broad range of health products. Knowledgeable employees are also pleased to source information and special products alike.

goodnaturedhealth.ca



GOODWILL RELOCATES TO CONVENIENT MORRISON STREET ADDRESS

The Goodwill motto is 'a hand-up, not a hand-out'. This not-for-profit agency has grown substantially since its inception in Boston in 1902. Goodwill has been in existence for 24 years in Niagara with locations in St. Catharines, Welland, Niagara Falls, and Port Colborne.

On February 22, 2018 at its Grand Re-Opening, Goodwill Niagara announced the relocation of its retail and donation centre from Portage Road to a much larger space (16,000 square feet) at 6777 Morrison Street and is open 7 days per week. In addition to its retail and donations operations, Goodwill Niagara also offers affordable housing for seniors, programs such as skills training for those on social assistance, and practical skilled trades training for youth in Niagara.

goodwillniagara.com



J & L FLOORING AND DÉCOR CENTRE RELOCATES

Niagara Falls welcomed J&L Flooring and Décor Centre to its new location at 4424 Montrose Road where the store hosted its Grand Opening on June 9, 2018.

Owner, Giacomo (Jack) Astorino is a certified flooring specialist since 2000 and has become well established and experienced in the flooring and tile business. Jack continues to grow his company with specialist Stephanie Perrault, Interior Design Consultant, and Barbara Dutchyn, Artist/Design Consultant and Administration, expanding to Home Décor.

J & L Flooring can meet all your home décor needs from planning and installation of new flooring and stairs, to backsplashes in the kitchen, to tubs in the bathroom.

jandlflooring.com



EVER MINE BOUTIQUE

Owner/Operator Sandi Napoli-Petrella, an interior designer professional, continues to follow her passion and recently celebrated the Grand Opening of her retail store, Ever Mine Boutique on December 1st, 2018.

Located at 3521 Portage Road and open 6 days a week, Sandi's 1,000 square foot boutique is stocked with exquisite accessories and home décor. Sandi frequently travels to Italy and sources unique high-end European jewelry and handbags for her customers, ensuring that store inventory is always exciting and stylish.

Although Ever Mine Boutique offers so many great Italian finds, it is also committed to support Niagara artisans and craftspeople. Many of Sandi's items are locally-made gift ideas such as essential oils, soaps, candles, and charcuterie boards, as well as furniture fashioned by Niagara artisans and craftspeople.

evermineboutique.com



NYGÅRD SLIMS ENHANCES CANADA ONE RETAIL EXPERIENCE

Nygard Slims is one of the newest retail stores in Niagara Falls. Located at the Canada One Factory Outlet at 7500 Lundy's Lane, Nygard Slims celebrated its Grand Opening on Saturday, July 7, 2018, and is now neighbour with one other Nygard company brand - Tanjay N Alia at this same shopping centre.

NYGÅRD International is a privately-held fashion company founded in 1967 by Peter Nygård from Winnipeg, MB. Its brands - SLIMS, Peter Nygård, Bianca Nygård, Tan Jay, ALIA, Allison Daley and several private labels - offer contemporary style, quality, a consistent fit and value at all price points.

The company has continuously expanded over the last 40 years. Its steadily growing retail division consists of over 170 dedicated stores in North America, over 6,000 department store shop-in-shops worldwide, an online store and over 1 million square feet of North American distribution space which ships over 20 million garments annually.

slims.nygard.com



RETRO GAMING FINDS NEW HOME WITH GAMING GATORS

Gaming Gators celebrated its Grand Opening at 5846 Drummond Road on Sunday, July 8, 2018.

Owner Rick Dooler, and partners Tim Plummer and Alec Jones are honing in on nostalgia and their passion for video gaming. Gaming Gators, is a local retail store offering customers generations of classic video games such as Phantasy Star, the latest Call of Duty, Space Harrier, Super Mario, Donkey Kong, and Pokemon, all the way up to more modern releases such as Dragon Ball and Monster Hunter played on system gaming consoles such as Sega Genesis / Nintendo 64 / Xbox / PlayStation.

There appears to be no shortage of retro-minded gamers who have sourced Gaming Gators as a link to their personal past and retro favourites of all kinds, keeping the store hopping 7 days per week.

facebook.com/GGNiagaraFalls

RESTAURANTS



THE BLIND PIG OPENS ON LUNDY'S LANE

One of the newest restaurants on Niagara's food scene, The Blind Pig, at 6689 Lundy's Lane is a speakeasy-inspired gastropub with socializing in mind. Pulling subtle design inspirations from the 1920's, it's also built for the modern times. A diverse menu, hand crafted cocktails, free WIFI and USB charge outlets at every table is The Blind Pig's way of saying we are here to socialize with a unique take on classic meets modern!

The restaurant's name has very interesting roots. There's an urban legend from the Prohibition era about establishments where you'd have to pay an admission to enter to see an attraction, such as a blind pig. You'd receive a "complimentary" cup of alcohol, a clever loophole to the rules. Today, the attraction is quite simple: good food, good drinks and good company.

blindpigniagara.com



OSMOW'S OPENS NEWEST LOCATION IN NIAGARA FALLS

In August 2018, Niagara Falls celebrated Osmow's Grand Opening at 5934 Victoria Avenue, welcoming a popular and growing Mediterranean cuisine franchise to town, joining a chain of over 50 locations throughout the GTA and beyond.

Sam Osmow's passion in culinary arts led him to gain experience and unleash his culinary talent working in high-end restaurants in Cairo and Kuwait, where he discovered the secrets of delicious Mediterranean and Middle Eastern recipes.

Affectionately known as "Sam the Man", he opened a small submarine store in Mississauga after first coming to Canada. In 2001, after so much positive client feedback for his distinct flavours, he re-branded the restaurant as "Osmow's", offering fast-casual authentic Mediterranean cuisine. Customers raved about all the flavours and home-made sauces served at Osmow's. Sam's unique spices and sauces are made from scratch using secret, family owned recipes.

mrosnow.com



RENOVATIONS AND REBRANDING AT TABLE ROCK

The Niagara Parks Commission is renovating and rebranding its iconic Table Rock Centre only steps from the brink of the Horseshoe Falls. On May 1, 2019, Elements, Niagara Parks' signature culinary venue, will reopen as Table Rock House Restaurant, offering a unique and memorable dining experience with an unforgettable view of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls.

The new aesthetic of the dining room will be designed to evoke the environment, featuring stacked stone and rustic wood finishes combined with industrial accents such as copper to help tell the story of the building's original 1925 construction. The timeless yet contemporary design speaks to Niagara Parks' culinary philosophy of celebrating and sourcing ingredients from local purveyors across the Niagara region and province of Ontario.

niagaraparks.com/culinary





COURTYARD MARRIOTT UNVEILS NEW STARBUCKS ON VICTORIA AVENUE

In June 2018, Courtyard Marriott Niagara Falls on Victoria Avenue opened the city's newest Starbucks in heart of a busy tourist district. This restaurant seats approximately 30 people, and has created 15 seasonal jobs for Niagara Falls. Their central location delivers that global Starbucks experience – an upbeat atmosphere, friendly barista service with a smile, superb, expertly brewed coffee, premium teas, delectable treats and complimentary parking.

Starbucks was originally founded in Seattle, Washington in 1971 by three partners, Jerry Baldwin, Zev Siegl, and Gordon Bowker and has since seen expansion on a large scale to more than 29,000 locations world-wide in 2018.

starbucks.ca



"ITALIAN SOUL FOOD" AT ZEPPOLI'S

Quoting Jerry Buccilli, Chef & Owner of Zeppoli's, "food is my inspiration". Zeppoli's Restaurant celebrated the Grand Opening of the family restaurant on March 10th, 2018 with an official ribbon cutting ceremony by the Honourable Mayor Jim Diodati. Zeppoli's seized the day and enjoyed the opportunity to meet valued loyal customers and some new friends alike.

At Zeppoli's, the goal is to make the best Italian food with the freshest locally-sourced ingredients. The new restaurant doesn't consider its food gourmet but artisanal – all made by hand, from scratch, all the time. "Italian soul food. Guaranteed to satisfy."

facebook.com/zeppolis



POPEYES BRINGS A LITTLE BIT OF LOUISIANA TO NIAGARA

On August 22, 2018, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen celebrated the Grand Opening of its newest Canadian location here in Niagara Falls, at 5934 Victoria Avenue. Founded in 1972 by Alvin C. Copeland, Sr. in New Orleans, this innovator re-developed his family fried chicken recipe into one of the world's largest spicy chicken quick service restaurants, growing to 2,700 locations in Canada, the U.S. and around the world.

Famous for its Cajun and creole flavor spices, Popeyes serves both delicious authentic spicy and mild New Orleans style fried chicken and buttermilk biscuits and much more.

popeyeschicken.ca



CLIFTON HILL WELCOMES PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA

Councillor Victor Pietrangelo, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, attended the Grand Opening of Papa John's Pizza newest location at 4967 Clifton Hill (Oneida Lane) in the height of summer on August 22, 2018 to welcome this fine pizza establishment to Niagara Falls.

More than 30 years ago Papa John's started with one store in Jeffersonville, Indiana and has grown to 5,000 locations in 44 countries and territories around the world. They say Papa John's secret to success is much like the secret to making a better pizza – "the more you put into it, the more you get out of it". Whether it's their signature sauce, toppings or original fresh dough, investing in the ingredients ensures the finest quality pizza.

papajohns.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS GOVERNMENT



WEEKDAY GO TRAIN SERVICE HAS ARRIVED IN NIAGARA FALLS

Over the past few summers, GO Train service between Niagara Falls and Union Station has been a huge success. Based on this experience, and in consideration of the city's growing population, there was a strong business case for daily commuter travel sooner rather than later.

While the original timetable for year round daily GO service envisioned the extension to Niagara Falls by 2023, the announcement in December that service would begin four years ahead of schedule was greeted with much enthusiasm.

Starting January 7, 2019, a daily GO Train will depart from Niagara Falls at 5:19 am with a second Niagara stop in St. Catharines before continuing on to Toronto. There is one return train from Union Station at 5:15 pm.

As both user demand and rail capacity grow, additional runs can be expected.

Building on Niagara Region's GO Transit Station Secondary Plan work in 2018, the work to deliver the Niagara service expansion requires partnering with CN Rail, Niagara Region and local municipalities in the area. Metrolinx has been busy working with all of these partners to deliver this program and infrastructure enhancements.

metrolinx.com/Niagara





INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY PROGRESS IN 2018

The overall purpose of the City of Niagara Falls Intelligent Community Plan created in 2018 was to examine how smart broadband infrastructure enables smart cities to attract skilled workers and leading-edge companies to the city to achieve greater economic returns.

Moreover, best practices from globally recognized smart cities were examined to provide insights on how Niagara Falls may implement a Smart City. Identified were initiatives around broadband connectivity, including autonomous vehicles, precision agriculture, and next generation networks (5G) that are areas of specialization to differentiate the city from global competitors. Having broadband infrastructure and a citywide smart strategy are critical components for attracting investment to Niagara Falls and nurturing businesses.

The City of Niagara Falls is looking to use best practices to attract investment, retain skilled workers, and accelerate startups and growth of new businesses. In 2019, Niagara Falls will retain a consultant to build a broadband strategy collaboratively with the Business Development Department and other municipal staff with the goal of becoming an 'Intelligent Community' through the Intelligent Community Forum.



CULTURAL HUB AND FARMERS MARKET IN MAIN & FERRY DISTRICT IS IN FINAL PLANNING PHASE

As a strategic priority for a vibrant and well-planned community, the City of Niagara Falls has approved the development of a new facility that would accommodate a new Cultural Hub and Farmers' Market in the Main & Ferry area.

The new development would include a mixed use, design and building program that would address community needs such as a Farmers Market, Market Hall, Café and Lounge, Classrooms, Art Studios and Workshops. The plan envisions a place for locals to gather, with open and vibrant space for community arts and culture programming, festivals and events.

Interior spaces will accommodate a range of modes and uses, and connect directly to the outdoors – animating the adjacent public spaces both day and night. Planning implementation will continue in 2019.

letstalk.niagarafalls.ca

SPECIAL PROJECTS / GOVERNMENT



NIAGARA REGION BROADBAND NETWORK ESTABLISHES CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN NIAGARA FALLS

Founded in 2004, NRBN is the Niagara Region's leading service provider of high-performance data and voice solutions. Municipally owned by Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, NRBN supports the community by empowering businesses with access to an ultra-reliable fibre optic network. In addition to providing near limitless capacity, the network is unequivocally faster than DSL and cable access.

NRBN recently moved into their new headquarters at 4343 Morrison Street. The City of Niagara Falls purchased the building from Niagara Region in 2016 for \$1.1 million after the local Niagara Regional Police detachment moved into its new headquarters at the corner of Stanley Avenue and Highway 420. Council approved \$4.1 million in its 2017 capital budget for extensive building renovations and is home to NRBN, the Small Business Enterprise Centre, and the city's Information Systems department and Engineering Project staff.

nrbn.ca



COUNCIL APPROVES RETAIL CANNABIS STORE

Pursuant to new provincial legislation on the sale and use of recreational cannabis, the City of Niagara Falls passed a resolution to opt in to have a retail sales option in the community, with its first store opening on Montrose Road in the spring of 2019.

Retail Cannabis Stores must be licensed by the Province. The legislation, introduced on September 27, 2018, establishes a framework for the sales and distribution of cannabis, and retail outlets will open to the public in April 2019. The most noteworthy aspects of the new regime in Ontario are:

1. The storefront sale of recreational cannabis will now occur through privately operated retail outlets licensed by the Province.
2. Cannabis stores will need to observe a minimum distance of 300m from schools in place of local planning controls.
3. Cannabis use will be harmonized with the current rules for places of use for tobacco under the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2006

ontario.ca/page/cannabis

Visit niagararegion.ca/health

for important information on cannabis and tobacco use. Look for the "Smoking, Drugs" topic in the left menu



NIAGARA SOUTH HOSPITAL PLANNING CONTINUES

In 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care revealed further details on the new 1.4 million square foot Niagara Falls Hospital. When completed, the new hospital will provide health care to more than 434,000 people through state-of-the-art facilities designed to meet the region's changing health-care needs.

Patients will have access to emergency and urgent care, laboratory services, ambulatory clinics, and full diagnostics including MRI, CT scans, ultrasounds and X-rays. The hospital will also feature traditional healing spaces and will continue to facilitate Niagara Health's role in educating medical and other health professionals.

When complete, patients will also have access to:

- general surgical services;
- a regional stroke program;
- seniors' wellness and aging programs;
- breast-screening services;
- integrated chronic disease management programs;
- mental health and addictions programs;
- outpatient services for children, youth and adults.

Infrastructure Ontario continues to meet with the Niagara Health planning committee, with next steps including the Campus Site Plan in 2019. The project is tentatively expected to go to RFP on 2020-21, with an approximate opening in 2024-25.

niagarahealth.on.ca



THOROLD STONE ROAD EXTENSION MOVING FORWARD

Niagara Region is moving ahead with the extension of Thorold Stone Road — and it's being done with an eye on the arrival of daily GO train service in Niagara Falls that began in January 2019.

The Public Works committee voted to authorize staff to begin the design process and start negotiations with property owners in the area. The preferred design is a four-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks from the intersection of Thorold Stone Road and Stanley Avenue.

The extension will start out in an easterly direction until it reaches the CN rail tracks. From there it will then bend southward parallel to the railroad right-of-way to a new intersection at Victoria Avenue and Bridge Street with a five-legged roundabout intersection. The extension of Thorold Stone Road will enhance the new GO Train infrastructure works being completed. The intention is to have a major gateway at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and Bridge Street to serve the train station.

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES



FLEXO: 100 YEARS OF CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Steve Parker's great-grandfather started Flexo Products in 1918, supplying cleaning rags to local businesses. A hundred years later, as President & CEO, Steve oversees a 4th generation family business that has expanded considerably since its early days.

Today, Flexo manufactures and distributes a wide range of cleaning products including cleaning chemicals, floor finishes, recycling systems, maintenance equipment and paper supplies. The company services businesses, government, institutions and the hospitality industry, offering a one-stop shopping approach for all their customers' needs.

The company takes great pride in innovation, quality-testing and careful vetting of suppliers. Flexo attributes much of its success to its ongoing focus on new markets and products, such as its successful launch of an eco-friendly product line. Another recent venture involves a new integrated e-commerce division, being led by 5th generation Parker family member, Caleb Parker.

Flexo's head office and manufacturing plant is located at 4777 Kent Avenue, bolstered by a distribution centre and showcase area at 4650 Montrose Road. Flexo currently employs over 85 people in 4 locations, including Toronto, Cambridge and New Zealand.

flexoproducts.com



DOBBIE'S FLORIST CELEBRATES 130 YEARS IN BUSINESS

Dobbie's Florist has been around longer than the incorporated City of Niagara Falls, and after four generations, it has the proud distinction of being Canada's oldest original family owned florist.

Located at 5144 Victoria Avenue, Dobbie's Florist was established in 1888 by John Dobbie, who immigrated from Aidrie, Scotland in 1869. He built his first greenhouse on the property directly across the street from Dobbie's present location. Florists grew practically all their own flowers at the time, as there was no floral wholesaler industry like there is today.

Dobbie's has come a long way since these early days, now offering a vast line of local and exotic imported flowers, plants and gifts for all occasions. After 130 years, 4th generation owner Bruce Vandersluys and his wife Brenda remain true to the store's heritage and reputation for beautiful flowers and arrangements.

dobbiesflorist.ca





SIGNATURE SIGN & IMAGE: 35 YEARS STRONG IN RENOVATED KENT AVENUE BUILDING

Jeff and Elaine Wallis first met as students at Sheridan College. After graduating and working throughout the recession in a tough Toronto job market they moved to Jeff's hometown of Niagara Falls. Instead of looking for jobs they decided to create their own and Signature Sign Painting was born.

Over the years as the business grew, the name evolved from Signature Signs Painting to Signature Signs and today Signature Sign & Image. What hasn't changed is the family dynamic.

Jeff and Elaine are still hard at work in the company with son Mark Wallis joining the ranks of ownership. Mark's wife Emily Butko Wallis and his sister Katelyn Wallis also help manage a team of 12 dedicated and talented staff. The company designs, builds and installs everything from simple signs to spectacular full colour digital displays. Many landmark signs found throughout the city are Signature's handiwork.

"Getting our name out there and building a reputation of great design, quality workmanship and excellent service didn't happen overnight. We are so proud of our success and so grateful for the support we've received from this community over the past 35 years," says Jeff.

Mark adds, "I think the secret to my parents' success is building relationships, not just building signs. I've learned to live by one important rule *'If clients succeed...we succeed.'*"

signaturesigns.ca



2018
BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR



A SESQUICENTENNIAL FOR WASHINGTON MILLS

Washington Mills, one of the world's largest producers of abrasives and fused mineral products, recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. The company has been an important manufacturer in Niagara Falls, on Stanley Avenue, since 1903.

Washington Mills was actually the first abrasive producer in the United States. The business remains family-owned and operated, with three different families having managed Washington Mills throughout its 150 year history: the Ames, the Crockers and the Williams family.

Anne Williams, 3rd generation and current President of Washington Mills attributes the company's longevity to several pillars of strength: fortitude, determination and the ability to adapt to change.

"By utilizing our employee's ingenuity to incorporate today's best practices in manufacturing with diverse product lines, Washington Mills moves forward and continues to grow our business. We are proud our 100% goal, to use all of our raw materials for zero waste," she says.

According to Anne, Washington Mills' 150th year in business is about celebrating the unique contributions that customers and suppliers have made together to keep the industries they serve going strong.

The company's proprietary manufacturing processes and fusion expertise produce highly effective materials for different applications. The Niagara Falls plant is a key part of Washington Mills' manufacturing footprint and supply chain, delivering abrasive grains and specialized electro minerals to manufacturers around the world.

washingtonmills.com





City of Niagara Falls

Business Development Department
P.O. Box 1023, 4310 Queen St.
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X5
niagarafallsbusiness.ca

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