

/// OPEN FOR BUSINESS



2025

ANNUAL
REPORT

Locally Grown, Globally Known.

niagarafalls.ca | niagarafallsbusiness.ca



HELPING BUSINESSES DO BUSINESS!

The Business Development Department (BDD) is your first point of contact at the City of Niagara Falls to assist existing businesses, prospective investors, and community partners with business and community development projects. BDD Staff are committed to promoting Niagara Falls as an outstanding location to conduct business. A facilitator between the private sector and various levels of government, the BDD provides an effective resource centre where businesses may find support and assistance.

- + **Consultations**
- + **Site selection, tours**
- + **Business growth and investment**
- + **Sale/lease of municipally-owned land**
- + **Market analysis**
- + **Business and financial incentive assistance**
- + **Financial structuring and related business attraction**
- + **Business retention and expansion assistance**
- + **Support for company export market development**
- + **Supplier networks**
- + **Liaise with governments**

Together with the Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre, the Business Development Department provides additional guidance and support related to unique client needs.

 www.niagarafallsbusiness.ca



Getting to Know You Better

The Business Development Department undertakes an annual business visitation program, proactively connecting with existing business in the community, recognizing that a thriving community requires economic vitality. In 2025, the department conducted over 25 company site visits as part of the visitation program.

Engaging with businesses in our community ensures that we are able to identify the needs, concerns and opportunities of the local business community, and take action where appropriate. Additionally, it creates a line of communication and allows the municipality to be aware of any future expansion plans so that assistance can be provided to ease the development process. Businesses are also provided with information about strategic projects being undertaken, as well as other initiatives that affect their operations.

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DESTINATION NIAGARA

Unlocking Ontario's Playground

The Destination Niagara Strategy, introduced by Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming Stan Cho, outlines Ontario's plan to strengthen the province's economy by expanding Niagara's role as a world-class tourism destination.

Branded as "Ontario's Playground," the strategy aims to build on the region's strong foundation – anchored by Niagara Falls – to attract more visitors and encourage longer stays.

The plan focuses on five pillars:

- + Tourism attractions
- + Wine and culinary tourism
- + World-class gaming
- + Transportation development
- + Arts and culture

By investing strategically in these areas, the government seeks to enhance leisure and business travel while positioning Niagara as a top global destination.

Niagara's tourism sector already generates \$3 billion annually, supports 40,000 jobs and contributes six per cent of regional GDP, drawing more than 13 million visitors each year.



The strategy recognizes the long-term potential to attract nearly 25 million visitors annually and double the economic impact of tourism in the area.



↑ Local and provincial dignitaries join Premier Doug Ford at the Destination Niagara Strategy unveiling.

The report noted many new world-class attractions recently completed or currently underway, enriching the tourist experience and solidifying the Niagara Falls brand as a modern, exciting destination.

Among these notable initiatives:

- + The Niagara Parks Power Station interactive and observation attraction
- + The Niagara Takes Flight immersive ride at Table Rock (*see page 13*)
- + The revitalization of the Toronto Power Generating Station into a five-star boutique hotel, along with additional amenities
- + A new observation wheel
- + The Niagara Parks Marina redevelopment
- + A “Niagara River Line” electric tram with panoramic passenger capsules along 3.8 km of the Niagara Parks core

An important part of the strategy is its support for marketing and promotion initiatives to drive tourism visitation. Last fall, a high-level Destination Ontario trade mission to China, Japan, and South Korea included Niagara Falls and Niagara Parks representatives.

Beyond our iconic Falls and more than 100 vineyards, the region offers rich history – from Indigenous heritage to the War of 1812 – as well as acclaimed cultural attractions like the Shaw Festival. Outdoor assets include the Niagara Glen Nature Reserve, the Niagara Parkway Recreation Trail and the Bruce Trail along the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Transportation initiatives to support tourism sector

The Destination Niagara strategy points to substantial investments in Niagara's transportation capacity to support the anticipated growth in tourism – with improvements to road, rail, and air infrastructure alike.

The upcoming twinning of the Garden City Skyway, the iconic QEW bridge over the Welland Canal, will enhance traffic flow and expand capacity along this vital highway corridor.

The Niagara Falls Train Station recently unveiled the first of three phases in its multi-million dollar transformation, as it evolves into a modern, multi-modal transit hub with GO Train and VIA Rail connections. (*see page 13 for details*)

Last year, the Niagara District Airport released a new 20-year, \$195 million master plan, outlining terminal and runway improvements that will increase capacity to 574,000 annual passengers by 2045, supporting both regional business and tourism.

↓ *The Niagara District Airport is less than a 15-minute drive to the Niagara Falls tourism core.*



City of Niagara Falls BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES



Athena
Beauty Spa



Honeypot
Niagara



Niagara Dance
Academy



The Barry
Team



Commisso's
Fresh Foods



Milestone
Millwork & Custom
Kitchens



UPS Store,
McLeod Road



Chip n' Charlies
Eatery & Bar



Autism
Ontario



Nicky's Hair
& Makeup



Continental
Pancake House



Morgan Animal
Hospital



Hair Lover's
Place



Skylon
Tower



Boys & Girls
Club Niagara



Niagara
Clifton Group



Niagara Falls
Illumination Board



Arterra
Wines



Athena Beauty Spa



The Barry Team



Niagara Falls Illumination Board



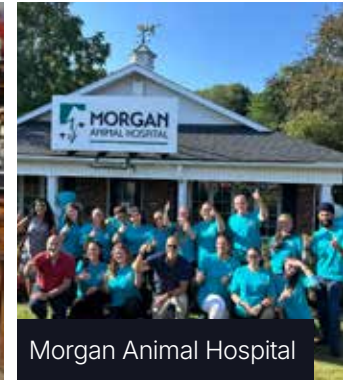
Nicky's Hair and Makeup Studio



Commisso's Fresh Foods



Hair Lover's Place



Morgan Animal Hospital



Niagara Clifton Group



Skylon Tower



UPS Store McLeod Rd



Boys & Girls Club of Niagara



Autism Ontario



Continental Pancake House



Chip N Charlies



HoneyPot Niagara



Milestone Millwork & Custom Kitchens

Proudly Canadian For 150 years

For over a century, Arterra Wines Canada has produced award-winning wine right here in Niagara Falls, and has been a proud cornerstone of Canada's winemaking heritage, crafting a legacy as rich and bold as the land itself. With eight wineries and more than 1,700 acres of premium vineyards in Canada's renowned wine regions, Arterra's products are a celebration of our esteemed Canadian heritage.

Arterra Wines is proudly owned and operated by Canadians with proceeds staying right here in Canada. Arterra is dedicated to partnering with Canadian farmers, supporting local communities, preserving the country's winemaking traditions, and contributing to the growth of Canada's vibrant wine industry.

Join us in supporting locally owned and operated wineries that reflect the beauty and spirit of our great country.





Airbus Opens New Helicopter Distribution Centre

Strong twin-engine helicopter demand is driving a need for added space.

Airbus Helicopters marked a significant milestone in May 2025, with the inauguration of its new integrated distribution centre in Niagara Falls. The 21,000 sq.ft. facility bolsters industrial operations while significantly expanding its spare parts storage capacity.

This strategic establishment further solidifies Airbus Helicopters' long-standing commitment to Ontario and the broader Canadian aerospace landscape. The new centre will contribute to sustaining over 300 skilled jobs in the region, reaffirming the company's leadership position within Canada's dynamic aerospace sector.

Moreover, Airbus is actively strengthening its collaborative network with numerous Canadian suppliers and distributors, leveraging the existing strong synergy within the local aerospace ecosystem.

"The expansion of our footprint in Ontario underscores the strategic importance of Canada to Airbus' global operations," said Dwayne Charette, President of Airbus Helicopters in Canada.

Strong demand for the advanced twin-engine helicopter portfolio, especially the H135 (recently chosen by the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Air Force for the Future Aircrew Training (FAcT) program), is driving a need for added space for customization and completion activities.

The new facility, on Kinsmen Court along the QEW, will allow the existing manufacturing and completions centre in Fort Erie to expand its activities, supporting future growth and its ability to meet customer needs.

The Niagara Distribution Centre, with its anticipated 15 new positions, will play a key role in optimizing inventory management and streamlining logistics flows, efficiently supporting key Airbus business lines including helicopter completions, component repair and overhaul, advanced composite materials manufacturing, and comprehensive spare parts support.

Expansion at FragranceBuy

FragranceBuy expanded its operations with the opening of a new state of the art distribution warehouse in the Stanley Avenue Business Park.

The acquisition and renovation of a 30,000 sq.ft. facility has allowed FragranceBuy to become Canada's leading online warehouse for brand name fragrances, with a simple goal in mind: to provide customers with warehouse sale pricing from the comfort of their homes.

From its new home in Niagara Falls, FragranceBuy is able to ship 3,000 different product lines, under 300 brands. The company is 100% Canadian owned and operated, and has more than 20 employees.

 www.fragrancebuy.com



fragranceBuy.ca
REDEFINE YOUR FRAGRANCE JOURNEY



Lapennaco breaks ground on new manufacturing and refurbishing facility

Lapennaco broke ground on the construction of their new 40,000 sq.ft. location in the Montrose Business Park. This new development will include a new manufacturing operation, for the production of indoor and outdoor pillows.

The development will also facilitate the refurbishing operation and help support the existing Lapennaco locations. Since being established in 1997, Lapennaco has grown from a small owner-operator business, to now having three retail locations, and over 90 employees.

Lapennaco strives to go the extra mile to ensure customer satisfaction is always at the forefront, in addition to great prices.

 www.lapennaco.com

PowerCon Utility Services launches exciting new chapter



After nearly 60 years of family-owned operations in Niagara Falls, Ground Aerial Maintenance Service Ltd. (GAMS) has been acquired by Peters Construction Group and Archer Traffic Control and enters an exciting new chapter under the name PowerCon Utility Services.

Building on the GAMS legacy, PowerCon Utility Services is positioned to be a leader in high voltage electrical contracting across Ontario.

As part of the acquisition, PowerCon Utility Services now operates two sites in the Stanley Avenue industrial park and has made a significant investment in property enhancements.

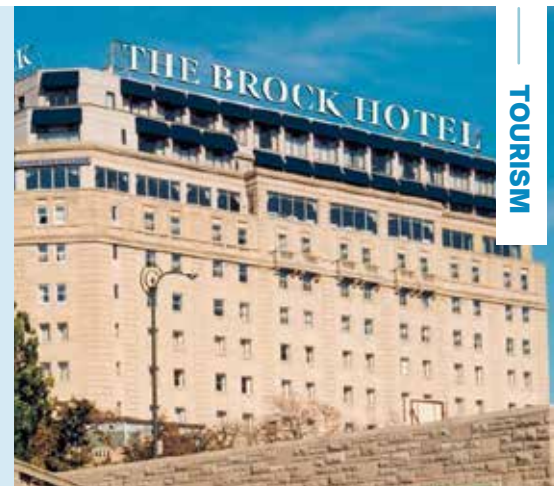
www.petersgroup.ca/powercon-utility-services

\$15 million transformation of the historic **Brock Hotel**

The Brock Niagara Falls-Fallsview, Tapestry Collection by Hilton re-opened in May after a \$15 million transformation. A boutique Fallsview hotel, this newly reimagined original hotel ideal for couples seamlessly blends timeless design, contemporary comfort, and breathtaking views of one of the world's most iconic natural wonders.

Each of the 237 guestrooms has undergone an extensive transformation; and for a truly immersive retreat, the Brock introduced Royal Floors on levels 11 and 12, offering Fallsview accommodations with private access, and premium amenities.

As part of the transformation, the Brock also includes new venues, including a Fallsview Tea Room, The Lounge, Pool Oasis and Fitness Centre.



DID YOU KNOW?

Marilyn Monroe stayed in room 801 while filming Niagara, in 1952



STK Steakhouse brings its flair to the Falls

STK Steakhouse opened a brand-new location at 6700 Fallsview Ave, inside the Embassy Suites. The STK brand redefines the modern dining experience, with award winning food, world-class service and a perfect ambiance. With a vibe like no other, live entertainment and breathtaking scenes of the iconic Niagara Falls, STK is sure to be a big hit on the dining map in Niagara Falls.

www.stkniagarafalls.com

Ontario's first "Hologram Zoo"

Hologram Zoo Niagara, located at 5530 Victoria Avenue, brings animals to life with cutting-edge laser-light hologram technology.

Visitors are greeted by friendly staff, before entering a 70-foot tunnel, where they explore interactive enclosures and experience animals walking right around them.

Hologram Zoo Niagara offers a variety of shows, including Space, Dinosaurs, Australia, and Africa – as well as limited seasonal shows.

This new immersive experience is one of a kind, and a great addition to the buffet of family fun available in Niagara Falls.

www.hologramzooniagara.ca

Barrels of Fun (and History) at the Skylon Tower



The Skylon Tower recently opened a "Barrel Museum", featuring some of the artifacts that are synonymous with Niagara Falls lore.

The three-year exhibit showcases over a dozen barrels, vessels and other contraptions that daredevils used over the years to ride over the falls – often successfully, but many times not.

Annie Taylor's barrel from 1901 is on display, as the first person on record to go over the falls in a barrel. The last to do so in a "barrel" was Dave Munday in 1993. His modified diving bell is also on exhibit.

Stunting at Niagara Falls has been strictly illegal since 1951. Modern daredevils face arrests and massive fines. But for a \$5 admission, you can safely get a first-hand look at some legendary, yet extreme devices.

TripShepherd.com delivers authentic, curated tours

Niagara Falls-based See Sight Tours, which offers curated small group tours in over 20 different cities across North America, recently expanded its tourism portfolio with the official launch of TripShepherd. The new travel platform helps people discover top attractions, hidden gems, and personalized experiences, whether they're exploring a new city or rediscovering their own.

TripShepherd is the next evolution in meaningful travel – combining insider access with personalized adventures in iconic destinations around the globe. Built on authenticity, innovation, and local expertise, TripShepherd connects travellers with carefully curated experiences led by passionate, knowledgeable guides.

 www.seesight-tours.com

Landmark renovations at landmark train station

The Niagara Falls Historic Train Station recently underwent its first of a three-phase renovation. The first phase, valued at \$2.8 million is an important step in unlocking improved GO train connectivity between Niagara Falls and the GTA.

Renovations included a redesigned interior with modernized washrooms, an updated waiting area and digital transit displays.

The train station was originally built in 1879 and designated a heritage asset in 1994 under the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act.

The modernized train station will be a future hub of activity for more than a million GO Transit, VIA Rail, and transit riders alike.

Niagara Parks' latest attraction "Takes Flight" to rave reviews

The new \$25 million Niagara Parks ride that opened in August is getting rave reviews from locals and visitors alike.

Niagara Takes Flight soars guests high above Niagara's most iconic sights, while also immersing them in its rich culture and history.

Located inside Niagara Parks' flagship Table Rock Centre, the new immersive, sensory-rich attraction uses the latest advancements in drone technology and a massive 180-degree domed screen to take passengers on a thrilling 56-kilometre journey, celebrating Niagara's geography, history and people.

The ride features never-before-seen perspectives of Niagara Falls captured with cutting-edge drone cinematography, allowing riders to fly inches away from the world's most powerful waterfall.

Legendary Niagara Falls-raised filmmaker James Cameron (*Avatar*, *Titanic*, *The Terminator*) provided the narration for a featured portion of the dynamic pre-show experience.



Where music meets the mist in Niagara Falls



The Misty City Music Festival, Niagara's newest festival took place on September 5 and 6th, drawing over 10,000 rock and country music lovers for a truly unforgettable weekend.

The festival featured two stages with performances spanning both days; and included a selection of Canada's best BBQ vendors, plus a variety of local and regional food trucks. The festival was headlined with performances by Riley Green and KALEO.

Misty City will be back in 2026, from September 18th to the 20th.



www.mistycityfestival.com





Welcome to the Centre Of It All!

The Victoria Centre Business Improvement Association (VCBIA) unveiled its new “In the Centre of It All” mural on Ferry Street. This new mural welcomes visitors as they enter the Clifton Hill district.

The mural was designed and installed by Artista Design and Print, and truly captures the spirit of Niagara Falls – bold, bright, and full of energy.

 www.topofcliftonhill.com

Iconic steakhouse opens new location

The Keg Steakhouse + Bar opened at its new location at 6455 Fallsview Boulevard, inside the Wyndham Grand Fallsview Hotel. The location boasts a modern design, spacious patio, and live entertainment.

The new, larger venue features over 400 seats to accommodate diners, offering the same great food and beverages that Keg fans expect. Located right across from Fallsview Casino, and connected via an indoor walkway, this new location is sure to provide a great experience after a day of sightseeing or relaxing.



 www.thekegniagarafalls.com



Congratulations

to these retail and commercial establishments who celebrated grand openings or renovations in 2025!



Best Brains Learning Centre
 @ 4056 Dorchester Rd

At Best Brains, we provide support for all students to Be Their Best inside or out of the classroom.



Biryaniwalla
 @ 4388 Queen St

The most authentic no-compromise Hyderabad Biryani.



Board to Bits Game Café
 @ 3643 Portage Rd

Board game café with over 500 games to choose from.



Byond Naturals Café
 @ 13839 Sodom Rd

Go-to destination for fresh cold-pressed juices, detox drinks, and herbal teas.



Caffery
 @ 4333 Queen St

A space in Niagara Falls where coffee, food, and culture come together.



Cannabis Cupboard
 @ 6095 Dunn St

High quality cannabis.



Cavendish Manor
 @ 5781 Dunn St (Re-opening)

Where residents can embrace a retirement filled with comfort, personalized care, and genuine connection.



Coffee Palz
 @ 4594 Queen St

Serving warm coffee and fresh pastries in the heart of the Falls.



Cosmic Paws
 @ 5602 George St

One on one pet grooming, minimizing stress and maximizing care.



Crazy Dollar Binz
 @ 7000 McLeod Rd

Certified liquidation deals from large retailers.



Crock-A-Doodle
 @ Canada One Outlets

We bring people together to create, laugh, share and grow.



D Spot Dessert Café
 @ 5685 Victoria Ave

One of a kind and always delicious, D Spot is truly your one stop dessert shop.



Desi Rd

📍 5930 Victoria Ave

The perfect setting to enjoy classic Indian favourites with a modern twist.



Erion Insurance Group

📍 4025 Dorchester Rd

Protecting Niagara families and businesses with comprehensive, client-centred, community-focused coverage.



Gaber Consultants Medical Aesthetics Clinic
gaberconsultants.com

Aesthetic services, including skin assessments, treatments, and holistic approaches to beauty and well-being.



Harrvest Indian Supermarket

📍 7555 Montrose Rd

Offers fresh groceries, quality products, and everyday essentials at great prices.



Healthy Planet

📍 7481 Oakwood Drive

Highest-quality supplements, vitamins, health foods, bath & beauty and eco friendly products.



Hewad Kabob

📍 Canada One Outlets

Authentic Afghan cuisine made with pride using the most fresh, elite and tasty ingredients.



Island Delights

📍 6423 Lundy's Lane

Bringing authentic island cuisine to life with a warm, friendly atmosphere filled with the aroma of spices.



KOA Playground

📍 8625 Lundy's Lane

New nature-themed playground.



Liquidation Binz

📍 8189 Lundy's Lane

Daily deals on electronics, home goods, tools, toys, and more!



Lokma Desserts

📍 8279 Lundy's Lane

A unique take on a traditional Turkish dessert pastry.



Magnificent Women's Market

📍 4525 Queen St

Where innovation meets community to elevate local businesses.



Meraki by J

📍 4514 Queen St

Integrating natural wellness with high-quality personal training and nutrition.



Moodie's Bakery

📍 4552 Queen St (Grand Re-opening)

Made fresh daily using the finest ingredients.



Nerd Herder

📍 4949 Victoria Ave

Local hobby and card shop (with snacks).



Niagara Elite Wellness Spa

📍 5698 Main St (Re-opening)

Moments crafted to inspire a journey towards the ultimate well-being.



Niagara Foot Mechanic

📍 **6150 Valley Way**

A non-invasive holistic therapy that can help manage various conditions.



Niagara's Sweet & Spicy

📍 **5703 Ferry St**

Authentic Trinidad and Caribbean cuisine.



Pampered Pups

📍 **10905 Sodom Rd**

Professional dog grooming, with an understanding of the unique needs of each pet.



Paradise Donair and Kebab House

📍 **5881 Main St**

Serving Authentic Turkish cuisine.



Pet Country Market

📍 **3710 Main St**

Community based, local, pet focused pet food market.



Pete's Pizza

📍 **8278 Thorold Stone Rd**

Since 1984, a family-owned company, serving fresh pizza, wings, and side items in the Niagara Region.



Pür & Simple

📍 **3770 Montrose Rd**

Modern day twists on comfort-food favourites in a bright, sunny vibe.



Samantha Quick Hair

📍 **6080 McLeod Rd**

Seamless grey blending that fits your busy life: confidence and freedom without monthly salon visits.



Sining Breads and Pastries

📍 **5943 Sylvia Place**

Filipino-Asian inspired café and bakery.



Spice Kerala

📍 **6710 Drummond Rd**

Premium products from fresh meat & frozen fish to veggies, fruits & spicy snacks, all at unbeatable prices



Steinbachs & Chapelle

📍 **4608 Huron St (New Location)**

Full service public accounting firm providing quality professional services for over 25 years



Target Golf

📍 **Canada One Outlets**

Revolutionizing the golfing experience with year-round, state-of-the-art indoor simulators.



The Chocolate Laboratory

📍 **Canada One Outlets**

Crafting artisanal chocolates using cutting-edge techniques and only the finest ingredients.



Think Kitchen

📍 **Canada One Outlets**

Stylish kitchenware, home décor, and everyday essentials - all at unbeatable prices.



TL Nails & Spa

📍 **4725 Dorchester Rd**

Offering an extensive array of beauty services designed to pamper and rejuvenate.



Tranquility Through Therapy
 4226 Drummond Rd

Collaborative and dynamic psychotherapy and physical movement services tailored to the individual.



Trinity Massage Therapy & Wellness Clinic
 6837 Thorold Stone Rd

Committed to providing the highest standard of care.



Uzbees
 3493 Portage Rd

Fried chicken, burgers, tenders, wraps and more.



Wildflower Social
 6361 Fallsview Blvd

With curated food, crafted cocktails, live music, and good company, an ideal spot to create shared moments.



Zehrs
 6940 Morrison St
 (Grand Re-opening)

Bring More to the Table by delivering a food experience that goes beyond the shopping list.



2025 SBEC Highlights

In 2025 the SBEC launched their Hiring 101 sessions, hosting over 65 entrepreneurs in a three-hour webinar focused on the fundamentals of hiring and human resources. Participants learned core HR practices, heard from an Employment Ontario representative about local supports and hiring incentives, and gained insights from the University of Niagara Falls on engaging students through volunteering, internships, employment, and project-based opportunities. Two sessions were delivered in 2025, with plans to host at least two additional sessions in 2026.

On August 7, the SBEC hosted the first Youth Entrepreneurship Pop-Up Market, where Summer Company participants showcased their businesses and celebrated the success of their summer ventures. The event highlighted the creativity and professionalism of young entrepreneurs, many still in high school, and was joined by Mayor Jim Diodati, who visited each booth and congratulated the students. Supported by refreshments from local Starter Company Plus graduates, the market reflected Niagara Falls' strong commitment to nurturing youth entrepreneurship.

The SBEC hosted 19 site visits and launched online initiatives to showcase local businesses, including Starter Company grant recipients. These efforts were complemented by participation in regional promotions such as the I Am Niagara local campaign and October's Small Business Week.

The SBEC strengthen new partnerships with local organizations such as: the University of Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Employment Solutions, Niagara College's Social Media Management and Massage Therapist programs, Welland Heritage Council and Contact North.

The partnership with the Foodpreneur Advantage program was continued, with the SBEC acting as a local delivery partner. 24 webinars were hosted with 53 Niagara Falls entrepreneurs throughout 2025.

www.foodpreneuradvantage.ca/start-up-seminars



2025 SBEC BY THE NUMBERS



3,476
Inquiries



472
Consultations



144
Businesses Started



172
Jobs Created



21
Workshops Hosted



251
Workshop Participants



SUMMER COMPANY 2025



Grants given out:

8



Dollar grant value:

\$21,000



Crazy Clean Rags | *Odin Newell*

Turning unwanted clothing into reusable cleaning rags for local trades.

TN Lawn Care | *Nicholas Tywoniuk*

Reliable, high-quality lawn care services to local homeowners.

Bin Bros | *Nicholas Tywoniuk*

A convenient and eco-friendly solution for keeping household garbage bins clean in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Taylor Rose Fashion + Designs | *Taylor Nickerson*

Custom fashion through carefully crafted crochet and sewn pieces, transforming imagination into wearable art.

Glamorous Goddess | *LaNieya Richardson*

Stylish accessories designed to elevate any outfit and showcase personal flair, from chic bracelets to unique shoe decorations.

Array Bel Daye | *Mehitabel Okundaye*

Thoughtfully designed skirts, dresses, pants, and sets, the brand focuses on sustainable, meaningful fashion.

Country Bus Shelters | *Isaac Federico*

Durable, weather-resistant bus shelters for children waiting at the end of country driveways.

Bouquets By Bani | *Bani Ganshi*

Memorable, one-of-a-kind gifts for birthdays, celebrations, and special occasions, everything from fresh flowers to gift sets.

Starter Company Plus 2025

 **39**
Program participants

 **15**
Grant recipients

 **Grant dollar value**
\$68,000



SINING | *Kristel Sibayan*

Specializing in Filipino-Asian pastries and drinks, including signature ube treats, the Sining Café at the Exchange on Sylvia Place offers a vibrant space to enjoy delicious flavours, unique beverages, and curated events. Kristel's original Sining Bakery continues full-time on Valley Way.

 www.sining.ca

STARTER COMPANY PLUS



ALTERNATIVE MOBILITY | *Jamie Lauzon*

Based at the Niagara Falls Innovation Hub, connects individuals with innovative, high-quality, functional, and stylish adaptive mobility solutions that enhance independence, confidence, and overall quality of life.

 www.alternativemobility.ca

CONCEPT BEVS INC.



CONCEPT BEVS | *Sushant Kakkar*

Inspired by the marble-sealed sodas of old India, Concept Bevs bridges tradition and contemporary taste, transforming each bottle into an experience that celebrates heritage and shared memories across generations.

www.conceptbevs.ca

BOARD TO BITS GAME CAFÉ



BOARD TO BITS GAME CAFÉ | *Tammy Moyo*

With over 500 board games to choose from, Board to Bits is a friendly place where kids could spend time after school enjoying great food with friends and family.

www.boardtobitsgamecafe.ca



NIAGARA CRAFT SOAPS | *Mark Raqueno*

Creating handcrafted, plant-based personal care products using skin-friendly, toxin-free ingredients and sustainable packaging, Niagara Craft Soap produces soaps, butters, and balms that encourage people to pause, breathe, and reconnect with themselves.

www.niagaracraftsoap.ca



NERD HERDER

A welcoming space for collectors, gamers, and hobby enthusiasts to browse trading cards, unique collectibles – including locally made plushies – and international snacks.

[@Nerd Herder](https://www.facebook.com/NerdHerder)

New Niagara Falls Brand

After months of collaboration between City staff, Council members, and a dedicated creative agency, the City of Niagara Falls proudly introduced its revitalized brand identity — a fresh, contemporary look designed to reflect the city's dynamic spirit and iconic natural beauty.

At the heart of the rebrand is a modernized logo, shaped by community engagement, including one-on-one interviews, a digital survey, and a public open house. The design features the initials "NF," rendered in clean, fluid lines that echo the graceful movement of cascading water. A vibrant colour palette, from bright blue tones symbolizing energy and momentum to deeper aqua hues evoking creativity and depth, reinforces the City's connection to the Falls. A subtle maple leaf is thoughtfully integrated into the design, grounding the identity in its proud Canadian heritage.



KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW WEBSITES INCLUDE:

- + Streamlined navigation based on common user behavior
- + Centralized listings of City bylaws, policies, and parks
- + A responsive design for consistent viewing across all devices
- + Enhanced accessibility features meeting WCAG 2.1 AA standards
- + A comprehensive community calendar featuring local events
- + A dynamic homepage with the latest City news and updates
- + At Your Service Niagara Falls – our customer service portal, where residents can report issues, submit requests, and track responses in real time

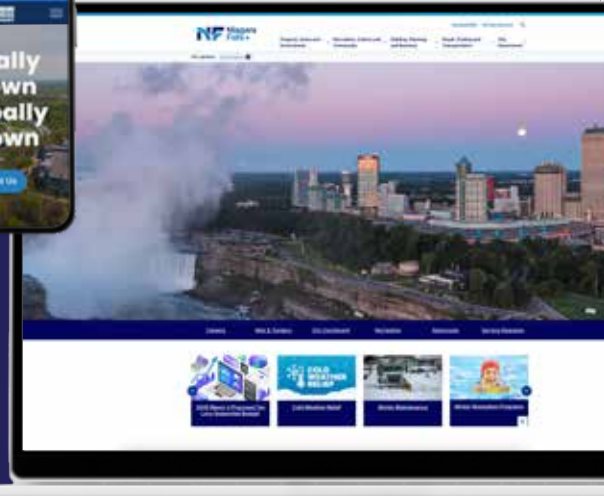
Business Development & City launch new websites

The Business Development Department launched a new website – with more content and an easier to use interface.

 www.niagarafallsbusiness.ca

Later in the year, the City of Niagara Falls launched a new City website as well. This upgrade represents a significant step forward in the ability to connect with residents, businesses, and visitors. Designed with a strong emphasis on user experience, accessibility, and mobile responsiveness, the new site makes it easier than ever for users to access information quickly and efficiently.

 www.niagarafalls.ca



Great Progress at the Niagara South Hospital

Construction of the new Niagara Health South Hospital Project continued to hit new milestones in 2025, with crews completing the final structural concrete pour – with the raising of the final structural

beam expected in early 2026. This significant milestone was a defining moment in bringing one of Ontario's most advanced hospitals to life. Over 900 tradespeople, engineers, architects, and project staff have played a role in getting the project to where it is today.

Work on the 12-storey, 1.3 million square foot facility has been advancing significantly, with work currently taking place on the mechanical and electrical systems, and interior partitions and exterior cladding.

Niagara Health has begun issuing RFPs for local retail vendors, with the first issued in 2025; and more to come in 2026. The opening of the Hospital is on track and slated for a Summer 2028 opening.

ONCE COMPLETE, THE NEW HOSPITAL WILL FEATURE:



1.3 million
square feet



475
single-patient beds



8
operating suites



17
procedure rooms



80
examination rooms



www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/south-niagara-hospital-project



University of Niagara Falls

In 2025, the University of Niagara Falls Canada (UNF) continued its rapid growth, deepening its impact on the region, advancing its academic offerings, strengthening community partnerships, and expanding its presence in the heart of the city.

The university announced a significant expansion of its program portfolio, including three new master's degrees launching in Fall 2026 – the Master of Arts in Applied Social Psychology, Master of Computer Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence, and Master of Health Care Management – alongside a new Honours Bachelor of Science in Bioveterinary Science.

Looking ahead to 2027, UNF will introduce three additional Master's programs focused on sustainability. These programs reflect the university's commitment to preparing learners for emerging sectors critical to the region's economic future.

UNF also invested in its physical footprint. UNF Managed Residences expanded with a new River Road residence, offering students improved proximity to both campus and the city centre. On Queen Street, the opening of the Student Commons further anchored UNF within the downtown community.

Community engagement remained a defining pillar of UNF's mission. Students contributed over 5,300 volunteer hours across Niagara, while employees recorded 321.5 hours of service. UNF teams supported initiatives such as Walk a Mile in HER Shoes, Movember, Canadian Blood Services, and Project SHARE's Stuff the Bus Challenge.

By the numbers, UNF now employs over 200 staff, and has almost 3,000 students studying on campus.

 www.unfc.ca



UNF PROGRAMS

Honours Bachelor of Business Administration

Honours Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences

Honours Bachelor of Science in Bioveterinary Science

Master of Arts in Applied Social Psychology

Master of Arts in Digital Media and Global Communications

Master of Computer Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence

Master of Data Analytics

Master of Health Care Management

Master of Management

Master of Regenerative Sustainability
coming in 2027

Master of Sustainability Systems
coming in 2027

Master of Water and Food Security
coming in 2027



↑ The University unveiled Spark this year, its new mascot.

NIAGARA'S AWARD WINNING INNOVATION HUB



NIAGARA'S #1 CO-WORKING* SPACE AND COMMUNITY BUILDER** OF THE YEAR

*2025 Consumer Choice Awards **Bridges Niagara 2025

In 2025, the Niagara Falls Innovation Hub (NFIH) solidified its role as Niagara's premier catalyst for entrepreneurship, fuelling startups, creators, and youth with cutting-edge resources, expert coaching, collaborative spaces, and a thriving ecosystem that turns bold ideas into jobs, revenue, and real economic momentum.

From the makerspace buzzing with prototypes to accelerators launching scalable ventures, NFIH connected over 150 companies with memberships, events, angel investors, and hands-on support, driving unprecedented growth across technology, health, agriculture, manufacturing, and beyond.

- 150+** COMPANIES & ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED VIA MEMBERSHIPS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, COACHING, ANGEL INVESTMENT, AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
- 3,000** HOURS OF HANDS-ON SUPPORT FROM EXPERT ADVISORS, COACHES, DEVELOPERS, AND MENTORS
- 225** JOBS CREATED BY MEMBER COMPANIES
- \$350k+** IN GOVERNMENT FUNDING & SPONSORSHIP SECURED FOR NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES
- 1,100** YOUTH COMPLETED E-STEAM (INCLUDING 82 INDIGENOUS YOUTH)
- 90** EVENTS HOSTED
- 20** NEW IP FILINGS SUBMITTED.
- 50+** MAKERSPACE PROJECTS COMPLETED, SPANNING PROTOTYPING, INNOVATION, AND BRANDING



PARTNERSHIPS

NFIH forged 15 dynamic new partnerships in 2025, weaving a robust ecosystem that amplified every statistic from funding wins and event hosting to coaching depth and youth programs. Collaborations with industry leaders, funders, and community anchors unlocked resources, expertise, and opportunities, accelerating Niagara startups toward sustainable scale and regional economic wins.

MADE IN THE MIST

The Made in the Mist podcast delivered another stellar season, spotlighting visionary leaders like John McCall MacBain (McCall MacBain Foundation), Tom Rankin (Rankin Construction), Mory DiMaurizio (COO, Hornblower & Niagara City Cruises), Del Rollo (Arterra Wines Canada), and Dr. David Gray (University of Niagara Falls Canada), among other influential voices shaping Niagara's innovative future. Be sure to tune in to this year's episodes for fresh insights and inspiration.

15 NEW PARTNERSHIPS



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



NICHE: INDUSTRY-FOCUSED IMPACT

NICHE (Niagara Innovation Cluster Helping Entrepreneurs) empowers Niagara's startups by linking them directly to the region's key industries through targeted, hands-on events. Backed by RED Grant funding, we hosted three major NICHE events in 2025, focusing on Healthcare, Agriculture, and Manufacturing, each designed as a live testing ground where founders could pilot products, validate ideas with real industry leaders, and gain actionable insights from experts and potential customers.

These immersive sessions accelerated market readiness, shortened the path from concept to commercialization, and amplified the effectiveness of NFIH's broader accelerator programs by fostering deeper collaborations. Ultimately, NICHE builds a thriving ecosystem where local innovation meets sectoral needs, fuelling sustainable economic growth across Niagara.

E=STEAM

E=STEAM (Entrepreneurship = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) is Niagara's leading field-trip program igniting STEAM skills and creativity for youth. It saw tremendous growth from 2024 to 2025, reaching more students, including Indigenous youth, across eight municipalities with hands-on makerspace challenges, podcasting, and design thinking.



MWM BOUTIQUE & CAFE

The MWM Boutique & Cafe (Magnificent Women's Market) evolved significantly in 2025 into a powerhouse retail piloting program for Niagara entrepreneurs.

After renovating its prime new location at 4525 Queen St. and launching an in-store café, MWM expanded its footprint to host more makers, pop-ups, and community events, driving foot traffic and real sales opportunities in Niagara Falls' vibrant downtown core. Retail sales exploded 331% in the second half of 2025, more than quadrupling early-year performance after the Queen St. renovation and café launch.

This upgrade not only boosted product testing and market validation for local businesses but also amplified economic activity by blending retail innovation with casual gathering spaces, welcoming diverse entrepreneurs to refine their brands and connect with customers hands-on.



CORE PROGRAM GROWTH

Business Basics (BB) and Investor Readiness (IRP) hit record highs in 2025, graduating the highest number of entrepreneurs yet from these foundational accelerators. Enhanced programming and new coaches delivered deeper expertise. BB equips early-stage founders with core skills like design thinking, market research, and pitching, while IRP sharpens high-growth startups for funding via strategy and investor prep.

This milestone cements NFIH's role in fuelling Niagara's next wave of scalable ventures.



BLUE OCEAN ANGELS

Blue Ocean Angels, in partnership with the Niagara Business Innovation Fund, unlocked exclusive funding pathways for NFIH startups in 2025, gaining serious momentum. This investor network connects accredited angels with high-potential ventures in tech, health, sustainability, and beyond, delivering not just capital but hands-on mentorship, operational expertise, and deal-flow curation. Success stories like GooseEyes, Myco Pet, and Bluestem highlight how these investments fuel scaling, job creation, and market breakthroughs, cementing Niagara as a hotbed for disruptive innovation.

SCAN TO LEARN
MORE, GET INVOLVED
OR BECOME A
MEMBER.



nfinnovationhub.ca

Over \$2 billion in new permits!

TOTAL 2025 PERMIT VALUE



INDUSTRIAL

\$ 126,418,061



COMMERCIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

\$1,830,543,234*

*Includes Niagara South Hospital



RESIDENTIAL

\$238,933,192



5672 Dorchester Road **DORCHESTER VILLAGE**

Centennial Homes completed construction of Dorchester Village, a 67-unit townhouse community tucked in the very heart of Niagara Falls. This development blends elegance and convenience and consists of 6 unique models and floor plans. Located right around the corner from Lundy's Lane, this development highlights the growth along Dorchester Road in Niagara Falls.

 www.centennialhomesniagara.com

New Developments

PROPOSED / APPROVED NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, 2025

ISSUED	STREET	HIGHLIGHTS
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	McLeod Road	544 dwelling units (detached homes & towns), with parkland
Tuesday, February 25, 2025	McLeod Road	3 blocks of 18 townhouse units
Tuesday, February 25, 2025	Lundy's Lane	Convert existing motel to 118 bachelor dwelling units
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	Progress Street	626 dwelling units (detached homes & towns), with parkland
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	Ontario Avenue	3-storey 11 unit apartment building
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	Kalar Road	13 and 15 storey apartment buildings with 412 units
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Lundy's Lane	Convert existing motel to 96 dwelling units + new 6-storey building containing 42 apartment units
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	Garner Rd / Angie Road	6-storey building with 103 dwelling units
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	Stanley Avenue	28 stacked townhouse dwelling units
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	McLeod Road	10-storey apartment building with 112 units
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	McLeod Road	42 stacked townhouse units
Tuesday, August 26, 2025	Bentley Common	34 vacation rental units
Tuesday, October 7, 2025	Stanley Avenue	6-storey mixed-use building containing 73 residential units and first floor commercial



Business Development Department
Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls

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