

1974 - 1983

Changing Times Herald New Visions, New Attractions

The decade 1974 to 1983 was one of financial retrenchment and cautious optimism for the future. Environmental awareness and concerns were on the rise, and the effects of a world-wide recession took its toll on business, industry, and household alike. The erosion of the city's industrial base was to a certain extent offset by new initiatives in the tourism sector. This growth laid the foundations of today's increasingly year-round appreciation of Niagara as a tourist destination.

This decade saw gas prices rise as a result of increasing tensions in the Middle East and growing realization of the possibility that such supplies might run out. Garden plots were made available to city residents, the Love Canal situation in Niagara Falls, New York increased awareness about the maelstrom of chemicals in the Great Lakes and the Niagara River, sludge from waste disposal sites was a major problem, and the future closure of landfills was causing concern, an issue which helped to usher in the city's first recycling program in Chippawa. Noisy helicopters were an aggravation to residents, and the possibility of banning smoking from public buildings was raised by local politicians for the first time. The election of aldermen was hotly debated, with proponents of the ward system victorious over proponents of an at large system; this very same debate would polarize the city once more some 20 years later. Two mayors, George Bukator and Wayne Thomson, presided during this decade which included the seventy-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Niagara Falls.

Building projects were also undertaken during these years. Several shopping plazas were built, including Southway Plaza and Niagara Square. There was some concern over whether Niagara Square would be able to support enough business to remain open, but it did pull through after its

shaky start. Other projects included the new library at the corner of Morrison Street and Victoria Avenue, the Niagara South Recreation Centre, a new market at Sylvia Place, the Greater Niagara Transit Commission terminal and garage, the new fire hall on McLeod Road, and Buckley Towers. In addition, the old Carnegie Library at the corner of Armoury Street and Victoria Avenue was remodelled into the city's social services building, allowing many such agencies to be housed in one space.


By this time Oneida Limited had relocated to the industrial park behind Marineland, allowing the Maple Leaf Village development with its massive ferris wheel to move forward and incorporate the former Oneida Tower. The ferris wheel caused a major controversy in the city, but was eventually allowed to proceed. This property was later developed into Casino Niagara. A proposal that failed to make it off the drawing board, in large part because of The Niagara Parks Commission's objection, was a cable car between the Oneida Tower and Niagara Falls, New York for transporting tourists between the two countries. Pyramid Place was developed on the site of the former Niagara Wire Weaving Company at the base of the Skylon Tower. The attraction included a new IMAX Theatre, built in a pyramid shape and from which the venue next door took its name. Marineland also made a major expansion to its facilities. A convention centre was once again proposed, and once again failed to materialize.

In an effort to revitalize and extend the tourist season on both sides of the border the international Winter Festival of Lights was introduced in 1983. Lasting from November until February, this massive display of lights on both public land and by individual businesses and homeowners brought in hordes of visitors who otherwise would not have come to the city. Niagara Falls was learning to evolve.

1974

- the population of Niagara Falls was 65,780
- local grocers charged:
-71-75¢/lb for butter in winter;
79-81¢/lb in summer
-97¢-\$1.79/lb for beef in winter;
72¢-\$1.49/lb in summer
-69-95¢/10 lbs for potatoes in winter;
\$1.18-\$1.49/10 lbs in summer
-75-83¢/dozen for eggs in winter;
59-75¢/dozen in summer
- there were 3,111,667 passenger automobiles registered in Ontario
- bread cost between 25 and 45¢/loaf according to individual prices and variety
- a 3qt jug of fresh milk cost 87¢
- Glad garbage bags ran 55¢/10, and Dole fruit cocktail cost 42¢/19oz tin at Loblaws
- the Good Year garage at the corner of Kitchener Street and Victoria Avenue charged \$12.88 for a six cylinder car service, and \$14.88 for an eight cylinder
- a 26 in General Electric colour television cost \$645.00 at the Firestone store
- the Niagara Falls Buildall on Portage Road charged \$48.95 for aluminum screen doors with tempered glass
- men's golf shirts were sold at Peoples in Chippawa for \$1.97
- getting your hair shampooed, cut, and styled at Rosbergs' own beauty salon cost \$5.50 to \$6.00
- summer youth tennis lessons facilitated by the YWCA were \$3.00 per season
- a typical buffet at Davies Fine Furniture on Queen Street sold for \$86.95, and \$79.95 for its corresponding hutch

What's Corned Beef Without Cabbage?



WHAT'S DOWNTOWN WITHOUT YOU?

Thousands of Niagarans look to the financial services available downtown for their money needs - saving it, borrowing it or investing it. Which only goes to prove that whatever the need, the answer is downtown. There are 206 stores and services trying to serve you better than ever before.

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Queen Street
Niagara Falls

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), September 4, 1974



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

STANDING TALL AND STATELY, *St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church dominates the landscape at the intersection of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue in this aerial photograph taken on May 31, 1974. The downtown mix of stores, businesses, and housing can clearly be seen.*



Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

NIAGARA HELICOPTERS LIMITED has been a staple at the corner of Victoria Avenue and the Niagara Parkway since the mid-1960s. This photo from January 1974 shows the attraction's helicopter hovering over its landing area. In addition to catering to throngs of tourists, Niagara Helicopters participates in numerous rescues from the Niagara River and Gorge. In 1974 a helicopter landing pad was built in the gorge, near the whirlpool, to facilitate the timely removal of accident victims to the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

THE WILLOUGHBY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT received a new fire truck on May 31, 1974. Ron Roels captured, left to right, Deputy Fire Chief Jack Barr, Fire Chief Stan Thomson, and firefighters George Alderlon and Garth Anger as they inspected the truck at the Morrison Street Fire Hall. Chief Thomson was Mayor Wayne Thomson's father.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

1979

- a 14oz McCain Deep & Delicious frozen pizza cost \$1.59 and boxes of Lipton Cup-a-Soup were two for \$1.00 at the Red and White grocery chain
- Robinson's department store sold the newest in cooking technology, Toshiba microwaves, for \$639.95, and traditional six-piece sets of blue cornflower Corningware for \$19.93
- used cars dating from 1973 to 1977 ran for between \$2495.00 and \$4995.00 at Peninsula Motors AMC on Drummond Road
- Radio Shack offered one of the first home computers with four kilobytes of RAM for \$899.00, or with 16 kilobytes of RAM for \$1348.00
- women's Puma running shoes cost \$24.99, and Adidas \$39.95 at Cupolo's Sports

SOURCES:

Historical Statistics of Canada. 2nd Ed.

Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario),

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario).

January 2, 1974; January 3, 1974; January 4, 1974; January 7, 1974; January 9, 1974; January 10, 1974; January 15, 1974; January 16, 1974; January 23, 1974; June 4, 1974; June 5, 1974; June 8, 1974; June 12, 1974; June 19, 1974; June 26, 1974; June 27, 1974; July 3, 1974; July 10, 1974; July 17, 1974; January 2, 1979; January 3, 1979; January 4, 1979; January 10, 1979; January 15, 1979; June 1, 1979; June 2, 1979; June 13, 1979.

But Margaret didn't show

Trudeau gets big welcome in Falls



*The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario),
July 6, 1974*

Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

And though a few people called out "Where's Margaret?" when Mr Trudeau showed up without his wife, who Liberal ads had said was coming with her husband, most of the crowd was glad of the chance just to hear and shake hands with their man.

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), July 6, 1974

IN MUTED STRIPES, PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU stumps for Roger Young before a crowd at the Skylon Tower on July 5, 1974. The Niagara Falls Review estimated at least 1,500 people showed up to hear the Prime Minister speak. Both Young and Trudeau won this election.

FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL ROLAND MICHENER

presides at the official opening of the new Niagara Falls Public Library on Victoria Avenue on November 23, 1974. This library, located on the site of the former Eaton's building, replaced the old Carnegie Library which had served the city since 1910. Note the card catalogues lining the walls at right. In 1997 this research tool was replaced by an internet-based catalogue. This area now houses a display of newly released books and is a welcome feature of this still vibrant institution.



Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE NEW NIAGARA FALLS CITY HALL opened in May 1970 at a cost of \$1.4 million. This new building replaced and was constructed just to the rear of the former city hall at the corner of Queen Street and Erie Avenue, built in 1866. The fountain and statue, an interpretation of a water molecule, are part of the area known as Centennial Square, built as a centennial project for the city in 1967. This photo of the complex was taken in June 1975.



Wayne Burdon

THE NATIONAL MIDGET BASEBALL CHAMPIONS OF 1974 were the Niagara Falls Lions Midget Baseball Team. Members were, front row, left to right: Doug Heximer, Doug Smith, Sam DiMartino, Mike Long, Lou Vescio, Rick Herkimer, Peter Long, unknown. Back row: Pete Long (coach), Wayne Bendo, Rick Priestman, Jerry Cunningham, Jay Triano, John Liefel, Marty Mancuso, Dave Lair, Conrad Marcotte, Tom Liefel, Tom Newton (coach). Bat boy: David Newton.



Ed Kirkby

LACROSSE HAS BEEN A MAJOR SPORT in Niagara for many years. The 1975 Trojans Midget Lacrosse Team, District champions of that year, included, front row, left to right: Rick Pybus, Tim Booth, Brian Carrier, Graham Lundy, Bruce Janes, Ed Kirkby, Rick Finkbinder. Back row: Bob Taylor (coach), Brian Wilson, Dave Honsberger, Tim Masterson, Bill Hibbs, Terry Masterson, Peter Wong, Ken Stevenson, Lloyd Kirkby (coach). Absent: Greg Bracken.

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ST. CATHARINES 1975 WEDNESDAY 8:00 P.M. TUES. 7:00 P.M.	ST. CATHARINES LEWIS STONE PARK LEWIS WEDNESDAY 8:00 P.M.
NIAGARA FALLS, ONT. 1975 WEDNESDAY 8:00 P.M. TUES. 7:00 P.M.	WILLIAMSBURG THE PINE TUES. 8:00 P.M. THURS. 7:00 P.M.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Weight Watchers (New York) Limited is the authorized user of the trademark Weight Watchers throughout the world. Weight Watchers International 1975.

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 7, 1974



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILYARDS NEAR VICTORIA AVENUE, April 30, 1976. At the time, 10 freight trains came through the yards daily; the shortest was 25 cars long, and the average train was 135 cars long. This meant that most trains coming through the property were just over 1.6 kilometre (one mile) long. Many freight trailers were shipped to and from these yards with trucks constantly picking up and dropping off loads.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)



Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE CHERRYWOOD BUS collects students on February 25, 1976. Changes to the transit system including discontinuing the use of tickets and a five cent fare increase (to 30 cents) were about to come into effect. This was the first fare increase since 1969.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 9, 1974

TRAINS COULD BE COUNTED on to snarl up traffic at peak times during the tourist season for many years. This July 21, 1976 view of Victoria Avenue near Centre Street gives an indication of how busy it was even without trains crossing the thoroughfare. The spur line veering off at right led to the Nabisco and American Can plants. Thankfully, the tracks were removed between 2001 and 2002, allowing much smoother traffic flow for both pedestrians and cars.



Photo by Ron Reels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

DOREEN HUTCHENSON AND HERB MCCARTHY deliver some of the tons of apples used by Bright's for making apple juice in this November 1975 photo. By the time production was under way, the apple piles would be over a metre (1.3 yards) high.



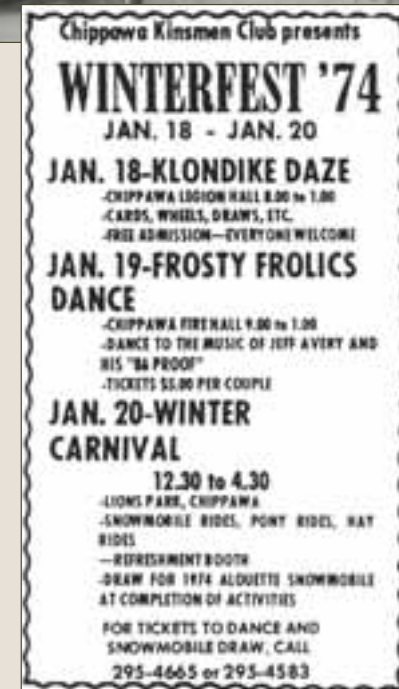
Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE ASSEMBLY LINE OF BRIGHT'S CANNING COMPANY is in full production in this August 1974 photo. Bright's was established in 1935 on Thorold Stone Road and ceased operations in 1987.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

WILLOUGHBY UNITED CHURCH in October 1974. The Willoughby United congregation was established in 1839. Services, in the German language, were originally held outdoors. Initially known as Willoughby Evangelical Church, the congregation joined the United Church of Canada in 1968, only to split with this larger body in the late 1980s. The present building dates to 1883, with the Fellowship Hall added



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 18, 1974

THE NIAGARA FALLS DIVISION OF THE NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE opened their new station on January 17, 1976. The complex, seen here a few months later was built at the corner of Morrison and Ontario Streets, in close proximity to city hall. When the new headquarters opened, 104 police officers were assigned to the Niagara Falls Division.



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)



Niagara Falls Heritage Foundation Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

CONSTABLE MARGARITE MACDONALD of the Niagara Regional Police demonstrates the new radar speed gun, technology developed for gauging the speed of motorists, in this 1976 photo.

A PIECE OF HERITAGE LOST TO NIAGARA FALLS IS THE DALTON HOUSE, shown here in 1977. The house was constructed in the early 1800s as a one-storey addition on the side of architect John Latshaw's home, but was moved in the 1840s to the corner of Valley Way and Portage Road. In 1981 it was relocated to its present site near Navy Hall in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

THE WADING POOL in E.H. Leslie Park on Valley Way in 1975. The young gentleman standing in the bottom left corner of the photo is obviously a couple of decades ahead of his time, as showing large expanses of male underwear as a fashion statement did not happen until the late 1990s. The park opened in October 1965 and is named for longtime Niagara Falls Review publisher Frank Howard Leslie.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

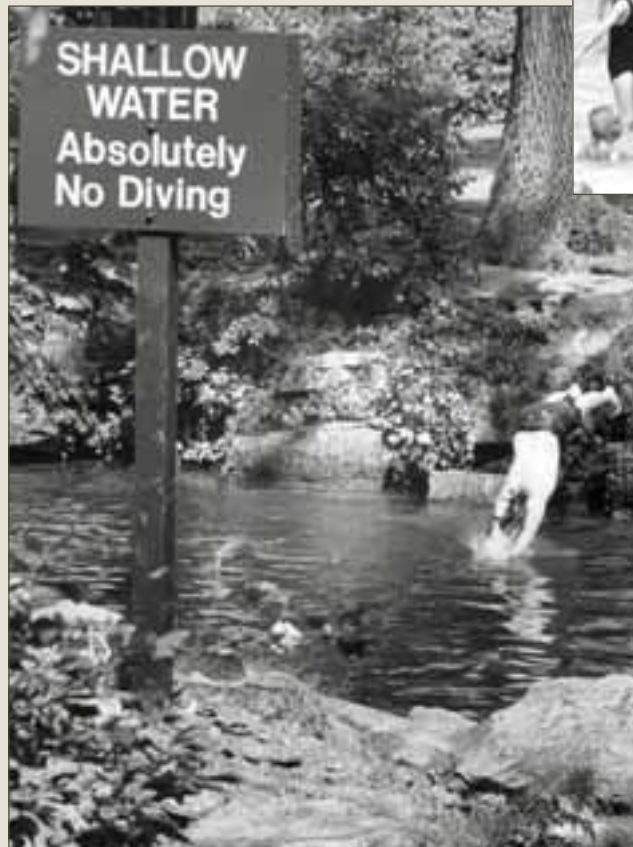


Photo by Ron Foels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THIS SIGN IN DUFFERIN ISLANDS is on the wrong side of the river in this shot taken July 5, 1975. The islands have long been a swimmer's paradise, though diving in their shallow waters has always been discouraged.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 10, 1974



Niagara Falls Heritage Foundation Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW of the Sir Adam Beck-Niagara Generating Stations One (the complex nearest to the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge) and Two are shown in this photo circa 1977. The stations take water drawn from the Niagara River above the falls and channel it through tunnels and the Queenston-Chippawa Power Canal to create electricity. The plants were named after Beck on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his death in 1950. Beck had been the first chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario, serving from 1906 until his passing in 1925.

THE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

20 kilometre (12 mile) road race on May 14, 1977 was won by Rick Hughson of Hamilton. The runners are pictured here at the start of the competition.



Photo by Ron Foels, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

Factories, schools and offices all close

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 29, 1977



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

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The Review DONUTS

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Niagara Falls

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), June 6, 1979

THE END OF JANUARY 1977 SAW THE NOW INFAMOUS BLIZZARD OF '77 sweep over the Niagara Peninsula, hitting the area in two waves starting January 26. Here a snowmobile attempts to navigate the landscape at Lundy's Lane and Drummond Road, opposite the Ponderosa Steak House.



ANOTHER VICTIM of the merciless rage of the storm: a dangling street light on McLeod Road near Adams Street.



Donald Ede

A COMMON SCENE by the time the blizzard was over, this buried automobile was photographed on Oliver Street in Chippawa.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

A MONSTER SNOWBLOWER clearing Victoria Avenue near Willmott Street after the worst of the storm had passed.



Niagara Falls Heritage Foundation Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)



Niagara Falls Heritage Foundation Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

OAK HALL FIREPLACE IN 1977.

OAK HALL has been one of Niagara Falls' prominent landmarks since it was built in 1928 by Sir Harry Oakes. The Hall originally boasted a Great Hall, a large dining room, drawing room, billiards room, 32 other rooms, and 17 bathrooms. This exterior shot of the magnificent property was taken in 1977. During World War Two it was used as a convalescent home. After the war it was occupied by Sir Sydney Oakes. The Niagara Parks Commission purchased the property in 1959 and later turned it into their headquarters. On the main floor a number of rooms, including the Great Hall and the dining room, remain as originally constructed. A par three golf course now occupies the grounds.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

PLAID WAS THE COLOUR OF THE DAY at the opening ceremony of the new Sylvia Place Farmers Market on June 19, 1976. Alderman (later mayor) Wayne Thomson is at the microphone.

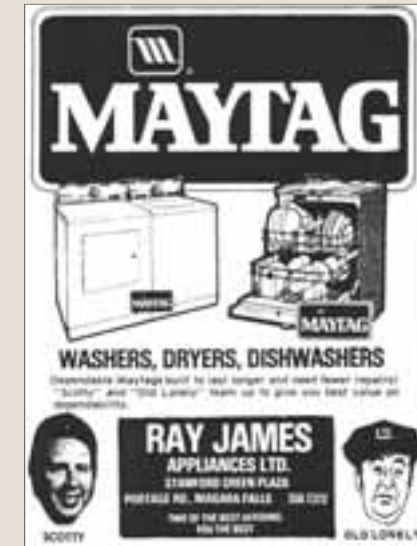


The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), June 5, 1974



Photo by Ron Reels, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THE 1970s SAW A proliferation of new subdivisions in Niagara Falls. This typical housing development is pictured in May 1977. As the century progressed, the trend of subdivision, condominium, and townhouse construction greatly intensified. By the late 1990s such developments had become established all around the edges of the city



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 2, 1979



Photo by Ron Reels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS were built rapidly in Niagara during the 1970s. This shot taken later in the decade shows Village North, a 73-unit complex between Huggins and Colborne Streets, which had been converted to condominiums in 1973. An apartment highrise is under construction in the background.

THE LINCOLN MOTOR INN on Lundy's Lane was typical of the many motels which dotted the city in the 1970s. Seagram's Tower peaks over the motel's office in this 1977 promotional photo.



Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)



Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THE OPENING OF THE CANADIAN POLISH COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE on Thorold Stone Road, near Stanley Avenue, was a major event in the city in October 1978. Many events have been held here over the last 20 years, including regular blood donor clinics. With officials from the Polish community are Mayor George Bukator (in the white suit helping to cut the ribbon), Member of Provincial Parliament Vince Kerrio (looking over Bukator's right shoulder), and Member of Parliament Roger Young (standing to Bukator's left).



Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THE HARMONY SINGERS were the junior choir of Stamford United Church for many years. Harry Mottershead took this photo for the cover of their album "Harmony Throughout the Year" in 1978. Director Marjorie Slinn is seated at front, centre. Slinn continues to act as the longtime musical director of Stamford United and is very active in the Niagara region music scene.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), June 5, 1974

VALLEY WAY PUBLIC SCHOOL, November 1977. January 1951 saw the opening of Valley Way Public. Within a year plans were underway to double the size of the six-classroom school.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

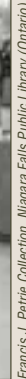


Francis J. Pettie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

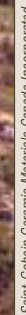


Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

TWENTY BOYS ENROLLED AT LORETTO ACADEMY on September 2, 1975, officially making the school co-ed. Loretto was founded in 1861 as a private Roman Catholic boarding school for girls, and became a secondary school in 1965. The establishment relinquished its role as a school in 1982 and has evolved into a spiritual centre. Examining brand new uniforms are, left to right: Edward Tovino, Simon Taylor, Rose Ann Kresovic, Sister Rita Mary (principal), Mark Cherneski.



A BOXING DAY TRADITION *for many years was the Ballett's ladies' wear sale. Here, Bruce Ballett and an employee keep warm as customers wait for them to open the doors on December 27, 1978. This was the second year that retailers were mandated to remain closed on Boxing Day, an act which greatly reduced attendance at post-Christmas sales. In this photo only 75-odd people had lined up for the sale, while in previous years the queue had stretched all the way down the block. Ballett's closed in June 1982.*



THE NORTON COMPANY was the first abrasives manufacturer to come to Niagara, locating here in 1910. Norton moved here because of the cheap electricity and abundant cooling water. Major expansions of the plant took place in 1916, the early 1930s, and during the war years. At one time over 1,000 people were employed by the company.

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), January 16, 1974

CONSTANT REPAIRS ARE NEEDED to keep the railroads running safely. Here, workers are repairing the Conrail track crossing at Ontario and Simcoe Streets in June 1978. This track was permanently removed over 2001 and 2002.



Jack Spittle

RED SPITTLE was the 1972, 1974, and 1976 Willo-Dell Golf Club men's champion and went on to win the Canadian amateur championship in 1977 and 1978.



Photo by Ron Roels. François J. Petrie Collection. Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)



Photo by and courtesy George Bailey

**CLARK KENT
AND LOIS LANE**
(Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder) are deeply engaged in conversation while the mighty Niagara Falls roars behind them. Filmed in 1979, the movie "Superman II" was released in 1980.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE REESE HOUSE at the corner of Montrose and Thorold Stone Roads, seen here in 1979, was built on the site of the Bridgeman family farm. This home dates to the turn of the twentieth century. In the 1940s it was used as a kennel to breed and sell Great Dane and Weimaraner dogs. The Reese family bought the house in 1972 and converted it into a restaurant in 1981. In 1986 the Niagara Falls Club took over the property, and in 1995 the building was demolished to make way for new developments.



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

MAY 19, 1979 saw a flea market take place on Queen Street as part of the Country Fest put on by the Downtown Board of Management to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the city. The spire of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church can be seen in the distance.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), May 18, 1979



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

IMPERIAL GALLONS BECAME HISTORY when the city's Shell stations introduced metric measures in February 1979. This photo of the Shell service station at the corner of Morrison Street and Dorchester Road was taken that same month. All Canadian service stations were mandated to introduce metric measurements by January 1, 1980.



NIAGARA FALLS' VERY OWN SPAGHETTI INTERSECTION is on display here in 1979. Dorchester Road is the thoroughfare crossing the foreground, and the interchange from the QEW (seen towards the top of the photo) to Highway 420 snakes down to the bottom right corner of the scene. The Acres International complex is at right in the photo, and the Central Pentecostal Assembly Church is at the bottom left. Prior to the completion of this new highway interchange in October 1973, residents had to navigate older, more complex traffic circles.



Photo by Wayne Farrar, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THIS AERIAL PICTURE captures the Goodyear Blimp floating above the Falls. Clearly visible in this view is the incline railway, a small portion of Table Rock House, the Seagram Tower, and Loretto Academy. This photo was taken around 1980.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

PYRAMID PLACE, at the corner of Fallsview Boulevard and Robinson Street, exemplifies a successful transition of industrial space to tourist-oriented business, though it did have a rocky start. Shown here in January 1980, shortly after it opened, Pyramid Place takes its name from the pyramid-shaped IMAX Theatre located next to it and near the base of the Skylon Tower. The 5,574 square metres (60,000 square feet) building originally housed the Niagara Wire Weaving Company, which was founded in 1919 and closed in the mid-1970s.



Donald Ede

AN AERIAL VIEW OF CHIPPAWA TAKEN AROUND 1980.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

KING'S BRIDGE PARK, circa 1980. Located at the mouth of Chippawa Creek, the park was a popular swimming spot during the 1970s and 80s. This is one of the most historic places in Niagara as Father Louis Hennepin and his compatriots made camp in this area on December 7, 1678. They were the first Europeans to see Niagara Falls. In the 1790s, Fort Chippawa was built here. The present park was constructed over 1958 and 1959.



Billy Irwin

BILLY IRWIN, a world class professional boxer, in a promotional shot from 1980. Irwin went on to become the Canadian amateur lightweight champion from 1989 to 1992, and between 1992 and 2003 won the Canadian professional lightweight championship twice, the World Boxing Council lightweight championship, and the Commonwealth lightweight championship. He was also ranked number one lightweight in the world.



George Bailey

THE LATE TERRY FOX took time from his Marathon of Hope, which raised money for cancer research, to visit Marineland on July 12, 1980.



Joyce Long

THE NIAGARA FALLS DISTRICT SENIOR WOMEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM of 1980 was made up of Peggy Johnston, front, and back row, left to right: Joyce Long, Irma Beamer, Nancy Coleman.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE SALVATION ARMY building on Lundy's Lane around 1980. The structure was erected in 1969 and decommissioned when all of the Salvation Armies in the Niagara area amalgamated. After 1980 services were still held in Niagara Falls, though in temporary quarters. Prior to moving into this building the Salvation Army had operated on Morrison Street.



Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THE CHIPPAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY, shown here in 1983, has been the pride of its community for many years. The library began in 1921 when the Chippawa chapter of the IODE established a small lending collection. It moved to its present location at the corner of Willoughby Drive and Main Street in 1967. The Chippawa Library was renovated and expanded in 1984.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY entered the electronic age on August 19, 1982. Here librarian Inge Saczkowski demonstrates the new online retrieval system, a precursor to today's internet-based databases. The Niagara Falls Public Library was the first in the region to offer electronic retrieval of information to its patrons.

Day of decision for municipal voters

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), November 10, 1980



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

MAYOR WAYNE THOMSON greeting members of the public after being re-elected on November 10, 1980. Looking over Thomson's left shoulder is Ted Salci, campaign chairman. Over Thomson's right shoulder (with beard) is Richard Harrington, a perennial NDP candidate. Salci went on to beat Thomson in the 2003 mayoral race.

Sign-bashing is worst ever

The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario), November 10, 1980



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE KLONDIKE HOTEL had seen better days by the time this photo was taken in February 1980. The hotel experienced many incarnations, being known variously as the Suspension Bridge Hotel, the Waverly House, the Arlington, the New Arlington, the Avon, and finally the Klondike. The hotel was bombed on May 6, 1978 and stood empty until it was demolished in 1980. The site is now part of the Greater Niagara Transit Commission's bus garage complex.



Photo by Gordon Counsell, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

AN EXTERIOR SHOT OF MIRACLE FOOD MART on Victoria Avenue, taken in February 1976, shows the unique architecture once used to distinguish it from other buildings in the surrounding area. After major renovations later that year the arch was removed and the grocery store took on its present day "box" store appearance. The property is now occupied by Hy&Zel's.



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

MIRACLE FOOD MART, opened in 1968 on Victoria Avenue, was one of the busiest supermarkets operating in Niagara Falls for some time. An interior shot from 1981, shortly after a major renovation, shows what a typical grocery store environment of the 1980s was like.

THE ONTARIO CUP CHAMPIONS OF 1981 were the Niagara Falls Boones-Dionnes Soccer Team. Front row, left to right: Chris Pelletier, Chris Darney, Ron Dirisio, Mike Baldinelli, Jim Borland, Rodel Dino, Rick Pascoe. Second row: Pat Ricci, Aaron McCloy, Sam Piccirillo, Mike Durante, Danny Murrell, Jeff Girodat, Joey Buckle, Enzo Ingrobelli. Back row: Jack Durante (coach), Jim Borland (assistant coach).



Photo by Tom Hoyer, courtesy Jack Durante

THE WESTLANE SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM OF 1980-81, champions of the city's Powder Puff League. Front row, left to right: Lori Smith, Diane Major, Dawn Sherar, Diane Waters, Suzy Maxfield, Dale Allen, Kathy Porta. Back row: Gail Eade, Kevin McPhail (assistant coach and manager), Senga Lindsay, Glenda Willick, Kim Willworth, Janine Earl, Rod Richards (coach), Bill Rookley (coach), Dena Pearson, Sherry Selman, Diane Burtis, Tom Billota (goalie coach), Rose Kellnor (manager). Absent: Annette McNeil.



Deborah Lapierre



Deborah Lapierre

SHELLY ROBERTS jumping hurdles at Oakes Park in 1981. Roberts, from Westlane Secondary School, was the junior girls' 100 metre (109 yard) SOSSA champion.



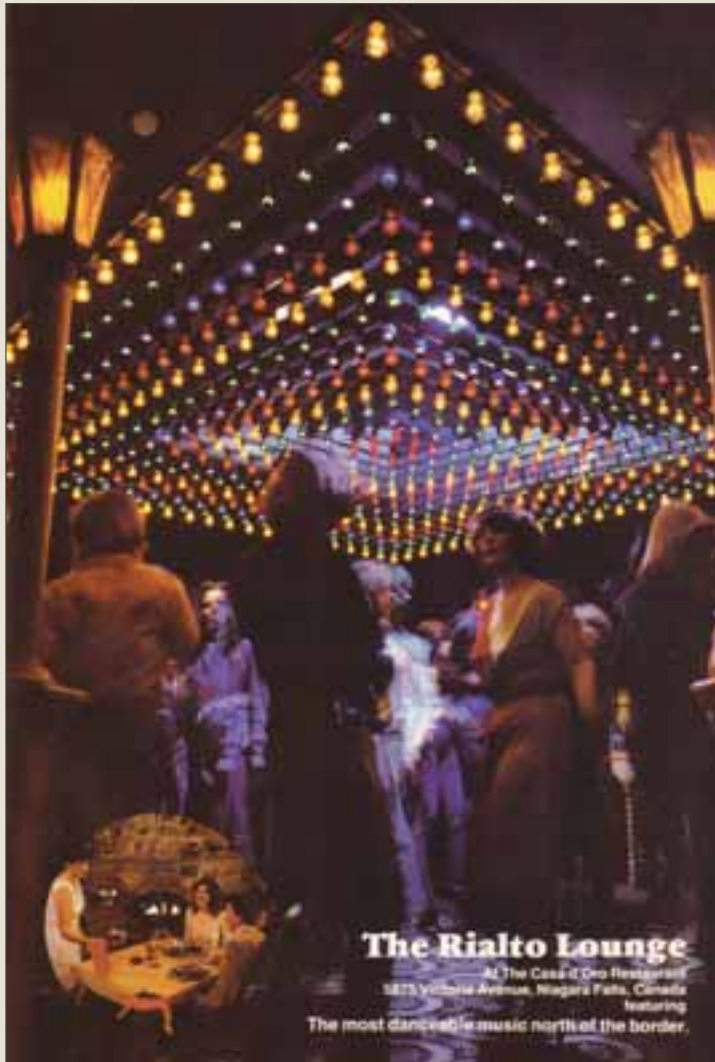
The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB on Culp Street boasts a swimming pool, a large gymnasium, and many other amenities. The club, shown here in 1981, provides low cost children's programs after school, in the evenings, and on weekends. The organization began as a Niagara Falls Optimist Club project in September 1960.



Gord Singleton

GORD SINGLETON, seen here around 1983, was a major force in bicycle racing during the 1970s and 80s. His wins included the 1975 Canadian senior sprint championship, two gold medals at the 1979 Pan-Am Games, and, in 1983, becoming the first Canadian to win a gold medal at the world championships. He also represented Canada in the 1976 Olympics.



Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

THE RIALTO LOUNGE was a highly popular night spot in Niagara during the 1970s and 80s. Located in the Casa d'Oro Restaurant, it has been popular with locals and tourists alike for many years. This 1981 advertisement encouraged young disco dancers to come and strut their stuff at the dance club. The Casa d'Oro opened in 1964 on Victoria Avenue near Simcoe Street, and later moved to its present location on Victoria near Magdalen Street.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE PARK MOTOR HOTEL was one of the first in Niagara to feature an indoor pool and hot tub, seen here in February 1981. The hotel, now known as the Comfort Inn Clifton Hill, stands on land once owned by Philip George Bender, a member of Butler's Rangers.



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

THE MAPLE LEAF, a joint venture between Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada Inc., made its inaugural run on April 28, 1981. The train provides daily direct service between Toronto and New York City. The Maple Leaf, seen here pulling into the Bridge Street Station in May 1981, resumed a cross-border service that had been suspended for some 20 years.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

LUNDY'S LANE HAS EVOLVED from its pastoral beginnings into a thriving shopping plaza, tourist, and business area. This streetscene of the Lane dates to January 20, 1981. Lundy's Lane had originally been a native trail leading off Portage Road. After the United Empire Loyalists arrived in the 1780s and 90s and were given grants of land, the Lane ran between the Lundy and Green family grants. It officially became a public road in 1803. This busy thoroughfare was widened to four lanes between 1964 and 1965.



Photo by Ron Roels, The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

LAWN BOWLING has long been a peaceful pastime in Niagara Falls. This shot of bowling at the Badminton and Tennis Club on Willmott Street was taken in August 1981. Our city has produced national champions that have played on this very lawn. The club itself opened in 1929 for badminton players on land donated by Sir Harry Oakes. Tennis courts were added in 1932, and lawn bowling in 1946 when the Lawn Bowling Club lost its greens on Victoria Avenue to the new Bell Canada building.



Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

UNDER TEACHER FRANK WARBIS, second from left, the Westlane Secondary School Senior Jazz Band, shown here on March 10, 1982, won numerous awards. This photo was taken just after their win at the Niagara regional finals of the Canadian Stage Band Festival. Front row, left to right: Karen Karkus, Craig Bradley, Mike Melymuka, Jim Gay (manager), Randy Nadalin (with plaques), John Biasucci, Bryce Jardine. Second row: Dave Lowrie, Greg Burns, Dave Reid, John Lowe. Back row: Frank Warbis, Joe Anastasio, Mark Rogers, Tony Guaransci, Don Willette, Mike Barclay, Bill Melymuka, Steve Wood, Peggy Stewart. Warbis was very active in the music scene of this area, and was, for a time, the musical director of the Lincoln and Welland Regimental Band. Westlane opened in 1960 and by 1962 two portable classrooms had to be added to the school due to high enrollment.



Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL on Palmer Avenue in September 1981. The school opened in 1962 and later became the Holy Family Regional Youth Centre and Boys' Home to assist youth in crisis.



Photo by Ron Roels, Francis J. Petrie Collection, Niagara Falls Public Library (Ontario)

AN ALL-CANADIAN PASTIME: skating in A.J. McKinley Park in February 1982. Named for Alderman A.J. McKinley who served the city between 1946 and 1970, this 1.6 hectare (four acre) park was officially opened in June 1982 and boasts a soccer field, tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a playground. It is located at the corner of Chrysler and Simcoe Streets.



The Review (Niagara Falls, Ontario)

CARRYING ON THE PROUD TRADITION of its predecessors, which have plied the waters of the Niagara River since 1846, is the 59 metric ton (65 ton), \$600,000 Maid of the Mist V. This shot taken on June 8, 1983 shows the boat inching its way along River Road before being carefully lowered into the gorge. The journey from the docks at Chippawa had not been smooth; the boat became stuck in the mud while making the turn near the Chippawa hydro intakes and needed the services of three tow trucks to get out. It became stuck again near Dufferin Islands and required jacks, more tow trucks, and oil spread across the road to break free. The boat was later lowered into the river using special cranes.



Maid of the Mist Steamboat Company, Ltd

ONE OF THE MAID OF THE MIST BOATS on a regular trip to see the falls.