



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

The Niagara Parks Commission

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Rehabilitation of Canadian Niagara Power Bridge Recognized with Prestigious Ontario Engineering Award

Niagara Falls, ON – The Niagara Parks Commission would like to congratulate Rankin Construction and Ellis Engineering for their design and construction efforts in the rehabilitation and preservation of the Canadian Niagara Power Bridge.

On April 18, 2015, the work of Rankin Construction and the design efforts of Ellis Engineering were recognized with the *Willis Chapman Award*, during the 2015 Ontario Consulting Engineering Awards. According to the Consulting Engineers of Ontario, the Willis Chapman Award is that association's premier award and recognizes a project that best demonstrates consulting engineers and their contributions to the social, economic and environmental well-being of Ontario.

Built of stone, steel and concrete, the century old Canadian Niagara Power Bridge is made up of five specific individual spans, each extending just over 90 metres (298 feet) in length. The beautifully crafted stone used in both the piers and archways was sourced from the former Queenston Quarry Company, which was in operation at the time. The architectural masonry stonework of the arched facades are 100 per cent self-supporting, similar to a roman arch.

According to NPC Chair Janice Thomson, "I want to congratulate Rankin and Ellis Engineering on obtaining this prestigious award. Given the importance and unique design of the Canadian Niagara Power Bridge it was Niagara Parks' goal to not only repair the bridge, but do so in a way which meets our mandate and preserves the beauty and historical significance of the structure and its masonry stonework. Both Rankin and Ellis have done a fabulous job in ensuring this goal was met."

An innovative aspect to this construction was the establishment of a new year-round pedestrian walkway along the CNP weir, the former site of the 'Ice Drag,' an electrically powered locomotive utilized to remove ice before it could enter the CNP forebay. This novel design now provides a breathtaking vantage point of the Niagara River and Niagara Falls for all those who wish to visit Niagara Parks.

NPC is committed to a vision of Ontario's Niagara Parks as one that **Preserves** a rich heritage, **Conserves** natural wonders, and **Inspires** people world-wide. Founded in 1885, NPC is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Its mission is to protect the natural and cultural heritage along the Niagara River for the enjoyment of visitors while maintaining financial self-sufficiency.

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