



## Ontario Power Generation 36<sup>th</sup> Winter Festival of Lights Kicks Off November 3

(Niagara Falls, ON) **October 9** - The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Festival of Lights (WFOL) in Niagara Falls kicks off early this year beginning November 3, 2018 and running through to January 31, 2019.

“The Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights has evolved in recent years with new lights, displays, entertainment and signature events. In 2017, the festival attracted over 1.6 million visitors and our goal is to make the 36th festival even bigger and brighter!” said Tina Myers, Executive Director, OPG WFOL. “We are excited to unveil new interactive illumination displays featured at light festivals in Montreal and Amsterdam and we are extending the festival’s run to make it more accessible for people.”

Opening Ceremonies for the festival will take place in Niagara Parks’ Queen Victoria Park on Saturday, November 3, 2018. The festivities will run from 11:00AM to 9:00PM with live entertainment, food trucks, interactive displays and special guests. Kids entertainment will run from 11:00AM to 4:00PM with appearances by the Paw Patrol, shows by the MiniPop Kids, the Home Depot kids workshop, the Heartland Forest train, face painting and more. Starting at 4:00PM, Beverley Mahood & Friends will take the main stage with performances by Julian Taylor, Brad Battle, Mac Sheppard, Jamie Warren, Leah Daniels & Beverley Mahood. Firework shows will also light up the sky at Opening Ceremonies at 8:00 & 9:00PM.

“Our goal is to create an experience that everybody will fondly remember,” said Myers. “While you are visiting our festival, be sure to check out *Impulse*, a publicly activated light and sound experience that features a series of interactive illuminated see-saws that transform when put into motion by people. *Impulse* will be located in Queen Victoria Park until December 1,” added Myers.

“OPG is proud to be part of the community and to help power this exciting event,” said Jessica Polak, OPG Vice President, Niagara Operations. “Our Sir Adam Beck hydro stations in Niagara Falls have been providing safe, clean, reliable and low-cost power for close to 100 years. It’s a natural fit for us to partner with the Winter Festival of Lights to help illuminate Niagara Falls with millions of beautiful lights.”

For more information and a full listing of festival events, please visit [www.wfol.com](http://www.wfol.com)

### About the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights

Ontario’s Choice Award for Top Festival and Event, the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights is attended by over 1.5 million visitors each year. The festival transforms Niagara Falls into a winter wonderland with millions of sparkling lights and breathtaking illuminations. A trip to see the lights in Niagara Falls is a festive tradition for people of all ages. The Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights has become famous for its many iconic illuminated displays including the Zimmerman Fountain and Skylon Tower, the light show on the century-old Toronto Power Generating Station,

Noah's Ark plus the many Canadian themed displays and trees wrapped in thousands of lights in the Dufferin Islands nature area, just to name a few.

### About Ontario Power Generation

OPG generates safe, clean, reliable, low-cost power for Ontario. More than 99 per cent of this power is free of smog and carbon emissions. OPG's power is priced 40 per cent lower than other generators, which helps moderate customer bills. The historic Sir Adam Beck Hydro Generating Stations on the Niagara River have been powering the province for almost a century.

For more information please visit [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com).



## **International Fireworks Competition to Light up Niagara Falls**

**Niagara Falls, ON (October 9)** – For the first time ever, the Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition is set to light up the Niagara Falls skies this winter. Presented by Hornblower Niagara Cruises, the event will take place over six weekend nights starting on November 9, 2018.

“We’re really looking forward to launching the largest fireworks competition in Ontario,” said Tina Myers, Executive Director of Cascades of Fire. “The goal of the competition is to create a new signature event for our City. It really will be a whole new spectacle the likes of which Niagara has never seen.”

The competition will take place over two weekends in November with all shows beginning at 9:00pm. Award winning pyrotechnic teams from China, Finland, Brazil, Vietnam and Italy will be showcasing their fireworks displays. Each night of the competition will feature an 18-minute long show that is synchronized to music. As the hosts, Team Canada will put on a special fireworks finale show on November 18 presented by Fallsview Casino. Each presentation will be judged on five categories: theme and choice of music, creativity, selection of the fireworks effects and use within the display, synchronization to the music and crowd reaction and appreciation.

“We have got some of the best pyrotechnic displays from around the world going head-to-head to be crowned the inaugural Champion. We know they’re going to give it their all and create an amazing show for people to enjoy. We encourage visitors to come to Niagara Falls for the whole weekend (or both) to take in the competition and explore the destination,” added Myers.

Closing Ceremonies will take place Sunday, November 18, with the Mayor of Niagara Falls presenting awards to the competitors.

“The Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition will be the region’s top winter event and we are excited to announce our presenting sponsorship and community partnership with this event,” said, Greg Bechkos, Director, Sales & Marketing at Hornblower Niagara Cruises.

"An event like this brings the community together and it's a fantastic way to showcase our beautiful city in the winter months. We appreciate the vision and commitment of all parties involved in organizing this International Fireworks Competition. We are very pleased to associate our Hornblower Niagara Cruises brand with Cascades of Fire."

Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition will take place the dates of November 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 9pm. Visit [www.cascadesoffire.com](http://www.cascadesoffire.com) for more info.

### About Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition

Cascades of Fire International Fireworks Competition will be the first event of its kind held in Niagara Falls. The event will take place over six weekend nights during the City's Winter Festival of Lights. Teams from five countries will travel to Niagara Falls to take part in the competition. The event has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation. For more information, please visit [www.cascadesoffire.com](http://www.cascadesoffire.com)

### About Hornblower Niagara Cruises

Hornblower Canada Co., operating as Hornblower Niagara Cruises, is the official boat tour operator of Niagara Falls as awarded by the Niagara Parks Commission, an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Canadian Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Providing both daytime boat tours and nighttime cruises to one of the world's natural wonders, Hornblower Niagara Cruises delivers unforgettable experiences to its guests in Niagara Falls, Canada. Hornblower Niagara Cruises is part of the Hornblower Family of Companies – a leader in marine hospitality with locations throughout North America. For more information, please visit [www.niagaracruises.com](http://www.niagaracruises.com)



## **Deck the Falls Returns This Holiday Season**

**NIAGARA FALLS, ON (October 9)** – The Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights (WFOL) is currently preparing to launch its 36<sup>th</sup> season. Planning for the Festival’s award-winning Deck the Falls Holiday Walking Tour began last winter and tickets are already on sale at [WFOL.com](http://WFOL.com).

The walking tour allows patrons to tour venues throughout the tourist district in Niagara Falls, with each location offering a different holiday-themed activity. Participating venues feature culinary and gourmet food sampling, holiday beverages, desserts, photo opportunities, live music and entertainment, craft workshops, ice sculptures and more. The OPG Winter Festival of Lights was the proud recipient of the “Best New Event” award for Deck the Falls at the Festivals & Events Ontario 2018 conference.

“Planning for this year’s Deck the Falls began the moment last year’s edition came to a conclusion,” said Tina Myers, Executive Director of the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights. “The challenge is continuing to make the event bigger and better every year; but we feel like we did it by adding some amazing new activities. It really will be an exciting experience.”

One of the key new additions to the walking tour is the Skylon Tower, which will feature a ride to the top of the 775-foot fan favourite. Key destinations such as Casino Niagara, the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the Scotiabank Convention Centre and the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse are all included in the tour. Last year’s popular horse-drawn carriage ride from the Table Rock Welcome Centre to the Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse also returns.

“Deck the Falls is the only walking tour of its kind in Niagara Falls. It allows tour-goers the opportunity to indulge in a variety of experiences at their own pace. The positive feedback we have received from both locals and tourists alike has been outstanding. Deck the Falls has quickly become one of the key events that people are looking forward to each holiday season,” added Myers.

The Deck the Falls Holiday Walking tour takes place Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:00pm to 10:00pm beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> until December 15<sup>th</sup>. For ticket information and full event details please visit [www.wfol.com](http://www.wfol.com).

### *About the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights*

As one of North America’s premier illumination festivals, and recipient of the prestigious Attractions Ontario, Ontario’s Choice Award for Top Festival and Event, the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights is attended by over 1.6 million visitors each year. The festival transforms Niagara Falls into a winter wonderland with millions of sparkling lights and breathtaking illuminations. A trip to see the lights in Niagara Falls is a festive tradition for people of all ages. The Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights has become famous for its iconic illuminated displays such as the Zimmerman Fountain and Skylon Tower, the light show on the century-old Toronto Power Generating Station, Noah’s Ark plus the many Canadian-themed displays and trees wrapped in thousands of lights in the Dufferin Islands nature area, to name just a few. The event has been made possible thanks to support

from our sponsors and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport - Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

*About Ontario Power Generation*

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) generates safe, clean, reliable, low-cost power for Ontario. More than 99 per cent of this power is free of smog and carbon emissions. OPG's power is priced 40 per cent lower than other generators, which helps moderate customer bills. The historic Sir Adam Beck Hydro Generating Stations on the Niagara River have been powering the province for almost a century. For more information please visit [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)