

= Niagara Parkway =

The Niagara Parkway , formerly known as Niagara Boulevard and historically as the Niagara Road , is a scenic road in the province of Ontario that travels on the Canadian side of the Niagara River from the town of Fort Erie to Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake . The portion north of Table Rock in Niagara Falls is designated as an Ontario Scenic Highway . The Niagara Boulevard was originally the section only from Fort Erie to Chippawa and the northern portion was referred to as the Niagara Parkway .

The Niagara Parkway begins at Fort Erie in the south . It passes through several villages along the river before passing through the tourist district of Niagara Falls . North of the city it provides access to several attractions , including the Whirlpool Rapids , Butterfly Conservatory , and Brock 's Monument at Queenston Heights . The route ends at Fort George , southeast of the urban centre of Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake .

Construction on the modern Niagara Parkway began in 1908 ; it was completed from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario in 1931 as a scenic road with gardens and manicured lawns throughout its length . The parkway was referred to by Sir Winston Churchill , having been driven down it , as " the prettiest Sunday afternoon drive in the world . "

= = Route description = =

The Niagara Parkway is a two @-@ lane minor arterial road with a 60 km / h ( 37 mph ) speed limit for the majority of its length , although the section from Hiram Avenue to Upper Rapids Boulevard in Niagara Falls is a four lane divided road signed at 40 km / h ( 25 mph ) . It is 55 km ( 34 mi ) in length , crossing the entire Niagara Peninsula between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario . The route falls under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Parks Commission , an agency of the Government of Ontario , for most of its length . However , the section from Hiram Street to Glenview Avenue belongs to the City of Niagara Falls . Despite this , it is still signed as part of the Niagara Parkway . The Niagara River Recreation Trail , a mixed @-@ use pedestrian and cycling path , follows 53 km ( 33 mi ) of the length of the parkway between Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake and Fort Erie .

The parkway begins at the old Fort Erie , south of the Peace Bridge , where it is known as Lakeshore Road and connects with the Queen Elizabeth Way and the former Highway 3 . East of the Mather Circle , the road becomes known as Niagara Parkway and proceeds north through downtown Fort Erie , beneath the International Railway Bridge . It gradually curves to the east opposite the southern shore of Grand Island . Houses line the southern side of the parkway along this section . The road curves back northward as it crosses the Black Creek and passes through a sparsely populated stretch . It passes the Willoughby Historical Museum followed by the Legends on the Niagara Golf Course . Shortly thereafter , it enters Niagara Falls and meets the Welland River . Traffic is diverted west to cross the river at Portage Road , where it then resumes on the Niagara Parkway at King 's Bridge Park .

The Niagara Parkway travels alongside the Upper Rapids and passes adjacent to Horseshoe Falls . It crosses a park and enters downtown Niagara Falls , where it is known as River Road north of Clifton Hill . The parkway passes below the Rainbow Bridge ; side streets provide access to Highway 420 , but River Road itself does not meet it . As it progresses north , it passes beneath the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge before wrapping around the Whirlpool Rapids . At Victoria Avenue , River Road becomes the Niagara Parkway again . The parkway passes the Butterfly Conservatory and the Niagara Floral Clock , one of the largest floral clocks in the world with a diameter of 12 @. @ 2 m ( 40 ft ) . Shortly thereafter , the parkway crosses the Sir Adam Beck Hydroelectric Power Stations . It passes beneath Highway 405 at the Lewiston ? Queenston Bridge , the interchange with which was removed by December 2006 .

North of the bridge , the route descends the Niagara Escarpment near Brock 's Monument , a column which commemorates the death of Sir Isaac Brock during the Battle of Queenston Heights . At the bottom of the escarpment , the route passes the village of Queenston . The parkway meanders north , parallel to the river , with houses lining the western side . Approaching the town of

Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake , the road becomes known as Queen 's Parade . It diverges from the river and travels northwest towards the town , ending at Fort George .

= = History = =

The Niagara Parkway is one of the oldest roads in Ontario . Predating it , an aboriginal trail along the west side of the Niagara River existed before the arrival of Europeans . The first survey along the length of the river was done by Augustus Jones in 1786 . The survey set aside a one chain reserve along the bank of the river for military purposes ; one chain being equivalent to 20 metres ( 66 ft ) . Despite this reserve , early settlers extended their fences to the river . In 1791 , the Land Board ordered that the fences be removed to permit the reserve 's use as a public road . The Niagara Road quickly became the primary route between Fort Erie and Fort George . Its importance grew with the declaration of war against the Americans in June 1812 . During the war , the road became vital for the movement of militia and supplies , and accordingly it was one of the primary frontiers of the war .

When the First Welland Canal was opened in 1829 , the Niagara Road became a towpath for vessels exiting the Welland River . Oxen on the road would tow boats against the rapid current of the Niagara River as they exited the canal and continued south to Lake Erie . In 1833 , a large cut was made to connect the canal with Port Colborne , eliminating the use of the road as a towpath . It continued to be used as a public road until the government gave the reserve to the Niagara Parks Commission in 1891 .

In 1908 , after receiving approval from the government , the Parks Commission began to expropriate land along the length of the river . The broadened strip of land was used to construct a new paved parkway , which was opened in segments . The new parkway was ornamental and designed to be aesthetically pleasing , a prime consideration of road construction at that time . The section south of the falls was completed first , opening in 1912 . It was extended north to the Whirlpool Rapids , incorporating the existing River Road , by 1915 . The section between the rapids and Queenston was opened between 1921 and 1923 . Finally , the remaining section between Queenston and Niagara @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Lake opened in 1931 , completing the present parkway .

In mid @-@ August 1943 , Sir Winston Churchill came to Canada to attend the Quebec Conference , a then @-@ secret meeting in Quebec City to discuss a strategy for the invasion of France which would come to be known as D @-@ Day . Prior to the conference , he met with William Lyon Mackenzie King several times . Between the meetings and conference , Churchill visited Niagara Falls and was driven along the Niagara Parkway , after which he described it as " the prettiest Sunday afternoon drive in the world . "

On May 30 , 1977 , the City of Niagara Falls assumed River Road between Hiram Street , north of the Rainbow Bridge , and Glenview Avenue , east of Victoria Avenue . This section is still designated as part of the Niagara Parkway despite not being under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Parks Commission .

= = Major intersections = =

The following table lists the major junctions along Niagara Parkway . The entire route is located in the Regional Municipality of Niagara .