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New industrial park brings jobs and investment to St. Catharines

140 new jobs, five new companies to open in Brighton Business Centre

Five manufacturers will be co-locating their operations into the Brighton Business Centre in St. Catharines following the \$7.5 million purchase of the 21 acre industrial park. The adaptive reuse of the major industrial buildings will meet the needs of the companies and provide room for future expansions and additional tenants. It will also bring 140 new manufacturing jobs to St. Catharines.

Niagara business owner and Offsite Industries President, Ed Baldassi negotiated the purchase of the 300,000 square foot, four building business park from Metrus Properties of Toronto and quickly partnered with Flagro Industries President Iain Watson to move forward on the pair's shared vision for the redevelopment of the site.

Five new companies will occupy approximately 170,000 square feet of the total space available. These include: Offsite Industries; Flagro Industries; Ferguson Neudorf Glass; Niagara Bouquet and Product Action International. The new tenants will share the site with the following



The former Bazaar and Novelty building at the Brighton Business Centre on Ridley Road in St. Catharines is one of the four buildings on the 21 acre industrial park that will welcome new tenants in 2008.

existing tenants currently occupying approximately 20,000 square feet: Niagara Composites; Commercial Air Services; J.S. McKay Heating; Wakil Construction and Harvey Moving Systems.

Baldassi and Watson also intend to lease the balance of the space, reinstate the vacant three storey office building and promote build-to-suit buildings on the surplus acreage in the project for other prospective users ranging in

size from 20,000 square feet to 150,000 square feet.

"This contribution to the manufacturing sector is a clear indication that the industry is alive and will continue to thrive in this community," said St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan during the official announcement of the new tenants on October 26.

Construction of Four-Pad Arena in Niagara Falls set to begin in 2008

Officials unveiled a sign at the site of a new four-pad arena on Fourth Avenue, near Stanley Avenue and Thorold Stone Road in Niagara Falls. The new facility will replace the aging Niagara Falls Memorial and Jack Bell arenas and will be built on 16.5 acres of land donated by Cytec Canada. The 196,000 square-foot \$34.5 million arena will include one 2,000-seat National Hockey League-sized rink and three 250-seat ice surfaces. The project will get under way in early 2008.

www.niagarafalls.ca

Algoma Central Corporation makes \$1 million donation to Niagara Health System Foundation

Algoma Central Corporation has donated \$1 million to the Niagara Health System Foundation, a fundraising boost for the new hospital complex in St. Catharines. A majority of the funds, \$900,000, will go toward a recently installed MRI machine at St. Catharines General Hospital and additional medical equipment. The equipment will be moved to the planned hospital complex when it opens. The remaining \$100,000 will go toward improvements at the Niagara Health System's hospital in Port Colborne.

St. Catharines M.P.P. appointed Transportation Minister

Jim Bradley has been appointed as Ontario's Transportation Minister. He will be moving over to his new post from that of Minister of Tourism. Bradley is also a longtime St. Catharines MPP. The appointment is the third cabinet position he has held. The new minister has said that public transportation will be a significant focus, and that GO Transit would be coming to Niagara soon. Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor was named parliamentary assistant to Energy Minister Gerry Phillips.

www.gov.on.ca

2007 Niagara Days in Ottawa



Niagara Regional Chairman Peter Partington (centre) joins Niagara's Members of Parliament (left to right) Rick Dykstra (St. Catharines); Dean Allison (Niagara West-Glanbrook); Justice Minister Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls); and John Maloney (Welland) during 2007 Niagara Week in Ottawa.

A team of Niagara representatives spent three days in Ottawa in late October meeting with federal ministers, opposition members and senior bureaucrats.

Collectively, they conducted over 25 meetings. The trip, branded Niagara Week in Ottawa, was coordinated by the Region of Niagara and the Niagara Economic Development Corporation and presented a unified voice to Ottawa.

The delegation presented their needs for funding for a \$42 million health and bio-science centre for Brock University, a proposed Niagara-GTA corridor,

defraying the cost of policing the border, the development of a \$85 million plaza at Queenston Lewiston bridge, and for Niagara to be recognized as the main economic gateway into the country. They also asked for federal leadership and investment to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

Federal officials gave the Niagara delegation a positive reception and have agreed to follow-up on issues.

www.niagaracanada.com

Niagara builder named President of Ontario Home Builders' Association

Mark Basciano, owner and president of Mountainview Group, has been named the new president of the Ontario Home Builders' Association. Mountainview Group is involved in residential, commercial, and industrial construction, land development, and property management. Mountainview Homes of St. Catharines was also recently named Home Builder of the Year by the Ontario Home Builders' Association. The association's highest honour was based on surveys from home

buyers and judges' evaluation of its sales and marketing programs, floor designs, and community service.

www.homesontario.com

www.mountainview.com

Condos construction to begin soon along Welland Recreational Canal

Construction is due to begin soon on a \$40 million condominium project on the west bank of the Welland Recreational Canal by Calgary-based Pointe of View Developments. A majority of the canal view units have already been sold, with prices starting at \$119,000 and reaching as high as \$243,900.

2007 Brownfielder of the Year Award

Mark Brickell, vice president for Smart Growth and Partnerships, Niagara Economic Development Corporation, has won the 2007 Brownfielder of the Year Award. The presentation came from the Canadian Urban Institute for brownfield redevelopment projects. The award recognizes leadership, innovation, and environmental sustainability in brownfield redevelopment across the country. Brickell was singled out for helping to advance the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program, which provides \$1 million annually to brownfield projects.

www.canurb.com

\$500 million natural gas-fired power plant under construction in Thorold

Construction has begun on a \$500 million natural gas-fired power plant in Thorold. The 265-megawatt plant will be able to produce enough electricity to run the equivalent of 100,000 homes in addition to providing steam power for Abitibi Consolidated's paper recycling mill, where the plant is located. Abitibi is providing 11 acres of land, which will include a 170-megawatt gas turbine and a 95-megawatt steam turbine. The project, which will be completed by early 2010, will employ at least 300 workers and will secure jobs for Abitibi's existing workforce.

www.northlandpower.ca

Province extends Casino Niagara's lease

The Ontario government has reached a long-term arrangement with owners of Casino Niagara's current location and has negotiated an extension of the lease that will keep the casino operating in Niagara. The announcement is welcome news to local

municipalities who have been lobbying the province to keep both Niagara Falls casinos operating beyond the Casino Niagara's current lease which was set to expire in March 2008.

Branscombe Family Foundation donates \$1 million to Niagara hospital complex

The Branscombe Family Foundation has donated \$1 million to Niagara's new hospital complex. The funding will be directed to the new regional cancer centre. The outpatient clinic will be named in honour of the Branscombe Family Foundation. The \$1 million donation puts the total raised to \$16 million since last November.

Chinese winemaker purchases 75% of St. Catharines winery

King's Court Estate Winery has sold 75 percent of its St. Catharines winery to Chinese winemaker Tonghua Grape Wine Co. The \$7 million deal is the first partnership between Chinese and Ontario producers. Under the agreement, all wines will be produced and bottled locally and exported to China. The Chinese company's purchase will also enhance its competitive edge with high-end icewines. Due to the counterfeiting of Canadian icewine in China, King's Court owner, Josef Zimmerman, believes the partnership will give "true icewines" a leg up in the battle against China's fake icewine market.

Federal government commits \$35 million to proposed convention centre in Niagara Falls

The federal government has committed \$35 million to a proposed convention centre

in Niagara Falls. The remainder of funding will come from the private sector. The plan will see a 200,000 square-foot convention centre that will hold up to 10,000 people and would contain state-of-the-art conference facilities, several banquet rooms, 4,000 parking spaces, and a 100,000 square-foot exhibition hall that can be used for trade shows. Private sector funding will come from Falls Management Co., as well as the Fallsview BIA, with a commitment from the Victoria Centre BIA. The facility will be located in the Fallsview area off Stanley Avenue across from the former Loretto Academy.

Thorold set to become Canada's first wireless community

ReliaClear Canada Inc. has launched a landmark communications project with several partners to create wireless coverage throughout the city of Thorold. It is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of 2008.

The multimillion-dollar investment will generate numerous jobs. It will also stimulate economic growth in the region by attracting new technology-based companies and other businesses that will use the network. The partners intend to eventually expand the network and provide wireless digital voice and broadband services across the region. Thorold will be the test bed for the technology and the first city in Canada to be completely wireless with no cost to the taxpayer.

ReliaClear, which has 62 employees, opened in Thorold in August after moving from Arlington, Texas. Its main product is a broadband service provided over the Internet known as Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP), which replaces phone land lines and can be a platform for other enhanced digital communication services. The company also runs a call centre that provides services to its international clients.

www.reliaclear.com

The Niagara Economic Development Corporation thanks the following community sponsors for their ongoing support.



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Phone: 905.685.1308 • Fax: 905.688.5907 • Web: www.niagaraCanada.com