



July 25, 2024

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

Dear Lord Mayor Zalepa:

I am writing to respectfully request that our Town Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake consider proclaiming September 17th, 2024 as 'Parliament Day'. Our very early history while we were the capital of Upper Canada is a significant part of our local history but also our provincial history.

Following the American Revolution, the newly established Upper Canada (today known as Ontario) was a response to the spread of loyalist settlements along the Upper Great Lakes. Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe came to Newark (currently Niagara-on-the-Lake) to establish the first Parliament of Upper Canada on September 17, 1792. This first Parliament was responsible for establishing British law and order and later, the nationally significant Act to Limit Slavery for the first time in the British Empire. They created the foundations of our current provincial parliament and our common law practices.

It is unfortunate that the pandemic overshadowed the 230th anniversary and restricted our opportunity to celebrate this historic milestone. It is my hope that we can begin to mark this provincial heritage in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the proposed proclamation attached. I would also like to request that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake consider how we could celebrate the next milestone anniversary for this event in 2027. I think a joint community committee led by the Town, similar to what was created for the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 or the 150th anniversary of Canada, should be considered. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum would happily be a part of this committee as we have been for the previous ones.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Kaufman".

Sarah Kaufman
Managing Director/Curator

Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum
Owned & Operated by the
Niagara Historical Society
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Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0
(905) 468-3912 (905) 468-1728 fax
www.notlmuseum.ca



PROCLAMATION

**The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Proclaims September 17, 2024**

“ PARLIAMENT DAY ”

WHEREAS Niagara-on-the-Lake was the capital of Upper Canada, known today as Ontario, from 1792-1796;

WHEREAS Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe and the elected Parliament of Upper Canada met for the first time on September 17, 1792;

WHEREAS this Parliament of Upper Canada established British law and order, introduced the first act to limit slavery in the British Empire, and established the foundation of our provincial governance today;

THEREFORE be it, resolved that I, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, do hereby declare the day Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 “Parliament Day” in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa