

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Thunder of Niagara air show canceled



(File picture by K&D Action Photo & Aerial Imaging)

**MICHAEL DEPIETRO**  
Tribune Editor

The Thunder of Niagara 2021 air show has been canceled, organizers announced Wednesday. The show was originally slated for June 19 and 20 and was set to feature the Blue Angels and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds.

In a message posted to the organizer's social media page, Airshow Director Lt. Col. Ben Cagnetti said the decision was made by Air Force Reserve Command:

"I am very sorry to announce that the 2021 Thunder of Niagara Airshow has been canceled. We have received tremendous support within the community and New York state gave us their approval to host the event. With that being said, Air Force Reserve Command decided today it was not in their best interest to host the event during the current environment. I am truly sorry for the performers, staff, volunteers and most of all the

entire Western New York community. At this time we do not have a future date or know what this means for the show in the near future. Hopefully at some point we will rebound from this and bring it back with the same exciting lineup we've all become accustomed to. We as the staff have been working this for over a year and are truly saddened like you, so again, we are sorry for the bad news."

## Army Corps report focuses on Old Fort Niagara shoreline protection

Targeted work includes historic masonry wall, eastern shore bluff areas



The existing slope erosion conditions found in the shoreline bluffs area east of Old Fort Niagara. (Army Corps photo)

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

The U.S., Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, has released its project findings for the Old Fort Niagara Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection Study. A 735-page report represents the federal government's response to the Lake Ontario shoreline erosion problems that threaten historically significant structures at Old Fort Ni-

agara. The focus centers on remediation measures intended to protect the fort's historic masonry wall and adjoining shoreline bluff areas well into the future.

According to an Army Corps study undertaken over the past year, "Erosion directly to the east of the fort is currently outflanking the historical masonry wall and historic outercasement wall and presents a risk of failing

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## \$3.36 million in Greenway funds for Veterans Memorial Park project

**BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO**  
Tribune Editor

On Tuesday, the Host Community Standing Committee (HCSC), which administers and oversees projects financed by the Niagara River Greenway Recreation/Tourism Fund, awarded \$3.36 million to Veterans Memorial Community Park in the Town of Niagara. The funds will be used to cover phases III and IV of the park's master plan. The project was deemed consistent with the principles of the Niagara Greenway by the Greenway Commission on March 3.

The focal point of the phase III project is a 30-foot clock tower that will be surrounded by gardens, walkways and old-fashioned light poles. Additionally, phase III includes the construction of a "community square," which will feature a community-use building that will house a concession stand, lavatories and storage, as well as an outdoor gathering area set to include gas fire pits, patio seating and a pergola style roof.

Phase IV will see the addition



Talking: Lee Wallace

of a few exciting family-friendly amenities, including a brand-new miniature golf course, six bocce ball courts, and a park for large

and small dogs.

Town of Niagara Supervisor Lee Wallace said that, aside for event rentals of the new build-

ing, there are currently no plans to charge visitors for the use of the new amenities. He said over-heads for many of these additions

The Town of Niagara has grand plans for Veterans Memorial Park. (Greenway meeting screen grab)

are expected to be minimal.

Wallace noted the overall goal of the master plan is turn Veterans Memorial Park into a welcoming destination for families to utilize and enjoy.

"What we're trying to do is - the Town of Niagara does not have a main street; we have Military Road, which is not even close to a main street," he said. "It's more of a highway than anything. So, we use this park for everything and we're trying to create a place ... that has many family-oriented amenities and activities to make it a focal point and our gathering place, not only just for our residents, but for county residents and the surrounding communities as well."

Phase IV will see an expansion of Elmer's Pond. Plans call for widening and lengthening the pond, excavating and deepening it to allow for expanding species

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