



*For Immediate Release*  
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## North American Tree Climbers Compete in Niagara Falls

CHAMPAIGN, Ill – [The Niagara Parks Commission's \(NPC\) Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture](#) in Niagara Falls, Ontario is the site for this year's [North American Tree Climbing Championship](#) (NATCC), which will take place on October 1 and 2, 2016.

Forty-nine of the top professional tree climbers from the United States and Canada will take part and demonstrate their skills as professional arborists, all while competing for the title of North American Champion and a chance to compete at the 2017 [International Tree Climbing Championships](#) (ITCC) to be held in Washington D.C., on August 3 – 5, 2017.

This free event hosted by Niagara Parks and the [Ontario Chapter](#) of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is open to the public. In addition to the competition, events scheduled over the two days will include an Arbor Fair and Expo featuring family-friendly activities and entertainment such as a fun tree climb and limb walk. Arborist-focused workshops will be offered on Friday prior to the event.

“ISA provides training and education on safe work practices for tree care providers; especially for those working aloft,” says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of the International Society of Arboriculture, the organization that manages the tree climbing competitions. “Tree climbing competitions, like the NATCC, reproduce the real-life working conditions of arborists in the field. The competition, along with the Arbor Fair, helps provide the public with a better understanding of the skills it takes to properly climb and care for trees.”

“The Niagara Parks Commission is thrilled to be part of this weekend showcase of horticultural excellence,” stated NPC Chair, Janice Thomson. “It is very exciting to welcome the North American Tree Climbing Championship into our renowned Botanical Gardens, where NPC experts and students are able to meet and collaborate with others who are also at the top of their industry.”

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Sponsored by Husqvarna, the competition kicks off Saturday October 1, with [five preliminary events](#) where both male and female competitors demonstrate to the public the skills required when working in trees. Each event tests the ability to professionally and safely maneuver in a tree while efficiently performing work-related tree-care tasks. The competitors with the highest scores during the preliminary events will move on to the Masters' Challenge championship round on Sunday, October 2.

#### **About ISA**

*The International Society of Arboriculture, headquartered in Champaign, Ill., is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research and education around the world. To promote the importance of arboriculture, ISA manages the consumer education web site, [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org) which fulfills the association's mission to help educate the public about the importance and value of proper tree care. Also, as part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information on ISA and Certified Arborists, visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).*

*The [Ontario Chapter](#) is a part of a world-wide network of chapters. Their mission is to enhance and promote the care and benefit of trees for present and future generations in Ontario through education, research, and awareness.*

#### **About The Niagara Parks Commission**

*The 99 acre Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture is owned and operated by [The Niagara Parks Commission](#). Niagara Parks is committed to a vision of Ontario's Niagara Parks as one that Preserves a rich heritage, Conserves natural wonders, and Inspires people world-wide. Founded in 1885, The Niagara Parks Commission is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Its mission is to protect the natural and cultural heritage along the Niagara River for the enjoyment of visitors while maintaining financial self-sufficiency.*

**For more information and the full schedule of events, please visit [www.itcc-isa.com/natcc](http://www.itcc-isa.com/natcc) or contact:**

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