

# NEWS @ MERIT

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## HOTEL DIEU SHAVER CELEBRITY ICE CUP



Merit staff members participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meridian Celebrity Ice Cup fundraiser in February. Team “GNCC INK” raised a total of \$8,875 for the Hotel Dieu Shaver Foundation, and team members had the opportunity to play alongside Kraig Nienhuis, who formerly played for the Boston Bruins.

The Celebrity Ice Cup tournament provides teams a chance to play alongside a variety of NHL Alumni, raising a grand total of \$175,000 this year. All proceeds raised support the Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation Centre to purchase the most up-to-date medical and rehabilitation equipment and to upgrade patient care areas.



## RESTORATION OF THE OAKES GARDEN THEATRE

June 2016



Merit recently completed a renovation of the historic Oakes Garden Theatre pergola wall in Niagara Falls, for The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC). The restoration was designed by architect Emilio Raimondo of Raimondo + Associates Architects Inc, based out of Niagara Falls, ON. Raimondo + Associates are responsible for numerous restoration projects in the gardens.

In 2012, the pergola wall was disassembled by NPC for safety reasons. At that time the Commission pledged to restore the wall once funding became available. Commission staff then began the process of removing the structure block by block and then placing them on 113 skids for storage and eventual re-use, when restoration activity was to proceed.

When constructed in 1936, the two pavilions on either end of the pergola that were placed in perfect alignment to the axis’ of the Horseshoe and American Falls. These pavilions, remained in good condition since their original construction, however, the curve stone wall, columns and wood purlins were in various states of decay and required major structural repairs in order to ensure the walls structural integrity. The deterioration caused by freeze thaw cycles, necessitated using rain screen technology to prevent this from happening again, thus a new support spine and cutting of existing stone.



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Re-construction involved the installation of new HSS supports at each column location and curved heavy gauge steel stud wall with vapor barrier. The dismantled stone blocks were then cut into 4" thick veneer segments by NPC masons and clipped to the structural components to recreate the stone features as originally designed. The entire wall was reconstructed using the original stone with the exception of 4 cap stone that had to be replicated. The pergola canopy was topped off with all new douglas fir purlins. Other features included the refurbishment of all wrought iron gates and decorative arches and the addition of LED lighting to enhance the structures beauty and coincide with the Winter Festival of Lights (WFOL).

All the stone masonry used in the original construction of Oakes Garden Theatre was quarried in Queenston. Limestone from the Queenston Quarry was used prominently throughout several Niagara Parks Commission buildings, as well as at the Brock's Monument in Queenston, Toronto's Union Station and other landmarks throughout Ontario and Canada. For more photos of the project, visit our [google+ page](#).

