



In The Media

October – December 2016

Farm of The Future Demo Day

Dr. Mike Duncan and research team showcase sensor technology that collects data for use in analytics for precision agriculture, as a way of demonstrating the technological possibilities in the farm of the future.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print, TV

OCTOBER 2016 [Niagara Falls Review](#), [Niagara College](#), [Niagara This Week](#), [CHCH](#)

Farming technology

Posted: October 5, 2016 10:22:29 PM
Category: **Niagara**
Tags: Farming, Jayan Jaganathan, niagara college, technology, weather



This summer was the driest on record for farmers in the Niagara area. Technology however is shaping the way farmers now tend to their crops. Researchers at Niagara College are working on reducing the effects of harsh weather conditions through automation and wireless sensory technology.

The college plans to build 6 weather measurement stations in fields, orchards and vineyards across southern Ontario. One of the pieces of technology researchers showcased today was a remote-controlled rover. The rover can send data to farmers up to the minute information on humidity, temperature and light to determine the condition of the crops. The remote-controlled rover's humidity of the crop, which is important for crops that are sensitive to humidity.

Some of the technologies are still in the developing stages, but devices number of years now. The college received over \$130,000 from Ottawa to develop the tools they need to grow over the next 30 years.

Demonstrations highlight farming's future

Drones, rovers used to provide precise data from the field



Precision agriculture

Dr. Mike Duncan describes the type of information that will be gathered by the drone.

Niagara College fine tunes farming

By John Law, Niagara Falls Review
Thursday, October 6, 2016 10:15:40 EDT 484



Mike Duncan (left), a Niagara College research chair in precision agriculture and environmental technologies and drone operator Neal Pilger of Profligat Geomatics demonstrate how technology can help farms of the future at Niagara College's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus Wednesday. PHOTO: John Law / Niagara Falls Review

MEDIA RELEASES

NIAGARA COLLEGE RESEARCHER ENVISIONS CANADA'S FARM OF THE FUTURE

OCTOBER 7, 2016



Mike Duncan, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) industrial research chair in Precision Agriculture and Environmental Technologies at NC, demonstrates a drone as part of developments to help mitigate the effects of oncoming weather threats.

Niagara College's Research & Innovation (NC) division this week offered a glimpse into what automation and wireless sensor technology can contribute to the farm of the future.

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Niagara College offers a possible glimpse of farming's future Wednesday.

Using drones and remote-controlled rovers, experts with the school's Research & Innovation program demonstrated how basic technology can help mitigate the effects of oncoming weather threats.

Combined cost of the two rovers and two drones? About \$3,000.

Potential problems they can predict? Pests.

"We can combine the two to figure out exactly what's going on at any particular time," said Mike Duncan, a Niagara College research chair, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

an industrial research chair in agriculture and environmental technologies with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

When utilized with microelectrochemical weather measurement stations, farmers can measure values specific to each individual farm. A soy bean field, for example, can be traversed by a remote-controlled rover which samples heat and humidity of the crop, as rovers are at high risk to insects.

The rovers, meanwhile, are affixed with technology that can measure infrared wave lengths.

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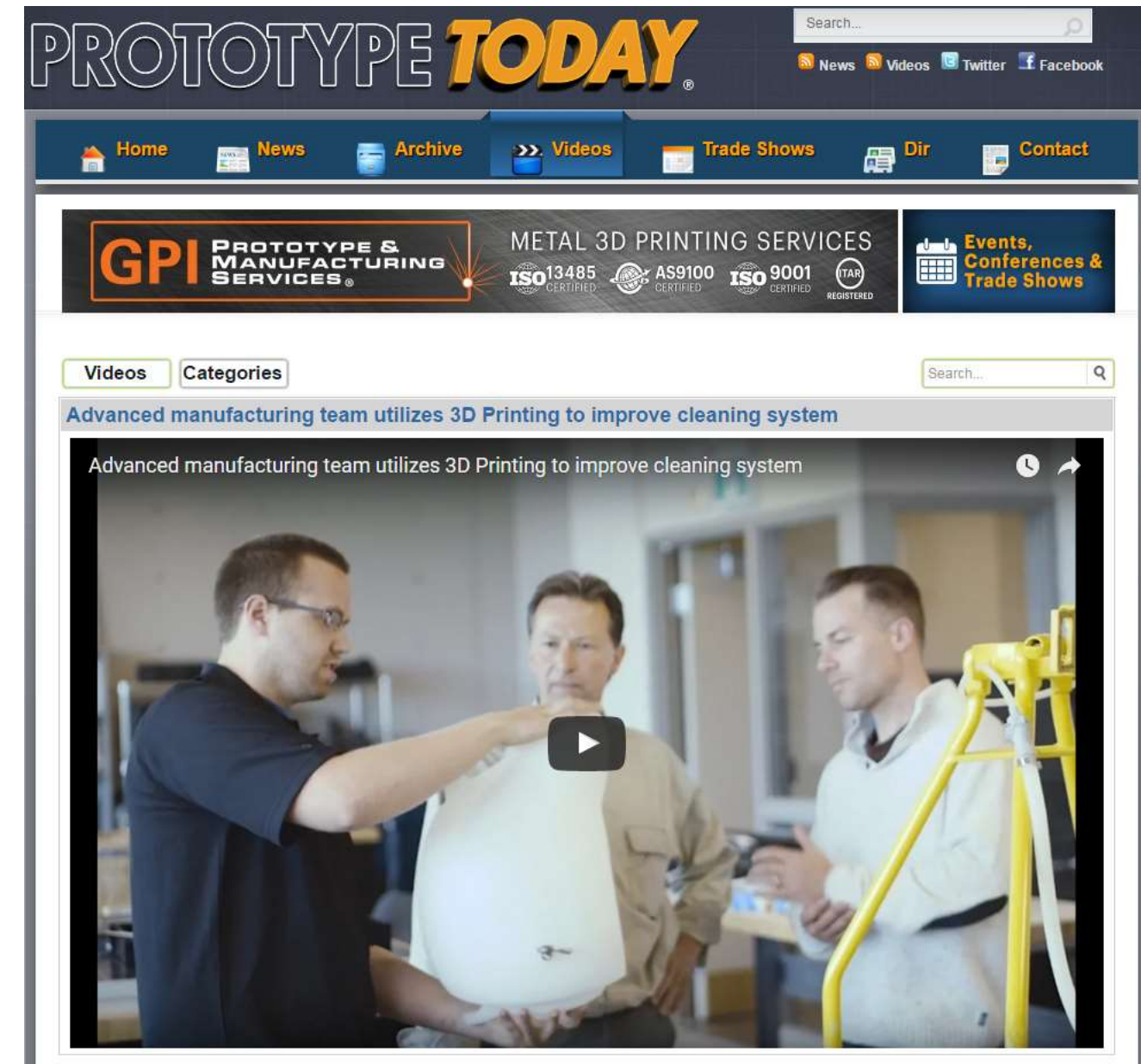
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Prototype video gets wider play

Using 3D design, 3D scanning and rapid prototyping, the R&I team improves the prototype design and development of the Floorcare Buddy – an invention by industry partner Master Systems for a safer way to apply floor care products.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
OCTOBER 2016 [Prototype Today](#)



Precision Agriculture & Future Farming

Dr. Mike Duncan, NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Precision Agriculture & Environmental Technologies, is called upon numerous times to provide expert discussion on big data's impact on the farm of the future.

Understanding Precision Agriculture – Starting to Map Yield and Elevation Data



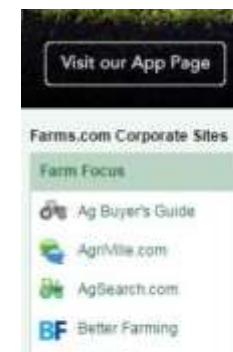
By Joey Sabljic

Precision Agriculture Advancement for Ontario: This article is part of a series designed to understand and implement precision agriculture technology. It is based on research by Ian McDonald, and Ben Rosser at OMAFRA, in conjunction with Mike Duncan and Greg MacLean at Niagara College.

EVERY SINGLE FIELD has its own story to tell.

And this story can be about the highly productive, organic matter-rich areas that the droughty knolls that perform poorly every season.

Knowing the full story of a field can help growers adopt a precision agriculture approach to inputs to benefit their land, boost profitability and reduce their overall environmental footprint.



CROP PORTAL
The first year of the Precision Agriculture project also saw the launch of the Crop Portal, an online repository where growers can upload raw yield data flowing in from their combines, have it processed and then get management zone maps for their fields that spatially define high, medium, and low-yielding areas.

Leading the Crop Portal development is Dr. Mike Duncan, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) industrial research chair, Sarah Lepp, senior research associate, and Gregor MacLean, research project manager from Niagara College.

Lepp says that she and her fellow researchers have been focused on developing specialized computer algorithms that help with cleaning and processing the raw yield data uploaded to the Crop Portal.

Cleaning data involves removing unusually high spikes or extremely low yield numbers that could be caused by issues such as an equipment malfunction or high pest pressure in a pocket of the field.

"The question is – how do we appropriately and effectively clean and present data without removing bits of data that could actually point to a real problem," explains Lepp. "We're working to help growers get a useable, accurate picture of how their fields are actually performing."

The Huge Opportunity of Precision Agriculture
A new generation of technology companies are helping farmers lower their costs and boost yields. But it means changing long-standing habits.

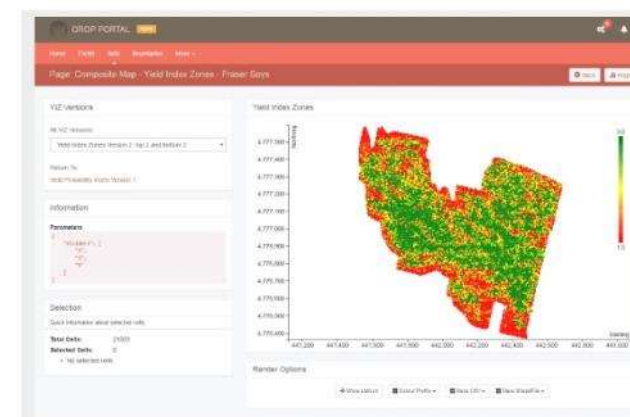
Understanding Precision Agriculture

DECEMBER 2016 - DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR DATA

By Joey Sabljic

"I've been collecting all of this yield data from my combine... now what do I do with it?"

It's a question Dr. Mike Duncan hears often. But it's one that he and his research team at Niagara College are working to answer, by giving growers a place to upload, store, and – most importantly – put their data to practical use.



Crop Portal, YPI.

Duncan, an NSERC industrial research chair, along with Sarah Lepp, senior research associate, and their team have been working with researchers from the Precision Agriculture Advancement for Ontario (PAAO) project to create and develop the Crop Portal.



With crop farmer Rick Williams started collecting data on his fields back in the mid-90s, strictly to satisfy his own curiosity. Over the years, information on yield, moisture and fertilizer piled up on a file on his computer.

Then, in 2006, the price of protein, a key fertilizer, spiked more than 40%. At a cost of \$285 an acre, up from \$205, Williams couldn't afford to feed his crops. The volume at harvest time, he calculated, wouldn't cover the fertilizer. Faced with letting his fields go to seed, Williams dug out 15 years of data and got creative. "I decided, come hell or high water, I'm going to do this for only \$105 [per acre]," says the Hamilton, Ont., farmer. Using historic yield and fertilizer data, he created an algorithm that prescribed the optimal level of protein for each 40- by 40-foot zone in his fields. It saved him \$100 per acre, and his crops flourished.

Williams was a pioneer in what's now known as precision agriculture, and which may be the biggest advance in farming since tractors replaced horses. Broadly speaking, the practice involves taking one large field and managing it as if it were dozens or even hundreds of smaller ones, in order to address the wild variability—in soil, topography and exposure to the elements—that exists across large swaths of land. When done properly, the result is lower input costs and higher yields.

MORE AGRICULTURE: Inside Canada's Hottest New Export Market

While progressive farmers like Williams have been dabbling in "precision ag" (also known as agri-tech) for nearly a decade, the past few years have seen scores of companies, old and new, enter the sector. Investors poured \$584.5 billion into agri-tech startups last year, a nearly tenfold increase from 2012. Meanwhile, the first half of 2016 saw the number of precision ag venture capital deals climb 7% from the same period in 2015, with the number of new investors in the space up 52%.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2016 [Farms.com](#), [Grain Farmers of Ontario](#), [Field Crop News](#), [ProfitGuide.com](#)

GE Canada Manager impressed by NC grads

Jeremy Amin, Region Manager at General Electric Canada – in speaking to regional leaders – mentions his excitement about working with NC graduates with skills to help advanced manufacturing and general business continue to innovate into the future.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
OCTOBER 2016 [St.Catharines Standard](#)

Keynote speaks to Niagara's impressive GE wooing

By Don Fraser, St. Catharines Standard
Thursday, October 27, 2016 5:01:05 EDT PM



(left) Mike Watt of Walker Industries chats with Jeremy Amin, regional manager, global operations properties, GE Canada, as part of the fireside chat at the Niagara Economic Summit at White Oaks in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Thursday, October 27, 2016. Julie Jocsak/ St. Catharines Standard/ Postmedia Network

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Speedy Niagara collaboration was cited as crucial to a decision by a manufacturer in building a large plant here.

On Thursday, Jeremy Amin, regional manager of global operations properties at General Electric Canada spoke at the Niagara Economic Summit about what sent the company to Welland.

The chosen site, off of Highway 140, is expected to add 220 jobs and be fully operational by 2018.

Using the latest technology, it will initially be manufacturing products and parts for GE Power's reciprocating gas engines, components for compression, mechanical drive, power generation, and its transportation diesel engines.

"From our perspective, the future of Niagara is bright, quite brilliant, and GE is excited to be a part of it," he told the crowd of about 340 at White Oaks in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This year's annual summit brought together regional leaders in business, government, non-profits and others and was hosted by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

In his keynote speech, Amin spoke about his company's Welland factory, to be one of GE's high-end "brilliant" sites.

Amin, said "collaboration, speed and people," helped swiftly push the process

He also spoke warmly about working with the region's broader business community, development and education community.

GE was also "very excited" about programs at Brock and Niagara College, Amin added. "They are going to produce graduates with the skills to help advanced manufacturing capabilities and general business needs, to grow and continue to innovate into the future."

Mike Watt, an executive with Walker Industries, led a discussion afterward.

In one question, Watt asked Amin about potential future expansion plans if the Welland plant proves successful.

"We need to make sure this plant is successful," Amin answered.

He said GE came to the region based on many factors, including its people-talent and infrastructure to support that.

"As we get settled, and ramp up our production in this first phase of our facility, GE Canada wants nothing more than to expand our footprint.

"We want that growth, we don't know what it's going to look like," he said. "The opportunities come when they come."

Other panelists and speakers discussed misconceptions about Niagara's economy, the regional job market, the skills gap and workers from the Millennial generation.

Discussing profitable farming operations

Dr. Mike Duncan, NSERC Industrial Research Chair for Precision Agriculture & Environmental Technologies, speaks about his work developing new tools in partnership with farming communities to help make business more profitable for farmers.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
NOVEMBER 2016 Canadianbusiness.com



(Westend61/Getty)

Cash crop farmer Rick Willemse started collecting data on his fields back in the mid-'90s, strictly to satisfy his own curiosity. Over the years, information on yield, moisture and fertilizer piled up in a file on his computer. Then, in 2008, the price of potash, a key fertilizer, spiked more than 400%. At a cost of \$280 an acre, up from \$160, Willemse couldn't afford to feed his crops. The returns at harvest time, he calculated, wouldn't cover the fertilizer. Faced with letting his fields go to seed, Willemse dug out 15 years of data and got creative. "I decided, come hell or high water, I'm going to do this for only \$185 [per acre]," says the Parkhill, Ont., farmer. Using historic yield and fertilizer data, he created an algorithm that prescribed the optimal level of potash for each 40- by 40-foot zone in his fields. It saved him \$100 per acre, and his crops flourished.

Willemse was a pioneer in what's now known as precision agriculture, and which may be the biggest advance in farming since tractors replaced horses. Broadly speaking, the practice involves taking one large field and managing it as if it were dozens or even hundreds of smaller ones, in order to address the wild variability—in soil, topography and exposure to the elements—that exists across large swaths of land. When done properly, the result is lower input costs and higher yields. While progressive farmers like Willemse have been dabbling in "precision ag" (also known as agri-tech) for nearly a decade, the past few years have seen scores of companies, old and new, blitz the sector. Investors poured US\$4.6 billion into agri-tech startups last year, a nearly tenfold increase



Urban Barns pioneers a green new take on factory farms

The timing is right. By 2050, the global population will reach 9.1 billion, at which point food production will need to increase by 70% to stave off widespread famine. "There are only so many arable acres globally," says Joseph Regan, managing partner at Guelph, Ont., VC firm **Bioenterprise Capital**. "When you look at that equation, innovation is really the only way to increase yield."

While ending world hunger is a laudable ambition for agri-tech, another driver is the simpler goal of making the business more profitable for farmers, many of whom are struggling to manage larger farms with fewer hands. "The family farm is going away," says Mike Duncan, a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council research chair in precision agriculture at Niagara College. Duncan, whose work involves developing new precision ag tools in partnership with farming communities, predicts the farm of the not-so-distant future will be entirely remote-controlled.

That means bright prospects for companies like Winnipeg-based **Farmers Edge**, which uses proprietary software to collect and analyze crop data, and offers field management consultation and technical assistance to help farmers get the most out of their land. Co-founder Wade Barnes, an agronomist by trade, says advances in geo-mapping and analytics technology have transformed a once cumbersome and unreliable process—early attempts by such ag giants as John Deere and Trimble to market monitors and GPS systems were met with a tepid response—into something intuitive and, crucially, effective. "We're seeing the industry change from being very hardware focused to being service focused," he says. Some big brains believe Barnes is right: Farmers Edge recently raised nearly \$60 million in equity investments to help support aggressive international expansion, and the company has recruited former Monsanto, DuPont and Canadian Wheat Board executives into its fold.

It's an ambitious ramp-up, but the demand is growing, and Barnes is convinced precision agriculture is set to move from a leading-edge practice to a mainstream pursuit. And since agriculture is a sticky business—farmers can be a tough sell, but once they start seeing value from a product or service, they tend to stay loyal to it—it's essential for burgeoning players to establish market share now. "The companies that have adapted quickly, they'll survive; the ones that are late to the game, they won't make it," says Barnes. "It's truly a race for an acre."



Sowing seeds of community success

R&I secured Ontario Centres of Excellence funding for students to implement a tower garden growing system for North Hamilton Community Health Centre (NHCHC) Community Greenhouse. NC was then given an award for the project by NHCHC.

Community Greenhouse project sows seeds of hands-on learning

Posted on November 2, 2016 by Julie Greco in [Campus Update](#), [My College](#), [School of Environment and Horticulture](#), [Uncategorized](#)



Bill MacDonald and Amy Peterson hold a certificate of appreciation from the NHCHC in recognition of the College's support for the new community greenhouse.

Healthy living initiatives are taking root in the North Hamilton community, thanks to a partnership with Niagara College.

The College's Greenhouse Technician program played a key role in North Hamilton Community Health Centre's new Community Greenhouse, which opened its doors this fall.

"The students were extremely eager to work on this project," he said. "Our students were able to get out of the classroom and design a real life greenhouse system to benefit a progressive community centre."

Equipment was donated from local growers including benches and irrigation material. NC's Research & Innovation Division secured VEBTA funding for the students to implement an innovative tower garden growing system, allowing them to maximize space by growing vertically.

The fruits of their labour began to blossom earlier this year. Between April and August, the community greenhouse's inaugural growing season produced a bountiful harvest of lettuce, green onions, herbs, Swiss chard and kale which were distributed through the NHCHC's programs as well as special events that benefited the community.

Academic projects coordinator for the College's Horticulture, Greenhouse and Landscape programs, Amy Peterson noted that the project went very well. Not only did it establish a valuable partnership with the NHCHC, but it offered NC students as much of a hands-on experience as they could possibly get.



"Walking into an empty greenhouse and being tasked with filling it and making it run was a great challenge for the students," she said. "This was a really valuable opportunity as this type of small-scale greenhouse growing is likely going to become more popular and more common as urban areas try to improve their food security."

College students and faculty also dug into work beyond the greenhouse setup.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
NOVEMBER 2016 [insideNC](#)

Capital investment announced

NC receives \$8.7M federal SIF and \$1.55M provincial funding for construction of new research and innovation agri-food labs, specialized training facilities and incubation space for business.

Canada and Ontario Invest in Infrastructure at Brock University and Niagara College

\$26.51-million investment will create jobs, expand research and foster in


ST. CATHARINES, ON, Nov. 3, 2016 /CNW/ - The Government of Canada values the role of post-secondary institutions as they help equip young Canadians with the education and training they need for future careers that will help them join a strong, healthy middle class. Today's \$26.51-million investment at Brock University and Niagara College will do just that by fostering the training needed for the well-paying middle-class jobs of today and tomorrow.

The funding was announced by the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and the Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Canada's Innovation Agenda aims to make this country a global centre for innovation—one that creates jobs, drives growth across all industries and improves the lives of all Canadians. This investment exemplifies that vision in action.

Brock University is receiving funding for two projects: the District Energy Efficiency Project and the Schmon Tower Innovation Atrium. These projects will improve energy efficiency on campus which translates into long-term savings for the university, lower carbon emissions and healthier communities.

A \$7.78-million investment in the District Energy Efficiency Project will enable Brock to replace equipment and piping in the District Energy Facility—a reliable cogeneration facility for electricity, heating and cooling in the university's research facilities. This project will significantly improve the facility's energy efficiency and reduce the university's greenhouse gas emissions. Of this funding, \$5.19 million is being provided by the Government of Canada and \$2.59 million by the Province of Ontario. Brock University is contributing an additional \$2.59 million to the project.




MILLIONS FOR NEW BUILDINGS AT BROCK AND NIAGARA COLLEGE

There's a good day for post-secondary institutions in Niagara. The Ontario government has announced millions of dollars in funding for Brock University and Niagara College.

Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, joined federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains, local MPP Jim Bradley and local MP Vince Badway at Brock University today to celebrate the start of construction on the new facilities.

The Brock University investment will support a new, leading-edge research facility, and the installation of new energy-efficient heating and cooling infrastructure throughout the campus.

The Niagara College investment is at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, to provide research, incubation and testing space that will support existing companies and new entrepreneurs, and increase industry productivity and employment in the Niagara region.



Millions announced for post-secondary projects

Ontario Supporting Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Niagara Region Students
Province Investing in New Facilities at Brock University and Niagara College

November 3, 2016 2:30 P.M. | Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

Ontario is investing in new, high-quality learning facilities at Brock University and Niagara College that will help equip students with the skills they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Deb Matthews, Ontario's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, joined federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains, local MPP Jim Bradley and local MP Vince Badway at Brock University today to celebrate the start of construction of the new facilities.

The Brock University investment will support a new, leading-edge research facility, and the installation of new energy-efficient heating and cooling infrastructure throughout the campus.


The Niagara College investment will accelerate completion of new Agri-Food and Agri-Business facilities at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, to provide research, incubation and testing space that will support existing companies and new entrepreneurs, and increase industry productivity and employment in the Niagara region.

Ontario is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history — about \$160 billion over 12 years, which is supporting 110,000 jobs every year across the province, with projects such as hospitals, schools, roads, bridges and transit. Since 2015, the province has announced support for more than 475 projects that will keep people and goods moving, connect communities and improve quality of life. To learn more about infrastructure projects in your community, go to Ontario.ca/BuildON.

Investing in postsecondary infrastructure is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

Quick Facts:

- The overall cost to complete the Brock project is approximately \$29.5 million, and includes \$13.7 million from Canada's Strategic Investment Fund, \$2.6 million from



Article

Brock U, Niagara College get \$26.5 million

by DCN NEWS SERVICES Nov 16, 2016

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing \$26.51 million in infrastructure at Brock University and Niagara College.


Brock University is receiving funding for two projects: the District Energy Efficiency Project and the Schmon Tower Innovation Atrium. These projects will improve energy efficiency on campus which translates into long-term savings for the university, lower carbon emissions and healthier communities.

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Nov 16, 2016



governments have announced a \$26.51-million infrastructure investment at Brock University and Niagara College to receive \$26-million

side Thursday in a joint press conference at Brock University by Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Navdeep Bains, Ontario's Education Minister, Deb Matthews.

The funding will allow the District Energy Efficiency Project to replace equipment and piping in the District Energy Facility which will improve the buildings energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The university will also receive funding for the Schmon Tower Innovation Atrium, an important part of the new Brock LINC innovation and commercialization space.

The Brock LINC is a new 30,000 square-foot research facility that will allow students to experience and experiment with entrepreneurship. Brock University is also contributing an additional \$10.62 million for the project.

The funding for Niagara College will be for a project at the Niagara-on-the-lake campus to support the agri-food sector in the region. The college will build research and innovation labs and specialized training facilities. Niagara College will contribute an additional \$24.33 million for the project.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital, Print, Radio
NOVEMBER 2016 [Edmonton Journal](#), [News.Ontario.ca](#), [St.Catharines Standard](#), [610CKTB](#), [CHCH](#), [Dailycommercialnews.com](#)

NC 7th in Canada's Research Colleges

For the second year in a row, NC places in the top 10 list for research funding in Canada's Top 50 research colleges. The list is compiled and published by Research Infosource.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
NOVEMBER 2016 [Niagara College](#), [Niagara-news.com](#), [Niagara-news.com](#), [Eriemedia.com](#)

NIAGARA COLLEGE 7TH PLACE AMONG RESEARCH COLLEGES IN CANADA

NOVEMBER 8, 2016



For the second year in a row, Niagara College has earned the honour of being in the top 10 colleges in the country for research funding, according to a new n

In its report "Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges," Research Infosource Inc. has announced the rank of seven for Niagara College (NC), based on total research 2015. This represents three moves up from last year's report, and yet another climb in the rankings since the reports were first published. During those four y has moved up from the rank of 13, to 12, to 10, and now to seven. For the third year in a row, Niagara College improved its placing by being ranked third amo colleges.

What's more, using data from the past two years, Niagara College's research funding increased by nearly 14% between 2014 and 2015, up to \$6.1 million in 2014.

"We've made research and innovation a key priority, and o important area, we're able to support the revitalization of valuable real-world research opportunities."

Research funding allows the college to partner with small-for industry. These include producing and testing prototyp

"The college's ranking among the top 10 colleges in Canad in precision agriculture, the food and beverage sector, and are encouraged by our division's progress, and expect to c of our main research sectors."

NC also experienced significant growth in terms of partner the 149 partnerships represents a 96.1% increase. Niagara in that area.

The college receives research funding from various region the hiring of students and graduates to work alongside fac college's programs, such as Mechanical Engineering Techn

Research Infosource annually compiles listings of the Top released for the Top 50 research colleges in Canada.

NIAGARA COLLEGE AMONG BEST IN RESEARCH, STUDY S

11 NOV 2016

By LYDIA VERSLUIS
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, Niagara College has earned the honour of being in the top 10 colleges in the country for research funding, according to a new national study.

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Niagara College has also improved its place by being ranked third among Ontario's leading colleges.

"We've made research and innovation a key priority, and our consistent climb in these rankings is a testament to that," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson in a press release.

"By leading in this important area, we're able to support the revitalization of the Niagara economy, helping local companies innovate and we're enhancing our students' education by providing valuable real-world research opportunities."

Research funding allows the college to partner with small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the region to conduct projects and services, which provide innovative solutions for industry. These include producing and testing prototypes, evaluating new technologies and developing new or improved products and processes.

"The college's ranking among the top 10 colleges in Canada for research funding is a great endorsement of the wide-ranging work being done by our innovation centres, especially in precision agriculture, the food and beverage sector, and advanced manufacturing," Marc Nantel, associate vice-

Niagara College 7th place among research colleges in Canada

November 8, 2016 | Filed under: News, Niagara College | Photo Credit: Eriemedia

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What's more, using data from the past two years, Niagara College's research funding increased nearly 14% between 2014 and 2015, up to \$6.1 million in 2015 from \$5.34 million in 2014.

"We've made research and innovation a key priority, and our consistent climb in these rankings reflects that," said Niagara College president Dan Patterson. "By leading in this important area, we're able to support the revitalization of the Niagara economy by helping local companies innovate and we're enhancing our students' education by providing valuable real-world research opportunities."

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"The college's ranking among the top 10 colleges in Canada for research funding is a great endorsement of the wide-ranging work being done by our innovation centres, especially in precision agriculture, the food and beverage sector, and advanced manufacturing," said Marc Nantel, an vice-president of Research & Innovation at Niagara College. "We are encouraged by our division's progress, and expect to continue increasing our efforts to serve the local economy and our students as we take on even more projects in all three of our main research sectors."

NC also experienced significant growth in terms of partnerships and projects, climbing from 14 to 149 among large colleges for the number of formal partnerships held; the 149 partnerships represents a 96.1% increase. Niagara College also climbed from No. four to No. three in terms of successfully completed projects – thanks to a 36.4% increase in that area.

The college receives research funding from various regional, provincial and federal agencies. Administered by the college's Research & Innovation division, the funding supports the hiring of students and graduates to work alongside faculty researchers in helping industry partners leap forward in the marketplace. Students come from a variety of the college's programs, such as Mechanical Engineering Technology, Culinary Innovation and Food Technology, Business Administration - Marketing, and New Media Web Design.

Research Infosource annually compiles listings of the Top 50 research universities, colleges, and research hospitals. This year marks the fourth year a list has been released for the top 50 research colleges in Canada.

NIAGARA COLLEGE HOLDS STRONG DESPITE DROP IN ENROLMENT

28 NOV 2016



Despite the decline in domestic enrolment, the number of international students continues to climb. PHOTO BY COREY LEBLANC

By YUSUF TURABI
Staff Writer

Despite a declining number of domestic students provincewide, Niagara College is holding its own.

According to college officials, overall enrolment dropped for the fall 2016 academic term.

Statistics show full-time post-secondary domestic enrolment went down by 2.96 per cent while international enrolment went up by 5.64 per cent as compared to last year.

"Declines in the domestic student population reflects demographic trends in the region and the province, and many other Ontario colleges are experiencing similar results," says Susan McConnell, spokeswoman for Niagara College.

The total number of students enrolled full-time was 8,965. Of that figure 7,081 are domestic students, while 1,884 are international students. By comparison, in 2015 there was a total of 9,078 students, including 7,291 domestic and 1,787 international admissions.

According to Research Infosource Inc., Niagara College ranked seven on the list of Top 50 Research

White Oaks' Garden Project reaps harvest

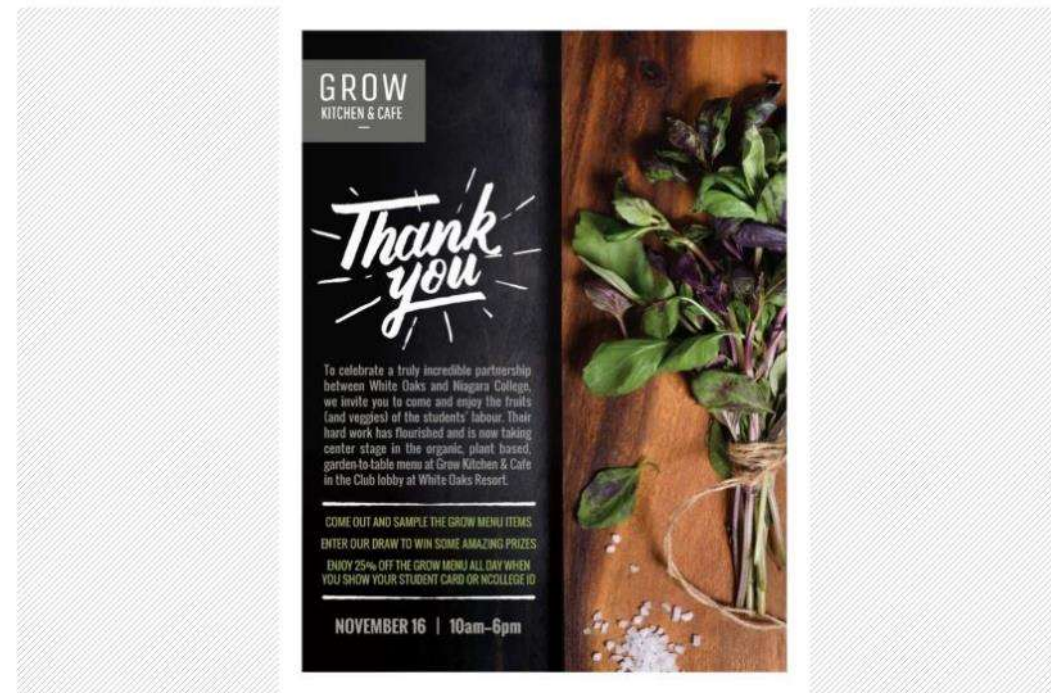
The R&I team's efforts in creating a sustainable garden from a former parking lot and grass strip are realized within the garden-to-table menu at the White Oaks Grow Kitchen & Café.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
NOVEMBER 2016 [Niagara College](#)

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Niagara College Appreciation Day at White Oaks' newest restaurant Nov. 16

Posted on [November 9, 2016](#) by [Julie Greco](#) in [Announcements](#), [Campus Update](#)



Celebrate a great partnership with discounts, prizes at White Oaks' newest restaurant on Nov. 16.

To celebrate a truly incredible partnership between White Oaks and Niagara College, White Oaks is inviting NC staff and students alike to come and enjoy the fruits (and veggies) of the students' labour. Their hard work has flourished and is now taking centre stage in the organic, plant-based, garden-to-table menu at Grow Kitchen & Cafe in the Club lobby at White Oaks!

You are invited to visit Grow on Wednesday, Nov. 16 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

• Sample the Grow Menu Items

Niagara on track with strategic priorities

During a regional government progress update, David Oakes, the Region's director of economic development, points to a strong relationship with NC and references NC's capability to produce products and prototypes.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
NOVEMBER 2016 [Niagara Falls Review](#)

Niagara on track with strategic priorities

By Ray Spiteri, Niagara Falls Review
Thursday, November 17, 2016 4:18:21 EST PM



Regional Chairman Alan Caslin speaks as Niagara Region management provided an update of progress in their strategic plan on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016 at regional Headquarters. (Bob Tymczyszyn/St. Catharines Standard/Postmedia Network)

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Halfway through its four-year term, Niagara Regional council has completed 60 per cent of its strategic priority projects, says Chairman Alan Caslin.

"I'm pleased to report at the two-year milestone that we are on track with our strategic plan," he told reporters during a media briefing Thursday morning.

"We've never had as much success as we have had over the past 24 months, and we've got two years left to go."

In February 2015, council approved six strategic priorities around growth, employment, investment, infrastructure, taxation and community measures.

The priorities included: Moving people and goods; investment, innovation and entrepreneurship; labour-ready workforce; positioning Niagara globally; doing business differently; and organizational excellence.

Council originally included 25 priority projects, and later added five new projects.

For example, under moving people and goods, Niagara was successful in convincing the provincial government to commit to bringing weekday GO train service to Niagara by 2021.

Welland Mayor's year-end review

Within his regular column in the City's newsletter, Welland Mayor Frank Campion speaks highly of the collaboration with NC's advanced manufacturing and research programs with industry partners from the city.

COVERAGE TYPE Digital
DECEMBER 2016 [Erie Media](#)

A Glimpse at Change: Welland Moving Forward

📅 December 30, 2016 | 📁 Filed under: City of Welland, Welland, With Welland Mayor Frank Campion | 🗣️ Posted by: Erie Media

The Mayor's Report with Welland Mayor Frank Campion

By Mayor Frank Campion – January has always been a time for new beginnings, and a time to embrace new developments.

Now that Council has passed the City's 2017 Budget, we can look forward to renewing City infrastructure and capitalizing on strategic economic development initiatives while continuing to maintain core programs and services. We are the first municipality in Niagara to have completed and passed a 2017 budget. This places Welland in a development ready position, and allows the City to plan ahead for 2017.

January 2016 was a beginning of change as the City welcomed Gary Long as our new Chief Administrative Officer. The new CAO has worked collaboratively with Council on strategic priorities and has led staff in establishing a culture of excellence and innovation throughout the corporation. Over the past year, the CAO has focused on re-branding the City, improving internal and external communications, and implementing a holistic approach to project management by strengthening interdepartmental relations.

The City's engineering staff boasted a \$2 million dollar yearly savings in wastewater treatment due to a \$10 million investment in the reduction of extraneous flow, mainly through the construction of new separate sewers. Thinking long-term and preparing for the future is a smarter path to municipal infrastructure framework, and places the City in a position to prioritize new capital projects.

Creating connections and collaboration also benefited the City in 2016 when our economic development team secured General Electric's attention and commitment to build a new digital Brilliant Factory on the east end of Welland. GE's executives were impressed with Welland's and Niagara Region's incentive programs, as-well-as Niagara College's advanced manufacturing and research programs. Ground has been broken for this project and we can expect completion in early 2018.

We also made it a priority to develop stronger relationships with our Federal M.P., Provincial Ministers, and their staff. We met with Ministers on a variety of topics, from health care to economic development and public transportation. Growing a better more intelligent city involves clear communication between governments and discovering opportunities through those connections.

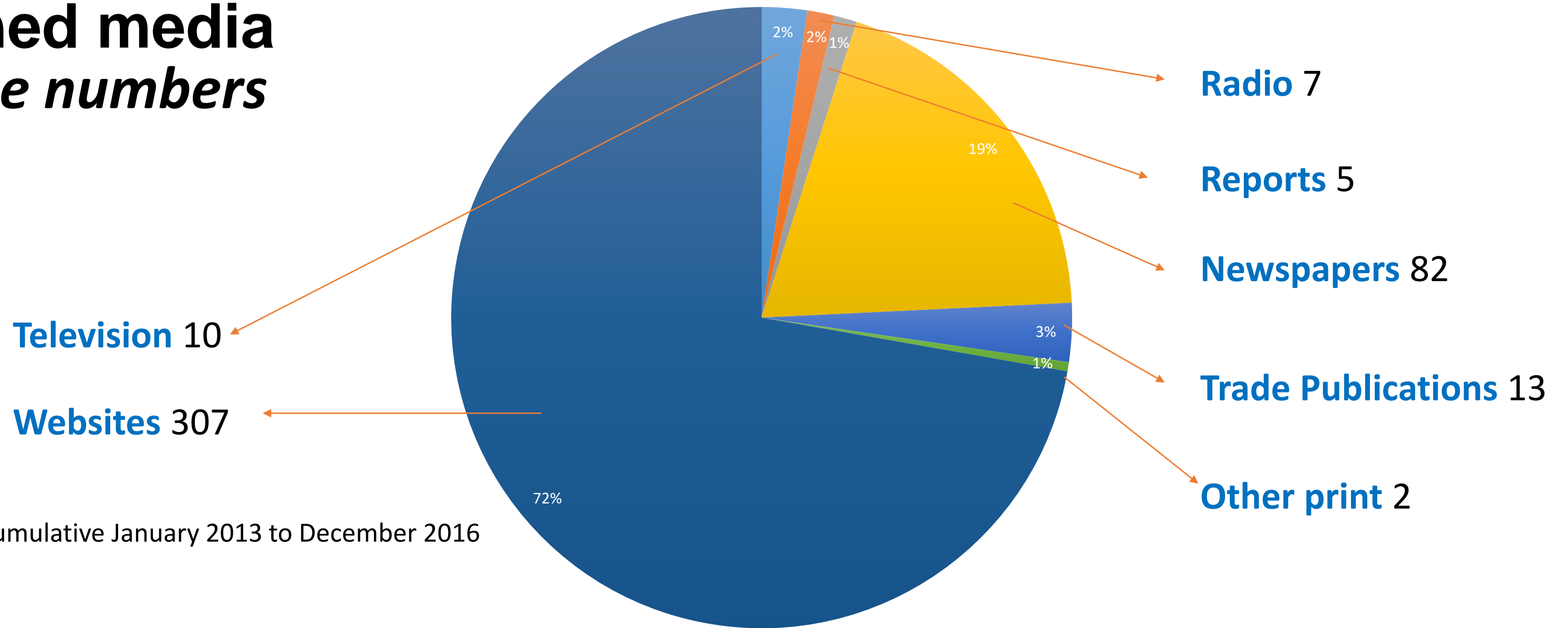
Reflecting on last year's progress in the City, as well as re-confirming Council's strategic priorities, sets the City in a direction towards a very bright future. Council and staff are excited to take advantage of opportunities through increased funding for 2017 economic development projects that will build on Smart City initiatives and focus on the livability, workability, and sustainability of our community. We look forward to cultivating partnerships and alliances with other levels of government, and building public engagement with residents and key stakeholders. Municipalities are becoming far more challenged and need to adopt trending practices in a competitive global economy. Welland is growing smarter and is ready to discover all the opportunities that 2017 has to offer.

On behalf of Welland Council and City staff, have a safe and Happy New Year.



Frank Campion, Mayor City of Welland. Photo by Thies Bogner

Earned media *by the numbers*



TIMELINE Cumulative January 2013 to December 2016



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Research & Innovation
Published by Myles Fisher [?] · October 21, 2016 ·

JOB POSTING: Applications are invited for the position of Senior Food Scientist at the Canadian Food & Wine Institute Innovation Centre in the Division of Research at Niagara College, located at our Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus. For more details, click the link below for more details. Deadline to apply is November 9, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2eeRpuF>

Careers - Niagara College Canada

Applications are invited for the position of Senior Food Scientist at the Canadian Food & Wine Institute (CFWI) Innovation Centre in the Division of Research at Niagara College, located at our Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus. For more details, click the link below for more details. Deadline to apply is November 9, 2016. <http://bit.ly/2eeRpuF>

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Research & Innovation
Published by Myles Fisher [?] · November 9, 2016 ·

Niagara College 7th place among research colleges in Canada. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2fCQanA> #ncinnovation #solutionsforindustry

Proud to be ranked
#3 in Ontario
and **#7 in Canada**
for Canada's Top 50 Research Colleges for 2016!

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Tina Poitras, Eduardo Maafs and 5 others

Research & Innovation
Published by Myles Fisher [?] · December 19, 2016 at 1:10pm ·

FedDev Ontario Invests in Manufacturing at Niagara College. Read more about today's announcement here: <http://bit.ly/2h39ryj> #ncinnovation #SONAMI

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Carolyn Mullin, Tawnya Hartford and 13 others

↑
December
1,410 people reached

↑
November 743 people reached

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TIMELINE As of December 2016



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TIMELINE As of December 2016



↑ **October** 1,514 impressions

↓ **November** 1,605 impressions



Research&Innovation
 @NiagaraResearch
 .@VBadawey visits @Niagara_College to announce a \$7.3M @FedDevOntario partnership to benefit #mfg Golden Horseshoe.



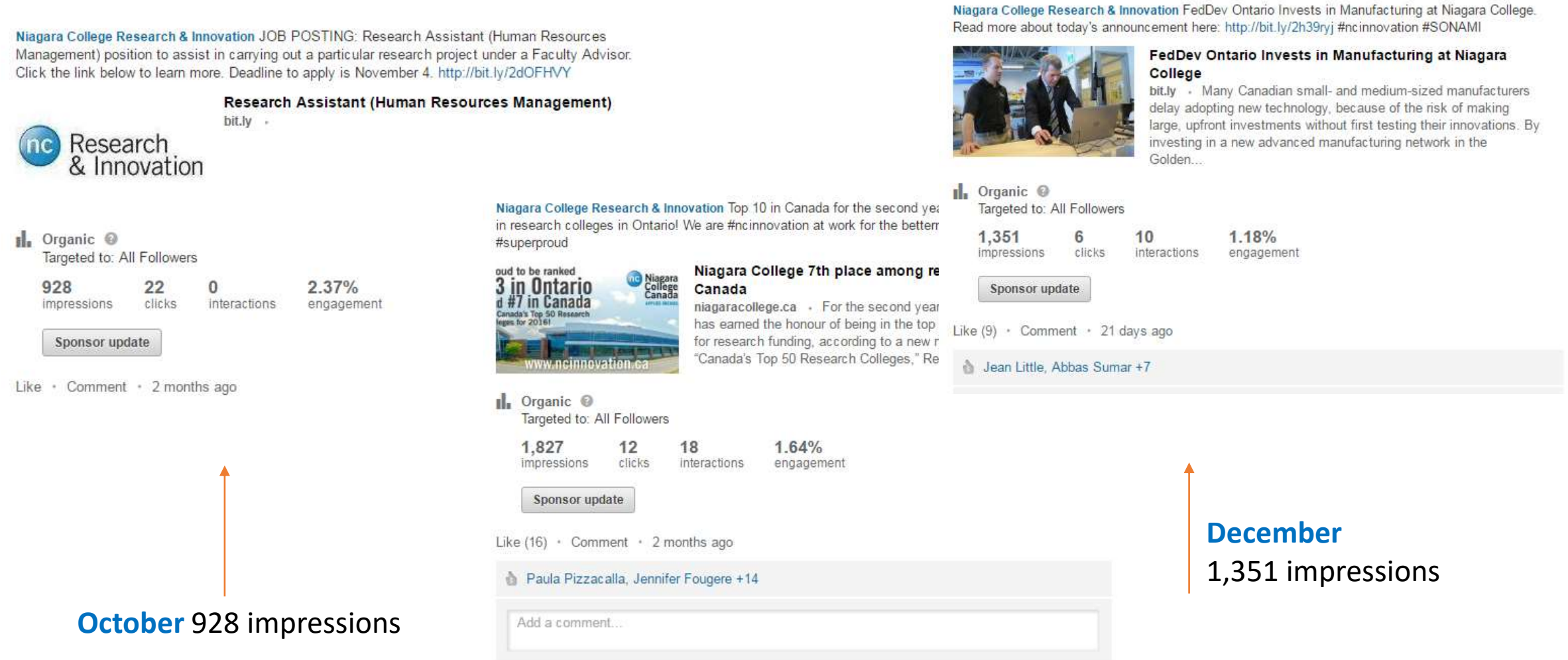
↑ **December**
 5,078 impressions



2,021 followers

SOCIAL MEDIA: [LinkedIn](#)

TIMELINE As of December 2016



October 928 impressions

December
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November 1,827 impressions

For more information visit: **ncinnovation.ca**

SOLUTIONS FOR INDUSTRY

Providing innovation solutions to business and key industry sectors through applied research in partnership with Niagara College faculty and students.