

## A contest the falls cannot lose; Time to choose world's 7 new natural wonders

Posted By Law, John

Posted 2 hours ago

April will mark 18 years since I moved to Niagara Falls, and while we haven't always seen eye to eye I've never loved the actual falls more.

I'm convinced everyone who moves here has a relationship with our namesake in three stages.

First is infatuation: You can't believe you can see the falls whenever you want. Your parents had to drive hundreds of kilometres to bring you here as a kid, now it's practically in your backyard! Like newlyweds, you can't get enough of each other.

Then comes resentment: You start hating tourist season. You can't get any 'alone' time with your waterfalls any more. You avoid the whole tacky, tawdry scene. You even gripe about turning your wipers on while driving through the mist. The thrill is gone, baby.

Then comes acceptance: You look past the casinos, museums and attractions and come to appreciate the falls for what they are - one of the most beautiful things nature ever produced. You feel protective of them. They've become a part of your life, and that connection can't be described in a cheesy tourist pamphlet. Now you understand why people have written books about them.

They are, despite all the naysayers, a true natural wonder. And now it's time to make it official.

You might recall something last year called the New 7 Wonders.

A Swiss-based panel of deep thinkers compiled 77 sites, whittled it down to 21, then let the public decide the top seven. The final list can be seen at [www.new7wonders.com](http://www.new7wonders.com).

Niagara Falls didn't make it. It was never in the running, actually. One thing the website didn't make clear is that the 'new' seven wonders were actually man-made structures. The criteria was "landmarks" built or "discovered" before 2000.

Folks figured Niagara Falls was a lock. After all, we're one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, right?

Nope. The original list, compiled close to 500 years ago by a Dutch architect, consisted of the pyramids of Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Tower of Pharos in Alexandria, and the Colossus of Rhodes.