

legal matters | ESTATES & TRUSTS



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Q. Can I make an estate plan with my partner if we are not married?

A. Yes. A revocable living trust can be established to allow you to specify how your assets are to be handled both during your lifetime and after your death. By transferring assets from your name as an individual to that of trustee of the trust, you avoid having the court make decisions for you should you become incapacitated or when you die.

Alter ego trusts are a tangible example of a revocable living trust. Such trusts are popular for ownership of assets that are needing protection as it reduces the likelihood your spouse would later transfer sole ownership to joint tenants with a new partner.

A joint partner trust is another example of a revocable living trust with the same qualifying criteria as an alter ego trust but it serves the interests of two settlors instead of one. Such a trust may benefit a couple (unmarried or married) who wish to transfer ownership of their assets to a trust to try prevent a future partner from seeking and obtaining property rights after death of one of the settlors.

Thinking of implementing an estate plan...call us to discuss!

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NIAGARA FALLS TOURISM



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THE SUN SETS, AND NIAGARA FALLS COMES ALIVE

The words feel backward for a visit to a natural wonder, but as the coloured lights from the Niagara Falls Illumination – a bank of lights that set the three waterfalls aglow in colour every evening – signal the beginning of the night, the heartbeat of Niagara Falls begins to pound. Niagara Falls is the entertainment capital of Canada.

Enter the Clifton Hill district, and the entertainment hub of downtown Niagara Falls.

Enjoy live music events, such as the upcoming Niagara Falls Music Live beginning Dec. 27 celebrating the return of live music over six nights in 20 venues with 75+ performances, including New Year's Eve with Blue Rodeo, Serena Ryder and Crown Lands.

Find all the event details at musiclive.ca

For theatre buffs, the famous Shaw Festival, one of North America's finest cultural attractions in Niagara-on-the-Lake is only minutes away.

My son couldn't wait to dodge dinosaurs while sinking putts at Dinosaur Adventure Golf, and by the second hole, had his eyes on the video game style go-kart track that awaited us at Niagara Speedway.

My daughter and my wife were busy visiting their favourite celebrities in one of two Hollywood-themed wax museums just steps from where our taxi had dropped us.

The entrance to the 53 metre Skywheel is more active than the wheel itself. Bordered by bowling

alleys, classic carnival midway games and indoor circuses? Yes, a simple purchase of a fun pass allowed my family into three different choice events, and before we knew what was next, my daughter and I were guiding each other through mazes of mirrors, ribbons and laughter.

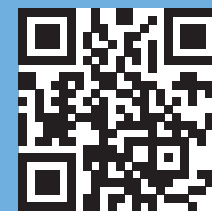
South of us is the Fallsview Indoor Waterpark, a three-acre water slide paradise. And just above our heads, screaming voices emanate from a roller coaster that appears to be running in and out of a building.

My daughter squeezes her fun pass tight.

"Dad, this is much more than just a waterfall."

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