



Rideau Waterway: 2000 - 2012

Canadian Heritage River Monitoring Report

May 2012



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Foreword

Canadian Heritage Rivers represent part of the very essence of Canada. They are the ancient highways, evoking stories of the people who have travelled their banks and relied on them for life's most basic necessities of food, water and transportation. They host fragile ecosystems while simultaneously sustaining the socio-economic life of their communities. As part of the great network of Canada's most precious national treasures, stewardship of these important rivers is an investment for all Canadians.

The Rideau Waterway, which runs through the heart of Eastern Ontario, has borne witness to the history of the settlements along its shores. It has had a critical impact on shaping their identities as industrial hubs, recreational havens, unique tourism destinations and beloved communities.

As the lead agency responsible for its administration, Parks Canada is protecting the Rideau Waterway for present and future generations, imparting to Canadians its significance, offering accessibility and exciting visitor experience opportunities, and involving the people of Canada in maintaining the universal values for which it has been endeared to the world.

With multiple levels of government, First Nations and Métis Peoples, non-governmental organizations, private sector stakeholders and landowners all working together, the integrity of this magnificent Canadian Heritage River will endure for generations to come. With conscientious economic development, sustainable management and sustainable tourism as hallmarks of our collaborative stewardship, Parks Canada is proud of its role in building a strong future for the Rideau Waterway.

Don Marrin
Superintendent, Rideau Canal National Historic Site
Parks Canada

Executive Summary

This monitoring report is the first for the Rideau Waterway, designated a Canadian Heritage River in 2000 for its outstanding cultural and recreational values. Public appreciation and understanding of the significance of the waterway has grown steadily since that time, and the number of stakeholders engaged in its conservation, stewardship and celebration has continued to rise. The designation of the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007 was a tribute to the hard work and commitment of many individuals, organizations and governments.

This report documents the state of the Rideau Waterway in terms of its cultural and recreational values. It outlines the key issues affecting the waterway and management actions Parks Canada has undertaken to address them, including:

- Investments in cultural resource conservation, including critical assets such as dams and locks;
- Select management practices in order to ensure appropriate cultural resource management;
- Assessment of cultural landscapes and the visual character of the waterway;
- Collaboration among various levels of government to ensure more coordinated and sustainable planning and development;
- Projects to encourage recreational use of the waterway and public appreciation, understanding and celebration of its heritage values;
- Programmes to protect the health of the natural environment and safeguard water quality; and
- Building relationships with Aboriginal communities with respect to the Rideau Waterway.



Figure 1. The Rideau Canal in Ottawa. Photo: Ottawa Tourism

Overall, the report concludes that while the Rideau faces continual challenges to its values and integrity, actions that have been initiated by Parks Canada and its many partners have served to enhance the state of the waterway overall. There are also several key ongoing initiatives that will serve to further strengthen the management framework for the Rideau Waterway into the future.

1.0 Introduction

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. The program is a cooperative effort of federal and provincial/territorial governments that work to ensure the long-term management and conservation of Canada's river heritage. Rivers are nominated for their natural, cultural and recreational heritage values. They are monitored to ensure that they maintain the values for which they were nominated. The designation carries no regulatory weight; governance remains as it was before the designation.

This is the first Canadian Heritage River monitoring report prepared for the Rideau Waterway, separate from the CHRS annual reporting. It covers the period between 2000 and 2012, and its purpose is to identify and assess the following:

- the overall state of the waterway in relation to the values for which it was designated and the Canadian Heritage River System integrity criteria;
- management actions taken by Parks Canada as the lead management agency, in cooperation with others, to conserve the cultural and recreational values for which the waterway was designated.

For the purposes of this report, it is important to note the distinctions in the following terms:

- ***The Rideau Canal*** is the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada, which includes the navigable waterway system, including the engineering works and Parks Canada administered lands;
- ***The Rideau Waterway*** is the waterway designated as a Canadian Heritage River which includes the Rideau Canal, the Rideau River in Ottawa and the Tay Canal;
- ***The Rideau Canal World Heritage Site*** is the site inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and includes the Rideau Canal and the Tay Canal, as well as Fort Henry and the Kingston Fortifications National Historic Sites;
- ***The Rideau corridor*** describes the broader setting of the Rideau Canal, including the communities, roadways and landscapes along its length that are visually, historically, socially or economically associated with the waterway.

2.0 Background

The Rideau Waterway, most of which is recognized as the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada, was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 2000. In 2002, the southern section of the waterway was included as part of the Frontenac Arch UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In 2007, it was honoured with yet another distinction; the Rideau Canal was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Behind each of these designations are many individuals, governments and organizations dedicated to the conservation and celebration of the Rideau Waterway. Not only are these designations an honour, but each represents another milestone along the road to building broad public appreciation and understanding of the values of the Rideau, and a commitment to its stewardship into the future.

The Rideau Waterway is more than a canal; it is an engineered “slackwater” system of lakes and rivers, linked with canal cuts and locks. It winds through Eastern Ontario from Canada's capital city of Ottawa to Kingston, connecting the Ottawa River and Lake Ontario. It was built as a military supply route early in the 19th century as part of the defensive strategy for British North America.



Figure 2. Jones' Falls Lockstation. Photo: Parks Canada

2.1 History

First Nations peoples of North America have always had, and continue to have, a strong connection with waterways. The rivers, lakes, streams and marshes that were transformed to construct the Rideau Canal in the 1820s are no exception, especially the Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers. The waterways were an integral part of the livelihood of First Nations peoples prior to European contact for all aspects of existence including fishing, hunting and gathering, transportation, trade, as well as cultural and spiritual gatherings.

Most of the Rideau Waterway, from Ottawa to the height of land between the Rideau and Cataraqui watersheds near Kingston, is included in the Algonquins' of Ontario land claim currently under negotiation with the Government of Canada. The Algonquins were already travelling the Kitchisibi River (now known as the Ottawa River) and its tributary valleys when the French moved into the area in the early 1600s.

In the southern end of the waterway, the area in the vicinity of Kingston was largely controlled by the Iroquois prior to 1700. Between 1700 and the American War of Independence, the

Mississauga moved into the area.¹ At the end of the American War of Independence, a migration of loyalists, including First Nations loyalists (primarily Mohawks), began to settle throughout what would become the Rideau Waterway corridor.

Following the War of 1812, in the face of ongoing threat of American invasion, the British government initiated construction of the Rideau Canal to support the defence of British North America. The establishment of Bytown (eventually Ottawa) and the creation of a navigable waterway led to increased European settlement throughout the area.

Constructed between 1826 and 1832 under the leadership and supervision of Lieutenant Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers, the Rideau Canal was one of the first canals built to accommodate steamboats. With the help of First Nation peoples, and throngs of Irish, French-Canadian and Scottish labourers, the Royal Engineers carved out a canal route that ran through a remote wilderness region that presented wide range of engineering and logistical challenges. The Rideau Canal has long been recognized as an engineering marvel, and remains the most outstanding surviving example of an early 19th-century canal system in North America.



Figure 3. Lieutenant Colonel John By.
Image: Library and Archives Canada

The canal includes 47 locks at 24 lockstations, most of which are still operated by hand as they were when the canal first opened in 1832. The canal remains operational for locking boats through the system, but also for controlling water levels and flows over a vast watershed extending across Eastern Ontario.

The Rideau Canal is a defining feature of the region, having transformed the geography and shaped the history of each of the communities along its length. The canal's construction flooded huge areas, creating lakes out of wetlands and navigable rivers out of streams.

Huge wetland areas were created along the route, many of which are recognized today for their ecological significance and diversity. Canal workers and contractors who settled in the region left their marks on the architecture and landscape. Industrial centres grew up in places such as Smiths Falls, Perth and Merrickville. The City of Ottawa exists because of the Rideau Canal and owes much of its early development and eventual political prominence to the canal's construction.

Travelling along the waterway today brings a visitor through highly urban enclaves, park-like settings, towns and villages, rural farmland and small hamlets, forested areas and wetlands. Visitors paddle through areas of spectacular natural beauty, stroll down historic streets leading to the water, drive through the rural countryside to visit a lockstation and watch the boats being

¹ Osborne, Brian S. and Michael Ripmeester. 1995. "Kingston, Bedford, Grape Island, Alnwick: The Odyssey of the Kingston Mississauga" in *Historic Kingston*: Kingston Historical Society, Kingston, Ontario. Vol 43, p. 87.

locked through, or eat “Beavertails” on the frozen skateway in Ottawa. Residents walk, cycle or skate to work along the canal, run nearby village shops that serve canal visitors, work century farms along its shores, or go swimming or fishing near their cottages. Whether one enjoys sightseeing, active living or quiet contemplation, the Rideau Waterway has a unique identity and a remarkable spirit.

2.2 Policy and Management Context

The Rideau Waterway consists of the Rideau Canal and River in the City of Ottawa, the 202 km navigable waterway linking the lakes and rivers of the Rideau and Cataraqui River systems between Ottawa and Kingston, and the Tay Canal connecting the Rideau Canal with the Town of Perth. The Rideau Canal has been under the administration of Parks Canada since 1972, when it was transferred from the Department of Transport. Since that time, all levels of government have recognized its outstanding cultural and recreational values.

The first management plan for the Rideau Canal National Historic Site was prepared by Parks Canada in 1996. In 1998, the Rideau Waterway Coordinating Committee came together to nominate the waterway for Canadian Heritage River status. The Committee was led by the Rideau Valley and Cataraqui Region conservation Authorities, local watershed management agencies that protect and manage water and other natural resources in partnership with government, landowners and other organizations. The Rideau Waterway was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 2000 and a “Bridging Document” was prepared to illustrate how the human heritage and recreational values for which it was designated would be conserved through the Parks Canada’s *Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan*.

A new *Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan* was prepared in 2005, incorporating the Canadian Heritage River values and a commitment that these be maintained through management actions. That same year, the *Rideau Canal World Heritage Site Management Plan* was prepared as part of the nomination to UNESCO for world heritage status, and ultimately met the requirements for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2007.

The Role of the Rideau Waterway in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (*Rideau Waterway Nomination Document*, p. 8)

- The oldest, continuously-operating canal in North America;
- A military waterway that provided a secure transportation route to key colonial military establishments in the years following the War of 1812;
- A historic waterway which stands as a working, living monument to outstanding early Canadian engineering achievement and workmanship;
- A 202 km long national historic site as recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada [also now a UNESCO World Heritage Site];
- One of the first examples in the system of a river with significant lake environments strongly represented as part of the waterway;
- One of the first examples in the system of the typical central-Canadian “cottage country” element including cottage history, architecture, activities and family traditions;
- A waterway that has undergone three distinct evolutionary periods from military to commercial to recreational;
- An accessible waterway with world-class recreational opportunities for boating, canoeing, hiking, fishing, nature appreciation and scenic driving;
- A river system whose presence has infiltrated the everyday life and identity of the shoreline cities and towns to such an extent that they are clearly, proudly recognized as Rideau Waterway communities.

2.3 Nomination Values

The Rideau Waterway was designated as a Canadian Heritage River for its outstanding human (cultural) heritage and recreational values. In the *Rideau Waterway Nomination Document* (1999), the cultural heritage values were described according to the themes outlined in *A Cultural Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers*, 1997. These included the following:

- Rideau, A Landscape of Contrasts;
- Resource Harvesting: Aboriginal Peoples;
- Riparian Settlement: Siting of Dwellings;
- Water Transport: River Navigation – Navigational Improvements;
- Water Transport: River Navigation – Passenger and Commercial Transport;
- Riparian Settlement: Community Adaptations to Rivers;
- Culture and Recreation: Artistic Expression; and
- Environmental Regulation: Early Flood Control Structures.

The *Rideau Waterway Nomination Document* identified Parks Canada's *Commemorative Integrity Statement* for the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada as a key tool through which to assess the integrity of cultural heritage values for the Rideau Waterway. It provides a framework through which to report on the state of cultural heritage values, as discussed in Chapter 3.0 below.

The *Rideau Waterway Nomination Document* also described the Rideau Waterway's recreational values according to themes, as follows:

- Boating;
- Fishing and hunting;
- Hiking;
- Swimming and water skiing;
- Nature appreciation; and
- Heritage appreciation.

Chapter 4.0 provides an assessment of the state of recreational values according to these themes.

Because of its very nature as an engineered waterway with locks, dams and other man-made structures throughout the system, the Rideau could not be considered for nomination on its natural heritage values. According to CHRS natural integrity criteria, Canadian Heritage Rivers should not have any man-made impoundments within the nominated sections.

3.0 Cultural Heritage Values

Parks Canada's National Historic Site *Commemorative Integrity Statement* for the Rideau Canal details the national significance that is attributed to the Rideau Waterway Canadian Heritage River. Based on the deliberations of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1924, the reasons for the Rideau Canal's national historic significance include the following:

- the construction of the canal system;
- the survival of a high number of original canal structures including locks, blockhouses, dams, weirs and original lockmasters' houses plus the integrity of most lockstations; and
- the unique historical environment of the canal system.

The *Commemorative Integrity Statement* is a key tool for managing cultural heritage values. In 2008, Parks Canada conducted a Commemorative Integrity Evaluation of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site, which included an assessment of the condition of cultural resources and the application of selected management practices. Using criteria to evaluate a matrix of considerations, elements of these were rated as Good ●, Fair ▼ or Poor ■.

"The Commemorative Integrity Statement calls the canal a unique historical environment, including not only locks and dams but also wetlands, cottage areas, undeveloped shorelines, farms, small towns and village scenery. Taken all together, this waterway presents a living cultural landscape that is at once historic, scenic, natural and man-made."

(*Rideau Waterway Nomination Document to the Canadian Heritage River System*, p. 5)



Figure 4. The stone arch dam at Jones' Falls. Photo: Parks Canada

3.1 Resource Condition ▼

Overall, the evaluation determined that the waterway as a designated national historic site maintains its integrity and authenticity, which was recognized in the designation of the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The condition of the designated place was rated as Good ●, but the overall condition of cultural resources was rated as Fair ▼. A more detailed breakdown of the assessment of resource condition by resource type is described below.

Physical Resources

The present configuration of the Rideau Waterway was established 180 years ago through the construction of locks and dams along the Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers. The cultural resources identified in the Rideau Canal *Commemorative*

Integrity Statement as being linked with its national significance (Parks Canada “Level 1” resources) include:

- the original engineering works dating from the original construction period of 1826-1832, including 40 of the 47 locks and 18 of the 40 dams;
- buildings dating from the British construction administration period pre-1855 (12 defensible lockmasters’ houses, 4 blockhouses, the blacksmith’s shop at Jones Falls, the Commissariat building at Ottawa Locks);
- lockstation landscapes;
- archaeological sites including underwater sites;
- archival material and archaeological artifacts.

The *Commemorative Integrity Statement* also identifies a range of “Level 2” resources (those of heritage value, but not directly connected with the reasons for the site’s designation as a national historic site), including engineering works, buildings, archaeological sites, artifacts, historic objects and archival material, and natural ecosystem features (lands, waters, plants and animals) that are important components of the canal’s history and landscape.

The condition of buildings and structures was rated as Fair ▼ in the 2008 evaluation. The conservation of these assets is critical to maintaining the integrity of the Rideau Waterway.

Many assets, such as dams and bridges, are essential to public safety, security of property and the integrity of natural and cultural resources. The Commemorative Integrity evaluation identified challenges such as water infiltration, vegetation infestation and corrosion, which affect the structural integrity of engineering works and other built resources. \$19 million in capital funding provided through the 2005 and 2009 federal budgets has improved the overall condition of these assets and asset management capacity and systems have been improved.

The condition of archaeological sites was rated as Fair ▼ in the Commemorative Integrity Evaluation and the condition of objects (archival material and artifacts) was rated as Good ●.

Resource Condition	State of
Physical Resources	▼
Overall Rating	
Designated place	●
Buildings and structures	▼
Archaeological sites	▼
Objects	●
Landscape and landscape features	Not rated
Other heritage resources (natural resources)	Not rated

Figure 5. Summary of the condition of cultural resources on the Rideau Canal from the Commemorative Integrity Evaluation, 2008

Natural features and cultural landscapes

Many natural resources are critical to the commemorative integrity of the Rideau Waterway. The lakes and wetlands that were created from the drowning of lands during the construction of the Rideau Canal are identified in the *Commemorative Integrity Statement* as Level 1 cultural

resources. They are not only important for reflecting the history of the canal's construction, but also for maintaining the overall health and sustainability of the broader waterway and the quality of the visitor experience.

Beyond the Level 1 resources, there are other natural features, such as fish habitats, wetlands and shorelands that were not necessarily created as a result of canal construction but have been recognized in the *Commemorative Integrity Statement* as integral to the health of the broader ecosystem. The site has approximately 1600 km of shoreline, 4640 km² of watershed drainage basin and many islands. Wetlands comprise 16% of the shorelines, and include 26 identified as provincially significant. There is a wide range of protected species at risk that live in the Rideau Canal and on adjacent lands, and the canal provides habitat to one of the most diverse fish communities in Canada.

The condition of landscapes and natural resources were not rated in the evaluation because there was no framework to adequately assess the condition of these resources from a cultural heritage viewpoint. Increased development pressures and nutrient loading (the latter often caused by the former) were identified as key areas of concern for both cultural landscapes and natural features such as wetlands. There is a need to

assess and monitor the condition of natural resources and cultural landscapes along the waterway, in order for Parks Canada and its partners and stakeholders to minimize or eliminate the negative impacts of development activities, especially along the shorelines. The protection of the visual setting, largely beyond Parks Canada-administered lands, presents a challenge for the site in terms of both commemorative integrity and the quality of visitor experience opportunities. The steps taken to address this issue are described in section 3.3 below.

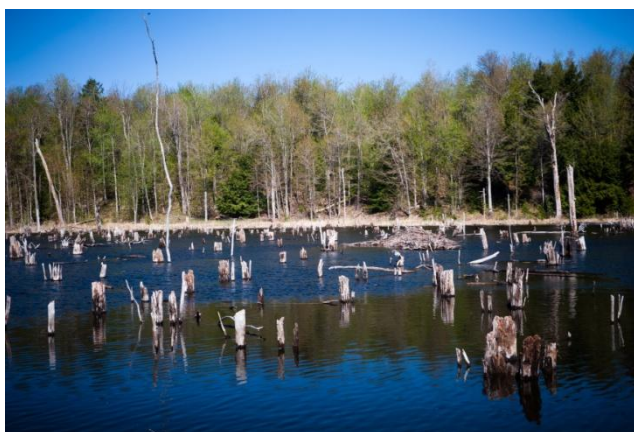



Figure 6. Drowned lands, evidence of flooding caused by the construction of the Rideau Canal.
Photo: Parks Canada

3.2 Selected management practices ▼

The 2008 Commemorative Integrity Evaluation for the Rideau Canal examined several key areas of management practice, including inventory and resource evaluation, respect for cultural resource management principles and practices (including natural resource management), maintaining records of interventions, maintenance programs, monitoring and remedial action.

Strengths that were identified included:

- Engineering monitoring and reporting. There is comprehensive and up-to-date evaluation and condition reporting of the dams, buildings and engineering works along the waterway.
- Inventory of submerged cultural resources. An extensive inventory of submerged and near shore archaeological sites was conducted in 2005.
- Building understanding of cultural resource management principles and practices with partners and stakeholders. Parks Canada works with a wide range of partners and stakeholders in all aspects of its management and operations, including government and non-government organizations, contractors, licensees and tenants, etc. The principles of cultural resource management are communicated and applied in a wide range of projects, on and off site, ranging from docks to large developments.

The one Poor  rating was in record keeping and data management, in that there is an absence of much-needed geo-referenced, coordinated data management for the waterway as a whole. This is needed in order to make decisions regarding archaeology, built heritage, realty, natural resources, operational and visitor services in an integrated and informed manner. There are also inadequate records relating to in-house interventions on buildings or engineering works, and no long-term conservation strategy for major heritage engineering works including dams and locks.

Since the evaluation, Parks Canada has established a Directive for Dam Safety (2009), which defines best management practices for dams. Many of the requirements of this directive have been initiated for the dams on the Rideau Waterway, including 3rd party Dam Safety Reviews and internal engineering inspections. There are additional requirements of the Dam Safety Directive which have not been fully implemented including documenting operations and maintenance programs and emergency planning.







Selected Management Practices	State of
Overall	
Inventory and Cultural Resource Evaluation	
Respect for Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Principles and Practices	
Records	
Maintenance Programs	
Monitoring and Remedial Action	

Figure 7. Assessment of select management practices for cultural resources, from the Commemorative Integrity Evaluation, 2008

3.3 Collaborative conservation

Since before the Rideau Waterway's Canadian Heritage River designation, Parks Canada has worked with the municipalities along the waterway to ensure appropriate development along the shoreline and on lands adjacent to the Rideau Canal. Some of the key milestones in this regard since the CHRS designation include:

- The designation of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, which includes the southern section of the Rideau Waterway, and reflects a commitment to sustainable planning and development in that area (2002);
- An inventory of cultural features and attractions in the Rideau corridor was undertaken, leading to the creation of the Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association (2004-05);
- A network of municipal heritage committees and cultural heritage interests, known as the Rideau Heritage Network, was initiated (2004);
- An informal network of municipal planners in the Rideau Waterway corridor was formed, meeting periodically together to discuss planning challenges and strategies (2005);
- Parks Canada developed formal Policies for In-water and Shoreline Works and Related Activities for the Rideau and Trent-Severn Waterways (2007);
- The Rideau Waterway Development Review Team has evolved. The "Team" is essentially a process through which Parks Canada, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority cooperate on the review of shoreline applications, ensuring an integrated and consistent approach across the waterway; and
- Parks Canada monitors and comments on planning policy and development applications in the Rideau corridor, and provides advice to municipalities where appropriate to encourage sympathetic and environmentally responsible development along the Waterway.

In response to the World Heritage Site nomination of the Rideau Canal, ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) undertook an evaluation in 2006/07, which included a detailed site inspection by an internationally recognized canal expert.

The ICOMOS evaluation identified external development pressure as a key threat to the visual setting of the canal, stating that,

- *The canal is not under any major threat but that incremental development over time could impact on the setting of the canal;*
- *That the visual setting of the canal needs clearer definition and appropriate protection to ensure the visual values of the setting are protected alongside environmental values;*
- *The current monitoring could be extended to include the wider setting of the canal once key vistas and visual envelopes have been identified.*

(ICOMOS Evaluation for the World Heritage Site Nomination, Report No. 1221 – The Rideau Canal (Canada), January 2007).

The World Heritage Committee agreed with the ICOMOS evaluation and recommended as part of the designation that, “consideration be given to strengthening its visual protection outside the buffer zone, in order to ensure the visual values of the setting are protected alongside environmental values.” This recommendation aligns with the Canadian Heritage River System Integrity Guidelines regarding protecting the visual character, ensuring appreciation of its historic importance and the experience of its cultural and natural environment.

In 2008, Parks Canada initiated dialogue with provincial and municipal partners on what would become the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy, an effort to take a coordinated approach to planning and development along the Rideau Waterway. Following a public forum and key stakeholder forum in 2009, a steering committee was created that includes representation from First Nations, federal agencies, the Province of Ontario, the two conservation authorities, three county-level governments, and all 13 municipalities in the Rideau corridor. The committee is supported by a Parks Canada secretariat and a technical advisory group of planners.



Figure 8. Aerial view of Merrickville.

Photo:

Parks Canada



Figure 9. Rideau Landscape Forum 2009. Photo: Parks Canada

The collective goals of the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy are to conserve the unique character of the Rideau corridor, to ensure strong, sustainable communities along the Rideau and to help realize the economic potential of the World Heritage Site designation. The first major project launched as part of the Strategy is a Landscape Character Assessment of the Rideau Canal. The terms of reference of the assessment was developed cooperatively by the Steering Committee, the Planners' Technical Advisory Group

and the Parks Canada Secretariat. The project team started their work in January 2012, and is scheduled to be

completed by December 2012. Over the course of the year, the significant cultural and natural landscapes and values of the corridor will be mapped and characterized, with sensitive areas and key views and viewsheds identified. The resulting map will enable all jurisdictions to have ready access to the data to facilitate integrated and informed planning decisions. Recommendations

will be provided in terms of appropriate planning and management tools to protect the character and values of the waterway corridor.

The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy is building on the collaborative efforts of the Canadian Heritage River and World Heritage Site designations to work toward our shared goals. The Steering Committee includes an unprecedented number of governmental organizations with decision-making authority in the waterway corridor, which reflects the strong commitment to maintaining integrity of the Rideau Waterway.


4.0 Recreational Values

The Rideau Waterway continues to be well-known for its diverse and high quality recreational opportunities. In 2008, the National Geographic Society ranked the Rideau Canal the 2nd most authentic, sustainable destination in the world². The waterway winds through a variety of cultural and natural areas, offering a range of unique experience opportunities. Whether boating, paddling, driving, walking, cycling or skating, Parks Canada surveys have shown that visitors leave with memories that connect their hearts and minds to this special place.




4.1 Assessment of Recreational Values



The table below lists the recreational values for which the Rideau Waterway was designated and describes the current status of each. It identifies any threats posed to these activities, and outlines significant management actions undertaken by Parks Canada to address these.


Table 1. Assessment of Recreational Values of the Rideau Waterway

Recreational Values	Current Status	Threats	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
1. Boating  <p>Figure 10. New docks for paddling. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	Enhanced. Facilities for paddlers and motorized pleasure cruisers have been improved since designation. Examples include the installation of new docks and shore power for boaters in particular locations along the Rideau Canal.	Issues of visitor safety have been raised in some areas due to conflict between user groups. In the long term, climate change, whether through droughts or extreme weather events, may impact on navigation.	In 2009, Parks Canada launched its “Boating Safely” campaign to address visitor safety risks. No specific studies or actions have been undertaken to address climate change on the Rideau Waterway.
2. Angling	No change. The	Controlling water levels	The Lower Rideau

² National Geographic Traveller website: <http://traveler.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/historic-destinations-rated/list-text>

 <p>Figure 11. Fishing at Narrows Lockstation. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	<p>Rideau still boasts world-class fishing, with one of the most diverse fish communities in Canada. Projects have been undertaken in Ottawa, Wolfe Lake, and Big Rideau Lake specifically intended to improve fish spawning habitat.</p>	<p>in the Rideau River has the potential to impact fish and other aquatic species at key lifecycle stages.</p>	<p>Watershed Strategy (2005) identified strategic management actions for fine tuning controls on water levels and flows. Parks Canada has since engaged in a multi-year adaptive management study to determine best practices for winter water level management in the Ottawa reach. This has provided a better understanding of the impact on fish and methods to minimize these impacts.</p>
<p>3. Water contact (Swimming, water skiing, snorkelling, Scuba)</p> 	<p>No change. Swimming and water skiing continue to be popular in various parts of the Rideau Waterway.</p>	<p>Nutrient loading from adjacent land use, including intensified shoreline development can affect the amount of aquatic vegetation and thus the appeal of the waterway for swimmers.</p> <p>Nutrient loading can also contribute to algal blooms, some of which can be harmful to swimmers.</p>	<p>Parks Canada and conservation authorities continue to provide input with regard to stormwater management for new development.</p> <p>The Eastern Ontario Algae Partnership was created in 2010 to work with other partner groups in monitoring algal blooms and managing impacts.</p>
<p>4. Water-associated Activities (Trails, camping, hunting)</p>  <p>Figure 12. "Learn to camp" programme at Long Island Lockstation. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	<p>Enhanced. New trail initiatives since designation, building on the existing 300km Rideau Trail between Ottawa and Kingston. Parks Canada also piloted a "Learn to camp" programme for new Canadians in 2011.</p>	<p>Private land development along the shoreline which compromises the ability to link trails along the waterway corridor.</p>	<p>The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy will enable more coordination among jurisdictions responsible for planning and development along the shoreline.</p>

<p>5. Winter activities</p>  <p>Figure 13. Skaters on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	<p>No change. The Rideau corridor still offers excellent cross-country ski trails, including along the Rideau Trail. For several weeks each winter, 7.8 km of the Rideau Canal in Ottawa becomes the world's largest skating rink.</p> <p>Ice fishing continues to be popular in many locations along the waterway.</p> <p>New winter festivals have been launched, such as "Portland Skate the Lake."</p>	<p>Climate change is reducing the viability of the Rideau Canal skateway in Ottawa and other winter activities.</p>	<p>The City of Ottawa created the "Rink of Dreams", a new artificially frozen outdoor rink near the waterway at City Hall.</p>
<p>6. Natural heritage appreciation</p>  <p>Figure 14. Stinkpot turtle. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	<p>Enhanced. Parks Canada, the conservation authorities, and others have developed new programmes to showcase natural heritage.</p> <p>Interpretive programs have been developed to increase awareness and appreciation of the unique ecosystems, flora, and fauna of the Rideau Canal with a specific focus on species at risk.</p> <p>The two provincial parks along the waterway, Murphy's Point Provincial Park and Rideau River Provincial Park each provide a range of opportunities for natural heritage appreciation, as well as other recreational activities.</p>	<p>Development pressures are occurring on lands previously considered "marginal" because they include wetlands or other natural features that pose challenges for development.</p> <p>Development in these areas could compromise wildlife habitat and the public's overall appreciation of the natural heritage of the waterway.</p>	<p>Parks Canada and the conservation authorities provide input into applications for development adjacent to the waterway in order to mitigate impacts of development on wildlife, especially species at risk.</p> <p>The landscape character assessment project to be completed in December 2012 (part of the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy) will identify scenic areas, including natural heritage areas. The findings will be incorporated into the planning processes of government departments at all levels.</p>

<p>7. Human heritage appreciation</p>  <p>Figure 15. Interpreters in period costume. Photo: Parks Canada</p>	<p>Enhanced. The World Heritage designation raised the public profile of the Rideau Canal and showcased its outstanding universal values. Since that time, there has been greater recognition of and protection for the human heritage of the waterway.</p> <p>Many new interpretive programs and exhibits have been developed since 2000, and more coordinated approaches to tourism have helped to enhance human heritage appreciation.</p>	<p>Development pressures could threaten the heritage character of the waterway.</p>	<p>The landscape character assessment project noted above, to be completed in December 2012, will identify cultural heritage landscapes and features. The findings from this assessment will be incorporated into the planning processes of government departments at all levels.</p>
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FISH HABITAT CREATION PROJECTS AT CHAPMAN MILLS

Chapman Mills Conservation Area is the site of two new “fish habitat compensation projects” to improve the quantity and quality of fish habitat along the Rideau River/Canal shoreline within the City of Ottawa. The fish habitat compensation projects at the Chapman Mills Conservation Area have:

- Improved water circulation through construction of a connecting channel;
- Created variable depths of water to allow for a more diverse aquatic vegetation community;
- Created spawning, nursery, rearing and food supply habitat for the fish community in the adjacent parts of the Rideau River;
- Provided winter and summer refuge areas for fish; and
- Improved the function of adjacent wetland habitats for aquatic species.

In the fall of 2011, a channel was created to connect an existing inner backwater bay of the Rideau to the main channel and the creation of an additional embayment adjacent to the connecting channel. The final landscaping is to be completed in the spring of 2012. Both projects involve a five-year monitoring program to measure habitat use by native fish species. The spring and fall surveys will also check on habitat integrity, makeup of the aquatic community and quality of the water with recommendations on how to improve any shortfalls in performance.

This increase in the stock of fish habitat on the lower Rideau is in compensation for the partial loss of fish habitat on a tributary of the Jock River and another loss on Mosquito Creek. Fisheries and Oceans Canada approved this compensation project and the work, including the multi-year monitoring program, is entirely financed by the proponents who caused the original loss of habitat. The objective is to ensure that the proposed improvements provide functional habitat and are in keeping with the conservation goals of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the site.

Chapman Mills is a 23-acre parcel of conservation land located on the west bank of the Rideau River on Prince of Wales Drive between Winding Way and Lodge Road. It consists mainly of natural river shoreline, wetlands and flood plain areas that are unique in the City of Ottawa. It was originally given to the Conservation Authority by developers in 2001.



Figure 16. Chapman Mills Conservation Area, Photo: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

4.2 Key Management Actions

Parks Canada works with many other government, private and not-for-profit organizations in order to maintain the recreational values of the Rideau Waterway. There are two key areas where Parks Canada plays a particular role: ensuring safe and accessible recreation, and fostering public appreciation and understanding of the waterway's cultural and natural heritage. Initiatives in these areas are described in more detail below.

Safe and accessible recreation

Recreational use of the Rideau Waterway includes a range of unique activities and user groups. Whether traditional motorized boating, wake-boarding, canoe / kayaking, scuba diving, and much more, many visitors are seeking to enjoy their recreational activity on and in the water.

Public access to the waterway is an important consideration for Parks Canada in encouraging visitors to take advantage of the variety of the recreational activities available. Separate from Parks Canada lockstations, public agencies such as the National Capital Commission, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, and not-for-profit organizations such as the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and private marina operators, play a critical role in providing opportunities for the public to access the waterway. The various parties, along with Rideau Corridor municipalities, work collaboratively in the development process to promote and maintain public access to the water, including road allowances, trails, viewpoints and shoreline amenities.

There is also collaboration on maintaining a trail system along the Rideau Waterway. The two longest trails are the Rideau Trail, extending from Kingston to Ottawa and the Cataraqui Trail, part of the Trans-Canada trail system, extending from Strathcona to Smiths Falls. Outside of those, there are dozens of other smaller trails, located in parks and conservation areas.

Ensuring the safety of all users by mitigating risk and user conflicts is an ongoing process. Over the past 10 years Parks Canada has conducted multiple boater surveys and performed public consultation to help manage public safety risks in particular sections of the waterway. In 2009, Parks Canada launched the **Boating Safely Campaign** to help raise the awareness and importance of safety for all users of the waterway. The campaign is an ongoing program which includes preventative public education initiatives and enhanced training for Parks Canada employees.



Figure 17. Boaters in Merrickville. Photo: Parks Canada

Parks Canada also works very closely with stakeholder groups along the length of the waterway. In 2009, Parks Canada established a working group of partners and stakeholders interested in

public safety and the protection and enjoyment of the Rideau Canal. The recommendations of this committee help Parks Canada make decisions that improve the safety of recreational user groups.

Parks Canada continues the ***Boating Safely Campaign*** and public consultation processes focusing on public safety concerns raised by the public, stakeholders and partners. Visitors and members of the public continue to have opportunities to provide input as Parks Canada forms and implements measures to ensure that all Canadians and visitors to the canal can enjoy safe and high quality experiences when they are on the Rideau Waterway; and that the future and integrity of the site is protected for generations to come.

Public appreciation and understanding

An important part of Parks Canada's mandate is about building public appreciation and understanding for the national historic sites in its care, and this is reflected in the Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan. The Canadian Heritage River designation itself has been commemorated along the waterway, through such means as plaques and artwork at Ottawa Locks and Combined Lockstation in Smiths Falls, and in messaging in the Rideau Canal interpretive trailer. Since 2005, 30 new interpretive plaques and other media have been developed by Parks Canada and others throughout the corridor to promote the cultural and natural heritage of the Rideau Waterway. Exhibits have been renewed at the Bytown Museum in Ottawa, the Merrickville Blockhouse Museum, the Sweeney House (a defensible lockmaster's house at the lockstation) in Jones' Falls and the Rideau Canal Museum in Smiths Falls. New interpretive products are also in development in collaboration with others, such as the "Rideau Canal Timescapes" initiative through Carleton University to develop a Rideau history application for smart phones.

Parks Canada's involvement in festivals and events along the waterway has also served to enhance public

The Rideau Canal Festival was initiated in Ottawa in 2008. In 2009, elementary school students in Ottawa and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan collaborated on an art project to celebrate the history and ecology of the Rideau Canal. Their artwork was displayed on Ottawa buses and bus shelters throughout the summer, raising awareness of the waterway to residents and visitors across the city. The art was also displayed on advertising boards in Montreal and Kingston.



Figure 18. Fireworks at Winterlude.
Photo: National Capital Commission

appreciation of the Rideau Canal. A few of these include Winterlude in Ottawa (685,000 people on the skateway), Canada Day at Ottawa Locks (30,000), the Rideau Canal Festival (152,000), First Capital Day in Kingston (10,000), Merrickville Canalfest (4,000-6,000), Dickinson Days in Manotick (4,000-6,000), the Canal and Railway Festival in Smiths Falls (2,000-4,000), and the Manotick Antique Boat Show (1,000).

Over 175 individual community events, as well as many education programmes and legacy projects, were organized throughout the Rideau Canal corridor in 2007 as part of a year-long celebration of the canal's 175th anniversary and the World Heritage designation. Parks Canada presence at such events has ranged from display booths, to uniformed or costumed interpreters, to the Rideau Canal interpretive trailer with changeable displays, to blacksmith demonstrations with a portable forge, to interpretation on how lock gates are made, to species at risk interpretation, to the Parks Canada Players theatre troupe performing a customized vignette on the history of the Rideau Canal. All of these activities encourage appreciation of the cultural heritage values of the waterway.

Parks Canada was instrumental in the creation and ongoing support of the Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association, a Destination Marketing Organization mandated to promote the Rideau corridor by developing marketing, communications and promotional programs. This organization has enabled a coordinated approach to tourism marketing that makes easier to discover the heritage of the Rideau corridor. The Association promotes the Canadian Heritage Rivers Designation of the Rideau Waterway, the National Historic Site Designation of the Rideau Canal, the UNESCO designations of the Rideau Canal and the Kingston Fortifications, and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, which touches the southern end of the Rideau Canal.

More recently, Parks Canada has been an active participant in the new Regional Tourism Organizations along the Rideau corridor, created by the Province of Ontario since 2009 to promote tourism at a regional scale. Regional Tourism Organizations are independent, industry-led, not-for-profit organizations. They play an important role in supporting competitive and sustainable tourism regions. Each organization provides regional leadership and coordination and works with industry partners to grow tourism through activities like strategic planning, research, product development, training, investment attraction and marketing. The Rideau Waterway falls under the jurisdiction of 3 such regional tourism organizations: RTO 9 – Southeastern Ontario or "The Great Waterway," RTO 10 – the Ottawa and Countryside Tourism Region, and RTO 11 – Haliburton Highlands to the Ottawa Valley.



Figure 19. Blacksmithing demonstration. Photo: Parks Canada

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5.0 Waterway Integrity: Canadian Heritage River System Guidelines

The health of the Rideau depends greatly on the health of the tributaries that flow into the Rideau and Cataraqui Rivers. The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority continue to monitor the health of those tributaries and initiate stewardship projects to improve and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat conditions. Watershed planning and reporting processes have been established that will improve understanding of environmental conditions and stressors. Regular monitoring, analysis and reporting at the watershed level (and in some cases subwatershed level) will provide a baseline of key environmental indicators that will be used to track trends in environmental conditions over time and better inform management decisions along the Rideau River.

Municipalities are also becoming more actively engaged in the protection of waterways. Under the Federal Gas Tax Agreement, funds have been allocated to Canadian municipalities for infrastructure that achieves cleaner air, clean water and lower greenhouse gases. All three county-level municipalities in the Rideau corridor (Lanark County, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville and Frontenac County), have initiated the development of Integrated Community Sustainability Plans. This collective effort is expected to make a significant contribution toward ensuring the integrity of the Rideau Waterway in the long term.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System *Principles, Procedures and Operational Guidelines* (2001) outline a framework for assessing and monitoring the integrity of designated heritage rivers. The table below outlines these principles, the threats to the integrity of the Rideau Waterway, and significant actions, research or studies that have been initiated to address these.

Table 2. Rideau Waterway Integrity

CHRS Integrity Guidelines	Changes or Threats to River Integrity	Significant Actions, Research or Studies
The nominated section is of sufficient size to include significant representations of all the features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding cultural value.	No change or threat to size of waterway.	N/A
The visual character of the nominated section enables uninterrupted appreciation of at least one of the periods of the river's historical importance.	Incremental development along the waterway could impact its visual character.	The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy, as described above.
The key artifacts and sites comprising the cultural values for which the river is nominated are unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses.	An evaluation of the state of cultural resources in 2008 assessed the majority of engineering structures to be in fair to good condition. However, the 23% that are in	Ongoing monitoring and repair of engineering works, buildings and other structures.

	poor condition are at risk of loss of commemorative or structural integrity.	
The water quality of the nominated section does not detract from the visual character or the cultural experience provided by its cultural values.	A variety of threats may contribute to water quality impacts. These include inputs from septic tanks, agricultural land use, stormwater runoff and silt and sediment loading from erosion and waterfront landscaping practices. Moderate visual impacts could result if left unchecked including excessive aquatic vegetation growth, algal blooms, and turbidity.	Ongoing review of stormwater management systems and shoreline construction projects by conservation authorities and Parks Canada; The Eastern Ontario Algae Partnership was created to identify and monitor algal blooms and coordinate with partner agencies to manage water quality.
The river possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities, including those recreational opportunities for which it is nominated.	82% of boaters surveyed in 2008 indicated difficulty boating in some areas due to vegetation growth in the Rideau Canal as a result of increased nutrient levels. Most problems occurred between Merrickville and Smiths Falls and also in the Ottawa urban area. Presence of blue-green algae at select locations limits contact recreational activities in certain areas.	Ongoing review of stormwater management systems and shoreline construction projects by conservation authorities and Parks Canada; Parks Canada manages aquatic vegetation in the navigation channel as part of ongoing operations; The Eastern Ontario Algae Partnership was created to identify and monitor algal blooms and coordinate with partner agencies to manage water quality.
The river's visual appearance is capable of providing river travellers with a continuous natural experience, or a combined natural and cultural experience, without significant interruption by modern human intrusions.	Incremental development along the waterway will impact its visual character.	The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy, as described above.
The river is capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of, or impact to, its natural and cultural values or its visual character.	Boaters and other Rideau Canal recreational users have expressed concern regarding excessive wake and speed in particular sections of the waterway, and the potential for shoreline erosion as a result.	The "Boating Safely" campaign, as described above.

6.0 Building Relationships with Aboriginal Peoples

Parks Canada recognizes the critical need to build relationships with Aboriginal Peoples with respect to the management of the natural and historic places within its care. Since the Rideau Canal's current management plan was approved in 2005, Parks Canada has been steadily working to establish and build relationships with Aboriginal Peoples in support of mutual goals and objectives. While no formal advisory relationships are in place for the overall management of the canal, progress has been made in the areas of realty management, visitor experience and external relations.

The relationship with the Algonquins of Ontario is the most well-established. The first meetings between Rideau Canal staff and the Algonquins were held in the spring of 2005, and since then, significant efforts have been made to tell Algonquin stories on the Rideau Canal. With the support of Parks Canada's Innovation Fund for work with Aboriginal peoples, the Rideau Canal has worked closely with the Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Reserve and at the Omàmiwinini Pimàdjwowin (Algonquin Way of Life) Cultural Centre. Significant collaborations have included a demonstration project to build a birchbark canoe in 2008, the creation of new interpretive panels for the Algonquin Way Cultural Centre and a travelling display within the Rideau Canal interpretive trailer in 2009. Parks Canada undertook an inventory of submerged archaeological resources along the Rideau Canal in 2005, and information about this project has been shared with the Algonquins of Ontario, including a formal presentation in Pikwàkanagàn in 2010.

The relationships between Parks Canada and other First Nations and Métis Peoples in the context of the Rideau Canal are still in their infancy. As the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy was being initiated, Parks Canada made contact with the groups with historical associations with the Rideau to invite their participation³. Representatives from the Algonquins of Ontario and the Alderville First Nation (Mississaugas) participate on the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Steering Committee. The Métis Nation of Ontario participated in the Rideau Landscape Forum hosted by Parks Canada in April 2009. More work is needed in order to enable other Aboriginal communities who may have an interest in working with Parks Canada in relation to the Rideau Canal to do so.

Since 2005, Eastern Ontario Field Unit and Rideau Canal site staff have learned a great deal about the importance and benefits of working with Aboriginal groups such as the Algonquins of Ontario. The Algonquins have consistently demonstrated a strong willingness to share their knowledge, stories and perspectives, leading to better decision-making and enhanced public programming. This relationship is highly valued by Parks Canada and the agency is committed to ensuring its growth and evolution in years to come.

³ These groups included The Algonquins of Ontario and Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Alderville Mississauga First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation on Rice Lake, Mississaugas of New Credit, Mississauga of Scugog First Nation, Mohawks of Akwesasne, and the Odawa Native Friendship Centre (in Ottawa).

7.0 Summary and Conclusions

Parks Canada is proud to be the lead steward of the Rideau Waterway. The Rideau is truly unique in being at once a National Historic Site of Canada, a Canadian Heritage River, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Through management actions undertaken by Parks Canada and others, the Rideau Waterway has maintained or enhanced the cultural and recreational values for which it received Canadian Heritage River designation in the year 2000.

Investments have been made in the physical cultural resources of the Rideau Canal, and Parks Canada will continue to monitor the condition of these, especially critical assets such as dams and locks. Archaeological resources and objects are being inventoried and protected. Select management practices have been put in place to protect cultural resources in the long term. Cultural landscapes and the visual character of the waterway are being assessed as part of the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy, an unprecedented collaboration of government agencies at all levels. Projects have been initiated with multiple partners to encourage recreational use of the waterway in its many forms and to celebrate its heritage values. Initiatives by the Rideau Valley and Cataraqui Region conservation authorities, Parks Canada and others are helping to protect the watersheds, to maintain the health of the natural environment and safeguard water quality so that it will be suitable for recreation for generations to come. In all of these activities, the role of First Nations and Métis Peoples will continue to grow as we work together to build meaningful relationships.

The Canadian Heritage River designation was an important catalyst for many people to come together to build recognition and stewardship for the waterway. Since then, much has been accomplished in terms of support and recognition for the values of the Rideau Waterway and its corridor landscape.

Governments, organizations and private individuals have been making decisions in support of sustainable development in the corridor and there is tremendous community pride and engagement. Parks Canada is committed to working in the spirit of collaboration to conserve, promote and celebrate the values of the Rideau Waterway, while enabling visitors to enjoy all it has to offer.

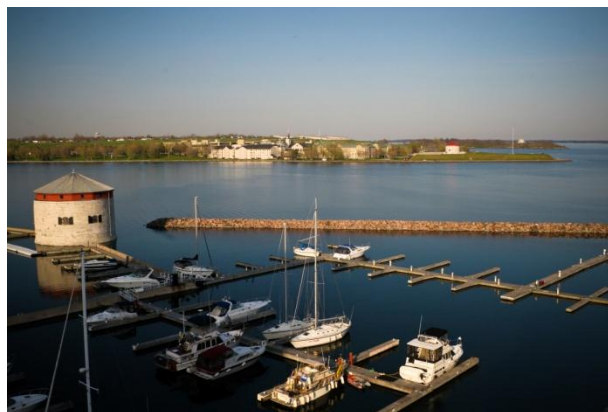


Figure 20. Kingston Harbour and the fortifications at the entrance to the Rideau Canal. Photo: Parks Canada

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Appendix A. Key Developments Since the Canadian Heritage River Designation

The following is a summary of major events, projects and actions, research and monitoring, and policy developments that have affected the Rideau Waterway between 2000 -2012.

2000	<p>Designation of the Rideau Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River</p> <p>Rideau River Biodiversity Study by the Canadian Museum of Nature</p> <p>River Care 2000, a collaborative effort between Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Parks Canada, and Region of Ottawa Carleton</p>
2001	<p>Rideau River State of the River Report by the Research and Monitoring Committee of the Rideau River Roundtable</p> <p>Regular watershed planning/watershed reporting initiated by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority</p>
2002	<p>The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve was designated by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme to promote biodiversity and sustainable land use in this region. The southern portion of the Rideau Waterway is included in this designation</p>
2004	<p>Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association established</p>
2005	<p>Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan is tabled in Parliament</p> <p>Rideau Canal Nomination Document and World Heritage Site Management Plan is submitted to the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO by Parks Canada</p> <p>Federal Budget 2005 - \$12 million invested in Rideau Canal infrastructure</p> <p>Lower Rideau Watershed Strategy completed (Burrill's Rapids through City of Ottawa) and subsequently adopted by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and the City of Ottawa</p> <p>The <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> and the <i>Ontario Planning Act</i> (including the Provincial Policy Statement) are amended, providing stronger protection for cultural heritage resources in the province, including in the Rideau corridor</p> <p>Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Culture spearhead the creation of the Rideau Heritage Network, a network of individuals and organizations along the Rideau Waterway with interest in cultural heritage</p>
2006	<p>Water Quality in Ottawa's Rivers and Streams Report by the City of Ottawa</p>

- 2007 Designation of the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a recommendation for further protection of the canal's visual setting outside the established buffer zone
- 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal – celebrations are held throughout the Rideau corridor
- The Rideau Canal Festival, an annual event to celebrate the canal's heritage, is initiated and launched in Ottawa
- Parks Canada Policies for In-water and Shoreline Works and Related Activities approved and put in force
- 2008 The National Geographic Society declares the Rideau Canal the 2nd most authentic, sustainable destination in the world
- 2009 Federal Budget 2009 - \$7 million invested in Rideau Waterway infrastructure including channel walls, historic swing bridges, dams, locks and new canoe/kayak docks.
- The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy is officially launched, led by a steering committee that includes First Nations, Parks Canada, the National Capital Commission, the Province of Ontario, the conservation authorities and all municipalities in the Rideau corridor
- Parks Canada, in partnership with others, launches "Boating Safely" campaign to ensure safe and high quality experiences to visitors on the Rideau Waterway
- 2010 Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Steering Committee Terms of Reference is approved and a Planners' Technical Advisory Group is established
- The City of Ottawa initiates a geo-data mapping project to build a multi-layer mapping file for the Rideau corridor, using existing studies and reports dating back to the 1970s
- 2011 The Cataraqui Source Protection Area Assessment Report is completed
- 2012 Parks Canada engages Dillon Consulting to undertake the Landscape Character Assessment, due for completion in December 2012

Appendix B. Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan, 2005

The table below outlines the strategic goals identified in the Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan (2005) and describes progress made toward achieving each of these.

Table. Management Plan Recommendations – Rideau Canal Management Plan 2005

Management Plan Recommendation (Strategic Goal)	Key Actions / Progress Toward Goals
<p>Heritage Conservation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage all cultural resources under the stewardship of Parks Canada in accordance with the principles and practices of Cultural Resource Management Policy and the FHBRO Code of Practice where applicable so that the values of these resources as identified in the CIS are safeguarded. 2. Encourage the protection of other cultural resources within the Rideau Canal corridor. 	<p>The condition of engineering works, buildings and structures in Parks Canada lands is monitored to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the Rideau Canal. Capital needs are prioritized based on criteria related to safety, operations, commemorative integrity and visitor experience.</p> <p>Networks have been established of municipal planners and cultural heritage interests, which have led to better planning and decision-making with respect to the Rideau Canal's cultural resources both on and off Parks Canada's lands.</p> <p>Further work is required to understand the visual and landscape values at lockstations and along the canal shorelines in order to encourage appropriate development by Parks Canada and others.</p>
<p>Ecosystem Management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conserve the ecological values of the Rideau Canal corridor. 	<p>Targeted efforts have been made to provide advice and expertise to partner municipalities and agencies in order to mitigate impacts to the natural environment from external pressures. In particular, Parks Canada's role in Environmental Assessment review and approval has been a key tool to ensure ecological values are conserved. Very limited inventory work has been conducted on wetlands and other significant features.</p>
<p>Waterfront Land Use and Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage respect for the natural, cultural and scenic values of the Canal's waterfront lands. 2. To encourage Canal corridor municipalities to adopt planning policies which protect the heritage character of the waterfront and safe and enjoyable use of the Canal. 	<p>Further to Parks Canada advice and involvement in municipal planning processes, corridor municipalities all have policies in the Official Plans for the protection of the Rideau Canal.</p> <p>There has been a large number of environmental assessments and development projects on the Rideau Canal in recent years, many of these being large in scale. Leadership/participation by Parks Canada staff, working with federal, provincial and municipal governments and agencies, have supported protection of cultural and ecological values in the context of these developments.</p> <p>Policies for shoreline and in-water works were developed in cooperation with the Trent-Severn Waterway and shoreline permit applications are reviewed in accordance with these policies.</p>

<p>Heritage Presentation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide opportunities to understand and appreciate the cultural and ecological values of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and Canadian Heritage River within the national context of protected heritage areas. 	<p>Creative new approaches to heritage presentation have been developed including new exhibits, live theatre and a mobile interpretive trailer that have enhanced interpretation on and off-site.</p> <p>The 2005 management plan identified five key lockstations where interpretation could be focused. Enhancements such as personal interpretation (students) were made at these locations, thereby improving learning opportunities.</p>
<p>Visitor Facilities and Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work with others to provide a wide range of appropriate recreational opportunities, facilities and services that enable visitors to enjoy the Canal. 	<p>A basic level of facilities and services is provided and a public safety plan has been prepared. Budget 2005 funds were invested to upgrade facilities such as washrooms or providing hydro access for boaters.</p> <p>Social science research is required to ensure facilities and services meet the future needs and expectations of visitors, especially in the areas of accessibility, and targeting particular market segments (example: cyclists).</p>
<p>Heritage Tourism and Recreation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To promote the Rideau Canal corridor as an authentic, high quality, cultural heritage, and recreational experience while respecting its cultural and ecosystem values. 2. To manage boating activities to promote safe, enjoyable use of the Canal and to reduce conflicts and environmental impact. 	<p>The site provided leadership and invested human and financial resources in the creation of the Rideau Heritage Route, a coordinated tourism initiative to promote the Rideau Corridor. This has since led to the establishment of the Rideau Heritage Route Tourism Association, with representation from area municipalities and regional tourism interests.</p> <p>The Rideau Canal has been promoted using a variety of media, but the effectiveness of these vehicles has not been monitored. The Visitor Experience Assessment identified that Parks Canada's Rideau Canal website presence is weak and requires updating.</p> <p>A safe boating / wash & wake programme was launched in cooperation with partners to ensure visitors enjoy the waterway in a safe and positive manner.</p>
<p>Administration and Operations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To manage the private use of Canal lands and the bed of the Canal in a manner that protects the cultural, natural and scenic values of the Canal, ensures appropriate public use and respects the interests of the occupant. 2. To ensure that all aspects of Parks Canada's activities, facilities and services are guided by the principles of cultural resource management, environmental stewardship and sustainability. 	<p>Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Policy is included as part of contracts and lease agreements on canal lands. Site and Field Unit staff have received training on priority areas such as CRM and environmental assessment to ensure that all internal projects are managed according to conservation and environmental stewardship principles.</p>
<p>Water Management</p> <p>No strategic goal or actions identified in the management plan, only policies</p>	<p>Water levels are managed within established ranges.</p>

<p>Ongoing Partnership and Public Involvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To involve the public in the development and implementation of the management plan and consult with appropriate interests before making important decisions about the operation of the Canal. 	<p>Annual Rideau Canal symposia have provided a dynamic forum for partners, stakeholders and the public to engage with and provide feedback to the site.</p> <p>The Rideau Canal Advisory Committee provided useful guidance on site management for several years. The Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Steering Committee is a key forum for collaborative dialogue with partners at all levels of government.</p>
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Appendix C. Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan, 1996

The table below lists the recommendations in the *Rideau Canal Management Plan* (1996) that were identified in the bridging document, *Designation of the Rideau Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River: A Bridging Document Relating Parks Canada's Rideau Canal Management Plan to Canadian Heritage Rivers System Guidelines* (2000). Many of these themes were incorporated into the 2005 *Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan*.

Table. Management Plan Recommendations: Rideau Canal Management Plan 1996

<i>Rideau Canal National Historic Site Management Plan (1996) recommendations relevant to the Canadian Heritage River Designation of the Rideau Waterway</i>
<p>Influence on historical development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The heritage character of the Rideau's rural and urban cultural landscapes are protected and, where appropriate, enhanced. • Heritage traditions unique to the Rideau Canal are identified and retained. • Cooperation to protect, present and operate the Rideau Canal as a fully functional 19th century canal. • Presentation of the Rideau Canal as a National Historic Site in such a way as to be recognized as a symbol of Canadian identity and achievement – a national treasure of national historic importance. • Cultural resources, including buildings, engineering works and archaeological resources, within the Rideau Canal Corridor are to be evaluated, protected and, where appropriate, presented to the public. • The cumulative impact of proposed development on the Rideau Canal Corridor's environment is to be given careful consideration in any decision-making. • Development along the Rideau is to be in harmony with the scenic and heritage qualities of the surrounding environment; not detract from vistas and views of and from the water; and be sensitive to the diversity and integrity of the corridor's distinctive natural and cultural landscapes. • The preservation of buildings of national historic significance, and those classified by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO). • Use of Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Policy to evaluate buildings not currently classified or recognized. • The maintenance of evolutionary features on buildings, where appropriate, and the assurance those modifications are compatible with historic character. • Parks Canada's production of an inventory of all Canal buildings and develop schedules and guidelines for their maintenance with the aim of preserving their historic fabric.
<p>Associations with people, events or beliefs of Canadian significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To present to Canadians the magnitude, impact and engineering accomplishments associated with construction of the Canal. • To present its role in the military strategy for the defence of 19th century Canada. • To commemorate the Canal's role as an immigration and trade route and its impact on settlement and industry in eastern Ontario.
<p>Historical or archaeological structures or sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An archaeological resource management plan is to be prepared to provide a strategy for the protection and management of archaeological resources. • Inventory work on the location of historic and aboriginal period archaeological resources is to be

<p>completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological sites on Canal lands are to be examined to determine their condition and value. • The protection of sites having high archaeological potential is to take precedence over any work proposed to be carried out at the site.
<p>Representations of major historical themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Canada is committed to ensuring accurate presentation of the cultural and natural heritage of the Canal Corridor through research and service planning. Where appropriate, these activities are carried out in cooperation with others. • Parks Canada takes pride in continuing to increase awareness and appreciation of the Rideau Canal as a 19th century operating Canal, its national historic significance and its natural value. • In cooperation with the public and private sector, services and programming are to be offered which increase awareness of the Canal`s heritage significance and build a constituency of support throughout the Canal Corridor.
<p>Opportunities for enjoyment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there be no net deterioration in water quality. • That the water quality of the Canal be suitable for fishing, swimming and other water-related activities without risk of illness or discomfort. • That water provides suitable habitat for a diversity of aquatic and upland ecosystems. • That tourism and recreation continue to be major sustainable uses of the Rideau Corridor, contributing significantly to the regional economy.
<p>Nature and scenic appreciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Canada is committed to working with others to complete the inventory of the Canal`s wetlands and ecologically related shorelands. • Parks Canada will prepare additional resource management plans for protection and sustainable use of the major wetlands along the Canal, as needed. • Parks Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources will work together in regulating hunting, trapping, and fishing so that sufficient attention is given to ecosystem integrity and wildlife viewing opportunities. • By identifying areas of high biological and interpretive value for protection and nature interpretation, and promoting the preservation of these areas.
<p>Greenspace areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnicking, boat watching and relaxing at lockstations to be encouraged as a way to enjoy and appreciate the Canal`s heritage. • Site planning and the development and implementation of protection guidelines for lockstations. • Designation of certain lockstations as solitude – relative isolation and undeveloped land base to encourage the maintenance of a distinctive traditional character and landscape with minimal enhancement, for visitors to explore and appreciate its historic and natural resources on their own, in a manner compatible with the protection of these resources.
<p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Canada will continue to work with municipalities and other agencies to provide for cycling and jogging facilities and services, and to promote the safe use and enjoyment of these facilities. Where feasible, Parks Canada will support the initiatives of other agencies by allowing trail linkages and cooperative services on Canal lands.


Outdoor activities

- Education programs and opportunities for public involvement in the protection of the Rideau Canal Corridor to foster pride, ownership and stewardship of its natural and heritage values.
- That an environmental assessment be required for major private, municipal, provincial and federal projects and actions that could result in adverse environmental effects on Canal lands, the Canal bed and the Canal in general.

Sustaining the environment and recreational use


- The diversity and productivity of ecological communities is important to maintain and, where necessary, restore.
- Resource harvesting and other economic activities are to be managed to ensure sustainable use.
- Cooperative programs will be developed with other s to carry out fish habitat inventories and management plans, assess game and non-game species, and identify areas of high biological and interpretive value.
- That adjustment in water management procedures is made, recognizing that a balance between navigation and environmental protection is desirable.
- The use of herbicides to control aquatic vegetation on lands and waters under Parks Canada jurisdiction is not to be permitted.
- Parks Canada will contribute to water quality by protecting wetlands, by ensuring that lockstation facilities and maintenance practices and water management procedures are environmentally friendly, by reviewing shoreland development and other projects from an impact perspective, and by supporting programs to enhance public awareness of the environment.
- Parks Canada, in cooperation with others, will continue to provide appropriate high quality recreational opportunities in a way that ensures protection of the resources, while meeting the needs and expectations of users.
- Parks Canada, in cooperation with others, will assess new recreational activities to determine if they are appropriate.
- A safe navigation channel and opportunities to experience a full range of learning and recreational activities are to be provided through the wise management of boating use along the Canal.
- Parks Canada will continue to cooperate with municipalities and other agencies to provide for appropriate recreational facilities and services.
- Parks Canada will work with local interest groups and government agencies to identify and to provide for appropriate winter recreational opportunities.
- Parks Canada will work with its partners to develop and encourage compatible business opportunities and practices, which benefit Corridor communities and generate increased revenue for the Canal.

Voie navigable Rideau Waterway



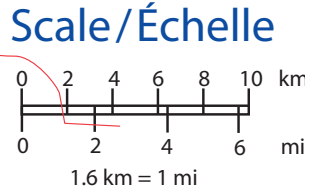
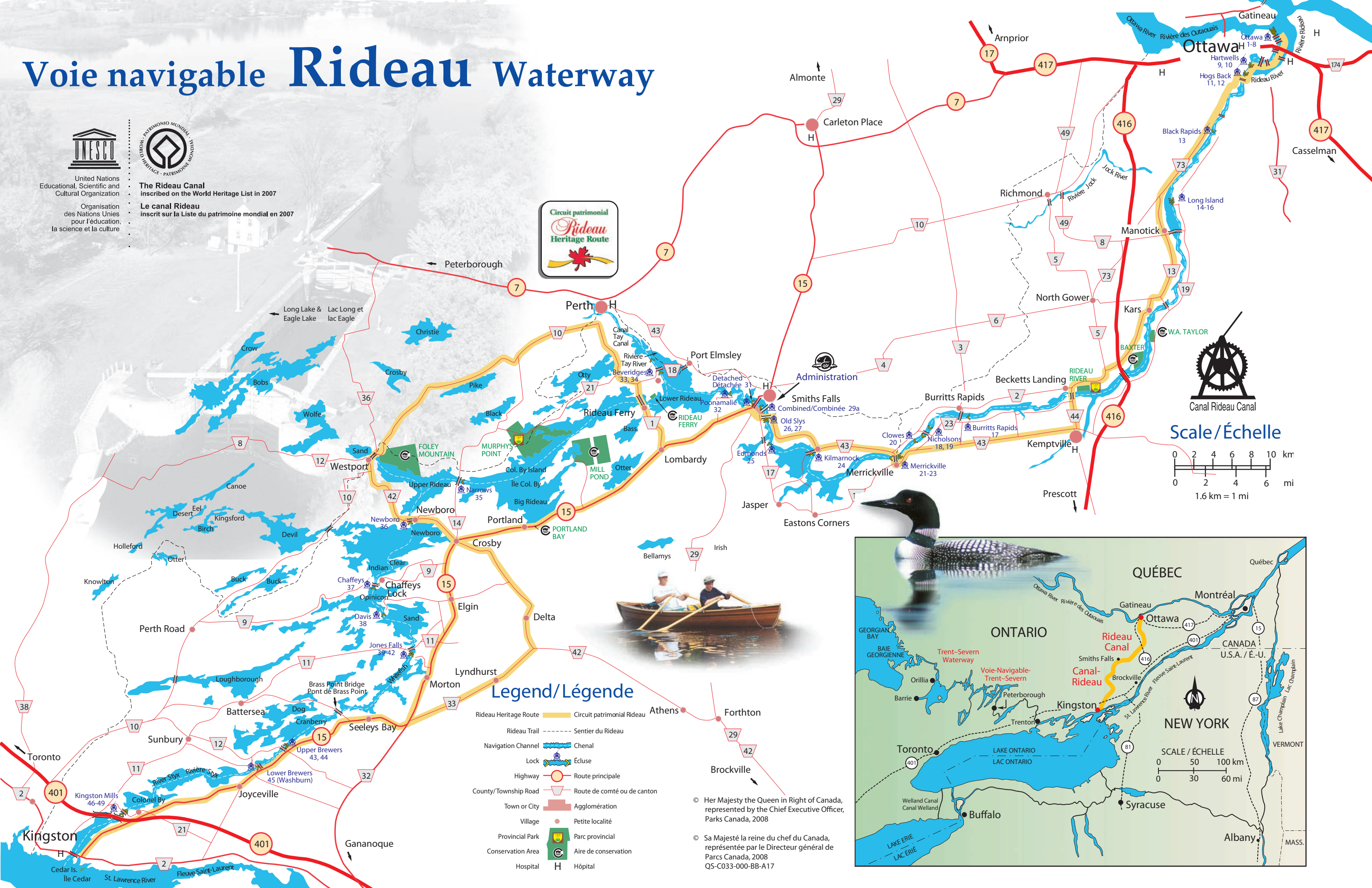
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



The Rideau Canal
inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007

Le canal Rideau
inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2007



Legend / Légende

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rideau Heritage Route | Circuit patrimonial Rideau |
| Rideau Trail | Sentier du Rideau |
| Navigation Channel | Chenal |
| Lock | Écluse |
| Highway | Route principale |
| County/Township Road | Route de comté ou de canton |
| Town or City | Agglomération |
| Village | Petite localité |
| Provincial Park | Parc provincial |
| Conservation Area | Aire de conservation |
| Hospital | Hôpital |

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