

The Rideau Canal Corridor: Planning for a Proud Future

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation des Nations Unies
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The Rideau Canal
inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007

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

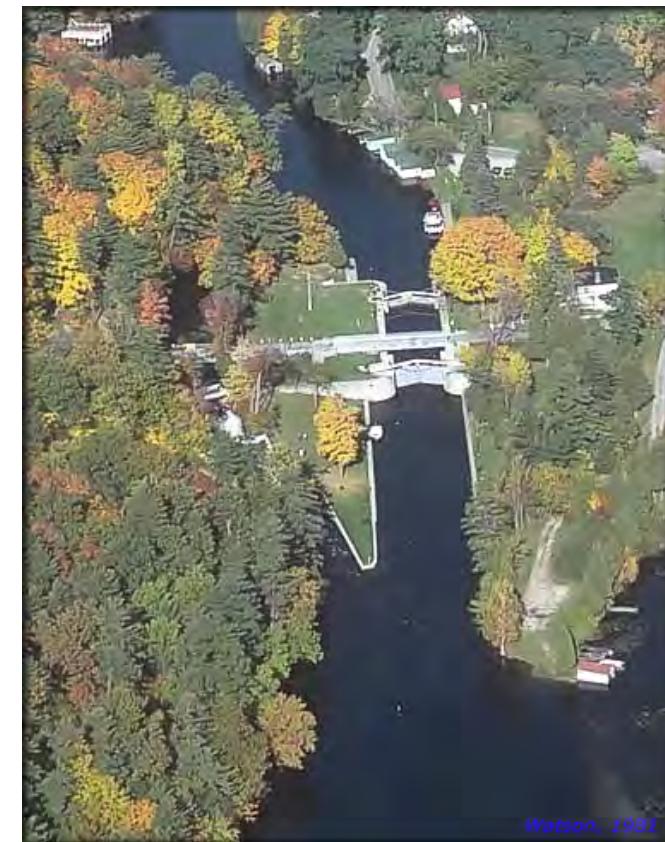
Overview

- What is the Rideau Canal?
- Planning in the Rideau and Trent-Severn Corridors: Challenges and Opportunities
- New Directions
- Charting the Course:
A New Vision for the Rideau



What is the Rideau Canal?

The Rideau Canal is not simply a canal – in fact, it is a 202 km waterway consisting of a series of beautiful lakes and rivers connected by 19 km of canal cuts. The Rideau is designated a National Historic Site of Canada, a Canadian Heritage River and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Map 2 - North America - Context Map







Parks Canada

- A federal government agency that administers national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas on behalf of the people of Canada – over 350,000 square km of protected lands.
- Nine of the 163 national historic sites managed by Parks Canada are historic canals.
- Parks Canada's responsibilities also involve Canadian Heritage Rivers, Heritage Railway Stations, Prime Ministers' gravesites, the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings and nomination and monitoring of World Heritage Sites in Canada.

The locks are operated today much as they were when the Canal first opened in 1832. Starting at Kingston, 14 locks raise vessels a total of 50 m to Newboro, the highest point in Upper Rideau Lake.

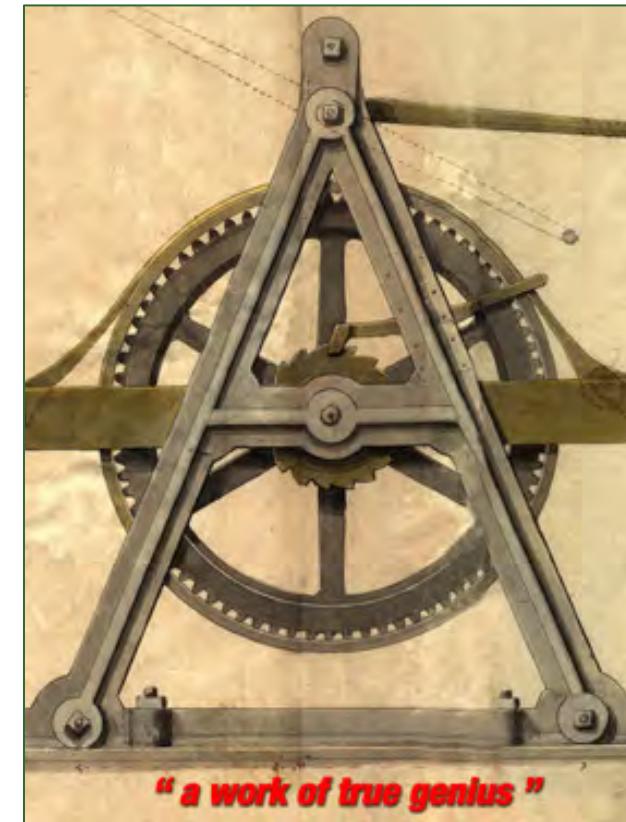


From Upper Rideau Lake, 31 locks lower vessels 83 m to the Ottawa River at Ottawa, Canada's Capital city. Locks can accommodate boats up to 27.4 m in length and 7.9 m in width.



Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

“In concept, design, and engineering, the Rideau Canal is the most outstanding surviving example of an early-19th century slackwater canal system in the world, and one of the first canals designed specifically for steam powered vessels.”



“It is an exceptional example of the transfer of European transportation technology and its ingenious advancement in the North American environment.”



“A rare instance of a canal built primarily for strategic military purposes, the Rideau Canal, together with its ensemble of military fortifications, illustrates the significant stage in human history when Great Britain and the United States of America vied for the control of the northern portion of the North American continent.”



Challenges

- Fragmented government jurisdictions and processes – federal, provincial, municipal, private
- Need for clarity, certainty and transparency for municipalities, property owners, partners
- Increasing development pressure
- Raising awareness and understanding of natural and cultural heritage values of the corridor
- Balancing economic development and the conservation of key values

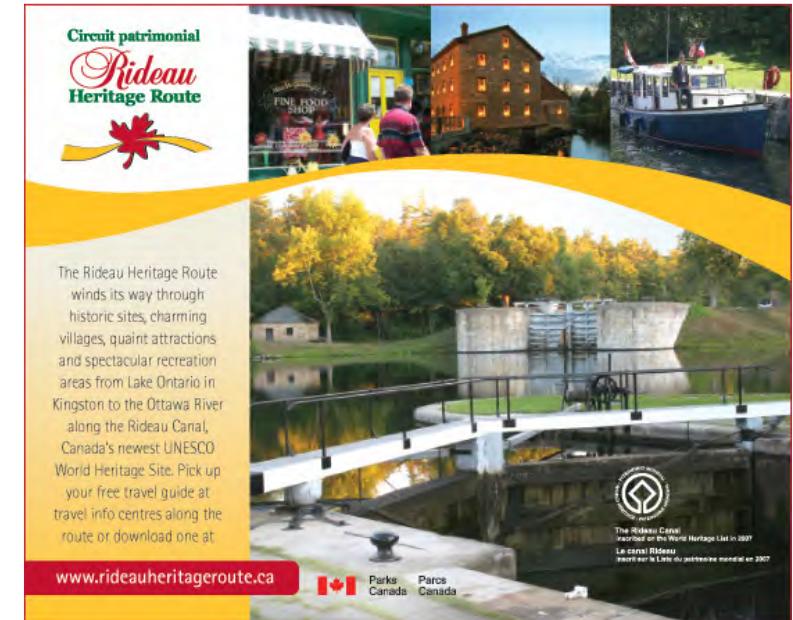


Jurisdictional Complexity

- 3 federal agencies with responsibility for federal lands
- 8 provincial ministries and 2 conservation authorities responsible for land use planning, natural environment, cultural heritage, mining activity, transportation, agriculture, water quality and tourism
- 13 municipalities with approval authority over local land use planning and development
- Many active not-for-profit organizations, citizens groups and countless private property owners and businesses

Opportunities

- Tremendous community pride and engagement
- Many formal and informal networks or organizations: tourism, economic development, cultural heritage, natural heritage and more
- Momentum following the World Heritage Site designation and new international partners

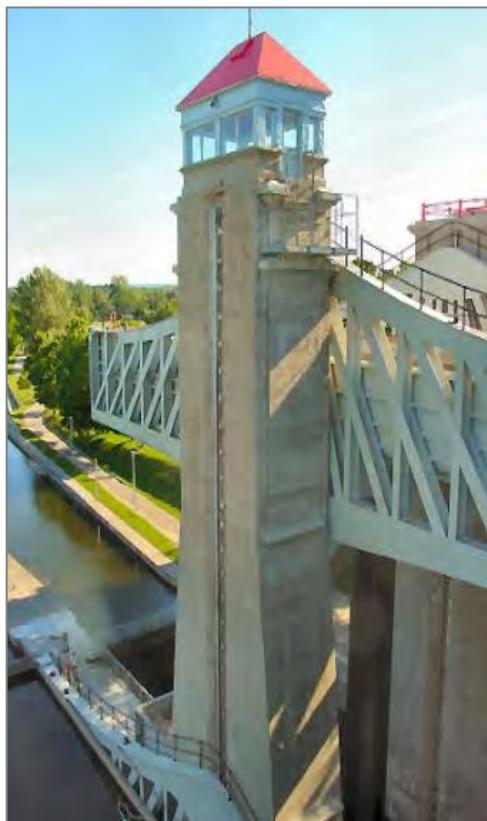


New Directions...

As part of the World Heritage Site decision, the ICOMOS evaluation recommended that a study be undertaken to “identify the visual setting of the canal along its length and on the basis of this, consideration should be given to extending protection to those areas which contribute to the quality and understanding of the canal in its setting.”



Learning from our neighbour: The Trent-Severn Waterway



- 386 km waterway with 44 locks, two lift-locks (one is the world's largest) and a marine railway
- Significant growth pressures in recreational hinterland of Canada's largest urban region, centred by Toronto (over 5.5 million people live in the Greater Toronto Area)





“It’s all about the Water: Report of the Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway” – April 2008

- Consider the entire corridor within the framework of a cultural landscape
- Broadly coordinate activities of governments and citizen organizations to achieve common sustainability goals, through a “corridor council”
- Coordinate long-term planning to identify and conserve valued corridor resources (cultural, natural, economic, social, scenic, public access)
- Encourage communities to invest in projects that capitalize on their location on the water—great communities make great tourist meccas



Charting the Course...

- We are making every effort to learn from work that has been done on planning for waterway corridors – in Canada and internationally.
- The Rideau hosted the World Canals Conference in September 2008 and met with canal experts from around the world.
- The Waterway Corridor Studies led by the Heritage Council in Ireland provide an excellent model for a corridor study on the Rideau, and share our goals and objectives.

A New Vision for the Rideau Canal Corridor

- Strong, sustainable communities that realize their economic potential, and
- The conservation of the unique character of the canal corridor and World Heritage Site for all time.





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