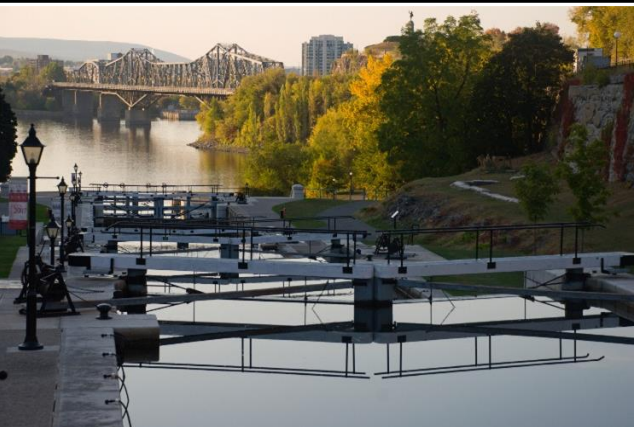




Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



Rideau Canal Operations & 200th Anniversary

Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit

Friday, November 21, 2025



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Introduction

Mark Brus
Manager of Operations
Rideau Canal
Parks Canada



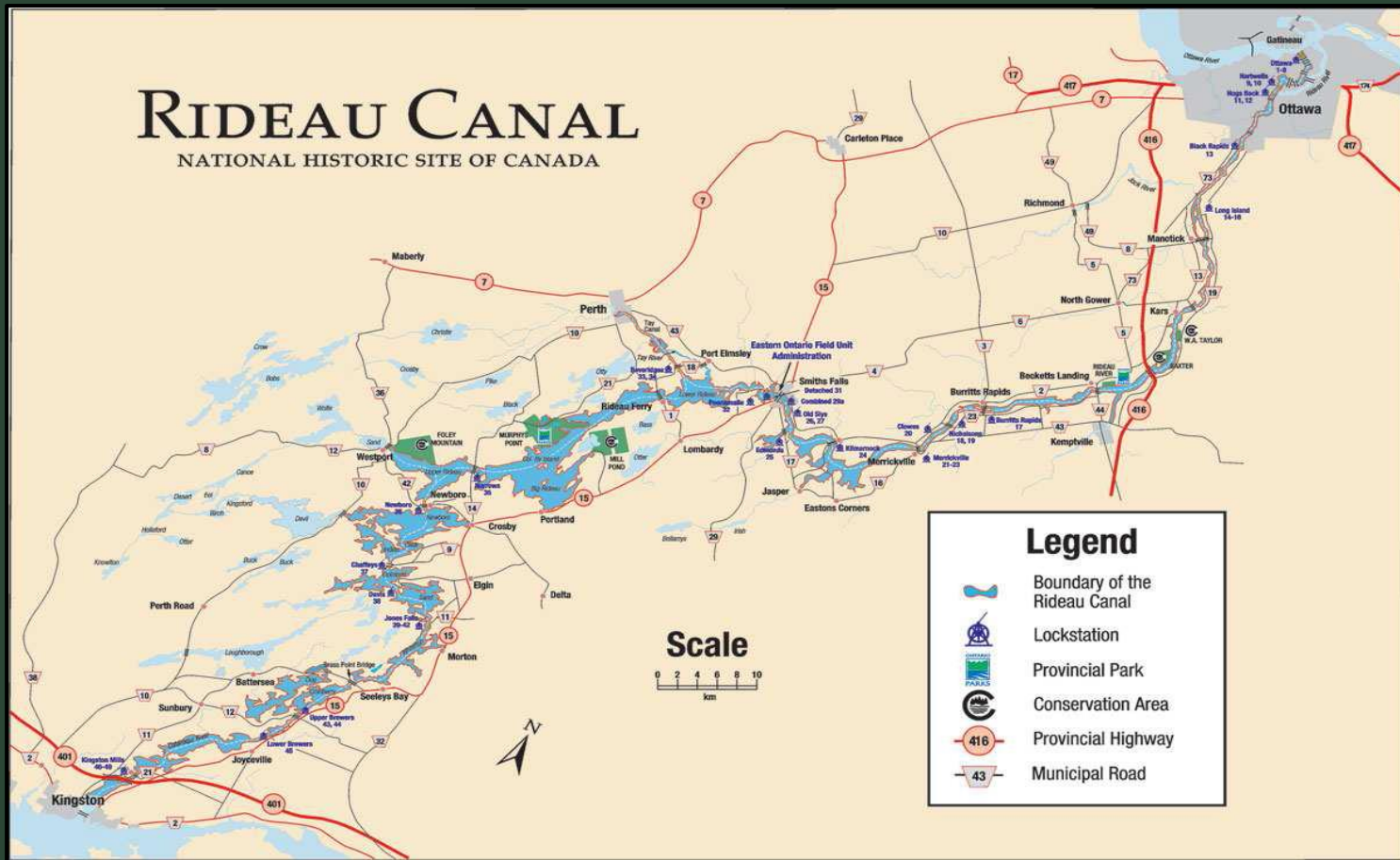


Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

- Built from 1826-1832 by the British Royal Engineers for military purposes
- 202 km long, 24 lock stations
- Still maintains much of the original historic fabric and operations
- Inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007





Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Vessel Traffic - 2025

Vessel Traffic

- 2025 – 56,341 vessels (+11.0%)
- 2024 – 50,484 vessels

Mooring Traffic

- 2025 – 11,082 (-5.0%)
- 2024 – 11,735

Drivers

- Canada Strong Pass
- Fuel prices – stable, relatively low
- Weather – hot, dry
- Lasalle Causeway closure





Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Navigation Trends

- Boat traffic positively impacted by free lockage (2017, 2025) ~10% bump
- Negative impacts from Lasalle Causeway closure (-10%)
- Most frequent home ports of boaters are Ottawa & Montreal
- Increasing American traffic (tripled since 2016)
- Increasing average stay on the Rideau has increased from 4.5 days in 2017 to 7 days in 2025
- Shore power sites on the Rideau are in high demand





Parks
Canada

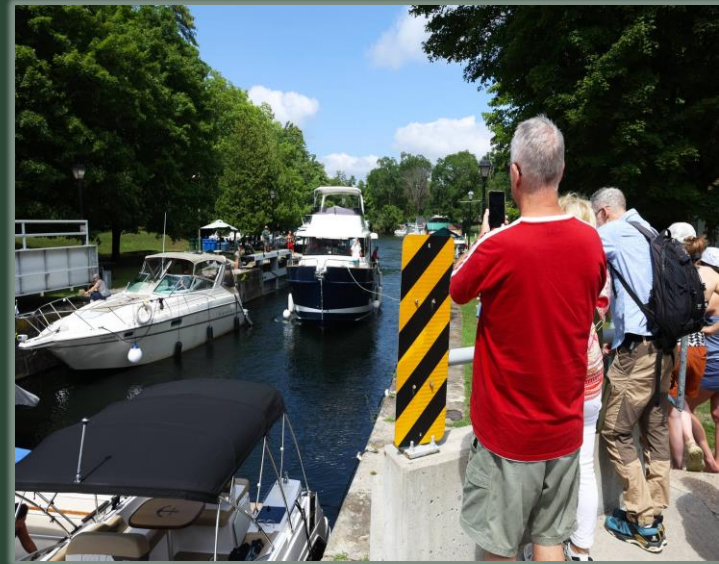
Parcs
Canada

Canada

Land-Based Visitation

2025: 888,454 (-3.7%)

2024: 922,896





Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Economic Contribution

- The Rideau Canal is the backbone of tourism in rural Eastern Ontario
- The 2017 RHRTA impact study highlighted that Rideau Canal corridor communities contributed \$309M through tourism activities to the local economy.
- Employment and local purchasing – ~100 FTEs, \$10M of salaries and goods and services purchasing
- Capital Program – over the last ten years – 41 projects with a value of \$161.8M; several large projects pending approval in the near future.
- Current replacement value of Rideau Canal infrastructure is estimated to be \$4B

Rideau 200 - Proposed Plan

2026 – Official Launch

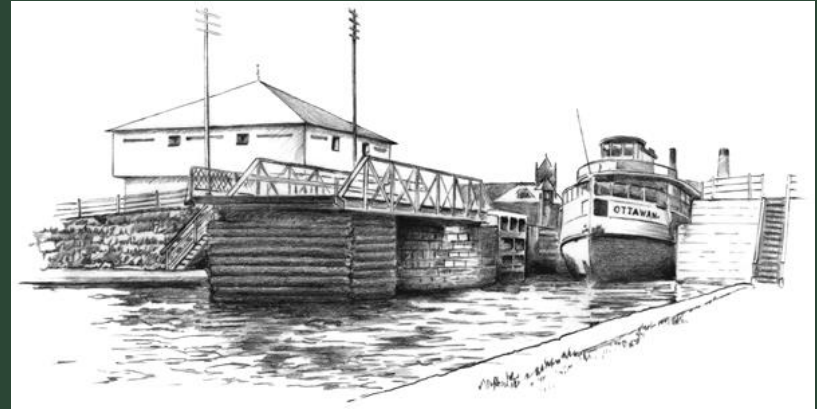
- Marks the start of canal construction
- Potential event
- Launch of:
 - ◆ Commemorative timeline
 - ◆ Marketing theme
 - ◆ Stakeholder engagement campaign
 - ◆ Rideau 200 product (e.g., passport/guide)
 - ◆ Announcement of confirmed legacy projects (if available)



Rideau 200 - Proposed Plan (continued)

2027–2031 – Building Awareness

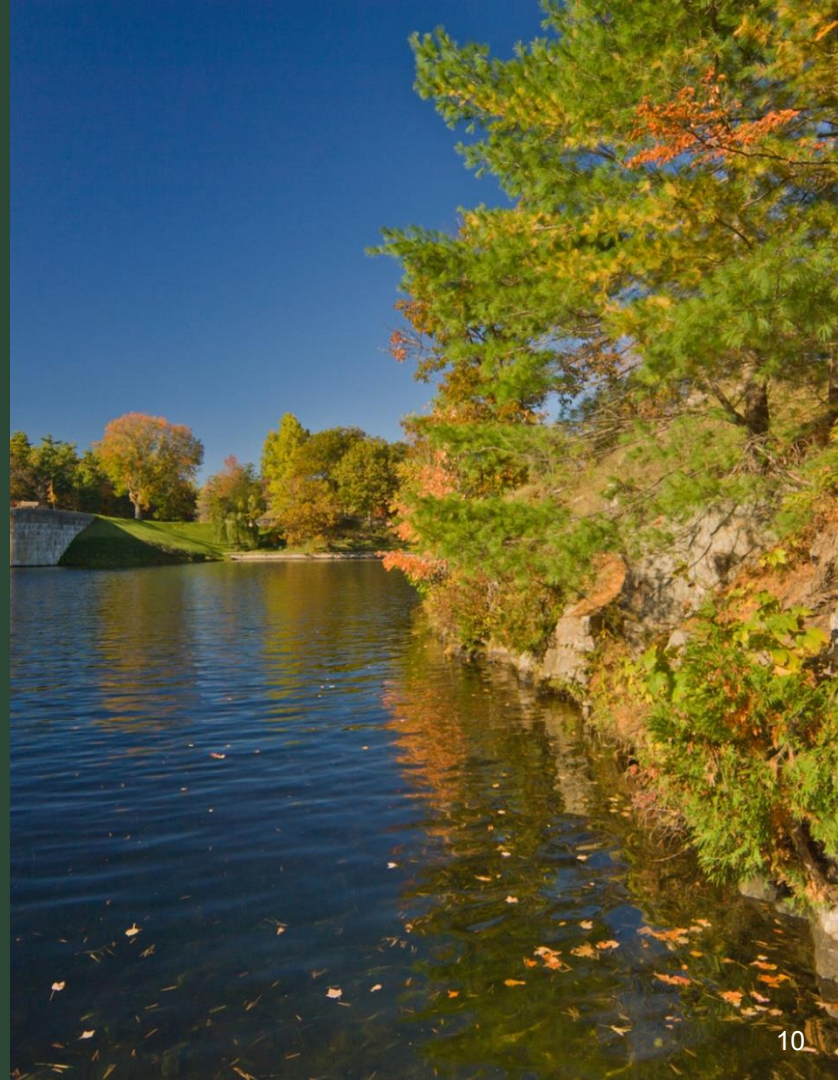
- ◆ Highlight key dates in canal history via:
 - Social media
 - Website updates
 - Community-led events
- ◆ Develop links for 2032 celebrations:
 - Conferences
 - Partner experiences (museums, galleries)
 - Contests and engagement initiatives
- ◆ Begin planning for 2032 commemorative year in 2029:
 - Resource requests
 - Event planning



Rideau 200 - Proposed Plan (continued)

2032 – Banner Year

- Official and partner-led celebrations
- Launch of Rideau 200 Passport:
 - ◆ Promotes local businesses along the canal
- Completion of legacy projects



Next Steps

- Finalize design theme and marketing toolkit
- Confirm launch date and event details
- Continue stakeholder engagement and timeline development
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and legacy initiatives

