

*le boat*

Who's on board?

# THE RIDEAU CANAL

Region guide



*A complete guide to boating vacations along  
a Canadian UNESCO World Heritage Site*





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# OUR FIRST NORTH AMERICAN REGION

The Rideau Canal is our first destination outside of Europe, and we don't think we could have chosen a better place for it. A *UNESCO World Heritage Site*, the Rideau Canal lets you travel along a series of spectacular canals, rivers and lakes between the vibrant cities of Ottawa and Kingston. As you make your way along the waterway you'll find charming small towns, unforgettable natural wonders and, the best bit of all, a warm Canadian welcome!

Whether you're an experienced captain or have never been boating before, you'll find this region easy to navigate. There are friendly and helpful lock keepers on hand and many fellow boaters around with whom to exchange advice, ask for help or to simply pass the time of day.

***Get ready to fall in love with Canada!***

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

These pages are intended to help you to visualize what a boating vacation in this region might look like and help you decide whether it's the right destination for you. If you are already on board, it can be used day-by-day to ensure you make the most of everything there is to see and do. From page 12-61, each place or attraction is presented in the same order it is located on the canal, from Ottawa in the North to Kingston in the South, so if you're traveling in the opposite direction... just read it backwards! This Guide is not intended to replace the waterways guide, also provided on board and which should always be consulted when navigating along the canal.

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# NEW TO BOATING VACATIONS?

Well we've got good news, a boating vacation is simple...

Choose which of our state-of-the-art Horizon boats best suits your party size (see page 64-65 for more details); pick it up from our base in Smiths Falls and return it, by the agreed date and time, back to our Smiths Falls base. What you do in between is entirely up to you - you're free to stop when you want, for as long as you want! Explore new places, see amazing sights and create lasting memories.

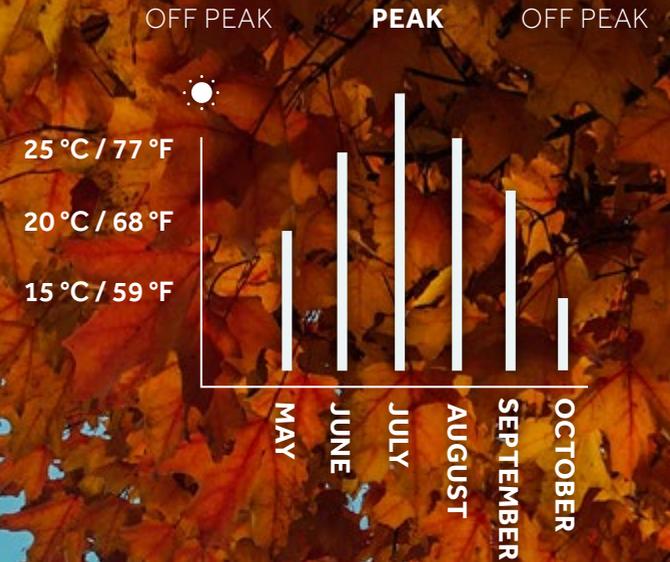
Our Horizon boats have all the necessary features to ensure you are completely self-sufficient throughout your vacation. You can travel from one exciting place to the next without the need to unpack and repack each time. The kitchens on our boats come fully-equipped if you would like to prepare your own meals, the beds come with linen, and the bathrooms have showers, hot water, towels and toilets.

Now all you need is the waterway, which allows you to see the sights from a completely unique perspective. It slows you down, allows you to appreciate your surroundings, drink in the scenery. It provides you with an ever-changing view, delivers nature and wildlife to your door and entices you to amazing towns and villages. More importantly, it allows you to create your own vacation - be that a restful break or an active adventure.

### Now... who's on board?

### NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Our boats are easy to handle with no license required under Canadian law. Before setting off on your vacation, you will be taught how to safely drive your boat, moor and how to travel through locks, ensuring you are happy and confident controlling your cruiser.



# WHEN TO GO

The hot and sunny month of **July** is peak season for this region and the canals can get busy. You may have to wait your turn at locks, and public moorings in some villages can be slightly more difficult to find. It is also important to note that for a two week period starting on the second to last Sunday of July there is a public holiday in the neighbouring province of Quebec. During this period the Rideau Canal will be at its busiest and you'll have to give yourself plenty of time when going through locks and finding moorings. On the plus side however, you'll encounter famous Canadian friendliness with plenty of boaters to chat to – and the popularity of the Rideau with the Quebecois means conversation will be in both English and French. There is also an abundance of events and festivals held during July as well.

**June, August and September** are slightly milder and a bit quieter.

**May and October** are the perfect times to escape the masses, and Traveling in October has the added benefit of being able to witness Canada transformed by autumn colors. A season characterized by a canopy of reds and yellows, which are unparalleled anywhere and one of the best on earth (See page 20-21).

# PLANNING YOUR TIME

To help you plan your time, use this helpful chart to calculate the approximate number of hours it'll take you to travel between the villages, towns and cities along the waterway. Be sure to allow plenty of time to stop, relax and/or see the sights though. An average of three hours cruising per day is quite a relaxed itinerary. Anything more than five and you'll feel quite rushed.



**10** Maximum speed allowed on waterways in km/h

Pass oncoming boats on the right hand side, larger boats have priority

## SEE MORE...

### Add Bike and Kayak rental to your booking

Exploring by pedal power is much quicker than by foot. For example, if you want to visit Manotick which has no moorings, then you can moor at the Long Island lockstation and cycle the 4kms (2.5 miles) into town. Whilst our Kayaks let you explore the waterways in true Canadian style!

### Book a hotel

If you would like to visit Kingston or Ottawa, but don't have time to get there and back, how about spending a night or two in a city hotel before your flight home? Or, for a unique experience, you can even cap off your cruise with a night in one of the Railway Museum of Eastern Ontario's two 1940s wooden cabooses in Smiths Falls (see page 26).

### Rent-a-Car

If you are planning a Le Boat cruise as part of a wider Canadian tour, why not explore with a road trip! There is car rental available in Smiths Falls, which in our opinion is the ideal location from which to explore the Ottawa Valley or Lanark County (see page 28-29) before dropping your car off in either Ottawa or Kingston.

## IT'S ALL MAPPED OUT...



At the back of this guide, our fold-out map will put everything in to perspective for you. We hope you enjoy our visual representation of everything there is to do along the Rideau Canal.

Rideau Canal		Approx time		Number of locks	
Ottawa	4hr 35min	14hr 50min	5	12	
Manotick & Long Island	6hr 45min		3		
Burritts Rapids	1hr 15min		1		
Nicholsons Locks	2hr 15min		3		
Merrickville	3hr 45min		5		
<b>Smiths Falls</b>	<b>2hr</b>	<b>3hr 45min</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Beveridges Locks</b>	<b>10min</b>	<b>2hr</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	
Rideau Ferry	2hr 30min	5hr 25min	0	1	
Portland	2hr 45min		1		
Westport	1hr 10min		0		
Newboro	1hr 30min	5hr 10min	1	3	
Chaffey's Lockstation	1hr 5min		1		
Davis Lock	1hr 25min		1		
Jones Falls	3hr 5min	11hr 25min	4	11	
Seeley's Bay	2hr 40min		2		
Lower Brewers Lockstation	2hr 35min		1		
Kingston Mills	3hr 5min		4		
Kingston					

Tay Canal		Approx time		Number of locks	
Beveridge Locks	2hr	2hr	2	2	
Perth					

Times are an approximation only based on an average speed of 8km/h and 30 minutes to pass through a lock chamber. Your speed (the boats are limited to 10km/h), the flow of the river and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.



# HISTORY OF THE RIDEAU CANAL

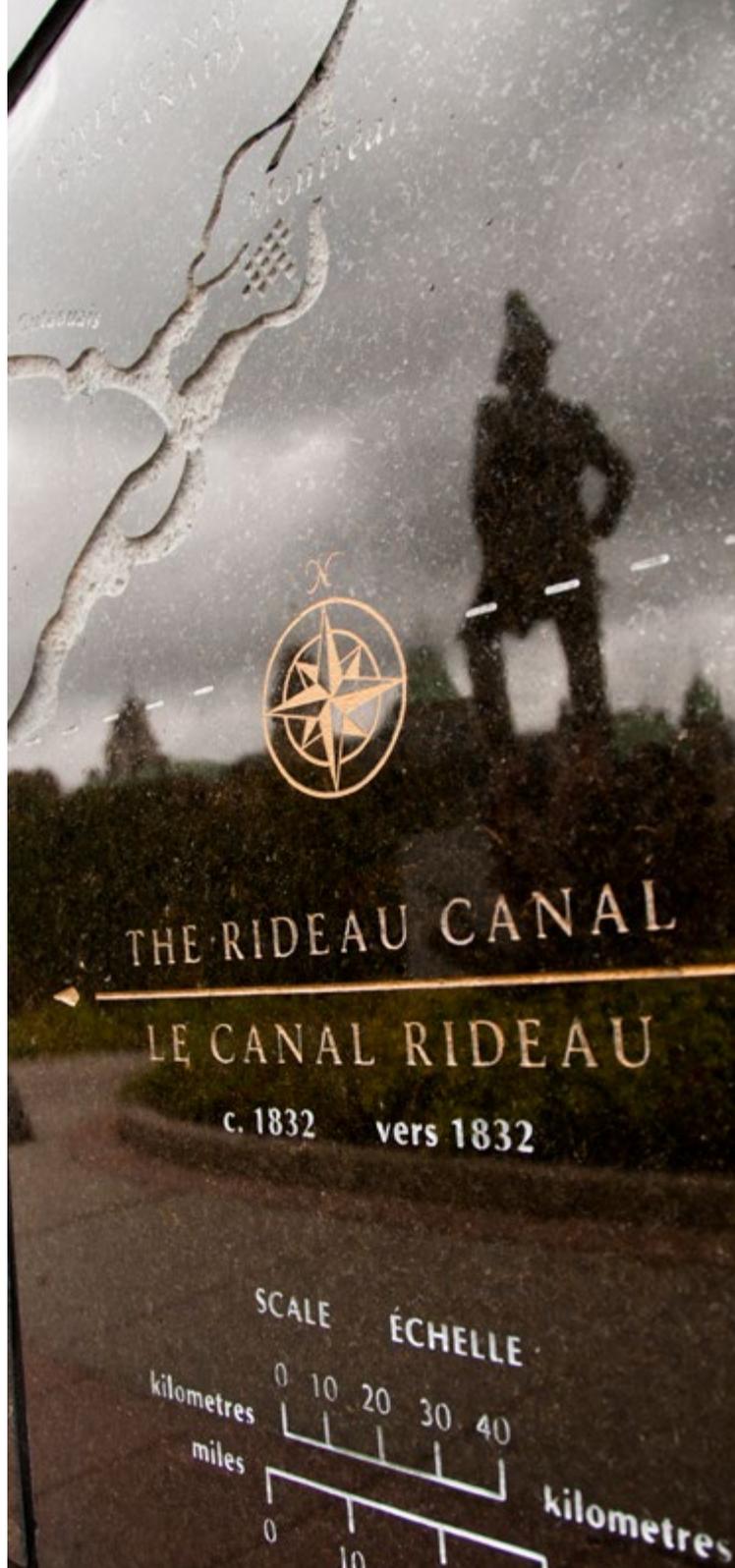
## THE RIDEAU WATERWAY

The history of the Rideau as a navigable waterway long predates the arrival of European settlers – with the waterway long being a means of navigation for the indigenous communities of Ontario. The first mention of the Rideau as a route between Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River in contemporary sources comes from a Lt. Gershom French. In 1783, led by a native guide, Lt. French was able to use the Rideau to travel between the Ottawa River and the St. Lawrence River before navigating down to Lake Ontario.

However, the historic route along the Rideau could only be navigated by small water vessels and frequently required travellers to carry (or portage) their transport around dangerous rapids and waterfalls. The modern Rideau waterway system we see today is therefore very different to what would have been recognisable to indigenous people and early settlers.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The name 'Rideau' comes from the French word for curtains, and is derived from the curtain-like appearance of the waterfall where the Rideau River joins the Ottawa River.



## THE BUILDING OF THE CANAL

The roots of the modern Rideau Canal lies in the tension between the British Empire and the newly independent United States that emerged at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Canada (as part of the British Empire) was a major land border between these powers, and a battleground from 1812 to 1815 when the tensions between the US and Britain spilled over into the War of 1812.

After the war, relationships between the two sides remained uneasy and the British became fearful that the major Canadian settlement of Kingston would be vulnerable if the Americans launched another invasion of Canada. Kingston's only link to the rest of Canada at the time was via Lake Ontario, and there was a very real risk the Americans could isolate the city from its supply chain. As a result, plans were put in place to build a canal between Ottawa and Kingston. This ensured that even if supply routes through Lake Ontario were cut, Kingston could still be supplied along the new canal and American invasion could be deterred.

Lieutenant Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers was appointed to oversee construction of the canal, but faced a monumental challenge with over 200kms (124 miles) of sparsely populated wilderness between him and his end goal. Construction of the canal itself began in 1826 and was completed in 1832, requiring the labour of thousands of brave workers and engineers. The result was a masterpiece of cutting-edge design and technology, and most of the stonework and many of the buildings you see along the canal are as they would have been in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century! This led to the Rideau Canal being listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2017. The Rideau Canal truly is a piece of living history which you can be a part of!



### RECREATION

With almost no commercial traffic and run by Parks Canada, the Rideau Canal is operated almost exclusively as a recreation space. This means, as you travel, you'll see many locals and visitors alike taking the time to enjoy the canal. Common activities includes boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, cycling, stand-up paddle boarding and jet-skiing.



# CULTURE OF THE RIDEAU CANAL

Canada is famous for its warm welcome, and the Rideau Canal is no different. Home to many colorful characters and friendly locals, the Rideau is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the local culture and become part of life on this fantastic waterway.



### LOCAL DELICACIES

Canada is famed for its maple syrup, and the Rideau passes through Lanark County which considers itself the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario. Many of the restaurants and eateries you stop at will have some form of maple product on the menu. Or, you can purchase locally produced maple syrup at many of the shops and grocery stores along the Rideau waterway.

The other major Canadian delicacy you'll encounter is Poutine. Primarily associated with the neighbouring province of Quebec, but widely available across Ontario too, you'll find Poutine being served widely along the Rideau. This dish consist of french fries, topped with cheese curds and brown gravy. Today, the dish has become so popular nationally that many regard it as Canada's national dish!



### DRINKING IN ONTARIO

In Ontario, alcohol is also not widely available in grocery stores. It is instead primarily purchased in separate Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) stores and Beer Stores. Keep an eye out for our amenities sections of the guide to see where these stores are located along the canal! Alcohol can also be purchased for consumption on the premises of restaurants, bars, pubs and other licensed premises.

Ontario operates open-container laws. This means that you cannot have an open container of alcohol in a public space, a violation of which can result in a fine and a warning. As your Le Boat cruiser has permanent cooking and sanitary facilities, when it is moored it is considered a private place and therefore you are able to consume alcohol on board. Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Please be aware the legal drinking age in Ontario is 19 years of age. You may be asked to present I.D. at time of purchase.

### \$ CURRENCY

The currency in Canada is Canadian dollars, and local stores may not accept foreign currency (including US dollars). If you need to change currencies local banks are generally open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm and there are ATMs located in some of the towns along the Rideau (additional service fees & bank charges may apply).

# OTTAWA

Ottawa, Canada's capital, is a dynamic city. A place where you'll hear English and French spoken in the streets. A place where you'll experience proud Canadian heritage at impressive national sites. And, a place where you'll lose yourself in world-class museums and galleries displaying stunning national collections.



# OTTAWA'S MESMERIZING MONUMENTS



The Rideau Canal snakes its way through the heart of downtown Ottawa, allowing you to step off your boat and instantly be immersed in the city's easy cosmopolitan vibe. Walk to Parliament Hill, home to Canada's Parliament with its spectacular Neo-Gothic architecture, and enjoy a free tour of its interior (offered on a first-come first-served basis). During the summer months, the front lawn of Parliament turns into the backdrop for the Changing of the Guard ceremony (takes place at 9:50 am each morning). Every evening, people gather again to witness the amazing sound and light show projected onto the Centre Block. Or, participate in a free guerrilla yoga class on the front lawn every Wednesday at noon from May to August.

Ottawa is also home to an expansive collection of award-winning national museums that enlighten the downtown core. From the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles, priceless world-class & indigenous art, dinosaur fossils and heroic tales from the nation's military past (receive \$2 off adult admission upon presentation of this guide at the **Canadian War Museum**), visitors are invited to experience the best of Canada all in one place. A particular highlight is the exceptional **National Gallery of Canada** – here you'll be able to take in some of the finest art from Canada and around the world. Outside, you'll discover a statue of a giant arachnid by Louise Bourgeois – while initially intimidating, the statue, titled Maman (French for mother), actually alludes to metaphors of spinning, weaving, nurture and protection as an ode to Bourgeois' mother!



# OTTAWA'S CAPTIVATING CULTURE AND FOOD



Ottawa's invigorating cultural sphere also extends beyond the realm of bricks-and-mortar museums into the world of internationally renowned performing arts. Nestled just where the Rideau Canal meets the mighty Ottawa River you'll find the newly renovated National Arts Centre. The National Arts Centre is Canada's premier performing arts venue with a line-up of popular touring Broadway performances, music and dance numbers. If you're after a slightly more Bohemian affair, why not explore Ottawa's thriving local theatre scene? **The Great Canadian Theatre Company**, **Ottawa Little Theatre** (Receive a \$3 discount off regular priced tickets to OLT's season upon presentation of this guide) and **The Gladstone** all showcase the very best of local talent, and **La Nouvelle Scène** puts on performances in French.

In recent years, the culinary scene has boomed in Ottawa, with local chefs and restaurants making a name for themselves. Just a short walk lock-side you'll discover the bustling **ByWard Market neighbourhood** teeming with restaurants (like **e18teen**, a notable 4-diamond establishment), and cozy and delicious pubs serving up a variety of local craft beers. For a uniquely Canadian dessert, find the **Beavertail** shack for a hand-made pastry with a variety of sweet and savory toppings. **Elgin Street** runs parallel to the Rideau Canal and is home to restaurants, pubs and nightlife alike. **The Glebe neighbourhood** just south along the Rideau Canal has a trendy urban vibe, and includes Bank Street and the recently developed **Lansdowne area**, which are both teaming with culinary delights. With Ottawa as one of Ontario's designated culinary tourism destinations, you're sure to find something just a short walk away.

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Ottawa has an abundance of restaurants to choose from across the city, we recommend heading to the ByWard Market district, Elgin Street or the Glebe neighbourhood.



## OTTAWA'S FANTASTIC FESTIVALS



Summer is the time to get outdoors and celebrate with one of Ottawa's many festivals. No matter what type of music fan you are, you'll find yourself well-catered for, with one of the city's most popular events, **RBC Bluesfest** in July, attracting top billboard artists. If classical music strikes your fancy though, the **Ottawa Chamberfest** is the largest of its kind in the world. More a jazz person? From mid-June to early July the **TD Ottawa Jazz Festival** has become a premier summer event. Looking for an alternative to all those? **CityFolk** is held a little later in the year in September and is a five-day music, dance and community celebration of the eclectic variety.

Away from the music scene, the biggest festival of them all happens on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, **Canada Day**, and Ottawa is home to the country's biggest birthday celebration! Other major festivals include the **Canadian Tulip Festival** in May and the **Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival** with free concerts and boat races in June.





# GETTING AROUND OTTAWA



Getting around Ottawa is easy, with much of the city centre within easy walking distance from the canal.

If you enjoy the freedom of two-wheels, Canada's capital is a great city to explore by bicycle (add bike rental to your booking). Ottawa has more than 600 kilometers (373 miles) of recreational pathways. These pathways connect from parks, to gardens, to national historic sites all throughout the city. The path leading along the Rideau Canal is a particular favourite route for many locals. And, if that is not enough, **NOKIA Sunday Bikedays** take place from late May to early September with more than 50 (31 miles) kilometers of parkways closed to motorists. A bit further afield, to the north of Ottawa's city centre and falling into the province of Quebec, you'll find **Gatineau Park**. With hidden waterfalls, picturesque ruins and around 200kms (124 miles) of trails for hiking and biking, Gatineau Park is a pleasant place to lose a few hours or even all day.



For a more organized approach to exploring everything Ottawa has to offer, there are also numerous tours and sightseeing options to help you get the most out your visit. The **Gray Line Ottawa bus Hop-On Hop-Off** tour allows you to get off and explore each location as you choose, or alternatively combine land and water with the **Lady Dive Amphibus** tour. If you prefer to taste your way through a city, you can do that too! Try a **C'est Bon Cooking** tour through several of the city's neighbourhoods (receive a \$4 discount per ticket on the *ByWard Market Courtyards tour on presentation of this guide, advanced reservation required - visit cestboncooking.ca*). Arguably one of the most unique (and spooky) tours is the **Haunted Walks** (receive a 15% discount off any tour on presentation of this guide - shown in top image). Prepare to be led through the city by lantern-light and learn a little bit about Ottawa's darker past and best kept ghost stories.

# JUST OUTSIDE OTTAWA

As you cruise to and from Canada's capital, those with kids (or who are still kids at heart) may wish to stop off at **Mooney's Bay Park**, right next to Hogs Back Lockstation. At **Mooney's Bay Park** enjoy the children's playpark, BBQ stations, beach and swimming area. You can also rent a volleyball net or paddleboard and let the fun begin!

If you're lucky you might even see the largest dragon boating festival in North America at the **Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival**, featuring free concerts and boat races (21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June) or the largest beach-volleyball tournament in North America at the **Hope Volleyball SummerFest** (14<sup>th</sup> July).

Also next to Hog Back Lockstation, you'll find the **Hog's Back Falls**. A spectacular set of 60ft (18.2 meters) waterfalls that marks where the Rideau Canal splits from the Rideau River. After this point the Rideau Canal enters a man-made section of canal that takes boaters through Ottawa, before the magnificent flight of eight locks, next to Canada's Parliament buildings, which joins the Rideau Canal to the Ottawa River.

### DISCOVER MORE...

For a detailed breakdown of everything Ottawa has to offer visit [ottawatourism.ca](http://ottawatourism.ca) or follow Ottawa Tourism on:



### PLEASE NOTE

The Ottawa locks are the end of our cruising ground - you are not permitted to enter these locks.

# MANOTICK & LONG ISLAND



Traveling South from Ottawa you'll come across the charming town of Manotick. Wander around this pleasant town and take in its quaint curiosities.

Visit the **Gingerbread Man Confectionary Shop** for some old-timey Canadian sweets. Next, head to **Watson's Mill**, this fascinating little working museum is one of the only remaining operating grist mills in North America and just oozes old-world charm.

With no moorings in Manotick itself, to get to Manotick, we recommend you moor at Long Island lockstation. Here, you'll find one of the only swing bridges still in operation on the Rideau Canal, and from these moorings it is about 4kms (2.5 miles) to Manotick – a fifteen minute cycle (add bikes to your booking) or a forty-five minute walk. As you make your way to town, and at the Northern tip of Long Island, you'll find the tranquility of **David Bartlett Park** - the perfect picnic spot to take a break, sit back, unwind and watch the world drift by.

**AMENITIES:** Groceries located in the town of Manotick  
**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Black Dog Bistro, on the junction of Manotick Main St. and Tighe St.



## THE NEWLYWED GHOST

Watson's Mill is rumoured to be haunted by the ghost of Ann Crosby Currier. Born in 1841, Ann was born into a wealthy American family and in 1861 married the co-owner of Watson's Mill Joseph Currier. The happy newlyweds spent a month touring the northern U.S. before returning to Manotick to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the successful operation of Currier's mill. It was then on the 11<sup>th</sup> March, while touring the mill and making her way through a congestion of belts, pulleys and moving machinery, that tragedy struck. As Ann Currier descended the stairs from the attic to the second floor, the skirt of Ann's dress was caught in a revolving drive shaft and Ann Currier was thrown against a nearby pillar and fatally injured.



It is claimed by locals that the spirit of the newlywed bride still haunts Watson's Mill and that she can still be seen on the second floor window staring forlornly out of the building she never left. Others, have claimed that on quiet days you can even hear the delicate footsteps of a lady coming from the second floor - even when no one is there!

## BURRITTS RAPIDS



Located on an Island in between the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal, take a stroll through the chocolate-box village of Burritts Rapids to experience early Canadiana through some wonderful, centuries- old buildings. The charming high street has barely changed in over 200 years and the entire village should only take you around half-an-hour to walk around.

For a little slice of idyllic nature, you can also walk the **Tip to Tip Trail**, a 2 km (1.24 miles) nature walk, which will take you from one end of the island to the other and back along a soil ridge that is over 175 years old. Although it is hard to believe, this embankment was actually built by hand using shovels and keeps the canal channel water fifteen feet above that of the river!

You can also experience one of Canada's best gardens at the Rideau Woodlands Ramble. Located just south of Burritts Rapids, the **Rideau Woodland Ramble** is a set of picturesque display gardens. So relax, because paradise is a garden and you'll find it here!



## NICHOLSONS LOCKS



Nicholsons, consist of two locks that bypass a set of rapids on the Rideau River. Upper Nicholson's lockstation features one of four remaining unequal arm, centre-bearing, timber swing bridges on the Rideau Canal. Their clever design means that a single person can swing the entire bridge just by pushing it! A bridge of this design has been installed at Upper Nicholson's since 1877 (although it has been replaced several times since).

A short walk north from Upper Nicholson's lockstation lies the hamlet of Andrewsville. To look at Andrewsville now, you would never guess it had once been a sizable village. A few of Andrewsville's original houses are still occupied and the remains of the Andrewsville dam still lie close by.

# AUTUMN



## ON THE RIDEAU




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### EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Autumn is a magical season in Canada. A season which oozes charisma and has its own unique charms.

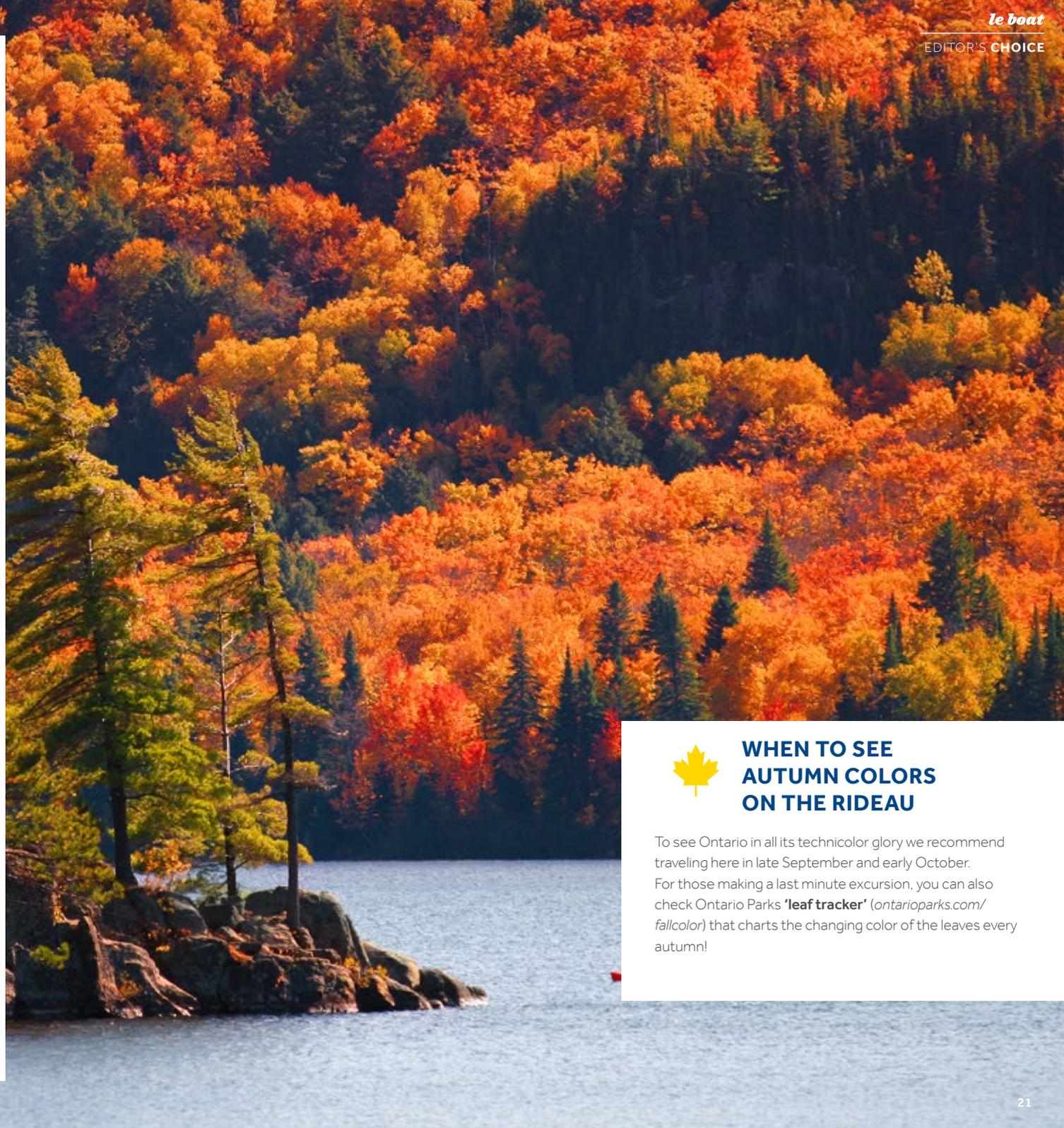
The nights have yet to truly draw in. The days are warm, but never too hot. And best of all, the trees have begun to turn from a sea of green to a riotous cacophony of red, orange, purple and yellow.

This is what makes autumn on the Rideau so special. While spring colors are delicate and refined, summer colors are sun washed, and winter color are...well...grey - autumn colors are bold, powerful and striking. Mother Nature throws caution to the wind and produces one last gaudy display before winter arrives. And, nowhere else on earth is this annual transformation of colors more spectacular than in Ontario, Canada - the perfect place to make the most of autumn.

By traveling along the lakes, rivers and canals you'll be following a long history. The waterways in this region have always been the traditional way people navigated, both indigenous people and early European settlers used the rivers of Ontario as arteries. They were the means by which goods were moved and relationships with distant people maintained.

As these pioneers moved each year they too would have witnessed the banks of the waterways change into their autumn glory - a vibrant early warning that winter was coming and the rivers and lakes were soon to freeze.

The incredible aspect of Ontario is that the views you witness today remain largely similar to what those brave early travellers would have seen all those years ago. Little development has taken place near the banks of the water, allowing nature to take centre stage, all accentuated by the warm autumn sunshine.



### WHEN TO SEE AUTUMN COLORS ON THE RIDEAU

To see Ontario in all its technicolor glory we recommend traveling here in late September and early October. For those making a last minute excursion, you can also check Ontario Parks **'leaf tracker'** ([ontarioparks.com/fallcolor](http://ontarioparks.com/fallcolor)) that charts the changing color of the leaves every autumn!

# MERRICKVILLE



Dubbed the 'Jewel of the Rideau', it won't take you long to see why Merrickville has been described as Canada's most beautiful village.

The town of Merrickville originally developed as a community based around the sawmill of William Mirik (later Merrick) during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over the years the town prospered, firstly with the arrival of the Rideau Canal in the 1830s and then the appearance of the railway in the 1880s. In recent years Merrickville has reinvented itself as a vibrant artisanal community and popular spot for visitors to the area. Wander around its picturesque streets, lined with Victorian-era stone houses, and immerse yourself in the quirky shops, artist studios and characterful cafes that make this delightful town so unique.

For those interested in boutique shopping, **Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Food Shop** has a wide selection of hand-crafted specialty mustards and



the **Wick Witch Candle Co.** is a particular craft highlight. Meanwhile, the **Downtown Ice Cream Shoppe** is one of several fabulous establishments vying to produce the best ice cream on the Rideau!

Once you've finished sampling the native delicacies and craft works, catch up on the local history with a visit to the **Blockhouse Museum** - a wonderfully maintained attraction situated in a historic blockhouse.

Alternatively witness the making of magical glass creations at **Gray Art Glass** artist's studio (*visit [grayartglass.com](http://grayartglass.com)*).

Celebrating its 225<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, join in the celebrations with this vibrant and creative community (*find out details at [realmerrickville.ca](http://realmerrickville.ca)*).

- AMENITIES:** LCBO and groceries.
- RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Baldachin Inn, located on the crossroad by the locks.



# SMITHS FALLS

Located in the spectacular Ontario's Highlands, Smiths Falls draws its name from the original owner of the land, Thomas Smyth, and the spectacular falls that were diverted here to create the Rideau Canal.

## A WARM WELCOME FROM SMITHS FALLS

Smiths Falls is the location of Le Boat's base on the Rideau Canal, and is the ideal starting and finishing point for exploring whichever part of the canal takes your fancy. Our base is located in a historic, fortified, former lockmaster's house, and we are particularly proud that our base is able to contribute in the conservation of just a small part of the Rideau Canal as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This Canadian national playground, provides an unforgettable recreation space that enchants locals and visitors alike.

As the largest community between Ottawa and Kingston, Smiths Falls has all the amenities one would expect of a mid-sized town - offering a great opportunity to stock up before you set-off on your Le Boat adventure. The town's size means there is also no shortage of shops and restaurants to explore. Discover craft products and designer labels before taking the time to relax and unwind over a glass of wine at one of Smiths Falls' many restaurants or local beers from **4 Degrees Brewing Company**, Smiths Falls' very own craft brewery (*find out more [4degreesbrewing.com](http://4degreesbrewing.com). Receive a Tasting Flight with purchase of \$10 or more on presentation of this guide*).



# SMITHS FALLS HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

## SMITHS FALLS RICH LOCAL HISTORY

 The town of Smiths Falls has a rich history, dating back to the arrival of American refugees who stayed loyal to the British crown after the American Revolution. Among these loyalists was Thomas Smyth, the early mill owner for whom the town was named. Successive waves of immigration followed, as Irish and Scottish workers came to build the historic Rideau Canal, and then stayed in the region to put down roots. The late nineteenth century brought the railways and an economic boom as the population grew rapidly and several important industries established themselves in Smiths Falls.

One of these industries included the Hershey's Chocolate factory, which at its peak employed 750 people. This led to Smiths Falls being nicknamed the chocolate capital of Ontario. However, the factory closed in 2008 and the site is now home to Canopy Growth Corporation's global headquarters, one of North America's largest medical marijuana producers (known locally as Tweed Inc. [canopygrowth.com](http://canopygrowth.com))

Those interested in learning more about the town's history can enjoy a walking tour that takes you back in time to explore the remarkable architecture of the town, from a historic mill and old schoolhouse to the grand homes that line the downtown streets. (You can download a self-guided Heritage Walking Tour on-line at [smithsfalls.ca](http://smithsfalls.ca), stop by the Visitors Centre at Town Hall to pick up a guide, or get in contact directly at 1-888-983-4124 to learn about scheduled tours led by a trained guide).



**THE HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM** is an elegant Victorian dwelling that will allow you to immerse yourself in the life of a wealthy Victorian mill owner and his family.

Lose yourself in eight quaintly-decorated period rooms and scenic gardens, as well as enjoying regular exhibitions, art shows, day camps, educational programmes and special events that are held here throughout the year.

A particularly interesting feature of this building is the house's mirror image facades – designed so that no matter which direction one approaches the house, whether it be from the canal or the road, one is met by what appears to be the front of the house. (Receive 2 for 1 admission on presentation of this guide. Open 13<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May on weekends 10am-5pm, 1<sup>st</sup> June- 31<sup>st</sup> October on Wed, Fri & Sun 10am-5pm and Thurs & Sat 12pm-8pm. Contact 613-283-6311 or [heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca](mailto:heritagehouse@smithsfalls.ca) for more information or visit the website at [smithsfalls.ca/culture-recreation/museums-history/heritage-house](http://smithsfalls.ca/culture-recreation/museums-history/heritage-house))



**RIDEAU CANAL VISITOR CENTRE** is situated right on the canal and is the home of Parks Canada. Located in a historic 19<sup>th</sup> century stone mill, it is the flagship visitor centre for the whole Rideau Canal system. Exhibits bring to life the history of the canal, covering the canal's construction between 1826 and 1831, the canal's role throughout history and the distinct lifestyle associated with the Rideau waterway. (Open: 18<sup>th</sup> May-8<sup>th</sup> October, daily 9am-5pm. Contact 613-283-5170 or [RideauCanal-info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:RideauCanal-info@pc.gc.ca) or visit the website at [pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/activ/accueil\\_info](http://pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/activ/accueil_info))





# SMITHS FALLS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE



A mecca for all things outdoors, Smiths Falls offers plenty of opportunities for adventure lovers. Take a stroll around one of the town's several parks and even go for a dip at the Smiths Falls beach located in **Murphy Park**. For something a little more vigorous – the **Catarqui Trail** and **Rideau Trail** both run through Smiths Falls and offer ample opportunity for cycling or hiking.



## THE RAILWAY MUSEUM OF EASTERN ONTARIO

is housed in a historic station building dating from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. A working station up until 1979, the station was threatened with destruction when the station's owners, the Canadian National Railway Company, applied for permission to abandon and dismantle the structure.

Faced with the loss of a remarkable piece of Ontario's railway heritage, local residents and organisations banded together to preserve the railway history of Smiths Falls. The result was a deal in 1985 under which the station building was purchased and a short section of track leased from Canadian National – providing the foothold that would result in the establishment of the railway museum that occupies the site to this day. It's a story of the community spirit that typifies Smiths Falls to this day.

Explore the museum's collection of rolling stock, inspection vehicles, as well as over 10,000 artefacts and archival records. The museum also houses the only remaining dental car in North America.

For a truly unique experience, you can even spend a night in one of the railway museum's two 1940s wooden cabooses – just as railroaders of yesteryear would have done! The perfect way to spend a night before or after your Le Boat adventure. (Open: 10am-5pm until 12<sup>th</sup> October, Contact 613-283-5696 or info@rmeo.org for more information or visit [www.rmeo.org](http://www.rmeo.org))



Golf lovers will be delighted to make a short hop south of Smiths Falls and enjoy a round of golf in the lush tranquility of the **Lombard Glen Golf Club's** course or the challenging forest-lined course of the **Smiths Falls Golf & Country Club** – home course of LPGA Champion and local Brooke Henderson! (Book a round at [lombardglen.com](http://lombardglen.com) or [smithsfallsgolf.com](http://smithsfallsgolf.com). Receive one free small bucket of range balls on presentation of this guide at Smiths Falls Golf & Country Club).

During the summer months, Smiths Falls hosts 'Movies Under the Stars' on select Thursdays. On select evenings (visit [togethersmithsfalls.com](http://togethersmithsfalls.com) for dates), get a lawn chair or beach towel and head down to **Centennial Park** (on the banks of the Rideau Canal, under Smiths Falls distinctive water tower) to enjoy a free family friendly movie on a big inflatable screen. Pre-show activities usually start around 7pm and can include everything from face painting and magic acts to pony rides and live music. A wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in the Smiths Falls community spirit (for a full list of events check [smithsfalls.ca/culture-recreation/events](http://smithsfalls.ca/culture-recreation/events)).

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Brunch at NOAL Pantry, 6 Russell Street East (Receive a free maple cream butter tart with all main course orders of \$15 or more on presentation of this guide) and for dinner Chuckles Jack, 23 Russell Street East or Café Whim, 7 Russell Street West.

**AMENITIES:** LCBO, Beer Store and grocery stores (Your Independent Grocer, Modern Thymes Health & Bulk Food are all perfect for stocking up before your trip and C'est Tout is a wonderful local bakery). If you are planning on going fishing - we also recommend taking this opportunity to pick up a fishing license from Canadian Tire for \$30 (one day licenses available for \$13) a short hop from our base.





# WANDERING ONTARIO'S HIGHLANDS

Do you love to wander off the beaten track, to discover those little hidden gems along the path less traveled? Whether you are looking for a slice of tranquility or a wild thrill, Ontario's Highlands offer an alternative to the usual hotspots - the chance to explore small town Canada with all its charming and magnetic allure.

A beautiful unspoiled region, Ontario's Highlands includes both Lanark County and the Ottawa Valley. Not directly accessible from the canal, but well worth the extra effort, we recommend taking a couple of days at the beginning or end of your cruise to explore this region fully, and with car rental available in Smiths Falls, become a contemporary wanderer on a classic North-American road-trip.

The road trip offers you the chance to be spontaneous and find those little secret spots that take you away from the crowds. After all, we believe it is the journey that makes a vacation an adventure!

## THE WANDERER'S ROAD TRIP ITINERARY

While many of the best road-trip memories happen on the spur-of-the-moment here are some of our top highlights of Ontario's Highlands to get you started:

- Drive to the **Port Emsley Drive-in Theatre (1)**
- Purchase something sophisticated, but smelly, at **Balderson Cheese Store (2)**
- Enjoy nature, hiking **Purdon's Conservation Area (3)** or **Blueberry Mountain (4)** home to the largest display of Showy Lady Slipper Orchid blooms in North America in July
- Satisfy your "need for speed" with a few laps of **Calabogie Motorsports Park (5)** – Canada's longest race track.
- Try your hand at rockhounding with **Aqua Rose Gems and Minerals (6)**
- Learn how to make Canada's liquid gold, maple syrup, at **Deakin's on Mountainview B&B (7)** (Receive a free jar of their own maple jelly on presentation of this guide)
- Lose track of time at Canada's only clock museum - **The Canadian Clock Museum (8)** (Receive half-price entry on presentation of this guide)
- Take a stroll around an authentic pioneer village at the **Petawawa Heritage village (9)** (Receive one free entrance on presentation of this guide)
- Pick your own blueberries at **Hugli's Blueberry Ranch (10)** (Receive a free 1/4lb of Hugli's freshly made fudge on presentation of this guide)
- Feel an exhilarating adrenaline rush and the rumble of rapids while whitewater rafting with **RiverRun Resort (11)**, **Wilderness Tours (12)** or **OWL Rafting (13)** (Receive 10% off any OWL Rafting experience upon presentation of this guide. Must be mentioned upon initial reservation)

- Indulge in some glamping at **Elements Luxury Tented Camp & Nature Spa (14)**
- Stop off for a refreshing craft beer at the **Whitewater Brewery (15)**
- Learn to identify fossils over 500 million years old at the **Bonnechere Caves (16)**
- Try a traditional Canadian butter tart at the General Store, Canada's oldest, before visiting the historic Five-span stone bridge in **Pakenham (17)**
- Take part in a personalized walking tour of culinary hot spots on the Good Food Tour in Almonte and Carleton Place **(18)** (Receive 50% off a ticket on presentation of this guide)
- Delve into the region's past at the **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum (19)** or **Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum (20)**.

### CAR RENTAL IN SMITHS FALLS

The two main car rental options available in Smiths Falls are: **Discount Car & Truck Rentals** (visit [discountcar.com](http://discountcar.com) or call 613-283-4419) and **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** (visit [enterprise.ca](http://enterprise.ca) or call 613-283-3700)

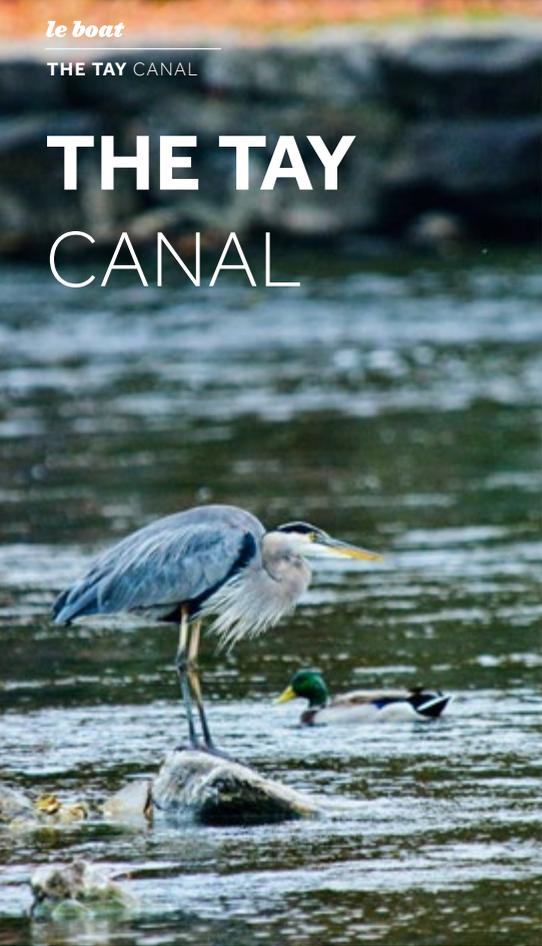


### DISCOVER MORE...

For a complete description of everything going on in Ontario's Highlands visit [comewander.ca](http://comewander.ca) or follow Ontario's Highlands on:



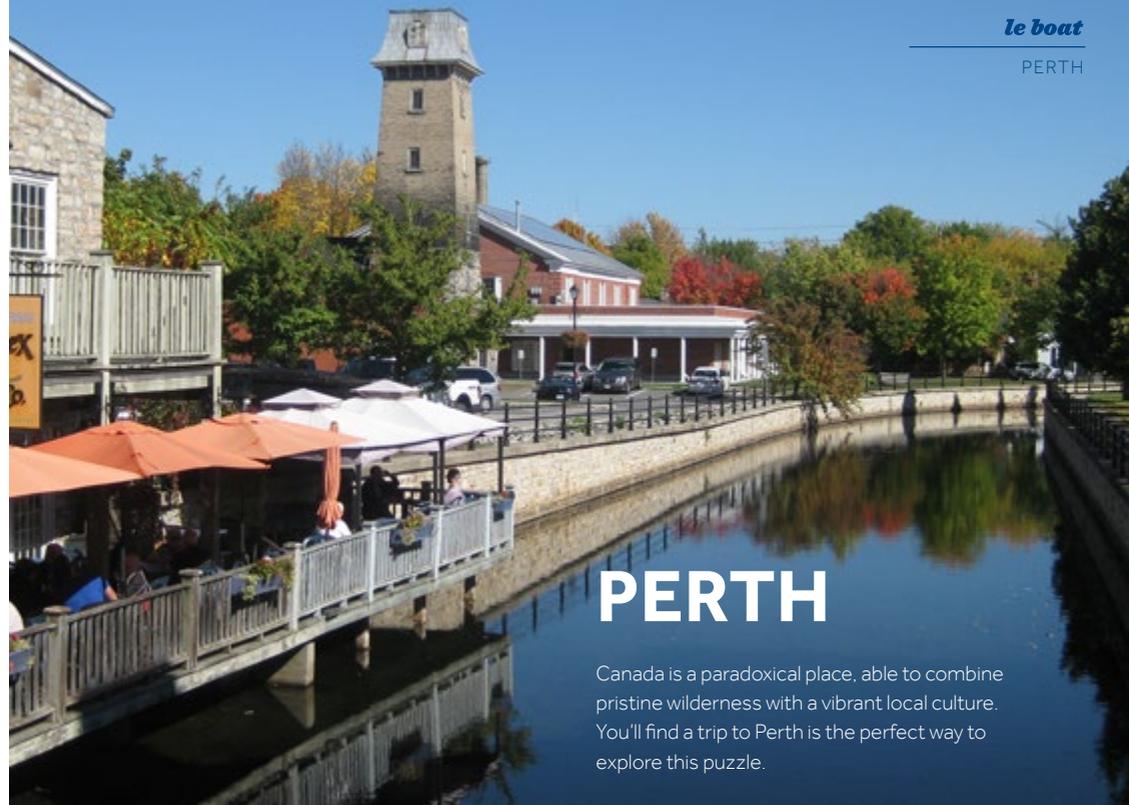
# THE TAY CANAL



## A WILDLIFE HOTSPOT

 A spur off the main Rideau Canal, the Tay Canal links the Rideau waterway system to the town of Perth. The Tay Canal is more than just a means to an end though, it is also one of the best wildlife viewing spots on the Rideau! To gain access to the Tay Canal, while crossing the Lower Rideau Lake, take a turn through the **Beveridges Locks**.

As you make your way further along the canal you'll find yourself entering the **Tay Marsh**, a must visit for any budding ornithologist. Here, among a sea of rushes, you'll find herons, berry eaters, ruffed grouse, swallows, marsh birds and many others on display - including the famous Canadian Loon! Or, visit the **Perth Wildlife Conservation Area** which has a special area for quiet observation.



# PERTH

Canada is a paradoxical place, able to combine pristine wilderness with a vibrant local culture. You'll find a trip to Perth is the perfect way to explore this puzzle.

## PERTH MOORING INFORMATION

After passing through the magnificent Tay Canal you'll come to the beautiful old town of Perth, crafted primarily by Scottish craftsmen over 200 years ago and renowned for its sandstone architecture.

On the approach to Perth, there are public moorings available on the edge of the town, just a short walk from the town centre. When you pass through Beveridges Locks, please call ahead to ask for mooring availability in Perth - you can call the Mooring Supervisor on 613-812-0020. The lock master may be able to assist with the call. When approaching Perth, the first dock you come to is a public boat launch, you are not allowed to moor on the nearside of this dock. Please also be careful as the moorings are very shallow and it is not possible to moor with the back of the boat in first. It's not possible to cruise directly to the centre of Perth due to the low bridges. The price of mooring here is included in the price of your vacation (see page 66 for more information).'



# WHAT TO DO IN PERTH



Perth's creative spirit also extends to the arts, with Perth's Classic Theatre Festival demonstrating that great theatre need not be limited to major metropolises. A professional theatre company, the **Classic Theatre Festival** put on shows, walking tours and events throughout the summer. (Receive 20% off a Perth Classic Theatre Festival mainstage show or walking play on presentation of this guide. For more information visit [classictheatre.ca](http://classictheatre.ca).)

You can discover a little more of the history of the town with a visit to the **Perth Museum** (Receive 10% off in the gift shop on presentation of this guide.) The museum, located in a historic sandstone mansion, allows you to delve into the town's fascinating history - from its foundation as a military settlement to its role as the setting for the final fatal duel in Canada! Perth was also the home of 'Big Ben', an iconic Canadian show jumping horse that captured the Canadian imagination in the late 1980s and early 90s. You'll find a statue commemorating him set among the tranquil five acres of **Stewart Park**. (Discover a list of events in Perth at [perth.ca/calendar](http://perth.ca/calendar), Call for visitor information: 1-866-326-1947/.)

**AMENITIES:** Beer Store, LCBO and groceries

When you arrive in Perth, you'll find something for everyone! Quirky Perth has never been afraid to be different - the town was even once responsible for building the world's largest piece of cheese (a mammoth cheese weighing 22,000 lb!). This creative spirit lives on through many of Perth's shops, restaurants and local artists.



The retailers who call Perth home have established an imaginative marketplace haven where you can shop for anyone. From custom-made purses to local artist paintings and treasured finds from afar, Perth has carved itself a role as a retail base for both locals and visitors alike. A farmer's market even takes place every Saturday, hosted in a greenhouse like structure known as the **Crystal Palace**.



# PERTH'S EXCEPTIONAL GASTRONOMY



## THE SURROUNDING AREA

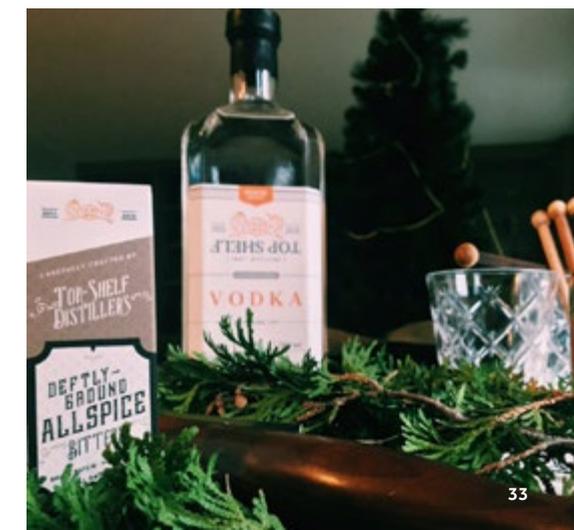
Beyond the town of Perth itself the surrounding area is packed with attractions and activities. If you're happy to venture away from the canal, a half-hour taxi journey from Perth you'll find **Wheeler's Pancake House, Sugar Camp and Museums**. A family-run business that combines a pancake house with a series of museums and hiking trails right in Canada's maple syrup producing heartland. (Visit their website at [wheelersmaple.com](http://wheelersmaple.com).)

Alternatively, a fifteen minute taxi journey south of Perth, on the Northern side of Big Rideau Lake, you'll find the public recreation ground of **Murphy's Point Provincial Park**. This 3,060 acre park features idyllic hiking trails, as well as a restored early 20<sup>th</sup> century mine. Here you'll be able to go on guided tours of **The Silver Queen Mica Mine** - an early pioneer mine, and even ghost walks for those who are feeling brave.



Award-winning restaurants occupy Perth's streets, serving innovative dishes that offer a true taste of Canada. We recommend **The Stone Cellar** on Gore Street for a fine dining option, **Fiddleheads** located in a beautiful old stone mill with a patio overlooking Stewart Park and **O'Reilly's Ale House** for an authentic Canadian public house experience. Or, if none of those quite tickle your fancy there are a further twenty restaurants in Perth's downtown to choose from!

During the prohibition era, Perth was notorious for its underground distillers crafting sought-after moonshine - so you can be sure the locals know what they're doing! Enjoy a beer or something a little stronger from the now legitimate **Perth Brewery** (receive a free tour and tasting by appointment on presentation of this guide. Visit [perthbrewery.ca](http://perthbrewery.ca)) or **Top Shelf Distillers** (receive a free tasting tour, valued at \$10 per person, on presentation of this guide. Visit [topshelfdistillers.com](http://topshelfdistillers.com).)



# RIDEAU FERRY

Rideau Ferry is the spectacular scenic southern gateway between the Big and Lower Rideau Lakes and straddles the thin strip of water that joins Big Rideau Lake to the Lower Rideau Lake. Although the ferry from which the village draws its name has long since disappeared, (the original ferry service was replaced by a bridge in 1874) the town has good mooring facilities and services for boats.

The town's strong association with the Rideau Lakes is solidified through numerous waterway based festivals and events, including numerous fishing derbies and a biannual Vintage Boat Regatta that was first held in 1897.

Rideau Ferry is also home to the **Rideau Ferry Conservation Area**, a 10 acre public recreation area along the shores of Lower Rideau Lake – a beautiful spot to relax at the end of the day.



If you're willing to adventure just outside Rideau Ferry, 2.4km (1.5 miles) north-west of the town you'll find **Coutts Country Flavours**. A fourth generation farm that produces a wide variety of locally farmed products, home bakery goods and, most importantly, a collection of organic maple syrup! The farm harvests its own maple syrup, using around 5,800 maple syrup taps to produce over 36 different items of produce from four litre bottles of maple syrup to sweets, marinades and mustards.

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** CC's On the Rideau, a lakeside restaurant with great views over the Rideau and its own mooring facilities.  
**AMENITIES:** LCBO, groceries and a private marina,



## GHOSTS AT THE FERRY!

The settlement at Rideau Ferry was originally known as Oliver's Ferry, after the Oliver family who ran a ferry service across the Rideau. Local legend has it that the ferry keeper, Mr. Oliver, would often refuse to take travellers across after dark, offering to put them up in his house instead. However, come the morning, Mr. Oliver's neighbours rarely saw the travellers leave! The stories continue that, years later, when the Oliver residence was dismantled to make way for the new bridge, human bones were found in the walls and floors! Whether or not the legends of the murderous Mr. Oliver are true (officially no skeletons have ever been found ..yet), contemporary accounts describe that Mr. Oliver was a rather malicious individual who met his untimely end during a dispute with his neighbours!



## A TASTE OF CANADA

Combine some of the local maple syrup with this easy to follow recipe for delicious Canadian pancakes.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 100g (4 oz) plain flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 250ml milk ( 1 cup / 8 oz)
- 3 eggs

### METHOD:

- Combine flour and baking powder. Stir in milk and eggs until smooth.
- Heat a buttered frying pan over medium high heat. Ladle the batter into the pan (approx. four tablespoons per pancake). Cook until pancakes are golden brown on both sides;
- Serve hot and generously pour maple syrup on top



# INDIGENOUS CULTURES OF THE RIDEAU CANAL

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

Ontario has a rich and diverse Indigenous history and culture.



Canada's Indigenous communities consist of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples – descendants of original inhabitants who lived in Canada for thousands of years before explorers arrived from Europe. Ontario's indigenous population are primarily First Nations peoples. There are 133 different First Nations communities in Ontario alone covering a vast variety of distinctive histories, languages and beliefs. However, one thing that all First Nations cultures share is a connection to the breath-taking landscapes and nature of Ontario. To truly experience Canada's culture and appreciate the spectacular beauty of its scenery, it is essential to understand Indigenous culture and heritage.

### A COMPLEX HISTORY

Many indigenous communities had developed over thousands of years before European colonisation began in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. These communities ranged from nomadic hunters to settled agricultural societies. Democratic processes were common in many of these societies, and it's argued that the American Constitution was heavily influenced by the Iroquois system of government.

Indigenous peoples have faced many challenges in the past centuries. With the arrival of Europeans came many new illnesses which the indigenous peoples had no immunity to. Territorial disputes and violence then followed for hundreds of years as indigenous peoples tried to defend their land from colonial European forces.

These attempts at European dominance culminated in the Indian residential school system of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These schools were intended to force the assimilation of indigenous children into European Canadian society. Children were punished, often brutally, for speaking their own languages or practicing their traditional faiths.



However, despite these hardships, indigenous cultures have survived, and even thrived. There are now 3,100 Indian reserves across Canada where indigenous communities are maintaining their unique identities, languages and cultures. Self-identifying indigenous populations are also increasing rapidly, and, with these increased numbers, will come more political and cultural influence.

### FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE AND THE WATERWAYS OF ONTARIO

The waterways of Ontario have been used by First Nations people for thousands of years before the Rideau Canal was even envisioned.

Making canoes to travel these waterways has been a highly valued skill in indigenous communities. The earliest boats were called Dugout Canoes and were made by hollowing out entire trees!

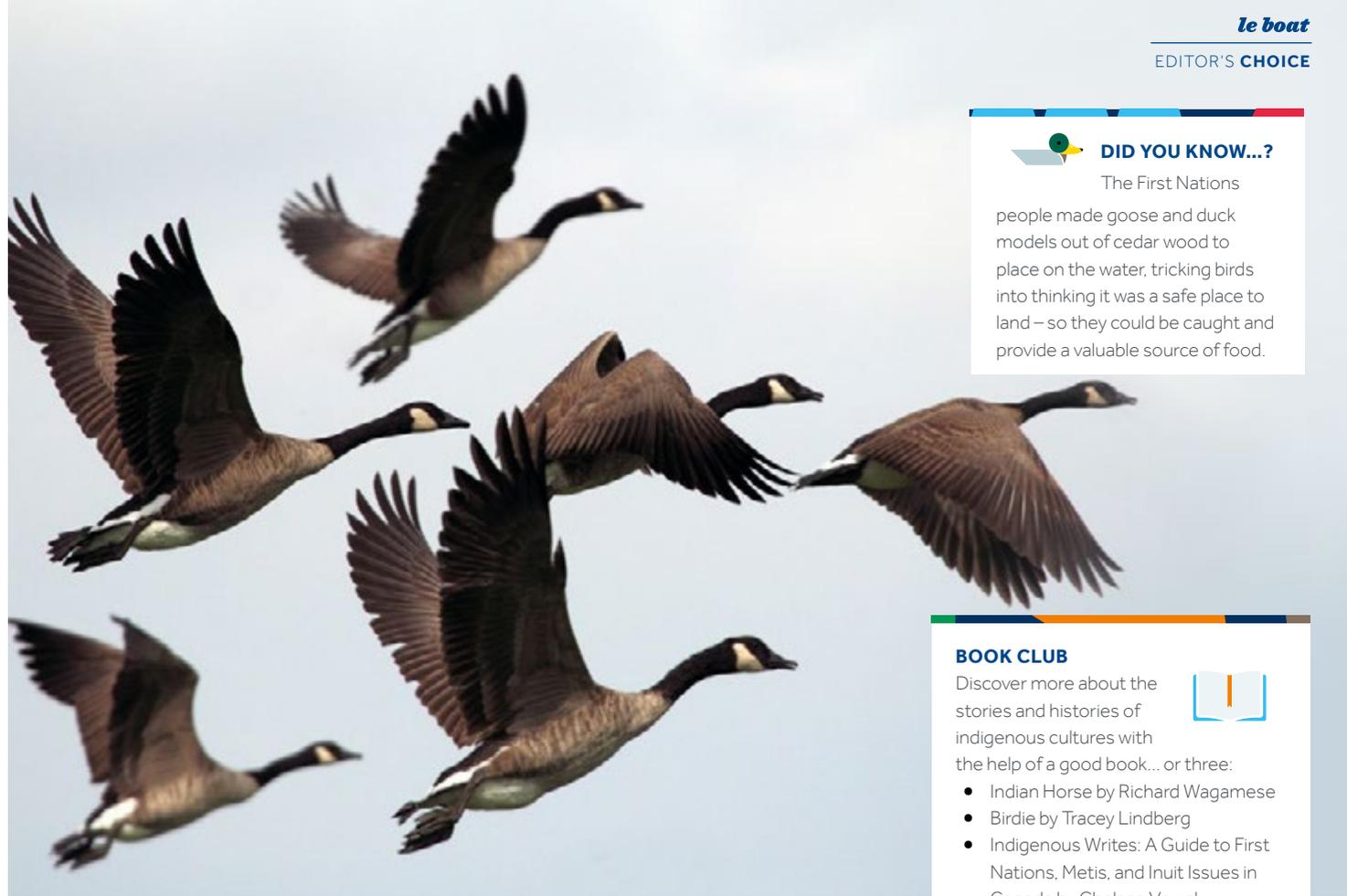
Archaeologists have discovered artefacts made from copper that are over 5,000 years old at multiple points along what is now the Rideau Canal. This copper most likely came from pit mines at Lake Superior in Michigan - meaning that the Ottawa River Valley has been a major trade route since prehistoric times!

Many towns along the Rideau Canal today actually began as First Nations trading posts along the waterways. Settlements you'll be cruising past including Burritts Rapids, Merrickville and Perth were all built on First Nation trading sites. Ottawa's name itself even comes from the Algonquin word 'adawe', which means 'to trade'!

### GET INVOLVED!

There are many places along the Rideau Canal where visitors are welcomed by Indigenous peoples and encouraged to join in with traditional activities. There's no better way to experience these vibrant cultures and customs than by getting involved!

- Our base town, Smiths Falls, celebrates indigenous culture with a historic Pow Wow ceremony every summer. **The Spirit of the Drum Traditional Pow Wow** (9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June) features traditional indigenous song, dance and drumming – it's free of charge and everyone is encouraged to join in!
- On Victoria Island in the heart of Ottawa sits a historic First Nations native village. Indigenous cultural ambassadors from **Aboriginal Experiences** provide visitors with an unforgettable and enlightening guided tour. Traditional craft workshops, a taste of First Nations' cuisine and an interactive Pow Wow dance performance provide a unique and immersive way to experience First Nations' culture.
- While for those traveling away from the Rideau Canal, a visit to Manitoulin Island is a must. The island's name comes from the Odawa word Manidoowaaling, which means 'cave of the spirit' and is named to honour an underwater cave where a powerful spirit was said to live. **The Great Spirit Circle Trail** tour group gives you the chance to experience the spectacular Island from an indigenous perspective, offering both nature based and cultural tourist activities.



#### DID YOU KNOW...?

The First Nations

people made goose and duck models out of cedar wood to place on the water, tricking birds into thinking it was a safe place to land – so they could be caught and provide a valuable source of food.

#### BOOK CLUB

Discover more about the stories and histories of indigenous cultures with the help of a good book... or three:



- Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese
- Birdie by Tracey Lindberg
- Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Issues in Canada by Chelsea Vowel



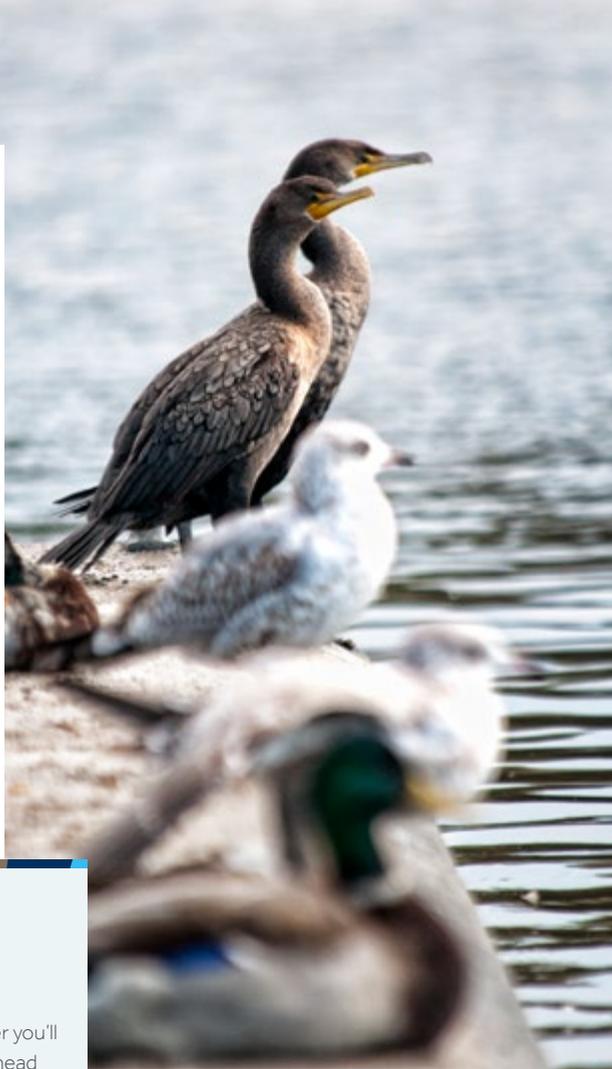
# PORTLAND



Portland is a small village located on Big Rideau Lake. There are several unique stores in town - including antiques and collectables. A fraction east of the town you'll find the **Cataraqui Trail**. This all-season multi-use trail runs approximately 103km (55.6 miles) from Smiths Falls in the east to Strathcona in the west (Great for walking or biking) and offers the perfect opportunity to sample some of Ontario's breathtaking nature.

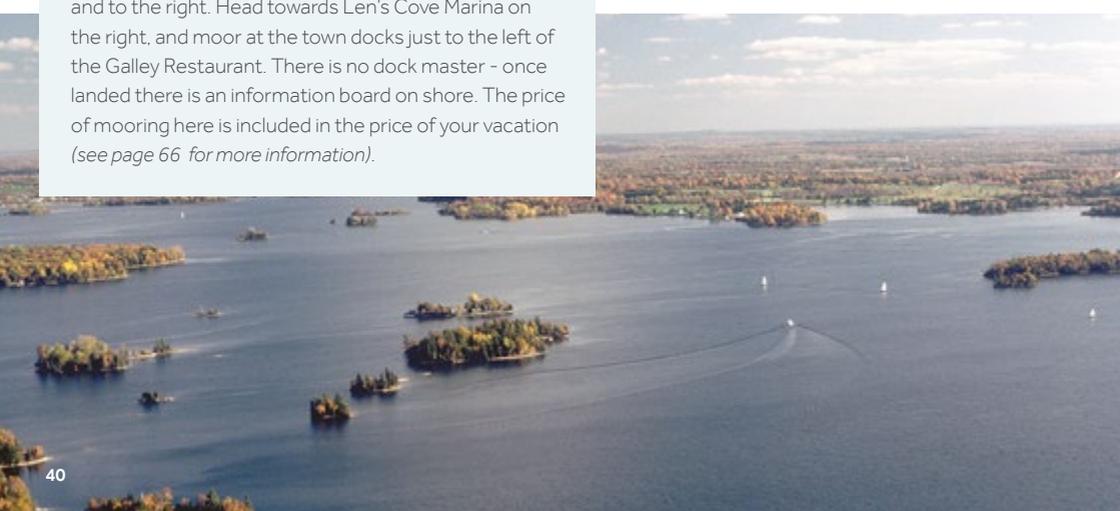
**AMENITIES:** LCBO and groceries.

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** The Galley Restaurant located right on the water with a great view over the harbour.



## PORTLAND MOORING INFORMATION

On approach to Portland you'll see Bayview Yacht Harbor ahead and to the left, and as you get closer you'll see Len's Cove Marina around a small headland ahead and to the right. Head towards Len's Cove Marina on the right, and moor at the town docks just to the left of the Galley Restaurant. There is no dock master - once landed there is an information board on shore. The price of mooring here is included in the price of your vacation (see page 66 for more information).



# WESTPORT



Westport is a charming village with a warm welcome. The perfect stop for delving into the charismatic world of friendly small-town Canada.

The town of Westport offers plenty of activities and is packed with shops and services oozing with hospitality. Delve into boutique shops, a fantastic little bakery, cute cafés and coffee shops and ice cream parlours, two nearby golf courses and swimming beaches. Nature lovers will be able to enjoy a hike in the **Foley Mountain Conservation Area**, complete with one of the best views on the Rideau at Spy Rock.

Stop off at the **Sundari Day Spa** for a session of R&R with spectacular views over the Westport Pond. Wine lovers will then love to follow this up by enjoying a wine tasting at the **Scheuermann Winery** - complete with spectacular views of the surrounding vineyard and landscape! (Open Monday to Wednesday 11am - 6pm / Thursday to Sunday 11am - 8pm, visit [scheuermannwinery.com](http://scheuermannwinery.com) to find out more)



**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** The Cove Country Inn, a family-owned restaurant located in a historic grand house dating back to 1876, with lovely views over the Westport Pond, it regularly hosts live music and a jazz night

**AMENITIES:** LCBO, beer store and grocery stores (Kudrinko's Ltd. is an award winning independent grocer in town and Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods serves boutique specialties).

## WESTPORT MOORING INFORMATION

Moorings are located on a small island (you cannot cruise all the way around the island due to a low footbridge). There are two free mooring spaces here for Le Boat customers, allocated on a first come, first served basis. Subsequent boats are required to pay. (Call 613-273-2191 to contact the village of Westport for more information).



# NEWBORO



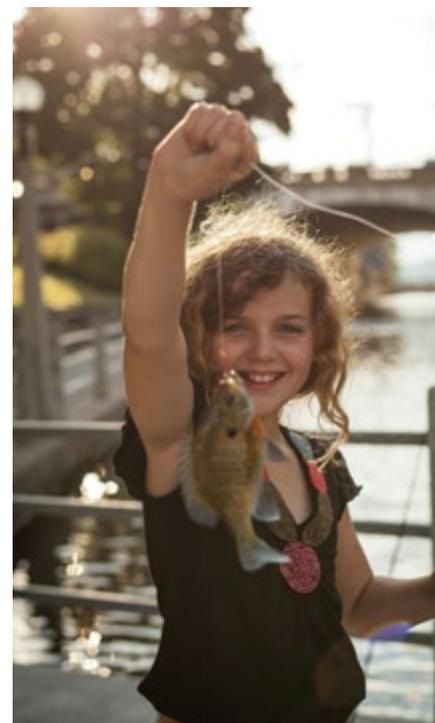
A fisherman's paradise and a shopper's heaven, Newboro is a wonderfully quirky stop on the Rideau Canal.

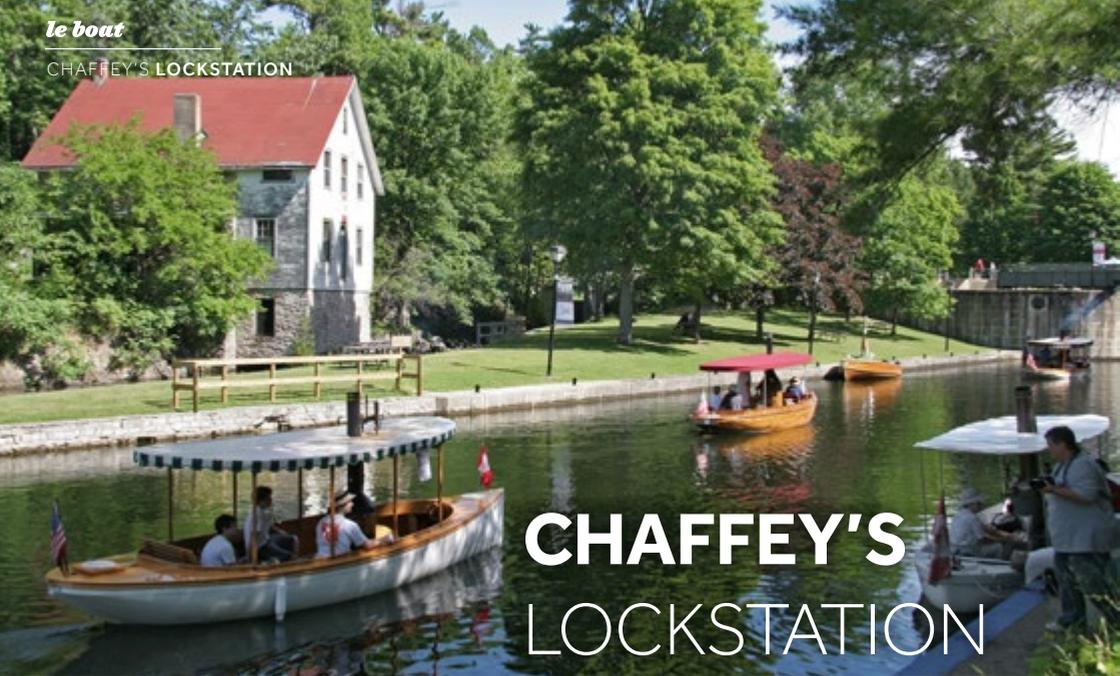
The Village of Newboro is a favourite spot for anglers looking to land one of the big Largemouth Bass that populate Newboro Lake. It is also a popular stop for boaters due to its location adjacent to the Newboro Lockstation on the Rideau Canal. It's a great place to restock supplies or have a quiet lunch or dinner at one of the local restaurants.



Shopping lovers should be sure not to miss **Kilborn's on the Rideau**- a fantastic, unique and eclectic shopping experience located in the heart of historic Newboro. Kilborn's gets its name from Col. John Kilborn, a prisoner of the United States in the War of 1812, who escaped and eventually came to settle in Newboro. Achieving the highest rank for a member of the militia, Col. Kilborn went on to become a representative in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, Postmaster and a judge (*find out more at kilborns.ca*). The nearby **Stirling Lodge Hotel & Restaurant** is situated in his original 1832 residence.

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Stirling Lodge, located in a lovely old building with pleasant gardens, just up from the moorings or The Stagecoach Inn Restaurant, adjacent to Kilborn's.





# CHAFFEY'S LOCKSTATION



 Home to the unforgettable Opinicon, Chaffey's Lockstation is where old world charm meets modern luxury.

Chaffey's lockstation stands on a beautiful isthmus of land lying between Indian and Opinicon Lakes. Here you'll find the **Lockmaster's House Museum** with displays of early life at the Lockstation. A stop off at Chaffey's Lockstation is also the perfect opportunity to take in some of Ontario's spellbinding nature as you wander along the **Cataraqui Trail**, an all-season trail that passes through Chaffey's Lockstation following an old railway line.

# THE OPINICON

The real highlight of Chaffey's lockstation is **The Opinicon Resort**. A vacation resort where old world charm meets modern luxury, enjoy some of the fantastic amenities on offer here, before delighting in a fine dining experience in the resort's historic dining room.

First built in the 1870s as a private residence, the building's prime location on the shores of Lake Opinicon made it a draw for tourists and fishermen alike. In 1921, the building, after several different owners, was purchased by W.E Phillips and re-opened as **The Opinicon Club**.

Run by the same family for the next 90 years, The Opinicon acted as a popular spot for boaters and tourists alike. Every summer a close-knit community would develop between many of the families and guests who would stay for weeks at a time.

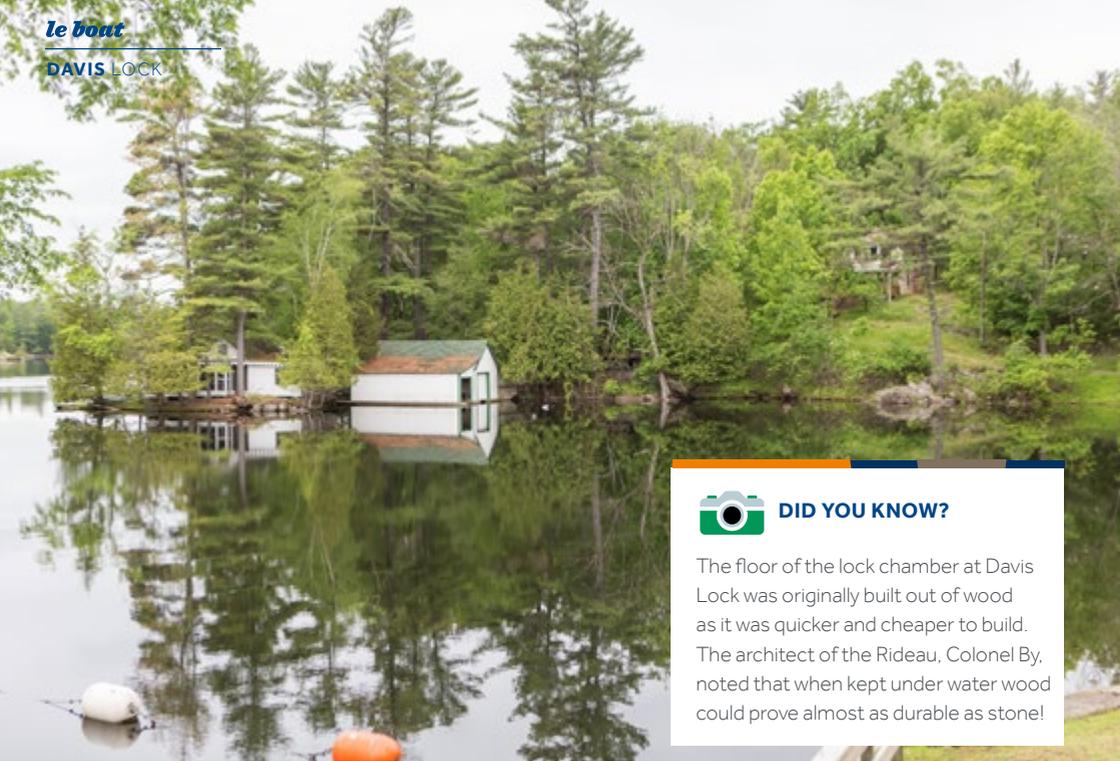


However, over time The Opinicon's glory began to fade and with many of the buildings in a serious state of disrepair the resort was forced to close.

Put up for sale in 2012, The Opinicon was bought by new owners in 2015. Refurbished and modernized, while maintaining its old-world charm, the **'Grand Old Dame of the Rideau'** was able to reopen to guests, day-visitors and diners alike in 2015. *(To find out more visit [opinicon.com](http://opinicon.com) or call 613-359-5233.)*

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Perhaps it should come as no surprise The Opinicon, located just by the locks is our recommended restaurant for a stop at Chaffey's Lockstation.





DID YOU KNOW?

The floor of the lock chamber at Davis Lock was originally built out of wood as it was quicker and cheaper to build. The architect of the Rideau, Colonel By, noted that when kept under water wood could prove almost as durable as stone!



# JONES FALLS



One of the wonders of the Rideau Canal, the impressive set of locks and spectacular dam at Jones Falls is a perfect picturesque spot to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life.

Jones Falls must be one of the prettiest lockstations along the canal, set in tranquil parkland with a collection of historic buildings to explore. Take a trip to the lockmaster's house designed to be defensible from attack and lovingly restored in a 19<sup>th</sup> century style - complete with costumed re-enactors who will provide historical details on the site. Then, head to the lockstation's very own blacksmith's shop, located on the banks of Jones Falls lockstation turning basin, to witness live blacksmithing demonstrations! (*Open: 18th May - 3rd September, 9am-5pm, 3rd September - 8th October 9am-5pm on Saturday, Sunday & Mondays only*)



For a wonderful scenic hike, take a short hop (6km (3.2 miles)) south of Jones Falls to the **Rock Dunder Hiking Trails**. This trail network is where you'll find some of the best views over the Rideau waterway system - unmissable for those that love to explore the great outdoors! (*The Rock Dunder Hiking Trail is managed by the Rideau Waterway Land Trust and requires a day pass to hike. Day passes can be purchased online for \$10 per vehicle/group: [rwl.t.org/community-lands](http://rwl.t.org/community-lands)*)

If you need to stock up on supplies, 7.4km (4 miles) east of Jones Falls you'll find **Wendy's Country Market**. A traditional farm shop stocked to the brim with local produce, as well as prepared food. You can even order a picnic basket or supplies direct to your boat! (*For more information visit [wendyscountrymarket.com](http://wendyscountrymarket.com) or call 613-928-2477*).

# DAVIS LOCK



One of the most isolated lockstations on the Rideau, Davis Lock is an idyllic lockstation, surrounded by serene parkland packed with wildlife (watch for deer emerging from the woods!) - the perfect spot to enjoy a picnic and relax.



Davis Lock draws its name from Walter Davis Jr. - who constructed a sawmill in the area at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A short walk across the weir you'll discover an original defensible lockmasters house that was built in 1842, and is one of the best examples of a defensible stone lockmaster's house along the Rideau. The home to lockmasters over the years, the building was completely refurbished in 1999 and now operates as a vacation rental.



# JONES FALLS LOCKS AND DAM

The real gem of Jones Falls is the lockstation itself, with the highest rise/fall of any lockstation on the Rideau (a whopping 59 feet!). The Lock complex consists of a spectacular staircase of three locks, a turning basin, an upper lock and a remarkable 328 foot dam.

A marvel of 19<sup>th</sup> century construction, the stone arch dam at Jones Falls was built by over 260 Canadian and Scottish laborers and was the largest dam in North America when completed in 1832. Such a large dam was required because a set of rapids plunging through a ravine with high rocky banks had made this section of the Rideau impassable to large river craft. The dam created an artificial lake that flooded these rapids and provided a navigable waterway for large commercial craft and steamboat traffic.

The locks themselves are just as remarkable. Gorgeously constructed and maintaining many of their original features the four locks each have a rise/fall of around 16.4 feet – a height considered dangerously high in the early 1800s and necessitating the use of specially reinforced lock gates.



## TRY THE WHISPERING DAM

The Jones Falls' dam is sometimes called the 'Whispering Dam'. When standing at the viewing point near the top it is possible to clearly hear the voices of someone standing on the opposite end of the dam over 62 miles! This quirky effect is due to the curvature of the dam and the use of sandstone rather than mortar in the dam's construction.



# KEN W. WATSON'S TIPS TO THE RIDEAU

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Ken W. Watson is one of the many colorful characters you'll meet on the Rideau, with a background in geology and computers. Ken moved to the shores of the Rideau Canal in 1995. In 1996 he started a website about the Rideau Canal (RideauCanal.ca), which is currently the largest source

of information about the Canal! Ken has also authored and published several heritage books, is an avid boater (both power and paddle) and is considered by many as the authoritative source on the Rideau Canal. And, we here at Le Boat were lucky enough to catch-up with him for an interview! Here is what he had to say:

### Le Boat: What do you think people visiting the Rideau for the first time should know?

**Ken:** Well first thing, it's not actually really a canal – it's a waterway. People think of a canal as a linear ditch... On the Rideau it is a series of rivers and lakes that are connected by locks – only 10% of the Rideau is man-made! So it is a much more varied experience. That's one of the features of the Rideau. It is not a monoculture experience where you're simply in an urban, rural or natural environment, it is actually a combination of all three. Sometimes in the space of a very short distance. So you can watch loons in a sheltered bay and then turn the corner and there is a multi-million dollar cottage. So every section you go along has something different.

### Le Boat: What advice would you give people who are experiencing the waterway with a Le Boat cruiser this summer?

**Ken:** That the Rideau is easy to boat, it is a heritage waterway run by Parks Canada and it caters to the recreational boater. So whether you have any experience of boating or not, the Rideau is a wonderful place to do it. You're never that far from people. The lock staff when you go through are always extremely friendly and ready to help. There is essentially no commercial traffic on the Rideau, so it's easy and, frankly, fun!

### Le Boat: What is a great place to visit that locals know about, but tourists might not?

**Ken:** Well there are several, and probably the best known is Morton Bay [just South of Jones Falls off Whitefish Lake]. It is a sheltered bay a little off the navigation channel in an area of big granite exposures – one is called Rock Dunder the other is called Dunder's mate. It is a favourite for people just to go in and enjoy the ambiance of the area. There is also lots of little coves and lots of spots as you travel along the Rideau, and I think, for most people, they'll discover their own little secret spot as they travel the Rideau.

*That's one of the features of the Rideau. It is not a monoculture experience where you're simply in an urban, rural or natural environment, it is actually a combination of all three.*



### Le Boat: What are the "can't miss" spots for a nature lover?

**Ken:** Any spot on the Rideau has nature opportunities. I like to head out early in the morning and you see a lot of wildlife – everything from otters to ducks. Loons are common throughout almost the entire Rideau, so no matter where you travel you'll see wildlife.

### Le Boat: Many people come to the Rideau to photograph the wildlife, can you tell us what you usually carry in your camera bag?

**Ken:** I carry three things, a digital SLR and two lenses. One walk around lens that goes from wide angle to low telephoto, 28-85mm or 28-130mm, that kind of range. I also carry a big telephoto lens for wildlife photography - and that allows me to



get close to wildlife without getting physically close to the wildlife! But I also carry a smartphone and at times I'll just pop that out and take pictures, and I think almost any phone these days takes very good pictures. Even if you're not a photographer, if you've got a smart phone you've got the equipment to take some really nice photos of the Rideau.



*You can go to a lockstation and it is essentially like stepping back in time.*



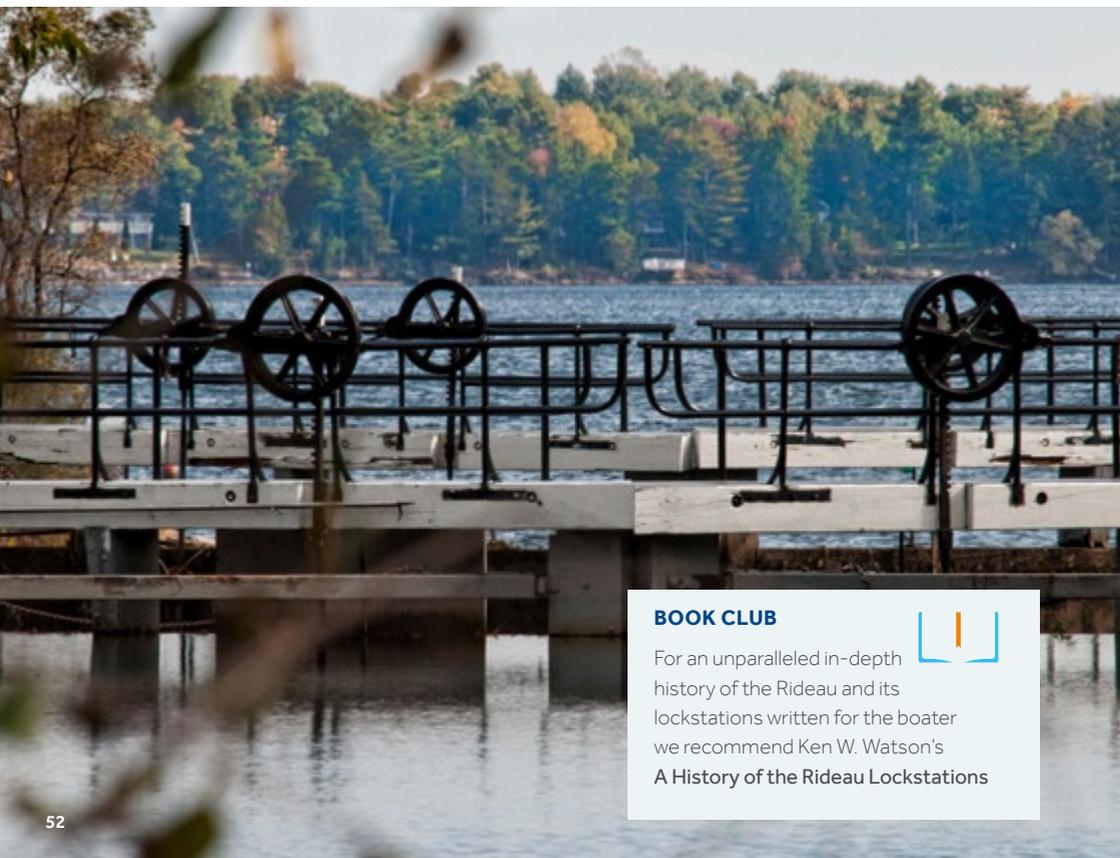
**Le Boat: What towns and businesses do you think people should see?**

**Ken:** The first two that come to mind are Merrickville and Westport. They're in two different sections of the Rideau, but both are villages that cater to the tourist. They have a lot of shops, lots of restaurants and so on.

If you're in the Northern section, stop in Merrickville, for few hours, if you're in the central section, stop in Westport. For the really adventurous you can head up the Tay Canal and go visit Perth, another lovely little town. While for the higher end customer, those who would like to exercise their credit card, Kilborn's in Newboro is a wonderful place to spend an hour or two.

**Le Boat: Have you always been an outdoors person and do you have a favourite memory of the Rideau?**

**Ken:** Yes, I've always been an outdoor person. My Dad was an outdoor person, and we had a cottage in the lower reaches of Quebec, so I spent most of my summers up there. I went into the career of geology because I wanted a career that would let me be outdoors and spent a few years exploring the Yukon and also spent some time in Northern Ontario. So I've always enjoyed being out and about and the Rideau, even though it is a much more civilized area, certainly gives those same opportunities to go out and enjoy the great outdoors.



**BOOK CLUB**



For an unparalleled in-depth history of the Rideau and its lockstations written for the boater we recommend Ken W. Watson's **A History of the Rideau Lockstations**



**Le Boat: You've written several books and often present about the Rideau. Why do you think it is important to educate people on the history of the Rideau?**

**Ken:** When I first moved here, I was in a new area and I was not familiar with the Rideau - I knew it essentially as a skate way in Ottawa - as most Canadian's do and perhaps people around the world. But I was living on one of the lakes on the Rideau system and realized the Rideau is much more than that. I also noticed my local lock. And, as I got interested in the history of the Rideau I realized that features I was reading about in old documents still exist today on the Rideau. The Rideau is not a diorama in a parking lot. It's actually the real thing and if you know what to look for it's all still there. You can go to a lockstation and it is essentially like stepping back in time. I enjoy that type of experience and sharing that with people.

**Le Boat: You're involved with the Friends of the Rideau organisation - would you like to tell us a bit about them?**

**Ken:** Well, Friends of the Rideau is an organisation I

joined in 1997, about a year after I started my website about the Rideau Canal. Their goal is to enhance the charm and character of the Rideau. They do various things including brochures, such as our 'how a lock works' brochure. So as people at a lockstation watch the lock staff doing the lockage, they can actually see what is happening, identify all the features of the lock and understand why the lock staff are doing certain things. We've also taken a lot of the old reports done by Parks Canada on the history of the Rideau and digitized them and made those available to the public. And, of course we are out at various shows in the summer talking to people. That is another big thing we do every summer - the sort of meet and greet and answer any questions people have about the Rideau.

The main outlet [for Friends of the Rideau resources and books] is the depot in Merrickville. Right beside the blockhouse. It's an interpreter's centre and retail outlet. Friends of the Rideau survives on the sale of books, so every book that I've written that is still available today is available in the depot in Merrickville.

# SEELEY'S BAY



After cruising through the spectacular **Whitefish Lake** you'll arrive at Seeley's Bay. This charming town offers a great community park with playgrounds, tennis courts and picnic tables. Here you'll be delighted to discover a little sliver of the region's history at the **Tepee in Centennial Park** (just up Bay Street from the moorings). This modern day tepee commemorates the original Tepee of 'Granny Seeley', who ran a trading post and conducted business with Aboriginals and European settlers during the 1800s.

Seeley's Bay is also a fishing hotspot, boasting the largest ever bass caught in Ontario! So if you're angling for that next big catch, why not cast your troubles away with a fishing rod in hand. If you want to learn more about the town and the local area, we suggest you head to the **Nest Egg**, a quirky shop that serves as a mix of ice cream shop, gift shop and just a great place to pick up travel tips with the charismatic owners.



A 'must visit' in Seeley's Bay is its fabulous **Ridgeway Confections Shop**. A delightful chocolate shop selling handmade creations. The perfect place to enjoy the finer things in life and indulge in some delicious local treats in their showroom (open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11am-5pm, visit [ridgewayconfections.com](http://ridgewayconfections.com) to find out more).

If you're making your way downstream to Kingston, we recommend doing a bit of trading of your own and stocking up on supplies in Seeley's Bay.

### RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:

The Junction, Corner of Hwy. 15 and Hwy. 32, KOH 2N0

**AMENITIES:** LCBO and Groceries



## SEELEY'S BAY MOORING INFORMATION

Seeley's Bay moorings are located just off the main navigation channel at buoy S248. On approach call ahead to the dock attendant to reserve a mooring. The dock attendant may even be able to offer you a lift service to local towns or the city of Kingston. Perfect for visiting Kingston if you don't plan to cruise that far (Call 613-929-2461 1st June- 15th September or 613-659-2415 ext.207 16th September – 31st May to reserve a mooring place and find out more details on a lift service). The price of mooring here is included in the price of your vacation (see page 66 for more information).

# LOWER BREWERS LOCKSTATION

 Lower Brewers Lockstation is the location of one of the Rideau Canal's beautiful unequal arm swing bridges. This impressive construction is so well balanced a single person can move the bridge simply by pushing on it to allow boats to pass along the canal.

At this lock you'll also be able to enjoy **Waddell Apple Orchard & Bakery** located right on the banks of the canal. Here you can enjoy fresh farm produce and go apple picking as early as August. Why not take some produce back for a picnic in the pretty parkland surrounding the lock (*find out more at [waddellapples.com](http://waddellapples.com)*), before taking a stroll across the historic swing bridge to the old **Grist Mill** located on the opposite bank. It is here you'll find the unique **Doner Studio**, an artist studio, gallery shop and mill museum. The owners Randal and Darlene Doner specialize in spectacular metal sculptures and fine jewellery (*open by appointment or chance, call 613 483 6026 or email [info@donerstudio.ca](mailto:info@donerstudio.ca) or visit [donerstudio.ca](http://donerstudio.ca) to find out more*).

# KINGSTON MILLS

 A picnic paradise for visitors, Kingston Mills is a great spot to take in the sites while watching pleasure cruisers traverse the waterway as they enter and exit from the Cataraqui River and Lake Ontario.

Kingston Mills was the site of the first mill built on the Rideau, the King's Mill, built here at the Cataraqui Falls in 1784. Today, the site features a lovely set of three locks, a turning basin, a detached upper lock and the **Robert Anglin Visitor's Centre**.

The lockstation here, is also the location of the impressive Kingston Mills Falls that acts as an outlet for Colonel By Lake, an artificial lake created by the damming of the Cataraqui River, that drains into the St Lawrence River. The falls are located just



below the dam, but are difficult to see from the road. Therefore to see the falls, walk over to the south west side of the dam, and look for a dirt road by the utility building. Walk down this, and take a left to the river below the falls.

# KINGSTON

Kingston is where small-town charm meets big city offerings – most within walking distance of the historic downtown core.

## HERITAGE AND HISTORY



Steeped in history, yet always changing, Kingston is a place where you'll discover culinary and cultural creators meet.

Experience world-class festivals and events, a vibrant culinary scene, a passionate local maker movement and plenty more.

Delve into Kingston's history at the grand house and gardens of the **Bellevue House National Historic Site** - commemorating Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. Then head to **Fort Henry**, a 19<sup>th</sup> century military fortification that holds military demonstrations throughout the summer – as well as being the site of a rooftop restaurant providing panoramic views of the city and the Saint Lawrence River. For those looking for an alternative take on Kingston's history, you'll love going on a tour of Kingston's former penitentiary or on a **Haunted Walk of Kingston**, a guided tour featuring haunted hotels, hidden burial grounds and stories of grave robbing! (*Book a tour at [hauntedwalk.com](http://hauntedwalk.com)*)

Kingston is located on Lake Ontario, at the southern end of the Rideau Canal, where the Rideau meets the rest of Lake Ontario. Originally named King's Town in honour of King George III, **Kingston became the first capital of Canada in 1841**, until 1844 when the capital was relocated to Montreal. It's known as the "Limestone City" for its grand 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, including the impressive, lakeside Kingston City Hall.





## FORT HENRY

Situated atop Henry Point, the majestic Fort Henry overlooks the city of Kingston and the entrance to the Rideau Canal. Built as a 19<sup>th</sup> century fortification, this former military installation now functions as a living museum, hosting events, guided tours and the Fort Henry Guard.

The history of the fort dates back to the War of 1812, part of the wider Napoleonic wars, fought between the forces of Great Britain and the newly independent United States. The first fort at Point Henry was built during this period to protect Kingston and Canada from American incursions. The fort was successful in helping to repel American warships and keep the town of Kingston safe. This success led to the construction of a second, more elaborate, fort from 1832-1836.

As Canadian and American relations slowly improved, the fort slowly began to lose its defensive purpose and was abandoned by British troops in 1870. Despite a Canadian garrison occupying the fort until 1891 the fort fell into a state of disrepair. In 1936 it was transformed into the living history museum that has evolved into the Fort Henry you see today. Visitors are treated to the spectacles of garrison parades, artillery sequences, a Victorian school and can even fire a traditional Snider Enfield Rifle! (*Visit forhenry.com for more details, open: 19<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> Sept from 9:30 am to 5 pm and 4<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 10am-4pm*)



For an experience that will test your wits, try Kingston's premiere escape room - **Improbable Escapes**.

Located in the heart of the city, Improbable Escapes also sets up at pop-up locations around Kingston including the historic **Bellevue House**. (*Bookings must be made in advance, call: 1-800-570-0436, email: info@improbableescapes.com or visit: improbableescapes.com*)

# KINGSTON THE CULINARY CAPITAL

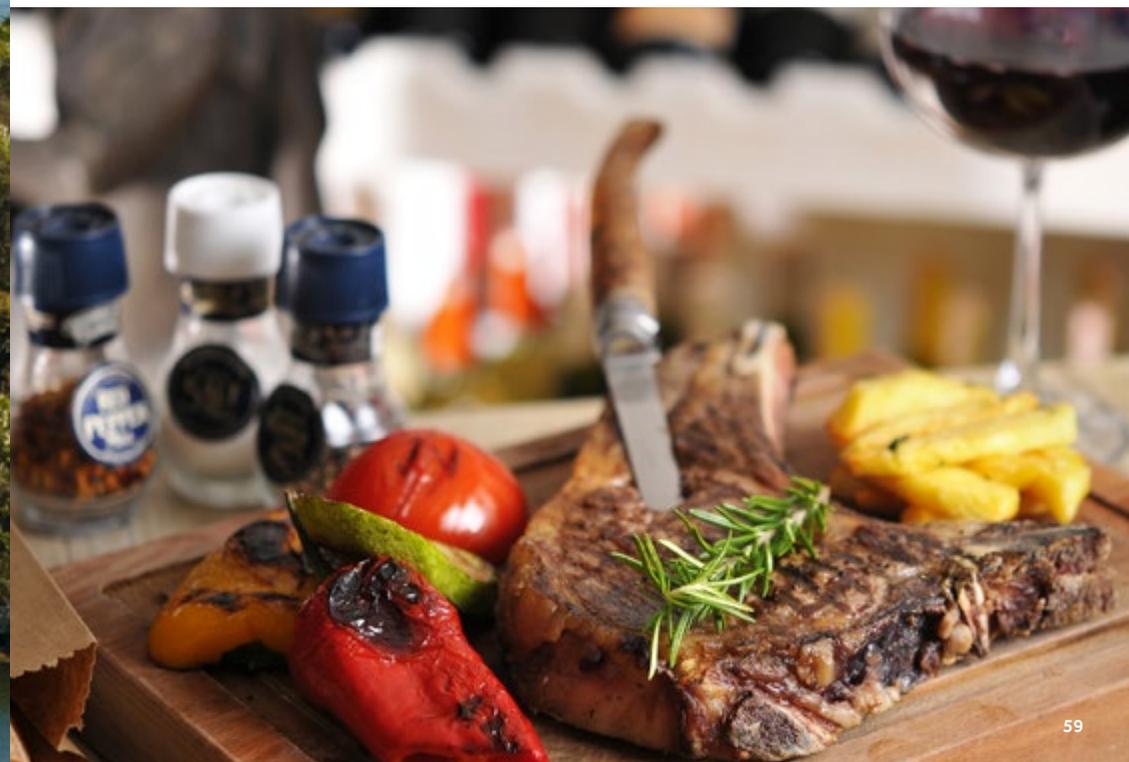


Kingston may no longer be the official capital of Canada, but it is still the nation's culinary capital - with more restaurants per capita than any other city in Canada! Kingston's thriving patio scene brings casual and fine dining outside - watch the world go by at one of the city's many rooftop and waterfront patios. For a truly immersive experience, try a walking tour of the city with **Kingston Food Tours**. The two tours, Beer & Bites and Classic Kingston, blend tastings at some of the best local restaurants, bars and microbreweries with an insider's perspective

on the city's history and culture. It's the perfect way for a gourmand to explore the city (*discover more at [kingstonfoodtours.ca](http://kingstonfoodtours.ca)*).

If you're looking to prepare your own feast, you could do no better than heading down to the **Kingston Public Market**. Running continuously since 1801, it is the oldest market in Ontario and can be found in the heart of Kingston at Springer Market Square (*6am-6pm every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from April until November*). Its vendors sell high-quality, local, seasonal produce - including fresh apples, strawberries, peaches, greens, cucumbers, organic vegetables, gluten-free options, and more - to elevate your homemade meals from great to gourmet.

**RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:** Kingston is bursting at the seams with culinary options. For those looking for a fine dining experience, try **Casa Domenico, AquaTerra, Tango Nuevo, Chien Noir, and Olivea**. Kingston is also known for its proud coffee culture and its successful leap into the craft beer scene. Grab a brew at **Crave Coffee House** or something a little stronger at **Strong City Ales**.





# KINGSTON THE WATERFRONT CITY

Kingston is a city that has a long history of thriving on the waters of Lake Ontario. Delve deeper into Kingston's link with the lakes and book a place on the **Kingston 1000 Island Boat Cruise** and enjoy a breath-taking journey around over 1,800 islands with a lunch or sunset dinner cruise. Enjoy local foods with impeccable wine pairings, fabulous brunch options, live music and even themed nights.

**AMENITIES:** Explore local food and beer options. Stock up on fresh produce from the **Kingston Public Market** and prepared food from **Golden Rooster Deli**. **Cooke's Fine Foods** carries gourmet coffee, speciality cheeses, and a wide range of mustards, jams, and unique imported goods.



## KINGSTON MOORING INFORMATION

When coming to the end of the Rideau Canal in Kingston's inner harbour (north of the LaSalle Causeway) you will see a fixed concrete bridge to the left of the green lift-bridge on the LaSalle Causeway. Pass under this concrete bridge to enter Kingston's outer harbour (please be aware the outer harbour can get choppy so make sure loose items are secure). As you pass under the bridge, be aware of the Kingston to Wolfe Island Ferry which comes and goes on its own schedule and has right of way. On your right, you'll pass the Wolfe Island ferry terminal and a Holiday Inn Hotel, and you'll see a white tower with a green flashing light on a rocky seawall ahead of you. This is the entrance to the Confederation Basin Marina for visiting downtown Kingston. Call the harbour master on 613 542-2134 to reserve a dock (*must be done 48 hours in advance*) and for any assistance you might require. Kingston Marina is also available on the right, just below the green bridge. Water and transient services are available.

# KINGSTON A CITY THAT NEVER STOPS

If you're a budding culture bug, Kingston will serve you well. Head to The **Agnes Etherington Art Centre**, and delight in a spectacular showcase of over 16,000 fantastic contemporary and historical European works of art of exceptional quality and depth - the Bader Collection includes nearly 200 paintings and three by Rembrandt. Then indulge yourself with a trip to **The Grand Theatre**, which originally opened in 1879, to see one of the hundreds of energising professional and amateur performances. Enjoy dance, theatre, musicals, comedy and much more! Kingston's cultural trump-card though is its jam-packed calendar of festivals and events that run throughout the summer - so no matter what time you visit, you can be sure there'll be something to throw yourself in to! For those looking to tune into Kingston's eclectic music scene, there is an endless lineup of music festivals happening across the city. From the **Limestone City Blues Festival** to the **Back to**



the **Farm Beer and Music Festival**, **Emerald Music Festival**, or **Wolfe Island Music Festival** you're sure to find something that catches your ear.

Or, for a celebration of the city's contribution to the arts, spend an afternoon at the **Limestone Tattoo Festival**, indulge in a full program of performances at the **Kick and Push Festival at The Grand Theatre**, and celebrate the written word at the **Kingston Writersfest**. (For a full break down of festivals and events in Kingston visit [visitkingston.ca/today](http://visitkingston.ca/today))



# AWAY FROM THE CANAL



Discover even more of Canada and combine your boating adventure with one of these great destinations.

## 1000 ISLANDS, SOUTH EASTERN ONTARIO

Lush woodland, rugged rock and cobalt-blue water, it is easy to see why the 1,864 islands that make up the 1000 islands is regarded as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Easily accessible from Kingston, do all the things you love in this great region. You can sail, scuba dive, take a leisurely cruise, explore an award-winning winery, or trek through endless hiking trails. Whatever you decide, the scenery is breathtaking.



## NIAGARA FALLS

This iconic thunderous torrent of water, which separates the USA from Canada, is one of the great wonders of the world. And the best news? The Canadian side is considered to be the more spectacular! Once you've finished enjoying the spectacular views, head to Niagara-on-the-Lake to relax and unwind at the world-class wineries and unique shops of the historic town. [niagarafallstourism.com](http://niagarafallstourism.com)

## TORONTO

Home to the famous CN Tower, Casa Loma - North America's only full sized castle and baseball team the Toronto Blue Jays, Toronto is blessed with an abundance of unforgettable experiences for the intrepid traveller. And once you've finished taking in the sights, pamper yourself with a shopping trip to the spectacular Eaton Centre Mall or the sophisticated Bloor Street and Yorkville Shopping Area, before heading off to enjoy one of Canada's top restaurants on King Street West or the Distillery District. [seetorontonow.com](http://seetorontonow.com)

# OUR HORIZON FLEET



With over 40 years' experience, and as the largest operator of self-drive boating vacations in Europe, Le Boat has built-up unparalleled expertise in operating boats on inland waterways. The culmination of this unmatched expertise can be seen in the design of the exclusive Le Boat Horizon fleet.

We've carefully listened to our customers and challenged ourselves to design a range of boats that tick all of the boxes in terms of space, ease of handling, accessibility and on-board features.

There are five different Horizon models, each offering a different number of en-suite cabins. All are spacious, modern and well-appointed with a roomy saloon and fully-equipped kitchen with generous headroom and over-sized windows for uninterrupted views. Large glass sliding doors open up onto a generous rear seating area, and stairs that lead to a spacious top deck equipped with table, sink and BBQ hotplate.



**HORIZON 1**, Le Boat's first Horizon model was launched in 2016 to rave reviews. With one master en-suite cabin, and a smaller cabin for two additional people or for extra storage, it's the perfect boat for couples or families with small children.

**HORIZON 2** has two en-suite cabins, and can sleep up to five people. It is the perfect boat for two couples looking for a bit more privacy or a family who would like two bathrooms.

**HORIZON 3** has three en-suite cabins, with one master cabin at the end of the boat and two smaller cabins. Combined with the saloon this allows the Horizon 3 to sleep up to eight people. The perfect boat for large parties who want to vacation together.

**HORIZON 4** is equipped with four cabins, all with their own well equipped en-suite bathrooms. Combined with the saloon this allows the Horizon 4 to sleep up to ten people.

**HORIZON 5** is the latest model in Le Boat's Horizon fleet and will build on the unprecedented success of previous Horizon models, while boasting the same style and benefits. Equipped with five cabins the Horizon 5 is the largest model of our premier Horizon fleet and sleeps up to twelve people. Its spacious and fully-equipped interior & sundeck offer all the comfort and convenience you will need for a perfect vacation with a large family or group of friends.



*A fantastic boat!!  
Carefully designed to provide a light and airy interior with the added benefit of an outdoor cooking and dining area built in. The Horizon certainly sets a new standard in luxury boating vacations.*

*Loïc Flageul - Horizon 2*



## OWN A HORIZON BOAT!

Did you know the **Le Boat Ownership Programme** means you can own a Horizon boat? Explore 17 different cruising grounds across nine countries - without the worries of traditional boat ownership.

For more details visit [leboat.com/ownership-programme](https://leboat.com/ownership-programme) or call our experts on **1-800-734-5491**.

# WHAT DOES YOUR MOORING AND LOCK SUPPLEMENT INCLUDE?

Included in the price of your Le Boat cruise is a mandatory Rideau Canal mooring and lock supplement. This supplement covers both the cost of any locks you choose to cruise through on the Rideau, as well as overnight moorings at select sites (*shore power not included, fees will be payable at other marinas or municipal docks*). The overnight moorings covered by the mandatory supplement include all Parks Canada sites and the public marinas of Portland, Seeley's Bay, Perth, Westport and Kingston. The supplement does not however give you preference or priority over other boaters on the waterway, and all locks and moorings are operated on a first come first serve basis. You can also moor overnight at the Le Boat base in Smiths Falls at no cost.

## FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT PARTNER MOORINGS AND LE BOAT BASE

MARINA	WATER	30 AMP POWER	WIFI	PUMP-OUT
Manotick (daytime only)	No	No	No	No
Smiths Falls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Perth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rideau Ferry Public Docks	No	No	No	No (Pump out at private marina next door)
Westport (two spaces only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Portland	No	Yes (6 spaces)	No	No (Pump out at private marina next door)
Seeley's Bay	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
City of Kingston	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kingston Marina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT PARKS CANADA MOORINGS

Parks Canada moorings are available at all lockstations on the Rideau, as well as at Colonel By Island on the Big Rideau Lake.

	Hartwells	Hogsback	Black Rapids	Long Island	Burritts Rapids	Lower Nicholson's	Upper Nicholson's	Clowes	Merrickville	Kilmarnock	Edmunds	Old Slys	Smiths Falls combined	Smiths Falls detached	Poonamalie	Lower Beveridges	Upper Beveridges	Colonel By Island	Narrows	Newboro	Chaffey's	Davis	Jones Falls	Upper Brewers	Lower Brewers	Kingston Mills	
WASHROOM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DRINKING WATER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
POWER	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	U	✓	✗	✗	D	U	✓	U	✗	U	✓	✗	
BBQ GRILLS	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PICNIC TABLES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

U = Power available only upstream of lock, D = Power available only downstream of lock



### DID YOU KNOW?

You can keep updated on lockage wait times, availability of mooring, and other key boater information by following @RideauBoatInfo on Twitter.

## LOCKS

There are **24 lockstations** on the Rideau and Tay Canal, all of which (except the locks at Black Rapids, Smiths Falls and Newboro) are manual. As most boaters know, once you get used to locks they are one of the many highlights of a boating adventure. This is particularly true on the Rideau Canal Operated by Parks Canada, each lock is set among carefully manicured parkland and is the perfect site for a picnic.

The manual locks also operate in pretty much the same fashion as when the Rideau was originally constructed and are all part of the fun of boating the Rideau.

At each lock station three or four helpful lock keepers might even be happy to let you get involved during less busy times if you ask politely, letting you turn the traditional hand winches, known as crabs, which operate the lock mechanisms. Or, you can just sit back, have a chat and let the lock keepers do the work.

When you enter the locks, make sure to loop your lines through the cables attached to the lock chamber wall (never tie them) and hold firmly to steady the boat as it ascends/descends. All fees for going through a lock are covered as part of the cost of your Le Boat holiday.

## HOURS OF OPERATION 2020

<b>MAY 15 TO JUNE 19</b>	MONDAY TO THURSDAY 10:00am – 4:00pm	FRIDAY TO SUNDAY & VICTORIA DAY (May 21 <sup>st</sup> ) 9:00am – 7:00pm
<b>JUNE 22 TO SEPTEMBER 7</b>	MONDAY TO THURSDAY 9:00am – 6:00pm	FRIDAY TO SUNDAY; CANADA DAY (July 1 <sup>st</sup> ), AUGUST CIVIC HOLIDAY (August 6 <sup>th</sup> ) & LABOUR DAY (September 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 9:00am – 7:00pm
<b>SEPT 8 TO OCTOBER 12</b>	MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10:00am – 4:00pm	SATURDAY - SUNDAY & THANKSGIVING (October 8 <sup>th</sup> ) 9:00am – 5:00pm

Boaters should plan for at least 30 minutes for each lock chamber to transition a set of locks. Lockage operations cease at the posted times. All locks are manned - lockage without a lock keeper is prohibited.





## GOING THROUGH A LOCK ON THE RIDEAU

Going through a lock on the Rideau is fun and easy. All locks are manned by friendly lock keepers who will help keep you safe and many locks have a lively atmosphere! Here are our tips to safely passing through a lock:

### WHEN ENTERING A LOCK:

- When approaching a lock or swing bridge, the lock staff will normally see you. However, if they don't, the signal to request to enter the lock or have the bridge opened is three long blasts of five seconds duration from your horn.
- When you come into the lock area, tie up at the dock with the blue strip (BLUE LINE) painted on it. This is the dock for boats waiting to go through the lock.
- Pay attention to the lock staff, they will specifically direct you on when to enter the lock and which side to go to.
- Proceed into the lock slowly. If there are two people on board, one should be positioned on the front of the boat, with a line ready and a boat hook handy in case the boat has to be fended off the wall. If there are more than two people on your boat, one should be positioned on the front of the boat and one on the rear with lines ready.
- Do not use your arms or legs to fend off the wall.

For complete safety information, please refer to the safety section of your welcome booklet and the Parks Canada publication "Boating Safely".

### WHILE THE LOCK IS DRAINING OR FILLING

- Stay well back from lock chamber walls and dam structures;
- Stay clear of lock operating devices;
- Once you are in position in the lock, TURN OFF your ignition and any other engines on your boat, TURN OFF all open flames, DO NOT smoke above or below vessel deck, and LEAVE ON your bilge blower.
- Once in position on the wall, loop your bow and stern lines through the closest drop cables. DO NOT tie the line, just loop it loosely around the cable and hold the end. Remember your boat will be traveling several metres up or down in the lock, you don't want any lines tied to the wall.
- During the lockage, if you are going up you may experience some turbulence in the lock as the water is let in. Maintain control of your boat with your lines. You may wish to loop a line around a deck cleat to give you extra leverage. Never leave a line unattended.

### WHEN LEAVING A LOCK

- When the lock operation is completed and the gates are fully open, the lock staff will direct you to restart your engine. Make sure your lines are back in your boat and proceed slowly under power out of the lock.

## FUEL, WATER & WASTE

### FUEL & WATER

You will have enough fuel on board to last you for 60 plus hours of cruising. The fuel you use is chargeable and payable at the end of your vacation. If you are on an extended vacation and you need to fill up, you can get fuel at the Le Boat Base.

Your water tanks should last a week with regular usage, but it is always good to top up when you can just to make sure. The fresh water tank gauge will show you how much you have left.

### WASTE

At regular usage the waste tanks should last a week, it's always a good idea to keep an eye on the black water gauge in the head (washroom) which will tell you how full the tank is.



### WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

We hope you've found this guide useful, whether you've been busy researching your vacation or have been referring to it as you cruise. We'd love to get your feedback, good or bad, and any suggestions of 'hidden gems' to improve its contents for future editions are always very welcome.

Drop us a line at [rideauguide@leboat.com](mailto:rideauguide@leboat.com)

# le boat

Who's on board?



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emeraldstar.ie



leboat.ca



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### BEYOND THE RIDEAU

**Le Boat** also offer the chance to explore beautiful waterways in nine countries across Europe: France (nine different regions including The Canal du Midi, Burgundy and the Camargue), Germany, Belgium, Holland, Venice in Italy, the Thames in England, the Caledonian Canal in Scotland and the River Shannon in Ireland.

**Photography and images provided by:** Stuart Pearce, Jane Geoghegan, Claire Mansell & Holger Leue, Dave Snashall, Daria Podemska & Jacek Szymański (Art Studio D), Ken W. Watson, Parks Canada, South Eastern Ontario Tourism, Ottawa Tourism, Ontario's Highlands Tourism, The Town of Perth. And thanks to the restaurants and attractions featured within this guide who have supplied images as well.

**Disclaimer** We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the canal can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. Any free 'gifts' offered by third party providers upon presentation of this Guide are only applicable to customers purchasing a main course, a set menu or entry/participation with that provider. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at [Rideauguide@leboat.com](mailto:Rideauguide@leboat.com) so that we can revise future editions. We have provided directions to restaurants and attractions where possible, although they should be used in conjunction with a waterways map, provided on board.



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada



Corum and The Counties - 1000 Islands  
Kingston - Rideau Heritage Route - Lanark District  
Prince Edward County - Bay of Quinte