



Ontario Waterways Associate Directors Office
34-A Beckwith Street South
Smiths Falls, Ontario
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May 31, 2016

Dear Rideau Canal Confrère,

It is my pleasure to advise you that Parks Canada has embarked on management planning for the Rideau Canal and to request your participation in this important initiative.

Management planning is a process undertaken to set out, and periodically reassess, the strategic management direction of a National Historic Site. This process helps to ensure Parks Canada delivers on its commitments to heritage places on behalf of Canadians. It also provides an opportunity for Indigenous peoples, residents, boaters, visitors and all types of partners to voice their ideas and thoughts.

As a knowledgeable party with a vested interest in the Rideau Canal and its prosperity, your participation in this planning process is crucial to its success. Over the course of the 2016 navigation season, Parks Canada will coordinate numerous opportunities for engagement with the intent that all parties have multiple chances to be heard.

Details of these engagements will be provided through regular updates and through the Rideau Canal website at <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/index.aspx>. In addition, we will be holding four Open House meetings in June where stakeholders and the general public will be able to provide input. These meetings are scheduled for:

Ottawa – Dow's Lake Pavilion, Monday, June 20 from 4-9 p.m.

Smiths Falls – Parks Canada Woods Mill Complex, Wednesday, June 22 from 4-9 p.m.

Chaffey's Lock – Community Hall, Monday, June 27 at the from 4-9 p.m.

Kingston City Hall – Memorial Hall, Thursday, June 30 from 4-9 p.m.

In the interim, and as always, I invite you to share any feedback you have about the Rideau Canal by sending an e-mail to rideaucanal-info@pc.gc.ca.

Parks Canada wants you to see yourself/your organization in this process and the resulting new management plan. This will be your opportunity to provide input and help shape the future of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

I look forward to meeting with many of you throughout this process and to hearing what you have to say.

Sincerely,

John R. Festarini
Associate Director
Ontario Waterways
Parks Canada