



Old Slys Weir

Rideau Canal National Historic Site Major Rehabilitation Work Completed



Old Slys Weir

September 30, 2016 - Parks Canada has completed repair work at Old Slys Lockstation on the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. This project rehabilitated the Old Slys weir while making this Lockstation site safer for the public and Parks Canada staff that operate the dam.

Concrete repairs were completed on portions of the weir's piers and walls. The concrete deck was replaced with reinforced concrete slabs, widening the deck and providing more working space for operators. New hydraulic elements were added to improve the functionality of the dam's stop log lifter while the site's historic winches were preserved.

As the dam serves as a river crossing on the Rideau trail system, further enhancing the safety aspects of the dam was a priority. New guardrails, safety signage and life rings with throw lines were all installed. Additionally, fresh sod was laid to revitalize

the park space and to improve the overall experience for anyone visiting this beautiful site.

This project is part of Parks Canada's unprecedented \$3 billion dollar investment over 5 years to support infrastructure work to heritage, visitor, waterway and highway assets located within national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas across Canada. These historic investments will mitigate health and safety risks, halt the loss of nationally significant built heritage and stimulate the economy in communities across the country.

About Old Slys Weir

Old Slys is located downstream from Smiths Falls on the Rideau Canal. This site's namesake is William Sly, a settler who began developing the area in the early 1800's.

The weir was originally built in the early 1830's to control the water levels above the dam. Colonel By built the weir as a precautionary measure to protect the dam against the risk of soft bedrock erosion from sudden surges in water levels. In 1960, the current weir at the Old Slys site was constructed just downstream of the original weir.

For up-to-date news on infrastructure work along the Rideau Canal, please visit www.pc.gc.ca/rcInfrastructure or e-mail RideauCanal.info@pc.gc.ca.