



Kingston Mills Bridges

Rideau Canal National Historic Site

Swing and Fixed Bridge Project Update



Kingston Mills Fixed Bridge Replacement

February 14, 2017 – In September 2016 work began on the rehabilitation and replacement of the Kingston Mills Swing and Fixed Bridges on the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. The project is progressing well and is on schedule to finish in advance of the opening of our 2017 navigation season on Victoria Day weekend.

Work on the fixed bridge is nearly complete. All the major concrete components and stone work have been finished. The temporary construction and emergency access road that was installed across the turning basin upstream of the flight locks has been removed. The bridge is currently in use by construction vehicles but requires the addition of asphalt, curbs and approach guardrails for completion. As asphalt requires warmer temperatures to achieve the right density, the asphalt, along with these other elements will be installed in the spring.

The swing bridge rehabilitation is also progressing on schedule. Initial repairs and painting of the steel bridge components is complete. A new enclosed steel bridge deck is being fabricated offsite and will be delivered to the site for installation in March. The east abutment is currently being rebuilt with improved reinforcing and new concrete. New electrical and mechanical systems will also be installed to improve the functionality of the bridge.

Parks Canada would like to thank the community for their continued cooperation and understanding as we complete this important infrastructure work. 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 Kingston Mills Bridges

In 1784, to support new Loyalist settlers, the British Government built a saw mill and grist mill at what is now known as Kingston Mills. In 1824, plans for locks along the Cataraqui River were developed to accommodate navigation. As the project advanced, a new plan was adopted that would raise the arch dam, reducing the need for locks between Kingston Mills and Lower Brewers Mills. Historically, the dam provided a basin of water required to operate the grist mill located downstream. Presently, it supports a hydro generating facility.

Beyond its historical importance, Kingston Mills, one of 24 lockstations on the Rideau Canal, is a prime example of engineering mastery. The four limestone locks each have a lift of 3.6 metres and utilize manual methods of opening and closing the lock gates – with push bar, swing bar and endless chain mechanisms.

For More Information:

For up-to-date news on infrastructure work along the Rideau Canal, please visit our website: www.pc.gc.ca/rcInfrastructure. If you would like to be added to our community engagement list and receive updates on this project, please e-mail RideauCanal.info@pc.gc.ca and include “Kingston Mills” in the subject heading.