



Info-Work

Infrastructure Work Continues at Kingston Mills Rideau Canal National Historic Site

Kingston (Ontario), February 11, 2016 – As rehabilitation of the historic stone arch dam at the Kingston Mills Lockstation is well underway, Parks Canada is pleased to provide information on the infrastructure work that will occur at the site in the coming years.

The infrastructure work at Kingston Mills will include the replacement of the Kingston Mills Road fixed bridge and the rehabilitation of the swing bridge. These projects will be undertaken at the same time to minimize the duration of the road closure and its impact on community members. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Additional information will be provided to the public as it becomes available.

Fixed Bridge

While interim repairs were made to the fixed bridge in 2012, a replacement is required at this time. The new concrete bridge will be a single-lane structure with improved safety features. The new bridge will have an 80-year lifespan.

Swing Bridge

The existing Kingston Mills swing bridge requires rehabilitation. This work will include repairs to the structural steel and the east abutment of the bridge.

Specific studies related to cultural resource management, road safety and cost support the direction of these bridge projects. This infrastructure work is in keeping with the commemorative integrity and the outstanding universal value of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Arch Dam

The two bridge projects will follow the completion of the work already underway on the historic stone arch dam at Kingston Mills. This project involves masonry repairs and the resurfacing of the concrete cap on the arch dam, which is an original feature of the site constructed in the late 1830s. This project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2016.

Infrastructure Investments

Significant infrastructure investments are being made in our national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas. These investments represent the largest federal infrastructure plan in the 104-year history of Parks Canada.

Many Parks Canada built assets, such as heritage canals, are now reaching a critical point in their life-cycle and require significant recapitalization. Investments in conservation, reconstruction, repairs and stabilization to dams, locks and bridges will mitigate public safety risk, conserve cultural resources, and return these historic systems to good operating condition.

Investments in the preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of our national historic sites will protect our cultural heritage and strengthen their appeal as destinations to celebrate our nation's achievements.

About Kingston Mills

Kingston Mills, one of 24 lockstations on the Rideau Canal, is a prime example of engineering mastery and military history. Each of the four limestone locks has a lift of 3.6 metres and they utilize all three manual methods of opening and closing the lock gates. The only other lockstation to exhibit the push bar, swing bar and endless chain mechanisms is Ottawa Locks. The cost of these locks at the time of construction, £60,000, was only surpassed by the Jones Falls and Ottawa lockstations.

Before construction of the Rideau Canal at Kingston Mills, the Cataraqui River wound through low-lying marsh, then fell five metres over a granite ledge into a deep rocky gorge, making this location an ideal site for a saw and grist mill complex.

Other canal structures include the dam, waste basin, turning basin, blockhouse, lockmaster's house and lock house.

Thank you!

Parks Canada will continue to work with the City of Kingston and community members to prepare for these projects. For up-to-date news on infrastructure work at Kingston Mills, please visit www.pc.gc.ca/rckingston or e-mail rideaucanal.info@pc.gc.ca.

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