

le boat

THE RIDEAU CANAL

Region Guide



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

THE RIDEAU CANAL

The Rideau Canal is one of our first destinations 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. You'll find 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.



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; 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.

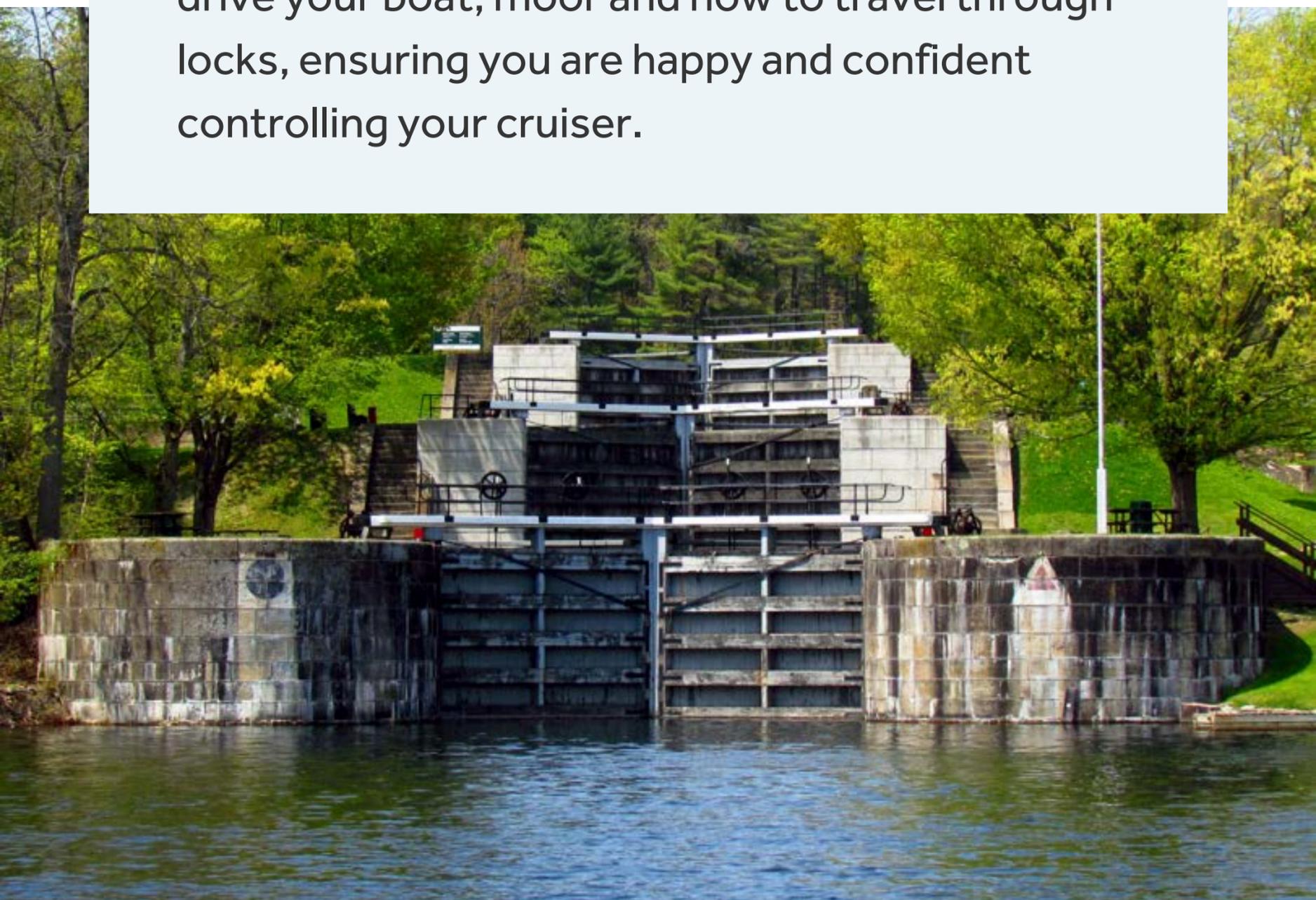
Now... who's on board?





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 months of July and August are 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 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.

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



SEE MORE

Add Bike, E-bike and SUP Board 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 or take an e-bike the 4kms (2.5 miles) into town. Whilst our Stand up Paddle Boards 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.

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 before dropping your car off in either Ottawa or Kingston.

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		5
Smiths Falls	2hr	2hr	2	2	
Beveridges Locks	10min	5hr 25min	0	1	
Rideau Ferry	2hr 30min		0		
Portland	2hr 45min		1		
Westport	1hr 10min	5hr 10min	0	3	
Newboro	1hr 30min		1		
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					

Please note that only our smaller boats are permitted to travel up the Tay Canal.

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 RIDEAU CANAL

LE CANAL RIDEAU

c. 1832 vers 1832

SCALE ÉCHELLE

kilometres

0 10 20 30 40

miles

0 10 20

kilometres

milles

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 18th and beginning of the 19th 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 19th 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!



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!

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.



DRINKING IN ONTARIO

In Ontario, alcohol can be purchased in grocery stores but is 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 docked 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

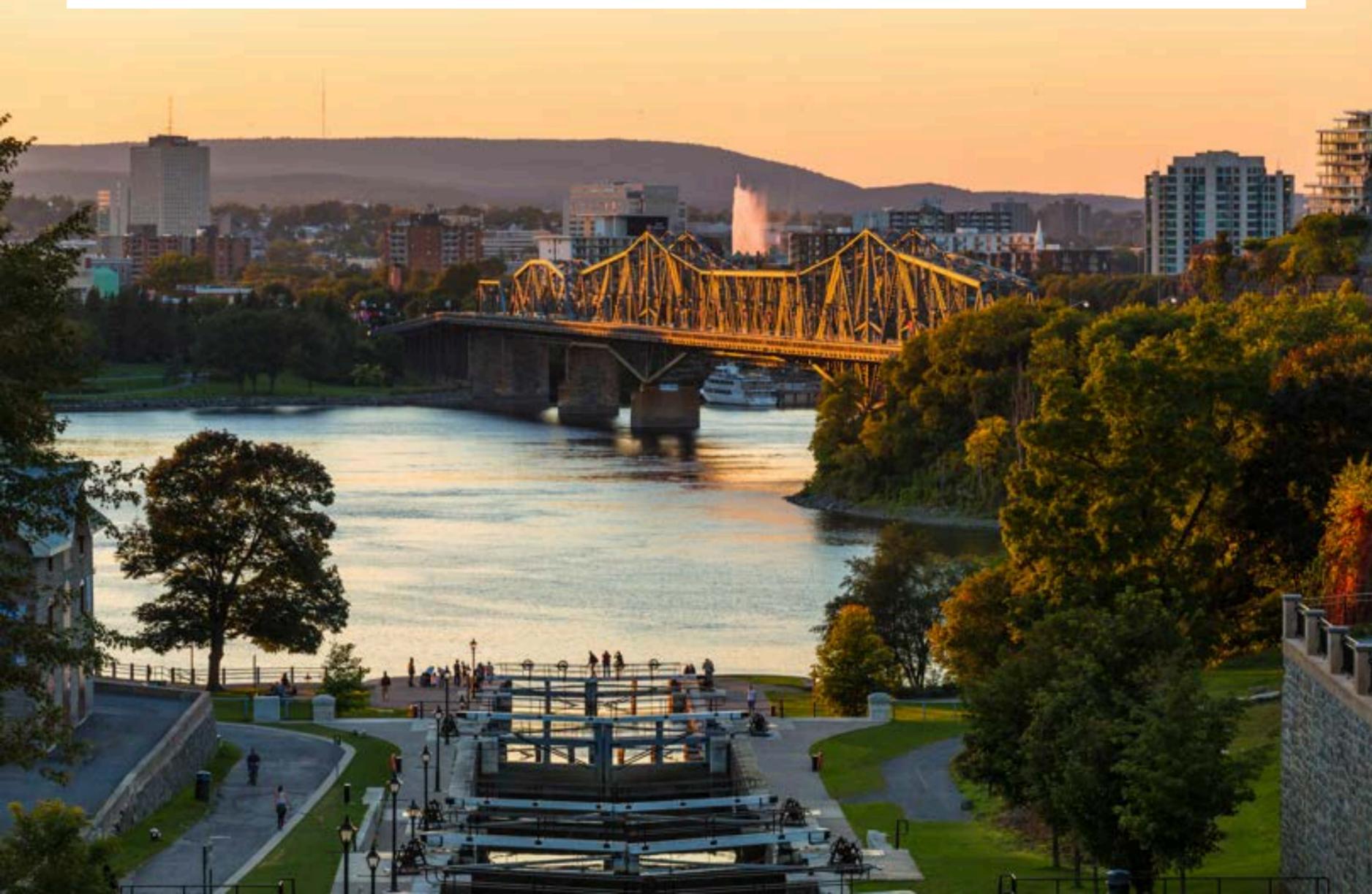


Ottawa,
Canada's capital,
is a dynamic city.
A place where
you'll hear
English and
French spoken

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, 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! 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

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-star 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.





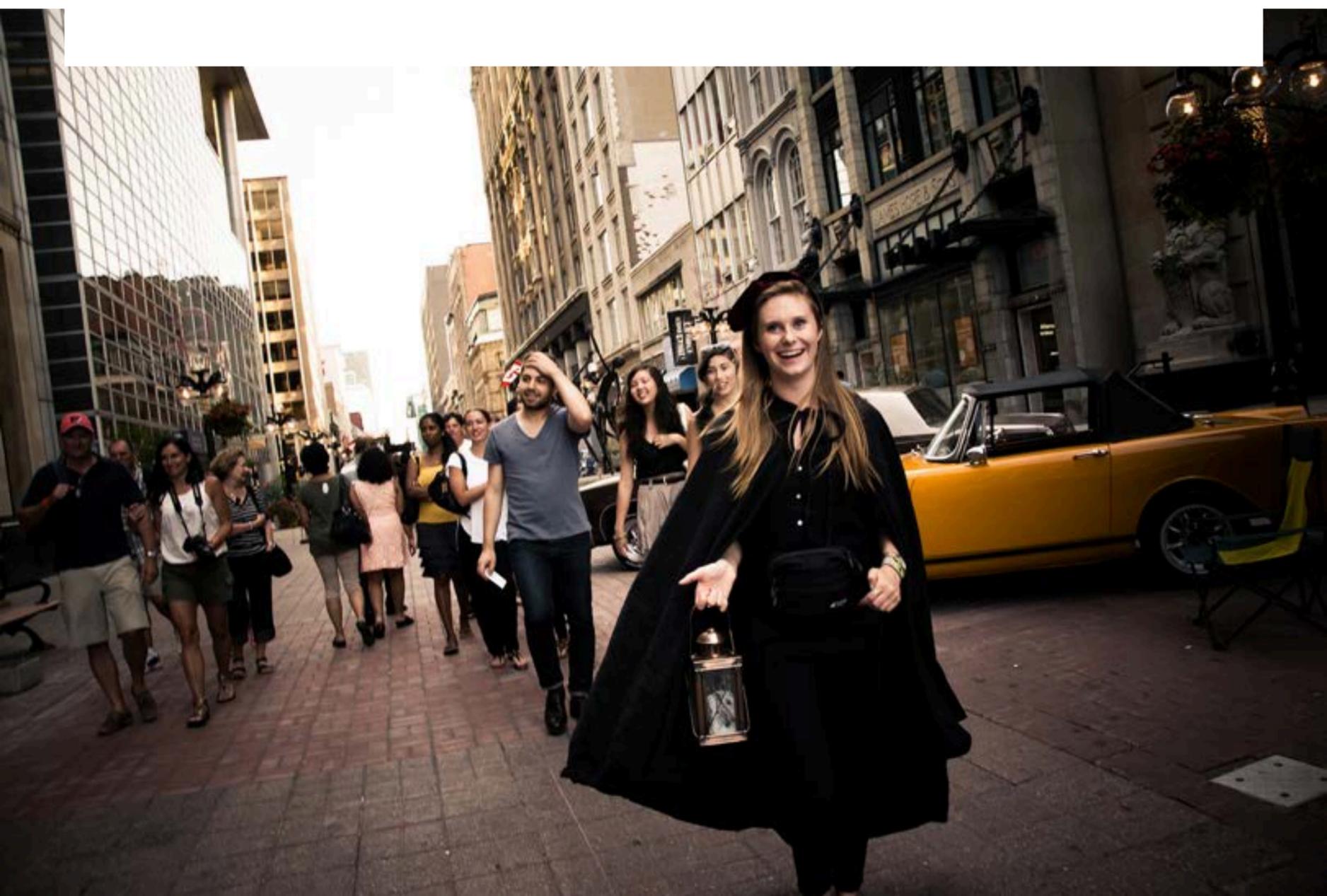
Away from the music scene, the biggest festival of them all happens on the 1st July, Canada Day, and Ottawa is home to the country's biggest birthday celebration! Other major festivals include the Canadian Tulip Festival in May and the Tim Hortons Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival with free concerts and boat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



GETTING AROUND OTTAWA

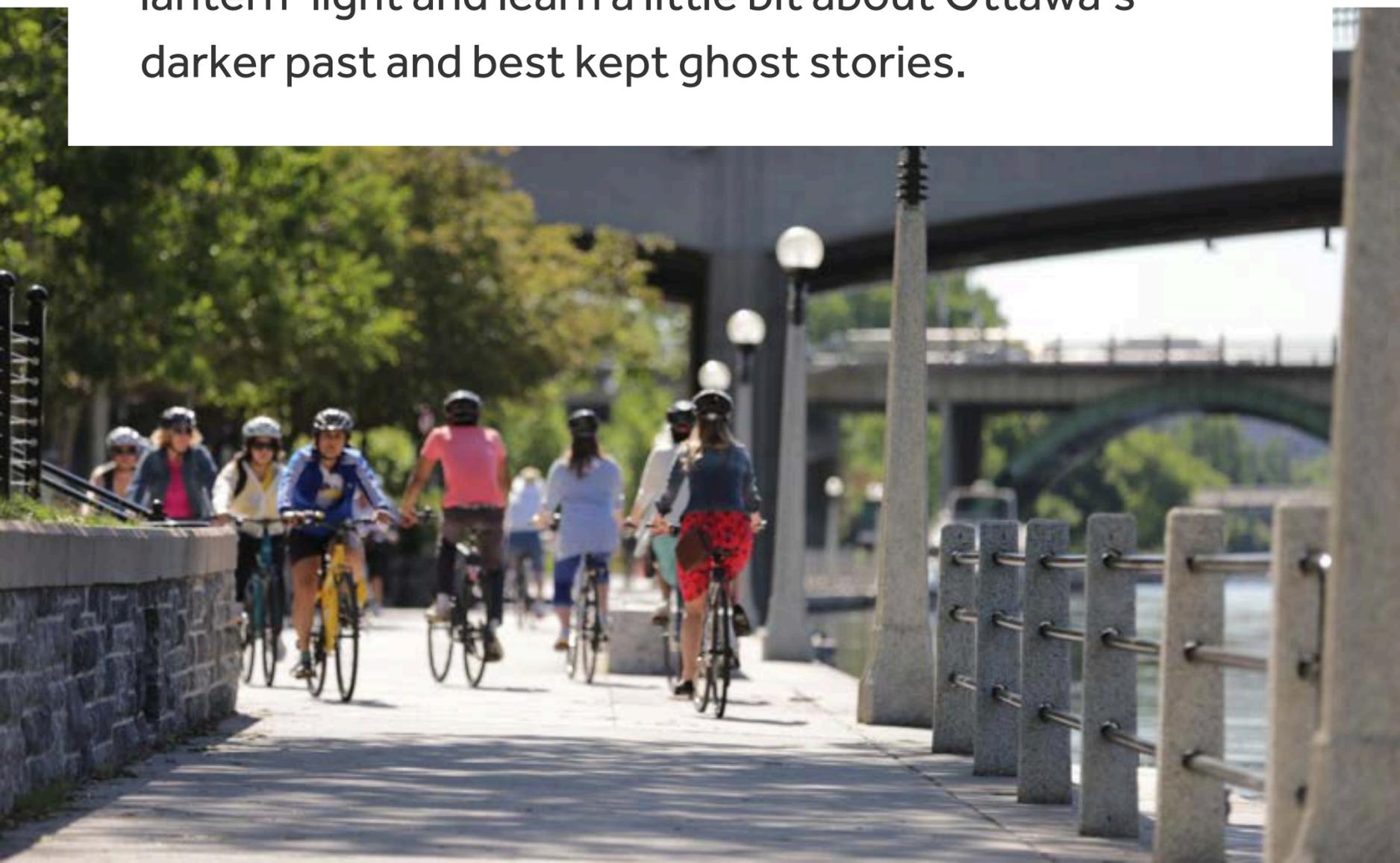
Getting around Ottawa is easy, with much of the city centre within easy walking distance from the canal.

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 advanced reservation required - visit cestboncooking.ca. Climb aboard Water Taxi Eh, the hassle-free way to get around by water, running throughout the day for your convenience! Arguably one of the most unique (and spooky) tours is the Haunted Walks. 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 (21st-24th June) or the largest beach-volleyball tournament in North America at the Hope Volleyball SummerFest (14th 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.

DISCOVER MORE...

For a detailed breakdown of everything Ottawa has to offer visit 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 tranquillity of David Bartlett Park - the perfect picnic spot to take a break, sit back, unwind and watch the world drift by.



Recommended restaurant: Black Dog Bistro, on the junction of Manotick Main St. and Tighe St.



Amenities: Groceries located in the town of Manotick.

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 11th 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 Nicholsons 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 Nicholsons since 1877 (although it has been replaced several times since).

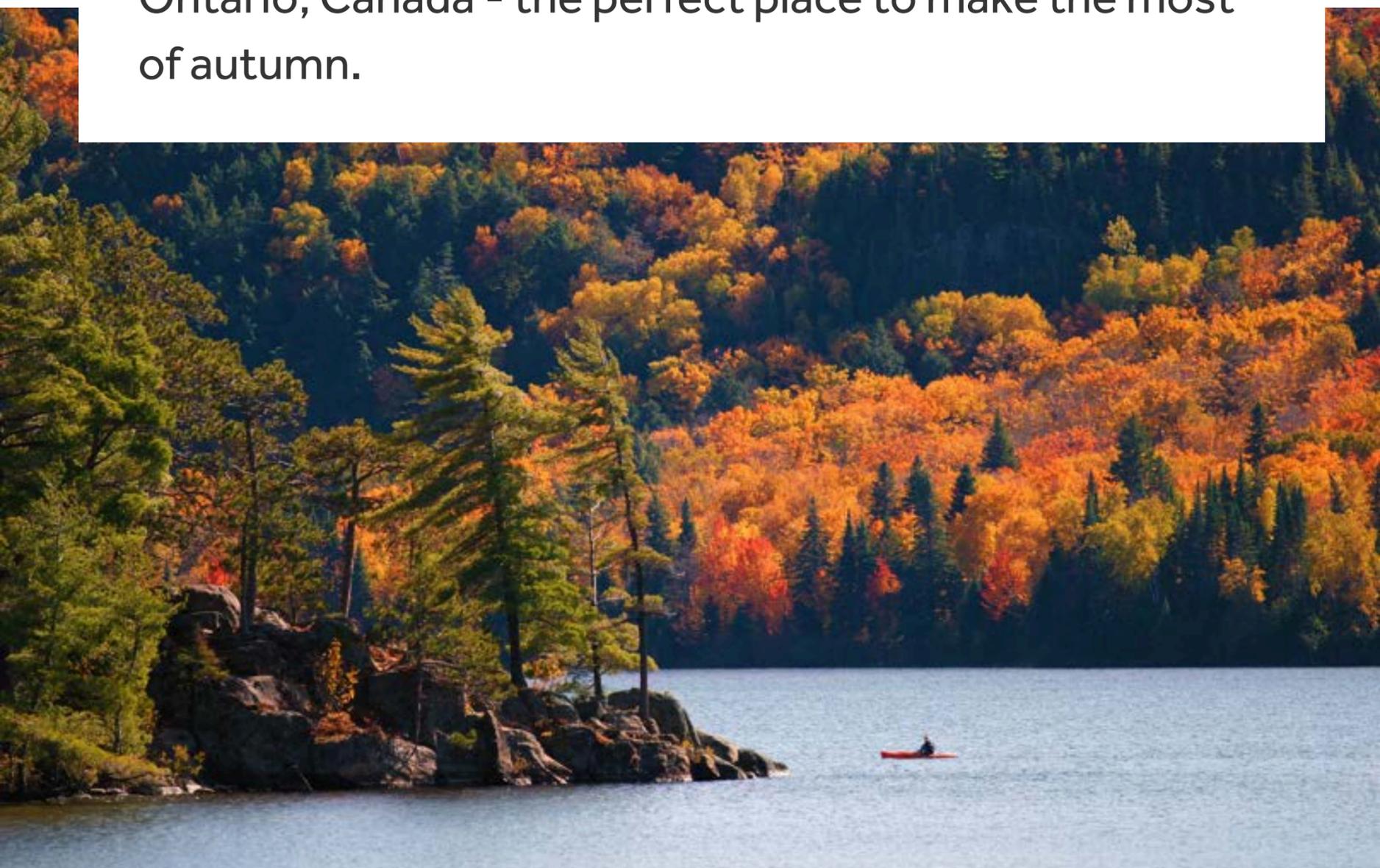
A short walk north from Upper Nicholson's lockstation lies the hamlet of Andrewsville. To look at Andrewsville now, you would never guess it had once been a sizable village. A few of Andrewsville's original houses are still occupied and the remains of the Andrewsville dam still lie close by.

AUTUMN ON THE RIDEAU

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 colors 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.

MERRICKVILLE

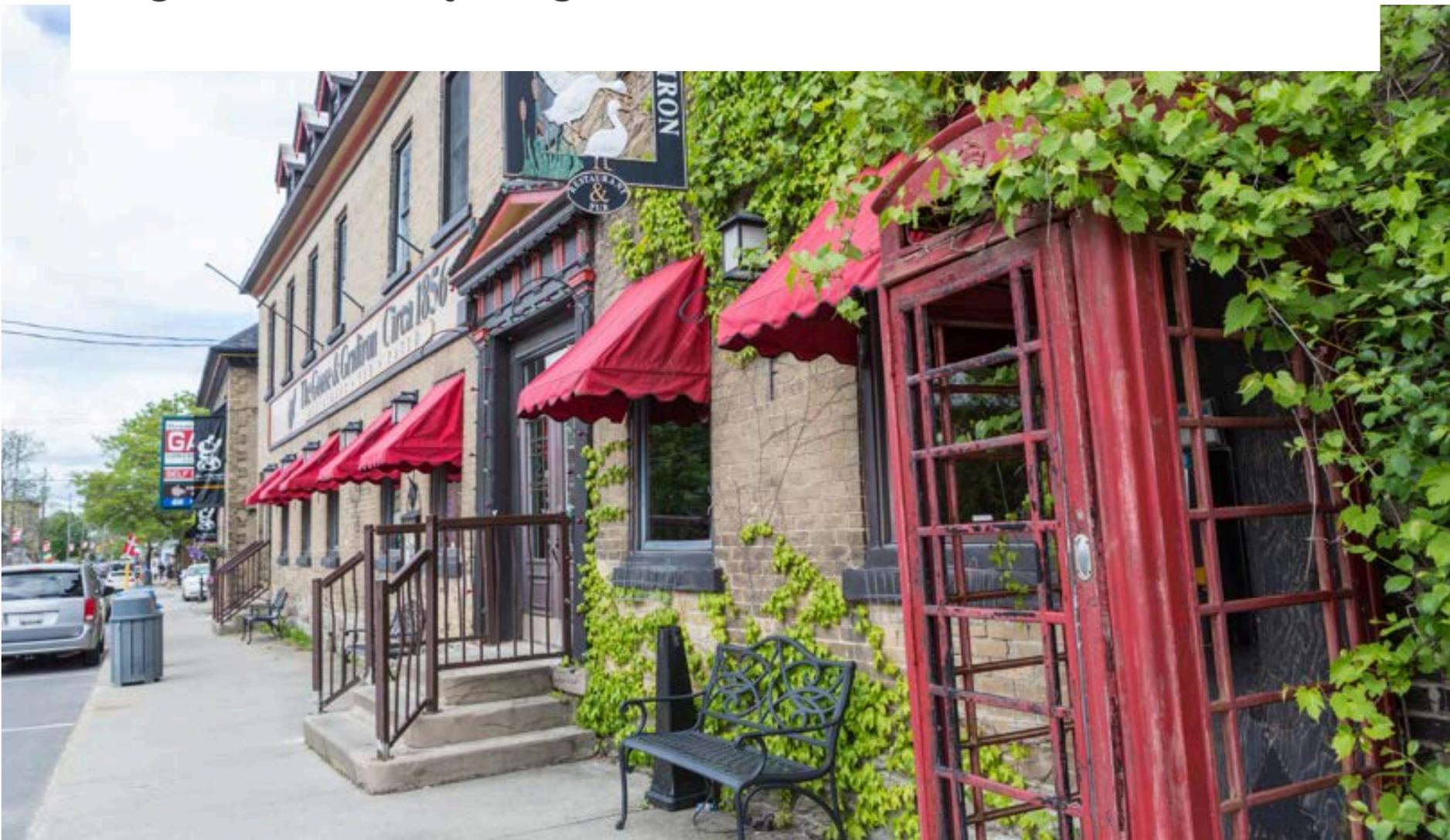
Dubbed the 'Jewel of the Rideau', it won't take you long to see why Merrickville has been described as Canada's most beautiful village.

The town of Merrickville originally developed as a community based around the sawmill of William Mirik (later Merrick) during the early 19th 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, Stella Luna is one of several fabulous establishments vying to produce the best gelato on the Rideau, and Pickle and Myrrh offers a brilliant selection of caramels!

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 Gather Brewery and Glassworks (visit gatherbreweryandglassworks.com).



Walking through the vibrant rows of tulips at Summerhaven U-Pick Tulip Farm is another great outing. Take time to explore the wide array of colors and varieties available for picking, and don't miss the chance to snap a few Instagram-worthy photos among the blooms. It's a wonderful way to connect with nature and soak up the beauty of spring.

Another great attraction to explore is the Blockhouse Museum, located at the Merrickville Lockstation in the heart of the village. Built in 1832–33, it's the largest and most impressive of the four blockhouses constructed along the Rideau Canal - and the second largest still standing in Canada. Inside, you'll find exhibits donated by local community members that reflect the rich history and evolution of Merrickville-Wolford.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MERRICKVILLE:

See what's happening in Merrickville during your stay—check out local events here:
<https://merrickvillechamber.ca/around-the-town-of-merrickville/>



Recommended restaurant: Yellow Canoe Cafe and the Goose and Girdiron.



Amenities: LCBO and groceries.



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 homemade goods before taking the time to relax and unwind over a glass of wine at one of Smiths Falls' many restaurants or local beers from The Tap Room, Smiths Falls' very own craft brewery (find out more tap-room.ca).



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.



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, stop by the Visitors Centre at Town Hall to pick up a guide.

SMITHS FALLS HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

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.



THE RAILWAY MUSEUM OF EASTERN ONTARIO

is housed in a historic station building dating from the beginning of the 20th 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 12th October, Contact 613-283-5696 or info@rmeo.org for more information or visit www.rmeo.org).

SMITHS FALLS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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 Cataraqui Trail and Rideau Trail both run through Smiths Falls and offer ample opportunity for cycling or hiking.

Golf lovers will be delighted to make a short hop south of Smiths Falls and enjoy a round of golf in the lush tranquillity of the Lombard Glen Golf Club's course or the challenging forest-lined course of the Smiths Falls Golf & Country Club (only accessible by taxi) – home course of LPGA Champion and local Brooke Henderson! (Book a round at lombardglen.com or smithsfallsgolf.com).

During the summer months, Smiths Falls hosts 'Movies Under the Stars' on select Thursdays. On select evenings (visit experiencesmithsfalls.ca/ 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 calendars.smithsfalls.ca/).



Recommended restaurant: Brunch at C'est Tout Bakery, Lunch at Taphouse, Dinner at SIP Bistro, Boomtown, or My Place Restaurant.



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.

Garden Market and **local market** on Friday afternoons in the park across from the base.

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!

Tay Canal can be challenging to navigate and we only advise those on Horizon 1 and 2's to do it. If you are in a traveling on Horizon 3, 4, and 5, we recommend parking at Beverages Lock station and cabbing to Perth. Use Georgina Taxi 613-466-2000 or Access Taxi 613-264- 1212 pre book a few hours in advance).



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

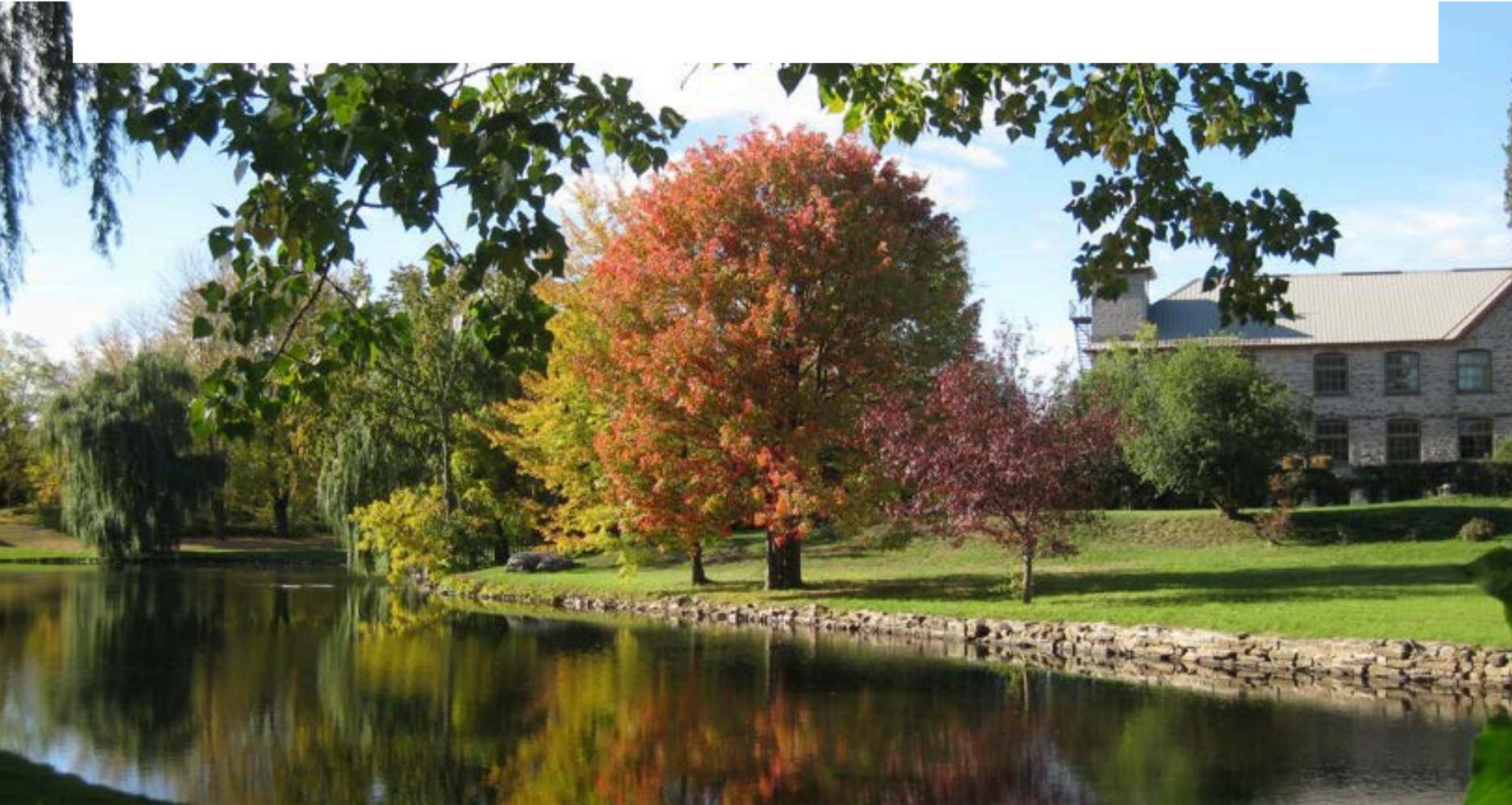
After passing through the magnificent Tay Canal you'll come to the beautiful old town of Perth, crafted primarily by Scottish craftsmen over 200 years ago and renowned for its sandstone architecture, and wilderness with a vibrant local culture. You'll find a trip to Perth is the perfect way to explore this puzzle. 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.

Le Boat base staff 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.



WHAT TO DO IN PERTH

When you arrive in Perth, you'll find something for everyone! 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 Perth Cheese Shop offers a fantastic variety of artisanal cheeses and gourmet treats, perfect for families who love good food. Browse the shelves together, sample a few cheeses and snacks, and

pick out your favorites to create a custom charcuterie board.

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 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 and events throughout the summer.

You can discover a little more of the history of the town with a visit to the Perth Museum. 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, Call for visitor information: 1-866-326-1947/.)



Amenities: Beer Store, LCBO and groceries.

PERTH'S EXCEPTIONAL GASTRONOMY

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 Par 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, ridge Masters Brewing Company or Top Shelf Distillers.

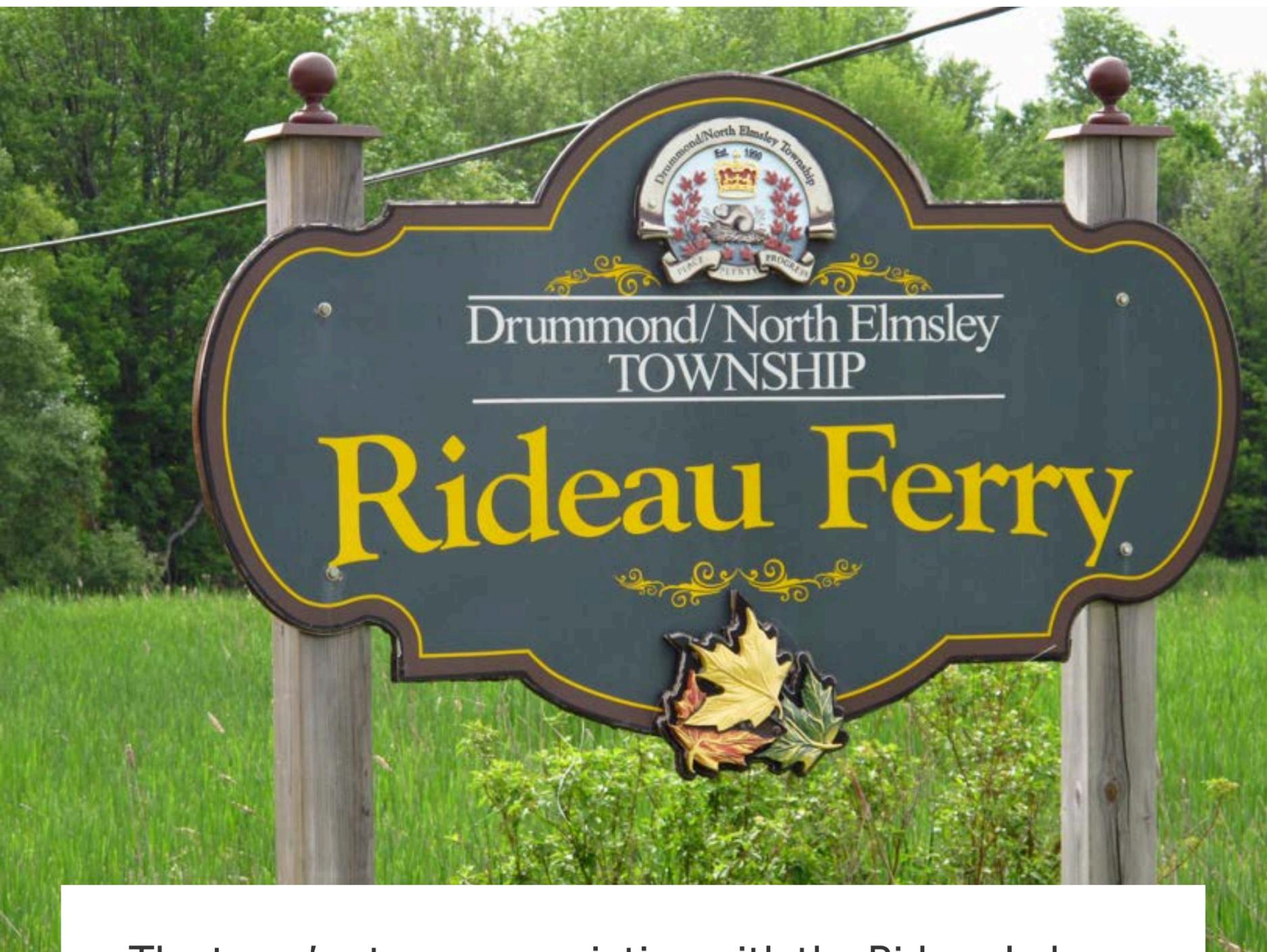


THE SURROUNDING AREA

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 20th century mine. Here you'll be able to go on a tour of The Silver Queen Mica Mine – an early pioneer mine, and even ghost walks for those who are feeling brave.

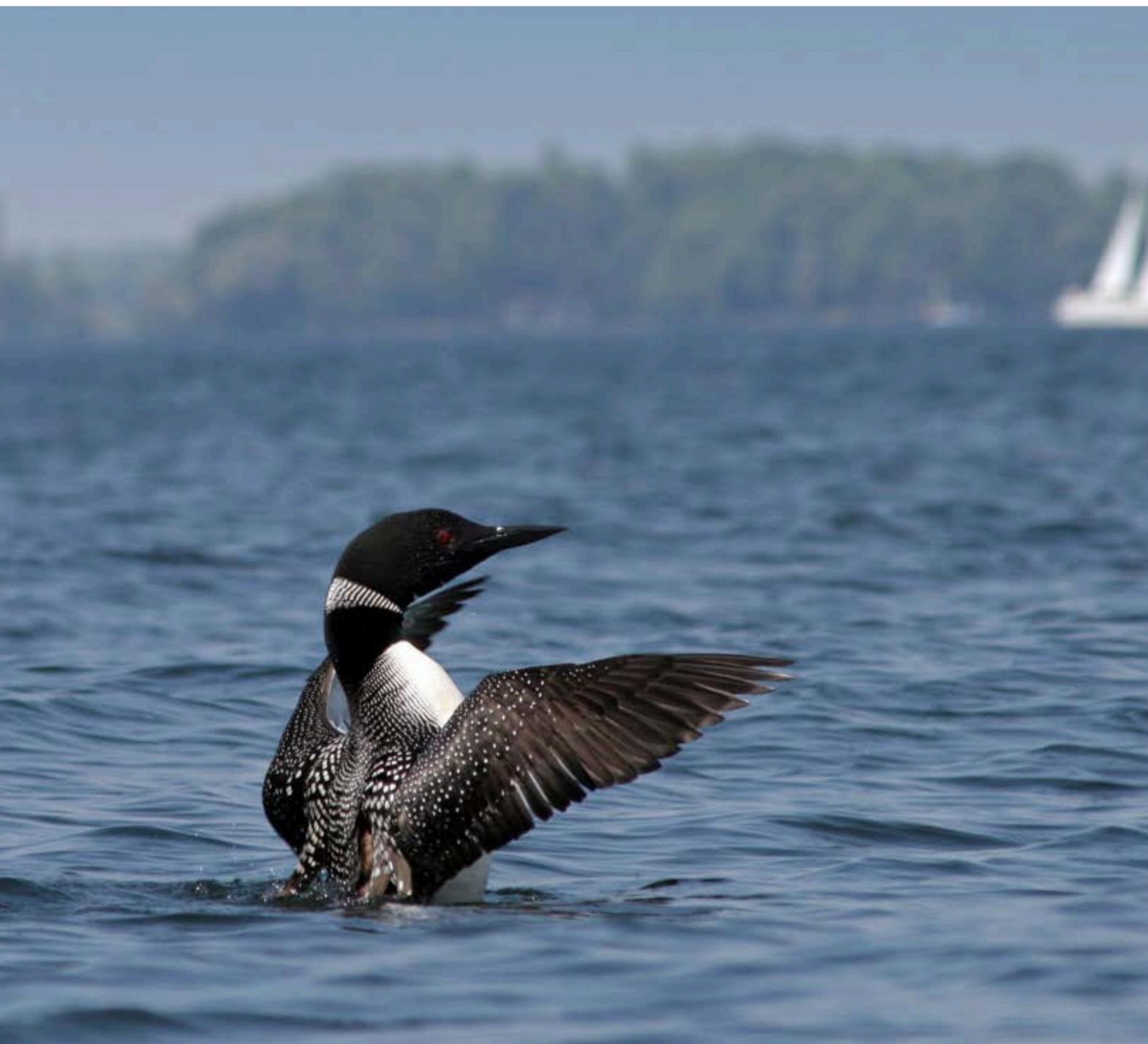
RIDEAU FERRY

Rideau Ferry is the small town and 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 at the local marina.



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 Power 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.



Recommended restaurant: CC's On the Rideau, a lakeside restaurant with great views over the Rideau and its own mooring facilities.



Amenities: LCBO, grocery store with alcohol 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!

PORTLAND

Portland is a small village located on Big Rideau Lake. There are several unique stores in town - including antiques and collectables.



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. Col By Island is a scenic mooring spot owned by Parks Canada, offering mooring balls and two docks available on a first-come, first-served basis. As the largest in a cluster known as "Long Island" (formerly called "Livingston Island" on older charts), it's a great place to stop and explore. The island is home to "Wag's Lodge," a unique flat-roofed cottage built in 1949–50 by Danny Arnstein, former co-owner of Yellow Cab in New York and Chicago. Though the building features impressive "peanut rock" fireplaces and "driftwood plywood" walls, it is currently deteriorating and access is restricted by Parks Canada. The island also has a small beach and a 3.3 km walking trail—perfect for a refreshing swim, a peaceful hike, or a paddleboarding adventure.



Recommended restaurant: The Galley Restaurant located right on the water with a great view over the harbour.



Amenities: LCBO, groceries and convenience store.

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, nearby golf course and swimming beaches. Stop off at the

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!

Visit scheuermannwinery.com to view opening hours and to make a reservation.



Tucked away in the scenic countryside near Westport, Scheuermann Winery welcomes visitors to sample a range of handcrafted wines. Book a tasting to discover more about the winemaking process and enjoy the distinct flavours of the region - or sit back with a delicious meal while taking in the stunning vineyard views.



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 specialities).

WESTPOORT 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 mooring spaces here, allocated on a first come, first served basis. Call 613-273-2191 to contact the village of Westport for mooring fees and 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's a great place to enjoy 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.



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 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.





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.

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.



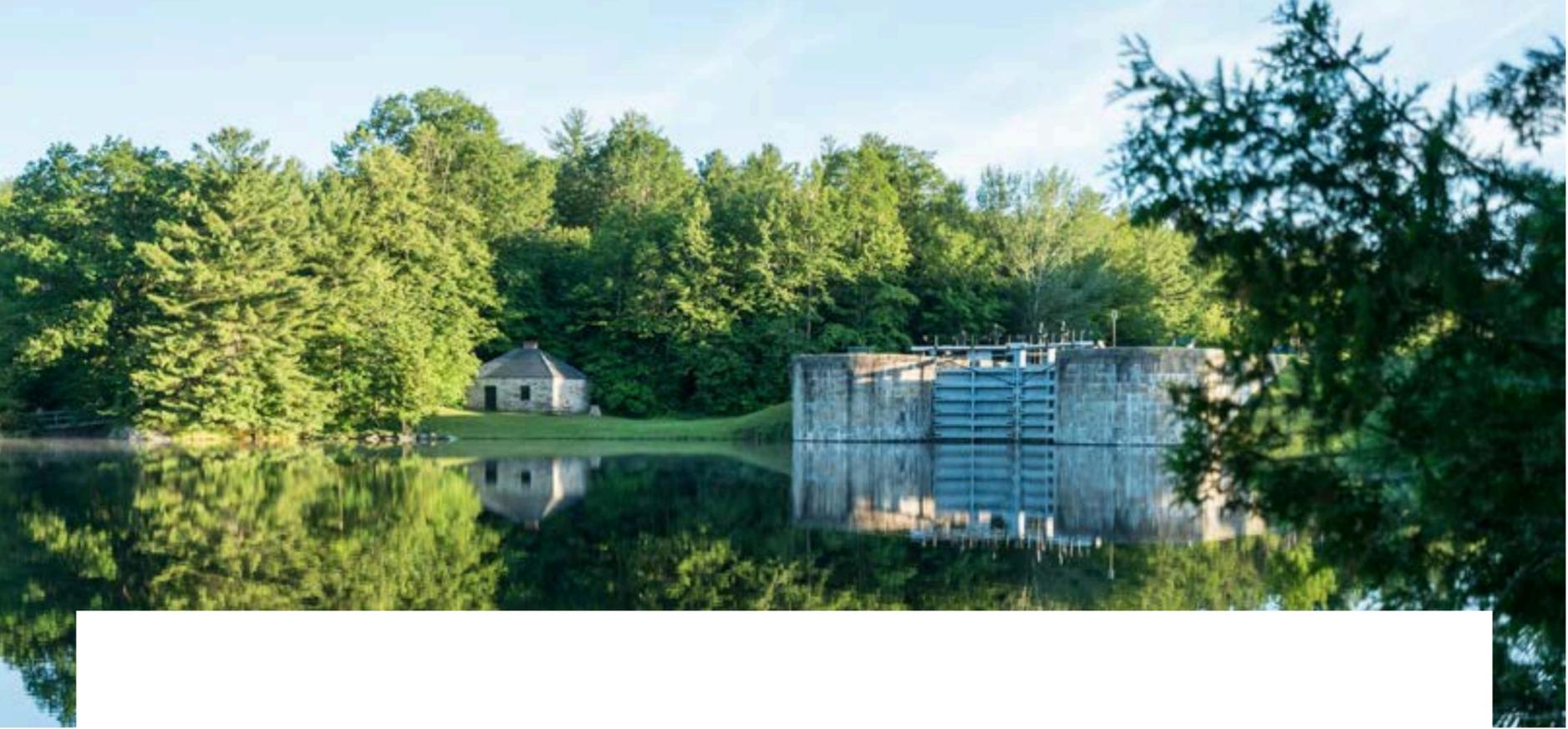


Davis Lock draws its name from Walter Davis Jr. - who constructed a sawmill in the area at the beginning of the 19th century. A short walk across the weir you'll discover an original defensible lockmasters house that was built in 1842,

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.

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. 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 feet dam.

A marvel of 19th 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.

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.

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.



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 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.

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. Perfect for visiting Kingston if you don't plan to cruise that far.



Amenities: LCBO and Groceries.

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.

Take 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.

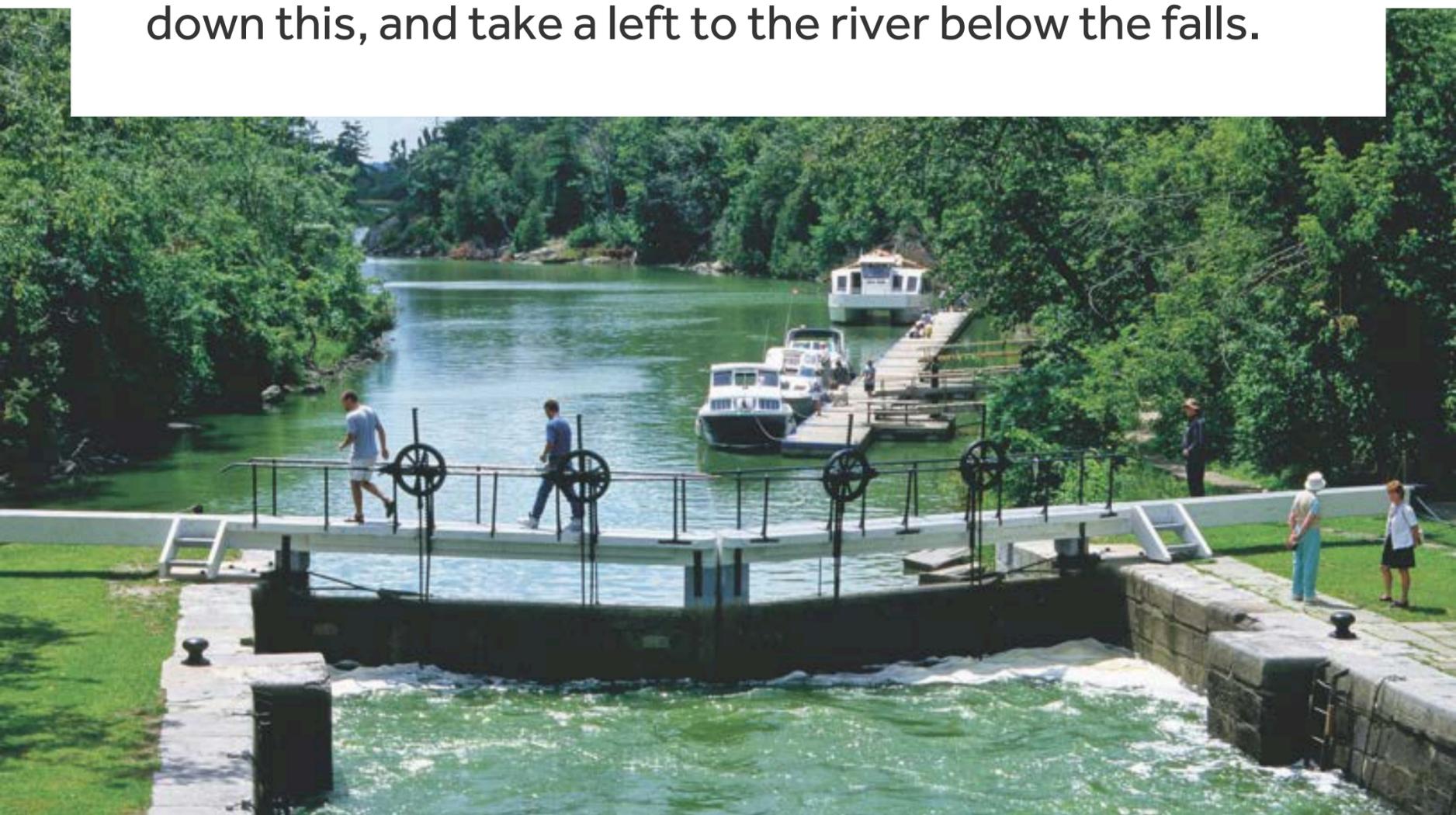


KINGSTON MILLS

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.

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 19th century buildings, including the impressive, lakeside Kingston City Hall.



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 19th 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)

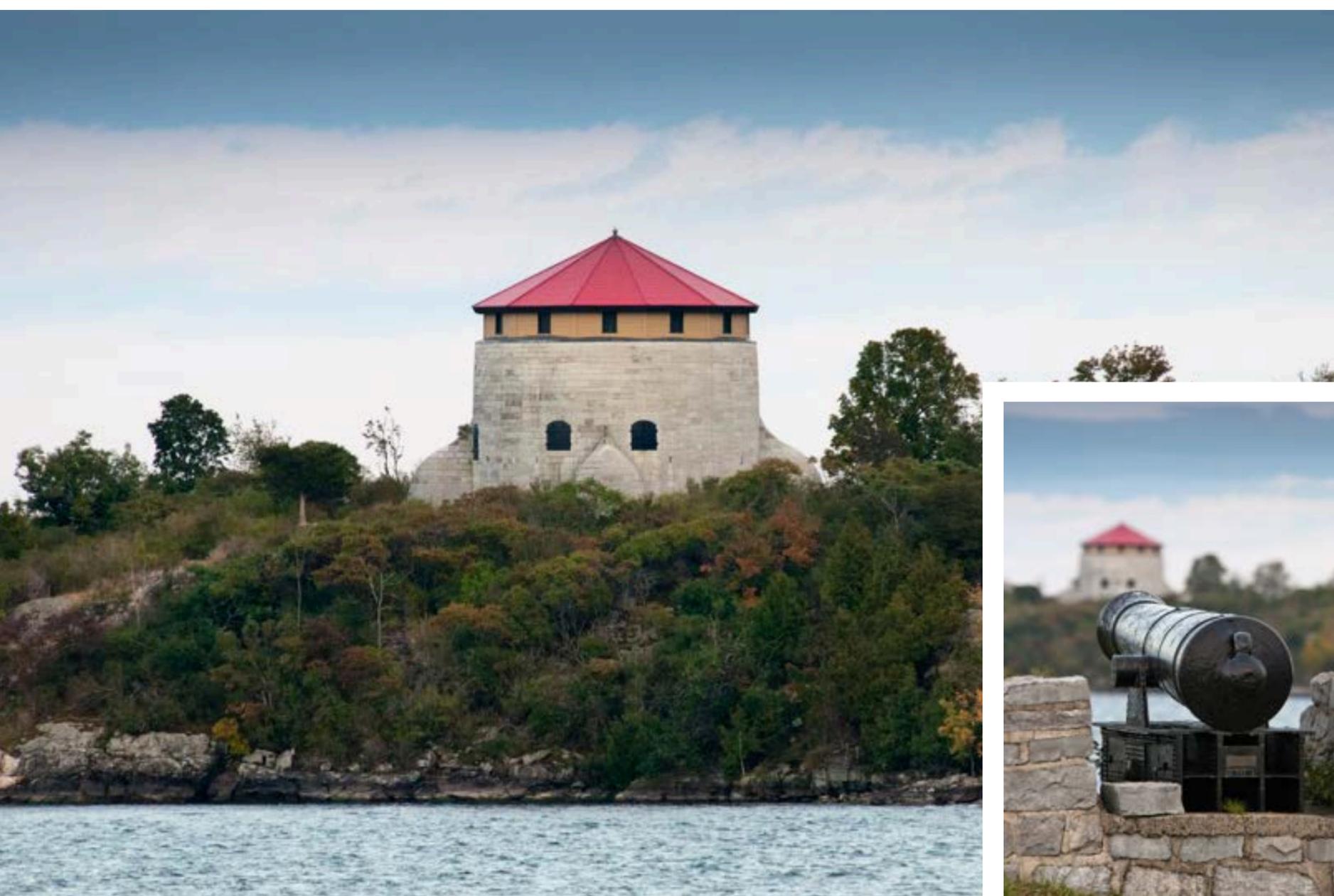
FORT HENRY

Situated atop Henry Point, the majestic Fort Henry overlooks the city of Kingston and the entrance to the Rideau Canal. Built as a 19th 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 forthenry.com for more details, open: 19th May-2nd Sept from 9:30 am to 5 pm and 4th-24th September 10am-4pm).



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). 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 A CITY THAT NEVER STOPS

If you're a budding culture bug, Kingston will serve you well. 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)



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 breathtaking 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.

LOCKS AND LIFTING BRIDGES

There are 24 lockstations and 48 locks 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.

HOURS OF OPERATION

📅 May 15 – June 18

Monday to Thursday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday to Sunday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
and Victoria Day (May 18)

📅 June 19 – September 7

Monday to Thursday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Friday to Sunday 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
and Canada Day (July 1), Civic Holiday (Aug. 3),
Labour Day (Sept. 7)

📅 September 8 – October 12

Monday to Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday to Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
and Thanksgiving (Oct. 12)

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.

Pretoria and Hog's Back bridges will not operate Monday to Friday (except on statutory holidays) from 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm and 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm.

*Abbott Street Swing Bridge (Smiths Falls Detached Lock)
At Smiths Falls Detached Lock, the bridge will operate upon arrival throughout the navigation season.*

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 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.
- 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.
- Pay attention to the lock staff, they will specifically direct you on when to enter the lock and which side to go to.
- Do not use your arms or legs to fend off the wall.

- 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.

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. Stay at your line for the duration of the lockage.

- 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. Do not release lines until the engine is running.

LAST LOCKAGE:

- Follow these guidelines to maximize chances of being locked through at the end of the day: At lockstations with one lock, boaters must arrive at the designated blue line 30 minutes before closing. At lockstations with more than one lock, 30 minutes per lock chamber is required (example: three locks = arrive 90 minutes before closing). At swing bridges (including Brass Point Bridge) boaters must arrive 20 minutes before closing.

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 every 3 -4 days just to make sure. The fresh water tank gauge will show you how much you have left. Water refills are only available at private marinas.

WASTE

At regular usage the waste tanks should last four days. It's always a good idea to keep an eye on the black water gauge in the head (washroom) or on the control panel (depending on the model of your boat), which will tell you how full the tank is. The pumpout is available at the local marinas on the Rideau Canal, ranging from 35-100 dollars per pumpout. As the Rideau Canal is a protected waterway, no dumping in water will be allowed.



Find us
on Facebook



Share with us
on Instagram



Watch us
on YouTube

#loveleboat

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.

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.



AS SEEN ON TV

Great
Canal
Journeys

