



CANADA'S 14TH WORLD HERITAGE SITE

THE RIDEAU CANAL INCLUDING THE KINGSTON FORTIFICATIONS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

A UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations) World Heritage Site is either a natural or cultural place, of sufficient importance to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole. State parties who are part of UNESCO's convention pledge to care for World Heritage Sites in their territory and to avoid deliberate measures that could damage World Heritage Sites in other countries. As such, the World heritage List serves as a tool for conservation.

The World Heritage List currently has 851 sites, including the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, the Acropolis in Greece, Stonehenge in the United Kingdom, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks. The Rideau Canal was inscribed on the World Heritage List on June 28, 2007 and is Canada's fourteenth World Heritage Site.

The Rideau Canal, a monumental early 19th - century canal extends 202 kms from Ottawa to Kingston Harbour on Lake Ontario. It was built primarily for strategic military purposes at a time when Great Britain and the United States of America vied for control of the north of the American continent. As a military canal, it was protected by the construction of six blockhouses and a fort. Defensible lockmaster's houses were added at several lockstations and between 1846 and 1848 four Martello towers were constructed to strengthen the fortifications at Kingston harbour. Lt. Col. John By recognized that the future of military navigation was in the use of the newly developed steam powered vessels and he designed the Rideau Canal to accommodate them.

The Rideau Canal is a masterpiece of human creative genius in its concept, design and engineering work. Through a stroke of brilliance, Lt. Col. John By envisioned and built a canal that would join two river systems, the Rideau and the Cataraqui. Through the use of 'slackwater' technology this design avoided the need for extensive excavation. Instead, a series of impoundments and dams were built to back up river water to allow navigation along the full length of the canal. The Rideau Canal is the best preserved example of a slackwater canal in North America demonstrating the use of this European technology in North America on a large scale. It is the only canal dating from the great North American canal-building era of the early 19th century to remain operational along its original line with most of its original structures intact.

Parks Canada plays a very important role in the designation and monitoring of World Heritage Sites in Canada. Because of its expertise and leadership in the protection of national historic sites and national parks, the Parks Canada Agency was chosen by the federal government to be responsible for World Heritage Sites. Employees assist and guide Canadian sites that are preparing their nomination dossier and advise on conservation and protection to those that have been designated of international value.



Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Le canal Rideau inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en 2007

The Rideau Canal inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007

For more information on World Heritage:
www.pc.gc.ca
www.whc.unesco.org

CANADA'S NEWEST WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Celebrating THE RIDEAU CANAL



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Canada