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# *Information Bulletin*

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## **End of 2017 Season Operations on the Rideau Canal; Lowering of Water Levels across the System**

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**September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Smiths Falls, ON**

**Parks Canada**

Parks Canada is advising the public that the Rideau Canal's 24 lockstations located between Ottawa and Kingston will close for the season on October 10, 2017, following the Thanksgiving long weekend.

Parks Canada encourages the public to use caution in and around canal structures and channels over the winter months. From mid-October to the end of May, the canal's lock stations are closed and use of the canal is at one's own risk. Unmarked hazards may exist. Wet leaves, ice, and snow may remain on stairs and walkways, and ice conditions on the waterway can vary. Boaters are advised that during the non-navigation season, aids to navigation may be missing, off-station, or inoperable until next spring.

From mid-October until mid-November, water levels in the Rideau Canal system, between Ottawa Locks and Burritt's Rapids, will be decreased to winter storage levels by adjusting dams and spillways in the Lower Rideau Watershed in order to prepare for freeze up and to reduce the possibility of spring flooding. The following Rideau Canal sections will be affected:

- Water levels will be decreased in the sections below Hog's Back, including Dow's Lake, beginning Monday, October 9, 2017 and will remain at their lowest level until mid-November, after which the water level will then be raised approximately one metre between Hartwells and Ottawa lockstations to prepare for the Skateway.
- Water levels will be lowered between Hog's Back to Black Rapids beginning Tuesday, October 10, 2017.
- Water levels will be lowered between Long Island to Black Rapids beginning Tuesday, October 10, 2017.
- Water levels will be lowered between Burritt's Rapids to Long Island beginning Monday, October 30, 2017.

We would like to thank all visitors and look forward to welcoming you again in 2018. Lockage and mooring permits for 2018 will soon be available for purchase on the [Parks Canada](http://ParksCanada.gc.ca) website.

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**Information:**

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