



Information Bulletin

Parks Canada and the Ottawa Police working together to make the Rideau Canal a safer place for boaters and shoreline residents

Smiths Falls, Ontario, August 11, 2011 – For several years now the Ottawa Police Marine Unit has been actively patrolling the waterways of the Rideau Canal. Through the enforcement and promotion of responsible boating, their hard work and dedication has served to protect the ecology and history of the waterway.

This summer, for the first time in Rideau Canal history, National Park Wardens have participated in a joint force operation to aid the Marine Unit in their patrols of the waterway. Like the Ottawa Police, Park Wardens have the authority to lay charges under the *Historic Canals Regulations*, *Small Vessel Regulations* and *Ontario Liquor License Act*. This new working relationship has allowed for an increased presence on the water and the ability to interact with more boaters. During seven joint patrols more than 30 charges have been laid in the Northern Sector of the Rideau Canal, primarily for failure to comply with a posted no wake/ speed sign.

Partnering with the Ottawa Police Marine Unit is one of the many activities used to ensure responsible visitor behavior on the Rideau Canal. Parks Canada has placed a priority on educating boaters on the benefits of boating safely and watching their wake. Publications like the Boating Safely Guide and the Watch your Wake brochure, have been designed to help boaters have a safe and enjoyable experience on the Rideau Canal as well as during interaction with Parks Canada employees.

Parks Canada is also in the process of installing new signs that will clearly identify where the “no wake zones” begin and end.

For more information on the Rideau Canal and visitor safety, including boating safely guidelines, please visit www.parkscanada.ca/rideau

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