



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JAN 29 2013

Mr. Ken Watson
rideauken@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the changes Parks Canada is making to its canal operations. I regret the delay in responding.

After extensive consultations on the future of canals, Parks Canada has determined a workable schedule that is affordable while minimizing the impact on local economies and visitors. The 2013 navigation season will continue to run seven days a week from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving as in previous years. In 2013, Parks Canada will provide a mix of 'upon arrival' lockage services during the busy summer season and scheduled lockage services during the spring and fall shoulder seasons at places with lower boater usage. Scheduled lockages have been used effectively at the Lachine and Chambly canals in Québec, and other canals and waterways around the world.

These changes to the hours of operation and personal service offer better reflect patterns of use. The details of the 2013 hours of operation are now available on the Parks Canada website at the following addresses:

Rideau Canal:

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/visit/visit2.aspx

Trent-Severn Waterway:

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/on/trentsevern/visit/visit3.aspx

Québec:

www.parkscanada.gc.ca/voyage-travel/promotion/quebec-canaux-canals.aspx

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With this decision, I am confident the canals and the surrounding communities will continue to flourish as vibrant centres of their respective regions.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Gordon Brown, M.P.