**Rideau Trail Association Locks Endeavour – Paddling**

**Rideau Canal overview**

The Rideau Canal National Historic Site stretches 202 km from Kingston to Ottawa, connecting visitors with an earlier time when canal building was a means of improving trade and defending a growing nation. Today the canal offers the perfect setting for relaxation and recreation, particularly for the paddler travelling by canoe or kayak.

The Rideau system encompasses 47 locks, 24 lock stations, several historic buildings, and two large watersheds: the Rideau and the Cataraqui. A number of natural paddling environments – lakes, rivers and wetlands – showcase the beauty and diversity of the system.

**PADDLING**

Starting June 1, 2024 the Rideau Trail Association is offering a series of activities to paddle, bike or hike the Rideau Canal Locks. This document details the requirements for the Paddling portion of the Locks Endeavour. **Paddling dates for end to end in one go are Saturday August 10th to Saturday August 17th 2024.** You do not have to wait for this time period, you can start on your own on June 1, 2024 and finish whenever you wish. You can also join the Paddling group doing the full length or join for a few days if you wish. **Please use the Activities Calendar to sign up so we can coordinate canoes and food**.

**REQUIREMENTS**

* [Ken Watson’s guide](https://www.rideautrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/watsons-rideau-paddling-guide.pdf) to paddling the Rideau River is posted on the website. Maps of river sections and locks are included inside the document.
* Everyone will arrange for their own shuttles and canoeing equipment. Transport Canada requires a bailer, a 15m line, a signaling device (whistle) and a flashlight or other source of illumination if paddling in the dark.
* While the trip leader will carry a 1st Aid kit, each person should carry a basic 1st Aid kit as well.
* Sometimes we will be camping at locks although in several towns there may be an option to go to a more upscale place to stay. You cannot camp at the locks until they open for the season.
* It is not recommended to do the river in the early spring because of cold water temperatures and strong currents, especially around dams and locks.
* For those doing overnights, everyone will be responsible for their own food and cooking equipment. The same applies to tents and sleeping bags and mats.
* Paddlers can get together as a group for sharing tents and cooking if they wish but it is up to each person to decide this. We can have meetings before the event to work this out.
* See the [RTA Locks Endeavour Paddling Schedule](https://www.rideautrail.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/RTA-Locks-Endeavour-Paddling-Schedule-and-Distances.xlsx) for more information about the route.

Dave Skinner – Paddling endeavour coordinator

dskinner18m@gmail.com