

Before beginning any work around water it is important to understand that there are approval requirements to be satisfied at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government. While municipalities are the approval authorities for planning applications and building permits, Conservation Authorities (as well as Parks Canada for properties along the Rideau Canal System) provide comments or advice on planning applications near water or sensitive environmental features. Provincial and federal agencies protect Crown or public land. Conservation Authorities (CA) ensure that works near water will not adversely affect flooding or water flow or pollution and that 'conservation of land' principles are followed. For properties within the watershed boundary of a CA check first with your local CA office; otherwise the local office of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) should be your first stop. All works on, over or abutting the bed of the Rideau River, require the approval of Parks Canada – the Rideau Canal Office (PC-RCO).

Who to Contact Regarding your Proposed Project:

Project Type	CA	OMNR	PC-RCO	Municipality	Coast Guard
Planning Act Application (severance, zoning amendment, minor variance etc.)*	√			√	
Clarification of Potential Crown Ownership (along the Rideau River)			√		
Shoreline Stabilization/Alteration (along the Rideau River)	√		√		
Shoreline Stabilization/Alteration (off the Rideau River)	√	√			
Dock <u>without</u> upland alteration (along the Rideau River)			√		
Dock (off the Rideau River)	√	√			
Boathouse (along the Rideau River)	√		√	√	
Boathouse (off the Rideau River)	√	√		√	
Aquatic Plant Harvesting (on the Rideau River)			√		
Aquatic Plant Harvesting (off the Rideau River)		√			
Dredging (on the Rideau River)	√		√		
Dredging (off the Rideau River)	√	√			
Floating Raft / Mooring Buoy (on the Rideau River)			√		√
Floating Raft / Mooring Buoy (off the Rideau River)					√

* Conservation Authority's comments to the Municipal approval authority are required by legislation.

Additional Information Regarding Working around Water:

Federal Fisheries Act:

Most Conservation Authorities (and Parks Canada for the Rideau River) have an agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to review shoreline applications with regards to fish habitat concerns (Section 35) so as to prevent a harmful alteration, destruction or disturbance of habitat.

Fish Timing Windows:

- No in or near water works are permitted between March 15 and June 30 inclusive
- No in or near water works are permitted between late September through the winter for Lake Trout Lakes.

The 25% Rule:

This is incorporated into the Zoning By-Law of some municipalities, CA Regulations and Parks Canada approvals policy.

- Shoreline development (dock, boathouse, boat lift, upland deck, etc.) must not result in a cumulative disturbance of more than 25% of the length of your shoreline, to a maximum of 50 feet.

Agency Contact Information for Eastern Ontario

Conservation Authorities:

Cataraqui Region C.A.	613-546-4228	crca@cataraquiregion.on.ca
Mississippi Valley C.	613-259-2421	email-info@mvc.on.ca
Rideau Valley C.A.	613-692-3571 800-267-3504	postmaster@rideauvalley.on.ca
South Nation C.	613-984-2948 877-984-2948	info@nation.on.ca
Raisin Region C.A.	613-938-3611	info@rrca.on.ca

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources:

OMNR – Kemptville	613-258-8204	
OMNR – Kingston	613-531-5700	

Parks Canada:

Rideau Canal Office – Smiths Falls	613-283-5170	RideauCanal-info@pc.gc.ca
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Coast Guard, Fisheries & Oceans Canada:

Navigable Waters Protection Act	613-925-2865 (Prescott) 519-383-1821 (Sarnia)	info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
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