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COMMUNIQUÉ For immediate release

The Rideau Canal is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List

Ottawa, July 4, 2007. The World Heritage Committee, meeting at its 31st session in Christchurch, New Zealand, has officially inscribed the Rideau Canal, including Fort Henry and the Kingston Fortifications, on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List. With this designation, the Rideau Canal, already a National Historic Site, becomes Canada's 14th World Heritage Site.

The international instrument for the identification, protection and preservation of world heritage is UNESCO's 1972 *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. The Convention established the World Heritage List as a means of recognizing that some places, either natural or cultural, are of sufficient importance to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole. Canada has adhered to the Convention since 1976.

The Rideau Canal, a cultural property, is listed as the only canal in North America dating from the great canal-building era of the early 19th century which still remains operational along its original line and with most of its original structures intact.

At its meeting, the World Heritage Committee also elected Canadian Dr. Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair on Built Heritage, University of Montreal, as its new Chair. Canada will host the next meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Québec City in July, 2008.

In Canada, Parks Canada is the lead agency for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. More information about the Rideau Canal and its World Heritage designation is available at the Parks Canada site:

http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/rideau/plan/plan3_E.asp

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