



# MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



## December 2014 The Township of Rideau Lakes

### **Where is it?**

The Township of Rideau Lakes is located southwest of Ottawa and northeast of Kingston. The Township was amalgamated on January 1, 1998 and is composed of the former Townships of North Crosby, South Crosby, Bastard and South Burgess, South Elmsley and the Village of Newboro. Rideau Lakes lies in the northwest corner of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, and is geographically the largest municipality in the County. The independent Village of Westport, while completely surrounded by the Township of Rideau Lakes, is not part of the Township.



### **What are the biggest attractions?**

The Rideau Canal, located in the Township, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. The Township of Rideau Lakes is steeped in history and contains examples of early industrial technology such as the Old Stone Mill in Delta, Ontario, which has been restored to working order and contains many interpretive displays. The Mill, a designated National Historic Site of Canada, is open to the public during the summer, and hosts and participates in a number of community events each year such as the Delta Maple Syrup Festival.



The Old Stone Mill in Delta Ontario, built in 1810, showcases milling technology and 1800s industrial heritage.

### **What makes the municipality unique?**

Rideau Lakes is traversed by the Rideau Waterway, which runs from the towering granite cliffs near Chaffeys Lock to the more gentle and pastoral areas of the Lower Rideau Lake. The Township also contains multiple pristine freshwater lakes, which, together with the waterway, makes it a destination for boaters of all sorts. The waterway, which is itself a link to the past, makes the Township attractive to history buffs, who explore the historic trails and visit various sites such as the stone arch dam at Jones Falls, which is a testimony to the engineering prowess of the original builders.



The stone arch dam at Jones Falls, constructed in 1832, was the largest dam in North America at the time, and is still a marvel of engineering. The dam holds back 60 feet of water, is approximately 360 feet (110 ft) long, 60 feet (18 m) high and 27 feet (8 m) thick at the base. It was built with large sandstone blocks, and no mortar or cement was used in its construction.

### **What are the most common issues faced by the Committee of Adjustment/Planning Board?**

The Township of Rideau Lakes Committee of Adjustment/Planning Advisory Committee is composed of six members of the Township's elected representatives, being the Mayor and five Councillors (one from each ward). The Committee of Adjustment hears Minor Variance and Permission (Section 45(2) of the *Planning Act*) Applications. The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is the approval authority for consent applications. The majority of variance applications pertain to waterfront properties where non-complying situations (both properties and structures) exist. Typical variance applications request relief for seasonal dwellings that are proposed to be expanded and become more permanent year round dwellings. The Township has over 5000 waterfront properties and 840 kilometres of shoreline.

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OACA would like to thank Jason Sands, Associate Planner for the Township of Rideau Lakes, for his assistance with this article. More information about the Township of Rideau Lakes can be found on the Township's website at

[www.twprideaulakes.on.ca](http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca)