



Peterborough Earth Dams

Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site

Update on Construction



Work continues along the Earth Dams south of Parkhill road in Peterborough

August 24, 2018 – Parks Canada has made a historic investment to rehabilitate the earth dams along the Trent-Severn Waterway in Peterborough. Earth dams are vital for flood mitigation and therefore the safety of visitors, residents, and property. These investments will further reduce the risk of flood damage along the canal corridor.

While this important work began in the fall of 2015, it reached the active heavy construction phase this past spring.

The Earth Dam at Thompsons Bay in north Peterborough was the first to reach the construction phase and is now nearing the final stages of work. At this location all vegetation has been removed, the dam strengthened, and the new earthen material compacted into place. The water facing side of the dam has also been repaired and armoured with rock. The final stages of work will see additional top soil added to the berm followed by a re-greening of the surface using a specially developed seed mix of tall grasses. At this time it is anticipated that this work could be complete by mid- to late-September.

Work also continues along the Hurdons Earth Dam (the western shoreline north of Parkhill Road), and the Curtis Creek Earth Dams (the eastern and western shorelines south of Parkhill Road). At these locations the contractor continues to remove vegetation, particularly tree roots, which posed a threat to the long term reliability of the earth dams. Work along the dry surfaces will continue late into the fall with the in water work occurring after the close of the Trent-Severn Waterway's navigation season.

Be a witness to this historic work. Check out what we are up to at pc.gc.ca/tswInfrastructure.



Construction Site and Unauthorized Entry

The Earth Dams along the Trent-Severn Waterway in Peterborough are popular spots for area residents to walk. Throughout the project to repair these structures however these areas are construction sites and closed to the public.

Construction sites can be dangerous places without the appropriate safety gear and precautions. For this reason, unauthorized access to the construction site is strictly prohibited and can result in fines, serious injuries, or worse. Parks Canada respectfully asks that all posted signage be respected throughout this important project.

Recognizing the part the earth dams play as public green spaces, Parks Canada will be formalizing the walking trails at these sites at the end of the project such that they can be better enjoyed by members of the community.



Peterborough Earth Dams

Large sections of Trent-Severn Waterway shoreline within the City of Peterborough are engineered structures designed to keep water inside the canal and out of adjoining neighbourhoods. In 2015, Parks Canada announced a project to rehabilitate more than 2km of these earth dams.

The major repairs to the Earth dams throughout Peterborough began in November 2015 and are estimated to continue until summer 2019.

In order to rehabilitate and strengthen these dams, washouts will be repaired, dam height will be increased where necessary, and vegetation will be removed.

Parks Canada has been recognized on the world stage as a leader in conservation. Care has been taken to consider and implement measures that will mitigate potential negative environmental impact on waterways, nesting areas, and other habitats.

Following the completion of repairs, the dams will be green-scaped with beneficial plants like milkweed, wildflowers, and tall grasses.

For More Information:

For more information about the Parks Canada infrastructure projects in the Peterborough area please visit www.pc.gc.ca/tswPeterborough. If you have any further questions about these projects or if you would like to receive email updates regarding projects in the Peterborough area, please contact us at ont.trentsevern@pc.gc.ca and include "Peterborough" in the subject heading.