

Kingston Inner Harbour: A Cultural Heritage Landscape Pilot Study

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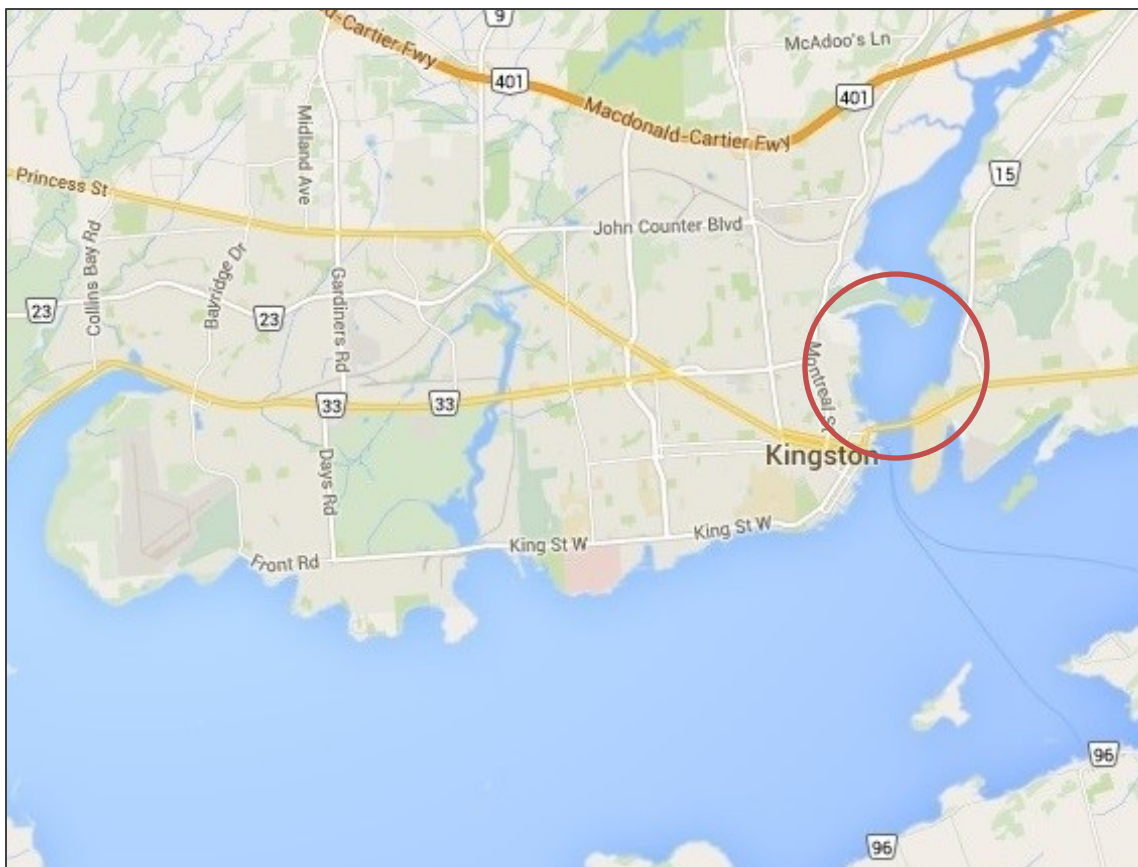
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Executive Summary

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Kingston, on the shores of Lake Ontario, has always had a connection to the lake and surrounding rivers. These features of the landscape have shaped the course of human history in the area and are a significant part of local cultural heritage. The harbour areas of the city, combined with the connection local people have with the water, constitute a maritime cultural heritage landscape. This study focuses on one section of Kingston's harbours, the Inner Harbour, at the mouth of the Cataraqui River and the southern entrance/exit of the Rideau Canal.



Map of Kingston Harbours with the study area circled (Google Maps 2015)

This study uses the inventory and evaluation approach developed by the United States National Parks Service for assessment of the cultural heritage landscape. It uses other analytic criteria developed for the Region of Waterloo and the five historic themes of the Parks Canada System Plan to frame and evaluate the significance of the landscape. The maritime nature of the landscape was further defined by seven categories of maritime activity.

Research into the broad historical context of the harbour illustrates how Kingston has been connected to the maritime environment at many points through its history. This context places the study area within a larger local maritime context and ties this study area into the much larger Lake Ontario, Rideau Canal and St. Lawrence River landscapes/waterscapes.

Heritage elements found around the Inner Harbour illustrate the five main historic themes of the Parks Canada System Plan, demonstrating the area's significance within Canadian history.

Theme	Evidence
Peopling the Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological evidence of First Nations settlement • Archaeological evidence and historical evidence of early French and British settlement • Port facilities • Residential areas, including Barriefield Village
Developing Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial sites • Landscape modifications for industrial and harbour uses • Rail lands along the harbour • The La Salle Causeway • Abandoned vessels in the harbour • Wharves, docks, drydock and other maritime structures
Governing Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Frontenac (the historic French and British fort and the contemporary Canadian Army Command and Staff College) • H.M.C.S. Catarqui
Building Social and Community Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place names • Barriefield Village
Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations burial ground on Belle Island • Historic and contemporary leisure activity around the river, such as the Kingston Rowing Club and Catarqui Canoe Club • Traditional and contemporary maritime skills practiced at Metalcraft Marine and the Kingston Sail Loft

The study area is a rich landscape of maritime connections. This table summarizes the maritime cultural heritage landscape processes and components in the Inner Harbour study area.

Process	Evidence of Processes
Land Use and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsistence: First Nations hunting/fishing sites • Institutional: Fort Frontenac, Tête Du Pont Barracks, HMCS <i>Cataraqui</i>, CFB Kingston • Industrial: Davis Drydock, Metalcraft Marine, Kingston Sail Loft, Cotton/Woolen Mill building, Davis Tannery site, Queen City Oil Company depot building and retaining wall • Transportation: Rideau Canal, La Salle Causeway bridge and wharves, former rail lands in Douglas Fluhrer Park, Kingston Marina, Anglin Bay wharves, abandoned ship wrecks • Residential: Barriefield Village • Recreational: Douglas Fluhrer Park, Green Bay Parkette and CFB green space on Green Bay, Place D'Armes walk, Cataraqui Canoe Club, Kingston Rowing Club
Patterns of Spatial Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land creation through fill around Anglin Bay • Rail lines along the western shoreline • Street alignment based on the shoreline
Response to the Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Barriefield Village adapted to the slope of the hill • The Barriefield rock cut changed the landscape for transportation • Barriefield quarry sites modified the landscape • Water lots on the western shore were filled in as a convenient dump and to create more land • Shoreline stabilization along the western shore • Cataraqui Park, a former dump site.
Cultural Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Military followed by Canadian Military: Tête Du Pont Barracks, HMCS <i>Cataraqui</i>, CFB Kingston, Fort Frontenac walls • Maritime traditions, Kingston Sail Loft and Metalcraft Marine
Component	Evidence of Component
Circulation Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataraqui River and Rideau Canal • La Salle Causeway • Land creation for rail lines and gravel rail bed on western shore • Narrow entrance to Anglin Bay (former site of rail bridge) • City and village street grid pattern based on shoreline
Boundary Demarcations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cataraqui River • La Salle Causeway
Vegetation related to Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation illustrates the decline of industry and growth of residential/recreational uses
Buildings, Structures and Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metalcraft Marine building, south of Davis Drydock • Queen City Oil building • Woollen Mill • Barriefield boathouse • Rideau Canal • La Salle Causeway • Davis Drydock • Kingston Marina 75-ton crane • H.M.C.S. <i>Cataraqui</i>
Settlement Clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial buildings and structures along the western shore • Barriefield Village • Inner Harbour and Kingston Marina, wharves, docks, vessels and wrecks
Archaeological Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Frontenac • 14 abandoned vessels in the river
Small Scale Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort Frontenac walls • Angrove's foundry manhole cover in Douglas Fluhrer Park • Bollards at the entrance to Anglin Bay • Oil pipes at the entrance to Anglin Bay
Continuing Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriefield Village • Metalcraft Marine • Kingston Marina • Kingston Sail Loft • La Salle Causeway • Rideau Canal

Landscape elements connected to the maritime environment are associated with events that made significant contributions to the broad patterns of history and are associated with the five historic themes. Landscape elements are closely associated with the lives of individuals or families who are significant to the area. The landscape embodies distinctive characteristics of a maritime community. Landscape elements demonstrate close and harmonious relationships between the natural and domestic. Landscape elements yield information important to our understanding of prehistory or history. One part of the landscape, Belle Island, is strongly associated with the spiritual and cultural traditions of First Nations peoples.

Recommendations for preservation of the Kingston Inner Harbour Cultural Heritage Landscape include:

- Consult the local community about the area's significance, boundaries and community value in order to define the area's significance.
- Consult the local community for ideas on management and conservation of this landscape.
- Identify this area as a cultural heritage landscape and as a special policy area in the City of Kingston Official Plan.
- Require landscape impact assessments for new development in the area to ensure the maritime cultural landscape is not adversely affected.
- Ensure park master plans and park area management plans in the area address the significant maritime cultural heritage embodied in the landscape.
- Financial incentives such as heritage grants should be developed with a focus on preserving elements of the landscape that reflect the maritime cultural landscape.
- Conserve and reconstruct the remaining wharves and docks that have fallen into disrepair. Preserve the manufactured shoreline areas at old industrial sites to preserve the maritime industrial past of the area.
- Maintain the natural contours in the landscape to retain the patterns of spatial organization of a landscape that is oriented to the river.
- Ensure that street names in the study area that reflect the maritime heritage of the area, such as significant persons and geographical features can not be changed without consideration of the impacts on the cultural landscape.
- The Davis Dry Dock should be designated a heritage property under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. However the designation by-law should be structured so that designation does not adversely affect the function of the property for boatbuilding, the modern expression of boatbuilding on the property is as important for the cultural heritage landscape as the sites history is.
- Public interpretation about the significant maritime history of the area and the cultural landscape should be developed as a part of efforts to conserve the landscape.
- Wherever possible the maritime nature of the area should be enhanced and celebrated.