

A NOTE TO KINGSTON MILLS CLIMBERS

The cliffs at the Kingston Mills Lockstation were closed to climbing from the Fall of 2001 until the Spring of 2002. This closure was put into effect by the Rideau Canal Office owing to concerns regarding loose rock and potential rock-fall injuries.

Contractors were hired to assess the cliffs and stabilize the rock. Substantial scaling (rock removal) and bolting (rock attachment) work was performed on the Odeum Wall. It has been designated a 'low risk' area at this time. According to a consultant's assessment, however, the Scree Wall and Lichen Wall need work to remove some high risk areas of loose rock.

What does this mean for climbers?

- Several of the routes on Odeum have been altered and may not match the descriptions in this guidebook. The drawings may no longer be accurate.
- There may be loose holds and sharp edges on some of the climbs as a result of the work performed.
- At the time of this writing, there is still erosion debris at the top of Odeum because it has not been cleaned in 10 months.
- There is a great deal of rubble at the base of Odeum now, which may get in the way.
- Be cautious when top-roping and especially leading "Synergy," "Dilemma" and "Odeum Direct." These climbs have been altered somewhat.
- Some top-anchor bolt hangers have been removed on Dirty Ledge. These need to be reinstalled, and bolts that were in the work area need to be inspected.
- A number of stabilization bolts have been installed on "The Hedger" and "Irving's Overhang." Although these offer inviting handholds because they protrude about 6", they are potential impact points, especially if you are leading.
- As well, birds tend to perch on these protruding bolts and 'decorate' the rock below, making it slippery.
- The Canal Office will likely contract further rock removal and stabilization work, although there is limited funding at this point to do so.
- Local climbers have been in contact with the Canal Office, working to find solutions to keep the site open — one of which involves users to sign and fax a waiver.

Therefore, as a user of this climbing site, you have the following responsibilities and should keep these precautions in mind:

- Sign and fax the attached waiver.
- With regard to potential and obvious loose rock, stabilization bolts, rock debris, and other hazards, use caution and good judgement when selecting and setting up climbs.
- Wear a helmet.
- Remember, there are other non-climbing visitors in the area. So be mindful of their safety as well, and warn them of any hazards they cannot see.
- If you see inexperienced or irresponsible climbers, do what you think is reasonable to advise them and protect yourself.
- Remove any obvious debris and loose rock if it is easy to do so and does not put anyone at risk.
- Co-operate with the canal officials, and expect further rock removal and stabilization work to be performed in the future.

Depending on further changes to the site and specific routes, a more detailed insert to this guidebook will be drafted and made available.

Have fun and be safe!

Rob Chisnall, May

2002

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK
AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

ROCK CLIMBING - KINGSTON MILLS LOCKSTATION

To Whom It May Concern

Parks Canada does not manage or oversee, in any way, the activity of rock climbing at this site. Visitors are encouraged to learn about any risks associated with this activity and to exercise appropriate self-reliance and responsibility for their own safety in recreational or other activities they choose to undertake.

The sport of rock climbing is recognized to be an activity in which a high level of risk in terms of personal injury and/or death is involved. There are also potentially unstable blocks or masses of rock which could pose a safety hazard in the climbing area and along the toe of the slope. The Parks Canada Agency accepts no responsibility for any accident, injury, death or loss or damage to personal property resulting from the use of its property for such activity, and any person or group of persons engaging in this activity do so at their own risk.

In consideration of Parks Canada permitting you to utilize its' property, the climber does, for himself or herself and his or her heirs, executors, administrators and personal representatives, remise, release and forever discharge Parks Canada and it's officers, employees, independent contractors and agents from all manner of action, causes of action, suits, claims or demands in respect of all personal injuries, death, loss or damage to property which the climber may suffer arising out of or in connection with the activity of rock climbing at the Kingston Mills Lockstation.

I have read and understand this notice.

Name, print

Signature

To be returned by fax (613) 283-0677 or mailed to:

Rideau Canal Office
34a Beckwith Street, South
Smiths Falls, Ontario
K7A 2A8
Attention: Mary Ann Ovington

**ACCEPTATION DES RISQUES
ET DÉGAGEMENT DE RESPONSABILITÉ**

ESCALADE DE ROCHER - POSTE D'ÉCLUSAGE DE KINGSTON MILLS

À qui de droit,

Parcs Canada n'exploite ni ne supervise d'aucune manière, l'activité d'escalade de rocher dans ce lieu. Les visiteurs sont invités à se familiariser avec les risques associés à ce type d'activité et à développer une autonomie appropriée et à devenir responsable de leur propre sécurité lors de l'exercice d'activités récréatives ou autres auxquelles ils décident de participer.

L'escalade de rocher est reconnu comme étant une activité à haut niveau de risque en termes de blessures personnelles ou de décès. Les blocs et les masses de rocher potentiellement instables représentent aussi un risque d'accident dans la zone d'escalade et le long de la pente. L'Agence Parcs Canada décline toute responsabilité eu égard à un accident, blessure, mortalité ou perte ou dommages en biens personnels résultant de l'exercice de cette activité sur sa propriété. Toute personne ou tout groupe de personnes participant à cette activité le fait à ses propres risques.

En échange de l'autorisation de Parcs Canada d'utiliser sa propriété, le grimpeur ou la grimpeuse, en son nom et au nom de ses héritiers, exécuteurs, administrateurs et représentants personnels, dégage et décharge à jamais Parcs Canada et ses agents, employés, entrepreneurs indépendants et agents de tout type de poursuites, causes d'action, actions en justice, revendications ou demandes liées à tout préjudice corporel, mortalité, perte ou dommages à la propriété dont pourrait être victime le grimpeur ou la grimpeuse suite à l'exercice direct ou indirect de l'escalade de rocher au poste d'éclusage de Kingston Mills.

J'ai lu et compris cette note.

Nom, en lettres majuscules

Signature

A retourner par fax au (613) 283-0677 ou par la poste:

Rideau Canal Office
34a Beckwith Street, South
Smiths Falls, Ontario
K7A 2A8
À l'attention de: Mary
Ann Ovington