

## *Cycle Route No. 11 from the Township of Rideau Lakes* **Newboro – Narrows Lock – A Billion Years and Counting**

*A Loop Route of about 32 km. Variety of hard and loose surface, some steep topography.*

*Distances are approximate and will vary with vehicle. GPS co-ordinates are in Latitude and Longitude.*

**Km. 0.0** (44° 39.114'N. 76° 19.058'W.) **Start at Newboro Community Hall** and head **west on County Road 42**

**Option:** You may wish to explore Newboro with its fine heritage architecture and variety of shops.

**Km. 1.0** (44° 38.981'N. 76° 19.384'W.) **Bridge over Historic Rideau Canal**

Newboro was originally called The Isthmus, marking its location as an isthmus that divided the Rideau River watershed with the Gananoque and Cataraqui watershed. As part of the building of the Rideau Canal, a cut was excavated through the hard bedrock of the isthmus. Historic Marker commemorating the Royal Engineers' Sappers and Miners who worked in the face of hard granite and malaria.

Note glimpses of Upper Rideau Lake to the east. Parallel the old embankments of the Brockville and Westport Railway. Continue to follow County Road 42 toward Westport.

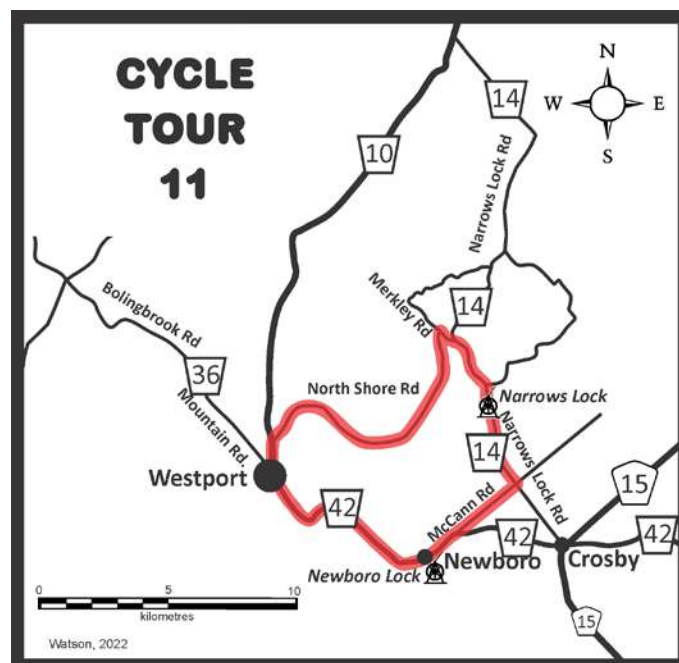
Golf driving range and nearby Rideau Lakes Golf Course, beautiful stone farm houses and into the village of **Westport**.

**Km. 8.3** (44° 40.496'N. 76° 23.900'W.) **Turn Right (Easterly) onto Rideau St.**

**Km. 8.7** (44° 40.615'N. 76° 23.685'W.) **Swing Left onto Main St.** Pass post office, bank, busy harbour, various shops, supermarket and hotel

**Option:** Explore Westport to find a wide variety of services and shops, including a bakery. Arena and Art Festival, music festivals, several churches. Public Washrooms at Info Centre (in season)

**Km. 8.9** (44° 40.775'N. 76° 23.692'W.) **Straight onto County Rd. 10** also called **Westport Rd.** Cross the causeway separating Westport Mill Pond from Upper Rideau Lake. You've had an easy peddle to this point. Forget about flat land and straight roads for many turns of the peddles. Leave the St. Lawrence Plain and **climb a steep hill** onto the rugged Canadian Shield. Notice the pink granite of the Westport Pluton that was boiled and born a billion years ago.



Rideau Queen in the Newboro Channel. From here, the only way is down to Ottawa or Kingston.

## Cycle Route 11: Newboro – Narrows Lock Tour

**Km. 9.9** (44° 41.200'N. 76° 23.882'W.) **Turn Right onto Grady Rd.** Entrance to Foley Mountain Conservation Area – nature trails, wildlife, Spy Rock, swimming, Rideau Trail for backpacking from Kingston to Ottawa.

**Km 11.3** (44° 41.872'N. 76° 23.329'W.) **Turn Right (Easterly) onto North Shore Rd.**, A winding loose-surface road among marshes and granite outcrops of the Westport Mountain pluton. typical landscape of the rugged Canadian Shield. Overlook Upper Rideau Lake from the high side of the Rideau Lakes Fault-line. Few farmsteads have survived and thrived on pockets of rich humic soils settled by Irish fleeing the Famine in the 1840s. Abandoned farmland is being reclaimed by mixed forest, ideal habitat for white-tailed deer, red-tailed hawks and beavers.

**Km. 20.7** (44° 43.422'N. 76° 18.904'W.) **Turn Right (Southerly) onto Merkley Rd.** (Loose surf.)

**Km. 21.0** (44° 43.371'N. 76° 18.720'W.) **At STOP Sign at “T”, go straight (Southerly).** Be sure your bicycle is within the “5 Ton limit” of the bridge ahead. Proceed on **County Rd. 14** - Narrows Lock Road. Hard surfaced road.

**Km. 23.8** (44° 42.147'N. 76° 17.736'W.) **Narrows Lock.** As you cross the bridge and causeway, Upper Rideau Lake is to your right (west) and Big Rideau Lake to your left (east). In order to fill the Newboro cut with a navigation depth of water, a lock was built at this narrowing of the lake and Upper Rideau Lake was raised by over 1 metre. A blockhouse was built here to defend this strategic site from American attack.

Here, you are also crossing the Rideau Lakes Fault Line, especially evident in the cliffed north shore of the Upper Rideau between the Canadian Shield to your north and the St. Lawrence plain to your south.



Opening the gate at Narrows Lock into the realm of Big Rideau Lake

**Km. 27.2** (44° 40.551'N. 76° 16.835'W.) **Turn Right (Westerly) onto McCann Rd.** toward Newboro.

Pass a typical cheddar cheese factory with its typical “weighing-in stand” where local farmers once brought their cans of milk early each morning. This was one of 44 such cheese factories that once boomed here in the north of Leeds County with its ideal climate and grasses for producing high-quality milk.

Cross Little Rideau Lake Road.

**Km. 30.3** (44° 39.434'N. 76° 18.605'W.) **At STOP Sign, turn right (Westerly) onto County Rd. 42** into **Newboro**

**Km. 31.2** (44° 39.114'N. 76° 19.058'W.) Back to **Newboro Community Hall.**

**Other tours of interest:** *Newboro Walking Tour, Morton to Crosby Driving Tour and Crosby to Salem Driving Tour – available at branches of Rideau Lakes Library or on-line at [www.twprideaulakes.on.ca](http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca)*

### Disclaimer:

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Tour prepared on behalf of MHAC by Doug Bond. Layout & maps by Ken Watson.