

# That sinking feeling: other times Ottawa-area roads have collapsed

The sinkhole that swallowed up part of Rideau Street on June 8, 2016 is just the latest instance of an Ottawa-area road collapsing.



A large sinkhole that formed on Rideau Street next to the Rideau Centre mall is seen on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 in Ottawa.

By: [Lucy Scholey](#) Metro Published

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## Highway 174 – Sept. 4, 2012

A large sinkhole on Highway 174 swallowed a man's silver Hyundai on Sept. 4, 2012. Luckily, driver Juan Pedro Unger survived the incident. As it turned out, a large culvert under that stretch of the

highway at Jeanne d'Arc Boulevard had been slated for a repair job. But civil engineering firm B.M. Ross and Associates found the city didn't identify the problem soon enough. The firm encouraged the city to improve its road infrastructure to prevent future sinkholes.

#### **Gatineau – Sept. 8, 2012**

Also in September 2012, three sinkholes opened up in Gatineau. At least two were caused by broken water mains, but heavy rain was also to blame.

#### **Orleans – Oct. 7, 2013**

On Oct. 7, 2013 – almost a year after the Highway 174 sinkhole – a smaller hole opened up on St-Joseph Boulevard in Orleans. This time, it was due to a water main break. Once again, the city had already planned to fix the aging concrete pressure pipe. Since the Highway 174 incident, staff said they were working through a backlog of infrastructure upgrades throughout the city. However, other areas had taken a higher priority than St-Joseph.

#### **Sandy Hill – Feb. 21, 2014**

A sinkhole opened up above the digging site of an LRT tunnel on Waller and Laurier streets on Feb. 21, 2014. The Rideau Transit Group later said it was a result of “unanticipated soil conditions.”

#### **Highway 148 – July 2, 2014**

Heavy rains washed out a portion of Highway 148 in Western Quebec on July 2, 2014. It caused a nine-metre-deep sinkhole, according to media reports at the time.