

## SUMMARY

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The *Tahko Water Route* was completed in 2002, although canalizing the *Great Lake District of Saimaa* has a long history which can be traced to the time of Swedish rule in Finland. Industrial development has been the determining factor for the creation of canals in the region, first with the discovery of iron ore, and then with logging. During the time of the *Grand Duchy of Finland*, industrialization accelerated and canalization projects followed suit, however, it wasn't before the 1990's that a feasible project for canalizing the *Juankoski*

and *Karjalankoski* was proposed. The project involved surmounting several technical challenges while maintaining it on schedule and within the initially allocated budget. This was realized by a process of constant revisions of plans at site during the whole course of the work, according to local conditions, as well as good management of all involved parties. The *Juankoski* and *Karjalankoski* canals and locks are now in service for pleasure boating and provide links to *Kuopio* and the *Gulf of Finland* through the *Saimaa canal*.