

7.3 Recreational Values Integrity Assessment

- The Ottawa River possesses water of a quality suitable for contact recreational activities, including world-class white water paddling, fishing and swimming.
- The Ottawa River's visual appearance provides river travelers with a natural and cultural experience. Parts of the river, such as the Rocher Fendu section, give paddlers a taste of what the early voyageurs experienced along the Ottawa River. Many rely on the Ottawa River as an opportunity to reconnect with a natural environment. Ontario and Quebec's most popular canoe-camping parks, Algonquin Park and La Réserve Faunique de la Vérendrye, are located along the river. Boating along the river gives people an opportunity to experience a variety of the Ottawa River's cultural and natural values, while following an age-old waterway route.
- The Ottawa River is capable of supporting further sustainable recreational uses. River-based recreation is a significant source of revenue for communities along the river, and represents one of the intrinsic values of the Ottawa River.

7.4 Recommendation

The Ottawa River Background Study has documented the significant human heritage, natural heritage and recreation values along the entire length of the Ottawa River. Based upon the weight of evidence, and with the agreement of Parks Canada, Ontario Parks and the Quebec Ministère du développement durable, Environnement et Parcs, it is recommended that the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee proceed with the preparation of a formal nomination document, so that the provinces of Quebec and Ontario might then be prepared to recommend to the CHRS Board in May 2006 that the Ottawa River be nominated as a Canadian Heritage River based upon its Human Heritage and Recreational Values.