

# Chapter 5

## Conclusion

The Nomination Document demonstrates that the Ottawa River possesses outstanding cultural heritage features and satisfies all CHRS Cultural Heritage Value Selection and Integrity Guidelines required for nomination to the System. Therefore, the Ottawa River is worthy of nomination to the CHRS on the basis of its outstanding cultural heritage values.

The Ottawa River will play an important role in the CHRS, providing representation of several exemplary cultural heritage themes of a significance not presently represented in the System. The outstanding historical and political significance of the river, as a gateway to the continent, witness to exploration and the fur trade, and home to the Nation's Capital, make the river deserving of CHR status.

The Nomination Document also illustrates that the Ottawa River possesses outstanding representations of natural heritage values and recreational values. The River is unable to satisfy CHRS Natural Integrity Value Guidelines that address impoundments on the river. Therefore, the Ottawa River is not nominated to CHRS on the basis of its outstanding natural values.

Future designation of the Ottawa River will further protect, enhance and publicize the cultural and natural heritage of the river. The significant participation of residents and stakeholders in meetings along the river demonstrates a strong interest and motivation to protect the river through its designation. Local working groups have been formed to create the background study and nomination document, and are poised to begin creating a heritage strategy for the river.

*Heritage designation should help us to preserve the river and its watershed. We would like to see the water quality improved by better methods of pollution control. We hope that the management plan for our heritage river will find that successful balance between industrial and recreational needs on the one hand and the preservation and improvement of our environment on the other...*

- Mattawa chapter of the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee, 2005

Many individuals and organizations have great hopes for the Ottawa River, and believe that their visions could be achieved through CHR designation. Building the movement toward stewardship of the cultural, natural and recreational values of the river will help respond to the many conservation challenges inherent in the management of the Ottawa River. In addition, CHR designation could strengthen and build bridges between communities along the river, leading to greater inclusiveness and community health.