

Appendix F

Letters of Support for Ottawa River Heritage Designation

Letters of support for Ottawa River Heritage Designation have been submitted by the following organisations:

City of Ottawa
City of Pembroke
City of Temiskaming Shores
County of Renfrew
Town of Deep River
Town of Hawkesbury
Town of Petawawa
Township of McNab/Braeside
Township of Horton
United Counties of Prescott and Russell
United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria

Ministry of Culture, Government of Ontario
National Capital Commission

Bromley Historical Society
Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons
Heritage Old Time Country Music Association
Heritage Renfrew
Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Chapter
Ottawa Riverkeeper
Rotary Club of North Renfrew (Deep River)
Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group

John Baird, Member of Provincial Parliament for Nepean-Carleton
Honourable Ed Broadbent, Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre
Cheryl Gallant, Member of Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Marc Godbout, Member of Parliament for Ottawa-Orléans
Gordon O'Connor, Member of Parliament for Carleton-Mississippi Mills
Anthony Rota, Member of Parliament for Nipissing-Timiskaming
Norman W. Sterling, Member of Provincial Parliament, Lanark-Carleton
John Yakabuski, Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

In addition, numerous individuals have contributed written letters of support for this initiative.



Ottawa Chapter

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 4939, Station E
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Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee
c/o The Town of Petawawa,
16 Civic Centre Drive,
Petawawa, Ontario K8H 3H5

December 5, 2005

The Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society strongly supports the application of the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee to have the Ottawa River designated a Canadian Heritage River.

It does not take a geographer to see the critical situation of this waterway into the heart of the continent. Geologists, particularly those concerned with the continental glaciation, confirm that the "river" was at one time linked integrally to the ocean and later formed part of the basin of a vast inland sea. Archaeologists are increasingly learning about the people who lived on those shores c. 9,000 years ago. From that time on succeeding waves of native hunters, gatherers, traders and eventually agriculturalists took advantage of the resources of the river itself and the richness of its watershed. Stretching as it does from the St. Lawrence River into the heartland of western Quebec, the river banks have been home to many different pre-historic people, and their traces have been researched by many individual archaeologists and institutions. A particularly significant collection of articles (with input from many Ottawa Chapter OAS members,) *La préhistoire de l'Outaouais/Ottawa Valley Prehistory*, was published in 1999 by la Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais. The material dealt with the pre-historic archaeology of the middle stretch of the river, from Deep River down-river to the mouth of the Gatineau tributary at Ottawa. Archaeologists have continued investigations in the area, and many presented their results at a recent symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society held in Petawawa, Ontario, November 3-6 2005, *Partners to the Past: Making Connections in the Ottawa Valley*.

The topics discussed at the symposium also included research on the later historic occupations of the Ottawa Valley. Attendees were given glimpses of life in the logging camps, bush farms and mines where waves of French, Irish, Scots and other Europeans mingled with the continuing Algonquin inhabitants of the region, whose descendants took part in the symposium programme. The full proceedings of this symposium are in process of publication, thanks to a grant from Ontario Ministry of Culture, Cultural Strategic Initiatives Fund. We expect this to be a significant contribution to the literature about the Ottawa River.

The importance of the heritage of the Ottawa River is obvious to the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society and we strongly support all efforts to spread this knowledge as widely as possible to the people of Canada.

Glenna Roberts, Secretary,
For the Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society



Ottawa Riverkeeper
Sentinelles Outaouais

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March 21, 2005

To Len Hopkins and Nicole Desroches,

Ottawa Riverkeeper would like to express our support to have the Ottawa River named a Canadian Heritage River. There is no arguing the historical and cultural significance of the Ottawa River – the primary transportation route into the heart of Canada for thousands of years. Ecologically speaking, the Ottawa River is not only one of Canada's most significant rivers, it is very important on a global scale.

The Ottawa Valley contains examples of globally rare ecological communities such as alvar habitat and rich wetland and forest habitats, which support an impressive diversity of flora and fauna. The Ottawa River Valley hosts the most biologically diverse ecosystems in Québec yet is also one of the most threatened landscapes in Canada.

Heritage designation of the Ottawa River will be an important stepping-stone to ensure that this incredible river is protected and respected by all. I believe that encouraging people to enjoy the river by swimming, fishing and boating will give rise to better stewards who will act to protect the ecological integrity of the river for future generations.

In my contact with citizens from all over the Ottawa River Watershed, I feel confident that most people are eager to be good stewards and demonstrate their respect for the river. What we need is a movement to get all users of the river together to decide on the future of the river. A Canadian Heritage River Designation could provide a pivotal role in helping to conserve the richness and beauty of the Ottawa River.

Thank you for your leading efforts and Ottawa Riverkeeper looks forward to participating in the designation process.

Yours truly,

Meredith Brown
Riverkeeper and Executive Director
Ottawa Riverkeeper / Les Sentinelles de la Rivière des Outaouais

