OTTAWA RIVER

* **15 000 years ago**—Continental glacier begins to melt.
* **13 000 years ago**—Ottawa Valley is covered by an inland sea called the Champlain Sea.
* **10 000 years ago**—Inland sea has receded.
* **8500 years ago**—Earliest evidence of human presence along the Ottawa River watershed. Paleo-Indian Period named for the people who made distinctive long and slender stone lance points.
* **6000 years ago**—Known as Archaic Period, development of culture referred to as the eastern Laurentian Culture that coincides with first appearance of polished stone and copper tools. Ottawa River gradually drops to traditional level and forests of white pine became mixed forests of hemlock, pine and hardwoods.
* **2500 years ago**—A new period in the Ottawa Valley begins with the appearance of modified tempered clay used to produce durable cooking and storage vessels. Known as the Woodland Period, it lasts until the arrival of Europeans, circa 1600 AD.
* **1535 AD**—Jacques Cartier climbs Mount Royal and sees a great river extending towards the western horizon.
* **1608**—Etienne Brulé is first European to explore Ottawa River.
* **1613**—Samuel de Champlain travels up-river to vicinity of present-day Pembroke. Champlain meets Tessouat, Chief of the "Algoumequins" (Algonquins) on today's Morrison Island.
* **1615**—Ottawa River is known as "Kit-chi-sippi" or Great River; later called "La Grande Rivière du Nord" by French explorers.
* **1647**—Compagnie des Habitants allows 40 young men to trade privately with Native peoples provided they sell furs back to company.
* **1652**—The Compagnie des Habitants trade policy is ignored; goods are traded where most profitable by men known as "les coureurs de bois".
* **1659**—Radisson and Groseilliers travel up Ottawa River in search of new fur-trading territories.
* **1670**—British established Hudson's Bay Company, a rival to French fur-trading operations in the North.
* **1674**—Francois de Laval, Bishop of Petra becomes seigneur of 25-league area called La Petite-Nation seigneury (near present-day Montebello QC).
* **1674**—First seigneury in what is now Ontario, granted to Francois Provost at Pointe L'Orignal.
* **1686**—Chevalier de Troyes and party of 100 men heads north from Mattawa into unexplored region of Lake Temiskaming.
* **1694**—Sieur de Coulonge spends winter of 1694-95 near mouth of Coulonge River; establishes first European settlement in area.

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3
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OTTAWA RIVER

* **1713**—France signed the Treaty d'Utrecht, thus ceding the vast fur-rich territory of Rupert's Land to Britain.
* **1720**—Fort Temiscaminque constructed by French merchant.
* **1728**—Last important military expedition sent up the Ottawa River by Government of New France (Sent to stop harassment of French fur trading posts in Lake Michigan region.)
* **1784**—Mattawa House built by Nor'Westers at junction of Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers.
* **1793**—Alexander Mackenzie, accompanied by Native guides and French Canadian voyageurs, completes the first recorded crossing of continental America by a European. Route from Old Port of Quebec, Quebec to Bella Coola, British Columbia includes travel up Ottawa River to Mattawa River.
* **1800**—Wrights Town established on north side of River below Chaudieres Falls (present-day Gatineau).
* **1803**—Joseph Papineau becomes new seigneur of La Petite-Nation seigneury. Manor House now part of Chateau Montebello property.
* **1806**—Philemon Wright builds square-timber raft; floats it down Ottawa River to Quebec City.
* **1816**—Private companies build lock in western section of Vaudreuil canal providing controlled access to Ottawa River.
* **1818**—Pointe Fortune Canal built opposite Carillon QC.
* **1821**—Hudson Bay Company establishes Fort William at Lac des Allumettes. Nicholas Garry, Deputy Governor of Hudson Bay Company, travels up Ottawa River on way to Rupert's Land.
* **1825**—Archibald McNab creates settlement near junction of Madawaska and Ottawa Rivers. Kinnell Lodge forms center of development for present-day Arnprior.
* **1826**—Lieutenant-Colonial John By ordered to build navigable waterway between the Ottawa River and Kingston.
* **1832**—Rideau Canal complete.
* **1833**—Lady Colborne is first steamboat on Upper Ottawa, servicing between Aylmer and ChatsFalls.
* **1836**—First canal system along Ottawa consists of Grenville Canal, Chute à Blondeau Canal and Carillon Canal featuring 11 locks.
* **1840**—Construction of public lock at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue allows boats to by-pass natural obstacles and proceeds up into Ottawa River.
* **1847**—Trade at Fort Coulonge declined to such an extent that HBC decided to close the post.
* **1848**—University of Ottawa established.
* **1855**—Bytown incorporated and becomes City of Ottawa.

OTTAWA RIVER

* **1857**—Queen Victoria chooses Ottawa as capital city of United Province of Canada.
* **1860**—J.R. Booth commissioned to supply lumber for roof of new Parliament buildings. Acquired timber reserves on Upper Ottawa River and tributaries.
* **1862**—Pembroke industrialist McAllister used water wheel in his mills to generate electrical current for sale.
* **1860s**—Peak of square timber rafting on the Ottawa River. Cribs consisting of 20—40 square timber pieces are assembled into rafts; each raft contains up to 200 cribs.
* **1863**—Timiskaming mission re-located to Ontario shore.
* **1866**—Parliament Buildings completed.
* **1867**—Canada's Confederation.
* **1882**—First steamer, "Mattawan" appears on Lake Temiskaming.
* **1885 to 1905**—Sawlog production peaks along Ottawa River.
* **1888**—E.B. Eddy constructs first pulp mill in eastern Canada at Gatineau.
* **1896**—Notre-Dame du Nord founded with the arrival of first resident missionary.
* **1900**—Great fire starts in Hull lumberyards and spreads to Ottawa, burning over 2000 buildings.
* **1904**—Petawawa Military reserve established.
* **1916**—Fire destroys Centre Block of Parliament Hill; only Library of Parliament remains standing.
* **1922**—Fire destroys ninety per cent of the Town of Haileybury.
* **1930**—Chats Falls hydroelectric generating station developed.
* **1943**—Provinces of Ontario and Quebec sign agreement allocating undeveloped water power sites.
* **1945**—First self-contained nuclear reaction in Canada initiated at Chalk River Laboratories.
* **1956**—First nuclear power station established near Des Joachims.
* **1965**—Mills along Ottawa River produce more than 80 million board feet of lumber.
* **2003**—Committee formed to designate Ottawa River as part of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.