

THE BENEFITS OF CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER DESIGNATION

What is in it for the river?

Initially, the river may benefit from monitoring and conservation measures taken by government agencies. This is just a start, however, and the river will benefit more in the long run if local residents and other stakeholders become the “stewards” of the river. Appreciation of the river by its resident community is the best way of ensuring long-term protection.

Co-ordinated River Management

The process of preparing a management strategy focuses on the heritage and recreational values of the river and its valley. It is not a general land-use plan. The strategy serves to draw together all parties interested in the river’s heritage and recreation to work together to a common end. These stakeholders include not only local residents, interest groups and river users, but also government agencies having environmental, heritage or recreational responsibilities. Co-ordinating the planning and management activities of these agencies inevitably results in better co-ordination of existing programs, reduced conflicts among different river users and creates more effective new programs for the river.

Greater Environmental Protection

Designation is an opportunity for not only the lead provincial or territorial agency, but also for local governments to adopt policies that will enhance protection of the river. Measures could include green space zoning of river banks or property tax rate adjustments to encourage stewardship of private lands. Local residents might be supported in setting up a “river watchdog network” or hotline. It is also a chance to address specific environmental issues on your river such as vegetation destruction, bank erosion, garbage, floodplain urbanization or fish stock depletion, as well as enforcement measures for resolving these.

Water Quality Improvement

All of the features for which a Canadian Heritage River is nominated must be monitored. The one feature that is probably most closely watched is water quality. Monitoring programs on water quality have been started or upgraded on a number of Canadian Heritage Rivers as a direct result of their designation.

Focus for Government Programs

Many federal and provincial government programs can affect the heritage and recreational features of a river (perhaps too many in the view of some). These include environmental research, water quality monitoring, tourism development, fishery enhancement, reforestation, wildlife studies, and so on. Each government agency needs criteria to select areas for their programs. Government agencies can, and have used the designation of a Canadian Heritage River as a deciding factor in choosing where their programs should be located.



OTTAWA RIVER

- * **1713**—France signed the Treaty d’Utrecht, thus ceding the vast fur-rich territory of Rupert’s Land to Britain.
- * **1720**—Fort Temiscamique 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 seigneurie. 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.

