

Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee  
Saturday February 28th 2004  
Minutes

Our meeting in Gatineau on Saturday went very well and everyone had an opportunity to express their thoughts. We started the nucleus of a local Committee for the City of Gatineau and the County of Papineau. They will be one Committee for this area that starts at the boundary of Gatineau and Pontiac and will end at the south eastern boundary of Papineau and Argenteuil.

We want to form a Committee for the Prescott-Russel area and I would like Jean Careau to put together a group of interested and qualified people from his area so that we can hold a meeting in the near future and get the Prescott-Russel Committee underway.

We owe our thanks to Jean Careau for providing leadership in his area. Another meeting that will be coming up shortly will be the City of Ottawa which will start at the Renfrew County/City of Ottawa border in the north near Arnprior and will go down below Ottawa to the border of the City of Ottawa and the United Counties of Prescott-Russel.

Unless someone has some strong disagreement with me on this, I feel that we should have our meetings on a weeknight instead of the weekend because it is difficult to get people together on a Saturday or Sunday. I will send out to you very shortly a suggested date for each of these two meetings.

I would like the Communities on the Quebec shore and on the Ontario shore of Lake Temiskaming, including in this the town of Mattawa, to pick a location and a suggested timing for such a meeting. This is conditional on whether or not the two shores of Lake Temiskaming would like to work as one Committee. Please give me your decision as to whether this would be a good approach or not, otherwise we will organize a Committee on each side of the Lake. I want you to be the masters of this decision. I know that you discuss many items from time to time regarding the entire region around the Lake.

Could I ask Mayor Philippe Barette of the town of Temiskaming and Brian Hughes from Temiskaming Shores to email us on this and to give us their input after they have discussed it with their neighbours along their shores and after they have discussed it with each other.

This is a major piece of work and I appreciate the seriousness with which each of you are accepting the challenge. I want your decisions to come from you and your local people rather than to have myself imposing them on you. With good communication and consultation we can make this work!

With each new region that we organize under a Committee along the River, we are underway to a great beginning. I believe that Pontiac County in Quebec and Renfrew County in Ontario will want to have their own Committee because each of them cover a fair stretch of the River.

Luce Belanger from the Gatineau area has joined us as Co-Chair and is a wonderful addition. She is putting her emphasis on the area from Gatineau to Montreal and the St. Lawrence River.

Keep up the good spirit, team, we will complete the work!

Yours very sincerely,  
Len Hopkins