



OTTAWA RIVER

Heritage Series

Canada honours and respects its leading rivers by distinguishing them as Canadian Heritage Rivers. Featuring outstanding natural and/or cultural values and offering quality recreational opportunities, these rivers showcase healthy river environments. The Ottawa River is poised to take its place within this network of rivers.

The Ottawa River Heritage Series features prints by Ottawa artist Ben Babelowsky, reflecting many of the iconic images that define the character of this historic river. Funds raised from the sale of these prints will be used to support the work of the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee and heritage sites along the waterway.

Artist Ben Babelowsky



"The Ottawa River provides me with an endless source of inspiration. The placid wide stretches of calm water... the wild rapids flanked by sharp edged pink rocks... the sound of the wind whispering through the tall pines... the eagles circling overhead near Oiseau Rock... I can stay here forever and paint and paint and paint."

A graduate of commercial and fine arts programs in Holland and Canada, Ben Babelowsky has built a successful career during which he has produced over 2,000 original watercolour, acrylic and oil paintings.

His work is found in numerous private and corporate collections in Canada, the United States and Europe. As well, he has applied his talents in support of various fundraising and public awareness programs and charities.

The Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee is thankful for Ben's support.



Source Waters

The Kichi Sibi

Natural Values

Based on a photograph from the early 1900s, this image represents the wildness of the Ottawa River's many tributaries. Originally known as the Kichi Sibi, this historic waterway was a route of trade and exploration, travelled for thousands of years.



Uniquely Canadian

White-water Region

Recreational Values

There is something distinctively Canadian about paddling through a set of untamed rapids. The Ottawa River is a world-class paddling paradise offering an exhilarating range of flat water, rafting and kayaking opportunities. This scene hints at the Ottawa's white-water archipelago of 175 islands bordered by forests, spectacular rapids, sandy beaches and craggy rock formations.



By the Shores of Lake Timiskaming

Haileybury Waterfront

Recreational Values

Residents and visitors have played on these waters for generations. Established in 2002, the Ottawa River Legacy Landmark Network reflects the growing importance of waterfronts as community centres for active leisure.



Winter on Parliament Hill

Canada's Capital City, Ottawa

Heritage Values

Over the course of 150 years, dramatic industrial development and nation building resulted in Bytown being transformed from a military outpost and lumber town into Canada's Capital City: Ottawa. The country's picturesque cornerstone – the House of Parliament – rises above a rocky point on the Ottawa River.



Deep Waters Country

Oiseau Rock

Natural Values

Up and down the river, dramatic rocky outcrops provide breathtaking vistas. In this image, soaring birds welcome visitors to the traditional heartland of the Algonquin First Nations. On the waters below, reminiscent of an earlier era, a steamboat paddles its way downstream.



Past Perspective

Macdonell/Williamson House

Heritage Values

A National Historic site, the Macdonell/Williamson House was built near the original border between Upper and Lower Canada. This restored Palladian style mansion reflects the wealth and pride of the people who made – and lost – innumerable fortunes in the fur and lumber trades.