

### 4.3 Winter Activities

Winter recreation activities along the Ottawa River include snowmobiling, downhill and cross-country skiing, skating, winter camping, snowshoeing and ice fishing.

Snowmobiling is an important winter activity for residents and visitors to the Ottawa Valley. Numerous snowmobiling clubs, groomed trails, competitions and inn-to-inn packages exist. Snowmobiling is very popular along the Lower Ottawa River, with trails crossing the frozen river by way of ice bridges. Around Carillon and Chats-Falls, Trans-Québec's snowmobile trails bring recreationalists close to the river. Additional trails exist in the Réserve Faunique de Plaisance, and connect to the regional trail network (Hydro Québec: Bassin inférieur 5-1). Trails take snowmobilers by other exceptional sites, including Voyageur Provincial Park and the Alfred Peat Bog. The Quebec and Ontario snowmobile trail networks connect at Sand Bay. Along the Upper Ottawa River, there are extensive snowmobile trail networks crossing the river at several places.<sup>1</sup>

Cross-country skiing in the Gatineau Park is highly popular. Deep River and Algonquin Park both host community cross-country ski competition events in winter. Four cross-country ski clubs along the upper stretches, mostly located near Rouyn-Noranda, offer a total of 150 kilometres of trails (Hydro Québec: Bassin supérieur 5-1).

Downhill skiing is popular at Calabogie Peaks, Mount Pakenham, and Camp Fortune, just to name a few of the resorts close to the Ottawa River. Frozen rivers, ponds and arenas provide ample surface for skating near the Ottawa River. The famous Rideau Canal in Ottawa draws crowds of skating enthusiasts each winter.

Figure 4.10 Snowmobile Excursion



Source : Benoit Chailfouir

Figure 4.11 Cross Country Ski Race



Source : Keskinada Loppet

<sup>1</sup> In summer, ATVs are used along snowmobile trail networks along the Lower and Upper Ottawa River.