

# OUR HERITAGE

## **PART OF OUR LAND**

Canada is a land of rivers. White ribbons cascading through endless boreal forest. Silver ribbons sliding down broad, glacier-carved valleys. Meandering muddy rivers sweeping across the prairies. Ribbons of green linking a labyrinth of lakes, ponds and bogs on the Canadian Shield. Rivers are everywhere imprinted on the Canadian landscape—and in the hearts and minds of its people.

## **PART OF OUR HERITAGE**

Canada is a nation with a rich river heritage. Rivers molded this country and its people. We use rivers as travel routes and as a source of livelihood. We swim and fish in their waters, are challenged by their rapids and wilderness, find peace of mind and solitude along their shores. Rivers are part of our lives and our dreams. Rivers are the threads that weave together the natural and human elements of Canada. But we are changing our rivers. Channeling, damming, diverting, controlling them, paving their shorelines, draining their wetlands, poisoning their waters, bulldozing the human history on their banks. Much of our river heritage is threatened and may be lost forever.

## **PROTECTING OUR RIVER HERITAGE**

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) was established in 1984 to conserve and protect the best examples of Canada's river heritage, to give them national recognition, and to encourage the public to enjoy and appreciate them. It is a cooperative program of the governments of Canada, all 10 provinces, and the three territories. It is administered by a 15-member board, with representatives, including private citizens, appointed by all participating governments.

The first Canadian Heritage River was the French River in Ontario, designated in 1986. As of March 31, 2001, there are 37 Heritage Rivers across Canada, and more are being added to the system each year. They range from the Arctic barrens to southern Ontario's rich farmlands; from Newfoundland's rocky hills to the mountains and glaciers of the Yukon. The goal is to establish a system that reflects the diversity of Canada's river environments and celebrates the role of rivers in Canada's history and society. The dream is to ensure that these rivers flow into the future with their heritage features protected for generations to come.



[www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)



Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee  
Comité de désignation patrimoniale de la rivière des Outaouais

[www.ottawariver.org](http://www.ottawariver.org)