

## **Our Heritage in Print: Renowned Artist Captures the Majestic Ottawa River**

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Local residents now have the chance to enjoy the majesty of the Ottawa River as seen through the eyes of artist Ben Babelowsky.

This week, the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee launched the 'Heritage Print Series' during its strategy meeting at Miramichi Lodge.

During the meeting, the committee discussed the recent initiative to designate the Ottawa River as a Canadian Heritage River. The committee also took the time to introduce a series of six prints that were created by renowned artist Ben Babelowsky of Ottawa. There are currently 5,000 sets available and each set is only \$29.95 plus tax. The sets include a bilingual insert that tells the story of each print as well as a brief history of the artist.

The Daily Observer has taken on the challenge of selling these sets in Pembroke and Petawawa. Publisher Steve Gloster said this is an excellent opportunity for the newspaper to get involved in a project that has widespread benefit.

"Selling these prints will help the committee further its goal of having the Ottawa River designated a heritage river, and will also help the Observer promote literacy in area schools through a newspapers-in-education program," Mr. Gloster said.

Meeting co-ordinator Jim Fraser said Mr. Babelowsky's work reflects many iconic images that define the character of this historic river. "Ben Babelowsky's works in this series include: The Source Waters, Kichi Sibi; By the Shores of Lake Tamiskaming; Haileybury Waterfront; Deep Waters Country, Oiseau Rock; Uniquely Canadian, Whitewater Region; Winter on Parliament Hill, Canada's capital city, Ottawa; and Past Perspective, Macdonell/Williamson House," he said. "We wanted to make sure the various regions of the Ottawa River were well represented, and we wanted to make sure the cultural, natural and historic values were represented, so with Ben's creativeness, we came out with these six paintings and we are very pleased. He has a mixture of the seasons and he's captured the essence of the Ottawa River," Mr. Fraser said.

"We are trying to get community organizations to take on the task of selling within their area, and to have The Daily Observer on board to sell in Pembroke and Petawawa is a great benefit to our cause," he added.

Mr. Fraser explained that Mr. Babelowsky's work is as renowned as his generosity to charitable organizations.

"He did a numbered series of prints on the Rideau Canal a few years ago. He's got paintings on display in the Canadian Embassy and has devoted much of his work to help various charities in the region."

"His work is found in numerous private and corporate collections in Canada, the United States and Europe. As well, over 750,000 reproductions have been created from Ben's paintings, generating \$3 million for various charities. The Ottawa River Heritage Designation is thankful for Ben's support," Mr. Fraser added.

He then explained how the committee went about organizing the fundraiser.

"Ben graciously created a series of paintings of our waterway that we could use to create prints. We then put the prints in packages for sale as a fundraiser for this project and community charities. Since our last meeting, we have been working very hard to get the series of prints ready, and we are now announcing the packages are ready," he said.

The proceeds from the sales will help support the work of the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee and the Friends of Bonnechere Park. Also, The Daily Observer's newspapers-in-education program will benefit from a portion of the proceeds to integrate the use of newspapers in the classroom.

The prints go on sale this Monday, Nov. 6 at The Daily Observer office at 186 Alexander Street in Pembroke.

For further information go online to: [www.ottawariver.org](http://www.ottawariver.org)

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