




The  
**Canadian**  
 Heritage Rivers  
**SYSTEM**



ANNUAL REPORT  
 2001-2002



April 2002

*To the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers  
responsible for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System:*

I present herewith on behalf of the members of  
the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, the eighteenth  
Annual Report on the Canadian Heritage Rivers  
System (CHRS) for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

Respectfully submitted,



**Harry Collins**  
**Chairperson**  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
2001-2002

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*Cover Art: The Red Maple*

**A.Y. Jackson**

“A.Y.” Jackson, the man often regarded as the leading advocate for the Group of Seven, was born in Montreal on October 3, 1882. He apprenticed to a Montreal lithographer at the age of 12. In 1905, at the age of 23, he travelled to France on a cattle boat, where he was influenced by European artists. But two years later he was back in North America, where, like other members of the Group of Seven, he made his living as a commercial artist. In 1907, he travelled back to France to study Impressionism. Though he had decided to become a professional painter, when he returned to Canada he paid the rent by designing cigar labels.

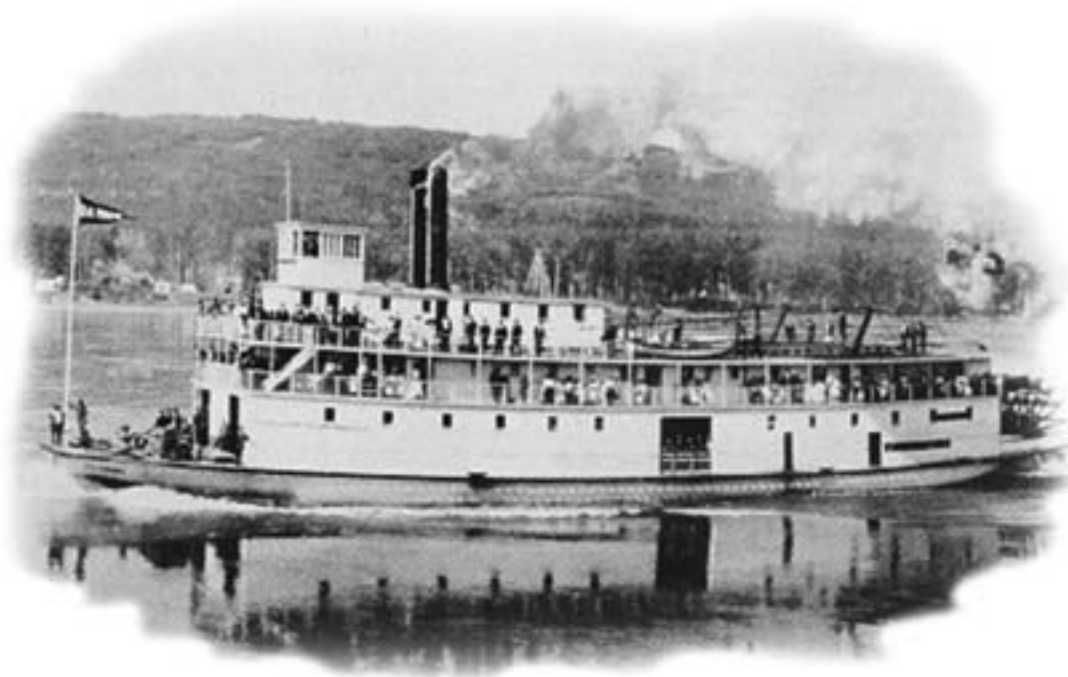
In 1920, with Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, Frank Carmichael, Fred Varley, James MacDonald and Frank Johnston, he formed the most famous exhibitors’ group in the history of Canadian painting: the Group of Seven.

He became great friends with Tom Thompson, and together they travelled by canoe on the rivers and lakes of northern Ontario. He was a great traveller, and he painted the Arctic, the West Coast, the Prairies, and the North Woods, as well as his beloved St. Lawrence, where his countless sketching expeditions earned him the nickname Père Raquette-Pappa Snowshoe.

He is always referred to as “A.Y.”

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# Chairperson's Report

Rivers teach valuable lessons about renewal. It is said and it is true, you cannot enter a river at the same spot twice; because of course, the river 'rolls along'. This very character of rivers generates health and well-being. It also connects one part of the waterway to another. This connectiveness was a particularly dominant theme in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System last year in a variety of ways.

In that the Canadian Heritage Rivers System holds to this concept of rivers as models of renewal and connectiveness, as creators of health and well-being, we have experienced considerable success over the years. The system is a dynamic one that rolls along. Nation-wide we have a system that is connected by the same elevated values involving river nature, history, recreation and integrity. Great energy is being generated by communities throughout Canada to promote river health. This support comes from industry, municipalities, agriculture and other sectors. Having recognized heritage values in their respective rivers, these 'communities' now celebrate these values as part of Canada's national river conservation program. As long as this health promoting spirit is alive, the CHRS will no doubt continue to prosper.

The past year has seen some very positive developments as indicators of such health and wellness. The Third Canadian River Heritage Conference, in Fredericton, June, 3-6, 2001, was clearly a highlight of the year. The theme "Caring For the Waters That Connect Us" brought river advocates from all across Canada and the United States for an inspirational exchange of information and experiences, and an unparalleled opportunity to learn from others. The impact of this gathering will ripple for years through efforts to take care of our rivers.

One new river was recommended by the Board for nomination to the system, the Coppermine in Nunavut, which brings a wealth of river heritage to the CHRS. Stories of fabulously rich copper deposits led the Hudson's Bay Company in 1771 to send Samuel Hearne to the Coppermine. Hearne's account of his overland journey to the river, including the massacre of Inuit people by his Chipewyan guides at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, soon followed and the Coppermine became an important exploration and fur trade route. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it, and the river continues to support the Inuit subsistence life style. It is also one of the most popular rivers in Nunavut for recreational wilderness paddling.

Canada's provinces and territories are all engaged at various levels in promoting river management, stewardship and recognition of the importance of rivers in their past, their present and their futures. Ten rivers from various jurisdictions are at various stages of advancing toward recognition among the thirty others already recognized as Canadian Heritage Rivers.

While we of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board have much to be encouraged by, there is much yet to achieve. Promoting and maintaining river integrity is an ongoing challenge. Greater awareness and interest in the issues related to river integrity values has resulted in a stronger national system. At the same time, greater local pressures from other societal demands often results in very measured improvement and even the occasional setback.

In New Brunswick, my home province, we have world renowned Atlantic salmon rivers, the Restigouche (a Canadian Heritage River), the Miramichi and others. River guides have cultivated the art and science of “poling”; manoeuvring a canoe up, down, and across rivers using a fourteen foot spruce pole. Add the physical demands of poling and we have a fitting analogy to the task of building the CHRS. The art of community mobilization can never be taken too lightly as two decades of experience has shown. The science of “caring” for rivers has made great strides but needs to be advanced. The practical and logistical demands of promoting the nation-wide Canadian Heritage Rivers System requires vigorous effort. Working at this national scale, it is indeed true that many hands make lighter work. In this upstream battle we continue to progress with fine momentum. The obstacles ahead look neither new or insurmountable as we turn the bend of a new year.

I congratulate the Canadians Heritage Rivers Board and its Secretariat for its progress this past year. I also offer my best wishes and support to the new Chairperson from Nunavut and look forward to a new year of activity that will seemingly turn our focus northward once again.

I would also thank the volunteers, community groups, river planners, CHR Board members, Secretariat staff, and other river champions across the country. It has been a unique and cherished privilege to serve as Chair of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

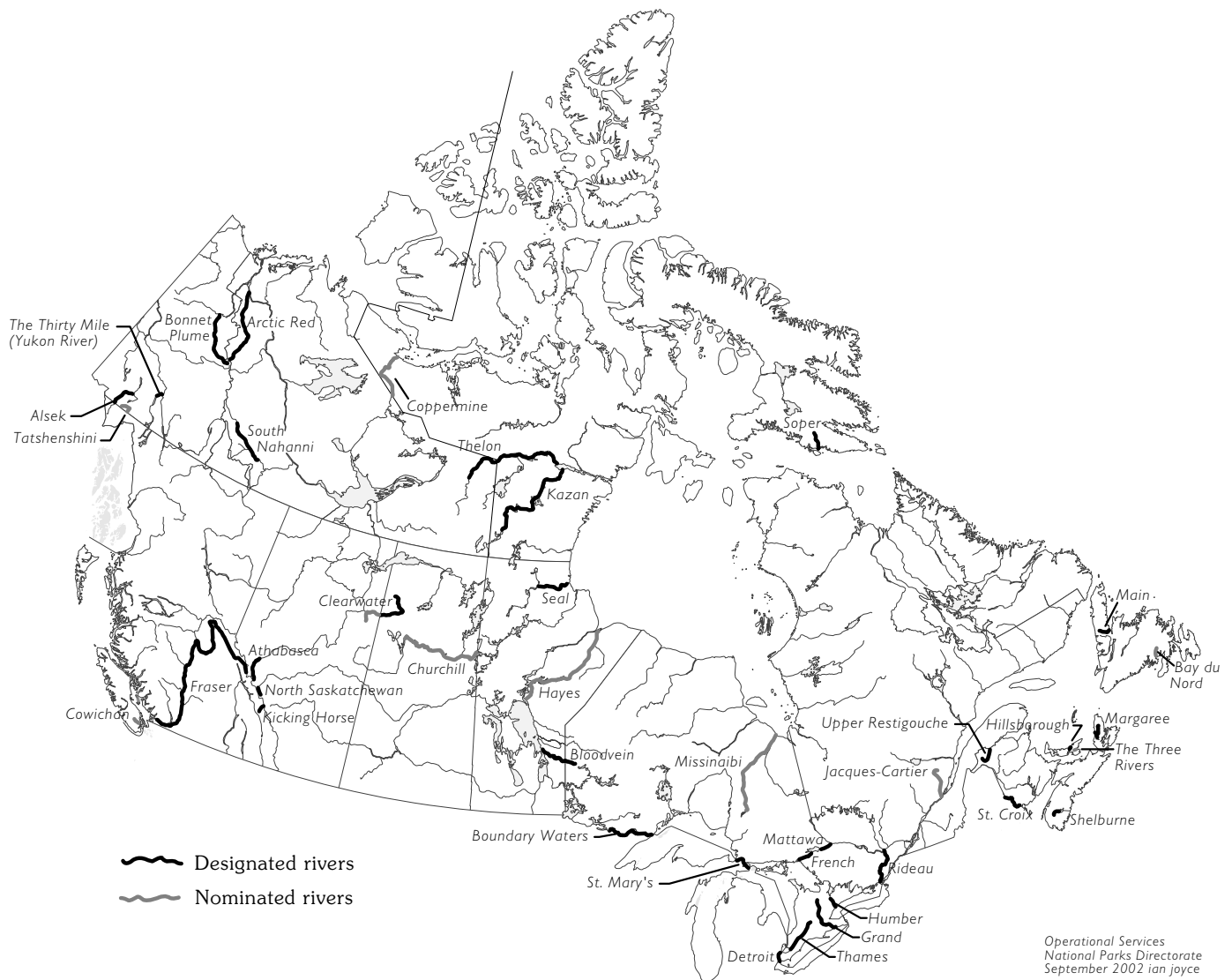


Chairperson  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
2001-2002



# Status of the CHRS

*Thirty-nine rivers have been nominated to the CHRS, totaling 9836 kms. Thirty of these have been formally designated, meaning that the management plans detailing how their heritage values will be protected have been lodged with the CHR Board.*



## Designated Rivers

River	Location Province/Territory (Park <sup>1</sup> )	Date of Designation	Length (in km)
French	Ontario (French River PP)	February 1986	110
Alsek	Yukon (Kluane NP)	February 1986	90
South Nahanni	Northwest Territories (Nahanni NP Reserve)	January 1987	300
Clearwater <sup>2</sup>	Saskatchewan (Clearwater River PWP)	June 1987	187
Mattawa <sup>3</sup>	Ontario (Mattawa PP and Samuel de Champlain PP)	January 1988	65
Athabasca <sup>7</sup>	Alberta (Jasper NP)	January 1989	168
North Saskatchewan <sup>7</sup>	Alberta (Banff NP)	January 1989	49
Kicking Horse <sup>7</sup>	British Columbia (Yoho NP)	January 1990	67
Kazan	Nunavut	July 1990	615
Thelon	Nunavut	July 1990	545
St. Croix	New Brunswick	January 1991	185
Yukon – The Thirty Mile <sup>7</sup>	Yukon	January 1992	48
Seal	Manitoba	June 1992	260
Soper <sup>5</sup>	Nunavut (Katannilik Territorial Park Reserve)	June 1992	248
Arctic Red	Northwest Territories	September 1993	450
Grand <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	January 1994	627
Boundary Waters/Voyageur Waterway	Ontario (La Verendrye/Quetico/Middle Falls PPs)	September 1996	250
Hillsborough	Prince Edward Island	January 1997	45
Shelburne	Nova Scotia	June 1997	53
Bonnet Plume <sup>6</sup>	Yukon	February 1998	350
Upper Restigouche	New Brunswick	February 1998	55
Bloodvein <sup>4</sup>	Manitoba (Atikaki PP), Ontario (Woodland Caribou PP)	June 1998	306
Margaree <sup>5</sup>	Nova Scotia	June 1998	120
Fraser <sup>4</sup>	British Columbia	June 1998	1375
Humber <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 1999	100
Rideau	Ontario (Rideau Waterway – Parks Canada)	February 2000	202
Thames <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 2000	273
St. Mary's	Ontario	February 2000	125
Detroit <sup>6</sup>	Ontario	February 2001	51
Main	Newfoundland	February 2001	57
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>7376</b>

## Nominated Rivers


River	Location Province/Territory (Park)	Anticipated Designation Date	Length (in km)
Missinaibi	Ontario (Missinaibi PP)	February 2003	426
Clearwater <sup>2</sup>	Alberta	February 2003	139
Cowichan	British Columbia	February 2003	47
Bay du Nord	Newfoundland (Bay du Nord Wilderness Park Reserve)	February 2003	75
Jacques-Cartier	Quebec (Jacques-Cartier PP)	February 2003	128
Tatshenshini	Yukon	February 2003	45
Hayes	Manitoba	February 2004	590
The Three Rivers	Prince Edward Island	February 2004	73
Churchill	Saskatchewan	February 2004	487
Coppermine	Nunavut	February 2005	450
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2460</b>

**TOTAL km of NOMINATED & DESIGNATED RIVERS**

**9836**

1. PP denotes provincial parks;  
NP denotes national parks;  
PWP denotes provincial wilderness park.
2. Clearwater River has been nominated in two sections by Saskatchewan and Alberta.  
The Saskatchewan section has been designated.
3. Extensions to the Mattawa were added in 2001, including the 11 km historic La Vase Portages connecting the headwaters to Lake Nipissing, as well as a downstream extension to its confluence with the Ottawa River.
4. Bloodvein River (Manitoba section) was designated in 1987.
5. Includes mainstream and major tributaries.
6. Includes entire watershed.
7. Includes a segment of the river.





# Status of the CHRS Strategic Plan

## MISSION

**Our mission, to be achieved by 2006, is to:**

*Develop a river conservation program that is nationally valued, internationally recognized, and reflects the significance of rivers in the identity and history of Canada; and  
Ensure that the natural, cultural and recreational values for which rivers are designated are managed in a sustainable manner.*

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board continued over the past year to implement and evaluate the CHRS's Ten Year Strategic Plan. 2002 represents the sixth year in the implementation of the Strategic Plan which has guided the program's development. The Strategic Plan identified four key strategic issues which are the foundation for organizing actions towards achieving our mission by 2006; actively managing and completing the system, communications, leadership and resourcing.

Some of the achievements in 2001-2002 towards these four initiatives include the following:

### Actively Managing and Completing the System

- Completion of background study and nomination document for the Coppermine River, Nunavut.
- Completion of background studies for the Richelieu River, Quebec and the North Saskatchewan River, Alberta.
- Commencement of work on the management plans for The Three Rivers, Prince Edward Island and the Hayes River, Manitoba.
- Ongoing public consultations on the management plan for the Tatshenshini River, Yukon.
- Ongoing public consultations on the management plan for the Missinaibi River, Ontario.
- Prescreening of strategic approach to the nomination of selected sections of the Mackenzie River, Northwest Territories.

- Completion of monitoring checklists for the Missinaibi and Coppermine Rivers.
- Completion of report on Water Quality Parameters for the Detroit River.
- Completion of discussion paper on the CHRS monitoring program.
- Commencement of work on a review template for ten year monitoring reports.

### Communications

- Production of the 2002 Heritage Rivers Calendar.
- Plaque unveiling ceremonies held for the Rideau and Detroit Rivers.
- Sponsored the Third Canadian River Heritage Conference which was held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June, 2001.
- Sponsored the New Brunswick pilot of the Rivers of Dreams project.



- Continued to work collaboratively with Rivers Canada in supporting the proclamation of a Canadian Rivers Day.
- Organized national tour of the CHRS exhibit and displays in Hamilton, Fredericton, London, Peterborough, Ottawa and Smiths Falls.
- Produced CHRS fact sheets for the Detroit, Thames and Rideau Rivers.
- Reprinted and distributed the CHRS poster and promotional brochure “Discover Adventure on a Canadian Heritage River”, and the informational brochure “What are the Benefits of Canadian Heritage River Designation?”.
- Further developed the CHRS website at [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)
- Supported Year 2 of television series on Great Canadian Rivers, including 4 rivers in the CHRS, the Cowichan, Clearwater, Main and Hillsborough, and participated in an episode on rivers for the Canadian Museum of Nature’s television series: “It’s in Our Nature”.
- Official sponsor of the Waterwalker Film Festival.

### Leadership

- Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers continue to affirm their governments’ commitment to the Heritage Rivers Program through the CHRS Charter.
- Completion of fifth annual review and update of the strategic plan, including the review of trends and issues of strategic significance for the CHRS.
- Adjust the strategic planning policy and procedures (calendar, reports and process) to optimize the use of the strategic plan as the key management document for the CHR Board.



CHRS

- The CHRS Technical Planning Committee continues to be active in undertaking tasks defined by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board including the review of nomination documents, management plans and ten year monitoring reports.

### Resourcing

- The CHRS Finance Committee continues to deal with resourcing issues and budget items. 🍁



John Sylvester



# The Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is Canada's national program for freshwater heritage conservation. It is a co-operative program of the governments of Canada, all ten provinces and three territories. The objectives of the program are to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, cultural and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.

One of the fundamental principles of the CHRS is that the nomination and management of Canadian Heritage Rivers remain with the responsible government. Generally, this is the provincial governments in the south, the federal government in national parks or on other federal lands and the federal and territorial governments jointly in the north. 🍁



## ***Ministers Responsible for the CHRS (2001-2002)***

**The Honourable Sheila Copps**  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
Government of Canada

**The Honourable Robert Nault**  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
Government of Canada

**The Honourable Kevin Aylward**  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**The Honourable Greg Deighan**  
Minister of Tourism  
Government of Prince Edward Island

**The Honourable David Morse**  
Minister of Environment and Labour  
Government of Nova Scotia

**The Honourable L. Joan MacAlpine**  
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy  
Government of New Brunswick

**L'honorable Richard Legendre**  
Ministre de la Faune et des Parcs  
Gouvernement du Québec

**The Honourable John C. Snobelen**  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Government of Ontario

**The Honourable Oscar Lathlin**  
Minister of Conservation  
Government of Manitoba

**The Honourable Buckley Belanger**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Saskatchewan

**The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky**  
Minister of Community Development  
Government of Alberta

**The Honourable Joyce Murray**  
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Government of British Columbia

**The Honourable Dale Eftoda**  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Yukon

**The Honourable James L. Antoine**  
Minister of Resources, Wildlife and  
Economic Development  
Government of the Northwest Territories

**The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk**  
Minister of Sustainable Development  
Government of Nunavut

# The Board

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (the Board) reviews nominations and recommends whether a nominated river meets selection criteria to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and to the provincial/territorial Minister of the nominating government.

The Board consists of one representative from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and each of the participating provincial and territorial governments. British Columbia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are represented on the Board by private citizens.

A Chairperson is elected for each fiscal year from among the Board's members and is responsible for organizing and chairing Board meetings, directing the operation of the Secretariat, and promoting public awareness of the CHRS. The 2002-2003 Chairperson will be David Monteith, Director, Parks and Tourism, Nunavut. 🍁

## **CHRS Board of Directors 2001-2002**

Harry Collins, 2001-2002 Chairperson  
(New Brunswick)

Mike Cahill (Newfoundland & Labrador)

David Boyce (Prince Edward Island)

John Leduc (Nova Scotia)

Alain Hebert (Quebec)

Adair Ireland-Smith (Ontario)

Gord Jones (Manitoba)

Don MacAulay (Saskatchewan)

John Kristensen (Alberta)

Mark Angelo (British Columbia)

Gerry LePrieur (Northwest Territories)

Erik Val (Yukon)

David Monteith (Nunavut)

Nik Lopoukhine (Parks Canada)

Annick Lehenaff (Department of Indian Affairs  
and Northern Development)

## **CHRS Staff**

Don Gibson, National Manager

Max Finkelstein, Marketing and Publicity

Brian Grimsey, Senior Planner

Wayne Roach, Technical Support



# River Nomination Process

*Becoming a Canadian Heritage River is a two-step process – nomination and designation. Public involvement is integral to both river nomination and designation.*

## Submissions and Public Involvement

The river nomination process begins with community-based initiatives to recognize and protect a local river. These initiatives come from a variety of sources such as landowners, recreational, historical or tourism associations, Aboriginal peoples, environmental groups, local businesses, and interested members of the public. The first step is to present a submission to the federal, provincial or territorial Board member(s) for any river a group or individual feels is worthy of inclusion in the CHRS.

## Selection

The responsible government(s) evaluates submissions based on the river's natural, cultural and recreational values, the representation of these values in the CHRS program and the level of public support for the nomination. Selection usually involves an analysis of the number and complexity of conflicting land uses and the costs that effective management of the river corridor would entail.

## Nomination

If the responsible government(s) decides to pursue the nomination, work is carried out cooperatively with stakeholder groups to prepare and submit a nomination document to the Board. The document contains all information necessary to show that the river is of outstanding Canadian value, as defined by the CHRS guidelines, and that sufficient measures will be put in place to ensure that all those values will be maintained. The Board then reviews the nomination and makes its recommendation to the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the appropriate Minister(s) of the nominating government(s). ❁

# River Designation Process

## Submission of Management Plan

The river designation process begins when the Board member representing the nominating government submits a management plan to the Board. The management plan sets out the policies and practices to be followed to ensure that the river's development, management and use are consistent with CHRS objectives and guidelines. Although extensions may be granted when necessary, the plan is normally tabled within three years of the Board's acceptance of the river nomination.

## Designation

Once a management plan is lodged with the Board, the Chairperson advises the federal Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the Minister(s) responsible for the nominating government agencies that the requirements for designation have been met. The Ministers will then formally designate the river by unveiling a plaque at a key location on the river and by signing a ceremonial text to be included in the official CHRS registry book. Designation of a river to the CHRS ensures that the river will be managed in a way that will conserve the outstanding heritage resources for which the river was nominated and that its recreational potential will be realized. ❁



CHRS

# River Designations and Nominations in 2001-2002

There were no new designations to the CHRS. One river was recommended by the Board for nomination to the CHRS, the Coppermine in Nunavut. 🍁

## *Coppermine River*

Copper deposits found along the river were important to the first peoples who lived there. Many important archaeological sites, distinguished by copper artifacts, are found along the Coppermine. It was stories of these copper deposits that brought Samuel Hearne to the area in 1771. Hearne's documented overland journey to the river, and the massacre he witnessed at Bloody Falls, brought the Coppermine into the history books. Other explorers, such as Sir John Franklin, soon followed and the Coppermine became an important exploration and fur trade route. The river continues to support the Inuit subsistence lifestyle. Caribou, muskox, wolverine, wolves, moose, fox and a variety of raptors can be found here. The Coppermine and its environment are essentially unchanged since the first British explorers saw it.

Background studies have been completed and the Nomination Document was presented to, and accepted by, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board at the February, 2002 meeting. The Nunavut government now has three years to present an acceptable management plan for the river before it is officially designated. 🍁



Parks Canada



# The Rivers

For annual status reports on rivers designated to the CHRS, visit our website, [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca), or contact the Secretariat. The following highlights some of the significant events or developments on designated CHRS rivers. These are but a sampling of projects and initiatives that are taking place on designated Canadian Heritage Rivers that are in keeping with the CHRS philosophy and objectives.

## Conservation/biodiversity/ecological integrity

The Grand River continues to excel in its conservation efforts. Following the receipt of the international Theiss Riverprize in September, 2000, the Grand continues to be in the spotlight with the receipt of the Red Fisher Conservation Award in March, 2001, for “the most remarkable conservation achievement by an individual or organization in 2000”.

The Fraser is the biggest Canadian Heritage River. The size and diversity of the Fraser combined with the growth in population poses many challenges to achieving a vision of sustainability. Individuals, organizations, federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments have signed a Charter for Sustainability that sets a path for achieving sustainability of the Fraser and its watershed (the Fraser Basin). The Fraser Basin Council, a not-for-profit society established in 1997, now oversees implementation of the Charter. While the vision and goals presented in the Charter apply to the entire Basin, their achievement will provide the foundation for managing the heritage river values of the mainstem Fraser River for quite some time. (For more information on the Fraser Basin Council visit its website at [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca)).

The Charter embodies two sets of values. One set incorporates the fundamental principles and integrated elements of sustainability, namely strong communities, a healthy environment, and a robust economy. The second set asserts the Council’s culture and how it

will work together toward sustainability. They include understanding and respecting the opinions of others, accepting all members as peers, valuing balance over extreme positions, taking action based on consensus and, creating strong trust among members. These shared values have enabled members to learn how to make decisions that will enable sustainability.

These shared values have also enabled the Council to become an unprecedented forum in which the four orders of Canadian government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), the private sector and civil society can work together to enhance sustainability in a practical way. The Council has helped change the approach to managing the Fraser River and its watershed to address the social, economic and environmental considerations of the entire system. This governance model is the first of its kind in Canada and addresses the limitations of the traditional hierarchy of multiple jurisdictions operating independently in a common system.



Athabasca River

CHRS

One of the projects ongoing on the Fraser is an intensive five-year assessment of white sturgeon that began in 1995. It has provided a wealth of new information on the life history, habitat utilization, movement patterns, genetics and population structure for this red listed species. While there is strong evidence of successful recruitment amongst populations from the mainstem Fraser River, the distinct population in the Nechako River (a Fraser tributary), is not adequately recruiting and is at risk of extinction. White sturgeon, Canada's largest freshwater fish, are only found on the West Coast of North America. They can exceed 600 kg in weight and 100 years of age. As a result of this assessment the provincial fisheries program is leading a recovery program for the Nechako River white sturgeon that includes participation from the federal fisheries program, First Nations and other interests.

The Detroit River was designated to the CHRS in February, 2001. One of the most significant achievements for the Detroit River in 2001 was the first bi-national *Conservation Vision for the Lower Detroit River Ecosystem*. Released in December, this important document is a result of the joint effort of representatives of US state, federal and provincial representatives. The strategy presents a bi-national conservation vision which will strive to protect the unique habitats and ecological features of the river. Protection of the remaining coastal wetlands and rehabilitation of degraded sites are key components of the strategy which urges all stakeholders to champion bi-national and regional co-operation and stewardship.

The Rideau River, designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2000, is a living laboratory for a unique environmental study. The Rideau River Biodiversity Project, spearheaded by the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) and local partners, aims to give the Rideau a complete environmental checkup. A multi-disciplinary team of researchers from the CMN and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), is looking at the current status of aquatic plants, water chemistry, algae, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs and bottom-dwelling invertebrates.

To a large extent the economic health and the social well-being of the people who live by a river depends on the health of the river's natural environment. The ecosystem approach that the CMN and CWS



Parks Canada

scientists are taking with this project recognizes the complexity and interconnectedness of the different elements of our environment (the air, land, water and living organisms, including human beings) and encourages a truly creative collaboration between scientists, governments, businesses, local residents and visitors. CMN and CWS scientists are working with the community to evaluate the river's ecological health and to reconcile local uses of the river with long-term, sustainable management of the river's biodiversity.

Community involvement is the heart of the Rideau River Biodiversity Project. Museum researchers and people from communities along the river are equal partners in all aspects of the project. Together they refine the research objectives, take samples, count species and then work out a plan that will ensure long-term community commitment to the river's biodiversity.

The Rideau River Biodiversity Project offers opportunities to learn about the wildlife and plants of the Rideau River, about local and global biodiversity issues, and about what residents can do to keep the river, and the planet, healthy.

Every Canadian Heritage River should have a project like this. For more information on the Rideau River Biodiversity Project, visit their website at <http://nature.ca/rideau/index-e.html>



In March, 2002, a number of environmentalists learned of plans to start mineral exploration (using an “air cannon”) on the South Nahanni River as a first step toward the opening of a mine within the watershed. Should the mine go ahead, many feel that irreparable damage would be done to this magnificent Canadian Heritage River, flowing through Nahanni National Park Reserve, and also distinguished by being the central feature of our nation’s first World Heritage Site”. Becky Mason, daughter of renowned paddler, filmmaker and artist, Bill Mason, led a campaign to carry out an environmental assessment of the proposed actions. Less than one month after the original threat became known, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board agreed to order an Environmental Assessment of the project.

This case demonstrates that quick and forceful Action by concerned citizens can still play a very powerful role in influencing government action with respect to rivers in Canada.

Interest has been expressed by various Canadian Government departments for a full Environmental Assessment for all of the Nahanni Watershed.

Further information on this project will be reported in the next Annual Report and on the CHRS website.

### What Are You Doing For Canada’s Biodiversity?

River Managers and Involved River Rats: Are you doing a project that helps meet Canada’s commitments to conserve, protect, and sustainably use Canada’s biodiversity? Let the Canadian Biodiversity Information Network know. Contact the CBIN at [www.cbini.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cbini.ec.gc.ca)

### Recreation/Tourism

On the Grand in southern Ontario, the Grand River Conservation Authority published a brochure entitled: “Journey the Grand...” It features the many tourism attractions in this watershed, and highlights the Grand as a Canadian Heritage River. The brochure is extremely well designed, and could serve as a model for similar products for other Canadian Heritage Rivers.

### Cultural Heritage

On the Detroit River, in October, an International Memorial to the Underground Railroad was unveiled. The *Gateway to Freedom* and *Tower of Freedom* monuments are magnificent additions to the river landscape on both the American and Canadian (respectively) sides of the river. These stunning bronze sculptures represent the freedom seekers who bravely crossed the Detroit River on a quest for their freedom. World renowned sculptor Ed Dwight has outdone himself in this moving tribute that demonstrates the significance of the Detroit River to the history of our country.

Saskatchewan’s Minister of Environment and Resource Management, the Honourable Buckley Belanger, reiterated that the traditional use of the Clearwater Heritage River, and the wilderness park established around it, by local people for hunting, fishing and trapping, will be supported and recognized as adding to the character of the river. Recreational use of the river will be developed in such a way that these traditional uses are not affected. This is an outstanding example of the Heritage River philosophy in practice.



Bonnet Plume River

CHRS

## Education/Interpretation

An innovative initiative has been put in motion on the Grand River. *Upstream!* is a group of artists and scientists dedicated to teaching grades K-8 the importance of their environment, with the focus being on the Grand Canadian Heritage River watershed. It is an initiative of the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence (ECEE), a non-profit, charitable organization. With funding from the Trillium Foundation, the group has put together a CD with well-known area artists who generously donated their music and time. The CD, "Songs for a River", includes singer/songwriters James Gordon, Nonie Crete, Wayne Bridge, Paul Hock and Gwen Swick. Money raised from the sale of these CDs will go towards teaching environmental awareness in area classrooms.

To find out what *Upstream!* is all about, visit the ECEE's website at [www.ecee.on.ca](http://www.ecee.on.ca)

In Nova Scotia, the Margaree-Lake Ainslie Heritage River Society has an exciting project on the go for the summer and fall of 2002. It is a "Youth Service Canada" project sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada. With guidance from the local Society, and government partners, the project will have a coordinator and eight young people (ages 18-30) working on the river system.



Soper River

CHRS

Following training and skill development sessions, the group will be doing water quality monitoring on the entire watershed to establish benchmark settings. Along with this there will be river, stream, and shoreline cleanup, participation in the river watch program, working in partnership with the local hatchery to enhance trout and salmon stocks, fish habitat restoration, and stream-bank stabilization. An important component of the project will be presentations to schools and communities to inform the public, and train volunteers to ensure ongoing monitoring of the system. 🍁



# Plans, Studies and Research

As the lead federal agency in the CHRS, one of the roles of Parks Canada is to provide technical and financial assistance to participating jurisdictions for studies and plans that lead to including rivers in the System. This assistance is directed to specific projects on the advice of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Parks Canada staff co-operate in the preparation of system studies, background studies, nomination documents, management plans, and monitoring reports. In addition, Parks Canada undertakes research studies of national scope on river heritage topics, such as economic benefits, natural and cultural themes, and various policy issues.

## System Studies

System studies are comparative analyses of rivers within a province or territory and are undertaken to identify potential Canadian Heritage Rivers. They address, in a general fashion, the heritage and recreational values of a broad cross-section of a province's or territory's rivers and determine which ones appear to meet the CHRS selection guidelines and which can feasibly be managed as Canadian Heritage Rivers. Most jurisdictions have carried out system studies. These are available by contacting the appropriate Board member.

No system studies were undertaken in 2001-2002.

Interest has been expressed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in conducting a systems study of rivers in Labrador at a future date.

## Background Studies

To provide more detailed information on the suitability of rivers, or sections of rivers, for inclusion in the CHRS, governments may undertake background research studies. These studies attempt to collect all available information, from secondary sources and through field verification, on a river's human and natural heritage, its recreational opportunities and on issues surrounding its possible management as a Canadian Heritage River. CHRS selection and integrity guidelines are used to assess the study river's heritage and recreational values in detail.

In 2001-2002, background studies were completed for the Coppermine River in Nunavut, the North Saskatchewan River in Alberta and the Richelieu River in Quebec (part of the Champlain – Richelieu International Heritage Corridor).



## Nomination Documents

For the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board to consider recommending a river for inclusion in the CHRS, nominating governments must complete a nomination document and submit it for formal review by the Board.

In 2001-2002, a nomination document was completed for the Coppermine River in Nunavut. Nomination documents for the Stikine River in British Columbia and the Athabasca River in Alberta (outside of the boundaries of Jasper National Park), previously scheduled for completion in 2001-2002, have been deferred until 2002-2003.

## Management Plans

Before recommending a river for formal designation, the Board must be assured that the appropriate jurisdictions have committed to manage the candidate river as a Canadian Heritage River. The vehicle for this is a management plan which not only includes evidence of commitment, in the form of appropriate signatures, but also describes a management area around the nominated river or river section and the policies and practices that will be put in place to fulfil CHRS objectives. The Board reviews documents submitted by member jurisdictions to ensure that they contain these basic components.

In 2001-2002, a draft management plan was completed for the Missinaibi River in Ontario. Work continued on the preparation of management plans for the Hayes River (Manitoba), Clearwater River (Alberta), Cowichan River (British Columbia), Tatshenshini River (Yukon) and The Three Rivers System (Prince Edward Island).

## Monitoring Reports

In order to ensure that all Canadian Heritage Rivers continue to possess the outstanding heritage values for which they were originally nominated and thus continue to merit their designation, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board periodically reviews the status

of rivers within the System. At least every ten years, the Board requires that managing jurisdictions conduct a detailed assessment of the condition of their designated rivers.

No monitoring reports were prepared in 2001-2002. The Ten Year Monitoring Report for the Yukon River (Thirty-Mile Section), due this year, has been rescheduled to 2002-2003.

## Research

As the Canadian Heritage Rivers System continues to expand, assessment methods grow with it. Frameworks for the natural and cultural values of Canadian Heritage Rivers are being applied as the basis for a systematic approach to the inclusion and assessment of natural and cultural values in the CHRS. Updates to both frameworks, made last year, will ensure that they continue to serve as important references for future plans, studies and research.

A report was prepared on water quality parameters for the Detroit River as a basis for monitoring future water quality issues. 🍁



CHRS

# Public Promotion and Marketing

This past year was a productive one for CHRS communications. Efforts to spread the word about the CHRS and the philosophy of honouring Canada's rivers appear to have rippled throughout much of Canada.

The CHRS website ([www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca)), continues to increase in importance as a critical component of the overall CHRS Communications and Marketing program. Elements of the site were selected by TV Ontario for their educational website, Eureka! (<http://tvo.org/eureka>). The web site is a homework help site for youth ages 9-15. The goal is to give youths practice exercises to stimulate critical thinking and help them improve their reading skills. The CHRS site was selected simply because it was interesting and relevant. When the site was designed, no one imagined it would be used to teach reading skills.

The CHRS web site was also selected for the MyReportLinks.com Books Seal of Approval (visit [www.myreportslinks.com](http://www.myreportslinks.com)). This Seal is awarded by Enslow Publishers Inc., of Maine, to sites that are especially valuable to students who are doing research for school reports.

Visits to the website continue to increase, showing how the Internet is becoming ever more prevalent as a resource for information. Since 1999, when the revamped [www.chrs.ca](http://www.chrs.ca) was opened, "hits" have increased steadily: 30,000 per month in 1999; 60,000/month in 2000; 150,000/month in 2001; and over 200,000/month in 2002.

Despite the growing popularity of the internet, print media remains important. The Secretariat produced CHRS fact sheets for the Detroit, Thames and Rideau Rivers, and reprinted the information brochure "What are the Benefits of Canadian Heritage River Designation?"

The 2002 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar, produced in co-operation with the Canadian Recreational Canoeing Association (CRCA), has been the most successful version yet. All profits from the sale of calendars are used to support national river conservation projects.

A new agreement for the production of the 2003 calendar has been reached, and the new calendar will be available from the CRCA by August, 2002. To order your calendar, contact the CRCA ([orders@crca.ca](mailto:orders@crca.ca)) or phone (613) 269-2910.

On television, viewers across the country learned about several Canadian Heritage Rivers for the third year on the Discovery Channel's Great Canadian Rivers series, which featured 4 Canadian Heritage Rivers, the Cowichan, Clearwater, Hillsborough and Main. As well, Heritage Rivers were featured on the Canadian Museum of Nature series, "It's In Our Nature".

## Cooperative Activities

### Canadian Rivers Day

Since February, 1996, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board has discussed various options for the possible implementation of a Canadian Rivers Day. The Board first endorsed the concept of Canadian Rivers Day in the CHRS Strategic Plan. Delegates to the 2001 Canadian River Heritage Conference also unanimously endorsed the same concept. The idea was first raised



Paul Chivers

in Parliament by Secretary of State Stephen Owen, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Quadra and carried forward in a Private Member's Motion by Karen Kraft Sloan, Member of Parliament for York North.

The distinguished non-profit organization Rivers Canada, founded by former President Dr. David Goranson, has agreed to undertake a leadership role in coordinating nationwide activities for the first Canadian Rivers Day to be celebrated on June 8, 2003.

A formal announcement and Proclamation of Canadian Rivers Day by the Minister of Canadian Heritage is anticipated in June, 2002. Further information on this Proclamation will be reported in the 2002-2003 CHRS Annual Report.

For more information on plans for Canadian Rivers Day please contact:

Mr. Elmer Savoie  
Executive Director  
Rivers Canada  
50 A Columbus Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1K 1R3  
Tel.: (613) 742-6284.  
E-mail: [elmer@rivcan.ca](mailto:elmer@rivcan.ca)  
Website: [www.rivcan.ca](http://www.rivcan.ca)

### *Rivers of Dreams*

You may recall the "Rivers of Dreams" project, (described in the 2000-2001 Annual Report). The idea is to set adrift miniature wooden canoes, each individually numbered. Their journeys down rivers and watersheds will be documented on a web site ([www.riversofdreams.org](http://www.riversofdreams.org)). The goal is to increase understanding of watersheds in our lives.

Led by Rivers Canada, the first pilot launch took place in New Brunswick in conjunction with the Third National Canadian River Heritage Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June, 2001. At 6:00 PM on June 2, 2001, the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, The Honourable Dr. Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, launched the first Rivers of Dreams canoes

into the St. John River in Fredericton. This was the signal for students at nine elementary schools representing the six major watersheds of the province to launch their own canoes and record their own messages and hopes for rivers.

In May, 2002 and September, 2002, another launch of Rivers of Dreams will take place in the Red River (Manitoba, Minnesota) watershed. It is hoped that more than 2000 canoes from several locations in both Canada and the United States will participate. Curricula are being developed for the classrooms as well – including reading the 1941 book classic by Holling C. Holling, "Paddle to the Sea", watching the National Film Board movie of the same name, and developing concepts of the significance of watersheds to communities and ecosystems and exploring the physical, health, social, political and economic interdependencies of living in a watershed. Several of the little canoes will have fish trackers (digital satellite transponders) on board so that they can be tracked. At least one university will be involved in coordinating the educational website which will be tied into the [riversofdreams.org](http://riversofdreams.org) site.

For more information, visit [www.riversofdreams.org](http://www.riversofdreams.org)



Mattawa River

CHRS

## Conferences and Exhibits

### The Third Canadian River Heritage Conference, Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 3-6, 2001.

Building on the River Conferences of 1994 in Peterborough and 1998 in Vancouver, the 2001 Conference offered a unique opportunity for learning, sharing and discovery.

The theme “CARING FOR THE WATERS THAT CONNECT US” set the tone. Rivers join us to our neighbours upstream and down, and they link us to our past and to our future. Rivers are often borders that divide in a political sense, but in reality they unite us. Rivers give us life, meaning and purpose. For these, and many other reasons, rivers deserve to be honoured, cared for and celebrated. This conference provided an opportunity for those who care, whether from industry, business, public sector, private sector, aboriginal groups or grass roots associations and whether landowners, farmers, writers, anglers, professionals, naturalists, boaters or poets, to gain insight, celebrate and become connected.

The conference was co-hosted by the St. John River Society and the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. The St. John River Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging environmental and historical stewardship throughout the watershed of the St. John River, including sections in New Brunswick, Quebec and Maine. The conference attracted 180 delegates from across Canada, the eastern United States and beyond. Participants came to listen, to learn, and to be inspired. They were not disappointed.



Jacques-Cartier River

CHRS

Over the course of the conference, it became clear that rivers do more than connect us. They define us. They shape our history, our culture, and who we are. Peter Pacey, one of New Brunswick’s best-known performers said: “...by caring for rivers, we care for ourselves.” Iona Campagnolo, the past Chair of the Fraser Basin Council, and currently the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, said in her opening address that “by limiting our rivers, we limit ourselves”. Judge Graydon Nicholas, from the Maliseet Nation, implored us to treat rivers as we would our brother. These speakers, and many others, inspired and energized conference participants to continue to work towards being better river stewards, to give the rivers the care they deserve.



It became clear during the conference that our challenge is to ensure not only that the continued rapid economic and population growth in Canada will not further impair our rivers, but to continue to improve the health of our rivers.

To do this, we, as a society and as river managers, need to encourage people to get out on the rivers, to experience rivers, to take pride in them. We need to bring people and groups together for a common vision – the health of our rivers. We need to look at more participatory ways of governing to facilitate action and remove bureaucratic barriers. We need more research and monitoring to better understand our river systems and how they are changing.

The conference provided all participants with opportunities to learn about successes from all across North America. Participants left feeling inspired and knowing that we can make a difference. What more could anyone ask for.

Conference proceedings are available by contacting David Folster at:

124 St. John Street  
 Fredericton, NB E3B 4A7  
 Tel.: (506) 452-1870  
 Fax: (506) 452-7950  
 Email: [treehouse@fundy.net](mailto:treehouse@fundy.net)

The conference host and organizer, the St. John River Society, was very successful in raising financial support for the conference, which had a total budget of \$100,000. The CHR Board allocated \$12,500 over



Parks Canada

two years to support the Society's proposal to host the conference. With additional sponsorship and support from governments (Province of New Brunswick, City of Fredericton), non-government agencies (Atlantic Centre for the Environment), and corporations (NB Power, McCain's, and Irving), the conference actually ran a profit of over \$10,000 which will be used by the St. John River Society for river conservation and educational projects.

The next Canadian River Heritage Conference is scheduled to take place in June 2004 at a location and venue within the Grand River Watershed.

### Exhibits

Although the conference was the main event of the year, the CHRS exhibit was also the featured attraction for the opening of the Rideau Canal Museum in Smiths Falls. The CHRS was also represented at a variety of events, including the Canada Canoe Festival (Ottawa), Heritage Canoe Festival (Peterborough), Wilderness Canoe Symposium (Toronto), as well as a variety of local events and venues.





## Commemorative Program

### *Rideau Waterway Plaque Unveiling Ceremony*

The designation ceremony for the Rideau was held on May 19 in Smiths Falls, mid-way along this historic 202 km route between the cities of Kingston and Ottawa. The Master of Ceremonies was Wayne Rostad, host of the long-running CBC series "On the Road Again".

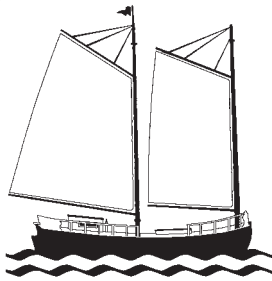
On behalf of the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Mr. Mauril Bélanger, Member of Parliament, Ottawa-Vanier, unveiled a plaque commemorating the designation of the Rideau Waterway as a Canadian Heritage River. The Rideau Waterway is unique to the CHRS in that it is the first waterway based on a heritage canal to be recognized as a Canadian Heritage River.

"The Rideau Waterway is a singular example of a unique and important melding of natural and cultural heritage," said Mr. Bélanger. "From Lake Ontario, through the heart of eastern Ontario and finally to the very base of our Parliament Buildings, it has influenced the lives and hearts of people for many years. Its very name evokes a sense of heritage and pride."

"The Rideau is one of Canada's finest recreational waterways, with extraordinary boating, cottaging, fishing and camping opportunities within an hour's drive of over one million people," said Ontario Minister of Natural Resources John Snobelen. "The Province of Ontario is pleased to have assisted in the designation process of this waterway."

### *The Third Canadian River Heritage Conference:*

*"Caring for the Waters that Connect Us"*



THE 3RD  
CANADIAN RIVER HERITAGE  
CONFERENCE

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, JUNE 3-6, 2001

This designation is the culmination of the efforts of the Rideau Waterway Coordinating Committee, under the leadership of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, and of citizens committed to protecting the waterway's heritage values. Sound and sustainable economic development throughout the corridor is at the heart of the CHRS recognition.

Two other plaque unveiling ceremonies for the Rideau were held, in Ottawa on August 6, and in Kingston on September 22.

### *Detroit River Designation Ceremony*

The Detroit River received international recognition on July 19, 2001 when it became the first river with both Canadian and American Heritage River designations. The Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray were joined by other Canadian and American dignitaries during the Parade of Tall Ships along the Detroit River. Thousands of people enjoyed the Detroit Canadian Heritage River Exhibition, a four day event following the official Canadian Heritage River designation which featured numerous activities, entertainment and speakers highlighting the human heritage, natural heritage and recreational values of the Detroit Heritage River.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Questions and requests for information on the CHRS should be addressed to:

Marketing and Communications  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Secretariat  
Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5

Tel: (819) 997-4930

Fax: (819) 953-4704

E-mail: [max\\_finkelstein@pch.gc.ca](mailto:max_finkelstein@pch.gc.ca)

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