

OTTAWA RIVER

The Ottawa River cradles the natural and cultural heart of Western Quebec and eastern Ontario.

Originally it nurtured plants and animals that re-colonized vast regions of Canada following the end of continental glaciation 11 000 years ago. Then

Canada's first Aboriginal peoples established themselves here some 9000 years ago, followed by

Europeans in pursuit of furs, timber and land.

Beginning with Samuel de Champlain in 1613, many of the great names in North American exploration used the Ottawa as a river highway into the interior.

These and thousands of anonymous aboriginals, coureurs de bois, loggers and Old World settlers

traveled, lived and died along the

Ottawa River—the original trans-Canada highway.

