

Celebrating our Ottawa River - Remic Beach & our local reach

A significant section of the Ottawa River was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 2016 for its cultural heritage values. The cultural heartland of the Algonquin people, the Ottawa River's history also includes its role as an important travel route for explorers and the fur trade, as well as its industrial use for logging and hydro development. The Ottawa River was also important to the development of Canada and the choice of Ottawa as the national capital. Amazingly, the Ottawa River carries more water than all the rivers of Western Europe combined.

The community of Champlain Park started as a cottage community, "Riverside Park," nestled on the banks of the Ottawa River. Today, the community enjoys links to downtown and neighbouring communities by spectacular walking, cycling and skiing trails along the river.

The sandy Remic Beach is located at the north end of Carleton Avenue and provides a quiet area to spot wildlife, play or launch paddle craft on warm days and evenings. Free parking is available at Remic Rapids parking lot or in the Champlain Park neighbourhood.

In decades gone by, area residents regularly swam from Remic Beach and "the Point", which had log booms in place to prevent logs from the lumber trade floating ashore. The NCC built the Parkway in the 1960s and planned a number of official beaches along the Ottawa River, including overpasses at Carleton Avenue for access to Remic Beach. However, Remic Beach was abandoned and is not maintained by the City. If you choose to go wading or swimming at the beach, keep in mind that there is no lifeguard on duty and there are natural hazards in the area. Stay alert for hazards such as swift currents and changing water levels.

<http://chrs.ca/the-rivers/ottawa/>

Check out a map of the area here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1M_kvclG8--0HcHPF2y9H-zvbJgITaHcV&usp=sharing



Water quality

During summer, the City of Ottawa collects water samples daily from the five supervised municipal beaches and tests for the presence of E.coli bacteria. Swim Guide also offers water quality information for a wide variety of beaches. Ottawa Riverkeeper, through the Riverwatch network, and Water Rangers, are supporting regular water quality testing at Remic Beach. Relevant water quality results and information can be found here:

<https://www.theswimguide.org/beach/9207>

<https://app.waterrangers.ca/locations/2513>

<http://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-services/beach-water-quality-results.aspx>

Please report any pollution concerns to Ottawa Riverkeeper's Pollution Hotline at 1-888-9KEEPER.





Other highlights on our local reach of the Ottawa River

Ottawa River South Shore Riverfront Park incorporates the riverfront area between LeBreton Flats and Britannia – encompassing almost nine kilometres of waterfront along the Ottawa river. The NCC is reimagining the future of these riverfront lands to create a vibrant public realm that will reconnect the city—and people—to the riverfront. The NCC's Plan includes a number of “activity nodes” in the vicinity of Champlain Park, including Bate Island, Champlain Woods and Remic Rapids Lookout. See the NCC's Plan here:

<http://ncc-ccn.gc.ca/projects/ottawa-river-south-shore-riverfront-park-plan>

Bate Island is a quiet location, halfway across Champlain Bridge, with unbeatable river views on all sides, including to the downtown and Parliament Hill. There are picnic tables and a portable toilet available to visitors. It is popular for fishing and a variety of paddle sports – lessons are available from local operators. The standing waves at the wall on the north side of Bate Island are a well-known river feature that draws paddlers from great distances during the annual spring melt. In approximately May, people can be seen surfing the wave on a range of kayaks and boards.



Remic Rapids Lookout is a popular stop along the Ottawa River pathway, with wonderful views and spectacular sunsets. It is the home of John Ceprano's famous balanced rock sculptures. Note that Remic Rapids is actually the stretch of whitewater just under Champlain Bridge, but confusingly, the whitewater in front of the Remic Rapids Lookout is called Little Chaudière Rapids.

<https://www.ottawatourism.ca/ottawa-insider/ottawa-ambassadors-john-felice-ceprano/>



Have you ever wondered about the concrete bunker at Remic Rapids? Apart from having a great lookout on top, it houses a pumping station that supplies Ottawa River water to Tunney's Pasture for cooling purposes. It was built in 1970, just before a nuclear reactor began operating at Tunney's Pasture!

<https://ottawarewind.com/2014/08/19/debunking-the-bunker-and-ottawas-nuclear-reactor/>

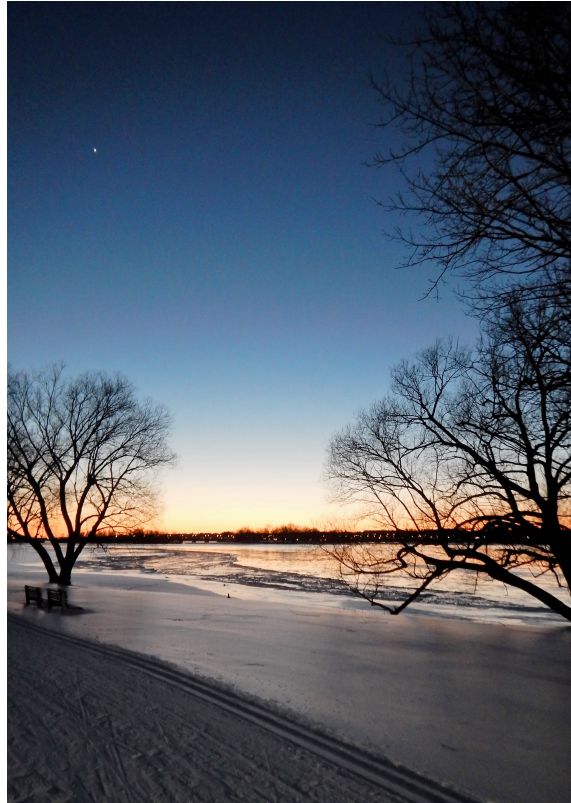
SJAM Winter Trail, is a groomed multi-use winter trail along the Sir John A. Macdonald (SJAM) multi-use pathway that promotes active living, provides access to the Ottawa River shoreline, and welcomes a diversity of users, whether they are walking, on skis, snowshoes or a snow bike. The trail connects the Canadian War Museum with park lands along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway to Westboro Beach, including loops through our local Champlain Woods and right past the Champlain Park Fieldhouse. The SJAM Trail also loops through the **Kitchissippi Woods**, just to the west of Champlain Bridge, which provides an excellent sheltered location for skiing and snowshoeing. The SJAM is a tremendous community effort, led by Dave Adams and supported by numerous local individuals and organisations.

<http://www.wintertrail.ca/>



Le parc Moussette is located in Gatineau on the Ottawa River. In the 1920s and 30s, this was once the location of a large amusement park called Luna Park. Today, the rollercoaster and fun houses are gone, but there are numerous outdoor activities available, such as tennis, basketball, baseball, volleyball and swimming for all ages. Key services and facilities include toilets, changing rooms and showers; picnic tables; four tennis courts; and a playground. Lifeguards are on duty daily between 11 am and 7 pm during the summer season. Water quality at this beach is tested every two weeks by the City of Gatineau.

https://www.theswimguide.org/beach/1109?set_language=en



Stromatolites, or layered rocks, form in shallow waters when biofilms of living microorganisms, like cyanobacteria, trap sediment. They were the predominant life form on Earth for over 2 billion years and are Earth's oldest fossils. An incredible example of fossilised stromatolites is visible just to the west of Champlain Bridge (upriver), on the Quebec side of the river during low water levels.

<https://www.ottawagatineageoheritage.ca/subsites/4>
<http://www.capitalgems.ca/stromatolites.html>



Local River Activities

Fishing:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/urban-fishing#section-6>
<https://www.ottawafishing.net/bateisland.html>
<http://www.ottawaflyfishers.com/>

Paddling:

http://www.kayaker.ca/paddling_spots.htm
<http://www.paddlefit.com/>

River Surfing:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Ottawa-River-Surfing-Association-664274723712925/>
<http://riverbreak.com/tag/ottawa/>

Rafting:

<https://www.ottawacityrafting.com/>

Skiing/Snowshoeing/Fat biking:

<https://www.facebook.com/SJAM.Winter.Trail/>
https://freshairexp.ca/?page_id=2705

Ottawa Riverkeeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a champion for the Ottawa River watershed to protect, promote and improve its ecological health and future.

<https://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/>



Contacts

If you have any questions, comments, observations or great stories about this area of the Ottawa River, please feel free to connect with local resident Dan Wilcock at the following:

Email: CPCADan@gmail.com

Twitter: [@OttawaRiverlife](https://twitter.com/OttawaRiverlife)

Facebook: Champlain Park Riverlife