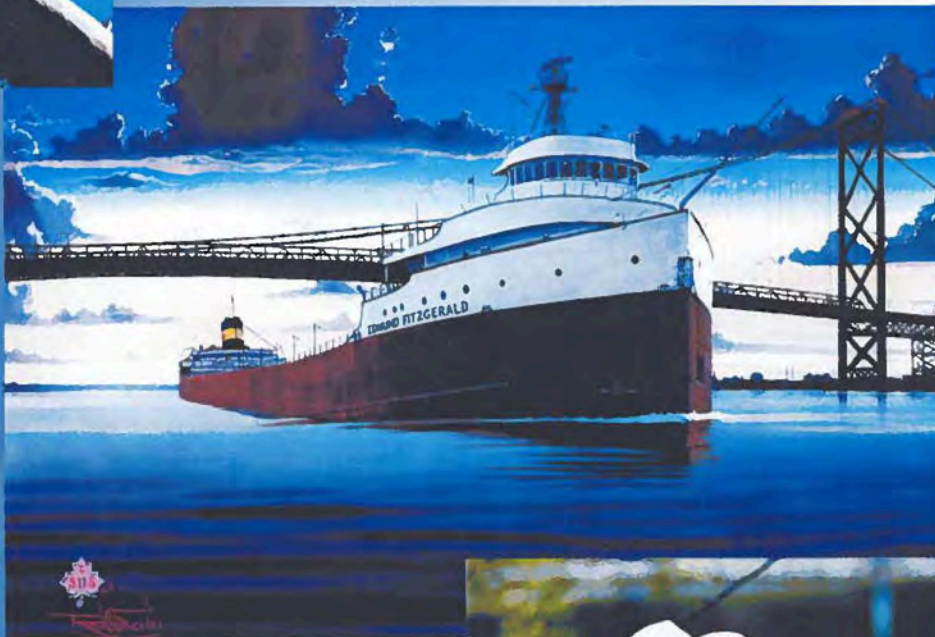


# DETROIT RIVER NOMINATION DOCUMENT 1999



DETROIT RIVER  
A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER



Canadian Heritage  
Rivers System



## Submission Requirements

This document sets out the criteria of the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRS) for the nomination of the Detroit River as a Heritage River within the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS).

The CHRS is the vehicle by which the nominating agency identifies the heritage significance of a river and justifies its inclusion in the CHRS.

The purpose of this format is to act as a guide to nominating agencies and to provide consistency in the nomination process.

CHRS provides an opportunity for the recognition and conservation of rivers deemed to be of outstanding Canadian heritage value. This value is obtained when it has been determined that a river is an outstanding representative of or unique in a province or territory.

By the inclusion of such rivers in a single coast-to-coast system, they become representative of Canada's river heritage as a whole, thus reflecting a "Canadian value".

## Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) has been established by the federal, provincial and territorial governments to recognize outstanding rivers of Canada and ensuring management which will protect these rivers and enhance their significant heritage values for the long term benefit and enjoyment of Canadians.

To qualify for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, a river or section of a river must be of outstanding significance in one or more areas: natural heritage, human heritage, or recreational values.

The nominated section should be large enough to encompass these values and provide the user with an appreciation of the river's resources, as well as an enjoyable recreational experience. The responsibility for the collection and analysis of information to determine heritage values and for subsequent nomination of the river rests with the particular government within whose jurisdiction the nominated river lies.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRS), composed of federal, provincial and territorial government representatives, will examine each nomination document and will accordingly advise the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and the Minister(s) of the nominating agencies on the suitability of the nominated river for inclusion within the CHRS.

When considering the river, the Board will determine the degree to which the "*Guidelines for the Selection of Canadian Heritage Rivers*" are satisfied by the river being nominated. The Board will consider both the river and its immediate environment, which together capture the heritage values.

Within three years of acceptance of a nomination by the Ministers, a management strategy shall be lodged with the Board, at which time the river or section of the river shall be formally included in the CHRS. The Board will undertake periodic reviews of Canadian Heritage Rivers to ensure that the designated rivers merit continued inclusion in the CHRS.

The authority of the Board to carry out these functions is derived from the Ministers of the Crown of the participating governments.

## Preamble

The Detroit River is being nominated as a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) based on its significant human heritage features and recreational values. Although the Detroit River possesses an outstanding natural heritage which contributes to both its human heritage and recreational values, CHRS integrity guidelines preclude nomination of the Detroit River based on natural heritage values.

Therefore, while emphasis is placed on the human heritage and recreational values within the Detroit River watershed, natural heritage is also examined to describe the significant natural features, identify enhancement and remediation measures and to allow a visualization of the river's many unique features.

The Nomination Document clearly demonstrates that throughout its history, the Detroit River has had an outstanding impact on the development of Canada, that it is still a major force and resource today and that its significance will endure for many generations to come.

With a successful CHRS nomination, the Detroit River will become the first international heritage river given that it has already been designated a Heritage River in the United States. The process began with the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative which resulted in President Clinton nominating the Detroit River as an American Heritage River in July of 1998. The Detroit River was 1 of 14 rivers designated, out of a total of 126 applications. (Appendix 1)

The ongoing relationship between Canada and the United States in working toward a long-term management strategy for the Detroit River can only be enhanced by the acceptance of this nomination, bringing with it increased international recognition and status for the river.

The Detroit River's heritage and influence on the development of Canada and the United States has been and continues to be tremendous. This is underlined by one definition of 'heritage' which states simply that it is what previous generations leave us and what we in turn pass on, to our children and theirs. What kind of Detroit River did previous generations leave us? How has it influenced the history of our region and even our country? What is it that sets the Detroit River apart from others? What kind of river will we pass on to future generations? What does the river mean to the millions of people living along its shores? There is no single answer.

- » To the French explorer Cadillac, the Detroit River was "the earthly paradise of North America" and an ideal place to establish a settlement.
- » The British saw it as a strategic location for defending an emerging nation.
- » For the Huron-Wyandots of the region it was their final home.
- » Hiram Walker and Henry Ford saw the river's banks as the perfect location for their factories.
- » Today, naturalists see the Detroit River as part of the most biologically diverse region in Canada, while boaters know it as a fifty kilometre long water park.
- » Anglers regard it as the home of some of the best Walleye fishing in the world.
- » For five million people, it is the source of their drinking water.
- » Sea captains look forward to the Detroit River as the place where they pick up their mail.
- » In Windsor and Detroit it is the backdrop and launching platform for North America's most amazing annual fireworks display.
- » It is a shared resource, bringing the people of two nations together along part of the world's longest undefended border.

Like people, no two rivers are exactly alike. Defining the Detroit River depends as much on who you are, as on the river itself. No matter who you are, the Detroit River is a fascinating and undeniably important part of your Canadian heritage.



## River Nomination

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**The purpose of this section is to formally nominate the Detroit River for inclusion in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS).**

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**WHEREAS**, the CHRS is a cooperative program of federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada, designed to give national and international recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, historical and recreational value for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the nomination of the Detroit River as a Canadian Heritage River represents a bi-national, non-partisan, community based process involving a wide range of municipalities, agencies and individuals in a cooperative partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River is an important international river, functioning as one of the busiest inland waterways in the world, linking Ontario and Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the 51 kilometre long river and its surrounding watersheds are located in the most southern portion of Canada and is of outstanding human heritage and recreational value as well as significant natural heritage value; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River has outstanding examples of natural features, including Provincially Significant Wetlands (Class 1 and 2), Environmentally Significant Areas, numerous provincially and nationally significant plant and animal species and associations, important areas for fish spawning and rearing and valuable habitats for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River was used for centuries by native people for transportation, settlement and as a source of natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River has played a significant role in the development of Canada, the United States and the region through its military, transportation and industrial significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River encompasses a watershed where agricultural and urban settlement were and still are influenced by the river and enhanced by use of its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River has influenced the location and development of industries that today play a major role in the regional and Canadian economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River has been and continues to be a key transportation route within the Great Lakes system, having played a role in the transport of settlers to the west and the linking of pioneer communities and today continues its role in the transport of cargo for major industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River's 300 years of settlement history is preserved in an outstanding array of heritage buildings, waterfront parks, period museums, legends, folk songs, literature, artwork and historical accounts that facilitate public understanding of the role of rivers in community development and culture; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River is associated with engineering projects including channels, tunnels and a bridge that provide leading examples of international cooperation and technological innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River is associated with the works of numerous people who have contributed to the development of Ontario, Canada and the United States in the areas of exploration, settlement, military service, religion, politics, industry and commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River has an outstanding diversity of public and private recreational facilities for such pursuits as boating, fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, swimming, birding, human heritage appreciation, sightseeing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit River embodies an international and multi-jurisdictional approach in the management and enhancement of its waters, natural areas and communities; and

**THEREFORE**, it is recommended by the Province of Ontario that, upon completion of a management strategy within three years of acceptance of this nomination, the Detroit River be designated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System for the purpose of recognizing and protecting the river's outstanding human heritage features and recreational values, as well as significant natural heritage features.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Title\_\_\_\_\_

Department of\_\_\_\_\_

Government of\_\_\_\_\_

## I Summary

**The purpose of this section is to summarize those outstanding human heritage, recreational values and natural heritage, which provide the rationale for nomination of the Detroit River to the CHRS.**

### Summary of Values

#### Human Heritage Values

##### Human Heritage Values

The Detroit River's human heritage values have evolved through centuries of use and settlement by numerous cultures. The river was a centre for resource gathering, culture and trade among Aboriginal people long before European exploration, which began in the seventeenth century. Early recognition of the river's strategic importance led to the establishment of Fort Pontchartrain in 1701 and the first permanent European settlement in Ontario in 1748.

This settlement was originally one community, under one flag, where life centered around agriculture and the fur trade. In 1783, this community became two countries, the United States and what was then British North America, with the river as the boundary. The tensions that grew between the two countries culminated in the War of 1812 and later, the Rebellion of

1837–38, with important battles fought along the river's Canadian shores during both conflicts. Fortunately, peace prevailed and the bonds formed a century earlier between the first settlers would override any remaining tension. Communities prospered in both countries, with each benefiting from the opportunities offered by the other. Entrepreneurs used the river's resources and other benefits, to create major Canadian industries such as Ford of Canada. Residents worked and enjoyed recreation opportunities on both sides of the border, crossing back and forth on one of the many river ferries.

Development was furthered by the river's importance as a transportation route. Sailing and steam ships carried passengers and cargo from the river to several ports on the Great Lakes or to the Welland and Erie Canals. By 1854, the first rail line, The Great Western Railway, had made its terminus in Windsor. This provided a major transportation link, vital to the opening of the west. Thousands travelled by rail to Windsor, crossed the river by ferry, then continued with their journey westward. Today, automobiles and trucks greatly outnumber trains, while the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit–Windsor tunnel have replaced the ferries. Millions of tons of cargo are now carried by freighters, rather than sailing and steam ships. The Detroit River's significance as a historical transportation route, its continued importance as a port and its status as North America's busiest border crossing, cannot be over emphasized.



An 1804 watercolour of "A View of Detroit from the Straits taken from Huron Church", by Dr. Edward Walsh. The structure shown in the picture was replaced by present day Assumption Church in 1846. (Courtesy of the William Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan)



Walk along Ambassador Park

Throughout three centuries of exploration, settlement and development, previous generations have left an enduring legacy in the form of numerous, river-based cultural resources. Heritage buildings, period museums and waterfront parks are found in all of the river-front communities. Historical accounts, some personal and others professionally published, provide a vivid view of life along the river and brings to life its many “characters”. Songs, legends, literature and artwork add poignant and sometimes colourful interpretations of the river’s history.

Perhaps the most important cultural resource is the river itself. Today, the river inspires feelings of peace, wonder and optimism in residents and visitors, just as it did perhaps for the first explorers centuries ago. The Detroit River and its watershed constitute a unique microcosm of North American history. The river’s influence on Canadian and American development continues, along with a renewed understanding that the communities that line both shores share in its heritage and depend on its well being. As the tercentennial of European settlement nears, this spirit of cooperation will move the Detroit River and its communities into the twenty-first century.

#### **Human Heritage Integrity Values**

The human heritage values along the Detroit River meets the integrity guidelines. The Detroit River’s regime has remained essentially unchanged since European explorers discovered the area more than 300 years ago. Today, it flows past the same lands and islands, free of impoundments. Its shorelines now include urban skylines, rail lines, industrial development and parkland, farms and natural areas; uses which are each indicative of significant periods of the river’s history. These land uses are part of the river’s heritage and in themselves help tell the story of its influence in

the development of Canada and the United States. The Detroit River’s history has also been preserved in several heritage buildings and museums found in riverfront communities. Folk tales, songs, artwork, literature and historical documents provide a colourful account of three centuries of development along the river. These resources and the river itself, provide a chance for present and future generations to learn about the river’s history and its impact on their lives.

## **Recreational Values**

### **Recreation Values**

Today’s parks and varied recreational activities along the Detroit River can be linked directly to aspects of its natural and human heritage and the cultural significance of the river over time. Aspects of bygone ways of life continue today through river based recreation.

The Detroit River has developed a reputation as the premier boating river in North America. It has more registered boats than anywhere else in the Great Lakes System and more than 12,000 marina slips. In addition it is experiencing an increase in canoeing and kayaking, on the river itself and on its tributaries. The river also supports more than three million waterfowl. Hunting is popular and includes waterfowl, deer and pheasant. The Detroit River, its tributaries and marshes, are home to significant spawning grounds. Fishing in rural and urban settings thrives due to the diversity and quantity of fish and the long season. Communities along the river have aggressively developed park systems greatly increasing access to the river and providing sites for a growing number of river-based festivals and events. Recreational activities range from walking, cycling and rollerblading on trails, to nature appreciation, ship watching and simple relaxation. Human heritage blends with recreation along the river through the historic sites, interpretive plaques and events that also draw people to its shores.

### **Recreational Integrity Values**

In addition to meeting the recreational value guidelines for Canadian Heritage River Status, the Detroit River possesses water quality adequate for recreation throughout its length from on-water recreation, such as boating, to related pursuits such as hunting, fishing and nature appreciation. The river, along with the region’s moderate climate, supports a diversity of wildlife habitats and species found nowhere else in Canada. It is also



the source of drinking water for more than five million people. This level of quality is due to efforts by residents, the private sector, landowners, federal, provincial, regional and municipal agencies. Ongoing initiatives including habitat enhancement, species re-introduction, continued improvement of river front parklands and education efforts demonstrate a commitment to improve the quality of the Detroit River as a recreational resource.

## Natural Heritage Values

### Natural Heritage Values

The natural features of the Detroit River are significant and have been major influences on the human heritage and recreational opportunities throughout its history. Water, soil, plant and animal resources have played important roles in the settlement and enjoyment of the Detroit River and its upstream watersheds. The Detroit River ecosystem contains some of the most significant biological communities in all of Ontario. Indeed, the Detroit River has been identified as a biodiversity investment area (BIA) in several provincial and federal initiatives. These areas are worth protecting because of species abundance and diversity. It is the only major river in Canada located solely within the Carolinian zone – widely recognized as one of the most biologically significant and diverse in the country. It includes remnant tracts of Carolinian forest, tallgrass prairie, oak savanna and wetlands, making it one of Canada's most significant landscapes.

The Detroit River also serves as a major migration route and home to 65 of the 117 species of fish that inhabit the Great Lakes, 27 species of waterfowl that frequent the coastal wetlands, more than 17 species of raptors – including eagles, hawks and falcons, more than 48 other bird species including warblers, neotropical songbirds, herons and egrets and numerous species of butterflies that migrate annually from Canada to the southern United States and South America.

The river plays an important part in the overall Great Lakes System which represents nearly 20% of the world's freshwater supply. It conveys more than 90% of the water that flows into Lake Erie. In addition to preserving high existing values, remediation and enhancement programs are underway that will improve degraded habitats and ensure that the river continues to meet

ecological and hydrological needs for generations to follow.

### Natural Heritage Integrity Values

The CHRS integrity guidelines preclude nomination of the Detroit River based on natural heritage. However, it is the natural heritage of the



watershed that has supported the evolution of human heritage and recreation values.

The Detroit River contains no man-made impoundments. It is also the site of many recent successes as local communities have responded to the challenge of restoring and rehabilitating the river's natural resources. Major efforts are underway to reduce inputs of toxic chemicals, nutrients and bacteria while preserving, protecting and enhancing natural habitat. Innovative approaches to habitat protection and restoration are being implemented to protect the many rare and endangered species living within the river and its watershed. Many of these projects, developed by private companies and public agencies, are not required by regulation. Projects include biodiversity strategies, fish habitat restoration and rural non-point source remediation programs. The Detroit River is now the focus of an ambitious, bi-national effort, as communities work together to protect a resource vital to the common good of two nations.

## Role in the System

**The purpose of this section is to describe the role that the Detroit River might play in the CHRS from a National perspective, referring to the characteristics, which make it distinct.**

The Detroit River would play a very unique role in the CHRS system. It is part of two countries and its shores encompass the largest metropolitan area on any international border. Rather than separating the numerous communities along both its shores, the river actually connects them culturally and economically. While it is a political boundary, the Detroit River has furthered the development of both Canada and the United States. (Appendix 2)

Including the Detroit River within the CHRS would enhance and contribute to the system in a number of ways. The river's role in the system will be:

- » to represent a river used for centuries by native people for resource gathering, trade, transportation and spiritual rituals,
- » to represent a river whose strategic significance led to the establishment of Fort Pontchartrain in 1701 and the first permanent European settlement in Ontario in 1748. This military importance was further demonstrated by the construction of Fort Amherstburg (Malden) and the King's Navy Yard in 1796 and by significant battles in the War of 1812 and the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837–38,
- » to represent a watershed where agriculture, urban settlement and trade were influenced by the river and enhanced by use of its resources as demonstrated by pioneer water extraction and irrigation, the fur trade and a major nineteenth century fishing industry,
- » to represent a river's influence in the location and development of industries that today play a major role in the Canadian economy,
- » to represent a river that has been and continues to be, a key transportation route in the Great Lakes system. During the first two hundred years of its history the river was a link in an important transportation route to the mid-west, as well as a part of the system that linked Great Lakes communities. Today, its role in moving cargo is vital to the economies of Canada and the United States and significant to many nations world-wide,

- » to represent a river where more than three hundred years of settlement history is preserved in heritage buildings, waterfront parks, period museums, legends, folk songs, literature, artwork and historical accounts, thus facilitating public understanding of the role of rivers in fostering community culture and development,
- » to represent a river that has been the site of important twentieth century engineering projects, including the Ambassador Bridge, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, the Railroad Tunnel and the Livingstone Channel,
- » to represent the only major Canadian river and watershed that lies completely within the Carolinian zone, with a diversity of ecosystems and species found no where else in the country,
- » to provide an example of international cooperation in the management and restoration of the river and its watershed,
- » to represent a river where numerous recreation, natural heritage and human heritage appreciation opportunities can be enjoyed by millions of people living within a one hour drive and
- » to represent a river where international events, such as the Freedom Festival, provide unique river front entertainment for millions of Canadians and Americans.

The inclusion of the Detroit River will add to the CHRS natural, recreational and cultural heritage by representing for the first time the following; (Appendix 3)

- » Small scale domestic use (sub-theme 1.4.1)
- » Municipal water supplies (sub-theme 1.4.2)
- » Agricultural uses (sub-theme 1.4.3)
- » Patterns of settlement affected by surveys (sub-theme 3.2.3)
- » Ferries and associated docks, cables (sub-theme 3.3.6)
- » Tunnels, fords and causeways (sub-theme 3.3.7)
- » Municipal sanitary and storm sewage disposal systems (sub-theme 7.2.1)
- » River reclamation projects affecting degraded rivers (sub-theme 7.2.2)

## II Description of The River

**The purpose of this section is to briefly describe the location of the Detroit River, its physical characteristics, regional setting and the land uses found along its shores.**

The Detroit River lies in the heart of the Great Lakes Basin linking Lake St. Clair with Lake Erie. It flows approximately 51 kilometres from the City of Windsor to the Town of Amherstburg on the Ontario side, Detroit to Brownstown Township on the Michigan side. Its width varies from six-tenths of a kilometre to five kilometres. Some four hundred and fifty three billion litres of water flow under the Ambassador Bridge every day. The Canada-U.S. boundary divides the river virtually down the middle. The Detroit River watershed drains more than 2,000 square kilometres and its tributaries include Marsh Creek, the Rouge and E-corse Rivers on the American side and Turkey Creek, Little River and Canard River in Canada.

The Detroit River contains twenty-one islands. Upstream in Canadian waters, the river passes Peche Island. Peche Island was once frequented by Chief Pontiac and later became the summer home of Hiram Walker. Fighting Island, Bois Blanc Island, Grass Island and Turkey Island round out the Canadian islands.

In American waters, the most notable island is Belle Isle. The 982-acre City of Detroit park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and is home to such architectural features as an Albert Kahn designed lighthouse, the Scripps Conservatory dome from the 1904 World's Fair and the United States' oldest aquarium. More than 10 million people visit the park annually making it the fifth most visited urban park in the U.S. Other American islands include: Mud Island, Humbug Marsh, Grassy Island – site of the Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge, Celeron Island – a State wildlife refuge, Grosse Isle – a large residential community, Meso Island, Hickory and Sugar Islands which are also residential, Elba, Round, Swan, Calf, Horse, Cherry, Stony and Fox Islands which are primarily wetlands and undeveloped.

Commercial navigation is one of the most fascinating aspects of the river, not only because of the extent of this activity and its significant economic importance, but because of the striking visual images that numerous tug boats and thousands of lake freighters and ocean going vessels create. Eight thousand ships, both ocean going and lake freighters, use the Detroit River annually. Shipping channels are maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Windsor Harbour Commission operates a very active international port which in 1997 handled more than three million tons of cargo.

The variety of land uses found along the Detroit River shore attests to its cultural importance and



Aerial View of the Detroit River

adds a great deal of visual interest. On the Canadian side, approximately 47% is parkland, open space and natural areas, 27% is industrial and commercial and 26% is residential. The American shore is made up of: 52% abandoned, developed and park lands, 38% industrial and commercial use and 10% residential. The river flows past nine communities on the American side including Detroit, E-corse, River Rouge, Wyandotte, Riverview, Grosse Isle, Trenton, Gibraltar and Brownstown Township. Windsor, LaSalle and Amherstburg make up the Canadian communities.

While much of the Detroit River region is heavily urbanized, there are also significant natural areas. On the Canadian side such areas include Peche Island and part of Fighting Island, the Detroit River Wetlands and Canard River Marshes. Upstream, in tributary watersheds, are unique natural areas such as the Ojibway Prairie and LaSalle Woodlot and the Canard Valley and Devonwood Conservation Areas. Significant U.S. natural areas include Point Mouliee, Humbug Marsh and several of the islands listed above.

The shoreline of the Detroit River is a history buff's dream. From Amherstburg's Fort Malden and the "Underground Railroad", the Wyandot Indian Cemetery, the old Town of Sandwich, the French settlement of LaSalle and River Canard, to the "rum running" era, there is a wealth of human history to be explored. A monument on Windsor's waterfront built by American veterans and dedicated to Canadian soldiers killed in the Vietnam War, underscores more recent historical ties. On the American side Old Fort Wayne and the Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle are just two of the historical highlights.



## III Heritage and Integrity Values

### General

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**The purpose of this section is to describe the method used for information collection and evaluation and to show the location of significant features on a map.**

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The CHRS nomination project is led by an Application Team, formed in the spring of 1997, consisting of representatives from Canadian and U.S. agencies, corporations, municipalities, interest groups and interested citizens. (Appendix 4) The Team met on a regular basis to oversee the project, make key decisions related to process, complete the Background Report and the Nomination Document and assist in developing a public involvement strategy. (Appendix 5)

Research and Community Relations Teams were also developed. (Appendix 6) The Research Team was divided into three subgroups representing natural heritage, human heritage and recreational values and was responsible for researching and writing respective sections of the Background Report and the Nomination Document. The Community Relations Team was responsible for involving the public in activities to increase awareness of the value of the Detroit River and to encourage participation in the nomination process. (Appendix 7)

The Essex Region Conservation Authority provided administrative support and leadership to the project, including the provision of staff, organization of meetings, implementation of Application Team recommendations and overall project management.

*The Canadian Heritage Rivers System: Objectives, Principles and Procedures (1984) and Canadian Heritage Rivers System: Guidelines (1991), along with A Cultural Heritage Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers (1997) and A Natural Heritage Framework for Canadian Heritage Rivers (Interim Draft, 1997), were coupled with a variety of primary and secondary sources and local expertise on both sides of the river to summarize and assess the natural, cultural and recreational values of the Detroit River. This information was then incorporated in the preparation for the Background Report and Nomination Document.*

Preparation of the Background Report involved data collection and analysis in the areas of natural heritage, human heritage and recreation and included a detailed review of the extent to which the Detroit River meets the specific values and integrity guidelines. The report details the land and water uses, important historical and cultural features and events, recreational values and significant natural features of the Detroit River. The report also defines the extent of community support for inclusion of the Detroit River in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

The Background Report concluded that the Detroit River demonstrates the uniqueness and importance of human heritage features and recreation values, as well as a considerable degree of natural heritage and as such could play a significant role in the CHRS. (Appendix 8)

Once the Background Report draft document was reviewed by Ontario Parks and Parks Canada, it was recommended that the Detroit River Application Team proceed with formal nomination of the Detroit River. The Application Team then prepared this Nomination Document, following the format provided by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board.

Using the data collected and summarized in the Background Study, the Nomination Document demonstrates how the Detroit River meets the required criteria, why it warrants inclusion in the Canadian Heritage River System and how it will be managed within the System.

## Human Heritage Values

### Description of Human Heritage Values

**The purpose of this section is to describe the outstanding human heritage features of the river and its immediate environment.**

#### Introduction

The Detroit River and its resources have been used by millions of people prior to, during and since European settlement began some 300 years ago. The river in turn, has influenced human activities including the development of both Canada and the United States. (Appendix 9)

This section outlines the outstanding Canadian human heritage features, tangible and intangible, that have resulted from the use and the influence of the Detroit River. For presentation purposes this section is divided into the following categories:

- » European Exploration, Colonization and Conflict
- » Native People
- » Early European Settlements and Use of the River's Resources
- » The River's Influence on Developing Urban Centres and Major Industries
- » Transportation
- » Water Extraction and the Development of Water Quality Legislation
- » The River's Influence on Regional Roles and Cultural Landscapes
- » Summary

#### European Exploration, Colonization and Conflict

European exploration began almost four hundred years ago when the first Jesuits and coureurs-de-bois visited the Detroit River region. By 1650, Samson had drawn a map illustrating the Detroit and St. Clair River, as well as Lakes Erie and St. Clair, using information gathered from these first explorers. Exploration began in earnest after this time when two Sulpician priests, Dollier De Casson and De Brehant de Galinee undertook the first recorded voyage up the river in 1669. In 1679, LaSalle navigated the first sailing ship, the *Griffon*, up the Detroit River after it was built on a site along Lake Erie.

Through these explorations the French soon realized the Detroit River's significance as a strategic location to promote the vital fur trade



An artist's conception of LaSalle's Griffon that was constructed on the shores of Lake Erie, the first to sail up the Detroit River in 1669.

and protect their territory from other colonial powers. When Cadillac and his party arrived in

1701, they were enthralled by the area's abundant wildlife, lush vegetation and moderate climate. Cadillac summarized the river's military significance as a place where "the cannon of the future fort could most easily defend the stream against all enemies of France." (Price and Kulisek, p.10.) Fort Pontchartrain would guard the French settlement along the Detroit River for the next sixty years.

The French were forced to surrender Fort Pontchartrain to the British in 1760, as part of the settlement after the Seven Year War. The British were only too happy to take over the fort and its successful fur trade, but conflict soon followed. Native people, who had lived peacefully with the French, were unhappy with the British and their policies. Chief Pontiac and his confederacy laid siege to Detroit after successfully capturing eleven British forts in the Great Lakes system. The British, however, were able to reinforce their defenses by means of sailing ships that brought supplies to the fort. This and other factors, resulted in Pontiac's defeat and surrender of all forts. Peace would be short lived for the British, however, due to the American Revolution. After that war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the British were to surrender all forts in the new American territory, including Detroit. They resisted abandoning these posts until 1796, when the American flag was first flown over Detroit.

Tensions between what was then British Upper Canada and the new Republic of the United States escalated and peaked during the War of

1812. Fort Amherstburg (Malden), built in the Town of Amherstburg as a replacement for the surrendered Fort in Detroit, was an important British post. The British and their native allies fought significant battles along the Detroit River and for a time, occupied Detroit itself. In the end, Detroit was returned to the Americans and peace prevailed, but tensions continued along the border, culminating in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837–38. Battles successfully fought on the river front in Windsor and on Fighting Island, helped to end the rebellion, while the Webster–Ashburton Agreement of 1842 settled many points of contention between Britain and the United States. Fort Malden was gradually closed, leading to the end of the military period along the Detroit River and the long undefended border enjoyed by both countries today.

#### **Native People**

For centuries, native people used the Detroit River and the Great Lakes as a principle means of travel, resource gathering and trade. There is evidence of more than a dozen prehistoric or early native settlement sites along the river's Canadian shore alone, including encampments and burial grounds.

When Cadillac established Fort Pontchartrain, there were no permanent settlements along the river. At his invitation, a number of First Nations settled at Detroit including the Huron–Petun, Ottawa, Potawatomi and small groups from other tribes. The Ottawa and Huron–Petun people were the first to settle on the Canadian side of the river, making way for the French settlers who soon followed.

The Ottawa left the Detroit River region after the end of Pontiac's uprising in 1763, while the Hurons settled with the Jesuits who established the mission "Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary". The mission was located on Bois Blanc (Bob-lo) Island until 1747 when it was destroyed by hostile factions. It was then relocated to a point on the river closer to the protection of Fort Pontchartrain called "La Pointe de Montreal", which is now the site of the historic Assumption Church. The Hurons stayed for half a century, until the British purchased their lands to develop the Town of Sandwich. A new reserve was then developed, fronting on the river, in what would later become Anderdon Township.

The Hurons and other native people who also lived on the reserve, contributed to the development of this region in several ways. Under the leadership of Tecumseh, native people fought and died with the British in the War of 1812. Native people from the developing United States made annual pilgrimages to Fort Malden where they received gifts from the British until the post was closed in the 1830's. The reserve later produced prominent citizens including a Mayor of Windsor and a Reeve of Anderdon Township. Stone from the native quarry was used to build heritage buildings, such as St. John the Baptist Church in Amherstburg. However, the native culture was gradually absorbed into surrounding European lifestyles and the reserve was dissolved in 1875. Today, their contributions to the region's history and culture are important reminders of their former presence along the Detroit River.

#### **Early European Settlements and Use of the River's Resources.**

The Detroit River's first agricultural settlements, or "côtes" as they were called by the French, were long narrow farm lots located on the river to provide as many settlers as possible with access to water. The early settlers depended on the river for food, water, transportation and communication with the outside world. Although farms were located on two separate shores, the settlement was considered by all to be one community. There are numerous accounts of the prosperous farming community, such as Petite Côte, which was the oldest permanent European settlement in Ontario and a part of the Town of LaSalle today.

By the early nineteenth century the region's three original urban centers, Sandwich, Amherstburg, and Windsor, had been established along the Detroit River waterfront. Sandwich became the new administrative centre for the Western District after the abandonment of Detroit and was located on the river for access to water and transportation. Amherstburg was selected as the site for the new fort and navy shipyard because of its strategic location on the river and thrived as ships stopped for services and to unload passengers or goods. Windsor developed on its own in part because it was selected as a ferry site due to its location directly opposite Detroit.

These early agricultural and urban settlements thrived, in large part, because of the river and its resources. The river's basin provided fertile soils

for crops while its waters were used for irrigation. Fur-bearing animals, abundant in the river and surrounding watersheds, provided the most important product of commerce during the first century of development. Even after local stocks had dwindled, the Detroit River region remained a vital fur trade centre until the 1820's. Fish, which had always been an important staple for settlers, then became the basis for the area's second dominant industry. There was huge demand for products found in the Detroit River and Lake Erie, including the delicate flesh of the whitefish and caviar derived from the sturgeon. Some local officials realized the danger of over fishing, which led to the establishment of a fish hatchery in Sandwich in 1878. Nonetheless, the insatiable demand, along with the lack of understanding of ecosystems, led to the collapse of the fishing industry by the 1890's. Today, commercial fishing on the river no longer exists, but the lessons learned from this experience are valid as a resource managers' guide and to restore the Detroit River and its resources as it enters the twenty-first century.

**The River's Influence on Developing Urban Centers and Major Industries.**

The majority of the region's most populated centers and some of Canada's most vital

ago, Detroit River settlements began as one community depending on the river for food, water, transportation and communication. The single community was eventually divided, at least legally, by the formation of the United States and the international boundary. Even then, river front communities benefited from this scenario in various ways. Windsor, for example, became the major river-front community because it was the site of the ferry link to Detroit; and later, the Great Western Railway terminus, which in turn had been attracted by the ferry crossing. (See also Transportation)

Development in Windsor and adjacent communities exploded when entrepreneurs capitalized on the river and other benefits to establish new industries. Hiram Walker created Walker's distillery on the river where he could obtain a fresh water supply for making whiskey. In addition, the river and nearby railways provided efficient modes of transportation. Later, another entrepreneur, Henry Ford, would take advantage of similar benefits to establish the first Ford of Canada plant on the Detroit River.

New river front communities developed and flourished along with these growing industries. Walkerville was formed under the paternalistic



A Bird's Eye View of Windsor, 1878. Note the railway to the left, the upper and lower ferry docks and the long narrow street lots that developed based on the subdivision of French farm lots. (Windsor 1892-1992: A Centennial Celebration)

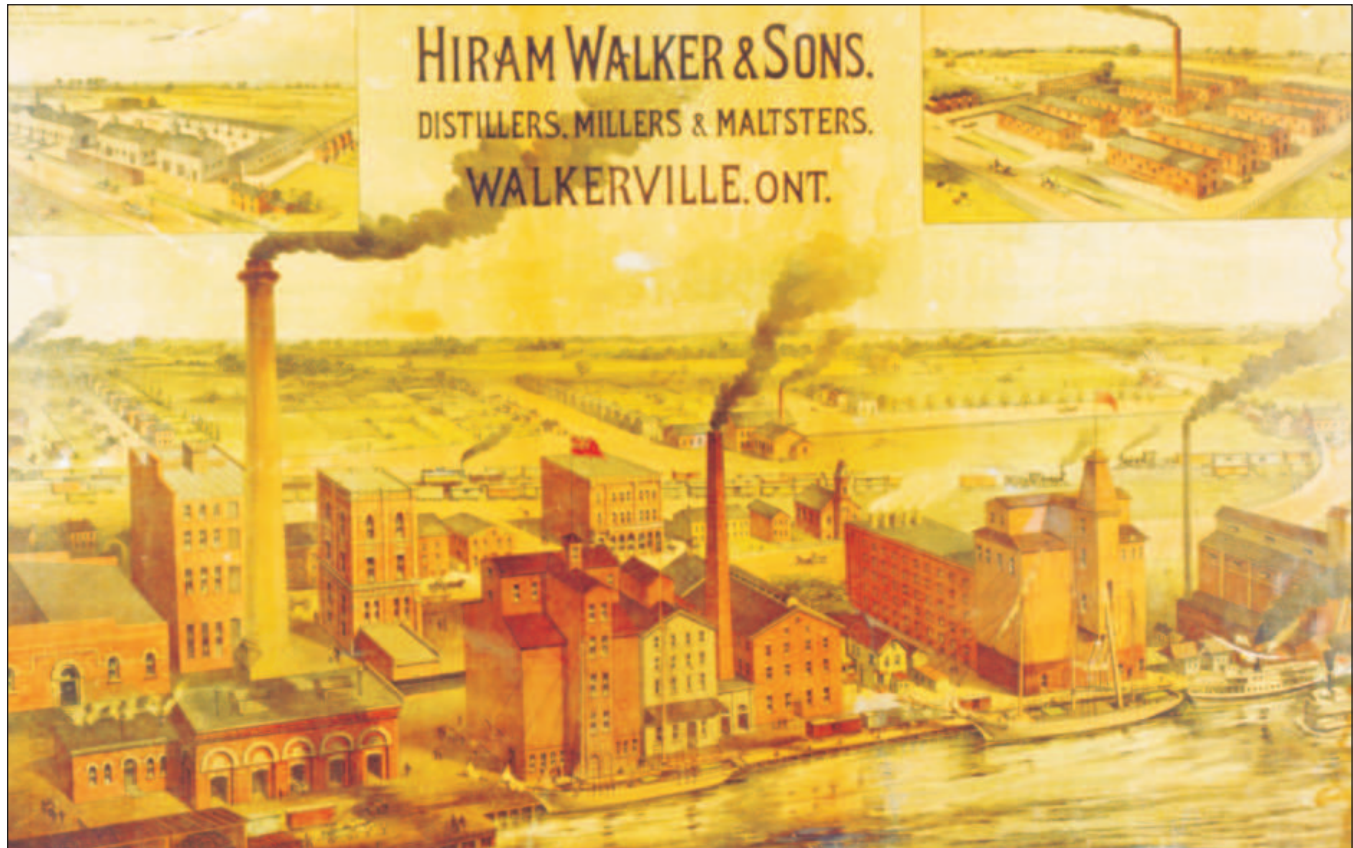
industries, developed in the past 150 years due to the vision of residents who used the Detroit River, to their advantage. Three hundred years

guidance of Hiram Walker who used his influence and wealth to implement its development. As the Ford plant prospered, Ford City grew very quickly



with a rush of new immigrants. Riverside grew by enticing wealthy Americans to build along their waterfront and by attracting managers from the new Ford Motor Company plant to build their homes there. This growth on the north eastern end of the river soon eclipsed that of some communities down river, including Sandwich and LaSalle, although Amherstburg benefited from the addition of industries such as Seagram's

Niagara Falls. Several shipyards were located along Lake Erie and the Detroit River by the late eighteenth century, including one at Detroit. Sailing ships proved invaluable to the British in defending Detroit during Pontiac's uprising in 1763. When the British were forced to abandon Detroit to the Americans, they immediately set out to build a new shipyard at Amherstburg. This Navy Yard was responsible for building the



An original painting of the Walker Distillery dating from 1891. (Courtesy of Hiram Walker's)

Distillery and the chemical company – Brunner Mond. Life throughout most of the river area bustled and small enterprises begun by eager entrepreneurs, would become major industries that would benefit Canadians well beyond the region.

#### Transportation

When Cadillac selected the narrowest point on the Detroit River for his new fort, he unknowingly influenced where important future transportation routes would converge. Cadillac and party had arrived by voyager canoes and had selected the site for its strategic military advantage. As time passed, however, this point on the river and the river itself, would become major transportation hubs for two growing countries. The era of sailing and steam ships in the River and Great Lakes began long before ships were able to bypass the

*H.M.S. Detroit*, the premiere British ship in the War of 1812. The new technology of steam shared the waters with sailing ships throughout the nineteenth century. The *Walk-in-the-Water*, the first steam ship to sail the river in August 1818, received a tumultuous welcome from both sides when it docked at Detroit.

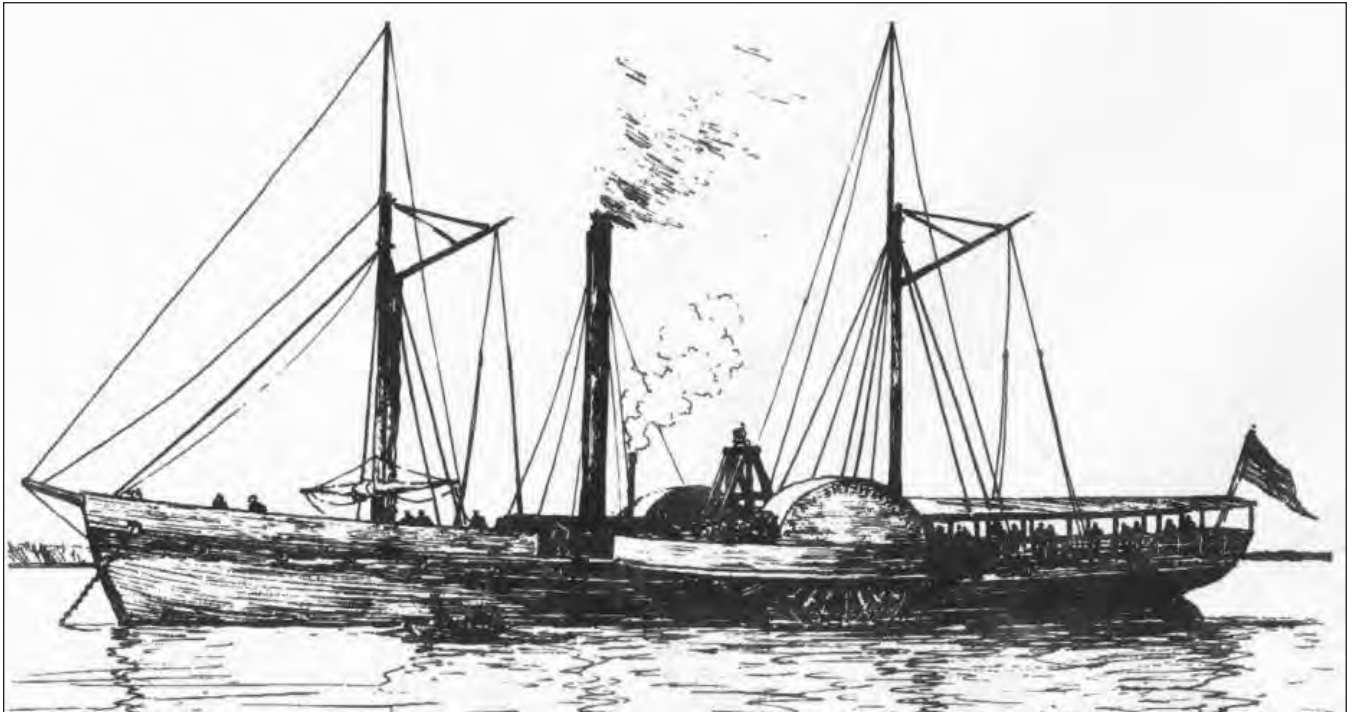
During the nineteenth century, shipping increased exponentially on the Detroit River, in large part, due to improvements made in connecting the Lakes to important sea ports and land routes. In 1824, the Erie Canal provided a new entrance to the mid-west and increased the river's importance as a transportation route. The route through Lake Erie and the river, was faster and safer than any route in existence at that time. In the first half of the century, most passenger ships from the east ended their journey at the Detroit River.

Emigrants who had boarded ships at Buffalo, disembarked at Detroit where they proceeded onwards to the mid-west. Passenger services also linked Detroit with Windsor, Sandusky, Toledo, Cleveland and Amherstburg. Some settlers travelled the land routes through Canada to reach Detroit and the first ferry operation began in the 1820's to accommodate them. By 1828, ferry operators had added a stage coach that ran to Buffalo; which brought even greater numbers of passengers to the Detroit River.

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, a new transportation method had entered the scene and changed Detroit River communities. The Great Western Railway completed its line from Buffalo to Windsor in 1854. The railways were of extraordinary importance in linking the Canadian shore of the Detroit River to all parts of the United States as well as central and eastern

Ferries and railways remained vital means of transportation along the river until the 1930's, when they were gradually replaced by the automobile and truck. The ferries could not deal with the volume of traffic attempting to cross the border. This led to two of the most costly engineering feats of the twentieth century, the Ambassador Bridge (1929) and the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel (1930). Today the tunnel and bridge accommodate thousands of vehicles daily, making Detroit-Windsor the busiest border crossing in North America.

Technology progressed on water just as it had on land. Ships increased in size and power, making dredging projects on the Detroit River a necessity. The greatest example of such a project is the Livingstone Channel located in the river near Amherstburg. Opened in 1912, the channel took five years to complete at a cost of nearly



The Walk-in-the-Water was the first steam boat on Lake Erie. It made its maiden voyage to Detroit amongst much fanfare in 1819.

Canada. Hundreds of thousands of passengers and tons of cargo were transported to Windsor and then ferried across the river. By the late nineteenth century, street railways linked communities along the river and throughout Essex County, bringing thousands of passengers to the ferries where they crossed the river each day to work in Michigan. The reverse traffic of Americans crossing to enjoy recreation opportunities located near the river, particularly the three horse racing tracks, also brought a great deal of business to the Canadian side.

7,000,000 dollars. Its opening led to the great lake freighters of today with 20-25 foot draughts. Today they carry bulk cargo products, such as iron ore or wheat, for major industries located along the Great Lakes. Their presence along with scores of pleasure craft, make the Detroit River one of the busiest waterways in the world.

#### **Water Extraction and the Development of Water Quality Programs**

From the earliest settlements to today's busy

urban centers, the Detroit River has provided water essential for community survival and development. In the first two centuries, residents drank clean water directly from the River while wastes were diluted in the River's vast flow. Settlements, agriculture and industries benefited from this water source and grew accordingly. By the mid to late nineteenth century, river front communities had piped water and flush toilets, but sewage was dumped directly into the river as it always had been. Water-borne diseases, such as cholera, had been problematic for decades. It was slowly becoming clear that what was thought to be clean drinking water was actually contaminated with infectious organisms.

In 1908, the Canadian and American governments jointly signed the Boundary Waters Act to deal with international water issues, including quality. The International Joint Commission (IJC) was formed as a bi-national body to provide research and advice on problems arising in boundary waters. These actions led to Windsor's first water filtration plant in the 1920's but it would be 1958 before the first sewage treatment facility was in operation. As the link between pollution and damaged river and lake ecosystems became clear, measures to clean the river have gradually increased. Today, cooperation continues between Canadians and Americans in the effort to clean up the Detroit River with renewed interest in protecting its waters for generations to come.

#### **The Detroit River's Influence on Regional Roles and Cultural Landscapes**

The first settlers along both shores of the Detroit River shared culture, resources, trade and even families. Through the centuries, the Detroit River and the international boundary have influenced regional roles and cultural landscapes, creating unique settings in communities that share a heritage bound by its waters.

The influence of the river in the development of unique cultural landscapes can be seen clearly in the region's French community. As the first settlers along the river, the French communities became close and tightly-knit, as neighbour helped neighbour, when problems occurred and little outside help was available. Through three centuries, pockets of French culture have survived along the River, especially in LaSalle, where schools and St. Joseph's Church still provide services in French. In spite of the distance from Quebec, this Francophone community continues to thrive.

As a terminus in the "underground railway", the Detroit River brought refugee slaves seeking freedom in Canada. Escaped slaves would often reach Cleveland, Sandusky or Toledo in Ohio, obtaining passage on ships with sympathetic captains. Most of these ships stopped at Amherstburg, where numerous slaves ended their journey. Former slaves also crossed into Canada on the ferry from Detroit. More poignant still, are the stories of refugees who swam the river, or crossed the river ice in winter, as immortalized in the book, 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. Thus, a new culture was brought to river-front communities. Leading local citizens who can trace their roots to this early population include the current mayor of Amherstburg (Wayne Hurst), a member of LaSalle council and a former member of Federal Parliament. Escaped slaves are also credited with establishing tobacco cultivation in Essex County.

Another example of the river's influence in developing regional roles and cultures can be seen in the City of Windsor's gambling industry. As a jurisdictional boundary, the river did more than physically separate the two shorelines. After the 1830's Michigan's population was greatly increased by large numbers of Protestant settlers from the eastern United States. They brought with them a more stern, puritanical outlook which was translated into several laws. By the end of the nineteenth century, popular pastimes of early settlers, such as gambling and bare knuckle prize fighting, had been outlawed in Michigan. Gambling, however, continued freely on the Canadian side. Although bare knuckle and cock fights were illegal in Essex County, they could be found nonetheless, in rural areas along the river, attracting large numbers of Americans. These activities decreased in popularity as the twentieth century began, but horse racing became the new and legal, industry to take their place. In the 1920's, although a relatively small city, Windsor had no less than three horse racing tracks, all conveniently located near the river. It was the thousands of Americans who came to gamble that made this possible. Today, this industry continues in Windsor, with a large race track and a new multi-million dollar casino, both of which attract thousands of American visitors every week.

The stern outlook that outlawed gambling in Michigan, also led to the Volstead Act in 1919, which prohibited the sale and manufacture of alcohol in the United States. This led to another unique role for the Detroit River, namely



## Nomination of the Detroit River



A Hodgkinson drawing showing the Ambassador Bridge which opened in 1929 and provided a transportation link between Windsor and Detroit. (Courtesy of Carl Morgan)

smuggling. While the sale of alcohol was prohibited in Ontario, there was no restriction on its manufacture. Thus, distilleries such as Hiram Walker's were still able to produce large amounts of alcohol for the export market. This export trade was handled by special companies located on wharves lining the river. The bills of lading indicated that the exports were destined for places such as Cuba or the Bahamas. Nevertheless, these cargos were loaded in small speed boats that would return empty within two hours for another load.

The physical characteristics of the Detroit River lent itself to smuggling with little fear of being intercepted by police or the U.S. Coast Guard. Boats could be easily hidden in the high reeds that lined much of the river's shorelines and islands. Light signals could be readily seen across the river to indicate that all was clear. In the winter, the river was often frozen solid and cars would quickly cross with illegal cargos at night. On the American side, a significant boat building industry developed in Gibraltar and on Grosse Isle, in response to smugglers' needs. This illegal, but prosperous activity continued well into the twenties until the lifting of prohibition and actually contributed much to the economy of river front communities.

Perhaps the most visible remaining reminder of the prohibition era, are the "road houses" still found along the Canadian side of the river. Although promoted as restaurants, these river front businesses also offered patrons a wide selection of illegal beverages. Each establishment



Whiskey smugglers get ready to make a run for the Detroit shore from a dock on the Windsor waterfront near the current Caron Ave. pumping station. (Courtesy of The Windsor Border Police)

had a marina for American visitors, along with look-outs to warn of any impending raid by local police. Today, those that remain offer a colourful history along with the food and beverages that they serve.



Through 300 years, river communities have developed unique cultural landscapes, while sharing a heritage bound by the Detroit River. First settled by native and French people, then the British, thousands more followed from diverse cultures to create today's cosmopolitan setting. Along the river, unique settings have developed: historic Amherstburg, the French community in LaSalle, or stately Walkerville to name a few. However, all river front communities share a common legacy in the form of heritage buildings, historic islands, literature, artworks, songs and river front parks. Heritage buildings, some more than 200 years old, are located along the river from Amherstburg to Windsor. All communities now have waterfront parks, the development of which continues today. The river islands share common histories: they provided resources for native people and settlers, were scenes of important military battles and later, provided recreational opportunities for American and Canadian residents. Songs and folk-tales passed down from generation to generation give a colourful glimpse into lives of early residents. Literature, such as John Richardson's 1842 novel "War of 1812" and artwork, such as Dr. Edward Walsh's "View of Detroit...from the Huron Church" in 1804 (See pg. 6), provide a clearer view of life along the river in previous centuries. These works illustrate the distinct nature of different cultures that settled along the river and yet, demonstrate the shared heritage of people who came together to take advantage of the Detroit River and all of the opportunities it offered.

### Summary

In 2001, the tercentennial of European settlement will be celebrated along the Detroit River. The interaction between the river's two shores has continued throughout the history of Canada and the United States. Major milestones in each country's development can be traced to events and trends along the Detroit River. The river and its basin constitute a microcosm of North American history in a way which is not duplicated anywhere else. Local communities, major industries and both Canada and the United States owe their development, in part, to the Detroit River and its residents who took advantage of its potential. Today, there is renewed understanding that while separated under two flags, communities are still bound together by the river. As the (300th) tercentennial nears, this renewed spirit of cooperation will move the Detroit River and its communities into the twenty-first century.

## Assessment of Human Heritage Values

**The purpose of this section is to identify which of the human heritage selection guidelines appear to be met by the river, by quoting the guidelines and briefly describing the human heritage values that appear to meet them.**

*Outstanding human heritage value will be recognized when a river environment meets one or more of the following guidelines:*

*It is of outstanding importance owing to its influence, over a period of time, on the historical development of Canada through a major impact upon the region in which it is located or beyond; this would include its role in such historical themes as native people, settlement patterns and transportation.*

The Detroit River influenced the historical development of Canada by having a major impact upon the region and beyond, which is categorized for this report in the following themes:

- » European exploration, colonization and conflict
- » Native People
- » Early river settlements
- » Urban Centers and Major Industries
- » Transportation
- » Water Extraction and the Development of Water Quality Legislation
- » Regional Roles and Cultural Landscapes

### European Exploration, Colonization and Conflict

European exploration of the Detroit River region likely began almost four hundred years ago. The French, who realized the significance of the river as a strategic location to advance the fur trade and to protect their territories, established Fort Pontchartrain in 1701. The importance of this site was recognized by the other colonial powers and Fort Pontchartrain would change hands twice more, first to the British in 1760, then to the Americans in 1796.

The formation of the new international boundary did little to ease the tensions between the two countries and the War of 1812 was the result. The Detroit River became the scene for important battles. It was the officers from the recently established post at Fort Malden who formed an alliance with Tecumseh and his warriors. General Brock and Tecumseh repelled General

## Nomination of the Detroit River



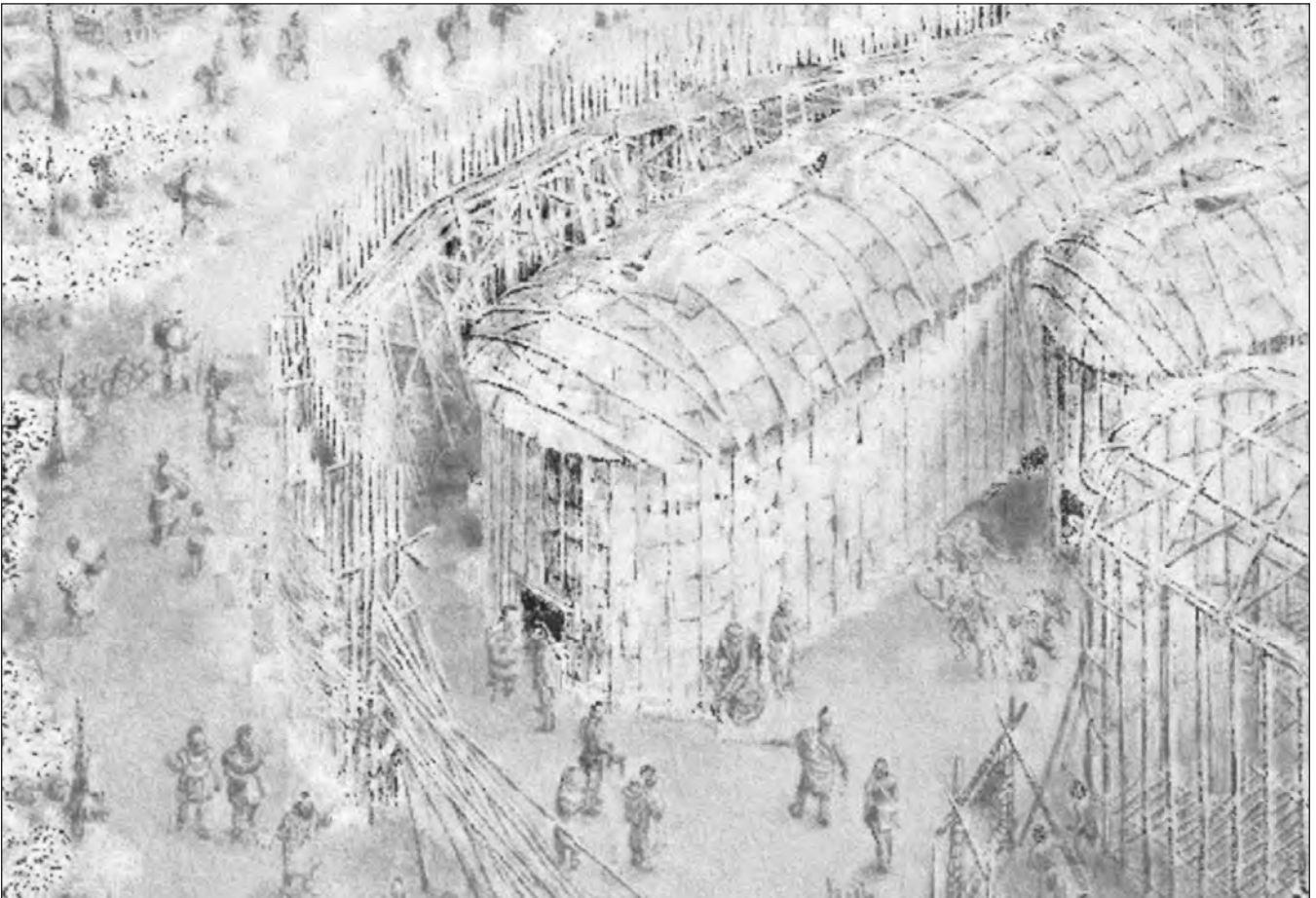
A lithograph of the young Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. (Courtesy of Dr. Trevor Price)

Hull's advance to Fort Malden and later forced Hull to surrender Fort Detroit, at least for a time, even though they were greatly outnumbered. The Navy Yard, established in 1796 at Amherstburg, produced ships for the war, including the *H.M.S Detroit* which fought in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Tensions, which had been gradually declining, would rise again between Canada and the United States during the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837–38. Once again, the river was the scene of battles, including the victories for Canadians who captured the American Schooner, *Anne* and fought in the Battle of Fighting Island. The successful end of the rebellion and the Webster–Ashburton agreement of 1842 brought an end to hostilities between Canada and the United States. The Detroit River, its fortifications, armies and residents played a significant role in preserving the Canadian and United States boundary and in forming the friendly relations that are shared today.

### Native People

For centuries before white settlement, native people used the Detroit River as a means of



Huron long houses were located on Bob-lo (Bois Blanc) Island during the establishment of the first Jesuit Mission in 1743. A census revealed long houses similar to the drawing housed approximately six hundred people. (Courtesy of Dr. Trevor Price)

travel, resource gathering and trade. There is evidence of more than a dozen prehistoric or early native settlement sites along the river's Canadian shore, including encampments and burial grounds.

The native people who settled along the river after the establishment of Fort Pontchartrain left their mark on the region's history. The Detroit River and Fort Pontchartrain were the site of the end of Pontiac's uprising, after he had successfully captured eleven other British forts. Tecumseh's alliance with the British was formed along the river, where the allies fought several important battles against the Americans in the War of 1812. The Huron Mission, established in the early 1700's, led to the eventual formation of the Anderdon Reserve along the southern portion of the river. This reserve was dissolved in 1875, but the contributions by native people to settlements and military battles along the Detroit River endure as an important and fascinating part of the region's history.

#### **Early River Settlement**

Petite Côte was established on the Canadian river shore in 1748 and is the oldest permanent European settlement in Ontario. The côte's long narrow lots were designed to give as many settlers as possible access to the river which they depended on for food, water, transportation and communications. It was the river that ensured the success of these settlements and later, the urban centres.

The Detroit River basin was a vital source for furs in the eighteenth century. Even after its fur supplies dwindled, the Towns of Detroit and Sandwich remained important fur trade centres due to their strategic location. Eventually, the fur trade ended, but the River and Lakes supplied another resource for a new industry: fish. For a time, fish factories along both sides of the river employed hundreds of people, shipping thousands of barrels of fish across Canada and the United States. The river ensured early settlement survival and growth. Residents used the river's resources to support important early industries and businesses, while providing food for thousands of people in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

#### **Urban Centres and Major Industries**

The location and development of the region's first urban centres, Amherstburg, Sandwich and Windsor, were not only influenced but essentially determined by the Detroit River. Amherstburg

and Sandwich were established more than 200 years ago when the British were forced to abandon Detroit to the Americans. Amherstburg was selected as the site for a new fort and navy yard because of its strategic location on the river. The site for Sandwich, the new administrative centre for the Western District, was chosen for accessibility to Detroit and the river. Windsor developed as the closest and easiest ferry crossing to Detroit.

The railways brought new transportation routes and prominence to Windsor. Entrepreneurs capitalized on the river, the rail lines and differences in international trade laws and duties, to establish new businesses.

These small enterprises grew to become major industries such as Ford of Canada and Hiram Walker's, employing thousands of Canadians both within this region and beyond. New towns grew with the industries, as thousands of immigrants poured into the area with the promise of jobs. The Detroit River area demonstrates the symbiotic effects of industry and residential development and further, illustrates how industries begun along one river, can benefit many well beyond its shores.

#### **Transportation**

To the area's first settlers, the Detroit River was the most efficient means of transportation and communication with the outside world. As settlements grew, the Detroit River became part of a vital water transportation route, for ships carrying passengers and cargo between new towns and to the opening mid-west. The later arrival of the railway brought thousands more, from Buffalo and eastern Canada to Windsor, where ferries carried passengers across the river to continue with their journey. By the late nineteenth century, street railways connected communities along the river and throughout the county, carrying thousands to the ferries where they crossed the river to work in Michigan. The reverse traffic of Americans crossing the river to enjoy recreation opportunities in Windsor greatly added to the busy crossing.

As technology progressed, roadways and cars replaced trains. The ferries could not cope with the volumes of traffic crossing the river. This led to the opening of the Ambassador Bridge (1929) and the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel in 1930. Today the bridge and tunnel accommodate thousands of vehicles daily, making Windsor/Detroit



the busiest border crossing in North America. In the past 200 years, the Detroit River has been one of the busiest waterways in the world. Literature describes a river filled with schooners, sculls, steamboats and the occasional canoe in the nineteenth century, while lake and ocean freighters as well as pleasure craft of all sizes fill its waters today. The freighters and the cargos they carry continue to benefit industries along the river and beyond, playing a vital role in Canadian and American economies.

#### **Water Extraction and the Development of Water Quality Legislation**

Since the beginning, the Detroit River has provided water for residents, agriculture and industries. The river has also been used to carry away the resulting wastes. By the late nineteenth century, all river front communities had piped water and flush toilets, but sewage was dumped directly into the river as it always had been. Water quality and resulting infectious diseases, had become a problem for metropolitan Windsor and Detroit. By the 1900's, the river was making it clear that the actions of one country could have dire consequences on the amenities of the other. This set the stage for the signing of the Boundary Waters Act in 1908, which dealt with international water issues and established the International Joint Commission (IJC). Reports by the IJC slowly led to all river front communities installing water filtration and later, sewage treatment plants. Today, cooperation continues, as residents from both shores work to meet challenges in an effort to ensure a healthy Detroit River ecosystem and clean waters for generations to come. The IJC office is now located on the river in Windsor.

#### **Regional Roles and Cultural Landscapes**

Through the centuries, the Detroit River and the international boundary have influenced regional roles and cultural landscapes, creating unique settings in communities who share a heritage bound by its waters. A vital local French community and contributions of former slaves who came to Canada via the underground railroad, are two examples of unique cultures influenced by the river. The river has also influenced Windsor's gambling industry and provides a colourful history of alcohol smuggling during the prohibition era.

The Canadian islands in the river share common histories having provided resources for native people and settlers, sites for important military

battles and recreation opportunities for Canadians and Americans alike. The river front communities share in a legacy of heritage buildings and waterfront parks. Songs, folk tales and literature passed down through generations provide a vibrant glimpse into lives of early settlers. All of these are reminders of the past and demonstrate the shared heritage of different people who came together to seize the opportunities offered by and along, the Detroit River.



This view of the Navy Yard Park in Amherstburg shows the Detroit River and Bob-lo Island in the background. (Courtesy of Carl Morgan)

*The Detroit River is strongly associated with persons, events, movements, achievements, ideas or beliefs of Canadian significance.*



The Detroit River and its basin have been associated with numerous persons, events and achievements of Canadian significance through nearly four hundred years of recorded history. The list below provides some of the most important.

1. Native people who used the river, its islands and shores as resource gathering sites, encampments, burial grounds and spiritual places for centuries before European settlement.
2. French and Jesuit explorers who first visited the region nearly 400 years ago, giving the cartographer Sanson information that enabled him to draw a map of the entire region, including Lakes Erie and St. Clair, in 1650.
3. Jesuit missionaries, Brebeuf and Choumont who, in the early 1600's, established a Neutral village, which they named St. Michel, along the southeastern shore of the Detroit River, near present day Little River in Windsor.
4. French priests, Casson and Galinee, who undertook the first recorded European voyage up the Detroit River in 1669.
5. Sieur de LaSalle, who navigated the first sailing ship, the '*Griffon*' along the river in 1679.
6. Hennepin, who accompanied LaSalle and gave one of the first descriptions of Detroit River and its surrounding lands.
7. Sieur de la Mothe Cadillac who convinced authorities of the strategic importance of the Detroit River and established Fort Pontchartrain in 1701.
8. French voyageurs who travelled thousands of kilometres, through rough terrain, bringing the first settlers and supplies to Fort Pontchartrain and also, carried tons of furs from Detroit to Montreal.
9. The Ottawa people, who established a village in the early eighteenth century on the Canadian shore of the Detroit River, where they remained for more than 60 years.
10. The Huron mission, established in 1728 with the Jesuits. Located first on Bois Blanc Island, then at La Pointe de Montreal on the Canadian shore, it formed the nucleus for the Catholic Parish of Assumption, the first in Ontario.
11. The Huron Reserve, established first at the Mission, then sold to create the Town of Sandwich. The Anderdon Reserve replaced it, but was dissolved in 1875.
12. Petite Côte, formed by French settlers from the St. Lawrence in 1749, is the oldest permanent agricultural settlement in Ontario, and is now part of the Town of LaSalle.
13. Chief Pontiac, who created a confederacy with the goal of capturing all British forts, and surrounding territories, but failed when he was unable to capture Fort Lenault.
14. The Treaty of Paris, which ended the American Revolution in 1783 and created the international boundary along the Detroit River.
15. The Honourable James Baby, 1763–1833, who held important positions in provincial government and who lived on the river for many years giving the Duff–Baby House its name.
16. Alexander McKee and Colonel Matthew Elliott who played important roles in difficult negotiations with native people that resulted in the purchase of most lands along Lake Erie, the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair.
17. Lt. Colonel William Caldwell, a veteran of the War of 1812 and a prominent member of the British Indian Department.
18. The Shawnee warrior Tecumseh who established an alliance with the British and fought in important battles in the War of 1812 including the Skirmishes at River Canard and the Capture of Detroit.
19. British Generals Procter and Brock who fought with Tecumseh and his warriors in the Battles mentioned above.
20. The Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837–38 and the successful battles fought along the Detroit River, including the Capture of the '*Anne*', the skirmish on Fighting Island and the Battle of Windsor.
21. The Great Saux Trail, travelled by native people from the developing United States,

- who made annual pilgrimages to Fort Malden to receive gifts from the British until the 1830's.
22. The Town of Sandwich, established in 1797 along the shores of the Detroit River which became the administrative centre for the Western District.
  23. The Town of Amherstburg, established with the new military post and navy yard in 1796 because of its strategic location along the navigable channel of the southern portion of the Detroit River.
  24. The City of Windsor, which formed and prospered due to the ferry crossing to Detroit and other influences of the Detroit River.
  25. The fur trade and fishing industries of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in which the Detroit River played a central role and contributed greatly to both local and national economies.
  26. The Great Western Railway, one of Ontario's pioneering railways, ran from Niagara to Windsor. Its opening in 1854, increased the importance of Windsor and the Detroit River as a transportation route to the opening west.
  27. Col. Arthur Rankin, who commanded the Ninth Military District from 1855 to 1861 and served three terms as a member in parliament for Essex County.
  28. The University of Windsor, which originated from Assumption College, the school founded by the Jesuits of the Huron Mission, in 1857 on the banks of the Detroit River.
  29. The "Underground Railway," which ended in both Amherstburg and Windsor, bringing escaped slaves to freedom in Canada, many of whom settled along the river front.
  30. Hiram Walker, who founded the distillery, Hiram Walker and Sons Ltd., on the river front, formed the community of Walkerville, and provided many philanthropic contributions to the Windsor area.
  31. Henry Ford, who along with Gordon McGregor and other businessmen, started Ford of Canada in a small factory on the Detroit River in 1904.
  32. Prohibition, which led to an era of smuggling alcohol across the river in the 1920's and 'road houses', some of which still exist along the waterfront, that catered to Americans who visited by boat.
  33. The Ontario gambling industry, which originated in Windsor due to its proximity to Detroit and the differences in law between Ontario and Michigan and is now a significant part of the region's cultural and economic fabric.
  34. The local French community, descended from the first people who settled the river front and is still thriving today.
  35. Ships, such as the schooner *Huron*, which supplied Fort Pontchartrain during Pontiac's siege, the *H.M.S. Detroit*, which was built in Amherstburg and became the premiere British ship in the War of 1812, the *J.T. Wing*, a schooner that sailed the river and lakes and was brought to Belle Isle in 1949 and the *Walk-in-the-Water*, the first steam ship to sail the lakes and river in 1818. This brief listing gives an idea of the rich Great Lakes maritime history that is shared by the Detroit River.
  36. The Detroit River ferries, the first of which were operated by two Canadian businessmen, McKinstry and Burns in the 1820's. For more than 100 years the ferries provided the most efficient mode of transport for millions of people and tons of cargo and were an important link in the route to settle parts of Western Canada and the United States
  37. The Canada Southern Railway, which first established a terminus in Amherstburg, then in 1883, re-established it in Windsor. In 1908, this railway was connected by a tunnel under the river to the Michigan Central Railway. This tunnel remains in operation today.
  38. The Essex Terminal Railway, which linked all river front communities by 1918, transporting cargos for major industries. This line still moves more freight per mile of rail than any other in Canada.
  39. The Livingstone Channel, constructed near Amherstburg between 1907 and 1912, which opened the river to today's large ocean-going and lake freighters.
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40. The Ambassador Bridge (1929) and the Detroit–Windsor Tunnel which opened in 1930 making Windsor/Detroit the busiest border crossing in North America. Now part of the NAFTA super highway, the bridge alone in September 1998 recorded more than 6,000 trucks crossing into Canada in a single day.
41. The Boundary Waters Act, signed in 1908 by Canada and the United States to deal with international water issues and to form the International Joint Commission. Recommendations made by the Commission in 1913 and 1914 led to water filtration measures and later, sewage treatment in river front communities.
42. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signed by both countries in 1972 and amended in 1978, which led to further measures being taken by river front communities to clean up the Detroit River.
43. Detroit River communities participated in the formation of the Essex Region Conservation Authority in 1973, which has since coordinated numerous projects to protect the river's shoreline and natural areas and to clean up its waters.
44. The formation of public waterfront parks, which began primarily in the early twentieth century and continues today in all communities. These parks provide green space and opportunities for residents and tourists to enjoy the river.
45. Bob–lo Island, which was one of the sites for the Huron Mission, was used as forward defenses for Fort Malden by the British, was the main encampment for Tecumseh and his warriors in preparing for the War of 1812, and finally served as a major recreation destination and amusement park for Canadian and American residents from the late nineteenth century until 1993.
46. Inspired, at least in part, by the Detroit River and events that occurred along it, a number of artists have produced paintings and art work through three centuries. Some of Ontario's' first artists lived along the river including Dr. Edward Walsh, who painted the earliest known scene of the river in 1804, and Catherine Reynolds. Modern artists include Ron Suchui and Leo Kuschel.
47. The Detroit River has inspired novelists and historians to produce works on the Detroit River. Two notable nineteenth century authors who wrote about the river or events along it include John Richardson and Anne Jamieson. Dr. Bryan Walls wrote an account of his ancestors who came to Essex County via the "underground railroad." There are several accounts of river life produced by historians covering three centuries of development. Authors include: E.J.Lajeunesse, Michael Power, Frederic Neal, Marty Gervais, Carl Morgan, Herb Colling, Dr. Trevor Price and Larry Kulisek.
48. In addition to those noted earlier, a number of notable Canadians and some Americans, have been associated with the Canadian shores of the river including: Chief Joseph White, who was the last chief of the Huron reserve and received a medal from the Prince of Wales for his role in quashing the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837–38, Solomon White, a native Mayor of Windsor in 1890 and a member of Ontario Legislature for fourteen years, Henry Bibb, who published the *Voice of the Fugitive*, Father Potier, a missionary priest, sent to establish a mission to the Hurons in 1743 and his lexicon of the French language which was the only study under the pre-conquest French.
49. Notable Canadian and U.S. Politicians from the Detroit River area included; General William Harrison who briefly occupied the Baby house in 1813 and later became the President of the United States, Eugene Whelan, former federal agriculture minister and now a Senator, Paul Martin Sr., former member of federal parliament, Paul Martin Jr., Federal Minister of Finance and Herb Gray, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada.
50. The Detroit River is the site of the International Freedom Festival, which was begun more than 40 years ago to celebrate the heritage and peace shared between Canada and the United States. Today millions of people crowd the river front on both sides to enjoy numerous events including the annual fireworks display which is conducted from three barges in the middle of the river.

*The Detroit River contains historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are unique, rare or of great antiquity and contains outstanding examples or concentrations of historical or archaeological structures, works or sites which are representative of major themes in Canadian history.*

## Historical Integrity

**The purpose of this section is to describe how the Detroit River appears to meet the historical integrity guidelines.**

1. There are more than a dozen archaeological sites along the Detroit River that date from prehistoric to native settlements in the past two centuries.
2. Bellevue, a Georgian style house built in 1812, located on the river south of Amherstburg. This was the home of artist Catherine Reynolds.
3. Fort Malden, now a National Historic Site, and the Kings Navy Yard, commemorated as a waterfront park, are two important sites in Amherstburg representing the early nineteenth century and the War of 1812.
4. As a 200 year old town, Amherstburg contains several significant buildings and century homes. Some of the most notable include: Christ Church (1819), St. John the Baptist Church (1899), the Gordon House (1798), the Park House (1798, now a museum) and the North American Black Historical Museum.
5. Sandwich, now part of Windsor and also 200 years old, contains significant heritage buildings including the former District Court House and Gaol (now MacKenzie Hall), the Duff-Baby mansion (1796), the Zoli Antiques building (1808), St. John's Church and Assumption Church, located on the site of the original mission.
6. The reconstructed windmill, located on its original site in Sandwich and representative of others once located along the river because it was a natural wind tunnel.
7. Notable heritage buildings in Windsor include: the Francois Baby House, (now Windsor's Community Museum), the Capitol Theatre, Willistead Manor (former home of E.C. Walker, son of Hiram Walker), Holy Rosary Church (1911) and many other designated heritage buildings.

*Most of its regime should have the same visual appearance as it had during the period of the river's historic period when it was considered of outstanding importance. Most of the artifacts comprising the values for which the river is nominated must be unimpaired by impoundments and human land uses. Neighbouring land uses must not seriously affect the historical experience offered by the river environment.*

The Detroit River's regime has remained basically unchanged since the area was discovered by European explorers more than 300 years ago. Today, it flows past the same lands and islands, without impoundments, as it has for centuries. Its shorelines have changed in many locations through erosion protection projects and urban development, but pockets of undeveloped land still exist, appearing much as they did in the past. Today the river is even busier with pleasure craft and freighters, just as it was with sculls, schooners and steam boats a century ago.

The Detroit River shorelines now include urban skylines, rail lines, industrial developments, parklands, farms and natural areas. Each of these uses is representative of the several periods which have contributed equally to the river's historical significance. Far from detracting from the historical experience, these neighbouring land uses are part of that experience as testimony to the river's influence on Canadian and international history. In addition there are several sites, such as Fort Wayne, which are found on the American side of the river.

There are rich examples of *in situ* (in its original place) historical artifacts along the Detroit River. Archaeological sites, Fort Malden and several heritage buildings represent pre-settlement, as well as the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Residents and visitors can learn about the past at several museums including Fort Malden, the Park House, the North American Black Historical Museum and Windsor's Community Museum, formerly the Francois Baby House. The twentieth century skylines, river tunnels and Ambassador Bridge also represent an important period in the



river's history. Their use today will write the history books of tomorrow.

Previous generations have left numerous cultural resources now found in museums, libraries, parklands and private collections. Artifacts, ranging from arrowheads to cannons and ship anchors, tell the story of the river's heritage. Historical accounts, told through personal letters, journals, or published books, provide a glimpse of past generations and the river's influence in their daily lives. Photos, drawings and paintings, some more than two hundred years old, provide an even clearer picture of the past. Equally important are the songs, legends and folk-tales that have been passed down from generation to generation, providing poignant chapters of the river's story.

It must also be remembered that the Detroit River itself is a cultural resource and is especially unique because it is shared by two countries. As people gaze on the river today, the feelings they experience – awe, optimism and hope, are perhaps the same as those felt by explorers and settlers centuries ago. The connection with the river today is, in many ways, the same as in previous generations. That connection is as valuable to people as the tangible and intangible artifacts that have been left behind, each contributing to the unique heritage of the Detroit River.

## Recreational Values

### Description of Recreational Values

**The purpose of this section is to describe the outstanding recreational features of the Detroit River and its immediate environment.**

In describing the recreational values along the river, there are eight distinct themes that can be used: boating, fishing and hunting, parklands and other recreation, trails and corridors, nature appreciation, human heritage appreciation; tourism and ecotourism; and the scenic river. (Appendix 10)

#### Boating

The history of boating on the Detroit River can be linked to the first "industry" in the region – the fur trade. Transportation then depended on walking great distances, or traveling by canoe. Later, sailing ships began to dominate as the method for moving goods. By the early 1900's, many families rented boats for excursions across

the river, to the islands, to Detroit, or to go fishing. The Detroit River became very well known in the early 1900s for shipbuilding including several famous side-wheel passenger ships. The steamer ships became a regular site along the Detroit River and regularly carried more than 1,000 passengers on each formal, glitzy cruise



Wedding on the River

complete with orchestras and dancing. These passenger ships carried 12 million people through the Detroit River in the first part of this century. These boats also regularly held races on the Detroit River and into Lake Erie which provided for lucrative gambling opportunities.

Although it will always remain a key transportation and shipping link, most of its travellers today use recreational watercraft along its lengths. The Detroit River has developed a reputation as the premier boating river in North America with more registered boats than anywhere else in the Great Lakes System. The public and private marinas on both the Canadian and American sides of the river provide more than 12,000 slips, underlining the significance of boating in river communities and not just in terms of recreation. The economic impact of boating in the Detroit River region is estimated at more than one billion dollars annually.



International Freedom Festival Fireworks



Walter K. Ranta Marina

A number of sailing and yacht clubs have also flourished. The American side of the Detroit River also has a long history of recreational boating. Founded shortly after the Civil War, the Detroit Yacht Club (DYC) on Belle Isle, is the largest yacht club in North America. Quite recently the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the boating community, Canadian Coast Guard and the private sector, have created a unique partnership in establishing and managing the White Sands Conservation Area - Ontario's first boat-only accessible Conservation Area.

There is also a growing number of canoeists, kayakers and rowers using the river. The Detroit River is home to the oldest rowing club in continuous existence in the world - the Detroit Boat Club on Belle Isle. In fact, rowing clubs have used the Detroit River since 1875 and clubs in LaSalle, Wyandotte, E-corse and Detroit still use the river today.

Boat restoration projects underway on both sides of the river, most notably the *HMS Detroit* in Amherstburg and the *Columbia* in Detroit, point to the cultural significance and grandeur of boating and the considerable interest in the boating history of the Detroit River region.

### Fishing and Hunting

The Detroit River system provides diverse habitats for a wide variety of fish and birds. It supports in excess of three million waterfowl including mallards, blue-wing teal, wood ducks, black tucks, pin tails, scaup, canvasback and redheads and suitable habitat for island nesting, colonial birds and rare and endangered species such as the bald eagle.

Waterfowl hunting is popular within wetlands in the Detroit River watershed and there are also hunting seasons for pheasant and deer.



Assumption Park

The river has been used for recreational fishing since before the turn of the century but there are few records from that early era. Of the 117 species of fish that inhabit the Great Lakes, 65 are found in the Detroit River. The river and its watershed are home to significant spawning and fishing grounds for bass, walleye, perch and sturgeon. The diversity and quantity of fish have made the river a year round centre of activity for anglers. Fishing in the Detroit River – Lake St. Clair system generates in excess of \$10,000,000 annually.

Fishing is not limited to the rural parts of the river. The Detroit River has often been considered the premier urban fishery in North America because of its variety of species and access to the river.

Projects now underway along the Detroit River and upstream in its watersheds will re-introduce species and improve wetland and upland habitat. These projects reflect community interest in maintaining fishing and hunting opportunities, as well as the need for the long term management and protection of both public and private habitat areas.

#### **Parklands and Other Recreation**

The heritage and cultural values of Detroit River communities are reflected in their waterfront parks. The region's development patterns and economy were based on access to the river.

Windsor, LaSalle, Amherstburg and on the American side, Detroit and the downriver communities have recognized the importance of open space along the river. They have developed parks and open space systems that reflect human heritage, provide access to the river and venues for festivals, events and public amenities.

These lands are popular year round with joggers, cyclists, fishermen, photographers and many others. They offer spectacular views of the Detroit River itself including urban skylines and rural shorelines. Because of their strategic location, accessibility and recreational diversity, these waterfronts have potential to attract visitors from regional, national and even international markets.

Visitors to the City of Detroit who look across the river to Windsor and see that city's extensive river front park system will soon be able to enjoy a new riverwalk greenway. It will provide access to the Detroit River and ultimately connect lands from Belle Isle, America's largest urban/island park, south to the Ambassador Bridge. This

project will also tie together several existing parks, linking them to greenways in Michigan's down river communities, including Trenton and Wyandotte.

#### **Trails and Corridors**

A system of trails designed to appeal to both fitness and nature enthusiasts has been planned to traverse the agricultural landscape, urban centres, parklands, natural areas and smaller communities in the Detroit River watershed. Plans in Windsor, Detroit and the down river communities call for expansion of existing river front parks and trails systems to create a larger linked system along both sides of the river.

#### **Nature Appreciation**

The southern location of the Detroit River makes its natural landscapes incredibly diverse and among the most significant in Canada. As part of Canada's "South Coast", surrounded by water, the region in general has a very moderate climate and as a result, contains the greatest variety of plants and animals in the country. Many species are considered nationally, provincially and regionally, rare or endangered and found nowhere else in Canada. The Detroit River corridor and the region in general, are noted for its lush marshes, beautiful Carolinian woodlands, tall grass prairie, savanna and alvar habitats.

The Detroit River area is internationally recognized for birds, plant and animal species and the nature appreciation opportunities made possible by that diversity. People from around the world visit the region every spring and fall to take in some of the best birding on the planet. The communities along the river have recognized the significance of their open spaces and are taking measures to protect them through land use planning, planning policies and development regulations. Corporate support for the Essex Region Conservation Foundation and other conservation initiatives clearly shows that the private sector also sees the need to be actively involved in the protection of natural areas.

#### **Human Heritage Appreciation**

The communities along the Detroit River pride themselves on the depth of their human heritage and its close association with the river. Special events, festivals, landmarks and museums reflect the significance of the river in the history of these communities. This history is also evident in the parks and open spaces along the river. These parks often include reminders of important local historical events. The programming at historic



sites such as Fort Malden in Amherstburg and Fort Wayne in Detroit are especially noteworthy.

### Tourism and Ecotourism

Tourism is a multi-million dollar industry in the Detroit River region and a major economic engine in its communities. Interest in the region is expanding to the international marketplace. Travel writers and tour operators from the United Kingdom, Japan, South Africa, Germany and France are now providing editorial coverage on the region in the overseas marketplace. The Detroit River has also recently been a destination for Cruise Ships. The increase in general sightseeing is due in part to the development of specialized tours such as African American Heritage or local wineries. Local sightseeing tours are offering a spectacular view of the river by boat, in addition to coordinating weddings ceremonies, receptions, galas and meetings. Eco-tourism, or nature based tourism, is a growing industry, which makes use of the natural landscape along the river, its location along bird migration flightpaths and the diversity species and habitats unique in Canada. Festivals and events which are



Summer Scene by the Detroit River

internationally recognized take place on the river each year as a celebration for local communities and a destination for tourists.

### The Scenic River

The Detroit River is visually impressive. The sight of lake and ocean freighters, all manner of pleasure craft, urban skylines and nearby rural landscapes, rare and endangered wildlife species and a cannon still poised at an historic fort, provide a diverse and scenic mosaic. It is a river that provides a rich variety of views both from water and land. The vistas change along the course of the river, from the upper urban landscape and the unique skyline, to the middle wetlands and agricultural land, to the lower cultural and recreational

landscape. The views of the Detroit River change and are visually appealing from day to night and through each of the seasons. This character forms the backdrop to the many events and festivals held at the Detroit River each year and makes it a river landscape of constant visual interest.

## Assessment of Recreational Values

**The purpose of this section is to state whether or not the following two selection guidelines appear to be met by the river and, if so, to quote the guidelines and briefly describe how the Detroit River's recreation values appear to meet these guidelines.**

*The river possesses an appropriate combination of recreational opportunities and related natural values which together provide capability for an outstanding recreational experience. Be capable of supporting recreational uses without significant loss of or impact on its natural, historic and aesthetic values.*

The Detroit River does support wide and varied recreational pursuits without significant loss or impact on its natural, cultural, or aesthetic values. In fact, recreational pursuits such as nature and human heritage appreciation, hunting, fishing and birding rely heavily on their natural and cultural landscapes. Planning and management of the lands by local, regional and provincial governments show a strong commitment to the Detroit River and its resources. This commitment is reflected in the conservation of natural lands through official plans and zoning; and an unrelenting dedication to maintaining an accessible river front parks system. This is accomplished through acquisition, planning, corridor development and respect for natural and human heritage in the design and management of public lands along the river.

## Recreation Integrity

**The purpose of this section is to describe how the Detroit River appears to meet the recreational integrity guidelines.**

*In addition to meeting both of the above guidelines, for a river to be judged to have outstanding Canadian recreational value, it should possess water of a quality suitable for the recreational activities pursued.*



In addition to meeting the recreational value guidelines for Canadian Heritage River Status, the Detroit River possesses water quality adequate for many forms of recreation throughout its length, from on-water recreational pursuits such as swimming and boating, to related pursuits such as hunting, fishing and nature appreciation. In fact, the quality of the river combined with the region's moderate climate supports unique landscapes and habitats found nowhere else in Canada. It also provides drinking water to more than five million people. This level of quality is due to efforts by many provincial, regional and local agencies such as the Essex Region Conservation Authority. The Detroit River Cleanup and habitat enhancement initiatives will permit all uses of the river to continue. Public education projects further demonstrate a commitment to improve the quality of the resource for generations to come.

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## Natural Heritage Values

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### Description of Natural Heritage Values

**The purpose of this section is to describe the outstanding natural heritage features of the river and its immediate environment.**

The Detroit River conveys more than 90% of the water that flows into Lake Erie discharging an average of 458 billion litres of water per day. This amount comparable to the mighty rivers of the world. In addition, it provides drinking water for over five million people. The river rarely freezes completely, providing long seasons for access. The Detroit River watershed drains more than 2,000 square kilometres and consists of rich soils deposited on what is an ancient lake bottom. This rich soil and generally flat topography provided excellent conditions for the development of lush forests and large areas of highly productive wetlands. The region is considered globally significant for its biological diversity. (Appendix 11)

The Detroit River lies solely within the Carolinian Canada zone and contains many rare plants and animals not found elsewhere in Canada. The river's ecosystem includes some of the most significant biological communities such as remnant tracts of Carolinian forest, tallgrass prairie, oak savanna and large areas of wetland. It is estimated that some 2,200 species of indigenous

plants are found here, including ferns, grasses, sedges. More than 70 species of indigenous trees include tulip tree, paw paw, eight species of oak. In total, more than one third of Canada's rare, threatened and endangered species are located in the Carolinian zone.

The Detroit River serves as a major migration route and is home to 27 species of waterfowl, that frequent the coastal wetlands, more than 17 species of raptors including eagles, hawks and falcons, more than 48 other bird species including warblers, songbirds, herons and egrets and numerous species of butterflies and dragonflies. Of these, many are provincially and nationally rare including the pied-billed grebe, great egret and black-crowned night heron. Significant bird species which breed in the wetlands of the Detroit River include least bittern, northern shoveler, ruddy duck, forster's tern, white-eyed vireo and yellow-headed blackbird. The Canard River Marsh is a Detroit River Wetland that provides important habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. It is a nationally significant waterfowl staging area with more than 10,000 canvasback ducks found there in the late fall. About 5,000 canvasbacks use the wetlands also support the



Canard Marsh

endangered bald eagle and threatened Eastern spiny soft-shell turtle.

The Detroit River fish community is the basis for a very lucrative sport fishery. Although many species are exotic to the Great Lakes system, including carp, rainbow smelt, alewife and white perch, there are more than 65 indigenous species of fish found in the Detroit River that flow from the upper lakes, representing both cold and warm water species. Cold water species inhabit the channels while warm water species inhabit the lower river embayments.

The river and its tributaries are important spawning, feeding and nursery habitat. Walleye use the river as part of a complex migration route between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. The most abundant species are northern pike, gizzard shad, bowfin, common carp, oldfish, carp-goldfish hybrids, golden shiner, blacknose shiner, white sucker, brook silverside, rock bass, pumpkinseed, black crappie and yellow perch. Several species use river wetlands for spawning include lake sturgeon, muskellunge, carp, channel catfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill and walleye. Four species of rare fish in Ontario also use the wetlands, including the striped shiner, pugnose minnow, spotted sucker and green sunfish. The Detroit River has sufficiently high fish and aquatic habitat values to have been identified as a Biodiversity Investment Area by the provincial and federal governments.

The coastal wetlands of the Detroit River also offer especially important habitat for reptiles since surrounding landscape have been altered. Four rare species of reptiles have been identified in these wetlands including the Eastern fox snake, Eastern Massassauga rattlesnake, queen snake and the Eastern spiny soft-shell turtle.

The mammalian fauna of Essex County has undergone tremendous changes since the area was first settled. Since 1970, 25 species of mammals have been recorded within the Detroit River watershed, including small mammals such as the European hare, Eastern chipmunk, woodchuck, gray and red squirrels, deer and house mouse, meadow vole, muskrat, the Virginia opossum, Northern short-tailed shrew, five species of bats and larger mammals such as the coyote, red fox, gray fox, raccoon, mink, striped skunk and white-tailed deer. For these and other biological reasons, the Detroit River has been recognized by The Nature Conservancy as containing globally significant biological diversity that is to be conserved and enhanced by Canada and the United States under the 1992 United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity and by Michigan under its Biodiversity Conservation Act. To this end, both Canada and the United States are undertaking many important initiatives to restore and enhance the natural heritage values of the Detroit River including Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, River Restoration, Fish Habitat and Rural Non-Point Source Remediation Programs.

Numerous enhancement, monitoring and remediation programs are being implemented by both countries. The Detroit River is now the focus of an ambitious binational effort, as communities work together to protect a resource vital to the common good of two nations.

## Assessment of Natural Values

**The purpose of this section is to identify which of the natural heritage selection guidelines appear to be met by the river.**

*Is an outstanding example of river environments as they are affected by the major stages and processes in the earth's history of rivers which are represented in Canada. This would include rivers which best represent the major periods of geological time and which the surface of the earth underwent major changes and stream modifications.*



Swamp Rose Mallow

In describing the natural heritage values along the river, it is important to note the River's role during the formation of the Great Lakes system and its ongoing role in linking habitats and landscapes recognized globally for their significance.

Since the glaciers retreated 10,000 years ago, the Detroit River has played a vital role in the shaping of the Great Lakes ecosystem. As the waters of post-glacial Lake Erie receded, the present Detroit River channel began to be carved out of the flat, exposed lake bottom. As the land continued to rebound after the removal of the weight of the glacial ice, a new drainage system



developed with the waters of the Great Lakes flowing along the French and Mattawa Rivers, leaving the Detroit River basin dry. When isostatic rebound was sufficient to divert the waters from the French/Mattawa system, the Detroit River regained its water flow and became the major link connecting the upper and lower Great Lakes.

Containing 20% of the world's freshwater supply, the Great Lakes system is one of the most important in the world. In fact, 90% of the water in the Great Lakes System flows through the Detroit River.

*Is an outstanding representation of significant on-going fluvial, geomorphological and biological processes. As distinct from the periods of the earth's development, this focuses upon ongoing processes in the evolution and form of the river and its associated plant and animal communities.*

*Contains along its course unique, rare or outstanding examples of natural phenomena, formations or features, or areas of exceptional natural beauty. Contains along its course habitats of rare or endangered species of plants and animals. This would include areas where outstanding concentrations of plants and animals of Canadian interest and significance are found.*

From a habitat standpoint, the Detroit River links the deeper, colder and sparsely populated upper Great Lakes – Superior, Michigan and Huron, to the warmer, shallower and more densely populated lower Great Lakes – Erie and Ontario. It also links the largest wetland complex in the Great Lakes – the St. Clair Flats and the world's largest freshwater delta – the St. Clair Delta, to Lake Erie (the most biologically productive of all five Great Lakes.) From a global perspective, the Detroit River contains remnant Great Lakes coastal marshes and remnants of the world's richest freshwater mussel fauna. The landscapes, flora and fauna of the Detroit River contain many unique, rare and endangered species of plants and animals not found elsewhere in Canada.

The rich soil and flat topography of the Detroit River and its watersheds provided excellent conditions for the development of lush forests and large areas of highly productive wetlands. Such were the natural resources of the watershed, that in 1702, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac wrote of the Detroit River: *"This country is so temperate, so fertile and so beautiful that it may justly be called the earthly paradise of North America."* In the mid- 1800's, David Douglas, the English



Carolinian Canada Woodlot

botanist for whom the famous fir tree is named, described the area as the "Eden of Upper Canada". During Douglas's travels throughout the world, the Detroit River was one of the most impressive natural features he encountered.

These outstanding natural components have provided the basis for the development of abundant human heritage values and recreational opportunities. The water, soil, plant and animal resources have all played an important role in the settlement and enjoyment of the Detroit River and its watershed.



Flock of Terns

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## Natural Integrity

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**The purpose of this section is to describe how the river appears to meet the natural integrity guidelines.**

*In addition to meeting one or more of the guidelines, for a river to be judged to have outstanding Canadian natural heritage values it must possess the following natural integrity values: Rivers should not have any man-made impoundments within the nomination section.*

The Detroit River does not contain any man-made impoundments. Its regime has remained virtually unchanged since the first settlements.

*All key elements and ecosystem components must be unaffected by impoundments located outside the nominated section.*

The entire Detroit River and its major tributaries are being nominated as a CHRS and there are unaffected impoundments located, outside the nominated section.

*Natural values for which a river is nominated must not have been created by impoundments.*

The significant features of the Detroit River system lies within the Carolinian Canada zone and contains many plants and animals that rarely occur even within this zone. None of these features have been created by impoundments.

*The river's outstanding natural heritage features and key elements of ecosystems must be unimpaired by human land uses.*

The Detroit River is the site of many recent successes as local communities have responded to the challenge to restore and rehabilitate the natural resources of the river. Since the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Detroit River was established in 1987, major efforts are underway to reduce inputs of toxic chemicals, nutrients and bacteria. Preservation, protection and enhancement of natural habitat is also a major focus.

The Canadian Detroit River Cleanup, which is the follow up to the RAP process, is a community based effort which is focusing specifically on the following areas as a means to rehabilitate, enhance and sustain the ecosystem of the Detroit River:

- » Non-Point Source Pollution
- » Combined Sewer Overflows
- » Point Source Pollution
- » Contaminated Sediments
- » Habitat
- » Public Involvement and Communications

A comparable structure is being developed on the American side.

*The river's water must be uncontaminated to the extent that its natural aquatic ecosystem is intact.*

In our attempts to restore the Detroit River's ecosystem, many of the improvement projects underway along the Detroit River are not required by regulation. Private companies and public agencies are planning and developing projects which will assist in improving the Detroit River, including Biodiversity Strategies, River Restoration, Fish Habitat and Rural Non-Point Source Remediation Programs. Some of the early successes are briefly described below.

- » Phosphorus loadings to Lake Erie have declined from 90,000 kg/d to under 20,000 kg/d as a result of municipal control programs. Chloride loadings to Lake Erie have also declined from 11,000,000 kg/d to less than 7,000,000 kg/d as a result of improved industrial practices.
- » In the Little River tributary a rehabilitation program has been initiated to restore the natural flood plain in one area of the river.
- » Proposed habitat enhancements at the Canadian Salt Company will see the development of three off-shore islands to



establish 4,500 m<sup>2</sup> of new habitat for fish and wildlife communities and further protect 2.8 ha of submergent vegetation.

- » The mouth of the Canard River tributary is the largest marsh complex along the Detroit River. A marsh management plan for this area is being developed by the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

Both Canada and the United States are undertaking these important initiatives to restore and enhance the natural heritage values of the Detroit River. The Detroit River is now the focus of an ambitious



River Canard

binational effort, as communities on both sides of the Detroit River work together to protect a resource vital to the common good of two nations.

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## IV River Integrity

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**The purpose of this section is to describe how the river meets the general CHRS integrity guidelines with specific reference to values not addressed in the preceding integrity sections. The feasibility of maintaining the river's integrity may also be addressed here.**

As well as meeting the human heritage and recreational integrity, as well as a degree of natural heritage guidelines in previous sections, the Detroit River meets all general integrity guidelines. These include the following:

*The river should be of sufficient size and contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements to demonstrate the key aspects of the processes, features, activities or other phenomena which give the river its outstanding value. (Elements are defined as resources or groupings of resources identified as having values essential to the nomination of the river.)*

As described through the Nomination Document, the river and its watershed are of sufficient size and composition to demonstrate the key aspects of features and processes which give the Detroit River its outstanding values.

The Detroit River is unique as an international waterway rich in cultural, recreational and natural resources. As well as linking Canada and the United States, it represents the largest metropolitan area on any international border in the world, in addition to the world's largest trading partnership.

During its 51 kilometre course, the river passes by numerous, outstanding historical, cultural and natural elements, in a mixture that is significant to both countries. The urban skylines, railways, industrial complexes and technological achievements such as the Ambassador Bridge are a legacy to the river's influence on the region's economic development. The watershed's natural areas contain significant and rare species, all of which can be found a short distance from urban centres. The story of the river and previous generations is told through period museums,

parklands, literature and artwork. In a single summer day, recreation opportunities ranging from boating to fishing to international festivals can all be experienced along the Detroit River. It is the mixture of these independent and interrelated resources, along with its international aspect, that makes the Detroit River like no other in Canada and more importantly, to be of outstanding Canadian heritage value.

*The river should contain those ecosystem components required for the continuity of the species, features or objects to be protected.*

As described throughout the natural heritage values section, the river contains ecosystem components necessary for the sustainability of its valued features.

*The quality of water should be such as to provide for the continuity and/or improvement of the resources upon which "value" to the system has been determined.*

The Detroit River Cleanup Program is a bi-national effort to clean up the river and protect its natural heritage. This project and the American Heritage Designation process, compliment ongoing efforts to have the Detroit River designated within the Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS). In return, the CHRS initiative will help those efforts to preserve and protect the human, recreational and natural values of the Detroit River.

Combined, the Cleanup and Heritage River initiatives on both the Canadian and American sides of the river have tremendous potential not only to help restore the Detroit River to good health but to ensure continued public interest and participation well into the future. (Appendix 12)





DETROIT RIVER  
A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

# Appendices



# **Appendix 1**



## OVERVIEW

The Detroit River... What sets it apart from other rivers? It is not the longest river in the United States; certainly the mighty Mississippi lays claim to that title. It is not the widest or the most famous; but it is an American Heritage River because the history and culture of the Detroit River is the history and culture of this nation. Its contributions to America's character and strength are as legendary as any river whose name has graced a composer's song or a poet's verse. From Native American roots, to urban transformation, the Detroit River carries the memories of this nation's birth, triumphs and tragedies, and symbolizes hope for sustainable communities into the next millenium.

The evolution of the Detroit River corridor reflects the transformation of this nation. First inhabited by Native Americans, then the French, later the British and finally Americans, each was enriched by the River. Its fish, wildlife and forests have always been the lifeblood of surrounding villages, cities and townships. Its fertile clay soil supported the once agrarian culture of this region. The River's abundant natural resources reflect the heritage of our country.

This vast natural resource has always played a major role in the nation's economy. Its constant flow made trade and commerce possible for even the largest of ships. Positioned between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, the River moved raw materials from the upper Midwest and Canada to the steel mills and automotive plants in the heartland of industrial America. Just as commerce flowed from lake to lake, so too the River spawned trade from border to border. As a natural roadway rather than a border between the United States and its largest trading partner, Canada, this waterway became the busiest international crossing in North America and remains so to this day. Thus, the Detroit River transported this region and this nation from agriculture to industry.

Our industrial might did not come without cost to our River. Certainly, like other river communities overuse of the River caused its resources to decline; but the Detroit River, like its people, is resilient. Water quality has improved. Riverside parks have been expanded. Brownfields are being reclaimed. Communities, business and governments are coming together to discuss the possibilities for renewal and revitalization of the environment and the Detroit River corridor. New partnerships have been formed to address environmental, cultural and economic development issues, which in earlier times divided rather than cemented the communities along the River. We have opened many doors and set our path toward renewal, but there is still much that we can do.

Our vision and our plan reflect the achievements of the past and the redoubling of our efforts for the future. We want to further improve air and water quality and reclaim contaminated lands. Our plan looks at new ways to improve access to the river for all citizens. It includes ways to attract recreation, commerce, housing and industries that respect the great Detroit River, yet draw upon its resources to improve the life of its people.

As the region prepares to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of the founding of Detroit, we look toward the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as a time to demonstrate the wisdom and ability to renew our economy and our culture in harmony with our environment. The Detroit River, our most productive natural resource, defined our heritage in this millenium and will do so again. The Detroit River... What sets it apart from other rivers? It is our tie to history, our tie to prosperity, our tie to each other. This is the heritage of America. The Detroit River is an American Heritage River.

## 1. THE AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER AREA

The Detroit River is part of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway that extends from Duluth, Minnesota to Montreal, Quebec. Since the settlement of Detroit in 1701, the River has been a lifeline for the Detroit Metropolitan Area linking the region to its sister cities, the nation and the world. The Detroit River corridor contains significant natural and historical resources that tell an enduring story of settlement, transportation, trade and industry. These resources are the foundation of this region's contribution to the nation's place in history. The River was first used by the Native Americans and later by French settlers as a "roadway" for access to the ribbon farms which lined the River's banks. African Americans used the same roadway to escape enslavement. The River grew with the nation and supported Detroit's early waterfront industry. It eventually provided the critical link to the iron mines of the north and the coal mines of the south fueling the growth of the automobile and steel industries. Today, the River corridor, like the community which surrounds it, is in transition -- from a 20th Century industrial powerhouse to a harmonious blend of uses focused on reclaiming resources, improving our environment and balancing local desires to live, work and play on our international waterway.

### Proposed American Heritage River Area - The 32-mile-long Detroit River

- Links Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie.
- The River heritage corridor varies in width from three to seven miles.
- Immediate watershed drains 807 square miles including Marsh Creek and the Rouge, Ecorse, Turkey, Little and Canard River tributaries.
- The Detroit River, also part of the Great Lakes System, comprises 20% of the freshwater on earth.
- The River contains twenty-one islands.
- The Detroit River system serves over five million people with drinking water, recreation and cultural opportunities.

### Natural Qualities

- Water entering the River from Lake St. Clair takes about 20 hours to reach Lake Erie.
- Conveys over 90% of the flow to Lake Erie.
- Average velocity ranges from about 1-3 ft./s., with peaks in the main channel reaching 5 ft./s.
- The discharge averages 184,000 cfs.
- Water levels vary seasonally and annually by as much as 6 feet.
- Slope is gradual with a total fall of about three feet across the River's length.
- Average Depth ranges from 20-24 feet with deepest points 40-47 feet.
- The shipping channel is maintained at 27 feet.
- Many shallow/wetland areas near islands provide a broad diversity of habitats for fish and wildlife.
- Flow is constant providing stable habitat.

### Current Land/Water Uses

- All types of land uses from urban, industrial, suburban, rural and conservation are represented.
- The River flows past nine American communities and four Canadian communities.
- American side:
  - 52% is parks or undeveloped land,
  - 38% is industry and commercial,
  - 10% is residential.
- Canadian side:
  - 47% is parkland, open space or natural areas,
  - 27% is industrial and commercial activity,
  - 26% is residential.
- Detroit (MI) and Windsor (ON) are the largest communities along the River, and the largest combined metropolitan area on any international border in the world.
- The Detroit River is the busiest port in the Great Lakes. The 1997 shipping market consisted of primarily steel and aggregate imports, grain containers, and specialty shipping of large automotive factory machinery.
- Michigan has the highest number of registered boats in the nation, causing heavy use of the River.
- Marinas and boat launches are scattered throughout the Detroit River system.
- Cultural and heritage sites dating back to 400 A.D. are scattered along the Riverbank.

## 2. NOTABLE RESOURCE QUALITIES IN THE AREA

It is hard to imagine a river corridor anywhere in the world that contains more resource diversity than the Detroit River. Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac offered a picturesque vision of the River in 1702 describing its plentiful resources. *"This river is scattered over, from one lake to another, both on the mainland and the islands... with large clusters of trees surrounded by charming meadows... Game is very common...as are wild geese and all kinds of wild ducks...There are swans everywhere, there are quails, woodcocks, pheasants and rabbits...turkeys, partridges, hazelhens and a stupendous amount of turtle doves. This country is so temperate, so fertile and so beautiful that it may justly be called the earthly paradise of North America."* After nearly 300 years, the uses of the past have given way to the challenge of the future: How do we restore balance and maintain the River's many resources?

### Natural Resources

- Presettlement landscape consisted of: coastal wetlands, upland mixed hardwood forest, oak savanna and tall grass prairie. Small remnants of these ecosystems are still present; some need restoration.
- Ten million walleye migrate up the River each year to spawn.
- Yellow perch, white bass and Lake Sturgeon spawn in the River.
- The River supports in excess of three million waterfowl including: scaup, mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, black ducks, pintails, canvasbacks, and redheads. Suitable habitat exists for island nesting colonial birds and rare and endangered species, among them two Bald Eagles nesting on the Canadian shoreline.
- Detroit River and the Canard River marshes constitute over 3,000 acres combined.
- Of the 21 islands in the Detroit River, five are Canadian: Peche Island (a provincial park); Grass Island (spoils), Fighting Island (industrial waste disposal site); Turkey Island, and Bois Blanc (previously Bob-lo Island amusement park, now being developed privately as residential). The American Islands are: Belle Isle (the nation's fifth most visited city park); Mud Island (former spoils site, now under DNR study); Grassy Island (Wyandotte National Wildlife Refuge); Grosse Ile (a residential island); Celeron (a state wildlife refuge); Meso, Hickory and Sugar Islands (residential); Elba, Round, Swan, Calf, Horse, Cherry, Stony and Fox Islands are all undeveloped small islands in the southern part of the River that are primarily wetlands.

### Economic Resources

- The United States and Canada are the world's largest trading partners exchanging \$1 billion per day.
- One third of all mercantile trade between the U.S. and Canada crosses the Ambassador Bridge.
- Home to the automobile industry where even in a global economy, domestic and foreign automakers rely on the resources of the Detroit River corridor.
- In 1996, 8,000 commercial vessels carried over 100 million tons of cargo on the Detroit River.
- Over \$3 billion in downtown improvements are underway or committed in Detroit and Windsor.
- Detroit production firsts: automobile, salt, paint varnishes, vacuum cleaners, stoves, adding machines, pharmaceutical and electric refrigeration plants, and copper and brass rolling mills.
- Mixed-use development is increasing on the Riverfront.
- The Empowerment Zone traverses the city of Detroit, with a portion of it encompassing the Detroit River in the southwest part of the city.

### Agricultural Resources

- Climate moderated by the Detroit River made agriculture important in the region.
- American farmlands have been converted to urban and conservation uses.
- Significant farmlands remain in the Canadian watersheds of the Detroit River.
- In Canada, 13.5 % of the River shoreline is used for agricultural purposes.



### Scenic Qualities

- The River's blue color and impressive size command attention as it flows by downtown Detroit and Windsor.
- The River offers an exciting collage of scenery as it winds past islands and under bridges from the urban core to the industrial center, and finally through the

rural landscape of its southern reach before entering vast Lake Erie.

- The Ambassador Bridge connecting Detroit to Windsor offers spectacular views of the River and Great Lake vistas in both directions.

### Historic Resources

- Thirty-two archeological sites of late woodland and other Native American habitations dated approximately 400 A.D. have been identified along the River's edge.
- A French settlement flourished near the River in 1686.
- Fort Pontchartrain trading post (near what is now Detroit) was established in 1701 by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac.
- Following the War of 1812, the British settled in the town of Sandwich (now Windsor, Ontario) on the east bank.
- In 1849, Fort Wayne was built at the bend in the River for its commanding views up and downstream.

- Conversion of Fort Wayne to a monument and museum began in 1971.
- Detroit was a major terminus of the Underground Railroad. Heroic efforts by a determined group of Michigianians and Detroiters helped hundreds of enslaved African Americans cross the Detroit River to reach the freedom of Canada.
- Canadian Fort Malden, at the mouth of Lake Erie, is a national historic site, recently upgraded to provide visitors with the rich Canadian perspective on the history of Great Lakes settlement.
- During prohibition "Rum Runners" smuggled spirits from Canada to America across the Detroit River.
- In the first part of this century, passenger ships carried 12 million people on the Detroit River.

### Cultural Resources

- The River corridor area is home to a diverse mix of ethnic groups attracted from around the world by the lure of high paying industrial jobs. Each year at least 500 immigrants celebrate their U.S. citizenship at the Freedom Festival held at Hart Plaza on the River.
- Home to the U.S. Labor Movement and the UAW.
- Detroit is known for: Motown Sound, Pewabic Pottery, Detroit Techno, Stroh's Beer, Faygo soda, Vernors' Ginger Ale, Sander's Hot Fudge and Hiram Walker Whiskey. Notable personalities are: Rosa

Parks, Joe Louis, Al Kaline, Gordie Howe, Marshall Fredricks and Albert Kahn.

- Institutions of higher learning and cultural resources include: Wayne State University (one of Michigan's three nationally recognized research institutions), The University of Detroit Mercy, Wayne County Community College, Detroit Medical Center, Henry Ford Health System, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the new, world's largest Museum of African American History, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Fox Theatre and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

### Recreation

- The Detroit River is the site of Belle Isle, a 982-acre island park in Detroit. It is home to architectural treasures: Albert Kahn-designed lighthouse, and the Scripps Conservatory dome from the 1904 World's Fair, the nation's oldest aquarium, a mini zoo, historic Scott Fountain and the Casino.
- Detroit and Windsor have shared an annual International Freedom Festival on the River for 40 years. This festival's firework celebration attracts one million people from the United States and Canada from July 1-4.
- Summer festivities last year brought nearly four million people to weekend ethnic and music festivals at Hart Plaza. The annual Montreaux Jazz Festival closes out the summer.

- The River has been used by rowing clubs in Wyandotte, Ecorse and Detroit since 1875.
- Brownstown Charter Township has 22,000 acres devoted to the Lake Erie Metropark and the Point Mouille Game and Conservation Preserve.
- Pointe Mouille is major stop for waterfowl on the Detroit River flyway and a sportsmen's paradise.
- Lake Erie Metropark is the newest regional park in the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority system, representing over \$15 million in investment.
- Wayne County's 162-acre Elizabeth Park in Trenton, is the site of the annual Downriver Festival.



Our tie to history. Our tie to prosperity. Our tie to each other.

### 3. PLAN OF ACTION

#### Community Vision

*We are filled with pride for our magnificent River and have a shared vision for its regeneration. Our vibrant international waterway inspires a community brimming with fun and excitement, rest and relaxation. A broad diversity of jobs, housing, historic interpretation, recreation, and culture breathe life into a 24 hour a day waterfront. Industry, commerce, and tourism growing in harmony with the environment sustain fish, bird, animal and plant habitats. The River has become the region's front door, with access to all inland communities. Its beauty and integrity have been restored, and we thrive within its ecosystem.*

The Detroit River... Born of the glacial age, gateway to Great Lakes wealth. An inextricable link between culture and nature. It is our passion; we are the "people of this place". For three hundred years we have been awed by its power. It has been our tool for shaping a powerful economic dream. We are sustained by its life giving waters. It has evolved from a natural boundary to a roadway connecting our cities and nations. It defines our geography and our philosophy. It inspires our vision.

We have painted a vision that raises the bar of performance for our river corridor. We do so because the stakes are high for this River. It is central to the future of our region. Its health is tied to our health. We have exploited its precious resources and must redouble our efforts to reclaim it while finding new ways to work with it. We embark on this vision with great expectations for our future and ourselves.

**Detroit River Vision Map** - The attached Detroit River Vision Map captures the essence of our vision through a series of corridors and centers reflecting the Detroit River community's diverse nature. This map has been prepared to illustrate how a unique combination of environmental conditions shaped by historic patterns of development define economic activity and recreational amenities. The evolution of culture in the Detroit metropolitan area is reflected in the way the River is used today, and the vision for its use into the future. Each area outlined on the map weaves the three major components together that define our River – environment, economic development and history/culture.

**Come with us now as we look to the future through a series of vignettes that embody our overall vision as depicted in the following words and map:**

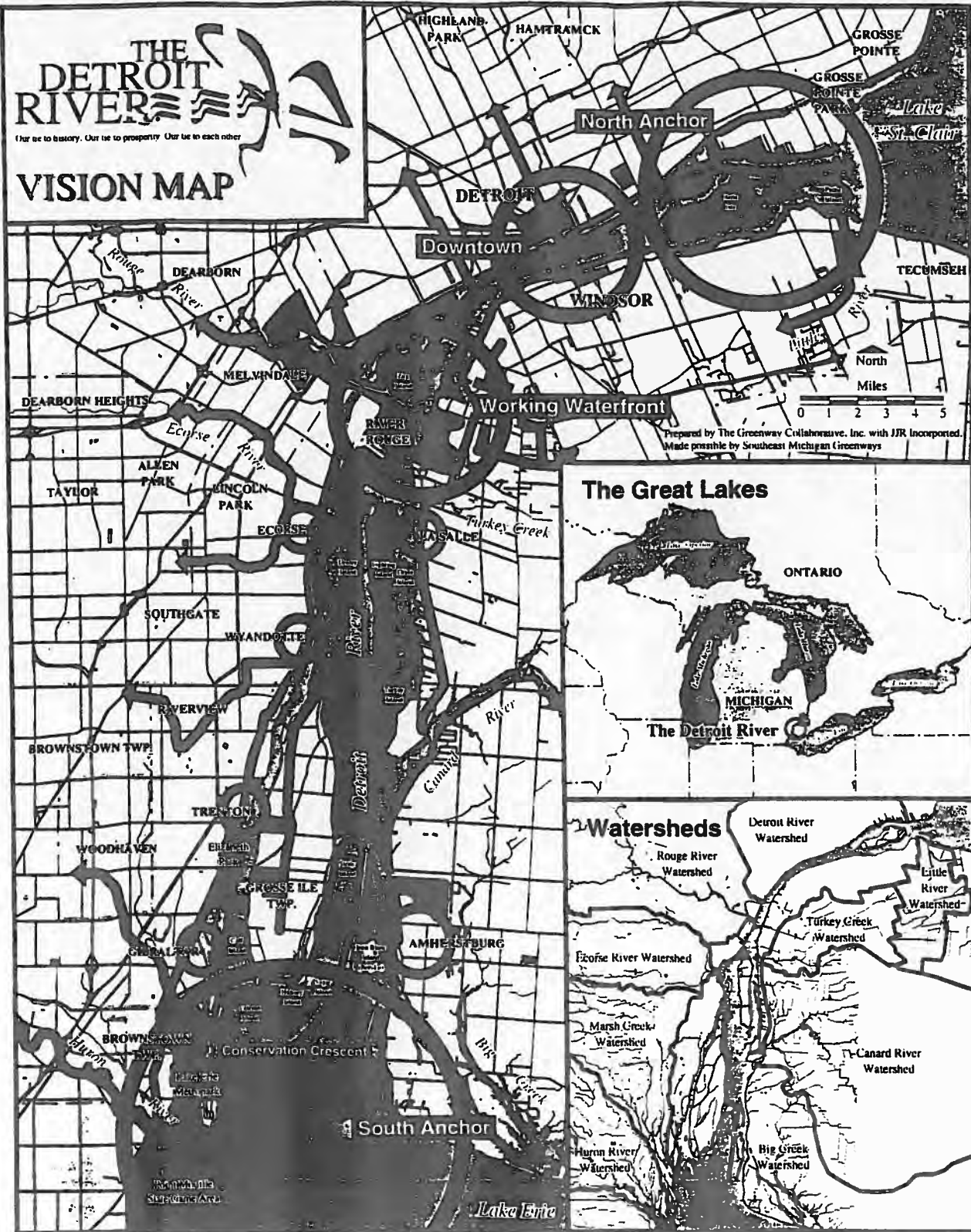
**Water** - Its water is clear and clean. Seven million people drink from its bountiful supply. Its abundant, healthy fish populations attract both the casual pier fisherman and the serious trophy class angler. Swimming, boating and recreational water contact are part of summer fun. Sun bathers from twenty Can/Am counties come to its shores to relax.

**Anchors** - Both ends of the River are environmental/recreational anchors with very different roles. The North Anchor at the River's beginning forms an urban lifestyle zone centered around Belle Isle. America's largest city island park is the premier regional draw for environmental education, recreation, family reunions, historic resources,

# THE DETROIT RIVER

Our tie to history. Our tie to prosperity. Our tie to each other.

## VISION MAP

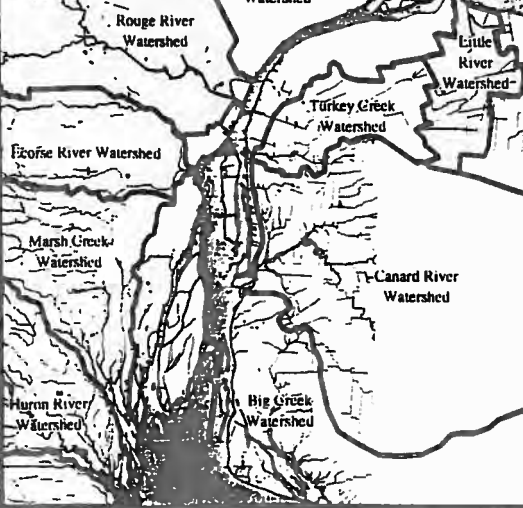


Prepared by The Greenway Collaborative, Inc. with JIR Incorporated. Made possible by Southeast Michigan Greenways

### The Great Lakes



### Watersheds



### Legend

- Urban Mixed Use
- Industrial
- Urban/Residential
- Rural
- Parks, Open Space and Greenways
- Riverfront Roadways
- Conversion to Urban Mixed Use
- Conversion to Industrial
- Waterfront Towns
- Inland Greenway Linkages

### Community Vision

*We are filled with pride for our magnificent river and have a shared vision for its regeneration. Our vibrant international waterway inspires a community brimming with fun and excitement, rest and relaxation. A broad diversity of jobs, housing, historic interpretation, recreation and culture breathe life into a 24 hour a day waterfront. Industry, commerce, and tourism growing in harmony with the environment sustain fish, birds, animal, and plant habitats. The River has become the region's front door with access to all inland communities. Its beauty and integrity have been restored, and we thrive within its ecosystem.*



- Recruitment of over 50 groups and organizations to advocate greenway goals for the River corridor through the Detroit River Greenways Partnership.

**Goal K: Develop the Detroit River American Heritage River identity.**

- Create a Heritage River Image - adopt a common description, logo and interpretive format for the waterway.
- Initiate a Heritage River information and interpretation program - e.g., commemorative plaques, interpretive literature and heritage displays developed by cooperative public/private means.
- Develop a heritage resource inventory - significant natural, historical, recreational and visual resources for reference in heritage planning and interpretive program development.
- Expand natural heritage interpretation
- Develop interpretive signs/facilities at appropriate sites along the River

**Goal L: Coordinate a comprehensive recreational and cultural information program.**

- Establish facilities and programs to effectively interpret the River.
- Expand interpretation of the River's historic and archaeological sites.
- Develop a map for all recreational interests.
- Prepare a simple summary of regulation, local information and border policies for fishermen, canoeists, boaters and visitors for distribution near the River.

**Resources**

Substantial resources are being allocated to the plans, projects and maintenance of the Detroit River corridor. While space does not permit listing all of the many projects that comprise each of our goal categories, we have compiled the summary table below to illustrate the levels of dollars committed to and anticipated by our plan of action. We have split committed and anticipated categories into public and private to reflect the high degree of participation by

<b>Resources Table</b> <i>Goals, Projects or Products</i>	<i>Committed (in millions)</i>		<i>Anticipated (in millions)</i>		<i>TOTAL (in millions)</i>
	<i>Public</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Public</i>	<i>Private</i>	
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>					
A. Water/Sediment Improvements	\$647.0	\$12.0	\$1,700.0	\$20.0	\$2,379.0
B. Habitat Improvements	\$26.0	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$3.0	\$45.0
C. Recreation with Nature	\$56.0	\$102.0	\$5.0	\$100.0	\$263.0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$729.0</i>	<i>\$122.0</i>	<i>\$1,713.0</i>	<i>\$123.0</i>	<i>\$2,687.0</i>
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>					
D. Global Marketing Plan	\$2.0	\$10.0			\$12.0
E. Retain/Expand Industries	\$381.0	\$575.0	\$240.0	\$2,000.0	\$3,196.0
F. Encourage Mixed-Use Development	\$465.0	\$563.0	\$108.0	\$640.0	\$1,776.0
G. Recreation and Development	\$50.0		\$25.0		\$75.0
H. Protect Property Rights					
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$898.0</i>	<i>\$1,148.0</i>	<i>\$373.0</i>	<i>\$2,640.0</i>	<i>\$5,059.0</i>
<b>CULTURE AND HISTORY</b>					
I. History/Cultural Legacy D300	\$1.5		\$5.0	\$17.0	\$23.5
J. Support Grassroots Initiatives				\$0.3	\$0.3
K. Develop Detroit American Heritage River Identity			\$0.1	\$0.4	\$0.5
L. Recreation/Cultural Information Program			\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.3
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$1.5</i>	<i>\$0.0</i>	<i>\$5.2</i>	<i>\$17.9</i>	<i>\$24.6</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,628.5</b>	<b>\$1,270.0</b>	<b>\$2,091.2</b>	<b>\$2,780.9</b>	<b>\$7,770.6</b>

both sectors in our River's renewal. Maintenance requirements are an integral part of our planning process. Dollars have been included in the budgets to assure that only projects that can be maintained are undertaken. It should also be noted, that our multi-billion dollar Resource Table does not reflect two new professional sports stadiums and four new gaming casinos planned or underway near the Riverfront. These projects represent another \$3-4 billion of investment that will surely spin-off interest in the River corridor. Additionally, none of the nearby Empowerment Zone investments are included, which are now estimated at over \$5 billion.

### **Expected Federal Role**

The federal government is currently a participant in several initiatives aimed at improving the Detroit River corridor. However, what we expect for the American Heritage River program is a very different approach to working with federal agencies. The envisioned relationship between the Detroit American Heritage River Team and the federal government is a streamlined partnership that emphasizes clear and timely communication, identifies appropriate federal partners and resources for specific projects and the overall action plan, and provides technical and planning assistance where appropriate.

We anticipate the River Navigator will be a critical position in the organizational structure of our Detroit American Heritage River Team. The ability of this person to understand local relationships and federal agency operations, processes and procedures will be central to finding new ways to cut red tape, gain interagency cooperation, access resources and reinvent the process for moving processes and projects forward.

It is not our intent in this nomination to ask for specific assistance from individual agencies, rather we have outlined some situations that have proven frustrating, or lend themselves to the type of coordinated effort we expect from this initiative. Three categories illustrate our expectations: 1) improve communication and coordination to prevent stalled or delayed projects; 2) identify matches between local, state and federal priorities; and, 3) overcome competing or conflicting agendas through new partnerships.

**Communication and Coordination** – Good communication, coordination and understanding of project objectives by all levels of government will greatly improve local progress toward meeting action plan goals. A recent example highlights the frustration under existing policies and procedures. A local unit of government in the Detroit River corridor wished to implement a Riverfront park project which it had been planning for some time. The project required permits from two government agencies. One agency approved the project and the other denied it, sending the local unit back to the drawing board. Had all parties communicated early and often during this process, the acceptable solution would have been reached much sooner, avoiding the year-long delay that stymied this project.

**Matching Priorities** – A key role for the Federal River Navigator will be working closely with federal agency representatives and our team to identify matches between local and federal priorities to optimize the allocation of resources toward achieving our action plan goals. Currently, it is not always clear to local agencies how various federal resources would be allocated from the many federal agencies and programs that can impact the River corridor. This is perhaps the greatest advantage of the American Heritage Rivers Initiative. It will streamline government and bring the maximum combination of resources from various participating federal agencies to bear on pressing issues facing our River area.

**New Partnerships** – In some instances, federal policies that may not, at first glance, appear relevant to local needs, could be modified to achieve shared goals. New partnerships can yield the next generation of opportunities for public/private partnerships involving all levels of government and motivated private investors. Some of the possibilities for new partnerships could include: cooperative environmental initiatives; community place-based remedial actions; brownfield reclamation and re-use; international trade programs; broad recreational strategies; infrastructure issues; pilot projects like the Common Sense Initiative program; and training, education and technical assistance.

Great Lakes lore and special events like the Detroit Grand Prix and the Thunderfest hydroplane races. The mainland River's edge is a network of greenways, housing and parks intertwined to create the most-desirable urban neighborhood settings in Detroit, Windsor and Tecumseh.

The South Anchor, where the River empties into Lake Erie at Brownstown Charter Township, forms a conservation zone that still reflects Cadillac's description of the River in 1702 as "an earthly paradise". It spans the River into coastal marshes in both nations. Waterfowl conservation practices at the 30,000+ acre Pointe Mouille and Big Creek Wetlands serve as international models for wildlife management. Hunters come from five states/ provinces to experience this special setting. Over 300 threatened and endangered species of fish, plants and animals are again thriving in the riverine environment. Bald eagle pairs are multiplying annually. Residents and scientists visit this area to marvel at its presettlement character.

**Downtown** - Just upstream of the main bend in the River lies Downtown. This is our world class cosmopolitan core centered at Detroit and Windsor. It is the center for arts, humanities, spirituality, education and big business. The urbane live, work and play here – and the whole region comes downtown for fun. Restaurants, sports, theatres, shopping, entertainment, casinos and international festivals may all be found in dizzying supply, with walkable access to everything via Riverfront promenades.

**Working Waterfront** - At the confluence of the Rouge and Detroit Rivers lies the birthplace of the auto industry. Today, it is a myriad of clean, modern commerce and industry, intermodal linkages and viable neighborhoods. The working waterfront is shared by Detroit, River Rouge, Ecorse and Windsor forming the region's global tradeport. Over \$100 billion in trade occurs through this zone annually, including the U.S./Canada bridge and tunnel connections.

This activity center also hosts a series of sites along the Auto National Heritage Area, a designation given both the Rouge and Detroit Rivers in the late 1990s. The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village are partnered with the City of Detroit and Wayne County to maximize access to this significant slice of American history. Additionally, Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit's oldest intact cultural artifact, serves as the Riverfront orientation center. The Fort is linked to the downtown district via the Riverfront promenade.

**Waterfront Towns** - Farther downriver, a series of waterfront towns are booming. These towns were part of greater Detroit's 20<sup>th</sup> Century industrial might. They evolved into mixed-use centers responding to market conditions and local community interests. River Rouge, Ecorse, Wyandotte, LaSalle, Riverview, Trenton, Gibraltar, and Amherstburg have each shaped waterfront recreation, parks, commercial districts, historic and cultural preservation, light industry and housing to create a splendid range of lifestyle options for downriver residents.

**Rural Character** - Much of the Canadian side of the River south of Windsor has been designated as natural preserves and protected farmland. Canadian land use policies support increased establishment of conservation areas for wildlife and habitat enhancement. Partnerships between both countries at federal, state and local levels have cemented commitments to maintain naturalized shoreline treatments and shape development to preserve the rural character of the Riverfront in this area.

**Islands** - Twenty-one islands dot the River from Peche on the north to Celeron on the south. Some continue to be attractive and unique residential communities like Grosse Ile and Bois Blanc. Others have been reclaimed to enhance wildlife habitats like Grassy and Turkey. Still others, like Peche, remain in a natural state for use by recreational enthusiasts. A conservation crescent of small islands and wetlands in the southern River sustains vital fish and wildlife habitat. The linked waterway island tour is used extensively by tourists and residents to discover history and ecology. The islands are incredibly serene environments surrounded by the River and isolated from the hectic urban pace.

Each of the above described corridors and centers is vital and active. It was recognized years ago that economic development must be combined with environmental stewardship and historic/cultural preservation to assure successful redevelopment. The dreams were realized through the hard work of many local volunteers, committed and patient investors, and breakthrough public/private partnerships that transformed the plans into reality.



## **Goals and Objectives of the Plan** (including products, projects and prior accomplishments)

Our plan is driven by three overarching goal categories which reflect the overall strategy for the Detroit River corridor: environmental stewardship, economic development, and historic and cultural preservation. Within each category a major plan is in place that drives local actions. Other important goals are also described that represent the evolving nature of the plan of action. Under each goal statement we have listed several objectives that describe current and proposed projects/products contributing to the realization of each goal. Where appropriate, prior accomplishments have also been noted.

These goals shape the rest of our action plan regarding resources, expected federal role, schedule, citizen involvement, public education, operating procedures, challenges to community action and measures of performance. Our goals and objectives help us to set priorities based on the interrelated nature of local issues, groups, projects and activities.

**Environmental Action Plan** - The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Detroit River is a goal driven process. It includes specific projects that assure substantial progress toward cooperative focused actions to clean up the River environment. The Detroit River is recognized federally as an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Great Lakes Critical Program Act. The goal of this bi-national effort is to restore all of the impaired beneficial uses through actions implemented by a partnership of citizens, businesses, municipalities and state, provincial and federal governments. Therefore, it is anticipated that the RAP process and projects will be in harmony with Goals A and B of this plan.

### **Goal A: Implement water and sediment quality improvements to promote public health.**

- Restore the impaired beneficial uses in the Detroit River ecosystem (as illustrated by the current need for fish consumption advisories).
- Eliminate the input of toxic substances through pollution prevention.
- Implement remedial actions and place-based management to address all point and non-point sources within the Detroit River.
- Coordinate air quality programs to support overall environmental improvements.
- Encourage and promote environmental stewardship among citizens, industry and the business community.
- Promote educational programs on environmental quality and environmental stewardship.

#### **Prior Accomplishments**

- Implementation of phosphorus control at Detroit's wastewater treatment facility, the largest municipal facility in North America, led to the reversal of cultural eutrophication in Lake Erie.
- Acceptance of Detroit's long term combined sewer overflow improvements plan.
- Implementation of Downriver communities Sewer System Upgrade.
- Successful completion of Monguagon Creek contaminated sediment clean up project.
- Voluntary minimization of PCB/Mercury through programs that identify front-end sources of these contaminants.

### **Goal B: Conserve and enhance the Detroit River's ecological habitat.**

- Protect significant existing species and habitats through conservation programs.
- Improve fish, bird and animal habitats to increase populations and diversity through enhancement/restoration projects.

#### **Prior Accomplishments**

- Restoration of Belle Isle canal and fish habitat improvements.
- Monitoring of fish contaminant trends.
- Reduction of Purple Loosestrife to restore native plant habitat.

### **Goal C: Provide access/recreation improvements in harmony with environmental features.**

- Develop policies, procedures and code revisions to encourage habitat and public access improvements.
- Continue urban recreation projects that include habitat enhancements
- Integrate access opportunities with conservation projects for environmental education.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Protection of Essex County's Assumption Park shoreline with public access.
- Design of City of Trenton downtown street end parks and fishing piers.
- Completion of City of Detroit linked Riverfront parks.
- Detroit Edison Delray boat launch and fishing pier project.
- Lake Erie Metropark and Pointe Mouille recreation programs and wildlife refuge.

**Economic Development Action Plan** – For the last ten years, economic development has been focused on carrying the message of Greater Detroit to the rest of the world. This approach has yielded a more coordinated strategy for competing as a region on several initiatives. Positive results have included retaining, expanding and attracting new businesses. The most recent joint effort in this regard is a regional public/private partnership which promotes a global marketing plan for the region. Additionally, Detroit, Wayne County, Windsor and Essex County are working together as dues paying member communities along the I-94/401 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) highway to promote free trade activities. Detroit Renaissance and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation have collaborated to market Renaissance Zones for industrial redevelopment. The City of Detroit nationally recognized Empowerment Zone, which includes portions of the Riverfront, is also a catalyst for economic development. The Detroit River plan of action supports these initiatives and other state/local initiatives, and includes them as Goal D.

**Goal D: Implement global marketing plans and NAFTA coordination for Greater Detroit.**

- Attract international investment and new jobs to the Detroit River corridor.
- Work closely with NAFTA communities to support mutually beneficial free trade initiatives.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Various local economic development initiatives on marketing, land assembly and brownfield clean up.

**Goal E: Retain/expand working waterfront industries of the Detroit River**

- Promote environmentally sound industrial and commercial development.
- Encourage water dependent industry to locate in the working waterfront district.
- Increase intermodal and light industry facilities underway at the Port of Detroit zone to increase manufacturing, transportation and distribution efficiency.
- Support Ford Motor Company planned upgrades to its Rouge complex for 21<sup>st</sup> Century auto production.
- Reactivate the McLouth steel plant in Trenton through the Detroit Steel Corporation (DSC) partnership.
- Support planned "Gateway" project for Ambassador Bridge for Can/Am border crossing.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Completed substantial investments at National Steel's Detroit River mill to retain its competitive position in world markets
- Continued investment in the BASF Corporation Wyandotte North Works plant.
- Clean up of significant tracts of prior industrial properties in preparation for redevelopment.
- Development of a truck and transport facility in southwest Detroit.

**Goal F: Encourage mixed use opportunities in downtown and waterfront town centers.**

- Reclaim brownfield sites throughout the River corridor for reuse as mixed-use projects.
- Target Rivertown, along the east edge of downtown Detroit, as an industry to mixed-use transitional area for new development.
- Target the west Riverfront to the Ambassador Bridge and Fort Wayne for continued reinvestment in, and reclamation of, industrial sites on the working waterfront, and develop a mixed-use implementation plan.
- Redevelop the Renaissance Center as General Motors new Global Headquarters along the Detroit Riverfront.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Adaptive reuse of Stroh River Place, Harbortown; Victoria Park, Grayhaven and Jefferson-Chalmers along Detroit's east River corridor.
- Redevelopment of downtown Wyandotte as a sustainable mixed-use waterfront town.

- Master plan underway based on Detroit Riverfront design charrette recommendations led by Detroit Recreation Department.

**Goal G: Link waterfront access/recreation with development projects**

- Develop Riverfront promenade with lake-to-lake access.
- Integrate the new UAW/GM Training Center with the Riverfront promenade concept.
- Rebuild Cobo Convention Center River frontage to link the western Riverfront to Hart Plaza and GM World Headquarters.
- Reclaim brownfield sites throughout the corridor for access/recreation enhancements.
- Reinforce Jefferson Avenue and Riverside Drive as major river corridor spines to allow continuous access to open Riverfront zones.
- Assure that perpendicular corridors to the River provide inland communities with access to parks and other public Riverfront spaces
- Daylight Bloody Run Creek in conjunction with housing development.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Creation of Windsor's Riverside Drive parks which link all aspects of the downtown to the River in a spectacular setting.

**Goal H: Respect private property rights in planning for the corridor's future**

- Encourage public participation in land use planning initiatives.
- Encourage business and community dialogue in brownfield redevelopment.
- Support upgrades in zoning codes, planning initiatives, and historic and cultural preservation policies to provide a balance between property rights and public purpose, including due process requirements.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Discussion of environmental and redevelopment initiatives within the Detroit/Wayne County Roundtable for Sustainable Development forums.

**Culture and History Action Plan** - Detroit's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday occurs in 2001 and provides a catalyst for cultural and historic planning. The elaborate programming for a year-long celebration will be a tremendous tribute to our rich heritage. The regional enthusiasm this initiative is generating will live on through heightened awareness and participation in many projects and products celebrating history and diversity. Detroit 300 covers a broad spectrum of groups and activities. It is represented as our first culture and history priority in Goal I.

**Goal I: Preserve and interpret our rich historic and cultural legacy through Detroit 300.**

- Promote Detroit 300 programs and projects as both a celebration of the tercentenary and the kickoff to regional participation in cultural projects, programs and products.
- Restore Fort Wayne as Detroit's primary historic Riverfront site.
- Expand the Dossin Great Lakes Maritime Museum.
- Coordinate opportunities with the Auto National Heritage Area programs/projects.
- Formulate programs for interpretation of ethnic Riverfront culture and history.
- Link greenways and recreation to historic and cultural sites for interpretive purposes.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Preservation of the lore of the lakes at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle.
- Preservation of Fort Malden National Historic site in Amherstburg as a prime example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century British post, complete with structures, earthforms, artifacts and re-enactments.

**Goal J: Support grassroots initiatives for River programs and activities.**

- Implement the citizen based Detroit 2001 workshops for Riverfront parks.
- Work with local groups to ensure environmental justice in the River corridor.
- Develop newsletters and educational materials in conjunction with local needs.

**Prior Accomplishments**

- Creation of a student water quality monitoring program in 100 high, middle and elementary schools by the Friends of the Rouge.



**Schedule/Timeline**

The project schedule below outlines the process for implementing both the organizational structure of the Detroit River American Heritage Rivers plan of action and the implementation of priority projects to move us systematically toward achievement of our goals. Included in the outline are those actions which formalize our local team, cement our relationship with the federal government, and establish a framework within which this initiative will operate. This will all happen very quickly to take advantage of the momentum already created locally for this effort, and launch the River Navigator into a local environment that will have the greatest possible receptivity to a working partnership. We will then jointly move to immediately set the first year's specific priorities. This will get some projects moving and success stories underway. Finally, we will measure performance and repeat the cycle annually, setting our sights higher each year. Note that citizen participation is a constant across this process and feeds into each step along the way.

Schedule/Timeline  TASK	1998				1999	2000	2001	2002
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr				
1. Designation of Detroit River at State of the Union Address	●							
2. Finalize Detroit American Heritage River Team	■							
3. Federal Agency Team meets with the Detroit American Heritage River Team	●							
4. Framework Plan Development		■						
5. Agreement on Sponsoring Federal Agency		●						
6. River Navigator Identification		■						
7. River Navigator Begins		●						
8. Determine Measures of Performance		■						
9. Determine Data, GIS and Technology Needs			■					
10. Establish First (Annual) Year Priorities: Goals/Projects			●					
11. Form Project Specific Partnerships			■					
12. Mobilize Local/State/Federal Resources			■					
13. Implement Projects/Programs			■					
14. Measure Performance					●			
15. Refine Processes						●		
16. Repeat Tasks 10-15 Priorities/Implementation Sequence							■	
Citizen Involvement, Public Education and Environmental Justice Programs, Forums →								

**Citizen Involvement and Public Education**

When the Detroit River is designated as an American Heritage River, the Detroit American Heritage River Team will continue to involve citizens in the initiative. Detailed planning for the public participation program will be part of the Framework Plan developed in the first ninety days following designation.

There are a number of programs planned to educate our citizenry about river stewardship. The Detroit River Greenway Partnership is already a leader in this effort, and many programs will be created as part of the Detroit 300 celebration. As Detroit 300 continues to develop, area cultural, civic, business and community organizations will be encouraged to develop programs to interpret and present information related to these themes. One of the primary themes is Rivers and Lakes. Proposals to date include: recreating Cadillac's canoe voyage from Montreal to found the fur trading post of Detroit in 1701; performances of dance, music and theater interpreting aspects of River history; restoration of the passenger steamer Columbia; an exhibition of the City of Straits that interprets Detroit Riverfront history over 300 years and the creation of numerous publications. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum facility and educational programs will be expanded on Belle Isle and more modern exhibitions will be created. An extensive computerized database for maritime research will be developed and a dock will be built for school groups' arrival by boat. Detroit 300 will create curriculum-based materials for K-12 education. Collaborating with over 15 regional cultural institutions, Detroit 300 will coordinate classroom activities and resources, field trips, in-school performances, contests and special projects for students.

Additionally, the Detroit Recreation Department is leading efforts to create a 10.5-mile Riverfront park from city limit to city limit. Working with Detroit 300 and area cultural institutions, park expansions will include artwork, historic markers, and other outdoor interpretive signage systems to provide a historical context for and in recreational areas along the River.

The Detroit American Heritage River Team also plans to distribute an annual report on goals and accomplishments of the Team and to hold four annual regional summits to showcase progress along the River and discuss challenges.

#### **Logistical Support, Operating Procedures and Policies**

The Detroit American Heritage River Team is being created as an umbrella organization which will promote the environmental, economic and cultural health of the River and its communities. The Team, formed as a voluntary association, has a mission to:

- Promote cultural, environmental and economic activities in harmony with each other, bringing public and private partners together from both the Michigan and Ontario sides of the Detroit River;
- Champion coordinated bi-national revitalization of the Detroit River corridor from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie; provide a mechanism for coordinating activities;
- Facilitate cooperation among stakeholders along both sides of the River; support and facilitate programs in various communities;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information.

Each community or stakeholder group may have particular needs and approaches to accomplish its goals. It is the goal of this organization to assist and support those efforts. Each group is free to participate in the organization at a level appropriate to its needs, seek support and involvement by the organization as needed, and pursue its own sources of funding to support projects identified through its own revitalization efforts. We anticipate that stakeholders will enter into a memorandum of understanding similar in form to that executed by the stakeholders of the Detroit/Toronto Clean Cities Corridor.

The Detroit American Heritage River Team will work closely with the Federal Navigator. We anticipate that a Local Navigator will also be designated to assure coordination with local and state officials and the River Navigator.

The Team will be led by a steering committee with the following membership to represent our diverse stakeholder group:

- City of Detroit
- Downriver Community Conference
- Wayne County
- Business representation
- Canadian representation
- Educators
- Citizens/community groups
- Faith based organizations
- Environmental justice representation

Canadian representatives seeking the Detroit River's designation as a "Canadian Heritage River" will be invited to participate in the Team and U.S. representatives will participate in the Canadian organization. The American and Canadian Detroit River initiatives will mirror each other in organizational structure and work closely together to achieve complementary and common goals.

The key to successful implementation of projects in these areas is partnerships. Currently, the area has several partnerships helping to implement our vision. They are: the Downriver Community Conference; the Rivertown Business Association; the Detroit River Greenway Partnership; the Detroit REUS-IT Team; the City of Detroit/Wayne County Roundtable on Sustainable Development, the Greater Downtown Partnership and the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition.

### **Challenges to Community Action**

Diversity is our richest resource as well as our greatest obstacle. The wide variety of people and organizations interested in the Detroit River is an incredible strength. However, competing values of these groups present a unique challenge. Coordinating the efforts and resources of many agendas will be extremely critical to the success of any Detroit River corridor actions.

Another important challenge to our community is the lack of a unified data base and geographic information system. Various governmental agencies and utility providers use several different systems that are not readily interchangeable. While these systems are sophisticated, they are not useful for the kinds of coordinated planning and implementation efforts that the Detroit River requires for redevelopment.

Several other challenges to community action that should be taken into consideration as the Detroit River Plan of Action is detailed and implemented include:

- Strong home rule and resistance to regional governance.
- Socioeconomic disparities between urban and suburban areas.
- Limited communication between interested parties
- Prior uses of the River corridor.
- Perceived image of Detroit and Windsor.

### **Measures of Performance**

Each aspect of the plan of action will be monitored against available benchmarks or new criteria established by the Team to determine performance and progress toward reaching our vision. In some cases this will be straightforward, where empirical data are available; for example, environmental conditions like water quality, sediment contamination and brownfield conditions. In other cases, while economic development can be readily measured in terms of dollars invested or jobs created, multiplier effects and spin-off to primary investment measurements are less precise. In yet a third category, overall quality of life attributable to recreation improvements, greenways and resource conservation may be relatively subjective but no less real in overall contribution to achieving the vision Team's goal and the timeframe for achievement.

Our plan includes defining the benchmarks and reasonable measures to be used for the Detroit River project as noted in our timetable. Once the benchmark is identified, we will set criteria for performance and annual goals to measure our progress. We will carefully monitor this initiative to regularly take stock of our progress and level of success. A preliminary set of categories for measurement includes the following:

#### **Environment**

- Water quality
- Sediment quality
- Brownfield clean up
- Air quality

#### **Economic Development**

- Industrial investment
- Mixed Use investment
- Jobs retained and created
- Housing investment

#### **Culture/History**

- Museum/attractions
- Special events
- Parks and open space
- Greenways
- Education and interpretation

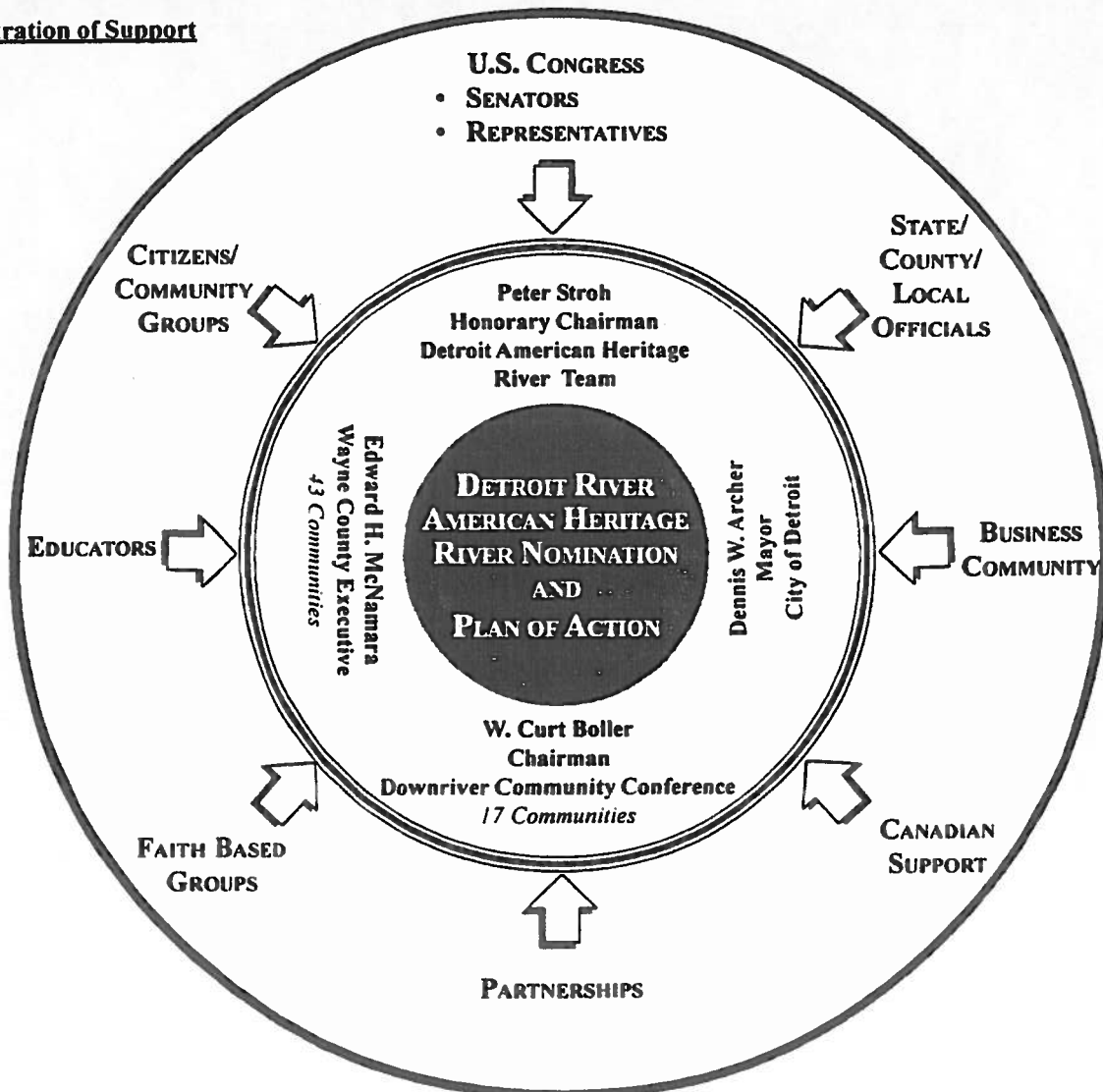
#### 4. SUPPORT FOR THE NOMINATION AND PLAN OF ACTION

Since the beginning, citizens have been involved in the initiative to nominate the Detroit River as an American Heritage River. They have read about it in their local newspapers and heard about it on their local radio and television news programs. Citizens have been informed of the program through the Bright Ideas insert placed in the October 1997 utility bills to over 2 million Detroit Edison customers. Many positive comments have been received from the community in response to this mailing as evidenced in the appendix. Over 25 meetings have been held throughout the corridor to encourage support and participation. Groups and individuals have been added by word of mouth, individual interest and organizational initiatives.

The committee working together to nominate the Detroit River as an American Heritage River represents a broad base of community support, including such grassroots organizations as Friends of the Detroit River, Friends of the Rouge River and the Detroit Greenways Partnership. These organizations predate this nomination action, but their goals and aspirations are consistent with the vision for the River. In addition, there are representatives from local government, business and industry, cultural institutions and ecumenical organizations on the committee.

The diagram below illustrates the broad coalition responding to this nomination for selection as an American Heritage River. The levels of support and commitments to various aspects of the plan of action are detailed in the attached letters of support. This outpouring of support demonstrates that the Detroit River is truly a unifying element for the Greater Detroit Community.

#### Illustration of Support





## APPENDIX – LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT

This appendix contains over 175 letters, resolutions and notes from a broad spectrum of individuals, organizations and agencies supporting our nomination for designation of the Detroit River as an American Heritage River. Endorsements are categorized according to our Illustration of Support diagram contained in Section 4 of the nomination.

### U.S. CONGRESS

Congress of the United States	Spencer Abraham John Conyers, Jr. John D. Dingell Carolyn C. Kilpatrick Sander M. Levin Carl Levin Lynn N. Rivers	Senator Representative Representative Representative Representative Senator Representative
Congress of the United States	Carolyn C. Kilpatrick	House of Representatives

### PARTNERSHIPS

Detroit American Heritage River Team	71 members	Application Team and Participants
Downriver Community Conference	Resolution	
Detroit River Greenway Partnership	37 members	
Rivertown Business Association	Mary J. Hebert	Executive Director
Metropolitan Affairs Coalition	B. David Sanders	Vice President
Detroit River Binational Public Advisory Council	Ralph H. Kummeler	Interim Chair
Roundtable on Sustainable Development	City of Detroit/Wayne County	

### STATE/COUNTY/LOCAL OFFICIALS

City of Detroit	Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr.	Director, Recreation Department
Detroit Historical Museums	Maud Lyon	Director
Tercentenary Exploratory Committee	Maud Lyon	Chair
City of Riverview	James P. Feudner	Director Community Development
City of Detroit	Joseph J. Vassallo	Interim Director, Planning & Development
Wayne County	James E. Murray	Director, Department of Environment
City of Detroit	Sarah D. Lile	Director, Dept. of Environmental Affairs
City of Detroit	Stephen F. Gorden	Director, Water and Sewerage Department
Wayne County	Dewitt J. Henry	Director, Jobs & Economic Development
City of Wyandotte	Leslie Lupo	Director, Dept. of Community Relations
City of Wyandotte	Marc M. Partin	Supervisor, Wyandotte Museum
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	John M. Amberger	Executive Director
City of Wyandotte	Mark A. Kowalewski	Department of Engineering
Wayne County Soil Conservation District	Marshall Brulez	Chairman
Detroit City Council	Sheila M. Cockrel	Chair, Recreation Task Force
Michigan House of Representatives	Gloria Schermesser	State Representative, 25 <sup>th</sup> District
Michigan Senate	Resolution	Joseph F. Young, Jr., State Senator
Areawide Water Quality Board	Patrick J. Brunett	Manager
Township of Grosse Ile	Douglas W. Jones	Supervisor
City of Trenton	Terrence M. Jarvis	City Administrator



Healthy Detroit  
 Huron River Fishing Association  
 The Detroit Edison Co.  
 Wildlife Habitat Council  
 Friends of Detroit Rowing  
 Creekside Community Development Corporation  
 The League of Women Voters  
 The Trust for Public Land  
 Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy  
 East Michigan Environmental Action Council  
 The Greening of Detroit  
 Eight Mile Boulevard Association  
 Friends of the Detroit River  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 Indian Village Association (Historic)  
 McKinley Neighbors United

Roosevelt High School Alumni Football Club  
 Wyandotte Boat Club  
 Wyandotte Cultural & Historical Commission  
 Wyandotte Historical Society  
 Virginia Park Citizens District Council  
 Jefferson-Chalmers Citizen's District Council  
 Preservation Wayne-David Mackenzie House

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Ruth E. Williams  
 Earl F. Kaiser, Jr.  
 James DuBay  
 John H. Young  
 John Hutton  
 Suzanne Bishop  
 Mary A. Koch  
 Cynthia M. Whiteford  
 Bruce D. Jones  
 Elizabeth S. Harris  
 Rebecca Salminen-Witt  
 Sharlan Douglas  
 Jeannine P. Ansley  
 Wayne A. Schmidt  
 Keith Martin  
 Mary Jo Harling  
 Gerald M. Wald  
 James M. Johnston  
 E.N. Hebda  
 Patricia A. Raine  
 Ron Bethune  
 James R. Williams  
 Kimberly H. Robinson  
 Katherine Clarkson  
 Stanley Brown Family  
 Charles Scholfield Family  
 Bruce A. Manny  
 Dory Izant  
 Judy and Curt Brock  
 Roy Birmingham  
 Gerald Lundy  
 Sharon Kowal  
 Joan Butler  
 Betsy A. Beaudin  
 Daniella Saltz  
 Joel Papcun  
 Cassandra Courtney  
 Halie Papcun  
 S. E. Schulze  
 Patrice Flower  
 John A. Leon  
 Kay Millies-Wright  
 Florence Murray  
 Louise Kozlowski  
 Mrs. Mazurek  
 Mildred R. Aument  
 Robert Sutherland  
 Ryan Solomon  
 Ida M. Piteo

President  
 Director, Environmental Initiatives  
 Director, Great Lakes Regional Office  
 President  
 Chairperson, Parks Committee  
 President, Detroit Metropolitan Area  
 Midwest Regional Director  
 Past President & Director of Special Projects  
 Executive Director  
 Executive Director  
 Executive Director  
 Executive Director  
 Director, Great Lakes National Resource Ctr.  
 President  
 Spokesperson  
 Spokesperson  
 President  
 Membership Secretary  
 President  
 President  
 President  
 Planner/Administrator  
 Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan  
 Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan  
 Birmingham, Michigan  
 Northville, Michigan  
 Southgate, Michigan  
 Macomb Community College  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan  
 Huntington Woods, Michigan  
 Warren, Michigan  
 Lincoln Park, Michigan  
 Trenton, Michigan  
 Redford, Michigan  
 Warren, Michigan  
 Amherstburg, Ontario  
 Saline, Michigan  
 South Lyon, Michigan

Peg Wilson	Taylor, Michigan
Mrs. H. Holmes	Roseville, Michigan
Mrs. Gary R. Grout	Harsen's Island, Michigan
J. M. Wright	Historian, Algonac, Michigan
Adalaide Greene	Detroit, Michigan
Henry Sommerstorfer	Clinton Township, Michigan
Kathi Milliken	
R. Scott Muschong	
Ellen Ross	Detroit, Michigan
Mary Lous Herec	Detroit, Michigan
Mrs. Steven Tohati	Allen Park, Michigan
Charlotte L. Renas	
Margie and Don Arsen	Clarkston, Michigan
Marie T. Hartlieb	St. Clair Shores, Michigan
Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Scott	Dearborn, Michigan
Essie Wingo	Detroit, Michigan
N. T. H. Yoas	
Mrs. Burt	
Alice B. Laidlaw	Port Huron, Michigan
Norma Grath	
G. M. Burke	
Martin L. Holtgrieve	
Harold and Gail Essmaker	Clinton Township, Michigan
Matt Darrow	
Robert Laundroche	Livonia, Michigan
Tom and Martha Swan	Warren, Michigan
Nancy Johnson	Birmingham, Michigan
Mrs. M. L. Tangle	
Dorothy C. Prier	Royal Oak, Michigan

## **EDUCATORS**

Detroit Public Schools	Arthur M. Carter	Deputy Superintendent, Governmental Relations & Community Services
Detroit Public Schools	Juanita Clay Chambers	Department of Curriculum Services
School District of the City of River Rouge	James Doig, Jr.	Superintendent of Schools
Gibraltar School District	James R. Vollmar	Superintendent
The School District of the City of Wyandotte	Dr. Patricia Cole	Superintendent of Schools
Marine Immersion High School Academy	Harold Edwards	
Trenton Public Schools	Donald N. Kolcheff	Superintendent
Grosse Ile Township Schools	Harrison E. Cass, Jr., Ph.D.	Superintendent of Schools
Riverview Community School District	Roger K. Allen	Superintendent
Ecorse Public Schools	Emma L. Epps, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Michigan State University	Peter McPherson	President
Sea Grant – Michigan	Russell Moll	Director
Wayne State University	Sue Marx Smock	Dean, College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs
University of Windsor	Gordon W. Wood	Acting President



Wayne County Community College

Dr. Curtis L. Very

President

#### **FAITH BASED GROUPS**

The Historic Little Rock Baptist Church

Dr. Jim Holley

Pastor

Joy of Jesus

Resolution

Freedom Baptist Church

Resolution

New Creation Full Gospel Baptist Church, Inc.

Resolution

Zion Progress

Resolution

Emmanuel Tabernacle by the River

Resolution

Michigan Evangelical Alliance

Resolution

Saint James Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Resolution

Second Baptist

Resolution

New Day Deliverance

Resolution

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

Resolution

Messiah Baptist Church

Resolution

Greater New Mt. Morich

Resolution

#### **CANADIAN SUPPORT**

Canadian House of Commons

Susan Whelan, M.P.

Essex

Canadian House of Commons

Shaughnessy Cohen, M.P.

Windsor-St. Clair

Ontario Legislative Assembly

Sandra Papatello, M.P.P.

Windsor-Sandwich

The Corporation of the City of Windsor

L.O.W. Burridge

Commissioner of Parks and Recreation

Pointe Pelee National Park

Ross Thomson

Superintendent

Essex Region Conservation Authority

Ken Schmidt

General Manager

Fort Malden National Historic Site

Rob Watt

Operations Manager

Coco Paving

Jenny Coco

Wilson Walker Hochberg Slopen

Terrence L.J. Patterson

The Corporation of the City of Windsor

Resolution

The Municipal Corporation, Town of Tecumseh

Resolution

The Corporation of the Township of Anderdon

Resolution

The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Resolution

South West Area Recreation Guild

Resolution

A.A. & M. Chamber of Commerce

Resolution

Township of Malden

Resolution

Rotary Club of Windsor

Resolution

Amherstburg Municipal Council

Resolution

Little River Enhancement Group

Resolution

Canada South Outdoors

Resolution

Convention and Visitor's Bureau of Windsor

Resolution

Essex County, Pelee Island

Windsor Rowing Club

Resolution

Casino Windsor

Susan A. McKee

Casino Windsor

Resolution

Dean Construction Company Limited

Resolution

Windsor -Essex County Development Commission

Resolution



## **Appendix 2**





# CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM





## **Appendix 3**





### **Appendix 3 – Rarity of the Detroit River Heritage Values in the CHRS**

Two national frameworks have been developed for, and adopted by, the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board (CHRB) to provide a tool with which to assess the degree to which Canada's river-related natural and human heritage is represented in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS). The human heritage (cultural) framework was completed in 1997 and the natural framework in 1998.

Both frameworks are thematic classifications of what the Board considers to comprise Canada's river heritage. The themes are divided into sub-themes, and the sub-themes into elements. An assessment has been made of all rivers included in the CHRS as of December 1998 to determine which themes, sub-themes and elements that each river makes to the CHRS. This provides a means of identifying the thematic contribution that each river makes to the CHRS. As shown on the following charts, a tally can be made of the number of *other* rivers containing representations of each sub-theme elements. (Because nominated rivers do not formally comprise part of the System, designated and nominated rivers have been counted separately.)

It should be noted that there is no attempt in these charts to limit *rare* representations. It is recognized that there is considerable variation in the significance, size, condition and locations of representations which make some much more important components of the CHRS than others. In the next few years, following review and final ratification of the thematic structures of the frameworks, ratings will be made of each representation. Until this time, the following charts provide only a rough guide as to which values of the Detroit River are rare or unique in the System.

It may be noted that most values of the Detroit River are relatively common in the System. However, a number of Cultural Heritage Theme Elements are represented only on the Detroit River and include the following:

- small scale domestic use (resource harvesting theme 1.4.1);
- municipal water supplies (resource harvesting theme 1.4.2);
- agricultural uses (resource harvesting theme 1.4.3);
- patterns of settlement affected by surveys (riparian settlement theme 3.2.3);
- ferries and associated docks, cables (riparian settlement theme 3.3.6);
- tunnels, fords and causeways (riparian settlement theme 3.3.7);
- municipal sanitary and storm sewage disposal (environmental regulation theme 7.2.1); and
- river reclamation projects affecting degraded rivers (environmental regulation theme 7.2.2).

**Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 1: Resource Harvesting**

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>1.0 RESOURCE HARVESTING</b>			
<b>SUB-THEME 1.1: Fishing</b>			
1.1.1 Aboriginal fishing	11	8	√
1.1.2 Domestic consumption of fish	1	1	√
1.1.3 Commercial fishing equipment	4	3	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	16	12	
<b>SUB-THEME 1.2: Hunting and Camping</b>			
1.2.1 Trapping of beaver	7	1	√
1.2.2 Trapping other edible or fur-bearing aquatic animals	8	3	√
1.2.3 Hunting caribou at crossing places	7	3	
1.2.4 Hunting of waterfowl	2	2	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	24	9	
<b>SUB-THEME 1.3: Resource Gathering</b>			
1.3.1 Shellfish	1	0	
1.3.2 Collection of seeds and roots of edible or medicinal plants	5	3	
1.3.3 Placer gold mining	1	0	
1.3.4 Quarrying stone	3	2	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	10	5	
<b>SUB-THEME 1.4: Water Extraction</b>			
1.4.1 Small scale domestic use	0	0	√
1.4.2 Municipal water supplies	0	0	√
1.4.3 Agricultural uses	0	0	√
1.4.4 Industrial extraction for factories, mines	1	5	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	2	5	
<b>THEME SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	52	31	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	13/15	10/15	

**Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 2: Water Transport**

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>2.0 WATER TRANSPORT</b>			
<b><i>SUB-THEME 2.1: River Navigation</i></b>			
2.1.1 Navigable channel itself	8	7	√
2.1.2 Human or wind-powered comm. Freight and pass. transport	20	6	√
2.1.3 Powered commercial freight and passenger transport	2	3	√
2.1.4 Navigational improvements	3	2	√
2.1.5 Cargoes	1	1	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 2.2: Provision of Onshore Services</i></b>			
2.2.1 Places of construction, repair and storage of craft	2	1	√
2.2.2 Facilities for loading, unloading and storing cargo and passengers	8	8	√
2.2.3 Places for provisioning of passengers and crews	3	3	√
2.2.4 Sites for specialized services	1	2	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 2.3: Surface Bulk Transportation</i></b>			
2.3.1 Log running	4	4	
2.3.2 Onshore provisioning of lumber/camps	0	1	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b><i>THEME SUMMARY</i></b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>10/10</b>	

*Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 3: Riparian Settlement*

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>3.0 RIPARIAN SETTLEMENT</b>			
<b><i>SUB-THEME 3.1: Siting of Dwellings</i></b>			
3.1.1 Dwellings, farmsteads originally accessible only by river	3	4	√
3.1.2 Dwellings and lots sited in respect of floods, water access	0	2	√
3.1.3 Shoreline seasonal settlements	9	2	√
3.1.4 Significant riparian residences	2	5	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 3.2: Provision of Onshore Services</i></b>			
3.2.1 Arch. Evidence of shoreline Aboriginal settlements	11	6	√
3.2.2 Communities developed around historic bridges/mill-seats	1	3	
3.2.3 Patterns of settlement affected by surveys	0	0	√
3.2.4 Roads, railways whose structure is dictated by rivers	5	2	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 3.3: River Crossings</i></b>			
3.3.1 Wooden road bridges	1	1	
3.3.2 Steel road bridges	1	1	√
3.3.3 Concrete road bridges	0	1	
3.3.4 Footbridges	0	0	
3.3.5 Rail bridges	2	1	
3.3.6 Ferries and associated docks, cables	0	0	√
3.3.7 Tunnels, fords and causeways	0	0	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b><i>THEME SUMMARY</i></b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>9/15</b>	<b>11/15</b>	



## **Appendix 4**



**Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 4: Hydraulic Power Generation**

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>4.0 HYDRAULIC POWER GENERATION</b>			
<b><i>SUB-THEME 4.1: Direct-Drive Water Power</i></b>			
4.1.1 Single sawmills and associated structures	2	4	
4.1.2 Single gristmills and associated structures	2	4	
4.1.3 Single woolen mills and associated structures	2	3	
4.1.4 Other specialized mills include. Pulp and Paper	0	1	
4.1.5 Mill complexes	1	2	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 4.2: Innovative Hydroelectric Power</i></b>			
4.2.1 Urban power generating stations	0	2	
4.2.2 Hydro developments for pulp/paper, aluminum	0	0	
4.2.3 Hydro developments to serve metro. markets	0	1	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b><i>THEME SUMMARY</i></b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>3/8</b>	<b>6/8</b>	

**Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 5: Culture and Recreation**

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>5.0 CULTURE AND RECREATION</b>			
<b><i>SUB-THEME 5.1: Spiritual and Symbolic Uses</i></b>			
5.1.1 Ritual or ceremonial structures	2	3	√
5.1.2 Sites of recurring spiritual or ritual activity	0	1	√
5.1.3 Spirit-dwelling places, vision-quest sites	1	3	
5.1.4 Burial grounds	7	4	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 5.2: Artistic Expression</i></b>			
5.2.1 Literature on topics	4	3	√
5.2.2 Paintings of specific rivers, or of people using rivers	4	3	√
5.2.3 River folklore	3	1	√
5.2.4 Architectural responses to river locations	2	3	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b><i>SUB-THEME 5.3: Pioneering of Early Recreation</i></b>			
5.3.1 Early recreational canoe routes	5	0	
5.3.2 Watersport facilities and clubs	1	1	√
5.3.3 Recreational equipment	0	1	
5.3.4 Literary accounts, songs, maps of canoe travel	0	0	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b><i>THEME SUMMARY</i></b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>9/12</b>	<b>10/12</b>	

*Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 6: Jurisdictional Uses*

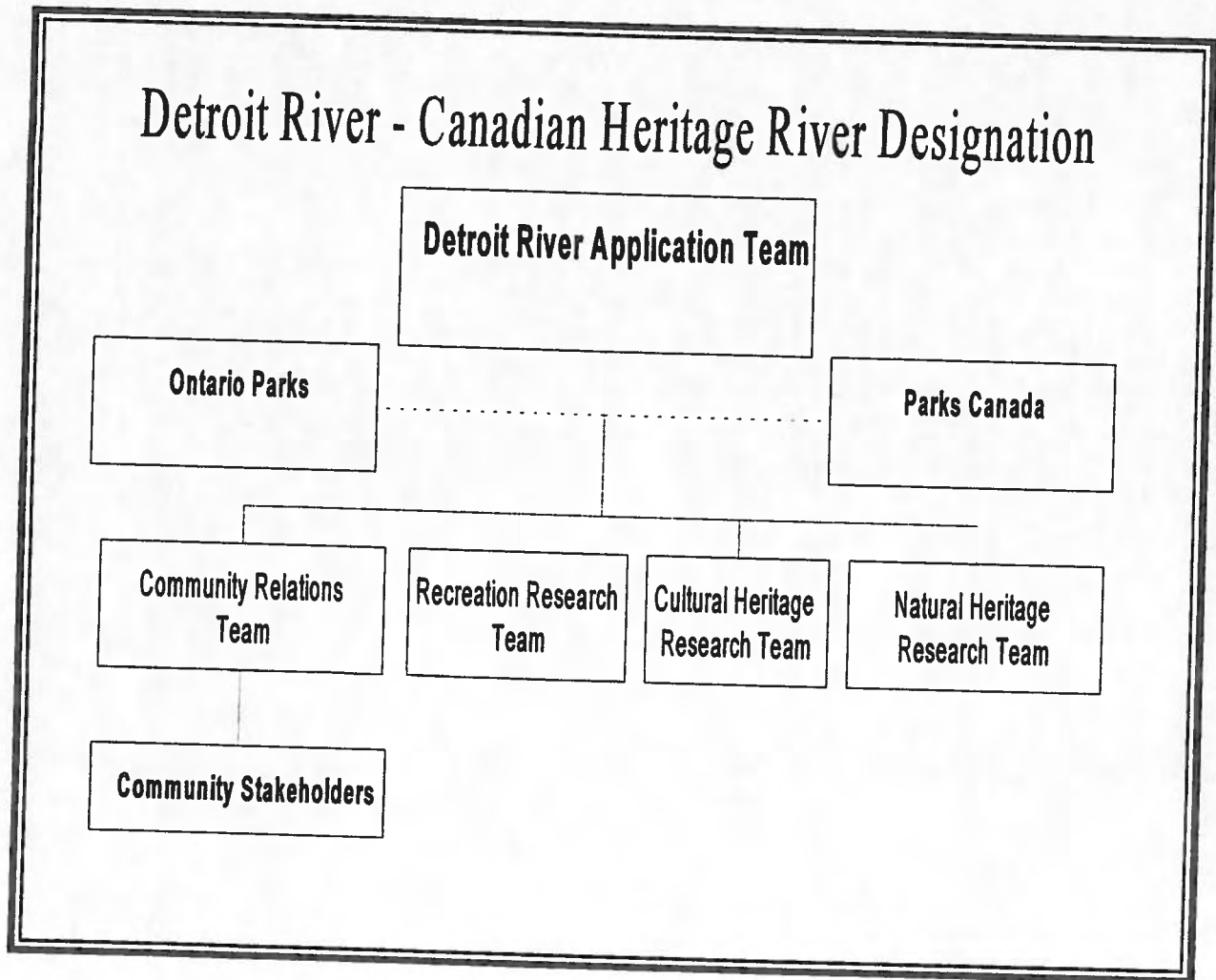
THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>6.0 JURISDICTIONAL USES</b>			
<i><b>SUB-THEME 6.1: Exploration and Route Surveys</b></i>			
6.1.1 Official exploring parties	12	4	√
6.1.2 Surveying parties	7	3	
6.1.3 Official parties claiming land for a colonizing power	5	2	√
6.1.4 Evidence of commercial exploration	2	1	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	
<i><b>SUB-THEME 6.2: Military Uses</b></i>			
6.2.1 Aboriginal conflict sites	1	1	√
6.2.2 European armed conflict afloat	1	2	√
6.2.3 Invasion routes and associated battlefields	0	2	√
6.2.4 River-side fortifications	1	3	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	
<i><b>SUB-THEME 6.3: Boundary Delineation</b></i>			
6.3.1 Political boundaries	4	1	√
6.3.2 Artifacts associated with transboundary movement	1	1	√
6.3.3 Special regional roles or identities created by boundaries	1	0	√
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	
<i><b>THEME SUMMARY</b></i>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>10/11</b>	<b>10/11</b>	



**Representations of Cultural Heritage Theme 7: Environmental Regulation**

THEME/SUB-THEME/ELEMENT	Number of Rivers with Representations		Detroit River
	Designated Rivers	Nominated Rivers	
<b>7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION</b>			
<b>SUB-THEME 7.1: Early Flood Control Measures</b>			
7.1.1 Dykes and levees	2	1	
7.1.2 Flood control dams, impoundments and diversions	1	2	
7.1.3 Water flow-monitoring stations	0	0	
7.1.4 Structures reflecting flood control legislation	0	0	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>SUB-THEME 7.2: Pioneering Improvements to Water Quality</b>			
7.2.1 Municipal sanitary and storm sewage disposal systems	0	0	√
7.2.2 River reclamation projects affecting degraded rivers	0	0	√
7.2.3 River sections subject to recreational use restrictions	0	0	
7.2.4 Water quality monitoring stations	0	0	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>SUB-THEME 7.3: Pioneering Improvements to Aquatic Ecology</b>			
7.3.1 Fish ladders, trucking of fish and young	0	0	
7.3.2 Fish hatcheries and regulated spawning grounds	1	1	√
7.3.3 River sections subject to fishing regulations	0	0	
7.3.4 Habitat improvements initiatives	0	2	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>SUB-THEME 7.4: Pioneering Access and Use Regulation</b>			
7.4.1 Aboriginal rights and claims settlements affecting water use	0	0	
7.4.2 Different types of riparian rights	0	0	
7.4.3 Places affected by regulation of water rights	1	0	
7.4.4 Protected areas	2	2	
<b>Sub-Theme Total:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>THEME SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Total No. of Rivers with Representations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>Proportion of Elements Represented</b>	<b>5/16</b>	<b>5/16</b>	

**Appendix 4 - Detroit River Heritage River Designation  
Team Organizational Chart**





## **Appendix 5**





## **Appendix 5 – Acknowledgments**

The Detroit River Background Report is a community based project undertaken by a team of individuals representing the general public, local municipalities, agencies and organizations on both the Canadian and American sides of the river. Many people have given generously of their time, providing information and ideas. Their efforts helped remind an entire community of the greatness of one of its visible natural resources - the Detroit River. We are indebted to everyone who has participated. We especially want to thank the following for their effort in completing the Background Report and the Nomination Document:

### **Application Team Members:**

- > Keith Andrews, Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Administration, Casino Windsor
- > Charles Bake, Treasurer, CAW Windsor Regional Environment Council
- > Marcel Beneteau, Member, Tercentennial Committee for the Region of Windsor-Detroit
- > Barb Bjarneson, Windsor Environmental Advisory Committee
- > Albert A. Bogdan, Planning Director, Wayne County Planning Division
- > W. Curt Boller, Township Supervisor, Brownstown Township
- > Ken Bondy, Chairperson, CAW Windsor Regional Environment Council
- > Lloyd Burrige, Commissioner, City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department
- > Paul Cassano, Senior Vice President, Development and Alumni Affairs, University of Windsor
- > Paul Chauvin, President, Tercentennial Committee for the Region of Windsor-Detroit
- > Jenny Coco, Coco Paving
- > David Cree, General Manager and CEO Windsor Harbour Commission
- > Americo Dean, Owner, Dean Construction
- > Tom Fuerth, ERCA Chair, Township of Sandwich South Councillor
- > Terry Fink, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
- > John Fisher, Ministry of Natural Resources
- > Bob Garcia, Fort Malden National Historic Site
- > Brian Grimsey, Canadian Heritage Rivers
- > Doug Haffner, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor
- > Elizabeth Hamel, General Manager, Windsor Essex County and Pelee Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
- > Phil Horn, Financial Advisor, Midland Walwyn
- > Mary Hebert, Executive Director, Rivertown Business Association
- > Tom Henderson, Little River Enhancement Group
- > Mayor Wayne Hurst, Town of Amherstburg
- > Saad Jasim, Windsor Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee, Windsor Utility Commission
- > Dan Lebedyk, Biologist, ERCA
- > Remo Mancini, Corporate Vice President, Canadian Transit Company

- > Bill Messenger, Windsor
- > John Oram, Owner, Boblo Island
- > Bill Parkus, Environmental Planning Assistant, SEMCOG
- > Terry Patterson, Wilson, Walker, Hochberg, Slopen
- > Tracey Pillon-Abbs, Conservation Planner, ERCA
- > Judy Recker, ERCA Member, Town of LaSalle Councillor
- > Ken Schmidt, General Manager, Essex Region Conservation Authority
- > Jim Scorgie, Greater Windsor Community Foundation
- > Cynthia Silveri, Landscape Architect, City of Detroit Recreation Department
- > Bob Sutherland, Amherstburg Resident
- > Peter Thomas, CAW Local 444
- > Mike Turton, Community Relations Supervisor, ERCA
- > Robert Watt, Fort Malden National Historic Site
- > Tom Wilson, ERCA Member, City of Windsor Councillor
- > Richard Wyma, Land Management Supervisor, ERCA
- > Tracy Zander, Conservation Planner, ERCA

#### **Human Heritage Team:**

- > Chris Allsop, ERCA
- > Marcel Beneteau, Member, Tercentennial Committee for the Region of Windsor-Detroit
- > Janet Cobban, Curator, John R. Park Homestead
- > Anita Colery, Student, University of Windsor
- > Terri Epp, ERCA
- > Bob Garcia, Fort Malden National Historic Site
- > Elise Harding-Davis, Cultural Black Museum
- > Larry Kulisek, Department of History, University of Windsor
- > Maud Lyon, Director, Detroit Historical Museum
- > Dr. Trevor Price, Department of Political Science – Retired, University of Windsor
- > Rob Watt, Fort Malden National Historic Site

#### **Natural Heritage Team:**

- > Doug Haffner, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
- > John Hartig, International Joint Commission
- > Saad Jasim, Windsor Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee, Windsor Utility Commission
- > Mark Jones, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- > Dan Lebedyk, Biologist, ERCA
- > Bruce Manny, US Geological Survey
- > Bob Petit, Holiday Beach Migration Observatory
- > Paul Pratt, Ojibway Nature Centre
- > Richard Wyma, Land Management Supervisor, ERCA

### **Recreational Values Team:**

- > Lloyd Burrige, City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department
- > Terry Fink, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
- > Elizabeth Hamel, Windsor Essex County & Pelee Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
- > Faye Langemaide, City of Windsor Parks and Recreation Department
- > Julia Madden, LaSalle Parks and Recreation
- > Cynthia Silveri, City of Detroit Parks and Recreation Department
- > Richard Wyma, Land Management Supervisor, ERCA

### **Community Relations Team:**

- > Ken Bondy, Chairperson, CAW Windsor Regional Environment Council
- > Roman Dzus, Windsor-Essex County Development Commission
- > Jim Evans, Ontario Restaurant Association, Duffy's Restaurant
- > Elizabeth Hamel, Windsor Essex County & Pelee Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
- > Joanne Hoppe, CBC
- > Saad Jasim, Windsor Chamber of Commerce Environment Committee, Windsor Utility Commission
- > Jack Kindred, Publisher, Amherstburg Echo
- > Barb Malmberg, Event Planning and Sponsorship Supvr., Windsor Star
- > Karen Mauro, Editor, LaSalle Silhouette
- > Don Mumford, Program and Promotion Manager, CHWI
- > Jim Mundy, Casino Windsor
- > Terry Patterson, Wilson, Walker, Hochberg, Slopen
- > Tracey Pillon-Abbs, Conservation Planner, ERCA
- > Eric Proksch, General Manager, CHUM Group
- > Ken Schmidt, General Manager, ERCA
- > Mike Turton, Community Relations Supervisor, ERCA
- > Richard Wyma, Land Management Supervisor, ERCA
- > Mylenn Young-Percival, Director of Sales, Windsor Hilton
- > Grace Zek, President, Ontario Restaurant Association, Duffy's Restaurant

### **Additional ERCA Staff:**

- > Cheryl Cadotte, Tony Colquhoun, Marla Ellis, Kathy Gulko, Geordon Harvey, Vivian Kennedy, Lisa Ladd, Andrew Pula, Lisa Sisco and Karen Thompson.



## **Appendix 6**





## Appendix 6 – Community Activities

The following is a list of community displays and activities that have been undertaken to date and will be completed in the near future.

### Community Displays

Feb/98        *LaSalle Zehrs*

A display was set up and brochures handed out to promote the Detroit River designation.

May 4-8/98   *Education Week*

A display was set up at the Essex County Civic Centre highlighting the winners of the CHRS School Art and Writing Contest winners and the Detroit River Project.

May 1998     *LaSalle Strawberry Festival*

Display was set up highlighting the CHRS project for the Detroit River. Various CHRS puzzles were created to attract families to learn more about the Heritage Rivers and the Detroit River

June 10/98   *Windsor Chamber*

Windsor Chamber Business After Five Boat Cruise on the Detroit River highlighted a summary of the project.

June 27/98   *Freedom Festival*

International Freedom Festival - Marine Day display set up in Dieppe Park highlighting the Detroit River CHRS project.

July 9/98     *Mayors Conference*

CHRS Detroit River display set up during the Annual Great Lakes Mayors Conference held at the Cleary International Centre

July 17/98    *ERCA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

The Detroit River was highlighted during ERCA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Aug 1-2/98   *Heritage Festival*

Detroit River CHRS display set up at the Amherstburg Heritage Festival in the Kings Navy Yard Park.

Aug 27-30/98 *Tecumseh Corn Festival*

Detroit River Display for Public Information to be set up during the four day festival.

Sept 3-6/98   *Harrow Fair*

Detroit River CHRS display set up to promote the project in Harrow during their four day Agricultural Fair.

Sept 11-13/98 *Olde Sandwich Town Festival*

Detroit River Display for Public Information to be set up during the Sandwich Towns Festival.

### **Community Relations Activities**

May 1/98 *Newsletter*

The first newsletter was distributed in May of 1998 to community partners. The next newsletter will be distributed in November 1998. The newsletter will also be included in a utility billing for people and businesses in the Detroit River area. The following editions will be prepared for January, May and Sept 1999.

June 1998 *School Project*

A Celebration of the Detroit River through Art and Writing - School Children Contest was held. Certificates of Merit were given to winners and drawings and work will be highlighted in future publications. Press releases were also well received.

July 1998 *CHRS Puzzle*

Students working on the CHRS project, completed a display to take to festivals, which included 4 Detroit River CHRS puzzles. The puzzles were very popular with people of all ages.

Sept. 12/98 *Boat/Bus Tour*

A Detroit River Boat and Bus Tour was held for Community Stakeholders. The tour highlighted the CHRS project, the AHRD project and ERCA activities.

Oct. 1998 *CHRS LOGO*

The design of the Detroit River CHRS Logo has been recommended by the Application Team.

Oct. 1998 *CHRS Brochures*

An in-house brochure has been created and photocopies have been made. Approximately 2000 have been distributed.

Nov. 1998 *Photo Contest*

An amateur Photo Contest of the Detroit River will be conducted. The theme is "A Day in the Life of the Detroit River". Contest will be announced during the River Day Media Conference. Photos will be used in future publications.

Nov. 1998 *Poster*

A Detroit River Heritage poster will be created to highlight the project, increase local awareness and promote community support. Posters will be placed in schools, libraries, community sites, and local businesses.

Nov. 1998 *Video PSA*

A video public service announcement (PSA) will be produced highlighting the Detroit River, the CHRS project and community activities. The video will be used as a promotional tool to help educate people of the Detroit River Heritage, promote letters of support and increase awareness of it's value. The video will also help during the Management Strategy research, through public consultation.

Nov. 1998 *School Calendar*

Winners of the school writing and drawing contest will be highlighted in a calendar, which will be made available to the winners and the general public.

March 1999 *River Day/Media Conference*

A River Day Media Conference is being planned for March 1999. This will include unveiling of the CHRS logo, highlighting the winners of the school contest, media clippings, letter of support signing, the photo contest will be announced, the new brochures will be available, and the video PSA.

Mar-Sept/99 *Public Meetings*

In preparation for the development of the Management Strategy, a series of public meetings will be held to get community input into the process.

## **Fundraising**

A fundraising campaign has been initiated to ensure project goals can be met. Funding received so far has assisted in expenses for promotions, displays, photos, editing, printing and staffing. Generous financial and in-kind contributions to date include the following:

▪ Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation	\$5,000
▪ Canadian Heritage Rivers Board	\$7,500
▪ Casino Windsor	\$5,000
▪ Essex Region Conservation Authority	In-kind
▪ Ford Motor Company of Canada	\$4,000
▪ Hargreaves, Charbonneau and Associates (Logo Design)	In-kind
▪ Hiram Walker	\$2,000
▪ Human Resources Development Canada (Student Placements)	\$2,703
▪ Members of the Application Team	In-kind
▪ Members of the Background Report Research Teams	In-kind
▪ Carl Morgan, Editing and Human Heritage Photos	In-Kind
▪ South Essex Economic Development Corporation	\$5,000
▪ Dr. Trevor Price, Department of Political Science – Retired, University of Windsor (Human Heritage Author)	In-kind





## **Appendix 7**



## **Appendix 7 - Letters of Support**

To date over 325 letters of support and resolutions have been received and filed with Parks Canada. The following are the names and organizations who have expressed their interest for the Detroit River Heritage River Designation:

### **Canadian Government:**

- Shaughnessy Cohen, M.P., Windsor-St. Clair Beach
- Bruce Crozier, M.P.P., Essex
- Dwight Duncan, M.P.P., Windsor-Walkerville
- Hon. Herb Gray, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Windsor West
- Wayne Lessard, M.P.P., Windsor-Riverside
- Sandra Papatello, M.P.P. Windsor-Sandwich
- Eugene F. Whelan, Senator
- Susan Whelan, M.P., Essex

### **Canadian Community Organizations and Associations:**

- Windsor Rowing Club
- Essex Region Conservation Authority - Members
- Little River Enhancement Group
- Convention and Visitors Bureau of Windsor, Essex County and Pelee Island
- Point Pelee National Park
- Windsor-Essex County Development Commission
- South West Area Recreation Guild
- Amherstburg Chamber of Commerce
- International Joint Commission
- Windsor-Essex County Canoe Club
- Canada South Outdoors Inc.
- CAW Windsor Regional Environmental Council
- LaSalle Business Group
- Rotary Club of Windsor

- Canadian Coast Guard, Central & Arctic Region (2)
- Ducks Unlimited
- Great Adventure Tours
- Windsor's Community Museum (Francois Baby House)
- Ontario Parks
- H.M.S. Detroit
- Windsor Environmental Advisory Committee
- Comité des Fête du Tricentenaire de la Région Windsor-Détroit
- Windsor Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee
- International Great Lakes St Lawrence Mayor's Conference
- Fort Malden National Park
- Windsor Utilities Commission
- Freedom Festival

### **Canadian Municipalities:**

- Town of Amherstburg
- Township of Malden
- Township of Anderdon
- Town of LaSalle
- City of Windsor, Council
- Office of the Mayor, City of Windsor, Mayor Mike Hurst
- Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Windsor
- Office of the City Clerk, City of Windsor
- Town of Tecumseh
- County of Essex, County Warden, Patrick O'Neil
- County of Essex, Chief Administrative Officer

### **Canadian Business Community:**

- Dean Construction Company Limited
- Windsor Casino Limited
- Coco Paving Inc.
- Kennedy Chev-Olds
- Wilson, Walker, Hochberg, Slopen, Barristers & Solicitors

- Seagrams Company Ltd.
- Canadian Consulate General
- JJR Incorporated
- Windsor Utilities Commission
- Water and Sewerage Department,  
City of Detroit
- Detroit & Canada Tunnel  
Corporation

**Canadian Education:**

- University of Windsor, Political  
Science Department
- University of Windsor, Department  
of Environmental Law Society
- University of Windsor, Kayak Club
- University of Windsor, Office of the  
President

**Canadian Individuals:**

- Robert Sutherland, Amherstburg
- Dr. G. Ron Frisch, Windsor
- B. Sheeham
- Wayne Bagley, Windsor
- John Gaudette, Amherstburg
- Gordon Freeman, Amherstburg
- Kenneth Lapointe, Windsor
- Helen Cote, Amherstburg
- Jane LaLange, Amherstburg
- Dolores Lauchner, Windsor
- Joyce Derkson, Windsor
- Nancy and Roy Battagello, Windsor
- Monica Reaume
- K. McKinney
- L. Ferreria
- D. Cocchetto
- P. Cordeiro
- M. Beruz
- M. Bremnar
- M. Zhigany
- J. Livingston
- S. Pollock
- P. Sweicki
- J. Myers
- J. Drago
- S. Browning
- S. Ferguson

- Zimnicki
- U. Wolfnoz
- Belang
- J. Tlez
- S. Balakriham
- H. Dashwood
- T. Velez
- S. Hick
- P. Bondy
- S. Tustin
- S. Lucieu
- K. LaRocca
- R. Maon
- Rodzik
- L. Wilson
- M. Daymen
- J. Topolski
- Carlone
- S. Rimmington
- T. Lin
- Foxem
- S. Desmarais
- T. Wilson
- K. Vansteelandt
- Hrcan
- Resor
- Beadon
- J. Johnstone
- Hellingsworth
- M. Ward
- Toumorally
- E. Hart
- M. Dolby
- Guo
- Donnelly
- Girgis
- N. MacDonald
- P. Bacchus
- F. Tsegah
- Zefhi
- Taylor
- Chatteyca
- Robu
- Shepard
- Rousseau
- P. Hummond

- R. Elliott
- Howard
- T. Ty
- Durante
- M. Hellingsworth
- Karsen
- Sambasivan
- Schultz
- T. Bates
- McClean
- R. Molihare
- Y. Yakishito
- J. James
- S. Staha
- McKenna
- J. Hurst
- Lenard
- W. Shefler
- Vinni
- V. Cross
- T. Deo
- T. Darus
- Trottier
- Ferrandez
- D'Angelo
- Borden
- H. Shoufier
- J. Duff
- J. Hellingsworth
- Mazzome
- Clarke
- Helkca
- R. Matriz
- Robert Demers
- Corbett Family
- W. Peter
- R. Dennison
- Boycott
- Boycott
- Scott
- S. Clements
- Kitchen
- S. Ray
- L. Woodfield
- Mathis
- M. Pare
- Gaworsky
- J. Rochos
- M. Austin
- Desjardins
- Smoth
- Shuttleworth
- T. Shuttleworth
- J. Chism
- R. Caves
- Reaume
- L. Hirst
- L. Maifla
- Ross
- L. Mayen
- R. Wintard
- Hutchinson
- McClintock
- Hedrick
- Cadarette
- J. Enas
- T. Hoblely
- M.B. Caves
- David Haze
- Richard Ramey
- Shirley Crone
- Charles Guiderial
- J. Smith
- Anne Lessard
- L. McCarthy
- April Dufresne-Brook
- Sheeham
- Chuck Pike
- Margaret Berze
- Leo Kuschel
- Marna Fratarcengali
- Lindsay Thuy
- Rob Pearse
- Jessica Parsons-Reaume
- Deedee Kok
- Jesse Gagnon
- Jessie Ramsey
- Joanne Hyatt
- Wendy Pestowka
- Caleb Bergen
- Kevin Edwards
- Maxx Kovacs

- Andrea Thorne
  - Mark Joye
  - Nicole deJong
  - Jennifer Brenda Moody
  - Nelson MacDougall
  - Sarah Manshande
  - Stephanie Clark
  - Dylan Langlois
  - Peter Mamo
  - Corey Kerr
  - Ellico Goum
  - Will Kerr
  - Katie MacTavish
  - Bryan Cincarak
  - Vanessa Harnish
  - Devon Sundin
  - Chris Osborn
  - Chelsea York
  - Sydney Folliott
  - Ben Greenwood
  - Jessica Post
  - Jason Arnew
  - Catherine Reaume
  - Jacklyn Reimer
  - Mary Dunn
  - Elizabeth M. Snyder
  - Nick Eagle
  - Graeme Johnson
  - Jeffrey Blackford
  - T.J. Pretty
  - Eric Miinch
  - Steve Welken
  - Greg Mutterback
  - Aaron Wad
  - Devin Nicholson
  - James Snively
  - Shannon O'Keefe
  - Manlee Ribble
  - Craig Bolsover
  - Kenneth Lapoint, Windsor
- U.S. Support:**
- Representative Caroline C. Kilpatrick
  - Representative John D. Dingell
  - Representative Lynn N. Rivers
  - Representative John Conyers Jr.
  - Representative Sander M. Levin
  - Senator Spencer Abraham
  - Senator Carl Levin
  - City of Detroit
  - City of Riverview
  - Township of Brownstown
  - City of Woodhaven
  - City of Ecorse
  - Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority
  - Township of Grosse Ile
  - City of Trenton
  - City of Lincoln Park
  - General Assembly of SEMCOG
  - Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce
  - City of South Gate
  - South East Michigan Council of Governments
  - Wayne County Commission
  - Rivertown Business Association
  - Preservation Wayne
  - City of Wyandotte
  - Grosse Ile Educators
  - Hands and Associates Inc.
  - DTE Energy
  - Detroit Edison
  - Joy of Jesus Church
  - Freedom Baptist Church
  - New Creation Full Gospel Church Inc.
  - Zion Progress Church
  - Emmanuel Tabernacle by the River
  - Michigan Emanuel Alliance
  - St. James Cumberland Presbyterian Church
  - Second Baptist Church
  - New Day Deliverance
  - Mount Carmel Baptist Church
  - Messiah Baptist Church
  - Greater New Mt. Morich
  - Michigan Detroit River RAP



## **Appendix 8**



The Windsor Star  
Friday, August 1, 1997.

# American group applies for 'heritage river' label

By Chris Thompson  
Star Staff Reporter

The Detroit River could be designated a heritage river in the two countries it flows through.

A group of interested individuals on the American side of the river have applied to the U.S. government to get the river heritage status.

"They are starting to move," said Ken Schmidt, general manager of the Essex Region Conservation Authority "They're starting to understand the importance of the river, and they haven't done that in the past."

In June the conservation authority announced it was beginning the process to have the river declared a heritage river in Canada.

Here the declaration can bring special government funding, but the U.S. designation doesn't have such an arrangement.

"There is no money, but with that

designation comes a source of community pride," Schmidt said. "It's a question of focus on positive things on the waterfront. It's not a question of dollars."

Schmidt said he expects a heritage designation would bring money in from prominent American corporations to help maintain the river.

An ideal scenario would see the river recognized as a heritage river in both countries, he said "I believe there is tremendous strength in this being a binational effort," Schmidt said.

The American heritage river designation is part of an environmental initiative announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton during the State of the Union address earlier this year.

Applications for heritage river, designation in the U.S. must be completed by Dec. 1.

Canada has about 30 rivers in the Canada Heritage Rivers system.

SPECIAL REPORT: REGIONAL GROWTH

# Detroit River in line for U.S. cleanup help

Waterway is 'strong candidate' to be chosen by Clinton as an American Heritage River.

By David Shepardson  
The Detroit News

The river that runs by Detroit — past grassy islands and massive industrial complexes — is expected to be named to a federal program aimed at bringing a renaissance to the waterway.

In January, 10 American Heritage Rivers will be announced by President Clinton, and the Detroit River is a top qualifier.

"Detroit is a very strong candidate," said Lisa Guide, a spokeswoman for the White House Office of Environmental Quality. "It has all the components we're looking for."

The designation results in the appointment of a "rivermaster" to coordinate efforts, secure additional funding and work with local communities to improve the river.

The Detroit River and its tributaries — the Clinton River in Macomb County and the Rouge River in Wayne County — would benefit through a new focus on

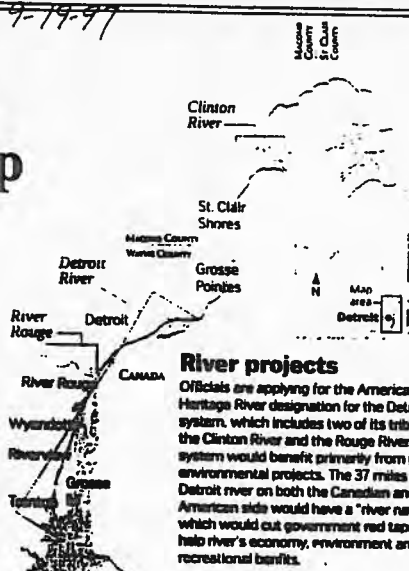
recreation, economic development and environmental cleanup, officials said.

"We need to stop thinking of the river as a boundary, but as a road and the brain and heart of southeast Michigan," said Mary Hebert, executive director of the 350-member RiverTown Business Association.

Her group is part of a wide coalition of community and business groups, environmental activists and politicians working to complete a 15-page application by December.

It would take an estimated \$1 billion to completely dredge the river of pollutants, officials said, and the rivermaster would help local officials wade through regulations and seek environmental grants.

"This will cut through the government red tape and get the cleanup of the Detroit River back on track," said Jeannine Ansley, executive director of the 50-member Friends of the Detroit River.



### River projects

Officials are applying for the American Heritage River designation for the Detroit River system, which includes two of its tributaries, the Clinton River and the Rouge River. The system would benefit primarily from joint environmental projects. The 37 miles of the Detroit river on both the Canadian and American side would have a "river navigator" which would cut government red tape and help river's economy, environment and have recreational benefits.

The Detroit News

Ansley, a retired Environmental Protection Agency statistician who lives in Melvindale, said the program reflects the strong local commitment to the river.

"We're all coming together because we care about the river we share," said W. Curt Boller, a Brownstown Township supervisor who noted that both Detroit and the Downriver Community

Conference support the project.

The Detroit River remains one of the most polluted in the United States, still suffering the effects of years of heavy industrial dumping, occasional sewer overflows that pour into the water and oil that leaks from riverfront industrial plants.

Please see RIVER, Page 2D



Robin Buckson/The Detroit News: River programs would "cut it red tape," said Jeannine of the Detroit River.

## RIVER

Continued from Page 1D

During World War II, companies dumped toxic chemicals as well into the Rouge and Detroit rivers.

"They had to get the next tank off the line, so the environment wasn't exactly a high priority," said Bruce Miller, a field biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Ann Arbor.

"Consider a few examples of the river's extensive pollution:

- Biologists and researchers who work in the river report cancer, burning eyes and asthma attacks.

- A Michigan Department of Environmental Quality study said some spots in the river exceed the EPA's designation for "severe pollution" by more than 60 times.

- One area in the lower Trenton channel — the most contaminated part of the river — has so much zinc in it that it would qualify for mining, Manny said.

- Many fish found near Zug Island have no gills, huge lesions or large growths and discolorations. The commercial fishing industry in the river ended more than two decades ago, when interstate transportation of fish was banned and there's a steady decline in carp from the river.

However, in small but sure ways, the river is coming back.

The first eagle's nest seen on the river in decades just across the Canadian border has a half-dozen hatchlings; for the first time in a half-century, duck hunting was allowed last year on the river with 300,000 diving ducks stopping along the river on their way home to Chesapeake Bay; one of the only sturgeon spawning areas on the Great Lakes, near Grassy Island off Wyandotte, has seen a marked increase in fish.

The 72-acre Grassy Island was created when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deposited thousands of tons of sediment laced with heavy metals from the Rouge River into the Detroit River. It borders some of the areas Michigan wants cleaned.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) did a three-year study of the Trenton Channel and listed four primary "hot spots" that need cleaning at a cost of \$10 million.

"We're looking at sharing the cost with business," said Art Ostaszewski, an aquatic biologist with DEQ. "It doesn't do any good to be tied up in court for 10 years fighting over who is going to pay for the cleanup."

He pointed to the successful, privately funded dredging this summer of a portion of the Mousaugon Creek that flows into the Detroit River near

### What's next

- Group of 20 business, political and environmental officials will complete 15-page application demonstrating importance and significance of Detroit River.
- Application is submitted by December.
- President Clinton names 10 American Heritage Rivers in January.
- Clinton appoints federal "river master" to help cities navigate environmental regulations and seek grants. If Detroit is picked, president will visit in 1994.

Grosse Ile  
And just last week, the Michigan Land Trust announced it would buy the 100-acre Stony Island, just off Grosse Ile, and create a wildlife refuge for the gray foxes, river otters and birds.

The American Heritage River designation also would focus on enhancing recreation.

Detroit Edison, which owns property along the Detroit River, is working to turn land into parks. The company converted land at Del Ray, an old southwest Detroit power plant, into a fishing pier and boat launch this summer, said Roberta Urbani, a company environmental planner.

County area for Mr. Dressup's Family Day at the Ciociaro Club last week.

Joining the entertainer for the outdoor celebration were several local bands, multicultural dancers, and performers, including

schedule.

Other activities held throughout the day were a story book kingdom, a bouncing castle, water relay races, and the Heritage Village's 13th annual Teddy Bear contest, which

featured over 100 entries from both children and adults. Prizes were given in 10 categories, including oldest, most cuddly, and best homemade bear.

Although Coombs rec-

ently retired his long-running CBC television show, he continues to make numerous appearances across Canada as a spokesperson for Save the Children.

## Tecumseh backs river's heritage designation

By William Hunt  
Shoreline Week

Tecumseh town council is supporting the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) in its bid to get the Detroit River designated as a Canadian heritage waterway.

Tracy Zander, ERCA conservation planner, told council last week the first step in getting the designation from the governments was to get the sup-

port of coastal municipalities.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) was established in 1984. Representatives from the federal government and each of the provinces and territories sit on the CHRS board.

The United States has a similar program, and Michigan representatives have already begun the process towards American designation. Tecumseh council voted to support their efforts as well.

After ERCA's proposal receives local government and industry support, a management plan for the river's future will be created and submitted for approval.

Zander said the American side has set aside about \$30,000 for its proposal, which includes the hiring of two public relations firms and another to create the management plan.

"I don't think we need to go to that extent," she said, adding it may be

possible for ERCA to do the job in-house.

The plan itself will be a long-term strategy to protect the waterway, including future heritage, recreational and environmental uses.

Currently, the CHRS includes over 6,000 km of 30 rivers, of which 17 have received final designation, including the St. Croix River, another international border like the Detroit which runs between New Brunswick and the state of Maine.

## Detroit River, Heritage river?

By Ron Glofu

### ANDERDON —

Township council has given its support to designate the Detroit River as both a Canadian and an American Heritage River.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System is a cooperative program of federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada and are designed to give national and international recognition to outstanding rivers and ensure their natural, historical and recreational values.

Tracy Zander of the Essex Regional Conservation Authority appeared before council at the Sept. 22 meeting requesting council's support.

"It's simply to recognize outstanding rivers," said Zander, adding the Detroit River is one of 30 nominated.

She pointed out a similar effort in Michigan to recognize the river as a heritage river, as they have a strong team in Detroit working to that end.

This is a nomination process now as they will need to be approved by the minister of Canadian Heritage and the equivalent provincial minister.

It has no legal status and offers no restrictions to such people who live along it.

Mayor Tony Tiefenbach wondered if the support of Anderdon would mean much, considering amalgamation is right around the corner.

Zander replied it would because the township exists as the process starts.

She said the proposed designation could result in increased tourism and possibly a better managed river.

Zander said they can't enforce much but "we hope companies put importance on water quality."

Companies will be spoken to about the project and what they can do to help.

Zander said local MP Susan Whelan is supportive as are area MPPs.

The Amherstburg Echo  
Tuesday, October 7, 1997.



# Report from Herb Gray M.P. Fall 1997



Federal environment minister Christine Stewart examines the inside of a Canadian Coast Guard helicopter as she prepares for a tour of the Detroit River.  
Star photo: Rob Gaudenbake

## Top environment official pushing for river cleanup

By Doug Schmidt  
STAR ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Prodded by a visit from Canada's environment minister, Michigan has renewed its pledge to lead the way out of a bogged-down cleanup effort of the Detroit River - and Ottawa will keep an eye on it to ensure there's progress.

"We're not going to allow things to slow down (again)," said Christine Stewart. The minister took her first tour of the polluted river before flying on to Michigan's capital Thursday afternoon to get Governor John Engler to speed up an ambitious but stalled cleanup effort.

Prior to the one-hour meeting, Stewart said in Windsor the main message she was taking to Engler and senior state environmental officials was that Michigan must "respect" international agreements and quickly resume its lead role in that cleanup. She was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray and fellow Windsor area MPs Shaughnessy Cohen and Susan Whelan.

Stewart was upbeat and optimistic after the meeting with Engler. "I expressed the angst of the groups here that they are frustrated that Michigan hasn't been on board," Stewart said.

"His perception is that they have been but they'll try and clarify just

what they have been doing on certain issues and we should hear from them in a few weeks, I think."

Stewart said there will be a meeting of high level officials and politicians in the coming weeks to discuss the environment.

Even though Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality is the lead agency for the international cleanup, Stewart pledged to a Windsor audience earlier in the day she wants to inject renewed energy into the process by committing her ministry's staff and resources.

### Assessment report

On Monday, the International Joint Commission, following a year-long investigation, will release its assessment of government progress in cleaning up the Detroit River, identified as one of the most polluted bodies of water in the Great Lakes basin. Based on a scathing earlier draft version, its anticipated final report will be highly critical of the effort to date and will point to a lack of political will in addressing the massive problem.



Herb Gray

Canadian members of a binational committee set up to advise on the Detroit River cleanup were generally impressed with the minister's personal involvement and willingness to hear their opinions. Even those committee members who walked out of the process in disgust a year ago were invited back by the minister to provide input.

Stewart agreed the 10-year effort to implement a Detroit River remedial action cleanup plan has met with "a lot of frustrations, at least on this side of the river."

### Increases pressure

Ken Bondy of the CAW Windsor Regional Environmental Council said Stewart's mission serves to "increase the pressure to get this process back on track."

"My little shred of hope is that the federal government of Canada can make the state of Michigan own up to its responsibility to (the remedial action plan)," said Mary Ginebaugh of the Citizen's Environmental Alliance, one of last year's walkouts.

Stewart said she wants to see broader involvement from industry, local municipalities and even youth.

The minister expressed opposition to passing most of the responsibility of what is expected to become a billion-dollar cleanup cost onto municipal shoulders.

METRO TIMES Oct. 22-28, 1997

## **METRO BEAT**

# Rallying for river

A push to nominate the Detroit River to a new federal program aimed at restoring and protecting 10 of the nation's most deserving rivers has drawn a significant base of support. Community leaders, business leaders, environmentalists and politicians from Detroit, Downriver and Canada are working on the nomination to President Bill Clinton's American Heritage Rivers Initiative.

Proponents say the program is what Detroit needs to break through red tape that has been an obstacle for cleanup efforts.

This is not just about clean water and air, says Mary Herbert, executive director of the Rivertown Business Association. Noting Detroit's largely minority population and history of contaminated industrial sites, Herbert said, "Environmental justice is a big part of our application, and we're definitely putting that forward." Selection as an American Heritage River could result in focused federal support for cleaning up former industrial sites along the Detroit River, she said.

A newly formed team is to officially commit today to submitting an application for a 32-mile stretch of the Detroit River. Clinton is expected to announce the 10 designated rivers — out of more than 1,000 expected applications — in January.

"The only way to get things accomplished is from the grass roots on up," said Jeanine Ansley, executive director of the Friends of the Detroit River, which also supports the initiative application.

Not all area environmentalists are as enthusiastic.

"We see this as a double-edged sword," says Mary Ginnebaugh of the group Downriver Citizens for a Safe Environment. Ginnebaugh says she remains skeptical of the coalition pushing the American Heritage designation. "We see a lot of the usual suspects, the same corporate interests taking a lead role."

Ginnebaugh's wariness arises from her involvement in the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan, a decadelong effort to eliminate chemical contamination and restore beneficial uses of the river.

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The Detroit "Suburban News"  
News

Wed. Oct. 22

# Group lobbies for Detroit River

## American Heritage designation would help secure funds for cleanup and economic development.

By David Shephardson  
The Detroit News

A group of Wayne County civic, business and community leaders plans a major push to have the Detroit River cited as an American Heritage River.

In January, President Clinton will name 10 rivers with that designation. The president also will appoint a federal "rivermaster" to help wade through bureaucratic red tape in securing funding for cleanups and economic development along the rivers.

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Windsor Mayor Michael Hurst and Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara will kick off a campaign today to obtain the designation for the 32 miles of the river at the Wyandotte Yacht Club.

"We need to stop thinking of the river as a boundary, but as a road and the heart of southeastern Michigan," said Mary Hebert, executive director of the 350-member Rivertown Business Association. "This designation would mean a renewed vigor for the river we share."

The Detroit River remains one of the most polluted rivers in the United States, still suffering the effects of years of industrial dumping, occasional sewer overflows and oil that leaks from riverfront industrial plants, state environmental officials say.

During World War II, companies dumped at will and a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality study found that some spots in the river exceed the EPA's designation for "severe pollution" by 60 times.

But in some ways the river is coming back, the officials stress. For example, the first bald eagle's nest found recently just across the Canadian border has half-a-dozen hatchlings; and duck hunting was allowed on the river last year. Sturgeon also are returning to the river in greater numbers.

"This will help get the cleanup on track and help us cut through the red tape," said Jeannine Analey, a Melvindale woman who is executive director of the Friends of the Detroit River.

Nearly every community that borders the river has approved the plan and Canadian authorities are working to get a similar designation from their provincial government.

The 15-page application for the designation must be submitted by December.

White House officials have called Detroit a "top qualifier."

Detroit  
Free

Press

'Local News'

Thurs. Oct. 23, 1991

### Downriver/Detroit Group wants river recognized

Leaders from business, government and local groups joined Wednesday to persuade the White House to help restore and redevelop the Detroit River. Peter Stroh is honorary chairman of the effort.



Peter  
Stroh

President Bill Clinton will designate 10 U.S. waterways as American Heritage Rivers next year. Each will be eligible for technical and planning help.  
*By Jennifer Dixon*

The Detroit News

"City + Suburban News"

Thurs. Oct. 23 / 97

IN WYANDOTTE

## Officials seek heritage title for Detroit River



David Coates / The Detroit News  
Stroh Chairman Peter Stroh and Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer attend a kickoff Wednesday at the Wyandotte Yacht Club.

By Craig Garrett  
The Detroit News

A who's who of Metro Detroit dignitaries gathered at the Detroit River in Wyandotte Wednesday to launch a drive to have the waterway named an American Heritage River.

"The (Detroit) river ties so many communities together and promoting it benefits everyone," said Melvindale Mayor Jim Kinard, who is joining with Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Stroh Chairman Peter Stroh and a list of mostly downriver and Wayne County officials for the campaign.

In January, President Clinton announced that 10 American rivers would receive the heritage designation. What that means is a federal official will be appointed by the president as a "river navigator" to steer federal dollars into river cleanup and business

development along 32 miles of the waterway.

But competition for the designation is stiff: Officials expect rivers such as the Mississippi, Rio Grande and the Potomac to jockey for one of the 10 designations.

Robert Hunt, deputy director of the Wayne County Planning Division, said he's been hard at work since May trying to land the deal.

"This is something we really want," he said. "And we're hopeful."

Jeannie Ansley, executive director of Friends of the Detroit River, said Detroit may have a leg up when Clinton announces his Heritage River choices during his 1998 State of the Union address.

"The city of Detroit is older than this country," she said. "That has to mean something."

# Plans aweigh

## Drive kicks off to get Heritage designation

By Kristen Jordan  
Staff Writer

WYANDOTTE — As the sun rose over the Detroit River Wednesday morning, community leaders met to announce an official union.

And the river, which acted as a backdrop for the meeting held at the Wyandotte Yacht Club, played a pivotal role.

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Wyandotte Mayor Larry Stec and W. Curt Boller, Brownstown Township supervisor and chairman of the Downriver Community Conference, were among the speakers who joined a coalition in support of the nomination of the Detroit River as an American Heritage River.

PRESIDENT CLINTON, in his 1997 State of the Union address, announced that a panel of experts will help him select 10 rivers for the federal distinction.

River communities throughout the nation have until Dec. 10 to complete the 15-page American Heritage Rivers application form.

"We read every day about the stadiums and the casinos, but there are other things going on here as well," said Peter Stroh, American Heritage Rivers honorary chairman and chairman of Stroh Brewing Co.

"This designation is good for all

of us — Detroiters, Canadians, upstream, downstream and behind stream," he said.

AND AT least one "behind" stream resident, Consul General Don Wismer from the Canadian Consulate, attended the meeting to show Canadian support for the initiative.

He explained that Canada is also sponsoring a river initiative similar to the American Heritage River program. He and a team of Canadian officials are compiling an application for the Detroit River, as well.

If the Detroit River is chosen as an American Heritage River, a federal employee, or "river navigator," will be chosen to work with each community in cleanup and economic development projects for five years.

THE RIVER navigator will also act as a federal link to funding sources for the projects.

Mayor Stec said the river navigator could help Wyandotte meet some of the restrictions placed on the city by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The EPA is holding us up a little bit," Stec said. "If this river navigator can get things speeded up a little, it would help.

"Hopefully, this will let us finish up some of our park work and finish our nine holes on the golf course," he said.

The president will announce the 10 chosen American Heritage rivers in February. He said that either he or Vice President Al Gore will visit each of the selected river communities.

FRIENDS OF the Detroit River Executive Director Jeanine Ansley said the Detroit River has a very good chance of being designated, despite competition with about 300 other rivers.

But even if the Detroit River is overlooked by the president's American Heritage River panel, Boller said the efforts of the communities will have been worthwhile.

"Even if we are not designated an American Heritage River, there are bridges that were built that will never come down," he said. "And I hope that bridge will continue right into Canada."



# HERITAGE RIVER

*Much good can flow out of official designation*

**T**he most important thing about the effort to get the Detroit River proclaimed an American Heritage River may be that it forces the whole region — city and riverside suburbs, business and government and citizens — to think about what the riverfront should look like for the next century.

You can argue that not since French settlers drew water from the river for their ribbon farms have we made as much community use of the river as we ought to. The river is cleaner than it has been in years — you can pull out bass, pike, chinook salmon and a half dozen other species and, with due care, even eat them. There has been tremendous progress in cleaning up the old industrial waterway.

Now we need to turn more attention to the riverbank — to reclaiming industrial brownfields, providing more public access, bringing in cleaner industry and housing. All of these things have been or are being done here and there, to one degree or another. Some communities have been energetic and imaginative; Wyandotte's nine-hole golf course on a former brownfield site is an example. But taken as a whole, there has not been a unified vision for the

river, or a sense of how it can knit the riverfront communities together.

If the Detroit River is one of 10 chosen for designation as a federal Heritage River, the tangible rewards will be small. The region will get a full-time federal employee to shepherd applications for planning, development, housing, pollution cleanup and other programs through the bureaucratic maze.

A skeptic would argue that the federal government would do communities everywhere a bigger favor by spending more time simplifying its bureaucracy and red tape, and less on a public relations-style promotion such as the Heritage River program. But the bigger benefit of this exercise will come from the vision of the river's future that the participating communities develop, and from the creativity and cooperation it could unleash.

The Detroit River is a historic waterway. It is a part of the American heritage. It is the region's greatest natural asset. If out of the Heritage River application process there come a larger vision of the river's future and a burst of improvement along its banks, that in itself will be rewarding.

# Detroit River Looks to Federal Government

By Annette LaCross  
News Editor

Ever consider the Detroit River "majestic?"

You may have to, especially if the Greater Detroit American Heritage Rivers Initiative has its way.

In President Clinton's State of the Union address last February, he announced his intention to lead some help in beleaguered riverfront communities through a

national initiative that will award the American Heritage River designation to 10 rivers throughout the country.

Here in Detroit, he was taken seriously.

A coalition of Detroit and Downriver-area government, community, business and environmental leaders has announced a united effort to secure special federal help to accelerate the redevelopment and revitalization of the Detroit River.

Led by Detroit champion Peter Stroth,

honorary chairman of the effort, the group plans to submit its application by the December deadline.

"Obtaining the designation will hopefully bolster regional pride, restore our great rivers to rediscover our historical and cultural past and trigger greater investment and development in appropriate riverfront development, access and use," Stroth said. "And not just for those along its banks, either, but for all those in the region."

The Greater Detroit American Heritage Rivers Application Team will nominate a 32-mile stretch of the river for special designation as an American Heritage River. The committee of Brownstown Township, Detroit, Ecorse, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, River Rouge, Riverview, Trosseau, Wayne County and Wyandotte will all be eligible.

In addition, the city of Windsor, in Ontario, Canada, is proposing the river as a Canadian Heritage River under a sim-

ilar Canadian program.

"We all share this magnificent resource," said Mary Hubert, director, Rivers Business Association. "President Clinton put the spotlight on riverfront communities last February to help communities along the nation's rivers revive their waterfronts."

"The day after the president made his pledge, our teams got together to plan

Photos see RIVER page 4

## RENAISSANCE TIMES

First in the Heart of Detroit's Automotive Business Community

VOLUME I, NUMBER 17 • 2 SECTIONS • FREE AT NEWSSTANDS • DETROIT, MICHIGAN • OCTOBER 27, 1997

PAGE 4A • OCTOBER 27, 1997 • RENAISSANCE TIMES

### RIVER

From page 1

course of action. And this team is sure that the Detroit River symbolizes American rivers at their best."

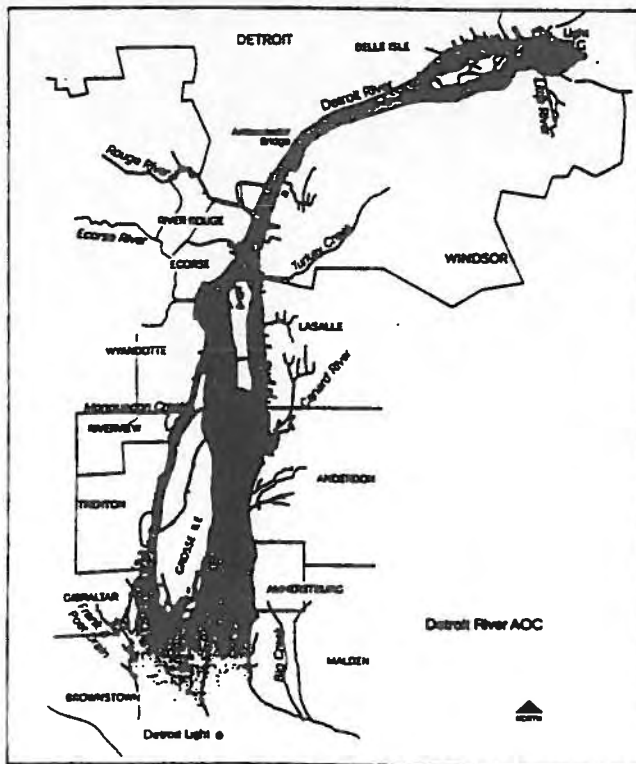
The initiative seeks to restore and protect river resources, through the integration of natural resource protection, economic development and preservation of history and culture, by delivering federal resources effectively. Designated rivers will receive focused support from existing federal programs and services.

With community input, a locally housed "river navigator," a specially appointed federal employee liaison, will guide river communities through the maze of federal programs available to them.

According to Dewey Henry, of the Wayne County Commission, the designation would "make the Detroit River a place for people, not just for industry. This is a river that commands respect, and we in Wayne County have not over the years respected the quality of our river. We have not done what (Detroit) Mayor (Denis) Archer is doing now — turning things around."

"Detroit is a strong candidate to be chosen as an American Heritage River," Stroth said. "This presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Detroit River to become a model for the most innovative, economically successfully and ecologically sustainable approaches to river restoration in the nation."

"The designation is good for all of us, in Detroit and Canada, up-



stream and downstream — behind the stream, too. There are 5 million people who live within 30 minutes of a vital Great Lakes link — the Detroit River. And this can help us change the traditional view that the desirable communities are upstream, the less desirable communities downstream."

Each designated river will become a laboratory of sorts for the reinvention of federal programs

and delivery of services. The initiative will actively promote successful models that demonstrate private and public collaboration to preserve the special heritage associated with rivers, and share this information through a clearinghouse.

"Nearly 300 years ago, the river was the source for the city of Detroit," Archer said. "Throughout the development during those

years, it has remained a vital resource. I have often said that Detroit has the greatest underdeveloped waterfront. This is the first step to making the river more accessible. This federal designation will help us reach our goal."

The effort to win the special designation has broad-based support from a coalition of community and business groups, as well as environmentalists and politicians. The Greater Detroit American Heritage Rivers Application Team, representing local government, business and industry, community groups, environmental organizations and the public, is preparing the nomination.

"Here in Southeast Michigan, there has been too much divisiveness in the past," Stroth added. "The city vs. the suburbs, the Yanks vs. the Canadians, black vs. white. By working together to gain American Heritage River designation for this region and the river, we all share, we can demonstrate the importance of putting behind us those things that separated us in the past to achieve a regional goal, something we would be unable to achieve separately and independently."

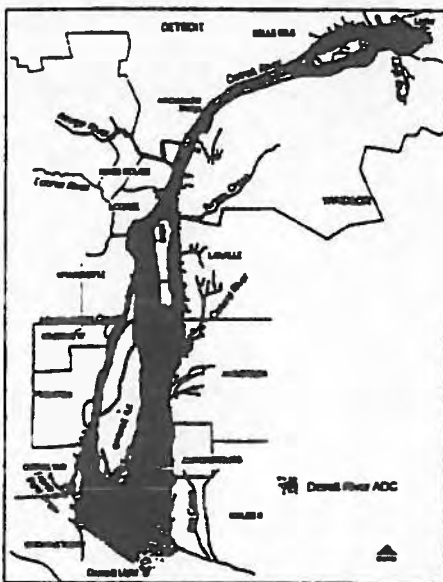
The Application Team expects to hear whether it has achieved the designation at President Clinton's State of the Union address in February.

"Maybe this is our time," Henry added. "Maybe the time is now, for all of us to come together and do all the wonderful things we can. And even if we don't get the designation, we should not let that stop us from continuing these partnerships and achieving what we have to do."

-Oct 28 1997

SAVING SCENE

# River Looks to Federal Government



(Detroit) Mayor (Dennis) Archer is doing now — turning things around."

"Detroit is a strong candidate to be chosen as an American Heritage River," Strub said. "The process is unprecedented opportunity for the Detroit River to become a model for the most innovative, environmentally sustainable approach to river restoration in the nation."

"The designation is good for all of us, in Detroit and Canada, upstream and downstream — across the stream, too. There are 5 million people who live within 30 minutes of a vital Great Lakes link — the Detroit River. And this can help us change the traditional view that the desirable communities are upstream, the less desirable communities downstream."

Each designated river will become a laboratory of sorts for the restoration of federal programs and delivery of services. The initiative will actively promote successful models that demonstrate private and public collaboration to preserve the special heritage nestled within rivers, and share this information through a clearinghouse.

"Nearly 200 years ago, the river was the source for the city of Detroit," Archer said. "Throughout the development during those years, it has remained a vital resource."

"I have often said that Detroit has the greatest undeveloped waterfront. This is the first step to making the river more accessible. This federal designation will help us reach our goal."

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Riverfront Business Association. President Clinton put the spotlight on riverfront communities last February to help communities alongside the nation's rivers revitalize their waterfronts.

"The day after the president made his pledge, our team got together to plan our course of action. And this team is sure that the Detroit River symbolizes American rivers at their best."

The initiative aims to restore and protect river resources, through the integration of natural resource protection, economic development and preservation of history and culture, by delivering federal resources more efficiently

and effectively. Designated rivers will receive focused support from existing federal programs and services.

With community input, a locally housed "river navigator," a specially appointed federal employee liaison, will guide river communities through the maze of federal programs available to them.

According to Dorey Henry, of the Wayne County Commission, the designation would "make the Detroit River a place for people, not just for industry. That is a river that commands respect, and we in Wayne County have not over the years respected the quality of our river. We have not done what



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PROGRAMS OFFERED

# HERITAGE RIVER

*Detroit's waterway deserves special designation*

**W**hen the J.W. Westcott II churns off from Belle Isle today, carrying an application to have the Detroit River named an American Heritage waterway, it takes with it a striking vision of what this 32-mile long waterfront could be.

It'll surely be the only application Washington receives that started on its way by mail boat. The Westcott is unique; so is much about our river and the region abutting it. So it's with unabashed pride that we can urge federal bureaucrats to take a good look at this river and this place, and see how much more we could do with it with just a little help.

Mile for mile, the Detroit River has as much history as the Mississippi, and it's a lot better behaved. It's part of the grandest freshwater system on Earth. It's cleaner than the Potomac. It's more dependable

than the Rio Grande. It's not like the Snake or the Gauley, a river to visit once for the scenery and the thrill. It's a busy, urban, working, fast, blue waterway that serves five million people in two countries for commerce and recreation.

We've never made as much of its shoreline as we should, although we've made a start. The local American Heritage River application team has outlined an imaginative plan that is partly wish list, but almost all achievable with local effort and co-operation. It includes recreation, conservation, housing, industry and commerce to draw millions back to the banks where Detroit, Windsor and all their downriver communities began.

Washington ought to sit up and take notice. What we really hope, though, is that more decision-makers and residents of this region will do the same.

There is a growing interest in the scouting movement in general. Pictured above is Kevin Renaud, a member of the Kingsville troupe, showing a younger scout the proper method of cutting wood.

Essex Free Press Wed. October 28/98

## ***S.E.E.D Gives \$5,000 to River Heritage***

The South Essex Economic Development Corporation (S.E.E.D) has recently contributed a \$5000 grant to the Detroit River Canadian Heritage River Systems Project. Designation provides national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and helps ensure their long term cultural and economic vitality.

The Detroit River is one of the most important economic and recreational focal points in Canada's southernmost region. The world's busiest international waterway plays host to millions of people each year who boat on it, fish its waters, walk, jog or bike along its waterfront parks or simply enjoy the varied and wonderful view that it provides.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), on behalf of the local community, is helping to coordinate the designation application. The S.E.E.D. grant will

help make the designation a reality and assist in local efforts to clean and protect the river environment as well as preserve the Detroit River's unique history and stimulate the local economy.

The S.E.E.D. Corporation is a community based organization funded by Industry Canada's Community Futures Development Corporation, to assist small communities to adjust to their economic environment and create job opportunities within Essex County.

Gail Stiffler for S.E.E.D. stated "as a contributing community partner we send out a challenge to other local businesses, citizens and organizations to get involved and show their support through additional financial contributions and letters to make this designation a reality for the Detroit River community.

The S.E.E.D. Corporation is asking interested community representatives to forward financial contributions and letters of support by October 30, to ERCA, 360 Farview Ave. West, Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6. Letter may also be faxed to (519) 776-8868.

That's just over two days, according to the group's bylaws, believes that MAJUB has turned a stunk stum-

# Detroit Ships Out Heritage Application

By Herald Scott Staff Writer

This community's Ol' Man River is poised to get some new life. That's because the Detroit River is in line for federal American Heritage River status and with it could come with more development along the riverfront from Detroit to Wyandotte.

Local business and community leaders gathered Dec. 4 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle to officially sign and send Detroit's federal application. The paperwork was then whisked away by the mailboat J.W. Westcott for eventual U.S. Postal delivery to Washington, D.C.

Peter Stroth of the Stroth Brewery led a contingent of local dignitaries involved in the local initiative, which also included U.S. Rep. John Dingell, Brownstown Township Supervisor W. Curt Boller and Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara, among others.

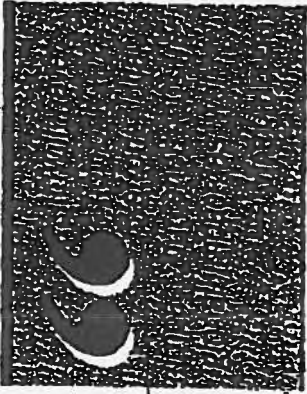
"We appreciated the encouragement that was given to all of us as our team began the awesome task of synthesizing reams and reams of data into what is now a very crisp, 15-page document."

## Tap Dogs Bark Up a Storm

Wool, wool, the Tap Dogs are otherwise in luck a swagging in the front

ment that we're sending all Essex Region Conservation Authority have headed efforts to gain the Canadian Heritage Rivers designation for the Detroit River.

The American Heritage Rivers Initiative is a federal program designated by President Clinton in his State of the Union speech. The program's goal is to support local communities in their efforts to restore and protect river resources by integrating natural



Other possibilities include restoring and enhancing wildlife and fish habitats along the river, and creating a riverfront tour that presents the Detroit River's history and natural features.

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Renaissance  
Times  
Monday,  
Dec. 8, 1997



## New status sought for waterway

By DOUG SCHMIDT  
 STAR ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

There's not only a major prestige factor in living along the shoreline of a waterway that has been named a heritage river.

In the U.S., having such an honour bestowed on your waterway also means getting into the flow of serious cash and attention.

A broad-based coalition of U.S. and Canadian groups sent its application to the White House Thursday to have a 32-mile section of the Detroit River declared an American Heritage River. U.S. President Bill Clinton plans to bestow the designation on 10 rivers.

With such status comes federal funding for a "navigator," whose job it is to work with local communities to streamline and co-ordinate planning along the river. The designation also opens up access channels to special federal aid to accelerate redevelopment and revitalization.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority is co-ordinating a Canadian effort to have Ottawa make a similar designation.

But ERCA general manager Ken Schmidt admits the main thrust of the Canuck effort is to provide flanking support for the Yankee campaign, which is being led by wealthy Michigan industrialist Peter Stroh. Canadian backers are hoping an American heritage designation will lead to a renewed effort at remediating the polluted river, already designated a Great Lakes area of environmental concern.

Schmidt said there are many reasons the Detroit River should get the heritage tag, including:

- Rich cultural heritage (First Nations, French-Canadian; Underground Railroad; border skirmishes; rumrunning);
- Significant flyway for feathered migrants such as raptors and waterfowl;
- High-density shipping and water recreation corridor.

While such a designation on the Canadian side doesn't bring with it the kinds of money opportunities the American side would enjoy, Schmidt said there'd be a "greater likelihood of better co-ordination between the feds and the province." A heritage designation also brings with it economic opportunities, he said, for example in the marketing of locally produced goods or of the local region itself.

# Dear Mr. President: You can't go wrong by picking Detroit River

Mayor Dr. President Williams / Opposes Clinton  
Dear Bill:

I know you've got a lot on your mind, what with the State of the Union coming up and all, but I wish you'd take a moment to look at something special we've got here: the Detroit River, that beautiful blue link in the world's greatest chain of lakes.

I cradled when you first announced your American Heritage Rivers Initiative. I dismissed it as fluff. I didn't raise any money on the table. I thought that for the sake of scoring a few public relations points, you were going to make a lot of good people and their interests great a proposal together, and then what?

If we win one of the 10 Heritage River sites, the only prize is a federal guarantee to hold by the board as we trade through one budget grant process after another. And if we lose, much energy will have been spent, and much paper shuffled, to no purpose.

Okay, maybe I was wrong. Your proposal has grabbed the imagination of a lot of people here. Some folks who have always lived their own little piece of Detroit are now looking at it whole -- not just as the bit of water we see from Hart Plaza downtown, or Elizabeth Park in Truist or Duggan Park in Ecorse, but as one, big Detroit supplying ribbon that ties us all together. From Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie, from the skyline of Detroit to the dunes of Gibraltar and Mackinac, we're one big River City. And the more that drink in the more passion and energy there should be for river front improvements of all kinds.



BARBARA STRATTON



You've probably been hearing from a lot of places about the wonders of their waterways. Let me tell you that fact by fact the Detroit River has more history, more promise and probably more fish than any of them.

This is the river down which the voyageurs peddled, bearing furs to be worn by the kings of France. This is the river across which bus-dreaded furs were carried to freedom before the Civil War, in one of the great, heart-felt moments of common purpose and honor by between the races.

This is the river that helped provide the high and the hanger of the Harpur, Tupper, Six, a train runner, a federal agent, a bringer the product of Canadian distilleries to America shores during Prohibition. (The trip supposedly took six months in a flat boat if you didn't dally to sample the cargo.)

And this is the river we've transformed from an industrial sewer into a place that Eric Freese, a local writer, Eric Sharp, calls possibly the best urban fishery in the country, a clear-running waterway brimming with perch, pike, rock bass, bluegill, bass, muskellunge,

out the front window of the People Mover in the city moment when it takes the curve beyond Cobo Hall, and gets wonderful gulls eye view of things, a sense of heretofore's reach and smugness as it flows past a great of beach area.

And then find your way to the Udey boat ramp of West Jefferson, hidden back among the knowledges in a covey, protected part of town. Watch the people who fish or put in their little boats here, and think what it means to every soul to be able to gaze at or slip out onto this river and away from the cars and ally of solid ground.

We could do much better than we have at bringing cheer and people together. We could do much better at seeing the river as the friend that connects the nine distinct riverfront communities here, and the entire area beyond, with our common history and common fate. We're working on that.

Maybe if we get used to working together on something as inspiring as one of God's great rivers, we could work together on other things in this region, as well. Maybe we could regain some of the trust and faith and willingness to

DEBBY GLENN  
DETROIT NEWS

take risks for each other that inspired the folks who ran the Underground Railroad so many years ago. Maybe just a little bit of help from you won't make the difference.

You know, the late Colonel Young used to say that anytime you had to come across 10 applicants for something, you should up with nine guys and at you and a little more. If you don't choose under your nose, you can't hope we won't get mad, just more I should have claim this riverfront on our own.

But if you do pick the Detroit River as one of the chosen 10, and give the river a little help toward realizing our better selves and our grander visions -- let me tell you, Mr. President, I don't think you'll find a more grateful citizen here.

Sincerely,  
Barbara S

Barbara Stratton is a Free Press editorial writer. You can write her at 321 W. Ledyard, Room 546, Detroit, Mich. 48226, or via E-mail at: stratton@444.freepress.com

Foot by foot,  
the Detroit River  
has more history,  
more promise  
and probably  
more fish than  
any other river.

# Council supports heritage designation for Detroit River

By Shannon Beetham

## AMHERSTBURG

Amherstburg council has thrown its support behind the Essex Region Conservation Authority in its efforts to have the Detroit River designated a Canadian Heritage River.

But both the Canadian and U.S. governments will have to be convinced of its merit.

By having the river designated a heritage river, the authority believes there are a number of benefits to be gained.

Tracy Zander, conserva-

tion planner with the Authority, says the project would increase international recognition and status and increase tourism potential in the area.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), established in 1984, was created to give national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and ensure long-term management and conservation of their natural, cultural, historical, and recreational values.

According to ERCA general manager Ken Schmidt, support has been offered from area municipalities.

Both sides of the Detroit River are working together on the project. The United States sits on the Canadian board, just as Canada sits on that of the United States.

The application for nomination will be submitted to the Canadian Heritage River Board sometime in the spring.

Then, if the Canadian Heritage River Board approves the application, the designation will take place. The entire process can take as long as three years.

Canadian nomination recognizes more of the heritage, natural and recreational features.

The Amherstburg Echo  
Tuesday, December 16, 1997.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

# Cash sought for river cleanup

BY DOUG SCHMIDT  
STAR ENVIRONMENT REPORTER  
DETROIT RIVER

Environmentalists focused on the Detroit River cleanup are telling Ottawa "show us the money."

Local MPs, led by Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray (L—Windsor West), have said cleaning up the polluted international waterway is a priority with Environment Minister Christine Stewart and the federal government.

"What we want is greater financial assistance — we are waiting for funding ... (but) there's been a lack of approvals," said Ken Schmidt, general manager of the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

ERCA has been at the forefront when it comes to improving the health of the Canadian side of the Detroit River.

The river has been slugged internationally as a pollution hotspot, sorely

neglected by governments on both sides of the border.

Federal cleanup funds earmarked for the Detroit River "area of concern" (AOC), however, have lagged far behind those given elsewhere.

The Great Lakes 2000 cleanup fund, the premier source of dollars for such remediation, has doled out \$60 million since 1990 to 17 such pollution hotspots on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes basin.

The Detroit River, considered one of the most polluted water bodies in North America, has received about \$1.3 million to date.

Last year, ERCA received a quarter of the \$700,000 it requested from the program, a figure that would have translated into almost \$3 million in local cleanup initiatives.

Compared to elsewhere in the Great Lakes, said Schmidt, "We're frustrated ... we have received a very small

amount of money."

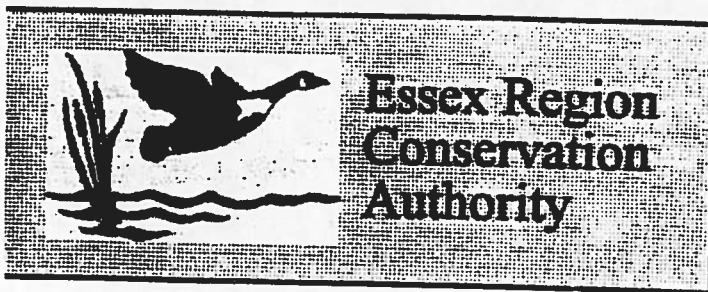
ERCA's many cleanup projects, while admirable, have been relatively small-scale and fall far short of the massive effort still required to remediate the Detroit River.

Equally frustrating to local environmentalists is that the trickles of existing funding are drying up at a time when the political will to do something after a laggard effort over the past decade is finally picking up.

Great Lakes 2000 is winding down, with much of its remaining future allotments dedicated to existing projects.

Environment ministry programs have been similarly decimated.

A new stakeholders' group is being established as a direct result of the local MPs' intervention and the question local environmentalists are now asking is whether the rhetoric will be followed by the necessary new funds.



**Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority**

**Canadian Heritage Rivers  
Initiative for the Detroit River**  
**BE A PART OF THE RIVER'S FUTURE**

The Canadian Heritage Rivers Program, a joint federal/provincial/territorial program established in 1984, recognises outstanding rivers in Canada.

Rivers are recognised based on their natural heritage values, cultural/historic values, and recreational values. Communities apply to have their river nominated as a Heritage River through the completion of a background study and nomination document, and then prepare a management strategy to achieve full designation as a Canadian Heritage River.

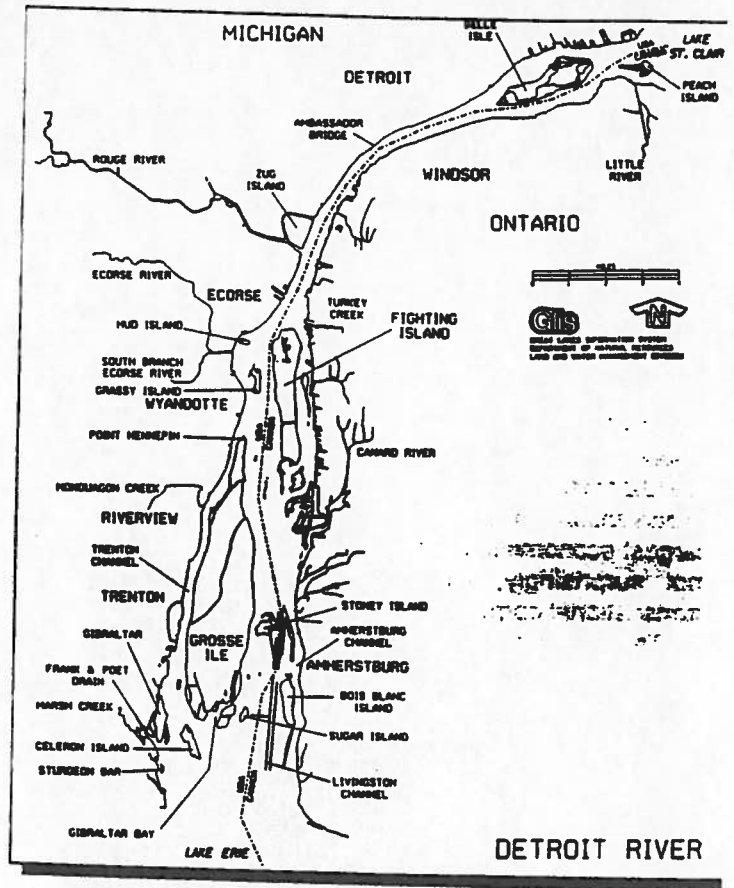
Heritage River designation for a river does not have any legal or regulatory status; it gives a river national and international recognition, and provides the community with an opportunity to positively influence the future of the river. Benefits include increased tourism and recreation activity, potential economic development, community co-operation, and a focused effort to protect and enhance the qualities of the river.

The Detroit River plays a vital role in what is the largest metropolitan area on any international border in the world. The Windsor-Detroit area has an important history of settlement, culture, trade and industrialisation, and the Detroit River is key to this history. Archaeological finds date North American Indians at 400 A.D. along thirty-two riverfront sites.

The River was the lifeblood of the area's natural and built environment, acting as both a food source and an important transportation corridor. The French Explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, who founded the City of Detroit in 1701, described the Detroit River in 1702 as "so beautiful that it may justly be called the earthly paradise of North America." Today, more than 8000 commercial vessels using the Great Lakes System pass the Port of Windsor annually, carrying a total of 100 million tons of cargo.

Close to one third of the \$365 billion in annual trade between Canada and the United States crosses over the Detroit River. More than four million people in Michigan and Ontario depend on the Detroit River for their drinking water.

The River and its tributaries also provides important habitat for fish and migratory waterfowl. In addition, the Detroit River is an important resource for sailors, anglers, kayakers, boaters and tourists.



A team (of organizations, agencies, municipalities, interest groups and individuals) is seeking to have the Detroit River recognised as one of Canada's outstanding rivers. Under the co-ordination of the Essex Region Conservation Authority, the team will be submitting their nomination document to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in June of 1998. If the nomination is accepted, a management strategy will be developed by the summer of 1999.

This strategy will not have legal status, but will recognize what commitments the various river groups, including municipalities, businesses, agencies and individual property owners, will make to the future of the Detroit River. Public involvement and support of this exercise is vital to its success. All members of the community are encouraged to get involved.

Support has been received from all of the municipalities located on the Detroit River, as well as from the members of federal and provincial parliament in this area. In addition, written support has been received from a number of other organizations and individuals with an interest in the River.

If you would like to show your support for this important exercise through a letter, please address it to: Canadian Heritage Rivers Board, Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M5. Please forward your letters to the Essex Region Conservation Authority, c/o Tracy Zander, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1Y6. If you would like to get involved with this project, or have ideas or information related to the Detroit River, please contact Tracy Zander at the Essex Region Conservation Authority, 519-776-5209, ext. 357.

# Detroit River: Our past and future

By KEN SCHMIDT

The Detroit River has been a major force in shaping the history of our region. History, however, has not been kind to the Detroit River. Once referred to as "the Eden of Upper Canada," the river has seen its pristine waters become unfit to drink, its abundant wildlife diminished and its lush natural areas all but disappear.

But in recent years we have begun to realize how important the Detroit River is to our community and that it desperately needs our help. "Good news" stories are becoming more frequent.

## GUEST COLUMN

A crucial factor in restoring the Detroit River is that activities affecting it don't take place just along its banks. Many impacts are from upstream, including the Little River, Canard River and Turkey Creek watersheds, activities on the U.S. side of the river; as well as the huge volumes of waters that flow down from the upper Great Lakes.

I'd like to summarize initiatives in watersheds here in the Essex Region.

Protection of natural areas within the Detroit River watershed greatly benefits



Ken Schmidt

the river itself. The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) has compiled detailed inventories, including mapping and biological data, on wetlands and woodlands in Windsor, LaSalle, Amherstburg and areas upstream. Information crucial to protecting such areas.

While many natural areas were lost decades ago, significant woodlands and wetlands in the Detroit River watershed are now protected through municipal planning documents. This includes Environmentally Significant Areas upstream along the Canard River, provincially significant wetlands in LaSalle on Turkey Creek and the Detroit River and several areas in the City of Windsor. Sub-watershed plans for Little River and Turkey Creek also identify natural

are being completed at the mouth of the Canard River and Turkey Island.

- Habitat restoration and water quality improvements are being undertaken at the Dean Construction yard on the Detroit River.
- Habitat enhancement and restoration will get under way soon at Windsor Salt.
- Many individual landowners are initiating projects such as tree planting, rock chutes, buffer strips, conversion of no-till corn and replacement of faulty septic systems in upstream watersheds.
- Habitat strategies are being developed for the Detroit River and upstream watersheds to protect habitat and to identify priority areas for restoration. Vegetative buffers, reforestation, constructed wetlands, prairie and fish habitat restoration improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

### Community-wide effort

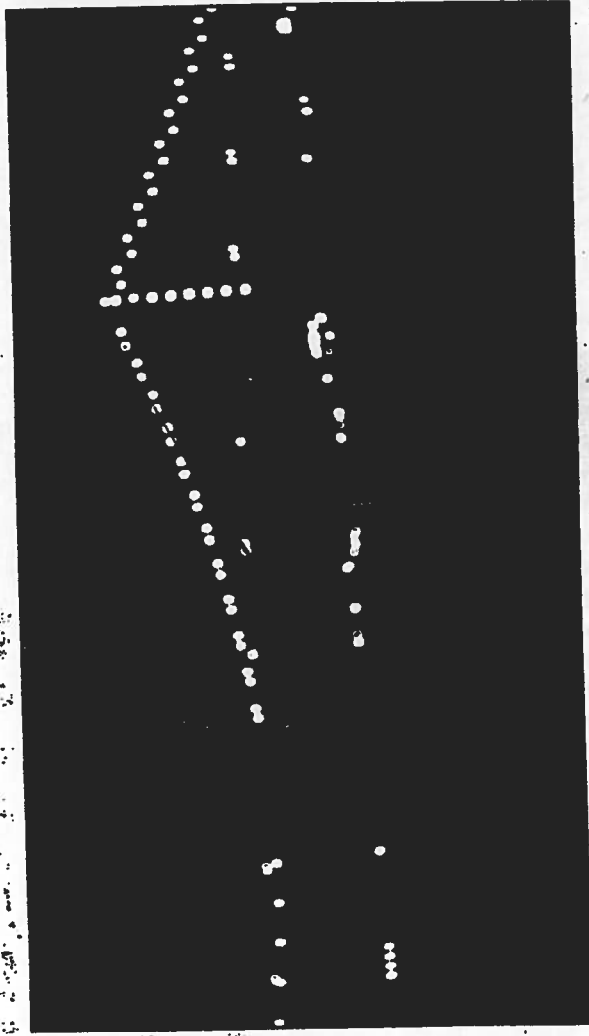
These successes are happening because of growing community-wide interest in restoring the health of the Detroit River. Our local MPs — Herb Gray, Shaughnessy Cohen and Susan Whelan — have provided leadership and support.

Key partners include Environment Canada's Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, local MPPs and the Ontario Ministries of Natural Resources, Environment and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, local municipalities, University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, Essex Soil & Crop Improvement Association, Essex County Federation of Agriculture, Conservation Club, Essex County Stewardship Network, many private property owners and ERCA.

At no time in its history have so many organizations and individuals been actively involved in helping the Detroit River:

- ERCA will continue to use its watershed approach and regional perspective to help foster action-oriented partnerships. The challenge is tremendous but so is the value of the Detroit River to our region, its residents and visitors.

*Ken Schmidt is the general manager of ERCA.*



Star photo: Jason Nyk

New ERCA guidelines are improving the Detroit River and other wetlands for wildlife and fishermen

**"This river is scattered over, from one lake to another, both on the mainland and the islands with large clusters of trees surrounded by charming meadows. Game is very common as are geese and all kinds of wild ducks. There are swans everywhere, there are qualls, woodcocks, pheasants and rabbits, turkeys, partridges, hazelhens and a stupendous amount of turtle doves. This country is so temperate, so fertile and so beautiful that it may justly be called the earthly paradise of North America"**

ANTOINE DE LA MOTHE CADILLAC, FRENCH EXPLORER AND FOUNDER OF DETROIT, 1702

habitat and wetlands.

Developers now work with ERCA, incorporating habitat enhancement in many projects — Crystal Harbour and Boblo Island being recent Detroit River examples. Communities on both sides of the border are applying to have the Detroit River declared a Heritage River. This will greatly increase public awareness and involvement.

### Remedial plan

A Remedial Action Plan is now in place to clean up the Detroit River. ERCA is co-ordinating and implementing many of the recommendations for habitat protection and for reducing "non point source" pollution, such as runoff from farm fields.

Here is a list of recent and ongoing projects:

- Twin Oaks Business Park includes re-establishing the natural floodplain of Little River, habitat restoration and storm water management.
- Major improvements have been made to Turkey Creek, once a badly polluted watercourse.
- The Central Avenue Stormwater facility in Windsor includes a constructed wetland, stormwater treatment, water quality improvements and flood control.
- Improvements upstream along the Canard River incorporate habitat improvements, water quality improvements and flood control.
- Marsh and fish habitat restoration



## Opinion

# Saving the Detroit River

By DOUG HAFFNER

A little over 3,000 years ago, the Detroit River did not exist. The waters of the Great Lakes drained through the French and Mattawa Rivers, down the Ottawa River and on to the St. Lawrence. Not until the land rebounded from the weight of the great ice masses did the pristine waters begin to flow along their present course, giving birth to the Detroit River.

At this time, the Great Lakes began to take on a new shape, and the lands that were to become known as Essex County emerged from the draining waters.

The exposed lake sediments were the base of the rich soils and wetlands that provided a natural heritage for those who came to live and prosper in the watershed of the Detroit River.

During the 1820s, the botanist David Douglas (after whom the Douglas Fir tree was named) visited the Detroit River, living in a village later to be named Amherstburg.

## GUEST COLUMN

He was astounded by the beauty of the surrounding oak forests and described the trees in his journal: "The woods were of astonishing magnitude . . . trees from fifty to seventy feet high, forty feet without branches.

Such was the natural beauty of the watershed of the Detroit River; it was often referred to as the Eden of Upper Canada.

Today, over 170 years later, there is little trace of the great forest and its once "limitless" resources. Wetlands that earlier dominated the shoreline are all but gone. Much of the rich topsoil has now been lost as a result of erosion. As the shoreline was developed, those living along the river became more dependent on the river for drinking water and fishing, but also as a means to dispose of sewage and chemical wastes. The Eden of Upper Canada became an all but forgotten memory.

Over 10 years ago, the Province of Ontario and the State of Michigan initiated a remedial action plan to restore and protect the natural resources of the river. Despite the efforts of local citizens, this program soon became a quagmire of political intrigue, and the river was little more than a symbol of broken promises and false commitments.

Finally, just last month, the Detroit River was included in a list of the most polluted rivers in the United States, the legacy of a society that just didn't care enough.

Yet, there are still those who have not given up hope. A recent meeting at the University of Windsor once again brought citizens, elected officials, government agencies, industry, conservation authorities and university researchers together to try once again to restore the lost heritage of the Detroit River.



Doug Haffner of the Great Lakes Institute says the river can be saved.

Star photo: Mike Weaver

To achieve this goal, however, there must be local leadership and commitment.

The restoration of the Detroit River will not occur in a meeting room, nor will the river be saved by new rules and regulations. The future heritage of the Detroit River depends on those who live within its watershed. We must all recognize our own roles and responsibilities if the Detroit River cleanup is to succeed.

### Natural, stable state

Can restoration be achieved? Yes, there is no doubt this goal can be obtained, for the river is forgiving. Like many ecological systems, the river has the resilience to return toward a natural, stable state, but it needs our help. It takes about 20 hours for water entering the Detroit River to be discharged to Lake Erie. Within 20 hours, water quality changes from pristine Lake Huron waters, delivered intact to our door step, to a state where the river is classified as one of the most polluted water courses in North America.

The river will respond very quickly to our efforts to clean it up, but will only respond when we finally go beyond just talking about the problem.

Yet the longer we delay, the greater the problem becomes. Over 90 per cent of the chemicals discharged to Lake Erie come from the Detroit River, and most of these chemicals remain in the Western Basin of Lake Erie.

There have also been successes. We have reduced phosphorus loads to the lake and Lake Erie is no longer the infamous "dead lake" of the 1960s. We know our actions can produce results; the challenge is not impossible.

The Detroit River, unlike any other area of concern identified in the Great Lakes, affects the water quality of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Fresh water will be the most important issue of the next century, and our current lack of responsibility for what is happening in the Detroit River will affect many other lives today and tomorrow.

It is easy to pass blame on to the federal and provincial governments for not protecting the common good of the Great Lakes, but the solutions can only occur within the watershed where we live.

There is no excuse for our failures over the past 10 years to clean up the river. We know what must be done, we know how to do it and we have the mechanisms to implement the clean up. It is only a matter of resources.

The costs are not great, and the resource is priceless. It is our choice — we who live in the watershed — as to whether the Detroit River will be a legacy of our failure to fulfil our responsibilities today or a heritage proudly passed on to future generations.

*Doug Haffner is director of the Great Lakes Institute for environmental research at the University of Windsor.*

The Windsor Star  
Monday, February 16, 1998.

-12-Tuesday, July 7, 1998 — The Amherstburg Echo

# ERCA needs help for Heritage designation for Detroit River

Detroit River receive approval to complement the American initiative," notes Schmidt. "We can then continue joint efforts to help both communities clean-up and protect the environment, preserve the river's history and stimulate the local economy."

Letters of support from local businesses, citizens and organizations will aid in the success of designating the Detroit River as a Heritage River.

As an agency, organization or individual with an interest in the future of the Detroit River, the project Application Team is looking for endorsements of this process leading to the designation.

## Special to the Echo

**AMHERSTBURG** — The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) is asking for your help.

ERCA has launched a campaign to have the Detroit River designated

as a Canadian Heritage River. To help further its cause, ERCA is asking local businesses, citizens and organizations for letters of support.

The Detroit River has many significant historical, recreational, and natural values which warrant

## Letters of support being sought by authority

recognition under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System," explains ERCA general manager Ken Schmidt. This program, established in 1984, gives national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, historical and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians now and in the future.

Just recently, a coalition of municipalities, agencies and interests in the United States have received approval for their application to have the Detroit River designated as an American Heritage River.

"There is strong international co-operation for both of these applications, and we would like to see the Canadian side of the

Letters of support can be sent to ERCA at 360 Fairview Ave. West, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1Y6. They also can be faxed to (519) 776-8688 or e-mailed to [erca@wincom.net](mailto:erca@wincom.net) by July 30.

## *Detroit River art and writing contest winners announced*

The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Heritage River System (CHRS) Project, recently announced the winners of the 1998 Detroit River Art and Writing contest winners.

ERCA is currently coordinating an application to have the Detroit River designated as a Canadian Heritage River. This a joint federal/provincial program that has been in Canada since 1984. The program is designed to recognize outstanding rivers in Canada by emphasizing their natural heritage, cultural/historical heritage, and recreation values.

The purpose of the contest was to help promote the CHRS Project which is being undertaken by numerous community partners in Windsor and Essex County. In addition, the contest has helped raise awareness of the value of the River in communities and to celebrate its history and its future.

Tracey Pillon-Abbes, Project Coordinator explained "the theme of the contest was 'what does the Detroit River mean to you?' This a cele-

bration of the Detroit River through art and writings. We wanted to define what the Detroit River means to the community through a child's eyes."

As many as 69 entries were received which included art work of freedom festival activities, boating and buildings and written work of family vacations, sunsets and fishing trips.

Selected works were displayed at the Essex County Civic Centre during Education Week in May. Winning works will be included in a 1999 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar for the Detroit River as well as future publications. All contest

winners will receive a Certificate of Merit and will be notified of future publications. Area winners of the 1998 Detroit River Art and Writing contest include the following;

*Grades 7-8 Written Work:*  
Birdie White, AV Graham (1st), Jennifer Brenko, AV Graham (2nd), Sheila Busted, AV Graham (3rd).

*Grades 4-6 Written Work:*  
Jamie Kaban, AV Graham (1st), Ellen Green, AV Graham (2nd),  
*Grades 4-6 Art Work:*  
Ellen Green, AV Graham (2nd)

*Grades K-3 Written Work:*  
TROY GOUWELLOS,  
BELLE RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL (3rd).



## *Detroit River could gain heritage designation*

Ontario Farmer  
Tuesday, July 7, 1998.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) is helping to coordinate an application, on behalf of the community, to have the Detroit River designated as a Canadian Heritage River and they need the help of local businesses, citizens and organizations, through letters of support, to make this happen.

Ken Schmidt, general manager for ERCA, explains "the Detroit River has many significant historical, recreational and natural values which warrant recognition under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System".

This program, established in 1984, gives national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers to ensure long-term management that will conserve their natural, historical and recreational values for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians, now and in the future.

Public involvement and the input of all stakeholders is critical to the success of this application. Written support of the designation of the Detroit River will help to ensure that a complete, community-based exercise is undertaken.

**The Application Team is asking everyone to forward letters of support to the ERCA, 360 Fairview Ave. West, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1Y6.**

Letters may also be faxed to (519) 776-8688 or e-mailed to [erca@wincom.net](mailto:erca@wincom.net) by July 30, 1998.

# Two area students win in ERCA contest

July 1998

Ian Turner and Rebecca Phillipose, both students at Sandwich West Public School have won first and second place in the Primary K-3 written work category of the Detroit River Art and Writing contest sponsored by the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

As many as 69 entries were received in the contest including art work of the freedom festival activities, boating and buildings and written work of family vacations, sunsets and fishing trips.

"The theme of the contest was 'what does the Detroit River mean to you?'," said Tracey Pillon-Abbs, project coordinator. "This is a celebration of the Detroit River through art and writing. We wanted to define what the Detroit River means to the community through a child's eyes."

Selected works were displayed at the Essex County Civic Centre during Education Week in May.

Winning works will be included in a 1999 Canadian Heritage Rivers Calendar for the Detroit River as well as future publications.

All contest winners received a Certificate of Merit.

The purpose of the contest was to help promote the Canadian Heritage River System Project which is being undertaken by numerous community partners in Windsor and Essex County. In addition, the contest was held to help raise awareness of the value of the river in communities and to celebrate its history and its future.

ERCA is currently coordinating an application to have the Detroit River designated as a Canadian Heritage River. The program is designed to recognize outstanding rivers in Canada by emphasizing their natural heritage, cultural/historical heritage and recreation values.

# Detroit River wins federal recognition

July 1998

By Lisa Zagaroli  
Detroit News Washington Bureau

**WASHINGTON** — Designation of the Detroit River as one of the nation's 10 American Heritage Rivers will help bolster economic development, tourism and wildlife in the area, Michigan lawmakers said Wednesday.

"With this designation, we can begin to build a world-class waterfront," said Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-Detroit.

President Clinton is expected to endorse Tuesday's selection of rivers by the American

Heritage Rivers Initiative Advisory Committee.

The designation is intended to provide communities better access to federal experts and resources to help them tackle pollution, watershed problems and the upgrading of nearby paths, docks, plants and buildings.

Advisory committee member Gerry Galloway said the Detroit River was chosen because it was part of an urban area, on an international border, modestly sized and had a well thought-out plan with strong community support.



# ERCA celebrates 25 years

By Rebecca Canty

If there is any question as to whether the residents of Essex County are concerned about their environment, consider this: The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), their partners and the community are celebrating 25 years of safeguarding and restoring the environment.

Constructing wetlands, protecting and improving Essex County's shorelines and natural areas; providing wildlife habitat, water quality initiatives, flood services, soil and water conservation services to farmers, special events, school programs, handling a million trees and numerous other environmentally conscious projects have been the agenda over the years, and into the future.

ERCA Chair, Tom Fuerth lists rejuvenating and increasing natural areas, watershed based planning and remedial action plan for rivers and streams as part of a strategic plan the Conservation Authority has for the future.

"The Conservation Authority, in the past, has spent time interviewing and consulting

with politicians, interest groups and individuals interested in conservation. From this information, the Board of Directors has formed a strategic plan," says Fuerth.

The CA manages 13 conservation areas open for public recreation. ERCA hopes to increase this number through the contribution of funds for the purchase of significant lands as well as contribution of land to be conserved.

ERCA's watershed approach to conservation will continue this cost effective approach. ERCA is also looking at the feasibility of afforestation, farms, forests, cities and towns that catch rain and snow and is drained into marsh, stream, river or lake. There are more than twenty watersheds in the Essex Region.

The remedial action plan for rivers and streams is also an environmental priority. ERCA has been, and will persist to lead in the clean-up of rivers and streams with less than optimal conditions. It is ERCA's goal to have the Detroit River designated as a

Heritage River. This status is given to rivers of natural, cultural and recreational importance. The Detroit River meets these criteria.

The Conservation Authority obtains provincial funding, yet depends on community involvement and local requisition. Every conservation project completed since ERCA was formed, has been in alliance with a list of environmental partners. These partners, companies, organiza-

tions, businesses and individuals in Essex County, have been instrumental in the success of the Essex region's environmental programs. The remedial action plan for rivers and streams in Southern Ontario, is based on the regions' needs.

"We have been working on conservation with our partners and the community and it is time to pause and celebrate," said Michael Tunon, Community Relations Supervisor at ERCA.

A reception and dinner July 17th at the Clociario Club will begin the festivities to celebrate two and a half decades of successes and the challenges of the future.

The following day, a barbeque and volleyball tournament is planned at Holiday Beach Conservation Area, everyone is invited.

Locally McAuliffe Woods Conservation Area, on St. Alphonsse Street, in Sandwich South, north of County Road 42, is a great place to walk or ride bikes through, while you enjoy the natural surroundings.

# Community support key for Detroit River

BY SHARON HILL  
STAR COUNTY REPORTER

The Detroit River needs you to extol its virtues.

In its quest to have the waterway designated as a Canadian Heritage River, the Essex Region Conservation Authority needs letters showing community support. Authority conservation planner Tracey Pillon-Abbs said she's looking for personal letters on why the Detroit River is special and what it means to individuals or companies.

"It could be a fisherman who wants to be able to go fish in the future or a child who Rollerblades in the park and wants to continue it," she said. "We got a couple of nice postcards from Amherstburg talking about the view. The Detroit River meant tranquility to them."

To qualify for a heritage river nomination, the authority must show the Detroit River has community support, historical or cultural value, recreational and environmental value. If nominated, ERCA will have three years to produce a management strategy plan before the river could finally get its designation. The Canadian Heritage Rivers program was established in 1984 and gives designated rivers international recognition and encourages tourism.

The American side has already received its designation which Pillon-Abbs said will help the Canadian application.

The letters of support and the background report must be sent to the federal government by Sept. 30. Send letters of support by Aug. 28 to ERCA at 360 Fairview Ave. West, Essex, Ont. N8M 1Y6 or by fax to 519-776-8688 or through email at [erca@wincom.net](mailto:erca@wincom.net).

*Windsor Star Thursday  
Aug. 6. 98*

# River gets VP's heritage title

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

The Detroit River and 13 other rivers were formally designated Monday as American Heritage Rivers by Vice President Al Gore.

The designation is meant to pump dollars and other resources into communities that want to build business and recreation along the river, along with historic preservation and other projects. The program is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the nation's waterways. A bill signed by President Clinton last year authorized the program and set up a fund to help pay for it.

The winning rivers — selected from 128 applicants — are eligible for grants and other assistance from a variety of federal agencies for everything from planning and building riverfront parks to protecting watersheds or receiving low-interest loans.

The rivers are assigned a bureaucrat, known as a "River Navigator," to speed their way through the government maze and get needed assistance.

Clinton administration officials said the Detroit River had one of the best proposals of the 32 finalists and the solid support of government and industry. Its role as an international

boundary was also a factor.

The application showed the pride the communities along the river take in their parks and scenic vistas, such as from the Ambassador Bridge.

The application also acknowledged the need to clean up polluted or run-down industrial areas and revitalize them.

The application was submitted by a broad coalition of local leaders including Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and Gov. John Engler. Other Michigan leaders include Sen. John Dingell, Rep. John Dingell and Sen. Rick Warren. The program is part of a larger effort to protect and restore the nation's waterways.

Last month, an advisory committee narrowed the list down to 10 rivers — including the Detroit River — and the president added four more.

The other rivers include the Mississippi, the Hanalei in Hawaii, the Connecticut, which flows through four Northeastern states, the Rio Grande in Texas, and the Cuyahoga in Ohio.

COUNTY EDITOR: GRACE MACALUSO 256-5533 FAX 255-5515

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

## Detroit River water quality praised

### Those attending tour were impressed with improvement in river

STORY AND PHOTO BY DOUG SCHMIDT  
STAR ENVIRONMENT WRITER  
DETROIT RIVER

The low point for most on this year's Essex Region Conservation Authority annual tour was when the packed M. V. Borealis slipped by Zug Island.

"It looks like a wasteland," said Mitch Bondy, 7, the son of Windsor environmentalist Ken Bondy, as he leered on the cruise ship's railing to get a close-up picture.

"As a CAW member, I also think about what those workers there are taking in," said Bondy senior, as others among the 150 passengers held noses and expressed their disgust at the smokestacks and the sour reek in the air.

Lloyd Burridge, Windsor's parks and recreation commissioner, watched as his glass of juice was covered in flying "black stuff" while the Borealis floated down the Detroit River just offshore from the American industrial landmark southwest of the Ambassador Bridge.

#### West Windsor's nightmare

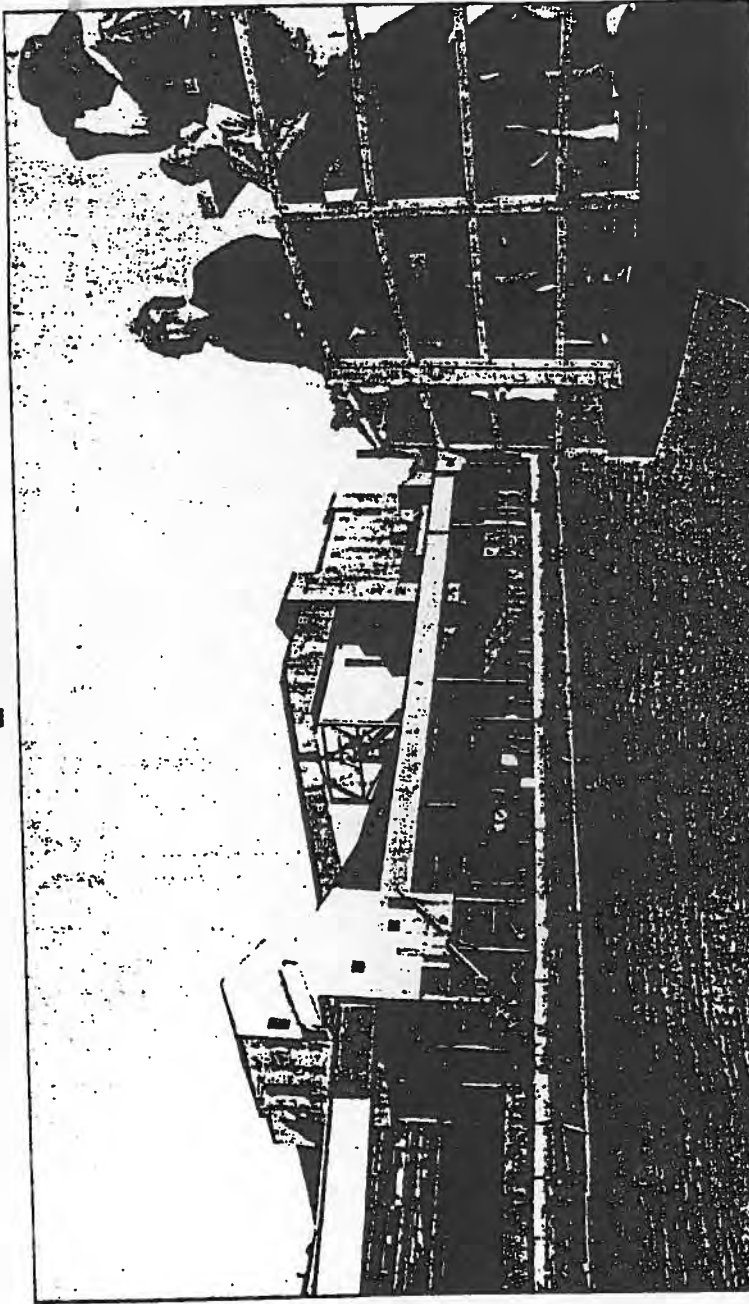
Zug, long the air pollution bane of West Windsorites, was one of the few lows on this year's ERCA tour, conducted Saturday and focused for the first time on a single issue — the Detroit River. But even it and the adjacent Rouge River received a few compliments from some on the cruise.

"Compared to when I was a kid, the cleanliness of the water is much improved and there's not all the garbage everywhere," said ERCA chairman Tom Fuerth.

Essex County Warden Pat O'Neil was similarly impressed, saying he remembers when the Detroit River, blue on this sunny day, used to flow brown.

Others recalled the river's internal streams of white.

What gave the Canadian participants, mostly city and county officials and politicians, their confident outlook was perhaps the positive messages from American speakers. Those involved in clean-up efforts on the American site spoke of billions of dollars being committed to cutting



Participants in the Essex Region Conservation Authority tour of the Detroit river pass by Zug Island during Saturday's outing.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

In a move environmentalists describe as "a last chance" to save the last mile of natural marshland on the Detroit River, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is holding a public hearing Tuesday on a large shoreline development that critics say will destroy the Humbug Marsh, across the Detroit River from Amherstburg.

The developer is seeking permits from the Michigan DEQ and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with building more than 300 high-priced homes, a 600-slip marina, an 18-hole golf course, and equestrian centre, and a multi-screen amphitheatre. Gibraltar, Mich., council backs the project. Canadians should care, said Jane Mackey, of Friends of the Detroit River, because "this is not just a Gibraltar issue, but an entire watershed issue."

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Carleton High School, 30550 West Jefferson, in Gibraltar. — Doug Schmidt

ERCA general manager Ken Schmidt said a decision by Ottawa to create what would become North America's first international heritage river could be made by early 1999.

Schmidt is confident it will. "I don't think anything can really stop us."

back raw sewage flows into the river from Detroit, as well as efforts under way to expand green space and public access along the waterfront.

ERCA, usually charged with preserving Essex County's dwindling natural habitat and making farming greener, is leading the effort to have Ottawa declare the waterway a heritage river, something U.S. President Bill Clinton did on his side July 30.

#### History takes over

That's why this year's tour was less about farmland chemical runoff and more about culture, such as early French settlements; heritage, such as the anti-slavery Underground Railway and the rum-running days; history, such as the War of 1812; and recreation, such as waterfront parkland development.

# Detroit River to be at centre stage

## Environmentalists and public invited to see best and the worst along banks

BY DOUG SCHMIDT  
STAR ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The dirty Detroit River will get the serious once-over — and get it twice — by environmentalists and conservationists next month.

Instead of tourist sights, there will be polluted sites on the agenda when two local groups take over the M. V. Aurora Borealis on successive weekends to conduct tours of the river's environmental blight spots and bright spots.

First up on Sept. 12 is the Essex Region Conservation Authority. Its usual eclectic annual tours of county demonstration farms and conservation sights is focused instead this year on the Detroit River exclusively. Departing Dieppe Gardens in the morning, scientists from both sides of the border will be among the speakers on the boat trip south to Amherstburg and a bus tour on the return leg.

ERCA is spearheading an effort to get Canada to mimic what the Americans have just done — designate the Detroit River as a heritage river. ERCA is also the secretariat for the Canadian side of a renewed binational effort at cleaning up the Detroit River, one of 42 Great Lakes "areas of concern."

The second tour on Sept. 19, this one open to the public, is being co-hosted by the Citizens' Environment Alliance and the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research.

"You're going to see the good news stories, but we're also going to the hotspots," said GLIER board member Dave Dolan.

"They're pretty hard to avoid," added CEA research director Rick Coronado, describing the latter sights. Included among the environmental blights on the narrated four-hour tour, which costs \$40 and includes a lunch, is Zug Island, heavily industrialized and notorious among local environmentalist activists.

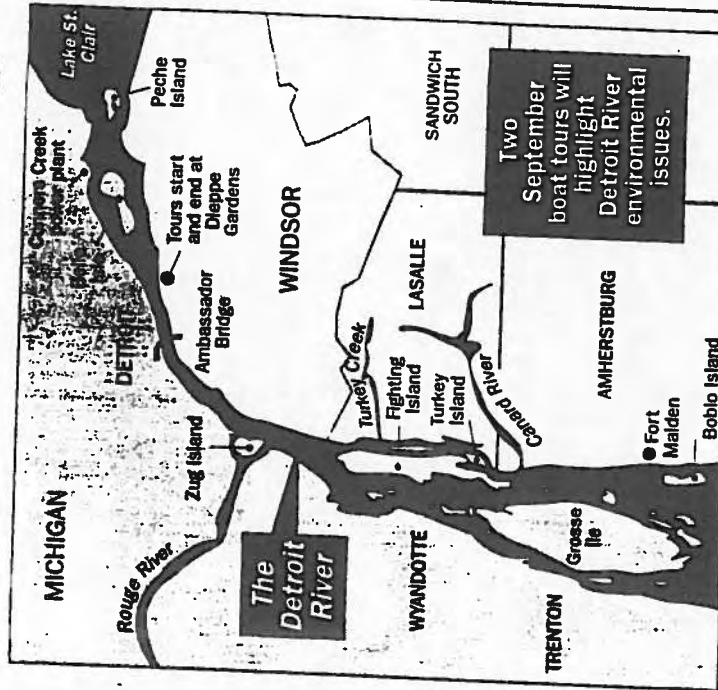
### Boat tours

Both boat tours pass the only location in the Great Lakes basin where two areas of concern — Detroit River and River Rouge — bump into each other.

Their confluence is home to what Coronado describes as the "companies from hell," with dated and old refiners, chemical and steel manufacturing facilities and power plants. It's no coincidence, according to environmentalists, that some of the most toxic Great Lakes hotspots are located immediately downstream from there.

Coronado and Dolan promise to have recent environmental newsmakers on their itinerary, including the Conners Creek power plant, Peche Island and the suspected locations of contaminated sediments, where the river bottom is laced with toxic chemicals.

"We're aiming our trip at the general public," said Coronado, adding: "Peo-



Star Map: SUSAN THOMPSON STAMCOFF

ple can come and see first-hand what some of the problems are."

Both tours will equally emphasize environmental good news with the bad, particularly projects designed to preserve and promote the health of natural habitat.

Participants include politicians, diplomats and business types, as well as local, state, provincial and federal environmental authorities, scientists and researchers. Other points covered include area heritage and environmental justice.

# Same river, different view

BY DOUG SCHEMIDT  
STAR ENVIRONMENT REPORTER  
DETROIT RIVER

Same boat, same weather, same river, same pollution — but a different perspective.

A week after the Essex Region Conservation Authority cruised down the Detroit River on the MV Stella Borealis, carrying a strong theme of working together to clean up the water, the environmentalists got their turn Saturday. And those same water-borne environmentalists, the villains became much dirtier, the villains much more readily identified.

The difference, according to Windsor environmentalist Rick Coronado, is that "they say 'let's be partners with the polluters;' we say 'let's fight them.'"

Saturday's four-hour cruise was sponsored by the Citizens' Environment Alliance and the University of Windsor's Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research.

Again, Zug Island's steel mills and the heavy industry along the mouth of the Rouge River drew attention.

"Why do we let this happen?" said environmentalist and Great Lakes

researcher Mary Ginnebaugh, answering one participant's question: "Because there isn't the political will to make the changes."

While the Detroit River looks "pretty darn clean" to those who remember what it looked like just a couple of decades ago, Ginnebaugh reiterated what scientists had already told the sold-out cruise of about 190 — the problem is "what you can't see that makes it so difficult to explain."

## Hidden enemy

"Esthetically, it looks a whole lot better, but there's a hidden enemy and it's contaminants," said Ron Rossman, a chemist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He showed a series of maps highlighting toxic hotspots where invisible PCBs and mercury contamination are causing "severe environmental degradation in the Detroit River."

"Finally, we're doing something about it," Rossman said, but the price of cleaning up all the toxic hotspots in the Great Lakes would take "more money than we have in the (U.S.) national budget."

The tour, said Jane Brindley, a psychologist who moved to Windsor in February, was "overwhelming and frightening in some ways ... there are so many sources of pollution."

"We learned why bad air blows over our house," said her husband, Ross Paul, president of the University of Windsor. "I don't understand why there's not tougher legislation on the other side."

Among the sights on the tour were yellow, white and black emissions from smokestacks attached to Michigan power plants, steel mills and chemical-manufacturing facilities — all located along the river.

Paul who moved here from Sudbury, said the local air can make his eyes runny and on really bad days he can even "taste it." Brindley said there are bad air days "when I walk outside and I just want to turn around and go back in again."

Paul believes "people can make a difference." And Brindley said she was "really impressed" with the community pressure this past summer that prevented Detroit Edison from firing up its outdated Conners Creek coal-fuelled generating plant.



# A Cleaner Detroit River - Essex Free Press Sept 16/98



This year the annual tour of Essex Region Conservation Authority [ERCA] in its lead to have the Detroit River declared as a Heritage River by Ottawa, was a boat tour of the river from Windsor to Boblo Island. ERCA member Michael Turton and Lloyd Burrige, Commissioner for Windsor Parks and Recreation with Conservation Authority members, Chairman Tom Fuerth of Sandwich South, Katie Starzacher and Robert Croft of Lakeshore, gathered on board the M.V. Borealis as it cruised along the Detroit River Saturday.

by Evelyn Couch Smith

"At no time in our history has there been more active interest and involvement in improving the Detroit River than there is right now," said Tom Fuerth, the chairman of the Essex Region Conservation Authority.

That interest was shown by the 154 passengers on the M.V. Borealis who took ERCA's annual tour of its conservation areas. They were Canadian and American politicians and members of various committees working to improve the environmental impact on the Detroit River, and to have it declared a Heritage River.

Thus the tour emphasized the history of this region as well as the environmental revitalization.

Speaking about the interconnection of the river and many aspects of life, Fuerth said, "water quality affects recreation, protection of natural areas affects economic development, history affects us to-day, and what we do to the river affects our well-being tomorrow."

As many expressed joy in obvious improvement of water colour and surroundings the Borealis began to glide past Zug Island. The foul odor and drifting particles of coal ash that landed in the juice glasses, emphasized there is still much improvement needed.

Zug Island has long been the bane of West Windsorites because of drifting ash and odour. But even here, and by the Rouge River outlet, improvements were obvious.

The positive message from the Americans who reported work being

done and that billions of dollars are being committed to reducing raw sewage that flows into the river, was encouragement for the Canadians on the tour.

"The final implementation plan is nearing completion," was the message from Lou Romano, the director of pollution control and assistant commissioner of Windsor Public Works. "The task at \$300 million is daunting," he said as he explained the cost is approximately \$100 million to install larger storage tanks underneath the river with a power plant above for separation of sanitary and storm water.

The people of Detroit have been looking at what Windsor is doing to beautify its side of the river, said Richard Lyman as he spoke for the landscape architect of Detroit's parks. He reported plans for green areas along the Detroit side with more public access and a Master Plan for Belle Isle that will extend over 25 years of capital improvements amounting to more than \$400 million.

John Oram supplied the lunch for the visitors after they embarked at Boblo Island, he was eager to show us how he is working with ERCA to develop his property in a way that will protect natural habitat and the environment.

History was a major focus on the tour as it returned by land to Windsor. Amherstburg Mayor Wayne Hurst spoke of the anti-slavery underground railway which helped fugitive slaves escape to Canada through the Amherstburg area and of the War of 1812, both

of which give his town historic significance.

ERCA General Manager Ken Schmidt said he expects a decision from Ottawa about declaring the Detroit River as North America's first international heritage river, early in 1999. The United States declared the Detroit River as an American heritage site this past July.

This designation means that the Detroit River will receive a federal employee known as a river navigator, who will work here for five years to help Detroit River communities implement action plans. They will receive federal support of technical and financial assistance.

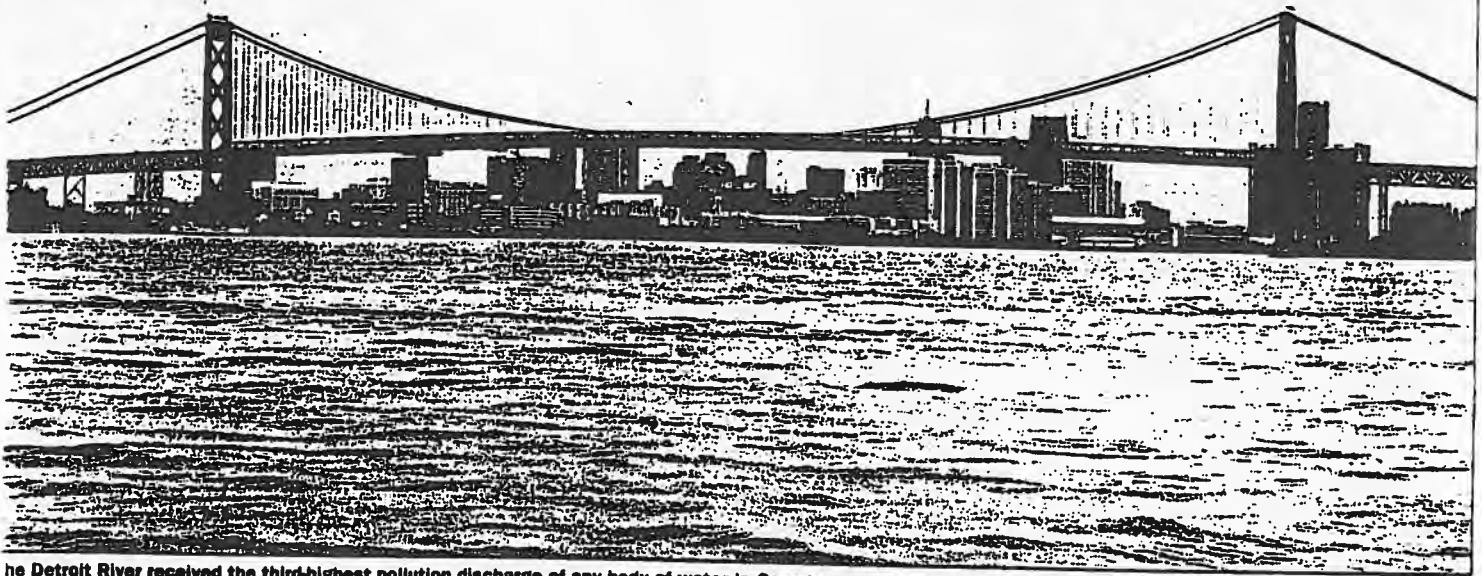
The initiative will develop, revitalize the environmental, historic, cultural and economic aspects of the river, Curt Boller reported. He is the Brownstone Township superintendent.

To date, Canada has more than 30 rivers designated for the Heritage River System.

The Detroit River was among the top ten considered and it is believed its international aspect will be an advantage.

Along with the Essex region Conservation Authority which is coordinating this initiative, a Detroit River team has been created, from a cross section of the community, including business and industry, local agencies, provincial and federal governments and citizens of the surrounding area.

Community support will ensure that changes that are made will be positive and beneficial for all of us, Boller explained.



The Detroit River received the third-highest pollution discharge of any body of water in Canada, according to the 1996 National Pollution Release Inventory.

Star photo: Jason Kryk

# Polluters fail to cut discharges

## Dumping of toxins, carcinogens rises by 25 tonnes in 1996, study shows

By GARY RENNIE  
STAR STAFF REPORTER

The biggest polluters in Windsor and Essex County failed to show much improvement, according to an analysis of the latest national data obtained by the Citizens Environment Alliance (CEA) of Southwest Ontario.

Using the 1996 National Pollutant Release Inventory, the CEA looked at reports of over 30 of the biggest area companies and institutions like General Chemical, Chrysler Canada Ltd., Zalev Brothers, and the City of Windsor's pollution control plants.

Some, like General Chemical, made modest improvements. But overall, more pollution — including about 25 more tonnes of toxins and carcinogens — went into local air and water in 1996, compared to 1995, said Derek Coronado, a researcher for the CEA.

### 5,470 tonnes

The pollutants tracked at larger companies increased to 5,470 tonnes discharged in 1996, compared to 5,452 tonnes in 1995. The more serious toxins and carcinogens increased from 31.4 tonnes in 1995 to 126.8 tonnes in 1996.

The Detroit River was also found to receive the third-highest pollution discharges of any water body in Canada. Only the Saint John River and St. Lawrence River received more pollutants.

General Chemical topped the local list for 1996 with annual discharges of about 1,909 tonnes — mostly ammo-

nia sent into the air — down from 1,942 tonnes in 1995.

Zalev Brothers followed with 878 tonnes — mostly zinc, copper and manganese sent to landfill — compared to 850.3 tonnes in 1995.

Windsor's west end pollution control plant and Chrysler's minivan assembly plant were almost tied for third spot with about 640 tonnes of pollutants emitted or disposed of in 1996.

Chrysler's total was up from 531 tonnes in 1995, while the treatment plant's 1995 total was 480 tonnes.

The west-end treatment plant primarily releases ammonia into the Detroit River while the assembly plant mostly discharges byproducts of painting operations like toluene, xylene and several types of ketones into the air.

Kit Woods, assistant director of pollution control for the city, said ammonia discharges will be greatly reduced when second-stage biological treatment goes into the west-end plant. Studies are still under way on the best method to add second-stage treatment, likely at a cost of more than \$55 million. City council will probably get cost estimates during 1999 budget talks, Woods said.

Bob Coleman, environmental health and safety manager for General Chemical, said ammonia is used as a catalyst in the production of soda ash and calcium chloride. He said the Amherstburg plant now recaptures and recycles over 99 per cent of its ammonia and will be spending about \$500,000 this year on further improvements.



Zalev Brothers scrap yard followed General Chemical on the list of major pollution sources, according to a Citizens' Environment Alliance study of the 1996 National Pollution Release Inventory.

Star file photo

Most of the ammonia released to the air by General Chemical comes out of settling basins of waste materials. The company will soon install equipment to better track waste ammonia and reduce losses in production operations, Coleman said.

Chrysler spokesman Jody Ness said the company made the biggest reductions in air emissions from its local assembly plants when it went to water-based paints in 1994. The emissions went up from 1995 to 1996 because of a 35 per cent increase in production, she said.

Chrysler expects to see air emissions come down in 1997 and 1998.

Of the bigger companies, General Motors of Canada Ltd. didn't have to file a pollutant inventory because it

produced so little of the chemicals tracked, said company spokesman Greg Gibson. Reports don't have to be filed for quantities under 10 tonnes, he said.

Comments couldn't be obtained from Zalev Brothers.

Using reports provided by companies or estimated by industry associations, the national data base tracks only 176 substances so it's likely the pollution picture is worse than available records show, Coronado said.

The company figures also aren't audited often by the government or independently verified, Coronado added. Other pollution sources like agriculture and transportation are excluded from the four-year-old national survey.

The WINDSOR STAR. Mon. Sept 28. 95

## Americans urged to clean up river

A series of workshops begins this week to try to get people on the U.S. side of the border to "stop talking and start taking action" in the cleanup of the Detroit River.

Thousands of brochures produced by state and federal environmental agencies are being sent to everyone deemed to have an interest in cleaning up the river.

"Someone should study why Canadians take more of an active interest in the environment, when it comes to the Detroit River, than Americans do," said Marc Olender, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's liaison for the Detroit River remedial action plan.

For some environmentalists on both sides of the river, the reason is obvious — more public access to the riverfront on the Canadian side means

more political pressure is applied to address a decades-old legacy of environmental degradation.

Two information forums, today in Wyandotte and Thursday on Belle Isle, will be followed by a meeting Oct. 6 to gain commitments to start the U.S. cleanup effort.

Canadians already involved in the Detroit River campaign are glad to see the other side attempt to get back into the cleanup game.

"This was the EPA's promise ... to tell the American side, come on, it's time to get moving," said Rick Coronado of Windsor-based Citizens' Environment Alliance.

"It's no use trying to do cleanups without public involvement," said environmental consultant Jim Drummond of Golder Associates Ltd.

WINDSOR STAR SAT. OCT 24/98

### Cash aids river plan

ESSEX

The South Essex Economic Development Corporation has donated \$5,000 to help designate the Detroit River a Canadian Heritage River.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority is helping co-ordinate the application and will use the funds for the application and in local clean-up efforts.

The authority is trying to show the Detroit River has historical, recreational and environmental value. The American side of the Detroit River has already received its designation and a Canadian designation would give international recognition and encourage tourism.

To help with the application, ERCA is asking people to donate money or write letters of support by Oct. 30. Write to 360 Fairview Ave. West, Essex, N8M 1Y6 or fax letters to 776-8688 or email at erca@wincom.net.

## SEED gives \$5,000 to Detroit River Heritage Project

The South Essex Economic Development Corporation (SEED) has recently contributed a \$5000 grant to the Detroit River Canadian Heritage River Systems Project. Designation by the Canadian Heritage River System provides national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers and helps ensure their long term cultural and economic vitality. The Detroit River is without question one of the most important economic and recreational focal points in Can-

ada's southernmost region. The world's busiest international waterway plays host to millions of people each year who boat on it, fish its waters, walk, jog or bike along its waterfront parks or simply enjoy the varied and wonderful view that it provides. The Detroit River is an irreplaceable and fascinating part of our local heritage.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), on behalf of the local community, is helping to coordinate the designation application. Tracey Pillon-Abbs, Conservation Planner for ERCA explains, "the Detroit River has many significant historical, recreational and natural values which warrant recognition under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System." The SEED grant will help make the designation a

reality and assist in local efforts to cleanup and protect the river environment as well as preserve the Detroit River's unique history and stimulate the local economy.

Gail Stiffler for SEED stated, "as a contributing community partner we send out a challenge to other local businesses, citizens and organizations to get involved and show their support through additional financial contributions and letters to make this designation a reality for the Detroit River community.

The SEED Corporation is asking interested community representatives to forward financial contributions and letters of support by October 30, 1998 to ERCA, 360 Fairview Ave. West, Essex N8M 1Y6.

SEED is a community based organization funded by Industry Canada's Community Futures Development Corporation. The SEED Corporation is designed to assist rural and small communities to adjust to their economic environment and create job opportunities within Essex County.

## **Appendix 9**





# Detroit River

Canadian Heritage River Designation

## Human Heritage

**1 Amherstburg**  
**National Historic Plaques**  
 Major John Richardson  
 Wyandot Council House  
 Pro Patria  
 British Naval Yard 1796  
 Belle Vue  
 Fort Malden

**Provincial Historic Plaques**  
 Lt. Colonel William Caldwell  
 Christ Church 1819  
 Skirmishes at the Canard River  
 Capture of the Anne 1838  
 Colonel Matthew Elliott 1739-1814

**2 Bois Blanc Island (Bob-Lo)**  
**National Historic Plaques**  
 Blockhouses - 1839  
 Lighthouse - 1837

**3 LaSalle**  
**Provincial Historic Plaques**  
 Fighting Island - 1838

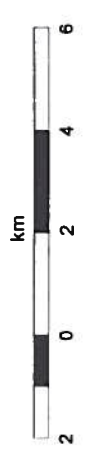
**4 Windsor**  
**National Historic Plaques**  
 Hiram Walker  
 Fugitive Slaves  
 Francois Baby House  
 Capture of Detroit  
 War of 1812 - 1814 Sandwich  
**Other Historic Sites**  
 Duff Baby House  
 Mackenzie Hall  
 Mill

**Provincial Historic Plaques**  
 Jesuit Mission to the Hurons  
 The Siege of Detroit - 1763  
 Hulls Landing - 1812  
 District Court House and Gaol  
 The Battle of Windsor  
 Col. Arthur Rankin  
 The Huron Church Reserve  
 The Hon. Alexander Grant  
 The Great Western Railway  
 The University of Windsor  
 Hon. James Baby (1763 - 1833)  
 St. Johns Church  
 French Settlement-South Shore

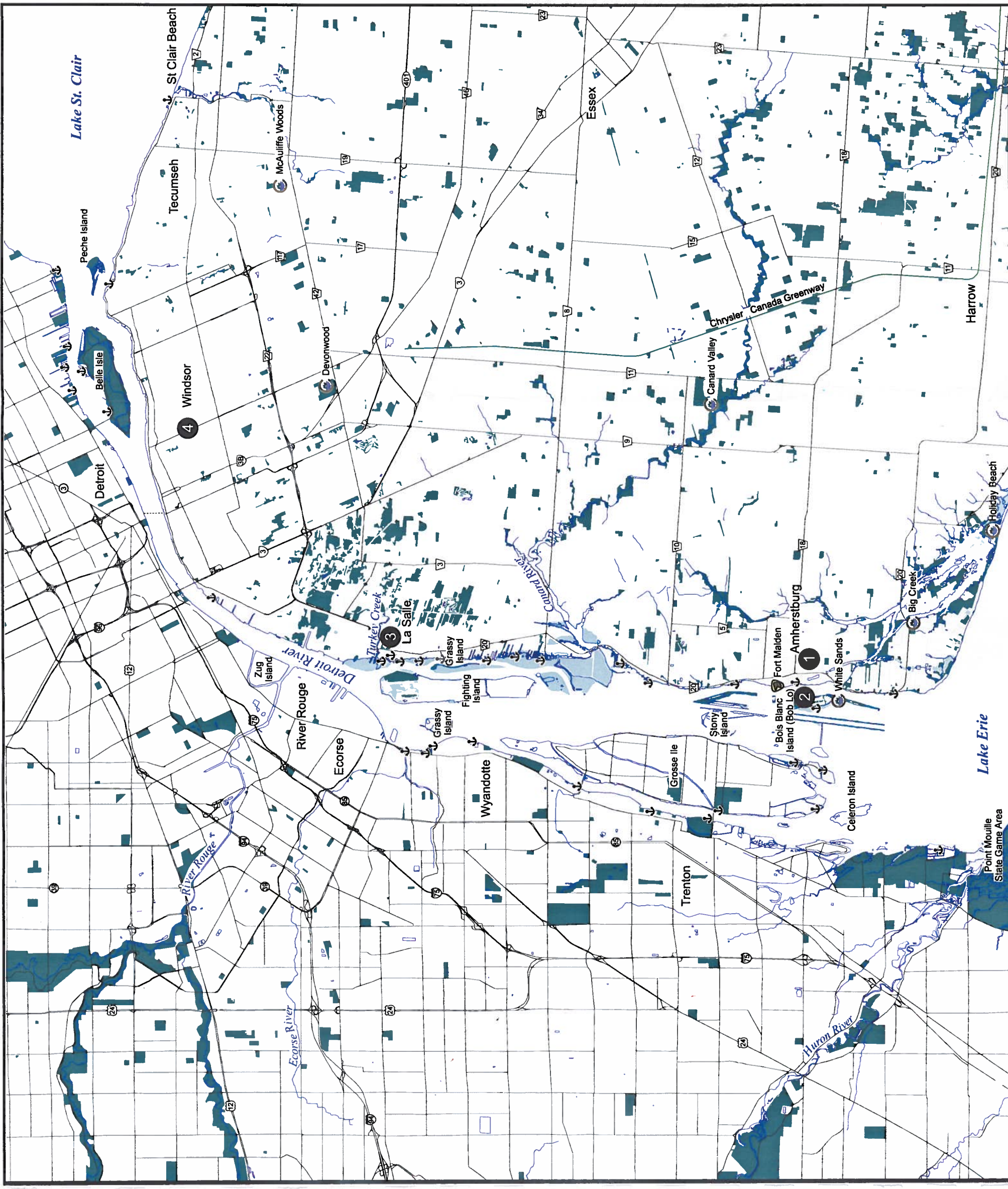
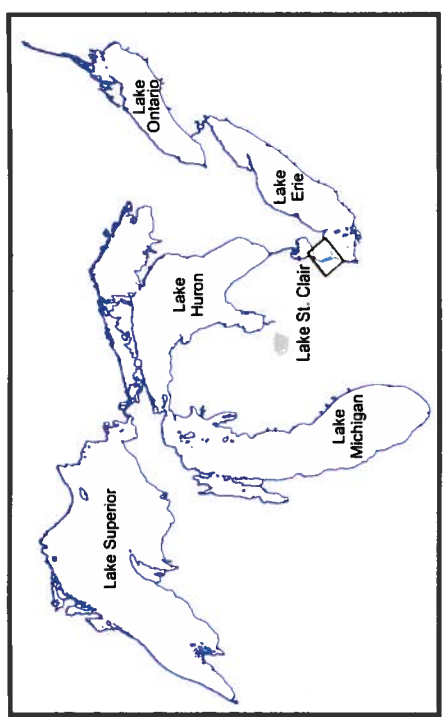
**DETROIT RIVER**  
 A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

Essex Region Conservation Authority  
 Geographic Information Systems

- Green Space
- Wetland
- Conservation Area
- National Park
- Marina



The map based on NTS and USGS digital information. Used with permission of Natural Resources Canada.



## **Appendix 10**



# Detroit River

Canadian Heritage River Designation

## Recreational Values

### Parks

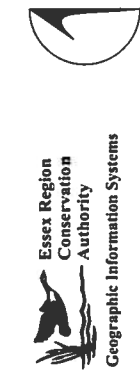
1. East Riverside
2. Little River Corridor
3. Kwanis Hill
4. St. Joseph's Park
5. St. Rose Beach & Park
6. Reaume Park & Coventry Gardens
7. Goose Bay Park
8. Alexander Park
9. Former CN Riverfront Property
10. Dieppe Park & Piazza Udine
11. Ernest Atkinson & Straith Park
12. Assumption & Centennial Park
13. Ambassador & McKee Park
14. Mill & Brock Park
15. Mic Mac
16. Maiden
17. Black Oak Heritage Park
18. Ojibway Prairie Complex
19. Spring Garden ANS
20. Craig & Turtle Park
21. Gil Maure Park
22. LaSalle Youth Centre
23. Marenllette Marsh
24. Sabadash Marsh
25. River Canard Park
26. K. Walter Manna & Park
27. Crystal Harbour
28. Fort Malden
29. Kings Navy Yard

### Campgrounds

30. Holiday Beach Conservation Area
31. Jellystone Camp Resort
32. Girl Guides of Canada - Bryerswood
33. Wildwood Golf and RV Resort
34. Gastwood Retreat and Camp Centre
35. Windsor KOA

### Trails

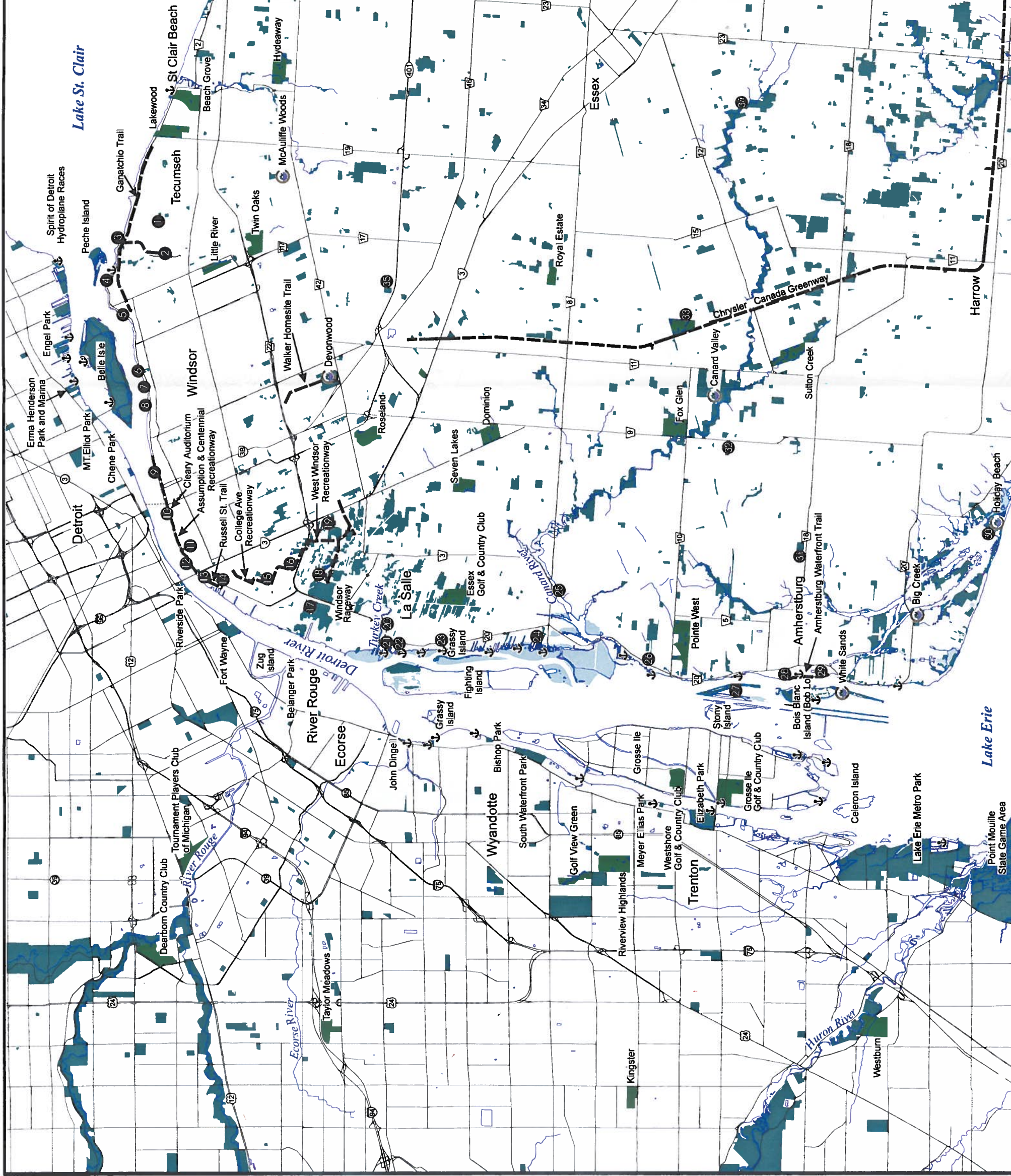
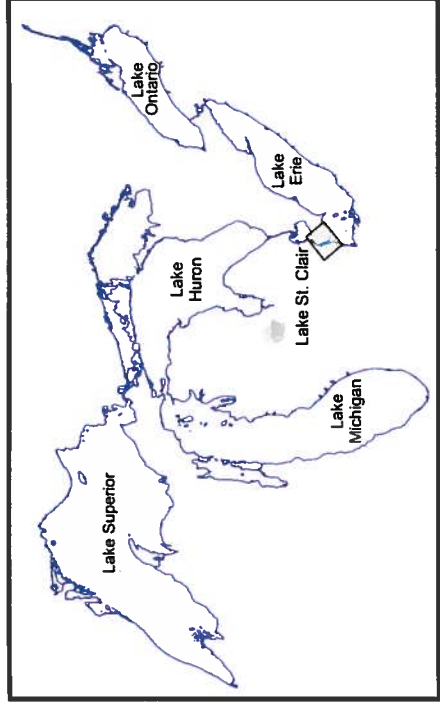
- Ganatchio Trail
- Assumption & Centennial Recreationway
- Russell Street Trail
- College Ave Recreationway
- West Windsor Recreationway
- Walker Homesite Trail
- Chrysler Canada Greenway
- Amherstburg Waterfront Trail



- Green Space
- Golf Course
- Wetland
- Conservation Area
- Marina



This map based on NTS and USGS digital information. Used with permission of Natural Resources Canada.



DETROIT RIVER  
A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

## **Appendix 11**



# Detroit River

## Canadian Heritage River Designation

### Natural Features

#### Natural Areas

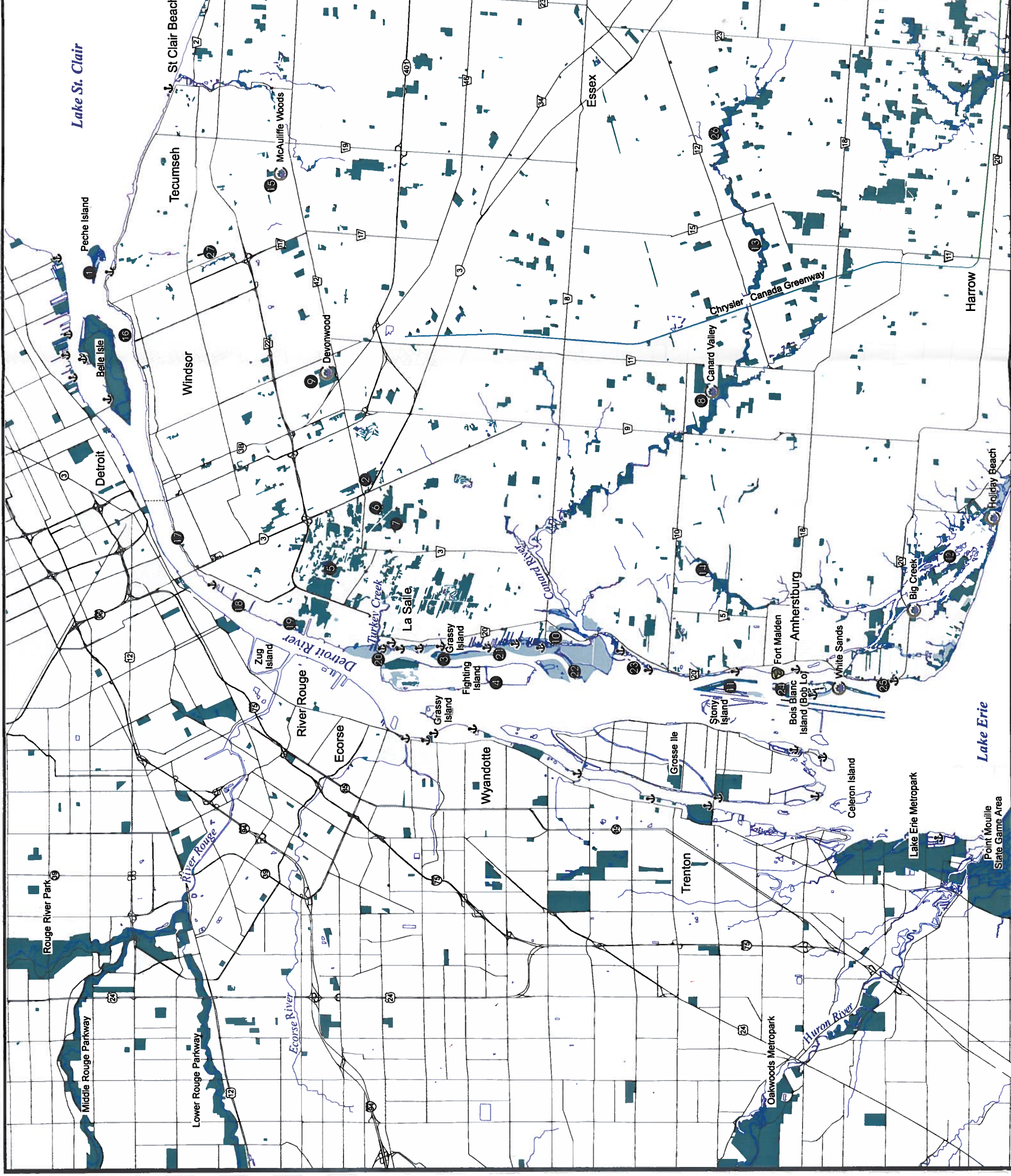
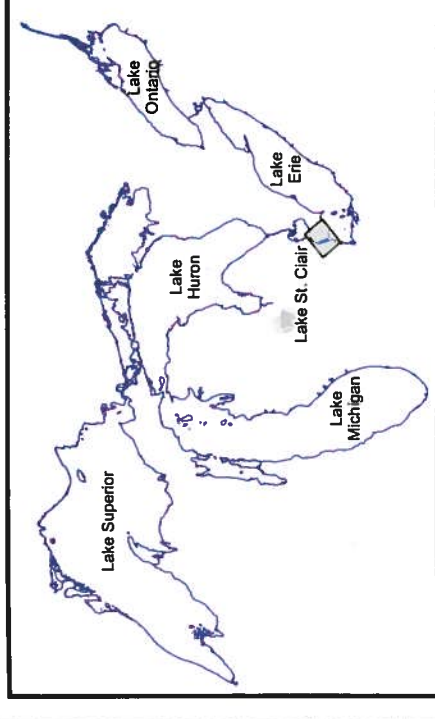
1. Peche Island CNHS, ESA
2. St. Clair College Prairie ESA
3. Grassy Island ESA
4. Fighting Island Wetlands (Turkey Creek and Detroit River Wetlands) ESA
5. Ojibway Prairie Complex ANSI/ESA
  - Ojibway Park
  - Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Park
  - Ojibway Black Oak Woods
  - Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve
6. Spring Garden Planning Area ANSI/ESA
7. LaSalle Woodlot ESA
8. Canard Valley Conservation Area/ESA
9. Devonwood Conservation Area/ESA and Allied
10. Canard Marshes ESA and Allied
11. Chemical Brine Wells ESA
12. Crystal Bay, White Sands and Livingstone Channel
13. Holiday Beach Conservation Area/Big Creek Marsh ESA
14. New Canaan Woodlot ESA
15. Upper Big Creek Woodlot ESA
16. McAuliffe Woods Conservation Area

#### Improvement Projects

16. City Park Fish Habitat Enhancements
17. Assumption Park Habitat Enhancements
18. Canadian Salt Company Habitat Enhancements
19. Ojibway Lakes Habitat Enhancements
20. Dean Construction Habitat Enhancements
21. Crystal Harbour: Habitat Enhancements
22. Ruwe Dyke: Habitat Enhancements
23. Canard Marsh and Turkey Island Restoration and Enhancements
24. Bob-Lo Island: Habitat Enhancements
25. Blueview: Habitat Enhancements
26. Canard River Fish Habitat Enhancements
27. Little River Rehabilitation (Twin Oaks)



The map based on NTS and USGS digital information. Used with permission of Natural Resources Canada.



## **Appendix 12**





## Appendix 12 - Detroit River Annual Report Checklist

A list of valued features, facilities, landscapes and management activities within the Detroit River watershed is provided below. Please indicate which items have experienced significant changes within this past year.

FOR EACH ITEM CHECKED, PLEASE COMPLETE AN ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION FORM.

### 1. Outstanding River Values

#### 1.1 Natural Heritage Values

##### Environmental features

- change in total vegetation coverage
- change in status of VTE plan species (i.e. Swamp Rosemallow, various prairie affinities)
- change in status of VTE fauna (i.e. Eastern Spiny Softshell, Eastern Massasauga, Bald Eagle)
- change in habitat availability (i.e. riparian habitat, forest interior, wetlands, tall grass prairie, savana)
- change in status of Carolinian Canada designation sites
- change in status of Provincially Significant Wetlands
- change in status of Environmentally Significant Areas

##### Water Quantity and River Morphology

- change in base and/or peak river flows
- change in physical structure of river channel (i.e. dyking, channelization, drainage)
- change in 'vista composition" (i.e. riparian cover)

#### 1.2 Human Heritage Values

##### European Exploration colonization and Conflict

- change in status of known archeological sites
- identification of new archaeological sites
- acknowledgement of sites and events surrounding the establishment of Fort Pontchartrain in 1701
- acknowledgement of sites and events surrounding the War of 1812 and the rebellion of 1837

##### Native people

- acknowledgement of sites and contributions offered by First Nations

**Early European Settlements and use of the River's Resources**

- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of first agricultural and urban settlements
- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement and understanding of pioneer use of the River's resources, and implications of same

**The River's Influence on Developing Urban Centres and Major Industries**

- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of the river's influence on community development
- \_\_\_\_\_ presence and recognition of significant industrial and commercial facilities

**Transportation**

- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of contributions made by the shipping industry on regional, Canadian and U.S. development
- \_\_\_\_\_ presence and recognition of significant transportation related infrastructure

**Water Extraction and the Development of Water Quality programs**

- \_\_\_\_\_ recognition of historical and current international efforts to prevent pollution and clean the river's waters

**The Detroit River's Influence on Regional Roles and Cultural landscapes**

- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of sites and events surrounding the region's French community
- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of sites and events surrounding the Underground Railway
- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of sites and events surrounding the gambling industry, prohibition and smuggling
- \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledgement of art work, songs, folk-tales, literature left over the 300 year period by river residents and visitors

**1.3 Recreational Values**

**Boating**

- \_\_\_\_\_ status and capacity of the river for boating (i.e. canoeing , cruisers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ status and capacity of related boating facilities (i.e. docks, marinas)

**Fishing and Hunting**

- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in status of game fish and wildlife populations
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in fish and wildlife habitat
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to fishing and hunting opportunities

**Parklands and Other Recreations**

- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to parks and open space
- \_\_\_\_\_ capacity in offer recreational diversity

#### Trails and Corridors

- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in the status of existing trail networks
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to existing trail networks

#### Nature Appreciation

- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in the diversity of natural features (marshes and Carolinian woodlots)
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to natural features

#### Human Heritage Appreciation

- \_\_\_\_\_ Presence of museums, heritage buildings and structures and related facilities

#### Tourism and Ecotourism

- \_\_\_\_\_ inventory of events and attractions national and international audiences (i.e. Freedom Festival)
- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to key sites (i.e. birding, sightseeing tours)

#### The Scenic River

- \_\_\_\_\_ changes in accessibility to the river (i.e. water, land)

## 2. River Integrity Values

### 2.1 Natural Integrity

- \_\_\_\_\_ stable river morphology and size
- \_\_\_\_\_ presence of all key ecosystem elements
- \_\_\_\_\_ status of all outstanding natural features

### 2.2 Historical Integrity

- \_\_\_\_\_ representation from selected historical eras
- \_\_\_\_\_ artifacts and structures not affected by new land uses
- \_\_\_\_\_ water suitable for non-contact recreation

### 2.3 Recreational Integrity

- \_\_\_\_\_ no negative impact on other heritage values
- \_\_\_\_\_ capability of natural features to support recreation
- \_\_\_\_\_ water quality suitable for contact recreation

**3. Water Quality Indicators**

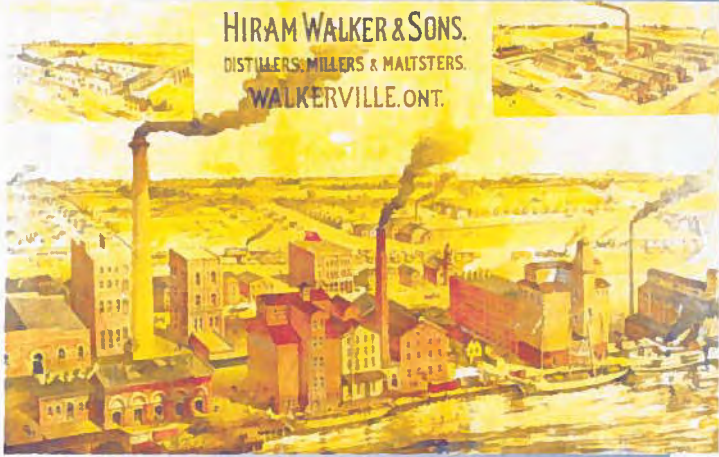
- quality based on benthic invertebrate indices
- quality based on chemical parameters
- quality based on bacterial parameters
- quality based on physical characteristics (i.e. odour, aquatic vegetation growth)

**4. Management Activities Potentially Affecting River Values**

- significant changes in land use zoning
- watershed plan amendments
- significant environmental research recommendations
- significant changes in institutional arrangements
- change in status of environmental monitoring programs
- change in provincial and/or federal regulations or policy
- change in environmental, cultural education curriculum
- significant changes in riparian land ownership







Canadian Heritage Rivers System