

About Ottawa Riverkeeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper is an independent voice for the Ottawa River, providing leadership and inspiration to protect, promote and improve the watershed's ecological health and future.

www.ottawariverkeeper.ca

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a registered Canadian charity and a licensed member of *Waterkeeper Alliance*, an international grass roots advocacy organization, founded by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

www.waterkeeper.org

Supporters

Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

The design was provided by

character
CREATIVE



Ottawa RIVERKEEPER®
SENTINELLE Outaouais

301-1960 Scott Street, Ottawa, ON K1Z 8L8

(613) 321-1120 | 1-888-9KEEPER

www.ottawariverkeeper.ca

THE RIVER IS CALLING...
... IT'S FOR YOU.

Paper: Rolland Enviro100 - 100% post consumer fibre, FSC recycled, ecologo
and Processed Chlorine Free certified, manufactured in Canada using Biogas energy



Ottawa RIVERKEEPER®
SENTINELLE Outaouais



THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR RIVER RURAL GUIDE

A no-nonsense guide to 'doing your part' for the health and future of the Ottawa River, brought to you by Ottawa Riverkeeper.

www.ottawariverkeeper.ca

Defending the Ottawa River, Protecting our Communities.

10 TAKE ACTION TODAY: THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR RIVER – RURAL GUIDE

The Ottawa River is the lifeblood of our community. It provides drinking water, supports a range of species and ecosystems, sustains economic activity, is a world-class destination for recreation, and is an important piece of our history and culture.

Protecting the health of our river is in the best interest of all people, and all communities!

1

Be “Well” Aware.

Be careful where you store toxic substances as they can infiltrate soil and contaminate your well water. Test your well water annually.

2

Go Natural.

Maintain a healthy buffer of trees, bushes and plants beside all rivers, streams and lakes on your property. This filters out excess nutrients and contaminants, and reduces erosion.

3

Waste Management.

Proper disposal of pharmaceuticals, batteries, paints and hazardous waste prevents unsafe run-off into rivers and streams. Keeping livestock and pet waste away from surface water and wells is also important.

4

Conserve.

Using less water reduces the burden on our rivers and groundwater reservoirs, conserves energy and supports future generations.

5

Educate. Inspire. Act.

Learn about your river and how it benefits your community, then teach and encourage others to become advocates for the river. Collective actions make a difference!

DID YOU KNOW?

The most polluted water is observed in the lower 150 km of the river, from Ottawa-Gatineau to the river's mouth at Lac des Deux Montagnes.

6

Maintain Your Septic System.

Properly built and maintained septic systems prevent bacterial contamination and nutrient loading of nearby lakes and rivers.

7

Eliminate Toxic Substances.

Chemicals found in pesticides, fertilizers, personal care, and cleaning products eventually find their way back to your groundwater and the river. Avoid pesticides and choose non-toxic, phosphate-free cleaning products.

8

Eat Organic, Locally Grown Food.

Pesticides, fertilizers and livestock waste are serious threats to well and surface water and must be managed carefully.

9

Maintain Vehicles and Equipment.

Proper car, boat and farm equipment maintenance prevents oil and fluid leaks which run off into the river or infiltrate groundwater.

10

Use Your River.

Swim. Drink. Fish. Know your rights. Using your river sends the message that it's worth protecting. When we stop using the river it stops being protected.

Learn more by visiting: www.ottawariverkeeper.ca