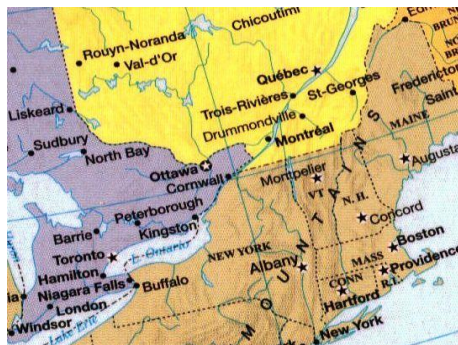


## The Friendship Force of Ottawa within the Canadian and Local Communities



Ottawa on the Ontario-Quebec border



Canoes and boats on the Rideau Canal



"The World's Largest Skating Rink"



Canada's National Gallery and Maman

### **Canada, Our Home and Native Land**

Canada is the second-largest country in the world but only has a small population: 34 million people. It is a member of the G-8, the group of eight most highly industrialized nations in the world. It is made up of ten Provinces and three Territories. Canada's capital city is **Ottawa**, located in the Province of Ontario, Canada's largest province, with over eight million people. Here, the Friendship Force of Ottawa was born and has flourished ever since, growing to over 180 members.

### **Ottawa, Canada's Capital, Our Community**

Today, in 2008, some 1.3 million Canadians live and work in metropolitan Ottawa, Canada's fourth-largest city. It is located on the border of our two largest provinces, Ontario and Quebec, at the heart of a bilingual region of both English- and French-speaking residents. Three rivers meet here: the Ottawa, Gatineau, and Rideau Rivers.

Our Parliament Buildings sit high on Parliament Hill, surrounded by national museums, vibrant neighbourhoods, and scenic parks and bikeways. Altogether, it makes for an urban environment in which people bike or skate to work, paddle their canoe to a jazz festival downtown, or enjoy an outdoor picnic in one of the parks, or lunch at a sidewalk cafe.

### **A Capital City for All Seasons**

Ottawa has four distinct seasons: Spring, when literally thousands of tulips bloom; Summer, when our festivals are cause for celebration; Fall, when the maple leaves turn bright red and nearby Gatineau Park features its flaming colours; and Winter, when the historic Rideau Canal – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – is turned into "The World's Largest Skating Rink", as certified by the Guinness Book of World Records. Then, ice and snow carvers come from around the world to showcase their talents during "Winterlude", Ottawa's annual celebration of Canadian winter fun.

As a result, our capital city for all seasons provides a truly exceptional quality of life for its residents and annually welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors and tourists from far and wide.

### **National Treasures on Permanent Display**

Most of Canada's National Museums are prominently located along what is called "Confederation Boulevard", the route that ties together all of the capital's symbolic features and major national political and cultural institutions.

The jewel in the crown is the stunning Canadian Museum of Civilization, a masterpiece designed by the Metis architect Douglas Cardinal from Manitoba, and located in Gatineau, Ottawa's twin city across the Ottawa River, in the Province of Quebec. Its cultural counterpoint, the National Gallery of Canada, an equally prominent architectural marvel designed by architect Moshe Safdie, stands proudly at Nepean Point, and houses Canada's major art collection.

Since its founding in 1994, the Friendship Force of Ottawa has hosted ambassadors from many countries around the globe. In 2008, it hosted over one hundred ambassadors from Iowa, Australia, Kentucky, and Colombia.