



# Ottawa Essentials

---

**Location:** The city of Ottawa stretches from the border with Arnprior in the west to Cumberland in the east, and from the Ottawa River to Burritt's Rapids on the Rideau River. Forming the major portion of the larger region of Ottawa-Gatineau and spanning the Ontario-Quebec border, the Ottawa area is Canada's fourth largest Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), after Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, with an estimated combined population of more than 1.1 million.

**Origin of Name:** Derived from the Algonquin term adawe, "to trade," the name given to the tribe who controlled trade on the Ottawa River. The name of the Ottawa River was called Rivière des Outaouais on their first map produced by the French in 1702. Ottawa would be called first Bytown after Lt-Col. John By of the Royal Engineers. The name Ottawa was officially adopted in 1855.

**Nickname:** Nation's Capital

**Motto:** "Advance-Ottawa-En Avant" (Written in two official languages, it means "Advance.")

**City Flower:** Tulip

**City Flag:** Adopted in 2001 when eleven municipalities amalgamated into one new city. The green and blue backdrop represents the importance of the city's green spaces and waterways. The stylized 'O' logo in the center of the flag represents the city's vibrancy and forward movement. As the centrepiece, it represents Ottawa as the Nation's Capital. It was designed to have a subtle similarity to the maple leaf and parliament buildings. The white streamers stemming from the 'O' symbolize unity, harmony and working together towards a common goal.

**Coat of Arms:** Granted on September 15, 1954 and formally declared in use on January 1, 1955. Components include a shield, a wreath, supporters and the city's motto.

**Dates of Incorporation:** 1850 as Bytown; 1855 as the city of Ottawa; amalgamated in 2001

**Time Zone:** Eastern Standard Time

**Area Code:** (613)

**Postal Codes:** K0A, K1A-K4C

**System of Measurement:** Metric

**Voting Age:** 18

**Drinking Age:** 19

**Statutory Holidays:** New Year's Day (January 1), Good Friday (the Friday before Easter), Victoria Day (the Monday before May 25), Canada Day (July 1), Civic Holiday (the first Monday in August — Col. By Day),

## Take 5 FIVE CITIES IN THE RUNNING

### WHEN CANADA'S CAPITAL WAS NAMED IN 1857

1. **Toronto**
2. **Kingston**
3. **Ottawa**
4. **Montreal**
5. **Quebec**

Labour Day (the first Monday in September), Thanksgiving Monday (the second Monday in October), Remembrance Day (November 11), Christmas Day (December 25) and Boxing Day (December 26).

**Sister Cities:** On January 1, 2000, 11 municipalities merged into what is now the city of Ottawa. Some of those previous municipalities,

## Take 5 BARBARA CLUBB'S TOP FIVE

### ESSENTIAL OTTAWA READS

Barbara Clubb is the City Librarian and CEO of the Ottawa Public Library and past president of the Canadian Library Association. She tells us her top five books that she feels provide valuable insight into Ottawa and its people.

1. ***Ottawa: a Literary Portrait*** by John Bell (Pottersfield Press, 1992)
2. ***Where Rivers Meet: an Illustrated History of Ottawa*** by Courtney Bond (Windsor Publications, 1984)
3. ***Capital Walks: Walking Tours of Ottawa*** by Katharine Fletcher (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2004)
4. ***The Private Capital: Ambition and Love in the Age of MacDonald and Laurier*** by Sandra Gwyn (McClelland and Stewart, 1984)
5. ***The Serpent's Egg*** by J. FitzGerald McCurdy (Saratime Publications, 2001)

including the former city of Ottawa, entered into sister city relationships with various municipalities from around the world. Since amalgamation, the city of Ottawa has not entered into any new such agreements.

**POPULATION**

Area	Population	Share of metro population (%)
City of Ottawa	865,553	66.5%
City of Gatineau	245,629	18.9%
OMATO*	143,116	11.0%
QMAG**	47,757	3.7%

\*OMATO: Ontario Municipalities Adjacent to Ottawa

\*\*QMAG: Québec Municipalities Adjacent to Gatineau

**Population in Perspective (CMA):**

Ottawa: 1,130,761

Montreal: 3,635,571

Toronto: 5,597,000

Vancouver: 2,187,721

Calgary: 1,079,310

New York City: 21,976,224

**Did you know...**

that recent immigrants — those who settled here in the past 10 years — make up 6.8 percent of the population? Now 70,500 recent immigrants live in Ottawa, the fourth highest concentration in the country.

**G-Town**

Much like the rest of North America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ottawa was a decidedly blue collar town. Loggers and raftsmen literally nursed millions of logs down the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers to Montreal, where they would find markets on the eastern seaboard, and across the Atlantic. Indeed Ottawa was the centre for lumber milling and the square-cut timber industry in North America.

On December 31, 1857, Ottawa was unexpectedly dealt a hand that forever altered its course. Because it was a safe distance from marauding Americans, Ottawa was chosen as the capital of Upper and Lower Canada. The civil service was born, and Ottawa has had a love/hate relationship with it ever since.

Initially, blue-collar Ottawa had little time for the budding bureaucracy. John H. Taylor in his publication *Ottawa, An Illustrated History*, put it this way: “As for the locals, the civil servants . . . came to be regarded as favoured although inferior citizens in what was otherwise a working-man’s town . . . They were a set of men who got high salaries for doing nothing.”

From a few hundred workers in the early days, the number of employees of the Ottawa-based federal civil service grew to 30,069 in 1951. By 1961 it was 36,945 and today it is over 117,000. One in five working Ottawans work for the government. If you add in healthcare and social services, it reaches almost one in three.

Although periodically the civil service suffers reverses in employment, by and large it continues to grow unabated, giving the Ottawa economy a stability not found in the rest of the country. The research arms of the federal government have also nurtured the high technology industry. As one astute observer put it, if the nation’s capital were in Nunavut, the high technology industry would follow it there. Such is the importance and the economic power of the government sector.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM

- You know your public service friends not by name but by pay scale code
- You think Marlen Cowpland is a celebrity
- You've dated Marlen Cowpland
- You remember the Party Palace
- You think Alanis Morissette is Canada's greatest celebrity
- "Go Leafs go" means watching the autumn colours disappear in Gatineau Park
- You believe the 2007 Stanley Cup was rigged
- You believe lost pets are front page news
- You know the Lockmaster is a bar, not someone who installs your security system
- Meech Lake is a public beach, not Mulroney's legacy
- You went to the Canada rally before the 1995 referendum for fear you'd have to show a passport to go drinking in Hull
- You think Corel Draw and Word Perfect were the greatest software programs ever designed
- Giddyay is a standard greeting, not a sign of inbreeding
- Five levels of government are just not enough
- You believe an entire level of government is needed to run a city's park system
- Going to Hull is a party plan, not an insult
- You get excited when the feds announce a new royal commission
- A beavertail is a pastry, not a sexist remark
- You've sailed across the Ottawa River to buy beer in a corner store in Quebec
- You have never eaten a falafel when sober
- You really hate tulips
- You laugh when tourists actually expect the Rideau Canal to be open for skating
- "Under construction" road signs don't post an end date
- Global warming means a -30c winter
- The Laff is a bar, not a response to a funny joke
- You remember the old, bathtub sized urinals at the Château Lafayette tavern

## OTTAWA WHEN . . .

- You'd rather listen to Max Keeping's newscasts than to Lloyd Robertson's
- You've never met anyone who's been fired
- Overtime is a hockey term, not a workplace term
- You are proud to have a "hot" Governor General
- You have your father's job, and you hate it as much as he did
- You visit relatives you hate in hopes of scoring government contracts
- You know what a Shawarma is, and that it is delicious
- You know that the Palladium is the Corel Centre is Scotiabank Place
- You plan on attending the Ottawa Bluesfest, although it never seems to attract blues performers
- You studied computer science to make big bucks in Silicon Valley but ended up in Kanata
- You have nearly been run over by Margaret Trudeau
- You think Tom Green is the funniest man alive
- You believe that if a restaurant has a neon cactus in the window, it means fine dining
- A night on the town means driving to Montreal
- You know the Bare Fax tavern does not involve document transmission
- You get all teary-eyed when you remember expense accounts before the Liberals were defeated
- You'd hate to live in Toronto because you'd have to work too hard
- You know that red embassy plates on a car means tickets are for little people
- You think the humane society is the cat sanctuary on Parliament Hill
- You enjoyed the 1998 ice storm
- You're used to seeing 18 wheeler trucks driving on King Edward and Rideau St.
- You cringe every time someone comments on how clean the city is
- You remember when the Ottawa Senators played at the Civic Centre
- You bought your first beer at a Hull corner store

**Population Density:**

- Ottawa: 200.0 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- New York City: 10,316 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Vancouver: 5,252 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Montreal: 4,439 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Toronto: 3,972.0 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Calgary: 1,360.2 people/km<sup>2</sup>

**Median Ages**

- Women: 37.4
- Men: 35.8

**AGING**

Although Ottawa’s population is one of the youngest city populations in the country, in every age group other than people over the age of 55 the numbers are declining as a percentage of the population.

**POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX**

Age	Males	Females	Total
0-14	104,815	100,505	205,320
15-24	71,270	69,895	141,165
25-44	170,560	177,150	347,710
45-64	124,355	130,090	254,445
65+	47,750	67,285	115,035

Source: Statistics Canada.

**Did you know...**

that Lt.-Col. John By was the judicial authority in early Bytown? By earned a reputation for his fairness and sense of humour in dealing with miscreants. Disputes he failed to resolve in chambers, he ordered settled in a boxing ring on Rideau Street.

**They Said It**

Not surprisingly, the new capital provoked good and ill-natured comments.

1. **Essayist Goldwin Smith called the new capital** “a sub-arctic lumber village converted by royal mandate into a political cockpit.”
2. **Governor-General Lord Monck in a letter to the Rt. Hon. Edward Cardwell in London:** “It seems like an act of insanity to have fixed the capital of this great country away from the civilization, intelligence and commercial enterprise of this province, in a place that can never be of importance and where the political section of the community will live in isolation and removed from the action of any public opinion.”
3. **Anthony Trollope, the British novelist wrote:** “I know no modern Gothic purer of its kind or less sullied with fictitious ornamentation, and I know no site for such a set of buildings so happy as regards both beauty and grandeur.”

**Place of Birth:** About 25 percent of Ottawa’s residents are foreign born. More than 20 percent of Ottawa residents are members of visible minorities.

**Life Expectancy at Birth:**

	Ontario	Canada
Male	75.9	75.4
Female	81.3	81.2

**Did you know...**

That 44 percent of people in Ottawa-Gatineau consider themselves bilingual in English and French?

## Take 5 TOP FIVE LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN OTTAWA'S CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA

1. **English: 60.4%**
2. **French: 38.5%**
3. **Chinese: 2.7%**
4. **Arabic: 2.7%**
5. **Italian: 1.3%**

Source: Statistics Canada.

### MARITAL STATUS (POPULATION 15 AND OVER)

- Percentage who are married: 49.6%
- Percentage who are single: 26.7%
- Percentage who are divorced: 7.2%
- Percentage that are common-law: 6.7%
- Widowed: 6.0%
- Percentage separated: 3.8%

Source: Stats Can.

### BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (2006)

- 10,200 births
- 4,717 deaths
- 4,287 marriages

## Did you know...

that Enoch Walkley opened a brickyard in the community in 1802? In 1833, following the decline of the log cabin, he erected the first all-brick house in Bytown. With time and an increase in prosperity, brick and stone became the preferred building materials in Ottawa. Walkley Road, a busy east-west artery in south Ottawa, is named for Walkley.

## Take 5 TOP FIVE TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN OTTAWA-GATINEAU

1. **ByWard Market**
2. **Casino du Lac-Leamy** (Gatineau)
3. **Parliament Hill**
4. **Canadian Museum of Civilization** (Gatineau)
5. **Canadian War Museum**

Source: Ottawa Tourism.

### FAMILY STRUCTURE

- Total families: 293,705
- Total couple families: 245,575
- Married couples: 203,020
- Common-law couples: 42,550
- Children living in married two-parent households: 69.8%
- Children living in common law two-parent families: 8.3%
- Children living in female lone-parent families: 18.1%
- Children living in male lone-parent families: 3.8%

Source: Statistics Canada.

### RELIGION

Religions Practiced in Ottawa-Gatineau

- Catholic: 54.1%
- Protestant: 25.1%
- No religious affiliation: 13.3%
- Muslim: 3%
- Jewish: 1%
- Buddhist: 0.9%
- Hindu: 0.9%
- Sikh: 0.3%

## They Said It

In the book *Three Years in Canada*, Lt.-Col John By's close associate in the construction of the canal, Scottish civil engineer John MacTaggart, described the colonel this way. "[A man] who encountered all privations with wonderful patience and good humour. He could sleep soundly anywhere and eat anything, even raw pork."

- Eastern religions: 0.2%
- Other: 0.2%

Source: Statistics Canada.

### EDUCATION

- Number of schools in Ottawa Catholic School Board: 80
- Teaching Staff: 2,500
- Support Staff: 1,250
- Students: 40,000
- Number of schools in the Ottawa Carleton District School Board: 150
- Estimated number of teaching staff: 4,388
- Estimated number of support staff: 2,104
- Estimated number of students: 71,375

Sources: Ottawa-Carleton District School Board; Ottawa Catholic School Board.

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

- The University of Ottawa, with nearly 34,400 students, and Carleton University, with 24,000 students, are Ottawa's primary large degree-granting facilities.
- Algonquin College is the city's third largest educational institution with 16,000 students.
- Université du Québec en Outaouais in Gatineau is part of the Université du Québec System. It has more than 5,200 full and part-time students.

- St. Paul University, which jointly confers degrees with the University of Ottawa, has 700 students.
- The Dominican University College (formerly the Dominican College of Philosophy and Theology) is a bilingual Roman Catholic university in Ottawa, offering civil and pontifical bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in Philosophy and Theology.
- La Cité Collégiale is a French language college of applied arts and technology located in Ottawa. It is Canada's largest French language college outside of Quebec.
- Also located in Ottawa is Herzing College, a post-secondary institution founded to train students for the computer industry.
- The Ottawa School of Art is an alternative art school located in the ByWard Market in downtown Ottawa.

### MEDICAL

Ottawa has four major hospitals: The Ottawa Hospital, consisting of the Civic, General and Riverside campuses; the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Queensway-Carleton Hospital and Montfort Hospital.

In addition, there are a number of specialized hospitals and clinics in the region, including the Royal Ottawa Hospital providing specialty mental care in Eastern Ontario and the Canadian Department of Defence's military hospital.

The Ottawa Paramedic Service responds to more than 90,100 calls annually at a wide range of medical emergencies and fires, water rescues, industrial accidents, hazardous material incidents and police operations. Ottawa's 312 paramedics form an integral part of the city's emergency preparedness team and are the sole medically certified providers of out-of-hospital medical treatment. They service an area of 2,796 km<sup>2</sup>.

Source: City of Ottawa Communications.

## FAMILY DOCTORS

- 510 family physicians in Ottawa registered with the Ontario College of Family Physicians
- 480 pharmacists work in Ottawa
- 575 practicing dentists work in Ottawa

Sources: Ontario College of Pharmacists; Ontario College of Family Physicians; Ontario Dental Association.

## SPORTS

Ottawa has one professional sports team — The Ottawa Senators of the National Hockey League. The Senators haven't won any Stanley Cups since their return to the NHL in 1992, although they came close by playing in the finals in 2007.

## NEWSPAPERS

The city's major daily newspapers are the *Ottawa Citizen*, the *Ottawa Sun* and *Le Droit*, a French language daily. Weekly and monthly papers include the *Business Journal*, *Ottawa Xpress*, the *Epoch Times* and the *Hill Times*.

## Web links

---

### City of Ottawa

[www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca)

Everything you need to know about the Nation's Capital from the name of the mayor and the city flower to the municipality's annual budget and how to put out trash.

### Bytown Museum

[www.bytownmuseum.com](http://www.bytownmuseum.com)

Take a virtual tour of the city's history, then pay a visit to the museum itself on the Rideau Canal between Parliament Hill and the Château Laurier Hotel. The museum is located in the oldest stone building in the city.

### Library and Archives Canada

[www.collectionscanada.ca/canadiandirectories/022009-1100-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/canadiandirectories/022009-1100-e.html)

A history of Ottawa in three chapters: Early Days, Growing Pains and Coming of Age.