The Log Driver’s Song

To remind us that logging is a cross-country activity, here’s a fine song from Ontario’s fine singer, Mac Beattie.

There’s a valley I know where the tall timbers grow, Where the Ottawa River flows swiftly along; In the spring if you go where the headwaters flow, You will hear this old Log Driver’s song:

Chorus
Yo-hip, hip-ho, Keep the logs on the go, Keep ’em rolling and tossing, and send the spray high; Yo-hip, hip-ho, through the rapids below Where the Ottawa River flows by.

In the long years gone by when the red pine stood high; Kipewa to Black River the timber did fall; In the spring of the year when the big drive did steer, You could hear this old Log Driver’s call:

It’s a mighty long tow from Desjoachims to Chenaux, By Pembroke and Chapeau down to Campbell’s Bay, At Portage du Fort where they’d stop for a port, And tune up the fiddles to play.

For that valley I yearn; someday I’ll return Where the Ottawa River flows swiftly along, And if I’m still alive, I’ll go back on the drive And sing this old Log Driver’s song.