

These parks and reserves are wilderness areas of great scenic interest and are for the most part mountainous country threaded with many rivers, lakes and streams and abounding in wildlife. In all of them, except Mont Orford Park and Oka Provincial Park, excellent fishing may be found and most of them have been organized to accommodate sportsmen and tourists in camps, cottages and lodges. Mont Tremblant Park, located close to a famous year-round recreational area, is easily reached in summer by highway from Montreal and is very popular for tent or trailer camping and for swimming and picnicking. Mont Orford has an 18-hole golf course and, in winter, is the rendezvous of Canadian and United States skiers and the site of the Canadian Alpine downhill and slalom championship competitions. Hunting is forbidden in the parks and reserves, except Horton, Joffre, Kipawa and James Bay; in the latter only moose are protected.

Ontario.—The development of provincial park lands in Ontario continues at a rapid rate. Ten years ago there were 10 provincial parks in the province and today there are 86 such parks available for public use. Several new parks are in process of development and 47 other areas are reserved for future development. The total area in the Ontario Provincial Parks system is about 5,500 sq. miles.

The four largest provincial parks—Algonquin, Quetico, Lake Superior and Sibley—together have an area of about 5,200 sq. miles. Algonquin, 180 miles north of Toronto and 105 miles west of Ottawa, has several campgrounds which are accessible by car from Highway 60 and its numerous waterways may be traversed and enjoyed by canoe. Quetico Park is accessible by road at the Dawson Trail Campground on French Lake, and also by water via Basswood Lake in the south. Highway 17 north from Sault Ste. Marie provides access to Lake Superior Park, and Sibley Park may be reached by road from Highway 17 east from Port Arthur. Under the Wilderness Areas Act, which came into effect in 1959, 37 areas have been established. These tracts of land, widely distributed across the province, vary in size, character and significance but all are regarded as important for their historic, scientific, aesthetic or cultural values. The largest is a 225-sq. mile area of treeless tundra in the northeastern tip of the province, jutting out at the base of Hudson Bay where it meets James Bay. All the other areas are small and none exceeds 640 acres.

Ontario's vast lakeland areas make this province a vacation paradise and the number of park visitors increases year by year. Attendance reached an all-time high of 8,526,443 in 1963; 2,372,223 motor vehicles entered the parks and campers numbered 840,000. There are small charges made for entry of automobiles and overnight camping. At supervised campsites for tents and trailers, picnic tables, fireplaces, tested drinking water and washrooms are provided. Campsites, which are being added to at the rate of 500 to 2,000 a year, numbered 14,500 across the province in 1963 and in that year about 300,000 permits were issued for the use of them. Adding to the visitor's stay in provincial parks are the Naturalist Service and Interpretative Programmes which include nature museums, outdoor exhibits, conducted trips, illustrated talks and labelled nature trails. Interpretative programs were conducted at eleven parks in 1963.

The park lands of Ontario are administered by the Parks Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, from which detailed information in booklet form is available.

Manitoba.—In Manitoba there are six provincial parks totalling 2,742 sq. miles in area. Of this park area, 1,855 sq. miles are also within forest reserves so that forest reserve and provincial park lands are in many cases one and the same. In addition, there are 40 established provincial recreation areas ranging in size from 2½ acres to 2,000 acres and having a total area of 7.5 sq. miles, as well as 78 roadside parks along the main highways of the province. The park and recreation areas are administered by the Parks Branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources; the forest reserves are operated and managed by the Forest Management Branch and are protected by the Forest Protection Branch of the same Department.