

privately operated sites. In eastern Quebec, provincial campsites are located at Carleton, Port-Daniel, Moisie, Mont St. Pierre, Percé and Trois-Pistoles; at Îles-de-la-Madeleine, there are camping grounds at Grande-Entrée and Gros-Cap. Closer to Quebec City are St. Alexandre (Kamouraska), Montmagny, St. Jean (Île d'Orléans), Stoneham, Villeneuve, Vincennes (Beaumont), and St. Joseph (Beauce). More or less surrounding Metropolitan Montreal are Mont-Orford, des Voltigeurs (Drummondville), Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Paul-Sauvé (Oka), Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Pointe-des-Cascades, Coteau-Landing and Sainte-Véronique.

To meet the need of snowmobilers the government, during the winter of 1971-72, provided safe and attractive trails in several parks, especially Laurentide, Portneuf, St. Maurice, Paul-Sauvé (Oka), Mont-Tremblant, Joliette and Mastigouche. Cross-country skiing has become a favourite sport especially for families and groups of friends. The Parks Branch laid out trails in some parks, particularly in the Mercier Camp area of Laurentide Park where heated facilities were installed. Trails are well marked and of various lengths and degrees of difficulty. Mont-Orford, Mont-Tremblant and Paul-Sauvé parks also received large numbers of cross-country skiing and snowshoeing enthusiasts.

Ontario. In 1971, 113 provincial parks were available for public use in Ontario and several new parks were in process of development; 99 other areas, comprising 1,909 sq miles, were held in reserve for future development. The total area of the Ontario provincial park system was about 16,067 sq miles. The parklands are administered by the Parks Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The seven largest parks — Polar Bear, Algonquin, Quetico, Lake Superior, Missinaibi, Killarney and Sibley — together have an area of about 12,725 sq miles. Polar Bear Park is the largest in the system, occupying 7,000 sq miles of Hudson Bay Lowland bordering Hudson and James bays containing boreal forest, tundra and arctic flora and fauna. Algonquin Park is a beautiful area 2,910 sq miles in extent, 180 miles north of Toronto and 105 miles west of Ottawa; it has 14 picnic and camping areas which are accessible by car from Highway 60 and offers particularly fine canoeing opportunities in its interior. Killarney Park is accessible by Highway 637 from Highway 69 south of Sudbury. Quetico Park, covering 1,750 sq miles, is accessible by Highway 11 at the Dawson Trail Campground on French Lake and also by water by way of Basswood Lake in the south. Highway 17 north from Sault Ste. Marie gives access to Lake Superior Park, and Sibley Park may be reached by road from Highway 17 east from Thunder Bay. Missinaibi Park, 176 sq miles in extent, surrounds Missinaibi Lake, 55 miles north of Chapleau. The lake is renowned for walleye fishing and is the site of an important Hudson Bay trading post.

Under the Wilderness Areas Act of 1959, 40 areas have been established, widely distributed across the province. They vary in size, character and significance but all were established as being important for their historic, scientific, aesthetic or cultural values. The largest is a 938-sq-mile block covering the Pukaskwa area on the north shore of Lake Superior. Most other wilderness areas are one sq mile or less in size.

In 1967 a policy of park classification and parkland zoning was established to achieve a balanced park system and to provide a framework for positive and effective development and management. Five park classes were established — primitive, natural environment or heritage, wild river, nature reserve, and recreation. Comparable zones within parks were also established — primitive, natural, historic, multiple use, and recreation. Some areas once protected under the Wilderness Areas Act for their scientific values are being changed in law to be protected as nature reserves under the Provincial Parks Act. There are now six nature reserves, four of which were previously under the Wilderness Areas Act. All nature reserves contain natural features and phenomena that are either unique or typical of the primitive or contemporary landscapes which together form the ecological mosaic of Ontario. By the end of 1970, there were five wild river parks in existence, three of which, all located in the central section of northern Ontario, were established during the year: Mississagi, Chapleau - Nemegosenda and Lady Evelyn.

To meet the rising pressures for recreational space Ontario created the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve which covers 4,500 sq miles of interesting country lying generally between Algoma and Parry Sound on the north shore of Georgian Bay and includes the channel between Manitoulin Island and the mainland, the 30,000 islands, the famous route of the voyageurs by way of the French River, the remaining shoreline of Lake Nipissing and the La Cloche Mountains. The Reserve is not a provincial park nor is it a Wilderness Area but an