

A detailed list of national parks was included in the 1972 and 1973 editions of the *Canada Year Book*, and a location map and details of these parks are available in *Canada's national parks* published by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Each park is developed to yield the recreational/conservational potential for which it is suited. Sightseeing, camping, fishing, hiking, photography and nature study are the most popular forms of recreation common to the parks. A program was initiated in 1970 to encourage national, provincial and local associations and private citizens to express their views at special public hearings on development plans for specific parks.

In 88 years, through co-operation between provincial and territorial governments, Canada's national park system has grown to become the world's largest. In 1974, over 16 million persons visited the parks.

**National marine parks.** Canada is bounded by three oceans and has the largest volume of fresh water in the world. The national parks system will be extended to include representations of the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic coasts and inland waters, with identification of Marine Natural Regions and Marine Natural History Themes.

**National landmarks.** Preservation of specific natural wonders, such as the Chub crater in northern Quebec, the frozen pingoes of the Arctic, semi-desert and eroded hills of the Prairies and mountain caves and sea-scapes, would allow on-site interpretation of Canada's natural evolution.

**Wild rivers.** Many undeveloped Canadian rivers — some with historic appeal — are being surveyed as potential wilderness routes.

**Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC).** In the past few years Canadians have become increasingly concerned about their natural and historic heritage. Governments at all levels have been acting to protect and preserve it before it is too late. A new program of Parks Canada was officially created to provide Canadians with new ways and opportunities to appreciate their natural, cultural and historical heritage. This new program — Agreements for Recreation and Conservation — has two principal elements: waterways and land-based byways. The waterways and byways to be developed through the ARC Program will be mutually agreed upon by the provincial and federal governments.

Waterways are differentiated into historic waterways and wild rivers. Canada's rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and canals formed an important element in the history of movement and development across Canada. In recognizing these historic water routes, the ARC Program plans to develop a system of historic waterways across Canada offering a diversity of recreational opportunities. For example, canal systems such as the Trent-Severn and Rideau (in Ontario) provide for a broad spectrum of water and shoreland recreational activities as well as giving interesting insight into Canada's historical and cultural heritage. The second type of waterway, wild rivers, are an integral part of our natural heritage which must be identified now and set aside to be free of exploitation while there is still time and the opportunity to protect them. Some of these waterways have historical value, but their main attractiveness lies in their beauty and untamed nature.

Byways will provide trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling or scenic roadways for leisure motoring. Trails for non-motorized vehicles will be established for their scenic and historic interest. Motor trails will introduce a new concept of automobile travel. Motor trails or parkways would invite motorists to leave the super highways and take leisurely drives through the scenic countryside. Parkway will also provide access to recreational areas, campgrounds, picnic sites, hiking and nature trails, and where possible will link important parks and historic sites.

**Gatineau Park.** In addition to the national parks described above, there is a 138-sq-mile recreation area known as Gatineau Park north of the cities of Ottawa and Hull. Although not designated as a national park, this area is being developed by the federal government as part of the National Capital Region and is under the care of the National Capital Commission. It is a wilderness area of great potential, extending northward from Hull for 35 miles. It now has 25 miles of parkway, magnificent lookouts, lakes, fishing streams, beaches, picnic areas, camping sites, skiing and walking trails and is already one of the finest recreation areas in Canada, enjoyed by nearly 1.8 million visitors each year. A master plan for its further development is under way.