

resource use may be permitted if it does not unduly impair recreational values. Class C parks are intended primarily for the use of local residents and are usually managed by local park boards. Nature Conservancy Areas in any park are fully protected from resource development and are dedicated to a variety of recreational uses. In addition to provincial parks there are 17 Recreation Areas encompassing a total area of 890 sq miles and one wilderness conservancy, Purcell, of 500 sq miles, administered by the Parks Branch. There are immense wilderness areas such as Tweedsmuir Park and Wells Gray Park and outstanding scenic and mountain parks such as Garibaldi, Mount Robson, Manning, Bowron Lake, Mount Edziza, Atlin, Kwadacha Wilderness, Tatlatui, and Mount Assiniboine. Naikoon Park, 280 sq miles on the northeast tip of Graham Island is the first major park in the Queen Charlotte Islands. In 1973, 82 parks were established by an act of the legislature giving them complete protection by law. The formal gardens of Peace Arch Park are a monument to the goodwill between Canada and the United States. Vancouver Island is the site of Strathcona, first (1911) and one of the largest (875 sq miles) parks in the system, as well as a number of smaller parks. The gold town of Barkerville was restored and became the first provincial historic park; Fort Steele in the East Kootenay area is also being restored to preserve another of British Columbia's pioneer settlements. Eighteen marine parks with mooring facilities and campgrounds have been developed on mainland inlets and coastal islands.

The popularity of British Columbia's parks with their integrated campgrounds and picnic areas is attested to by the fact that over 10 million park visits were recorded during 1974; about 20% of the visitors were campers. Mount Seymour, Cultus Lake and Golden Ears parks were the most widely used.

### 1.4.3 The National Capital Region

Canada's Capital lies in a magnificent natural setting on the south shore of the Ottawa River below the Chaudière Falls and just above the confluence of the Rideau and Gatineau rivers. The original inhabitants of this area were the Algonquin Indians who were driven out by the Iroquois in the middle of the 17th century. Champlain explored the Ottawa in 1613 and called it "la grande rivière des Algonnequins"; early English traders called it the Grand River. "Ottawa" is the anglicized form of Outaouac or Outaouais, the name of the Indian tribe from Lake Huron which traded with the French in the 17th century. Explorers, fur-traders, missionaries and, during the 19th century, lumbermen and settlers travelled up and down the Ottawa River.

The first settlement in the region was founded by Philemon Wright from Woburn, Massachusetts. Early in 1800 he and a small group of farmers established a settlement in what is now Hull; he brought in tradesmen and soon had a small self-sufficient community. Wright started the great Ottawa Valley timber trade by taking a raft to Quebec City in 1806, fortuitously meeting England's need for an alternative source of timber when Napoleon had closed the Baltic timber trade.

Settlement on the south shore of the river commenced in earnest about a generation later. The War of 1812 drew attention to the vulnerability of the line of communications along the St. Lawrence River linking Quebec City with the settlements in Upper Canada; a secure alternative route was needed. After many delays and studies, a new route to Kingston via the Ottawa River and Rideau and Cataraqui river systems was approved. Finally, in 1826, Lieutenant-Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers was sent to the Chaudière area to build a canal from that point to Kingston. By employed two companies of Royal Sappers and Miners and a labour force, mainly Irish, of several thousand men to construct the canal. In 1823, the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor in Chief of British North America, had secured commanding ground for the Town. In 1827 By laid out two settlements, Upper Town and Lower Town, adjacent to this Crown land, at that time called Barrack Hill. The canal was completed in 1832 and Bytown began to grow and prosper. Stores, factories, banks, churches and schools appeared. Steamboats plied the river and canal. A newspaper, the *Bytown Gazette*, was started in 1836.

Bytown was now the inland centre of the squared timber trade and by 1850 could boast of some fine stone buildings, among them the home of Thomas MacKay which today forms the central part of the residence of the Governor General of Canada. A change then occurred in the timber industry; the British system of preferential import duties on squared white and red pine logs was abandoned and trade began to decline. However, by this time the accessible