

**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.

**Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC).** Canadians have become increasingly concerned about their heritage and governments at all levels have been acting to protect and preserve it before it is too late. To provide Canadians new opportunities to appreciate their natural, cultural and historical heritage, Parks Canada created a new program — Agreements for Recreation and Conservation — with 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 provincial and federal governments.

Waterways are differentiated into historic waterways and wild rivers. Canada's rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and canals were important in the history of Canada, and the ARC program plans to develop a system of historic waterways offering a diversity of recreational opportunities. For example, canal systems such as the Trent-Severn and Rideau (in Ontario) provide for water and shoreland recreational activities as well as giving insight into Canada's historical and cultural heritage. The second type of waterway, wild rivers, is an integral part of Canada's natural heritage. 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, inviting motorists to leave the super highways and take leisurely drives through scenic countryside. Parkways will also provide access to recreational areas, campgrounds, picnic sites, hiking and nature trails, and where possible will link important parks and historic sites.

**Wild rivers.** Many undeveloped Canadian rivers, some with historic appeal, have been surveyed as potential wilderness routes.

**Gatineau Park.** In addition to the national parks a 138-sq-mile (357 km<sup>2</sup>) recreation area known as Gatineau Park north of Ottawa and Hull is being developed by the federal government as part of the National Capital Region under the National Capital Commission. It is a wilderness area of great potential, extending northward from Hull for 35 miles (56 km). With 25 miles (40 km) of parkway, magnificent lookouts, lakes, fishing streams, beaches, picnic areas, camping sites, skiing and walking trails it is one of the finest recreation areas in Canada, enjoyed by nearly 1.8 million visitors each year. A master plan for further development is under way.

## Provincial parks

### 1.4.2

All provincial governments have established parks within their boundaries. Some are wilderness areas set aside so that portions of the country might be retained in their natural state. Most of them, however, are smaller areas of exceptional scenic interest, easily accessible and equipped or slated for future development as recreational parks with camping and picnic facilities.

**Newfoundland.** Altogether, 3,099 sq miles (8026 km<sup>2</sup>) of wilderness, reservation, parklands and public beaches are administered by provincial government agencies. Of this land, 2,788 sq miles (7221 km<sup>2</sup>) are contained within two wilderness areas and seven seabird sanctuaries administered by the Wildlife Division of the Department of Tourism. The remaining 311 sq miles (806 km<sup>2</sup>) are under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Parks Division of the Department of Tourism. Of that area, 73 sq miles (189 km<sup>2</sup>) are in 47 developed provincial parks, 2.5 sq miles (6.5 km<sup>2</sup>) in protected public beaches and fishery access roads and 235 sq miles (609 km<sup>2</sup>) in 15 provincial park reserves. Operation of these parks is directed toward preservation of the natural environment; most of them are