

**Newfoundland.** In the early 1950s Newfoundland's first organized recreational facilities were roadside picnic sites. The department of tourism currently administers 72 units including camping parks, day-use parks, 17 inland and coastal public beaches, a wilderness area, and internationally significant bird sanctuaries in the North Atlantic. Sir Richard Squires Memorial Park and River of Ponds Park are located on famous Atlantic salmon rivers while others such as Bellevue Beach Park and Chance Cove Park are on Newfoundland's dramatic coastline.

**Prince Edward Island.** In the provincial park system, 40 areas comprise five classes of parks: nature preserves, natural environment parks, recreation parks, wayside/beach access, and historic parks. The parks, maintained by the tourism, parks and conservation department, enhance the scenic drives which loop coastal areas.

Two recreation parks are resort complexes: Brudenell in Kings County and Mill River (under development) in Prince County. These sites include specialty facilities and accommodations, including 18-hole golf courses.

**Nova Scotia.** The provincial parks system, administered by the lands and forests department, parks and recreation division, started in the late 1950s with roadside sites. This has expanded to 19 overnight campgrounds, 61 day-use picnic and roadside parks, and 20 day-use beach parks. Most of the parks are easily accessible from main highways. Campgrounds contain from 16 to 165 sites in parks of from 12 to 675 hectares. The picnic and beach parks range from one to more than 117 hectares. Picnic and campground facilities are primitive with only tables, water and pit privies.

**New Brunswick.** The provincial park system, administered by the tourism department, includes 24 recreational parks ranging from 10 to 567 hectares, 21 rest areas, seven campground parks, seven beach parks, a marine park, a wildlife park and a resource park. Most are in rural areas adjacent to or easily accessible from main roads.

Several parks have organized activity, lifeguards and interpretation programs. Mactaquac, near Fredericton, one of two year-round parks, boasts a championship 18-hole, 6428-metre golf course and two marinas. During the winter there are facilities for snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, sleigh rides and camping. Sugarloaf, near Campbellton, the other year-round park, features an alpine ski hill with three lifts, cross-country skiing, skating, snowmobiling, tobogganing and tennis. Campobello provincial park on Campobello Island has a nine-hole, 3008-metre golf course and lodge.

**Quebec.** The provincial parks branch administers Quebec's parks and reserves. During 1976-77 the operations division of the parks branch was responsible for 53 parks and 47 reserves, including 24 salmon streams and 62 campgrounds with more than 7,506 campsites.

Legislation governing creation of the parks dates back to 1894 but was updated in 1941. More recently, the Provincial Parks Act was passed in 1964 and amended in 1971.

The first park, Mont-Tremblant, was established in 1894. It covers 2564 square kilometres and is located north of Montreal. Five years later Laurentides provincial park was established north of Quebec City covering 6967 km<sup>2</sup>. Three new parks were in operation in 1976-77: Mount St. Bruno in the Montreal area; Baie de Tadoussac, a marine park in the Quebec district; and Fauvel in the lower St. Lawrence-Gaspé area.

The parks and reserves are important to tourism. In 1976-77 an unprecedented total of more than 5.8 million visitor-days was recorded compared with 5.5 million in 1975-76. Increases were most noticeable in the following activities: hiking, 315,740 persons; canoeing, 61,840. Snowshoeing, cross-country and downhill skiing drew more than 1,305,610 visitors compared with 1,050,000 in 1975-76.

**Ontario.** There are 127 provincial parks for public use in Ontario and 138 special recreation areas or areas held in reserve for development. The provincial park system, begun in 1893 with Algonquin Park, now comprises 53105 square kilometres.

The goal of the provincial park system is to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to preserve provincially significant natural, cultural and recreational environments. Parks are classified into five categories: primitive, natural environment,