

**National landmarks.** Preservation of specific natural wonders, such as the Nouveau-Québec Crater (sometimes referred to as the Chub Crater) in Northern Quebec, the frozen pingos of the Arctic, semi-desert and eroded hills of the Prairies and mountain caves and seascapes, has been proposed under a program of national landmarks.

**National historic parks and sites.** National historic parks and sites commemorate persons, places and events of major significance in Canada's historical development.

The National Parks Act of 1930 provided that any land may be set apart to commemorate a historic event, or preserve any historic landmark or any object of historic, prehistoric or scientific interest of national importance. The historic sites and monuments board may recommend that sites, buildings and other structures of national importance be developed as national historic parks or historic sites or commemorated by the erection of plaques or distinctive monuments.

The national historic parks and sites branch has been instrumental in creating 80 national historic parks and major sites, over 60 operational, and in commemorating with plaques more than 700 persons and events of national (as opposed to local or regional) significance. Negotiations are conducted with provinces for acquiring other sites. The branch has entered into cost-sharing agreements with provincial and municipal governments and with incorporated non-profit societies for acquiring and restoring architecturally or historically significant buildings and structures on the understanding that the other party will pay the balance of acquisition and restoration costs and will maintain the buildings in perpetuity. In recent years, nearly 5 million visits have been recorded annually at Canada's national historic parks and sites. Details on location and characteristics of national historic parks and sites may be obtained from Parks Canada.

**The Canadian inventory of historic building** is a computerized program to survey, analyze and categorize old buildings. Exteriors of about 200,000 buildings have been surveyed and almost all have been indexed; interiors of approximately 1,800 have been surveyed.

**Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC).** Public agencies, organizations and individuals are actively protecting and preserving heritage resources. To provide Canadians new opportunities to appreciate and understand their natural, cultural and historical heritage, Parks Canada created a co-operative program, agreements for recreation and conservation, which focuses principally on heritage canals and co-operative heritage areas.

Exemplified by the Rideau-Trent-Severn waterway, the contemporary importance of heritage canals as recreational waterways emphasizes not only navi-

gation but also visitor participation. Heritage canals illustrate both historical development and early engineering technology.

**World heritage sites.** Canada is one of 65 nations that have adhered to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to identify and protect cultural and natural properties throughout the world considered to be of outstanding universal value. Seven Canadian sites are on the world heritage list: L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park, Nfld., Dinosaur Provincial Park and Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Alta., the Burgess shale fossil site in Yoho National Park and Anthony Island Provincial Park, BC, Klane National Park, Yukon, and Nahanni National Park, NWT.

### 1.7.2 Heritage Canada Foundation

This is a charitable national organization created in 1973 to promote an awareness of the architectural heritage on a nation-wide basis. It received an initial federal capital endowment of \$12 million in 1972; interest on this fund is used to further its work. Additional support is solicited from the private and public sectors.

### 1.7.3 Provincial parks

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 scenic interest, easily accessible and equipped or slated for future development as recreational parks with camping and picnic facilities. (For details see Table 1.10.)

**Newfoundland.** The first park was established in 1954 in western Newfoundland. Then camping and picnicking areas were developed along the Trans-Canada Highway. Later parks were extended to outlying parts along the coast. The system includes camping parks, day-use parks with facilities for picnics and swimming, natural scenic attractions and reserves for future parks.

**Prince Edward Island.** The provincial park system comprises five classes of parks: nature preserves, natural environment parks, recreation parks, wayside/beach access, and historic parks. The parks enhance the scenic drives which loop coastal areas.

**Nova Scotia.** The provincial parks system started in the late 1950s with roadside sites. This has expanded to overnight campgrounds, day-use picnic and roadside parks, and day-use beach parks. Most of the parks are easily accessible from main highways.

**New Brunswick.** The provincial system includes recreational parks, rest areas, and campground, beach, wildlife and resource parks. Most are in rural areas adjacent to or easily accessible from main roads. Several parks have organized activity, lifeguards and interpretation programs. Two year-round parks are Mactaquac, near Fredericton and Sugarloaf near Campbellton.