



Campers enjoy the swimming facilities at Lac Philippe.

At Lac Philippe, for example, naturalists equipped with seines and aquariums, will familiarize visitors with the fish found in the lake. In addition naturalists will escort visitors to the Taylor Lake campsite and to one of the many beaver dams erected by the animal Canada has chosen as its emblem. On another day or evening, a naturalist with telescopes and binoculars will meet visitors at the entrance to the Lac Renaud dock to describe the wildlife in the park. It is not uncommon to see a Virginia deer or a great blue heron at Lac Renaud. The naturalists also offer a slide and film "tour" of the park in the amphitheatre at the entrance to the Lac Philippe campground. Visitors are also invited to take a guided tour of the Lusk Caves which are

located at the end of a pathway leading from the edge of the Lac Philippe campground.

Another major attraction in Gatineau Park is the estate of former Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King. When he died in 1950, he bequeathed his Gatineau estate with all his possessions to the Canadian people.

The estate is located in the vicinity of Kingsmere Lake and covers some 230 hectares. It comprises the summer residence, called "Moorside", cottages and other buildings, gardens, tilled fields, woods, and a secondary residence, called "The Farm". The downstairs rooms in one of the cottages have been converted into a tearoom and the upper floor into a museum — containing items that belong-



Cyclist takes a rest along the bike path that runs through the park.

ed to the tenth prime minister of Canada.

During the years from 1903 to his death, Mackenzie King transformed his little retreat into a magnificent country property trimmed with striped awnings and surrounded with white railings. The lawns, stone walls, birdhouses and footpaths all reflect the statesman's personal taste.

Ruins featured

Mackenzie King also thought it extremely elegant to erect ruins as landscaping for his property, including some imported from England but consisting mostly of stones from the Canadian Parliament Buildings which were destroyed by fire. Other items include the window from the home of Napoléon Parent, a local politician, and the columned portico from a demolished bank in the centre of Ottawa.



Visitors examine the ruins at the Mackenzie King estate.

It was under Mackenzie King's government that the idea of creating Gatineau Park developed. The government took part in a movement to protect the woodlands in the Gatineau Hills during the Depression when private contractors were felling timber haphazardly and thus destroying the forest areas of what is now the park.

In the fall, the National Capital Commission, which is responsible for maintaining the park, in conjunction with area transit commissions, provides bus tours through the park. In addition, the Museum of Man and Natural Sciences in Ottawa also arranges excursions to Gatineau Park, generally on Saturday mornings.