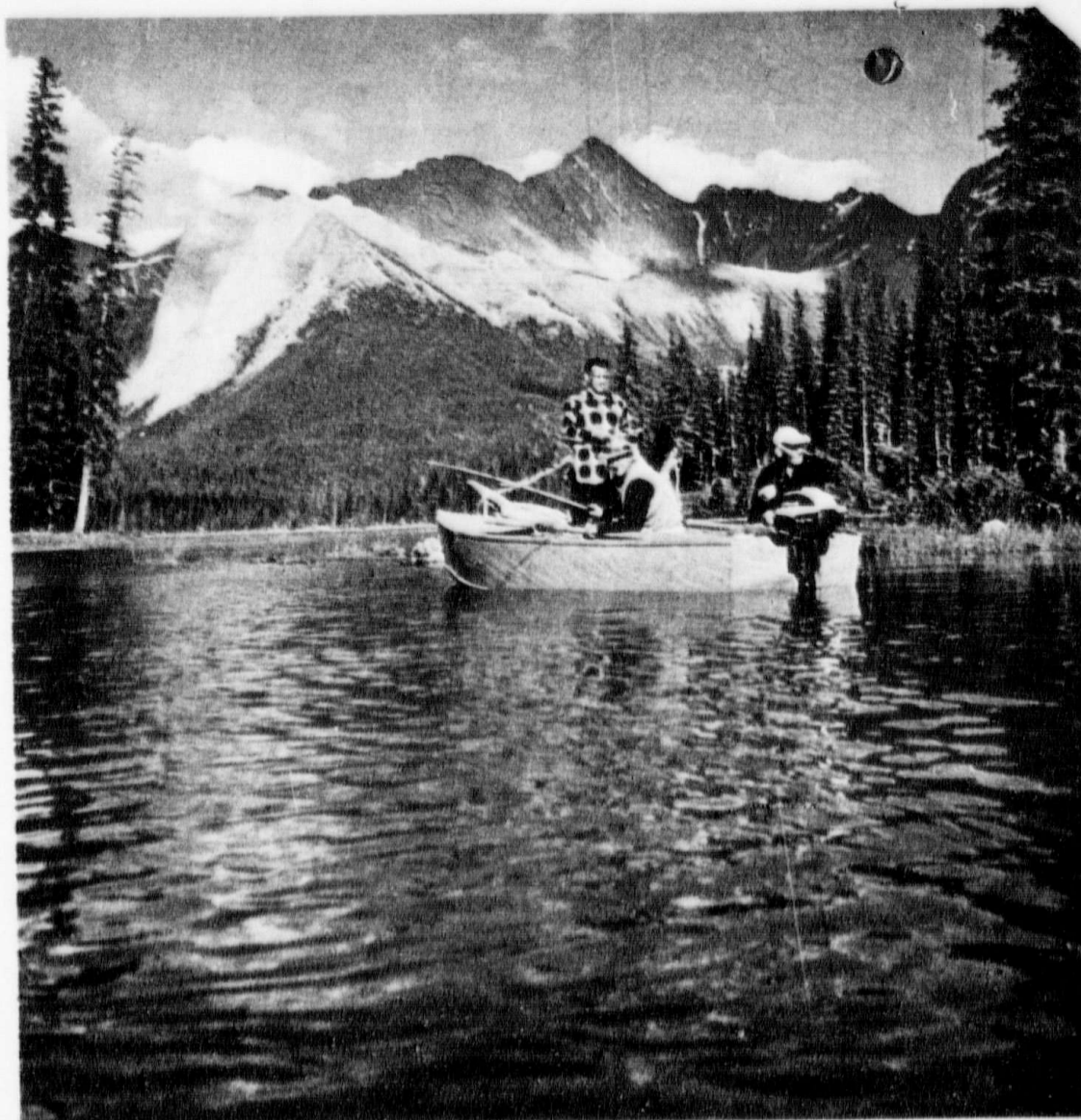


Canada's biggest playground is

JASPER

Jasper is Canada's largest national park, extending over 4,200 square miles through the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky mountains. Since the days of the fur traders and voyageurs two centuries ago, men have marvelled at the breathtaking splendor of its towering mountains, rushing rivers and wooded valleys. The park itself was established in 1907. Hugging Alberta's western border, it extends from 12,972-foot Mount Robson—the highest point in the Canadian Rockies—in the north to the Columbia Ice Field, 150 miles to the south. The region is dotted with glaciers that spawn waterfalls and rivers that flow into three oceans. Through the centuries the movement of the glaciers has left striking rock formations that are today important tourist attractions. Swift-flowing rivers, the Miette, Maligne, Sunwapta and Snake Indian, descend between mountain ranges into the Athabaska valley.

Jasper townsite, park headquarters, is 9 miles from Maligne canyon, a 188-foot deep chasm worn through mountain rock by the turbulent Maligne river. Forty miles north of Jasper town, at Miette Hot Springs, water flows from the rocks at a temperature of 126 degrees. During the summer tourist season (mid-May to mid-September) there are frequent sightseeing tours to Lac Beauvert, Pyramid lake, Mount Edith Cavell and Tonquin valley. As well as these scenic features, Jasper also contains one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in North America. Mountain caribou, black, brown and grizzly bears, elk, mule deer and moose are often seen from park trails. Cougars, mountain lions, coyotes and wolves prowl more remote regions. Lakes harbor large numbers of geese, ducks, blue grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan and osprey.



Our parks system started with

BANFF

Canada's national parks system, which today includes 18 parks covering an area of 29,000 square miles from coast to coast, had its beginnings with Banff in Alberta's majestic Rocky mountains. Back in the 1880s workers laying track for the new dominion's first trans-continental railway discovered hot mineral springs in Sulphur mountain and in 1885 the federal government set aside a ten-square-mile area to preserve the springs for public use. Today Banff embraces an area of 2564 square miles that extends for 150 miles east of the Continental Divide through a sea of mountain ranges. Its two principal townsites, Banff and Lake Louise, are world-famous resorts attracting skiers to its mountainside ski runs in winter and swimmers, hikers, mountain climbers, fishermen, golfers and photography buffs from May to September. The area contains some of Canada's most spectacular scenery: Fragrant forests of pine, spruce and fir that cling to the lower slopes of snow-frosted mountains, tumbling mountain streams and mirror-smooth lakes of startling blue, alpine meadows abloom with Indian paintbrush, aster and snow lilies. The park's headquarters is at Banff, a town of 3,000 permanent residents, attractive shops and restaurants and the site of two of the mineral springs that were the beginning of Canada's parks system. On the slope of nearby Tunnel mountain, overlooking the townsite, is the Banff School of Fine Arts. This summer campus of the University of Alberta attracts hundreds of students from across Canada each year to its courses in arts and crafts, music dancing and drama. For many visitors, the park's greatest appeal is its wildlife: black and grizzly bears, moose, elk and deer roam within sight of park roads and Rocky mountain sheep and goats graze on more remote slopes. The forests and valleys abound with porcupine, beaver, muskrat and mink and dozens of varieties of birds.

RG 84, A-2-a, Vol. 477
File/dossier U109
Pt 19

Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada

001526