

Even though the Province of Ontario doesn't look like it intends to leave anything natural for your children, we thought maybe you'd like to try.

We're sure you can remember the times your parents said to you "Boy, you should have seen how beautiful that place used to be. We used to fish and hunt there. And there was always a great place to swim". When you look at that place now, it's covered with an industrial development. Or hotels. Or motels. Or some kind of indescribably sprawling suburbia.

So what's left?

In Ontario, at this moment of all our natural environment parks only two are virtually untouched. They are Quetico Provincial Park in Northwestern Ontario. And the Polar Bear Provincial Park 250 miles north of Moosonee where James Bay joins Hudson Bay. (Polar Bear is accessible only by charter aircraft and is hardly the kind of place any of us can pop up to for the weekend).

Quetico is a different story. It is convenient enough that people can get there. It is very beautiful. It has fresh streams. Lakes. And unfortunately lots of beautiful trees. We say unfortunately, because the Province with its two-sided approach to wilderness parks has seen a way to make a few bucks from these beautiful trees. So they've sold the lumber rights to 468 square miles of the northeast section of the park to a large Canadian pulp and paper firm. That means there'll be more roads slashed through the park. There'll be newer, more commercial bridges over one of the last really clean rivers in the Province, the Wawiaq. And everything else that comes with the Pulp & Paper industry.

But there was still money to be made. So the Province made a volume agreement for the lumber rights to about 400 square

miles in the northwest section to another Pulp & Paper Company. Cutting should begin there shortly. That means out of a total area of 1750 square miles of public parkland, the Province has made concessions on approximately half of it. (And they are supposed to be considering the mining potential now, which could mean some more loot in the Provincial bag).

Our point is basically this: the Province seems less concerned with maintaining anything in its natural state than it is in making money justified by political fast talk and some excuses of councils and research studies. Well, it's obvious there is no time to waste. We all can remember how beautiful Algonquin was. And how we thought of that as a true refuge in this Province. Yet by last summer, there were 24 logging companies operating there. And the popular Lake of Two Rivers was found to be polluted. We don't need that to happen all over again.

What we do need is some intelligent and sensible administration of what little accessible natural beauty we do have left in a Province of this size. It would appear that we are not going to get it by following the courses we have taken so far. That's why we are coming to you for your help. Because some of the stuff can be stopped only if you act fast.

Fill out the accompanying coupon and send it alone or with a letter voicing your feelings to the Honourable René Brunelle, Minister of Lands and Forests, Queen's Park, Toronto. Tell him how you feel about Quetico. Tell him you want to save it.

If you don't do it for yourself, at least do it for your children. The way this government is going it's very clear that your actions have to be taken now. Or never.



Dear Mr. Brunelle:

I'm appalled that this kind of attitude prevails in this Province. I am for saving Quetico both from the hands of the Pulp & Paper industry, one of the greatest polluters in the world, and the Ontario government. Can't we just leave something alone for a change?

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

Do it Mr. Brunelle.
Pollution Probe at the University of Toronto.