

Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba rises more than a thousand feet above the surrounding plains. Its profusion of lakes and forested tableland are in striking contrast to its prairie environment. "The Riding" is on the borders of the Mississippi and Central flyways and no park in the system has a more fascinating variety of birdlife, or birds that are less troubled by the presence of man. "The Riding" is second only to Banff in the number of visitors who flock there every year.

Ontario has three National Parks. Most westerly is Georgian Bay Island, a group of thirty wooded islands in the Bay's popular resort area. To the south lies Point Pelee on the shores of Lake Erie, most southerly tip of the Canadian soil. The third in the Ontario group lies in the "Thousand Islands" region of the St. Lawrence River where part of the mainland and more than a dozen islands have been set aside as a National Park. These smaller wooded parks, set against the background of sparkling water and the wide sweep of the St. Lawrence River, are among the most popular in the system. True to regional topography, unlike the mountain or the prairie parks or the salty coastlines of the Atlantic, Ontario's three National Parks, less than 12 square miles in area, are another illustration of the sharp contrasts in landscape between the different regions of Canada.

Four Parks have been established in the Atlantic Provinces. The development of Terra Nova Park in Newfoundland, was begun in the spring of 1957 and may not be completed till 1961. Its bold headlands, striking out into the Atlantic, are typical of Canada's most easterly province.

Cape Breton Highlands in Nova Scotia, like every Atlantic Park, is rich in history. The Cabot Trail, on Cape Breton Island, circles the park. Climbing high over mountain shoulders with sheer drops to the sea, it leads the visitor to the quaint fishing villages that give Cape Breton a special charm.

Prince Edgard Island Park, on pastoral Prince Edward Island, extends 25 miles along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Its sandy beaches are among the best in the world and the salt water here is considerably warmer than waters hundreds of miles to the south.

Along the shores of Fundy National Park in New Brunswick ebb and flow the greatest tides in the world. Like every Park, Fundy has well-equipped campgrounds and recreation areas but with these modern amenities still retains a few old covered wooden bridges along park highways to remind the visitor of pioneer days. Fresh water lakes offer a choice for those who enjoy combining salt water bathing with similar sport in inland waters.

### Selection of Sites

Since the National Parks offer such contrasts in size and natural features, what criteria are used in selecting an area for development?

A prospective park must, first of all, be free of other types of development and be representative of the finest scenery in a region. It must be able to support all forms of wildlife, forest species, and flora native to the area, so that visitors studying the park a century hence, will find the natural climate undisturbed no matter what other development has taken place within the park.