

Min. of Interior

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Clipping taken from the British Columbian, April 21st, 1928.

MOUNT REVELSTOKE PARK IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT THOUSANDS IN SUMMER

(By LETA McCULLY CHERRY in
The Canadian Motorist)

Canada has many wonderful national parks across her great domain, but among them all there is only one which is truly altogether a mountain-top park, and that is beautiful Mount Revelstoke Park, whose loveliness is, as yet, but little explored by tourists. Next season, however, there will certainly be thousands of motor visitors coming to this beauty spot among the clouds, for now, at last, there is a complete highway, hard and smooth as a city boulevard, winding its fascinating and tortuous way right to the summit of the mountain, and making easy the climb for car and for hiker.

This fine new road is the much-talked-of Mount Revelstoke Highway, and although, as a matter of fact, there is still a small amount of surfacing to be done on it, the Prince of Wales, when he visited Revelstoke in the latter part of this past Summer, officially declared the new highway open to the public, and an interesting ceremony took place. This is not the first time, however, that the Prince of Wales has visited Mount Revelstoke, and indeed, this new roadway already bears so many mementos of royal visits that, locally, it is always proudly called "The Royal Highway."

You see, the surveys for this motor highway, winding from the picturesque town of Revelstoke down in the valley, up and up the steep sides of the mighty Mount Revelstoke, until at last it would lose itself in the beauties of the mountain top above the clouds, were started away back in 1912, and this wonderland of Nature would have been thrown open to the world long ago, but for the outbreak of the war.

Dedicated by Prince

All work on the new highway was, perforce, stopped for a short time, but in 1915 Prince Arthur of Connaught drove over the portion then completed and planted a stone at what was then the end of construction. The following year, his father, the Duke of Connaught, who was then Governor-General of Canada, accompanied by Princess Patricia, drove as far up the highway as was then possible, and once more the end of construction was marked by a royal stone. Still later, in 1927, the Prince of Wales was able to drive up the highway for sixteen miles, and there he unveiled a tablet dedi-

cating the new park to national use. Again he visited it in 1927, and finding the great highway at last practically complete, he formally declared Mount Revelstoke Highway finally open to public use.

It is slow and arduous work, this task of conquering for human footsteps the stern sides of one of these massive granite giants, but little by little the rough places have been made smooth, and the steep slopes have yielded some of their steepness, until now, not only can man walk up in comfort, but even his automobile can ascend into the vastness beyond. And what a climb it is!

Upward, ever upward, in a great spiral of twenty miles, twisting and turning its circuitous route through the breathless hush of the virgin forest, disturbed only by the scuffle of a rabbit running from the thick underbrush on either side of the road or the whirr of a startled partridge or grouse along the way. There are huckleberry and blueberry bushes, too, vivid in season with their toothsome fruit, and everywhere, smiling up at one, there is the fragile loveliness of the mountain flowers. Never can one forget the ineffable beauty of it all, as, for the first time, one drove upward, as far as was at that time possible, in the early dusk of the evening when the sun was just slipping over the peaks, and the glory of its setting was a benediction of color illuminating with eerie glamor the great snow cap of Mount Begbie across the way. More and more superb grew the way, winding along rocky edges, and overlooking the grey-blue depths of breath-taking chasms, while stretching far beneath us lay the low green valley, smooth and as flat as a floor, and threaded as far as eye could see by the green flowing Illecillewaet, and the mighty Columbia, the two great rivers which encircle the town of Revelstoke and mingle their waters about one mile from the mountain's base.

Extending far into the southeast can be seen the snow-topped loftiness of the Selkirks, and to the west is the grandeur of the long line of the Gold Range.

Unknown Beauties

And, at the end of the long climb lie the almost unknown beauties of the glorious mountain-top reserve, which in 1912 was first set aside by the Government of Canada as Mount Revelstoke National Park. Almost one hundred square miles of mountain top comprise this park, which, though it is the smallest of Canada's

national parks, yet is truly unique because it is altogether and entirely a mountain-top sanctuary. All of Mount Revelstoke, culminating in the parklike tableland on the summit of the peak, and a good part of the wild and picturesque Clachnacudain Range with its many great glaciers, is included in this reserve. Here are to be found gem-like mountain lakes mirroring the sky—Balsam Lake, Eva, Ella and Millar Lake—and here, too, are flat green meadows, spangled in Summertime with millions of beautiful and colored alpine flowers. Here, in short, is a new nature lover's paradise, with the new Mount Revelstoke Highway to lead one easily into its unspoiled enchantment.

This fine new highway is also to play its part in the Winter sports for which Revelstoke is already famous. The wonderful ski-jump, which is situated on the lower slopes of Mount Revelstoke, holds the record for six world's championships, and is widely known, not only as the most picturesque, but as the fastest on the continent. Now, it is proposed, when Winter automatically closes the park to motor travel, to use the splendid new highway as a twenty-mile ski-run, which, it is said, will exceed even the famous Creta run in Switzerland. Indeed, it is said by ski-ing experts that this Mount Revelstoke region is the equal of the world's best.

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