

name, a dozen provincial parks, and several historic parks. Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills, in the southwest corner of the province, is a complete restoration of an early Mounted Police post. A national historic site at Batoche commemorates a battle of the 1885 *Métis* uprising.

### *Arts and culture*

The physical resources of Saskatchewan, which have been essential in its economic and industrial development, have also greatly affected the cultural heritage of the province. A distinctively prairie culture has arisen from the mixture of cultures of the homesteaders who came to settle there. Many individuals and groups have contributed to the growth of the arts in Saskatchewan, where there is now a confident professional community of artists.

In 1846, Paul Kane spent August and September crossing Saskatchewan. He visited Fort Carlton, sketching the Cree Indians and the buffalo. The stark realities of pioneer life in the province are softened in paintings of the period by delicate use of colour.

Intellectual and physical isolation created a challenge for creative artists in Saskatchewan as they have in all young communities. By 1920 Saskatchewan had completed that phase

of uncertainty that characterizes pioneering societies and had achieved a degree of affluence. Regina became the centre for art education. It was at Regina College, now the University of Regina, that the province's only formal art school developed. Young artists also created a colony in the city of Saskatoon. In both major cities symphony orchestras, art galleries and professional theatre are well established.

In 1959, the Provincial Legislature granted the Minister of Education permission to establish a Saskatchewan Arts Board which supported and encouraged drama, the visual arts, music, literature and handicrafts. Gradually new emphasis was placed on high standards, and a consistent provincial attitude to the arts was created. More and more serious artists, craftsmen and students, drawn by stable resources and the Board's supportive program, have settled in Saskatchewan, contributing to the growing reputation of the arts in the province.

### *People*

Saskatchewan is Canada's only province where the majority of the population does not have British or French cultural backgrounds. The population