

With part of the funds available this year we hope to be able to improve the forest trails which are not only used for forest protection but also by hikers, trailriders, and skiers. It may be possible to build some shelters along these trails and to place them at the disposal of hiking organizations for the summer, and of skiing clubs in the winter.

Some of the provinces are not as adequately represented in the national parks system as others. If these provinces wish to offer suitable areas for inclusion in the national parks system it would be in accordance with the usual procedure to have these areas examined, the cost of development and maintenance estimated, and in due course a recommendation made to Parliament—for national parks can only be created by legislation. However, these provinces benefit from national park activities because many of the travellers to the parks are routed through those provinces, and of course nearly everything that is used in the parks must be imported from adjoining areas.

Visitors to the National Parks

Prior to the war, the numbers of visitors to the National Parks passed the million mark in a single season, and the 1946-47 season once again approached that total. During the war, the restrictions placed on travel by railway and automobile resulted in a falling off in the number of tourists, but nevertheless, a very large number of people—mostly Canadians—utilized the parks and in many cases stayed for longer periods. Since the cessation of hostilities, there has been a marked upturn in park visitors, as indicated by the following statement, which also records the peak years of travel to the parks before the war:

<i>National Parks</i>	<i>1946-47</i>	<i>1945-46</i>	<i>1937-38</i>
Banff	246,397	148,113	194,435
Cape Breton Highlands	23,896	18,863	20,000
Elk Island	39,976	24,939	63,040
Georgian Bay Islands	6,591	3,842	7,110
Glacier	461	330	1,200
Jasper	29,191	16,127	16,083
Kootenay	64,530	28,326	64,657
Mt. Revelstoke	8,542	6,474	8,271
Point Pelee	87,150	59,948	296,338
Prince Albert	31,474	18,858	28,846
Prince Edward Island	50,281	48,068	2,500
Riding Mountain	161,237	108,060	117,253
St. Lawrence Islands	15,824	10,809	22,000
Waterton Lakes	126,337	46,744	59,520
Yoho	23,015	10,868	60,557
Buffalo and Nomiskam	(now being abolished)		
			9,851
<i>National Historic Parks</i>			
Fort Anne	8,754	5,544	17,029
Fort Beausejour	12,023	5,343	20,000
Fort Chamblay	22,546	16,203	—
Fort Lennox	1,223	655	—
Fortress of Louisbourg	4,238	3,126	—
Fort Malden	17,335	15,279	—
Fort Wellington	5,699	2,594	—
Port Royal Habitation	6,025	3,296	—
Totals	992,745	602,409	1,008,690

Chief Needs of the National Parks

We have endeavoured to outline briefly the administrative background of National Parks, National Historic Parks, and Historic Sites, and to show what funds have been provided for administration, development, and maintenance.

Under present conditions, appropriations are provided for periods of only one year at a time. Normally the full amount is not available until Parliament has almost completed its deliberations. In the Parks, most of the construction work must be done in approximately the first six months of the fiscal year. Moreover, the actual work must be preceded by engineering surveys in the case of roads, and architectural design in the case of buildings. Estimates covering