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BYWAYS AND SPECIAL PLACES

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jean Chrétien recently announced new directions for the Federal Government's national parks system in a long-range program to be called "Byways and Special Places", the principal elements of which include:

Historic waterways - Rivers and lakes on which Indians and early explorers crossed Canada will be

surveyed, mapped and interpreted.

Historic land trails - Trails across the prairies or the mountains will be reopened for hiking, riding or cycling.

Scenic land routes - Out-of-the-way roads will be rehabilitated, and low-speed parkways will be constructed along carefully-designed scenic routes.

Canal systems - Eight historic and recreational canals in Eastern Canada are being integrated into the parks program.

National marine parks - Along Canada's three

bilities for underwater parks.

National landmarks - Small but unique wonders of nature will be protected as miniature national parks.

ocean coasts and inland waters are excellent possi-

Wild rivers - Exciting linear parks can be created along other untamed rivers, as was done along the Nahanni.

Mr. Chrétien explained the program as follows:

"... These 'byways' were Canada's only routes for centuries. Along the coasts, inland by lakes and rivers, across the prairies and mountains, west to the Pacific and north to the Arctic, wherever and however man travelled, he left a network of land and water routes which time and technology have passed by: early Indian trails; explorer and fur-trade routes; paths taken by settlers. It is these earlier routes that we propose to preserve and recreate as Canada's byways.

"Today more and more Canadians are seeking to escape the noise, the congestion and the tension of city life. Even in leaving our cities we find our parks crowded, and much of our countryside closed to public access.

"The byways will reopen large parts of Canada for travel by boat or canoe, by bicycle or horseback, on foot or snowshoes, or along slow-speed, meandering parkways which lie lightly on the land.

"Byways are leisure routes for families, for individuals, for young and old alike. They provide new pathways for travellers who otherwise are denied the pleasures of nature and history.

"The countryside surrounding many cities is already accessible through the development of superhighways. But what is lacking is an invitation to leave the super-highways and move at a more leisurely pace through attractive and interesting areas. These are the areas where the individual can gain a measure of peace and enjoyment of the natural environment, where one can sense through a personal presence the experiences of the original inhabitants and first explorers of the land.

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