

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 Atlantic coastlines, 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.

The mixture of seascapes, rocky coasts and shores teeming with marine life, and forested inland areas provides splendid park potential, and it is not surprising to find four national parks in the Atlantic Provinces, one in each province.

Terra Nova National Park looks out on Bonavista Bay on the east coast of Newfoundland from gently rolling forested barrens. Cape Breton Highlands National Park occupies almost the whole northern tip of Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, a rugged plateau that drops steeply to the sea. Fundy National Park is located on the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick; part of its great popularity with visitors comes from its excellent recreational facilities, which include the New Brunswick School of Arts and Crafts.

Next to Banff, the most popular national park is Prince Edward Island National Park, where nearly 900,000 people a year come to relax on 25 miles of wide sandy beach and swim in salt water warmed by the Gulf Stream.

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, be free of other types of development and be representative of the finest scenery in a region. It must contain fauna and flora native to the area, so that visitors studying the park a century hence will be able to see a complete cross-section of the life that flourished in this part of Canada before man interfered.

There should be some unusual natural features, not found elsewhere, that are worthy of being preserved for people to see and appreciate. The area must lie within a reasonable distance of centres of population and be adaptable for road links with existing public highways. The land must remain in a fairly wild state and be free of agricultural, forestry and mineral developments and permanent settlements. In Canada, even with its immense area, there are few regions left with national park potential, and recreation space of any kind is limited in the vicinity of concentrations of population.

Once a new park area has been established, it undergoes a period of intensive study before development begins. It is necessary to control the design of buildings and other development to ensure that structures complement the natural landscape and do not intrude upon it.

Concessionaires and resort owners are encouraged to respect the national park atmosphere. The position of buildings is also carefully controlled to harmonize as far as possible with the landscape.

What do Canadians - and Americans, who form a large part of the park clientele - want to do when they visit a national park? Certainly, they do not seek the same artificial and contrived amusements and activities they use the rest of the year in their