CAREERS
INTRODUCING A CAREER WITH PARKS CANADA

Employment with Parks Canada offers many varied, challenging and rewarding opportunities; therefore, this paper offers only a very brief summary of some of these interesting and exciting careers.

NATIONAL PARKS OFFICERS

National Parks Officers will be trained in the various management functions of National Parks. These include: implementation of planning and development programs; townsite management, sanitation and public health, maintenance, and the extension of public utilities and services; management and protection of forests and wildlife; administrative supervision of the interpretation program; management of visitor facilities and services, such as campgrounds, picnic areas, information bureaux, gateways and golf courses; administration and control of stores, equipment and accounts; processing of plans and specifications of works and buildings; interpretation and enforcement of the National Parks regulations; and the preparation of clear, comprehensive reports and correspondence.

Career Objectives: The immediate career objective of a National Parks Officer would be an assignment to a National Park as an Operations Manager or Administrative Officer, with the goal of eventually earning appointment as a Superintendent. A National Parks Officer should be prepared for an initial assignment at Headquarters or a Regional Office. Transfer to a park could be expected after a period of from six months to two years, followed by future transfers to other National Parks and/or Headquarters.

Qualifications Required: University graduation in Parks and Recreation Administration, Resource Conservation, the Natural Sciences, or Business Administration with a strong leaning towards Resource Conservation. An expressed interest in the application of modern management techniques and human relations to the management of National Parks is also essential.

PARK PLANNERS

Park planning requires professional employees in each of its three sections. Park systems planners investigate potential park sites throughout the Canadian landscape and marine environment. Park master planners prepare the development plans for the parks within this system. Research officers provide the background
data on the socio-economic and recreation behaviour of the park user. Master planners and most of the research officers may be employed at Headquarters (Ottawa) or at any of the Regional Headquarters (Halifax, Quebec, Cornwall, Winnipeg or Calgary). Planners come from a variety of background disciplines and work mainly in team situations with natural resource specialists, landscape architects and similar professionals. Planners may on occasion be required to work on projects on location in a park or anywhere else in Canada.

Qualifications Required: Bachelors degree in the fields of Natural Resources, Landscape Architecture, Sociology, Statistics, etc., as well as graduate study in Resource, Regional or Land Use Planning. Research officers can substitute experience in a related field for graduate study.

PARK NATURALISTS

From their own observations and studies, and from those of others, Park Naturalists compile information concerning all facets of the park environment, such as geology, landforms, climate, soils, plants, animals, ecology and human history. This is the basic information required for a park interpretive program of conducted outings, illustrated talks, self-interpreting trails, exhibits and publications. The Park Naturalists develop and conduct interpretive programs with the help of summer naturalists in order to increase the visitor's awareness, understanding and appreciation of the park, its environment and the National Parks System.

Career Objectives: A Park Naturalist may progress from an Assistant Naturalist in one of the larger parks to a Park Naturalist in a smaller park, to an Interpretive Officer in a Regional Office or Headquarters, and finally to a Chief Park Naturalist in one of the larger parks. Additional opportunities may be available for those interested in the Park Management and Resource Conservation fields.

Qualifications Required: University graduation in one of the natural sciences. Of prime importance is a good general knowledge of the natural history of Canada and a sincere enthusiastic desire to communicate an environmental awareness to park visitors in a pleasant, confident manner. Previous employment as a Seasonal Naturalist is desirable.
PARK WARDENS

Park wardens are responsible for the protection of the natural resources of the National Parks and for the safety of the public while they are visiting the park. Wardens are involved in forest fire control activities, enforcement of National Parks regulations and in search or rescue operations as a routine part of their work. They are closely involved in resource management activities and make frequent patrols through their assigned areas to assess the condition of forest, wildlife and other natural resource values. The wardens report their observations and recommend action. They also systematically measure and record data from a permanently established sampling system which provides information for monitoring the various aspects of the natural environment.

Qualifications Required: Warden candidates must have successfully completed a technician's course in Forestry, Wildlife Management, Resource Management or a related natural science field from a technical school of recognized standing. A sincere interest in all outside activities and in the conservation of natural resources is a requirement. A Park Warden is frequently in contact with the public, so he must be able to meet and communicate with park visitors. Good physical condition and a willingness to accept life in remote areas is another very important consideration.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS OFFICERS

Historic Parks Officers will be trained in the management of National Historic Parks, which includes: Public Service management practices; interpretation of Canadian history through Historic Parks and associated museums; operational policy development and implementation; and management of human, financial, and historic resources.

Career Objectives: A National Historic Parks Officer may become the Superintendent of a National Historic Park, progressing from one of the smaller parks to a larger park with increasing responsibility, with occasional Headquarters assignments along the way. Opportunities are also available to move into the National Parks.

Qualifications Required: A university degree in the Social Sciences, including History and Anthropology. A background in general administration is also desirable.
HISTORIANS

The Historical Research and Archaeological Research Sections of National Historic Parks and Sites Branch provide professional resources through which National Historic Parks and Sites are restored and interpreted. Research by both disciplines is required for planning, historical commemorations, excavations, museum development, publications and architectural restoration. Staff members have an opportunity to get original works published in the publication series, "Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History".

ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Those with an honours B.A. in Anthropology or History carry out artifact research, direct small excavation projects (primarily for salvage purposes), and act as assistants on major excavations. Previous field experience in archaeology is a definite asset. Applicants, preferably with experience in historical archaeology, could expect to qualify for the positions of artifact analyst or senior assistant to staff archaeologists, and could eventually become staff archaeologists. Those with less experience might start as artifact cataloguers, with later promotion to artifact analysts.

Qualifications Required: Graduates at the M.A. or Ph.D. levels would qualify for either staff archaeologist or artifact analyst positions. Depending on their previous related experience, they might carry out documentary research related to excavations and research in artifact technology.

HISTORICAL RESEARCHERS

Students in History, with an honours B.A., some post-graduate training and a sound grasp of historiographical principles, carry out both long and short-term research projects in various aspects of Canadian social, political, constitutional architectural, technological and military history. Research demands extensive use of primary sources at the Public Archives of Canada, provincial archives and private institutions. Staff members must be able to interpret source material written in both French and English.
A new career opportunity is now available in the field of canals administration, with the acquisition by the Parks Canada Branch of three Canal Systems, the Trent, Rideau and Quebec, and St. Peters canals.

Canals officers will be trained in the various management functions of canals. This involves the management and maintenance of canals including: maintenance of locks, dams, bridges, artificial channels and improvement of lake and river channels; management of water control programs, and of canal lands and property; management of visitor facilities and services such as campgrounds, picnic areas and information bureaux; administration and control of stores, equipment and accounts; interpretation and enforcement of the canals regulations; and the preparation of clear comprehensive reports and correspondence.

Career Objectives: The career objective of a Canals Officer would be an assignment to a canal where he or she would receive training in the fields of construction, engineering, maintenance, operations of locks and dams, and general administration. Eventual goals would be appointment as Operations Supervisor, Maintenance Supervisor or Superintendent of a Division. A Canals Officer should be prepared for future transfers to other canals and/or Headquarters. Opportunities are also available to move into the National Parks or the National Historic Parks and Sites fields.

Qualifications Required: University graduation in the field of Recreation Administration, Business Administration, Engineering, or other fields, with a strong leaning towards Recreation Administration. An expressed interest in the application of modern management techniques and human relations to the management of canals is also essential.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

During the summer months it is necessary to augment the continuing positions by hiring on a summer employment basis, for which some positions are available in most of the above disciplines. Of particular interest to students who wish to explore the opportunities for regular employment after final graduation are the following summer jobs:

- Park Naturalists
- Historic Site Guides
- Natural Resource Planners
- Survey crews
- Park Attendants
- Life Guards
- Labourers
- Clerks
WHERE TO APPLY

Applicants for regular employment should apply to: the nearest office of the Public Service Commission; Headquarters Office, Parks Canada; or any one of the Regional Offices listed below. All applications will be entered in the appropriate Public Service Commission competitions.

Applicants for summer employment should apply to their nearest Canada Manpower Centres, including those located on University Campuses. Competition posters for Summer Naturalists and Historic Site Guides are on regular distribution to these agencies. Other positions are filled through Canada Manpower Centres.

PARKS CANADA

Program Personnel Adviser,
Room 1373B,
Centennial Tower,
400 Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A OH4

REGIONAL OFFICES

Regional Personnel Adviser,
Western Region,
Parks Canada,
131 Customs Building,
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 0X5

Regional Personnel Adviser,
Ontario Region,
Parks Canada,
P.O. Box 1359,
Cornwall, Ontario
K6H 5V3

Regional Personnel Adviser,
Quebec Region,
Parks Canada,
P.O. Box 10275,
Ste-Foy, Quebec
G1V 4H5

Regional Personnel Adviser,
Atlantic Region,
Parks Canada,
Historic Properties,
Upper Water Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1S9

Regional Personnel Adviser,
Prairie Region,
Parks Canada,
114 Garry Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1G1