

National Parks Centennial

==== An Overview =====





Contents

Food for Thought	1
The Road to Our National Parks	2
Canada's National Parks: The Next 100 Years	3
Citizens' Committee— <i>Update</i>	5
Centennial Exhibits	6
Centennial '85 Opens for Business	6
Regional Highlights	7
Heritage for Tomorrow	9
Centennial Films	10
...With a Little Help from Our Friends	11

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Canada

Food for Thought

“Whereas near the Station of Banff...in the Provisional District of Alberta,... there have been discovered several hot mineral springs which promise to be of great sanitary advantage to the public,...and they are hereby reserved from sale or settlement or squatting. ...”

With these words, the government of Sir John A. Macdonald reserved the first piece of land for national park purposes, on November 25, 1885. That small (26 km²) area is now within Banff National Park, viewed by many as the “jewel” of Canada’s national parks system, and those original Cave & Basin Hot Springs are the focal point for the 1985 celebration of the National Parks Centennial.

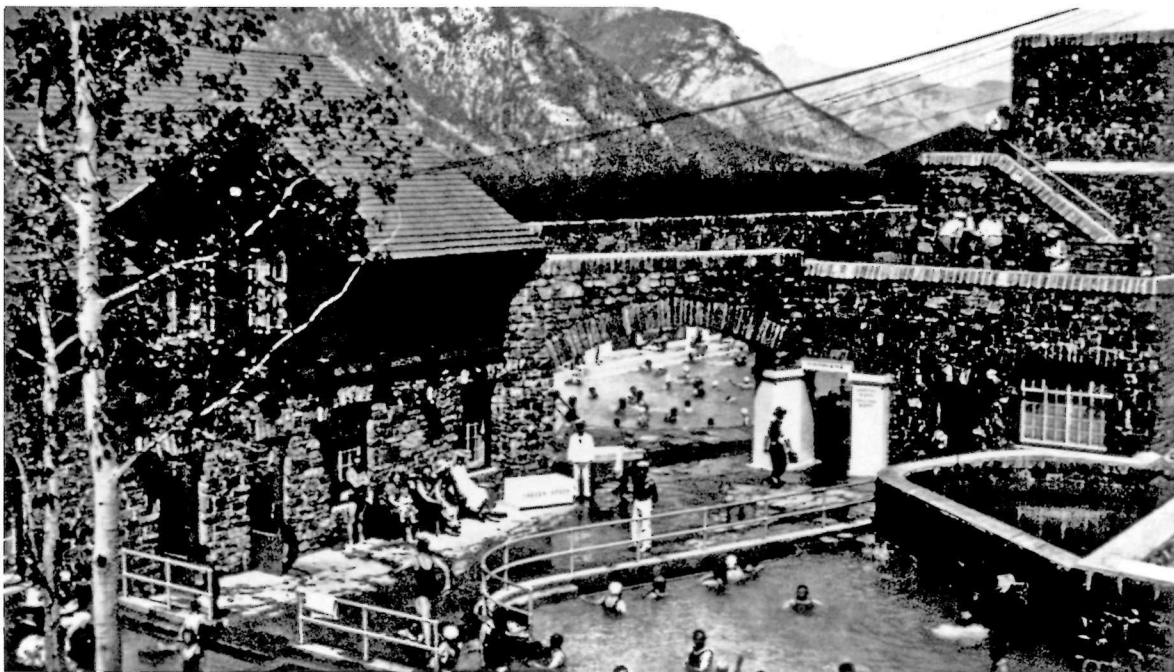
Looking back from 1985, the decision of the government 100 years ago seems both a bold and a wise move. Bold, because much of Canada was wilderness, and settlers were bent on taming the land rather than conserving its natural state. Wise, because today the national parks idea is welcomed, not only in Canada, but in many countries around the world.

Conservation, as we know it today, was not always the primary motive or *raison d’être* for establishing national parks, however. In the beginning, the government and the Canadian Pacific Railway saw tourism potential, financial support for the railway and strong federal presence in the Rocky Mountains Park. As the park system evolved and other socio-economic threads wove their way through our history, policies and philosophies of Canadians toward the national parks changed.

Today our national parks system is recognized internationally for its role in preserving representative examples of Canada’s different natural regions. Several of these are designated World Heritage Sites, reflecting their global importance. Current management

policies are carefully designed and implemented to balance the use of these heritage properties with the long-term goal of conservation as required by the National Parks Act: “... the National Parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for future generations.”

In this 100th year of national parks in Canada, we have an ideal opportunity to reflect upon the evolution of the parks system and the thinking of Canadians over the period. We also have the chance to look forward, and in the context of the heritage we enjoy today, to make a commitment to future generations.



The original Cave & Basin Hot Springs are the focal point for the 1985 celebration of the National Parks Centennial.

The Road to Our National Parks



First bathing establishment at Cave and Basin in Banff National Park, Alta.

The Centennial celebrations in 1985 are an appropriate time for Canadians to take stock of our national parks system, to see how far it has come and how much farther it has to go.

The origins of Canada's national parks are linked to the construction of the transcontinental railway, and its final crossing of the Rocky Mountains. Railway workers were inspired to explore the majestic natural beauty that was all around them. One day, in November, 1883, a foreman, Frank McCabe, and one of his co-workers, William McCardell, visited the area close to Terrace (now Sulphur) Mountain and discovered two natural hot springs. One spring came up from the depths of a cave and the other fed a natural basin. As a result they came to be called Cave and Basin Hot Springs.

News of the discovery spread like wildfire. Because of the possibility of making a financial gain on this unusual attraction, the site was soon overrun by railway workers. A legal battle to establish ownership followed, a battle which soon came to an unexpected ending.

On November 25, 1885, the Government of Canada passed an Order-in-Council which decreed that

an area approximately 26 km² around Cave and Basin Hot Springs be set aside, thereby protecting from alienation or exploitation the embryo of Banff National Park. This was the first step towards creation of our network of national parks.

Two years later, on June 23, 1887, Parliament passed the Rocky Mountains Park Act which officially created the first national park: "The said tract of land is hereby reserved and set apart as a public park and

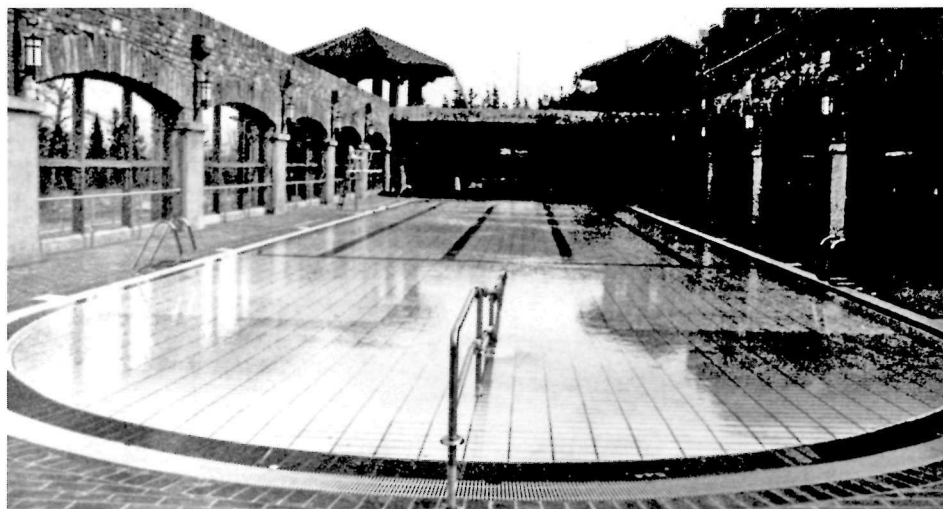
pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of Canada. . .".

Recreation and tourism were the main goals for this first national park. However, the idea of conservation also played a part.

As early as 1886, the government had created land reserves, including one at Lake Louise that would eventually be part of Banff. Other land reserves laid the foundations for Yoho and Glacier. With the setting aside of land for the future Waterton Lakes National Park in 1895, Canada was well on the way to conserving important parts of its natural heritage.

In less than 100 years, the Government of Canada has established a heritage network that today includes 31 national parks, more than 70 national historic parks and sites and 9 heritage canals. When completed, the network will protect examples of each of Canada's 48 natural regions which have been identified by Parks Canada as representative of the diversity and the resources of our vast country.

On the eve of its second century of existence, our national parks network represents approximately one half of these regions. There is still a lot more work to be done. Centennial year gives all Canadians an opportunity to lend a hand.



For the Centennial, the Cave and Basin pool is being restored as it was in 1914.

Canada's National Parks: The Next 100 Years

To mark the Centennial of Canada's national parks, Parks Canada asked filmmaker, author and conservationist Bill Mason to interview Al Davidson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Parks Canada. Their conversation touched on the role of the national parks, their importance to Canada, and Parks Canada's goals for the next 100 years. The following is an excerpt from the Mason-Davidson interview.



A.T. Davidson



Bill Mason

What can you tell me about the National Parks Centennial celebrations?

1985 is the 100th birthday of the establishment of Banff National Park, but for this Centennial we are celebrating 100 years of conservation of heritage places in Canada. We plan to have Centennial celebrations in every park—national and historic—in 1985.

Parks Canada isn't only national parks. There are 70 some historic parks and sites, and we have the historic canals, which preserve an important artifact and are very exciting places to visit. We have one of the better historic park systems in the world. And the public interest in that part of the program grows even faster than in the national parks part. People are more and more concerned about heritage. We don't see too much difference philosophically in how you look at national parks and how you look at historic parks. It is the business of preserving heritage.

What do you see as Parks Canada's role in the education process?

Maybe it is naive to think that anyone can increase peoples' level of education and understanding in one year, but if the Centennial program snowballs, and we hope it will, we will get a lot of people involved. If we get good audiences on television and radio and in print, we may be able to get a boost from it, and we may be able to go on from there to give education more emphasis. Not enough Canadians know about their national parks. They don't know what the objectives are. They don't know enough about the objectives to know if they are strongly in favour of the parks or not.

Are the national parks as important today as they were in the past?

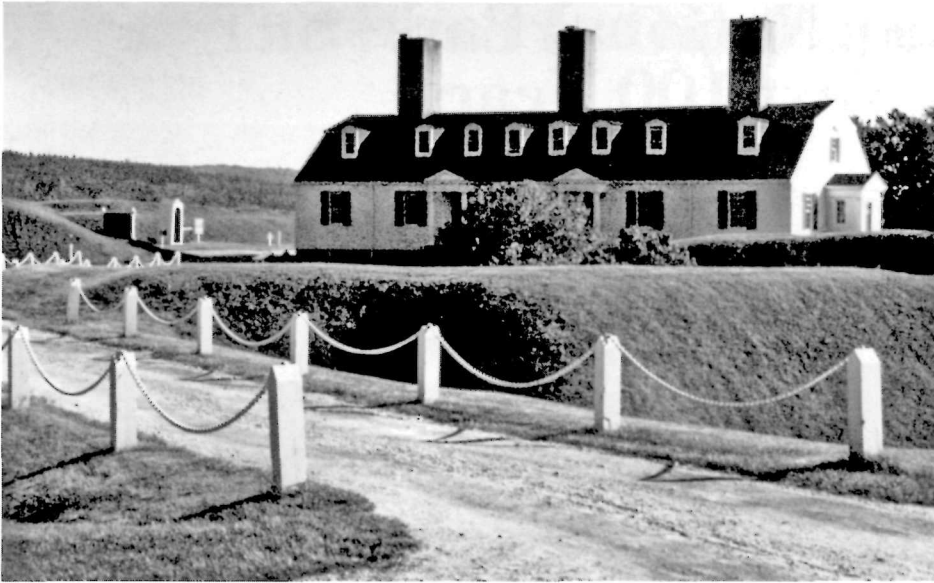
I think that the importance of national parks grows every year as the intensity

of land management increases across the country. They are more important now than they were 50 years ago. There are many more of them and the system is a lot bigger, but the idea is also more important and the job they are doing is more important.

From the point of view of what national parks can provide in good things, they are probably much more valuable than oil fields, and 50 years from now I think we will have the view that the two concepts are not even to be compared, that the value of the national park idea is so great. We owe a great debt to the people who started the idea.

What is Parks Canada's long-term goal—for the next 100 years—and where do we stand in the number of parks at the moment?

Parks Canada has adopted the national parks systems plan and Cabinet generally thinks it is the direction we



Fort Anne, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Canada's first national historic park.

should go in. With that plan, we need about 20 more national parks to complete the system. Those are in addition to the 31 we now have.

We know where these 20 new national parks should be. We know there should be about 10 more in the North, and that there should be about 10 more in the provincial areas. We think we can get government support to act on the northern parks, and we propose to attempt as many as five by our 1985 Centennial. That would leave five to accomplish in the next decade.

That is encouraging.

I think it is possible because there is a good deal of support for it, not only from conservationists but also from native people and governments.

Good. That is exciting news.

Ten new national parks in the provinces is going to be tough, however, because almost every time we propose a new national park in the provinces, we are talking about an area that either is partially settled or developed now, or has areas near it in which there are more intensive land uses. There is then the problem of what the development of the park will do to established uses nearby. The Bruce proposal is an example. There is

the hunting problem, the tourism concern, and so on. Thus, the provincial areas are much more difficult than the northern areas. They are much more costly, and they are much slower because there are years of conflicts to resolve.

I don't think it would be overly optimistic, however, to predict that

because we brought ten new national parks into the system over the last 15 years we could bring in another ten in the provinces within the next 15 years, with goodwill from the provinces, and if the government really wanted to put a push on. It is possible that the national parks system we envisage for Canada could be completed by the year 2000.

Surely the toughest part of your job at Parks Canada is balancing the need for conservation and the demand for development. If wilderness is to be set aside, Parks Canada is the one to do it. If you don't, who will?

Maybe not Parks Canada alone, because some of the provinces are establishing wilderness areas. There is no question, however, that the National Parks Act has the longest and the best track record for the preservation of important areas. The Parks Canada policy, which we debated a great deal in 1978 and 1979, came to the conclusion that preservation was the first priority. So, when we face those issues, and there are many, we lean first to the first priority and objective—preservation—and then we modify that continually with the question of how much we will provide for the use objective. I think our track record on the whole is good in balancing these objectives.



*Ornamental arch at the head of Banff Avenue, circa 1890
Banff National Park, Alberta*

Public Archives Canada PA-C-26416

Citizens' Committee — Update

To prepare for 1985, the Minister of the Environment appointed a committee of private citizens to encourage Canadians to celebrate their heritage and participate in its preservation. The National Parks Centennial Citizens' Committee is made up of 12 volunteer directors, each representing a province or territory.

The National Parks Centennial Citizens' Committee (NPCCC) met with federal Environment Minister Suzanne Blais-Grenier on November 24th in Toronto to brief her on the status of fundraising activities for approved heritage projects and to outline its plans for a public awareness campaign during 1985. The minister assured the committee of her full support of its mandate and expressed her wish to encourage awareness projects that will complement the National Parks Centennial and involve all Canadians in the Heritage '85 activities.

More than 30 national and provincial heritage organizations already have endorsed Heritage '85 and will be using the NPCCC logo in their publications. Among them are the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Canadian Forestry Association, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Ontario Genealogical Society, the British Columbia Museums Association, the Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society and the Youth Science Foundation. The committee also is actively encouraging community service associations and private industry to adopt a heritage theme for their 1985 marketing programs.

To recognize outstanding contributions to heritage conservation, the NPCCC will provide "1985 Friends of Heritage" scrolls to all municipalities in Canada. Mayors will be invited to nominate one candidate in each of three categories: individual, business or corporate, and community organization. The scrolls will be inscribed and provided by the NPCCC for presentation to the nominees by municipal officials.

From more than 350 applications received, the NPCCC has selected 30 major projects to be given priority in fundraising approaches to the corporate sector. At least one project has been selected from each province and territory.

January 18th was the deadline for entries in the NPCCC Heritage Poster Design Competition, which is open to any student enrolled in visual or graphic arts courses at community colleges. Cash awards of \$500.00 for the winning

design, \$300.00 for second prize and \$200.00 for third prize have been offered. In addition, any entry may be selected for publication by Parks Canada or the NPCCC to promote public awareness of Heritage '85.

The first in a series of Heritage '85 Planning Exercises was presented by



Citizens' Committee logo.

NPCCC staff as part of the Natural Resources and Environment program at the Terry Fox Youth Centre in Ottawa. The centre offers ongoing one-week programs on Canadian studies to thousands of 16- and 17-year-old high school students each year. The Heritage '85 Planning Exercise is designed to encourage students to play leading roles in organizing heritage activities in their communities across Canada. It will be repeated at the centre in February and March.

More than 25,000 copies of the committee's booklet *100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Years* already have been distributed to heritage associations, schools and potential corporate sponsors. It can be ordered at no cost from the NPCCC office in Toronto.

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Centennial Exhibits

Special exhibits are now travelling to display points across the country until the end of 1985. Three different types have been designed to help to develop heritage conservation awareness and to encourage Canadians to learn more about our national parks, national historic parks and sites and heritage canals.

The national exhibit tells the story of the discovery of the Cave and Basin Hot Springs, the establishment of Banff National Park, and the growth of the Parks Canada system of parks, sites and canals. One section explains the challenge of completing the national parks system while ensuring the protection of existing heritage areas. Another section outlines Parks Canada's international role in the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage resources of universal value.

Visitors to the exhibit will be provided with information materials they can take home. The national exhibit contains state-of-the-art computer and Telidon components as well as audio-visual and taped sound tracks to complement the life-size images and artifacts that bring it to life.

Five exhibits, one based in each region, will complement the national exhibit. Designed for easy transportation and assembly, each is made up of six door-size panels and requires approximately 23 m² of showroom. Graphics, photos, maps and text will introduce the public to Centennial activities and Parks Canada's history. Each will include information about the parks in the region where they are displayed and will be available for shopping centres,

libraries, park offices and other locations.

Thirteen small exhibits, approximately 6 m² in size, will present the Centennial message at ceremonies and special events. Built of lightweight materials, they are composed of interlocking panels showing full-size pictures of Banff National Park, the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park and the Rideau Canal, representing each of Parks Canada's three major programs.

For more information on how to book any of these exhibits, contact the Centennial Co-ordinator at the Parks Canada office nearest you or:

Bernard Potvin
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Ottawa, K1A 1G2 (819) 994-5066

Centennial '85 Opens for Business

With the National Parks Centennial now in full swing, an excellent selection of high quality, Canadian-made Centennial merchandise is for sale. In addition to the popular full-colour desk agenda introduced in many stores across the country last fall, there are now handsome 18-carat-gold-plated Centennial lapel pins, men's and women's beige golf shirts sporting the Centennial logo, and colourful baseball shirts for both adults and children.

Three styles of hats—a baseball cap, a fishing hat and a sun hat—complete the chic Centennial look.

Renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman has added to our inventory a special poster adapted from his painting "Winter Sunset-Moose."

In April, French and English versions of a children's activity book and a coffee-table book on the Castleguard Valley and Caves will be available.

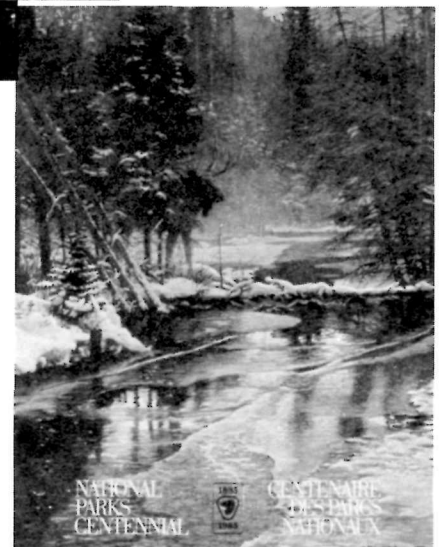
To purchase Centennial merchandise, please contact a Parks Canada regional office, or send your request with a cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada to

Centennial Task Force
Parks Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1G2



Agendas	\$9.95
Centennial pins	\$4.95*
Golf shirts (Women's—S, M, L)	\$17.95
(Men's—S, M, L, XL)	
Children's baseball shirts (XS, S, M, L)	\$7.95
Adults' baseball shirts (S, M, L)	\$8.95
(French and English versions)	
Children's baseball hats	\$4.95
Sun hats (M, L)	\$6.95
Fishing hats (L, XL)	\$7.95
Adults' baseball hats	\$8.95
Robert Bateman poster	\$15.00*

*Québec residents please add 9% sales tax for these items.



Regional Highlights

WESTERN REGION (Alta. and B.C.)

The Cave and Basin Centennial Centre and Pool will open at the birthplace of our national parks in Banff this summer. Opening ceremonies in late June promise V.I.P.s and festivities throughout the town. In August, the unveiling of a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque will commemorate this important site, and a World Heritage plaque will recognize the universal value of Banff, Jasper, Yoho and Kootenay national parks.

From May 26 to September, the Centennial Art Show at the Rogers Pass Centre is expected to attract more than 70,000 visitors to Glacier National Park.

On July 1, Rocky Mountain House will host the send-off celebrations for the Great Heritage Canoe Pageant. From July 1 to August 5, volunteers from canoe clubs and the St. John Boys School will paddle the North Saskatchewan River and enjoy celebrations in the parks and communities along the route to Lower Fort Garry.

Waterton Lakes will celebrate the opening of Centennial Place, the townsite's restored and converted firehall.

The Burgess Shale World Heritage Site opening in Yoho will feature visiting dignitaries, on-site and off-site exhibits, displays of fossils found at Burgess Shale and explanations of how fossils are formed and of their value as world heritage.

From July 27 to August 4, the Heritage Brigade (a canoe pageant) will feature send-off celebrations at Fort St. James, special events along the route and welcoming celebrations at the Brigade Days festivities in Fort Langley as a reminder of the fur-trade heritage of British Columbia.

Pacific Rim and the communities of Tofino and Ucluelet will co-sponsor a Centennial photo and poster contest, and Kootenay will celebrate the re-dedication of the Windermere Highway with a time-capsule ceremony and a community picnic. Antique autos and a pack train will travel from Banff and Windermere to meet at Kootenay Crossing on June 30 in commemoration of the opening of the highway in 1923.

On September 13, 14 and 15, Jasper townsite and Parks Canada will co-sponsor a homecoming-birthday party featuring dances and an open house. On Douglas Day, November 19, the B.C. Cabinet will meet at Fort Langley to commemorate the birthplace of the province of British Columbia.

PRAIRIE REGION (Man., Sask., N.W.T. and Yukon)

This summer, the Great Heritage Canoe Pageant will wind its way from Rocky Mountain House to Lower Fort Garry. Fort Battleford will host the pageant on July 14, and on August 5 Lower Fort Garry will mark its arrival with jiggling contests, a period meal and traditional entertainment, singing and storytelling.

On June 13 and July 14, bishops, former parishioners and local old timers will be invited to attend the official openings of the Church and the Rectory at Batoche.

On July 1, the show of July 1, 1899 will be re-enacted at the Palace Grand Theatre in Dawson. The audience will be invited to participate in Centennial ceremonies throughout the day and to visit a site (not to be revealed in advance) where a time capsule will be buried. At Prince Albert, a torch-light canoe parade will conclude the July 1st special events, which will also include a ceremonial re-dedication of the park.

On July 26, 27 and 28, Festival '85 at Riding Mountain will present heritage speakers, old-time music, square dancing, ethnic foods and children's activities.

In August, Pierre Berton will travel the Yukon River by riverboat from the SS *Klondike* site in Whitehorse to Dawson City. Those who lived and worked along the river will be invited to participate in this special ceremony, and visitors will find many good vantage points from which to view the procession.

From August 1 to 14, visitors to Kraus Hot Springs in Nahanni will hear Gus and Mary Kraus relate their fascinating tales of the early years around Fort Simpson.

ONTARIO REGION

In July, the National Parks Centennial will be the feature theme of the Great Lake Fest at Harbourfront in Toronto. One-quarter of a million visitors are expected to participate. On Canada Day, ham radio operators will hold a National Parks Treasure Hunt.

At the Boy Scout Jamboree, to be held at the Grande River Conservation Area near Guelph from July 3 to 12, Parks Canada and the boy scout organization will announce jointly the Back Home Challenge. This heritage program is designed to encourage scouts to do heritage projects in heritage properties near their homes. Parks Canada will provide a major Centennial exhibit in the Gateway to Canada area.

Earlier, on May 18, the RCMP Musical Ride will participate in the opening ceremonies of the Trent-Severn Waterway at the Lakefield Fair Grounds.

On June 15, St. Lawrence Islands will host a 7-mile war canoe race from Rockport to Mallorytown Landing.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies on July 1 for the new activity centre at the Peterborough Lift Lock will include films, special guests and exhibits about the world's highest lift lock.

Fort Wellington's two-day military pageant on July 20-21 will feature mock battles, musical demonstrations, fashion shows and 18th-century activities by more than 400 women and children in period costume. The fort's Centennial Tattoo on August 8 will include period bands, dances and military demonstrations.



At the National Marathon Canoe Championships on the Trent-Severn Waterway at Peterborough on August 17-18, 200 athletes will compete in men's and women's canoe and kayak races for the opportunity to participate in the World Championships in Luxembourg.

QUEBEC REGION

All special events hosted by Parks Canada throughout Quebec during 1985 will feature the National Parks Centennial. Some highlights follow.

On March 30, the National Parks Centennial Travelling Exhibit will begin its first public showing in Quebec at the annual Salon du camping show in Montreal. On April 15, the exhibit will open at the main public library in Quebec City.

In mid-May, the Centennial Van will begin its summer-long tour of Quebec. With animation by Boomer, mini-exhibits will inform visitors about Parks Canada's activities and the National Parks Centennial. The tour will be extensive, so look for it in a community near you.

June 1 to 8 is Centennial Theme Week at the Guy Favreau Complex in Montreal. The travelling exhibit, along with personnel and exhibits from all national and historic parks and sites and heritage canals in Quebec, will show visitors the breadth and wealth of their heritage. The public celebrations will include the official dedication ceremonies for the historic home of George Etienne Cartier and the Fur Trade National Historic Park in Lachine, period military demonstrations, an exhibition of children's art, conferences and the Quebec premiere of Centennial films.

Summer activities at all parks, sites and canals will provide visitors with opportunities to learn about and celebrate 100 Years of Heritage Conservation.

On September 27, the travelling exhibit will open in Sherbrooke at L'Estrie shopping centre, and on November 4 it will visit Trois-Rivières.

ATLANTIC REGION (P.E.I., N.S., N.B., Nfld.)

During July and August, the Atlantic Canada Institute will offer a four-week summer school program, at which about 300 persons from Canada, the United States and Europe will holiday while learning. Participants will experience the rich historical heritage of our maritime provinces at the Fortress of Louisbourg, the Halifax Defence Complex, Fort Anne, Port Royal, Grand Pré, Anne of Green Gables and Province House. The



One module of the National Parks Centennial Travelling Exhibit.

French-language program will take place in New Brunswick at the Memramcook Institute and Fort Beauséjour.

From June 7 to 9, Kejimikujik will hold a Centennial Spring Festival featuring nature walks, interpretive programs, canoe instruction, demonstrations, displays, camping and picnicking.

Fundy and Kouchibouguac national parks will launch a summer-long 100-Kilometre Challenge, encouraging hikers to accumulate 100 kilometres on the parks' trails to earn a Centennial Hiker's Certificate.

During weekends in July, the candlelight dinners and Baroque music of the Fortress of Louisbourg's Concert

Series will reminisce on the finer side of 18th-century life.

The official opening of L'Anse aux Meadows—the only authenticated Norse site in North America—will take place on July 19.

On August 10, the Friends of the Citadel Society will present the Festival of History, featuring military drills, demonstrations, workshops, period food and a Victorian sale.

On August 21, Birthday at the Bell will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Alexander Graham Bell in Baddeck and 100 years of conservation of heritage places in Canada with pipers, kite flying, games and cake and lemonade.

The Labour Day Heritage Festival in Terra Nova will showcase about 30 Newfoundland musicians and artists.

The official opening of Province House in Charlottetown on September 7 will feature V.I.P.s and ethnic cultural events.

The National Parks Centennial Travelling Exhibit will open in Halifax on October 12, and in Moncton on October 27.

For more information, contact the Centennial Co-ordinator at the nearest Parks Canada Regional Office:

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Heritage for Tomorrow

Since land was first set aside for public use at Banff a century ago, the protection of our natural and cultural heritage has been an accepted part of public policy in Canada. Through the years, we have developed one of the most successful approaches to heritage conservation in the world.

The international community regards Canada's work in conservation of our natural heritage as highly successful, but Parks Canada continues to strive for improvement in the national parks system and for a meaningful role for parks in a society much changed from 100 years ago. As our national parks begin their second century, 1985 is an appropriate year for Canadians to appraise what has been accomplished and to voice their hopes and aspirations for national parks in the future. The Canadian Assembly on National Parks and Protected Areas provides the forum to do just that.

Throughout 1984, several caucuses established by the assembly held meetings and conducted workshops and surveys to determine which issues on the future of Canada's heritage resources are of significance regionally and nationally. Interested Canadians deliberated on prescriptions for heritage conservation in the second century of our national parks and protected areas.

Each caucus adopted a format suited to regional needs and opportunities. In British Columbia, six sub-regional groups have been discussing heritage

matters on a geographical basis. In Quebec, a thematic approach has been adopted and as many as 25 sub-themes are being discussed. In Atlantic Canada, the four-province caucus has conducted provincial surveys, held regional meetings and undertaken a number of background studies.

In keeping with the Centennial theme, the discussions give equal weight to national parks and other areas outside Parks Canada's administration. Participants have represented a broad spectrum of interests concerned with the impact, uses and benefits of both. Groups working in the sectors of tourism, recreation, conservation and natural resources and interested members of the public are taking part.

The input received demonstrates a high level of interest among Canadians for the ways in which our heritage resources may best be managed and used to ensure their passage to those who follow us. Clearly, stewardship of our heritage resources is a concern shared by Canadians across the country.

The caucuses have addressed dozens of conservation issues, and they have pursued a range of strategies that may best suit the realities of the decades ahead. Now they are placing priorities on their various deliberations and proposing final caucus reports.

These reports, together with a national issues paper and agenda document, will be distributed in advance of the

Canadian Assembly, to be convened in Banff from September 4th to 8th. In workshops and plenary sessions at the assembly, participants from across Canada and abroad will consider the most important elements of heritage conservation in Canada's future.

The work of the caucuses and the assembly promises to result in an important statement on what directions Canadians wish to take in the years ahead to conserve and use their valued heritage resources. The assembly project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a national commitment to our children and to the landscapes, habitats and species of this great land.

For additional information, please contact

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Films for Centennial Year

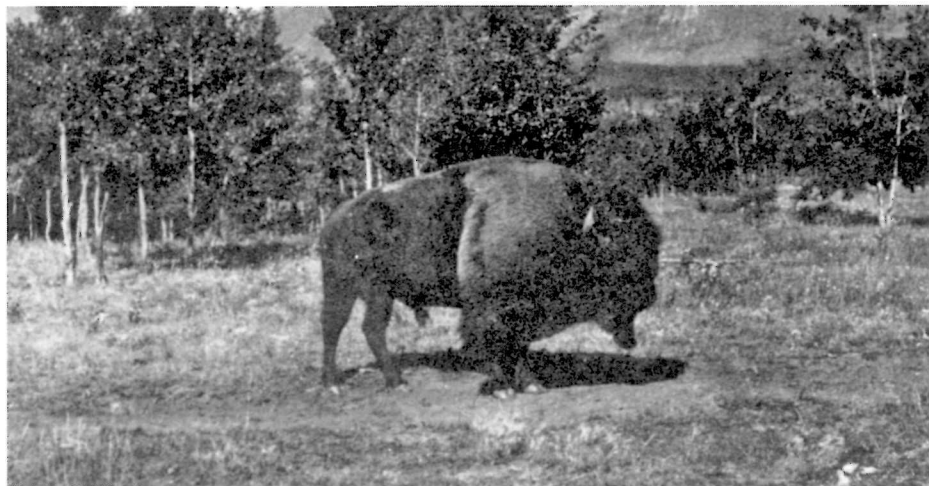
Parks Canada and the National Film Board are co-producing four one-hour films for television, and negotiations are taking place with Canadian networks to broadcast them this year. The films, which are designed for a broad audience, will be available around the world. Each deals with a different aspect of our natural and cultural heritage and explains the efforts by Parks Canada and others to promote conservation.

For 100 years, our national parks have protected many of Canada's wildlife habitats, often playing an important part in saving some species from extinction. One example is the North American bison, commonly known as the buffalo. A film entitled *The Great Buffalo Saga* recounts a century of human manipulation of this ancient species, which has withstood ice ages, round-ups, disease and near annihilation.

An American Indian, Samuel Walking Coyote, probably saved the Plains Bison from extinction by capturing a small group of the animals and selling them to Charles Allard and Michel Pablo. The subsequent sale to the Canadian government, and management by the Canadian National Parks Service, saw a herd of 716 grow to more than 8000 by 1922, when most were moved to the newly established 45,000 km² Wood Buffalo National Park.

Our national parks also protect representative examples of the eight different types of forest common to Canada. These huge forests comprise 35 per cent of the country and cover 34 million km², an area far larger than all western Europe. The role of fire in these forests has been particularly misunderstood. For centuries, the idea of fire as a destructive force has been perpetuated. *From Ashes to Forest* offers a different perspective. Filmed in several of Canada's best-known national parks, it demonstrates that, in many instances, forest fires are necessary for renewal, healthy growth, soil enrichment, and to provide a new environment for animal life.

As required by its mandate, Parks Canada manages protected areas with minimal interference with natural processes. But what is "natural" and at what point should management be prepared to intervene? *From Ashes to Forest* presents the good and the bad of forest fires, a natural phenomenon that



"Sir Donald," probably the last of Canada's wild plains bison, was captured as a calf on the western plains near Prince Albert, N.W.T., in 1873. He was reared at Stoney Mountain in Manitoba, later sold to Sir Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona), and eventually donated with other bison in 1898 to form the nucleus of the buffalo herd at Banff, Alberta. He died in 1909, at the age of 37 years.

Reprinted from W.F. Lothian, *A History of Canada's National Parks 4*, Parks Canada (Ottawa, 1981), p. 7.

generates both benefits and disadvantages. The viewer will be provoked to reconsider the traditional perception of fire.

Another film will address the problems encountered in creating and expanding a country-wide system of national parks. Different objectives, competing demands, diverse opinions and legislative provisions that are open to interpretation are some of the issues raised. The film presents a sense of the magnitude of Parks Canada's goal of completing a system of national parks that will represent each of Canada's 48 natural regions.

In keeping with its subject, the film captures some of the most beautiful scenery in the country—areas that now are within the national parks system and areas that should be included.

A fourth film focuses on the conservation of Canada's cultural heritage and the growth of a strong heritage movement in Canada during the past 30 years. To explain this phenomenon, which recognizes the talents and contributions of our ancestors, the film

explores private sector, municipal, provincial and federal initiatives. It proposes a poetic venture, taking viewers through Canada's waterways from one end of the country to the other, discovering the main streets, fortresses, villages and industries of the past, and meeting the ordinary Canadians who built our country—the foot-soldier, the blacksmith, the farm worker, the housewife and the sailor.

All four films will premiere this year. After their Canadian television debuts, they will be available on loan through the normal distribution channels of the National Film Board in either 16 mm or ¾-inch cassette format. Meanwhile, readers aware of major conferences or meetings at which the films could be screened are asked to contact the Centennial Task Force.

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... With a Little Help from Our Friends

The Centennial theme "100 Years of Conservation of Heritage Places in Canada" provides an attractive opportunity for federal departments and provincial governments to join Parks Canada in the 1985 celebrations. The broad spectrum of heritage activities carried on by government agencies, individuals, associations and corporations creates the potential for complementary initiatives to increase Canadians' awareness of the heritage we all share. The National Parks Centennial is proving to be a catalyst to country-wide celebrations of our natural, cultural and architectural heritage.

Departments with heritage conservation mandates indicate interest in mounting displays and exhibits about their own activities while at the same time honouring the centenary of conservation of our natural heritage. The Public Archives of Canada has accepted a major collection of Parks Canada's historical records for conservation and will mount a display of selected items in 1985. Veterans Affairs will erect cairns and commemorative plaques in selected national parks and national historic parks to honour those who gave their lives to safeguard our heritage.

Departments with interests in tourism and economic development are realizing that there are opportunities in Centennial activities and events that will take place. With appropriate publicity, and a little creativity, municipalities, regions and entire provinces can capitalize on heritage themes and events to promote tourism and their related service industries.

Tourism Canada is using Heritage '85 as the theme for its marketing activities, and is encouraging the private sector to join it.

All parts of Environment Canada are joining the celebration. This seems quite natural, as heritage conservation is the business of the entire department. It is also an especially warm gesture to Parks Canada, the newest member of Environment's family. Departmental publications will carry the Centennial message. The Atmospheric Environment Service has suggested using the weather information network to carry messages about the Centennial, heritage conservation and specific events. The Environmental Protection Service has proposed certain publications outlining the effect of current environmental problems, such as acid rain, on the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The Royal Canadian Mint is honouring the National Parks Centennial by issuing two numismatic coins in 1985: a \$100 gold coin and a \$1 commemorative silver coin. Canada Post will issue stamps during the year that will feature Banff National Park and historical themes related to Batoche National Historic Site, historic forts and light-houses. Energy, Mines and Resources is producing two new maps, as well as other publications highlighting the broadening scope of Parks Canada's heritage conservation activities.

"100 Years of Heritage Conservation" is something in which the entire country can take pride. Provincial governments, federal departments and agencies and the private sector are responding enthusiastically to the opportunity to get involved. We hope that the provinces will pass on the message to their municipalities and encourage them to participate.

For more information:

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The 1985 \$100 Gold Coin (left), bearing the image of a bighorn sheep, and the 1985 Silver Dollar (right), displaying a moose, were produced by the Royal Canadian Mint to commemorate the National Parks Centennial. The coins may be purchased from the Royal Canadian Mint, 355 River Road, Vanier, Ontario K1A 0G8.

Near Banff
in the Rocky Mountains,
crews building the railroad discovered
caverns and hot springs. In 1885
this land was set aside for our first
national park.

**IN
1985,
WE'RE
CELEBRATING
THE
100th BIRTHDAY
OF
CANADA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

Today Canada has national
parks, historic parks, and
heritage canals, but many
areas are still unrepresented.
The national parks
centennial is an occasion
to renew our commitment
to preserve examples of our
heritage unimpaired for the
benefit of all Canadians.

The centennial of Canada's
national parks is also a time
to discover the heritage
that belongs to all
Canadians. Make your own
centennial plans to visit and
enjoy Canada's heritage
places.

Canada



**Parks
Canada**

Part of your Environment

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WILDERNESS