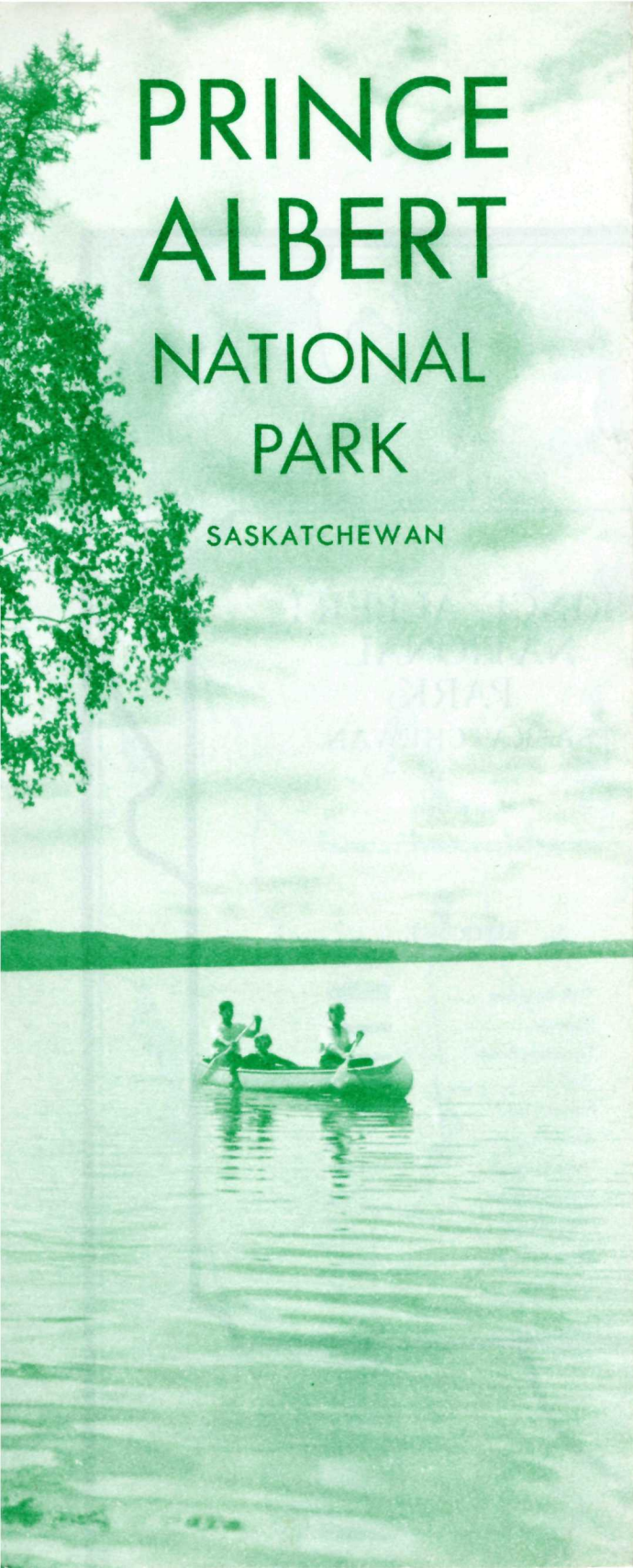


PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

SASKATCHEWAN



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LOCATION

Prince Albert National Park is situated in the central part of Saskatchewan, 36 miles north of the city of Prince Albert. Lying in the coniferous forest belt just north of the agricultural lands of the Great Plains, it is 1,496 square miles in extent. This Park, established in 1927, is the fourth largest in the National Parks system.

The detailed map in this folder has been prepared especially to help visitors readily identify the various features of the Park.

PURPOSE

Prince Albert National Park is one of Canada's 18 National Parks which form a chain of nature sanctuaries extending from Mount Revelstoke in British Columbia to Terra Nova in Newfoundland. These Parks have been established for the preservation of selected areas in their natural state for the benefit, education and enjoyment of present and future generations of Canadians.

This vast area of more than 29,000 square miles is administered by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

NATURAL FEATURES

GEOLOGICAL

All bedrock within the Park was deposited in shallow seas of the Cretaceous period some 100 million years ago.

In the southern part of the Park these sedimentary rocks are shales while in the north slightly older calcareous shales and limestones are present. Some of these rocks contain fossils.

Bedrocks are exposed in only a few places within the Park, being mainly covered by thick deposits of glacial till, left by the glaciers when they receded from the area for the last time about 10,000 years ago. The beautiful topography of the Park



Whitetailed deer at its watering place.

with its rolling hills and ridges, its many lakes, ponds, streams, and bogs are legacies of the glacial age.

A prominent height of land forming part of the watersheds of the Churchill and Saskatchewan River systems occurs a short distance south of Waskesiu Lake. The terrain in the northeast and southwest corners of the Park is flat or gently undulating.

There are several hundred lakes and ponds. Among the notable lakes are Waskesiu, Kingsmere, Crean, Namekus, Hanging Heart, and Halkett.

Waskesiu Lake is the source of the Park's largest river, the Waskesiu, which runs 25 miles to Montreal Lake, east of the Park. The 13-mile-long Crean River drains into Montreal Lake from Crean Lake. One-third of each river lies within the Park. Major rivers of the district are the Spruce, draining the southeast quarter of the Park, and the Sturgeon, which flows along most of the Park's western border.

PLANTLIFE

The undulating hills and ridges are covered by the boreal or northern evergreen forest. The number

of kinds of trees is not large but enormous reproduction of individual species assures a dense forest cover. In the drier areas white spruce is the most common tree in pure stands or mixed with jack-pine and balsam fir. Where an area has been disturbed, groves of trembling aspen or white birch temporarily cover the area until replaced by white spruce.

Other trees are pin cherry, Saskatoon berry, and choke cherry. In the wetter areas the common trees are black spruce, larch and balsam poplar. Around the margins of lakes, ponds, and bogs, a definite zonation of plants may be seen.

Typical shrubs of the coniferous forest are Labrador tea, prickly wild rose, shrubby cinquefoil, silver olive or silverberry, red osier dogwood, high-bush cranberry viburnum, alder-leaved buckthorn, snowberry, and twining honeysuckle.

Herbs, including many wildflowers, are particularly numerous on the open forest floor and in glades in the forest. Small patches of prairie and roadsides also have their distinctive and attractive flowers. There is a procession of bloom from early spring to late autumn.

Some of the more distinctive or attractive herbs are the following: northern miterwort, twinflower, crocus anemone, Canada dogwood or bunchberry, northern bedstraw, wood lily, wild sarsaparilla, wild columbine, cut-leaved ragwort, showy aster, northern blue aster, marsh-marigold, umbellate hawkweed and Canada and other goldenrods.

WILDLIFE

The larger animals of the Park include the grey wolf, black bear, elk, moose, mule deer, whitetailed deer, and woodland caribou.

A small herd of plains bison or American buffalo is maintained in a fenced paddock near the entrance.

Some of the smaller animals of the Park include: varying hare, Canada porcupine, muskrat, beaver, red squirrel, red fox, Canada lynx, skunk, coyote, and marten. On the more prairie-like areas badger and northern pocket gopher may be present.

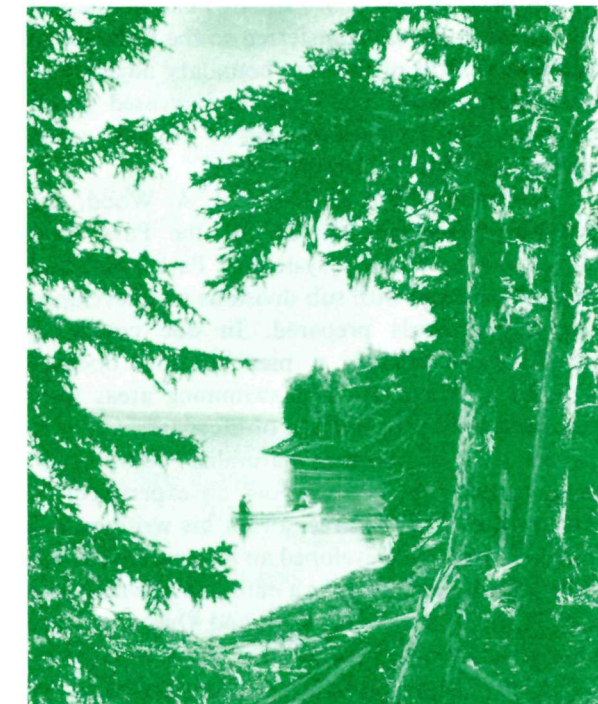
Some of these animals may be observed at close range because they have become accustomed to

close association with man under sanctuary conditions. Nevertheless they are still wild animals and should be treated as such, and watched from a safe distance.

BIRDLIFE

Birds are both plentiful and of various kinds. About 175 species are already known to be in the Park. Certain kinds such as the larger woodpeckers are forest dwellers, while the large number of lakes and other bodies of water support many species of waterfowl and other water birds.

There is a white pelican rookery on the islands of Lake Lavallée and double-crested cormorants also nest here. Other kinds to look for include common loon, red-necked grebe, mallard, shoveller, ring-necked duck, blue-winged teal, common tern, herring gull, great blue heron, marsh hawk, red-tailed hawk, bald eagle, and osprey.



Evergreens thrive in this forested land of lakes.



White pelicans nest at Lavallée Lake.

Some of the smaller birds are also of interest. These include grey or Canada jay, black-billed magpie, common raven, cedar waxwing, hermit thrush, Tennessee warbler, and Lincoln's sparrow.

FISH

The lakes offer anglers northern pike, lake trout, and yellow pikeperch, which is locally called pickerel. Lake whitefish are also available and may be taken with spinning and fly fishing tackle in the larger lakes. Dry fly angling for whitefish is particularly exciting as the fish is a vigorous fighter.

Fishing licences are necessary and may be obtained from Park Wardens. As Fishing Regulations change from time to time, visitors are advised to consult Park authorities concerning licences, seasons, and bag limits.

HOW YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARK

To help you understand and obtain greater enjoyment from your Park visit, the National Parks provide an Interpretation Service. This includes the attendance of an Interpretive Officer during the summer months who conducts tours and campfire talks to explain the natural features and purposes of the Park. Some of these nature talks are illustrated by films and slides during the evening hours

near the campground. Well marked nature trails of a self-guiding type are established in some areas. Labels identify various species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to help visitors gain a better appreciation of nature within the Park. More detailed information is available at the Park Administration Office.

HOW TO SEE THE INTERESTING FEATURES

While the roads in the Park lead to some of the interesting Park features, the best way to gain a full appreciation of nature in the Park is to use the trails. A large number of people benefit from rambling or riding over many miles of well kept trails. Reference to the accompanying map will give further information as to their location.

Some of the most interesting sections of the Park are more accessible by boat, and the lakes and rivers provide a network of waterways throughout the Park. Portages are maintained between different water levels and a light railway assists visitors to travel between Waskesiu and Kingsmere Lakes.

To secure the maximum benefit from their Park experience visitors will find the use of these woodland trails and water routes into areas of unspoiled nature most rewarding. A journey into the more secluded sections of the Park can contribute greatly to the restoration of the human spirit. It is a sanctuary for man, as well as the wild creatures.

PARK ENJOYMENT

Although the Park has been set apart primarily to preserve its natural features for the enjoyment of future generations, the Park Service also provides other recreation facilities. In addition to those already mentioned, there are: tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, bowling green, and children's playground. Boat launching and docking facilities are provided at Waskesiu Lake and lifeguards are on duty in the swimming areas. Private interests offer alternative recreational activities as well as other facilities customarily found in most vacation areas.

Waskesiu townsite contains all the usual services of a modern community with hotels, motels, restaurants, and other business establishments.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARK ADMINISTRATION

A resident Superintendent is in charge at the Park Office in Waskesiu. The protection of the Park and the visitor is in the hands of the Warden Service assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Visitors may obtain detailed information from the nearest Park Warden.

SEASON

The Park is open throughout the year but complete facilities for visitors are provided only from May to September.

CAMPING

There are 12 campgrounds maintained for the convenience of Park visitors, the largest being at Waskesiu. This is a serviced campground with kitchen facilities, firewood, water and sanitary services, provided at nominal fees.

The remaining campgrounds are unserviced and are easily identified from the map. At these locations, kitchen shelters, firewood and safe drinking water are provided free.

A fully serviced trailer area is available at Waskesiu for which nominal fees are required.

Visitors wishing to camp away from the established campgrounds must register with the Warden Service before and after such camping.

PRESERVATION

National Parks are selected areas set apart as nature sanctuaries and special care is taken to maintain them *in their natural state*. For this reason all birds, animals, wildlife, trees, shrubs, rocks and fossils are to remain undisturbed. Even the wildflowers are not to be picked; they are to be left for others to enjoy. Feeding, touching or molesting wild animals is not permitted. This is in the interests of the animal, as well as the human, who could receive serious injury.

Please help protect your own Park for future enjoyment. It is part of your national inheritance.

PREVENT FIRE

Campfires may be kindled only in fireplaces provided for this purpose and must be completely extinguished before campers leave the site. Visitors observing an unattended fire should attempt to extinguish it if possible and promptly report it to the nearest Park Warden.

Fire in a National Park can cause damage which cannot be repaired in a hundred years.

PETS

Dogs and cats may accompany visitors into the Park. For the protection of Park animals however, dogs must be kept on leash.

MOTOR LICENCES

Motoring visitors are required to obtain a Park motor vehicle licence at the entrance. A licence good in all the National Parks in Canada is available.

MOTOR-BOATS

Most Park waters are open to motor-boats. Notice of any waters closed to boating will be given by the Superintendent or the Warden Service. Permits for motor-boats are required and these are issued free at the Park entrance.

Both docking and launching facilities are available at Waskesiu, the Narrows, and at Heart Lakes. Launching ramps are provided at Halkett and Namekus Lakes.

All boats operating on Park waters must carry required safety equipment and otherwise conform with federal navigation regulations.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Prince Albert National Park is well served by all means of modern transportation—rail, air, bus and car. Reference to the map will indicate the alternative approach routes. The nearest airport is at Prince Albert, and amphibious planes may land on Waskesiu Lake.

ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation is offered in the Park, details of which are listed in *Where To Stay in the National Parks of Western Canada* available at the Park Office.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In earlier times this Park area was well known as a favourite hunting and fishing ground for the Indians. Both the Cree and the Chipewyan tribes lived and hunted around Red Deer Lake, now called Waskesiu Lake. The Cree Indians are now located in the Montreal Lake Reservation just east of the Park.

One of the first white trappers and traders in the area was Louis Lavallée. His cabin was at Pelican Lake, later renamed after him Lavallée Lake, in the northwest section of the Park. In this lake a pelican rookery provides a favourable opportunity to observe the nesting habits of both the white pelican and its neighbour the jet black double crested cormorant.

The first person to suggest that this area be preserved as a National Park was E. R. Trippe, a frequent hunter who had built a hunting lodge on the south shore of what is now Lake Waskesiu.



Ancient glaciers carved these rolling hills and lake beds.

Until 1929, access to the Park was gained by an old logging and freighting trail, long used by the old Prince Albert Lumber Company and freighters on their way to Montreal Lake, LaRonge, and points farther north. One trading post was situated at the First Narrows.

Much of the Park area was originally part of the Sturgeon Forest Reserve. This control was transferred to the Federal Department of the Interior and the area was dedicated to the people of Canada as a National Park on March 24, 1927.

Prince Albert National Park was officially opened by the Prime Minister, the late Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King on August 10, 1928. He was presented with a lobster, an Indian trail marker, and a private cabin on Prospect Point.

In 1947, an area of 373 square miles on the east side of the Park was transferred to the Province to facilitate control of the east boundary adjacent to the Indian reserve. The need for increased supervision resulted in a reallocation of the Park areas to form ten Warden Districts.

Under direction of Major J. A. Wood, the first Superintendent, surveys of the Park were carried out to locate a system of Park roads and trails. A townsite with sub-divisions was developed and campgrounds prepared. In due course, a museum was erected, a pier provided docking facilities at Waskesiu, and swimming areas were improved under supervision of lifeguards.

In 1931 the pioneer naturalist "Grey Owl" came to the Park to carry out an experiment to restore beaver to the area. From his writings and lectures, Grey Owl developed an international reputation and at one time gave a nature talk in audience with Their Majesties the King and Queen of England. Owing to the circulation of his books, "Grey Owl Clubs" came into being and he exerted a constructive influence in the appreciation of nature both in Canada and in overseas countries. Shortly after his death in 1938, it was observed that the area surrounding Ajawaan Lake was well populated with beaver. To the present day, Grey Owl's grave at the site of his original cabin is regularly tended by the District Park Warden and the trail into the area is well maintained for those who visit his resting place.

Dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment, this natural area of forested lake land is maintained unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

For additional information concerning Prince Albert National Park address inquiries to:

The Superintendent,
Prince Albert National Park,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan,

or

National Parks Branch,
Department of Northern Affairs
and National Resources,
Ottawa, Canada.

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