

MOUNT REVELSTOKE NATIONAL PARK

BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Mount Revelstoke National Park lies in the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia. It comprises an area of approximately 100 square miles of rugged mountain terrain, heavily timbered slopes, lush alpine meadows and snowy peaks. To the north and west is the big bend of the Columbia River and, to the south and east, its tributary the Illecillewaet. Where the Columbia turns southward towards the Arrow Lakes, the City of Revelstoke nestles in the valley at the confluence of the two rivers. A few miles farther west is the historic Eagle Pass, the gateway for the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Trans-Canada Highway, en route to the Pacific coast.

The park is reached both by the main trans-continental line of the C.P.R. and by road from the Trans-Canada Highway No. 1. An 18-mile highway winds by easy grades through the timbered slopes to the broad summit of Mount Revelstoke. From its terminus, the central areas of the park can be reached by good foot trails.

Established as a National Park in 1914, Mount Revelstoke is unique among the eighteen Canadian National Parks by virtue of its distinct natural features and accessibility. An hour's drive enables one to ascend almost 5,000 feet from Revelstoke to an elevation of 6,400 feet at the summit Lookout.

Like all National Parks, Mount Revelstoke is a wildlife sanctuary and conservation area, maintained in its natural state for public use and appreciation. It is administered by the National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and is exclusively under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

NATURAL FEATURES

GEOLOGY

Lying between the valley of the Arrow Lakes and the Columbia River, northward to the great bend of the river, the Selkirk Mountains extend eastward as far as the Rocky Mountain Trench. They are distinguished from the Rockies by their narrow peaks and their much greater age. The densely forested slopes, and extensive snowfields and glaciers bear witness to the heavy precipitation in this region.

In many areas the winter snowfall averages from thirty to forty feet and over. The streams are mostly glacier fed, short and rapid. Lakes are not numerous or large and the valleys are usually narrow and V shaped, with many canyons and waterfalls.

The rock formations possibly belong to the Cambrian and Precambrian eras and are at least 550 million years old. Most of the rocks are composed of sedimentary conglomerate, laid down in the ancient seas which covered this part of the continent in past ages. This material consolidated into rock under enormous pressure and later after being subjected to uplifting and erosion became the mountains.

The intrusion of igneous or molten volcanic rock has caused changes in the original strata. Erosion and denudation by water, weather and glacial action have carved the mountains into their present sculptured forms. In Mount Revelstoke the rocks are composed largely of gneisses or altered granite with some quartzite, limestone and other metamorphic rock. The summit is mostly massive granite.

For a useful guide to the geological points of interest in Mount Revelstoke, the guidebook to both this park and Glacier National Park is sold at \$1.50 at the park office.

FLORA

Mount Revelstoke National Park exhibits a variety of flora which changes in character as the mountain is ascended. On the lower slopes, in draws, are black cottonwood, trembling aspen, Rocky Mountain maple, western and mountain birch, green elder, wild cherry, mountain ash, red and

black elder and willows. In the underbrush are huckleberry, blueberry and salmon berry bushes, devil's club and bracken.

The forest on the slope is composed of Douglas fir, giant cedar, western white pine, western hemlock, giant fir and Engelmann spruce. Between 4,000 and 5,000 feet, the Engelmann spruce and alpine fir become predominant.

The summit of the mountain is a rolling, alpine meadow which in summer months is carpeted with wild flowers. First to appear in the melting snows is the yellow avalanche lily and during July the alpland bursts into bloom with scarlet paint brush, blue lupines and asters, yellow arnica, the white valerian and the rhododendron, with Indian hellebore sprouting here and there.

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

At various places, along the tree shaded highway, are open viewpoints which afford lovely vistas of the river valley below. Two of the most popular are at Mile 4, and Mile 5. The latter provides directional tables giving the locations and elevations of the mountains and other points of interest.

Between Miles 8 and 9 there is a viewpoint of the Big Eddy of the Columbia, Eagle Pass and the highway and railroad bridges spanning the river immediately west of Revelstoke.

One of the grandest viewpoints on the auto road is near the summit. From here, at an elevation of some 5,000 feet, can be seen the Illecillewaet Valley and the mountain ranges to the south and east.

Mount Tilley and Mount Mackenzie as seen from the summit of Mount Revelstoke.



The views from the summit of Mount Revelstoke are magnificent. From the highest point, at the Lookout, a superb view can be had of the surrounding ranges.

Far below, the Columbia River winds along its deep trench, flanked on the west and south by the snow clad ranges of the Monashee or Gold Range. The massive glaciated peak of Mt. Begbie dominates the wide valley to the south above the city of Revelstoke. Other outstanding peaks are Mt. Copeland, Mt. McKenzie, Ghost Rock and, to the east, the spectacular Albert Peaks. Directional tables with arrows indicating the various mountains, and giving their elevations, have been erected at the Lookout.

Nearer at hand, to the north and east, are the Clachnacudainn Mountains, a comparatively low, but picturesque range, whose extensive snow-fields occupy much of the central portion of the park. They contain three beautiful lakes, Millar, Eva and the twin Jade Lakes; from three to five miles distant from the summit of Mt. Revelstoke. An excellent trail leads by easy grades to the first two. The Jade Lakes lie in a deep gorge beyond a thousand-foot saddles. The effort required to reach this vantage point is amply rewarded by the delightful view from the ridge.

TRAILS

The walk along the main trail leading to the lakes, is in itself a rewarding experience. At every turn changing vistas of flower strewn meadows and distant mountain ranges delight the eye.

A trail leads from the end of the road to the "ice box", a deep crevice among heaped up and tumbled masses of lichen covered rocks, where the snow remains the year round.

Altogether there are over 40 miles of improved trails in the park. Some of these are for fire protection purposes only, while others are of interest to the trail walker, naturalist and nature lover. Among these are the following, with distance and walking time one way:

Main Mountain Trail: From City of Revelstoke to Summit of Mt. Revelstoke; 5 hours, 8.5 miles.

Millar and Eva Lakes: From Summit of Mt. Revel-



The Lake of Jade.

Jade Lakes:

stoke to Millar and Eva Lakes; 2 hours, 4.5 miles.

From Millar Lake to the Jade Lakes; 2 hours, 2.5 miles.

Mile 6 Road:

From Mile 5 Picnic Grounds to Balsam Lake; 3 hours, 6.0 miles.

Clachnacudainn—
Jade Lakes Trail:

From East Boundary of Park on Trans-Canada Highway to the Jade Lakes; 3.5 hours, 5.5 miles.

WILDLIFE

Due in part to the densely timbered slopes and to the high elevation of the open plateaus, there are few large mammals.

Among the smaller mammals are the hoary marmot, Columbian ground squirrel, golden-mantled ground squirrel, chipmunk, white-footed mouse, pica, and vole.

Bird life is well represented by most of the moun-

tain species, including the golden eagle, several species of hawks, Steller's jay, Clark's nutcracker, American robin, Canada jay, hermit thrush, olive-sided flycatcher, red crossbill, ruffed Franklin's, and blue or dusky grouse. Ptarmigan and pipits are also to be seen occasionally on the high alpine slopes. Among the smaller birds are the ubiquitous juncos, rosy finches, pine grosbeaks and several species of flycatchers. An occasional Townsend's solitaire may be seen perching high on some tall dead tree. At low elevations are red-eyed and warbling vireos, Wilson's thrushes, western tanagers, and red-breasted nuthatches.

ACCOMMODATION

There is no campground or other kinds of accommodation in the park since the City of Revelstoke provides good facilities for overnight accommodation and is very close to the park.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To protect the natural features and maintain the natural environment of Mount Revelstoke and other National Parks, the co-operation of the public is required. By remembering a few simple

rules, you can help to preserve this park for you and others to enjoy.

Although you will realize that hunting and trapping are prohibited, you may forget that you should not pick wildflowers, collect rocks, or cut down or damage trees. The park and all it contains are the priceless and irreplaceable property of the Canadian people and must be left, complete and unspoiled, for others to enjoy in the future.

Be particularly careful with fires. Campfires may be lit only at special places designated for this purpose and must be extinguished completely before leaving. If you spot an unattended fire, put it out immediately and notify the park warden. An act of carelessness could destroy the park completely.

PETS

Dogs and cats may be brought into the park but dogs should be confined by a leash to keep them under control.

VEHICLE LICENCE

All cars entering the park must bear a park motor vehicle licence, which is sold at park gateways for \$2 and admits the car to all National Parks for a 12-month period. Drivers should be aware that they must have this licence to use the park road leading to the summit or the Trans-Canada Highway passing through the lowest part of the park.

FISHING

There is good trout fishing in Millar, Eva and Jade Lakes from mid-July on. A fishing licence costing \$2 is obtainable from the park warden who will also be pleased to inform you on current park fishing regulations.

SEASON

Deep snow persists on the summit of Mount Revelstoke until late June so the best period for visiting the park is from July until mid-September.

In the winter, there is excellent downhill skiing on the southern slope of the mountain. Facilities include a 80-meter ski jump and a 1,630-foot Pomalift. The downhill course is 1¼ miles long and drops vertically for 2,500 feet. National and international ski competitions are held frequently at Mount Revelstoke. Skiing facilities in the park are operated by the Mount Revelstoke Ski Club.

HISTORY

Mount Revelstoke became a park largely as a result of the enthusiasm of the people of the City of Revelstoke. In 1906 a group of Revelstoke people spent a week exploring the park and under their leadership local support was organized. In 1910 the municipal government built a trail to Balsam Lake and the Revelstoke Mountain Club built a small log chalet there. Later, trails were extended to Millar and Eva Lakes, named, respectively, after A. E. Millar, the school inspector who had been one of the exploration group in 1906, and Eva Hobbs, the first woman to visit this lake.

The British Columbia Government began building the road to the summit in 1911 and in 1914 Mount Revelstoke was established as a National Park, administered by the federal government. In 1927 the road to the summit was completed and officially opened on August 1 by the Prince of Wales. Other members of the Royal Family who have visited the park are the Duke of Connaught, the Princess Patricia, Prince George, and Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

The road to the summit has been completely reconstructed in recent years and the summit area of the park was re-opened for public use in 1967.

The park is administered by a Superintendent, whose office is located in the City of Revelstoke. Information on the park is obtainable there or by writing to the Superintendent, Mount Revelstoke National Park, Revelstoke, British Columbia.

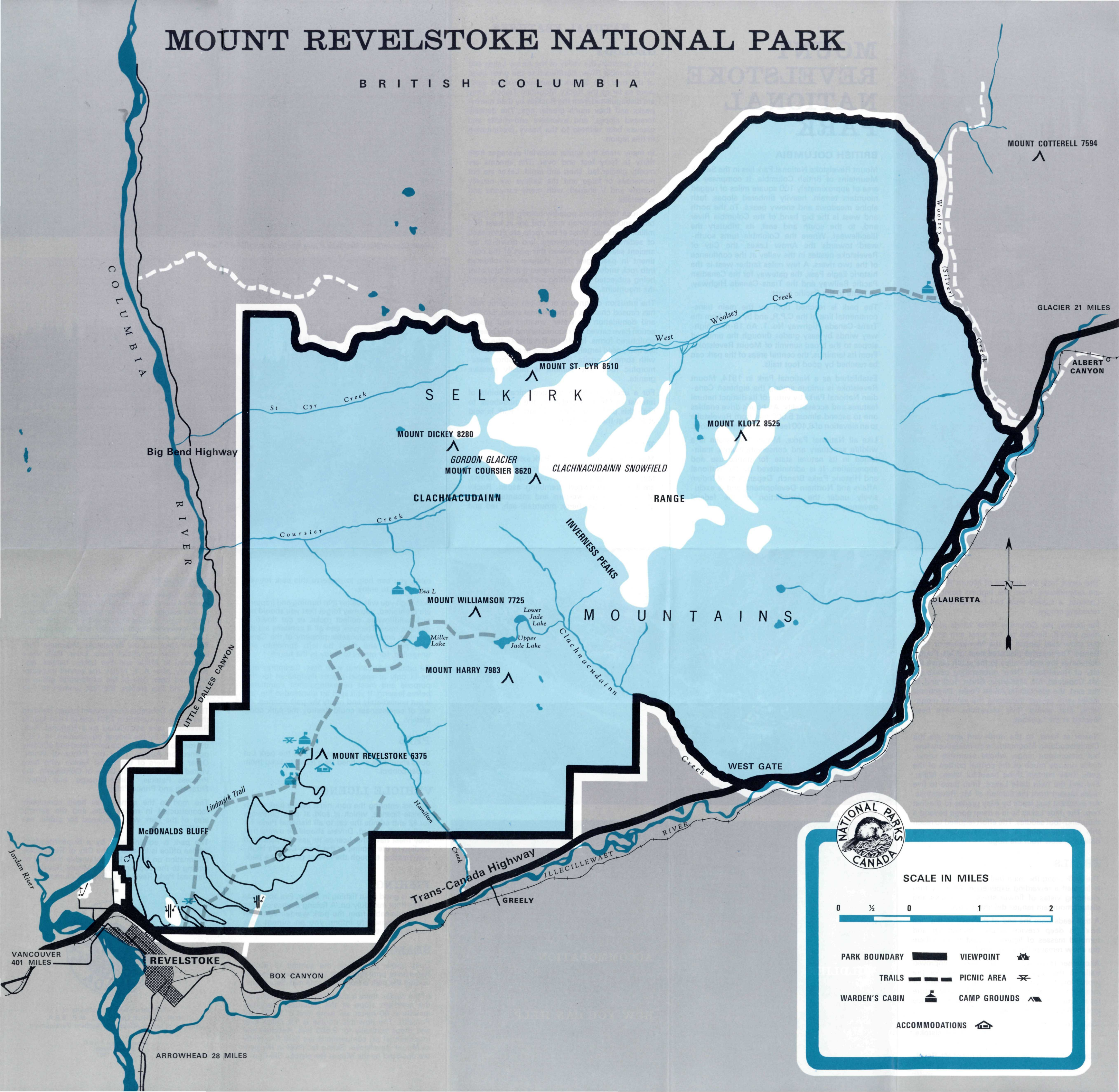


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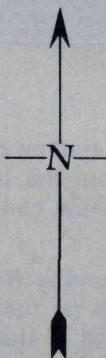
BRITISH COLUMBIA



MOUNT COTTERELL 7594

GLACIER 21 MILES

ALBERT CANYON



SCALE IN MILES



- PARK BOUNDARY
- TRAILS
- WARDEN'S CABIN
- ACCOMMODATIONS
- VIEWPOINT
- PICNIC AREA
- CAMP GROUNDS

VANCOUVER 401 MILES

REVELSTOKE

BOX CANYON

ARROWHEAD 28 MILES

GREELY

WEST GATE

LAURETTA

MCDONALDS BLUFF

Lindmark Trail

Trans-Canada Highway

MOUNT HARRY 7983

MOUNT WILLIAMSON 7725

CLACHNACUDAINN

SELKIRK

MOUNT ST. CYR 8510

MOUNT DICKY 8280

GORDON GLACIER
MOUNT COURSIER 8620

MOUNT KLOTZ 8525

CLACHNACUDAINN SNOWFIELD

INVERNESS PEAKS

MOUNTAINS

COLUMBIA RIVER

Big Bend Highway

LITTLE DALLES CANYON

Coursier Creek

St. Cyr Creek

West Creek

Woolsey Creek

Woolsey Creek (Silver)

Woolsey Creek

Hamilton Creek

ILLECILLEWAET RIVER

Clachnacudainn Creek

Upper Jade Lake

Lower Jade Lake

Eva L

Miller Lake

Jordan River