

The continuing growth in the popularity of camping has been accompanied by the appearance in the market place and in the campgrounds of many new varieties of camping equipment used by park visitors for overnight shelter. The campground can no longer be looked upon as the preserve of the tent and, to a lesser extent, of the house trailer. These traditional denizens of the campgrounds have been joined by tent trailers, campers, camping vans, car top sleepers, station wagon attachments and others. The rapid increase in the variety of shelter types has been accompanied by some remarkable changes in form and size of the tent itself.

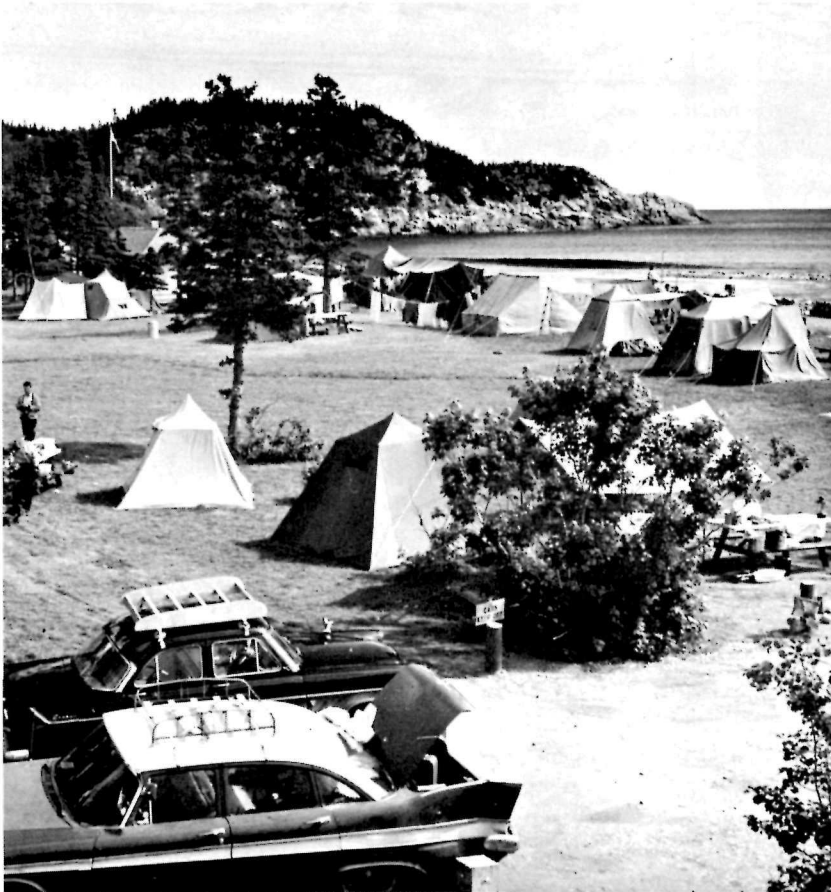
Park planners and administrators have been aware of the varying nature of camping equipment for some time. They have realized that the changes will have profound effects upon the design of campgrounds and upon the services required by camp visitors. As a first step towards understanding the extent of any shifts in the use of camping equipment in Canada, a sample survey of all campgrounds in 15 of the 17 National Parks of Canada was carried out during July and August of 1963. The sample consisted of a count taken sixth day of all overnight equipment in all campgrounds.

In general, the study revealed that while the tent is still the favorite type of overnight accommodation it is used, however, by only 60% of the overnight visitors. One quarter of the campground patrons used house trailers, seven per cent had tent trailers and the remainder had a variety of other equipment. It should also be noted that nearly one quarter of the tents exceed 9 feet by 12 feet in dimension. Detailed figures illustrate the diversity of overnight accommodation used in National Parks campgrounds.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT TRENDS in the NATIONAL PARKS of CANADA ~ A STUDY

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photo: Canadian Govt. Travel Bureau



Campgrounds at Black Brook Cove, Cape Breton Highlands NP, Nova Scotia

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Table No. 1

Camping Equipment Counted - 1963
Fifteen National Parks

Type of Equipment	No. of Units	Percentage
Tents		
9'x12' or smaller	21,385	44.2
Larger than 9'x12'	7,837	16.2
	<u>29,222</u>	<u>60.4</u>
Cabin Trailers		
Less than 16'	7,451	15.4
16'x20'	3,458	7.2
More than 20'	1,445	2.9
	<u>12,354</u>	<u>25.5</u>
Other Types		
Tent trailers	3,568	7.4
Camping vans	1,103	2.3
Piggy back campers	1,110	2.3
Car top sleepers	171	0.4
Station wagon tents	332	0.7
All others	501	1.0
	<u>6,785</u>	<u>14.1</u>
Total	48,361	100.0

Although the tent is the most common form of accommodation, it is of greater importance in the parks located in the Atlantic Provinces (1) than it is in those situated elsewhere in Canada. In the seven National Parks in the Western Cordillera, tents made up 54.7% of campground equipment. Contrast this figure with the 72.3% recorded in the Atlantic region and the 58.2% at the three parks (2) in the Prairie Provinces. At Point Pelee National Park in Ontario tents accounted for 69.3% of the shelter units. These figures indicate that the tent increases in importance from west to east.

Another tendency in campgrounds that requires further study is that of campers to provide their own shelter and

