

CANADA  
KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, NOVA SCOTIA<sup>1</sup>

In August 1969 the Canadian Federal Government announced the official opening of the Kejimkujik National Park, Nova Scotia. Although it is Canada's nineteenth national park it is the first new one to be opened since 1957.

Kejimkujik Park covers an area of one hundred and forty-two square miles. This may appear small by British standards - the Peak District National Park is five hundred and forty-two square miles - but it should be remembered that all the land is owned by the Federal Government and that the plans for its protection and management can be both active and strong. The plans are strong because the supporting legislation - the National Parks Act (Consolidated) 1956 - clearly accepts that resource conservation and economic exploitation are incompatible; the plans are active and positive because the objectives of the Park are clearly defined, logically argued and centrally financed from the £13.5 million annual budget which the Federal Government allocates for the nineteen national parks each year.

#### National Park Objectives

"The Parks are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment . . . and such Parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".

So says Section 4 of the National Parks Act (Consolidated), 1956, in setting out the general purposes of the Canadian National Parks. In the past this section has been interpreted to permit, and in some cases encourage, artificial recreations of a resort type. While the interpretation has not completely ignored the value of nature, nature has been relegated to second place.

Now it is officially recognized that the provision of urban type recreational facilities is not the basic purpose of a national park. On the contrary it is seen to be the preservation for posterity of areas containing significant geographical, geological, biological or historic features as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of Canada. Only those recreational facilities that are at one with the new purpose will be allowed. This emphasis is clearly demonstrated in the provisional master plan for Kejimkujik National Park, which aims to preserve and interpret for visitors a characteristic area of inland Nova Scotia. To minimize the effect of development, a zoning scheme has been developed nationally which will be applied to all National Parks. Four of its basic land-use classes apply to Kejimkujik National Park (see map). They are identified as follows:

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1. Adapted from Bennell, P. Peak Park Planning Board, Recreation News Supplement, June 1970, Countryside Commission, London, England.

Class I Special Areas (10.0 square miles: 7% of the park area): These are areas having unique or otherwise valuable qualities worthy of strict protection. There are two general types: special ecological areas and special historical or cultural features. No vehicles are permitted in these areas and visitors are restricted to walking trips in daylight hours, to the study of natural history, and to the use of interpretive services.

Class II Wilderness Recreation Areas (77.0 square miles: 54% of the park area): Here the primary aim is the preservation of a "wilderness recreation environment". Besides providing an interesting habitat for wildlife, the area will also be provided with "primitive" camping sites and horse riding and hiking trails. As with Class I land, access by motor vehicles will be prohibited.

Class III Natural Environment Areas (49.9 square miles: 35% of the park area): These zones serve as a buffer between wild terrain and the more developed areas. In many ways they are the most difficult to define. Some parts of these areas are likely to be re-zoned as Class I or II lands as knowledge increases. The permitted uses are the same as those in Class II lands, although at higher intensity provided that they are consistent with the capacity of the area. Vehicle access is allowed along an internal parkway system (see map).

Class IV General Outdoor Recreation Areas (5.8 square miles: 4% of the park area): These lands accommodate all the existing and potential areas for intensive recreation. Facilities include access roads, camping sites, viewpoints, day-visitor and boating centers. The intensity of these activities will be scaled to those of adjacent zones and to the available resources within the Class IV lands.

In some national parks there are major visitor service centers and even full-scale townsites. Class V lands are designed to accommodate such uses. In the case of Kejimikujik these developments will be outside the boundary.

#### National Park Program

This comprises: resource conservation, interpretation, and development. These activities reflect policy objectives for preserving representative natural areas, making them available to visitors and encouraging an appreciation of the natural environment.

#### Resource Conservation

Its objective is to protect the natural environment from undesirable changes, and will be achieved through the zoning plan, the enforcement of regulations for the protection of wildlife and other resources, the management of animal communities to prevent destruction of habitat, and protective measures such as plant and animal disease control. The success of these measures will depend to a great extent on the development of an effective warden service.

## Interpretation

Park interpretation is intended to promote an understanding and appreciation of the park's natural phenomena and beauty. Information on the biological, physical and historical aspects of the park are compiled under an inventory program carried out by the park naturalist with the help of wardens. At present the standard interpretive services include interpretation centers, outdoor theatres, on-site exhibits, interpretive trails, signs and printed material. Kejimikujik will use all these methods. The interpretation center which will be the focal point of the parks interpretative service will house a theatre and exhibits and will be staffed by park naturalists. The center will invite visitors to increase their awareness of the natural environment.

## Development

The provision of facilities for the use of visitors or national park staff constitutes development and the zoning plan will control its location. Clearly the capacity of zones to withstand use will determine the scale of development; this capacity will be related both to the physical capability of the site and the environmental qualities of the area. It is accepted that as the number of visitors increase means of limiting them may need to be introduced.

Kejimikujik has only one vehicular access and traffic circulation is a simple loop around the lake while travel into most of the remote areas will be possible by trails which will connect to the park roads, campgrounds and other developments. Separate trails will be developed for horseback riding and hiking. Two canoe routes centered on Big Dam and Peskowsk Lakes are to be developed (see map).

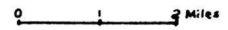
Accommodation for visitors is limited to campsite development, though arrangements are to be made with the provincial authority to develop hotels and motels in the nearby towns.

## Conclusion

As a result of the Federal Government's reappraisal of national park policy, space for most intensive forms of outdoor recreation in Canada must in future be provided largely outside the national parks - possibly in "country parks" closer to the major urban centers.

# KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK

Scale



— Existing Road  
- - - Proposed Road

