

# Kejimikujik National Park

## MASTER PLAN SUMMARY



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

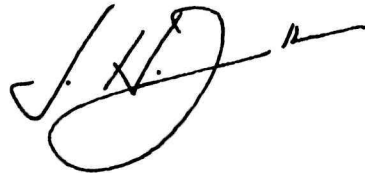
## FOREWORD

This document is a summary of the master plan for Kejimikujik National Park and briefly describes the main decisions reached during the planning process. These decisions are based on studies carried out by Parks Canada and on discussions held with interested Park visitors, groups, agencies and local residents over the past two years.

The master plan provides guidelines for the future preservation, management, interpretation and use of Kejimikujik National Park. It reflects the information available to Parks Canada at the present time and anticipates future requirements. As conditions with respect to the Park change and new information becomes available, it may be necessary to modify some of the specific ideas contained in the plan. Thus it will be important to maintain communications with the public and particularly with local residents in order to identify changing requirements and to monitor implementation of the plan.

Should you wish more detail on any aspects of the plan, technical information and information on the rationale for decisions will be available on request in the summer of 1978 from the Superintendent of the Park.

I would like to thank the many people who have participated in the planning for Kejimikujik National Park. The exchange of ideas, starting with meetings in the park amphitheatre and the local area in 1975 and continuing through the evaluation of two planning options this past summer, has helped create a much better plan for the park than otherwise would have been possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Faulkner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Hugh Faulkner  
Minister,  
Department of Indian and  
Northern Affairs

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**Please Note:**

In the future, documents such as this one which establish guidelines for the preservation, management, interpretation and use of National Parks will be referred to as Management Plans rather than master plans. This change in title will be made to accurately reflect the purpose of the documents.

The place names used in this document are those approved by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical names, and printed on the most recent Canadian topographic map for the Park area. Some of the names or name spellings were recently changed by that body to reflect historical spelling and common usage.

# I. BACKGROUND



## **THE ROLE AND CHARACTER OF KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK**

Thirty-nine terrestrial and nine marine Natural Regions have been identified in Canada. Established in 1967, the 381 sq. kilometer Kejimjujuk National Park is representative of the inter-connected lakes, streams and low, rolling topography of inland Nova Scotia — an area that is identified as the Atlantic Coast Uplands Natural Region. The role of the Park in the National Park system is to protect a designated portion of this area under the authority of the National Parks Act for the “benefit, education and enjoyment” of present and future generations.

The forest cover of the Park is representative of the Atlantic Uplands forest region, mixed coniferous and deciduous vegetation which has been disturbed in most areas by logging and in some areas by fire. However, superb stands of large old growth hemlock and sugar maple-yellow birch may still be found and over time the entire forest community will reassume its former majesty.

Another important Park resource is coastal plain flora consisting of a group of plants normally found south of Canada along the Atlantic shoreline, and in the southern part of Nova Scotia. Twenty of the species are not found anywhere else in eastern Canada and another eighteen are sparsely represented elsewhere. The habitats of these special plants such as water pennywort are therefore protected within the Park.

Most wildlife and avifauna populations normally associated with the Atlantic Uplands and typical of eastern Canada are found in the Park, including white tailed deer, beaver, black bear, warblers, and the common loon. The habitat of two endangered Canadian species as identified on the Worldwide Rare and Endangered Species List is also protected in Kejimkujik National Park. These are the ribbon snake, confined almost exclusively to southern Ontario and in danger of extinction and the Blandings’ turtle. This reptile is confined to the southwestern portion of Nova Scotia and is endangered in this province.

A few implements which have been discovered indicate that the earliest inhabitants of Kejimkujik were Archaic Indians, present about 3,500 years ago. Next to inhabit the Park were the Woodland Indians, a nomadic group which had many seasonal campsites along rivers and lakeshores. The Micmac Indians are descendants of these people.

Kejimkujik lies in the centre of a traditional Micmac canoe route between the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Coast. Petroglyphs or rock etchings are one remaining trace of the Micmacs’ life in the Park. These interesting drawings depict traditional lifestyles and legends of the Micmacs.

European occupation followed and was characterized by farming and logging. A few farms were cleared in the eastern part of the Park in the mid-1800’s, but all were eventually abandoned. Commencing in the 1800’s logging was carried out in the area which is now the Park. A brief gold mining industry in the late 1800’s based on a gold vein near McGinty Lake proved to be short lived. In the early 1900’s the area became popular with sportsmen for hunting and trout fishing, and a number of resorts were established.

The land, water, forest and historical resources of Kejimkujik provide visitors with an opportunity to experience a quiet natural environment and help foster an appreciation of the ways in which our forefathers lived and travelled. The gentle glaciated landscape and superb waterways make movement by land and water relatively easy. Canoeing, hiking and skiing thus became important means of exploring and experiencing the Park. A paddle on Kejimkujik Lake to inspect the numerous coves and islands or an extended trip along one of the rivers permits the visitor to renew his spirit and associate once again more closely with the environment as our forefathers did. Quiet camping and day use recreational opportunities and interpretive opportunities allow the visitor to use and enjoy the Park without endangering the charm which initially lured him there. In 1977 about 168,600 people visited the Park, and half of them stayed overnight in one of the campsites.

Because its water resources are linked with the surrounding area, the Park is the hub of recreational opportunity for the interior of the region — and as such, it has long been renowned as a focal point for wilderness canoeing excursions not excelled elsewhere in Nova Scotia.

Collectively, these natural and cultural resources and the recreational opportunities form the character of Kejimkujik National Park. It is this character which is to be protected and that will remain forever as a legacy for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this generation and for those to come.

## **PARK OBJECTIVES AND MASTER PLAN OPTIONS**

### **Park Objectives**

Park objectives provide a broad framework for future development, use, interpretation and management of a Park. They outline general targets to strive for based on a thorough understanding of the character of the Park and its role in the National Park System, as well as on National Park policies. Specific information of importance in formulating the objectives includes resource information; past, present and future Park uses; interpretive opportunities; regional relationships, and public input.

Six major Park objectives have been established and these are described in Part II of this summary document.

### **Master Plan Options**

The master planning process for Kejimikujik National Park provided a vehicle for generation and analysis of a variety of ideas with respect to the future of the Park. The Park objectives served as a guide for evaluation of these ideas. In the end, it was established that there were two basic options which would satisfy the objectives, and these were presented for further public consideration in May, 1977.

Open Houses were held in Caledonia, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Middleton and Halifax to discuss the options and an information kit was mailed out to about 900 interested persons and groups. In total, 368 persons visited the open houses and 60 written responses were received.

Option I assumed that present conditions with limited changes only were suitable for the Park in the foreseeable future. In the ideas proposed, the emphasis was placed on improving visitor experiences by upgrading existing facilities and programs, and whenever possible, encouraging private enterprise or other agencies to provide new facilities that may be required outside the Park.

Option II, on the other hand, gave greater recognition to increasing the variety of recreational opportunities in the Park and dispersing visitor use over a wide area.

### **Public Response to the Options**

The public response indicated that neither option was acceptable in its entirety. Many people who commented on the two options expressed a preference for one of them, with the addition of some proposals from

the other. Option I was favoured more than option II, primarily because of a considerable negative reaction to the idea of having cabins inside the Park and the feeling that implementing option II in its entirety could “commercialize” the Park and change its character. However, many of the elements of option II were found to be acceptable even by people preferring option I.

Ideas for both options that received strong support included expansion of the visitor centre, use of the former hatchery buildings as an interpretive exhibit centre, construction of additional interpretive trails, lowering the Parkway speed limit and providing additional winter facilities.

Support was also expressed for development of the Jeremy Bay — Jakes Landing link trail, the Merrymakedge Beach strolling trail, and the two long distance loop hiking trails, though not as many respondents commented on these ideas.

Expansion of the number of campsites in the Park also received the support of most respondents, though some were worried that this may be harmful to private enterprise in the camping business. As well, the idea of having an outdoor education centre inside the Park was also favorably received though there was some question as to the amount of use it would receive. The viewing tower was felt to be a good idea as long as it was not too visible from the water and a great deal of interest and many favorable comments were raised by the shuttle bus service.

A few participants felt that bicycle trails are “not needed” and are a waste of money, though most agreed that bicycling is a compatible Park activity and can help the visitor to appreciate the Park environment. The bicycle trail north of Jeremy Bay was viewed most favorably while the Grafton Lake phase of the trail received some criticism due to its distance from most other Park facilities and its proximity to some fragile resources.

Public opinion was nearly split on some of the other proposals. About half of the participants commenting on the Peskowsk road were in favor of closing it year-round, while the others preferred the idea of closing it only seasonally, and most were not interested in whether it would be closed at the Lower Mersey River or at Puzzle Lake.

Similarly, many people felt that a laundromat would be a definite asset to the Park, while others felt it was not needed and that it should be provided by private enterprise outside of the Park.

While many participants felt that the water tour/taxi service would help introduce visitors to the lake environment, others felt it would interfere with the wilderness atmosphere of the Park and disturb campers on Kejimikujik Lake. Most noted that if the idea is to be implemented, a craft must be used that is quiet and unobtrusive.

Other proposals were criticized by most participants who commented on them. Nearly all rejected the idea of cabins or a motel in the Park, and comments such as “I feel there is a definite need for cabins or a motel near the Park but not in it” and “We are most definite in saying that we do not want a motel, cabins or any type of building to house visitors in the Park” were typical. Participants also expressed concern about the parking/viewing area proposed near Merrymakedge Beach and cautioned that this could encourage some visitors to remain in their cars, rather than exploring and gaining a better appreciation of the Park environment.

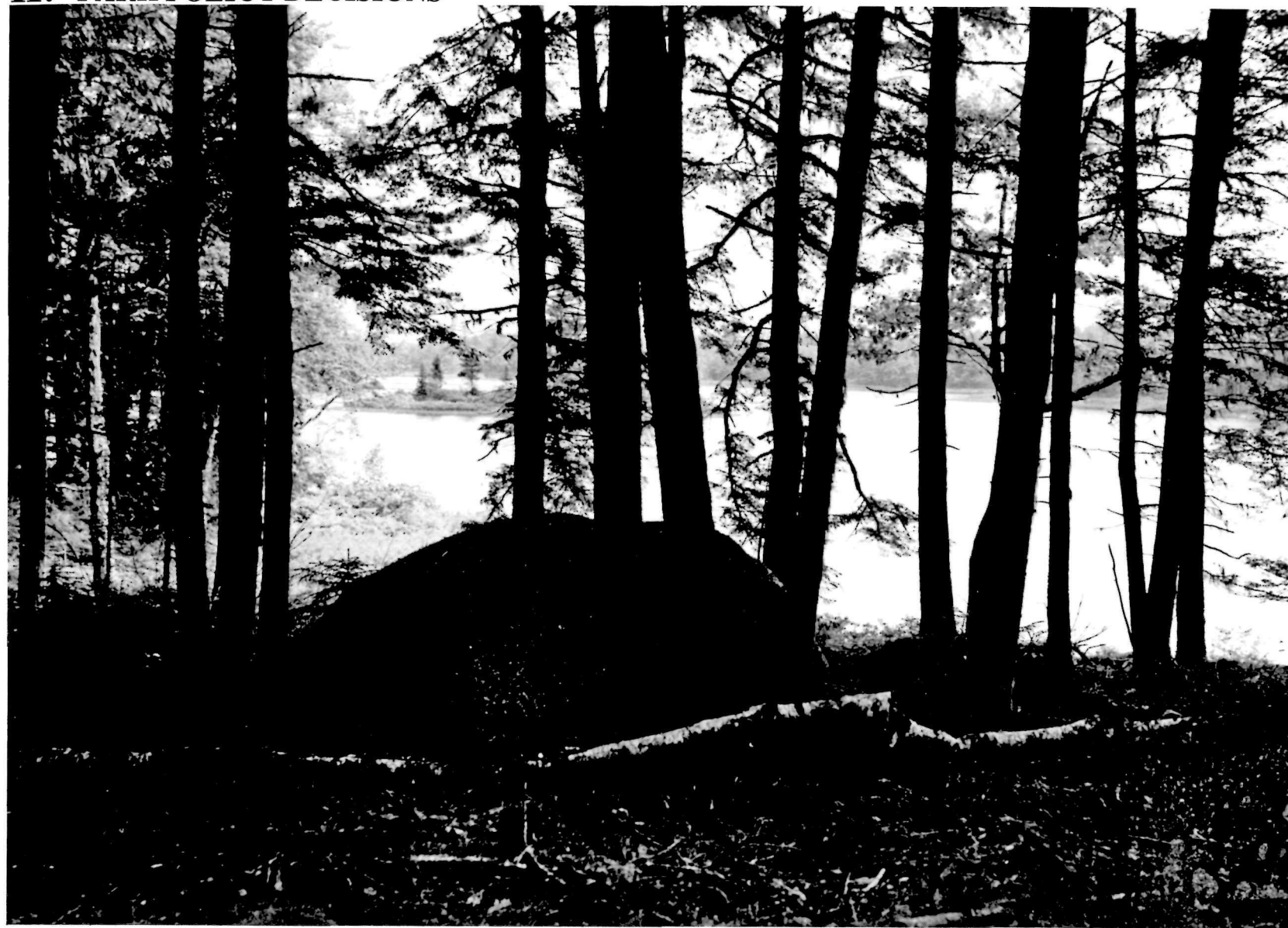
A few of the ideas presented in the two options, such as closing the fire tower and McGinty Lake roads, did not receive any comment.

Several new ideas such as constructing a bicycle trail alongside the Parkway and a shelter along the Peskowsk Road were raised by participants and some of these have been incorporated into the plan.

All opinions and ideas that were expressed were considered and final decisions to implement certain policies and programs, particularly with respect to recreational activities and facility development, have been largely based on these responses. The final “best plan” thus consists of a marriage of ideas previously found in both of the two options.



## II. PARK POLICY DECISIONS



This section highlights the specific policies, programs and facilities that will be instituted to work towards achieving the Park objectives. The Park objectives and sub-objectives are printed throughout this section in script, and are followed by the appropriate decisions.

Though the objectives and corresponding decisions are separated into categories here for clarity of presentation, it should be recognized that they are interrelated and some of the decisions apply to more than one objective. As an example, decisions made on land using zoning are important to resource management, interpretation, and visitor use in the Park, though described primarily in the resource management section.

## **NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

*To protect the natural resources of the Park from impairment by man, ensuring perpetuation of the natural features and processes characteristic of the lakes, streams, land forms and flora and fauna of the Atlantic Coast Uplands Natural Region.*

- 1. To minimize human impact on the Park resources in order to ensure their perpetuation in an unimpaired state, with special emphasis on class I and II areas where fragile, rare and examples of all representative resource features are located.*
- 2. To minimize human impacts on the natural processes in the Park in order to ensure these forces will continue, while recognizing that some management is desirable in designated areas in order to establish and maintain a quality natural environment, to maximize visitor safety and experience, and to maintain a diversity of flora and fauna in the Park.*
- 3. To conduct and encourage selected research in order to expand the present knowledge of the natural environment of the Park, the ecological and evolutionary changes taking place, and the effects of human activities and development.*

Protection of the resource features and the natural processes inside the Park is Parks Canada's foremost responsibility. One way of ensuring

that the resources are protected while compatible visitor opportunities are allowed is through application of a land use zoning classification. This classification describes the management intent and possible recreational activities for different areas of the Park.

For Kejimikujik, four land use zones apply. These zones, illustrated on the land use zoning map, are: Class I — special areas, Class II — wilderness recreation areas, Class III — natural environment areas and Class IV — general outdoor recreation areas.

Features that are rare, outstanding or endangered and that are sensitive to visitor use are designated as Class I areas. Twenty-seven Class I areas consisting of features such as coastal plain species and the habitat of the osprey have been designated in Kejimikujik. A management program has been prepared for each of these areas describing measures required to ensure preservation of the resource. These measures include resource management techniques and required visitor controls. Visitor access is limited to one of these areas at the present time (the petroglyphs). Motorized access is not normally permitted to Class I areas.

In the Class II areas resources are allowed to evolve naturally without man's interference, and wilderness activities are supported. These activities include canoeing, hiking, skiing and wilderness camping. Motorized access is not normally permitted. In order to protect the wilderness experience that the Park area has long been famous for and to establish a large area where resources will evolve naturally, about seventy-five percent of the Park has been designated Class II.

The Class III area provides for dispersed forms of recreation such as bicycling, hiking and skiing. Interpretive trails can be established in the area and low speed scenic roads and motorized water travel are appropriate. The area serves as a "buffer" between the wilderness component of the Park and areas designated for more intensive forms of recreation such as the Jeremy Bay campground, and Merrymakedge beach. Normally the resources in the Class III area will be allowed to evolve without interference but management techniques may be applied

in order to improve the habitat for some faunal species or to ensure the continuation of a diversity of types of vegetation in the Park.

Areas that are or may be used for more highly developed forms of recreation or for Park administration are designated as Class IV. Appropriate facilities include those suitable in other parts of the Park such as hiking and skiing trails, canoe routes, bicycle trails and roads. Additional facilities that are appropriate include semi-serviced campsites, supervised beaches, concessions, interpretive structures and offices. Class IV lands encompass the administrative centre, Jeremy Bay campground, Merrymakedge Beach and area, the former fish hatchery and large picnic areas such as the one at Mills Falls. Resource management policies in these areas are intended to ensure that high quality recreation and interpretive opportunities are maintained, and may involve such practices as cutting trees, planting indigenous species and landscaping.

Two non-conforming land uses were identified. These are land uses that are not appropriate in the zoning classification applied to an area, but that will be retained for the present as they play an important role in the Park. However, no similar uses will be established in that particular zone. The non-conforming uses are both related to Peskowsk road; (a) where it passes through the Grafton Lake Class I area and (b) below the Lower Mersey River where it passes through the Class II wilderness area.

Resources in areas designated for development will be protected through careful design of facilities. Studies will be undertaken before any development to assess possible environmental impacts, and special care will be taken to ensure that facilities do not pollute the Park environment. A study on the impact visitors are having on the wilderness area of the Park will be carried out in order to determine the optimal locations and numbers of backcountry facilities.

In order not to upset the natural ecological balance of the Park the following policies will be followed:

- Care will be taken to prevent the introduction and establishment of non-indigenous flora and fauna.
- Outbreaks of insects and disease will be monitored but control will not normally be undertaken.
- Efforts will be directed towards the prevention and control of fires.
- Creel limit controls will be imposed on any lakes having excessive fishing pressure to avoid depletion and maintain fish stocks to the level of the productive capability of the waters.
- At Grafton Lake the natural processes were severely disrupted prior to the establishment of the Park, and to attempt to rectify the situation would jeopardize many unique habitats which have since been established as a result of this interference. Thus, the existing environment will be maintained though it is a result of a man-made dam.



The vegetation alongside the Parkway will be allowed to regenerate on the slope behind the ditch, except on some curves where this may cause visibility problems. This will provide a more scenic driving experience as the wide road corridor will be reduced.

A monitoring program is being undertaken to identify trends in specific mammal species with regard to population dynamics, distribution and range and habitat status. Initially this is being directed towards moose, deer and beaver, with eastern flying squirrel, fisher, mink, otter, red fox and weasel to be included at a later date. The location of important and sensitive nesting and feeding areas of certain avifauna species will also be studied along with monitoring of their reproductive success, habitat requirements and impact of human activities on these species. Osprey, wood duck, hooded merganser, eastern king bird, rusty blackbird, scarlet tanager and the great crested flycatcher will be studied. A long term monitoring project is being undertaken to provide information on frequency of occurrence, distribution, and habitat requirements of the two species of reptiles within the Park which are on the Worldwide Rare and Endangered List; the Blandings' turtle and the northern ribbon snake.



## CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

*To protect representative examples of the human heritage resources that are important for presenting the story of man's presence and activities in the Park.*

- 1. To protect the important human heritage resources from damage by man or nature; including the Indian petroglyphs, archaeological sites, and remnant examples of human activities characteristic of European settlement in the Park area.*

Studies of the Park have been made to identify important cultural features that could help visitors to appreciate the way of life of people who used the Park area before the Park was established. Many of these features are now protected in Class I areas. In co-operation with the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, additional studies will be made of each of the archaeological sites identified in the Park in order to determine their importance.

As explained previously, the resources of the Park are generally allowed to evolve naturally with certain exceptions. The policy of protecting important cultural resources and landscapes will normally involve arresting natural aging processes. For example, methods of protecting the Indian petroglyphs from natural weathering (wave action, erosion) are being studied. In the meantime, moulds are being made of each one so that at least a copy can be preserved for future generations, even if the original eventually wears away. Similarly, the old farm field area, now the focus for an interpretive trail, requires management lest it revert to woodland.

Other areas which have been extensively modified by man before the Park was established (farming, logging) but have not been identified as necessary to help visitors appreciate former uses of the Park lands will be allowed to evolve naturally.

## COMMUNICATION AND INTERPRETATION

*To provide opportunities for education, appreciation and awareness of the natural and human heritage resources within the southern interior of the Atlantic Coast Uplands Natural Region of Nova Scotia in general, and Kejimikujik National Park in particular.*

- 1. To interpret with factual information the physical, biological and human heritage features and processes within Kejimikujik National Park.*
- 2. To encourage Park visitors to explore and discover Kejimikujik National Park in ways which will foster an awareness and appreciation of its natural and human heritage values.*
- 3. To encourage public understanding and support for the objectives of the Parks Canada Program and management objectives specific to Kejimikujik.*
- 4. To provide focal points for interpretive contacts and to establish a dialogue with Park visitors.*
- 5. To acquire knowledge of the natural, historical and cultural elements of importance to Interpretation by conducting and encouraging selected research.*

The interpretation program is presented to help the public understand and enjoy the wealth of natural features and intriguing human history of the Park as well as to obtain an appreciation of the natural environment. It is aimed at stimulating better use and understanding of this Park and at improving public knowledge about the National Parks of Canada.

Interpretation programs presently deal with themes of land formation, glaciation, erosion and weathering; the Park's historical and cultural heritage; and evolution of flora and fauna in the Park. Information is communicated to visitors during guided paddles, interpretive walks, evening programs at the Outdoor Theatre, at wayside road signs, the information centre, and at an exhibit centre opposite Jakes Landing. Park newsletters and pamphlets are available throughout the Park. Special programs presented to service clubs, youth organizations and school classes are also used to communicate with the public.



These methods of communication, including both in-Park and extension programs, will be continued and the interpretation program will be strengthened by upgrading the main focal points for interpretation and providing other additional facilities (refer to the map of existing and proposed facilities).

The present visitor centre will be expanded so that it can better orient visitors to the Park themes and opportunities and provide a focus for interpretive contacts. More display space and a small interpretive theatre will be added, and the centre will be staffed year round.

If available on a permanent or long term basis from the Department of the Environment, the old warehouse at the former fish hatchery will be used as an exhibit area to interpret the aquatic flora and fauna in the Park. Office and workshop space for seasonal interpreters would also be incorporated into this structure. This combined exhibit/office space facility would replace the interpretive exhibit trailer and temporary interpretive office at Jakes Landing — both have outmoded facilities and are not suitable for present requirements.

Facilities will be provided that will encourage visitors to come into close contact with nature. To complement the existing nature trails, short interpretive trails will be developed starting at the Visitor Centre to explain the importance of the heath community on the Mersey River, and along the Mersey River near the Big Dam Lake road to interpret the evolution of the river ecosystem. A small viewing tower will be erected at the Kejimkujik Lake viewpoint to allow visitors an overlook of the Lake and aquatic environment of the Park, and to aid in the interpretation of the aquatic flora and fauna of the Park.

Additional interpretive programs and facilities may be offered in the future, pending the outcome of detailed studies of a number of areas in the Park that have resource features of interpretive importance. Interpretive studies are well underway on Kejimkujik Lake and at Fairy Bay and will proceed over the next five years in the Little River and Jim Charles Point areas.



## VISITOR USE AND ENJOYMENT

*To provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities compatible with the character of the Park, and to encourage visitors of varying interests and skills to experience and enjoy the Park.*

1. *To ensure the essential needs of visitors are met in order to enable them to enjoy the Park.*
2. *To encourage visitors of varying interests and skills to explore the Park.*
3. *To encourage visitation to the Park in all four seasons.*
4. *To maximize the opportunities for appreciation of the scenery along the existing parkway.*

The main policies pertaining to all development in the Park are listed in this section on visitor use as they are most directly relevant here, though related to the other objectives as well.

- Currently a variety of recreational opportunities are available to encourage visitors to use and enjoy the Park. These opportunities are ones such as camping, canoeing, hiking and swimming which are linked closely to the resources of the Park and that have emphasized the character of the Park area — a natural environment area where nature can easily be appreciated. Any new recreational opportunities to be encouraged will retain this same emphasis.
- New programs and facilities are introduced only where there is a demonstrated need, where they will not disturb the character of the Park, and particularly if they can help emphasize or support the Park interpretive program.
- Emphasis is placed on improving existing programs and facilities wherever possible in order to improve the quality of the visitors experience, and on encouraging private enterprise to provide new visitor services such as cabins and a laundromat outside of the Park.
- The facility development program will be modest and carried out and monitored over five to ten years as there is a general public concurrence that major developments in the future might impinge

upon the peace, solitude and naturalness that is the Park's primary attraction.

- The major development core areas and wilderness areas in the Park are to remain basically as they are now, with special emphasis placed on protecting the wilderness areas (see land use zoning map).

Following is the facility development program to be undertaken to help improve visitor opportunities and work towards achieving the visitor use objective (refer to map of existing and proposed facilities).

### (a) The Development Core Area

The development core area of the Park is the Class IV area near the entrance. Many facilities are now available in the Park core area and these will be maintained, including the supervised swimming beach, change house and canteen facilities, picnic areas, and semi-serviced and group camping facilities. Additional facilities that will be provided in this area, or that are being studied are:

- Tenting-only campsites. Park users have expressed the desire for more tenting-only campsites in the Park. There are, however, indications that private enterprise may be able to provide a quality camping experience adjacent to the Park which may relieve some of the pressure in the Park and provide more opportunities for tenters. Therefore, Parks Canada will not proceed with construction of more campsites unless the additional demand now clearly demonstrated is not met through co-operation with private enterprise in the near future. If the construction of additional campsites inside the Park is warranted, then up to sixty tenting-only campsites will be developed in the area between Jim Charles Point and the existing tenting-only campsites. Some sites would be drive-in sites, though for tenters only, with the remainder being of the walk-in variety.
- Outdoor Education Education Centre. Many groups including school groups and outdoor organizations have expressed interest in having a facility inside the Park with sleeping accommodation, a kitchen and a classroom. It has not yet been

demonstrated that sufficient use would be made to justify the expense of constructing a new building. Further studies are being undertaken to determine demand and identify the types of structures which could meet the requirements.

- Boating Concession. The canoe/bicycle concession at Jakes Landing is now being redesigned to better serve visitors. A parking lot large enough to accommodate both day users and those taking extended trips is being constructed and a new canoe/bicycle storage building and office will be built.



(b) Wilderness Area

The wilderness recreation opportunities are a key component of the Kejimikujik National Park experience and will be carefully protected. Wilderness use is rapidly growing and until more information is available on the impact of these users on the visitor experiences of one another and the environment, only minor expansion of backcountry facilities will be undertaken. New facilities will include:

- The Channel Lake and Peskowsk Brook trails (described in section (d) below) will be developed with two primitive campsites on each.
- A new primitive campsite will be constructed across from Norway Island on the south shore of Kejimikujik Lake. This will encourage visitors to use that portion of the lake, dispersing the user load, and will accommodate visitors who may be starting their canoe trips at the Lower Mersey River, where the Peskowsk road will be closed to public vehicular traffic from mid-June through Labour Day. For this latter reason, another site may also be required on Cranberry Lake.
- A small picnic area will be developed at the head of Jeremy Bay to serve novice canoeists who will be encouraged to practice in these normally quiet waters. Another picnic area will be developed on Indian Point to serve day canoeists.
- The segment of the Peskowsk Road below the Lower Mersey River will be closed to vehicular traffic from mid-June through Labor day, thereby improving the wilderness canoeing opportunities in the southern area of the Park during the peak visitor season. This segment of the road will be open in the spring and fall allowing fishermen and canoeists automobile access to the lakes in the southern portion of the Park.
- A small parking lot/picnic area will be provided near the seasonal closure point at the Lower Mersey River. This will serve canoeists who wish to start their trips from this point and will provide a pleasant picnic area for other Park users as well.
- The road from the Peskowsk Lake road to the Fire Tower will be closed year-round to public traffic because it crosses two canoe portages. The McGinty Lake road will be closed and used as a hiking trail.

#### (c) Year-Round Park Use

Presently the majority of Park visitors use the Park in July and August, leaving it virtually unused throughout the remainder of the year. The shoulder and winter seasons have much beauty to offer the visitor, and four season use of the Park will be encouraged by modifying some facilities to make them suitable for shoulder and winter season use.



- Winter use of the Park will be encouraged by enclosing the kitchen shelter at the Merrymakedge picnic area. This will allow day visitors to step out of the cold and have a meal or a cup of tea. A shelter to be located at Peskowsk Brook will also be enclosed, and can serve as a rest area or overnight shelter for skiers or snowshoers. Similar use will be made of Mason's cabin.
- A loop of the Jeremys Bay campground will remain open on winter weekends with a heated washroom and ploughed sites.
- The expanded visitor centre will be operated on a year-round basis.



#### (d) Access and Circulation

Several means are now available to help visitors explore the Park. There is a trail system, canoe routes, and a variety of roads. New transportation modes to help visitors explore the Park environment will be introduced and existing circulation systems will be improved.

- A shuttle service will be established if a suitable concessionaire can be found. A van or mini-bus towing a canoe trailer will be available throughout the Class III and IV areas of the Park, encouraging visitors to leave their cars behind and hike or canoe, knowing the service is available to return them to their point of origin. A charge will be levied for this service. Parks Canada will also encourage the establishment of a shuttle service to the Park from communities in the region. This service could link with other forms of public transit, such as bus lines.
- Use of Kejimikujik Lake and the Mersey River below Jakes Landing will continue to be available for those with power boats. This is a traditional activity and allows visitors not able to canoe to appreciate the lake environment so important in the Park. Control over motorboats will be effected by the retention of the 15 km/h speed limit. A water tour service operated as a concession is being considered to provide visitors not interested or able to canoe or motor boat with the opportunity to appreciate the environment of Kejimikujik Lake and to serve as a water taxi to various points on it.
- A variety of opportunities for bicycling will be provided including construction of a bicycle trail that will run from the Jeremys Bay campground north to the intersection of the campground road and the Big Dam Lake road, following an old logging road with some additional loops added. This trail will be wide enough so that it can also be used as an emergency vehicle exit from the Jeremys Bay campground. Additionally, a second phase of the bicycle trail will be constructed alongside of the Parkway if the first phase proves popular. This phase will be attractive to cyclists as it joins the main points of

interest in the core area of the Park. The speed limit on the Parkway has been lowered to 60 km/h (kilometers per hour) to provide a safer opportunity for bicyclists, and to better enable visitors touring in automobiles to enjoy the scenery.

- A loop trail for overnight hikes following the existing Big Dam Lake hiking trail will be developed from Frozen Ocean Lake to Channel Lake and back to the point of origin at Big Dam Lake. Another looped trail will be developed in the southern portion of the Park to provide hikers with an alternative route and to disperse use (See map of proposed facilities)
- A hiking-strolling trail will be developed from Jeremys Bay campground to Jake's Landing, via the existing Mersey River trail and a river crossing. The trail will link campers at Jeremys Bay with the canoeing/bicycling concession, allowing them to make better use of that facility, and will link the campers with other day use attractions along the eastern shoreline of Kejimikujik Lake. A portion of this trail based on the old lakeshore road starting at Merrymakedge beach will be surfaced and made suitable for wheelchair visitors. An automobile parking lot in this area will be redesigned so that elderly and handicapped visitors can view the lake environment from their automobiles and to provide easier access to the trail for these visitors. A small segment of the parking lot will be extended towards the Lake.
- There will be no snowmobiling by the public permitted inside the Park because such opportunities exist outside the Park. Quiet forms of winter recreation such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing will be encouraged by designating trails for these activities and insulating shelters for use as warming huts.
- Horseback riding will be permitted on designated Park roads.
- The Big Dam Lake road will be upgraded and a small portion rerouted to avoid conflict with an interpretive trail to be developed on the Mersey River.



## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

*To operate and maintain the Park in order to maximize public safety and convenience in the use and enjoyment of the services and facilities; achieve optimum environmental quality and resource protection, and fulfill the departmental objectives of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.*

- 1. To establish standards of operation and maintenance necessary for optimum visitor enjoyment and protection of services, facilities and resources.*
- 2. To contract out services and the operation of facilities where such capability exists locally at a reasonable cost.*
- 3. To consider public safety as a priority in development and operation of the Park.*
- 4. To encourage involvement by Indians in the operation and development of Park facilities and services.*
- 5. To promote public understanding and willing compliance with Park regulations, and understanding of administration, management and maintenance programs and procedures.*
- 6. To operate revenue collection systems in a manner so as to minimize public inconvenience.*
- 7. To operate an efficient backcountry registration system which will provide optimum distribution of use throughout the backcountry and increase visitor safety.*
- 8. To establish and maintain ongoing dialogue with the general public and associated interest groups on park related events, policies and programs.*

Implementation of the plan will have some direct impacts on operation and maintenance of the Park. Should the Department of the Environment turn over all the buildings associated with the former fish hatchery to Parks Canada, much needed additional office and workshop space would be made available. The former residence, now leased on a yearly basis for use as office space by the warden staff, would be available permanently. The seasonal interpretive staff could take over offices to be built in the old warehouse (which would be renovated for use as an exhibit centre).

Additional manpower will be necessary to construct and operate the proposed facilities. These needs will be met by contracting for construction of major new construction projects and operating new services as concessions whenever this is possible. Thus, for instance, the shuttle service will be operated by a concessionaire. Many of the facilities to be developed are not large in scale, such as trails, and can be carried out by the Park work crew.

Year-round operation of the visitor centre can be accommodated by locating work space in the expanded structure for one of the Parks permanent employees, who would then attend to visitors when seasonal employees are not on staff.



## REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

*To promote and encourage the establishment of land uses, developments and activities adjacent to the Park that are compatible and complementary to those within the Park.*

- 1. To co-operate with provincial, regional, and local agencies, interest groups, and individuals to ensure that complementary recreational facilities and visitor services including accommodation, are available adjacent to the Park.*
- 2. To encourage compatible land use management practices on adjacent lands to protect the Park's natural resources.*
- 3. To encourage the management of aquatic resources surrounding the Park consistent with protection of the Park's resources.*
- 4. to co-operate in the establishment of a regional canoeing system.*
- 5. To liaise periodically with the local people of the Park region on matters of mutual concern.*

Kejimikujik National Park is only one element of a system of recreational facilities throughout the Province operated by governments, private organizations, and individuals. Opportunities offered inside the Park are intended to be complementary to, rather than competitive with, opportunities offered at these other locations and co-operation is essential to ensure mutual benefits. As well, the Park is linked to the area surrounding it by natural ties. The resources of the Park will be affected by actions and land uses outside of it, and vice versa, so it will be to the benefit of both the Park and area residents if land uses within and outside of the Park are compatible.

The following policies will help ensure that the Park fulfills its role in the region.

- Encouragement will be given to entrepreneurs to provide visitor facilities outside the Park by offering professional advice and guidance on their interests relative to the Park, and by encouraging appropriate agencies to make funds available for development. In this connection, it is noted that assistance in the form of grants, and interest assistance on loans is made available to persons engaged in providing tourist accommodation and some related facilities in tourism destination areas under the DREE sub-agreement for

tourism development. The Kejimikujik National Park area is considered to be a part of the Annapolis Basin Tourism Destination Area.

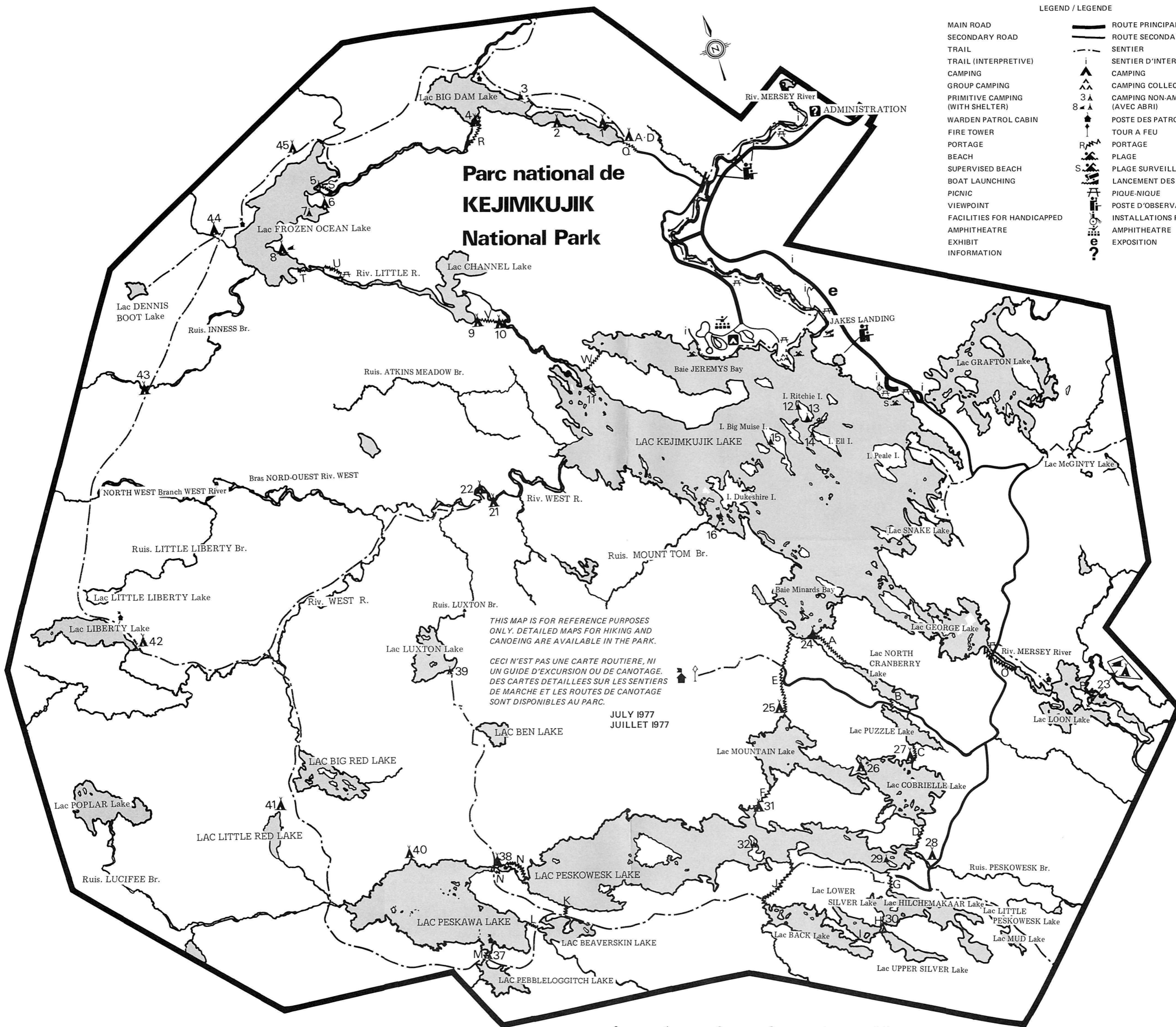
- Parks Canada will monitor the quality of water entering the Park and identify pollution sources, and work with forestry officials to ensure that the effect of forestry operations exterior to the Park on the Park environment is minimized.
- Detailed maps are now available showing canoe routes inside the Park. These maps are part of a series describing canoe routes in Nova Scotia. Parks Canada will work with the Department of Lands and Forests to encourage the protection of the canoeing opportunity on the Shelburne River, a canoe route that some Park visitors use.

Three parcels of Indian lands, illustrated on the maps, are contained inside the park. Indians will be permitted free and unrestricted access through the Park to these lands.

Parks Canada would like to cooperate with local committees and other organizations interested in development in the Park region. Information can be provided on demand for various types of services and planning advice can be made available.

As well, Parks Canada will continue to work with agencies, organizations and individuals to encourage complementary land use outside of Kejimikujik National Park. Liason will be maintained with various planning groups who represent an interest in the area.

Park users or other interested parties are encouraged to express ideas or concerns with respect to the future of the Park to the Park Superintendent at any time.



**Parc national de  
KEJIMKUJIK  
National Park**

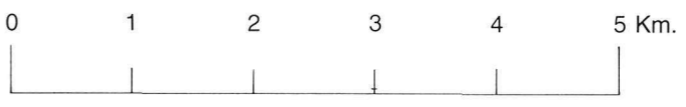
**LEGEND / LEGENDE**

—	ROUTE PRINCIPALE
—	ROUTE SECONDAIRE
- - -	SENTIER
- - -	SENTIER D'INTERPRETATION
▲	CAMPING
▲▲	CAMPING COLLECTIF
▲▲	CAMPING NON-AMENAGE (AVEC ABRRI)
▲▲	POSTE DES PATROUILLEURS
▲	TOUR A FEU
R	PORTAGE
⌋	PLAGE
⌋	PLAGE SURVEILLEE
⌋	LANCEMENT DES EMBARCATIONS
⌋	PIQUE-NIQUE
⌋	POSTE D'OBSERVATION
⌋	INSTALLATIONS POUR LES HANDICAPES
⌋	AMPHITHEATRE
⌋	EXPOSITION

THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. DETAILED MAPS FOR HIKING AND CANOEING ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PARK.

CECI N'EST PAS UNE CARTE ROUTIERE, NI UN GUIDE D'EXCURSION OU DE CANOTAGE. DES CARTES DETAILLEES SUR LES SENTIERS DE MARCHÉ ET LES ROUTES DE CANOTAGE SONT DISPONIBLES AU PARC.

JULY 1977  
JUILLET 1977



Parks Canada Protects and Interprets  
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