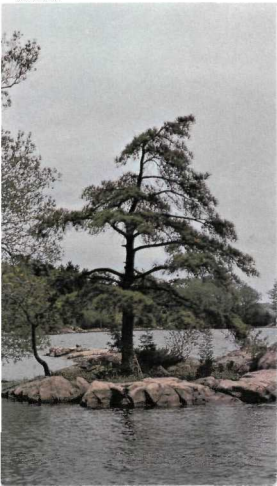


St. Lawrence Islands National Park

Ontario



Cover: Endymion Island; below: Iritimian



Introducing a park and an idea

Canada covers half a continent, fronts on three oceans and stretches from the extreme Arctic more than halfway to the equator. There is a great variety of landforms in this immense country, and Canada's national parks have been created to preserve important examples for you and for generations to come.

The National Parks Act of 1930 specifies that national parks are "dedicated to the people... for their benefit, education and enjoyment" and must remain "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Scattered among the famous Thousand Islands (actually there are some 1,800) in the upper St. Lawrence River between Kingston and Brockville, St. Lawrence Islands National Park consists of 17 islands and about 80 rocky islets. The park also contains a small mainland headquarters property at Mallorytown Landing. Established in 1904 and covering a total land area of not more than 360 acres, this is the smallest of Canada's national parks.

The park environment

Each national park has its own character, its unique story as a living outdoor museum. The St. Lawrence Islands is that of a submerged landscape, in which former hills stand out as islands or shoals, while old valleys and depressions now form the channels in the waterways.

Beau Rivage Island



Other facilities

A recreational area has been developed at Mallorytown Landing, across the Thousand Islands Parkway from the campgrounds. Parking for about 250 cars and boat trailers is available. The area contains picnic facilities, a beach and swimming area supervised by lifeguards, a children's playground, change houses for swimmers, public toilets and a boat ramp.

With the exception of the camping facilities mentioned by the park, there is no other accommodation on park lands. Commercial businesses all along the river cater to the needs of the traveller.

How to enjoy the park

Season—The park is open all year, although general weather conditions limit the season to May through September.

Swimming and sunbathing on the park's excellent beaches, canoeing, boating, water-skiing and camping are the favourite summer activities.

Boating—The waters of the St. Lawrence River around the islands and off Mallorytown Landing are not within the park, but park staff will provide information on services to anyone cruising through the islands or boating on the river. There is a mainland launching area in the park at Mallorytown Landing, suitable for small boats drawing little water.

The islands

The captivating scenery of this unusual park owes its origin to erosion of ancient rocks before and during the last Ice Age. This disrupted old drainage systems and forced the waters of the Great Lakes to flood out over the land to find an outlet to the sea. This way the present course of the St. Lawrence River—a giant waterway penetrating deep into the interior of North America—was formed.

From the main body of the Canadian Shield a narrow neck of precambrian rocks extends southwards between Kingston and Brockville. This rock bridge, called the Frontenac Axis, connects the Adirondack Mountains of New York State with the rest of the Canadian Shield.

As the park islands lie within this area, most of them consist of granite, gneiss and quartzite of precambrian age. Shallow seas that once lapped against the ancient upland deposited other rock material on top of the old bedrock, but most of this has eroded away. Yet patches of such sedimentary rocks can still be seen, and one island, Gordon Island, is composed entirely of such younger rocks.

An excellent guidebook about the geology of the park, "The National Parks in Ontario"—Geological Survey, Miscellaneous Report No. 7, may be obtained at the park headquarters or by writing to the Queen's Printer, Ottawa.

Plant life

The park is situated near the northeastern limit of what is known as the deciduous forest of North America. Typical trees of this forest type are oak, hickory, maple, butternut and white pine. Pitch pine and red juniper, two forest species rarely found in Canada, occur in the park. Many plants more typical of southern regions are also found, including such shrub species as the witch hazel, American hazelnut, arrowwood and several species of redclovers, as well as herbaceous plants such as the hoary tick-trefoil, yellow pimpernel, mayapple and bushclover. Wild garlic grows in the park, as does oblong spleenwort, a fern usually found in the shade of more southerly forests.

Many of the islands have been cut over, brushed out or burned over by ground fires, so that little of the original vegetation remains. Several introduced species of exotic plants are notable throughout the park.

Probably the best islands on which to observe the natural vegetation are Georgian (west end) and Mulcaster Islands, as conditions there have not been greatly disturbed. The London Bay area is also in relatively pristine condition.

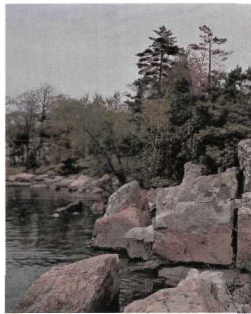
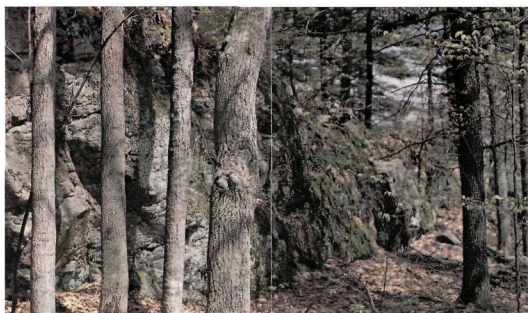
Animal life

Because of the small size of the islands one cannot expect to see many large mammals, but occasionally a white-tailed deer may be spotted. There are many cottontail rabbits, raccoons and squirrels on the islands and in the mainland headquarters area. The small animals of the park are usually of species common to the deciduous forest.

Young great horned owl



Mallorytown Landing; Aubrey Island



Boats can be rented and water taxis hired from many commercial marinas on both sides of the river for access to the park islands. All the park islands have docks in sheltered coves, and some have anchor buoys set in deep water for the use of larger boats, or when dock spaces are occupied.

During July and August the park docks are heavily used and you may have to lay your boat beside another boat, or stern into the dock. The maximum period any one boat can use a dock is 48 hours.

Nautical Charts 1421, 1420, 1419 and 1418 cover the St. Lawrence River from Kingston to Brockville in that order and may be purchased at a nominal fee from the Canadian Hydrographic Service, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa, or at most marinas and hardware stores between Kingston and Brockville.

Boat operators must be prepared to be inspected by Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police river patrols while in Canadian waters, and must comply with all safety and navigational regulations. **Fishing**—Good fishing for black bass, pike, pickerel and muskellunge is available in river waters surrounding the park.

Since these waters are not within the park, the fishing regulations of Ontario and New York State apply. **Snowmobilers**—These must stay on trails designated for their use. No other motorized land vehicles for general visitor use are allowed on the islands of St. Lawrence Islands National Park. **Dogs and cats**—may accompany visitors into the park. For protection of park animals, however, dogs must be kept on leash. No permit or vaccination certificate is needed.

Some don'ts

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 wildlife, including birds and animals, and all plants, trees and rocks are to be left undisturbed. Even the wildflowers are not to be picked; they must be left for others to enjoy. Feeding, touching or molesting wild animals is not permitted.

Fires

Campfires may be set only in fireplaces provided for this purpose, or in outdoor portable stoves. Barbecues may be used only in campgrounds or picnic areas, and all coals must be dumped into existing camp fireplaces.

Anyone finding an unattended fire should try to extinguish it, or if it is beyond his control, report it at once to the nearest park employee.

but numerous species belonging to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence mixedwood forest also occur.

Most of the inland birds common to Eastern Canada are seen in the park at some time during the year, most often during spring and fall migration. Song and vesper sparrows nest in the area and white-throated sparrows are abundant during spring migration. Grackles and red-winged blackbirds breed in and around the marshes, while red-eyed vireos and wood pewees inhabit the timbered areas. Robins, yellow warblers, bobolinks, Baltimore orioles and meadowlarks are common in the more open areas.

On the shores and in the water of nearly all the park areas ring-billed and herring gulls, blue herons, black-crowned night herons and black ducks can be seen. Spotted sandpipers and kingfishers are found near the water's edge everywhere.

Park history

The Iroquois Indians, who used the Thousand Islands as camping spots during their travels on the St. Lawrence River, called them "Maitiousa" (Garden of the Great Spirit). Frontenac and La Salle passed through the islands in 1673 en route to confer with the Indians at Cataragi (now Kingston). Many a fur trading vessel and ship filled with immigrants to New France and later to the Nation of Canada sailed through the park area.

Where to get information

Detailed information may be obtained from the park office at Mallorytown Landing. Uniformed staff will answer questions, provide maps, outline travel routes, and refer visitors to the various areas and facilities in the park.

Park wardens, though not primarily responsible for general information, will help visitors whenever possible.

Additional information about the park is available from the Superintendent, St. Lawrence Islands National Park, Mallorytown Landing, Ontario. For information about other national parks, write to the Director, National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 400 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa 4, Ontario.

Names of many of the islands are tied to historical happenings. After the War of 1812, the British surveyed the Upper St. Lawrence River and the director of the survey, Capt. William Fitzwilliam Owen, named many of the islands to preserve memories of the War: Endymion, Mermad and Camolet Islands were named after British gunboats which operated on the Great Lakes; Gordon after Commander James Gordon, Royal navy; Grenadier after the British guard regiment; and Stovin after Maj.-General Richard Stovin, Bridge Island, which served as a fortified post protecting the St. Lawrence River water route during the War of 1812, is commemorated by a National Historic Site cairn at Mallorytown Landing.

Nine of the park islands were owned by the Chippewa Indian tribe until 1856, when they were returned to the custody of the federal government. In 1904 these islands were given park status and in the same year the Mallory family, founders of Mallorytown, donated its property at Mallorytown Landing for use as a national park.

Although the park was initially established in 1904, it has been expanded since then by the acquisition of additional islands and of lands surrounding the mainland area.

How to get there

Only the mainland area at Mallorytown Landing, 15 miles west of Brockville on the Thousand Islands Parkway, is accessible by car. The Macdonald-Carrier Freeway (Highway 401) runs roughly parallel to the St. Lawrence River, with highway No. 2 and the Thousand Islands Parkway providing an alternate route close to the river between Kingston and Brockville.

From New York State, the Macdonald-Carrier Freeway is reached via U.S. Highway 81 across the Thousand Island Bridge, and via U.S. Highways 37 and 68 across the Johnstown Bridge between Prescott and Ogdensburg, N.Y. The Thousand Island Bridge rests on two of the park islands, the Johnstown Bridge is east of the park.

Brockville and Kingston are served by daily bus transportation and are on the mainline of the Canadian National Railway between Toronto and Montreal.

Where to stay

Camping brings you into the closest contact with the natural environment and the values for which the park was created. There is a small developed campground at Mallorytown Landing and another on Grenadier Island. Camping is permitted on all park islands with the exception of Squaw, Mulcaster and McDonald Islands, which are day-use areas only. All the park islands are equipped with outdoor cooking facilities, picnic tables, docks and wells. Garbage is picked up daily. Camping fees are collected at Mallorytown Landing and at the developed campground on Grenadier Island. The national camping season is from early May to late September.

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