

Restore Algonquin Park to Original Uncivilized State

The hands of the clock are being turned back in Algonquin Park. Set aside in 1803 as "a public park and forest reservation, fish and game preserve, health resort and pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of the Province," the 2,700 square mile park was becoming "too civilized."

Now the department of lands and forests which administers the park is going to bring it back to its primitive state, in part, at least.

In the old days, a railway line ran across the southern end of the park. Cottage sites and those for commercial camps were permitted under long term leases. Then came a highway and more leases were taken out. Eventually there were more than 500 leases. Cottagers built docks, began to post "no trespassing" signs. More commercial enterprise wanted to come in with what government officials feared would be a "Coney Island" instead of a quiet, peaceful near-wilderness.

Meantime, lateral roads began to extend from the single highway, most of them timber roads, for the park had been logged from its earliest days. The airplane also began a general invasion, with commercial operators, some outside the park entirely, flying fishing parties in to the more isolated lakes. There were many protests from sportsmen who had paddled and portaged for days to reach some of the famous speckled trout waters only to find a party of airborne fishermen there ahead of them.

Now, Lands and Forest minister Clare E. Mapledoram has called a halt. As leases expire, the Crown is buying them up. In the first year, 30 leases, five of them commercial, were purchased by the government. The Dept. also has its eyes on those lateral roads and in some cases is closing them off with bulldozers and letting them revert to nature. Aircraft landing in the park today is limited to six landing areas where they must stand inspection to see that rules and regulations are carried out.

Parking and camping space adjacent to the highway has been available

for years but now it is being greatly extended. The spaces have toilet facilities, water and fireplaces, the latter helping greatly to reduce the fire hazard created by indiscriminate fire building.

The park has a museum, one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in the province, which contains flora and fauna of the park, famous among biologists and naturalists throughout the world. There is plenty of room for the man who wants to set up a tent beside a quiet lake, but there is no fixed tenure.

One of the most attractive features of Algonquin Park are the nature hikes over well-marked trails and with expert guides to describe the birds, trees, animals and reptiles.

For the fishermen there are the speckled trout lakes and streams, the big lake trout, excellent black bass fishing and, in at least one park lake, the hybrid splake or wassigo, the cross between the speckled and lake trout which has been developed in recent years in the Department's research laboratories at Maple, just north of Toronto.

No hunting is permitted. Deer stroll casually on and along the highway or bag at the back doors of cottages, hotels or camps. The black bear is abundant and, within a quarter of a mile of headquarters at Carbe Lake, they may be seen any evening feeding at a natural amphitheatre which is used as a garbage dump by one of the major hotels.

Beaver also may be seen at work almost anywhere in the park, especially along a narrow road which runs from the main highway to Lake Opongo, largest lake in the park. There are martens, mink, fisher and an occasional moose to be seen and photographed.

In announcing the decision to bring Algonquin Park back to its natural state, Mr. Mapledoram pointed out that all these things had been threatened by the encroachment of "too much civilization." There is plenty of room along the highway and plenty of people visited the museum and took the nature hikes last year. But to the north, where the lonely canoeist can, within a few minutes, be out of sight of automobiles and seldom see anyone for days other than a park ranger, Algonquin Park is to be peaceful and quiet as it was in the past.

Church School Students Are Successful in Tests

Each year the Dominion Anglican Church House in Toronto sets a number of test papers for Sunday Schools of the various Dioceses in Canada. A number of students of the parish of Georgetown and Glen Williams participated and received favourable results. A great deal of credit is also due to the teachers who encourage their pupils to write the tests and instruct them during the year.

Honour students at St. George's in course twelve were Karen Notton 78 per cent and Marilyn Sunnucks 72 per cent. In course nine William Montgomery and James Fiddler were top boys in their class.

Honour students at St. Alban's in course twelve were: Joan Davies 93 per cent; Marlene Kemshead 92 per cent; Carolyn Hancock 89 per cent; Christine Mathews 88 per cent; Carol Symons 80 per cent; Douglas Sargent was top boy in his class and Jackie Thompson received special mention as a nine year old who attempted a paper set for twelve year olds and received 60 per cent.

In the Junior Graded and Uniform Course, honour students were: Betty Sargent 87 per cent; Karen Korzak, 84 per cent; Barbara Hills 84 per cent and Graham Hawkesby 72 per cent. Certificates issued by the Dept. of Religious Education will be awarded to those who were successful in securing pass marks.

FARM NEWS

ARMY WORMS AGAIN?

At time of writing, July 15th, no army worms have been discovered or at least none have been reported to the agricultural office in Halton. However, according to a recent report from H. W. Goble, Provincial Entomologist, outbreaks have been discovered in the counties of Kent, Oxford, Bruce, Lanark and Waterloo. 75 per cent of the grain kernels were found on the ground in one large field in Oxford county. So it would seem that in spite of the predictions that we don't usually get an outbreak two years in succession, this pest which reached serious proportions last year, is on the march again.

Infestations reported to date are localized but farmers are advised to walk through all their spring grain, corn and pasture. Signs that this pest might be prevalent are as follows: Oats, kernels on the ground and the leaves gone; barley, leaves and awns gone; droppings on the ground; striped caterpillars under lumps of earth or in cracks in the ground.

It is to be hoped that there is no major attack but should you find crop damage, directions for control may be had from the office of your Agricultural Representative.

STARK WHEAT, OATS PICKED FOR C.N.E.

W. O. Brownridge is busy these days planning an entry of sheaves for the C.N.E. which will be sponsored by the Esqueaux Agricultural Society.

Mr. Brownridge has secured a fine specimen of wheat measuring 5' 11" from Nelson Stark, and is using them for the sheaves which he is tying. The society makes an entry each year in the sheaf class.

Keen Competition for Bowling Club Trophy

Competition for the club cup has been keen this season at the lawn bowling club.

Early in the year, Walter Gray and Erv Thompson took the cup from W. H. Kentner and Claude Kentner who had held it during the winter. The new holders, successfully held off three challengers, but on Saturday night they lost it to Jim Richardson and George Burt who now will be defenders.

The Gray-Thompson combination beat challengers Norm Icam and Claude Kentner, Bill McDowell and Jack Williamson and W. G. Bell and Jim Richardson during their cup defence.



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The latest in cab comfort and safety. Inside you can count on the same ultra-modern touch—softer seat action that reduces driver fatigue, a new instrument cluster that can be read at a glance, and more durable construction throughout. The new Pile-

completely surrounds the side windows, reducing possibility of breakage. A wide-view wrap-around rear window is available as an extra-cost option.

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