

Trips through time

Agawa Rock. Kakabeka Falls. Ouimet Canyon. The names evoke visions of exotic places half a world away.

It's true - they are exotic, and beautiful, and wild. AND they are all in Ontario.

In fact, these are just three of the many provincial parks in northern Ontario where visitors can indulge a love of nature, a fondness for outdoor activities and a desire to learn more about the province's past.

Until recently, some of the features in these parks were difficult to reach. Visitors were often unaware of the significance of their surroundings.

That's what has prompted several projects administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and financed through the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The result: hiking trails, exhibits and special viewing areas, all designed to highlight some of the province's most breath-taking scenery - and at the same time, ensure its protection.

"Visitors can now catch a glimpse of some fascinating aspects of our province's natural and cultural history," says Natural Resources Minister Michael Harris. "And, when they get that glimpse, those areas, and in fact the entire province, will

mean more to them."

Quimet Canyon is a good example of this. Located about 30 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, it is one of Ontario's most outstanding natural attractions.

Hiking trails now give visitors an excellent view of one of "our grandest canyons". Displays and exhibits explain its unusual features: the lichen clinging to the steep sides of the canyon, the dense sub-Arctic vegetation on the canyon floor, and the distinctive rock formations.

Because it is an unparalleled example of Ontario's natural heritage, Ouimet Canyon has been designated a nature reserve. So, although visitors are welcome to hike and even bring a picnic, they are asked to stay on the trails and in the designated use areas.

By contrast, Marten River Provincial Park, about 40 kilometres northwest of North Bay, offers a wide range of activities, from camping and fishing in summer, to cross-country skiing in winter.

But its main attraction is a logging camp that the Ministry of Natural Resources has carefully reconstructed. The camp is a reminder of the time, more than 50 years ago, when the Marten River played an important role in Ontario's logging industry.

Further evidence of our pioneering spirit can be found at Kakabeka Falls, just west of Thunder Bay.

Here, from special viewing platforms visitors can imagine how the falls must have looked to the voyageurs who had to portage around them as they headed west more than 200 years ago.

Those who want to delve deeper into Ontario's past should take a trip to Lake Superior Provincial Park.

In addition to camping, canoeing, backpacking and

swimming, the park - on the east shore of the lake north of Sault Ste. Marie - features a hiking trail that leads to Agawa Rock. There, generations of Algonkian-speaking Indians used red ochre to paint dramatic images of historical events and figures from mythology. Displays explain the rock paintings and provide insight into the lives of these first Ontarians more than 300 years ago.

Many other fine examples of Indian rock painting can be found in Quetico Provincial Park,

near Atikokan.

At the park, a new visitor centre is under construction. When completed, it will house various displays, exhibits and films describing the unmatched features of this wilderness park, and its more than 1,500 kilometres of canoe routes.

People who wish to explore the park in this way will find forests, lakes and rock formations that have remained virtually unchanged for decades. Experienced staff are on hand at all of the park's entry stations to provide

canoeists with the information they need.

More projects are being planned to highlight the natural and cultural features in Ontario's provincial parks. The Minister of Northern Affairs, Leo Bernier, expects that these projects will give a big boost to the province's tourism industry.

"Our northern parks will interest people from all over North America," he says. "They're unusual, they're well-preserved, and they have important stories to tell about the history of this province."

Golf news

Open to all members and non-members to learn the basics of golf. The clinic is to be run by Tom Price the golf professional out of the Thunder Bay Golf Club sponsored by the Aguasabon Golf Club and

the Thunder Bay Golf Association at no charge to the public.

Times July 11th.
Juniors 11:00 a.m.
Adults 2:30 p.m.
Adults 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS TRAVELCADE 85

Clinics and Open Hours Schedule
The Sports Travelcade will present the following clinics in Terrace Bay.

July 10

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Tennis
1 court - youth
1 court - adult

July 12

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Soccer
Youth Only

Open Hours:

July 10, 11, 12

Time:

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Wealth of information available. Drop by and talk to the Travelcade Staff. Sponsored by Terrace Bay Recreation Association.



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