

## A CHANGE OF SEASON IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

The crisp autumn air substantially changes the complexion of Provincial Parks. Although park services are reduced during the early days of autumn and recreation and interpretive programs have ended for the season, there is still a wealth of "natural entertainment" left to enjoy.

The parks situated along the north or south shores will be boasting the strongest winds of the windsurfing season. The water temperature is still appealing at 70 and the post-summer winds make windsurfing conditions more favorable than the popular months of July and August. Enthusiasts of this growing pollution-free sport are always in search of that perfect wind.

The sand dunes provide the natural shelter for the less active visitor who may wish to picnic or wander the beach for treasures that escaped the hands of tourists and locals alike.

The Provincial Parks provide an excellent palate of autumn colors which incorporate the full spectrum of reds and golds. The hardwood trees slowly begin to dispense of their leaves in the latter days of autumn while softwoods shelter the vulnerable fields and estuaries.

The departure of the Canada Geese is noted during this time, however, the stately blue heron does not prepare for departure until the latter days of autumn. The osprey will begin their trek along with the heron but can be seen hovering over their nests in a number of our Provincial Parks.

A number of nature trails within the park system provide easy access to hiking enthusiasts. Although the trails may be modified slightly during the autumn, they still remain "user friendly" and trails such as the one at Strathgartney Provincial Park have a resting area which is ideal for a leisurely autumn picnic. It is also ideal for fall color display.

Whichever way people choose to enjoy nature in this Province, the Provincial Parks offer a unique and serene natural experience.