

## Provincial Parks - Dressed in White

To some, the end of summer and the close of camping ring the end of the year for Provincial Park visits. They think Provincial Parks close on Labor Day. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact less than 20% of the people who visit Provincial Parks do so for camping. At this time of year you don't have to compete with others to have your barbecue at a specific site. The parks may look closed but this is true only in the sense that there are no staff on duty. All of the parks are open providing you with an opportunity to try out your cross country skiing and snowshoeing skills.

On a sunny day why not go on a bird watch, along some of the summer trails and campground loops. Keep your eyes open for animal tracks and try to figure which animal was there and what he was doing. Bring the whole family along and if you want a little protection from the elements while cooking lunch, cook shelters are open in most of our parks. A call to the Provincial Parks Branch will let you know which ones are open.

Many of our parks are ideally suited for tobogganing and cross country skiing. At three of the parks (Brudenell River, Brookvale and Mill River) there are groomed cross country ski trails. A combination exercise loop and bird watch may satisfy all family members. In addition, at Brookvale there is down hill skiing with both rope and T-bar tows. To provide enjoyment for those who would rather sit on boards than stand on them, toboggans are available and a hill has been set aside for tobogganing.

Provincial Parks are for everyone, during all seasons. Why not make use of what is yours.

