

Increased use of electricity reflects expanding economy



VISITORS CRAMMED INTO NATIONAL PARK DESPITE WET, COLD SUMMER

PLACES SECOND IN CANADA

National Park attracts million visitors in 1962

Prince Edward Island's National Park, reflecting the record tourist season of 1962, drew over a million visitors for the first time and placed second among Canada's National Parks last year.

Despite one of the wettest, coldest and darkest summers in the island's history, a total of 1,060,000 visitors swarmed through the park, a mark second only to Banff Park, Alta., which recorded 1,214,337 visitors. The 1962 figure was 233,438 higher than that of 1961.

Although there were definitely many more people here as indicated by increased ferry and other transportation figures, says park superintendent Eric Kipping, "it must be remembered we count the number of visits to the park by Islanders and non-Islanders alike, as we are primarily interested in the extent of use of the park and its facilities."

IMPROVEMENTS
Development of existing campgrounds was completed, with improvement of tent and trailer lots, roads, completion of underground electrical, water and sewer systems, and construction of a central laundry building, toilet and shower buildings, a new picnic building, kitchens, shelters, and fire control posts. Three thousand spruce trees were transplanted, and considerable landscaping carried out. Construction of a new semi-serviced campground on Rustie Island was begun.

VHF radio system is in operation.



PARK SUPERINTENDENT ERIC KIPPING

ation, linking the campgrounds, large picnic and individual picnicking area was continued. Parking lots were built in the wooded area, a second comfort station and three new kitchen shelters were erected, and several dozen concrete and wood picnic tables were constructed

and located for the convenience of individual family and larger organization groups. Some fireplaces were also erected there, while new picnic areas were established at other points in the Park. The clay surface of the tennis court at Brackley was raised and refinished, and a new fence erected around the court.

ACCESS ROAD
An access road to Cavendish beach, west of the campground, was built, and a picnic area established there.

Several smaller toilet buildings, as well as native sandstone fireplaces, were placed in areas where expanding use showed their need.

The replacement of boundary fences was continued, and a post launching ramp at Covehead Harbour was hard surfaced.

Minor repairs and some painting were carried out on Dalroy Hotel.

Flood damage on some roads and on the Green Gables Golf Course was heavy last spring, and extensive repairs were necessary.

Distinctive rustic signs of both conventional and unique form were designed, built and erected in the Park. One new lifeguard station, at Rustie, was established. Cliff protection work, utilizing rock-filled wire baskets, were carried out at several locations while cribwork was constructed in other beach areas.

Increased production of electrical power by the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd., in Charlottetown, provides a graphic measurement of Prince Edward Island's continuing prosperity, and, in turn, the island's steady economic growth and expanding industrial activity creates an ever increasing demand for more power.

Significantly, this increasing industrial and domestic use of electricity challenges the electrical industry—a challenge demanding vigorous activity on the part of the suppliers. The Maritime Electric Co. Ltd., announced its intention of meeting this challenge during the past year with work started

in April on a \$3 million dollar expansion program.

First step in the program was the construction of a building, with structural steel frame, and the upper portion covered with asbestos siding, to house additional generating equipment required.

This new structure, now completed, is 120 feet long, 73 feet wide and 75 feet high, and is connected to the western side of the former building on the corner of Sydney Street East and Cumberland Street.

To be housed in the new structure is a 20,000 kilowatt turbo-generator, built and recently tested by the Associated Electrical Industries Ltd., of Manchester, England. This unit is at present on its way from England.

Normal maintenance and operations were carried out, while the planning, surveying, reporting, accounting organizing and communicating never are completely finished.

Winter work programs have been continuous for the past six winters, providing for new projects and speeding up regular work.

the building and for the installation of the new equipment, which will also include an extension to the existing pump house.

EXTRA PUMP
The additional generating equipment will require 20,000 gallons of water per minute, and to accommodate this need an extra pump is to be installed in the pump house extension.

The new turbo-generator will operate on twice the steam pressure of the present units in the Charlottetown plant: 850 pounds per square inch, at a temperature of 900 degrees, and it is expected that a marked increase in efficiency will result from this advance in pressure and temperature.

Commissioning of the new equipment is scheduled for September of this year. At the present time the installed capacity of the Char-

lottetown steam electric plant is 32,500 kilowatts. The new 20,000 kilowatt unit is twice as large as any now in use, and will be capable of increasing the plant's output by over 60 per cent, a total of 52,500 kilowatts.

This is a far cry from the generating capability of the Charlottetown Plant in 1950, just 12 years ago, of 15,000 kilowatts.

The rapid growth of the company during these past few years has been brought about by the ever-increasing use of electric power in all parts of the province. As a result of the Prince Edward Island government's rural electrification program, now in its ninth year, more than 80 per cent of island farms now use electric power, a ratio not even equalled in Great Britain.

Under this program more

than 1,000 miles of distribution line have been constructed to serve more than 5,000 rural families.

In addition to this growth of the number of rural domestic customers, those who have had electric service for the past 10 years now use twice as much power as they did 10 years ago. Charlottetown domestic customers during this period have increased their usage of power by 50 per cent.

Statistics show there has been an average increase in required power output by the Maritime Electric, each year during the past 10 years, of approximately 12 per cent. With its program of expansion the company is demonstrating its confidence in the continued prosperity of the Island, and its belief in the further growth and development of its industries.

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