

National Park marks record throng of visitors in 1963

Prince Edward Island National Park enjoyed another record attendance year from April 1 to Dec. 31, 1963, despite adverse weather conditions which prevailed, particularly during the latter half of August. The 1,101,914 visitors recorded represent an increase of 10,000 persons over 1962. This use of park facilities continues to be second only to Banff National Park which had 1,430,029 visitors for the same period.

Campground use showed a marked increase in 1963. An increase of 15,221 camper days over 1962 and statistics reveal a trend towards longer stays by individual campers. Campsite permits issued totalled 8,142.

The Green Gables Golf Course received a marked increase in play and registrations at Green Gables House were up by 11,228.

DEVELOPMENT

Development of Cavendish and Stanhope fully serviced campgrounds has been completed. However, general maintenance due to the heavy use of these areas is a continuous task. Approximately 5,000 willow spruce transplants have been set out in these areas and considerable landscaping has been carried out. A new kitchen shelter was constructed at Cavendish Campground and fire protection equipment was installed.

Construction of the new campground at Rustico Island is progressing extremely well and it is anticipated that this new facility will be opened for public use for the 1964 camping season. Eight service buildings are now under various stages of construction — the underground water system project is well underway — the campground roads, pinwheels and drive ways were completed and are ready for use. All 150 tent lots were grubbed out and seeded, 11 fire service units were also constructed and white spruce transplants were set out in some of the open areas.

The Brackley Group Picnic area development project is nearing completion. New underground water and electrical systems were completed. Provision was made in the Brackley area to accommodate a small camper groups such as girl guides, boy scouts, church and hostel groups.

A new kitchen shelter was constructed at Turner Cape Picnic area.

A new pump house was designed for the Brackley area and arrangements are being made to have a contract awarded for this building.

General maintenance was carried out in all areas throughout

the park. Major items receiving attention involved the painting of buildings, landscaping of key areas, erection of cement and rustic picnic tables and repairs to highways and buildings.

Cliff protection work was carried out at several locations where erosion had occurred. Rock-filled baskets were used for this purpose. Under the direction of the Department of Public Works, sand-collecting work was conducted on the outlet to the sea from Rolling Pond. Also crib and grove emplacements were constructed on the Rustico Island area to help stabilize the sand dunes and prevent additional erosion.

Other projects included the construction of a new 30,000-gallon underground reservoir at Dalvay headquarters area which will be incorporated into the new water and fire protection system.

A new automatic dry-chemical sprinkler system was installed in Dalvay Hotel. The south veranda was "glassed in" and new chimneys constructed.

Extensive renovations were also carried out on the administration offices.

In the Park have now been replaced with signs of rustic design.

CUTTING, CLEARING

Sanitation cutting and clearing was carried out in all sections of the park; dead and diseased trees were removed; Park boundary fences were replaced where necessary; the majority of this work is being carried out under a winter work program.

Golf course maintenance was carried out during the season. The course was fertilized, limed, and seeded; new distance markers were installed, trees re-levelled and re-soiled; bridges and foot paths repaired. Wooded areas adjoining the fairways were cleared of considerable dead fall.

Fish and wildlife management was carried out according to national park policy.

Lifeguard service was necessarily increased to handle the vastly expanded demand. No drownings occurred in the 1963 season.

A VHF radio system, consisting of mobile and base stations linking the administration offices, Warrenton Service vehicles and the campgrounds is in operation.

It is expected that further development, improvement and maintenance, and the operational services will continue on a similar scale this year.

While park operations functioned smoothly and good progress was made in all stages of development in 1963, several unexpected setbacks occurred. A rather disastrous fire in July completely destroyed the central laundry building in the Cavendish campground. A severe wind and snow storm Dec. 19 caused considerable damage in our shore area and knocked out a 90-foot section of Covehead Bridge. Repairs to the bridge will be made as soon as possible in the hope that traffic may be accommodated during the 1964 summer season.

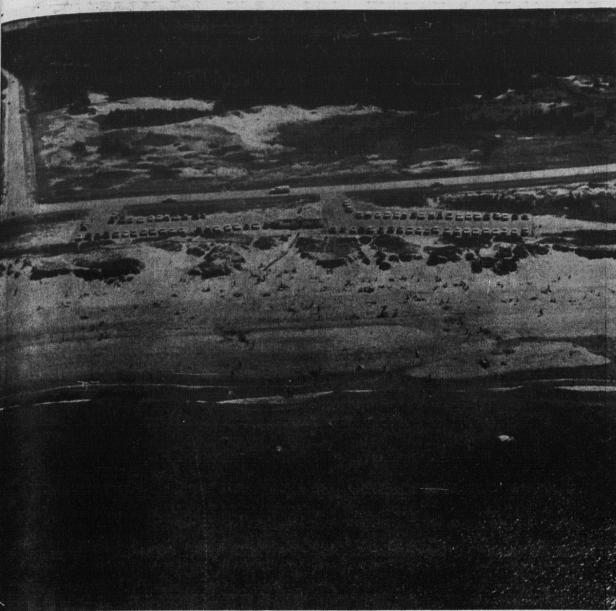
CITY ECONOMY GIVEN BOOST

Construction of the Fathers of Confederation Memorial Building has been a boon to employment the past year. Hundreds of thousands of dollars has been paid out in salaries by the Pigott Construction Limited and subcontractors.

Pigott Construction has employed an average of 250 people on the project, and subcontractors another 50.

It has meant an approximate payroll of \$400,000 and \$150,000 respectively for a total of over half a million dollars.

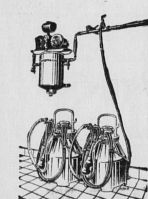
Work on the building started in February 1963 with May 1, 1964, set as completion date.



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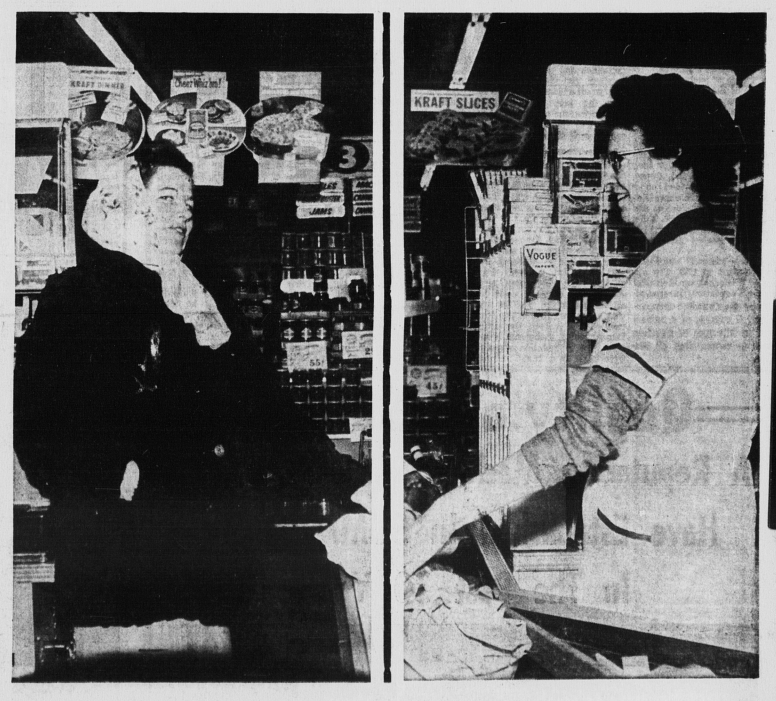
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