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INTERNATIONAL PARK CONCEPTS

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INTERNATIONAL PARK CONCEPTS

For some Reason
Mr. Reeve ~~has~~ completely to Park
ignore the Place Arch
in
British
Columbia

When one looks at the violence that has been the history of mankind, it seems obvious that anything that we in the parks and outdoor recreation field can do to alleviate the situation in the future should be of vital concern to each and every one of us. And what better way to get to know our fellow man better than to meet, converse and join together in recreation in the great outdoors. While it is certainly a step in the right direction to meet in outdoor recreation areas in each other's countries, it does seem to me that there is the possibility of even more "togetherness" if these outdoor recreation areas are international in nature.

Canada and the United States of America have a history of peace -- except for a small disturbance in 1812-14 -- and this is exemplified in our international "parks": Quetico - Superior, Glacier - Waterton, Roosevelt Campobello International Park, and the International Peace Garden. In presenting to you some aspects of international park concepts, I think the best approach I can take is to tell you something about how they have been set up and how they are administered. I will deal primarily with the last three mentioned above since these are the three in which Canada is involved at the federal level.

The ^{Superior} Quetico area is administered by the United States Forest Service but the ^{Quetico} Superior portion is administered by the Province of Ontario. Primarily the Quetico - Superior area is a vast wilderness although multiple use is practised in at least some portions of it. It is interesting to note that this was the first of the international "parks" referred to in this paper, having been first set aside early in this century. Details of the policies and administration of the

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Quetico - Superior area can be made available on request.

The International Peace Garden is located on both sides of the International Boundary between the Province of Manitoba and the State of North Dakota. It consists of 2,339.3 acres of which 1,451.3 acres are in Manitoba and 888 acres in North Dakota. The idea of the International Peace Garden was first put forward in 1928 by a Dr. Henry J. Moore of Islington, Ontario, Canada at a gathering of gardeners in Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A. He spoke of it as an area "where the people of the two countries could share the glories found in a lovely garden and the pleasures found in warm friendships". The International Peace Garden, Incorporated, was incorporated in the State of New York on September 17, 1930. The selection of a site near the geographical centre of the North American continent was approved in December, 1931. The dedication ceremony took place on July 14, 1932 at which time a cairn with the following inscription was unveiled:

"TO GOD IN HIS GLORY

We Two Nations Dedicate This Garden and Pledge Ourselves

That as Long as Men Shall Live, We Will Not Take

Up Arms Against One Another."

Later articles of incorporation were filed in Manitoba and North Dakota. In 1934 the land in North Dakota was conveyed to the State of North Dakota, in trust, for the use and benefit of the International Peace Garden with the stipulation that the operation, management and supervision of the Garden would remain with its Board of Directors as long as it continued to maintain and operate the Garden. This was approved by the State Legislature in 1935.

Provincial

The land in Manitoba is held in trust by the Crown under the same conditions.

The park has a central formal area lying on both sides of the International Boundary. This formal area consists of about 160 acres and is still in the process of development. The remainder of the area has been left more or less in its natural state and caters to outdoor recreation including group camping for the youth of both nations.

The Garden is dependent upon contributions for maintenance and development. The major source of funds in the past has been from the federal governments with supporting funds from the province and state plus donations from fraternal organizations and private individuals.

While an initial development plan for the formal area was drawn up in the early 1930's it became obvious in recent years that an overall development plan for the Garden was required. At the request of the International Peace Garden a master plan for the total area was prepared in 1966 as a joint venture by staff drawn from the United States and Canadian National Parks Services. This master plan has since been accepted by the Board of Directors of the International Peace Garden. They are now in the process of seeking funds to continue with the development of the Garden. I understand that a bill for additional financing is now before the United States Congress and no doubt the Board of Directors of the Garden will be seeking additional capital contributions from the Canadian federal government. Except for the

period 1940 to 1949 the Canadian government has made annual grants to the International Peace Garden. While initially these grants were for \$10,000 per year, more recently they have been at the rate of \$15,000 per year.

It is not proposed, at this time, to increase the amount of this annual grant but the federal government will consider capital grants for specific capital projects.

The Peace Garden is administered by a Board of Directors and an on-site staff of seventeen persons including a Superintendent. Only the Superintendent and his staff are paid for their services.

In the overall pattern of Canada's national parks system, a most important role has fallen on Waterton Lakes National Park for it is here that thousands of visitors from the United States receive their first introduction to our national parks. The importance of this role was heightened on July 4, 1931, when Rotarians from Alberta and Montana held their first annual goodwill meeting at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton Lakes National Park.

A resolution "that the proper authorities be petitioned to commence negotiations to establish the two parks indicated as a permanent international peace park which shall definitely be set aside for this laudable purpose" was passed. As a result of this resolution bills were placed before the Parliament of Canada and the Congress of the United States and were passed by both these governing bodies in 1932. These bills established the Waterton - Glacier International Peace Park. On June 18, 1932, the world's first international peace park was dedicated in impressive ceremonies at Glacier National Park,

Montana.

A message from the United States President Hoover read as follows: "Dedication of the Waterton - Glacier International Peace Park is a further gesture of the goodwill that has so long blessed our relations with our Canadian neighbours and I am gratified by the hope and faith that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship."

The Right Honourable R.B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, wrote "I send my sincere congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the dedication.

The relations between Canada and the United States have so long been characterized not only by that peace which is the foundation of our two democracies but by a mutual respect and friendship. It is my earnest hope that this great International Peace Park, stretching across our common frontier and in which the citizens of both our countries may seek recreation, may forever remain a permanent memorial to all that neighbourly relations should be between adjoining nations."

On July 4, 1936, the dedication of the Canadian section of the Peace Park took place at Waterton Park Townsite. United States President F.D. Roosevelt wrote: "It is an evidence to the world that each of us is proud of our relations towards the other; and a pledge that it is the sincere wish of all the people of both countries that these pleasant relations shall continue."

The Right Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, wrote, "The International Peace Park is one of the most striking of those visible

evidences of the spirit and friendship and goodwill which so happily and for so long a period has existed between the people of the United States and of Canada. . . . At a time when relations between many countries leave much to be desired, the vital importance of our joint co-operative effort over the decades assumes for us a fresh significance and the success which has attended it affords, we trust, something in the way of a guide and example for other peoples of good will."

On August 2, 1947 cairns were erected on both sides of the International Boundary on the Chief Mountain Highway. Peace cairns were also dedicated in front of the Prince of Wales Hotel at Waterton Lakes National Park in 1951 and at the Glacier Park Hotel at Glacier Station, Montana, in 1952.

Each year since 1936 the Rotarians have held meetings to renew their pledge of friendship. The meetings alternate between Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park.

It should be noted that each of the national parks concerned is administered separately although there exists complete co-operation and mutual understanding between the two administering agencies.

In the Waterton - Glacier International Peace Park the citizens of the two countries have a unique national heritage. Not only do the two parks under separate administrative authorities preserve outstanding scenic regions for posterity and conserve the natural wildlife, but they also perpetuate a symbol

of the traditional friendship that has existed between two great nations for so many years. The Peace Park also serves as an outstanding example to a war-weary world that countries with common frontiers can live together in peace.

Roosevelt-Campobello International Park is located on Campobello Island which lies just off the coast of Maine, U.S.A. The focus of the park is the Roosevelt summer "cottage" where the late President F.D. Roosevelt spent much of his summer vacation time up until he suffered an attack of poliomyelitis in his early manhood. The idea of setting the area aside as an international memorial to President Roosevelt culminated in the signing of an agreement on January 22, 1964 by the Right Honourable L.B. Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada, and President L.B. Johnson of the United States of America. Agreement in principle on the idea had previously been reached in May, 1963 by Mr. Pearson and the late President J.F. Kennedy.

A Canadian act authorizing the establishment of the park was passed and received Royal assent on June 30, 1964. The United States' enabling legislation was passed on July 7, 1964. The two pieces of legislation provide for the establishment of a Commission to administer the park. The Commission consists of six members, three from the United States and three from Canada. They are not paid for their services but they do receive living and travelling expenses while they are on Commission duties. Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of the Commission, and they shall not be both from the same country, alternate between the two countries every two years. When the Commission makes a decision there must be two members from each side in favour of the decision.

Both Canadians and Americans may be employed by the Commission for the carrying out of the administration, operation and development of the park. Funds for the development and operation of the park are provided equally by the two governments concerned.

It should be noted that while this park was originally conceived as a Canadian-American memorial to the late President F.D. Roosevelt and as such would have been primarily an historic site, it now appears that the Commission envisages expansion of the area and development to provide various facilities for outdoor recreation. They are also proposing that some of the houses, not including the Roosevelt cottage, will be developed to provide facilities for international meetings.

In the above paragraphs I have outlined to you some of the background for the establishment of international parks and a brief outline of some of their development and operational procedures. As you undoubtedly realize I could have gone into a great deal more detail but I do not think that that is necessary to convey to you the principles and values of international parks.

I trust that this paper may some day be of assistance to you in the establishment of international parks on the boundaries of your countries. While I would not for a moment suggest that the establishment of international parks is the answer to all the ills of mankind today, I do suggest to you that international parks can be a contributing factor in enabling the peoples of the world to better know their neighbours and assist them in living in peace together with mutual understanding and respect for the betterment of all future generations.

NOTE: Presented to the International Short Course on National Parks at Waterton Lakes National Park, Canada, on August 25, 1968 by Alex. J. Reeve, Assistant Director (National Parks), National and Historic Parks Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Government of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.