

The parc national du Mont-Tremblant

“We have admired the beauty of this lake which bathes the foot of an even more beautiful mountain. The view of Tremblant mountain is ravishing. [...] Before long, this place will be one of the most visited in the Province by tourists, by those who appreciate the beauties of nature, by sportsmen [...]” (translation)

Journal *Le Nord*, “Inauguration du parc de la Montagne Tremblante”
23 septembre 1896

Optimism reigned on this beautiful fall day in 1896. Assembled on the shores of the great Lac Tremblant, dozens of personalities from politics and business attended the inauguration of the “park of the Trembling Mountain”. In a poetic speech, the project promoter and member of the legislature Guillaume-Alphonse Nantel advocated for the need to preserve the forest, the wildlife, the waters, but also to equip the territory to accommodate fishers, hunters, hikers and vacationers. The new park, which encompassed Mont Tremblant, would provide for them, he assured his listeners.



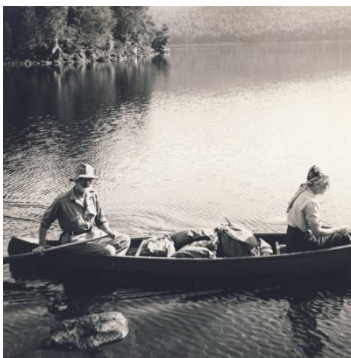
In the 1920s, a logging camp on Lake Allen, located in what is now the Diable sector of the park.

Source: Gervais collection.

These promises were slow to be fulfilled. In 1924, the State added to the park by adjoining to it a forest reserve, an immense area 3,108 km² in size which included part of the watersheds of the Rouge River to the north, and of the Mattawin River to the east. Three big forest industry companies shared the territory. Virtual owners of the acreage,

they built dams, roads, bridges, buildings and lookout towers. Thirty or so private clubs held the fishing and hunting rights.

In 1938, Joseph Bondurant Ryan, a wealthy American businessman, bought the lands at the foot of Mont Tremblant and obtained, in the form of a rental lease,



(Left) With authorization from the forest industry companies, a few outdoor enthusiasts explored the territory in the summer; Freda Murray and her husband Everitt camped for several weeks at Lac Escalier.

Source: Freda and Everitt Murray collection, photo taken from Camp Journals, by Freda Murray, Shoreline Press.

permission to operate a ski resort on Mont Tremblant. The territory became, under the new law, a “public park” and a “place of relaxation”.

In reality, the riches of this community asset were still only enjoyed by a minority of affluent individuals and from the '30s, it was demanded that the Parc du Mont-Tremblant become a true public park, accessible to the many. It was only in 1958 that, in the face of entreaties from scientists from the Lac Monroe biological station, a first campground was laid out at Lac Chat, in the current Diable sector. The success was immediate. The public

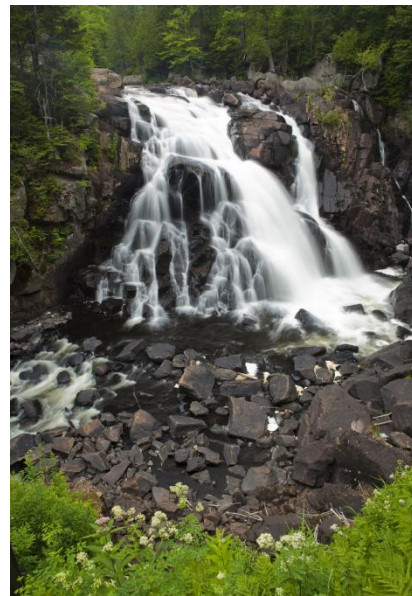


In 1959, families of campers at Lac Chat, the first site open to the general public. Standards have certainly changed!

Source: Albert Courtemanche (Office du film du Québec).

role of the park had begun. It was confirmed in 1981: the State redefined the borders of the territory, which then extended over 1248 km², and officially conferred on it the status of “parc de récréation”. As is the case in all of Quebec’s “parc nationaux”, hunting would be forbidden, as would any industrial exploitation of the resources.

With its more than 400 lakes, its six big rivers, and its wildlife and vegetation as abundant as it is diverse, the most senior of the Québec parks is now one of the great national parks of the world, preserving its exceptional landscapes and natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations.



The Diable waterfall, in the sector of the same name, is one of the most-visited attractions in the park.

Source: © Mathieu Dupuis, Sépaq.

Research and writing: Danielle Soucy



The Eastern wolf is an animal that symbolizes the park. Its presence bears witness to the untamed nature of the territory, its great size, and the protection it enjoys.

Source: © Valéry Patenaude, Sépaq.