

Kejimikujik National Park of Canada

Pronounced “Ke - jim - koo - jik”

Climate

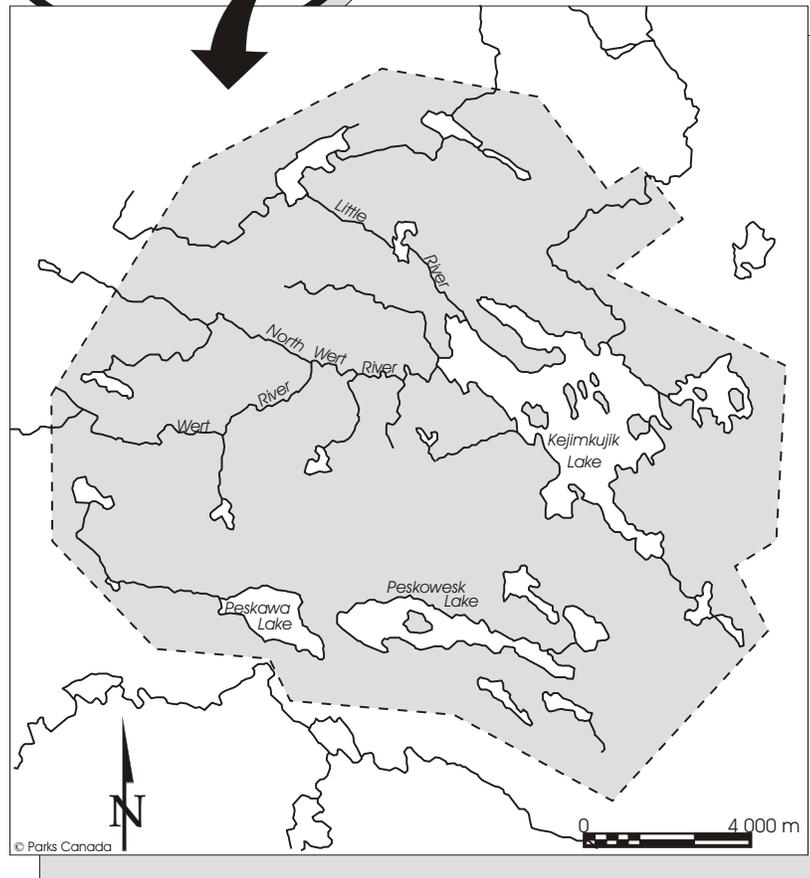
Kejimikujik's climate sustains a diversity of plant and animal life. Summers tend to be hot and humid, favouring southern species. While the winters are short with minimal snow cover, they are colder than on the nearby coast. Cool, clear days describe the fall season. Winds off the ocean modify the weather at the Seaside Adjunct.

Geology

The park is underlain by two main types of rock; a granite terrane and a sedimentary terrane comprised of slate and quartzite. The granite landscape appears as a higher upland while the sedimentary areas are lower and more level. Glaciation has stripped away ancient soils and scooped out easily eroded bedrock to form lake basins. The result is a thin, patchy till, with rounded drumlins dotting the land. In the Seaside Adjunct the mixture of the granites and quartzites is clearly shown in exposed rock outcrops while the till layer is extremely thin and poorly drained.

Location

Kejimikujik National Park consists of two separate land masses in southwestern Nova Scotia, 150 km from Halifax. The inland portion of 381 km² was established as Canada's 19th National Park in 1974. In 1988 the 22 km² Seaside Adjunct, located on the ocean shore 30 km west of Liverpool, was added to represent more of the features of the Atlantic Coast Uplands Natural Region. Kejimikujik is located in the Atlantic Maritime Ecozone.



Vegetation

Mixed forests of broad-leaved and coniferous trees make up 75% of the park's woodlands. This mixed Acadian forest includes old growth stands, some of 300 year old hemlocks, others of sugar maple and yellow birch. White pines lend their distinctive silhouette to islands and lakeshores. Special plants of a group called the coastal plain flora survive on the flooded lakeshore of several lakes. Twenty species of these plants occur in the park and nowhere else in Canada. The water-pennywort is considered threatened. At the Seaside Adjunct, boggy, near barren headlands and dense clumps of white spruce are characteristic.

Wildlife

Kejimikujik provides a habitat for land mammals like black bears, bobcat, white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare and porcupine, and water mammals include beaver, otter and mink. Two new arrivals, coyotes and skunks, are present in small numbers. American marten were re-introduced and a few survive. The Seaside Adjunct features harbour and grey seals which bask on rocks and close to the shore. Kejimikujik is home to more species of amphibians and reptiles than anywhere else in Atlantic Canada, including the rare Blanding's turtle and ribbon snake. Typical birds include northern species like the gray jay and spruce grouse alongside southern species such as the scarlet tanager and the rose-breasted grosbeak. Common loons inhabit most lakes and breed on the larger ones. At the Seaside Adjunct Park, wardens work to safeguard five to nine pairs of breeding piping plovers, an endangered shorebird. Brook trout, white perch and yellow perch inhabit many lakes and streams.



Activities

Visitors to Kejimikujik National Park are treated to an extensive canoe route system throughout lakes and rivers. There are 15 short walking trails and over 60 km of backcountry hiking trails. At the Seaside Adjunct, short trails take visitors to the coast for spectacular vistas. A 360 site campground and 47 backcountry sites offer outstanding camping experiences in the inland portion of Kejimikujik. No camping is permitted in the Seaside Adjunct. The park offers an interpretive program featuring guided outings on foot, in canoes and by bicycle. The visitor centre is open year-round and offers exhibits and audio-visual programs.

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