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Ontario's national park is a naturalist's escape



**1-of-a-kind
traveler
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contributing
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AT LEAST two-thirds of the six square mile area of the park, smallest national park in Canada, are cattail marshes. The marsh was even larger once but it was drained in the nineteenth century to make room for the onion fields that still bloom outside the gates.

We approached it through the old red brick village of Leamington, which bore a sign over the street saying "Leamington Welcomes Birders" and then followed Lake Erie, with its

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONES

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JONAS

Early settlers named this little peninsula Pt. Pelée, French for Bald Point, because it looked so barren when approached from the lake. A film in the park museum shows the homesteads that once stood here and how tourism started early, when bathing suits came down to your knees and you had to crank cars.

Naturalists recognized the distinctive birds and southern plants by the turn-of-the-century, and by 1918 it was a park, although the tourists still came in hordes until the 1960s when the environment was out over the tourists.

Of course you can still bathe and fish and picnic there, but the park is really

· preserved for the hundreds of plants, birds and animals that give this park its reputation in Canada.

There are a lot of exciting moments in the park but the moment when the voices rise is on the wooden observation tower that looms above the marsh.

FROM HERE you can see the board.

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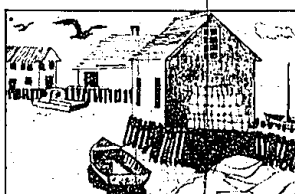
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