

Chairman: Mr. Kowalski]

[2:48 p.m.]

CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon again, ladies and gentlemen. I guess the first annual report of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund was made public eight years ago, so we're now looking at the eighth annual report, being the report for the year 1983-

The first meeting we have with a minister this year will be with the Hon. Peter Trynchy, Minister of Recreation and Parks.

Welcome again, Mr. Trynchy, and thank you very much for that excellent audiovisual presentation. Would you have any comments you'd like to make at the outset? Miss Conroy, our committee secretary, has circulated two documents to all members: one dated August 7, 1984, with the heading Kananaskis Country on the top of it; and the second, a black document dated 1983-84, Budget Expenditure Review. All members will have that in addition to the document on Kananaskis Country that they picked up in the adjoining room.

Mr. Trynchy, welcome. If you have any overview comments, please proceed with them, and would you welcome the people with you. And welcome to my colleagues who are back again in 1984 attending this committee's meeting. At the conclusion of the discussion with Mr. Trynchy and his officials this afternoon, I'd ask the committee members to remain a few minutes, just so we can look at the schedule and update it and a few other administrative items. Mr. Trynchy.

MR. TRYNCHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, members of the committee. First I'd like to introduce our support staff, starting on my right with Margaret Qually, Kananaskis Country; Ed Marshall, managing director; Barry Mitchelson, my deputy; Cliff Lacey, urban parks; and Bill Porter, Fish Creek park. As the chairman put it so well, we've had a pretty good overview of what we're going to talk about, so without any further ado I'd just like to turn it back to you, Mr. Chairman, and answer questions from the members as they come to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Trynchy. Mr. Thompson has caught my attention. But prior to that, Mr. Trynchy, as a point of clarification for me, I wonder if I could direct you to pages 16 and 17 of the report. We have a section that clearly identifies projects administered by Recreation and Parks and refers solely to Kananaskis Country Recreation Development, on page 16, and then to a subheading called Urban Parks, on page 17. But on page 16 there's a subject heading called Projects Administered by Public Works, Supply and Services, namely Capital City Recreation Park and also Fish Creek Provincial Park. Could you please clarify for me — I'm not sure if any of the committee members are unclear — how we get Public Works, Supply and Services involved in these two other projects that in the past, as I recall, came under your direct ministerial portfolio?

Following that clarification, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Gogo.

MR. TRYNCHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When Capital City park and Fish Creek park were first announced, they were both under Public Works.

Public Works was the body that was purchasing the land. We don't have authority to purchase lands under Recreation and Parks, so the funds would flow to Recreation and Parks and then turn over to Public Works, Supply and Services in some cases. But as Capital City park in the city of Edmonton was under the Department of the Environment in total, the funds flowed from the heritage fund to Environment for the purchase of those lands. Both those parks are now administered by Recreation and Parks, but administration dollars flow from general revenue, so they're not heritage fund. That's the difference. Those funds were for land acquisition and would have to come out of the heritage fund, but the further administration of those parks comes from general revenue, and they don't show up here.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, my question has to do with the urban parks. During the presentation it was noted that there's a certain amount of integration between the department and the local communities. What I would like to find out, Mr. Lacey, is how you handle things like security, maintenance, vandalism, those kinds of things, when you have these more or less integrated projects. Who really handles that end of the thing?

MR. LACEY: Mr. Chairman, the urban park program in each community is administered by local government employees; not provincial government employees but civic government employees. The issues of vandalism, park security, and so on are dealt with by those local civic employees as they manage the park day to day.

MR. THOMPSON: In other words the main responsibility for those kinds of things, and the maintenance too, is turned over to the local people?

MR. LACEY: That's correct. A maintenance grant is paid, but it's a General Revenue Fund grant, so I guess it's not being discussed today.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, just to add to that. The urban parks policy is a grant system the same as MCR. The funds flow from our department to the cities or towns that are building and administering the urban parks. We work with them, but it's their park. It's their project, and they take care of all those things you asked about entirely themselves.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GOGO: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions, one on the urban parks and the other on Kananaskis. First of all, Minister, I want you to know how pleased I've been with the way Mr. Lacey has worked with the mayor and council of Lethbridge in getting the Lethbridge urban parks, the river valley, under way. The degree of co-operation has been just tremendous. I think much of that is a result of the policy in your department of granting, letting the cities unravel their own, and constantly having people from your department like Mr. Lacey on tap to deal with it.

Minister, I believe the original intent of urban parks policy was that your department would pay the first five years of operational cost once the project

was complete. If that's accurate, is that still the policy?

MR. TRYNCHY: No, Mr. Chairman. The policy of the operational funds is this: we pay 10 percent of the capital expended for the first five years. I can give you an example. If the city of Lethbridge had spent a million dollars, we would give them 10 percent of any capital expenditures outside of land acquisition for five years, 10 percent of all capital expenditures in development. For the next two years, we pay 7.5 percent. Then for the next 23 years, we pay 5 percent. So it's a 30-year program. We pay operational grants to them based on that formula: 10 percent for the first five years, 7.5 percent for the next two years, and 5 percent for the last 23 years.

MR. GOGO: On the question of Kananaskis, I noticed that it's a policy that the government will involve the private sector wherever possible. In the presentation — I presume private oil companies and so on lease that property from government. Is that accurate, Ed, that you lease it over a fixed term period for certain services?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, the actual land there is leased by two young couples from Cochrane. They in turn made a deal with Gulf Oil to give them some up-front money, but the lease is held by these two couples. It's very long term, and of course it's renewable.

MR. GOGO: The reason I raise that is we also tender out on all our provincial buildings, cafeterias for example. When we do that we set the price in concert with the owners. Is there any degree of control, for example, on the price of gasoline and oil being sold in what I would term a captive market?

MR. MARSHALL: Interestingly enough, Mr. Chairman, we go through an exercise in Kananaskis whereby we monitor prices of what's being sold, to whom and by whom, whether it's a can of corn or something else. This is the only example where we sell gasoline. In that particular case, it's a competitive price, and it needs to be. This particular facility sells gasoline on a self-serve basis, and their prices are quite in line with the neighbourhood market.

MR. GOGO: I'm pleased to hear that. The final question, Chairman, is with regard to camping. Do we presently have a reservation system in place in Kananaskis, so people not just from Calgary or Lethbridge but from all over Alberta have the opportunity of driving down to Kananaskis with the assurance that when they get there they've got a place to stay?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, we have many campsites in Kananaskis Country, and four of them are on a reservation basis. They are quite widely dispersed too. Mount Kidd, the newest, is one of them. It accepts reservations. So does Bow Valley. Boulton Creek within Kananaskis Provincial Park and the Little Elbow campground west of Bragg Creek all accept reservations, and they do it by telephone.

MR. GOGO: You have had no complaints about people who couldn't get in?

MR. TRYNCHY: I could add to that, Mr. Chairman, for the Member for Lethbridge West. Yes, in some cases we've had some concerns about not being able to get in. What I want to do over this fall and winter is try to implement a reservation policy for every provincial park in the province for the benefit of our local people. I think that's something we've got to do. We haven't had that many concerns, but there are a few. They get to a park on a Wednesday, and it's already filled up. What we've got to do is put in a reservation system in all our parks. That would alleviate some of the concerns Albertans have.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, I presume we're following the practice we began last year with a question and two supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gogo violated it for the first and last time.

MR. GOGO: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think you should have pointed that out.

MRS. CRIPPS: Before I ask my questions — just so I can get it in, this brochure passed out on Kananaskis Country doesn't show any gas facilities. According to the presentation we had, I understand that there are in fact three. So I suggest that you get your map updated.

MR. TRYNCHY: Could you give that question to us again?

MRS. CRIPPS: That wasn't a question. It was a suggestion.

MR. TRYNCHY: I'm sorry, I didn't get it.

MRS. CRIPPS: According to the presentation we had, there are two gas stations once you get into Kananaskis Country. This map does not show that. So while it says gas services at the entrance to Kananaskis Country, if visitors going into Kananaskis Country are handed this map, which we were, they are told there aren't. That's not a question; it's a statement of fact.

My question, Mr. Chairman: you said a number of times in the presentation that you intend to oil surface. Are you talking about base course there, or what do you mean by oil surfacing the roads?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Cripps, the purpose of that is simply dust control. It would be overstating it to say it's base course.

MRS. CRIPPS: Okay. My second question is, what kind of funds are you looking at to complete Kananaskis Country? I guess what I want is an assessment of the percentage of completion of Kananaskis Country. In other words, do you consider it to be 90 percent done, 75 percent complete? And what kind of expenditures are you anticipating for that project? Or are you going to in fact say that this is all we're going to do in Kananaskis Country for the present time and we'll take a look at it five years down the road and see what else we need? What's the

plan?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, if you look at the first page of the information provided you today, the total expended to March 31 is \$183 million. The budget for this year is \$28 million, of which about \$21 million will be spent. And you look at what we've developed with those funds. We're looking at this year's current budget, which was \$21 million, and we expect that we would expend about \$17 million. That would probably bring it close to \$200 million total expenditure in Kananaskis Country on March 31, 1985. We don't have the '85-86 budget yet, but as of last year — I think we talked about it here — we had just a few things we wanted to complete. Most of them were roads.

This fall I hope to come with a sort of total wrap-up budget of Kananaskis Country. There are certain things we'd like to do. I understand the William Watson Lodge concept needs to be expanded because of the use. We'll have to look at that, but I don't anticipate we'll be adding that to our budget this year. We might at some future date.

MRS. CRIPPS: Just to be clear, you're expecting that there'll be a budget for probably one more year, maybe two more years, and that would more or less finalize Kananaskis Country?

MR. TRYNCHY: That's correct. In this budget we keep taking funds forward for the alpine village site. Until that development takes place, we'd like to keep that open. There's some \$6 million set aside for infrastructure costs of the alpine village. There are some roads. I wouldn't want to say we'll close the budget off, because there could be something we want to do. But as anticipated, we'd like to finish Kananaskis Country, probably with this year's budget if we can. If we can't, we would carry it forward in some small measure.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, since the minister mentioned William Watson Lodge, I drove through Kananaskis Country and talked to a number of people in the lodge. Everyone thought it was great, with the exception of the acoustics in the dormitories or whatever you want to call them. The people on either side of those buildings can hear the other people. The comment made to me was, when going to such a great expenditure, why in the world weren't they soundproofed between the two adjoining — I think there are two in each one — residences? He took me in and showed me. Quite frankly, you could hear the radio playing in the other one. I think that's something your committee should look at.

MR. TRYNCHY: We appreciate the comments. I don't know what we'd do to the existing ones, but certainly it's something we should keep in mind if we develop more cottages within William Watson Lodge.

MRS. CRIPPS: Closing that little space under the door would help.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, my question is on the Fish Creek Provincial Park. The constituency of Little Bow is now starting to take in the city of Calgary, so my interest is heightened. It's become an urban constituency, so my interest is up. What I am

specifically interested in is the land that is to be purchased. I've quickly glanced at the report you gave us a few moments ago and noted some of the answers there, but possibly somebody could bring us up to date on that.

MR. TRYNCHY: The land on the east side of Fish Creek park was purchased in 1980. Daon is now working on the land to take out the gravel, and they're asking for an extension of the term of gravel extraction because of the slowdown in the industry. I don't see any difficulty with that. Once that's all done, they're to leave the land contoured to a golf course. We made some commitments some time ago to the city of Calgary that we would develop it, but we don't anticipate any funds for that for a few years yet, until Daon is finished with their gravel extractions.

MR. R. SPEAKER: The number of dollars yet to expend on the park to complete whatever has to be done — I notice that the total cost to date is \$16 million. What is the estimate to . . .

MR. TRYNCHY: Two hundred thousand this year; that's it.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Is there . . .

MR. TRYNCHY: [Inaudible] it's finished.

MR. R. SPEAKER: It's pretty well finished in that term. Okay.

MR. TRYNCHY: It's complete until we move to the golf course development down the road, whatever year that is.

MR. R. SPEAKER: I notice on page 3, and I'd just like to quote:

Development of the park has been based on the completion of the assembly of private lands within the R.D.A.

What does that refer to?

MR. PORTER: Lands within the RDA have to do with the restricted development area. I'm not too sure if I understand, sir.

MR. R. SPEAKER: I was just asking, are other private lands being purchased at the present time? Are you negotiating for other private lands?

MR. PORTER: There are no negotiations on purchase under way at the present time. It's just the final wrap-up of land purchases that were required. Of course that's the portion of the responsibility that rests with Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services, who are acquiring the properties.

MR. R. SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Chairman, I have two questions on widely different subjects. The first question is on the city of Calgary and the Fish Creek park. From what I can see in your report here, I gather that the city of Calgary doesn't administer the park, and I don't know why we're not as capable as Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer, et cetera. I

wonder if you could tell me where you are with the city of Calgary as far as the operation of that facility. Have you made any new approaches to them for them to take it over?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, when Fish Creek park was developed, the urban parks policy was not in place. That happened just shortly after. We have discussed the matter with the city of Calgary. We are going to pursue the matter further and hopefully will get that park into the urban parks funding policy as we have for the rest. We'll be meeting with city council and putting a proposal forward. Hopefully we can get that taken care of within the next little while.

MR. MUSGREAVE: Mr. Chairman, the other question I have is prompted by the slides you showed. I notice that in some of the urban parks you have bandstands. In view of the fact that we don't have as much money as we had in the past, I wonder if you have thought of developing a concept whereby any community could get capital funds to build bandstands throughout the province, rather than going on with some of these large investments we have at present. I notice that in all of those parks you talk about ball diamonds, and I just wonder — we obviously don't have enough musicians over there — if any thought has been given to an idea such as this.

MR. TRYNCHY: I guess the question was, would we consider funding bandstands or urban parks across the province? Which was it?

MR. MUSGREAVE: Bandstands in urban parks.

MR. TRYNCHY: I think the concept of having an urban park in all villages and towns throughout the province would be a good one, and I'd leave that to your committee, sir, to make the recommendation. As far as a bandstand within an urban park, you have to remember that the planning design is done by the local government. If they feel that a bandstand is necessary, we'll go along with them. But if they want to do something else — put in more hiking trails, bicycle trails, or what have you — of course we'd look at that too. We work with them. It's their grant, it's their park, and we do everything we can to make sure they get what they want.

MR. MARTIN: My first question has to do with the announcement today from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources under Mr. Sparrow's name, having to do with the Eastern Slopes policy. Was there consultation from your department before this release went out, and are you well aware of it?

MR. TRYNCHY: That's right.

MR. MARTIN: Okay. I haven't had time to go into it in any great detail, but I believe this is the first report since 1977. As I understand it, the main difference is that tourism will be stressed. You can correct me if that's not correct. My question is: what does this mean, and are we looking at more capital projects in other parts of the Eastern Slopes out of the heritage trust fund in the future? What we had on that today was very skimpy.

MR. TRYNCHY: When you ask the question "in the future", I would probably have to say, yes, in the future you'd expect to see more facilities. But what is the future? I don't know what years the hon. member is talking about. There's talk of a second Kananaskis Country, whether it's in the Eastern Slopes or in the northern part of the province. That's a possibility, and of course tourism is an industry we want to make sure flourishes. So yes, there'll be some development. But I have nothing to bring forward. There's nothing I can add today to help you.

MR. MARTIN: So at this point there's nothing concrete. But in terms of what they mean by tourism, you as Minister of Recreation and Parks see us moving in the direction of another Kananaskis in the Eastern Slopes at some point in time?

MR. TRYNCHY: I wouldn't say the Eastern Slopes. I would favour a second Kananaskis, or a Kananaskis two and three, but I wouldn't suggest that they'd be in the Eastern Slopes per se. They could be in the northern part of the province. They could be in the northeastern part of the province. But I think the question of tourism is one that we'll have to address very seriously with the Minister of Tourism, and of course Transportation if roads are to go to these facilities. That's something we have to look at. But I don't have anything concrete today that we're looking at in regard to more development in the Eastern Slopes outside of what we have in Kananaskis Country.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, a question to the minister. In our annual report of the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, a figure of \$44.3 million was used as a total investment in the Fish Creek Provincial Park area. In our little handout here, the total cost to complete is \$16,887,000 plus change. I wonder what the discrepancy is between those two numbers, if it's a purchase of land or what it might be.

MR. TRYNCHY: The figures you have in the white document are capital costs, and this would be land acquisition, which would be separate from our figures you have on this other.

MR. NELSON: Then the figures you've given us in this supplementary document are basically just actual development costs?

MR. TRYNCHY: Expenditures to date are actual capital development costs, not land acquisitions, and those would be land acquisitions in addition.

MR. NELSON: A further question regarding Kananaskis. I had the opportunity to have a short tour of part of the area with some folks a couple of weeks ago. I wonder if we have any indication as to where our visitors are coming from to participate in Kananaskis park. In other words, is it 90 percent Albertans? What information might you have as to where people are coming from to participate in Kananaskis Country?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nelson, people are asked to register on a voluntary basis at travel information centres and also at the Kananaskis Provincial Park Visitor Centre. On an informal basis,

which is the best that can be, they come from almost everywhere, certainly everywhere in Alberta and nearly everywhere in Canada and North America. And of course there are many from overseas. On the basis of that sort of informal approach to it, I wouldn't know whether it would be fair to start quoting 90 percent from Alberta, or 85, or something like that. It isn't formal enough to let you know, because not everybody registers. Certainly the majority of our visitors are from all over Alberta. The addresses read like a brand book. You can hardly think of a centre that isn't in the book at some time in the year.

I think that's the best answer I can give you, because the formal process of finding exactly where everybody comes from has to be done on a survey basis. Even on a sample, that's a very expensive way to do it.

MR. NELSON: That's fair enough. I noted when I was out there near the golf course that I didn't see a car from outside Alberta, at least on the licence plates.

One other question. I think I asked this of the minister once before, either in the House during the session or at some other time. It's probably the only complaint I've ever had. That was regarding signage on the various trails and the separation of the various trails and activities, the quality and also the number of signs, so people keep on the right track with their horses or if they're bicycling or walking or whatever.

I'd also like to throw a kicker in there as to why you are questioning the completion of the equestrian trail that was mentioned in the slide presentation a few moments ago.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nelson, that's sort of a double-barrelled question. I can deal with the signage first, if you like. Our signage program is coming along very nicely, and it's by no means complete. It was a little slow in getting started. We have established some pretty strict guidelines for signage in Kananaskis Country, and we want to put up every sign that needs to be put up without at the same time being guilty of signage pollution. In other words, you can oversign the place.

There are some forks in some trails that could use more signage than they have. That's probably what you're referring to, because the odd person might not find their way home as quickly as they thought they were going to. By and large, the program is coming along. We have informational signage, interpretive signage, safety signage, and so on. They're all being dealt with.

If there are any specific problems or comments anyone might have, I would really like to have them fed right into our office. In other words, if anybody did have a problem that could be corrected by improved signage, it would certainly help us in a management sense if we knew what the particular problem was.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Cripps to be followed by Mr. Moore.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like the other part of that question completed, regarding the equestrian trail and the noncompletion of same. That's the impression I got.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Nelson, we were going to substantially upgrade a road which we call the Powderface Trail, which would run from the Little Elbow campground north to Sibbald Flat. It's a road through some very tough country, and it is used as a snowmobile connector trail between the McLean Creek and Sibbald Flat areas in the summertime. It would be an expensive road to do. On that road there were two sites, the Canyon Creek site and the Prairie Creek site, where we were going to put in equestrian trail heads and then have trail systems go out from those two trail heads. When you have a choice of things to do with your money and there are only so many dollars to go around, the Powderface Trail as such had a somewhat lower priority than some of the other things we wanted to do. As a consequence of that, this development of the road, so to speak, gets on the back burner or falls behind somewhat. So does the development of trails and trail heads that would have gone along with it.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, as a follow-up to Mr. Nelson's question, could you indicate for the record how many day visitors and camping visitors there are in Kananaskis Country?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mrs. Cripps, we actually gave you the number for last summer.

MRS. CRIPPS: It's not on the record.

MR. MARSHALL: Okay. For the summer of 1983: 227,286 campers and 1,227,480 day users — that's somebody who's in there for some part of a day and does not spend overnight — for a total of 1,454,766. Nineteen eighty-three was a little bit different, to the extent that we had a Boy Scout jamboree there. So the 21,000, which is an unusual number, certainly is not included in that number. We also have group camps in Kananaskis Country which don't get counted in that, because it's another special situation. We'd have 20,000 to 30,000 people involved in group camping activities out there.

MRS. CRIPPS: If you only take the count by the number of people that sign, how do you come by that number? Just by the number of people that sign in, or did you do a count?

MR. MARSHALL: When I talked about the people who signed in, I was answering the question, where do people come from? In terms of how many people are there — first of all, you know that from your campgrounds, because they either go through a control gate or they self-register. That takes care of probably 95 percent of that kind of camping, because we still have some places in Kananaskis Country where camping is free. The rest of it is done by traffic counts, by sample, and by the number of people per car.

MRS. CRIPPS: Mr. Chairman, my next question is to the minister. Could you give us the cost of the sand compared to the cost of whatever other kind of sand was available for the golf course?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, I think that was the first question asked of the Premier last fall, and I answered it the second day of the fall sittings. But I

can go over it again. I think we had five or six submissions or tender bids to us. The tender in the vicinity of Edmonton was at \$40 a cubic metre for the sand you'd use at an ordinary golf course, which they do around Edmonton. The tender from a firm in Lethbridge was for \$42 a metre for the sand we have in Kananaskis now, which is dust-free, won't pack under heavy rains, and won't blow away. So for the cost/benefit — I think the total cost of the sand was some \$256,000. When you take the difference of \$2 per cubic metre, we probably paid \$260,000 for the sand we have today, against \$256,000 for the ordinary sand.

MRS. CRIPPS: And in answer to Mr. Martin's question . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Cripps, I think you've had your quota for this runaround, so we'll move on to Mr. Moore and then Mr. Cook. We'll put you back on, Madam.

MRS. CRIPPS: Actually, I didn't; he made me ask two questions in order to get the whole damned answer.

MR. R. MOORE: Mr. Minister, you indicated to a previous member's question that an urban park program for towns might be a good idea. In another area of park development, do you come after the fact in the area of irrigation reservoirs and hydro projects, or do you plan along with the other departments when they're planning, say, the Dickson dam? Do you come after the dam is in and everything, or do you utilize the dollars better by planning it as a park with the people that are constructing the major facility?

MR. TRYNCHY: It's my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that when any dam is constructed, the Department of Recreation and Parks is involved in the planning for future development of recreation areas someplace within that water body. I know that's the case at the Dickson site. I know that's the case at a dam site on the Paddle River. So I'm sure that when dam sites are planned for water reservoirs, Recreation and Parks will be involved with the Department of the Environment.

MR. R. MOORE: Thank you.

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to compliment the minister and his department staff on the urban parks program. Speaking as an Edmontonian and somebody who went down to Hawrelak Park on the weekend for the Heritage Days Festival, I know that our Capital City Recreation Park is well used and much appreciated. The question I have is: have there been any discussions with the city of Edmonton to extend the park west to include what is now the MacKinnon Ravine — what was going to be a freeway and is largely now a blight — to give access to Capital City park for bicyclists and pedestrians from the west end of the city? Further, you might consider the construction of a footbridge or bicycle bridge across from that area into the Hawrelak Park area. Has there been any discussion or thought given to extending the park west of 109th Street?

MR. TRYNCHY: There's been no discussion by me with anybody from the city of Edmonton that I can recall, with regard to the extension of Capital City park. It's something I would welcome if they were to come forward and suggest something. I've read it in the paper. The media has touted the expansion of Capital City park, but I've never sat down around a table and discussed it seriously with anyone from the city of Edmonton.

MR. COOK: I see. A supplementary question. Has there been any thought given to developing the heritage pavilion concept in Hawrelak Park? I know there is construction of a small facility now, but earlier there was a proposal by the Multicultural Society in the city of Edmonton for a series of pavilions that would be semipermanent facilities and would lend themselves nicely to Hawrelak Park. Have there been any discussions on that?

MR. TRYNCHY: Not to my knowledge. You must remember that most of that land is city-owned property, and they would probably have to initiate a discussion. I've had no discussion with anybody with regard to that type of project.

MR. COOK: A final supplementary, Mr. Chairman. If proposals were made to the minister and the department, would there be funding available under the urban parks policy, assuming that money was available? Would the policy permit the construction of additional facilities like a footbridge across the river to connect the west end, or physical structures in Hawrelak Park?

MR. TRYNCHY: The urban parks policy that we have in effect today is very flexible, and it meets the needs of the local people. So to that I would have to say, yes, provisions could be made. The second question was, are there funds available?. You have to remember that Capital City park is completed in its sense. If we were to do more in the Capital City park area, there would have to be either an extension or a new proposal, and we haven't gotten to that point at this time.

MRS. CRIPPS: I'm glad Mr. Cook raised the urban parks, because I want clarification on something Mr. Martin asked and you answered. Am I to understand that you may be in favour of expanding the urban parks concept to towns and villages and feel that that would be a useful program?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mrs. Cripps, I suggested at the outset that your committee should be making some recommendations to us. I would be in favour of whatever the people of this House or the people of Alberta would want me to do.

MR. THOMPSON: As long as you have the money.

MR. TRYNCHY: That's right.

MRS. CRIPPS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That exhausts my list. Oh, Mr. Zip, Mr. Thompson, and then Mr. Cook.

MR. ZIP: I have a question to ask as a new

suggestion, a new direction we can possibly take with regard to putting parks where people are and enhancing the usefulness of these parks as well. I'm thinking of rest areas in the province. When you travel around, you can go 700 kilometres from here to Saskatoon and, outside of a couple of information booths you have on that particular highway, there's just nothing. There are no rest areas, no place to stretch or enjoy flower beds like you see in the United States on the interstate system. Or going north and south along Highway No. 2, there's just that little rest area by Wetaskiwin. I think there's a very great deficiency in this respect. Has any thought been given to expanding and adopting some of those ideas and combining a park and a rest area and sort of enhancing — giving people a diversion and a break rather than just whipping from one end of the province to the other or whatever?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, the suggestion is that we need more park or recreation area along the highways. We have some 61 provincial parks, and as of this year we have some 40 municipal recreation areas which are developed across the province. I don't know how a provincial park along a road — between here and Calgary we have the Red Deer urban park, which is right in the middle of the distance between Edmonton and Calgary and could provide that. I think the motoring public would probably favour wayside transportation campsites to stop and rest and move along. I don't know if the motoring public going from Calgary to Edmonton want to stop at a provincial park. We've never used that concept, and I don't know if it would be one that would be acceptable to the motoring public.

We try to provide parks where the need is, where the people are. Therefore we have the urban parks policy, and we have our provincial parks throughout the province where we have water bodies and things like that. It's something I've never given much consideration to.

Your question with regard to improvement of wayside or travelling campsites should probably be addressed to the Minister of Transportation, to see what his thoughts are on that.

MR. ZIP: Well, when I've travelled across the United States by car, I've found that these rest areas are very, very helpful, especially if you're a long-distance traveller. In quite a large number of them, I've found more than just one type of facility, and I was very impressed with the beautification and the walkways and all. Recreational facilities were provided for children. There was quite a wide variety of services provided in some of these rest areas.

MR. TRYNCHY: A rest area is somewhat different from a provincial park. We're not in the business of providing rest areas. Our department is responsible for provincial parks, and they're sort of large provincial parks. We don't develop on a small site, because we provide a different service. But your rest areas and things that go with it might be something that would be useful or could be considered by the local municipality in the way of providing that kind of service through the municipal recreation areas grants which we've developed over the last little while.

MR. ZIP: I have another question, with regard to urban parks. To what extent will the McDougall site be an urban park? Will there be a very extensive expenditure on pathways, flower beds, and beautification there?

MR. TRYNCHY: My understanding is that parks will be part of that. But the park development there won't be under our department, so I can't tell you any more. I believe it's under Public Works, Supply and Services. Also, if I'm not mistaken, it's outside the heritage fund. It would be out of general revenues. You might want to raise that question with the minister responsible for that portfolio.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, my question is to Mr. Marshall. In the presentation it was mentioned that you have a cafeteria plus some dormitories there for park employees in Kananaskis. Could you give us some kind of breakdown on the number of permanent and temporary employees you have during the summertime in the Kananaskis Country?

MR. MARSHALL: In total, Mr. Chairman, in what we call the parks system, as opposed to Alberta Forest Service, Alberta Transportation, and so on, there are about 35 permanent positions, but there are very many more people out there in the summertime. The total amounts to about 212 to 216 man-years. There are little girls and boys running all over the place doing cleaning, campsite maintenance, and that kind of thing.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Marshall. You don't need to be defensive in this period of underemployment in the province. I think it's very good that we have places for these summer students to work, and I can't think of a better place to do it than in Kananaskis Country.

MR. MARSHALL: There are other people out there who work for people outside of government. That's another aspect to it. It takes a lot of people to run a golf course. Then there are the concessions, at least in Kananaskis Provincial Park, Fortress Junction, Bow Valley. The number of man-years for the whole operation is in excess of 300, about 335.

MR. COOK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask a couple of questions about the promotion of Kananaskis Country. Having been through Kananaskis Country last summer a little bit, I think the resource we have there is just fantastic. I think the group has to be commended.

I had an interesting experience in Montana. I was down there last week and talked to a fellow who's 65 years old. He was going for his holidays not to Washington state, Idaho, or even Montana. He was going to Kananaskis Country, because a friend of his who is 70 years old had been up there to William Watson Lodge and came away singing the praises of that facility and the park.

The question I'm going to ask is this: are we doing very much promotion work to try to bring in tourist dollars to provide a boost to the tourism industry as was noted in the white paper the Premier brought before the people of Alberta last month? Are we doing anything to promote that and bring in people from out of province?

Secondly, I know that in the next election two years from now, my friends in the NDP will be talking about the white sand and other things in Kananaskis Country. I think that's mitigated to some degree by the tremendous success and the large numbers of people going through there, seeing for themselves what a world-class, fine facility it is. So that kind of argument won't wash very well.

MR. NOTLEY: You're trying to tempt me into this question after all, are you, Rollie?

MR. COOK: The question I'm asking is this: are we doing some promotion work to get people in northern or central Alberta who perhaps don't have as much opportunity or awareness of the fine facilities there — seniors, school groups, the general population from Edmonton Glengarry — down to Kananaskis Country so they appreciate what a fine facility has been built there?

MR. TRYNCHY: I'll answer part of it, and then I'll have Ed comment on the other part of it. If you look on pages 25 and 62 of the white paper, Mr. Chairman, it makes reference to capitalizing on our tourist potential. It talks about Kananaskis Country and about future developments such as that. Certainly that's what Tourism and Small Business is doing. In their brochures across Alberta and Canada, wherever their brochures go, Kananaskis Country is in there. According to the minister, we've had response in regard to Kananaskis Country from Japan and all through the states. So it's being promoted as best we can.

I believe the best promotion is by this gentleman who went back from Kananaskis Country and said to his neighbours, you'd better get up there. I think that's the kind of promotion that pays greater dividends in the long run. Hopefully with Tourism working on it — we don't advertise outside the province as Recreation and Parks, but Tourism does. I think most of the benefits will flow from Tourism doing whatever it can in regard to making the picture well viewed from other corners of the world. Ed, any comments?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Minister, Mr. Chairman, I really think you've answered it very thoroughly. But if I may, I would just like to emphasize the fact that the facilities available in Kananaskis Country are advertised by our office throughout all of Alberta but no further. What we're trying to do is tell Albertans what's available, rather than a come and see what we've got approach or anything like that. We're not hard salesmen or anything like that. We've got no hard sell. We are trying to tell Albertans what we have there for them. And the use of the facility by Albertans is incredible. Edmontonians seem to have developed a love affair with the golf course there. It's incredible the number of Edmonton people who like to play that golf course. Of our initial bookings, something like 26 percent came from Edmonton.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, in having a review of the moneys expended on these urban parks, I think the development in the five cities in the province is quite commendable. I'll let the Member for Edmonton Glengarry speak about Edmonton; he does it reasonably well. I wonder if I could have the

minister address us as to why there are no heritage savings dollars going into some of the urban parks in Calgary. For example, a thousand acres have been set aside for park at Nose Creek. Has there been a request from the city or any discussions or what have you to assist in the development of this major landscape as an urban park?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, we've developed urban parks in Edmonton, Calgary, and five other centres. At this time we've had no proposal, or I haven't seen a proposal, where heritage funds have been requested for Nose Creek. I believe that's a city of Calgary project. There have been some funds flowing from MCR, the major cultural/recreation facility, by the city council of Calgary in development of parks, and that's where it's at. We've never entered into any discussion for further funding and have no request to my knowledge. Until we get some of these urban parks completed, I don't know if we're prepared to move back to centres such as Edmonton, Calgary, Lloydminster, or Grande Prairie. Some of the other centres that the hon. members have been talking about would like to have some of the heritage funds in their communities. So at this time we've had no request, and I don't anticipate getting involved until something comes forward from city council.

MR. NELSON: We'll pass that forward, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Chairman, during the presentation previously and earlier on, discussion has been centred on some infrastructure and development in and around Kananaskis Country. I wonder if there's some ongoing discussion and possible thoughts of future upgrading as needed, considering the development of the Mount Allan area for the Olympic Games of 1988 and also the possibility of considering the Canmore Nordic centre for the possible difficulty arising from the development of the Winter Olympics, both in the structures of roads and the additional number of people that are certainly going to be attending Kananaskis Country on a year-round basis.

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, the two developments the member talks about are indeed within Kananaskis Country and both are for the 1988 Olympics. There are no heritage funds designated for either of those projects. Those projects are being developed from other sources. The operations of those facilities after 1988 will be considered by a separate organization which will have an endowment fund in place. So we don't anticipate any difficulties in regard to the operations after the 1988 Olympics.

I just want to point out that both those facilities will add tremendously to the benefits of the people of Alberta and will also provide, I am sure, a lot more tourists and traffic into Kananaskis Country. Both those projects — at least Mount Allan, I hope — would be run by the private sector. I'm not sure if the private sector would be interested in a Canmore Nordic site, but there are funds available from the endowment fund that should be set up after the Olympics are over.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that information from the minister. However, I'm a little concerned about — you're quite correct; I should add that there are no heritage fund dollars going into

those particular developments. But at the same time, there's a considerable investment through the Heritage Savings Trust Fund in the development of the total area as the Kananaskis Country. Will that infrastructure suffice this additional major development that will be taking place? If not, should additional Heritage Savings Trust Fund dollars be set aside to upgrade the infrastructure to enhance and also ensure that the facility is accessible to the public at a time when the other development is completed?

MR. TRYNCHY: Mr. Chairman, the infrastructure costs will be part of the Olympic budget. The roads and utilities to both sites are all within the budget of the Olympics. Certainly when the Olympics are over, the roadways to those two sites will be sufficient to make sure that they are used well and able to be used by Albertans or tourists wherever they come from.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alexander.

MR. ALEXANDER: My questions have been asked, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That exhausts my list of committee members who have indicated to me they wanted to raise several questions or a question or more, Mr. Minister. So I take it we've exhausted the list.

Mr. Trynchy, thank you very much once again for your co-operation in assisting me in scheduling your annual appearance before the select committee. To your officials who are with you today, thank you very much for the audiovisual presentations that were provided. They were both very high quality and very informative. I personally appreciate that very much.

I might point out that there's a long-standing invitation from you, a year gone by now, inviting members of the committee to visit Kananaskis Country, and I do know that there's an interest among committee members to do so. Unfortunately it's been a time factor and a time matter dealing with scheduling. Should the committee members ever reach a consensus on what day or days might be available for such an overview, we'll be in touch with you, Mr. Marshall, to make the appropriate arrangements.

Thank you very much, and we'll look forward to seeing you all back here one year hence.

MR. TRYNCHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By all means, if the members of this committee have not been to Kananaskis Country, I think you owe it to yourselves to visit. If you let me or Mr. Marshall know, we'll certainly accommodate you. If you can get down to part way south, we'll take care of the rest. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, if I can keep you here for several more minutes. First of all, the way we began today with the presentation did not afford me an opportunity to introduce you to the new secretary of our committee, Ann Conroy, who will be joining us and serving all members of the committee in an administrative capacity. You'll note that when we had the organizational meeting on June 20, we said goodbyes to Mrs. Peggy Davidson, who was

departing this part of Canada for a new vocation in another part of Canada. Miss Conroy, welcome. Miss Conroy's background has been that of a legal secretary for the last number of years, and I'm sure she'll provide great assistance to us.

Secondly, over the last month or so you received from me three different schedules. We tried to make it very clear that each time we gave you a new schedule, you should throw away the previous one. So I hope there's no confusion whatsoever in terms of our upcoming schedule. There's only one piece of paper you should have in your binder with respect to the schedule of appearances in 1984, and that's a document dated July 20, 1984. I certainly hope your office staff would not be carrying any other piece of paper for you; in that event there could be some confusion.

I think it's important to spend just a couple of minutes going over that schedule. You'll note that tomorrow we'll have the Hon. Larry Shaben, Minister of Housing, appearing before us. On Thursday the plan is to visit Pine Ridge Forest Nursery, and you have all received a document which outlines the schedule. We're planning to leave from the east door of the Legislature Building at 8 o'clock in the morning, and we've chartered a minibus that will take all members. Today there were some 13 people who indicated their interest in going to Smoky Lake to see the Pine Ridge Forest Nursery. So it's 8 o'clock in the morning from the east door of this Legislative Assembly. We'll be going by minibus.

Tomorrow I'll be asking you for a motion to approve the total cost of the transportation by that minibus. It seems that if that's an extraordinary expenditure, we need committee approval for it. It's something like \$225 or \$226 total. So we'll all be going the same class, only we'll all sit at the front of the bus. The plan is that we should arrive in Smoky Lake at approximately 10 o'clock and be met there by officials. Mr. Fred McDougall, the deputy minister of Public Lands and Wildlife, will be joining us. He's also responsible for the forestry portion of it. We will have lunch there, see a forestry nursery film as well, depart the facility at approximately 2 o'clock, and be back here in Edmonton hopefully no later than 4 o'clock. I think that's fairly firm. There should be no deviations from it.

MR. MUSGREAVE: We're coming back to this building?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. We'll come back to this building no later than 4 o'clock, so you can make your appropriate scheduling with respect to that.

In one of the earlier schedules, we originally had Monday, August 13, set aside for a committee meeting. On the schedule that went out on July 20, you'll note that Monday, August 13, was taken out. That was taken out simply because we didn't need that date with the way the scheduling went. So I hope that's also firm, that there will be no meeting on Monday, August 13.

On August 14 we have the Hon. Marvin Moore, Minister of Transportation. Then we have three additional ministers on Tuesday, August 21; Wednesday, August 22; and Thursday August 23.

The date Tuesday, August 28, has been left open in the event of some need to meet with someone else committee members might suggest that we meet

with. There's no plan at this moment, however, to hold a select committee meeting that day. I left it as an open day in the event that within the next number of meetings, committee members might suggest that there's someone we may have ignored and should be inviting to come. So the plan at the moment is that we leave that day open, no committee meeting. If no other suggestions to fill it come forward from committee members to me, there will no be meeting that day. We'll designate it a reading day or just a dead day, period.

Then we meet on August 29, August 30, and September 5. There are two appearances that day. That's the only one on which there are two people appearing before the committee. In the morning is the Hon. Hugh Planche, and in the afternoon Mr. Rogers, the Auditor General. On Thursday, September 6, we have the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. We have three meetings — on Monday, September 10; Tuesday, September 11; and Wednesday, September 12.

You'll note that I sent all Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all committee members, a schedule of our appearances dated July 20. I indicated that we should begin our consideration of recommendations on Wednesday, September 12. So if committee members have recommendations they want, they should have them prepared and organized by September 12. That will probably be the first crack we'll have at looking at them.

One minister, the Hon. Mary LeMessurier, has written to me asking that she have the right to appear before the committee. She wants to bring forth a recommendation with respect to a historical site refurbishing and restoration proposal that she has. I think she'll be here asking us to uphold her recommendation and in fact to make a recommendation and have some dollars provided for her. She's the only Member of the Legislative Assembly who's done that at this point in time, but I expect that there may be others as well in the next several weeks.

On September 24, we have the Hon. Lou Hyndman; Tuesday, September 25, the Premier; and September 26 and 27, two additional ministers. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 2, 3, and 4, are for a further discussion of recommendations and, hopefully, finalization of recommendations as well.

We have some paper that has been provided to us by the Hon. Larry Shaben in anticipation of his appearance before us tomorrow. You'll recall that last year we indicated we would try to get you papers that ministers were going to bring and have them circulated to you a day before. So I'll ask Mr. Blain if he wouldn't mind conveying a document to all members of the committee. I haven't seen it yet, but it deals with housing programs and an update, so we can all be further prepared for tomorrow afternoon's meeting.

Unless there is a question or an item any committee member would like to raise with me, we'll terminate now and reconvene tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Hon. Larry Shaben, Minister of Housing.

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

[The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.]