

ROOSEVELT CAMPOBELLO INTERNATIONAL PARK



An aerial view of the Roosevelt Cottage, with Friar's Head and Cobscook Bay in the background.

The Roosevelt Campobello International Park

The Roosevelt Campobello International Park is a unique example of international cooperation. This 2,600 acre park is a joint memorial by Canada and the United States, and a symbol of the close relationship between the two countries. Here are the cottage and the grounds where President Roosevelt vacationed, the waters where he sailed, and the woods, bogs, and beaches where he tramped and relaxed.

In Franklin Roosevelt's affections Campobello Island ranked second only to Hyde Park. From 1883, when he was one year old, until he was stricken by polio in 1921, he spent most of his summer on this rugged and beautiful island on Passamaquoddy Bay where a group of New York and Boston entrepreneurs had purchased a large section of land and promoted it as a summer resort for wealthy Americans.

James Roosevelt, Franklin's father, purchased four acres and a partially completed house in 1883. By the summer of 1885 this house was completed and the Roosevelts - James, Sarah Delano and young Franklin - became summer residents. The site of that house, known in later years as "*Granny's Cottage*", is just north of the Roosevelt Cottage, which was given to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt as a wedding gift. Franklin Roosevelt, the young father, found that his family enjoyed Campobello and it became customary to spend July, August and part of September there. The robust, athletic father taught his children sailing and many other things he had learned there during his childhood. He organized hiking expeditions along the cliffs and "dragooned" the children into games of hare-and-hounds and paper chases. Campobello became as much a part of the lives of his five children as it had been of his.

In the 1920 elections, FDR campaigned for the vice-presidency. The Democratic ticket was defeated and Roosevelt took charge, as a vice-president, of the New York office of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland. By August, 1921, he was looking forward to a good rest at his beloved Campobello Island.

When FDR arrived the family plunged into a wild, whooping, sailing, picnicking time together. August 10th was a typical, active day. Although he had been feeling lousy for several days, FDR took his family for a sail on the "Vireo". In the afternoon they spotted a forest fire and assisted in fighting it. Returning to the cottage, he ran with the children across the Island to swim in the Lake Glen Severn and followed that with a dip in the icy waters of the Bay of Fundy "When I reached the house," he wrote later, "the mail was in, with several newspapers I hadn't seen. I sat reading for a while, too tired even to dress." He developed a chill and went to bed without supper. The following morning he was running a high temperature.



"At first FDR appeared to have a cold, but his high fever persisted and he developed paralytic symptoms. 'My left leg lagged,' he recalled. 'Presently it refused to work, and then the other . . .' On August 25 a specialist diagnosed the affliction as polio." On September 15, 1921, FDR's fishermen friends carried him to a waiting boat. As they bore him on an improvised stretcher, he smiled at two of his sons who were struggling to keep back their tears and said, "Don't worry kids! I'll see you soon."

Nearly twelve years passed before FDR came back to Campobello. Eleanor Roosevelt and the five children continued to visit the Island during the summers but convalescence and his involvement in active politics prevented his return. After four years as Governor of New York State (1929-1933), FDR was elected President of the United States. The first 100 days of his Administration were trying for FDR, and by June, 1933, he felt the need for a good vacation. Recalling his happy experiences at Campobello, the President planned a sailing trip to the Island.

On June 18th, the schooner "Amberjack II" sailed from Marion, Massachusetts. The President was at the helm much of the time. After an official welcome at Eastport, Maine, President Roosevelt docked his boat at Welshpool, Campobello Island on June 30. In greeting the large crowd that welcomed him—many of whom he had known for many years—the President warmly referred to "my old friends at Campobello."

FDR left Campobello for Washington, D.C. on July 1 on the cruiser U.S.S. "Indianapolis". The visit was too brief for his satisfaction, as were his subsequent visits on July 29-30, 1936 and August 14-15, 1939. He planned a visit for August, 1941, but pressing international matters prevented his doing so. While these visits after the polio attack were few and brief, his love of the Island and his long associations with its people left a lasting impression.

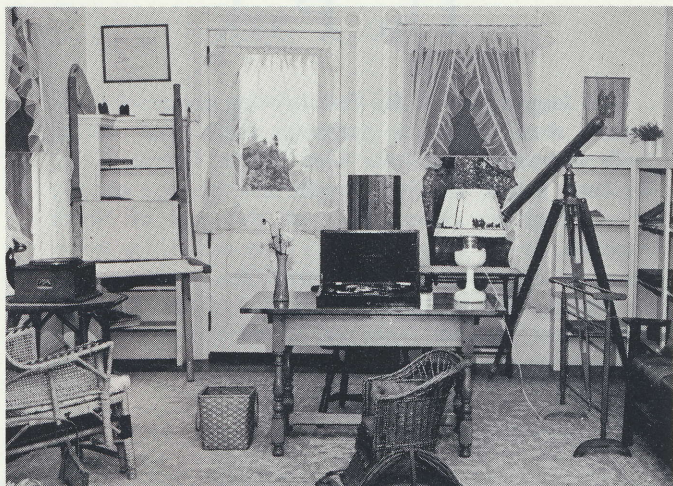
Seated on the porch of the cottage in this 1920 photograph of the Roosevelt family are: Franklin Jr. and John, front row; Elliott and Anna, second row; and FDR, his mother, Sarah Delano Roosevelt, his wife, Eleanor, 2nd son, James, top row. The dog was named, "Chief".

The Park's Reception Centre provides an introduction to the Park. Two films produced by the Park Commission are shown in the Centre. "*Beloved Island*" is a portrait of the Island and its impact on Franklin Roosevelt. "*Campobello - The Outer Island*" is an interpretation of the natural areas of the Island and its shores.

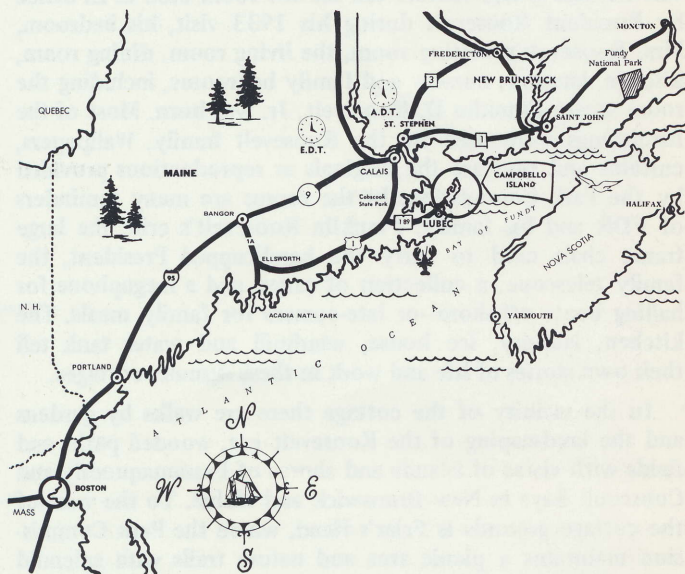
From the Reception Centre it is a short walk to the Roosevelt Cottage where visitors can see the room used as an office by President Roosevelt during his 1933 visit, his bedroom, Mrs. Roosevelt's writing room, the living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry, nursery and family bedrooms, including the room where Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. was born. Most of the furnishings were used by the Roosevelt family. Wallpapers, curtains and rugs are the originals or reproductions provided by the Park Commission. In the rooms are many reminders of FDR and his family: Franklin Roosevelt's crib, the large frame chair used to carry the handicapped President, the family telescope, a collection of canes, and a megaphone for hailing boats off-shore—or late-comers for family meals. The kitchen, laundry, ice house, windmill and water tank tell their own stories of life and work in these summer cottages.

In the vicinity of the cottage there are walks by gardens and the landscaping of the Roosevelt era, wooded paths and fields with vistas of islands and shores of Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays in New Brunswick and Maine. To the west of the cottage grounds is Friar's Head, where the Park Commission maintains a picnic area and nature trails with splendid views of the bays.

FDR's den contains memorabilia from his childhood and the years of his presidency.



The principal access to Campobello Island is The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Bridge at Lubec, Maine. North of the Park on Campobello are the villages of Welshpool and Wilson's Beach, with tourist facilities. The Province of New Brunswick maintains a Park with tent and trailer sites and picnic areas at the northern end of Herring Cove. There are also tourist facilities in and near Lubec. The State of Maine has two parks in the area, with tenting and trailer facilities at Cobscook Bay Park in the Moosehorn Game Refuge at Whiting and picnic areas at Quoddy Head State Park.



The Park

The largest part of the Park is being protected in its natural state. From the perimeter roads and hiking trails visitors can see Lake Glen Severn, Herring Cove, Raccoon Beach, the Duck Ponds, and the bogs and fog forests that are characteristic of this part of North America. In the coves and bays there are fishing weirs, much as they were when Franklin Roosevelt came to the island. This part of the Park also affords views of the Wolves, Quoddy Head and Grand Manan Island to the east, south and west.

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The Roosevelt Campobello International Park was established under an agreement signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson on January 22, 1964.

On August 21, 1966, Prime Minister Pearson and President Johnson together laid the cornerstone of the new Reception Centre.

On July 13, 1967, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother declared the Reception Centre open. Before unveiling a plaque that recorded the opening of the Park, the laying of the cornerstone, and the unveiling, Her Majesty said: "It is most fitting that the memory of so gallant and illustrious an American should be honoured on the Canadian Island which he loved."

The Park opens the Saturday following Victoria Day (the Saturday prior to U.S. Memorial Day), and remains open for twenty weeks. Visiting hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A.D.T. (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E.D.T.) seven days a week. There is no admission charge.

The Park is administered by a joint commission of three Canadian and three American members.

All inquiries should be directed to the Executive Secretary at Welshpool, Campobello, N.B., Canada or P.O. Box 97, Lubec, Maine, U.S.A. 04652.

FDR's "cottage", decorated for his first return to Campobello Island, in June 1933, after an absence of nearly 12 years.

