

PRESQUE ISLE PENINSULA

Good day everyone...it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

Come along with me today to Presque Isle State Park at Erie-- Pennsylvania's beautiful 3100 acre playground--probably the best combined fishing, bathing and boating area anywhere in this country. Let me tell you what happens to you at Presque Isle. Our family was cruising Erie Harbor on the "Ann Adair"-- we passed a lad in a rowboat--now there he was, his head on one gunwale, his feet over the other side and he had a fishing rod in one hand, radio blaring next to him, a Pittsburgh Pirate ball game. Hat down over his eyes--get the picture? I shouted to him--"what's the score"?, he shrugged, and almost without moving, nodded toward his fishing rod--"how's fishing"? I ventured--he shrugged again and nodded to the radio as if to say, "Who's fishing, I'm listening to the ball game". You see what I mean--that's the languid, easy summer life along Presque Isle. You just don't care. Why should you? The natural beauty of the 3100 acres has been preserved for people to see and to enjoy. Presque Isle gives a magnificent view of the Erie skyline--the 1973 All-American city--Crystal Point, the Perry Monument and Misery Bay where Perry's fleet was acuttled following the battle of Lake Erie. The Niagara, his flagship is restored in Erie harbor. For nature lovers there are hundreds of horticultural delights--450 species of plant life, 250 species of birds and a wealth of small wildlife--squirrel, fox, racoon, muskrat. There are winding lagoons and ponds navigable by

canoe or powerboat--the marina at Presque Isle has 420 docking stalls. The Presque Isle Lighthouse has been flashing its warning beason since 1871. Fresh air, sun and fishing to laze away the fun-filled summer afternoons. And there is no beach anywhere to compare with Presque Isle State Parks, it's as long as the world-famous beach at Atlantic City--but no honky-tonk--just the Good Lord's sand and Lake Erie waves coming in to caress you--the safest breakers you've ever swum into. There are picnicking facilities, too--we have a picture at home with my three lads and a cousin wrapping their lips around a huge watermelon quarter slice along a picnic spot at Presque Isle--it brings back fond memories. The kids have never forgotten that vacation. If you fish, you can hook muskies, pan fish, perch, bass--and if ice fishing's your dish, bring the gear next winter, get a windbreak and get set for action! This is the Peninsula the Erie Indians called "the sheltering arm of the Great Spirit"--and it has sheltered the northwest tip of Pennsylvania forever--protected it, so that you could vacation gloriously when you wished to in 3100 acres of a wonderland without peer--and with pure water. You should head for Presque Isle State Park in the Northwest; a shelter, a haven, a refuge against the cares of the everyday world--it is a pleasant time you will long remember.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.