

The north of the lake, which is wholly sterile and rocky, only affords support for caribou, which find a palatable food in various lichens growing there. The animals and plants of the forests and prairies to the south have already been referred to.

It is obviously impossible that very exact cartographic representations should exist of so vast a lake, which has only once or twice been visited by scientific observers, and then only partially, having never been explored as a whole. I have therefore here also to make some alterations in the maps now current.

The lake receives eleven watercourses, of which eight (the Peace, Mamawi, Athabasca, Little Fork, William's, Unknown, Beaver, and Other-side rivers) are on its south. The Grease and Carp rivers enter into it from the Barren Ground; and the Great Fond-du-Lac river flows in on the east. The latter drains into the lake the waters of the Great Black Lake and the Lake of the Isles, a basin dotted with granitic blocks and fed by two streams which are practically a chain of small lakes. The most southerly of these rises at the foot of Beast's Mountain, not far from Wollaston or Great Hatchet Lake; the northern one rises near Lake Caribou, but without having any kind of communication with it.

It was doubtless the proximity of these two great lakes to the most eastern sources of Lake Athabasca that caused Hearne to believe that Lake Wollaston was connected with Hudson's Bay by the Churchill river, and with the Arctic Ocean by Lake Athabasca. Nothing, however, could be more incorrect. The most northern source of Lake Wollaston is the glacial river springing from the elongated granitic water-parting before mentioned. This lake drains into Lake Caribou by the Canoe River, a simple connecting arm, and communicates with the Churchill River by the Deer River. But there is absolutely no communication between the lakes occupying the two slopes of the water-parting.

I have therefore corrected four geographical mistakes about these Canadian lakes, to which various drainages have hitherto been attributed. The first mistake refers to Lake La Ronge, which empties into the Churchill, and which was also said to open into the Beaver River; but I showed in 1873 that the Beaver receives the La Plonge River, which rises near Lake La Ronge, though not taking the actual waters of the latter lake. The second concerns Lakes Wollaston and Athabasca, as above stated.