

### Flow of Canada's Rivers

River	Drainage Area (Square Miles)	Mean Flow (cfs)
St. Lawrence	503,000	540,000
Mackenzie	700,000	300,000
Fraser	90,000	125,000
Columbia*	40,000	100,000
Nelson	414,000	85,000
Yukon*	130,000	80,000
Churchill (Labrador)	30,000	60,000
Skeena	21,000	45,000
Saint John	22,000	35,000

Canada's history has been moulded by the influence of great rivers

The country's first industry, the fur trade, depended on the ready access provided by the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and the many other great waterways that provided transportation to the interior.

The early settlement of the country depended on this ready means of access. The plentiful water supplies of the flat, fertile plains of southern Ontario and Quebec, the river-borne transportation of lumber and, later, the power of water-driven turbines, all were vital factors in the building of a Canadian nation.

An adequate supply of fresh water is vital to modern Canada

Today, more than ever, water is the key to Canada's development, providing the moisture needed for food production, supplying the renewable energy required in industrial growth, providing access to raw materials and playing a vital part in the processing of these materials. It also adds immensely to the beauty of the countryside and thus to the enjoyment of life.

*Domestic and municipal supplies:* Canada's earliest settlers, who had to carry or pump their household water supplies by hand, probably got by on five gallons or less a day for each person. Today, each member of the average Canadian family uses from 20 to 70 gallons or more each day. Bathing, washing clothes and dishes, disposing of wastes, watering lawns and washing cars require considerable quantities of water and any curtailment of the supply arouses surprise and resentment. Fortunately, in Canada, shortages have usually been local and temporary. Most Canadians have not had to worry seriously about their water supply.

Despite the variety of its uses, water is probably the least expensive household material. Compare the price of oil for heating (30 cents a gallon) or gasoline for the automobile (60 cents a

\* At the International Boundary.