

### *Fish, forests and furs*

Lakes, rivers and streams cover 16 per cent of the province's area and forested lands make up 40 per cent.

Each year nine million kilograms of fish are taken from Manitoba waters by commercial fishermen. Nearly 60 per cent of the catch comes from Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis and Manitoba, with Lake Winnipeg by far the principle source. The main commercial species are whitefish, sauger, pike and walleye.

Most of the commercial fish harvest is exported to the United States. The provincial government has taken an active part in fisheries management and fish culture. There are a number of walleye and trout hatcheries and the province has an ambitious lake restocking program.

Three out of every four hectares of land in Manitoba are publicly owned. Thus the province, through its control of these crown lands, manages most of Manitoba's productive (114,000 km<sup>2</sup>), potentially productive (18,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and non-productive (125,000 km<sup>2</sup>) forest areas.

The total sales value of all related wood-using industries in 1978 was estimated at \$338.6 million. Much of the pulpwood production is manufactured into newsprint, kraft paper and construction materials within the province.

The most common tree species include black and white spruce, jack pine, aspen, tamarack, white birch, balsam fir, cedar and balsam poplar. Oak, elm, ash, basswood, maple and cottonwood trees are found in certain regions of the province.

More than 60 per cent of the annual harvest is manufactured into pulpwood and nearly 35 per cent is converted into lumber. The remainder is made into railway ties, telephone and hydro poles or is used in mines or as firewood.

The provincial government annually reforests between five and six thousand hectares of crown land and operates a large forest nursery near the community of Hadashville in southeastern Manitoba.

There is abundant wildlife in Manitoba. The fur trade sparked the opening of the Canadian west to European settlement. While this is no longer a major economic activity, fur remains an important natural resource.

Manitoba has 180 fur farms where mink and fox are raised commercially. Aside from the fur farmers and workers in Winnipeg tanneries, many native Indians depend on trapping for at least part of their annual income.

The provincial government plays an active role in the conservation and