

Because of the apparent abundance of water in this country there has been a tendency to ignore or forget the fact that there is a limit to the amount of waste material which can be absorbed by any watercourse. This rapid growth of large population centres, and the expansion of industry in certain areas of Canada, have produced unpleasant evidence of what uncontrolled pollution can do to a river, and this is beginning to correct the complacent attitude of Canadians to water.

There can be no suggestion, of course, that Canada's rivers should not be used to transport waste. Water is an efficient and an economical carrier of undesirable materials. To a certain extent it can, by natural processes, dispose of those materials, but there is a limit, both in quantity and type of waste, beyond which the river is incapable of recovery. The prohibition of all waste products from streams is as impractical and undesirable as the excessive use of streams for this purpose.

The goal of wise water management is the attainment of an acceptable, economic balance which takes into account all the many and varied services which a stream is called upon to render.

RP/A