



*A Hudson Bay iceberg.*

thick covering 1,800,000 square miles. Some melts every summer, but most of it remains. A small part of the permanent pack — the ice nearest land, called fast ice — is stationary, but most is in motion, as restless as the liquid sea below, moving with the winds and currents, breaking up and crashing together again to form great ridges, ten to twenty feet high.

The ice is sea ice and not like the ice in your drink. Salt water freezes at 28.6°F, 3.4° below the point at which fresh water freezes. When it is new, it contains little pockets of frozen brine which make it possible to bend a thin sheet of it. Summer's thaw leaches out the brine leaving puddles of drinkable water that will become fresher, harder ice.

At the northern tip of Baffin Island, 400 miles above the Arctic Circle, the lakes melt in July,

*A carved stone is used to make prints at Baker Lake, Northwest Territories.*



and the char, which have been imprisoned, head up the Robertson River to Koluktoo Bay. The bay water is then fresh on top and salt below. The char swim, clearly visible and vulnerable, where the two layers meet, five feet down. Inuit fishermen with three-pronged spears wait for them in the endless daylight.

There are only some 17,000 Canadian Inuit, and they are all coastal people. Most live in small family groups, spread over thousands of miles. They have known the white man for centuries; seventeenth century Norwegians from whaling ships are remembered by occasional names and blue eyes.

For example, some thirty families — about 250 people — winter at Holman Island, 70° 43' north and 117° 43' west, in the Amundsen Gulf. The people live in prefab houses, but the men off

*Inukshuk are built by Inuit hunters to control caribou movement. This one is on Hudson Bay.*

