

# CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

## The Long, Long Shore



Our ancestors lived on the edge of the sea. The first explorers moved around on salt water — the Mediterranean, the North Sea, the Atlantic — and when they got to land they settled at the water's edge. In Canada they found the most extensive shoreline in the world. Only Canada touches three oceans — the Atlantic, the Arctic and the Pacific.

The combined coasts — mainland, bays, inlets, islands and gulfs — are more than 150,000 miles long. All living Canadians could build houses, side by side facing the sea, without being crowded; though those who built on the shores of Ellesmere Island would be very short of lumber.

Sixteen million Canadians live within reach of the sea, in big cities, in villages and on farms; and many stay, not only because home is home, but because, directly or indirectly, they earn their livelihoods from the sea. There is great wealth in the water — the traditional wealth of fish and shellfish and the more recently recognized wealth of oil and gas. The sea sustains fishermen, sailors, longshoremen, scientists, shippers, lighthouse keepers, shopkeepers, oil drillers, helicopter pilots and lifeguards.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we look at the shorelines, the people, the communities, the economies, the perils, the opportunities, the past, the present and the future.

