Recreational requirements are no longer overlooked in the development of water-use projects. The demands of recreational interests have in some cases been strong enough to affect decisions involving the location of hydro-power projects. How an existing project is operated is frequently influenced by the effect it will have on recreation.

Pleasure-boating on natural and artificial waterways has shown a remarkable increase in the past few years. Thousands of pleasure craft travel the rivers of Canada every year, retracing the old *voyageur* routes that once carried the commerce of the young nation. The Rideau Canal from Ottawa to Kingston, built in 1830 for national defence, has for many years been a popular waterway for pleasure craft travelling between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers. The Trent Canal System is another mecca for pleasure-boat operations.

A growing awareness of the recreational value to the nation of clean water, to say nothing of the tourist dollars water-oriented recreation can attract, will undoubtedly give rise to many programs for the restoration of natural waterways that have become damaged or destroyed through indifference.

Waste disposal: Usually last to be mentioned but far from least in importance is the vital service water renders in diluting and carrying away the wastes of a modern society. Unfortunately, this use leads easily to abuse, as demonstrated by the condition of most of the rivers serving populated areas.

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 that can be absorbed by an water-course. The 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 change the complacent attitude of Canadians to water.

To a certain extent water can, by natural processes, dispose of some waste materials, but there is a limit, both in quantity and type, to what a stream can handle.

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

RP/A