

Besides the commercial freshwater fishermen, there are thousands of sport fishermen who each year cast their lures into lakes and rivers in all parts of the country.

To an increasing extent, commercial and sport fishing are receiving important consideration in the preliminary design of water-use projects affecting fisheries. In some cases, this consideration has not only dictated the nature of the project but has also influenced the choice of location.

Fish require a pollution-free environment, and the increasingly polluted condition of many lakes and streams has had a serious effect on both the quantity and type of fish available for sport or commerce.

*Recreation:* In 1941, little more than 50 per cent of Canada's population lived in towns and cities. In the 1970s, by contrast, town and city populations make up about 76 per cent of the total. Almost half Canada's people, in fact, live in the 19 cities with populations over 100,000.

The trend toward living in large urban centres has been accompanied by a desire to return occasionally to non-urban surroundings as an escape from the pressures of modern city life. The annual exodus from the cities during the summer months stems directly from the increase in leisure time enjoyed by most Canadians and the fact that many more people now own automobiles (car ownership increased from one to every eight persons in 1949 to one for every 3½ in 1972).

Much of the recreation sought by holidaying Canadians needs water. Swimming, fishing, boating, water-skiing -- all increasingly popular -- require clean water. But many rivers and lakes close to urban centres are polluted to such an extent that they are useless for recreational purposes. This increases the demand on those that are suitable, and creates also a demand for new recreational lakes. The demand is such that many large reservoirs have been built with recreation as one of their primary purposes. The South Saskatchewan River project is one example.

Several of the flood-control and conservation dams built recently in southern Ontario are designed so that their reservoirs can also be used for recreational purposes. Five reservoirs to be built in the Metropolitan Toronto region have recreation as their only purpose.

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