

Much of the recreation sought by holidaying Canadians needs water. Swimming, fishing, boating, waterskiing — 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 use of those that are suitable and creates a demand for new recreational lakes — a demand so great that many large reservoirs have been built with recreation as one of their primary purposes.

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.

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-electric 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 also attracts pleasure-boats.

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.