

turing. In general, the consumption of water is estimated to be about 10 per cent of the amount withdrawn.

Withdrawal uses of water

Municipal and rural use

Canada's earliest settlers, who had to carry or pump their household water-supplies by hand, probably got by on 23 litres (5 gallons Imperial) or less a day for each person. Today, domestic water-use averages about 335 litres (74 gallons) a day for each city dweller across Canada and some 100 litres (22 gallons) a day for each country dweller. Bathing, washing clothes and dishes, disposing of wastes, watering lawns and washing cars require considerable quantities of water, and any curtailment of the supply causes surprise and resentment. Fortunately, in Canada shortages have usually been local and temporary. Few Canadians have had to worry seriously about water-shortages.

Despite its versatility, water is probably the least expensive household material. Compare the price of oil for heating (11 cents a litre or 50 cents a gallon) or gasoline for automobiles (18 cents a litre or 82 cents a gallon) with the cost of water piped to the house (about 7.4 cents a thousand litres or 34 cents a thousand gallons). At that price, water costs about 7 cents a tonne (or ton), delivered. No other material costs so little.

Ninety litres (20 gallons) to take a bath or to do the laundry, 45 litres (10 gallons) to wash dishes, 25 litres (5 or 6 gallons) to flush the toilet — all this water is used without much thought in the average household. Industries located within cities also use a very large amount of water, much of which comes from municipal supplies.

In 1974, water-uses for all purposes in Ottawa, Canada's capital, averaged 500 litres (110 gallons) a person every day. Montreal used 775 litres (170 gallons) a day; Vancouver 820 litres (180 gallons); and Toronto 545 litres (120 gallons). Industrial and municipal uses — including street-cleaning and use in parks and pools — account for most of the difference between these total-consumption figures and the domestic consumption (335 litres or 74 gallons a person every day). *Per capita* use for domestic purposes does not vary appreciably from city to city.