

Beauharnois and other installations already approximate 1,500,000 horsepower, and ultimate expansion to 2,000,000 horsepower can be accomplished readily. The third site is the Lachine Section, where a projected 1,200,000 horsepower might be installed.

The St. Lawrence Seaway should be distinguished from the St. Lawrence Ship Channel. The projected Seaway extends above Montreal. The Ship Channel extends from Montreal down to a point 30 miles below Quebec. This channel was deepened by the Federal Government for the purpose of providing safe navigation for ocean-going vessels from deep water to Montreal. It has a depth of 35 feet and it will provide the ocean link for the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The St. Lawrence Seaway should also be distinguished from the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Basin. This is a vast drainage system covering an area of 678,000 square miles, 493,000 of which are in Canada and 185,000 in United States. It includes Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, together with all the tributary rivers and streams, the most important of which are the Ottawa, St. Maurice and Saguenay Rivers.

What does the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Basin consist of?

It consists of five steps which are its chief assets, because they contain over 10 million horsepower of electrical energy, all of it close to large and growing markets, most of it undeveloped, and chief liabilities, because large vessels must be able to pass them if cheap transportation is to be extended from one end of the Seaway to the other. The five steps are:

1. St. Mary's Falls lying between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, where there is a drop of 21 feet;
2. The St. Clair-Detroit passage joining Lake Huron and Lake Erie, where there is a drop of 8 feet;
3. Niagara River, emptying from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario, with a drop of 326 feet;
4. The upper St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario to Montreal, with a drop of 225 feet;
5. Montreal to the sea, a drop of 20 feet.

These five steps will, it is estimated develop over 10 million horsepower, divided as follows:

At Niagara	5,400,000 hp.
In the International Rapids Section.....	2,200,000 hp.
In the Beauharnois or Soulanges Section...	2,000,000 hp.
In the Lachine Section	1,200,000 hp.

All of this power is Canadian with the exception of 2,700,000 hp. at Niagara and 1,100,000 hp. in the International Rapids Section.

There is no need to labour the economic significance of this white power in an area of Canada where no coal or black power is found.