

arrives), the 750 cubic miles of water is available every year and is constantly replenished by the continual operation of the hydrologic cycle.

FLOW OF CANADA'S RIVERS

River	Drainage Area (Square Miles)	Mean Flow (cfs)
St. Lawrence	295,000	400,000
Mackenzie	700,000	300,000
Fraser	90,000	100,000
Columbia ^M	40,000	80,000
Nelson	414,000	75,000
Yukon ^M	130,000	75,000
Churchill (Labrador)	30,000	60,000
Skeena	21,000	40,000
Saint John	22,000	30,000

Canada's history has been moulded by the influence of great rivers

The country's first industry, the fur trade, depended upon the ready access provided by the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and their tributary streams and the many other great waterways which provided transportation to the interior.

The early settlement of the country depended on this same ready means of access. The plentiful water supplies of the flat, fertile plains of southern Ontario and Quebec, the river-borne transportation of lumber and later the power of water-driven turbines, all were vital factors in the building of a Canadian nation.

An adequate supply of fresh water is vital to modern Canada

Today, more than ever, water is the key to Canada's development, supplying the renewable energy required in industrial growth, providing access to raw materials and playing a vital part in the processing of these materials.

Domestic and municipal supplies. Canada's earliest settlers, who had to carry or pump their household water supplies by hand, probably got by on five gallons or less per day for each person. Today each member of the average Canadian family uses from 20 to 70 gallons or more each day. Bathing, washing clothes and dishes, disposing of wastes, watering lawns and washing cars require considerable quantities of water and any curtailment of the supply arouses surprise and resentment. Fortunately, in Canada, shortages have usually been local and temporary. Most Canadians have not had to worry seriously about water shortages.

Despite its variety of uses, water is probably the least expensive material used in the household. Compare the price of oil for heating (20 cents per gallon) or gasoline for the automobile (50 cents per gallon) with the cost of water piped to the house (about one-thirtieth of a cent per gallon in Ottawa). At a cost of 34 cents per thousand gallons, water costs about 7 cents a ton, delivered. No other material costs so little.

* At International Boundary.