

- (4) Provision of an inspection service to ensure proper care of planted stock.
- (5) Trees for reforestation are obtained from the 11 nurseries operated by the Department of Lands and Forests which produce almost 60 million trees annually. The charge made is \$10 per thousand except Scotch Pine which is \$15 per thousand.

In addition two organizations, the Grand Valley Conservation Commission and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, have nurseries of their own, growing shrub and tree stock for erosion control and wildlife purposes.

#### *Methods of Demonstration and Public Education*

The surest way to alert the public to the value of conservation programs is to promote educational activity by public participation in conservation schemes or field observation of conservation activities. Tree-planting days for youth groups such as the Boy Scouts and 4-H Clubs and conducted tours over well-organized conservation trails are some of the methods used.

### WATER

Water is of vital importance to Ontario. Geographically Ontario is said to be in a humid region, which suggests water being available in plenteous quantities. The word "humid", however, is merely an average condition between periods of drought and flood. Future growth of industrial and agricultural production and urban development may be governed in large measure by the degree of success achieved in regulation and distribution of the water provided irregularly by nature.

The super-abundance of water in times of high precipitation and low demand needs to be put in storage not only to prevent flood damages but to be distributed for beneficial uses in times of need. One of the aims of the Conservation Branch of the Department of Commerce and Development is to assist in the conservation of water resources for the use of present and future generations so that the water problems which confront the people of Ontario will be minimized. To serve this aim the Branch prepares and implements plans for flood control and water conservation on a watershed basis for the Conservation Authorities in Ontario. In the 15 years since this work started, plans have been prepared for 21 Conservation Authorities; surveys and reports for 5 more are underway. While the reduction of flood damages is a primary concern, plans for flood control must be co-ordinated with plans to solve such other water problems as domestic, industrial, and irrigation water supply, streambank erosion control, pollution abatement and water for fish, wildlife and recreation.

#### A. FLOOD CONTROL IN ONTARIO

There has been a great deal of flooding in Ontario, even prior to settlement. The first flood we have record of occurred in April, 1680. On an overland journey from Detroit to the Niagara River two of La Salle's companions "succumbed to the toil of walking continually in water, the constant rain and great thaw having flooded all the woods." Up to the middle of the 1800's reports of floods are few and obscure. During the period 1850 to 1960 records of floods causing property damage are available for 103 of the 110 years. The seven years for which no records have yet been found are 1855, 1876, 1877, 1879, 1915, 1924 and 1931. The cost of damages due to