

In 1922 the Province of Ontario purchased the Toronto Power Company. The Canadian Niagara Power Company later closed its station after reaching an agreement with Ontario Hydro to obtain power from its more efficient plant.

The sharing of the waters and the power between the United States and Canada is controlled by treaty. The first was signed in 1909. A new one permitting greater diversions of water and increasing power production fourfold was signed in 1950.

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## Adam Beck 1 & 2

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Sir Adam Beck-Niagara Generating Station No. 1, begun in 1917, was for many years the largest hydro-electric plant in the world. It now has ten generators and an installed capacity of 414,650 kW.

Sir Adam Beck No. 2, which opened in 1954 next to No. 1, has sixteen units, is almost twice as long as No. 1 and has a capacity of 1,223,600 kW.

An associated pumping-generating station contributes another 176,700 kW to Beck No. 2 during peak hours.

Some thirty-five per cent of Ontario Hydro's power is produced by water, and in addition to the Beck plants on the Niagara there are major ones on the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa and smaller ones on eleven other waterways.

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## Winter Wonderland

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When Niagara Falls freezes in mid-winter an ice bridge forms between Canada and the United States.

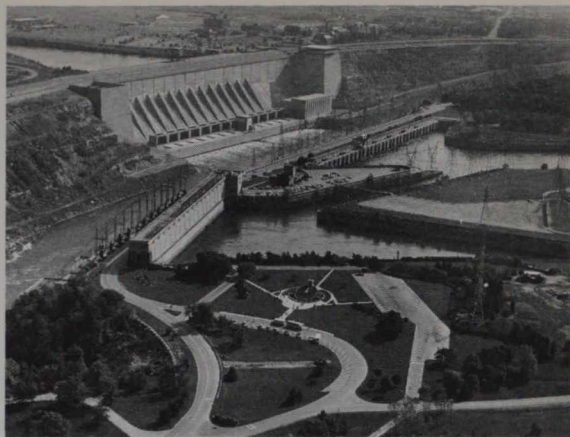
It may be forty or more feet thick. In some years it is almost flat, in others it has ridges eighty feet high.

It is now just part of the spectacle to be observed from the safer steel bridges above, but a century ago it was a playground and a marketplace.

The *Drummondville Recorder* described the merry scene one February afternoon:

"Last Sunday was a gala day on the ice bridge. The visitors must have numbered 20,000. [They] amused themselves all day either watching toboggans coast down the ice mound at Prospect Point corner or in trying the fun themselves. What laughing and yelling as some of the unlucky sports came to grief. The seven shanties on the ice bridge were doing a good business in liquor, photographs and curiosities all day long."

The shanties, a familiar feature of the bridge, were made of wood, covered with tar paper. Most



*Sir Adam Beck 1 and 2 generating stations.*

of them were on the Canadian side since the Canadian police were considered more lenient.

The playground turned out to be treacherous.

On January 22, 1899, the ice suddenly began to break up and between fifty and a hundred people scrambled to safety.

It broke up again thirteen years later, on Sunday, February 4, 1912, and this time four people were left stranded.

William "Red" Hill, the local life saving specialist, rescued Ignatius Roth of Cleveland, but Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Stanton of Toronto, and Roth's companion, Burrel Heacock of Cleveland, were swept downstream.

Firemen, policemen and railroad workers lowered ropes from the Cantilever and Whirlpool Rapids Bridges as thousands watched. The stranded trio caught the ropes but were unable to hold on to them, and they were carried into the icy waters of the Whirlpool and drowned.



*Niagara in winter.*