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Abstract: The article presents information on waterways of Canada. Canada's huge landmass surrounds one-third of all the fresh water on the planet. An area in the Canadian Shield which was carved out by glaciers millions of years ago, is now filled with thousands of lakes. There are many important rivers in Canada. These rivers play an essential role in the Canadian economy. Perhaps the most important of these waterways is the Saint Lawrence River or Saint Lawrence Seaway. Emptying into the Atlantic Ocean, the Saint Lawrence River is sometimes called the "Mother of Canada." More than sixty percent of Canadian electrical energy comes from hydroelectric power.

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Canada's waterways: An essential part of living

Canada's huge landmass surrounds one-third of all the fresh water on the planet. An area in the Canadian Shield which was carved out by glaciers millions of years ago, is now filled with thousands of lakes. There are many important rivers in Canada these rivers play an essential role in the Canadian economy.

Perhaps the most important of these waterways is the St. Lawrence River or St. Lawrence Seaway. Emptying into the Atlantic Ocean, the St. Lawrence is sometimes called the "Mother of Canada." This is due to the fact that it was the main route of explorers and colonists during the European discovery of the New World. The St. Lawrence is also used as a means of import and export. More freight passes along this river than along any other river in Canada.

More than sixty percent of Canadian electrical energy comes from hydroelectric (water) power. By damming rivers and major tributaries, the power derived from the fast-flowing water can be captured and used to turn generators, thus producing electricity.

Almost everyone is familiar with the Niagara River and its famous falls, which are a big tourist attraction for both Canadians and Americans (they are part of the border separating the two countries). Other important rivers include the Mackenzie and the Yukon. Until recently, rivers were the only means of reaching some of Canada's more remote interior landspots.

Hudson Bay

In the seventeenth century an English explorer, Henry Hudson, with a crew of twenty-five men, sailed the frigid waters of North America, looking for the Northwest Passage.

On his ship "Discovery," Hudson navigated many inlets in America as he journeyed north to Canada.

Hudson was sailing on what we now know as the largest inland sea, the Hudson Bay, which bears his name.

The Hudson Bay is 850 miles long and 600 miles wide. Included in the many waterways connected to the Hudson Bay are the James Bay, Foxe Channel, Foxe Basin, Ungava Bay, and Hudson Strait.

The largest inlet stretches southwards to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

Though the Hudson Bay does not completely freeze over during the winter months, shipping is limited, due to the shifting ice blocks which fill the bay.

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