

St. Lawrence River System.—Most important of the lakes and rivers in Canada is the chain of the Great Lakes with their connecting rivers, the St. Lawrence river and its tributaries. This chain is called the St. Lawrence River System. The Great Lakes, separating the province of Ontario from the United States and connected by a series of canals with the St. Lawrence river, allow of access from the Atlantic ocean to the interior of the Dominion at Fort William and Port Arthur, twin cities situated on lake Superior.

The Great Lakes.—Table 3 shows the length, breadth, area, elevation above sea-level and maximum depth of each of the Great Lakes.

3.—Area, Elevation and Depth of the Great Lakes.

Lakes	Length.	Breadth.	Depth Maxi- mum.	Area.	Elevation above Sea-level.
	Miles	Miles	Feet.	Sq. Miles	Feet
Superior.....	254	162	1,008	31,800	602
Michigan.....	316	118	870	22,400	581
Huron.....	207	101	802	23,200	581
St. Clair.....	26	24	21	445	575
Erie.....	239	59	180	10,000	572
Ontario.....	193	53	738	7,260	246

Lake Superior, with its area of 31,800 square miles, is the largest body of fresh water in the world. As the international boundary between Canada and the United States passes through the centre of lakes Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario, only half of the areas of these lakes given in the above statement is Canadian. The whole of lake Michigan is within United States territory. From the western end of lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Lawrence there is, with the aid of the canal system, a continuous navigable waterway. The total length of the St. Lawrence river from the head of the St. Louis river to the Pointe-des-Monts, at the entrance of the gulf of St. Lawrence, is 1,900 miles. The tributaries of the St. Lawrence, several of which have themselves important tributaries, include the Ottawa river, 685 miles long; the St. Maurice river, 325 miles long; and the Saguenay (to head of Peribonka), 405 miles long.

Other Inland Waters.—In addition to the Great Lakes there are large bodies of inland water in other parts of Canada. Of these only the following principal lakes, with their respective areas, need be mentioned here: in Quebec, lake Mistassini (975 square miles); in Ontario, lake Nipigon (1,730 square miles); in Manitoba lake Winnipeg (9,457 square miles), lake Winnipegosis (2,086 square miles) and lake Manitoba (1,817 square miles); in Saskatchewan, Reindeer lake (2,437 square miles); in Alberta, lake Athabaska (2,482 square miles). All these are within the boundaries of the provinces as at present constituted, and are exclusive of lakes situated in the Northwest Territories, as, for instance, the Great Bear lake (11,821 square miles) and the Great Slave lake (10,719 square miles) in the Mackenzie District.