

the Seymour Narrows between Vancouver Island and the mainland was eliminated on Apr. 5, 1958 when the twin peaks were blasted off Ripple Rock in one of the largest non-atomic explosions created by man. The peaks had reached to within 9 feet and 21 feet of the surface during low water, and had been responsible for the sinking and damaging of some 114 vessels during the preceding 80 years. Their presence caused treacherous disturbances and whirlpools to form as the ocean tides rushed through the Narrows, and only the most highly powered vessel would attempt to navigate the channel during any period other than the 20 to 40 minutes of slack water between tides. The blast increased the clearance to 47 feet and 69 feet at low water and the channel is now navigable at all times.

Subsection 4.—Islands

The largest islands of Canada are in the north and all experience an Arctic climate. The northern group extends from the islands in James Bay to Ellesmere Island which reaches 83°07'N. Those in the District of Franklin lie north of the mainland of Canada and are generally referred to as the Canadian Arctic Archipelago; those in the extreme north—lying north of the M'Clure Strait—Viscount Melville Sound—Barrow Strait—Lancaster Sound water passage—are known as the Queen Elizabeth Islands.

On the West Coast, Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands are the largest and the most important but the coastal waters are studded with many small rocky islands.

The Island of Newfoundland forming part of the Province of Newfoundland, the Province of Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton Island forming part of the Province of Nova Scotia, Grand Manan and Campobello Islands forming part of the Province of New Brunswick, and Anticosti Island and the Magdalen group included in the Province of Quebec are the chief islands off the East Coast.

Notable islands of the inland waters include Manitoulin Island (1,068 sq. miles in area) lying in Lake Huron, the so-called Thirty Thousand Islands of Georgian Bay and the Thousand Islands in the outlet from Lake Ontario into the St. Lawrence River.

6.—Islands over 2,000 Square Miles in Area

Island	Area	Island	Area
	sq. miles		sq. miles
Arctic Ocean—		Arctic Ocean—concluded	
Baffin.....	183,810	Prince Charles.....	3,500
Ellesmere.....	82,119	Cornwallis.....	2,670
Victoria.....	81,930	Amund Ringnes.....	2,515
Banks.....	23,230		
Devon.....	20,861		
Melville.....	16,141	Atlantic Ocean—	
Axel Heiberg.....	15,779	Newfoundland.....	42,734
Southampton.....	15,700	Cape Breton.....	3,970
Prince of Wales.....	12,830	Anticosti (Gulf of St. Lawrence).....	3,043
Somerset.....	9,370	Prince Edward.....	2,184
Prince Patrick.....	6,081		
Bathurst.....	6,041		
Ellef Ringnes.....	5,139	Pacific Ocean—	
King William.....	4,870	Vancouver.....	12,408
Bylot.....	4,200		

Subsection 5.—Mountains and Other Heights

The predominant geographical feature in Canada is the Great Cordilleran Mountain System which contains many peaks over 10,000 feet in height. The highest peak in Canada is Mount Logan in the St. Elias Mountains of Yukon Territory, which rises 19,850 feet above sea level. The highest elevations in all parts of the country are shown in Table 7 in feet above mean sea level.