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a

Canada's ice roads are a combination of man-made and natural structures. Some of the first ice roads in history were built in the 1930s in northern Canada. The ice roads were used for sleds. Ice roads in Canada are mainly found in the northern areas. Ice roads reduce the cost of materials needed to build completely man-made roads. They are mainly built across frozen lakes and are flat, without any trees, rocks or obstacles.

b

The roads are mostly used by large trucks, although lighter vehicles such as pick-up trucks, small cars and snowmobiles, can be seen. They are used anywhere from a few weeks to several months a year, depending on the weather. Ice roads link remote villages and diamond mines. These roads helped make the diamond business bloom and put Canada in the lead as a producer of diamonds.

c

While easier to drive across in the winter than land, roads over water present a great danger to anyone using them. Speeds are typically limited to 25 km/h to stop a truck's weight from causing waves under the surface. These waves can damage the road and create a hazard. Another hazard on large lakes is breaks in the ice due to changes in temperature. Because of the danger level of driving on the roads, experienced truck drivers make between $20 000 to $80 000 in two months. Truck drivers must attend training programmes specifically for driving on ice roads, even if the driver is already licensed. This training can take from a week to two months.

d

For the past decade, ice roads have been opening late due to the late winter starts. Global warming is the main cause of these delays. For example, the winter of 2005 to 2006 was the warmest since record keeping began in 1850. In recent years, some of the ice roads were only in use for around 35–40 days.

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