

Ontario roads used by 94 per cent of residents

Q. How many kilometres and what is the cost of highways are in Ontario building a major highway?

A. As of 1990, there were 21,598 kilometres of highway in Ontario, enough roadway to cross Canada four times from east to west, says Bruce Wells, spokesman for the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. The largest part of the system

is made up of King's Highways - such as Highway 7 and Highway 401 - which cover 15,824 kilometres. The remainder consists of 5,501 kilometres of secondary roads and 273 kilometres of tertiary roads.

Trivia

**Mark Kearney
Pandy Ray**

Wells said it costs about \$800,000 to build every kilometre of two-lane, rural paved highway and \$12 to \$15 million to construct each kilometre of a major freeway.

Other facts about provincial roadways: organized road building in Ontario began in 1896 and the provincial department of highways was established in 1916; in 1990, 94 per cent of all Ontario residents used the provincial highway system on a regular basis; nearly 65 per cent of the value of Canadian exports cleared through Ontario in 1989-90 were transported over provincial highways; 677,143 tonnes of salt and 938,967 tonnes of sand were deposited on Ontario roadways during the winter of 1989-90 and the ministry has responsibility for 2,850 bridges, which, if placed end to end, would build a continuous bridge from Toronto to North Bay.

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