



*A spring day in  
Iron Hill, Quebec.*

season's change is mostly a state of mind, not temperatures. The week-long carnival features seal skinning, igloo building, ice sculpturing and power toboggan races.

In the town of St. George in Quebec (and elsewhere in the province) the end of winter is marked by a lottery and a festival. An old car is chained in place in the middle of the Chaudière River, and the day it finally plunges through the ice marks the beginning of *la débâcle*. Tickets are

sold and the person holding the one with the correct, or closest to correct, day, hour and minute of the plunge wins the pot. *La débâcle* was once a time of both festivity and real danger — the river, rising and clogged with timber and other flotsam, invaded basements and swept great chunks of ice down the highways. The danger has been somewhat lessened since Canadian Forces engineers began dynamiting the ice jams that formed at the bends of the river, but the festival goes on.



*Melting ice, Rosway River, Nova Scotia.*