

## Scenes of Charlevoix

An exhibition, *Scenes of Charlevoix 1784-1950*, was recently held at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Seventy works depicting life in Charlevoix country on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River were presented as part of the museum's series of annual exhibitions on the heritage of Quebec.

Charlevoix county has been an inspiration to both professional and popular artists since the French regime. *Scenes of Charlevoix 1784-1950* was prepared to honour this rich birthplace of Quebec and Canadian art.

### Mountainous area

Bordered by the St. Lawrence, the Saguenay River and Laurentides National Park, between Montmorency and Chicoutimi counties, Charlevoix is known for its magnificent mountain scenery, its rolling countryside and its rushing rivers. The county is filled with villages with names that evoke picturesque surroundings, Saint-Tite-des-Caps, Petite-Rivière-Saint-François, Notre-Dame-des-Monts, Cap-à-l'Aigle, Saint-Aimé-des-Monts, Port-au-Persil. The largest centres are in Baie-Saint-Paul and La Malbaie, both marked by their large harbours and beautiful irrigated valleys.

James Peachey, James Duncan, Lucius



Jean-Paul Lemieux, *Paysage de Charlevoix (Charlevoix Landscape)*, oil on canvas, 1935.

O'Brien, E. Wylly Grier and Clarence Gagnon, were among the early painters whose work was represented in this exhibition. Their paintings had been an inspiration for other artists who were attracted to the area, including Frederick Hutchison, A.Y. Jackson, Albert H. Robinson, Edwin Holgate and Arthur Lismer.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Charle-



Alfred Deschênes, *Le père et le fils (Father and Son)*, oil on cardboard, 1936.

voix county achieved the peak of its artistic reputation with the presence of Marc-Aurèle Fortin, Jean Palardy, Jori Smith, Jean-Paul Lemieux, George and Kathleen Pepper and the American artists Maud and Patrick Morgan.

During these years a group of local artists emerged; these popular painters of Charlevoix include Yvonne Bolduc, Robert Cauchon, Alfred Deschênes, Adéla Harvey, Marie-Anne Simard, Philippe Maltais, Georges-Edouard Tremblay and Simone-Mary, Marie-Cécile and Edith Bouchard.



Marc-Aurèle Fortin, *A la Baie Saint-Paul (At Baie-Saint-Paul)*, oil on cardboard. This painting was recently reproduced on a Canadian postage stamp.