



Joanie and Gary McGuffin.

**OUR STORY** On May 5, 1983, Gary and I set our canoe into the incoming tidewaters of Baie Comeau and began paddling southwest up the St. Lawrence River towards Montreal, 500 miles away. The inland lakes were frozen, but the spring flood waters poured out the little creeks and larger rivers of the St. Lawrence north shore, adding to the confluence. Late winter weather prevailed, forcing us to don a layered system of wet suits, sweaters,

rain suits, rubber boots, and woolen mittens in the face of bitter westerly winds and intermittent wet snow and rain. The St. Lawrence estuary is very much affected by the ocean conditions; winds, storms, tides and saltwater all funnel up the river as far as Quebec City making it an extremely difficult and hazardous journey. At the Saguenay River mouth, the outflowing current collides with the 12-foot fluctuating tide of the St. Lawrence to