

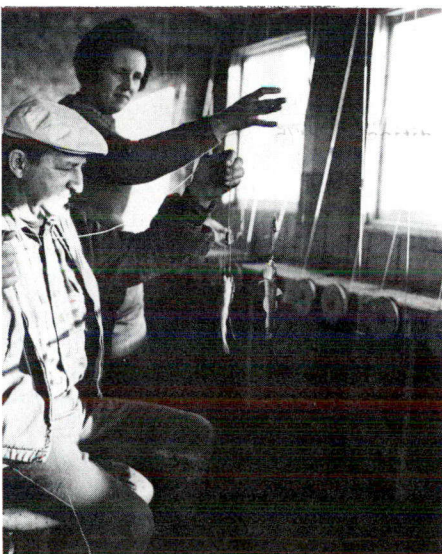
Ice fishing a favourite sport in Quebec

Each winter, from December to mid-February, the village of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Quebec, attracts some 75,000 fishermen who fish for Atlantic tomcod through the floors of multi-coloured little huts set up on the ice on the shores of the St Lawrence River. The spot, 50 miles upstream from Quebec City at the mouth of the St Anne River, is known as "the village where they fish for little channel fish".

This small species, which is also called "little cod", "tommy cod", or "frost fish", normally lives in salt water but in winter it goes to fresh water to spawn along the sandy shoreline. An average-sized female, seven or eight inches long, may lay as many as 50,000 eggs and, as soon as they are hatched, the young go back down the St Lawrence to the sea.

Its winter habitat was formerly the channels at the mouth of the St Maurice River, whence its popular name, channel fish. When the banks of the river became carpeted with bark deposits from logs being towed to paper mills, the fish sought other places to spawn; one of them was the St Anne River.

It is said that Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade is really two villages – the permanent



Inside one of the huts at Ste Anne-de-la-Pérade two tiny "tommy cods" are caught. Thousands of eager fishermen flock to the area each winter to try their luck through the frozen surface of the St Anne River, 50 miles from Quebec City.



Suddenly, every year, against a background of ice, frost and snow, the St Lawrence and the St Anne River come alive with gaily-coloured little huts, from which millions of small fish are caught in the short time between December and mid-February.

one and the temporary site, famous for its winter fishing. The hundreds of little huts are equipped with all comforts, including electricity and telephones. In the broad streets of the fishing village, fishing tackle, restaurants and taxis can be found. Each fisherman spends an estimated \$12 a day for food, gas and hut rental. Last year three million fish were caught –



Who cares about weather? Thick furs, warm tuques and mittens, comfortable boots and joie de vivre defeat the worst of the cold season.

an average of 76 an hour for each hut.

Inside the huts the inhabitants play cards, tell far-fetched fish stories and celebrate their catch. Someone proposes a toast and good humour prevails. In the village there is singing and dancing and laughter as the most spirited work off their excess energy.

About \$1 million is spent annually in the Ste Anne-de-la-Pérade area alone – an important asset to the economy of the St Maurice Valley. (Photos courtesy Tourist Branch, Government of Quebec.)

Montreal book fair gets federal help

The Federal Government has announced further initiatives to strengthen the book-publishing industry in Canada and promote export of Canadian books.

Secretary of State J. Hugh Faulkner said recently that the Federal Government would contribute \$500,000 to cover the costs of 700 stands for the Montreal International Book Fair to be held from May 15 to 19.

"The MIBF is a natural extension to the existing programs for the promotion and expansion of Canadian book publishing in the international market," Mr. Faulkner said.

The prime object of the Montreal fair is to create a meeting place where book publishers and other industries relating to book publishing from all over the world will be able to establish contacts, negotiate arrangements, buy and sell subsidiary rights and contract for manufacturing services. A secondary benefit is the cultural and educational aspect of the event since international sales of books are an effective means of disseminating arts, ideas and cultural heritages.

The event is similar to the Frankfurt Book Fair held annually in October. Close to 4,000 firms from 56 countries exhibited at the last Frankfurt fair, which attracted more than 100,000 visitors. Organizers of the Montreal International Book Fair estimate that more than \$7-million worth of business could be transacted by the Canadian book-publishing industry during the first three fairs. In addition, it is estimated that Canadian book manufacturers and suppliers of raw materials could negotiate significant foreign orders.