

WINTER CARNIVAL IN QUEBEC

Quebec City's annual winter carnival, which will be held this year from February 4 to 13, immediately preceding Lent, promises to be a time of continuous revelry, presided over by the giant snowman "Bonhomme Carnaval". Hundreds of representations of Bonhomme Carnaval, who, in Quebec, is a symbol of happiness and good humour, can be seen everywhere throughout the city; the largest figure is made of ice, and reigns over the merrymaking in a downtown square.

Excitement runs high during the famous canoe race across the ice-ridden St. Lawrence River from Quebec to Levis on the south shore and back. Thousands of spectators line the banks, while the boatmen - usually five to a craft - row the open stretches of water and pull their heavy, aluminum- or steel-bound canoes over the ice floes. Treacherous currents, biting winds and bitter cold make this battle of skill and daring one of the most thrilling events of the Quebec carnival.

Other events will include the crowning of the carnival queen, two grand balls - the Regency Ball and the Queen's Ball - the Esso Grand Prix, motorcycle races on ice, snowmobile races, the dog derby, as well as the International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament.



Bonhomme Carnaval wears a bright red toque, and a red and white belt round his rotund figure.



The canoe race across the St. Lawrence River is one of the outstanding events of the Quebec carnival.