

The province's two international airports are at Toronto and Ottawa. Light aircraft remain, in some cases, lifelines to remote northern communities. The provincial government has built a network of all-weather landing strips throughout northern Ontario. While air transportation is vital in northern Ontario, the principal means of passenger transportation in the south is still the motor vehicle. In 1979, new motor vehicle registrations averaged approximately 40 000 a month.

The waterway from Montreal to Lake Superior links the heart of North America with the Atlantic and the world beyond. The St. Lawrence Seaway is one of the world's busiest shipping routes. It opened in 1959 and extends approximately 3 800 kilometres. Ships making a complete passage of the Seaway must pass through locks in the St. Lawrence section, eight more in the Welland section and must use one of four parallel locks at Sault Ste. Marie. Special "lakers" designed to fit snugly in the locks, carry the two staple cargoes of the Seaway – iron ore and grain. General cargo is also shipped to and from the industrial ports served by the Seaway, which is icebound for about four months of the year.

### *Energy*

Cheap energy has been a major factor in Ontario's prosperity. Hydroelectric power is essential to the

industrial processing of the province's natural resources. Ontario uses more electric power than any other province and has almost reached the limit of its hydroelectric capacity. Thermal power now accounts for 65 per cent of the province's electricity and it is expected to increase. Power stations burning fossil fuels like coal and oil provide extra power during peak demand periods.

In the years following the Second World War, the National Research Council and subsequently the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, developed the technology for the CANDU nuclear reactor. Ontario has two major nuclear power plants in operation. The Pickering station, 28 kilometres east of Toronto, which opened in 1971, with four reactors, is the world's largest commercial nuclear power facility.

### *Arts and culture*

Before the First World War, a group of Toronto artists began experimenting with a new style of painting in the wilds of Algonquin Park, north of Toronto. J.E.H. MacDonald, Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Tom Thomson, Frank Johnston and Franklin Carmichael together established a landmark in the history of Canadian creative arts. Their bold use of colours and their depiction of the Canadian wilderness