

- Mitsui Home Company Limited, the largest home builder using 2x4 construction methods in Japan, opened a CDN \$12.5 million manufacturing facility. The 70,000 square foot facility currently employs 20 people, but this figure is expected to grow to 50. The output of the factory is solely destined for the Japanese market.
- West Coast Drugs, which operates the Pharmasave chain of drug stores, opened a new CDN \$4.8 million facility that includes its corporate headquarters offices, and warehouse and distribution operations. The new 80,000 square foot facility is located on a ten acre site and employs 80 people.

#### **4. Laval (Montreal), Quebec**

Laval is located directly across from the Island of Montreal, approximately 40 miles north of the Canada-US (New York State) border. From Laval, Toronto is approximately 335 miles to the south-east and New York City is approximately 365 miles to the south.

Laval is part of the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area, which in 1992 had an estimated population of 3.2 million. In 1994 the estimated population of Laval was 325,000, having grown at an average annual rate of 1.70% from 1986 to 1994. By 2001, Laval's population is expected to reach 345,000.

Laval has a significant and diversified industrial base. The most significant industrial market sectors in Laval include food processing, timber, pulp and paper products, printing and publishing, chemical products and plastics, metal products fabrication and pharmaceuticals. The three largest private-sector manufacturing employers in Laval are Nordic Marion Merrel Dow Canada, Les Piscines Trevi Inc. and Biochem Pharma Inc.

Laval is adjacent to Montreal, giving commuters 25-minute access to both Dorval airport and Mirabel International airport. Dorval and Mirabel airports are served by two major Canadian airlines, six U.S. airlines, 16 international airlines and 13 regional carriers. Collectively they provide direct, scheduled flights (non-stop, one-stop or multi-stop) to 58 cities in Canada, 44 cities throughout America and 33 cities in 22 countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Latin America. Water port facilities are provided through the Port of Montreal. When the Port of Montreal is closed by ice, alternative port facilities in Halifax, Boston and New York City are readily accessible by rail or road. Intermodal transportation services exist in Laval, making it possible to transfer sealed containers directly from the ship to the factory floor and vice-versa.

Rail cargo services are provided by CN Rail and CP Rail. Approximately thirty trucking firms located in Laval are engaged in regional and national deliveries. A major highway from Montreal links directly to American Interstate Highway 87, providing easy access to major centres such as New York City and Washington DC.