

icebreakers keep channels open and Montreal is accessible during the winter to cargo ships with reinforced hulls.

Montreal is at the crossroads for southern railway routes and is the eastern starting-point for Canada's two trans-continental railways — Canadian National and Canadian Pacific.

Quebec's well developed highways in the south are gradually being extended to the more northern parts of the province.

Arts and culture

Quebec's folk *chanson* is a lasting tribute to Quebec's early days. Many of these folk songs were sung by the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century voyageurs who canoed on Quebec's rivers and lakes. A large number were adopted from old French originals — notably *Alouette*.

Félix Leclerc is, perhaps, Quebec's first modern *chansonnier*. In the 1950s he travelled the length and breadth of the province with simple songs celebrating the uniqueness of its people. He sang of everyday life and of farmers, log-drivers and lumberjacks and encouraged those who heard him to take pride in their French heritage and culture. Gilles Vigneault followed his footsteps. Soon they were joined by Claude Léveillée, Jean Pierre Ferland, Pauline Julien, Louise Forestier, Robert Charlebois and Diane Dufresne.

This re-awakening of French-Canadian culture spread into other spheres. Novelists like Anne Hébert, Roger Fournier, and Yves Thériault came into prominence. Their books reflected the feelings and concerns of Quebec as did those of Hubert Aquin, Jacques Godbout, Suzanne Paradis, Marie-Claire Blais and Réjean Ducharme, to name a few.

But not all Quebec writing is in French. Many of Mordecai Richler's novels and short stories and Leonard Cohen's novels, poems and English chansons are based on their personal experiences in Montreal. Hugh MacLennan of McGill University is one of Canada's best-known novelists and essayists.

Tourists in both old Montreal and old Quebec are quickly attracted by artists they find working in the open air. These artists reflect Quebec's style of modern painting which reaches back to the influence of the Montreal Art Association at the turn of the century. After World War II several artists banded together to form, in time, *Les Peintres Automatistes* and later *Les Plasticiens*. The political views of painters such as Alfred Pellon, Paul-Emile Borduas and later Léon Bellefleur and Jean Paul Riopelle are revealed in their impressionistic styles, which have a high popular appeal.

Quebec is famous for woodcarving, which dates back to the origins of New France when Bishop Laval brought