

## Randonnée maskoutaine

### **Saint-Hyacinthe—come discover our countryside and heritage**

Located in the Montérégie region, near Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe and the surrounding area invite you to discover a perfect blend of town and country.

Considered as a veritable granary in Québec, this beautiful area is well known for its lush fields and bountiful harvests. It is divided from north to south by the Yamaska River, and at the centre of it lies the city of Saint-Hyacinthe, which is the heart of the area. The region owes much of its economic activity to the agri-food industry and everything related to it, which explains why Saint-Hyacinthe is known as the agri-food capital of Québec and why it became the first Canadian member of the prestigious International Association of Science Parks, as early as 1993. Saint-Hyacinthe boasts an agri-food science park, a new economy centre, and a veritable biotechnology park in the making.

### **From the past...**

In 1748, Louis XV, King of France, granted the Maska seigneurie to Pierre-François Rigaud de Vaudreuil as a reward for his good and loyal services. The Marquis de Vaudreuil never saw this seigneurie, which lay on either side of the Yamaska River in the heart of the forest, since he was forced to sell it 5 years later to Jacques-Hyacinthe-Simon Delorme, who only arrived at the seigneurie in 1757. The first settlers landed at a place known as "le Rapide Plat" and soon began to clear the land and plant crops there on both sides of the river.

Delorme later found a better location for a settlement, at the foot of a waterfall capable of providing the hydraulic power needed for business to grow. Called "la Cascade" by Delorme, this place near the waterfall became the new heart of the seigneurie. The mills, the church, the market, and all community activities were centralized there. Even the manor house was built on the hill, overlooking the river.

### **To the present**

Supported by strong agricultural activity, the city of Saint-Hyacinthe has continued its economic and industrial development. Today, it has a population of 52 422 and covers an area of 180 km<sup>2</sup>, making it one of Québec's largest cities. Boasting all the infrastructures and all the services associated with a modern community, the city of Saint-Hyacinthe is a true living environment for everyone.

**Have a nice stay and a nice Randonnée maskoutaine!**

Start your tour at the Bureau de tourisme et des congrès de Saint-Hyacinthe, located in the thematic park known as l'Espace maskoutain, at 2090, rue Cherrier.

### **Espace maskoutain**

This thematic park, located at the northern end of Saint-Hyacinthe, is characterized by an arch, 18 m high, anchored to 12 concrete stelae topped by sculptures depicting the various activities associated with our community. It is also home to the Bureau de tourisme et des congrès, the information centre, an exhibition area, and a picnic area.

At the traffic light on rue Cherrier, turn right on boulevard Laframboise. When you get to the second stop sign, turn left on rue Sacré-Cœur. At the stop sign on the corner of avenue Malhiot, turn left and park alongside the pavilion of the Laurier Public Pool.

*\*This oval swimming pool opened in 1930 and was then one of the biggest in Canada.*

*\*In front of you is what's known as the "site de l'exposition agricole" (the fairground). Note from left to right the L.P. Gaucher Arena, the Centre Culturel, the Pavillon de la Jeunesse at the back, and the BMO Center.*

The main event to be held here in 2010 is:

### **July 22 to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – Expo agricole de Saint-Hyacinthe**

This agricultural and food fair is a summer event designed for the whole family. It has it all with various contests, judging and exhibits, a family park, over 2000 animals, over 350 commercial booths, an international tractor pull competition, rides, outdoor cafés and professional shows. **Schedule:** Open at 8 a.m., rides at noon. **Admission:** 15 \$ per person including rides and activities. An 11 day passport will be available for 30 \$ per person.

Turn around. At the corner of rue du Sacré-Cœur, turn left. Follow rue du Sacré-Cœur to the stop sign at the corner of avenue Pratte and turn right. At the end of avenue Pratte, turn left on rue Girouard and turn left again immediately after at 650, rue Girouard Est.

*\*You are now at the Saint-Hyacinthe Seminary where you can visit:*

### **Saint-Hyacinthe Seminary**

Built in 1853, Saint-Hyacinthe Seminary gathers two private schools (elementary and secondary). Inside, you will also find a library, the Seminary Archives Centre and its genealogical section. It's also possible to visit the Seminary Chapel of neo-gothic style (reservation required). **Schedule:** Archives: Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Genealogy: Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission fees for the Archives and the genealogy section.

*\*The gray building on the right of the Seminary houses Orgues Casavant Frères. This renowned organ-building company was founded in 1879. In Saint-Hyacinthe, organs built here can be found in the following places, which are part of the tour: the Cathedral, the parish church of Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire, and the Seminary Chapel.*

When you leave the Seminary, turn right on rue Girouard.

*At the stop sign, look to your left and you'll see:*

### **Promenade Gérard-Côté**

A 2 km multipurpose path for cyclists and pedestrians near the Yamaska River, named after a famous marathon runner from Saint-Hyacinthe, Gérard Côté, who won the Boston Marathon 4 times.

Cross the tunnel and keep to your right on the other side. You are now on rue Dessaulles. After the traffic light, turn left on avenue Sainte-Marie.

*\* You'll notice a statue of our founder Jacques-Hyacinthe-Simon Delorme (1720-1778) at the corner of rue Dessaulles and avenue Sainte-Marie. It was erected in 1948 during the town's bicentennial.*

Then turn right immediately after on rue Girouard Ouest.

*\*You have two possibilities at this point. We suggest that you leave your car near the park and walk the next part of the itinerary so as to take time to discover downtown Saint-Hyacinthe. Follow the same directions if you prefer to keep driving.*

### **Parc Casimir-Dessaulles**

The manor house sat here from 1798 to 1876. Abandoned by Dessaulles family in 1865, it had several different owners until it was sold to the municipality, which had it demolished in 1876 in order to build a park. This park was built from 1876 to 1880. The planting of trees began in 1882. It was then highly fashionable to build green spaces in town. The idea came from England.

The activity in the summer at the park is:

**July 6 to August 17, 2010 - Beaux Mardis de Casimir**

All summer long, you are invited to these open-air shows in the heart of downtown Saint-Hyacinthe. The Beaux Mardis de Casimir takes the stage at the Léon-Ringuet kiosk. **Admission:** Free.

*\*Notice the town hall on the corner of rue Girouard and avenue Hôtel-de-Ville. Before it became the town hall, this was the Yamaska Hotel. Our current mayor, Mr. Claude Bernier, is the 21st mayor of Saint-Hyacinthe.*

**Walking or driving:** Turn left on avenue Saint-Denis (going down toward the downtown area).

**Vieux marché de Saint-Hyacinthe** - 1555, rue des Cascades Ouest

Cheese shop, butcher shop, fruit shop, sausage shop and delicatessen, fish shop, bakery and cake, market gardeners, flowers and maple products when in season. This old market has it all! **Schedule:** Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*And on the 2nd floor, you'll find:*

**Expression, centre d'exposition de Saint-Hyacinthe** - 495, avenue Saint-Simon

EXPRESSION, Centre d'exposition de Saint-Hyacinthe, is a museum institution whose mission is to promote and present contemporary art. Since 1985, EXPRESSION has been presenting exhibitions recognized for their artistic quality in a spacious and beautiful gallery. Activities, presentations, publications and satellite activities are offered in connection to the exhibitions. **Schedule:** Open year-round, Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

**Walking or driving:** At the stop sign, turn right on rue des Cascades, the oldest shopping street in Saint-Hyacinthe, and follow it to the next traffic light. **Driving:** Turn right on avenue Sainte-Anne, and at the top of the hill, turn left to find yourself back on rue Girouard Ouest. **Walking:** Turn right on avenue Sainte-Anne, and at the top of the hill, turn right to find yourself back on rue Girouard Ouest. Go get your car to continue the tour westward on rue Girouard.

**Don't miss...**

**Cathédrale de Saint-Hyacinthe** - 1900, rue Girouard Ouest

The Saint-Hyacinthe Cathedral was built in 1878 and restored in 1908 (when it acquired its present facade). It is renowned for its chandeliers, installed in 1964 during restoration work done for the Vatican Council II. **Schedule:** Everyday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

**Église Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire** - 2200, rue Girouard Ouest

Come and discover the little blue chapel as well as the church itself, designed by Victor Bourgeau, richly decorated and renovated. The oldest bell of Saint-Hyacinthe is on display outside. **Schedule:** Everyday 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Admission:** Free. Guided tours are available on request.

*Along avenue Raymond (which runs at right angles to rue Girouard) you can see:*

**Musée du Centre Élisabeth-Bergeron** - 805, avenue Raymond

Discover the life and the work of the founders of the Sisters of Saint-Joseph of Saint-Hyacinthe. Discover the history of a teaching order founded in the Saint-Hyacinthe region. Awaken in yourselves, the souvenir of your first years at school. A guided tour of the four exhibition halls will take you to an audiovisual presentation, a stop at the tomb of venerable Élisabeth Bergeron and at the chapel. **Schedule:** Everyday at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Close at December-mid to February-mid and at March 27 to April 6 2010. **Admission:** Free.

**Old Oak tree** - Girouard and de La Bruère

The oldest tree in Saint-Hyacinthe: this oak is 6.5 feet diameter. It was planted in 1890 by Richer, a Zouave returning from the war in Europe.

**Monastère du Précieux-Sang** - 2500, rue Girouard Ouest

Motherhouse of the first contemplative community in Canada, founded in Saint-Hyacinthe by Aurélie Caouette on September 14, 1861. The chapel is opened to the public. Visitors may attend the Divine Office, celebrated six times a day and visit the tomb of Aurélie Caouette. **Schedule:** Everyday 6:30 a.m. to 7:20 p.m., closed during lunch and dinner and during retreats. **Admission:** Free.

*\* Continue on rue Girouard and admire the beautiful Victorian houses. Because of its location along the river, this street was at the heart of our town's development. It remains very important today, with several institutions, businesses, and services.*

**Porte des Anciens Maires** - boulevard Laurier Ouest, Saint-Hyacinthe

Completed in 1927, this monument pays tribute to the first 11 mayors of Saint-Hyacinthe. Its inauguration was part of public festivities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Georges-Casimir Dessaulles, who served as mayor for 22 years. This monument is the most representative symbol of our town. It bears Saint-Hyacinthe's two mottos: "Love and courage shall see us through" and "Forget we can't".

**Centre nautique** - 3198, rue Girouard Ouest

The center offers, rides on the river, craft rental such as kayaks, pedal craft, canoes, rowboats and pontoon (reservation requested). **Schedule:** June 19 to August 22, everyday, noon to 8 p.m. when the weather is favorable. **Admission:** \$ 6 to \$ 9 per hour. Group rates for pontoon rides, \$ 36 to \$ 44 per hour.

Follow rue Girouard through the Porte des anciens maires and beyond until it merges with boulevard Laurier. Keep right on boulevard Laurier. At the next traffic light, turn right on avenue Bienville. When you get to the stop sign, turn right on rue Sicotte.

**Jardin Daniel A. Séguin** - 3215, rue Sicotte

This 4.5 hectares floral garden will amaze you with its exquisite 16 design gardens such as the aquatic plants garden, the rockery, the French garden, the Japanese and Zen gardens. Unique garden acknowledged for his annuals collection of 50 000 flowers. **Schedule:** June 12 to September 12, 2010. Opened everyday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission:** Adults \$ 10, students \$ 5, children \$ 3, family rate \$ 22.

*Held in the garden are:*

**May 21 to 24, 2010 - Le Marché du Printemps**

Spring market (plants sales): perennials, annuals, shrubs, herbs, accessories. Horticultural information and garden tours available. **Schedule:** Rain or shine from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Admission:** \$2 per person

**July and August, 2010 - Les Vendredis Soirs au Clair de Lune**

The Friday evening turns magical. Starting at 8 p.m. of from sunset to nightfall, you can stroll through the various gardens illuminated by candles, torches, and lightning designed by professional landscapers. Enjoy the outdoor café, the atmosphere and the music. There will be musical performances. **Schedule:** During the evening. **Admission:** To be determined.

Continue on rue Sicotte. At the second traffic light, turn left on boulevard Choquette. Drive through the tunnel. At the third traffic light on the other side of the tunnel, take the right-hand access lane to boulevard Casavant. At the third traffic light on boulevard Casavant, take the right-hand access lane to boulevard Laframboise. You will find yourself back at the Bureau de tourisme et des congrès de Saint-Hyacinthe. We hope this tour gave you the opportunity to discover and enjoy the city of Saint-Hyacinthe.

We hope that this Randonnée maskoutaine made you discover and appreciate the city of Saint-Hyacinthe.