

Vol. 4, issue 4, September 2006

Ministère du Tourisme du Québec information newsletter

Bonjour!

The forests are donning their colourful finery and thousands of snow geese will soon alight on the St. Lawrence like a mammoth shower of confetti. Autumn is awesome in Québec!

### The newsletter is getting a facelift



New content and a brand new look-and-feel: after the overhaul to Bonjour Québec.com, it's time for the *Bonjour Québec* newsletter to enjoy a makeover. Published on a quarterly basis as of December 2006, the newsletter will continue to bring you all the tourism news, with the accent on promotions and packages, and festivals and festivities. Coming soon!

### Book to win!



Just a few more days left in which to book your accommodations through Bonjour Québec.com and [enter](#) our contest. On September 29, you could be the lucky winner of the last of three \$1,000 gift certificates awarded in association with the Québec Resorts and Country Inns network. Véronique Mercier, of Trois-Rivières, is the happy winner of the August 31 draw. Your turn to try your luck!

### Raising the tone



The forest has shed its monochrome green for far more frisky tones: hot colours that are aflame with allure! With its crisp dry air and brilliant skies, fall is the perfect season for trekking through the mountains or cycling along country roads. Follow the symphony of colour of the [changing leaves](#), and get set to commune with nature!

## A celebration of art



Come September and October, many places in Québec play host to enriching encounters with artists working in various media: Saint-Armand (Eastern Townships), Thetford Mines (Chaudière-Appalaches), Stoneham-et-Tewkesbury (Québec City & Area), Saint-Basile-le-Grand (Montérégie), Carleton–Saint-Omer (Gaspésie), L'Anse-Saint-Jean (Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean) and Mascouche (Lanaudière). Nature's autumnal glories captured on canvas!

For more details, visit our [Festivals & Events](#) page.

## The timeless cycle of the snow goose



The tens of thousands of [snow geese](#) who make a migratory stop each fall on the banks of the St. Lawrence provide an unbelievable audio and visual spectacle! Close to Québec City, the Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Area and Montmagny and its surroundings invite you to come see (and hear!) these tremendous travellers, along with many other migratory species.

## Riverside odyssey



A powerful presence that's the reflection of Québec at every turn, the [St. Lawrence](#) is an endless stream of discovery. By car or motorbike, in a recreational vehicle or even on a bicycle, explore routes that hug the lighthouse-dotted coastline for hundreds of miles. The magnificent national parks and regional museums are your passport to a fascinating voyage of discovery along an unforgettable waterway

## Agrotourism: Taster's choice



See the fertile fields of the St. Lawrence Valley and taste some of Québec's many [country products](#). Plenty of regions offer up gourmet itineraries in country settings where you can sample an array of fresh ciders, fine cheeses, delicious beers and delectable wines made right on the premises: a producer's pride and a connoisseur's joy.



Winding through the Eastern Townships, the [Wine Route](#) (Route des Vins) unrolls its “red” carpet and invites you to discover 13 magnificent vineyards. Treat your taste buds to renowned regional flavours in a serenity-inducing setting. A whole range of outdoor activities and resort destinations make the detour even more worthwhile!

## Package of the month

### Glide into winter



Do the falling leaves conjure up dreams of swooping down the slopes? The Tremblant ski resort's *Glide into winter* package is your excuse to plan early and save up to 30% on your next ski trip. A warm welcome awaits at the Tour des Voyageurs in the pedestrian village at the base of the slopes: its comfortable facilities are your ticket to blissful relaxation after a day in the great outdoors!

The [package](#) includes:

- three nights' accommodation
- a three-day ski pass
- a guided tour of the mountain by ski or snowboard
- parking

-- Advertisement --

Would you like to learn more about the activities featured in this newsletter? [Drop us a line](#) or [contact us](#) by phone.





Explore



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Book



## The Summer's Hottest Contest

### Book to Win on Bonjour Québec.com!

The Contest is now over. Thanks to all participants!

The winner of our first draw (July 31) is Christine Bagnato, from Laval.

The winner of our second draw (August 31) is Véronique Mercier, from Trois-Rivières.

The winner of our third draw (September 29) is Sylvie Cormier, from Val-d'Or.



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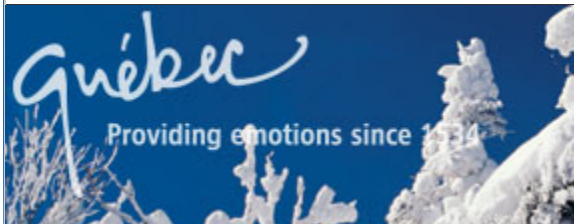
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- Festivals & Events

### Symphony of colours

Fall foliage



The following table tracks the progress of the fall colours in Québec's various tourist regions. This coloration varies not only according to plant species, but also to geographic location—particularly latitude—and sunlight. The percentage indicated corresponds to the approximate area covered by the fall colours; the remainder represents all the shades of green or brown. And while gusts of wind may strip the boughs bare, there's nothing quite like walking over a carpet of gold, red and yellow!

Last update: **October 27, 2006**  
 Next update : **End of September 2007**

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The sugar content in the maple tree's sap and leaves is what causes the fairly dark red colour of this tree in Québec's forests.

#### Questions about Québec?

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- Québec promotions

## Festivals and festivities

Party on!

Québecers are known for their festive spirit. Major sports and cultural events, lively urban festivals and quaint village fairs—simply put, anything is an excuse to celebrate and share good times!



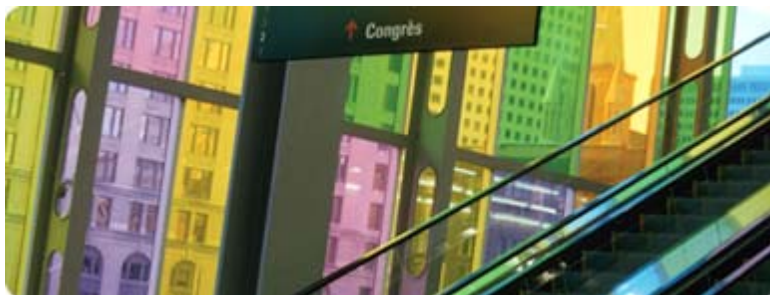
### Festivals

From jazz to cinema, from comedy to fireworks—not to mention folklore and hot air balloons—Québecers have plenty of opportunities to party. What's more, they express their love of celebrating most enthusiastically through words, music and art. [Find a festival](#)



### Sports events

Every year, in every season, high-level international sports events take place in Québec. The most popular include car races, skiing and mountain biking world cups, tennis championships... On your marks! [Discover our sports events](#)



### Shows and fairs

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In cities and outlying areas alike, numerous shows held in large exhibition halls attract people eager to see something new. Fairs are also colourful and entertaining events, featuring all sorts of surprises.

[Discover our trade shows and fairs](#)

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## Wildlife observation

Vibrant and abundant!



From the Canada goose to the great blue heron, from the moose to the humpback whale, more than 650 animal species—including 200 fish and 325 bird species—inhabit Québec's carefully preserved territory. Many of these species can be seen in the wilderness or by chance during a stroll through the forest, say, in one of Québec's national parks or wildlife reserves.

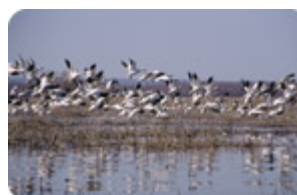
The same goes for marine mammals, including whales—the St. Lawrence Estuary is teeming with them—migratory birds and numerous land mammals, such as cervids (white-tailed deer, moose, caribou and more), bears and beavers.

- Whale watching
- Forest dwellers
- Bird watching

## Vagabond birds

Round trips to keep an eye out for

It's a one-of-a-kind sight! Twice a year, hundreds of thousands of snow geese make a stopover on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. In the fall, on their way back from Baffin and Bylot islands, they take a break and "fuel up" in Québec before continuing the long journey to their warm, winter habitat. Then, in the spring they return, stopping by as they wing their way to the Great North, where they spend their summers. It's an annual pilgrimage nearly 4,000 km (2,500 mi.) long! You can watch them as they soar through the skies or, better yet, go observe them at their three preferred resting spots!



## Cap-Tourmente



The marshlands of the [Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Reserve](#), not far from Québec City, are a truly peaceful haven for snow geese. The best time of the day for observing these birds is at high tide, since that's when they are more numerous and closer to the shore. Cap-Tourmente is particularly well equipped for observing the birds, with, among other things, an observatory high atop a 150-m (492-ft.) cliff! Each fall, this area attracts an incredible bird colony—especially since the geese return with their young, which were born over the summer. In the spring, the geese spread themselves out a little among the various wildlife reserves. Other birds to watch for: greater snow goose, great grey owl, peregrine falcon, ruby-throated hummingbird.

## Baie-du-Febvre



Located on the shores of Lac Saint-Pierre, a freshwater basin that is actually part of the St.

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## SEASONAL COUNTDOWN

Île aux Grues :  
~ 55 000 snow geese

Cap-Tourmente :  
~ 17 000 snow geese

Baie-du-Febvre:  
~ 100 snow geese

November 10, 2006  
Updated weekly

**NOTE:**

The migratory bird countdown is provided as a guideline only. The information can vary considerably within a short period of time.

It is generally easier to observe the birds during high tide, for that's when they are closer to the shores.

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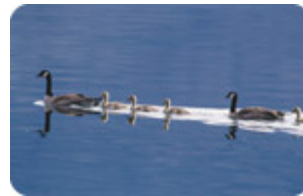
Lawrence River and is home to some 200 bird species, the flood plains of [Baie-du-Febvre](#) welcome a sizeable snow goose population in the spring (in the fall, fewer stop here). The interpretation centre offers visitors hiking trails, lookouts, a boardwalk and theme exhibitions. "Early birds" who make it to the observation areas for sunrise are in for a special treat: the sight of tens of thousands of birds soaring into the sky! Other birds to watch for: Canada goose, American black duck, green-winged teal, ring-necked duck, common goldeneye, bufflehead and many more.

### Montmagny

Located about 70 km (43 mi.) east of Québec City, on the south shore, the [Montmagny](#) region is one of the staging areas of the greater snow goose. At the beginning of the 20th century, when its population numbered a mere 3,000, the greater snow goose was satisfied with the site at Cap Tourmente, across the river. Now that its population has attained nearly one million, it stops on the banks in Montmagny and on the islands facing the latter, including Île aux Grues. Other birds to watch for: Canada goose and several duck species. You can also see large numbers of snow geese on the Rivière Richelieu, at Lake Champlain, Lac Saint-Jean and in various spots along the St. Lawrence.

### Symbolic and majestic birds!

Many Canada geese also migrate south annually. In fact, hundreds of thousands of the bird pass through the [Parc national de Plaisance](#), in the Outaouais region. Lastly, various species of falcon, hawk and harrier put on a show each spring at the [Parc national du Bic](#) and in the fall in Tadoussac (at the [Parc national du Saguenay](#)). In the high season, with the right conditions you can see up to a hundred of these birds of prey each day.



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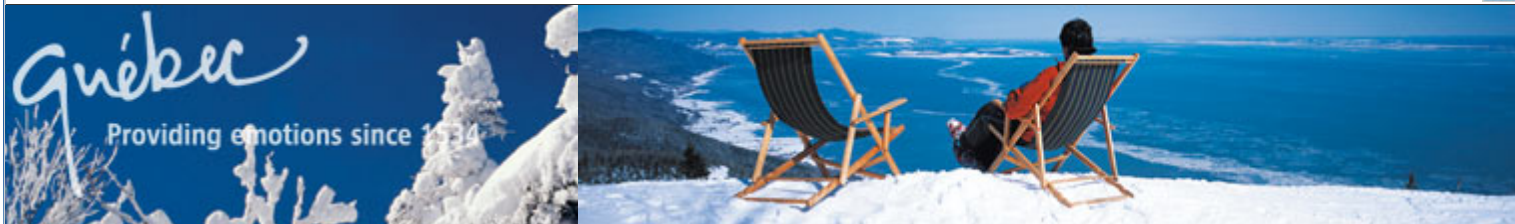
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### Riverside ramble

Québec's sea-to-sky highways



Open and friendly, constant yet ever changing—just like Québec—the St. Lawrence invites you on a long and fascinating journey of discovery. Whether you travel by car, motorbike, recreational vehicle or even bicycle, the road hugs the river, first on one side, then the other, for hundreds of kilometres. An unforgettable odyssey between sea and sky!

#### Tourist routes

The river is punctuated with ancestral villages whose origins often date back to New France. Dominated as much by lighthouses as by church steeples, five panoramic routes allow visitors to explore the river for much of its impressive length:



- the [King's Road](#) (Chemin du Roy) between Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Québec City;
- the [New France Route](#) (Route de la Nouvelle-France) between Québec City and Beaufré;
- the [St. Lawrence Route](#) (Route du Fleuve) on the Charlevoix (north) side of the river;
- the [Whale Route](#) (Route des Baleines) from the mouth of the Saguenay Fjord to the Basse Côte Nord;
- the [Navigators' Route](#) (Route des Navigateurs) from La Pocatière, near Québec City, to the Gaspésie.

Humble fishing villages or quiet rural towns, small industrial cities or perfect vacation spots: each area offers up a wealth of cultural and natural heritage. Don't forget to take time out for a [gourmet](#) pit stop to savour succulent seafood, fish and other local delights!

#### The St. Lawrence *au naturel*



The banks of the St. Lawrence are also home to some splendid national parks:

- [Parc national du Bic](#) (Bas-Saint-Laurent), a breathtaking series of buttes and islands that are a refuge for shore birds and seals;
- [Forillon National Park of Canada](#) (Gaspésie), whose sharp cliffs and striking landscapes were noted by Jacques Cartier;
- [Parc national de Miguasha](#) (Gaspésie), designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its fossil troves;
- the [Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve of Canada](#) (Duplessis), an

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

Montréal's [Biodôme](#) provides a wonderful introduction to the marine wildlife of the St. Lawrence. On the same topic are the Centre d'interprétation des mammifères marins (marine mammal interpretation centre) in Tadoussac, and the Aquarium des Îles and Centre d'interprétation du phoque (seal interpretation centre), both in the Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

enchanting collection of islands whose unique rock formations echo with the cries of the puffins and the blowing of the whales.

A section of the Saguenay Fjord—a colossal gash in the rock face bordering this St. Lawrence tributary—is encompassed by a [national park](#) that's highly popular with outdoor enthusiasts. To fully appreciate the majesty of the cliffs, a number of boat operators offer tours up the fjord. The [Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park](#) is a 1,100 km<sup>2</sup> (425 sq. mi.) conservation zone established to protect the marine life that flourishes at the confluence of these two great rivers.



The whales that frequent the plankton-rich waters of the St. Lawrence estuary can be seen frolicking from many spots on the shore. The Lac-Saint-Pierre World Biosphere Reserve harbours exceptional wildlife diversity, including the Canada goose and numerous species of duck; while, each spring and fall, the [Cap-Tourmente National Wildlife Reserve](#) welcomes hundreds of thousands of snow geese who stop over on their migratory journeys.

### Foghorns

The banks of the St. Lawrence are dotted with lighthouses, of which [Pointe-des-Monts](#) on the north shore and [Pointe-au-Père](#) on the south are but two. Take time out from your travels to stop in at one of the many museums that showcase maritime heritage, like the [Musée de la mer](#) de Pointe-au-Père, the [Musée maritime du Québec](#) (L'Islet) and [Musée maritime de Charlevoix](#).



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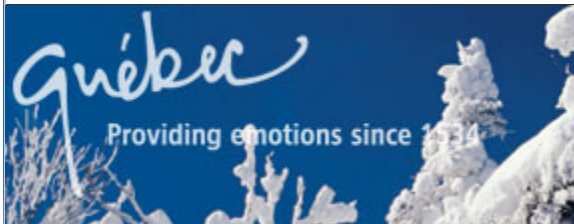
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## Agrotourism

Getting down to earth



Take the time to stop by a farm and you'll meet real, down-to-earth Québécois with a long knowledge of the history and traditions of their region. Not only will they be happy to show you the fruits of their labours in the fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards or sugar bushes, they'll eagerly share their know-how and let you in on the myriad secrets of their trade.

### Fresh from the farm

Southern Québec is covered with prosperous farms that thrive on the fertile soils of the St. Lawrence Valley. Over 500 agricultural producers happily welcome visitors to their production sites. For the most part, they are located in the lower part of the Laurentides region, to the north of Montréal, and in the entire area south of the St. Lawrence between Montréal and Québec City. A number of visit formats are available, such as tastings, luncheons or picnics, guided tours, children's activities, sleigh or cart rides, country meals ... The choice is yours!



With the highly popular pick-your-own format, you can play field hand and enjoy the rural outdoors as you choose the fruits or vegetables that look most appetizing to you. Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, apples, pumpkins ... it's all so enticing!

### Fruitful visits!



A farm visit is many things: a fun activity for the kids, a pleasure for your senses and a balm for your soul! You'll leave with a happy heart and arms laden with fresh produce, a few good bottles or succulent cuts of meat.

With its *Tables champêtres* (Country-Style Dining) and *Relais du terroir* (Farm Shops) programs, the [Fédération des Agricotours du Québec](#) offers you two original ways to savour authentic farm products. Under the first program, you'll enjoy menus featuring farm products (reservation required), and under the second, you can purchase products directly from the farms themselves. In both cases, your hosts will give you a guided tour of their farm operation. A third program, *Fermes découverte* (Farm Explorations), offers a variety of activities designed to please visitors of all ages.

### Theme routes and tours

Southern Québec is criss-crossed by nearly 30 routes dotted with farm tourism stops. In addition to the Wine Route and the Agricultural Tour, the most

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- Agricultural producer
- Sugar shack

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important routes include:

- 1.
2. [The Flavour Trail](#), in Charlevoix
3. [The Cheese and Country Flavour Route](#), in Centre-du-Québec
4. The seven farm tourism routes grouped under the [Great Tastes from our Fields](#) banner (Eastern Townships)
5. [The Cider Route](#) (Montérégie)
6. [The Gourmet Route](#) (Québec City and Charlevoix)
7. [Country Roads](#) (Lanaudière)

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## Country products

### A toast to the Wine Route

A new feature in the Brome-Missisquoi region in the [Eastern Townships](#) : the marked [wine route](#) rolls out the red carpet so that you can tour 13 beautiful vineyards. Every 10 kilometres (for a total of 132), a blue sign indicates each one's location. You'll catch all of the region's legendary flavours in an enchanting and serene setting.



### For every taste

The journey begins at [Vignoble Les Pervenches](#)-Web site in french-with a tasting of its wonderful Chardonnay, aged in barrels in keeping with the Burgundy tradition.

Quality wines abound in the region. Your second stop, at [Vignoble de la Sablière](#), will offer ample proof. Sip a glass of Folichon, which won the gold cup (in the

rosé wine category) at the 2003 [Coupe des Nations](#)- Web site in french only.

After a pleasant sojourn at [Domaine du Ridge](#) and [Ardennais](#), head to Dunham, the wine growing birthplace of Quebec. No matter which vineyard you choose -- [Côtes d'Ardoise](#), [Trois Clochers](#) or [Blancs Coteaux](#) -- you'll be able to raise a glass in a toast. The latter vineyard also features a variety of specialty vinegars and homemade jams and jellies. A real treat!



Accommodations, packages, best deals

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## Wine and poetry

Vignoble de l'Orpailleur, which acts as Quebec's wine economuseum, is the next stop for a rustic meal under the vines. This vineyard, which found its name thanks to the poet Gilles Vigneault, produces an ice wine of world renown.

Finally, the wine road leads to Vignoble Clos Sainte-Croix and to de la Bauge. A fondue dinner with a delectable glass of

wine... what could be finer? Be sure to make the rounds of the establishment's exotic animals that include lamas, yaks, and long-horned steers. And don't miss your chance to sample the famous wild boar terrine before you leave.

## While you're there...

An array of regional attractions await in the region, from golf courses to the famous Knowlton duck, not to mention outdoor activities in the heart of the Appalachians, fine food and the resort appeal of picturesque towns.

## It's grape harvest time!

Autumn means harvest time. Lovers of fine wines -- or shall we say grapes? -- will enjoy spending time in Quebec's vineyards to learn more about how the fruit is grown and collected and how it goes through a dozen different steps in order to become wine. In some spots, such as the 13th and last vineyard along the route -- Vignoble La Mission, you can even take part in the harvest itself. Book your spot well ahead of time.



Also, be sure not to miss the Fête des vendanges de Magog-Orford (harvest festival) from September 2 to 10, 2006. In a bustling marketplace atmosphere on the shores of Lake Memphremagog, more than 80 exhibitors come together under a big top to offer tastings and culinary shows.

## Did you know...?

*The main vine type cultivated in the Eastern Townships is a white Seyval from France. This vine was chosen for its ability to withstand Quebec's cold climate. And what can we say about its taste!*

## Web Tips

When you're on the wine route, all roads lead to a vineyard. Discover one or all of them by using the Bonjour Québec.com search page. Simply enter **beers/wines** in the text box... and don't forget your bottle opener!

*Photos credits: Tourisme Québec (sauf no 4.: CLD Brome-Missisquoi)*

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