

TREASURE HUNTING IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

BY MORRI MOSTOW AND DOUG LONG



Eastern Townships

“Amazing, unbelievable!” exclaimed our Ontario cousins Gordon and Diane, as they gingerly picked their way through Antiquités à l’Étage in Foster, Québec, a treasure-hunter’s paradise well off the beaten track. Crammed into a dilapidated, two-story duplex, vast quantities of glassware, dishes, porcelain, tins, bottles, crocks, lamps, mirrors, furniture, paintings, old tools, even vintage clothing overflow from floor to ceiling, forcing shoppers to tread carefully among the clutter. Although our cousins did not find any of the antique glassware they collect there, like all passionate collectors they thrill to the hunt.

As they discovered during their long weekend with us in the quaint **Victorian village of Knowlton**, our corner of Québec’s Eastern Townships is antiques heaven. **Knowlton** and nearby **West Brome** boast more than a dozen antique shops (plus several excellent antique-reproduction shops). Many more are within an easy drive through some of Canada’s prettiest countryside, with its mix of hills, valleys, rolling farmlands, apple orchards, lakes, rivers and forests.

On summer weekends, lawn and garage sales dot the secondary roads, where professional pickers arrive extra early to snatch Loyalist and Victorian pieces before the public show up. Although almost any gravel road can yield treasures, one particularly rewarding route for such private sales is highway 202 south toward the town of **Dunham** and its surrounding vineyards. Along the way stands **Antiquités La Vieille**

Ferme Sauriol, prettily set amidst cornfields and rolling hills. Its brightly painted barn is crammed with pine furniture, while hundred of chairs dangle from the rafters. More antiques and collectibles, including early cloth posters, photographs, silver and china, fill several stone and wood-frame outbuildings. Another secondary route worth exploring is highway 112 between **Waterloo**, **Eastman** and **Magog**, where we have picked up many antique bargains over the years.

In **Bromont**, a short drive from Knowlton, is Jean-Guy Gélinau’s huge auction barn, which attracts the Montréal dealer community to its Tuesday night auctions featuring a giant selection of Canadiana and Victorian furniture, including pine armoires, dining-room suites and oversize items like buggies and sleighs. The public can also shop at the barn every weekend from May to December.

If you would rather stay put and have the antiques come to you, the **Brome Historical Society** has just the ticket. On three summer Sundays (May 19, June 23 and July 21) in Knowlton, it turns the museum lawn into an open-air antique-and-craft market, where local antiquarians and artisans display their wares to hordes of visitors. The museum’s five beautifully restored heritage buildings are a great place to research local antiques and artifacts.

The pleasures of antiques in the Townships are greatly enhanced by the area’s charm—with its quaint hamlets, covered bridges, picturesque churches, round barns and



Brome Lake (Knowlton)



Covered bridge

distinctive architecture—and the attraction of its many heritage B&Bs, award-winning country inns, fine cuisine and local products like maple syrup, berries, wine and cheese.

This combination proved irresistible to our epicurian cousins, who delight in making pilgrimages to the food source. Off they drove to **Austin**, to visit the magnificent **Saint-Benoît-du-Lac Abbey**, which dominates the heights overlooking Fitch Bay on **Lake Memphremagog**. The Abbey’s Benedictine monks are famous for their cider and cheese.

On another day, our collecting cousins toured **Dunham’s vineyards**, which have a well-earned reputation for specialty wines and vintages. After much tasting, they chose a unique dessert wine to add to their extensive wine cellar. Local wine production is so small that you can only purchase these excellent vintages at the vineyards, several of which have excellent diningrooms as well.

While staying at the prestigious Lakeview Inn in Knowlton, Gordon and Diane feasted on world-famous **Brome Lake Duck**, delivered fresh to the chef from the Brome Lake Duck



farm just a few kilometers down the road. Brome Lake duck is featured year-round in most of the area's restaurants and cafés: as a pizza topping, as warm duck salad, in duck burgers, as Cajun barbecued duck wings (a specialty of the Lakeview Inn's pub) and as a main course, often glazed with a sauce, either sweet or savory.

This upscale fowl even has its own festival—the fall **Brome Lake Duckfest**—when more than 40 Township inns, hotels and restaurants offer special and elaborate gastronomic duck menus. We can never resist the mouth-watering aroma of barbecuing duck brochettes, sausages and duckdogs. Many visitors schedule their visit to take advantage of the ever-popular Knowlton Antique Show and Sale, to be held this year from October 11th to 13.

When our Ontario cousins left for home, they gave us a list of the glassware they collect, with instructions to purchase any pieces we could find. Not long afterward, we were delighted to discover a pristine, late 19th century Canadian pressed glass goblet in the very Nova Scotia Grape and Vine pattern they had spent the weekend hunting for. We found it tucked away at **Lawrence Antiques**, the cheery, yellow shop owned by interior designer Kirk Lawrence, just blocks from our house!

Gordon and Diane will soon return to pick up the rare and fragile goblet. As Gordon said: "What a great excuse for another antiquing tour of your fabulous Townships."

We agree. So does *Harrowsmith* magazine, which, in 2001, named our town of Knowlton one of the 10 prettiest in Canada. ■



© J. Boutin / Tourisme Québec



A BIT OF HISTORY

Abbaye Saint-Benoît-du-Lac, Eastern Townships

The picturesque "Townships" (also known as the Cantons-de-l'Est and Estrie) is only 45 minutes east of Montréal and covers 13,100 sq. km. Country roads and bicycle paths offer postcard vistas of rolling farmlands and vineyards, villages and towns, forests, lakes and rivers.

The region's famous New England charm dates to the American War of Independence (1776) when the "Loyalists" left the American states for what was then a largely uncolonized part of Lower Canada. The British government rewarded their loyalty with land. Soon new villages sprouted bearing such British names as Sherbrooke, Dunham and Hatley.

In the early 19th century, European wars, famine and upheavals caused by the Industrial Revolution drove waves of immigrants from Ireland, Scotland, Britain, Holland, Switzerland, Poland and Germany to Québec. After 1850, French Canadians began to settle in the area and, by the early 20th century, had become the majority. Today, this unique heritage gives the Townships its eclectic mix of language, culture, architecture and cuisine.

ANTIQUÉ STORES

KNOWLTON (BROME LAKE)

Lawrence Antiques: This uncluttered, cathedral-ceilinged shop specializes in country-style furniture—large Québec pine armoires, pine mirrors, glassware, quilts, lamps (with matching period shades created by local lampshade maker Carol Smart). 107 Lakeside Road, (450) 243-5556.

Antiquités Aura: Upstairs from **Lawrence Antiques**, this shop specializes in more formal furniture and more upscale items like crystal, silver, paintings, antique linens. 107 Lakeside Road, (450) 243-6555.

Camlen: Carries Québec and European antique country furniture along with quality reproductions made in their own workshop. 110 Lakeside Road, (450) 243-5785, www.camlenantiques.com

Antiquités Golden Swan: Here you will find furniture, dishes, glassware and antique hand tools. 305 Knowlton Road, (450) 242-2946.

Atelier l'Odysée: This amusingly cluttered shop offers curios and collectibles—character toys and dolls, movie posters... 30 Lakeside Road, (450) 297-2140.

The Bray Barn: Specializes in architectural items: windows, doors, columns, brass railings and more. 430 Knowlton Road, (450) 243-0606.

Antiquités Mandy-Anne: Hidden behind a high hedge is a house whose main floor is devoted to early 20th century collectibles. 589 Knowlton Road, (450) 243-1520.

WEST BROME

Le Relais du Meuble: Specializes in small pine and oak furniture, particularly chairs. 1109 Route 104, (450) 266-3424.

MAGOG

Antiquités Pierre Élysée: This basement emporium is loaded with interesting small antiques and collectibles. 10 rue Deragon, (819) 843-8054.

IF YOU GO . . .

ACCOMMODATIONS

\$ **KNOWLTON VILLAGE MOTEL** offers six basic but clean units, four with kitchenettes and living rooms. 1 877 243-6362.

\$\$ **LA BELLE ESCAPADE**, a three-star B&B. Recently renovated and re-decorated with superb oldstyle country charm by its new owners. Quiet garden and pool in the back. (450) 243-5532, www.belleescapade.com

\$\$\$ **AUBERGE LAKEVIEW INN**, a lovingly restored 125-year-old inn, recreates the quiet elegance of the Victorian era. Its four-diamond Sheffield's dining room and wine cellar is one of the finest in the Townships. Outdoor pool and terrace. 1 800 661-6183, www.quebecweb.com/lakeview

RESTAURANTS (KNOWLTON)

\$ **LE CAFÉ FLORAL** serves tasty, reasonably priced fare—hearty soups, salads, pasta, fish and crêpes. Outdoor terrace. (450) 243-0792.

\$\$ **LE RELAIS RESTAURANT-BISTRO** in the recently restored Auberge Knowlton is located in the heart of

the action, at the “four corners” of town. French-style meals, with Brome Lake Duck featured prominently on the menu.

(450) 242-2232, www.cclacbrome.qc.ca/ak

\$\$\$ **AU TROIS CANARDS**, featuring fine French cuisine, is one of the top duck restaurants in the Townships. (450) 242-5801.

BROME LAKE DUCKS LTD.: Canada's largest duck farm sells more than a million ducks a year around the world. At the farm's store, you can buy fresh, frozen or pre-cooked duck, and excellent foie gras and pâtés. Open seven days a week. Tours by appointment. (450) 242-3825.

EVENTS

VICTORIAN DAYS IN KNOWLTON celebrate the town's heritage with period costumes, a street fair, music and wagon rides. May 18, 19 and 20. (450) 242-2982.

OPEN-AIR ANTIQUES AND CRAFTS MARKET, May 19, June 23 and July 21, on the lawn of the Brome County Historical Museum in Knowlton.

KNOWLTON HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR, is one of the area's most popular events. Visit some of the area's most beautiful homes. Proceeds support the Lac Brome Theatre. July 10. (450) 242-1395.

LE TOUR DES ARTS, July 13 to 21. More than 30 artists from Knowlton, Sutton and Mansonville open their studios to the public. Free admission. 1 800 565-8455.

BROME LAKE DUCKFEST, in Knowlton, September 28 & 29, October 5 & 6, 12 to 14. This gastronomic event celebrates the famous Brome Lake duck, with a street festival, gourmet tastings and duck delicacies. (450) 242-2982.

KNOWLTON ANTIQUE SHOW AND SALE, October 11 to 13, attracts top dealers from Ontario and Québec. (450) 243-6134.

TOURISM INFORMATION

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS TOURISM ASSOCIATION:
1 800 355-5755, www.tourisme-cantons.qc.ca
TAKE A VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR OF KNOWLTON VILLAGE : www.cclacbrome.qc.ca

Reserve ahead!

Visit

www.bonjourquebec.com

or call

1 877 BONJOUR (1 877 266-5687)

You will receive everything
you need to enjoy a fabulous
Québec summer vacation!



Québec



You'll Look Great in Québec City!



Don't miss...

June 26 to 30
The TISSOT-UCI Mountain BikeWorld Cup
 (418) 827-1122
www.gestev.com

June 27 to 30
Québec Air Nova Horse Show
 (418) 647-1300, ext. 2248
www.concourshipnique.quebecplus.ca

Hilton Québec

1 night from
\$179
 double occupancy

Bounceback Package. Includes one room with 2 buffet breakfasts. Subject to availability. Taxes extra. 571 renovated rooms with a panoramic view of Old Québec, the Parliament, or the Laurentian Mountains. Outdoor heated pool open year-round! Surprise gift for kids under 12!

1100 boulevard René-Lévesque Est, Québec City, QC G1K 7K7

1-800-447-2411 (CAN)

1-800-HILTONS (USA)

www.hilton.com



Loews Le Concorde

1 night from
\$260
 double occupancy

Madly in Love Package. Includes room with a river view, buffet breakfast at the Galerie restaurant and dinner for two at our rooftop revolving restaurant L'Astral. Gratuities on meals included. Taxes extra.

Ask about other package options.

1225 cours du Général-De Montcalm, Québec City, QC G1R 4W6

1-800-463-5256

loewskoncorde@loewshotels.com
www.loewshotels.com



Hôtel du Capitoile

1 night from
\$171
 per person double occupancy

Elvis Story Package. Includes one night's accommodation, dinner-show, and breakfast. Extend your stay in Québec, city of a thousand charms! Ask about the advantages of our two-night package.

972 rue Saint-Jean, Québec City, QC G1R 1R5

1-800-363-4040

www.lecapitoile.com



Hôtel Royal William

2 nights from
\$203
 per person double occupancy

Discover Québec City. Includes 2 nights/3 days, double occupancy, one Québec La Capitale city tour, one cruise on the St. Lawrence River aboard the M/V Louis Jolliet, one 4 course table d'hôte dinner, and a healthy or classic breakfast every morning. Other packages available. Taxes extra.

360 boulevard Charest Est, Québec City, QC G1K 3H4

1-888-541-0405

www.royalwilliam.com



Offers featured in this folder are available for a specific period only and may vary from one establishment to another.



1-877-BONJOUR, ext. 654

A Québec City and Area Tourism and Convention Bureau advertisement. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by the Minister responsible for the National Capital region and Tourism Québec.

June 27 to August 14

Cirque du Soleil

(418) 627-5800

www.galeriedelacapitale.com

June 28 to July 1

Le Tour de l'île d'Orléans à la nage

(Swimming Around Orléans Island)

(418) 828-0894

July 4 to 14

Festival d'été de Québec

(Québec City Summer Festival)

1-888-992-5200 • (418) 529-5200

www.infofestival.com

July 20 to August 7

Les Grands Feux Loto-Québec

1-800-923-3389 • (418) 523-3389

www.lesgrandsfeux.com

August 7 to 11

Fête de la Nouvelle-France

(New France Festival)

1-866-391-FETE (3383) • (418) 694-3311

www.nouvellefrance.qc.ca

August 14 to 25

Expo-Québec

1-888-866-EXPO (3976) • (418) 691-7110

www.expocite.com

August 22 to 25

Festival international de musiques militaires

(International Festival of Military Bands)

(418) 694-5757

www.fimmq.com

August 25

Marathon des Deux Rives - Lévis/Québec

(418) 694-4442

www.marathonquebec.com**— Chalets-Village Mont-Sainte-Anne —**

From

\$1,600

for 7 nights

(per house)

4-8 people

- Fully furnished 2 to 8 bedroom country homes.
- 30 minutes from downtown Québec City.
- Free day camp for kids from 2 to 17 years old.

Please visit each house on our Website.

1-800-461-2030

www.chalets-village.qc.ca**— Château Bonne Entente —**1 night
from**\$149**double occupancy
(room only)**Enjoy...**

140 rooms and suites

Ultimate dining experience at the restaurant Le Pailleur

Luxury spa

Magnificent gardens

15 minutes from Old Québec

3400 chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec, QC G1X 1S6

1-800-463-4390

www.chateausway.com**— Les Hôtels Jaro —**

From

\$99⁹⁵

per night

double occupancy

*What is the easiest way to find a room
in Québec City?***6 hotels and more than 1000 rooms...**

Hôtel Palace Royal

L'Hôtel Québec

Hôtel Plaza Québec

Hôtel Lindbergh

Auberge Sainte-Foy Québec

Québec Inn

1-800-567-5276

www.jaro.qc.ca**— Hôtel Classique —**

From

\$179

per night

Elvis Story Package. Includes 2 nights for 2 adults, tickets to Elvis Story show, cruise on the M/V Louis Jolliet, and a \$10 gift certificate.**Family Package.** Includes 2 nights for 2 adults and 2 children, admission for 4 to an IMAX movie and Feux sacrés (sound & light show), funicular ride for 4, and admission for 2 to Galeries de la Capitale amusement park.

2815 boulevard Laurier, Sainte-Foy, QC G1V 4H3

1-800-463-1885

info@hotelclassique.comHÔTEL
Classiquewww.quebecregion.com**QUÉBEC**
City and Area*Une histoire d'amour!*

Summer in the 
Outaouais:

For a picture perfect holiday!



Be sure to get a
copy of our 2002

*Summer
Package
Guide*



Outaouais Tourism Association

103 Rue Laurier, Hull, Quebec J8X 3V8 Telephone: (819) 778-2222 Toll-free: 1-800-265-7822

www.western-quebec-tourism.org



Québec 

www.bonjourquebec.com
1 877 BONJOUR (266-5687)