

CAA

QUEBEC

TRAVEL / HOME / AUTOMOTIVE / INSURANCE

WINTER 2018

TRAVEL
TREASURES
OF LOUISIANA

HOME
BUYING A HOUSE
IN WINTER

AUTOMOTIVE
ALL ABOUT
WINTER DRIVING

AMAZONIA

JOURNEY TO THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE

NEW

NOW
**10% DISCOUNT
ON TRAVEL
INSURANCE!**

DETAILS ON PAGE 29

caaquebec.com



CampusDiscount

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE - MAGAZINES & NEWSPAPERS

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR EVERY TASTE AND BUDGET FOR YOU, YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SUBSCRIBE BEFORE
DECEMBER 21 AND
RECEIVE A **FREE HOLIDAY
E-CARD** TO ACCOMPANY
YOUR GIFT!

**rabais
dollars**
CAA

Magazine Title	Discount	Price
Canadian Living	-61%	\$19.99
People	-61%	\$32.75
Sports Illustrated	-90%	\$39.95
The Economist	-77%	\$115.00
Rolling Stone	-76%	\$31.95
HOUSE & HOME	-71%	\$23.00
styleathome	-71%	\$16.95
Hockey News	-61%	\$39.95
THE WALRUS	-71%	\$22.95
FASHION	\$10	\$10.00
Better Homes & Gardens	\$19.99	\$19.99
Reader's digest	-71%	\$25.95
WIRED	-79%	\$24.99
Country Living	\$19.99	\$19.99
Parents	\$18.50	\$18.50
Women's Health	-65%	\$24.95
AD	-29%	\$54.95
RUNNERS	-67%	\$23.95
W	\$19.99	\$19.99
VANITY FAIR	-46%	\$44.95
Geographic	-54%	\$24.95
POPULAR SCIENCE	\$19.95	\$19.95
Heidi	-55%	\$26.75
ROAD TRACK	-64%	\$24.95
PEOPLE	-75%	\$89.95
SHAPE	\$19.99	\$19.99
ZOOKEEPER	\$14.95	\$14.95
Chirp	-43%	\$29.95
Men's Health	-62%	\$27.25
REAL SIMPLE	-62%	\$31.95
Real Simple	\$19.99	\$19.99
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING	\$17.99	\$17.99
RICARDO	-46%	\$29.95
best health	-23%	\$22.95
ELLE	\$11.50	\$11.50
Seventeen	\$15.99	\$15.99
Entertainment Weekly	-91%	\$27.95
POPULAR MECHANICS	-57%	\$25.50
OWL	-43%	\$29.95
Living	\$19.99	\$19.99
O	-50%	\$34.25
CAR AND DRIVER	-59%	\$29.50

**THE LOWEST
RATES
GUARANTEED!**

**UP TO \$11 IN
ADDITIONAL SAVINGS!**
(ON MULTIPLE SUBSCRIPTION PURCHASE)

**93 GIFTS
AT \$20 OR LESS
330 TITLES
AVAILABLE!**

ORDER NOW:
CAMPUSDISCOUNT.COM - 1 800 265-0180

Taxes not included / Other titles and lengths available. Limited time offer. Certain conditions may apply. Availability and product prices may change without notice. Crossed-out rates are newsstand prices. Printed 11-2018

CONTENTS

CAA
QUEBEC
WINTER
2018



Editorial

- 2 THE ROAD TO SELF-DRIVING CARS**
▶ No rush to get there

Travel

- 4 TO DISCOVER**
▶ Nine reasons to step out this winter
▶ Feelings: Don't leave home without them
▶ New hotels opening in Quebec
- 10 MAGICAL MOMENTS**
▶ Swimming with manta rays in Bali
- 12 SHORT STAYS**
▶ A few days in Louisiana
- 18 TAKING OFF**
▶ The Amazon chronicles
- 26 INSURANCE**
▶ Insurance for winter sports is a must

Home

- 43 PRACTICAL MATTERS**
▶ Wintertime barbecuing: Why not?
- 44 PERSPECTIVES**
▶ House hunting in winter
- 48 INSURANCE**
▶ Backup heaters and insurance:
A practical combo
- 51 GOOD TO KNOW**
▶ Five false notions about chimney sweeping

Automotive

- 53 SAFETY**
▶ The view from the trucker's seat
▶ Winter driving is a learnable skill
- 58 PRACTICAL MATTERS**
▶ Getting the most from your rear-view camera
▶ Know these five auto parts
- 62 ROAD TESTS**



CAA-Quebec and you

- 29 FRONT & CENTRE**
▶ CAA-Quebec travel insurance takes another step forward
- 30 NEWS**
▶ The first major CAA-Quebec Foundation fundraiser
▶ A reminder on the eve of the holiday season
▶ A forward-looking Foundation
▶ Mobile EV recharging service with Hyundai
▶ Legalized marijuana and impaired driving: What the rules say
▶ Are your tires adequate?
▶ Coming soon: New date for winter tires
- 33 MY NO-STRESS CARD**
▶ Recycle car seats when the kids have grown out of them
▶ The Assistant for legal advice and identity theft: Online purchases
▶ Member testimonial: Like an oasis in the desert
▶ Q & A with our automotive experts
▶ Photo Contest: Riegersburg, Austria
▶ Christmas shopping with *Rabais Dollars CAA*
- 41 HOW TO REACH US**



caaquebec.com

Download the magazine's digital version via the App Store or Google Play. You'll find exclusive videos and still more insightful contents.

THE ROAD TO SELF-DRIVING CARS NO RUSH TO GET THERE



© CATH LANGLOIS PHOTOGRAPHE

IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO DEMAND ASSURANCE THAT ROAD SAFETY WILL NEVER BE COMPROMISED BY THE ADVENT OF THIS NEW MEANS OF MOBILITY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Lachance', written over a light blue background.

Richard Lachance
President and CEO

Imagine it's 2050, and the majority of cars on Quebec roads are self-driving. Collision rates are way down and nobody even mentions congestion. That's a thrilling prospect to be sure, but it also makes our heads spin. So, as promising as the straight road to self-driving cars may seem, it must be taken in tandem with our own limitations.

To be clear, steady advances in automotive safety technology have long paved the way for self-driving cars. Some motorists will no doubt remember the sensation they felt when using cruise control for the first time. Today, there are blind-spot detectors, lane-change warnings, automatic emergency braking systems... At this rate, where will we be in just three years?

Does it still seem unsettling? That may be because science advances faster than we can keep up. But one thing is for sure: It's perfectly normal to demand assurance that road safety will never be compromised by the advent of this new means of mobility.

Self-driving cars have a lot in their favour. For example, computers react faster than the best drivers in avoiding an obstacle. The tangible gains are obvious, whether in terms of road safety and its social costs, congestion, urban planning or sustainable mobility. On the other hand, autonomy is not synonymous with what we mean by intelligence. A single programming error can invite disaster. Recently, an Arizona pedestrian was struck and killed by an autonomously driven vehicle – causing a shock wave that is rekindling the safety debate.

Then there are ethical dilemmas. Faced with an inevitable crash, and in a fraction of a second, an in-car computer may have to “decide” who it will save first: the vehicle's occupants, a child on the street, or several pedestrians on the sidewalk. The best option is probably one that will save the most lives. But what if you and your family were in the car and you had no control over the situation? It would be a devastating choice.

The demands of coexisting with other road users and the accepting of self-driving cars by the general public – especially in the early years of their appearance – are of paramount importance. In this regard, the CAA-Quebec Foundation is especially interested in Canada's first fully autonomous electric shuttle project on a public road, planned for the Quebec town of Candiac. The 15-passenger self-driving shuttle will travel over a two-kilometre distance while coping with all the unexpected problems associated with urban traffic. One reassuring factor is that an operator will always be on board. That's an experiment that the CAA-Quebec Foundation will follow closely. And it's only the beginning: The City of Montreal also has projects in the works, with the support of the provincial government and other stakeholders.

Despite the challenges to coexist with self-driving cars, the potential is much too important not to be addressed immediately and open-mindedly. But let's be clear: There's no rush to get there. The stakes are too great and compromise on road-user safety is not an option.

BUY 4, GET ONE FREE



A SIMPLY GREAT COFFEE EXPERIENCE.

OFFER VALID AT ALL TIMES AT PARTICIPATING COUCHE-TARD STORES.

EVERY DROP OF FUEL COUNTS.*

0 to
34.99
litres

1¢
per
litre

35 to
54.99
litres

2¢
per
litre

55
litres and more

3¢
per
litre

**rabais
dollars**

*OFFER VALID ON ALL TYPES OF FUELS SOLD AT PARTICIPATING COUCHE-TARD STORES, UPON PRESENTATION OF THE CAA MEMBER CARD. FOR CAA CLASSIC, CAA PLUS® AND CAA PREMIER® MEMBERS, THE REBATE IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF LITRES OF FUEL PURCHASED PER TRANSACTION: 0 TO 34.99 LITRES: 1¢ BACK IN CAA DOLLARS PER LITRE OF FUEL, 35 TO 54.99 LITRES: 2¢ BACK IN CAA DOLLARS PER LITRE OF FUEL, 55 LITRES OR MORE: 3¢ BACK IN CAA DOLLARS PER LITRE OF FUEL. CAA PLUS® RV AND CAA PREMIER® RV MEMBERS GET 3¢ BACK PER LITRE OF FUEL NO MATTER THE NUMBER OF LITRES PURCHASED.

Couche-Tard 
Simple comme bonjour™

Winter fun in Quebec

Here are nine reasons to step out this winter! The season boasts new activities as amazing as they are stimulating and enriching!

BY NATHALIE DE GRANDMONT



©EXPORAIL, LE MUSÉE FERROVIAIRE CANADIEN

SAINT-CONSTANT / Railway Christmas

01 / Everyone loves trains, even more so during the holiday season at Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum. It's a panorama of illuminated locomotives, freight cars full of toys and Christmas stockings, a sled for the elves, a workshop on decorating festive cookies, Victorian-inspired tea parties... And don't forget Santa, the centre of attention who will greet visitors aboard the Exporail Christmas Train. What an irresistible delight for young and old alike.

exporail.org ▶ CAA-Quebec members get a 15-percent discount on regular Exporail admission fees.



©ALEX LÉPINE

LAVAL / Surf's up

02 / Take a break from the cold weather and go indoor-surfing at Maeva Surf in Laval. Your initiation into the sport happens in a fun-filled and safe environment. After theory exercises, you can start riding the waves – under supervision, naturally. Those most adept will get the hang of it in no time – at least on their tummies or knees! There's an on-site bistro serving tapas and fancy drinks in a California decor. No doubt about it! You're on vacation – in Laval.

maevasurf.com ▶ CAA-Quebec members get a discount of up to \$15 on one-day free-surf tickets.



MONTEBELLO / Surrounded by wolves

03 / How about waking up at dawn to the sight and sounds of a wolf pack? That's an experience you can have after spending a night in the wolf cabin at Montebello's Parc Oméga, open year-round. Hike the park trails and catch sight of local wild animals in their natural habitat: elk, bison, wolves, wild goats and other native North American species. They are particularly active and spectacular during the winter. And check out the First Nations trail that includes three immense totem poles and several interpretation panels.

▶ **parcomega.ca**



©FRANCIS BOUCHARD

QUEBEC CITY / *Festi Lumière*

04 / Quebec City's annual light show is one of the best times to visit the Aquarium du Québec, which is transformed into a magical marine world. An added attraction is the fact that, this winter, the Aquarium du Québec plays host to exotic members of the Biodôme de Montréal collection of Amazonian fish, including the infamous red piranhas.

sepaq.com ▶ CAA-Quebec members get a 10-percent discount on regular admission fees.

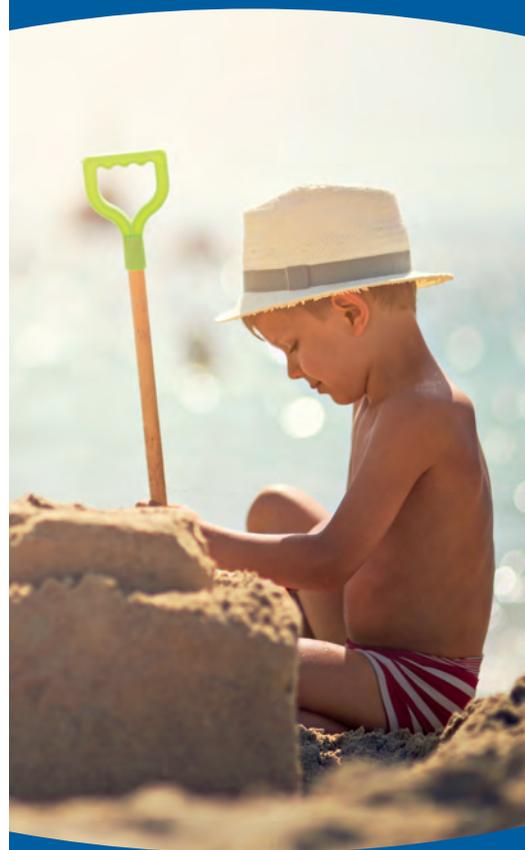


©STÉPHANE AUDET, ICÔNE

QUEBEC CITY / *London Calling*

05 / Quebec City's Musée de la Civilisation takes us on an informal visit to England with its *London Calling* exhibition, on view until March 10, 2019. Discover British creativity through works of art, clothing and furniture. Explore the city's creative districts: Chelsea (the birthplace of the Punk movement), Soho (a study in contrast and eccentricity), the East End and Abbey Road (where Beatlemania lives on).

mcq.org ▶ CAA-Quebec members get a 20-percent discount on regular admission fees.



Live like the king of the castle



Travel Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS



© STEVE DESCHÊNES

CHARLEVOIX /
Living it up

06 / Starting this year, Parc National des Hautes-Gorges-de-la-Rivière-Malbaie will be open year-round. Winter activities include snowshoeing, ice climbing, skating on the Malbaie River and snow cruises on tracker boats.

sepaq.com ▶ Park admission: \$8.60 per adult, free for children 17 years and under.

L'ISLET /
Polar walks

07 / The Musée Maritime du Québec in L'Islet organizes polar walks on the frozen St. Lawrence River, featuring stories, tales and legends of 20th-century Arctic explorers. As a bonus, you'll be able to admire the coastal villages from a very different vantage point.

mmq.qc.ca ▶ February 9, 10, 16 and 17, 2019. Schedule to be determined according to the tides. \$10 per person. Reservations required. Call 1-844-310-5001.



© MUSÉE MARITIME DU QUÉBEC



ORFORD /
Fat biking

08 / This winter's exciting trend, oversized-tire fat bikes can be rented at Mont-Orford, Mont-Saint-Bruno and Jacques-Cartier national parks. Practise off-road biking at your own speed, under perfect weather conditions, and on the right kind of trail.

▶ **sepaq.com**

MONTREAL /
La Petite Vie

09 / From December 5, the Pointe-à-Callière Museum in Montreal wants visitors to enjoy a journey back into the silly world of *La Petite Vie*, one of Quebec's most successful television shows of all time. And while there, you might want to check out two outstanding legacy projects unveiled for Montreal's 375th anniversary: the recently discovered remnants of Fort Ville-Marie (at the museum) and La Grande Roue (the giant Ferris wheel) that offers a spectacular panoramic view of Montreal.

LAGRANDEROUEDEMONTREAL.COM

pacmusee.qc.ca ▶ CAA-Quebec members get a 10-percent discount on regularly priced items at the museum souvenir shop.



© AVANTI GROUP

Feelings: Don't leave home without them

Travellers today want more than just a destination to explore. They have the urge to experience it personally. They want to discover cities and lifestyles in a more sensorial, more personal way. That's the concept behind the *Soul.City* travel app, developed in 2016 by a Montreal-based company of the same name. "Visitors have different reactions to an unfamiliar city, depending on whether they travel alone, as a couple, as a family, or for business," explains *Soul.City* president and CEO Annick Charbonneau. "Existing apps and guidebooks aren't really focused on travellers' sensibilities. And that's where *Soul.City* comes in: letting people find an itinerary that tickles their fancy (romantic, family-oriented, off the beaten track ...) and is geared to the time they have available. The app then proposes a journey based on a chosen theme, complete with maps, photos and information about each suggested stop."

soul.city ▶ The company has just released a new version of the app, available in six cities: Barcelona, Montreal, New York, Paris, San Francisco and Strasbourg.



▶ Check out the list of the world's happiest countries in the magazine's digital version.



Live the sweet life



Travel Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

New hotels opening in Quebec

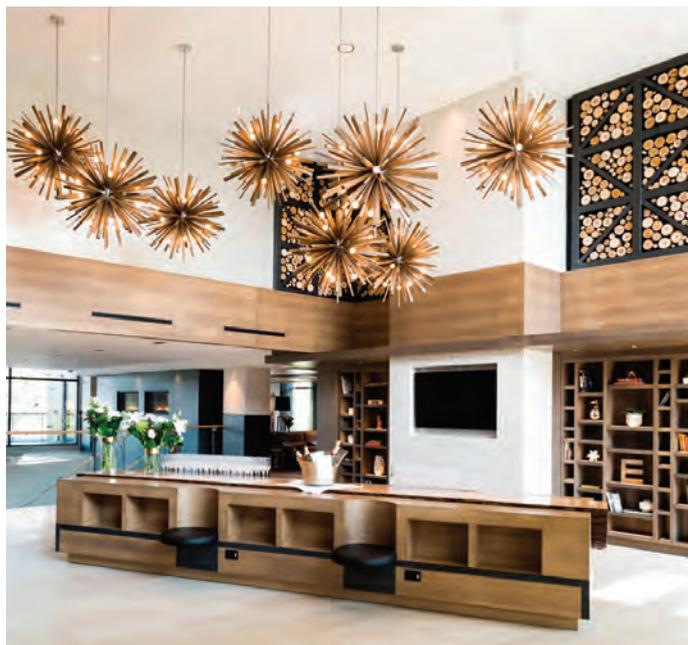
In Quebec, the hotel business is flourishing! Last year alone, no less than three brand new hotel lines were launched. / BY NATHALIE DE GRANDMONT



MONTREAL / AC Hotels

With already more than 120 hotels bearing its imprint – mainly in Europe – AC Hotels by Marriott® chose downtown Montreal for its first venture on Canadian soil. AC Hotel by Marriott Montreal Downtown is situated between the Quartier des Spectacles and Old Montreal. “Montreal is a natural first choice,” explains Marriott International Vice-President Toni Stoeckl, “because its European ambiance, lifestyle and culture are in keeping with the Marriott philosophy.” Housed in a brand new 12-storey high-rise, the hotel’s 160 spacious rooms have parquet floors, floor-to-ceiling windows and oversized showers. Amenities include the La Palma, a gourmet restaurant serving Mediterranean-inspired fare. Breakfast is buffet-style, using high-quality, imported ingredients. Both the rooftop terrace and swimming pool afford breathtaking views of Old Montreal.

► acmarriottmontreal.com



LAC-BEAUPORT / Entourage sur-le-Lac

This newcomer is located on a private beach in Lac-Beauport, a 15-minute drive from Quebec City. Entourage-sur-le-Lac has 166 rooms, suites and penthouses, each with a balcony and modern conveniences. “It’s so much more than a mere hotel. Call it a concept,” says general manager Alain April. “We promote well-being in all its forms by offering relaxation facilities, a spacious state-of-the-art gym, a dazzling gourmet restaurant (the L’Îlot), and an activity program that takes full advantage of the hotel’s proximity to the surrounding landscape.” Winter activities include jogging and skating on the lake, fat biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

► entourageresort.com

BROSSARD / ALT+

Opened last spring, ALT+ (a Groupe Germain hotel) is just steps away from the shops, spas and restaurants that make up the commercial lifestyle centre of Quartier DIX30. “ALT+ is our third brand,” says media-relations officer Julie Tremblay. “It’s a vibrant home-away-from-home concept, featuring contemporary loft-style rooms with kitchenettes and floor-to-ceiling windows.” The hotel also boasts a fully equipped fitness centre, a trendy bar and high-end restaurant overseen by renowned chef Normand Laprise.

► alhotels.com

NEW!
10%
DISCOUNT
FOR MEMBERS
ONLY

Live each moment to the fullest

**CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL INSURANCE :
MORE COMPREHENSIVE
AND GENEROUS THAN EVER.**

- Affordable family premium
- 10% discount for members and their family
- And much more!

**DISCOVER YOUR
NEW PRICE**

1 800 359-1221

Drop by one of our 14 Travel Centres
caaquebec.com/travel-insurance

Some conditions apply. CAA-Quebec Travel Insurance is underwritten by Orion Travel Insurance Company, which insures more than a half-million CAA members annually. It is distributed by CAA-Quebec Travel.



Travel Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS



/ Bali /

SWIMMING WITH MANTA RAYS

Once underwater, with these strange creatures brushing up against us, we were thoroughly mesmerized.

BY JOSÉ LAGANIÈRE

NusaLembongan is a much sought-after spot to observe manta rays. It was one of the main reasons I brought my little family to this magnificent island south-east of Bali. From the centre of the island, we could reach Manta Bay by boat in just 20 minutes. But even though the bay is known for ray-watching, our guide warned us that there was no guarantee we'd actually see any (rather like whale-watching near Tadoussac, come to think of it). Floating close to the shoreline, the skipper scanned the horizon. All of a sudden, he called out: "Manta, manta!" We rushed to slip on fins, masks and snorkels, without really

knowing what to expect. Once underwater, we were mesmerized. What a spectacular sight! A school, about 10 strong, of these majestic creatures glided gracefully before our eyes. Some of them must have been three metres long. With their impressive mouths wide open, they easily gulped down the plankton that is so abundant in the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. Completely undisturbed by our presence, the rays came at times within less than a metre. What a thrilling moment!

► indonesia-tourism.com/bali/nusa-sembongan.html



DISCOVER BALI AND INDONESIA WITH CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL

TREASURES OF INDONESIA
JAVA AND BALI ► Departure in September 2019

TREASURES OF BALI ► Friday departures from March to November 2019

► caaquebec.com/travel

Protect what
matters



Big changes in your life? It's time to protect what matters.

Whether it's a baby, marriage or a new home, any big life event is a good time to think about **CAA Term Life Insurance**. Make sure you have the coverage your family needs in the event you're no longer there to provide for them.

- ✓ Coverage up to \$1 million
- ✓ Lock in your rates for 5, 10, 15, 20 years—or for your lifetime
- ✓ Living Benefit included

EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS

- ✓ Coverage increases 2% per year at no extra cost (for up to 5 years) with 10, 15 and 20-year plans

CALL US NOW
1-877-942-4222
or visit **caalife.ca**

Underwritten by The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.
Manulife, P.O. Box 670, Stn Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2J 4B8.
Conditions, limitations and exclusions apply. See policy for details.
Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request.
Visit Manulife.com/accessibility for more information.



Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

A FEW DAYS IN LOUISIANA

First time in the Deep South?
This itinerary will dazzle you.

BY JULIETTE RUER

33707733

45 FRENCH MARKET PLACE

BOILED
CRAWFIS



SPECIALS

- 1. Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes \$6.25
- 2. Baked Chicken & Macaroni \$7.25
- Steamed & Sausage Gumbo \$3.75
- Peach Cordon Rouge Pie \$2.25
- Grilled Local Cake \$2.25

One of the great pleasures of travelling is in being present at the perfect moment, one that will stay in your memory and become as precious as all the pictures you've taken. Gliding along a bayou, for example, on a sunny and breezy day as a snowy egret flies overhead and an alligator ominously looms... Or dancing in the middle of the night at the street corner of Frenchmen and Chartres in New Orleans while a brass band belts out joyful music with contagious abandon.

In Louisiana – and in New Orleans – there's not just one perfect moment but rather several. And you can't help but wonder what's so special about this part of the world. For a short getaway, to change the scenery and let the good times roll without having to go too far, there's nothing like the Mississippi Delta.

Spirit of the Deep South

History buffs will appreciate Louisiana. Flanked by the Red River, the laid-back city of Alexandria lies smack in the middle of this flat, low-lying state where bayous meander freely throughout. The city is home to the art-deco Hotel Bentley, which provided accommodation for top U.S. Army generals like Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton during the famous Louisiana Manoeuvres in 1941. These were massive military training exercises to prepare for America's entrance into World War Two and ending with the June 6, 1944 Normandy landings.

Heading southward, you find historic plaques indicating the Northup Trail. Using them as a guide, we can follow the incredibly arduous journey to freedom of Solomon Northup. A New Yorker, Northup was kidnapped, sold, and kept as a slave for 12 years on several Louisiana plantations. (The movie *Twelve Years a Slave* was based on his eponymous memoir and won the Academy Award for best film in 2013.) To be able to read, in the basement of the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in Marksville, his 1853 deed of release is a deeply moving experience.

Journeying further toward the Gulf Coast between cotton fields and sugar-cane plantations, bayous and channels formed by the Mississippi River tributaries, we find ourselves sharing the road with loggers and armadillos. The air is hot and humid. New Iberia's enchanting Rip Van Winkle gardens couldn't have appeared too soon, signalling a welcome rest stop. There, a vivid slice of quintessential Americana awaits us including peacocks proudly strutting back and forth, mockingbirds singing, and magnificent antebellum homes redolent of the opulence of a long-ago time (like the poetically named Shadows-on-the-



Oak Alley Plantation



Bourbon Street, New Orleans

Teche) surrounded by green oaks and giant magnolia trees. Roaming along the bayou Teche, we run into a few dudes who seem to have appeared straight out of the movie *The Big Lebowski*. Reality soon meets fiction at Victor's Cafeteria on Main Street, where Sheriff Dave Robicheaux, the title character in James Lee Burke's crime-novel series, is a regular. Burke himself grew up on the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast.

Wetlands, alligators, and the French language

We're also deep down in Cajun country, where kindness is neither myth nor cliché. You find French and Acadian names and words everywhere you go, personal stories too. Say something in French and it's hugs all round! At Konrico, the oldest rice mill still in operation in the United States, a brief conversation in French quickly prompts the manager to recount her family history. On a weeknight at Clementine on Main, a restaurant in downtown New Iberia, a performer



DISCOVER NEW ORLEANS

CRUISE NEW ORLEANS AND MARDI GRAS ▶ Departures in February 2019 and February 2020

CRUISE NEW ORLEANS AND OTHER TREASURES ▶ Departures in February 2019 and February 2020

▶ caaquebec.com/voyage

belts out a swinging French tune on a tiny platform. Everyone soon joins in, clapping their hands and tapping their feet, and the children begin to dance.

The closer you get to the Gulf of Mexico, the blurrier the coast appears and the wetlands extend over hundreds of kilometres. We find ourselves in the French-speaking Amerindian territory of Houma Nation. From Thibodeaux to Grand Isle, passing through Houma in between, and straight on until the end of the road at a place called Cocodrie, people live on or beside the swamps. This is where alligator hunting and farming, fishing and leisurely outings are the norm – all against a background of, naturally, the Cajun music of zydeco. The swamps are one of the world's unique ecosystems, where great blue herons and alligators reign supreme, coexisting with cypresses whose foot-like roots are immersed in water and oaks are adorned with Spanish moss. Captain Billy Gaston of Cajun Man's Swamp Tours is also a hunter, a singer and a great talker. He wouldn't swap his life here for anything in the world. Who can blame him? The area is pure magic. And we obediently heed his advice not to lean outward or stick our hands out of the boat...

Food delights

Alligator is a must-try. Its delicate, chicken-like texture goes well with any sauce. The renowned Drago's



The pride of Louisiana: Tabasco® sauce, a 150-year-old brand!



seafood restaurant serves it stewed or deep-fried on a taco. Incidentally, Drago's has specialized in Cajun cuisine for more than 25 years, and its charbroiled oysters are a seriously regal feast. Seafood is plentiful in Louisiana. Every restaurant menu features all kinds of fish as well as soft-shell crab, shrimp, turtle and, of course, the famous crawfish, of which Louisiana produces up to 55,000 tons per year. Fish and shellfish combined with blood pudding and rice in any variation of family recipes make for unique dishes each time. Needless to say, the variations are endless! Crawfish stews, gumbos and jambalayas make the palate sing no matter in what style they are prepared: Creole, French, Spanish or American. If you want to learn more about Cajun cuisine, there's only one place to go: the New Orleans School of Cooking. There, Chef Ricardo can teach you how to make an authentic Louisiana-style roux.

One thing is certain: Louisiana is the kind of place where your heart skips a beat. And it's not a one-time destination. *À bientôt.*

A long weekend in New Orleans

WHAT TO DO

- ▶ Party: There's excitement every night on Bourbon Street.
- ▶ Tour the city on a bike: New Orleans is very flat, so it's a pleasure to bike around, and the guides of Free Wheelin' Bike Tours are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. FREEWHEELINBIKETOURS.COM
- ▶ Take a Drink & Learn walking tour of the French Quarter with cocktail historian Elizabeth Pearce. It's a fascinating way to get to know the city through its history with alcohol.
- ▶ Sample a sherbet at Morning Call, the vintage café in City Park, twice the size of New York's Central Park, with a golf course right in the middle!
- ▶ Ride the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, a fun way to soak in the atmosphere and admire the New Orleans historic mansions.
- ▶ Learn to appreciate jazz in all its forms at the Jazz Playhouse (at Royal Sonesta Hotel), Tipitina's, and the legendary Preservation Hall (on St. Peter Street).

WHERE TO STAY

- ▶ The Jung Hotel & Residences: comfortable and well situated
- ▶ Dauphine Orleans Hotel: a charming boutique hotel

WHAT TO SEE

- ▶ Giant magnolia trees in Jackson Square
- ▶ William Faulkner's house
- ▶ Congo Square along Rampart Street, the purported birthplace of jazz
- ▶ Shotgun houses (tiny colourful Creole houses with rooms lined up one behind the other)
- ▶ Mardi Gras World: a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to bring Mardi Gras to life year after year
- ▶ Cemeteries: unique and majestic, with tombstones revealing names from around the world

WHAT TO DRINK

- ▶ The Sazerac, the city's official drink, created on the occasion of New Orleans' 350th anniversary, and best taken at the Carousel Bar at Monteleone Hotel

WHAT TO EAT

- ▶ Beignets at Café du Monde
- ▶ Turtle soup at Brennan's: unbeatable!

▶ To learn more about Tabasco®'s secrets, consult the magazine's digital version.



INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Travelling in Style

**INSIGHT
EXPERIENCES**

**DELICIOUSLY
AUTHENTIC
DINING**

**TRAVEL AND
STAY IN STYLE**

**SMALLER
GROUP
CAMARADERIE**

**SEAMLESS,
STRESS-FREE
TRAVEL**

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



Alberobello, Italy: Nonna welcomes you to her home for a family-style dinner of Southern Italian specialties.

Related journey: Country Roads of Southern Italy & Sicily

Save 10% + \$150 savings
on select departures per person with CAA Member Benefits

Meet one of our travel counsellors:
1 844 VOYAGEZ | caaquebec.com

Book and pay in full by January 31, 2019.

*Terms and Conditions Apply. CAA-Quebec Travel is a Quebec permit-holder. TICO# 1873715



Travel

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

ALL-INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN CRUISES

STARTING AT
\$1,939 PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE
OCCUPANCY*

Celebrity **X** Cruises®

Celebrity Equinox

The price includes: Round-trip flight Montreal or Quebec City – Fort Lauderdale with Air Transat | 7-night cruise | Transfers | All meals on the ship¹ | Classic beverage package² | Gratuities for onboard staff² | Applicable taxes

EXCLUSIVE ADVANTAGES

- ✓ US\$50 per stateroom onboard credit
- ✓ Voucher for priority check-in on embarkation day

NCL **NORWEGIAN**
CRUISE LINE®

Norwegian Bliss

The price includes: Round-trip flight Montreal or Quebec City – Fort Lauderdale with Air Transat | 7-night cruise | Transfers | All meals on the ship¹ | Ultimate beverage package² | Gratuities for onboard staff² | Applicable taxes

EXCLUSIVE ADVANTAGES³

Per stateroom:

- ✓ 1 beach bag
- ✓ 1 bottle of wine
- ✓ 1 tray of chocolate-covered strawberries

CONSULT ONE OF OUR EXPERTS TODAY

caaquebec.com/travel | 1 844 VOYAGEZ

*The price was accurate at time of printing on October 10, 2018, and is valid for new bookings made between November 1 and 24, 2018. Rate applies to February 2 to 9, 2019, sailing in an IA inside category stateroom on the Norwegian Bliss with round-trip flights from Montreal. 1. Does not include meals in specialty dining venues (\$). 2. Offers apply only to the 1st and 2nd passengers in the stateroom. Gratuities included in beverage package. Includes selected beverages by the glass only Celebrity Cruises: up to a US\$9 value. Norwegian: up to a US\$15 value. 3. Offers apply for the first staterooms on each departure.

CAA-Quebec Travel is a Quebec permit holder.

Prices do not include the contribution to the Compensation Fund for Customers of Travel Agents, set at \$1.00 per \$1,000 of Services purchased.

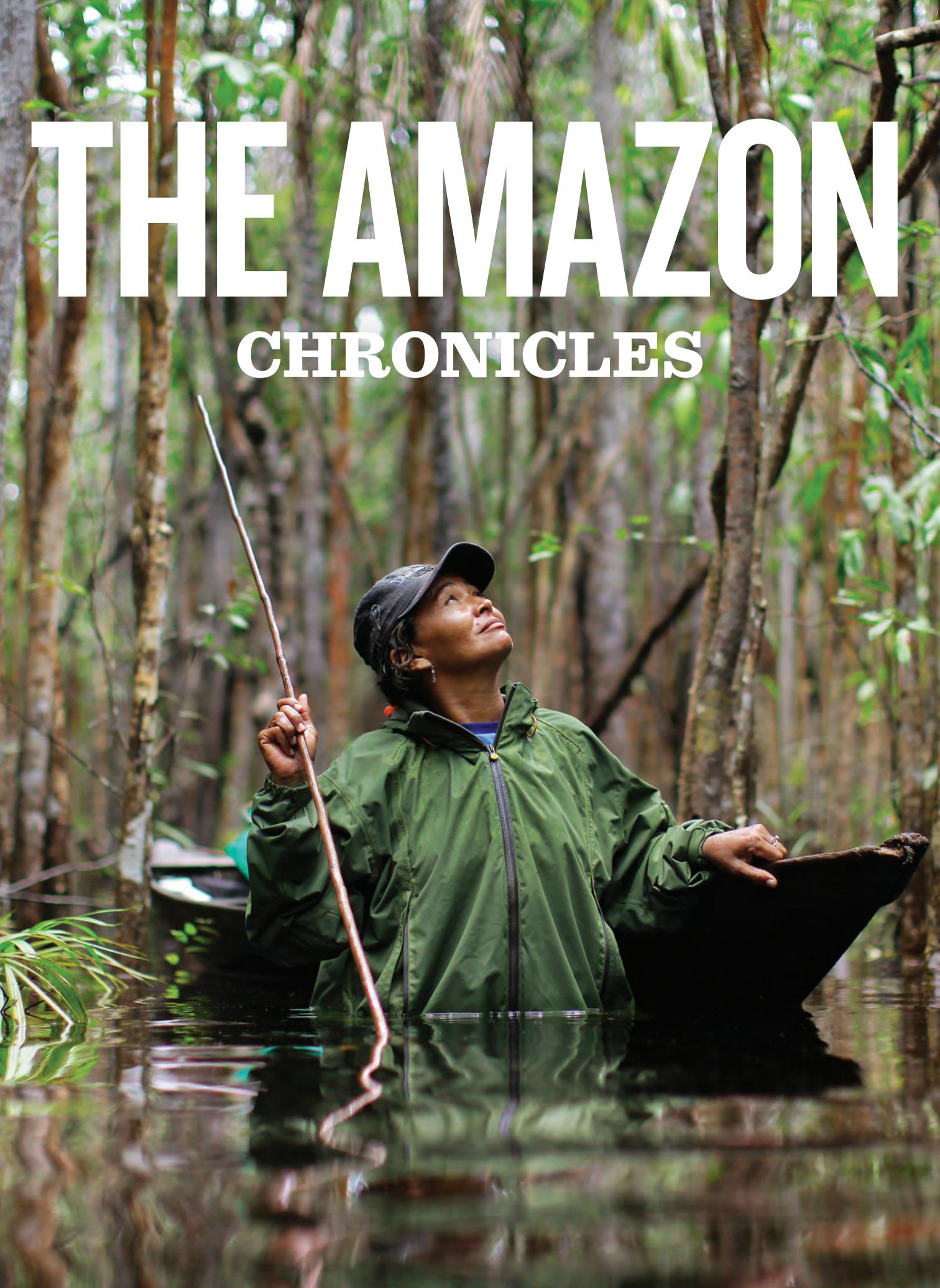


Travel

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

THE AMAZON

CHRONICLES



A delighted voyager describes the sights and sounds all along the world's longest river. / BY SYLVIE RUEL

A fine rain is falling as my taxi weaves through a maze of narrow streets lined with enormous mango trees. “Our city is one of the wettest on the planet,” the driver says by way of introduction just as a ray of sunshine peeks through the grey sky. I am in Belém, in northern Brazil, at the mouth of the Amazon River and about 100 kilometres upriver from the Atlantic Ocean. The “mango-tree city” is the departure point of my journey on the legendary river.

Starting out from Cayenne, French Guiana, the Ponant cruise ship has a scheduled stop at Belém. This gives me a chance to explore a city that has preserved – despite its dilapidated colonial buildings – a certain charm, with picturesque streets, colourful facades and a gigantic open-air market overflowing with products unique to the region: meat, fish, fruit, arts and crafts and, of course, food stalls and canteens serving traditional fare.

With time on my hands, I sign up for a boat ride on the river Guamá. On one side, there’s a forest of skyscrapers (the city’s population is 1.4 million) and on the other, a string of lush green islands dotted with stilt huts where the local inhabitants live. Belém clearly fluctuates between tradition and modernity.

It is mid-March, the wet season is in full swing, and the Amazon overflows. The plains and the forest are flooded. Plants and trees have their feet immersed in water. Small boats can easily navigate the narrow channels in order to reach deep into the Amazon forest. So twice a day, accompanied by nature guides, we set out aboard Zodiacs to observe the flora and fauna.

After Belém, our ship enters the Strait of Brèves and arrives at its narrowest part, measuring 115 metres in width. That’s the great advantage of a small cruise ship: It can squeeze into tight spots.



Seeing children twirl around us in their flimsy motorized canoes, I admit that our luxury ship seems rather out of place. We are with the Caboclo tribe, people of mixed indigenous and Portuguese ancestry. “Caboclos are not considered indigenous, although they live just like most indigenous peoples: in harmony with nature,” says our guide, anthropologist Serge Guiraud. “They live on fish, manioc and forest produce.” The Caboclos settle along riverbanks, in stilt huts made from forest materials. Open to the outside air, these abodes are simple and sparsely furnished, often with a mere hammock.



BOUNDLESS

This huge river, rivalling the Nile as the world's longest, flows over 6,500 kilometres from Peru, and expands to include more than 1,000 tributaries. Relating statistics are staggering: Amazonia is home to 900,000 Indians belonging to 300 ethnic groups, 390 billion individual trees, about 16,000 different tree species, and half the world's animal species.

It is hot in the rainforest (between 26°C and 30°C). We're in the most humid region of the planet, making our way through lush vegetation.

A unique fauna

Our first outing in the Zodiac on the river Guajar is memorable. The morning water is calm and the air so still that nothing moves. We are about to be confronted by a noisy concert: Flitting from branch to branch are large-billed terns, tyrant flycatchers, cuckoos, hummingbirds, parakeets, yellow-headed vultures, snowy egrets and yellow-headed caracaras. Our guide rattles off the bird names as if he were reading a grocery list. And the list won't end for quite a while as Amazonia boasts 3,800 bird species.

Plop, plop, plop... Large iguanas that had been perched atop trees dive into the water, feeling threatened by our presence. Fingers crossed they won't fall into our little boat!

In Guajar, we enter a huge pool of water where the river opens up. Hundreds of black buffaloes are swimming about, surrounded by herons, ducks and kingfishers. "Look, a sloth!" shouts the guide in the Zodiac next to ours. I can spot it through my binoculars, hanging upside down from a tree branch.

In Curumu, in the heart of the Brazilian forest, we discover another village, composed of colourful



Large-billed tern



Sloth in action



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER®

JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF LUXURY.

Carve your way through the Pacific Northwest and the Canadian Rockies onboard the world-renowned Rocky Mountaineer train. Aboard our train you'll enjoy the company of new friends, classic regional cuisine, and world-class scenery, paired with amazing service.



Ask about Rocky Mountaineer's current promotional offer for added value.



Travel

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

Exclusive Double CAA Member Benefit — Book a 2019 Circle Journey or a Coastal Passage Vacation and receive an Onboard Merchandise Credit of up to \$400* per couple.

Ask CAA-Quebec Travel about amazing Member-exclusive benefits on select Rocky Mountaineer packages! Call 1-844-VOYAGEZ to book your Canadian Rockies adventure.

Terms & Conditions: *CAA-Quebec Travel Complimentary Inclusions: The CAA Double Member Benefit Merchandise Credit is valid for new qualifying 2019 Rocky Mountaineer Circle Journey and Coastal Passage package bookings. 8 days or more in GoldLeaf Service receive \$200 per adult Onboard Merchandise Credit (\$400 credit per couple). 8 days or more in SilverLeaf Service receive \$100 per adult Onboard Merchandise Credit (\$200 credit per couple). 4-7 days in GoldLeaf Service receive \$100 per adult Onboard Merchandise Credit (\$200 credit per couple). 4-7 days in SilverLeaf Service receive \$70 per adult Onboard Merchandise Credit (\$140 credit per couple). Redemption of merchandise credit is only available onboard the Rocky Mountaineer train. Additional conditions apply. Must be a qualifying CAA Vacations® cruise or tour vacation. Certain Restrictions apply. Visit caaquebec.com/Travel for full details. CAA-Quebec Travel is a Quebec permit holder.

A PARADISE WORTH PROTECTING ▶ All is not rosy in the Amazon rainforest. This immense heaven on earth, which spans nine countries, is threatened by deforestation. Since 1970, 18 percent of the original forest has disappeared due to drastic logging activities and the construction of hydroelectric dams.

Every day during the cruise, our team of nature guides – composed of historians, biologists and ornithologists – enlighten us on the region and its incredible biodiversity.



huts. As they watch the river – and time – go by, the villagers wave and smile at us as we pass. I shudder to see carefree children playing in the river as I think of predatory fish – like the notorious piranhas, or worse – lurking within the muddy waters. Of all the local species, the pirarucu, belonging to a primitive group of carnivorous, bony-tongued fish, is purported to be the largest and the only kind of fish that has no fear of piranhas. And they are also part of Amazonian gastronomy. Almost every day, on returning from our expeditions, we find Amazonian fish on our menu. I can never have enough catfish – one of my favourites.

What I fear most about this cruise is the chance of coming face to face with an anaconda, that aquatic snake whose nostrils are their only feature visible above the water’s surface. “Every traveller to the Amazon dreams of spotting an anaconda,” says Raphael, the expedition leader.

Our next stop is Santarém, a city of 300,000 inhabitants situated halfway between Belém and Manaus, at the confluence of the muddy Amazon and the clear-water Tapajós. From the ship, we can easily make out the line between the two rivers, whose waters don’t mix. We visit Santarém Cathedral, the large fruit-and-vegetable market, the hammock

NEW!

▶ Ponant is the only cruise company in the world to operate under the French flag. In 2018 and 2019, the company’s Amazonian cruises will be conducted aboard *Le Champlain*, the first of Ponant’s new quartet of Explorer-class cruise ships. This compact vessel features 92 cabins and suites, as well as a multi-sensorial lounge built into the hull beneath the waterline for viewing the underwater world. It’s the first of its kind in operation anywhere.

▶ The itinerary includes a new scheduled stop at the city of Parintins – known for its Folklore Festival, Brazil’s second-largest festival after the Rio Carnival – and concludes in Manaus, a city located in the heart of the jungle. A booming rubber industry fuelled the city’s golden age, which gave rise to its reputation as the Paris of the Tropics.



Parintins folklore festival

market, and arrays of fish stalls along the quay. A fisherman is having fun teasing the pink river dolphins by throwing fish scraps into the water. These animals give quite a performance, touting their fine snouts and humongous heads. The locals call them *botos* and believe they have magical powers.

We sail on to the neighbouring village of Alter do Chão, renowned for its walkway along the Tapajós and white-sand beach, where wooden boats move this way and that as if choreographed.

Each Zodiac excursion brings surprises and discoveries. End-of-day outings sometimes afford



**SAVINGS
NEVER
LOOKED
SO GOOD!**

**rabais
dollars**

You always get:

2% in CAA Dollars
on any purchase of
prescription glasses,
non-prescription sunglasses,
lenses, contact lenses
or accessories.

10% off*
any purchase
of prescription glasses,
non-prescription
sunglasses, lenses
or regularly priced
accessories.

25% off*
the purchase
of a second pair
of regularly priced
prescription
glasses.†

newlook.ca



Redeem your
Dollars CAA
for a
New Look
gift card

NEWLOOK
e y e w e a r

Eye examinations on the premises by optometrists | Outside prescriptions accepted

*The two rebates above cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Not applicable on Oakley products. Jacinthe Laurendeau, optician.
†The 25% discount is applied to the less expensive pair when the first one is a prescription pair.

Macaws in flight



superb sunsets. Night excursions are a lot of fun: We glimpse bats in flight and compete to see who among us will be the first to spot a monkey or a caiman light up their eyes.

If we're caught in a tropical shower, we just laugh it off all the while ensuring that our cameras are safely shielded. We re-board soaking wet, but that's hardly a big deal.

The Amazon rainforest is high and dense, dark and interwoven with creepers, and virtually devoid of flowers. At first glance, it appears homogenous but we soon discover that it teems with life, especially after a rainfall. We get a chance to observe flocks of macaws (those brilliant birds with rainbow-hued plumage), toucans with their huge, colourful beaks, blue morpho butterflies, tarantulas... and pink river dolphins that burst gracefully from the water all around our little boat. A journey unique in the world.

DISCOVER AMAZONIA WITH CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL

A travel counsellor will be happy to work with you on your dream Amazonia itinerary.

► caaquebec.com/travel

► Featured in the magazine's digital version: Don't miss our acai smoothie recipe, a cooking video from the explore series.

PROTECTION FOR ANY WEATHER. GUARANTEED FOREVER.

At WeatherTech® we embrace Canadian winters. Which is why we've spent over 25 years perfecting our laser-measured FloorLiner™ and Cargo Liner, providing complete interior protection that's guaranteed to outlast this winter, next winter and every other winter. For as long as you own your vehicle. Find yours online at WeatherTech.ca.

WeatherTech®
888.905.6287 | WeatherTech.ca



**TOY
STORY**
LAND
NOW OPEN



OOOOOHHHH CANADA!

Have a blast in all four Parks
with this special ticket offer

\$79 US
per day
plus tax

for a 4-day Canada Resident
Base Theme Park Ticket

total price \$316 US plus tax.

Purchase now through 3/15/19 for use
now-12/23/18 and 1/2-9/27/19.

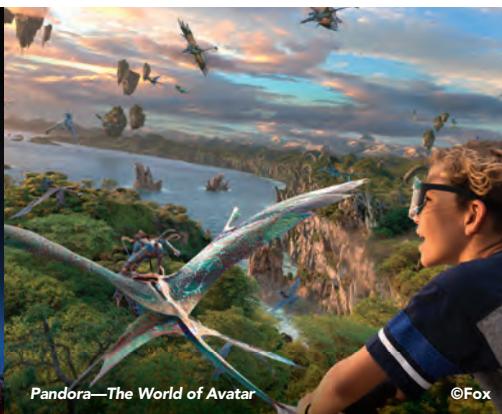
Tickets are valid for one Theme Park per day unless *Park Hopper* Option is purchased. Tickets and options must be used within 14 days of first use or by 9/27/19, whichever comes first. Proof of Canadian residency required. Offer not valid at Theme Park ticket window.

WALT DISNEY World
Resort in Florida

©Disney ©Disney/Pixar



Happily Ever After fireworks



Pandora—The World of Avatar



Frozen Ever After

All adult Guests must present valid proof of Canadian residency that includes government-issued photo ID to exchange the certificate for a valid ticket at the Theme Park ticket window or Guest Relations prior to first use. All tickets are nontransferable and nonrefundable and exclude activities/events separately priced. Admission is subject to capacity closures and to other restrictions.

CONTACT US TODAY!

Meet a travel counsellor

1 844 VOYAGEZ

We specialize in Disney vacations!



CAA-Quebec Travel is a Quebec permit holder.



INSURANCE



FOR WINTER SPORTS
IS A MUST

You may be an ace at downhill skiing, tobogganing or ice climbing, but accidents do happen. Be sure you've got adequate coverage before you hit the slopes.

BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

All outdoor sports necessarily imply risk, so put your mind at ease by being properly insured. Your all-risk home insurance covers your equipment in case of loss or theft. Civil-liability coverage protects you against bodily injury and property damage caused to a third party (if, for example, you collided with another skier while out of control). Accident insurance covers you in case of injury or accidental death while practising a sport under

normal conditions. These different types of insurance cover accidents whether you're in Canada or anywhere else in the world.

A practical guide

If you plan a winter-sports vacation abroad, make sure your insurance coverage is current and comprehensive. Never leave home without it. "Coverage should include emergency medical care, luggage theft or loss, trip cancellation or interruption, as well as accidental death and dismemberment," advises Suzanne Michaud, CAA-Quebec Vice-President – Insurance.

Ask key questions in advance. Make a list of your favourite sports and run it by your travel-insurance broker. Some risky activities may not be covered by standard insurance. For example, the risk won't be the same for the insurer if you ski on trails

rather than off. It's not uncommon to find exclusions for off-trail (a.k.a. backcountry) activities in insurance policies.

Sports activities are generally planned ahead of the trip, although some may be decided upon at the destination. If you're tempted to try out a new sport while you're abroad but are not sure if your insurance covers the activity, don't take a risk: Call your insurance company. Most of them offer 24/7 telephone service.

Insurance and extreme sports

Extreme sports, like backcountry skiing or snowboarding, ice climbing, ice diving or bobsledding, all represent high-risk factors for insurance companies. Travel insurance doesn't usually cover accidents incurred by extreme sports, any more than most traditional life insurance policies do, even for those who only dabble in this kind of activity.

In fact, some companies exclude extreme sports altogether, while others offer optional coverage at very high premiums. Michaud notes that each com-

BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR TRAVEL-INSURANCE BROKER AHEAD OF THE TRIP. SOME RISKY ACTIVITIES MAY NOT BE COVERED BY STANDARD INSURANCE.

pany has its own list of dangerous sports. Check with yours. And each company can also have specific clauses, for example, requiring that you hold recognized certifications. Even the height of the mountain can impact the premium.

So be careful: It's far better paying a higher premium up front rather than exorbitant fees following an accident sustained during your sport outing.



► Read SEPAQ tips for preparing to hike in the mountains in winter in the magazine's digital version.



Get your snowmobile ready for winter

Visit one of our
14 repair shops
for leisure vehicles

- ✓ Outstanding service
- ✓ Recognized expertise
- ✓ Satisfaction guaranteed



FIND A CAA-QUEBEC APPROVED GARAGE

caaquebec.com

1 844 522-0866

Psst! They're for ATVs too

Some conditions apply



Give the perfect gift: the CAA-Quebec card



Reward yourself!
Earn up to

25 CAA Dollars*



ENROL YOUR FRIENDS,
CHILDREN OR SPOUSE NOW

1 877 832-6744
code RP18

caaquebec.com/gift

*The reward is 25 CAA Dollars for enrolling a primary member and 10 CAA Dollars for an additional member (person aged 14 or over living at the same address as the primary member, or a child of the primary member living at a different address if he or she is aged 24 or under and is a full-time student). The gift membership must be a CAA Classic membership or higher membership option. This offer cannot be combined with any other. Other conditions apply.

Visit caaquebec.com for complete descriptions of services, benefits and rules related to CAA-Quebec membership. CAA-Quebec and its partners reserve the right to modify or terminate services and benefits at any time, in whole or in part, without notice.



EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL INSURANCE TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

Good news! On September 1, CAA-Quebec travel-insurance products were upgraded. Improvements include more generous coverage, advantageous premiums and increased member-exclusive discounts.

Suzanne Michaud, CAA-Quebec Vice-President – Insurance, explains why we decided to review our insurance products and client benefits.

Motive for change

We wanted to develop specifically exclusive offers for CAA-Quebec members. We scoured the marketplace and were most impressed with Orion Travel Insurance, a Canadian company formed seven years ago by the CAA Club Group and the Alberta Motor Association (AMA). Its single goal is to satisfy the travel insurance needs of CAA members and clients, with their peace of mind as a top priority. Orion understands our mission and the expectations of our members. In fact, other CAA clubs – in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Maritimes – have already signed on. It's a natural partnership!

In case of emergency, will travel assistance be available?

More than ever! The travel-assistance team is on standby 24/7 and has cemented its credentials for more than 30 years. Based in Sherbrooke, our team is fluently bilingual. We pay particular attention to travel assistance because it's an essential element behind the enjoyment of each and every trip.

And what about the future?

CAA-Quebec and Orion share a mutual commitment to offer the best products that evolve in tandem with



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES FOR CAA-QUEBEC MEMBERS?

Of course, we retain those things that have always guaranteed the quality of CAA-Quebec travel insurance: ease of purchase, outstanding customer service, wise advice and custom-made coverage. To all that, we now add the following exclusive benefits:

- ▶ Ten-percent discount on premiums exclusive to members.
- ▶ Annual insurance coverage for an unlimited period in Canada (certain conditions apply).
- ▶ Reimbursement of the cost of veterinarian care for your pet, in the case of accidents.
- ▶ Discounts on prescription drugs.*
- ▶ And much more!

member needs. With this goal firmly in mind, we can offer the strongest range of protection. In fact, more than a half-million CAA members and their families are already insured with Orion.

FOR QUESTIONS OR A QUOTE:

- ▶ caaquebec.com/en/for-your-insurance/travel-insurance
1-855-440-4402

* Conditions may apply.

THE FIRST MAJOR CAA-QUEBEC FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER



Improving road safety is an ongoing effort for the CAA-Quebec Foundation, which has just kicked off a major fundraising campaign. The money received will be allocated for the Foundation's awareness-raising initiatives. Activities are chiefly aimed at teenagers and senior citizens, two road-user groups with sharply different priorities.

The invitation is extended to all those who are deeply concerned with improving road safety. Every dollar is more than welcome and can be remitted online via the Foundation's website (CAAQUEBEC.COM/FOUNDATION). A benefit lunch for the cause was held on November 6 at the Montreal Science Centre, highlighted by guest speaker Paul Arcand, the well-known radio host and film director. His documentary *Driving to the Edge* (original French title: *Dérapages*) narrates the tragic consequences associated with drinking and speeding among young drivers.

The CAA-Quebec Foundation warmly thanks everyone who took part in the event – our donors of course, as well as the devoted sponsors without whom the event would not have been possible.



A reminder on the eve of the holiday season

Motorists take note: Be sure to line up a safe ride home if you plan on drinking or smoking marijuana at parties. Even though cannabis use has been legal since October, it is still illegal to drive after consuming it. There are several options for those with impaired faculties: They can take a taxi, request a designated driver or a drive-you-home service (think of CAA-Quebec), or arrange a stay-over at the party venue, if possible.



A forward-looking Foundation

The year 2018 marks the CAA-Quebec Foundation's 10th anniversary. It has been a decade crammed with multi-faceted road-safety initiatives: awareness-raising visits with young, mature and senior drivers, research into personal breath-alcohol analyzers and pot goggles, and a great deal more. With a dynamic former policeman at the helm (as enthusiastic about road safety as he is about keeping pace with other current issues), the organization will undoubtedly roll out more good news over the next few years.

MOBILE EV RECHARGING SERVICE WITH HYUNDAI**No more roadside power outages**

If your car runs out of fuel while you're on the road, it's a simple enough matter. CAA-Quebec will come to the rescue with a can of gasoline. But what happens if your electric vehicle loses power? In that case, you can now expect a recharging-service vehicle – namely, a Hyundai IONIQ, built for this very purpose – to show up and give your battery a boost.

The service is a pilot project launched by CAA-Quebec in September, with two vehicles in Montreal and one in Quebec City. Hyundai is the first automaker to offer this type of mobile battery-charging service for compatible vehicles stranded roadside. The 100-percent electric vehicle has an overall range of 150 kilometres, giving it ample power to reach the stranded vehicle, transfer a sufficient charge to provide a range of up to 40 kilometres, and then return to base.

CAA-Quebec has always been capable of adapting to the evolution of mobility, and will continue to promote that



endeavour. Since “range anxiety” remains one of the hurdles to the acquisition of an electric vehicle, this innovation will reassure more than one motorist, and thus contribute to maintaining our members' peace of mind.

The initiative was made possible thanks to the involvement of the Club Auto Roadside Assistance Services Ltd., a partner of CAA clubs across Canada, providing them with roadside-assistance know-how.

Keep your eyes open: You might just spot a Hyundai IONIQ in the vicinity!



We know how to give wallets a boost.

10% off*

CAA members get this saving on over 500,000 products, tools and accessories available in nearly 600 stores.
www.napacanada.com



* 10% off the retail price upon presentation of your valid CAA Membership card at participating NAPA Auto Parts stores. This offer includes certain terms and exclusions.
 ©CAA, CAA logo and CAA Rewards trademarks owned by, and use is authorized by, the Canadian Automobile Association.

LEGALIZED MARIJUANA AND IMPAIRED DRIVING

WHAT THE RULES SAY

Recreational marijuana use has been legal in Canada since October 17, but pot-impaired driving is not! As with alcohol, breaking the rules can be expensive.

Zero tolerance is the policy in Quebec. Offenders are subject to legal sanctions, like fines and immediate licence suspensions. If your THC level is equal or higher than the legal limit, consequences can extend to a jail term for repeated offences.

Visit CAA-Quebec Foundation (CAAQUEBEC.COM/EN/CAA-QUEBEC-FOUNDATION/MARIJUANA-AND-DRIVING/) to read the results of two related studies.



Are your tires adequate?

For safety reasons, our experts recommend a tread depth of at least 6/32 inches. So, before the cold season sets in, be sure to take the “caribou test.” Pointing a quarter, with the caribou nose down, insert the coin into a tire tread groove. If the tip of the nose is hidden, your tire is still good. If visible, you need new tires.

If just a single tire needs replacing, you should find one the same size, type and level of wear as your others to maintain vehicle stability.

There are several tire options depending on the type of vehicle, your driving style, the terrain where you live, your performance expectations, your noise tolerance and your budget. Consult our winter-tire buying guide at CAAQUEBEC.COM. And don't forget: When it comes to winter tires, don't compromise. Your safety and others' depend on them.

1-888-471-2424 ▶ CAA-Quebec's Automotive Advisory Services can assist you. Be sure to give us a call.

New date for winter tires, but not this year

Since 2008, winter tires have been mandatory in Quebec as of December 15. But following a recent change in the Highway Safety Code, the date has been moved up to December 1, starting in 2019. That's all to the good, but reality suggests otherwise. CAA-Quebec recommends a tire change as soon as the temperature dips below 7°C, never mind the date on the calendar!



Recycle car seats when the kids have grown out of them

The useful life of a car seat is 6 to 12 years. As long as your child's chair life hasn't expired, then be sure to pass it on to the next in line. If its shelf life has expired, its continued use is illegal and can be downright dangerous, especially in the event of an impact.

Over time, the seat's plastic components weaken from exposure to extreme temperatures. The straps also deteriorate. So the car seat can no longer do its job, which is protecting a child. Some good news is that expired car seats can now be recycled. The plastic can be used for making street furniture like park benches and picnic tables and the straps and harnesses can be turned into dog collars and leashes. CAA-Quebec found these ideas so innovative that it decided to help out by opening two collection centres. Members and non-members alike can drop off their expired car seats between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at either of the following locations:

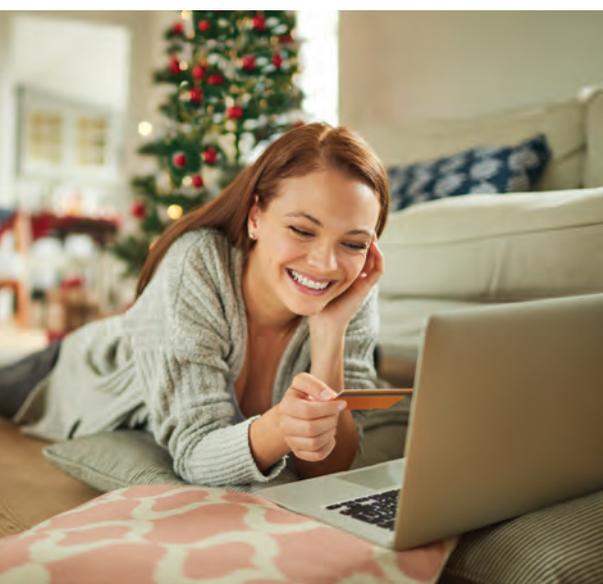
- ▶ 2380 Notre-Dame Street West, Montreal
- ▶ 8000 Armand-Viau Street, Suite 500 (Entrepôt et Courrier), Quebec City

Just think about it: You can kill three birds with one stone by freeing up storage space, eliminating a potentially dangerous device from use, and doing your part for the environment.



THE ASSISTANT

THIS YEAR, I PLAN TO DO SOME OF MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE. CAN I GET A REIMBURSEMENT IF I DON'T RECEIVE MY ORDER BY THE SCHEDULED DELIVERY DATE?



THE ASSISTANT FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND IDENTITY THEFT REPLIES

▶ *The Consumer Protection Act* states that any contract concluded at a distance (i.e., regarding online orders of goods or services) can be cancelled at any time before the order is processed or if the ordered product or service is not delivered within 30 days following the scheduled date indicated in the contract. You can, therefore, obtain a reimbursement if the item still hasn't arrived 30 days after the agreed-upon date. On the other hand, the rapid growth of e-commerce generally gives the advantage to consumers, since companies are keen to make themselves a reputable name and are anxious to preserve it. That being said, the better known the company, and the closer it is to where you live, the easier communications will be in case of problems. A word of advice: Avoid potential delay by ordering early.

caaquebec.com/en/the-assistant ▶ The Assistant, available exclusively to holders of the residential No-Stress Policy, offers guidance and advice in several areas including the law, identity theft, health, daily life, pets and home maintenance. Contact us to learn more.



©JEAN-FRANÇOIS PERREault

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

Like an oasis in the desert

His CAA-Quebec card promised free towing anywhere in Canada and the United States. And to his immense surprise and pleasure, Réal Courtemanche discovered that the coverage was far more extensive than he'd imagined. That's an understatement!

In February 2013, Courtemanche and his wife, Christine Carrière, embarked on a lengthy and exciting road trip through Australia and New Zealand. It was a major undertaking: 12 weeks in unfamiliar countries, aboard unfamiliar RVs (one per country) and driving on the left-hand side of the road to boot.

Some days were more stressful than others. April 28 in New Zealand was such a day. "We'd been driving along winding mountain roads when I glimpsed a sign for the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve. I was exhausted, so we decided to stop at the visitors' centre. That was when Christine

noticed that our right front tire was flat. In fact, it was worse than that: There was a lump the size of a fist on it, and a piece of metal was sticking out through the sidewall. We had stopped just in time!" Courtemanche recalls.

"The staff at the centre called for help. We were in the middle of nowhere, and while waiting, I told an employee there that I would have called CAA-Quebec had I been at home. I was flabbergasted by his answer. The breakdown service he contacted, he said, was an NZAA affiliate and, if I had my CAA-Quebec card (which I did), the repairs to my vehicle would be free! A repair truck pulled up a few minutes later, and a large, bearded man and his dog got out ... True enough, I didn't pay a cent, and the service was fantastic."

The next day, the couple took the ferry to Wellington, where they had the two front tires replaced. Safety first!

Knowing that they were in good hands thanks to Courtemanche's no-stress card was a huge relief for them. They had had their share of mishaps throughout the journey. "We came across a tree in the middle of the road one time, experienced tons of torrential rain storms, and were even forced to sponge off water from the interior of our RV. Christine and I felt reassured knowing that someone was watching over us... even from the other side of the world. It was a great feeling," Courtemanche allows.

Planning an RV holiday? You're covered!



Even aboard
a rented
or borrowed
vehicle

Ask for the CAA Plus® RV option

4 services



Up to 160 km of towing



4 services



Up to 160 km of towing

At all times

Enhanced CAA Dollars
reward on fuel at Couche-Tard

rabais
dollars



Contact us!

1 844 805-7740

| caaquebec.com/rvoption

Roadside Assistance service for snowmobiles and ATVs (quads) is available in Quebec only.
Some restrictions apply. Visit our website for all details.



EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS



SYLVAIN LÉGARÉ,
AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY
ANALYST

YOU ASKED US

CAA-Quebec Automotive Advisory Services is a veritable gold mine of information for everything to do with your vehicle. Take advantage of their expertise!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact Automotive Advisory Services, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

QUEBEC CITY

418-624-0613

ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC

1-888-471-2424

OR ASK YOUR QUESTION ONLINE

[CAAQUEBEC.COM/
AUTOMOTIVE](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/AUTOMOTIVE)



QUESTION / I have a Mazda CX-5 and I need to replace my winter tires. My co-worker suggests I get studded tires because, where I live, the roads are often icy and snow-covered. I'm concerned that this kind of tire makes too much noise. Are they really effective?

- TUAN L., MONT-TREMBLANT

ANSWER / Studded tires have evolved a great deal in the past few years. Noise-reducing methods have been introduced in the manufacturing process so that they are much quieter than their predecessors, especially if you choose a reputable brand.

As for their effectiveness, drivers who have used studded tires swear by their performance. They are perfect in icy conditions and on black ice. These tires are suitable both for large SUVs and small passenger cars. But they are of little use unless you're a frequent driver, or if the bulk of your driving is on city

streets where road conditions are not as tricky. And keep in mind that studded tires are not permitted in some underground parking lots. Be sure to check with an expert if you want the best product for your vehicle and the best type for the kind of road surface on which you normally drive. The same expert could recommend a low-end studded tire, should you have a tight budget.

Note: Studded tires are allowed – from October 15 to May 1, inclusively – on passenger cars, taxis and any commercial vehicle whose gross weight rating is 3,000 kilograms or less.

BÉTONEL
Le vrai magasin de peinture
Dulux

Decorate the Walls and the Tree!

Exclusive Holiday Offer for CAA Members!

Swipe your CAA card at a Dulux Store to save

50% Off*

All Dulux Manufactured Paints

Only Until December 31st, 2018

*Visit Dulux.ca/CAA for more details.
© 2018 PPG Industries Inc.



PHOTO CONTEST



WINNING PHOTO

RIEGERSBURG, AUSTRIA ▶ During our trip to Switzerland, we also visited Austria. We wanted to see the mountains, enjoy good wine and check out a couple of castles along the way. This photo was taken from Riegersburg Castle near the town of Graz. The castle stands 450 metres above the ground below. 📷 [PIERRE VACHON, REPENTIGNY](#)

Send your favourite travel photo (maximum 5 megabytes) to [CAAQUEBEC.COM/CAAQUEBEC MAGAZINE](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/CAAQUEBECMAGAZINE) before November 28, 2018, along with a description of approximately 80 words. If your photo is published in the next issue of the magazine, you'll win a Samsonite Winfield 3 set of two suitcases (18" and 24") - a \$279.99 value.

Don't forget! Show your CAA-Quebec card and save!



Earn more CAA Dollars
on your Holiday purchases
using the National Bank
CAA Rewards® Mastercard® credit card.

RW&CO.

10%

off on purchases
in-store



Bouclair

5%

additional discount
on purchases
in-store and online



SAVE



Discount on tickets purchased at Travel Centres



Redeem your CAA Dollars for a Couche-Tard gift card



Up to **25%**

off on lift tickets at partner ski centres



\$2

off admission tickets



10%

off regular-priced jewelry and watches



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Up to **20%**

discounts on the purchase of show tickets



10%

off cooking classes as well as on in-store and online purchases



Up to **\$11**

off



15%

off stays or \$30 off packages



Up to **20%**

discount on a variety of products



NEWLOOK
e y e w e a r

Up to **25%**

discount + 2% back in CAA Dollars



SEE ALL THE OFFERS
caaquebec.com/discounts



See all the details of these offers on the website. CAA-Quebec and its partners reserve the right to change or terminate the services and benefits at any time, in whole or in part, without prior notice.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas shopping is a piece of cake with your no-stress card.

10% DISCOUNT on all purchases at **REITMANS**.
Wear the ultimate party dress without breaking the bank.



FIRST WORKOUT FREE with a Boomerang membership at **NAUTILUS PLUS**. *Get back in shape after the holidays – a gift you can buy for yourself!*



UP TO 20% DISCOUNT on tickets for **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S CORÉO**.
The entire family – young and old – will love it.



10% REBATE IN CAA DOLLARS
 Wool socks and mittens set at **CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL BOUTIQUE**.
To stay warm in style.



10% DISCOUNT ON SUBSCRIPTION to **RICARDO MAGAZINE**. *Share your passion for cooking! It's an ideal last-minute gift.*

SAXX Boxer
10% REBATE IN CAA DOLLARS at **CAA-QUEBEC TRAVEL BOUTIQUE**.
They slip easily into a Christmas stocking.



TRAVEL CENTRES



BOISBRIAND

2715, rue d'Annemasse /
450-435-3636

BROSSARD*

8940, boul. Leduc /
450-465-0620

GATINEAU

960, boul. Maloney Ouest /
819-778-2225

LAVAL

3131, boul. Saint-Martin Ouest /
450-682-8100

LÉVIS

85, route du Président-Kennedy /
418-624-8585

MONTREAL

1180, rue Drummond /
514-861-5111

POINTE-CLAIRE

1000, boul. Saint-Jean /
514-426-2760

QUEBEC (LEBOURGNEUF)

500, rue Bouvier /
418-624-8222

QUEBEC (SAINTE-FOY)*

2600, boul. Laurier /
418-653-9200

SAGUENAY (CHICOUTIMI)

1700, boul. Talbot /
418-545-8686

SAINT-LÉONARD

7178, boul. Langelier /
514-255-3560

SHERBROOKE

2990, rue King Ouest /
819-566-5132

TERREBONNE

302, montée des Pionniers /
450-585-9797

TROIS-RIVIÈRES

4085, boul. des Récollets /
819-376-9393

NOTE ▶ Each Travel Centre has its own business hours.

Check with yours before planning your visit. *The Brossard Travel Centre and that on Boulevard Laurier in Quebec City are open on Sundays.



BY PHONE

Emergency Road Service

1-800-222-4357
514-861-1313 (Montreal)
Cellphone: *CAA

Member Services

1-800-686-9243
514-861-7575 (Montreal)

Travel Agency

1-888-549-5559
514-861-9746 (Montreal)

Automotive Advisory Services

1-888-471-2424
418-624-0613 (Quebec City)

Residential Advisory Services

1-888-627-6666, 514-861-6162 (Montreal)
Emergency: 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Insurance

CAR AND HOME
1-844-446-3636

TRAVEL

1-800-359-1221

LIFE

1-877-741-7222



See the complete address list in the digital version of the magazine.

caaquebec.com

info@caaquebec.com

Moving?

Don't forget to give your new address to CAA-Quebec. By doing so you'll be sure we can always be in touch, send you your copy of CAA-Quebec Magazine and continue providing you with the best service we can. You can give us your change of address by calling 514-861-7575 (Montreal) or 1-800-686-9243. You may also do it online at CAAQUEBEC.COM. Access your membership file in the Member account column and click on Change of address notice.

Saving lives.

Anywhere,
anytime in Quebec.



Join now
CAA-Quebec members

25%
discount

airmedic.net

Exclusively for CAA-Quebec members

Apply for the National Bank CAA Rewards® Mastercard® credit card¹

3 GOOD REASONS to use it for your Holiday purchases.



1 % back in CAA Dollars
on all eligible purchases².



Welcome bonus
of up to 50 CAA Dollars³.



2 % back in CAA Dollars
on your purchases made at participating
CAA Travel Centres, except for travel⁴.



PLUS



**2 % back in
CAA Dollars**
on your fuel purchases
at Couche-Tard⁵.

Ask for it!

1 888 622-2783

nbc.ca/caa



1. Subject to credit approval by National Bank

2. You earn CAA Dollars equal to 1% of eligible purchases made using your CAA Rewards Mastercard credit card. At the end of each month, your CAA Club will receive information on the accumulated CAA Dollars from National Bank. Your CAA Club is responsible for the issuance, administration and redemption of CAA Dollars in accordance with its terms and conditions. CAA Dollars are not earned on cash advances, balance transfers, cash-like transactions, MasterCard cheques, payments, credits, interest charges, credit insurance premiums, foreign exchange fees and other fees and charges. CAA Dollars are not earned on any purchases prohibited by the laws of Canada or any other country. You will qualify to earn CAA Dollars as soon as your card is activated and purchases are made, unless your account is not in good standing, your account has been suspended or terminated, or other qualifications for eligibility are not met. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.nbc.ca/caa for full details.

3. The offer is valid from June 1 to December 31, 2018 and is available to persons who do not already hold a National Bank Mastercard credit card. To receive a welcome bonus of 25 CAA Dollars, the cardholder must charge \$500 to his or her CAA Rewards Mastercard credit card within the first 3 months of enrolment. To receive a welcome bonus of 50 CAA Dollars, the cardholder must charge a minimum of \$2,000 to his or her CAA Rewards Mastercard credit card within the first 3 months of enrolment. The welcome bonus will appear on the 4th or the 5th CAA Rewards Mastercard credit card account statement. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion from National Bank. The promotion covers purchases only. Cash advances and balance transfers are excluded. Limit of one welcome bonus of 25 or 50 CAA Dollars per CAA Rewards Mastercard credit card account during this promotion.

4. Primary cardholders may earn CAA Dollars equal to 1% of purchases made by cardholders at participating CAA stores and travel agencies by using the National Bank CAA Rewards Mastercard in addition to the CAA Dollars normally earned under the National Bank CAA Rewards Mastercard Program, for a maximum of 2% of purchases in CAA Dollars. Travel and vacation purchases are not eligible for this offer. Participating CAA stores/centres are listed on each CAA club website. National Bank reserves the right at its sole discretion to change or terminate this offer at any time without advance notice.

5. You get 1% of the value of eligible purchases back in CAA Dollars when you use your National Bank CAA Rewards Mastercard to pay. If you use your CAA Rewards Mastercard to purchase gas at a participating Couche-Tard, you'll get an additional 1% of the value of the purchase back in CAA Dollars. CAA-Quebec is responsible for the issuance, administration and redemption of CAA Dollars related to this offer and in accordance with the program's terms and conditions. For more details, stop by any CAA-Quebec Travel Centre or call 1-800-686-9243.

National Bank reserves the right to end this promotion at any time without prior notice.

© Mastercard is a registered trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated. Authorized User: National Bank of Canada.

Wintertime barbecuing: Why not?

Grilled food cooked on the barbecue is delectable and can be appreciated any time of year. But cooking outside during the winter brings many challenges. Here are tips from the pros.

BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

CHOOSE A QUALITY GRILL ▶ A barbecue made with low-grade steel has poor insulation, which takes longer to reach the desired temperature. Therefore, the cooking process will be uneven.

KEEP THE GRILL SHELTERED FROM THE WIND ▶ Cold gusts of wind will affect the temperature in the cooking chamber. Keep the barbecue in a well-ventilated spot but away from the wind.

DRESS PROPERLY ▶ Avoid loose clothing (i.e., replace your scarf with a neck warmer) and use specially designed grill gloves – not oven mitts, which can catch fire.

LET THERE BE LIGHT ▶ It gets dark early, so place the barbecue in a well-lit spot, or wear a headlamp. This way, you can comfortably check the grill without having to hold a flashlight.

BE ORGANIZED ▶ It's cold outside. To avoid going back and forth between the barbecue and the kitchen, take out all the necessary ingredients and utensils on a single tray.

PLAN COOKING TIMES ▶ Food may take up to twice as long to cook in winter, but avoid needlessly lifting the lid, which further lengthens the process. Suggestion: Use a Bluetooth-connected thermometer so you can monitor the cooking with your smartphone or tablet.



ALLOW LONGER PREHEATING TIMES ▶ The lower the outside temperature is, the longer it takes to preheat the barbecue. Allow an extra 5 to 10 minutes.

MONITOR THE FUEL TANK ▶ Longer preheating and cooking times mean more fuel consumption. Have a reserve propane tank ready, especially if you use the barbecue on a regular basis.

CHECK THE INSIDE OF THE BARBECUE ▶ In winter, creepy crawlers like to take refuge inside barbecues. Make sure there are no intruders before lighting up.

▶ Our thanks go to Sébastien Vachon of Propane GRG for his assistance.

HOUSE HUNTING IN WINTER?



Contrary to popular belief, shopping for a home in winter has certain benefits. In fact, winter conditions can reveal problems that are invisible during the summer months. Take this guided tour.

BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

The cold weather sometimes complicates real-estate visits, what with snow-and-ice accumulation concealing the evidence. So unpleasant surprises occasionally await buyers when temperatures rise. Still, winter is the perfect time to shop for your future home. An inspection at this time of year will unearth precious clues about its flaws. But make sure you examine the property carefully, paying special attention to certain features.

Inside

WINDOWS ▶ Examine each window. Condensation or frost on the glass usually results from high humidity levels in the house. On the other hand, if the glass looks cloudy but feels dry to the touch, it's probably due to a broken window seal. "Seal failure can cause the argon gas (pumped between the panes to boost energy efficiency) to escape, fogging up the glass and decreasing insulation performance," explains Denys Aubert, a certified building inspector with S  cur Inspection. "You'll likely need to replace the window." And if you see plastic sheeting on windows, it may be an indication of air infiltration through aging windows.

DRAFTS ▶ A winter visit will also allow you to pinpoint drafts. Run your hand around windows and exterior doors. If you feel a draft, either the weatherstripping or, even worse, the windows and doors themselves need replacing. Aubert advises you check any closets that are on outside walls: Cold air or cold walls in those spots are signs of poor insulation. Inspect windowsills and doorsteps for evidence of rot due to water infiltration.

DOORS ▶ Check the conditions of doors. Aubert says that doors that no longer close or fit poorly often suggest a structural movement due to the weight of snow-and-ice buildup on the roof. And while you're at it, check out the heating system as well.

FOUNDATIONS ▶ If the foundation walls are hidden beneath snow, examine them from the inside. Pay special attention to moisture rings and cracks. “A deep freeze sometimes exerts strong pressure on concrete, which can cause the structure to shift,” says Aubert. “You can then notice foundation cracks that would have been barely visible when the concrete retracts.”

Outside

ROOF ▶ Despite the presence of snow and ice, it’s possible to inspect certain exterior features. Icicles and ice dams along the roof’s edge suggest improper ventilation or insulation in the attic. It works like this: Heat escapes from the house into the attic, thereby causing the ice on the roof to melt. Water will then run off and refreeze when it hits the much colder roof’s edge. Ice dams can damage the roof or lead to water infiltration. Also, be sure to inspect the visible parts of the roof and the chimney.

GUTTERS ▶ Inspect the gutters: If water falls too close to the foundation, it can harm the structure, causing humidity and water infiltration problems.

YARD ▶ If possible, ask the seller to remove the snow from balconies and decks so you can have a look at the claddings. Also, ask to see recent summertime photos of the yard, swimming pool and landscaping.

A proper home inspection

Once you’ve discovered your dream house, the first order of business is to consider a pre-purchase inspection. It’s a bad idea to do it yourself, as you may well miss essential elements. Instead, use the services of a building inspector who’s a member of a professional order (technologist, architect, engineer) – ideally, the Québec Association of Building Inspectors. By doing so, you can be confident that the property you have your eye on is in an acceptable condition. Furthermore, you’ll be better protected against construction defects. And if informed of problems, you’ll be in a position to plan the necessary repairs over the short and medium term. Warning: If you set up an inspection in winter, request an after-sales service that will protect you when spring arrives.

At the same time, any home inspection has limits. Since it’s a visual analysis, the building inspector cannot see certain components that are hidden beneath floors or behind walls. Therefore, he or she cannot offer a guarantee against hidden defects. That



INSPECT THE GUTTERS: IF WATER FALLS TOO CLOSE TO THE FOUNDATION, IT CAN HARM THE STRUCTURE.

said, even if those exterior elements (swimming pool, deck, landscaping, slope of the land, retaining wall, underneath the balcony) are buried under snow, nothing prevents you from making a purchase offer. And, says Aubert, don’t forget to include a clause in the offer stipulating that several components have not been properly inspected and that a sum of money will be held in trust by the notary pending an additional inspection later in the spring. Depending on the inspection report, the sale price could be adjusted downward. Don’t forget to include the air conditioner on your spring-inspection list.

“I also recommend that buyers schedule a new inspection before heading to the notary, just to ensure that everything is in order and there are no changes,” says Aubert. And since the house-buying process usually extends over several months, it will no doubt be possible to inspect the areas that were inaccessible in winter.” Last but not least, pay attention to the *Declarations of a Seller of the Immovable* form. It obliges the seller to tell you about all the known particularities and anomalies relating to the property. This document can be helpful, especially in the case of claims for hidden defects.



CAA-Quebec Travel Boutique

DESIGNED *for* THE TRAVELLER



HERITAGE ANTI-THEFT COLLECTION

- Hobo: **\$64.95**
- Tour Bag: **\$64.95**
- Small crossbody bag: **\$66.95**

- Locking main compartment with RFID-blocking pocket
- Slash-resistant material



ESSENTIALS 2.0 COLLECTION



- Deluxe travel organizer: **\$44.95**
- Kit with multiple compartments to store your toiletries and cosmetics
- Main zippered compartment
- Handy hook for hanging



BLACK DIAMOND COLLECTION



- 26-inch 4-wheel suitcase: **\$139.95**
- 16-inch 2-wheel rolling tote: **\$104.95**
- Backpack: **\$59.95**



WHIDBEY COLLECTION



- 28-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$149.95**
- 24-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$134.95**
- 20-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$119.95**
- Tote bag: **\$74.95**



ESSENTIALS 2.0 COLLECTION



- Small travel organizer: **\$33.95**
- Kit with multiple compartments to store your toiletries and cosmetics
- Main zippered compartment
- Handy hook for hanging



More than 7,000 products
boutique.caaquebec.com

FREE
Delivery

+

10%
 BACK IN
 CAA DOLLARS

rabais
dollars

Until December 16

on your purchases at regular price



SWISSGEAR
 COLLECTION



- SWISSGEAR document wallet: **\$69.95**
- RFID protection
- Material: genuine leather
- 2 passport slots
- Comes with a gift box



FRENCH KISS
 COLLECTION



- Set of 3 cosmetics bags: **\$34.95**

TONY PEROTTI
 COLLECTION



- RFID-blocking cardholder with leather case: **\$59.95**
- RFID-blocking cardholder in aluminum: **\$42.95**



SUPERLITE
 COLLECTION



- 28-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$119.95**
- 24-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$109.95**
- 18-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$99.95**



BELLEGUEULE
 COLLECTION



- Toiletries kit: **\$27.95**
- Toothbrush kit: **\$9.95**

ESPRIT AVENTURE COLLECTION

- Travel bag: **\$69.95**
- Toiletries kit: **\$23.95**



PRESCOTT
 COLLECTION



- 21-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$114.95**
- 26-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$124.95**
- 30-inch 4-wheel spinner: **\$134.95**



YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY
boutique.caaquebec.com



Travel

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

**BACKUP HEATERS
AND INSURANCE**

**A PRACTICAL
COMBO**



When central heating is inadequate, backup heaters can pick up the slack. But since they can also increase the risk of fire, you need to use them safely and be properly insured. / BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

Backup heaters are a great idea and have become increasingly popular. But it's important to let your insurer know if you also have a fireplace or stove in your home. Otherwise, you may be denied compensation if the heater causes damage or loss.

Your insurer will add the appliance to your home-insurance contract. "Backup heaters enjoy

all the protection offered in the policy, from fire, theft and accidental breakage," says Suzanne Michaud, CAA-Quebec Vice-President – Insurance. "On the other hand, if the heater is an oil-powered unit, the policy must contain an endorsement providing protection against oil spills or leaks as they can cause damage costing thousands of dollars."

Obviously, your insurer will want to check the safety of your installation in order to determine the risk and the premium. (Most insurers rely on photos and diagrams provided by the insured.) Safety criteria range from installation compliance, the installer's competence, the appliance's location and its frequency of use (like only during power outages versus on a daily basis



throughout the colder season). Note that the insurer is entitled to request adjustments to the installation if it considers it below standard before offering you coverage.

Your insurer may also recommend that your chimney be swept annually and indicate how much firewood you should burn per year. “Keep all records and invoices pertaining to, for example, the heater’s installation and maintenance, chimney sweeps, and firewood or oil deliveries,” Michaud advises.

In the case of oil-powered backup heating, Michaud recommends that your oil tank be inspected once a year, that (if it’s located outside) a protective covering be added, and that a containment tray or spill catcher be placed under the tank. Bear in mind that some insurers refuse to cover risks associated with oil tanks that have been in use for 20 years or more.

Higher premiums

“Generally speaking, a backup heating system – whether wood-, pellet- or oil-based – will raise

HOW TO REDUCE FIRE RISKS

Wood heating is a leading cause of residential fires. They are primarily due to deficient installation, poor maintenance or careless use. So be very cautious. Here are some safety tips for staying warm this winter:

- ▶ Choose a CSA- or ULC-certified appliance and have it professionally installed.
- ▶ Do not use kerosene, gasoline or any other combustible to light a fire. Use newspapers and dry kindling.
- ▶ Burn only dry hardwood to prevent soot (creosote) buildup.
- ▶ Do not burn treated wood (painted or varnished), plastic or trash.
- ▶ Always place ashes in a metal container with a lid and make sure they are thoroughly cool before disposing of them outside. Pour water over them if necessary.
- ▶ Do not store ash containers in the garage or shed. Leave them outside, well away from anything that can burn.
- ▶ Have the chimney swept and the stove or fireplace inspected once a year by a qualified professional, even if you only use it occasionally. If used regularly, have them all swept and cleaned after burning three or four cords.

insurance premiums because it presents an increased fire risk,” says Michaud. However, most insurers differentiate between main and secondary heating sources, depending on the amount of firewood you burn: If it’s 10 cords per winter, the appliance is considered the main heating source. And the higher the fire risk, the higher your premiums.

Let’s say you’ve just moved into a home with a fireplace or a stove. While there’s an age limit for insurable oil tanks, the age of a fireplace or stove has no bearing on premiums. “Instead, insurers are interested in installation compliance,” Michaud points out. “On the other hand, if the fireplace or stove is several decades old and hasn’t been updated, it’s highly probable that it doesn’t comply with current standards.”

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

No fireplace or stove? Portable electric heaters can pick up the slack. Should you advise your insurer about them? “If the house is heated with electric baseboards, electric space heaters are considered part of the same heating system and, as such, enjoy the same kind of protection,” says Michaud.

Strict safety measures are always imperative:

- ▶ Always use a ULC- or CSA-certified unit.
- ▶ Keep a clearance space of at least one metre (three feet) between the portable appliance and anything flammable, like walls, furniture, papers or curtains.
- ▶ Avoid extension cords: Plug directly into the outlet.
- ▶ Never overload the circuit.
- ▶ Never leave a running appliance unattended.
- ▶ Ensure that the unit has an automatic safety switch that will turn it off if it tips over or overheats.



Can't drive?



We'll handle it.

Fatigue, injury too much to drink...

Whatever your reason,
CAA Quebec is your
safe route home!

CALL US

1 800 222-4357

Some conditions apply.



Automotive
EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

5 FALSE NOTIONS ABOUT CHIMNEY SWEEPING

What you need to know in order to take good care of your fireplace.

BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

01 You don't need to sweep the chimney very often if you only use the fireplace occasionally.

It's recommended that the chimney be serviced annually, regardless of how often it's used. "The job involves more than just brushing the flue to remove creosote," says Louis Chassé, president of Le Pro du Ramonage. "In addition to a thorough cleaning, a certified chimney sweep will inspect the entire setup – including components of the venting system – checking for things like breaks, cracks, water infiltration, corrosion and bird nests, and make all necessary repairs." Warning: If you use the fireplace regularly during the colder seasons, a yearly chimney sweeping may not be enough. "The general rule of thumb is to have it swept and cleaned after burning three or four cords of wood," says Chassé.

02 Sweeping should be carried out in the fall.

It's best done in the spring when deposits are still dry and easier to remove. In summer, because of the humidity, creosote sticks to the sidewalls and is much harder to eliminate. And by doing it in the spring, it will give you enough time before winter to repair or replace any damaged components. What's more, you'll dispel unpleasant odours and avoid the autumn rush.

03 If you use dry wood, there's no necessity for frequent sweeping.

Dry firewood also creates creosote. A yearly sweep is imperative, dry wood or not.

04 Chimney-cleaning products available on the market eliminate the need for a proper sweeping.

According to Chassé, these products are completely useless. "They may even put people in danger by creating a false sense of security. They won't detect structural problems, corrosion or creosote types. In fact, different cleaning tools may be required depending on the type of creosote involved: dusty, flaky or glazed."



05 No need to inform the home insurer if I increase the amount of firewood I burn per year. I told them I had a fireplace four years ago.

Insurance premiums are often calculated based on the number of cords you burn. So it's very important to inform your insurer if you decide to double the amount of firewood, for example, to save on electric heating next year.



NO STRESS

POINT-S IS THE LARGEST CAA QUEBEC-APPROVED TIRE AND AUTO SERVICES NETWORK.‡

All Point S dealers are committed to delivering the three promises that make the Point S network a world leader.



NO STRESS PRICING

Point S offers a fair price on tires and vehicle maintenance every day.



1 HOUR ON THE DOT*

*Point S guarantees that your tires will be replaced in 1 hour or your money back.**



TRANSPARENCY ACCROSS THE BOARD

Nothing will be done to your vehicle without informing you and securing your consent first.

* The one hour time is calculated from the moment the car enters the service bay. This guarantee is applicable only to the tire installation service (4 tires) and at participating Point S dealers. Offer available by appointment only. The refund is granted as a non-exchangeable, non-refundable voucher valid for six months at the same dealer who performed the installation. Exclusions: tires 22 inches and larger, pickup trucks and run-flat (ROF) tires. Point S reserves the right to modify or terminate this offer at any time without notice.

‡ Go at www.caaquebec.com/garages to find the participating garages.



point-s.ca

HEAVY TRUCKS

The view from the trucker's seat

Don't take safety for granted when you're behind a big rig!

BY ALAIN TITILEY

It's always annoying to be caught behind a slow-moving heavy truck. Sometimes you're tempted to accelerate and pass that monster, but before you try, make sure you know how to manoeuvre it safely. In 2017, about 19.6 percent of deaths occurring on Quebec roads (65 out of a total of 332) were caused by an accident involving a heavy truck. The vast majority of victims were either in an automobile, on a motorcycle or bicycle, or on foot. Here are a few tips to help make sharing the road with heavy vehicles a safer procedure.

Stay out of the no-zones

All trucks have four blind spots. If you drive in any of these no-zones, you disappear from the truck driver's view. And that's how more than one-third of fatal road accidents involving a heavy truck happen in one or other of those blind spots. And the size of the blind spot is directly proportional to the length of the truck.

Read the bumper stickers on trucks

Signs like "If you can't see my rear-view mirrors, I can't see you" posted on the back of large trucks offer precious safety advice. It means you may be following the truck too closely and be in the driver's rear blind spot.

Don't cut in too close to the front of a truck

Heavy cargo trucks require 20 to 40 percent more stopping distance than a car. And that's even truer when the road surface is wet and slippery. So be sure to leave enough space before you cut in after passing a truck. And always use your turning signal when you change lanes.

Establish eye contact

Cyclists and pedestrians must establish eye contact with the truck driver and signal your intentions before making your move. It's a simple gesture that could save your life.



Keep a safe distance behind a heavy truck

It's impossible to know if a truck's cargo is properly secured. And it's not unusual to see some cargo spill and hit a car. That's why some trucks display signs on the back showing the minimal distance that must be respected.

Be especially alert during the day

According to SAAQ 2017 statistics, 73.6 percent of road accidents causing death or injury occur on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sources: Bilan statistique 2017: accidents, parc automobile et permis de conduire, SAAQ 2018 and the Institute for Highway Safety, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute.

► Our thanks go to Marco Harrison, Director of CAA-Quebec Foundation, and Lt. Nancy Doucet, Public Relations Officer, SAAQ Service du contrôle routier - Division Lac Saint-Jean, for their assistance.

WINTER DRIVING IS A LEARNABLE SKILL

Driving in Quebec during the winter is both an art and a science. Fortunately, it's also something you can learn or even teach yourself. / BY ALAIN MCKENNA



“Snowy or icy conditions require an altogether different set of driving techniques. You can be sure about that. And neither all-wheel drive nor electronic assistance can defy the laws of physics,” says CAA-Quebec automotive expert Jesse Caron.

Be well prepared

Even the most experienced drivers need a practice period before feeling comfortable on a slippery, snowy surface. This helps explain why the first major snowfall unfailingly causes traffic chaos and accidents. We know that snow is coming but are still caught off guard when it arrives. And more often than not, we’re ill prepared.

So nothing beats a proper winter-driving course to leave you better prepared. CAA-Quebec driving schools offer a four-hour, two-part program. The first part, devoted to theory, shows you how snow, ice and cold temperatures in general affect a vehicle’s handling. The second part comprises two hours of practice on a closed track so you become familiar with treacherous road conditions and hone your reflexes at the same time.

Understeer and oversteer

“There’s no miracle solution: To be a better winter driver, you need practice. Each vehicle reacts differently to various climate conditions, depending on things like the propulsion system and the tire type,” Caron explains. “By practising understeering and oversteering in a secure environment, you’ll experience loss of control. You can practise alone – in a wide open space where access is allowed, of course – but it’s usually better to drive with an instructor who can guide you and offer practical tips.”

- ▶ Understeer occurs when the front tires lose traction, making the vehicle turn less than intended by the driver.
- ▶ Conversely, oversteer occurs when the rear tires skid and the vehicle steers more widely than intended.

In both cases, the driver will be tempted to steer aggressively in order to correct the vehicle’s position. That, in fact, worsens the situation. Knowing how to prevent this from happening is helpful, but knowing what to do when it actually happens is even better.

 ▶ Consult our winter-tire buying guide in the magazine’s digital version.



“Good tire traction alone is not enough: It also takes driver input.” – Jesse Caron

DO...

TAKE A WINTER-DRIVING COURSE ▶ Several driving schools, like those operated by CAA-Quebec, offer winter driving courses that allow learners to hone techniques in a safe environment.

DAMPEN YOUR REACTIONS ▶ With less traction, it is wise to drive below the speed limit, especially on highways. And go easy on the steering wheel. Abrupt swerving is a no-no.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE ▶ Braking distances lengthen when you drive on snow or ice. Even the best winter tires won’t help you that much.

FOCUS ON THE EXIT RATHER THAN THE OBSTACLE ▶ “If you look at a lamp post, you’ll crash into it,” says Jesse Caron, invoking an oft-repeated image used in advanced driving courses. It’s better to keep an eye on where you need to go rather than any fixed obstacle.

DON'T...

PUMP THE BRAKES ▶ Modern cars have anti-lock braking systems (ABS), preventing the wheels from locking up when you step on the pedal. So, unless you’re a professional driver, you can depend on ABS to keep you on the straight and narrow.

RELY ON ALL-WHEEL DRIVE (AWD) ▶ The goal is to know how to slow down when you’re driving too fast. Whether your vehicle has two-, four- or even six-wheel drive, it won’t change your ability to slow down, so you might as well maintain a reasonable speed at all times.

NEGLECT YOUR TIRES ▶ Where safe driving is concerned, road adherence is vital hence, the importance of good tires. So don’t neglect yours, as worn or poor-quality tires are dangerous in winter. “Good winter tires cost more, but they perform much better,” Caron sums up.

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

CAA-Quebec Insurance: A reassuring presence on your journey



**AUTO AND
HOME**
10%
discount

on the No-Stress Policy®



LIFE
Up to 10%
more coverage free
of charge

Our extensive line of insurance products,
provides all the coverage you need.

Conditions apply. Travel insurance is underwritten by Orion Travel Insurance Company and is distributed by CAA-Quebec Travel. Auto and home insurance is underwritten by Prysm general insurance Inc. and distributed by CAA-Quebec. Life insurance is underwritten by The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. Health insurance is underwritten by Blue Cross®. CAA-Quebec Accident Insurance is a product distributed by CAA-Quebec Insurance and Financial Services. All insurance products are exclusive to CAA-Quebec and available in Quebec.



TRAVEL

NEW

10%
discount



ACCIDENT
Exclusive
benefits

and additional
compensation



HEALTH
First
year free

for Home Health
Care coverage

ONE NUMBER FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

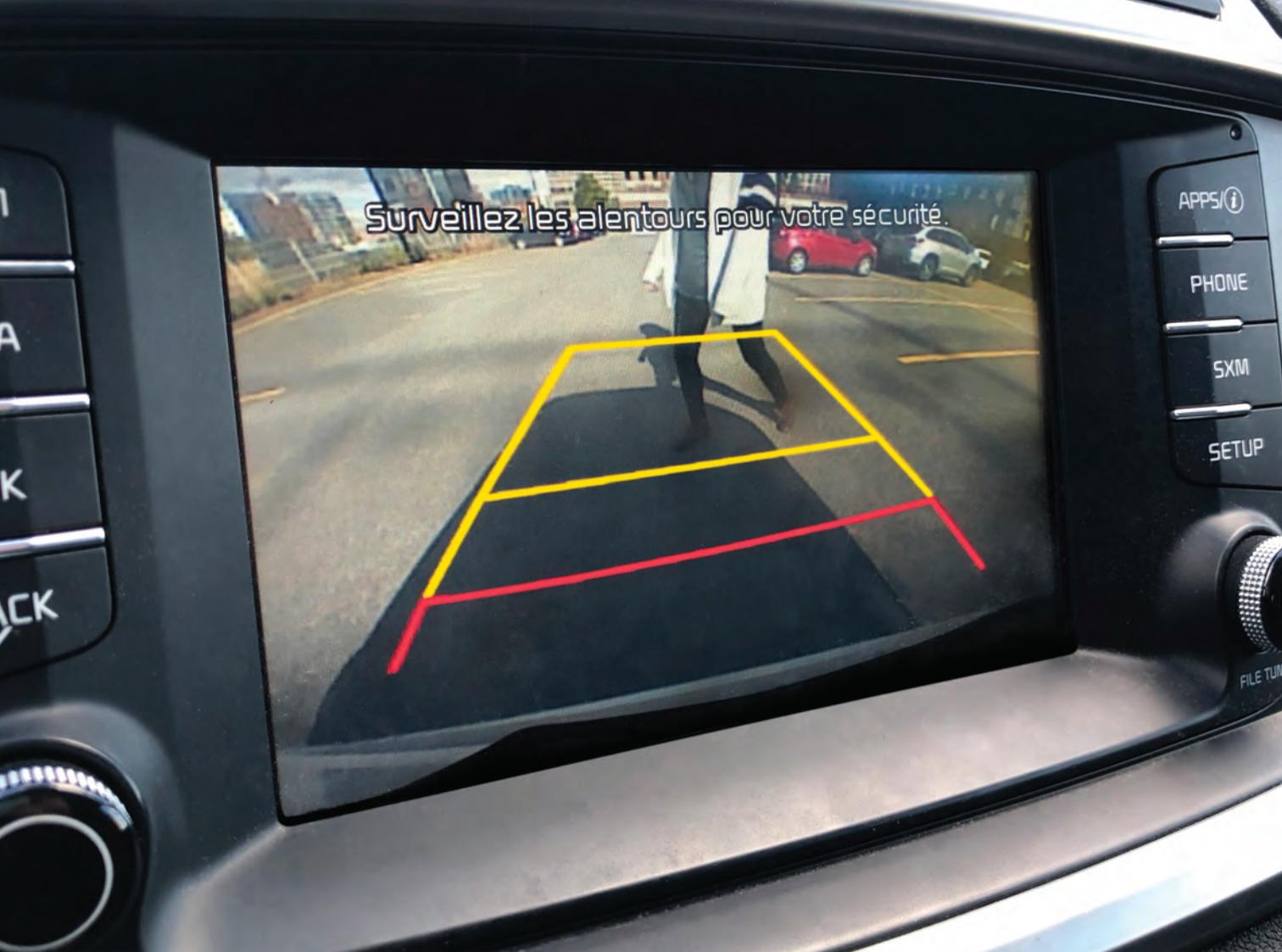
1 855 861-5750

caaquebec.com/insurance



Travel Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS



REAR-VIEW CAMERA

GETTING THE MOST OF IT

Your car boasts a rear-view camera? So much the better! But do you know how to use it properly? Here are a few tips. / BY NADINE FILION

Rear-view (or backup) cameras have been mandatory in all new vehicles sold in North America since the 2018-model year. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued the regulation after studies showed that the cameras, which send rear-view images to the in-dash monitor or display screen, actually saved lives. Canadian

statistics are similar, prompting Transport Canada to follow suit, mandating that backup cameras be standard on all passenger vehicles, also starting with the 2018- model year.

An Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) study of police-reported backing-up crashes in 22 U.S. states revealed that the crash rate involving vehicles equipped with rear-view cameras was 16-percent lower than that involving the same models without the feature. And the rate was significantly lower among drivers aged 70 and older, by 40 percent. So it's clear that rear-view cameras not only reduce crash rates, they also enable seniors to prolong their driving independence.

In the United States, backing-up collisions cause more than 200 deaths annually, accounting for roughly 10 percent of all road accidents. And this statistic doesn't include incidents that were unreported to police or undeclared by the owners of damaged cars. In a nutshell, rear-view cameras not only save lives but also time and money that would have been spent inside auto-body shops.



Correct use of the rear-view camera

Rear-view cameras are certainly helpful, allowing us to see as much as 90 percent of what’s happening behind the vehicle, a bonus we wouldn’t normally have. But these visual aids can backfire if we only rely on them – hence, the slim 16-percent decrease in the crash rate mentioned earlier.

As CAA-Quebec Foundation Director Marco Harrison observes, the proper way to execute a camera-aided backup manoeuvre is as follows:

Drive past the driveway or intended parking spot, making sure that the space is free from pedestrians and obstructions. Stop and shift into reverse. At this point, the camera starts sending rear-view images to the display screen. Next, do what you always do: Turn your head to look behind you and begin steering.

As with every normal driving manoeuvre, your eyes scan the surrounding area before focusing on the side and rear-view mirrors, then on the in-dash monitor to make sure the space is still free of obstacles. Finally, turn around to look behind you and back up slowly.

Repeat the routine – rear, mirrors, in-dash monitor – throughout the entire manoeuvre.

“The rear-view mirror is there to assist you, not to replace your vigilance,” explains Harrison, a former policeman. “We don’t recommend the forward driving position nor focusing solely on the camera view.”

Be vigilant, especially in winter, and make sure that the camera lens is always clean and clear so you can rely on it.

THE CRASH RATE INVOLVING VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH REAR-VIEW CAMERAS WAS 16-PERCENT LOWER THAN THAT INVOLVING THE SAME MODELS WITHOUT THE FEATURE.

Statistics tell the story: Even the screen needs a little help

The IIHS has championed road-safety research for more than 50 years. Its latest study found that backup systems are more effective when twinned with a sensor that beeps to warn drivers of rear cross-traffic. The combo is credited for a 33-percent drop in collision incidents involving a car backing out of its parking spot and hitting a passing vehicle.

Better still, backup aids of any kind – cameras, cross-traffic alerts, or just plain visual or audible sensors – prevent three out of four backing-up crashes when combined with rear automatic emergency braking (AEB).

For now, barely five percent of vehicles (mainly luxury models like Cadillac) are equipped with rear AEB. This device is designed to stop the backup manoeuvre if the driver fails to react, within a given time frame, to an obstruction warning, whether fixed or moving. But if cross-traffic alerts – non-existent at the start of the decade and now optional or standard in more than half the new vehicles (54 percent) – are any indication, we can expect AEB to spread rapidly. By 2020 or 2022, it’s a safe bet that rear AEB systems will be found even in entry-level vehicles.

Know these five auto parts

What you should understand to grasp what your auto mechanic is saying / BY VINCENT AUBÉ

Car maintenance can be stressful, especially when it's time to decide whether or not to replace a crucial part. Your mechanic has reported that your car needs a new universal joint, a gasket has worn out, or a shock absorber is leaking. If you find this kind of news confusing, then at the very least, let's learn what certain key parts of your vehicle actually do.



Tie-rod ends

These simple parts connect the steering rack (which makes the wheels rotate) to the steering knuckle of each wheel. In other words, they maintain the link between the steering wheel and the wheel knuckle.



Ball joint

A pivot between the car's suspension system and its front wheels, a ball joint is also a vital safety feature. Worn ball joints can be noticed when a clunking sound is heard while going over a pothole. Regular visual inspections will help detect signs of damage like excessive play or looseness in the joint, or a worn dust cover.



Brake callipers

A calliper is a crucial part of a car's braking system. It houses components like the brake pads. Very simply put, every time you step on the brake pedal, the calliper causes the brake pads to clamp down on the brake rotor, thus slowing and stopping the car. Over time, the calliper can wear out due to a dried-up O-ring, rusty pistons and sliders, or the normal wear-and-tear of the hardware around it. An annual maintenance inspection will ensure that everything is in good working order.



Timing belt

If the mechanic says you need to replace the timing belt, his words should be taken to heart. The belt's job is to synchronize the functions of the crankshaft and the camshaft(s). If the belt breaks while the engine is running, the pistons will hit the valves and you will be looking at a hefty engine-repair bill. The belt must be replaced according to manufacturer recommendations. Consult your owner's manual or a trusted mechanic.



Shock absorbers

Shock absorbers dampen the oscillations of the suspension springs. It's the springs themselves that absorb the shock of driving over road bumps and potholes. In Quebec, shock absorbers are being replaced at an accelerated pace, given the poor condition of our roads! And it's preferable to replace them promptly to ensure safe roadholding. One obvious sign of worn shock absorbers is that the vehicle keeps bouncing after you've driven over a bump. Uneven tire wear and leaking fluid are other signs.



► Our thanks go to Félix Bouchard, product specialist, and Pierre Berthiaume, senior account manager - both from Napa Auto Parts - for their technical support and assistance.

Practical, reliable, reassuring!



Have your battery checked, boosted or replaced wherever you are, even on the weekend.

There's more!



ON THE PURCHASE OF A BATTERY



caaquebec.com

1 800 222-4357



Automotive
EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

Some conditions apply.



2018 BMW X1

PRICE: \$42,995 to \$55,390

PROS: Luxurious finish, front seats provide excellent support, sporty handling, powerful and refined engine, efficient transmission.

CONS: Uncommunicative steering, poor rear visibility, automatic emergency braking an option, high price and related costs, ride sometimes noisy.

► When BMW introduced the X1 in 2011, it was one of the first subcompact luxury crossovers on the market. Launched five years later, the current (and second) generation is now based on a front-wheel drive platform shared with some Mini vehicles. However, every X1 sold in Canada comes standard with all-wheel drive. The X1 is by far the bestseller in its segment, despite strong competition from the likes of the Audi Q3 and Mercedes-Benz GLA.

Opting for a prestigious nameplate always means paying a premium for the crest. The X1 is proof, costing as much as many better-equipped and larger SUVs. It compensates by delivering a driving experience similar to BMW's higher-end vehicles, which cannot be said for all of its rivals. A word of advice: Lease the vehicle if you can to avoid reliability and maintenance-cost issues in the long run.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2-litre turbo direct-injection 4-cylinder (228 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 8-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: 17°C to 30°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 8 L/100 km

2019 INFINITI QX50

PRICE: \$46,535 to \$60,785

PROS: Finally competitive in terms of space, luxurious finish, comfortable seats, powerful engine, reasonable fuel consumption, precise handling, standard emergency braking.

CONS: Artificial steering feel, stiff suspension (with 20-inch wheels), acceleration sometimes jerky, uninspiring engine note, complex infotainment system, armrests too low.

► Infiniti started from a blank page when it redesigned the QX50, which had gone virtually unchanged for 12 years. In addition to an all-new, expanded and more rigid platform, the QX50 introduces the world's first variable-compression-ratio engine. The former model's V6 is dropped, and the seven-speed gearbox gives way to a continuously variable transmission (CVT). All Canadian models are equipped with all-wheel drive, whereas our neighbours to the south can also obtain front-wheel drive versions.

From a strictly rational point of view, the new QX50 is right on the money. Roomier, more fuel-efficient, better finished, richly equipped and perfectly safe, it should fully satisfy a growing number of compact SUV buyers. However, drivers expecting to reconnect with the sporty character of the outgoing model will have to search elsewhere: for all its advancement and efficiency, the trio formed by the variable-compression turbo engine, continuously variable transmission and 100-percent electronic steering simply doesn't inspire passion.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2-litre turbo direct-injection 4-cylinder (268 hp)

TRANSMISSION: Continuously variable automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (MANUFACTURER DATA): 9 L/100 km





2019 KIA SORENTO

PRICE: \$29,780 to \$50,850

PROS: Well-adapted V6, efficient 8-speed transmission, good balance of comfort and handling, roomy interior, simple controls, high towing capacity.

CONS: Numb steering, soft braking, rear bench seats too low, obligatory third row with V6, advanced safety restricted to most expensive model.

► The Kia Sorento benefits from a partial remake for 2019. It includes the usual cosmetic freshening, but the main changes are mechanical. The transmission delivered with the popular V6 has two more gears, for a total of eight. The 2.0-litre engine is no longer listed, but an EX model equipped with a 2.4-litre 4-cylinder base engine is back on the menu. Kia is still evaluating the possibility of a diesel, an option previously evoked for the redesigned 2019 Santa Fe by corporate parent Hyundai.

Discreet though they may be, the changes to the Kia Sorento bolster its indisputable refinement and capability. The availability of a V6, and a good one at that, remains a prime argument, especially for people who want towing capacity without opting for an overly large SUV. However, Kia missed an opportunity to extend advanced safety features to all Sorento trims, which would have made the higher price of several models more palatable.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 3.3-litre direct-injection V6 (290 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 8-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: 10°C to 32°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 9.9 L/100 km

2018 NISSAN KICKS

PRICE: \$19,793 to \$24,593

PROS: Roomy cabin and trunk, generous standard equipment, smooth ride, comfortable front seats, standard automatic emergency braking.

CONS: Vague and ultralight steering, underpowered engine, sloppy handling, AWD unavailable, disappointing infotainment system.

► The new Kicks is Nissan's most recent response to the current craze for sport-utility vehicles. Built on the Versa Note platform, it slips into the spot vacated by the Juke for 2018. The Kicks is more conventional than its predecessor; it targets a different set of buyers focused more on utility than on originality or dynamic performance. Offered only with front-wheel drive and an automatic transmission, it sells for under \$20,000 in its base version, a very attractive sticker price for the segment.

The Kicks reprises the approach that led to the success of the Rogue and Qashqai. Comfortable and surprisingly roomy for its size, Nissan's little newcomer delivers very good value for the money. And it is quite fuel-efficient. The drive may be too dull for enthusiasts but for target buyers, it won't matter much. It remains to be seen if the unavailability of all-wheel drive will prove an obstacle in a market where SUV shoppers often take it for granted.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 1.6-litre 4-cylinder (125 hp)

TRANSMISSION: Continuously variable automatic

DRIVETRAIN: Front-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (MANUFACTURER DATA): 7.2 L/100 km





2019 RAM 1500

PRICE: \$44,990 to \$88,110

PROS: Gigantic cabin (crew-cab), comfortable ride, smooth and powerful V8, exemplary transmission, inviting seats, highly functional dash.

CONS: High price, automatic emergency braking an option, numb steering, hybrid system hard to get, diesel engine on hold.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 5.7-litre V8 (395 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 8-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (MANUFACTURER DATA): 13.6 L/100 km

NEW!

ROAD TESTS WEB PAGE ▶ Don't forget to visit our new Road Tests webpage. You'll find a wide range of vehicle test drives and a wealth of tips and practical information for motorists who may be looking for a new or used vehicle. Visit CAAQUEBEC.COM/ROADTESTS today!

▶ Ram is presenting a redesigned 1500 for 2019, with modified styling and convenience features as well as aerodynamic and structural updates. A mild hybrid system is now fitted to the V6 engine and available as an option on the omnipresent V8 Hemi. Highly popular here, the Sport version becomes exclusive to Canada for 2019; regular cab and ultra-stripped-down versions are no longer on the menu. For bargain hunters, Ram will continue to sell the outgoing generation, re-badged as the 1500 Classic.

Ram has softened the 1500's menacing appearance for 2019, and it couldn't have come at a better time. Few of its rivals can match its smooth ride and quiet engine performance at cruising speed. The refinement extends to the cabin, where quality materials, precise controls and comfortable seats set the standard. It all comes at a price, however, especially with Ram seemingly disinclined to offer the same rebates as for the current model.

ERRATUM ▶ In the Fall 2018 issue of CAA-Quebec Magazine, the golf course featured on page 9 - "A sculpted gem at the foot of the Rockies" - is indeed located in Alberta. We apologize for the error.

CAA
QUEBEC

WINTER 2018

PUBLISHER
CAA-Quebec
caaquebec.com

COORDINATOR
Stéphanie Fortier Allaire

© CAA, CAA Emblem, CAA Plus, CAA Premier, CAA Habitation, AARS logo and ERS trademarks are owned by and used with permission of the Canadian Automobile Association. / © TourBook, TripTik and Show Your Card and Save trademarks are owned by and used with permission of the American Automobile Association.

CAA-Quebec Magazine is published four times per year.
ISSN 0838-6846

DIRECTION GROUPE TVA INC.

President and CEO:
France Lauzière

MANAGEMENT

TVA Publications inc.
Custom Publishing Division

TVA Publications inc. Vice-President & Group Publisher Lyne Robitaille / **Head Manager** Robert Renaud / **Editor** Juliette Ruer / **Manager, Design Studio and Print** Diane Gignac / **Art Director** Louis-Philippe Verrier / **Graphic Artist** Jocelyn Dauphinais / **Project Managers** Andrée-Anne Gauthier, Élodie De Smet / **Writers** Karine Bilodeau, Jesse Caron, Julie St-Hilaire, Pierre-Olivier Fortin / **Translator** My-Trang Nguyen / **Copy Editor** Donna Jensen

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representation Christiane Grondin, 514-237-4864 / **Sales Coordinator** Maria Perrotti

PRODUCTION

Head of French Revision Alain Bénard / **Director of Operations** Johanne Perron / **Head of Copywriting Negotiations** Mélanie Turcotte / **Researcher, Visual Content** Emmanuelle Neault / **Supervisor, Photo Department** Domenica Rendina / **Team Manager, IT Department** Serge Mercier / **Printing** to Imprimeries Transcontinental / **Division de Imprimeries Transcontinental S.E.N.C.** 1603, boul. de Montarville, Boucherville (Québec) J4B 5Y2

Copyright registered with the Quebec National Library - Second class mail registration - Convention #40062533. / Return all Canadian undeliverable correspondence to: 444, rue Bouvier, Québec (Québec) G2J 1E3. / CAA-Quebec Magazine is a member of Canadian Circulation Audit Board (CCAB), Vividata and the Association québécoise des éditeurs de magazines (AQEM). / Notice: The advertisements contained in this publication are accepted subject to certain conditions stipulated by CAA-Quebec. Unless otherwise specified, the publication of advertisements alone does not constitute an endorsement. Management also reserves the right to refuse any ad without explanation. All reproduction, adaptation, and translation rights reserved. Photo credits: Getty Images, Istock, Shutterstock.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

By telephone: Montreal metro, 514-861-7575
Elsewhere in Quebec, 1-800-686-9243
By Internet: caaquebec.com
General enquiries: 1-800-686-9243

This magazine is entirely recyclable.

NEW
CAA REWARDS
PARTNER!

Say Hello to...

CAA's New & Exclusive Car Rental Partners!



**TOP MEMBER EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS
INCLUDED FOR ALL 3 BRANDS:**



Member Exclusive Discounts on Rentals Worldwide!

Additional Benefits Available in Canada and the U.S.:

- » Two Free Additional Drivers
- » Free Unlimited Mileage*
- » Discount on GPS Rentals**
- » Free Infant / Child Safety Seat***
- » 10% off Prepaid Fuel Options
- » Plus Earn CAA Dollars® on a Full-Size or Larger Vehicle

To learn more, visit caaquebec.com/carrental or call 1-844-557-1699

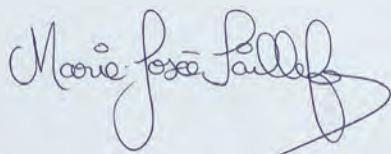
Offer valid as of January 1st, 2018. Must present a valid CAA Membership card at time of booking. Offer is not combinable with other offers. In order to earn CAA Dollars, a valid CAA Member number is required at time of booking. CAA Dollars offer is only applicable to car rentals of a Full-Size or larger vehicle in Canada or the U.S. *Free Unlimited Mileage is available on most rentals. **GPS Rentals only available at airport locations. ***One Free Child Safety Seat per rental available at airport locations only. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.caaquebec.com/discounts for full details. © The Rabais Dollars trademark owned by, and use is authorized by CAA-Québec. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

YOUR HEARING, OUR PRIORITY!

You think you may have hearing loss?

Make an appointment now with an audiologist practicing in a Lobe clinic to have your hearing assessed.

Lobe Ambassador



CAA members receive a \$25* discount on a complete hearing assessment.

* Discount offered by Michèle Veilleux, audiologiste audiology services. Applicable only on a complete hearing assessment (\$70 value) performed by an audiologist practicing in a Lobe clinic. By appointment only. Call 1 866 411-5623 to find the nearest Lobe clinic. Offer available until December 31, 2019. Some conditions apply.

**rabais
dollars**



Lobe

To find the nearest clinic:

1 866 411-LOBE (5623) | lobe.ca