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SUMMER 2020

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DREAMING OF VANLIFE

AT HOME FOR THE SUMMER

COVID-19 ALERT: HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST

The contents of this issue were finalized in mid-April and went to press in early May, reflecting information available at that precise moment regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Government guidelines therefore supersede all travel proposals and ideas contained therein.

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Editorial

2 WE'RE READY TO HELP YOU

Travel

- 4 PHOTO CONTEST**
▶ Lake Bled, Slovenia and new staycation contest
- 7 TRENDS**
▶ Stay at home, travel the world
- 12 TO DISCOVER**
▶ Travels with your taste buds
- 16 SPECIAL FEATURE**
▶ Summer staycation!

Home

- 36 TRENDS**
▶ A cottage to call your own
- 40 ADVICE**
▶ Rooting out insect pests
- 42 GOOD TO KNOW**
▶ Pools and spas for small backyards

Mobility

- 44 GOOD TO KNOW**
▶ Safety tips for driving at night
- 47 TRAFFIC**
▶ Cyclists, follow the road
- 50 ZOOM**
▶ Roundabouts 101
- 52 PRACTICAL MATTERS**
▶ VanLife: Van conversion
- 56 ADVICE**
▶ Five things about auto financing
- 58 ROAD TESTS**



36

**A COTTAGE
TO CALL YOUR OWN**

CAA-Quebec and You

- 22 FRONT & CENTRE**
▶ CAA-Quebec insurance and you: working together
- 23 NEWS**
▶ Annual general meeting
▶ Inspect your winter tires before putting them away
▶ The whys and wherefores of evaluating EV health
▶ Annual *Worst Roads* campaign on hold
▶ Don't put your car warranty at risk
▶ New protection for owners of newly built homes and condos
- 28 MY NO-STRESS CARD**
▶ COVID-19 FAQ page
▶ RV Option: Full-scale coverage for ATVs, snowmobiles and RVs
▶ Member testimonial: A greatly appreciated drive home
▶ The Assistant for legal advice and identity theft on the benefits of mediation for resolving separation or divorce disputes
▶ You asked us
▶ CAA Dollars Discount Program: Cocooning in style and comfort
- 34 HOW TO REACH US**

COVID-19 ALERT: HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST

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The entire magazine is available at CAAQUEBEC.COM. Follow us on social media to ask questions, consult our tips and advice pages, and interact with our community.

WE'RE READY TO HELP YOU



©CATH LANGLOIS PHOTOGRAPHE

IN QUEBEC AS ELSEWHERE, PEOPLE WILL ADAPT TO THIS NEW REALITY AND YOU CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON CAA-QUEBEC BECAUSE, AS ALWAYS, WE'LL BE HERE TO HELP YOU.

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

Richard Lachance
President and CEO

As I write this editorial, things are happening so fast that I can no longer keep track of the changes I make. This is unquestionably the time for direct action and global solidarity so that, together, we can work to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The past few weeks have seen a proliferation of difficult, trying and heartbreaking situations. Fortunately, we've also witnessed responsible acts, both altruistic and brave, and the many inspiring and uplifting personal stories that accompany these acts.

We at CAA-Quebec obviously share your hopes and concerns. United and devoted to assisting you in good times and bad, our employees fully understand your needs and worries. These people are our greatest strength. From the first hours of this crisis, we have adapted and outdone ourselves every day to prevent the spread of the virus, taking concrete steps to ensure the welfare of our staff, our members and the general public.

What a sense of pride we felt both in repatriating some 2,000 travellers from the four corners of the globe and in our ability to provide roadside assistance to our members here at home. Nor will we forget the tremendous effort in swiftly organizing teleworking, thus marshalling the bulk of our services to 1.3 million Quebecers. Wherever you happen to be – at home, travelling, in your car – or if you have questions about insurance coverage, rest assured that we're just a phone call away.

People helping people

Since mobility is our passion and mission, CAA-Quebec is also busy figuring out and planning for the next eventuality. Fortunately, this crisis will come to an end. Lessons will be learned and a great many things will change in every aspect of society.

Life will resume its normal course. Our dreams of new horizons and our wanderlust will not disappear. Around the world, ways of life and of travel will alter. There will be increased vigilance, prevention, preparation and protection. In Quebec as elsewhere, people will adapt to this new reality and you can continue to count on CAA-Quebec because, as always, we'll be here to help you.

This editorial is not only a look ahead but also a tribute to our employees, partners, affiliates and recommended companies. We thank them for being with us for our members. There will forever more be a Before COVID-19 and an After COVID-19. I am proud of our collective solidarity. Our ability to move forward gives me hope.

Our overriding mission is to help you.

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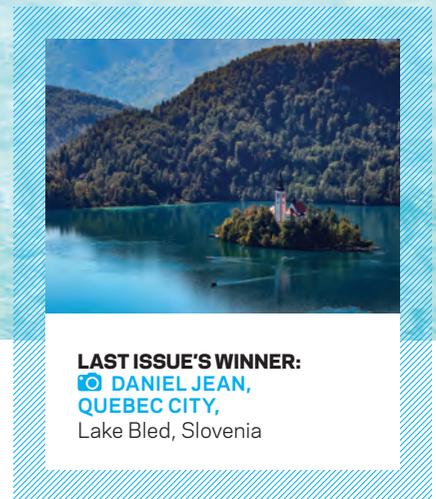
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PHOTO CONTEST



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:
📷 DANIEL JEAN,
QUEBEC CITY,
Lake Bled, Slovenia

MY STAYCATION

In the midst of a public health crisis, summer this year will likely be spent at home, in your garden or backyard as the case may be. So we hereby invite you to submit your favourite staycation photos.

Tell us about your summer activities, about any project you may have undertaken to upgrade the yard, patio, garden or home. "Homelidays" are not inevitably homely! We look forward to seeing your snapshots!

THE WINNING PHOTO AS WELL AS FOUR RUNNERS-UP WILL BE UNVEILED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Send your photo (maximum 5 megabytes) to CAAQUEBEC.COM/CAAQUEBECMAGAZINE before July 15, 2020, along with a description of approximately 80 words. You'll have the chance to see it published. The winning photo will earn the photographer 150 CAA Dollars and the four runners-up, 50 CAA Dollars each.

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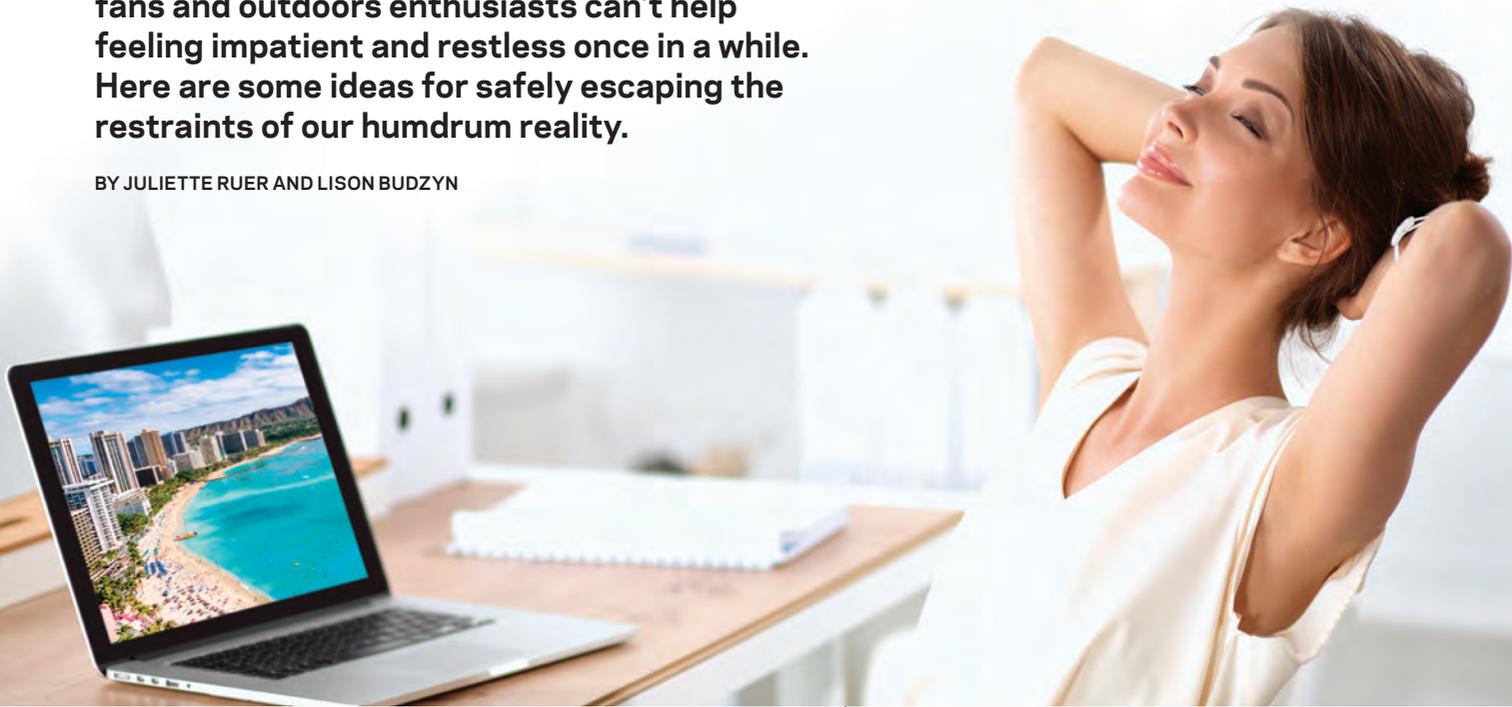
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STAY AT HOME, TRAVEL THE WORLD

In these strictly homebound times, travel fans and outdoors enthusiasts can't help feeling impatient and restless once in a while. Here are some ideas for safely escaping the restraints of our humdrum reality.

BY JULIETTE RUER AND LISON BUDZYN



Travel without travelling

Thanks to Google Arts & Culture, several U.S. national parks now offer virtual tours of their territories. The narrated episodes are short, diverse and highly instructive.

[ARTSANDCULTURE.WITHGOOGLE.COM](https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com)

KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA ▶ The tour includes a descent into a crevasse and a kayak journey among icebergs. You can even hear the noise icebergs make underwater.

HAWAI'I VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK, HAWAII ▶ With the help of virtual technology, you can explore a lava tube and fly over an active volcano!

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK, NEW MEXICO ▶ On this tour, you'll learn how bats orient themselves deep inside the caverns. And you'll also have a chance to practise your spelunking skills.

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UTAH ▶ At the bottom of the canyon, light sources are so distant that the night sky is as starry as it would be if you were at sea. The sounds of night critters make the moment magical.

DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA ▶ Why not try a virtual swim amid colourful coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico?

Discover the world's best museums

MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS (MMFA) ▶ The MMFA mobile app accesses the regular audio-guide for major exhibitions on view as well as the musical one for the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace. Themed tours are guided – and the works explained – by MMFA Director General and Chief Curator Nathalie Bondil.

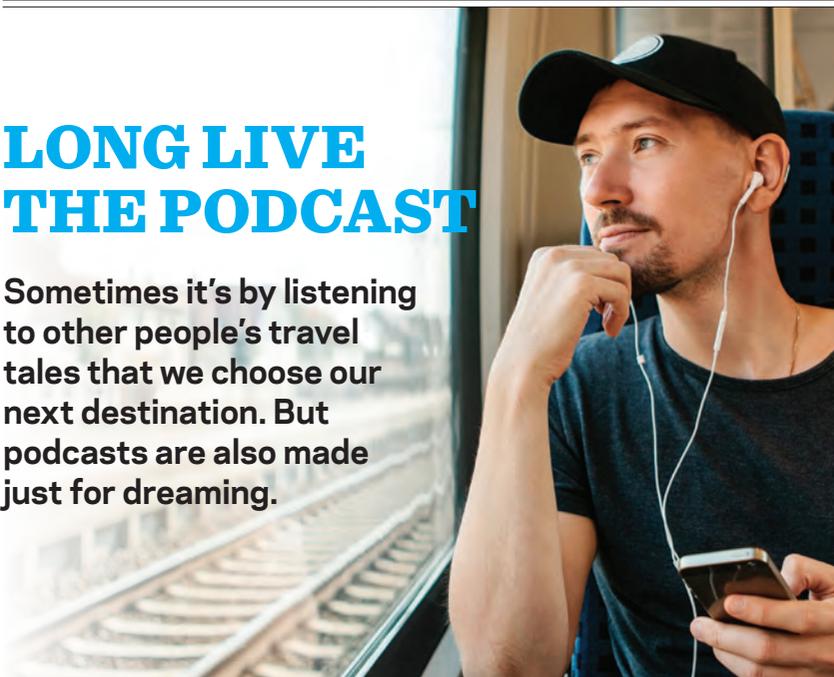
MUSÉE NATIONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS DU QUÉBEC (MNBAQ) ▶ Enjoy a leisurely virtual stroll through the permanent collection galleries from painting to painting.

CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES ▶ *Vivez Versailles* allows you to relive two major events at the Château: the ambassadors of Siam's 1686 visit to Louis XIV and the notorious 1745 "Yew Tree Ball" where Louis XV united with Madame de Pompadour. Connecting virtual reality and real historical events is an enthralling experience. (Available on [STEAMPOWERED.COM](https://steampowered.com), a distributing platform of content and games.)

BRITISH MUSEUM ▶ Organized by timeline and regions, this tour allows you to move forward or back in time as you select a region. Magnificent artwork will pop up complete with an audio description.

LONG LIVE THE PODCAST

Sometimes it's by listening to other people's travel tales that we choose our next destination. But podcasts are also made just for dreaming.



FOR OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

INSPIRING ADVENTURER ▶ Interviews with travel experts and outdoor sports personalities with a common passion for the outdoors. [OUTSIDEONLINE.COM](https://www.outsideonline.com)

TOUGH GIRL CHALLENGES ▶ Whether travelling on foot, by bike or boat, these women are fearless and have no qualms about distances or time zones.

[TOUGHGIRLCHALLENGES.COM](https://www.toughgirlchallenges.com)

FOR GLOBETROTTERS

TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES ▶ Conversations with celebrity guests about culture and people. [RICKSTEVES.COM](https://www.ricksteves.com)

TASTE TREKKERS ▶ Culinary experts and food bloggers discuss local dining venues from around the world.

[TASTETREKKERS.COM](https://www.tastetrekking.com)

INDIE TRAVEL ▶ Full-time adventurers Linda and Craig Martin share personal stories and tips on avoiding mishaps while travelling.

[INDIETRAVELPODCAST.COM](https://www.indietravelpodcast.com)

STRANGERS ABROAD ▶ Adrien Behr podcasts her conversations with people she meets along the way. She also talks about her own travel experiences – like falling in love with strangers, and being stranded on highways.

[STRANGERABROADPODCAST.COM](https://www.strangerabroadpodcast.com)

CITY TRAVEL WITH KIDS ▶ Each episode deals with a different destination, like “London With Kids,” “Abu Dhabi With Kids,” “Sydney With Kids.” Find out all you need to know: best itinerary for covering the highlights, best areas to stay, where best to dine.

[LITTLECITYTRIPS.COM](https://www.littlecitytrips.com)

FOR ADVENTURERS

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO EVERYWHERE ▶ Untold and offbeat stories you might hear from friends but not read in guidebooks. Exciting tales from around the globe include *kulning* (or cow-calling) in Sweden and accidentally becoming an arms dealer in Afghanistan. [ROUGHGUIDES.COM](https://www.roughguides.com)

MEATEATER ▶ Hunting and fishing enthusiasts describe their expeditions and share their best wild-game recipes. [THEMEATEATER.COM](https://www.themeateater.com)

FOR ARTS & CULTURE LOVERS

CAN'T LIT ▶ Dina Del Bucchia and Jen Sookfong Lee discuss all things literary – and literally – Canadian. [CANTLIT.CA](https://www.cantlit.ca)

THE SECRET LIFE OF CANADA ▶ “A podcast about the country you know and the stories you don't.” [CBC.CA/RADIO/SECRETLIFE OF CANADA](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/secretlifeofcanada)

STREET VIEW MUSEUM WALKS

These short “strolls” often unveil a well-known statue or painting. Below are some places that may catch your interest. Select and tap the name on [ARTSANDCULTURE.GOOGLE.COM/PARTNER](https://www.artsandculture.google.com/partner).

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, NEW YORK CITY

It's a special pleasure to navigate the elegant spiral staircase designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

MUSÉE D'ORSAY, PARIS

Admire the splendid gallery lined with statues and other famous works by French artists. Manet's *Le déjeuner sur l'herbe* is just one example.

RIJKSMUSEUM, AMSTERDAM

Vermeer's *The Milkmaid* and *Woman Reading a Letter* are just two reasons for a visit, not to mention the many glories of the Dutch Golden Age.

ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM, BOSTON

Set in the middle of an American metropolis, the museum's Venetian-style courtyard is an eye-catching added attraction, as are the hundreds of paintings and objects collected by this early 20th-century philanthropist and patron of the arts.

HERMITAGE MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG

The galleries entirely devoted to Rembrandt add to the magnificent statuary and architectural beauty of this ancient palace.

ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

Includes Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks* and Grant Wood's *American Gothic*.

UFFIZI GALLERY, FLORENCE

Home to Leonardo da Vinci's *Annunciation*, Caravaggio's *Medusa*, and Canaletto's *View of the Grand Canal*: Need we say more?

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, NAPLES

The museum contains a major archaeological collection, including the dazzling Alexander Mosaic and countless wall paintings from Pompeii.



Beauty doesn't have an expiry date.

*Prince
Edward
Island*
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Movies to escape from it all

ADVENTURE

If the inability to travel causes concern, then it's the right time to reconnect with Agent 007, a.k.a. James Bond, ready at the drop of a hat to jet around the world *On Her Majesty's Service*. David Lynch's *The Straight Story* (1999) tells a more mundane adventure tale of an injured war veteran who drives a lawn tractor from Iowa to Wisconsin to visit his dying brother. Starring Brat Pitt, Jean-Jacques Annaud's *Seven Years in Tibet* (1997) weaves a tale of adventure, war, friendship and wisdom inspired by the Dalai Lama. Lastly, David Lean's 1962 classic *Lawrence of Arabia*, with Peter O'Toole in the title role, tells of T.E. Lawrence's attempts to restore the Arab Empire. The Sahara has never seemed so beautiful!

ROMANCE

Love stories predictably involve idealized settings. Imagine falling in love beneath a Paris bridge to the musical strains of an accordion. We can dance in our living room with Meryl Streep on a Greek island in *Mamma Mia* (2008), or bike in Bali and eat pasta in Italy with Julia Roberts in *Eat, Pray, Love*



©COLUMBIA

(2010). We can watch *Lost in Translation* (2003) for its Tokyo setting, *Out of Africa* (1985) to experience the African savannah and *Pot Luck* (2002) to spend time in Barcelona.

DOCUMENTARY

The Netflix eight-episode series *Our Planet* (2019), directed by David Attenborough and produced in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund, highlights endangered ecosystems. Watching birds in flight in Jacques Perrin's *Winged Migration* (2001) feels like you're flying alongside them. Wim Wenders' *The Salt of the Earth* (2014) shows the world and its human inhabitants through the eyes of one of the world's greatest photographers, Sebastião Salgado.



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EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

TRAVELS

WITH YOUR TASTE BUDS

Why not experience the world through its flavours? The following recipes from CAA-Quebec's *explore* collection will transport you to another place and time - in comfort and at your own pace.



DESTINATION: MALTA

HERB RICOTTA AND DUCK CONFIT PASTIZZI

10 pastizzis

- ▶ 500 g store-bought puff pastry
- ▶ 200 g ricotta
- ▶ 1 tbsp honey
- ▶ Zest of half a lemon and half an orange
- ▶ 2 tbsp finely snipped chives
- ▶ 2 tbsp finely snipped basil
- ▶ 1 tbsp finely snipped dill
- ▶ 1 duck confit thigh, pulled
- ▶ 1 egg, beaten (for wash)

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). In a bowl, combine ricotta, zests, honey, and fresh herbs. Season with salt and pepper and set aside. Roll out puff pastry and cut into circles using a round pastry cutter (±10 cm in diameter). Place a small amount of duck confit in the middle of a pastry circle, add a spoonful of herb ricotta, and fold dough in half to close. Place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Repeat for remaining pastry circles. Brush pastries with egg wash and bake in oven 25-30 minutes.



▶ Videos of these and other recipes are available at CAAQUEBEC.COM.

DESTINATION: TANZANIA

COCONUT MANDAZI WITH CARMEL SAUCE

Makes 24 mandazi

For the caramel sauce

- ▶ ¾ cup sugar
- ▶ ¼ cup water
- ▶ ½ cup 35% whipping cream
- ▶ ½ vanilla bean, split and scraped
- ▶ ¼ cup butter
- ▶ ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ▶ 2 pinches ground ginger

In a saucepan, heat sugar and water over medium-high heat without stirring until you obtain a nice, golden caramel. Add cream and vanilla bean. Beat vigorously. Beating continuously, add butter and spices. Keep warm until ready to serve.

For the mandazi

- ▶ 1 tbsp instant yeast
- ▶ ½ cup sugar
- ▶ ¾ cup lukewarm water
- ▶ 3 ½ cups unbleached flour
- ▶ 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- ▶ ½ cup coconut milk
- ▶ 1 egg, beaten
- ▶ 3 tbsp melted butter
- ▶ Oil for frying
- ▶ Powdered sugar for dusting

Combine yeast, sugar, and lukewarm water. Let stand 5 minutes. In a small bowl, combine egg, melted butter, and coconut milk. In bowl of a stand mixer, combine flour and shredded coconut. Make a hole in the centre and gradually add the yeast-water mixture while mixing at medium speed. Add coconut milk mixture. Mix again. When dough forms a smooth ball, knead about 10 minutes. Cover bowl and let dough rest 2 hours or until doubled in volume.

Divide dough into 24 pieces and roll into balls. Flatten each ball to a 1-cm disk. Cut to size using a cookie cutter. Cover with plastic wrap and let rest 10 minutes. Heat oil in a deep fryer to 350°F (190°C). Fry disks in deep fryer until golden brown. Then fry dough trimmings. Transfer to paper towels to absorb excess oil, then dust with powdered sugar and serve immediately with caramel sauce.



DESTINATION: SWITZERLAND

**APPLE-BRANDY-FLAVOURED
CHEESE FONDUE WITH
ROASTED VEGETABLES**

For 4 people

- ▶ 3 cloves garlic confit, chopped
- ▶ 200 g grated Alfred Le Fermier cheese
- ▶ 200 g grated Comtomme cheese
- ▶ 200 g grated Chemin Hatley cheese
- ▶ 1 tbsp cornstarch
- ▶ 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- ▶ ¼ cup apple brandy
- ▶ ¼ cup apple cider
- ▶ ½ cup ice cider
- ▶ 1 platter various roasted vegetables (fingerling potatoes, parsnips, Nantes carrots, Brussels sprouts, mushrooms)

In a saucepan or fondue pot, heat the garlic, cheese, cornstarch and mustard over medium heat. Add the liquors and stir constantly until the mixture is smooth, taking care to avoid scraping the bottom of the pan. Let simmer for two minutes and season as needed. Serve immediately with roasted vegetables, croutons and artisanal charcuterie.



DESTINATION: INDIA

**IVORY CHAI
HOT CHOCOLATE**

For 2 servings

- ▶ 500 mL 3.25% milk
- ▶ 150 g ivory chocolate discs
- ▶ 10 g chai tea

In a saucepan, bring milk to a boil. Remove from heat, add tea, and steep for 4 minutes. Strain through a fine mesh sieve into the saucepan. Add chocolate discs. Set aside 1 minute, then whip vigorously with a hand blender.

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Don't forget to add the **RV option** for your recreational and off-road vehicles.



Some restrictions apply. Visit our website for further details.



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caaquebec.com/plusoption



EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

Summer staycation!



Quebecers are rethinking their summer vacation plans. Sure, you can't pack up and head abroad, but that doesn't mean you can't still go on an adventure from the comfort of your own home! Here a few bright ideas for you to try.

BY MARIE-JOSÉE ROY

Become a pool pro

01 / Take advantage of this extra time at home to become a pool pro! Start by carefully inspecting all your pool's various components, making sure everything is in working order. Check to see that your fence is secure and your solar tarp is still adequate. Next, take a sample of your pool water and test it for calcium hardness, alkalinity, and pH level. Several retailers offer this analysis service for free; you should really consider it, as it will help you remedy any future water balance issues you may encounter. Proper management of your pool means you and your family get to enjoy it all summer long. Maybe now's even the time to install that water heater or those pool lights you've been dreaming of for years!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ▶ Consult the *Brief Guide to Maintaining a Pool* and the article "What should you do if your pool turns green?" at CAAQUEBEC.COM.

Reorganize your shed

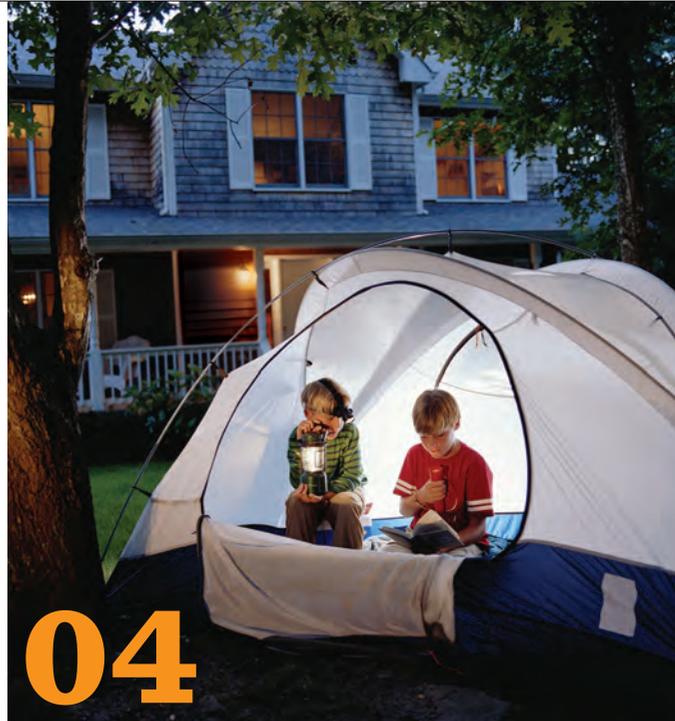
02 / Between gardening tools, car tires, Christmas decorations, patio furniture, and sports equipment, your shed can get quickly cluttered. Now's the perfect time to reorganize it:

- ▶ Sort objects by category and use the opportunity to donate or sell anything you no longer use.
- ▶ Use vertical space to store bulkier items. Loungers and bikes, for example, can be hung from the ceiling or on the walls from hooks designed specifically for larger objects.
- ▶ Place dangerous tools and products, like saws and propane tanks, on higher shelves, where children can't reach them.
- ▶ Make sure you keep your shed's central space free from any clutter, that way you can move around freely and easily reach anything you're looking for.
- ▶ To stop pests from setting up shop inside your shed, install rigid metallic fencing all around the perimeter base to help limit access.

Movie night under the stars

03 / Indulge your love for cinema by organizing an outdoor movie night. All you'll need is:

- ▶ A LED projector, which you can easily find online (new or used) at a reasonable price.
- ▶ A screen, which is easy to improvise using a pale-coloured wall (ex.: your shed), or a white sheet stretched across your clothesline, pinned to the wall of your home, or hung between two trees.
- ▶ Chairs, pillows, and throws to create a comfy viewing platform. And of course, popcorn and candy! You can even recreate the movie theatre experience by installing a small folding table and setting out a selection of sweet and savoury snacks in individual portions. Wondering what movie to watch? How about *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Grease*, *Amélie*, *The Intouchables*, or *Toy Story 4*?



Go camping ... in your own backyard!

04 / If you own a tent, trailer, or RV, you can easily go on a camping trip ... in your own backyard! To avoid having to go in and out of the house constantly, make sure to pack the essentials, just like you would if you were going on an actual camping trip:

- ▶ Blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, mattresses, and warm clothes;
- ▶ Sunscreen and bug repellent;
- ▶ Camera;
- ▶ Flashlights and magnifying glasses;
- ▶ Lanterns and light sticks;
- ▶ Meals, beverages, and snacks;
- ▶ Books, board games and playing cards.

Once you've set up camp, all that's left to do is have fun! Whether as a family, with that special someone, or even solo, plan a whole host of camping activities. Roast marshmallows and hot dogs on the barbecue or over an open fire (in a safe area designed for this purpose), swap stories and urban legends, sing classic campfire songs, strum your guitar (if you're an amateur musician!), take a moonlit dip in the pool, explore your yard with magnifying glasses and flashlights, and read a good book by the light of your lantern ...

CAA-QUEBEC MEMBERS ▶ Thanks to our *Rabais Dollars* CAA program partners (La Source, Bouclair, Bétonel Dulux, and many others) you can save on all your projects!

Transform your terrace

05 / The warm weather is here, prompting us all to spend more time outdoors. But how does one create a cozy outdoor living space on your terrace, balcony, or backyard? If you're lucky enough to be able to choose which corner of your backyard to transform into a summer oasis, opt for the one that gets the ideal amount of sun and wind exposure. You can go with simple furniture, but make sure that it's comfortable. Padded sofas, a side table, a pouf, and outdoor cushions are all you need to transform your terrace into an inviting retreat. If you share a balcony or if your terrace is directly in your neighbours' line of sight, consider installing privacy panels. Bring your houseplants outdoors and surround yourself with greenery. For an enchanted evening atmosphere, hang garlands of lights and lanterns that give off a soft glow but won't attract mosquitoes.



05



06

Go green

06 / You don't have to have a green thumb to grow your own fruits and vegetables. Armed with your botanist's key advice, you'll be able to choose the right plants based on your garden's soil type and the amount of sunlight it's exposed to. As many plant varieties fare well in planters, bins, or even when planted vertically, you really don't need a huge backyard. Opt for plants that are easy to cultivate, such as lettuce, carrots, herbs, berries, beets, and cucumbers. Make sure to use good-quality soil and untreated wooden planters to avoid any chemical cross-contamination. If you decide to plant directly in your garden, first take a sample of your soil and bring it to your local garden centre to be analyzed. You might have to add compost to enrich your soil. Then, water regularly and watch your garden grow!

PRACTICAL TIPS ▶ Read the articles "How to plant a vegetable garden in Quebec" and "Landscaping: a guide to choosing materials and plants" on CAAQUEBEC.COM.

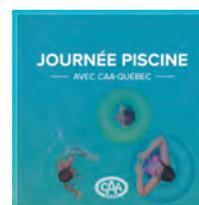
Listen to our playlists on Spotify this summer !



Sing along to these Quebec classics as you sit around the fire.



Zen music to unwind to.



Tropical tunes to dance all day to!



For an extra dose of energy to help power through your weekly chores!



Drift off to the land of cozy comfort with jazz and folk songs.

▶ SEE PAGE 1 FOR COVID-19 DETAILS.

NO NEED TO GO FAR TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ON VACATION...

The CAA-Quebec Travel Boutique is brimming with practical items that are perfect for a staycation. Order everything you need online at CAAQUEBEC.COM/BOUTIQUE or in one of our 14 points of sale, and get 10 percent back in CAA Dollars.



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▶ Ideal for those sunny days by the pool.



INSECT REPELLENT SPRAY

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PORTABLE FAN

▶ To keep you cool all summer long.



SHATTERPROOF WINE GLASS

▶ Perfect for having a drink on the terrace, by the pool, or around a fire!



ISOTHERMAL BOTTLE

▶ To keep you hydrated during hot summer days and perfect for all your activities!



50 ITINÉRAIRES DE RÊVE BOOK SERIES

▶ Dream about the perfect vacation until it's time to make it a reality!

At the time of publication, the Travel Boutique was closed until May 4, 2020 in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its employees. For information about the status of our services, consult our Frequently Asked Questions section on CAAQUEBEC.COM.

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DISCOUNT

on a variety of products



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ADDITIONAL
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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.

Please note that these offers were selected based on the information available as of March 27, 2020. With COVID-19, some partners may have decided to suspend their operations. For details, please consult their websites or give them a call.



CAA-Quebec insurance and you: working together

We constantly improve our products with your changing needs in mind. Here are new insurance features we have added in the past few months.

Auto insurance

Very soon, if not already, you'll be able to get an instant online quote from CAA-Quebec! It's a practical feature when shopping for car insurance. Obviously, it makes perfect sense to contact three or four companies and compare their quotes before selecting the most suitable.

Be sure to have the following information on hand: car make, model and year, annual mileage, your driver's licence number and CAA-Quebec member number so you can benefit from exclusive member discounts.

A digital contract

Another new option allows you to receive your contract by email. The service is accessible at all times, and will reduce the risk of mail going astray as well as your carbon footprint. Almost 60 percent of car-insurance contracts sold at CAA-Quebec are now sent by email. This translates into substantial savings for the organization and for you, the insured.

If you prefer, you can still have your insurance certificates sent by mail. To have your communication preferences modified, contact your broker or insurance agent.

Travel insurance

You can also receive your travel-insurance contract electronically. That's the choice of 85 percent of our travel-insurance clients.

EVEN MORE PROTECTION FROM CAA-QUEBEC ▶ We want to help you navigate more confidently through the sometimes complex world of insurance. If you have questions, call us at 1-855-861-5750.

And why not go digital? Electronic funds transfers and pre-authorized payments are practical and efficient options to avoid late payments or other problems due to potential postal service disruptions. And in the current COVID-19 situation, online payments certainly prevent fraud. Think about it!

COVID-19 ALERT: HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST

The contents of this issue were finalized in mid-April and went to press in early May, reflecting information available at that precise moment regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Government guidelines therefore supersede all travel proposals and ideas contained therein.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CAA-QUEBEC: RELEVANT AND CUTTING-EDGE

Held in April, exceptionally via teleconferencing, the CAA-Quebec Annual General Meeting was just the venue to showcase our great team's achievement and results from 2019. It was a banner year despite the many challenges faced, notably an early winter and a shortage of manpower. Remaining relevant and hard work propelled us to a new high: The organization now boasts 1.3 million card-carrying members!

Mobility still at the heart of our action

- ▶ In 2019, our patrollers provided emergency assistance to more than 711,000 motorists across the province within, on average, less than 30 minutes.
- ▶ In addition to holding battery-check workshops (for both electric and standard vehicles), we actively encouraged members to install their winter tires in ample time before the mandatory December 1 deadline.
- ▶ Scores of members participated in electric-vehicle road tests organized by CAA-Quebec at various auto shows.
- ▶ Going forward, members now using our recommended garages will enjoy enhanced guaranties on auto-parts purchases.

Popular travel products

For the third consecutive year, CAA-Quebec Travel has set a sales record, proof that our exclusive *explore* products match the needs and tastes of our clients – members and non-members alike. And to the delight of globetrotters, we have published a virtual guide to new air-passenger rights, describing specific protections air travellers can expect in simple terms.

Insurance coverage that meets your needs

Once again in the Gustavson Brand Trust Index,* CAA ranks among the top organizations in the insurance field. In fact, more and more members choose us for their auto and/or home insurance coverage. And our travel insurance features two new options to cover travellers with minor health issues: They can now consult a local doctor by videoconference or have one visit them at their hotel.



More discounts and rewards

New brands joined the CAA Dollars and Discounts Program last year, including Multi-Luminaire, Stokes and Les Alouettes de Montréal. Also, members now get 3-percent rebates in CAA Dollars at recommended garages and 3-percent discounts, up to \$100, at approved suppliers.

Road safety – CAA-Quebec Foundation's top priority

The Foundation is as active as ever in promoting road-safety awareness among young people and has extended its presence to include a growing number of high schools across the province. And its elementary-school safety patrol program, launched in 1929, still proceeds apace. Mobility is another area of interest for the Foundation, as attested by its participation in a study on the Candiac Autonomous Electric Shuttle pilot project.

Advocating member concerns

Whether through its *Worst Roads* campaign, which received a record number of votes last year, or participating in a probe into odometer fraud or discussions on fair mobility funding, CAA-Quebec continues to represent its members and defend their interests in the public arena.

We are as proud of our ability to assist members in their daily preoccupations as we are in all our activities. Thank you again for your continued loyalty.

Richard Lachance
President and CEO

* The Gustavson Brand Trust Index measures the relationships between brand performance, social equity, trust and advocacy for brands in Canada. The index is published by the University of Victoria Peter B. Gustavson School of Business.

Inspect your winter tires before putting them away

Now that's a good habit to acquire. This way you'll have a few months to budget for new winter tires if need be. While you're at it, why not schedule your fall tire appointment now and avoid the rush? Drivers who made the change-over around December 1 last year can attest to that situation. The new earlier deadline had been moved up from December 15, and it caused a major scramble in garages, which were already dealing with manpower shortages. Checking your winter tires before putting them away will give you the leisure to plan for their eventual replacement. If new ones are needed, September is a good time to shop around. And October is the ideal time to have winter tires installed – old or new. Remember: The tread depth of winter tires should start out at 5 millimetres or 6/32nds of an inch.



THE WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF EVALUATING THE HEALTH OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

For electric-vehicle (EV) owners, information on the viability of their car battery is crucial but not easy to come by. Some owners managed to get free data thanks to the battery-check workshops organized by CAA-Quebec over the past few months. Check the dates for the next workshops at CAAQUEBEC.COM.

Used batteries

Before buying a used EV, it's important to have it inspected and, ideally, get a battery-diagnostic test done. CAA-Quebec has the necessary tools to obtain the maximum data possible on a vehicle's condition. And thus far, longevity-test results are reassuring for the traction batteries of electric and hybrid vehicles. While the degradations observed vary from one model to another, they remain proportional to the age and mileage of the vehicles. But batteries of hybrid vehicles of a certain age are often less efficient, obviously causing increased fuel consumption.

CAA-Quebec maintains its commitment to electric mobility. Experts in the Automotive Advisory Services are up to speed on all aspects of electric vehicles. In fact, mobile charging is now a part of Roadside Assistance and almost 20 CAA-Quebec-approved garages will be specifically trained in EV maintenance between now and the end of the year.

WORST ROADS CAMPAIGN ON HOLD

The annual campaign is on hold while CAA-Quebec gives priority to helping people rather than fixing potholes. But rest assured that the relevance and importance of this large-scale public initiative is never far from our minds, nor is the constant preoccupation of our members and Quebecers at large regarding the state of our roads. This is just a brief interruption. Road repairs and maintenance remain clearly critical.

Montreal's Boulevard Gouin Est, for instance, which topped the list in 2019, will get a major overhaul, complete with a new bike path. In Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard, Montée des Bois-Francs was repaired last fall. Work has already begun on Grand-Héron Boulevard in Saint-Jérôme, while plans are being drawn up for Chemin Craig in Lévis and Chemin Cadieux in L'Ange-Gardien.



Montreal's Boulevard Gouin Est

The *Worst Roads* campaign is a clear message to authorities. With a record 21,000 votes cast last year, it couldn't have been clearer: Motorists and pedestrians alike deserve an efficient and safe road network.

The road-maintenance deficit is widening. The cost reached a staggering \$16.4 billion last year, according to Transports Québec stats. So now is not the time to slack off. Stay tuned.

Don't put your car warranty at risk



A warning for new car owners: Careful maintenance is paramount. Manufacturers will be quick to void warranties if owners misuse their cars.

It's not always easy to know exactly what a warranty covers, but also for how long it is covered and under what terms and conditions. Experts at CAA-Quebec Automotive Advisory Services scoured through car-owner manuals to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each document. They then summarized the findings in a table available on CAAQUEBEC.COM.

Hyundai, Kia and Genesis top the list with a standard 5-year/100,000-kilometre warranty. Mitsubishi is still the only carmaker to offer a 10-year/160,000-kilometre warranty on powertrain, and Mazda impresses with its standard unlimited-mileage warranties.

Our experts have also spotted many restrictions and exclusions. For example, some manufacturers void their warranties if a vehicle is used as a power source, is driven through water higher than its footboard or with a dashboard light (like the oil or check-engine light) on for too long. A growing number of carmakers no longer offer surface-corrosion warranties. Others require regular inspections or immediate repairs of the slightest flaws under penalty of voiding the anti-perforation warranty. Electric-vehicle makers often impose conditions with regard to storage, minimum battery charge, daily recharging, or battery maintenance. Forewarned is forearmed!



NEW PROTECTION FOR OWNERS OF NEWLY BUILT HOMES AND CONDOS

A service to help you understand and protect your rights

Launched in February, SOS Plan de garantie résidentielle offers free information and support services to buyers of new homes and condos who are already covered by the Guarantee Plan for New Residential Buildings. Contact SOS in cases where:

- ▶ You and your contractor don't agree on the jobs to be completed or corrected.
- ▶ Your contractor fails to respect the completion date and you want to know what recourse you have.

For more info about this new service, visit [SOSPLAN-DEGARANTIE.CA](https://soplan-degarantie.ca). CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services can also help you with everything else related to your home.

Condo building insurance

A new ruling for co-ownership insurance will take effect on June 13, 2020. As of that date, all condominium corporations must provide a detailed description of the original installations of each condo unit. Whatever is not included in this description will be considered an improvement made by the co-owner and will, therefore, be covered by their personal home insurance. The corporation's insurance covers the corporation's civil liability, the building's common portions and property, and the original installations of each condo.

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Keep informed with our COVID-19 FAQ page

Accessible via the CAAQUEBEC.COM homepage, this resource includes answers to the most frequently asked questions about CAA-Quebec services and COVID-19 with an emphasis on travel, insurance and essential services. Regularly updated, it offers the most useful and detailed information possible on everything we can do for you during the pandemic.

Examples:

- ▶ Does CAA-Quebec continue to provide road assistance?
- ▶ Can I shop at any of your Travel boutiques?
- ▶ Can I contact you about my auto and residential insurance?
- ▶ Are residential and auto advisory services available?

Or...

- ▶ Will I be compensated for a trip that I couldn't take?
- ▶ How can I protect myself against COVID-19 at home or abroad?
- ▶ I have travel insurance with CAA-Quebec, so how do I make a claim?

Assisting clients is our priority

We keep abreast of daily of information and guidelines issued by various authorities and adjust our services accordingly in order to ensure the safety of members and staff alike, all the while continuing to serve you.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ▶ please write to us at INFO@CAAQUEBEC.COM.

ASSISTANCE FOR ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES

RV OPTION: FULL-SCALE COVERAGE FOR ALL YOUR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

We've made exciting changes to membership options so your outdoor activities will be trouble-free. From now on, assistance for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) has become an exclusive service for CAA Plus RV and CAA Premier RV members. Be sure to sign up so you'll be well protected in summer and winter alike. You'll also get a 3-cent rebate in CAA Dollars for every litre of fuel you purchase at Couche-Tard, regardless of the number of litres involved. The RV option is an essential choice not only for camping, hunting and fishing enthusiasts but also for the thrill-seekers in all of us.





When you're finally free to get away...

We'll be there to keep you safe
and sound.



Travel Insurance

EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS

CAA-Quebec Travel Insurance products are provided
by Orion Travel Insurance Company and distributed to Quebec residents
exclusively by CAA-Quebec Travel.

▶ SEE PAGE 1 FOR COVID-19 DETAILS.

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL**A GREATLY APPRECIATED
DRIVE HOME**

Injured and unable to continue his motorcycle ride, Daniel Desgagnés called CAA-Quebec to help get him home.

The motorcycle is a genuine passion for this member from Lanaudière. As a young man, he participated in closed-circuit races with his friends. Thirty years later, he clocks about 10,000 kilometres per year, often with the same group. On this September day, a ride to admire the autumn foliage along Route 347 between Sainte-Geneviève-de-Berthier and Saint-Donat sounded promising. “Even though several people consider this stretch of road dangerous – the road is in bad condition and there’s a lot of truck traffic – motorcyclists like us get a kick from its frequent curves,” explained Desgagnés. In fact, it was just after he came out of a curve that he spotted sand on the asphalt. “Not a lot, mind you,” he recalls, “but when you’re on a bike, it doesn’t take much before you veer out of control.”

“My two wheels began to slide. I stuck out my right foot so I wouldn’t fall, a manoeuvre I often used in my racing days. Unfortunately, the bike abruptly straightened out and my ankle took a big hit.”

Desgagnés continued on for barely a kilometre before he had to stop because of the pain in his ankle. “Each time I leaned on my foot, I felt sick and dizzy. I knew then and there that I was in no condition to ride, even though there was nothing wrong with my bike.”

After CAA-Quebec was summoned, the patroler showed up promptly, put the bike on the flatbed and drove Desgagnés home. The next day, he went to a local clinic and was diagnosed with a fracture. Biking season was clearly over for him.



“I’ve been a CAA-Quebec member since 1997. I don’t need assistance every year, but it’s reassuring to know that help is there if and when I need it. Other than that, I accumulate CAA Dollars by shopping at Couche-Tard. In fact, my wife and I have every intention to apply the rewards I earn to a future trip. *Merci*, CAA-Quebec!”

TELL US YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH CAA-QUEBEC. ▶ Does your no-stress card give you a boost? Email your story to: CAAQUEBECMAGAZINE@CAAQUEBEC.COM. It could appear in the next “Member Testimonial” column and earn you 100 CAA Dollars.

THE ASSISTANT

IS MEDIATION NECESSARY FOR RESOLVING SEPARATION OR DIVORCE DISPUTES? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?



THE ASSISTANT FOR LEGAL ADVICE AND IDENTITY THEFT REPLIES.

► A marital breakup is usually accompanied by emotional turmoil, self-doubt and insecurity. Mediation is, therefore, highly recommended in order to minimize the emotional and financial toll, and to avoid litigation. It also helps both parents take responsibility for the custody decision-making process. The Quebec government offers couples with dependent children up to five hours of free mediation – or up to two hours in the case of a revision – to

get a judgment or an agreement on custody, access and outing rights, financial support and division of property. But first the parties must attend a parenting and mediation information session and be open to the idea of resolving the situation amicably.

The role of the mediator is not to make decisions for the parties, nor to represent one or the other, or offer legal advice. He or she must remain impartial, consider the needs of both parties and inform them about viable options in order to come to a fair settlement that takes the interests of the child, or children, into account.



► The Assistant, available exclusively for 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 at CAAQUEBEC.COM/THEASSISTANT.

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CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services provides a wealth of information regarding every aspect of your house. Here, our advisors answer some of the questions you have asked. Put their expert advice to work!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact our Residential Advisory Services (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
Montreal: 514-861-6162
Elsewhere in Quebec:
1-888-627-6666

Email us from our website
CAAQUEBEC.COM/EN/AT-HOME
Advice section.



QUESTION / We have sold our house and will leave the premises on July 1. Do you have any tips for a trouble-free move?

- JOSIANE LEMAY, GRANBY

ANSWER / In the current COVID-19 context, moving companies are considered an essential service and activity. So be sure to visit quebec.ca, section “Information on the coronavirus (COVID-19),” to get the latest details about moving. That said, our first recommendation would be to avoid moving on July 1, when you sometimes have to pay up to double the regular hourly rate for movers. We also suggest you plan well ahead of your actual moving date.

AS SOON AS THE MOVING DATE IS SET ▶ Book your mover ideally a company that is a member in good standing of the Commission des Transports du Québec and has a street address (not just a telephone number) and valid insurance to cover any losses or damages that may occur.

The cost of a local move (within a 50-kilometre radius) is calculated according to an hourly rate (which varies from one region to another) and the number of employees involved (three are ideal). Be sure to provide as many details as possible (like the number of floors or any bulky furniture) so the mover can devise a realistic cost estimate. Shop around.

TWO TO THREE MONTHS BEFORE ▶ Clean out your home. Donate unwanted items or have a garage sale and take an inventory of your property (see the *Inventory of Your Property*

guide at CAAQUEBEC.COM). This is also the right time to pack items that you don't often use. Seal the boxes, label those containing fragile items, and indicate into which room they should go in your new home.

FOUR TO SIX WEEKS BEFORE ▶ Notify all contacts including Canada Post, *Service québécois de changement d'adresse* (ADRESSE.GOUV.QC.CA), your employer, the bank, the SAAQ, and various suppliers like magazine subscriptions, of your change of address. Also, consider hiring a sitter for your young children and/or pets on moving day.

TWO TO THREE WEEKS BEFORE ▶ Get extra boxes and moving supplies as needed. Request the connection and disconnection of services from utilities.

THE WEEK BEFORE ▶ Finish packing. Keep a broom and cleaning supplies accessible.

THE DAY BEFORE ▶ Disconnect the household appliances, empty out and clean the refrigerator and freezer, and prepare a cooler for your foodstuffs.

MOVING DAY ▶ Note the meter readings (electricity, gas) of both homes. After the move is complete, be sure to inspect all the goods in the presence of the mover. Write down any damage or breakage on the bill. Wait a few hours before plugging in or hooking up the appliances.



▶ SEE PAGE 1 FOR COVID-19 DETAILS.

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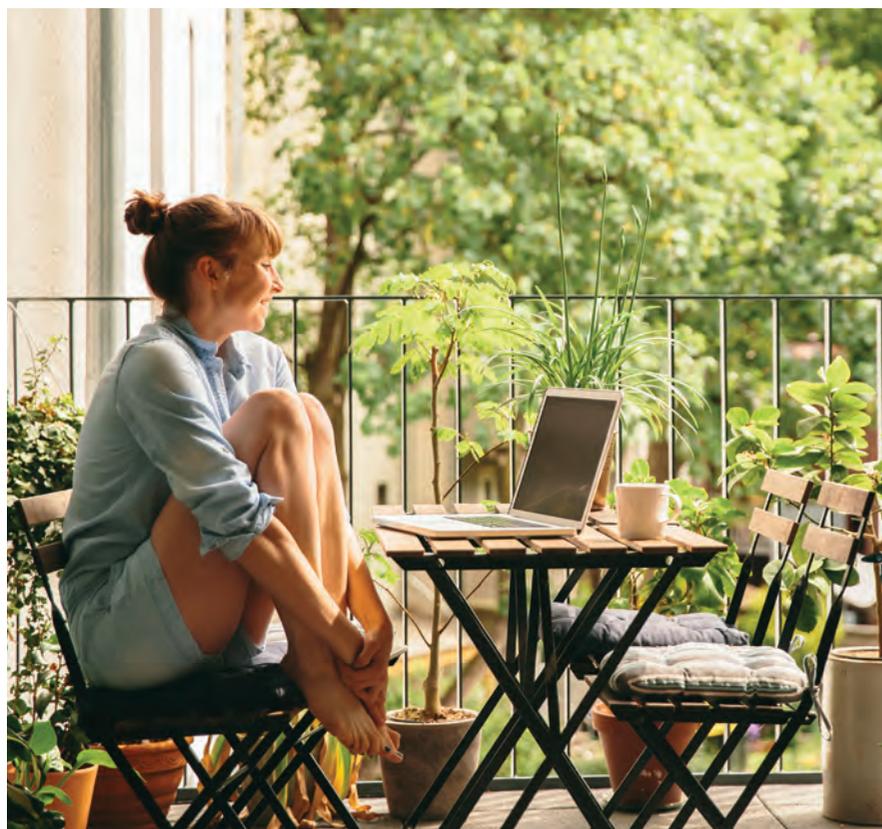
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2990, rue King Ouest / 819-566-5132

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NOTE ▶ At press time, CAA-Quebec Travel Centres were closed until May 4, 2020 to protect the health and safety of all concerned. To find out which services are available at any given time, consult our Frequently Asked Questions at CAAQUEBEC.COM.



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418-624-0613 (Quebec City)

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Home

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A cottage

TO CALL YOUR OWN

Traditional cottages are still popular, but new trends are gaining ground. Here's an overview of what the market currently offers. / BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

MY
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01

The eco-friendly cottage

01 / If you're anxious to live as one with nature while preserving your quality of life, the eco-friendly cottage is the cottage for you. It incorporates ecological components like: low-impact, recycled or VOC-free materials (such as wood-panel walls and ceilings, or metal or cedar siding), the use of engineered wood, energy-efficient doors and windows (for example, Energy Star-certified, triple-glazed), an energy-efficiency optimization system, water-saving devices, LED lighting and a waste-water heat-recovery system.



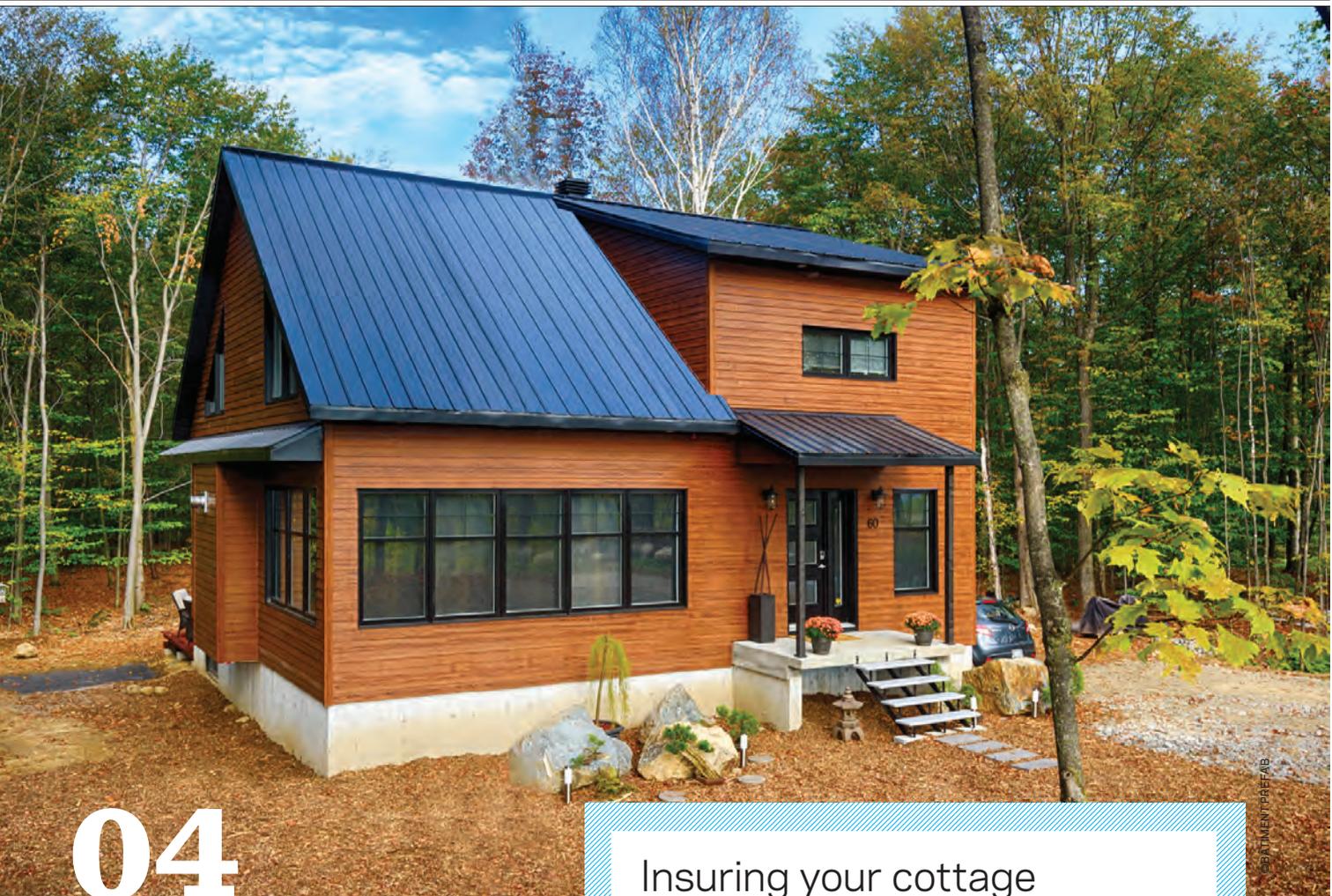
The "glamping" cottage

02 / Cosgrove explains, "Glamping (or glamorous camping) accommodation is intended for nature lovers who are not as excited about sleeping in a tent." The cottage comes with a minimum of amenities – kitchenette, bed, hot water tank and heating, but some units can be even more basic; for example, with an outdoor shower and outhouse. Tree houses and yurts fall into this category.



The mini cottage

03 / "Mini" is the operative word here. The cottage can be built directly on a foundation, floating slab, piles or stilts. The living area, varying in size between 300 and 700 square feet, is usually a loft-style open space, accommodating two to four people. Total comfort, therefore, entails maximizing every inch of available space. "It's ideal for those seeking an affordable, comfortable and functional unit," says Emmanuel Cosgrove, co-founder and director of Ecohome. Its smaller size also means less energy consumption and little maintenance, leaving more time and resources for leisure pursuits and relaxation. On the other hand, this kind of accommodation does not usually conform to municipal construction codes, so be sure to check your municipal regulations.



04

The kit cottage

04 / Do-it-yourselfers and people in a hurry are increasingly turning to kit cottages. Delivered in separate pre-cut parts, a kit cottage can be assembled by the buyer or contractor. There is little or no waste. A basic kit generally includes the frame, roof, exterior finishes, walls, doors and windows. The buyer is responsible for the foundation, artesian well, septic tank and interior finishes (like plumbing, heating, carpentry, floor coverings). “As a general rule, kit cottages are eco-friendly, comfortable and energy-efficient,” says Alain Paquette of CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services. Good to know: Kit cottages are also sold with a turnkey option where you can move in on the same day it’s delivered.

Insuring your cottage

Proper cottage insurance equals peace of mind. According to Suzanne Michaud, CAA-Quebec Vice-President of Insurance, coverage is determined by how much time you actually spend at the cottage. If you only stay there occasionally (i.e., only in the summer or the winter), insurers tend to offer you seasonal-home coverage with limited protection. But if you use the cottage every weekend, you qualify for owner-occupant insurance that will give you the same coverage as if it were your primary residence. You can, therefore, opt for all-risks or designated-risks coverage. Note that certain conditions may apply (for example, that you use the cottage regularly, have a passable road at all times, never rent the cottage to third parties, or meet current construction standards). Ask your insurer about exclusions and available endorsements, and to help you choose the best coverage for your cottage and property.

06

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The renewable-energy cottage

05 / For cottages located in isolated or off-the-grid areas, solar energy is the most interesting solution – it’s free, available, and ecological. A photovoltaic roofing system, which captures sunlight and transforms it into electricity, can be used as the only energy source or in combination with hydropower (for example, as a backup or alternative source in order to reduce the cottage’s energy bill). The big drawback here is that solar power is intermittent. “It relies on weather conditions, the season of year and even the time of day,” notes Cosgrove. It would also require a powerful battery to store excess energy produced during the day. Wood and wood pellets are other viable renewable energy sources, especially for heating.



The intergenerational cottage

06 / The intergenerational-home concept has now spilled over to the cottage. In fact, more and more same-family members (parents/grandparents, parents/children, brother/sister) now share a common roof in the countryside but in separate units. Besides its advantageous financial aspect, this practice encourages mutual aid and closer ties, all the while preserving each party’s personal privacy. A great idea!

NEED SUGGESTIONS? ▶ Be sure to contact CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services. And if you plan to have a cottage built, definitely think of CAA-Quebec-recommended home suppliers.



PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING INSECT PESTS

Good weather also attracts a variety of bugs to our gardens and yards. Here's a mini-lexicon to help you identify and banish the unwelcome ones. / CAA-QUEBEC

Not all these critters are harmful, but we have to recognize that some are stubbornly invasive. Still, peaceful cohabitation is possible if we take the proper steps and avoid doing things that will only end up by attracting them. Before resorting to “chemical weapons” and potentially harming the environment, let's learn more about these insect pests and their behaviours. Here's a rundown on the most notorious ones. A more exhaustive list can be found in our online *Guide to Insect Pests*.



MOSQUITOES

While they serve as a food source for other insects, as well as for birds and bats, mosquitoes sting humans indiscriminately and are potential virus carriers. It's the chemical substances released from our skin that attract them. Here's how to keep mosquitoes at bay: eliminate pools of stagnant water around your home, limit outdoor lighting, trim hedges and bushes (they like to congregate there). To soothe a mosquito bite, put ice on it or rub with a washcloth soaked in cold water and baking soda.



APHIDS

They love to munch on all plants: vegetables, flowers, shrubs. Fortunately, however, they're also the favourite food for ladybugs, parasitic wasps and crab spiders. Since the colour yellow attracts aphids, set out a yellow bowl full of soapy water in your garden or a sticky yellow cardboard box to trap them.



EARWIGS

They don't sting, bite or scuttle into your ears. While they can wreak havoc in the garden, they also feed on other nuisances like the aphids. If necessary, entrap them by using a shallow saucer or empty can placed at ground level, then drown the little buggers with soap suds.



FLIES

There are various types. Houseflies feed on liquids, preferably sweet. Blow flies, also called blue or green bottle flies, develop in manure and animal carcasses. Fruit flies, though tiny, can quickly overrun a kitchen. Black flies, found anywhere there's flowing water, feed on the blood of humans and cattle alike. Minute biting midges proliferate in decaying organic matter. Deer flies prey on wet human skin – swimmers and canoeists beware – and horseflies are a serious nuisance in the outdoors.

Because flies feed and reproduce on garbage, decaying matter and water, they are among the greatest carriers of disease. Cleanliness, like efficient disposal of trash, remains the best means of control.



SPIDERS

In our part of the world, spiders don't transmit disease. Having no stingers, they don't sting either. But they can bite. In addition to serving as a food source for certain animals, spiders can "help" your garden grow by feeding on earwigs, aphids, plant bugs and caterpillars. On the other hand, many humans are uneasy in their presence. To keep them at bay, frequently sweep and vacuum your house and basement. Seal and caulk all cracks and crevices. Remove wood piles or leaves around the foundation. Dislodge both spiders and webs off the exterior walls with a pressure washer.

Personal protection

You can protect exposed skin by applying a product labelled as an "insect repellent for use on humans." According to Health Canada, the proportion of DEET (diethyltoluamide) in such products should not exceed 30 percent for adults or 10 percent for children aged 1 to 12. It's advisable to apply repeatedly as required.

If you work in the garden, clothe yourself from head to foot, keeping your wrists, ankles and neck covered. Wear loose clothing that breathes, preferably pale in colour, and avoid scented shampoo, perfume or after-shave lotion. Scent your garden instead!



Ideally, the insect repellent should be applied over clothing and not directly on the skin.



SLUGS

Slugs are most active in the evening. You can start by attacking their habitat during the day: shady areas under rotten leaves and other garden debris. You can also "get" them at night – they will shine under your flashlight! Another trick is to lure them into a beer-filled cup or can buried at ground level where they'll drown. Or else simply let the toads eat them.



WASPS

An occasional wasp isn't such a bad thing – it consumes quite a few pests like caterpillars. On the other hand, a wasp nest needs to be dealt with promptly. Wait until dusk, when the wasps are back in the nest. Enclose it completely in a plastic bag, detach it from its location, then seal and freeze it before disposal.

► Consult our *Guide to Insect Pests* at CAAQUEBEC.COM.

POOLS AND SPAS

FOR SMALL BACKYARDS



No matter how small your backyard, nothing should stop you from creating your very own water park. The current rage for diminutive pools and spas makes sure of that.

BY JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

With the barbecue, the patio furniture, the swingset and playground, there's often not much space left in your yard for a full-sized pool, especially if you live in the city. That's why more and more manufacturers offer pool models specially adapted to limited spaces where people can relax, cool off and even swim. And mini pools are more ecological because they require less water and maintenance products than full-sized ones.

"Nowadays, you can find above-ground wood pools as small as 10 to 12 feet in diameter or in-ground ones measuring 8 feet x 16 feet, 9 x 30 or 10 x 20," says Vicky Lepage, sales and marketing manager at Concept Piscine Design. "For a small in-ground pool, the rectangular shape is very popular because it allows you to maximize the space." The only drawback is that

you must be able to transport all necessary machinery to the site.

Small-sized pools are built with the same materials as the standard-sized models: galvanized steel, concrete (with liner), resin and fibreglass. If money isn't a consideration, the 100-percent concrete pool is an option. Concrete is solid and durable, and with concrete you can have a pool custom-made to your specifications regarding dimensions, shape and depth. This type of pool can be in-ground, semi in-ground or above ground. There are drawbacks, however. Cleaning a concrete pool is more complicated and, to do it properly, you must empty the pool of water. You'll also need to regularly give it a coat of fresh paint.

That being said, a smaller in-ground pool isn't necessarily less expensive than a full-sized one. "Both involve the same construction process and installation often takes longer because the smaller-sized yard brings its own issues. However, durability is often superior and the value added to the resale price of your house is a consideration," says Alain Paquette of CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services.



INSURANCE

Once you've installed a pool or spa in your backyard, it's important to inform your insurance company so they can adjust the amount of coverage or add an endorsement, as the case may be. "The endorsement will cover damage caused to the structure, liner or other equipment," says Suzanne Michaud, CAA-Quebec Vice-President of Insurance. In fact, home insurance typically includes basic protection against water damage caused by a tear or breakage of your pool/spa, except in the case of freezing and/or thawing.

Mini hot tubs

Spa enthusiasts have not been forgotten: Most hot tubs can be installed in small backyards. But there are also models measuring 76 inches by 66 inches that hold two or three people and can fit into a relatively cramped spot like a balcony. "They are lighter, which makes it possible to install them if the structure permits," Lepage points out. An extra advantage is that you can use it year-round.

If you dream of doing laps or aqua-fitness training but can't accommodate a large pool, a swim or training spa may fit the bill. Designed so you can swim in place against a current, the swim spa also comes with anchors for installing training equipment like a rowing kit, resistance bands or exercise bars. "This type of spa is gaining popularity. But it's larger than a standard spa pool and consumes a lot of energy. The price is also higher," Paquette adds.

IF YOU NEED ADVICE ▶ contact CAA-Quebec Residential Advisory Services.

ENERGY- SAVING TIPS

Did you know that your pool or spa may be responsible for up to 70 percent of your summer electricity bill? That using a spa can cost up to \$500 per year? The following tips from Hydro-Québec will help lower consumption.

For a more efficient pool

- ▶ Install a timer to optimize the use of your single-speed pump. You can save up to 45 percent on water-filtration costs.
- ▶ Use a solar pool cover, especially overnight and even in warm weather. You can save up to 45 percent on water-heating costs.
- ▶ If your budget permits, choose an Energy-Star-certified pump with at least two speeds to maximize savings: up to 80 percent on filtration costs.
- ▶ Lower the thermostat of your heat pump by two degrees and you can save up to 25 percent on water-heating costs.



For a more efficient spa

- ▶ Make sure your spa is protected from strong winds and bad weather.
- ▶ Set the thermostat on standby mode if you don't plan to use the spa for a while.
- ▶ Choose a rigid, well-insulated cover and put it back on after each use to retain heat.
- ▶ Choose a spa with enhanced insulation and two separate pumps, including one with more than a single speed.

When it comes time to install your pump, contact an expert who will advise you on models and settings.



Safety tips for

driving at night

Driving at night is far more dangerous than in daylight. So be sure that the activity is absolutely essential. Do your headlights clearly illuminate the road ahead? Are you yourself visible? Here are our tips for safe driving in all seasons. / BY NADINE FILION

► SEE PAGE 1 FOR COVID-19 DETAILS.

1 BE VISIBLE

Make sure all car lights – inside, outside, front and rear – are functional.

Note: In Canada, daytime running lights are always on, but not the taillights. So be certain to switch them on at dusk to ensure your visibility. But change is coming: Starting with the 2021 model year, taillights on new vehicles will automatically turn on at the same time as daytime lights or at dusk. If they don't, the dashboard lights will indicate the discrepancy by staying dark as well.

2 BEWARE OF WORN-OUT HEADLIGHTS

If you drive an older vehicle, your headlights may have dimmed without you being aware of it. Lens covers are often damaged by bad weather, abrasives and debris on the road, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the headlights they protect.

Because wear and tear occurs gradually, the loss of brightness isn't obvious, especially if you drive in the city. But a CAA-Quebec study has revealed that the driver of a vehicle with damaged lenses, travelling at 40 kilometres an hour on a dimly lit suburban road, loses six seconds of reaction time in an emergency. In other words, with proper headlights, the driver would have spotted an obstacle as much as 60 metres sooner.

This problem affects one out of three vehicles in Quebec. So, how do you fix it? Remedies are readily available on the market, but the results are mixed. A good option is to have the lenses polished by a specialized company that's part of the CAA-Quebec AARS network. Generally, prices are reasonable.

CAA-QUEBEC MEMBERS ► Get 3 percent back in CAA Dollars on your total bill (before taxes) for all maintenance and repair work at any CAA-Quebec Approved Auto Repair Services (AARS) facility.

3 TOO MUCH LIGHT?

Tempted to fit your headlights with xenon high-intensity bulbs? Be careful, cautions Sylvain Légaré, CAA-Quebec Automotive Research Analyst. “Your car’s optical block has mirrors that project light at a certain angle and to a certain distance, and it is designed to work with a specific light bulb. If you use a different kind of bulb, you’ll risk blinding other road users and even be liable to a fine if a police officer decides that the glare from your headlights is too intense.”

In fact, according to the Highway Safety Code, effectively blinding other drivers is subject to a \$60 to \$100 fine plus costs. Furthermore, Article 425 of the Code states that when the driver is less than 150 metres from a vehicle approaching in the opposite direction or behind another vehicle, he must switch from high-beam headlights (with an illumination range of up to 150 metres) to low beams (45 to 75 metres).

If you’ve never replaced your bulbs but have often had oncoming drivers flash their headlights at you, that’s probably because yours need adjustment. This can sometimes happen even with a brand-new car, but it more often occurs in an older vehicle that has been involved in an accident. See your mechanic or other professional who’s equipped with precision tools and can deal with the situation.

4 COMMON-SENSE PRACTICES

At night, use highways and avoid two-way roads because the close proximity of approaching cars can increase the glare problem. If you have no choice, drive more slowly since darkness reduces your field of vision. Look beyond the range of your headlights, understanding that distances are difficult to gauge in the dark. Move your eyes from side to side on the lookout for nocturnal animals.

If a car approaches, even if it’s still some distance away, look toward the right side of the road to avoid being blinded, and follow the lane markings.

If oncoming traffic blinds you, you can flash your headlights to alert drivers so they can switch from high to low beams. At the same time, though, don’t be too aggressive as low beams on some newer vehicles are super bright (luxury cars, in particular, often sport powerful LED headlights).



LOOK BEYOND THE RANGE OF YOUR HEADLIGHTS, UNDERSTANDING THAT DISTANCES ARE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE IN THE DARK.

Additional tips

- ▶ Keep a comfortable distance from the car ahead.
- ▶ If in doubt, don’t try to pass.
- ▶ Make good use of the “day/night” mode of the central rear-view mirror.
- ▶ Keep your car windshield and mirrors clean.
- ▶ Don’t put objects on the dashboard as they may reflect on the windshield and disrupt your vision.
- ▶ Wax the windshield (for example, with Aquapel) to repel raindrops and slush, ensuring good visibility in bad weather.
- ▶ If the windshield is chipped or cracked, replace it.
- ▶ Replace wipers once a year – for example, when installing winter tires.
- ▶ Dim the dashboard lights and the central touch-screen display (if such adjustment is not automatic) to minimize eye fatigue. Make these adjustments at a rest stop.
- ▶ Avoid consuming alcohol and be careful with medication. Also, be doubly vigilant about impaired drivers who, unfortunately, are more numerous at night.



We were there for them and we'll be there for you.

On March 1, Yves B. and his wife took off for a month-long getaway in beautiful Costa del Sol, Spain. But fun and relaxation soon gave way to rising concern in the face of a major global health crisis. Yves called CAA-Quebec Travel to arrange for an early return. Their counsellor bent over backwards to get the travellers back as quickly as possible. Mission accomplished! They made it home safe and sound—and very relieved.

“I want to commend our counsellor for being so patient and professional. Without her, we'd still be in Spain. Thank you!”

— Yves B., Lévis

COVID-19 had a cataclysmic impact on the travel industry. With time of the essence and people's health at stake, our dedicated travel counsellors worked around the clock assisting members with trip and cruise cancellations and repatriating thousands of travellers—like Yves and his wife—from all around the world.

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Travel

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CYCLISTS, FOLLOW THE ROAD...

...AND THE NEW BIKING RULES

Changes to Quebec's Highway Safety Code spell out very specific guidelines for cyclists.

BY NADINE FILION

► SEE PAGE 1 FOR COVID-19 DETAILS.

The Quebec Highway Safety Code (HSC) has undergone the most sweeping reform since the creation of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ). All road users are affected, and cyclists in particular. Ten percent of the new measures directly concern them, including the following regulations:

- If permitted by a municipality (shown on signage), cyclists may ride on the sidewalk.
- Cyclists cannot consume alcohol while riding their bicycles. (Fines range between \$80 and \$100.)
- Cyclists must obey all traffic signs and signals, including stop signs, even if the way is clear.
- Cyclists must stop at least five metres away when a school bus transporting children has switched on its flashing lights.
- Cyclists must ride as close as possible to the right side of the roadway, "taking into account the condition of the roadway and the risk of car dooring."
- The safe driving distance between a bike and a car is 1.5 metres on roads where the speed limit is more than 50 kilometres per hour, and 1.0 metre where the speed limit is 50 kilometres or less. (Drivers of road vehicles must maintain these same distances when passing a cyclist or pedestrian.)

With the HSC reform, fines have tripled to \$128 (including fees) regardless of the offence. However, demerit points no longer apply to cyclists.



Until the HSC reform, cyclists crossed intersections on the pedestrian walk signal – provided they got off and walked their bikes to do so. Since the reform, they can ride across the intersection during the allotted period. But they must first stop to give priority to pedestrians who are already in, or about to enter, the intersection. Only then will it be the cyclist’s turn to proceed, riding at a “reasonable and prudent speed.”

Looking out for the most vulnerable

A perennial road-sharing issue is the conflict that often occurs at intersections among motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. The burden of prudence now falls equally on cyclists as well as motorists toward “vulnerable road users.” This applies to all pedestrians, even those who make illegal diagonal crossings or have their eyes glued to their cellphones.

A constant feature

Visibility remains the keystone for bicycle safety. CAA-Quebec recommends equipping your bike with active lighting (a white light facing forward and a red light facing backward) at all times.

ACCORDING TO THE SAAQ, HELMETS ARE THE BEST SAFETY ACCESSORIES FOR CYCLISTS. BUT WEARING ONE IS STILL NOT MANDATORY EXCEPT FOR THOSE RIDING ELECTRIC BIKES.

Did you know?

Legally, your bike must display at least six reflectors. That was the case before the recent reform and still is today. Now, however, you may also use reflective strips applied to the tires or rims. Also, white and red lights in front and back, respectively, are mandatory for night riding – both may be flashing.

If you run into a problem when out riding, contact CAA-Quebec Bike Assist. To know what to do in case of an accident, read our article “Bikes and insurance: for your ride to go smoothly” on CAAQUEBEC.COM.

CAA-QUEBEC MEMBERS ▶ get a 10-percent discount on a one-year subscription to BIXI.

Zigzagging is a no-no

Until now, the HSC prohibited cyclists from riding between two lanes of moving cars. This is now permitted, but only for those cyclists heading straight in an intersection with a lane reserved for right turns.

The new measure permits cyclists to leave the bike lane (on the right-hand side of the road) in order to continue straight – carefully – by riding on the left side of vehicles making a right turn. By riding with the flow of traffic, cyclists no longer have to zigzag at the last minute in front of vehicles that are preparing to make a right turn.

That being said, some cyclists may feel vulnerable being sandwiched between two lanes of moving cars. That's why many cities have already implemented so-called bike boxes (known as "sas vélos" – bike zones – in Montreal), which are road markings at the head of a lane at traffic-light intersections. Once inside that space, cyclists are visible and can safely wait for the light to turn green.



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FLASHERS
Before exiting, activate the flashers to signal your intention to make a right turn.

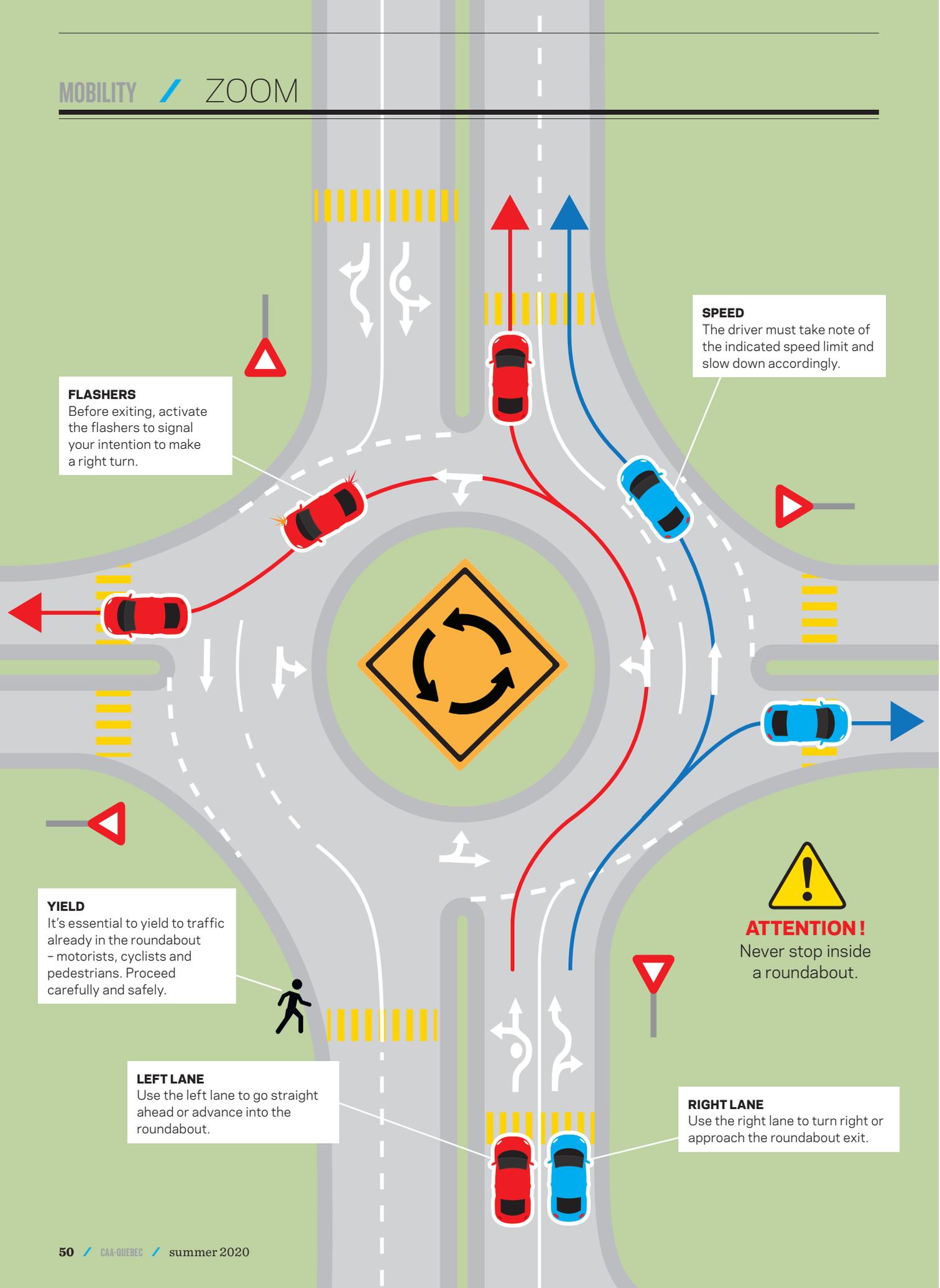
SPEED
The driver must take note of the indicated speed limit and slow down accordingly.

YIELD
It's essential to yield to traffic already in the roundabout - motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Proceed carefully and safely.

ATTENTION!
Never stop inside a roundabout.

LEFT LANE
Use the left lane to go straight ahead or advance into the roundabout.

RIGHT LANE
Use the right lane to turn right or approach the roundabout exit.



ROUNDAABOUTS 101

Roundabouts are on the rise in the province. As of June 2019, there were no less than 173 of them, 67 of which were developed by Transports Québec.

BY VINCENT AUBÉ

There's no disagreement: Roundabouts are considered safer, cause less bottlenecks, and are cheaper to maintain than traditional intersections with traffic lights. Omnipresent in Europe, these circular junctions aren't as widespread in North America, which partly explains why at least some Quebec motorists still haven't figured out how to properly navigate them.

Asked about this, CAA-Quebec road-safety trainers Augustin Boutin and Daniel Fortier cite confusion on the drivers' part, especially among an older generation who grew up with rotaries or traffic circles where you had to yield to those who wanted to merge in. In fact, drivers here often rely on their theory training or a driving simulator to hone their roundabout skills.

But roundabouts are not going away, so we might as well get used to them. And it's thanks to them that the number of recorded road accidents has dropped and, as a consequence, bottlenecks in such areas are on the wane. Traffic accidents causing death have decreased by 87 percent, and those causing injury by 63 percent.

Source: Quebec Ministry of Transport

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VanLife

VAN CONVERSION

Living the VanLife style is possible, but there are a few basic rules to follow to turn your van into a home on wheels. / BY NADINE FILION

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PROJECT!



The van life—a home on wheels—is part of the ecological movement and the tiny-home trend. And it’s all the buzz on social media, particularly on Instagram (#vanlife)! It also marks the return of the Volkswagen Westfalia from the Peace & Love era, but with a more modern look.

The VanLife phenomenon is gaining in popularity. In Quebec, companies like Safari Condo and New West started this movement some 20 years ago. Today, several companies offer the possibility of renting or buying VanLife-converted minivans. The excitement coincides with the democratization of the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter and the RAM Promaster, but it isn’t limited to these vehicles. The Dodge Grand Caravan is another vehicle used – its cabin is often “enhanced” with a rooftop tent. Prices range from a few thousand dollars for simple, hand-crafted conversions, to several tens of thousands of dollars for conversion kits that target energy efficiency. Some even cost as much as \$100,000 or more for luxury, travel-ready vehicles.

Does VanLife speak to you? Here are a few good tips from Simon-Pierre Déry, Engineer at the Direction générale de l’expertise légale et de la sécurité des véhicules of the Société de l’assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ).

Seats: strict conditions

No changes can be made to “automotive” elements covered by Transports Canada (TC).

If you’re only keeping the two front seats that are certified by the manufacturer, no problem. But if you’re thinking of adding seats to a commercial van that didn’t have any, be careful. Such seats must be installed by companies that are certified with the national safety mark given by TC. “Make sure the company you choose for this type of conversion – which can cost in the \$50,000 or \$60,000 range – is duly certified,” says Simon-Pierre Déry.

There’s no inspection necessary after the conversion. The SAAQ considers VanLife vehicles to be light vehicles. They don’t need to be recognized as motor homes, and are not subject to the obligations of heavy (or heavier) vehicles.

Moreover, note that, as part of a no-fault policy, the SAAQ will compensate the individual if a vehicle accident is considered as such by law. However, if a VanLife vehicle parked on a campsite gets damaged in an accident, it won’t be covered by the SAAQ.



MAKE SURE THE COMPANY YOU CHOOSE FOR ADDING SEATS TO A COMMERCIAL VAN IS DULY CERTIFIED.

Keep it light

“Ninety-five percent of VanLife vehicles are light vehicles, with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) under 4,500 kilos,” says the SAAQ engineer.

The GVWR, as specified on the label inside the doors, is made up of the vehicle’s net mass and its maximum payload. It’s a maximum weight determined by the manufacturer to ensure the purpose and safety of the vehicle.

However, when you start adding beds, dressers, appliances, a dining area, a sink, toilet, solar panels, and electrical connections to a van that already weighs somewhere around 2,500 kilos, the net mass is increased, and its payload, therefore, is decreased.

In short, the vehicle must stay under the 4,500-kilo limit. The more you add to the vehicle, the more you’ll have to limit in terms of clothing, food in the fridge, water in the tank, and the number of passengers.

Thinking of installing a rooftop cargo carrier? You’ll also need to calculate the weight of its content in order to respect the GVWR and the maximum weight the vehicle’s roof can support.

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Electricity and gas: leave it to the pros

Don't try to make any electrical or propane connections yourself. You might miss important information, such as the necessary distance between the power supply and mobile parts, and the distance between heat sources and the fuel tanks. Moreover, we recommend contacting your insurance representative or broker before making any changes to the original vehicle. There may be norms you need to comply with, and the insurer may not agree to the changes made if they present too big a risk.

Of course, new equipment needs to be approved for use in recreational vehicles: "People are creative – we've even seen wood-burning ovens in RVs! Tell yourself that not everything has its place in there," explains Déry.

He also mentions the importance of using fire-proof materials and of installing carbon monoxide and smoke detectors, as well as a propane detector, if necessary.



Brands that work

The company VanLife Mtl chose the RAM Promaster. After 30 or so van conversions in the last three years, owner David Vachon maintains and exclaims: "The RAM stands out as the most economical and versatile vehicle, while also featuring a simple engine – the V6 Pentastar by Fiat Chrysler." Other models are also making a successful VanLife conversion: in addition to the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter mentioned above, there is also the Chevrolet Express/GMC Savana or the Ford Transit. In fact, both Safari Condo and New West, pioneers in the matter, use one or several of these brands.

USEFUL INFORMATION

When buying a used van, whether or not it has already been converted to a VanLife vehicle, get it inspected in one of the 19 CAA-Quebec authorized inspection centres to know its mechanical condition. CAA-Quebec members get up to 25 percent off the cost of inspections.

REMEMBER ▶ Notify your insurer of any changes that may increase your vehicle's value, because the starting point of general insurance premiums is the value of the insured good.



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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AUTO FINANCING

Should you opt for the loan with zero-percent interest, the 96-month loan, or the cash discount? Before making up your mind, here's what you need to know about auto financing. / BY NADINE FILION

01 A car is expensive to own and drive Canada's leading auto analyst Dennis Desrosiers estimates it would cost \$100,000 to own and operate an "average" car over 15 years.

More than the cost of fuel, insurance and repairs, it's depreciation that's the budget killer: A car loses up to half its value after three to five years.

THREE TIPS SO YOUR SAVINGS WON'T BE SQUANDERED ON CAR DEPRECIATION:

- ▶ Buy brands that are known for reliability and lack of depreciation.
- ▶ Keep (and maintain) your car for as long as possible in order to amortize the investment.
- ▶ Opt for a used car because the previous owner(s) will have already absorbed most of the value depreciation.

02 Set a budget for your car - and stick to it

When the dealer offers an option for "only \$8 more per week," don't forget that this amount is set before taxes and interest. Also bear in mind that there are 4.3 weeks to a month, not just 4, which can make a huge difference if your habit is to calculate your budget on a monthly basis. To avoid this trap, find out the price of the option in question then compare it with the monthly amount times the number of payments stated in your loan contract. Furthermore, remember that the more high-end the vehicle, the greater its maintenance costs will be.



03 Compare financing your car to taking the cash discount

Now you've chosen the model, and the dealer offers an attractive financing rate. But don't get too excited just yet as car dealers also routinely offer a discount if you pay cash. It's essential to ask about the cash discount you may get on the sale price and then decide to finance or pay cash.

The real interest rate offered by the manufacturer can be figured based on the cost price – that means including all taxes and fees (for tires, air conditioner, vehicle preparation, administration and transport) – minus the cash-discount amount. Your best bet just might be to go to another source of financing (like a bank) for the cash that you will then use to obtain this discount from the dealer or manufacturer.

If there's an obvious difference between the rate advertised by the manufacturer and that invoiced, it may be more advantageous to opt for a traditional car loan or a credit line. As a general rule, configurations offered by manufacturers on their websites are a good basis for comparing different financing options – for example, by modifying rates and terms or factoring in taxes or not.

Online calculators offered by finance firms can be practical tools. CAA-Quebec Automotive Advisory Services is another go-to resource.



04 Say no to seven- or eight-year financing

Financing over seven or eight years (84 or 96 months) means smaller monthly payments, but CAA-Quebec advises against choosing a term longer than five years. Does anyone really want to pay for an aging car whose manufacturer warranty has expired and which will probably require repairs?

This is a particular problem for models that depreciate faster than the capital repayment rate. If you must sell your car before the end of the loan term, you'll be ensnared in the so-called balloon debt cycle. In other words, the unpaid balance will probably be added to your second car loan, compounding interest charges and likely encouraging you to choose an even longer loan term to maintain affordable monthly payments. Don't even think about it!

05 Look beyond the monthly payment

You need to consider the entire transaction, not just the monthly payment. Generally speaking, the shorter the term you choose, the lower the interest rate will be. And while a shorter loan term does come with higher monthly payments, it also leads to lower interest charges.

Here's what CAA-Quebec suggests in its online *Buying or Leasing My Car* guide: "You're not buying numbers, incentives or bonuses, you're buying a car. Boiling everything down to a monthly payment [as noted above] won't tell you much about the total amount you'll finally pay. Some 'easy' payment plans end up costing more in the long run." Consult the guide on CAAQUEBEC.COM.



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2020 FORD EDGE

PRICE: \$38,149 to \$58,149

PROS: Pleasant steering, good balance between comfort and handling, roomy interior, meticulous fit and finish, automatic emergency braking standard, powerful engine (ST).

CONS: Transmission stiff when cold, lacklustre 2.0-litre engine, poor visibility, compromised driving position, uncertain reliability.

► Ford submitted the second generation of its popular Edge to a mid-cycle refresh in 2019. In addition to the usual esthetic touches, a new eight-speed transmission has been added. The Edge also became the first Ford SUV with an ST version, inspired by the manufacturer's sports line. With its powerful twin-turbo V6, it's now the only six-cylinder model in this line: the other models all use the 2.0 litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine, a standard feature since 2015.

The Edge bridges several trends in its segment. Less adventurous than a Jeep Grand Cherokee and less "truck" than a Honda Passport, it's more refined than a Hyundai Santa Fe and roomier than a Nissan Murano. It offers good road handling, but for an Edge that really surprises, you have to opt for the gleaming ST version. Regardless of version, the reliability leaves something to be desired, which is the main concern with this generally well-built model.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2.0-litre turbo, direct-injection 4-cylinder (250 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 8-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: 12°C to 24°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 10.1 L/100 km

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE

PRICE: \$32,940 to \$55,340

PROS: Well-adapted V6, comfortable suspension, well-soundproofed cabin, efficient all-wheel-drive systems, high towing capacity, logical controls.

CONS: High price, body lean in turns, noisy and jerky turbo engine, vague steering, small trunk, unproven reliability.

► The Cherokee was up for a partial remake in 2019 after five years with no major change. In addition to a redesign of the front and rear, Jeep is listing a host of additional trims, along with a new 2.0-litre turbo four-cylinder that adds close to \$1,000 to the price of the V6 model. Already one of the few compact SUVs offered with three distinct all-wheel-drive systems, the Cherokee now casts an even wider net in what is still a booming segment.

Fiat Chrysler likes to travel its own path, and the Cherokee is proof. Do you want the smoothness of a V6, or a compact vehicle that can tow more than 3,500 pounds? Jeep has one of the very few products that can adequately meet your needs while providing acceptable comfort and genuine off-road capabilities. For thousands of dollars less, however, a number of competitors can deliver more agility, versatility, safety, frugality, reliability – and superior resale value to boot.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2.0-litre turbo, direct-injection 4-cylinder (270 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 9-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: -15°C to 0°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 11.1 L/100 km





2020 KIA FORTE5

PRICE: \$23,890 to \$31,890

PROS: Roomy cabin, excellent equipment-price ratio, commendable controls, good transmissions, enjoyable GT model, accessible driver assistance systems.

CONS: Tepid base engine, firm rear suspension (EX), perfectible front seats (EX), turn signal and back-up lights susceptible to damage.

► The Forte hatchback is back in Kia's Canadian lineup after a one year hiatus. The Forte5 gets the same treatment that renewed the styling, cabin, platform and engine of the sedan in 2019. The 2020 model-year also marks the return of a turbocharged engine in a new, top-of-the-line GT model in both body styles. It is worth noting that the hatchback is not available to U.S. buyers, regardless of the engine.

What does the Forte5 add to the already competent sedan? A healthy shot of styling, naturally, but above all, a huge dose of versatility. Few hatchback compacts can offer as much cargo space while maintaining a highly agile format. For many motorists, the generous equipment will offset the uninspiring drive. Others who do not want to sacrifice driving enjoyment can opt for the sporty GT.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2.0-litre 4-cylinder (147 hp)

TRANSMISSION: Continuously variable automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: Front-wheel drive

FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA): 7.1 L/100 km

2020 MAZDA CX-30

PRICE: \$26,900 to \$36,250

PROS: Practical size, well-adapted 2.5-litre engine, dynamic drive, good sound insulation for the segment, attractive cabin.

CONS: Tight rear seating, narrowness of trunk, advanced safety systems unavailable on base model, restricted rear visibility, over-cautious blind-spot alert.

► It's official: Mazda's lineup comprises more SUVs than cars with the arrival of the CX-30, which slots between the subcompact CX-3 and the compact CX-5. The CX-30 shares the drivetrains, platform and many of the concepts of the most recent Mazda3 Sport, unveiled in the spring of 2019. But it is not just a lifted copy (think Subaru Crosstrek relative to the Impreza hatchback). In profile, cabin and dimensions, Mazda's new crossover has an identity all its own.

Is Mazda splitting hairs with the CX-30? Absolutely not; it is offering a very up-to-date, mechanically proven product with all the qualities necessary to take on the competition, with refined finish and dynamics as a bonus. In the end, it's the CX 3 that stands to lose the most at the hands of the new arrival: for a slightly higher price, the CX 30 offers much more, especially in terms of versatility and refinement.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2.5-litre, direct-injection 4-cylinder (186 hp)

TRANSMISSION: 6-speed automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: -12°C to 5°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 11.1 L/100 km

FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA): 8,7 L/100 km





2020 MITSUBISHI RVR

PRICE: \$24,898 to \$36,348

PROS: Spacious cabin, practical trunk, manoeuvrability in the city, efficient all-wheel drive, proven mechanical components.

CONS: Outdated controls, underdeveloped touch screen, driving position needs work, noisy ride, obtainability of advanced safety systems.

TESTED MODEL

ENGINE: 2.4-litre 4-cylinder (168 hp)

TRANSMISSION: Continuously variable automatic with manual mode

DRIVETRAIN: All-wheel drive

TEST TEMPERATURE: -14°C to -4°C

TESTED FUEL ECONOMY: 9.4 L/100 km

► The launch of the RVR in 2011 cleared the way for the subcompact SUV category. Since then, nearly every automaker has added one to their lineup, while the RVR soldiered on largely unchanged. A remake for 2020, even a partial one, is therefore welcome news. Changes include a new touch screen, revamped trims and, naturally, updated styling. Mechanically, it's mainly business as usual, apart from the addition of optional all-wheel drive for the base model.

Despite this slight breeze of change, the RVR is showing its age. The big guns of the segment – Hyundai Kona, Subaru Crosstrek and the new, and very able Mazda CX 30 – are all more modern than Mitsubishi's pioneer SUV. But the RVR still stands out for its versatility, exceptional reliability and unmatched warranty. Pragmatic buyers not preoccupied by the latest trends should take note.

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