



THE LAURENTIANS' ONLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER SINCE 2001

ARUNDEL • BROWNSBURG • GRENVILLE • HARRINGTON • HUBERDEAU • LACHUTE • LAKEFIELD • MILLE-ISLES • MONT-TREMBLANT  
MORIN-HEIGHTS • STE-ADELE • STE-AGATHE • ST-ADOLPHE-D'HOWARD • ST-SAUVEUR • VAL-DAVID • VAL-MORIN • WEIR • WENTWORTH

### BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Wondering what to do on your summer holiday but can't get away more than a few days at a time? Lots of folks are turning to mini vacations and 4-day weekends for down time. So where do you go that won't incur precious travel time and mega transportation costs but at the same time stretch your budget? There are possibilities - and not all that far from home. And sometimes we forget about some options because they are just so close to home.

Consider discovering the byways of the Laurentians on weekdays and avoiding the traffic to cottage country on weekends. The Mont-Tremblant Network of B&Bs and Small Inns ([www.bbtremblant.com](http://www.bbtremblant.com)) is pleased to invite you to its third "Open House" weekend along The Sunshine Route to be held on June 11-12, 2011. "What's different about this event" explained Serge Valois, coordinator of the event, "is that 19 of our local B&Bs and small inns are collaborating with more than 24 artists, artisans and local food producers to give visitors a taste of the wonderful hospitality and attractions this beautiful area has to offer. Simply drive the route (a special map is available) and stop at as many or as few of the venues as you wish. Participating B&Bs are offering discounted rates for the weekend and there are fabulous prizes to be won! So why not stay over to make the weekend extra special - you are sure to be welcomed with open arms!"

Visitors who take route 323 from Ottawa or Montebello can stop in St-Rémi d'Amherst for a hike along the Fire Tower trail (<http://municipalite.amherst.qc.ca/intro.html>), a short distance but well worth the detour. Continue to the next village of Brébeuf, an agricultural yet lovely cottage area along the Rouge River with its magnificent sandy public beach ([www.brebeuf.ca/brebeuf\\_plage.html](http://www.brebeuf.ca/brebeuf_plage.html)), an original covered bridge and in July, its handicrafts exhibit. From here you can take Chemin de la Rouge towards Huberdeau and visit the famous Calvary then cross the bridge to route 327 back towards Arundel and continue on 364/327 to White Road following the signs to Runaway Creek Farm at 5 Thompson Road East, famous for its organic produce including 80 varieties of heritage tomatoes. Swing back up route 327 North towards Tremblant and check out the Prud'homme covered bridge near Lac Maskinongé.

Depending on the time of day, at the junction of route 117, there are several possible choices. One can drive south to St-Faustin-Lac-Carré that has several attractions: B&Bs, hiking trails for you and your dog ([www.ctel.ca](http://www.ctel.ca)), a public beach and golf courses. Or to Lac Supérieur to visit Mont-Tremblant Park for a canoe trip down the Devil's River or try out the exciting Via Ferrata du Diable (best reserve in advance at <http://www.sepaq.com/pq/mot/fr/activitee.html>). There is also the Mont Elephant hiking trail directly behind the Auberge du Versant Nord at the intersection of Chemin Duplessis.

Circling back towards Tremblant Resort along Duplessis road, why not drop in at the Casino ([www.casinosduquebec.com/mont-tremblant](http://www.casinosduquebec.com/mont-tremblant)), take a cruise on the Grand Manitou on Lake Tremblant or visit the pedestrian village. You will want to explore "the other side of Tremblant" by visiting the original village of Mont-Tremblant complete with B&Bs, small inns and boutiques. Stop at the old train station art gallery and speak to the artists working on site or on Saturday mornings from July to October buy local produce at the town's outdoor market. Resto-Pub Au Coin located in the historic Hotel Mont-Tremblant is adjacent to the train station. For fishing enthusiasts take Chemin du Village to Chemin du Pont de Fer then to 158 Chemin du Lac Gélinas to visit NaturAventur fishing shop ([www.NaturAventur.com](http://www.NaturAventur.com)), a great place to book a fly-fishing lesson, purchase equipment or learn how to tie flies.

Discover the gardens, lodging and nautical activities surrounding the little village of La Conception located on the Rouge River as you meander along the Chemin des Tulipes towards Labelle where you will find an artisanal soap factory, La Savonnerie Sensoriel ([www.savonsensoriel.com/fr/accueil.php](http://www.savonsensoriel.com/fr/accueil.php)). Continue on towards the village of Labelle to Kayak Café where you can rent a canoe and meander down the Rouge River. Turning south on Route 117, take the first of the 3 exits that bring you to Downtown Mont-Tremblant. Along its streets and roads, discover quality lodging and talented artisans, particularly Raymond Phaneuf, a potter and his wife Estelle who fashion exquisite ceramics in their workshop on the corner of de Thuyas and Labelle streets or visit Suz-Art Boutique at 1302 rue de St-Jovite for art supplies and lessons. Yoga Tremblant offers 5 types of yoga classes at their locale at 761 rue de St-Jovite.

Between the mountain and downtown, the Domaine St-Bernard, <http://www.domainesaintbernard.org/english/welcome.html>, has wonderful hiking and walking trails, a lake for swimming and boating, the Wheeler Pavillion or a tepee in the woods on the Grande Allée to eat your picnic lunch, the Velan Astronomy Pavilion with its shows on Saturday evenings and restroom facilities. On the way back towards Downtown Mont-Tremblant/St-Jovite, how about a horseback ride at Gray Rocks Equestrian Centre on Labelle Street up the mountain off Lake Ouimet? Wonderful views from atop Sugar Peak where we used to ski.

Throughout the summer season a multitude of cultural and sports activities, events and festivals enrich the area (<http://www.bbtremblant.com/en/What-to-do/events.html>) along with hiking trails, numerous golf courses, great bicycle trails for touring and even pilgrimage sites such as the famous Huberdeau Calvary. Year round our partner restaurants provide delicious meals for all sizes of budget. Go to [www.bbtremblant.com](http://www.bbtremblant.com) for a current listing.

For the cyclist, or anyone for that matter, who prefers not to drive, you can take a train from Montreal to St-Jerome where you can bicycle the P'tit Train du Nord linear park and wend your way to The Sunshine Route or take the transport services offered to let you and your luggage off at your starting point. ([www.transportduparcelinaire.com](http://www.transportduparcelinaire.com) or [www.lepetittraindu nord.com](http://www.lepetittraindu nord.com) both located at the train station in St-Jerome). You can also rent bicycles from several local shops to tour the routes laid out by the local bicycle club including the P'tit Train du Nord bike path that meanders through the area from St-Faustin to La Conception and beyond. 14 of our B&Bs access this terrific trail. There is a local bus service between St-Jovite, Mont Tremblant Village and the ski hill so that you can leave your vehicle at your B&B or small inn and save on parking especially during certain popular events like the Blues Festival July 8 to 17 or the Music Festival under the direction of Angèle Dubeau on Labour Day weekend, September 2 to 5. The Festival du Film Court (Short Feature Films) will be held August 5, 6 and 7 for which BBTremblant is the accommodation host.

After a day discovering the area, you can relax at your B&B, five of whom have access to a pool, ten of which have access to water (lake, river or stream). Besides our local restaurants that offer a wide variety of dining experiences, some with early-bird specials and others with reasonable priced table d'hôte menus, the Gîte de la Gare, Le Petit Marigot and La Petite Douceur also offer dinner to their guests. Some B&Bs provide kitchen privileges, others areas to eat al fresco.

BBTremblant members are located in six municipalities in and around the famous Tremblant ski resort. These diverse areas merit much exploring and even several trips during different seasons bringing a whole new dimension to each visit. So to start planning your next mini-vacation on a shoestring, go to [www.bbtremblant.com](http://www.bbtremblant.com). If you click on the Route des Soleils tab you will see that there are many artists, artisans, exhibits and workshops available year round but especially on the June 11th and 12th Open House weekend. The June edition of The Tremblant Express will have a map and listing of events along with a coupon to win one of three fabulous getaway packages. Deposit your coupon at any of the participating B&Bs you visit. The more B&Bs visited, the more chances to win.

A local vacation in your own backyard? Lots of activities, good food and easy planning? Short of pitching a tent beside your BBQ, you bet! Especially with [www.bbtremblant.com](http://www.bbtremblant.com) as your reference.

