



La Mauricie
National Park

2017 Visitor Guide



CANADA 150



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada

To celebrate **THE PAST AND THE FUTURE**

Celebrating an anniversary is an opportunity to express one's attachment at the right time in good company in a place that inspires you. This is what is on offer to you during the **150th Anniversary Celebrations of Canadian Confederation**.

Come and enjoy unlimited celebrations of our history and the spectacular natural beauty of the landscapes in La Mauricie National Park and throughout the Parks Canada network. Use your free **Discovery Pass** to explore these unique places that comprise our country's rich natural and cultural heritage.

In 2017, we offer you La Mauricie National Park as a gift. This is a dream opportunity to participate in our activities, discover a new area of the Park or simply enjoy nature's little hidden treasures. During this time, our team will continue to preserve and ensure the ongoing sustainability of this precious heritage for your enjoyment and that of future generations.

Looking towards the future, we are making unprecedented investments in infrastructure. We wish to thank you for your patience while this work is carried out. Since it is our constant concern to give you memorable experiences, we are working with our volunteers and partners to improve Park health, the services provided for you and the quality of our facilities.

Thank you for choosing La Mauricie National Park as a place to spend your best moments.

We hope you enjoy your stay with us!



Carole Loiselle
Superintendent, La Mauricie National Park

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our conservation mission	1
The Park's hidden treasures	2-3
Services	4
Accommodations	5
Map of the Park	6-7

Activities with naturalists	8
The naturalists.	9
Safety is everyone's business	10-11
Canada's 150th anniversary	12
Your Park is getting a makeover	13

Our conservation **MISSION**

150 LAKES, MORE THAN 150 YEARS OF HISTORY

We have long known that La Mauricie National Park's lakes and forests are a precious asset. But this natural treasure was not always a protected area. Starting in 1830, there was extensive logging of the Region's great white pine trees and other tree species.

To bring out the timber, logging companies built numerous dams and log-driving structures on the lakes and waterways.

During the log drives, thousands of logs washed up on the shorelines or sank to the bottom of many lakes. The abundance of pine trees is currently only a quarter of what it once was. There are many vestiges of forest logging practices left behind on Park lands.

Fortunately, however, the conservation team is working on Park lands in every sort of weather to improve the health of the forests and lakes in various ways.



For more than 25 years, the conservation team has been carrying out controlled burning every year to rejuvenate the forests and encourage the return of white pine trees. The team also dismantles dams and log driving structures under the close supervision of Parks Canada archaeologists and has removed more than 90,000 logs from the bottoms of lakes.

Picks and pikes still used today... 150 years later

Like the lumberjacks and log drivers who worked on Park lands nearly 150 years ago, the conservation team uses the same tools to manually remove thousands of logs along shorelines and in the water.

The cycle has come full circle : from log driving in the old days to log removal nowadays.

The Park's HIDDEN TREASURES

Discover unknown areas in
La Mauricie National Park.

TAKING IT EASY

(Saint-Mathieu area)

1. Give your little ones an introduction to hiking by taking them along the **Ruisseau Brodeur Trail** (1.4 km round trip).
2. Admire the majestic white pines when you get to the **Île-aux-Pins Lookout**.
3. Stop for a while at **Lac Alphonse** to have a snack or a big picnic.
4. Pretend you're the great explorers of old and observe the wildlife along the **La Cache Trail at Lac du Fou** (1 km round trip).

TAKING THE TIME

(Saint-Jean-des-Piles area)

1. Fall in love with the St. Maurice River as you look down from the **Baie-à-la-Pêche Lookout**.
2. Enjoy a lunch at the **Lac Édouard** canteen, then run to the beach.
3. Take a family photo against a backdrop of breathtaking scenery at the **Le Passage Lookout**.

STRETCHING YOUR LEGS

(Saint-Jean-des-Piles area)

1. Enjoy the great outdoors as a family as you make your way along the **La Cache Trail at Lac du Fou** (1 km round trip).
2. Make your way to **Lac Alphonse** for a family picnic.
3. Admire the magnificent scenery from the **Le Passage Lookout**.





Iles-aux-pins



PHOTO MARATHON

Be part of the story and share your best photos of the Park's hidden treasures and your discoveries by using [#MauricieNP](#)

Here are a few themes you can use when taking your photos :

- › *Around the campfire*
- › *Feet in the water*
- › *With Parka or with a naturalist*
- › *At the Le Passage Lookout*
- › *Wearing your lifejacket*
- › *Your picnic*
- › *Your favourite spot*
- › *Near a carnivorous plant*
- › *Your favourite discovery*
- › *The best view*

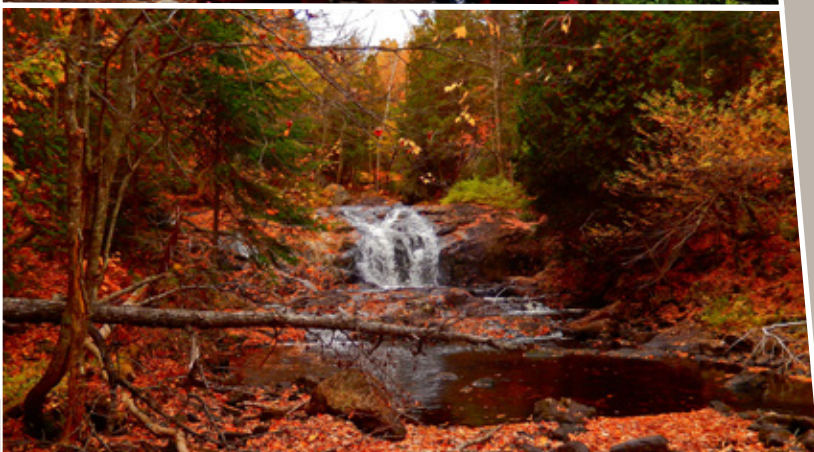


Lac-aux-Chevaux Lookout

RED CHAIRS

The famous Parks Canada red chairs await you. At the **Lac-aux-Chevaux Lookout**, at **Vide-Bouteille Point** and at the **Lac Rosoy Lookout**, you can sit on the red chairs to catch your breath after a long hike, contemplate the magnificent scenery and take a few pictures.

To share your photos, go to [#MauricieNP](#) [#sharethechair](#).



FALL COLOURS

With its vividly coloured landscapes, La Mauricie National Park is the perfect place for a fall hike. In 2017, enjoy the fall colours for an even longer time with the season extended to October 29.



facebook.com/mauricienp



[#MauricieNP](#)
[#sharethechair](#)

SERVICES



VISITOR RECEPTION CENTRES SAINT-JEAN-DES-PILES AND SAINT-MATHIEU

SAINT-JEAN-DES-PILES

May 18 to May 26

May 27 to September 4

September 5 to October 29

› **Friday** 9 am to 9:30 pm › **Other days** 9 am to 4:30 pm

› **Every day** 7 am to 9:30 pm

› **Friday** 9 am to 9:30 pm › **Other days** 9 am to 4:30 pm

SAINT-MATHIEU

May 18 to May 26

May 27 to September 4

September 5 to October 9

› **Friday** 9 am to 9:30 pm › **Other days** 9 am to 4:30 pm

› **Every day** 7 am to 9:30 pm

› **Friday** 9 am to 9:30 pm › **Other days** 9 am to 4:30 pm

RIVIÈRE-À-LA-PÊCHE SERVICE CENTRE

May 18 to October 29 › **Every day**



CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING

SAINT-JEAN-DES-PILES

From December 9, 2017 to March 31, 2018 › **Every day**

Ski trail conditions : info-nature.ca

819-538-3232



CANTEENS SHEWENEGAN PICNIC AREA AND SNACK BAR

May 18 to June 22 › **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 11 am to 4 pm

June 23 to Sept. 4 › **Every day** 11 am to 6 pm

Sept. 5 to Oct. 9 › **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 11 am to 4 pm

LAC ÉDOUARD PICNIC AREA AND SNACK BAR

May 25 to June 22

June 23 to September 4

September 5 to September 24

› **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 11 am to 4 pm

› **Every day** 11 am to 6 pm

› **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 11 am to 4 pm

WAPIZAGONKE PICNIC AREA AND CONVENIENCE STORE

June 22 to September 4

› **Every day** 8 am to 8 pm



FISHING

Register for the draw upon presentation of a mandatory piece of ID at the visitors' centres. May 27 to September 4 › Draw at 7 am



BOAT RENTALS

819-532-1234

www.locationcanot.com

SHEWENEGAN PICNIC AREA

May 18 to May 26

May 27 to September 4

September 5 to October 9

› **Friday** 9 am to 7 pm

› **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 9 am to 5 pm

› **Every day** 8 am to 8 pm

› **Friday** 9 am to 6 pm

› **Other days** 9 am to 5 pm

LAC ÉDOUARD PICNIC AREA

May 18 to June 16

June 17 to September 4

September 5 to October 9

› **Friday** 9 am to 7 pm

› **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 9 am to 5 pm

› **Every day** 8 am to 7:30 pm

› **Friday** 9 am to 6 pm

› **Other days** 9 am to 5 pm

WAPIZAGONKE PICNIC AREA

May 18 to May 26

May 27 to September 4

September 5 to October 9

› **Friday** 9 am to 7 pm

› **Saturday, Sunday and holidays** 9 am to 5 pm

› **Every day** 8 am to 8 pm

› **Friday** 9 am to 6 pm

› **Other days** 9 am to 5 pm



ACCOMMODATIONS



DOMAINE WABENAKI-ANDREW

Reservations : 1-819-537-4555 or at INFO-NATURE.CA

Located on the shore of a lake and offering a number of activities, the Domaine Wabenaki-Andrew welcomes visitors in the summer and winter. Whether travelling as a family or with friends, you will receive a friendly welcome and enjoy a comfortable stay in one of the two buildings of the Laurentian Club, formerly a prestigious hunting and fishing club in the 1930s.



SEMI-SERVICED CAMPGROUNDS

Reservations : 1-877-737-3783, from 8 am to 6 pm
or at RESERVATION.PARKSCANADA.GC.CA
Under the Frontcountry Camping tab

Commune with nature by staying in one of three of the Park's campgrounds that can accommodate tents, tent-trailers, trailers and motorized vehicles. Many services are provided for wooded sites.

- Fire pit
- Picnic table
- Drinking water
- Dumping station
- Service buildings equipped with washbasins, toilets and showers
- Firewood (\$)
- Three amphitheatres with evening entertainment
- Electricity (Rivière-à-la-Pêche and Mistagance)



CANOE-CAMPING

Reservations : 1-877-737-3783, from 8 am to 6 pm
or at RESERVATION.PARKSCANADA.GC.CA
Under the Backcountry Camping tab

Wilderness camping is the ultimate challenge for nature lovers. All sites are accessible by canoe; some, situated near trails, can be used by hikers and mountain bikers.



GROUP CAMPING

Reservations : 819-538-3232

Enjoy an unforgettable experience in a secluded spot on the shores of Wapizagonke Lake. The vast space and facilities offer everything you need to enjoy camping and your favourite activities.

RESERVED SOLELY FOR LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GROUPS.

- Kitchen shelters
- Picnic tables
- Drinking water
- Service building equipped with washbasins, toilets and showers
- Campfire pits
- Firewood and showers



PARKS CANADA oTENTik

Reservations : 1-877-737-3783, from 8 am to 6 pm
or at RESERVATION.PARKSCANADA.GC.CA
Under the Parks Canada Accommodations tab

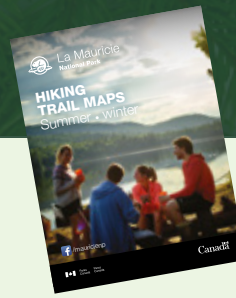
13 4-SEASON units are available at the Rivière-à-la-Pêche campground
12 3-SEASON units are available at the Mistagance campground
(mid-May to mid-October)

A cross between a tent and a rustic cabin, Parks Canada oTENTik tents offer a unique blend of homey comfort and a taste of outdoor adventure.

- INSIDE THE TENT**
 - 1 double bed with mattress (54-inch)
 - 3 side-by-side single beds with mattresses (39 inch)
 - Table and chairs
 - Wood stove
 - Dishes, cookware and utensils
- ON THE SITE**
 - Picnic table
 - A fire grate for campfires
 - Parking space
 - Firewood (\$)
 - Barbecue and utensils (propane included)



PICK UP A TRAIL MAP!



Key

- Parkway (63 km)
- Parkway closed (September 5th to October 9th 2017)
- Trail
- Multiple-use Trail
- National Trail
- Portage
- Portage over steeply sloping terrain

FACILITIES

- Kitchen shelter
- Lookout
- Heated shelter
- Launching ramp
- Lodge
- Interpretation Centre
- Amphitheatre
- oTENTik
- Large parking

SERVICES

- Visitor Reception Centre
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Vending machine
- Food service
- Boat rental
- Convenience store
- Shower
- Gift shop

Emergency Telephone 819-536-3180

- Accessibility to disabled people
- Wi-Fi

ACTIVITIES

- Picnicking
- Camping
- Group camping
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Portage
- Swimming
- Nature interpretation
- Trail bicycling
- Trails # 3 - 5 - 6A - 7 - 8 - 9 - 11
- Trail # 6 between Bouchard Lake and lac du Pimbina
- Primitive camping with fireplace
- Primitive camping without fireplace

WABER FALLS

SHEWENEGAN / ESKER



IMPORTANT

Certain portions of the Parkway will be closed for the



August 25, 26 and 27.

For information, go to PARKSCANADA.GC.CA/MAURICIE

Thank you for your understanding!

RIVIÈRE-À-LA-PÊCHE



RIVIÈRE-À-LA-PÊCHE SERVICE CENTRE



MEKINAC



BAIE-À-LA-PÊCHE



SAINT-JEAN-DES-PILES



Saint-Jean-des-Piles / 5 km

Grand-Mère / 17 km

Shawinigan / 24 km

ACTIVITIES

with






NATURALISTS

SUMMER / FALL 2017

SUMMER – FROM JUNE 24 TO AUGUST 27

DAY	TIME		ACTIVITY	DURATION	INFORMATION	MEETING PLACE
TUESDAY	3:00 pm		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet Parking Lot
	7:30 pm		Evening Programs	1 hour	Evening talks, quiz, special guests...	At the 3 amphitheatres
WEDNESDAY	10:00 am		150 Feet from the Beaver	2 hours	Discovery hike	Mekinac Parking Lot
	6:30 pm*		Rabaska at Dusk	2 hours	Observe wildlife during a rabaska canoe trip	Lac du Fou Parking Lot
	9:00 pm		Cool, a Nighttime Outing!	1:30 hours	Nighttime hike	Booth at the Wapizagonke Camground – La Terrasse Trail
THURSDAY	3:00 pm		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet parking lot
	6:30 pm*		Rabaska at Dusk	2 hours	Observe wildlife during a rabaska canoe trip	Shewenegan Picnic Area (canteen)
	7:30 pm		Evening Programs	1 hour	Evening talks, quiz, special guests...	At the 3 amphitheatres
FRIDAY	10:00 am		150 Feet from the Beaver	2 hours	Discovery hike	Mekinac Parking Lot
	10:00 am		Brain Teasers	1 hour	Games and quizzes for young families	Wapizagonke Amphitheatre
SATURDAY	3:00 pm		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet Parking Lot
	7:30 pm		Evening Programs	1 hour	Evening talks, quiz, special guests...	At the 3 amphitheatres
	9:00 pm		Cool, a Nighttime Outing!	1:30 hours	Nighttime hike	Booth at the Wapizagonke Camground – La Terrasse Trail
SUNDAY	1:00 pm		Brain Teasers	1 hour	Games and quizzes for young families	Shewenegan and Lac Édouard picnic areas

FALL – FROM SEPTEMBER 2 TO OCTOBER 8

THURSDAY	1:00 pm		150 Feet from the Beaver	2 hours	Discovery hike	Mekinac Parking Lot
FRIDAY	10:00 am		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet Parking Lot
SATURDAY	1:00 pm		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet Parking lot
	7:30 pm		Evening Programs	1 hour	Evening talks, quiz, special guests...	Rivière à la Pêche Service Centre
SUNDAY	11:00 am		150 Feet from the Beaver	2 hours	Discovery hike	Mekinac Parking Lot
	11:00 am		A Hike to the Bear's Domain	2 hours	Discovery hike	Lac Gabet Parking Lot

* 6:00 pm starting on August 2

Note : Activities are offered in French only. Our naturalists will be happy to answer your questions in English.

A Hike to the Bear's Domain

Now that the fine weather is back, the bear strays from its lair. Let's take advantage of this to take a peek in its vast domain.

Brain Teasers

Are you between the ages of 5 and 11 and looking to have nature-themed fun with your family? Naturalists will put you and your loved ones to the test. It is something to do for the young and young-at-heart!

Rabaska at Dusk

Observe wildlife during a Rabaska canoe trip and enjoy the mesmerizing calmness of the setting sun!

NB: A maximum of **30 places are allotted one hour prior to the activity**. A draw is held in the event of high participant turnout.

Cool, a Nighttime Outing!

Dare to go hiking in the forest, accompanied by a naturalist, to discover the fascinating world hiding behind the darkness of night.

NB: A maximum of 40 places are allotted **one hour prior to the activity**. A draw is held in the event of high participant turnout. Young children must be accompanied by an adult.

Evening Programs

Evening Talks, Quiz and Special Guests: An original way to make the most of your evenings and discover the Park's natural and cultural treasures.

150 Feet from the Beaver

Are you fascinated by these ingenious rodents? Come and discover the world of these tireless builders who have shaped the Park's landscape and made their mark on Canada's 150 years of history.



CANADA 150

PROGRAM

of

JULY, 1 2017

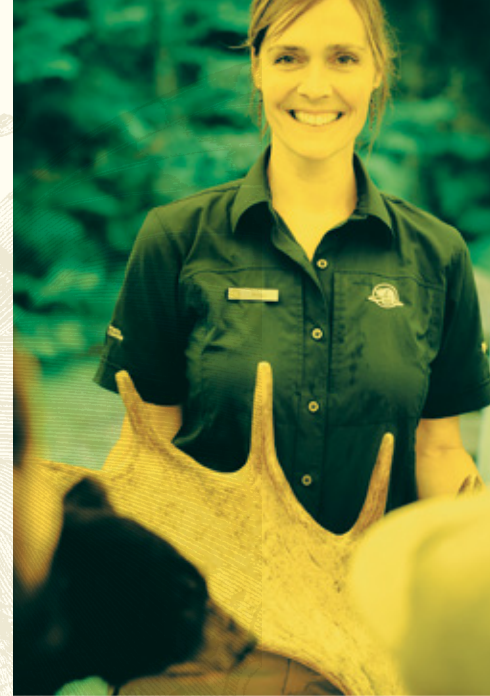
FOR CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Watch for signs in the Park with details of the full program.

DID YOU KNOW that the occupation of naturalist dates back a very long time ?

In the 16th century, the word "naturalist" already denoted a specialist in natural history. Even today, this term is used to refer to natural science specialists. At La Mauricie National Park, the team of naturalists, known as "interpreter-guides", is made up mostly of biologists who are eager to share their keen interest in and knowledge of the natural environment. They have prepared fascinating discovery activities for you to enhance your visit.

It's up to you to enjoy them to the full!



THE
NATURALISTS



SAFETY

is everyone's business

For a pleasant experience, plan your outing to ensure your safety. Visitors to the Park are responsible for their own safety; so they must be self-sufficient in the event of any emergency that may arise, as it may take a long time for help to arrive. Do not overtax your physical fitness level or that of your group.

Be prepared for any eventuality. A sudden change in the weather, an encounter with a wild animal or getting lost are a few examples of the risks inherent to forest activities. Feel free to ask for advice from Park employees: they will help you to properly plan your adventure.

AT ALL TIMES

- ▶ Choose an activity that suits your level of physical fitness or that of your group.
- ▶ Check the weather forecast.
- ▶ Make sure you have equipment appropriate to your activity, including a first aid kit.
- ▶ Give your itinerary and expected return time to a friend or next of kin.

KEEP IN MIND

Cellphone coverage is very limited in the Park.

YOU ARE IN BLACK BEAR COUNTRY

Black bears are opportunistic animals and will be attracted to poorly stored food and garbage.

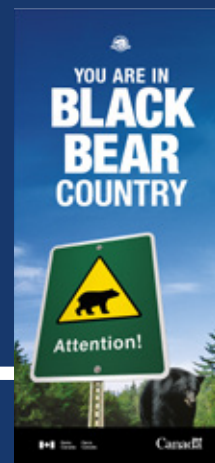
Be vigilant! Keep your food in the trunk of your vehicle and dispose of garbage in designated areas. If you are canoe-camping, store your waste and your food on the racks provided. Do not keep any food inside or in proximity to your tent.

If you meet a bear, stay calm and back away slowly. Give the bear lots of space and report the bear sighting to Park employees.

For more information, consult the *You Are in Black Bear Country* pamphlet.



Philippe Henry





CANOE AND KAYAK SAFETY

Are you planning to get out on the water?
To ensure your safety, follow the three point rule:

■ **PLANNING**

Inform someone of your itinerary. Check the upcoming weather conditions. Find out the characteristics of the waterway you wish to explore. Plan an outing that is appropriate to your skills and knowledge. Park employees will be glad to help you plan your outing.

■ **PREPARATION**

Be sure you have the necessary knowledge to manoeuvre your boat.

■ **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT**

Have your mandatory boating safety kit within reach. Wear your lifejacket and appropriate clothing.

Canoes are the ideal watercraft for adventure-lovers who want to explore the backcountry lakes. However, they are unstable and difficult to manoeuvre for inexperienced people.

The Park lakes are not monitored. Response times in emergencies may vary, depending on the location of the incident and weather conditions. Having the right equipment as well

as good planning and preparation will help ensure your safety.

Consider another activity if you don't know how to swim or don't have enough experience. Above all, avoid being on the water in adverse weather conditions (high winds or storms).



CANADIAN SKI PATROL™

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Canadian Ski Patrol, a proud partner of La Mauricie National Park, is always looking for new members:
www.opcsmauricie.com

To obtain general information on how to stay safe during outdoor activities, consult the AdventureSmart.ca website.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

call 819-536-3180 or use an emergency radio (see the map on pages 6 and 7)

CANADA

150



CANADA 150

LET'S CELEBRATE!

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, the Government of Canada invites Canadians to get closer to nature and learn more about their history. Get a Discovery Pass and discover free of charge not only La Mauricie National Park, but also **47 national parks**, **171 historic sites** and **4 marine areas** across Canada.

FORGES DU SAINT-MAURICE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

From June 17 to September 4, take some time out from your travels in the Mauricie Region to visit the Forges du Saint-Maurice National Historic Site, the site of Canada's first iron industry and first industrial village. Come and explore this fascinating, picturesque site on the banks of the St. Maurice River, and experience what it was like when the life of a whole community was centred on intensive iron production.

10000, boulevard des Forges
Trois-Rivières Québec G9C 1B1
819-378-5116

Mauricie
So close. So real.

OFFICE DE
TOURISME
FOIRES ET CONGRÈS DE
SHAWINIGAN



DISCOVER THE REGION

The vast region surrounding the Park features a host of activities for the entire family. If you want to extend your stay with us, you have so many choices!

See what the Mauricie Region has to offer at
tourismemauricie.com and shawinigan.com/tourisme

YOUR PARK IS GETTING A MAKEOVER

During your visit, you may come across work areas, reduced services and even temporary closings. In fact, the Government of Canada is making its biggest investment in Parks Canada infrastructure since the Agency was established to protect our cherished sites and ensure their long term sustainability.

At La Mauricie National Park, the funds invested in infrastructure for visitors will ensure the quality and reliability of Park services and enable you to get closer to nature. We wish to thank you for your patience and understanding.

Jean-Guy, Anthony and Mathieu working at the Isaïe Shelter.

Please visit our website to obtain up-to-date information on work in progress.

www.parksCanada.gc.ca/mauricie



Parkway closed for construction work

From September 5 to October 9, between the Wapizagonke picnic area and Lac Soumire (see crosshatched segment on the Park map on pages 6 and 7).

For more information, consult the *Today for Tomorrow* pamphlet.



Discover the magic of WINTER AT THE PARK!



With 160 km of marked trails in a natural setting, the park offers countless opportunities to discover the magic of winter while snowshoeing, hiking or cross-country skiing (classic or skating).

For a different winter experience, stay in an oTENTik tent or in one of the Domaine Wabenaki-Andrew buildings.



URGENCE: 819-536-3180

PARKS CANADA INFORMATION

1-888-773-8888 ou 819-538-3232
information@pc.gc.ca
parkscanada.gc.ca/mauricie

RESERVATIONS: oTENTik, CAMPING AND CANOE-CAMPING

1-877-737-3783
reservation.parkscanada.gc.ca

RESERVATIONS: DOMAINE WABENAKI-ANDREW

819-537-4555
info-nature.ca



SAINT-MATHIEU-DU-PARC Entrance

Highway 55, Exit 217
via Saint-Mathieu-du-Parc
Nad 83 UTM 18T
0655656 E 5168107 N
N 46° 38' 54,4" W 072° 57' 57,1"

SAINT-JEAN-DES-PILES Entrance

Highway 55, Exit 226
via Saint-Jean-des-Piles
Nad 83 UTM 18T
0670586 E 5177234 N
N 46° 43' 36,8" W 072° 46' 03,1"

