

Try Eastern Townships

BY STEVE AND CAROLINE LAKE
Special to the Record-Eagle

Just a 90-minute drive from Montreal, Quebec, one of Canada's major cities, lies the pastoral setting of the Eastern Townships' forests, lakes, rivers, rolling hills of farmland and historic villages nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The townships offer four national parks, golf, hiking, biking (310 miles of designated trails), horseback riding and zip lining through the treetops.

Some of the oldest and most lovely villages are North Hatley, Dunham, Sutton and Knowlton, which is known for its great discount stores. There also is a creek and bridge in back of the shops that is excellent for photos. There is much to enjoy in this area — museums, art galleries and lovely architecture.

On the outskirts of North Hatley is one of the great romantic inns, Hovey Manor.

Hovey Manor, built as a private summer estate, overlooks Lake Massawippi. The home was inspired by George Washington's estate in Mount Vernon, Va.

The mansion on 1,700 acres of lakefront was converted to an inn in 1950. In 1979 it was acquired by Stephen and Kathryn Stafford. The manor has been continuously upgraded while keeping all its original charm and grandeur.

Hovey Manor, a Relais Chateaux Inn, rests snugly among English gardens that roll gently to the lake. Unspoiled forest land and the lake scenery make it even more romantic and relaxing.

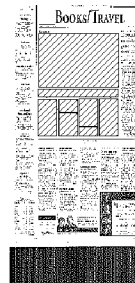
There are a swimming pool, tennis courts, biking, fishing, kayaking and cross

country skiing in the winter. The inn is open year round.

There are 35 rooms and five suites, most overlooking the lake with balconies and fireplaces.

The restaurant is magnificent. Allow about three hours for a gourmet dinner. Local produce and Quebecois ingredients are used in extraordinary ways. Breakfast and dinner are included in the price of the rooms.

Air Canada offers direct flights from many cities in the United States and Canada to Montreal. From Montreal it is a pleasant 90-minute drive to the Eastern Townships. Be sure to get good directions or utilize a GPS — the Manor sometimes can be difficult to find especially if you are arriving at night.





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**A view
of the
pool
and
lake
from a
room
at
Hovey
Manor.**