



## A pastoral setting

**Steve and Caroline Lake • Eastern Townships, Quebec • Published: May 17, 2011 4:55AM**

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.

Home to four national parks, the Townships offer golf, hiking, biking, 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 is also a creek and bridge in back of the shops that is excellent for photos. There is much to enjoy in this unique area, including museums, art galleries and lovely architecture.

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

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

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

A Relais Chateaux Inn, the manor rests snugly among English Gardens that roll gently to the lake. Unspoiled forest land and exquisite lake scenery make the Hovey Manor a perfect getaway for a romantic, relaxing time.

There is a swimming pool, tennis courts, biking, fishing, kayaking and cross country skiing in the winter. The inn is open year round.

The manor has 35 rooms and five suites, most overlook the lake and have spacious balconies and cozy fireplaces. Each guest room is individually and beautifully appointed with old world charm.

The restaurant at Hovey Manor is magnificent. Allow about three hours for dinner and experience a

gourmet meal to be savored. The abundant local produce and all of the finest ingredients to be found in Quebec are used in extraordinary ways that create the most unique culinary experiences. 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 and from Montreal it is an easy, pleasant 90 minute drive to the Eastern Townships. Get good directions or utilize a GPS, as the manor can be difficult to find - especially if you are arriving at night.



Hovey Manor, a Relais Chateaux Inn, rests snugly among English Gardens that roll gently to the lake. photos courtesy of Hovey Manor (Courtesy of Hovey Manor)

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