

Cultural on foot

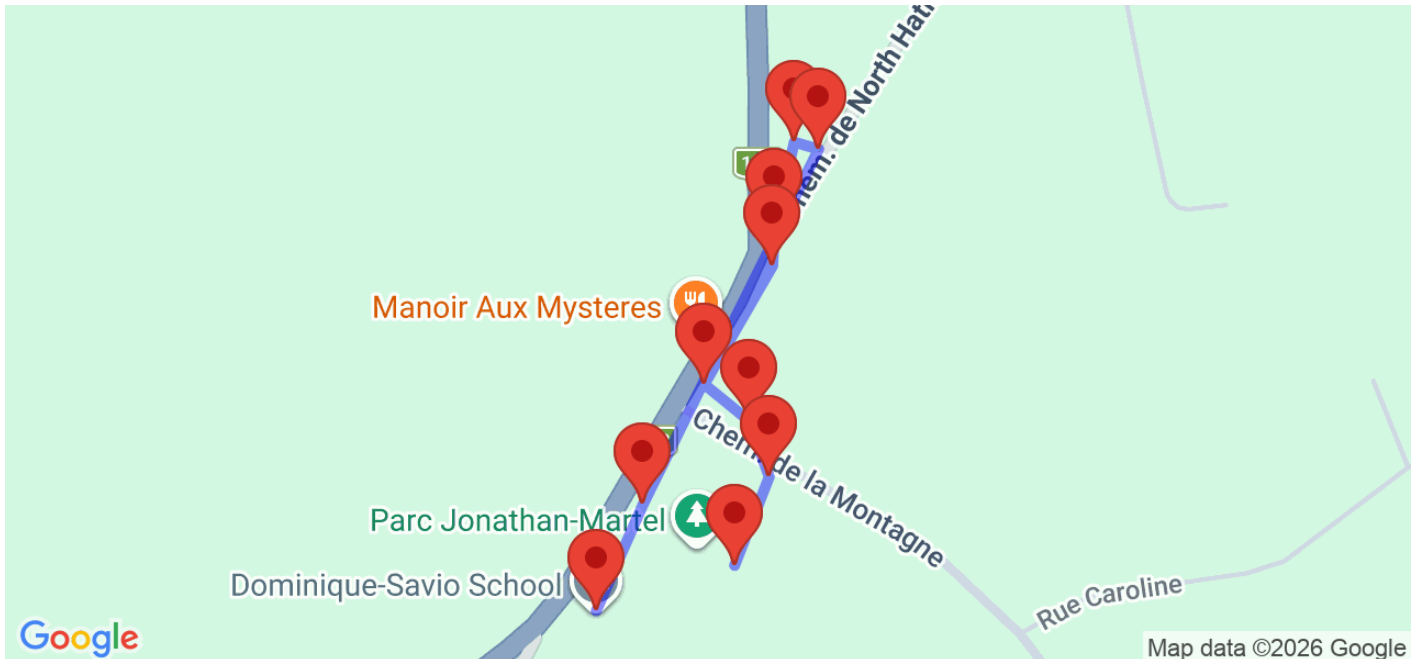
## Circuit découverte: le coeur villageois de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

Explore Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley at your own pace through a circuit of 10 stops marked by interpretive panels that highlight its rich heritage, captivating history, and exceptional landscapes.

**Difficulty**  
Easy

### Starting location

Chalet des loisirs  
[85, rue de la Grande, Sainte Catherine de Hatley \(QC\) J0B 1W0](#)



\*Please note that this is not an accurate itinerary. For navigation purposes please refer to Google Maps or the [preview map on the website](#).

## Itinerary

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### Cultural

## Le chalet des loisirs

This space has always been a gathering place for the community. Traditional activities such as shooting competitions, horse racing, snowshoe baseball, and broomball tournaments have taken place here. Today, this area offers an ice rink, tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts, as well as cross-country ski trails. There's something for everyone!

### Address

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### Services

- Rest area
  - Parking
  - Restrooms
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## Cultural

## Parc Jonathan-Martel

Jonathan Martel, who passed away in December 2014 at only 36 years old due to multiple sclerosis, became the inspiration behind the *Défi des Collines*, an annual race organized by Patrick Mahony to raise funds to fight this disease. In September 2014, Jonathan emotionally presented the very first trophy bearing his name. The municipality dedicated this park to him in tribute to his exemplary courage.

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## Cultural

## La vie économique de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

Founded on December 7, 1913, the *Caisse populaire de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley* long held a central place in the village's economic life. Numerous shops and businesses revolved around it, some still in operation today, others now gone: a general store, forge, cheese factory, inn, crêperie, convenience store, and the village restaurant. Today, its former building houses the *Atelier de vitrail des Collines*, a cultural space born from a wonderful community initiative.

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## Cultural

## La culture à Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

For decades, the enchanting landscapes of Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley have inspired artists and creators. Between rolling green hills, lakes, and exceptional scenic views, the municipality has developed a rich and vibrant cultural identity.

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## Cultural

## Un héritage religieux et patrimonial

Spiritual life has been present since 1845, when the first masses were held in a village home. In 1847, a first chapel was built, followed by a small church in 1870, and then a larger one in 1908, overlooking the region from atop its hill. Sold in 2024 after more than a century of history, the church marks the end of religious practice in the municipality.

The current cemetery, in use since 1846, remains an emblematic site offering a remarkable view of the region. It is one of the few visible places of remembrance among the several cemeteries that once existed in the area.

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## Une histoire d'évolution et de résilience pour Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

Since its beginning, the population of Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley has continued to evolve, despite the rural exodus of the early 20th century. In January 1930, a fire broke out in the village during Sunday Mass: the priest interrupted the service to mobilize the parishioners, who attempted to extinguish the flames using shovels and snow. In July 1946, a second fire destroyed the western part of the village, leaving around forty people homeless. Each time, the solidarity of the residents was exemplary: less than a year after the last disaster, the village had been completely rebuilt.

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## Cultural

## Wilfrid Laurier Park

Wilfrid Lareau Park, located on the grounds of the Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley Town Hall, offers a resting area and a view of the mountains, cultivated fields, wooded areas, and hills to the west, in addition to a bike repair station.

The park is named in honor of Wilfrid Lareau's commitment to the community. In 1926, he temporarily welcomed the nuns who had just arrived in the village. In 1937, he built with his own hands the roadside cross at the entrance to the village, using wood he had purchased himself. This symbol of faith and community dedication was acquired by the municipality in 1986.

**Duration**

10 min

**Dogs**

No dogs allowed

**Address**

[35 North Hatley Road, Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley](#)

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## Cultural

## Naissance et leadership municipal à Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

Founded in 1901 under the leadership of Olivier Martin, Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley has been guided by dedicated mayors who have contributed to its development. Jacques Demers, mayor for more than two decades, holds a record for longevity in this position. Gilles Boisvert, mayor from 1996 to 2005, distinguished himself through his commitment to local history, publishing in 2025 the work *Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley: From Yesterday to Today*.

**Address**

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## Cultural

## La salle communautaire de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

Built in 1904, this hall has been an essential gathering place for more than a century. In its early days, it even housed a stable on the ground floor for visitors' horses! Renovated in 1948 and rebuilt in 2009, it now hosts elections, a Christmas market, exhibitions, and cultural activities, in addition to private gatherings.

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## Cultural

## Les écoles de Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley

In the mid-19th century, children in Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley attended small schools spread across different areas of the territory. By 1861, there were already six schools, most of them English-speaking. The first French-language school opened in 1868 in the village chapel, which served both as a place of worship and a classroom. Over the years, several rural schools were established. Since the construction of Dominique-Savio School in 1959, expanded in 1984, education has continued at the heart of the community.

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