

1938

TEN
TOURETTES
IN AND AROUND
MONTREAL



Easy Motor Runs Through Picturesque
Countrysides to Points of Scenic
and Historic Interest



**The Montreal
Tourist and Convention Bureau**

Incorporated

NEW BIRKS BUILDING
PHILLIPS SQUARE
MONTREAL

MONTREAL, its environs and the surrounding district lend themselves admirably to miniature motor tours, each easily accomplished in a morning or afternoon run, which are productive of keen enjoyment and agreeable instruction for visitors to the metropolis, and a week or more may be pleasantly and profitably devoted to such explorations of the numberless places and points possessing historical, romantic or scenic interest to be found in the city itself or within a forty-mile radius.

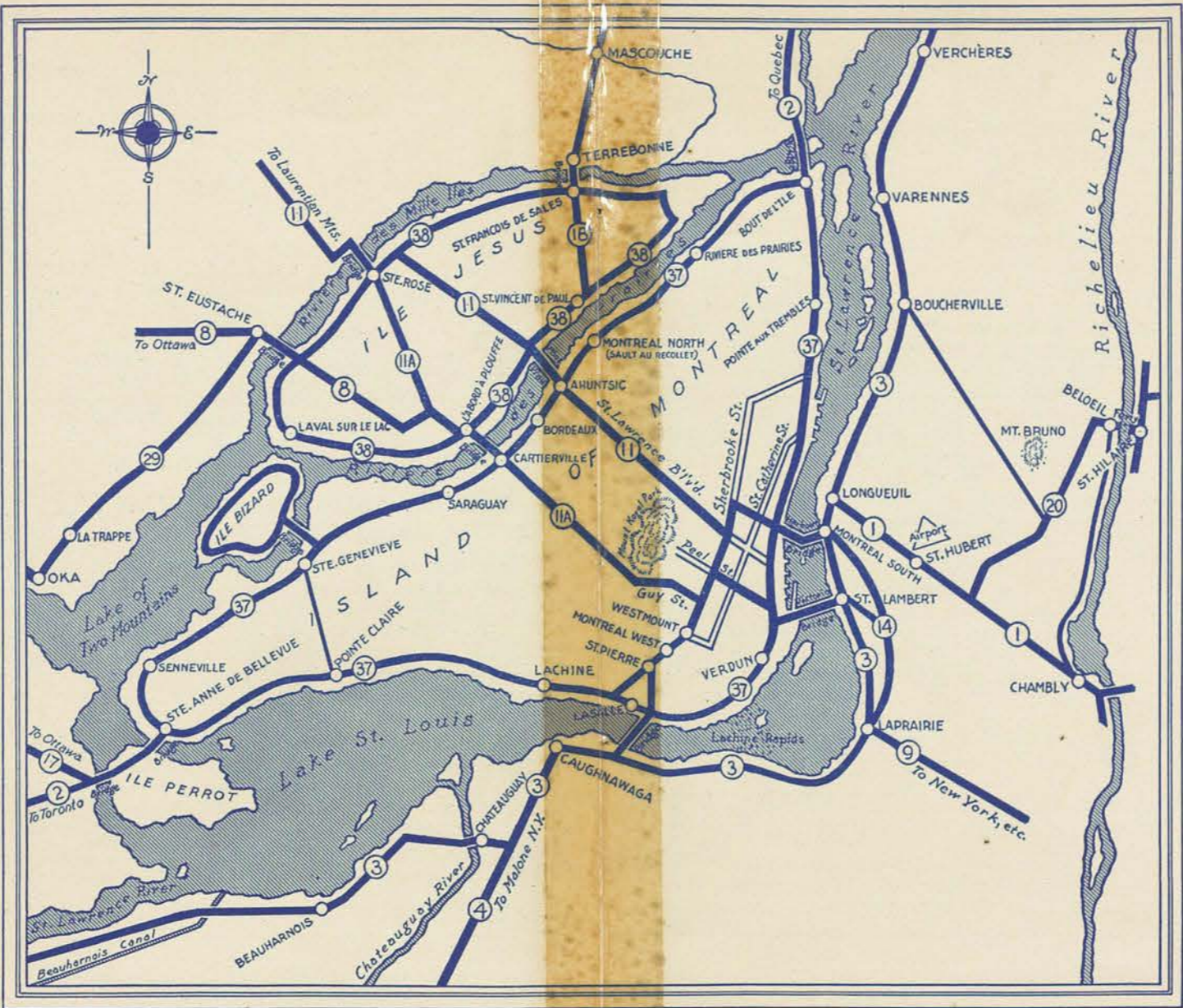
The City of Montreal is situated on the island of the same name, about thirty-four miles in length, and about ten miles in width at its central part, where the city has spread completely across the island, from the River St. Lawrence, where the first small settlement was made in 1642, to the Rivière des Prairies, also known locally as the Back River, one of several continuations by which the Ottawa River, after expanding into the Lake of Two Mountains, enters the St. Lawrence.

A series of boulevards permit a circular tour of the island, which for greater convenience may be separated into two sections, affording all the impressions and experiences of a transcontinental tour in epitome. Within the compass of a ride of two or three hours are seen the varied aspects of a city of a million population, inspiring works of man and huge industrial establishments, the crowded shipping of a world port one thousand miles from the ocean, pretty suburban towns, placid and broad-bosomed lakes and quiet reaches of inland streams broken at times by brawling rapids, bits of woodland, views of isolated mountains and stately ranges, well-tilled fields, and quaint villages untouched by the finger of modernity. To the north of Montreal lies a sister island—Île Jésus—about one-third smaller, and separated from the mainland by the Rivière des Milles Îles ("river of a thousand islands," not to be confused with its more famous namesake in the St. Lawrence), which is also called Jesus River and is another of the outlets of the Ottawa from Lake of Two Mountains.

Besides the tours of the City of Montreal and the two islands, there follow brief descriptions of seven other little tours, occupying two to four hours, which well repay any time devoted to them.

Tourette No. 1—CITY OF MONTREAL

Among the many institutions or buildings in Montreal which the visitor should not miss, and which are all accessible in the course of a motor run of a few hours, these few may be cited: Chateau de Ramezay, built in 1705; Notre Dame Church, over one hundred years old, situated in Place D'Armes, adjacent to the Seminary of St. Sulpice, built in 1685; the shrine of St. Joseph's Oratory, founded by Brother André, "Miracle Man of Montreal," scene of almost daily pilgrimages and some remarkable cures; the city's principal parks—Fletcher's Field and Lafontaine—and those of the fine residential suburbs, Westmount and Outremont; McGill University and the Université de Montréal; the Basilica of St. James on Dominion Square; the Art Gallery, the Civic Library, and the City Hall; the Harbour of Montreal, with its miles of docks alive with ocean, lake and river shipping;



MONTREAL AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT, SHOWING PLACES AND NUMBERED HIGHWAYS REFERRED TO IN DESCRIPTION OF TOURETTES

Montreal Seminary, Sherbrooke Street West, with two stone towers erected in the seventeenth century for protection against the Indians; and the summit of Westmount Mountain.

(Note—The roads of Mount Royal Park are closed to motor vehicles, with the exception of Shakespeare Road, leading to the Lookout.)

Tourette No. 2—ISLAND OF MONTREAL, WESTERN HALF. ROUND TRIP about 40 miles.

Leaving the city by passing through the thriving suburban city of Verdun, the Lower Lachine Road (Highway 37) takes

the motorist past Laprairie Basin and the Lachine Rapids. At the eastern outskirts of the city of Lachine stands LaSalle's windmill, which that great explorer sold to raise funds for the expedition on which he discovered the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Here also is the northern end of the new Honoré Mercier Bridge, giving access to the Highway to Malone, N.Y., and the Adirondacks. Passing Lachine, the road (Highway 37) runs along the shores of Lake St. Louis, an expansion of the St. Lawrence, through half-a-dozen pleasant villages forming practically a continuous street for ten or more miles, where many Montrealers have

summer homes. Nearing the western end of the island, Macdonald College of Agriculture, a department of McGill University, adjoins the picturesque town of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, where in the old days the courriers de bois said farewell to the rude civilization of the day as they set out for the interior of the continent in search of furs. Here Tom Moore in 1804, while a guest of Simon Fraser, discoverer of the Fraser River in British Columbia, wrote his famous "Canadian Boat Song." Turning northward (Highway 37) and then eastward along the north shore of the island, Senneville is reached, with its ruined fort (built 1703) and a number of magnificent summer homes, reminiscent of an English landscape by reason of their stone walls, clipped hedges, graceful trees and riotous displays of flowers. The road continues along the shore of Lake of Two Mountains, and a cairn commemorates the otherwise forgotten battle of the same name. From Ste. Geneviève, a charming French-Canadian village, the motorist may cross the bridge to Ile Bizard, offering another small circular tour of about fifteen miles. After Ste. Geneviève comes Saraguay, and then in succession Cartierville, Bordeaux, and Ahuntsic, the last three all within the northerly limits of Montreal. Either of two fine boulevards (Highways 11 or 11-A) will conduct the motorist across the island to the central sections of Montreal, or, if desired, one may continue on Highway 37 and make Tourette No. 3 in the opposite direction to that described below.

Tourette No. 3—ISLAND OF MONTREAL, EASTERN SECTION. ROUND TRIP about 40 miles.

Leaving the south-eastern section of Montreal, Highway 37 runs through residential, business and industrial areas, for part of the way close to the River St. Lawrence, here a two-mile wide waterway lined with wharves and carrying numerous ocean liners and freighters, inward or outward bound. At Pointe-aux-Trembles is one of the oldest churches in the Province (completed 1709) overlooking the river. After passing Montreal East, the Chapel of the Reparation, a quarter of a mile from the highway, may be visited. At Bout de l'Île ("end of the island") Highway 2 crosses to the mainland and on to Quebec, but the Tourette follows Highway 37 northward and then westward along the Rivière des Prairies. The village of the same name is identified by two giant towers carrying the wires bringing electric power from Shawinigan Falls, over a hundred miles away, this being one of the first long distance transmission lines in Canada. Saull au Récollet, scene of the first Christian mass on the island and of an early martyrdom, has a large Convent of the Sacred Heart from which many notable pupils have graduated, including Margaret Anglin, the distinguished Canadian actress. At Ahuntsic the visitor is again in the City of Montreal, but with the seven-mile run across the island (St. Lawrence Boulevard, Highway 11) to be made before regaining the starting point.

Tourette No. 4—CIRCUIT OF ILE JESUS. ROUND TRIP about 50 miles.

Leaving Montreal by St. Lawrence Boulevard (Highway 11) and crossing by the Pont Viau from Ahuntsic to

Ile Jésus, a turn eastward is made along Highway 38, this route being followed completely around the island. The road runs along the high bank of the north shore of Rivière des Prairies, giving sweeping views of the river and of Montreal Island. After passing a large waterpower plant, St. Vincent de Paul, despite the grim presence of its large penitentiary, is attractive in its neatness. Half-a-mile eastward is seen the old Sabrevois de Bleury Manor, erected over one hundred years ago in extensive grounds on the river bank, its stone barn with clock tower, built around three sides of a courtyard, giving a medieval touch. No other village is encountered until the eastern tip of the island is turned and the westward road taken along the south bank of the Rivière des Milles Iles as far as St. François de Sales, with Terrebonne just across the river. At St. François are several fine old houses dating from the seventeenth century. Continuing on Highway 38, and passing the centre road leading back to Ahuntsic, Ste. Rose is reached, a pleasant hamlet nestling by the river. At the western end of the island is Laval-sur-le-Lac, with its summer cottages, its inviting beach and one of the finest golf courses in Canada. A fifteen-minute run eastward brings L'Abord-à-Plouffe, dreaming of the days when it was a centre of activity for the lumber-rafting trade, and where Dr. W. H. Drummond, the beloved Irish-Canadian poet famed for his habitant poems, plied the telegraphic key in his youth. Here the northern section of Montreal is in sight across the river, and the new Cartierville Bridge leads to a fine boulevard (Highway 11-A) leading the motorist back to the central areas of the metropolis.

Tourette No. 5—TERREBONNE AND MASCOUCHE.
ROUND TRIP about 45 miles.

The route of Tourette No. 4 (Highways 11 and 38) is followed as far as St. Vincent de Paul, where Highway 18 is taken, running north-easterly across Ile Jésus to St. François de Sales, whence Terrebonne is reached by a toll bridge. Terrebonne, now a placid village with some interesting old residences and other buildings, at one time promised to rival Montreal in importance, as it was a centre for the fur trade in the stirring days when the Hudson's Bay Company and its rival, the North-Western Company, contended bitterly for commercial supremacy in the vast interior of British North America, Canada at that time consisting of only the present provinces of Ontario and Quebec. A merger of the two companies and other factors increased Montreal's vantage, and Terrebonne was left to dream of what might have been. A run of five miles brings the motorist to Mascouche, on the river of the same name. One and one-half miles north of the village, at the Mascouche Rapids, one of the finest survivals of early seigneurial architecture is found, Le Gardeur de Repentigny Manor, occupying a picturesque site, in a deep gorge. Built between 1672 and 1700, and enlarged towards the end of the eighteenth century, it fell for a time from its high estate into a condition of disrepair, but has been carefully restored and is again occupied as a residence, with attractive grounds surrounding it.

Tourette No. 6—ST. HUBERT AIRPORT AND CHAMBLY.
ROUND TRIP about 40 miles.

Leaving Montreal over the new Jacques Cartier Bridge, and passing through historic Longueuil, with old houses dating from the French regime, Highway No. 1 is followed. At St. Hubert is located one of Canada's finest airports, terminus of the New York-Montreal, Boston-Montreal and other important aerial routes. Here the 220-foot mooring mast erected by the Canadian Government at a cost of \$750,000, and used for mooring the R-100 when it came to Montreal in 1930, is a landmark visible for miles. Keeping to Highway 1, twelve miles farther on is Chambly, with its massive stone fort, well preserved except for one wall demolished many years ago by the ice of the Richelieu River, which washes the base of the fort. Built in 1710-11, and restored in 1733, it stands on the site of a wooden fort built in 1665 and partially burned by Indians in 1702. It was of great strategic importance, as the Richelieu River, through which Lake Champlain empties into the St. Lawrence, was the main route between Canada and the Thirteen Colonies both in peace and war. Captured from the French by the British in 1760, the fort was taken by the Americans under Montgomery in 1775, and burned when evacuated in 1776. Restored, it was used for housing American prisoners in the War of 1812, and nearby are buried a number of American soldiers who died in the two wars. In the fort is a small but interesting war museum. At Chambly also is a fine monument to Colonel de Salaberry, hero of the victory of Chateauguay over the American forces in 1813, and here too is Chambly Villa, birthplace of Emma Lajeunesse, who as Madame Albani gained world-wide renown as a songstress second only to the great Adelina Patti.

Tourette No. 7—BELOEIL AND ST. HILAIRE. ROUND TRIP about 60 miles.

To visit these two delightful towns on the historic Richelieu River, follow the same route as for Tourette No. 6 (Highway 1) to just past St. Hubert, then turn left onto Highway 20, with the rounded slopes of Mount St. Bruno on the left, Beloeil being reached after a fifteen-mile run. The townsite forms part of the seigneurie granted in 1694 to Thomas Hertel, and the town's beginnings date back to 1770. The beauty of the river at this point, and the attractiveness of the town itself, make it a favorite summer resort. At a safe distance is one of the largest explosive plants in Canada. Across the river, and reached by a ferry crossing, is the sister town of St. Hilaire, at the foot of a 1200-foot mountain known both as Beloeil and St. Hilaire, from whose summit a sight of Montreal to the north and Lake Champlain to the south can be obtained, but only after an arduous climb.

Tourette No. 8—SOUTH SHORE OF ST. LAWRENCE RIVER TO VERCHERES. ROUND TRIP about 50 miles.

Crossing the Jacques Cartier Bridge, Highway 3 is taken eastward, leading through Longueuil, Boucherville, and Varennes, parishes lying along the St. Lawrence and settled

from the middle of the seventeenth century, as is attested by the quaint stone houses, some in ruins but others still occupied. Here the motorist may have the unexpected thrill of seeing, at the distance of the proverbial stone's-throw and apparently sailing through the midst of the fields, a stately liner or battered sea tramp making its way to or from Montreal in the ship channel which here hugs the southern shore. This is historic ground, for at Boucherville Pere Marquette, the famous missionary who aided in the discovery of the Mississippi, performed the first baptism in the district, and Vercheres, 25 miles from Montreal, was the scene of one of the most heroic exploits in the history of New France. On October 22, 1692, fourteen-year-old Madeleine de Vercheres, left in charge of the rude fort while her parents made a necessary voyage to Montreal, defied an attack of Iroquois Indians in force, and with her two young brothers, two soldiers and an octogenarian, withstood a determined siege until relief arrived eight days later. A statue of Madeleine, of heroic size, overlooking the river, commemorates this brave deed.

Tourette No. 9—CAUGHNAWAGA, CHATEAUGUAY, AND BEAUHARNOIS. ROUND TRIP about 65 miles

Caughnawaga is an Indian village where live in peace and contentment the descendants of savages who in 1689 massacred some 200 inhabitants of Lachine, directly across the river. It is reached by crossing the Honoré Mercier Bridge from Ville La Salle, or by crossing Victoria Bridge to St. Lambert and driving westward along the river (Highway 3) or over the Taschereau Boulevard (Highway 14) to La Prairie, from which town Highway 3 is followed. After passing Caughnawaga, Chateauguay is reached. It has been settled since 1673, on the site of an earlier Indian village, and has two distinctive landmarks in the shape of large Indian burial mounds. Thirty miles from Montreal is Beauharnois, over 200 years old, and west of the village is the world's largest individual hydro-electric development, designed ultimately to produce 2,000,000 horsepower.

Tourette No. 10—OKA MONASTERY. ROUND TRIP about 70 miles.

Leaving Montreal by the Cartierville Bridge, Highway 8 is taken from L'Abord-à-Plouffe, traversing Ile Jesus and crossing Rivière des Milles Iles by toll bridge to St. Eustache, scene in 1837 of a sharp battle between Lower Canada rebels and British soldiers, whose cannon balls left their mark on the walls of the besieged church. From St. Eustache Highway 29 leads to Oka, formerly a large Indian reservation, but now renowned for its Trappist Monastery, founded in 1881. Here the monks, vowed to silence except for those who conduct the agricultural school or who must come in contact with the public in transacting business, farm their large domain and make the famous Oka cheese. The monastery and its complementary buildings occupy a beautiful site overlooking the Lake of Two Mountains.