

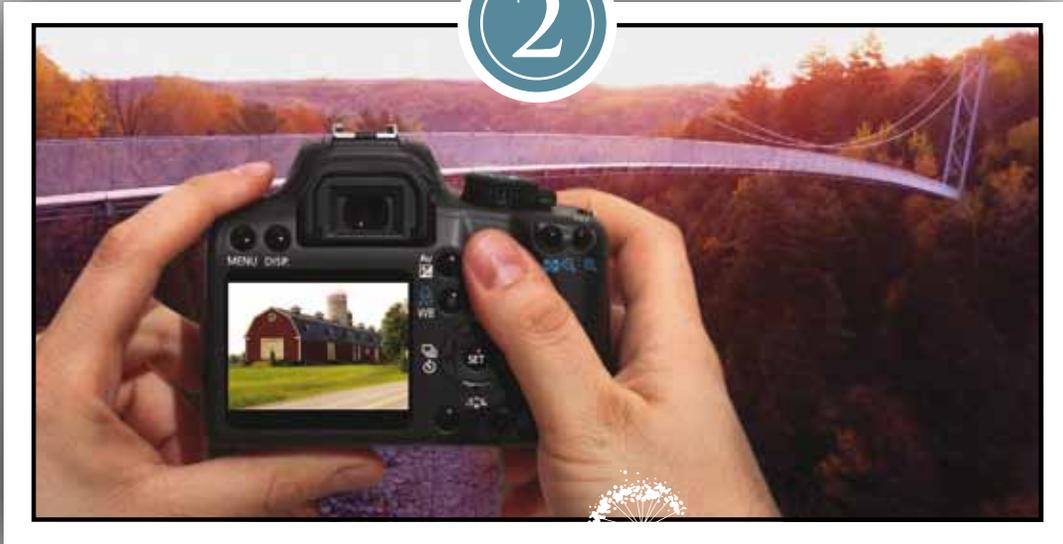


**Discovery Circuit**  
OF THE COATICOOK REGION

*Coaticook*

BRIDGING TOWN AND COUNTRY

2



Have fun answering our quiz questions as you go!

# A visit to Coaticook

VICTORIAN ELEGANCE, 'GINGER-BREADING' AND A WORL-CLASS GORGE AS WELL!



The town of Coaticook, dubbed the Pearl of the Eastern Townships, merged with the municipalities of Barnston Township and Barford Township on December 12, 1998. Today, it extends over a total land area of 218.89 square kilometres. Its total population is estimated at 9,079, and its inhabitants are known as Coaticookoises and Coaticookois.

Welcome to Coaticook, a town rich in heritage, culture and nature. The name Coaticook, Amerindian in origin, was adopted by the town in 1864. Over the years, businesses and industries established themselves here, helping the town grow and develop. Little by little, the community became more structured and formed an identity of its own.

You'll be starting your driving tour at the downtown intersection of Rue Child and Rue Main. From Rue Child, turn right onto Rue Main; then, immediately after having passed under the railroad trestle, turn left onto Rue Merrill. On your left is the station [1]. Built in 1904, it is known as the largest train station in Quebec featuring roundhouse-style architecture. It was the second station to be built in Coaticook. The railway has played a vital part in the town's development since the first train stopped here on July 23, 1853.

Continue along Rue Merrill and turn right at the stop sign, onto Rue Bachand. At the top of the hill it becomes Rue Damon. Turn around and drive back down this street. You are now on what used to be called "Canon Hill" [2], where you have an interesting view of the west side of town. Continue down Rue Bachand, cross Rue Merrill and you will find yourself on Rue Union. You will soon arrive in front of the Musée Beaulne [3].

**Quiz # 1. Complete this sentence:**  
**The Musée Beaulne is the Château Arthur**  
\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

Completed in 1912, the museum was built in the Neo-Queen Anne style. It features exhibitions on various themes relating to textiles and the visual arts ([www.museebeaulne.qc.ca](http://www.museebeaulne.qc.ca)).

History buffs will be happy to know that this part of the town is a historical treasure trove. As you approach Rue Gérin-Lajoie, look at the beautiful green mansion on your left, which was once the Red Inn Hotel [4]. Turn right onto Rue Gérin-Lajoie, Coaticook's fourth street. It was built in 1853 and was originally named Pleasant Street. Looking to your left, a bit further down Rue Main, you will see the Ailleurs Bar [5], housed in a building constructed in 1931 by the Eastern Townships Telephone Company. Where there is now a parking lot, there used to be large gardens. Soon, on your left, at 40 Rue Gérin-Lajoie, you will see a Neo-Gothic house [6] with its exquisite gingerbread trim.



Before you cross Rue Cutting, look over to your left to see an apartment building that used to be the St. Jean School [7]. Directly across from this school is the notable St. Stephen's Church [8].

**Quiz # 2. What is the church's denomination?**

Turn left onto Rue Cutting. The large building [9] on the corner of Rue Main and Rue Cutting was constructed in 1879. Today it houses the Coaticook library ([bibliotheque.culturecoaticook.ca](http://bibliotheque.culturecoaticook.ca)), the workplace of the town's resident artist, and the Coaticook Historical Society ([www](http://www)).



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societehistoirecoaticook.ca). The building has been renovated several times since 1975 and was named after an important cultural volunteer who passed away in 2009.

### Quiz # 3. Who was this volunteer?

Keep going on Rue Cutting, where most of the shops and businesses were located in earlier days. Address number 31 [10] on this street was the headquarters of the Coaticook Observer, Coaticook's first newspaper, as well as the paper L'étoile de l'Est.

On the corner of Rue Main, you will notice to your right the first bank in the Eastern Townships [11]. Make a right. This way you are crossing the town from west to east. At the first traffic light, continue straight ahead. At the next light you will cross a street that was formerly called Barford Road.

### Quiz # 4. What is this street called today?

Turn left onto this street, which, some years ago, marked the boundary between the town of Coaticook and the municipality of Barford (now annexed to Coaticook). As you



continue along St-Jacques Nord, you will see St. Edmond Church [12], which was built in 1888 and was the first parish church in Coaticook. It dominates the southeastern part of town. Directly beyond it lies Rivier College [13], a private institution founded in 1870 by the Soeurs de la Présentation de Marie. Originally a girls' school, it now offers secondary education for boys and girls. Turn left onto Rue St. Paul, then left onto Rue St. Jean-Baptiste. Go over the bridge slowly so that you have time to look at the tranquil river along which many a canoe made its way in times gone by. Continue onwards until you reach the Rue Wellington intersection. The building you see in front of you was originally the Sisco Methodist Church [14]. It dates back to 1923, but is now being used for other purposes. This building is now known as the Pavillon des Arts et de la Culture ([www.pavillondesarts.qc.ca](http://www.pavillondesarts.qc.ca)).

### Quiz # 5. In what year did the Town of Coaticook acquire this church to create a cultural centre?



Make a right on Rue Wellington, then a right on Rue Child and a left on Rue Adams. You are now at the Town Hall parking lot developed in 1954.

### Quiz # 6. What words are inscribed on the town's coat of arms [15]?

From here, you can park your vehicle and enjoy a walk with some interesting sightseeing, or continue the tour in your vehicle.

*On foot*



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VICTORIAN ELEGANCE, 'GINGER-BREADING' AND A WORL-CLASS GORGE AS WELL!

Start out on the right side of Rue Child, named after Marcus Child (1792-1859). This dedicated postmaster and politician, who represented Stanstead in the provincial Legislature, founded the first two secondary schools in the Eastern Townships and was also one of Coaticook's first shopkeepers. Look up at the buildings. The buildings on the right side of the street are much plainer, whereas those on the left have cornices [16] decorated with lovely trim displaying a real attention to detail. Major fires (in 1923 and 1949) resulted in these differing styles of architecture. You will see Le Baril Brewery [17], built in 1841 and housed in one of Coaticook's oldest buildings. Continue on to the corner of Rue Main. A sign will display a list of the various hotels in Coaticook. In 1949, a raging fire destroyed a large section of Rue Child as far as the St-Jean Church on Rue Court.



**Quiz # 7. What was the name of the magnificent hotel that stood somewhere near 38 Rue Child and that was destroyed in the fire?**

*And now, back to your vehicle!*

## BY CAR

To your right, you will see Chartier Park [18], named in memory of Reverend Jean-Baptiste Chartier (1832-1917), the first priest in the Saint-Edmond parish. Rev. Chartier was very involved in his community, establishing factories, stores, a sawmill, and housing. He was the colonization officer for the Eastern Townships, like the famous Rev. Labelle in another part of the province. In 1882, a public

marketplace was built on this site, where fruits and vegetables were sold until 1954; the market was modified as the needs of the community changed.

**Quiz # 8. This park has another historical feature. What is it?**

From Rue Adams, turn left onto Rue Martin and then right onto Rue Court. Keep going until you reach Rue Jeanne-Mance. On the way, you will notice a Baptist church [19], on the corner of Rue Baldwin. Turn right at Rue Jeanne-Mance. This street will give you a lovely view of the town. Continue onwards until you reach Rue Bourgeois, and then turn right. From there, get onto Rue Child and turn left.

You will now be quite close to the world's longest suspended footbridge [20]. It is 169 metres long and 50 metres high. Further down on Rue Michaud, on your right, the Bureau d'accueil touristique [Tourist Information Centre] [21] will welcome you. Here you can not only learn many interesting facts, but also peruse the centre's impressive selection of local products.

**Quiz # 9. Name three products you can purchase.**

Also, if you haven't already done so, be sure to ask for a placemat featuring a map of agri-tourism businesses located throughout the Coaticook RCM ([www.produitsdelaferme.com](http://www.produitsdelaferme.com)).



Continue down Rue Michaud and turn right at the intersection of Rue St-Marc. This way you can cross a covered bridge [22] and visit a round barn [23].

# Visit to the Barnston, Baldwin Mills

## THE «ALL NATURAL» CIRCUIT



### Quiz # 10. In what year was this bridge built?

The round barn was built in 1995 and underwent major renovations in spring of 2012; it is the tourist information centre for the Coaticook Gorge Park [24] ([www.gorgedecoaticook.qc.ca](http://www.gorgedecoaticook.qc.ca)). Keep going on Rue St-Marc until Rue Child, where you will turn right, and before long you'll see the Coaticook dairy [25]. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy its multiple award winning ice cream!

This is the end of the tour through the urban part of Coaticook. Take a moment to catch your breath in this delightful spot before moving on.

Before it was annexed to the Town of Coaticook, Barnston was one of the region's largest municipalities. Devoted mainly to agriculture, this site is one of exceptional natural riches, breathtaking countryside, and huge potential for tourist and recreational activities. By the time you're finished the Barnston tour, you will also know why the town is known as the "cradle of Coaticook."

When you leave the dairy, drive back up Rue Child to Rue Main. Make a right, and then a left when you reach Rue Merrill. You will drive past the Coaticook Golf Club as you continue along Chemin Ladd's Mills towards the Barnston / Baldwin Mills area. From Chemin Ladd's Mills, turn left onto Chemin Lamoureux. This will take you to Chemin Baldwin-Stanhope, where you turn right onto what becomes Chemin Devost. Keep going on this road, and you will soon see two farms that are said to be situated at the highest elevation of all farms in Quebec.

### Quiz # 11. Name at least one of these farms.

Make the next left onto Chemin May. Take the time to admire the panoramic view stretching out before you. This road will lead you to Baldwin Mills, bearing the name of the family who, incidentally, were also the founders of Coaticook. As you go down Chemin May, you will see the entrance to the Harold F. Baldwin Park [26] on your left, along with a trail leading to the top of Mount Pinnacle [27]. If you want to hike the Mount, you can park near the church. Bear in mind, however, that to get the most out of this excursion, it is best to set aside a whole day. If you don't have the time today, do come back soon!

### Quiz # 12. How far do you have to walk to reach the top of Mount Pinnacle?



As you enter Baldwin Mills, you will pass the Pinnacle corner store and the fire station. Public washrooms are located behind the fire station (which may or may not be of cultural interest; nevertheless, we think this information might be useful to you!). Turn left onto Chemin Lyon when you see a charming little church [28].

### Quiz # 13. What is the name of this church and in what year was it built?

Just where you turn onto Chemin Lyon, you will find the site of a mill [29] that once belonged to the Baldwin family and was demolished in 1964.

### Quiz # 14. How many years was this mill part of the countryside?

# Visit to the Barnston, Baldwin Mills

## THE «ALL NATURAL» CIRCUIT



Be sure not to miss the stop sign at the junction of Chemin Lyon and Chemin Baldwin. Now turn left onto Chemin Chalets and drive past the municipal beach and the cottages on Lake Lyster [30]. You will be parking by the beach for a historical interlude. Located on an honorific platform, Mr. Walter G. Belknap [31] will proudly chat with you about his family and notable moments in the development of this pastoral area.

### Quiz # 15. What was the name of Mr. Belknap's first wife?

Mr. Belknap is part of The Pioneer Trail, a circuit of 15 characters who will delight you with their stories over the course of a historical tour unique to Quebec ([www.voie-despionniers.com](http://www.voie-despionniers.com)).

Keep going on Chemin Chalets. During the summer season you can stop for a short break and enjoy something to eat or drink on the patio of the Lake Lyster Golf Club [32]. You'll also have a splendid view of the lake and the Pinnacle. One of the fairways on this 18-hole golf course is situated right on the Canada-USA border.

### Quiz # 16. What number is it?

Now go back and drive down Chemin Baldwin to the Parc Découverte Nature [33] ([www.decouverttenature.qc.ca](http://www.decouverttenature.qc.ca)). Park your vehicle and take a little walk along the Sentier des Moulins [Mills Trail] [34] that runs along the charming Niger River [35]. You can walk the entire trail, or head back whenever you choose. The main pavilion of the Parc Découverte Nature is named after a biologist who devoted

more than 30 years to studying the reproductive cycle of fish.

### Quiz # 17. What is the name of this pavilion?

Time to move on! Follow Chemin Baldwin-Barnston and then turn right onto Chemin Lévesque to make your way to Chemin Cabana. When you turn left, stop and look to your left; in the distance, you will see the small Bickford Cemetery [36], as well as a spectacular view of our agricultural countryside with Mount Orford in the background. At the end of Chemin Cabana, turn right onto Chemin Houle and left onto Chemin Breault. You will pass through the Meder swamp [37], famous for its diverse wildlife. They say that moose and Virginia deer can frequently be observed here, as well as a variety of birds that just might turn you into an enthusiastic birdwatcher! (See for yourself whether this is a rumour or not.) When you leave Chemin Breault, take Chemin Adam, in front of you and to the left, to get back onto Chemin Baldwin. There turn right to enter the village of Barnston.

### Quiz # 18. What is the name of the farm where one of the only round barns in the area [38] is still being used?



You will now be entering an important place in Coaticook's early history. In the 19th century, this was Barnston Corner, a small village with essential services and flourishing businesses. The first pioneers came here from the United States using Chemin Holland and settled as early as 1796. Only later did the population migrate towards the town of

# Visit to the Barnston, Baldwin Mills

## THE «ALL NATURAL» CIRCUIT

Coaticook. This is why Barnston is nicknamed the “cradle of Coaticook.” Near a small Baptist church [39], Dr. Nathaniel Jenks [40] will be happy to tell you the whole story. He will also invite you to visit his grave at the cemetery on the other side of the road. There you will notice an unusual occurrence: the Protestant [41] and Catholic [42] cemeteries are peacefully located side by side. Make sure to enjoy the view while you’re here, and be careful when you cross the busy road. Mr. Jenks is also part of The Pioneer Trail ([www.voiedespionniers.com](http://www.voiedespionniers.com)). In 1873, Mr. Jenks’ second son, Leslie, became established in Coaticook.



### Quiz # 19. What was his profession?

Today closed to worship, the Catholic church [43] situated opposite the Baptist church is now property of the Hauts-Cantons School Board.

Drive onwards until you reach reach the intersection at the corner store; make a right onto Chemin Riendeau. As you approach Coaticook, you will have an impressive bird’s eye view of this regional centre, the «pearl of the Eastern Townships.» You can make one more historical detour

here. Getting back on Rue Main on your left, turn right onto Rue Morgan and continue until you reach a big red barn, known as the Plateau Barn [44], where you will meet Mr. Lauréat Lavoie [45]. He, too, is one of the 15 historical figures on The Pioneer Trail ([www.voiedespionniers.com](http://www.voiedespionniers.com)). Listening to his story and reading the signs near the barn will take you on a journey to Coaticook’s rich agricultural past.



### Quiz # 20. True or false: Mr. Lavoie followed in Mr. Baldwin’s footsteps by rearing Jersey cows?

The many programs offered by the Centre de formation professionnelle de Coaticook (CRIFA), a short distance from the barn, eloquently attest to the region’s sensitivity to local needs, especially in terms of agricultural matters ([crifa.cshc.qc.ca/fr](http://crifa.cshc.qc.ca/fr)).

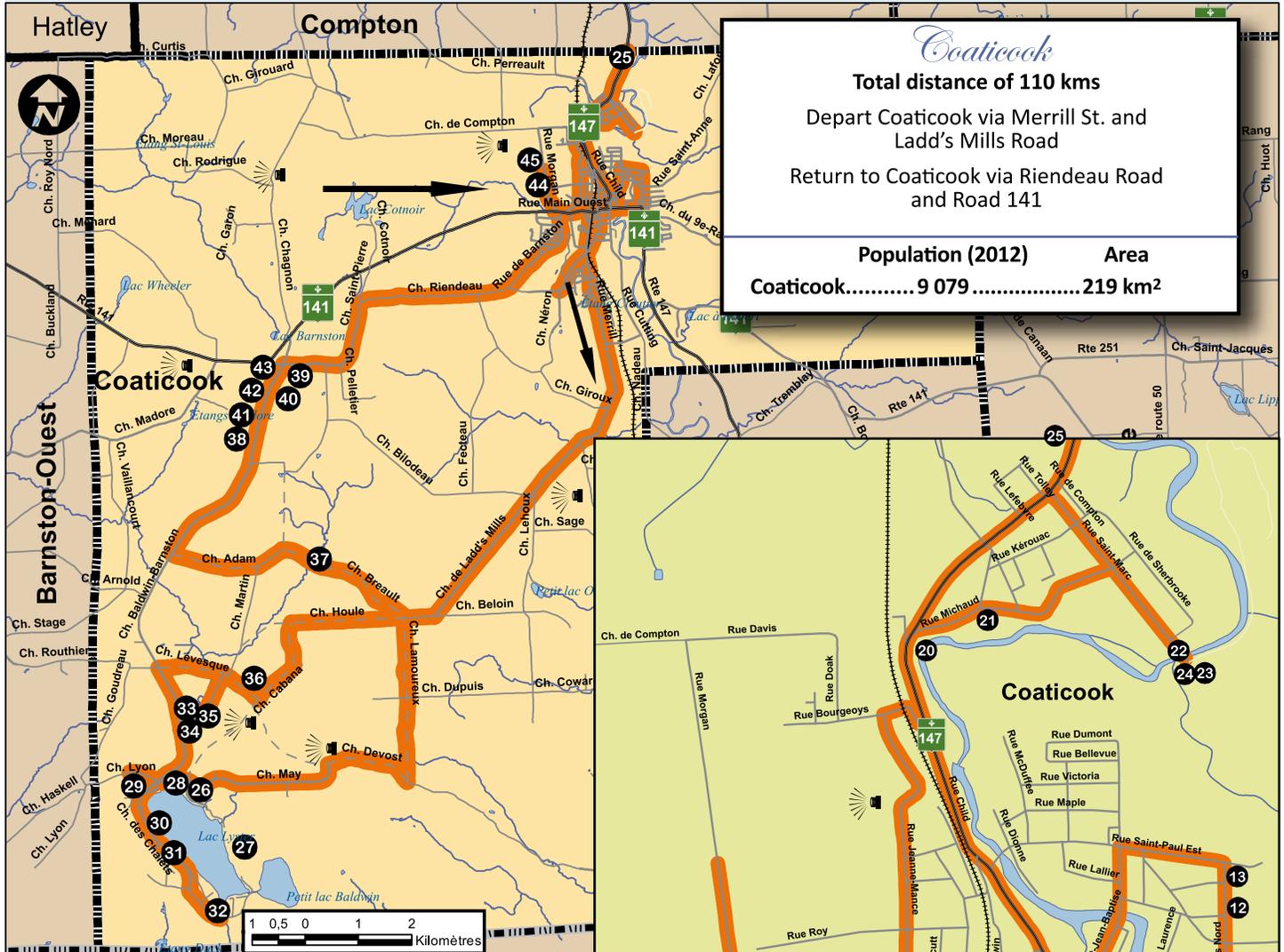
*We hope you’ve enjoyed a pleasant trip to Coaticook and have taken many memorable pictures!*

# *Coaticook*

## QUIZ QUESTIONS : ANSWERS

1. Osmore-Norton
2. Anglican
3. Françoise Maurice
4. Rue St-Jacques North and South
5. In 1993
6. Natura et Labore
7. The Thorndyke Hotel
8. A monument in memory of the soldiers fallen in World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945) and the Korean War
9. See the placement check if the products you identified are from the Coaticook region.
10. It was built in 1887, later destroyed, and rebuilt in 1998
11. Claribel Farm (Claude Carrier and Nathalie Isabelle), Lenquest Farm
12. 2,200 m (2.2 km)
13. Baldwin Mills Church (United church), built in 1888
14. The Baldwin family mill was part of the countryside for 146 years
15. Salomé Bacon
16. Number 13
17. Louis-Roch Séguin Pavilion
18. The Blayrond Farm
19. He was a dentist
20. False: he reared a herd of Holstein cows

# CARTE



*Coaticook*  
**Total distance of 110 kms**  
 Depart Coaticook via Merrill St. and Ladd's Mills Road  
 Return to Coaticook via Riendeau Road and Road 141

Population (2012)	Area
Coaticook..... 9 079	..... 219 km <sup>2</sup>



**Legend**

- Panoramic site
- Discovery circuit
- Refers to the numbers in the circuit guide
- Gravel road
- Paved road