

DETAILED PROGRAM

2026 Audet/Lapointe Gathering

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[INTRODUCTION TO MÉGANTIC AND THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS REGION](#)

Lac-Mégantic had to reinvent itself in the aftermath of the train derailment tragedy of July 6, 2013, 13 years ago. It chose to do so by focusing on a gentler pace of life. It is, in fact, the only city in Quebec that is part of the Cittaslow international network, a group of nearly 300 small and medium-sized towns and cities where life is good... at a slower pace.¹ To learn more about Cittaslow and the Lac-Mégantic region, visit the site <https://www.tourisme-megantic.com/en/what-to-do>

Lac-Mégantic is a city located in the Eastern Townships, nestled in a mountainous setting dotted with numerous lakes. Its history is closely linked to the railway and the Chaudière River region. The city's name comes from an Abenaki language meaning "place where fish abound." Lac-Mégantic offers a variety of tourist attractions, heritage buildings, and numerous sports and cultural activities.

The golf course that runs along the road between Lac Mégantic and Woburn is another attraction in the region. Its layout offers several beautiful views of Lac Mégantic.

Gathering's location :

Knights of Columbus' "*Le Chevalier*" Hall (*Salle des Chevaliers de Colomb "Le Chevalier"*)
5220 Frontenac St.
Lac-Mégantic, QC, G6B 3J5

[Activities for Saturday, August 22, 2026](#)

9:00 AM Welcome, registration, and socializing

10:00 AM Official opening and Annual General Meeting

11:30 AM Free time – socializing

12:00 PM Cold buffet on site at the Knights of Columbus' "*Le Chevalier*" Hall. A selection of egg, ham, and chicken sandwiches, as well as three salads, crudités, desserts, coffee, tea, and juice will be offered.

¹ La Presse; <https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/regional/lac-megantic/quand-toute-une-ville-ralentit/2024-07-06/le-plus-beau-des-greeters.php>

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1:30 PM to 2:30 PM The following **two activities** at your leisure are offered and are located near the Knights of Columbus' "*Le Chevalier*" Hall. Free admission, no reservation is required.

A) Sculpture Trail: "The Star Walker"



Source : <https://www.ville.lac-megantic.qc.ca/fr/tourisme/attraits-et-activites>

Outdoor walking tour. Discover the landmarks that have shaped the evolution of a city in constant transformation. Explore the heart of the city on a **two-kilometer historical and cultural circuit** and discover the places and landmarks that have shaped the identity of this bold and innovative city.

Here is the circuit on the interactive map: <https://baladodiscovery.com/circuits/951/the-star-walker--lac-megantics-tourist-tour>. Please note that the last two points of interest (Parc de la Croix Lumineuse and Parc de l'OTJ) are further away; we suggest you travel there by car or bicycle.

BaladoDiscovery Application:

1. Download the **BaladoDiscovery** app on your mobile device.
2. Tap the compass and access the [Star Walker | Lac-Mégantic Tourist Circuit](#) .

B) Heritage Train Station

Address : 5490 De la Gare St., Lac-Mégantic, QC

Stop by the Lac-Mégantic Heritage Train Station, a premier tourist information center in the heart of downtown. Discover the past, present, and future of this historically rich city through five fascinating permanent exhibits. Note that the visitors' capacity at the heritage train station is limited but you will also have the opportunity to visit it after the Saturday conference.

will present the Cliche-Rancourt-Mamsalhabika Archaeological Site, which bears witness to a 12,500-year-old Indigenous occupation. She will also speak about the permanent exposition : "*Clovis, peuple chasseur de caribous*" at the Heritage Train Station.

For more information: <https://www.ville.lac-megantic.qc.ca/fr/tourisme/attraits-et-activites/4/gare-patrimoniale>

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Conference by Paul Dostie, Resident and Greeter.

Location : Knights of Columbus' "*Le Chevalier*" Hall

Discover Lac-Mégantic through the eyes of those who love it, that's what Paul Dostie offers. He will speak about the Lac-Mégantic's history from the beginnings to today.

Mr. Dostie has published **Histoires d'eaux méganticoises** and **Les sobriquets, ici et ailleurs**. The books will be available for purchase at the venue.

5:30 PM Cocktail Reception : To Health and Friendship.

6:00 PM Dinner and Cousinship. Hot buffet with a choice of 3 dishes, 3 salads, potatoes, vegetables, various desserts, coffee, tea, juice and a glass of wine.

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Activities for Sunday, August 23, 2026

9:00 AM Mass celebrated by Bishop Donald Lapointe at St. Agnes Church in Lac-Mégantic.



After his ordination to the priesthood on May 23, 1964, Bishop Donald Lapointe became a professor at the Sherbrooke Seminary from 1964 to 1970. From 1970 to 1986, he served as parish priest and vicar in several locations. From 1982 to 1996, he was the spiritual director of the La Flambée movement, Weedon chapter.

For more information : <https://evequescatholiques.quebec>

During and after Mass in Ste-Agnès Church, built between 1911 and 1913, you will have the opportunity to admire the impressive stained-glass window as well as its neo-Gothic architecture. *** We encourage you to bring binoculars to better appreciate the details.



10:00 AM Still at the Church, there will be a video and presentation of the church's history and stained-glass window by Paul Dostie.

For more information: <https://www.tourisme-megantic.com/fr/quoi-faire/verriere-de-l-eglise-ste-agnes>

12:00 PM Cold buffet at the Knights of Columbus' "*Le Chevalier*" Hall. A choice of egg, ham and chicken sandwiches, three salads, as well as cheese and grapes will be offered, along with crudités, desserts, coffee, tea and juice.

Activities offered Sunday, August 23, 2026, in the afternoon

Choose one of the following **two activities**:

1:30 PM **A) Guided coach tour of the Lac-Mégantic region (Duration 3 hours)**

With guide Paul Dostie, you will have the opportunity to circle around Lac-Mégantic in a coach vehicle (equipped with toilet), which is 16.8 km long and 3.5 km wide. Stops are planned to visit the municipality of **Piopolis** and the following sites:

- **The Baie-Des-Sables tourist resort** offers a wide range of outdoor activities for the whole family. For more information: <https://baiedessables.com/>
- **The Laurier-Gauthier Cultural Centre** presents a collection of over 700 pieces created by the artist Laurier Gauthier and an exhibition catalogue entitled "Les Pierres qui font jaser" (The Stones That Spark Conversation). <https://www.tourisme-megantic.com/fr/quoi-faire/maison-culturelle-laurier-gauthier>.
- **The Cliche-Rancourt-Mamsalhabika Archaeological Site** is the oldest known site of human occupation in Quebec. It is located in a natural forest environment at the confluence of *Lac aux Araignées* (Spider Lake) and its outlet into *Lac des Joncs* (Red Lake), along the presumed route of an ancient portage. It comprises three archaeological sites that attest to Indigenous occupation spanning 10,000 years, from 12,400 to 2,400 years before present (BP). For more information : <https://www.tourisme-megantic.com/fr/quoi-faire/site-archeologique-cliche-rancourt-mamsalhabika>

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2:00 PM **B) Visit to Mont-Mégantic National Park and ASTROLab** (Duration : about 3.5 heures plus travel time)

Location : 189 Du Parc Rd., Notre-Dame-des-Bois, QC J0B 2E0

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION: Because this is a popular activity in the region, **ADNAL cannot make group reservations**. Starting April 2nd, you may register individually on the SEPAQ website : <https://www.sepaq.com/en/reservation/astronomy-activity/parc-national-du-mont-megantic/festival-d-astronomie-populaire>. Note that reservations should be made as soon as possible, as there are only 30 spots available to the public for the **2:00 PM to 5:00 PM** time slot. Alternatively, there are also a 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, or a 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM time slot if you prefer. Registration costs approximately \$40 (2025 price), plus parking and park entry fees (approximately \$10).

Participants must drive to the site. A list of those willing to carpool will be available upon registration at the Gathering welcome desk on Saturday.



The journey takes approximately 45 minutes to reach the ASTROLab parking lot, located 52 km west of Lac-Mégantic. For the 2:00 PM visit, we suggest that you leave Lac-Mégantic at **1:00 PM** to allow for delays. You will travel along the **Route des Sommets (Summits Road)** which offers a unique scenic view between Saint-Augustin-de-Woburn and Notre-Dame-des-Bois.

Your reservation will include a guided tour of the ASTROLab and Mont-Mégantic Astronomical Observatory.

Located at the foot of the mountain, the ASTROLab is an educational astronomy center featuring an observation area, a high-definition multimedia room, and two exhibition and activity rooms. A visit to the ASTROLab is an adventure through the greatest mysteries of the Universe: traveling through space and time, exploring the secrets of light and matter, and experiencing the cosmic awe from the infinitely small to the immensely large! In addition to the guided tour of the ***From the Starry Sky to the Infinite Universe*** exhibit, watch the film ***Emergence: Cosmic Evolution*** to understand how matter organized itself to give rise to life.



The Mont-Mégantic Observatory is considered the most advanced in Canada. The birthplace of Quebec astrophysics, it contributes to training top scientists and developing innovative technologies.

Mont Saint Joseph (Self-guided tour by car)
189 Du Parc Rd., Notre-Dame-des-Bois, QC

If the weather is clear, you can drive to the summit of Mont Saint-Joseph, near Mont-Mégantic. You will have a breathtaking view of the region and access to a small chapel (approximately 30 minutes).