

The Bonenfant Hotel

Remarkably, this building, now occupied by the Hôtel de la Baie, has offered hotel services continuously since its establishment in 1901 by Anthime Bonenfant. The various hotels operating on this site for 120 years have earned an excellent reputation with tourists and summer visitors for their warm welcome and hospitality.



D. Bernier et Fils Grocery

Damase and Eugénie Bernier, along with Damase's brother Paul, opened a grocery store and a small lunch counter in 1922. It sits opposite the site where the Baie-des-Sables wharf was built a few years later. The Berniers' son and his wife Gemma took it over in 1947 and offered a range of new products. The business operated until 1980.



B. Santerre et Fils Garage

In 1950, Bertrand Santerre opened his garage under the Shell banner. One of the oldest in the region, it is the only one still in operation. In 1987, his son Donald took over the business with his own family. For those who are feeling nostalgic, in 1950 a gallon of gasoline (4.5 liters) retailed for \$0.27.



The Mill

The Mill, which is believed to have existed since 1846 (though some sources say 1838), is thought to be the first building used by the entire community in the region. In addition to housing a family, the building included a sawmill, a shingle mill, a stuffing/packing machine, and a flour mill. It offered various essential services to residents of the entire region.



The Station

This building has known two separate lives. From 1910 to 1978, when it was located at the end of rue des Pins north of the railway, it served as the village's railway station. Today it is still a place that brings back a lot of memories for locals, especially the elderly. Following 1978, the building was moved to the Fourth Concession and cleverly converted into a family residence.



BAIE-DES-SABLES HERITAGE TRAIL

The Heritage Trail is one of several Baie-des-Sables' initiatives launched to mark the village's 150th anniversary in 2019.

The Trail's itinerary includes locations, homes, and community buildings – places that are important and have a particular historical significance to the Baie-des-Sables community.

The Trail aims to commemorate and celebrate the Baie-des-Sables citizens who participated in a meaningful way to building our community, from the foundation of the parish, Our Lady of the Assumption, to the present day. There are 20 carefully selected sites, mainly located in the centre of the village, and most still standing.

Choosing the sites for the Heritage Trail was not easy. The banks of the Saint Lawrence River and the concessions to the south are full of interesting places that have made Baie-des-Sables the community we love. Other activities and parts of the 150th celebration enabled us to learn more about the people in the community and their achievements. The Book of Remembrance, which can be viewed and bought at the library, highlights the contribution of many farm families to the economic development of Baie-des-Sables.

Shared community spaces occupy a special place in our heritage journey, including the churches, the presbytery, and the schools that have been central to the development of our community's identity. Other places along the route highlight the contribution of entrepreneurs and their families to our community. The route also includes sites that have been occupied by institutions or remarkable characters in our history.

We hope you enjoy discovering or rediscovering these places that remind us of how much we have to celebrate in Baie-des-Sables every day.

Please enjoy discovering our history, provided thanks to Baie-des-Sables 150th Committee.

HERITAGE TRAIL

BAIE-DES-SABLES

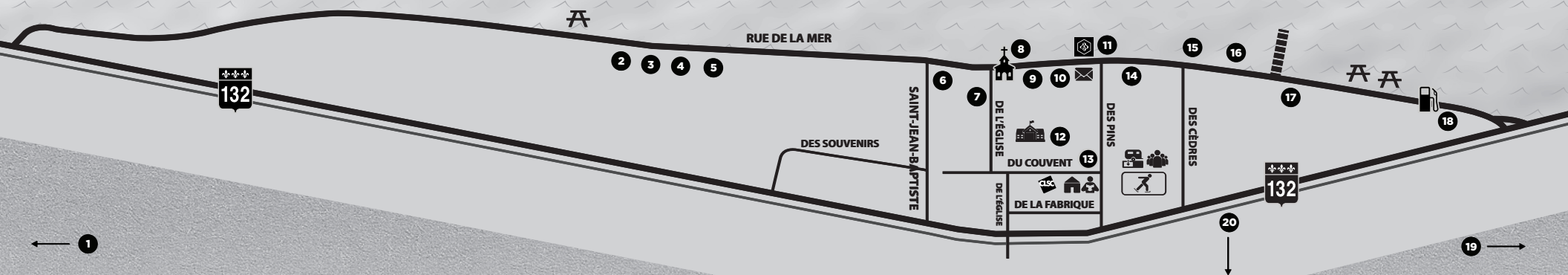


150 years

1869-2019

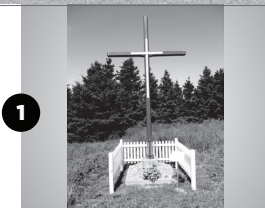


BAIE-DES-SABLES
J'accueille et retiens...



The Mission Cross

The cross at this site predates the foundation of the parish in 1869. The diocese created a mission to offer religious services with the support of the parish of Sainte-Flavie, with a first mass celebrated in 1854 in a house at this location.



Le Martinet-sur-mer

Philippe Fournier and Éliane Ouellet opened a small restaurant in 1958 with a service station here; in 1960 they added ten motel units. They also obtained a license to sell alcohol. It was permit number 000001 – the first issued by the then newly created Régie des alcools du Québec, created in 1961 as part of the Quiet Revolution that profoundly and quickly changed Quebec society. In 1965, the two added a large hall that became a centre of attraction known throughout the region. The business closed in 2011.



Chamberland Butter Factory

The butter factory located here served the people of Baie-des-Sables and the surrounding area for over 75 years. Operated by the Chamberland family from 1906 to 1968, the butter factory produced a quality product greatly appreciated by local customers. The family business also played an important role with local farmers through its large purchases of dairy products.



The Caron House

Built by Ambroise Caron in 1864, the house at 40 de la mer has been occupied by the family and their descendants for more than 125 years. Maison Caron also operated as a popular bed and breakfast for tourists from the beginning of the century until 1992.



Dr. Jean's House

The name of the house highlights the importance of Doctor Paul Jean to the people of Baie-des-Sables. Dr. Paul Jean, in 1955, was the second doctor to occupy the residence following his well-known predecessor, Dr. Donald MacDonald. Claudette Rioux, Dr. Jean's wife, was a nurse who set up the village's local community service centre (CLSC). Dr. Jean and Claudette Rioux looked after the health of their community for many decades.



The Gray House

Laurent Rousseau purchased the Gray House in 1882, operating it as a highly successful hotel business for over 50 years. He had arrived in Baie-des-Sables in 1879, and later ceded the residence to his daughter who lived there for 35 years. Since then, a number of families have owned it.



The First School

In September 1890, the Sisters of Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire opened a school and received their first 55 students. Eight years later, the school moved to a new and bigger building, and expanded further in 1941 before being replaced by a new convent in 1956. It later became a home for seniors.



The Church

The current church, the third in the Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption parish, celebrated its first service on March 22, 1941. It replaced an earlier church, built in 1915, which had been destroyed by fire. The first church, erected in 1860, was preceded by a small chapel on the riverbank. It had become too small for the growing community, and later became the new church's manse.



The Presbytery

The first Presbytery was a small room located at the back of the chapel that had first offered services. The current Presbytery has been in place since 1864 almost in its initial state, except for the construction of a ground floor in 1883. For the past few years, the building has housed a bed and breakfast.



The Victoria House

This building dates from the first years of the village. Starting in 1872, the house served as an office for the notary L'Arrivée and as a place of business. At times it even served as classrooms. Many families have lived there since its construction.



Atelier Bernier and Restaurant chez Jules

In this building, starting in 1910, there was a blacksmith shop, a carpentry store, a furniture store, and then a coffin factory. In 1947, Alfred Levesque built a small restaurant, the Blue Bird, next to the factory. In 1953, Jules Dion bought the restaurant, gave it his name, and it continued to be a very popular place in Baie-des-Sables. Fire destroyed the two buildings in 1972.



The Convent

In 1956, this school welcomed its first class in what would be called from then on the "convent". It offered a revised curriculum for students in grades 8 and 9. The new school also allowed the centralization of courses that had been offered for years in the concession schools.



The College

This building, built in 1962, was first a school with five classes where boys in grades 7, 8 and 9 studied. In 1969, the school had 67 students. In 1990, what was called "The College" became the municipal office of Baie-des-Sables and the site of the CLSC. The building, destroyed by fire in 1992, was completely rebuilt in the years that followed.



The J.-A. Santerre Store

In 1919, Joseph-Antoine Santerre built his first store in Baie-des-Sables. Prosperous, he expanded his business three times, opening three other establishments in the region, which would be managed by his sons. The Santerre family owned these businesses until 1983.



A Home, Its History

This home, one of the first in the new parish, dates back to 1869. It was built by Marcel Santerre on land granted by the government on condition that a house be constructed. Since then it has been occupied by at least two doctors, and for more than a decade by a branch of the National Bank of Canada.

