



Memphremagog
Conservation inc.

PRESS RELEASE

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Attention Publicity directors

MCI's Annual General Meeting: new challenges related to the protection of Lake Memphremagog

Magog, June 10th, 2018 – Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) held its 52nd annual general meeting at the Hermitage club in Magog. The members were brought up to date on the new challenges related to the protection of Lake Memphremagog as well as the actions taken by MCI over the past year.

MCI's main preoccupations

During the meeting, Mr. Robert Benoit, MCI's volunteer president, presented the various challenges facing us related to the protection of Lake Memphremagog, a drinking water source for 175,000 Eastern Townships residents. Five main concerns were noted: exotic invasive plants, zebra mussels, the Coventry landfill site, climate change and the continual increase in the size and power of boats on the lake.

Remember that the first colonies of zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Memphremagog in the summer of 2018. 2018 was also marked by the fight against the expansion of the Coventry landfill site, near the shores of Lake Memphremagog, which MCI is firmly opposed to. The addition of 51 acres to the site will allow the burial of an additional 500,000 tons of garbage a year for 22 more years. MCI is also concerned about the lack of regulation of boating practices: some water sports, such as wakeboat type activities that create oversized waves, can have significant impacts on water quality and biodiversity when practiced close to shore, in shallow areas or near weed beds.

Guest speaker, Gordon Kohl prize and a tribute to Mr. Donald Fisher

During the meeting, Me Michel Bélanger, one of the founders of the Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement and ex-President of Nature-Québec, gave a talk entitled *We can all make a difference*. As well, MCI awarded the Gordon Kohl prize, given to an individual who has contributed in an exceptional manner, by their passion and personal commitment, to the protection of the environment for current and future generations, to Mrs. Francine Hone, biologist specializing in the conservation of natural landscapes, who has worked with MCI since 2009, for her commitment to the conservation of the natural landscapes within the Lake Memphremagog watershed. Lastly, a tribute was paid to the late Donald Fisher, former president of MCI.

Main activities of MCI in 2018-2019

At the meeting, Mrs. Ariane Orjikh, MCI's general manager and Mr. Maxime Veillette, project coordinator for the study of fishing on the lake detailed the actions taken over the past year to improve the quality of

the lake's water and to conserve biodiversity in the watershed. MCI has continued work on the bi-national study mandated by the International Joint Commission (IJC) on nutrient loading in Lake Memphremagog. MCI and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department also began a study of sport fishing on the lake, with the participation of the Québec ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks (MFFP) and the Memphremagog MRC, to collect data on the various species of interest to fishermen and the resulting fishing pressure on their populations. MCI also continues its efforts to protect the biodiversity of the watershed, working with property owners to conserve, in perpetuity, natural landscapes, organizing exotic invasive species control efforts, and making residents aware of species at risk in the region.

Volunteers needed for zebra mussel and phragmite control

Zebra mussel and European common reed (phragmite) control activities are planned for this summer on Lake Memphremagog. Many volunteers are needed for these activities to control these exotic invasive species that threaten the lake's biodiversity. We would ask those interested to sign up at our web site at www.memphremagog.org.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

At the meeting, the members appointed the following slate of directors for 2019-2020: Mr. Robert Benoit, Mr. Louis-Philippe Cyr, Mr. Santiago Doyon, Mr. Jean-Claude Duff, Mrs. Mary Pat Goulding, Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, Mr. Peter Lépine, Mr. Olivier Provost-Barsalou and Mrs. Catherine Roy.

-30-

Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to working for the protection, conservation and improvement of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed for the benefit of current and future generations.

MCI works in concert with the various governmental and other organizations, as well as with private citizens to carry out concrete actions.

MCI relies mainly on its scientific knowledge to inform, raise awareness and empower the various actors to ensure the environmental health of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

Source

Ariane Orjikh, General Manager

Memphremagog Conservation Inc.

51 Cabana, Magog, J1X 2C4

Tel.: 819-574-2880

email: ariane.orjikh@memphremagog.org

Web site: www.memphremagog.org