



Memphrémagog
Conservation inc.

MEMPHREMAGOG CONSERVATION INC.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

Attention Publicity directors

MCI's Annual General Meeting: A busy year for the protection of Lake Memphremagog

Magog, August 22nd, 2020 –Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) held its 53rd Annual General Meeting via videoconference. This allowed the members to keep informed of MCI's actions over the past year to ensure the protection of Lake Memphremagog.

To open the meeting, Mr. Robert Benoit, MCI's volunteer president, emphasized the particular circumstances of this summer, resulting in a larger than normal number of Quebeckers using our waterways. The continual increase in the power and size of boats has been one of the main issues facing Lake Memphremagog over the past 30 years, and 2020 has certainly seen an important increase in the use of motorboats on the lake, bringing with it environmental impacts, among others noise pollution, bottom sediments entering the water column, damage to sensitive areas and the spread of the zebra mussel and other exotic invasive species. Remember that in Canada, boating is under federal jurisdiction and over the years very few waterways in this country have been able to regulate this practice for environmental reasons. In order to promote harmonious cohabitation of the different users of the lake, MCI will be writing a position paper which will be forwarded to regional elected officials in which we will outline the efforts we have made over the past 30 years to regulate boating activities.

MCI's 2019-2020 season saw the completion of several large-scale projects. A study of phosphorus loading in Lake Memphremagog, mandated by the International Joint Commission, was published and forwarded to the Canadian and American governments after 2 years of work carried out in collaboration with a dozen experts in the field and coordinated by MCI and the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA). A binational angler survey initiated in 2018 and supervised by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department was carried out. More than 10,000 interviews with anglers were conducted on Lake Memphremagog to gather data on Memphremagog's sport fishery. In conjunction with the group DUMP, MCI managed to obtain a four-year moratorium on the dumping and treatment of leachate from the Coventry landfill site in the Lake Memphremagog watershed. Finally, the MCI patrol carried out zebra mussel

inventories at 40 different locations around the lake to document their presence and have collected more than 12,000 zebra mussels to control their spread.

Board of Directors 2020-2021

During the meeting, MCI's members also appointed their new Board of Directors for 2020-2021, which will be composed of: Mr. Robert Benoit, Mr. Douglas Coutts, Mr. Louis-Philippe Cyr, Mr. Santiago Doyon, Mr. Jean-Claude Duff, Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, Mr. Peter Lépine, Mr. Eric Phendler, Mr. Olivier Provost-Barsalou and Mrs. Catherine Roy.

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Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a not for profit organization working for the protection, conservation, and improvement of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed for the benefit of present and future generations.

MCI works in concert with various regional governments and organizations as well as with citizens to carry out concrete actions.

MCI bases its work on 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