



Memphrémagog
Conservation inc.

**PRESS RELEASE
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Attention Publicity Directors

Volunteer divers to control zebra mussels in Lake Memphremagog

Magog, July 21, 2021 – Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) and Denis Mongeau of Plongée Magog join forces to undertake a volunteer zebra mussel control activity using diving gear in Lake Memphremagog. More than 15 experienced divers will participate in the exercise, which will take place on Friday, July 30 in Magog. Note that the first zebra mussel colonies were discovered in Lake Memphremagog in the summer of 2018 by Plongée Magog and MCI subsequently analyzed the problem and confirmed that well established colonies were present at the north end of the lake. This exotic invasive species threatens the lake's biodiversity and ecosystems and can create significant problems when attaching colonies to drinking water intakes, docks or boats.

« In Lake Memphremagog, the spread of the zebra mussel is recent and observable densities are still low. We hope to study the impact of the removal on the populations in the lake to see if it will be possible to keep population densities low » notes Ariane Orjikh, MCI's general manager.

« We are delighted to work with Memphremagog Conservation to carry out a volunteer diving activity that will help preserve the biodiversity of Lake Memphremagog », emphasizes Denis Mongeau of Plongée Magog.

Memphremagog Conservation encourages boaters and shoreline residents to redouble their efforts to limit the propagation of exotic invasive aquatic species such as the zebra mussel. *« The only way to stop the spread of new exotic invasives in Lake Memphremagog and other Québec bodies of water is to wash, empty and dry one's embarcation and all aquatic equipment, such as fishing or diving gear, when changing lakes. »*, insists Mrs. Orjikh. The washing of boats can be done at various free washing stations around Lake Memphremagog, or at one's residence, taking care to follow the precautions detailed in the Wildlife, forests and parks ministry's web site.

MCI and Plongée Magog would like to thank the City of Magog for its financial contribution to this project under the aegis of its subsidy program to improve water quality.

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Note that reporters are welcome on MCI's boat to take photos of the activity.

Photo: Ariane Orjikh, General manager, Memphrémagog Conservation and Denis Mongeau of Plongée Magog during a 2020 zebra mussel control activity.



Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a non-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 collaboration with various other organizations, governments, and citizens to carry out concrete actions.

MCI relies on scientific data to make aware, inform and empower the various actors to ensure the environmental health of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

Source

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