



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Impacts of climate change on Lake Memphremagog: MCI redoubles its efforts

Magog, June 15, 2024 – On June 15th, Memphremagog Conservation inc. (MCI) held its 57th annual general assembly (AGA) at the Murray Memorial centre in Stanstead Township. It was an occasion to remember the importance of MCI's mission for present and future generations. Johanne Lavoie, MCI's volunteer president since 2022, stated 'MCI is at the forefront in noting the effect of the loss of natural areas and climate change in the Lake Memphremagog watershed. The 2023 flooding was an alarm signal that we can no longer ignore. Our work with the population and various levels of government highlights our dynamism in taking concrete actions. MCI is pleased to present a synopsis of the last year's actions!'

The conservation program is now 15 years old

The conservation program, created in 2009, promotes the protection of natural areas within the Lake Memphremagog watershed. It is at the heart of several of MCI's actions. Since its inception, MCI has contributed to the protection of more than 835 hectares of private lands in one way or another.

To that end, MCI has invited Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to MCI's AGA to promote the conservation of natural areas during a special presentation. Wetlands, completely fascinating but not well known, were highlighted. They were analyzed to explain their roles within the Lake Memphremagog watershed, the menaces that they face and the importance of protecting them.

Action Bandes riveraines – Do you know the roles that shoreline buffer zones play? They are the last barrier to stop sediments which affect water quality! For this reason, MCI offers its help again this year. With financing from the 'Québec water strategy', MCI was able to naturalize more than 263 metres of shoreline in 2024. MCI can help Lake Memphremagog municipalities and the watershed's shoreline residents in this area. Contact MCI at bandesriveraines@memphremagog.org for more information.

Our general manager celebrates 10 years with MCI – Mrs. Ariane Orjikh, MCI's general manager's 10 years with MCI were highlighted. Ariane is a biologist with a master's in biology with specialization in international ecology. She has directed several MCI projects, such as 'Healthy Fitch Bay', monitoring of zebra mussels and other exotic invasive species, the study on nutrient loading and its impact on Lake Memphremagog for the International Joint Commission. Again this year, the list of projects is long and MCI is grateful and proud to be able to count on her.

2024-2025 board of directors: nominations et departures

MCI's Board of directors is privileged to welcome three new members, Mr. Mathieu Roy, Mrs. Marie-Anne Tawil and Frédérique Thibault-Lessard.

Mr. Mathieu Roy has been an ornamental horticulture technician for the past thirty years and is a secondary school teacher at La Ruche high school in Magog. Environmental questions are at the heart of his priorities. Ecosystem protection and biodiversity conservation are also central themes in his teaching to his students. It is this link between the students living in the Lake Memphremagog watershed and MCI's mission that convinced him to join the Board.

Mrs. Marie-Anne Tawil is a business manager, entrepreneur, lawyer and company director, notably in the areas of strategy, governance, audit and risk management. She currently sits on the boards of several public, private and non-profit organizations. She is a member of the Québec Bar and holds a bachelor's in civil law (LLB) and an MBA. She is an IAS.A certified administrator and is the recipient of Queen Elizabeth's diamond jubilee medal.

Frédérique Thibault-Lessard, holds a bachelors in environment from the University of Sherbrooke, a high school diploma specializing in oceanography and is currently a masters level student in regional and territorial development at the University of Québec in Rimouski (UQAR) and is a former MCI project manager. Frédérique, with her dynamism and numerous skills in environment and communications, will be a great asset to MCI.

These new board members join a team composed of Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, president, Mrs. Pascale Bédard, vice-president and secretary, Mr. Peter Lépine, vice-president, Mr. Olivier Provost-Barsalou, treasurer, Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, interim Board chairman, Mr. Santiago Doyon, Mrs. Marie-Josée Huot and Mr. Eric Phendler.

To conclude, MCI is saddened at the departure **Mr. Robert Benoit**, winner of the Gordon-Kohl prize in 2023, former MCI president and board member for the past 20 years. A notable figure in MCI and mentor to many people over the course of his years as board member, Robert will always have a special place within MCI.

MCI also notes the departure of **Mr. Maxime Veillette**, former patrol member and MCI project manager. He leaves MCI to concentrate on new professional challenges.

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Remember that Memphrémagog Conservation inc. (MCI) is a non-profit organization working for the protection, conservation and improvement of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. It aims to ensure the environmental health and natural beauty of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed for current and future generations.

MCI works in collaboration with various regional and governmental stakeholders as well as with citizens to complete concrete actions.

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

Thanks

This conference is part of a project undertaken with the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada's fund for priority areas designated by local communities for species at risk and Appalachian Corridor, manager of the Northern Green Mountains project, as well as financial support from the Fondation de la Faune du Québec.

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Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Environment and
Climate Change Canada



The Action Bandes riveraines project is an initiative planned for in Quebec's 2018-2023 water strategy action plan, deploying concrete measures to protect, use and manage water and aquatic areas in a responsible, integrated and sustainable way.



Québec 

Photo



In the photo, from left to right: Léa Locas, Claudie Ouellet and Émile Derbesy-Lanari, members of the Lake Patrol, Peter Lépine, Vice-president, Fanny De Blois, Project manager, Pascale Bédard, Vice-president and Secretary, Johanne Lavoie, President, Ariane Orjikh, General manager, Marie-Josée Huot, Board member, Chanel Racine-Mineault, Project manager, Robert Benoit, outgoing Board member, Marie-Anne Tawil, newly elected Board member, Francine Hone, MCI Collaborator, Jonathan Clarke, new observer on the Board, and Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Interim Chair of the Board.

Source

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