



Memphrémagog  
Conservation inc.

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Attention Publicity directors

## A SECOND NATURE RESERVE FOR MEMPHREMAGOG CONSERVATION

Magog, April 27, 2018 – MCI is proud to announce the creation of a **new protected area** in the Lake Memphremagog watershed, the ***réserve naturelle du Ruisseau-Powell (secteur Lacasse-Benoit)***. This 14.7 ha. private nature reserve is situated alongside Powell creek in the municipality of Austin.

### An important natural richness now protected

The conservation, in perpetuity, of this area is a significant gesture for the protection of biodiversity by the Lacasse-Benoit family, aided by MCI. In fact, the streams, wetlands and stands of different species of trees found on the property represent prime habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.

The conservation of natural landscapes in the Lake Memphremagog watershed also contributes to maintaining the quality of the lake's water, an important source of drinking water for many residents of the region, including the Cities of Sherbrooke and Magog. This alone is reason enough to preserve the beauty of our landscapes and the quality of life of our citizens.



*The Lacasse-Benoit family. From left to right: Robert Benoit, Gisèle Lacasse, their grandchildren and daughters, Marine, Félix, Elyes, Chady, Valérie and Catherine*

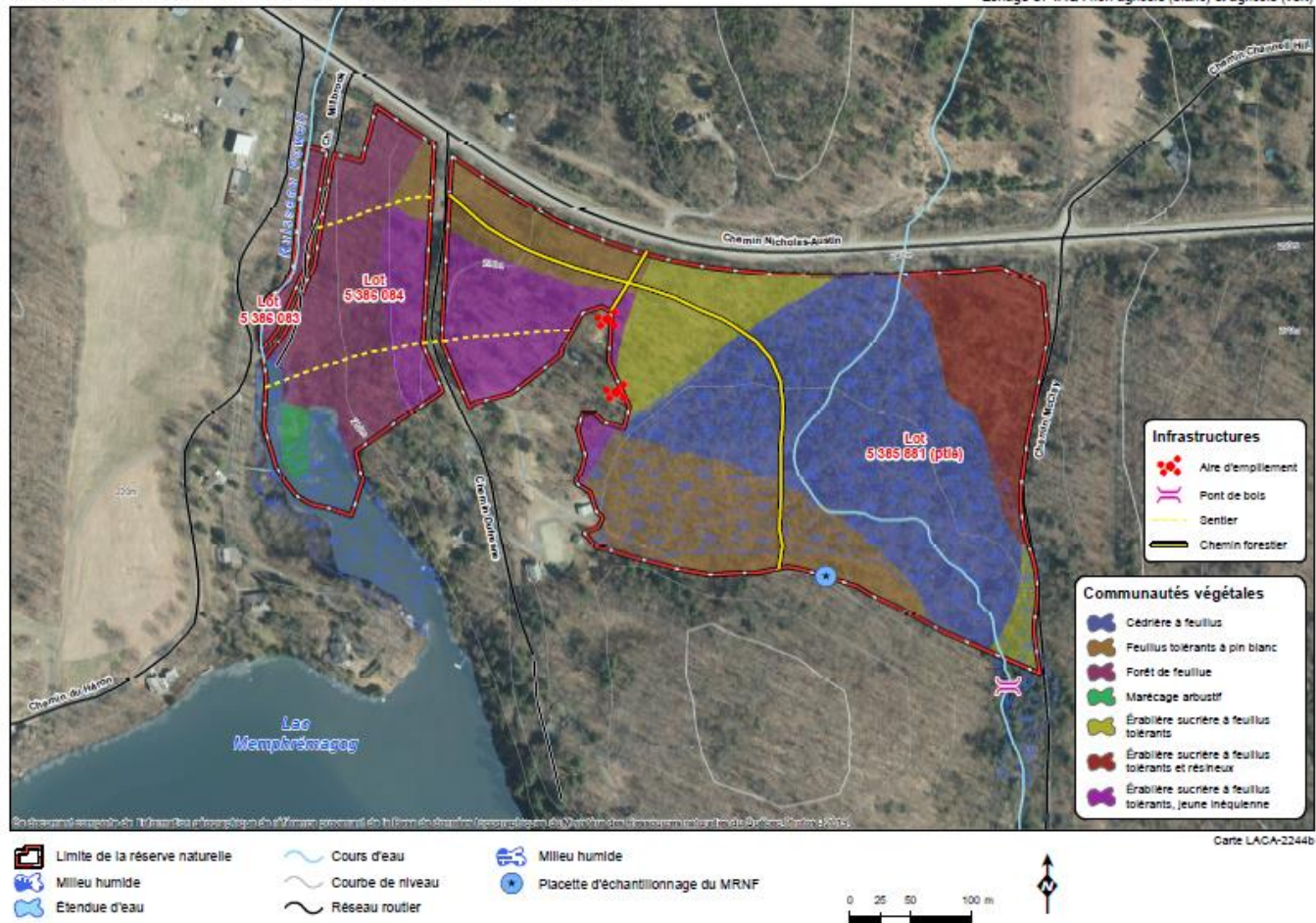
The creation of the *réserve naturelle du Ruisseau-Powell (secteur Lacasse-Benoit)* is an eloquent example of how we can reconcile protection of the environment with light use of the land. This commitment is no surprise in the Lacasse-Benoit family: *«protection of the environment, and more specifically protection of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed has always been a priority for us. We have lived here for many years and are very attached to our region and our community. We created this nature reserve to ensure the protection of a forest and a wetland and all the ecological roles they play: protecting flora, fauna and habitat, purifying the air, stabilizing soils, and absorbing water from heavy downpours. But what is most dear to*

us is the ecological roles this land plays in protecting the quality of Powell creek, the third largest tributary flowing into the lake on the Canadian side. With this gesture, our family is happy to contribute to the protection, in perpetuity, of this small part of the Lake Memphremagog watershed.»

### Communautés végétales et infrastructures

Réserve naturelle du Ruisseau-Powell (Secteur Lacasse-Benoit)

Lots 5 386 083, 5 386 084 et 5 386 881 (ptie) du cadastre du Québec  
Municipalité : Austin  
Superficie de la réserve naturelle: 14,689 ha  
Zonage CPTAQ : non-agricole (blanc) et agricole (vert)



Given that only 9,2% of Lake Memphremagog's watershed is currently protected\*, MCI is hoping this initiative will inspire others to protect their property for their own quality of life, but more importantly, for future generations.

This nature reserve, recognized by the Québec Environment department (MDDELCC), was created with the financial participation of the Fondation de la faune du Québec.

### MCI's Conservation program

MCI created its conservation program in 2009 to promote the preservation of natural landscapes in Lake Memphremagog's watershed. As the land is for the most part privately owned, MCI depends on the voluntary participation of landowners via conservation agreements (donation, servitude, sale for conservation purposes) or obtaining private nature reserve status. The *réserve naturelle du Ruisseau-Powell (secteur Lacasse-Benoit)* is the second nature reserve recognized by the Quebec government thanks to MCI. Since 2009, we have helped preserve 792 ha. of natural landscapes.

Property owners interested in conserving the natural landscapes on their property are invited to a conference on conservation options given by MCI and LAMRAC. The conference will be held Saturday, April 28th at 9:30 AM at the LAMRAC Interpretation centre at 69, Ch. Roy in Magog.

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## About MCI

Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a non-profit organisation formed of volunteers, working since 1967 for the protection of the environmental health and natural beauty of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. With the strength of its membership, it works to ensure that all residents of the region can benefit from and enjoy a healthy lake, for today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Photo legend: The Lacasse-Benoit family. From left to right: Robert Benoit, Gisèle Lacasse, their grandchildren and daughters, Marine, Félix, Elyes, Chady, Valérie and Catherine

Map legend: Limits, vegetation communities and infrastructures of the *réserve naturelle du Ruisseau-Powell* (secteur Lacasse-Benoit).

\*Appalachian Corridor, 2017

This project has received the financial support of:



## Source

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