



Memphremagog  
Conservation inc.

## MEMPHREMAGOG CONSERVATION INC.

**PRESS RELEASE**

*For immediate distribution*

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Attention Publicity directors

### **MCI's annual general meeting: A very busy year for the protection of Lake Memphremagog**

Georgeville, July 14, 2018 –Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) today held its 51st annual general meeting at the Murray Memorial Centre in Georgeville. The members were brought up to date on the actions undertaken over the past year, discussed issues with the board of directors, and elected the directors for the coming year.

#### **Summary of MCI's actions in 2017-2018**

During the meeting, Mrs. Ariane Orjikh, MCI's general manager, and Mr. Santiago Doyon, patrol coordinator, presented the actions taken over the past year to preserve the health of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

In the spring, a 14.7-hectare nature reserve was created at the mouth of Powell creek with the help of MCI, which has been working with property owners since 2009 on voluntary conservation of their natural landscapes. As part of the Healthy Fitch Bay project, several farmers obtained a free erosion analysis of their fields, as well as subsidies aimed at helping them adopt measures to reduce the volume of sediments reaching waterways. Also, MCI volunteers worked on phragmite control activities. Phragmites are an exotic invasive species that appeared near wetlands in Fitch Bay in 2016. The lake patrol continued its work of increasing environmental awareness among the public, monitoring activity around the lake, running water sampling programs and carrying out scientific studies aimed at improving our knowledge of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

This year saw the start of a large-scale project: the International Joint Commission (IJC) asked MCI, along with the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA), to undertake an important study of nutrient loading in Lake Memphremagog. This bi-national study will collate all the information available on nutrients, such as phosphorous, in Lake Memphremagog's watershed on both sides of the border. This project aims to develop recommendations to consolidate current efforts to reduce concentrations of nutrients and the proliferation of aquatic plants and cyanobacteria by the end of 2019.

## **Principal concerns expressed by MCI's members**

During the meeting, MCI's members reiterated their concerns regarding the Coventry landfill site, situated in Vermont very close to the lake. An American commission is currently in consultation regarding a major expansion of the landfill. MCI is firmly opposed to this expansion near Lake Memphremagog, a drinking water reservoir for over 185,000 people, including the cities of Sherbrooke and Magog. The proposed enlargement would add 51 acres to the site, allowing for the addition of 500,000 tons of waste per year for the next 22 years. MCI will submit a document justifying our position against the expansion to the commission, which is accepting comments on the proposed expansion until July 20, 2018.

Members also continue to be preoccupied by the lack of control of boating practices on the lake. Certain activities, such as sports that generate large waves, practiced with wake boat type water craft, can have serious impacts on water quality and on aquatic flora and fauna when carried out close to shore and in shallow areas of the lake, such as in Fitch Bay. The members hope to see the Federal Government improve boating regulations to help ensure the protection of Lake Memphremagog.

## **MCI's bylaws**

Although no major changes were made, MCI took the opportunity of our 50th anniversary to review the organization's bylaws, which dated from our founding in 1967, to modernize them. These bylaws were adopted Saturday by the members.

## **2018-2019 board of directors**

During the meeting, MCI's members appointed the new board of directors for 2018-2019, which will be composed of: Mr. Robert Benoit, Mr. Louis-Philippe Cyr, Mr. Jean-Claude Duff, Mrs. Mary Pat Goulding, Mr. Charles Guay, Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, Mr. Peter Lépine, Mrs. Sandra Marshall and Mrs. Catherine Roy.

After the annual meeting, the board of directors met to elect the executive: Mr. Robert Benoit, president, M. Peter Lépine, vice-president, Mrs. Catherine Roy, vice-president and secretary, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, treasurer and Mr. Jean-Claude Duff, chairman of the board of directors. Two observers were also elected: Mr. Santiago Doyon and Mrs. Elaura Martel.



Photo courtesy: Mrs Valérie Benoit

First row from left to right: Mr Jean-Claude Duff, Mrs Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs Mary Pat Goulding, Mrs Ariane Orjikh, Mrs Sandra Marshall, Mr Charles Guay, Mr Robert Benoit

Second row from left to right: Mr Santiago Doyon, Mrs Karina Palmorino, Mr Peter Lepine, Mrs Johanne Lavoie, Mr Louis-Philippe Cyr, Mr Maxime Veillette, Mr François Bélanger

## Phragmite control activities

MCI will hold two phragmite control activities on the shores of Fitch Bay on July 28th and August 7th, 2018. MCI is soliciting volunteers to help control this exotic invasive species which is a menace to the biodiversity of the area. The volunteers will meet at 8:30 AM on the Bissell road in Stanstead Township, and are asked to confirm their presence via email to [info@memphremagog.org](mailto:info@memphremagog.org).

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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, permanent and seasonal, waterfront or not, can benefit from and enjoy a healthy lake, for today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

MCI works in collaboration with the various regional and governmental organizations as well as with private citizens to carry out concrete actions.

MCI depends largely 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

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