



THE MEMPHRÉ

Memphrémagog Conservation

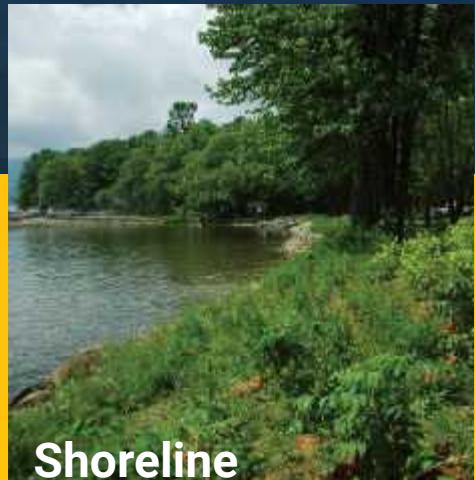
MAY 2024

Fitch Bay, Lake Memphremagog. Source: Nawfel Touil

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Shoreline Buffer Zones:
Join the movement!
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A word from your president

Dear readers, I am pleased to offer you the 2024 edition of *MemphrÉ*. I am continuing the role entrusted to me in June 2022 with a great deal of passion.

We at MCI are working hard for present and future generations. The health of the Lake Memphremagog watershed is at the core of issues and projects that directly affect you.

I would like to point out the work of our personnel and volunteers, for it is due to them that we have accomplished great things since 1967. The following pages are a testament to our professionalism and devotion.

We are very happy to contribute to countering the effects of climate change and preserving our local biodiversity!

The protection of natural landscapes, whose benefits need to be better recognized: To this end, additional properties are in the process of being protected in perpetuity within our watershed. This has not come easily, it was a long, complex, and confidential operation. Stay tuned to our social networks for continuing coverage!

More natural shorelines! Thank you to the property owners who worked with us to improve their shoreline buffer zones. More than 2,400 square metres of shoreline will regain their natural look this summer. This means runoff better filtered and a lake better protected. We are in contact with several municipalities to pursue this collaborative approach.

The **Coventry** file has preoccupied us for several years now. I invite you to read the detailed article found in these pages.

Lake Memphremagog under the microscope. On many levels, Lake Memphremagog is an object of concern. This year sees a marked increase in environmental interest, judging by the dollars being spent. We and our partners will be better able to work together and acquire a deeper understanding and develop concrete solutions to the problems weighing on the lake and its watershed. MCI is pleased to work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Appalachian Corridor and the Québec ministry of the environment, the fight against climate change, wildlife and parks (MELCCFP) as part of the plan for the conservation of natural landscapes within the watershed; the Memphremagog Nature Foundation (formerly Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation) on the conservation of private property; COGESAF as part of a technical

committee on Lake Memphremagog; the shoreline municipalities for the revegetation of shoreline buffer zones and the control of exotic invasive species; Ducks Unlimited Canada for the conservation of wetlands in Fitch Bay as well as the MELCCFP and the Memphremagog MRC for the monitoring of water quality.

New projects are underway. Did you know that the cities of Magog and Sherbrooke are creating protection plans for their source of drinking water? That the Polytechnique will study the impact of climate change on Lake Memphremagog? That McGill University will study the impact of zebra mussels on native mussels, and that they have a limnology lab on Lake Memphremagog? That the Political Science games 2024 edition, held at the University of Sherbrooke, are studying the Coventry file? MCI is staying informed of all the issues that impact the lake and offers help to the various organizations interested in the lake. We have been amassing a deep knowledge of the lake and its watershed since 1967!

The following pages will convince you that the money you donate is used the right way. My team and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Happy reading!

Johanne Lavoie, Volunteer President

Convocation to the annual general meeting

MCI's members are invited to its annual general meeting, which will take place at the Murray Memorial centre, 4680 Channel Road, Stanstead Township on Saturday June 15th from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. MCI will give an overview of the 2023-2024 year, the different projects planned for this year as well as our struggles and accomplishments. Join us by signing up on our web site at [memphremagog.org!](http://memphremagog.org)



The members of the 2024 patrol!

For the 52nd year, the members of the MCI patrol will be in the field to carry out projects aimed at protecting Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. Monitoring exotic snail populations, revegetating residential shoreline buffer zones, sampling water quality, awareness campaigns... the patrol will carry out many projects this summer.

This year, the team consists of two ecological project managers as well as three students in ecology and environment.

You are encouraged to contact them with any observations on the lake this summer, by telephone at 819-620-3939 or by email at patrol@memphremagog.org.

Your collaboration is much appreciated!

Fanny De Blois

A graduate in ecology from the University of Sherbrooke, she has been a project manager at MCI since February 2022. For the second year now, she will be the patrol coordinator.

Chanel Racine-Mineault

A graduate in ecology from the University of Sherbrooke, Chanel has been a project manager with MCI for a little more than a year. She is responsible for the shoreline buffer zone revegetation project in residential zones, where planting will begin this spring. She will also assist Fanny in the coordination of the patrol's activities.

Claudie Ouellet

Student in the environmental studies bachelor's program at the University of Sherbrooke, Claudie hopes to further her knowledge on wetlands and waterways. She loves working in the field and joins MCI as a field agent this summer. Welcome to the team Claudie!



2024 Patrol – Chanel Racine-Mineault, Fanny De Blois, Émile Derbesy-Lanari, Claudio Ouellet and Léa Locas

Émile Derbesy-Lanari

Currently studying biology at McGill University in Montréal, Émile is focussed on ecology and conservation. Hoping to work with environmental organizations, he joins us for the summer 2024 season with enthusiasm. Welcome to the team Émile!

Léa Locas

Student in the general biology program at the University of Sherbrooke, she is passionate about the protection of the environment. She hopes to learn more regarding water bodies and their protection. A team player, she joins MCI as a field agent this summer. Welcome to the team Léa!

10 years already with MCI

MCI is proud to highlight our general manager Ariane Orjikh's 10 years working with us. Ariane manages MCI brilliantly thanks to her professionalism, efficiency, experience, and expertise. She has allowed us to increase our visibility over the years. The board of directors is privileged to be able to count on her and we are proud of the projects successfully completed under her management. Remember the Healthy Fitch Bay project, her work monitoring zebra mussel colonies and other exotic invasive species, the nutrient loading study for the International Joint Commission? Ariane is still managing large projects with MCI's undeniable stamp on them. It is not only because she is a biologist with a master's degree with specialization in international ecology that makes her exceptional. Ariane is also, and especially, a warm, positive, dynamic person who is a joy to work with. Thank you, Ariane,...and many more projects together!

The MCI board of directors



Cyanobacteria: a problem made worse by climate change

Lake Memphremagog has had one of its worst summers to date regarding cyanobacteria. They have been present in great quantity, going so far as completely covering certain areas of the lake, thus limiting the field agents' ability to snorkel towards the end of the season.

In general, cyanobacteria, which are present naturally in our waterways, are kept in check by environmental factors such as water temperature, the availability of nutrients and sunlight. However, they proliferate in excessive quantities when environmental factors become favourable, notably when water temperatures are higher than normal and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are available in greater quantities.

As changes in the climate increase, cyanobacteria blooms become an important problem for Québec's waterways. Not only does the increase in temperature favour the proliferation, increasing the length of their growing season and the frequency of blooms, but more frequent and intense rainfall events can wash nutrients from the soil into lakes, also exacerbating their proliferation.

The meteorological conditions, such as the heavy rainfall events and strong winds observed this summer have amplified the cyanobacteria blooms in Lake Memphremagog.

Their proliferation is not without consequence. As well as degrading the quality of the water by reducing its transparency and depleting oxygen levels, these blooms can produce toxins potentially harmful for aquatic flora and fauna as well as for humans using the waterways for swimming or drinking. If these toxins accumulate in the body in high concentrations, they can create serious health problems, such as skin irritation, gastro-intestinal problems, and even neurological problems.

Faced with this serious problem, MCI is continuing its monitoring of the lake's water quality and sensitizing the public regarding the risks associated with cyanobacteria blooms. MCI is also working on projects to reduce the input of nutrients into the lake such as the revegetation of shoreline buffer zones and the protection of natural landscapes, which filter rain runoff in the watershed.

We also have been monitoring and documenting cyanobacteria blooms across the lake since 2006. In fact, we invite you to write to patrol@memphremagog.org and provide us with the details of any blooms you observe, providing the date, location and a photo. These observations are compiled and added to our interactive map on cyanobacteria, allowing us to mobilize regional authorities regarding this problem.



Cyanobacteria bloom, September 2023.
Photo taken by Nawfel Touil.

Cyanobacteria bloom, October 2023.
Photo taken by Niels Jensen.

Cyanobacteria bloom, September 2023.
Photo taken by Nawfel Touil.

Shoreline Buffer Zones

An effective way
to limit cyanobacteria
blooms!



For several years now, the population has been concerned about cyanobacteria blooms due to their potentially dangerous impacts on human health, ecosystems and recreational activities. In Lake Memphremagog, the proliferation of blooms is due to important inputs of phosphorus from water coming in large part from landscaped properties with too small shoreline buffer zones. To reduce this problem, proper practices are well known: shoreline residents need, among other things, to enlarge their buffer zones, to at least 10 metres wide, and including three vegetative strata (grasses, shrubs and trees). These zones play a crucial role in improving the lake's water quality as well as creating better wildlife habitat.

However, many residents on the shores of the lake and its tributaries are not aware of this. That is why last year MCI initiated a project to help property owners in the Lake Memphremagog watershed to preserve and enlarge their shoreline buffer zones, at the same time providing them information on the importance of a large dense buffer zone.

Since last year, a variety of activities have been undertaken. We began by publicizing the project across our various communication means and across our social network platforms to recruit interested property owners. We then proceeded to analyze the participants' buffer zones, recommend species for planting, create landscaping plans, produce detailed owners' manuals and order the required plants. In collaboration with RAPPEL, a webinar on the revegetation of shoreline buffer zones was organized for March 22nd, 2024, on world water day to inform the population on the subject.

Several other activities are also planned. This spring, from the middle of May to the middle of June, members of our lake patrol, in collaboration with the property owners, will proceed with the required planting. This activity will use a large diversity of indigenous flora adapted to shorelines, such as northern blue flag iris, a variety of ferns, swamp milkweed, various grasses, sweet gale, red osier dogwood, broad leaved spirea, sandbar willow, elderberry, tamarack and eastern white cedar.

Example of a management plan for a shoreline revegetation prepared by the project manager, Chanel Racine-Mineault

A few numbers...

Number of revegetation projects **6**

Total surface area revegetated **2392 m²**

263 m Length of shoreline revegetated

Number of plants planted **5 355** plants

734 m² of various grass seeds

Number of indigenous species planted **More than 70**

This project was made possible thanks to a contribution from the Programme de soutien régional aux enjeux de l'eau (PSREE), tied to the 2018-2023 Québec water strategy, as well as the collaboration of COGESAF and the Lake Memphremagog lakeside municipalities.

MCI can help with the renaturalization of your shoreline!

Contact us for more information at: bandesriveraines@memphremagog.org



Québec

The community mobilizes for the protection of Fitch Bay and its watershed!

More than sixty people attended a conference given by MCI and Ducks Unlimited Canada on the protection of the natural landscapes of Fitch Bay and its watershed last March 23rd at the Stanstead Township town hall. The objective of this event was to inform property owners within the Fitch Bay watershed of the opportunities available to protect the natural landscapes on their property. It was an excellent chance to discuss with the residents of the area the different conservation options available to them. The municipality also invited them to an open house to present, among other things, the restoration project for the Forand park wetland and hear their comments regarding navigation in the bay.



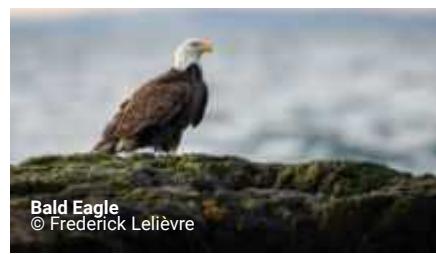
MCI and Ducks Unlimited Canada conference on the protection of natural landscapes in Fitch Bay. – March 23, 2024

Why protect the natural landscapes of Fitch Bay and its watershed?

Located on the east side of Lake Memphremagog, the Fitch Bay watershed is known for its natural landscapes of ecological interest as well as the beauty of the area. With its forests, numerous wetlands and aquatic areas, it represents a great richness for the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

These natural landscapes provide important ecological services and protection of biodiversity while also offering possibilities for recreation and sport for the benefit of the community.

Habitat for flora and fauna is among the many ecological services provided by natural landscapes. Fauna is particularly represented, and includes threatened species whose survival, in many cases, requires the protection of their habitat. These include the bridle shiner, snapping turtle, eastern meadowlark, bobolink, four toed salamander and northern dusky salamander. The Fitch Bay area is also an important amphibian migration corridor along the Narrows Road, where hundreds of frogs move between forests and the Fitch Bay wetlands. There are also threatened flora such as wild garlic, Bailey's sedge and Butternut trees.



Bald Eagle
© Frederick Lelièvre



The Fitch Bay wetlands and waterways contain unique habitats essential for many species of fauna, as feeding areas, rest areas and nesting and reproduction areas. They are habitat for many aquatic birds. There we can find the wood duck, black duck, bald eagle, great blue heron, American bittern and kingfisher. They also contain many species of fish, such as large and small mouth bass, northern pike and sunfish.

The forested areas contain mainly deciduous and mixed species and are recognized for containing great biodiversity due to their location. They contain several flora and fauna species which are not found in more northern areas of the province, as they are at the northern limit of their range. As well, several large stands of forest have been identified, three of which extend over 1,000 hectares, covering parts of Stanstead Township, the city of Magog, Ste-Catherine de Hatley and Stanstead East.



Yellow Perch
© Dreamstime



Largemouth bass
© iStock



Chain pickerel
© LaSalle-Photo



Four-toed salamander
© Nature Conservancy of Canada



Given the beauty of the area and its waterways, it faces many anthropic activities such as real estate development and tourist activities such as boating, fishing and hiking. Certain parts of the watershed are also used for agricultural purposes. All these activities can have impacts on Fitch Bay's natural landscapes.

We know that the aquatic areas of the watershed are showing the most severe symptoms of premature aging in Lake Memphremagog, mainly due to anthropic activities within its watershed. The deterioration of the bay's environment puts these ecosystems' health in peril and has a negative impact on the residents' quality of life and the recreational potential of the area, as well as certain socio-economic activities.

MCI is active in the area.

MCI has been carrying out activities in Fitch Bay for many years. These activities include monitoring the quality of the water, carrying out inventories of its flora and fauna, analyzing its shoreline buffer zones, encouraging better farming practices, encouraging better municipal and private road maintenance practices, and carrying out awareness campaigns with boaters. Phragmite control activities have also been ongoing since 2018 in collaboration with the municipality of Stanstead Township to eliminate a phragmite colony near Bunker brook.

MCI also works with owners of natural landscapes within the watershed, helping them with the voluntary conservation of their land. At the present time, only 0.005% of the Fitch Bay watershed is protected; a very poor showing given the Québec government's objective of protecting 30% of terrestrial and aquatic landscapes by 2030. MCI would like to speed up the pace and is seeking the help of property owners to increase the number of protected areas. If you value the natural landscapes on your property and would like to preserve them, please contact us at conservation@molphremagog.org for more information about protecting your property!



Ariane Orjikh
General manager, MCI

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change, as part of the "Green Mountains of the North: Towards land use planning for the protection and recovery of species at risk", coordinated by the Appalachian Corridor.

Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :
This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

 Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

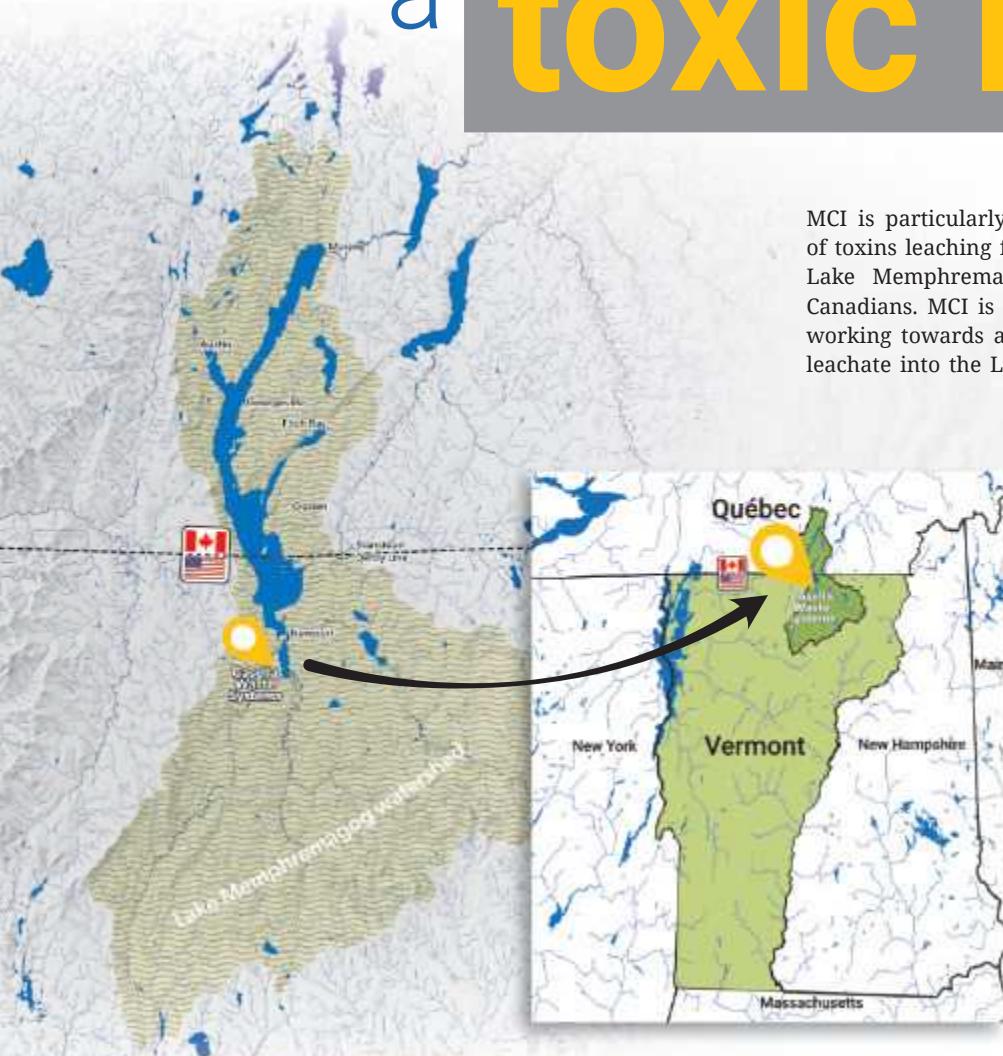
Environment and
Climate Change Canada



Snapping turtle
© Nature Conservancy of Canada



The Coventry, Vermont garbage dump: a **toxic legacy**



A few facts

- The Coventry landfill is Vermont's only landfill site. It is located at the head of Lake Memphremagog, a few hundred metres from one of the lake's largest tributaries.
- By the end of its current permit, the site will have grown to the equivalent of 98 football fields and attained a height equivalent to that of Place Ville Marie in Montréal.
- In 2019, MCI and the Vermont environmental group DUMP (Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity) obtained a moratorium preventing the landfill operator from discharging leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed. This moratorium ends in 2026.
- In 2023, the site generated 13.5 million gallons of leachate, commonly called 'garbage juice', enough to fill 20 Olympic swimming pools.
- MCI and DUMP continue to work on a permanent moratorium to prevent the discharge of any leachate, treated or not, into the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

MCI is particularly concerned with the environmental impacts of toxins leaching from the American landfill site at the head of Lake Memphremagog, source of potable water for 175,000 Canadians. MCI is following the situation closely and continues working towards a permanent moratorium on the discharge of leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

Many questions remain.

MCI is questioning the handling of leachate at the landfill site and the pretreatment process proposed by the operator of the site. Understand that MCI believes that treating the leachate is better than not treating it, which the operator is doing to a certain extent today. However, will the construction of a new pretreatment plant close to Lake Memphremagog result in the eventual return of leachate discharge into the watershed? How will they dispose of the pollutants extracted from the leachate? What quantity and concentration of pollutants will they need to dispose of? Is the leachate at the site handled properly? What procedures are in place for maintenance and to handle equipment breakdowns? Is there adequate communication between Canadian and American authorities in case of environmental emergencies? These and many more questions remain.

Environmental and health risks

Regarding leachate, the science is clear, it is toxic. Leachate contains significant quantities of pollutants, including PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances), commonly called forever chemicals. PFAS are endocrine disruptors. When ingested, they accumulate in living things, causing serious health problems.



Another concern is the fact that the water table around the landfill site is polluted.

As well, no other lake in Québec has as many catfish with cancer as Lake Memphremagog. Investigations continue to find the cause of this problem, but the discharge of leachate into the lake over several years is one potential cause.

The technical reports produced by the operator regarding leachate discharge contain irregularities (too large a volume of leachate produced by various cells, too large a quantity of PFAS, etc.).

Several other concerns and dangers remain.

Legal issues

Lake Memphremagog falls under several jurisdictions: municipal, provincial, federal, and international. Out of this legal cocktail, we use several tools to help protect the lake. For example:

The international treaty signed between Canada and the United States on boundary waters states in article IV that neither country may pollute the other. To monitor this treaty, the International Joint Commission was created. This commission could study the situation and make recommendations.

A new Canadian standard regarding PFAS in water is being developed. It will likely be much stricter than the current American standard. We await with interest.

In Vermont, an environmental justice law was adopted in May of 2023, resulting in the population not having to support the environmental impact of a different, larger slice of the population. The Lake Memphremagog watershed already supports the environmental impact of the majority of Vermont's garbage as well as garbage from adjacent states. Supporting the environmental impact of the leachate generated represents a great environmental injustice and should work in favour of a permanent moratorium.

In Québec, the National Assembly passed a unanimous resolution in favour of a permanent moratorium. How do we get the United States to respect this resolution?

The Coventry landfill file is complex. In this context, MCI believes that the precaution principle, a recognized legal principle, should be applied.

To obtain a permanent moratorium

MCI and DUMP, almost entirely made up of volunteers, have done an immense amount of work on this issue. It is thanks to their commitment to the protection of Lake Memphremagog that the current moratorium is in place, at least until 2026.

If these two environmental organizations were able to obtain a temporary moratorium from the landfill company, surely a concerted effort from all regional, provincial, and federal stakeholders ought to be able to obtain a permanent one.

During the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) in 2007, the Memphremagog MRC, the city of Magog and the city of Sherbrooke all requested that the owner of the Bestan landfill site shut it down permanently. The objective being to avoid any risk of contamination of drinking water sources for Magog and Sherbrooke by any discharge incompatible with this usage. The site was closed for good by the owner in 2010.

The logical next step would be for our provincial and federal elected officials to pick up the ball and do whatever it takes to obtain a permanent moratorium regarding the final destination of the leachate, treated or not, to ensure that it is outside the Lake Memphremagog watershed and that no leachate from outside the Lake Memphremagog watershed be transported to Coventry for treatment. We call on their sense of civic duty. Let us unite our efforts to obtain a permanent moratorium in 2026, which is right around the corner!

Johanne Lavoie,
B.Sc.A., D.E.S.G,
volunteer president of MCI

François Bélanger
B.Sc.A., M.Eng.Env, volunteer technical consultant for MCI

Ducks Unlimited Canada, a key player in the conservation of wetlands

If forests are said to be the lungs of the planet, wetlands are its kidneys: they naturally filter water, capturing sediments and pollutants. As well, it is estimated that a third of threatened species in North America depend on wetlands for their survival. It is undeniable that they provide ecosystemic services, and yet the protection of these spaces remains a challenge. To this day, they are unappreciated and rarely studied. The threats that they face are many, and result in their degradation or complete loss: filling and draining for development or agricultural purposes, introduction of exotic invasive species, pollution...

To ensure their protection and to avoid degradation and loss, Québec's National Assembly adopted law 132 regarding the conservation of wetlands and waterways in 2017. Despite the objective of no net loss, between 2018 and 2022 328 hectares of wetlands were illegally destroyed in Québec, the equivalent of 173 football fields. The Eastern Townships had the third worst record, with a loss of 53.65 ha. Add to that the fully legal destruction of an additional

2,330 ha in the province in six years. Though compensation for wetland destruction is required from developers for restoration or creation of new wetlands, only 1% of that money has been used, due to the difficulty of finding land. The longer we wait, the more difficult it becomes. Thus, because the legislation is not having the desired result, to continue to benefit from the ecological services of the 5,746 hectares of wetlands in the Lake Memphremagog watershed we must unite our forces and work with property owners, regional organizations, citizens and municipalities.

A true pillar of conservation in Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) was founded in 1938 by a group of hunters concerned with the alarming decline in wildfowl populations over the years. With degradation and loss of habitat being a serious problem, the mission of our nonprofit organization consists of conserving, restoring, managing and promoting a healthy wetland environment for fauna and humans alike.



Since 1976, our multidisciplinary team has conserved, in perpetuity, 38,140 ha in Québec in 324 projects across the province. This would not have been possible without the participation of property owners. To accomplish this, we work with them as well as local organizations such as MCI to offer interesting conservation options.

DUC is proud to work in partnership with MCI within the Lake Memphremagog watershed. With this partnership, we benefit from their vast experience on the ground and together we can optimize the ecological and economic benefits of our projects for everyone.

Marie-Lyne Deshaies

*Project manager,
habitat protection
Ducks Unlimited Canada*

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Tompkins Creek wetland, July 2020.
Credit: Ariane Orjikh

More help

for lake Memphremagog and its watershed!

Actions being taken to protect the quality of Lake Memphremagog's water went into high gear in October 2023. Thanks to support from the environment ministry, the Conseil de gouvernance de l'eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF) now has an employee dedicated to the watershed who will be able to support local organizations that are active in the protection of the environment. This initiative falls within the Québec water strategy, which deploys concrete measures to protect, manage and use aquatic regions in a responsible, integrated and sustainable fashion. This is the first time that the environment ministry has directly financed this type of support for a lake.

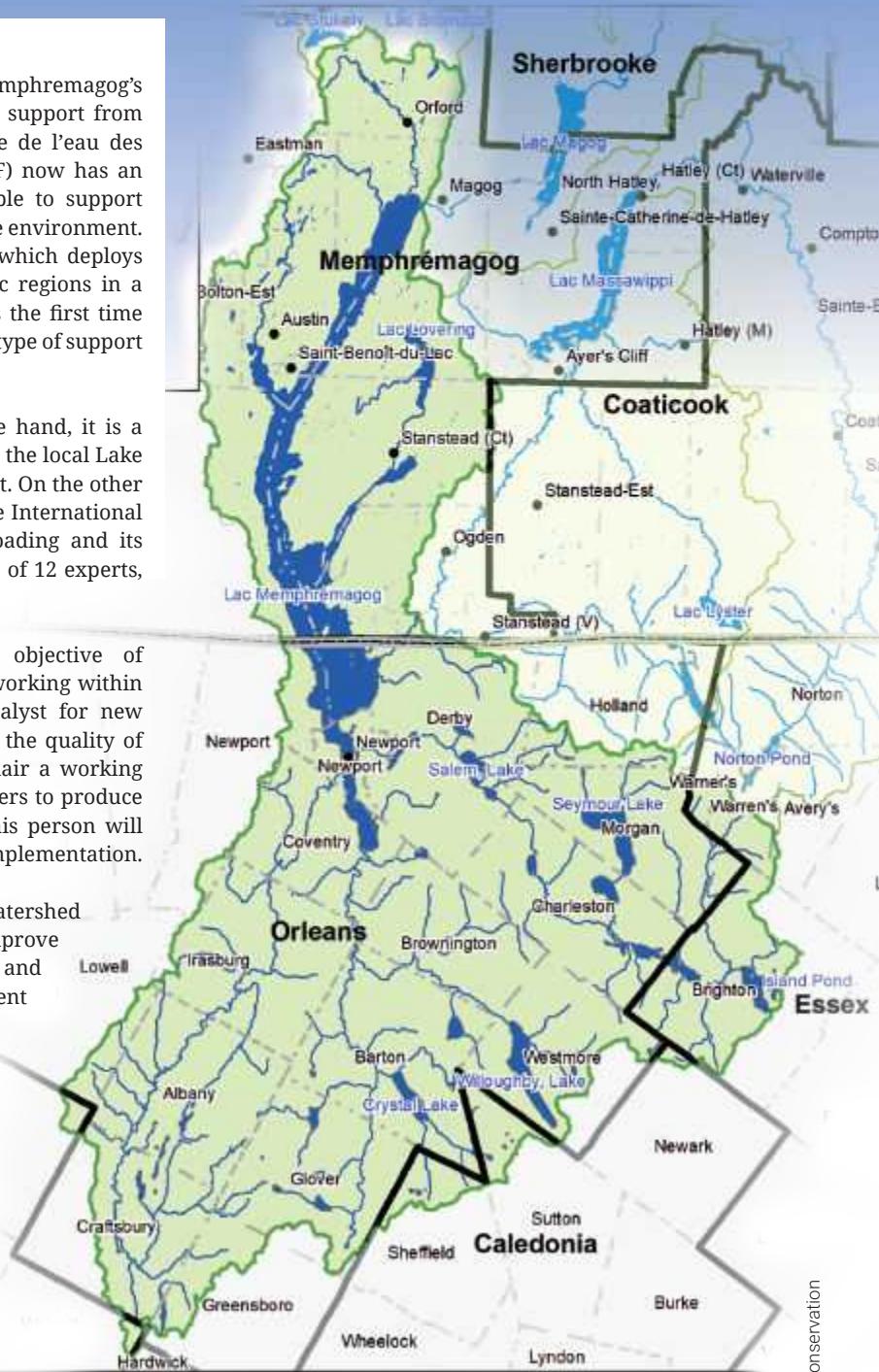
This initiative comes after a lot of hard work. On one hand, it is a natural evolution of the 2008 COGESAF work overseeing the local Lake Memphremagog watershed committee, on which MCI sat. On the other hand, it is one of the recommendations presented to the International Joint Commission as part of the study on nutrient loading and its impact on Lake Memphremagog carried out by a group of 12 experts, led by MCI.

Creating this position works towards COGESAF's objective of consolidating the actions of the various organizations working within the Lake Memphremagog watershed, acting as a catalyst for new initiatives to continue to protect the lake and improve the quality of its water. In practical terms, this new position will chair a working group which will include MCI and consult all stakeholders to produce an action plan adapted to the needs of the region. This person will also promote opportunities for collaborative work in its implementation.

Given that a major part of the Lake Memphremagog watershed is in the United States, the project also aims to improve communication with Vermont environmental groups and work to ensure that environmental practices are consistent across the border.

COGESAF and MCI are both pleased with this good news for Lake Memphremagog!

Julie Grenier
Project manager, COGESAF



Preserving the environment:

Magog's commitment

to the health of our aquatic ecosystems

As part of its commitment to preserve natural landscapes, the City of Magog is engaged in various initiatives. It distributes shrubs to shoreline residents, promotes the purchase of rain barrels and has undertaken the revegetation of its shorelines. A detailed action plan is being prepared to manage sediments at the source, reducing their impact on the Castle brook watershed. Environmental surveillance has been increased, with the city inspecting aging septic installations and running a septic tank pumping program. Interventions required due to environmental emergencies is well documented, and water sampling and soil testing have been improved. The city has created educational events, provides information on invasive species, the preservation of shoreline buffer zones and the management of drinking water, all accompanied by informative pamphlets.

For the City of Magog, shoreline buffer zones play a crucial role in the preservation of the health of our aquatic ecosystems. These natural zones bordering our waterways are of capital importance for the quality of our environment and our biodiversity. Magog recognizes the vital role of these zones and is firmly committed to protect and restore them for the benefit of all citizens and the nature that surrounds them.

Given that water quality is a major preoccupation for the community, the City of Magog goes to great lengths to preserve its natural resources. Water is essential for life, and the health of our waterways is tightly linked to our shoreline ecosystems.

The City of Magog recognizes that the protection of shoreline buffer zones requires a proactive approach. Given these issues, Magog has reinforced its environmental policies and plans to allocate additional resources to monitor and protect the shorelines on its territory. Regular inspections will be carried out to ensure that the bylaws regarding the protection of shorelines are respected.

As a part of this, the City of Magog plans to work in close collaboration with MCI, an organization dedicated to the protection of the aquatic ecosystems in the region. We will work together to make citizens aware of the environmental issues regarding shoreline buffer zones and assist in their efforts to respect the city's bylaws.

Residents need to understand that healthy buffer zones are essential to maintaining a sustainable ecological balance. These zones also contribute to the resilience of ecosystems when faced with the effects of climate change, to the preservation of biodiversity and to the promotion of sustainable recreation and touristic activities.

By preserving and restoring shoreline buffer zones, the City of Magog is investing in the health of its aquatic ecosystems, the quality of life of its citizens and the long-term sustainability of its territory. These benefits for the city and its citizens are important. In conclusion, the protection of the environment, including its shorelines, is a priority for the City of Magog. By working with MCI and mobilizing its citizens, the city is committed to preserving these precious ecosystems for future generations. The health of our waterways is in our hands, and we have a duty to protect and preserve them for the benefit of all.

Josiane Pouliot

Coordinator – City of Magog environmental division

VILLE DE
Magog

Presentation by Ducks Unlimited Canada at the MCI AGM

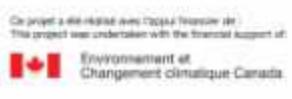


Marie-Lyne Deshaires, Specialist in conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited Canada, will give a presentation at our annual meeting. Please join us!

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change, as part of the "Green Mountains of the North: Towards land use planning for the protection and recovery of species at risk", coordinated by the Appalachian Corridor.

Wetlands in service to the community

Completely fascinating, but often poorly understood, wetlands merit a higher profile. We analyze them to note their place in the landscape, how to identify them, what role they play within the Lake Memphremagog watershed, the threats they face and how to protect them.



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Contact numbers

for various problems encountered on the lake

Problem	Location	Contact	Telephone number
In case of a spill or other environmental situation requiring immediate action	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Urgence-Environnement	1 866-694-5454
In case of problems relating to dangerous behaviour on the lake, alcohol consumption and noise	Magog and Austin	Régie de police de Memphrémagog	819-843-3334
	Ogden, Stanstead and Potton townships	Sûreté du Québec	819-564-1212
Problems regarding infringement of boating regulations	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Memphremagog MRC patrol	819-821-0435 819-620-7669
For all other questions regarding long term boat mooring and launching	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Direction de la gestion du domaine hydrique	https://www.quebec.ca/agriculture-environnement-et-ressources-naturelles/eau/gestion-domaine-hydrique-etat/octroi-droit-occupation/permis-occupation
For all questions regarding non-standard buoys	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Transport Canada, Navigation protection program	877-646-6420 PPNQUE-NPPQUE@tc.gc.ca
In case of illegal work (ex. on the shoreline)	Potton Township	Municipal Inspector	environnement@potton.ca
	Austin	Project manager and environmental inspector	819-843-2388, poste 229 environnement@municipalite.austin.qc.ca
	Magog	Municipal Inspector	819 843-3333 https://www.ville.magog.qc.ca/informations-services/service-go/
	Stanstead Township	Environmental inspector	819-876-2948, poste 227 inspecteur2@cantonstanstead.ca
	Ogden	Building and environmental inspector	819-876-7117 urbanisme@munogden.ca
If you see an activity that appears illegal	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Québec environmental control	Use the form provided by the MELCCPF to register environmental complaints. https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/formulaires/Plainte/form.asp
To report a cyanobacteria bloom, exotic invasive species or any other environmental questions	Canadian portion of Lake Memphremagog	Memphremagog Conservation (MCI follows up with the Québec government and takes water samples within the Witness lakes project)	819-620-3939 patrol@memphremagog.org

Promotional articles are back on the shelves!

To see what's available, go to <https://www.memphremagog.org/en/promotional-articles>!

To place an order, contact us at patrol@memphremagog.org or at 819-620-3939.



Become a member of MCI!

By becoming a member, you are making the choice of contributing to the awareness efforts and the actions taken to ensure the protection of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. Your support is crucial in allowing our organization to maintain its work and to realize its objectives.

Become an integral part of our positive impact by making this concrete gesture!

Scan this QR code to become a member, to renew your membership or to donate.

Its tax deductible!



HERITAGE CIRCLE MEMBERS

2024 Calendar

May 6: Patrol activities begin

Mid-May: Start of water sampling in the lake and surveillance of protected areas of the lake

May 18, 10 AM to 3 PM: Free tree distribution at LAMRAC in Magog

Mid May to mid June: Planting of shoreline buffer zones as part of the Action bandes riveraines : Ensemble pour nos rives ! project

June 15: MCI's Annual general meeting at the Murray Memorial centre in Georgeville

June to August: Awareness campaign at boat launch sites and in bays

July 1st: MCI kiosk at Georgeville's Canada day celebrations

Beginning of July: Phragmite control activity in Fitch Bay

October: End of activities on the lake

Contact us for more information on upcoming activities this summer at info@memphremagog.org or at 819-620-3939

 [memphremagogconservation](#)

 [memphremagog.conservation](#)

 www.memphremagog.org

Abbott, William
Association des Mouillages de Knowlton Landing
Bang Marketing Inc., A/S M. Eric Bissonnette
Bannerman Foundation, A/S Mr. Paul Bannerman
Bédard Pascale & Blais Jean-François
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Caron, Eric H.
Caron, Trevor H.
Coughlin, Peter F.
Coutu, Jean
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Potten, Stephen R.
R. Howard Webster Foundation
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Sirois, Sean
Spencer, Norman
Thorburn, Cynthia Caron
Tremblay, Pascal
Vouloumanos, Nicholas & Vickie
Wilson, Janet
Yates, Henry B. & Melodie

In addition to those mentioned, certain donations were made anonymously.

Updated: April 25th, 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR MAIN PARTNERS!

Appalachian Corridor (ACA)

Conseil de gouvernance de l'eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF)

Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Estrie (CREE)

Duck Unlimited Canada (DUC)

DUMP (Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity)

Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA)

Memphremagog Nature Foundation (formerly Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation)

Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

Regroupement des associations pour la protection de l'environnement des lacs et des bassins versants (RAPPEL)

Réseau des milieux naturels protégés (RMN)

The municipalities of Austin, Potton Township, Stanstead Township, Ogden and the cities of Magog and Sherbrooke

The Memphrémagog MRC

The Québec government

The government of Canada

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This newsletter is printed on FSC-certified and recycled paper.
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Homage to M^{me} Claude Bernier

MCI would like to honour the late Claude Bernier, who served as a director of our organization. It was under her presidency in 2013 that our Healthy Fitch Bay Project was born. MCI still benefits from this project, which continues to bear fruit.

Thank you Claude for this great heritage!

