



## MEMPHRÉMAGOG CONSERVATION INC.

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Attention Publicity directors

### **MCI IS SEEKING THE PUBLIC'S HELP WITH ITS TURTLE CENSUS**

Magog, June 5, 2017. Memphremagog Conservation Inc (MCI) will be conducting a turtle census in the Lake Memphremagog watershed from June to October of this year. The objective of the campaign, that is an initiative of Conservation de la Nature, is to identify and locate the different species of turtles found in the watershed, to help protect their natural habitat and identify threats to their survival. More active in the spring, they can often be seen resting, sunning themselves and feeding. They are easier to spot in the month of June, as the females are searching for a site to lay their eggs. The most common turtles in the region are the snapping turtle and the painted turtle, but other species could also be present, such as the wood turtle. The eight (8) species found in Québec are under pressure due to habitat loss as well as the destruction of nesting sites.



Wood turtle



Painted turtle



Snapping turtle

Sources: Conservation de la nature

MCI needs your help. Simply record any turtle sightings in the watershed, following the steps listed below:

#### Step 1

Spot the turtle and try to take several photos.

## Step 2

Note the following:

- The civic address or GPS coordinates of the sighting
- The date and time of the sighting
- The animal's physical condition
- The presence of absence of a nest and/or eggs
- A description of the spot where it was seen

## Step 3

Go to the website <https://www.carapace.ca/> and record your observations, post your photos and record any additional information.

To maximize your chances of spotting turtles, stay close to the shoreline, and along brooks and streams, wetlands, cycling trails and roads. It is recommended that you observe them from afar and be as quiet as possible, so as not to disturb them during egg laying. It is highly recommended not to touch them, as certain species can be quite aggressive.

You can contact MCI with any questions or comments by email at [conservation@memphremagog.org](mailto:conservation@memphremagog.org) or by telephone at 819 340-8721

We would like to thank all the participants in this census.

About MCI: **Memphrémagog 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.

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### **SOURCE :**

Mrs Ariane Orjikh, general director  
Memphrémagog Conservation Inc.  
Tél. : 819-574-2880  
Courriel : [ariane.orjikh@memphremagog.org](mailto:ariane.orjikh@memphremagog.org)