

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **MCI Announces Public Meeting Regarding Coventry Landfill**

A group of Vermont citizens who founded DUMP (Don't Undermine Memphremagog Purity) are organizing a public meeting to raise awareness regarding the expansion of the Coventry landfill site. The meeting will take place on Monday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. at the Gateway Centre, 84 Fyfe Drive in Newport, Vermont.

At this meeting, several invited guests will participate in a panel discussion, including two representatives of Memphremagog Conservation Inc., Robert Benoit, volunteer president, and Ariane Orjikh, general manager.

Organizers of the event invite Canadian citizens to attend this meeting, which will answer questions on the impact of this landfill site on Lake Memphremagog and on the regions' drinking water.

Please confirm your intention to attend by email to [info@memphremagog.org](mailto:info@memphremagog.org).

The Coventry landfill site, operated by Casella Waste Systems, is the only landfill site in Vermont, accepting garbage from all parts of Vermont as well as from several nearby states. The landfill is situated close to the Black river, Lake Memphremagog's principal tributary. For several years now, MCI has been monitoring the site, and has raised serious concerns regarding the increase in Casella's operation of the site. The capacity of the site, initially 270,000 tons annually, was increased to 370,000 tons annually in 2005, and to 600,000 tons annually in 2013. A permit application has now been submitted to increase the size of the site to 129 acres (an increase of 51 acres), which will allow the site to continue operating for another 22 years.

The landfill is situated at the top of the Lake Memphremagog watershed, from which 185,000 people get their drinking water, including the Cities of Sherbrooke and Magog. MCI believes that this site poses a real danger to the public and that a principle of precaution should be applied. MCI also believes that this site, parts of which are less than 100 metres from the Black river, should never have been authorized in the first place. An operational failure, a natural disaster, a flood or an earthquake would have disastrous consequences for the lake and the population, and therefore the site should be closed.

MCI also believes that the leachate, often referred to as garbage juice, should be treated elsewhere than at the Newport treatment plant, whose effluent is emptied into Lake Memphremagog. This plant was not designed to treat leachate and does not carry out any toxicity tests required to assess its impact on the quality of the lake's water. An independent study should be undertaken to assess the danger that this landfill site poses to the quality of Lake Memphremagog's water.

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### **UVM Offers Historic Tours Through Mid-October**

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — The University of Vermont is offering historic tours of the campus through mid-October.

The free weekly tours take place beginning Saturday mornings.

UVM was founded in 1791 and has more than a dozen buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour visits a number of historic buildings on campus. The guide also talks about interesting people who have been part of the school's history such as founder Ira Allen, a Revolutionary War hero and real estate speculator and alumnus John Dewey, an American philosopher whose grave is on campus.

The tour begins at the statue of Ira Allen, south of the fountain on the UVM green. No tour is planned on Sept. 29.

### **NOAA Funds Projects To Reduce Bycatch With Engineering**

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A group of organizations is getting more than \$2 million in grants to use engineering to try to reduce bycatch in fisheries.

Bycatch is the term for when fish and other animals are accidentally caught with gear that was seeking a different species. Bycatch poses problems for rare species of dolphins, turtles, sharks and other animals.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is awarding more than \$2.3 million to 14 projects as part of its 2018 Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program.

One of the recipients is Duke University, which will test the applicability of sensory-based bycatch reduction technology. Duke's project seeks to reduce sea turtle bycatch in North Carolina.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is getting money to create a tool to reduce bycatch among recreational Gulf of Maine fishermen.