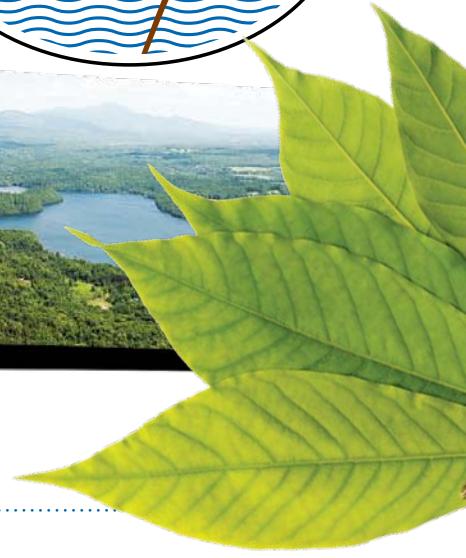


# Bulletin MCI

Newsletter- June 2013



## A lake to protect

### President's Word

This year, MCI has the good fortune to be able to count on two exceptional contributions. Mr. Yves Fortier, lakeside resident, lawyer, and ex-Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, has agreed to chair a fundraising campaign that will help us, we hope, to increase the number of MCI members in the region. This activity will allow us to spread the word to a wider audience of our vision for the protection of the lake, as well as raise additional funds, so indispensable to the achievement of our objectives.

As well, Dr Jacob Kalf, Limnologist and Professor Emeritus at McGill University, will give a conference on Lake Memphremagog at our annual General Meeting this coming July 6th at the Austin Town Hall. Dr. Kalf has been carrying out research on the lake for many years. We hope to see many of you there to hear this remarkable speaker.

It is with much enthusiasm that the MCI team continues to pursue its mission of protecting Lake Memphremagog. MCI's most concrete action is, without a doubt, the monitoring of

the lake, carried out by our team of patrollers. Our close contact with the municipal inspectors allows us to ensure the rapid correction of reported problems. Another priority for us is our water quality tracking protocol, carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment, Parks and Wildlife (MDDEFP), and ongoing since 1996, allowing us to track water quality over time. Our patrollers are already at work, so don't hesitate to contact them with any questions you might have regarding the lake.

› See page 2

We are pleased to inform you that during the general assembly of July 6<sup>th</sup>, McGill University Emeritus Professor and the first Limnologist in Quebec, Dr. Jacob Kalf, BSA, MSA, PhD, will give a talk on his experiences as a limnologist, and his many years of

study of Lake Memphremagog. Dr. Kalf played a key role in the establishment and operation of the Limnological Research Station on Lake Memphremagog over the past 25 years.



**Saturday, July 6th  
2013, 9:30 AM  
Austin Town Hall  
21, Millington road  
Austin**

Mr Yves Fortier, lawyer, former ambassador to the United Nations, has agreed to chair a large membership drive for MCI.

«In order to preserve our lake, the quality of life of its residents and this precious resource, I invite you to support the efforts of MCI by becoming a member and/or providing the essential financial support required for the pursuit of the efforts of these volunteers.»



**Help us out!  
Talk up MCI to  
your friends and  
neighbours!**

From page 1

Our fight to reduce phosphorus loading in the lake is ongoing, and we continue our lobbying efforts. As well, this year, in collaboration with the Lake Lovering Protection Association, we will be carrying out a study of the impact of boat traffic on the lakes' shorelines. This study will be carried out by Professor Prairie of UQAM.

We are proud of the results of our efforts at increasing awareness of the importance of protecting natural landscapes. By taking preventive action, we will ensure, for the long term, the protection of the lake's water quality. To that end, we meet privately with property owners and municipalities, and urge our elected officials to incorporate fragile landscapes that must be preserved in their urban plans. The reception we have received so far has been positive and the results are encouraging.

The lake is facing a number of threats: Expansion of the Coventry landfill site in Vermont, illegal cutting of trees in the lakeside buffer zones, construction of large structures on the shoreline or even in the lake. We expect the utmost respect for the rules from all, and especially from those living on the shores of the lake, as their actions have the most immediate and direct impact on water quality.

You would like to help us out! Become a member of our network of sentinels and send us your cyanobacteria observations, along with photos. You can forward to us any and all environmental complaints or problems of any kind involving the lake, its shoreline and tributaries.

Thank you for your help and support!



Renaud Beaucher-Perras, Nicolas Vachon and Catherine Roy, patrollers

## 2013 Patrol

A new season begins with the return of Catherine Roy, a graduate of the University of Sherbrooke in molecular and cellular biology. She will be acting as patrol coordinator with two new patrollers: Nicholas Vachon, Bachelor level student in environment at the University of Sherbrooke, and Renaud Beaucher-Perras, Masters level student in environment also at the University of Sherbrooke.

As in the past, the patrol will monitor the state of the lake, and meet and interact with shoreline residents. Our young patrollers will also carry out a diverse range of activities, such as the water sampling program for the MDDEFP, as part of their voluntary lake surveillance program, as well as for the State of Vermont as part of their phosphorus modeling initiative. As well, they participate in the MRC's sampling program for the lake's tributaries. Fishermen will be pleased to note that we continue to monitor dissolved oxygen at various depths. Our patrollers, enthusiastic about working in an area so rich in biodiversity, will surely come up with new projects to follow up Operation Healthy Lake. They will also be watching water quality indicators in the tributaries that flow into the lake, using benthic organisms, as well as collaborating on the study regarding the impact of boat traffic on the shoreline.

In addition to collecting pertinent information to help in the preservation of our beautiful lake, our young scientists will be working hard promoting reductions in the amount of phosphorus (the principal agent contributing to increases in cyanobacteria) entering the lake, giving away trees for shoreline renaturalization, as well as looking out for environmental infractions, such as tree cutting or construction in the shoreline buffer zone. As in previous years, the patrollers will maintain close communications with the municipal inspectors, and will invite them on the lake in the MCI patrol boat in order to inspect the state of their territory and shoreline.

The patrollers' efforts are also concentrated on the follow up of cyanobacteria and swimmer's itch reports. Even though most cyanobacteria blooms occur in the fall, it is important to note each and every bloom. Contact us if you are interested in joining our network of cyanobacteria sentinels.

Feel free to contact our patrollers at any time via telephone, text or email: 819 620-3939, patrol@memphremagog.org.

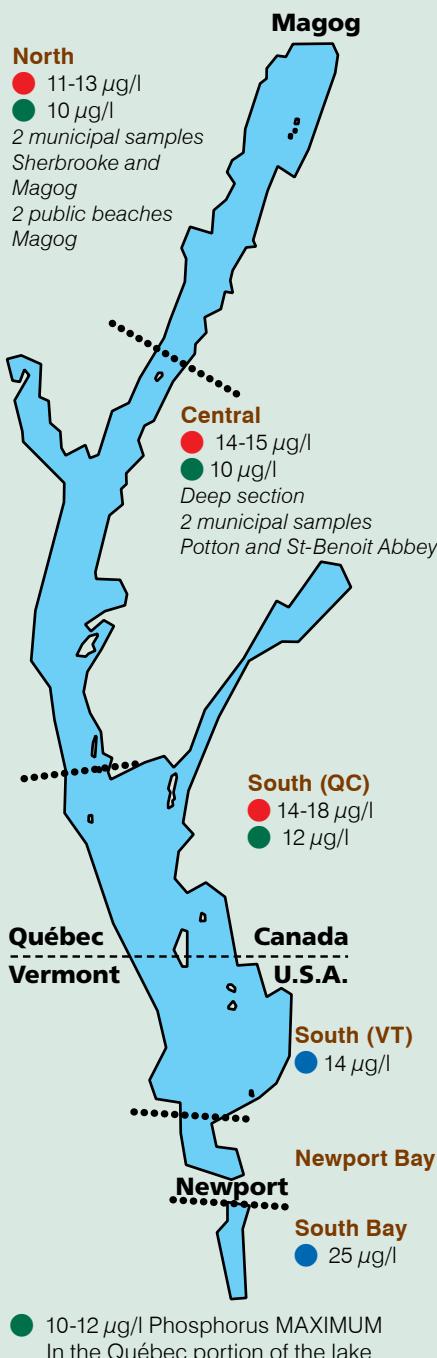
*Robert Benoit  
Patrol Supervisor*



Having a get-together at the lake? Invite us! We will come to your dock to promote MCI and offer our shirts and hats for sale. This is another way of financing our activities.

## TOTAL PHOSPHORUS Pt

- 2009 and 2011 analysis data
- MCI Proposition (in Québec)
- Water Quality Standards (in Vermont)



At the present time, phosphorus concentrations in the 3 Canadian sectors of the lake are above MCI's target threshold. We must therefore continue to reduce the amount entering the lake and prevent the release of additional amounts into the lake.

*François Bélanger, eng. and MCI Technical Consultant*

## We can be inspired by British Columbia

British Columbia's targets for phosphorus and chlorophyll a:

For potable water sources and for recreational activities, maximum load is 10 µg/l total phosphorus

Water Use	Phosphorous µg/L (total)	Chlorophyll a mg/m <sup>2</sup>
Drinking Water - lakes	10 µg/L (maximum)	None proposed
Aquatic Life - streams	None proposed	100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (maximum)
Aquatic Life - lakes (Salmonids are the predominant fish species)	5 to 15 µg/L (inclusive)	None proposed
Recreation - streams	None proposed	50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (maximum)
Recreation - lakes	10 µg/L (maximum)	None proposed

Water Quality Criteria for Nutrients and Algae.  
[Overview Report](#).

R.N. Nordin Ph.D. Resource Quality Section Water Management Branch. Ministry of Environment.  
Government of British Columbia. 1985. Updated 2001. [www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/BCguidelines/nutrients/nutrients.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/BCguidelines/nutrients/nutrients.html)

To avoid the proliferation of algae and aquatic plants, phosphorus levels in Lake Memphremagog must be reduced. Our Quebec legislators should take inspiration from British Columbia!

## Heritage Circle Members

Bannerman, Family Foundation  
Beaudinet, Jean-Claude  
Belmer, Michael H.  
Benoit, Robert  
Bombardier, J.R. André  
Caron, Trevor H.  
Carswell, Lois  
Colas, Bernard  
Club de golf Memphremagog  
Coughlin, Peter F. and Elizabeth  
Couture, Martin  
Cyr, Joanne and Marc Giasson

Davidson, Howard and Guylaine  
Davis IV, Michael M.  
Delange, Andrew J.  
Dumont, Jean and Suzanne  
Eakin, Gael  
Fisher Arbuckle, Alison  
Gestion Exagon  
Fondation Howick  
Ivory, Joan F.  
Lacasse Benoit, Gisèle  
Landry, Jean-Luc  
Lynch Staunton, Julianne

Marcon, Loretta  
Milne, Catherine A.  
Nadeau, Michel  
Nadeau, Real and Monique Benoit  
Palplus inc.  
Poulin, Bernard  
Saint-Pierre, Guy and Francine  
Spencer, Norman  
Talon, Jean-Denis  
Wilson Janet and Micheal Quigley

In addition to the above, one donor has requested anonymity.

We would like to thank the municipalities of Austin, Magog, Stanstead Township, Ogden and Potton for their financial contribution. A huge thank you as well to the Benoit Family Foundation and the Howick Foundation for their exceptional donations.

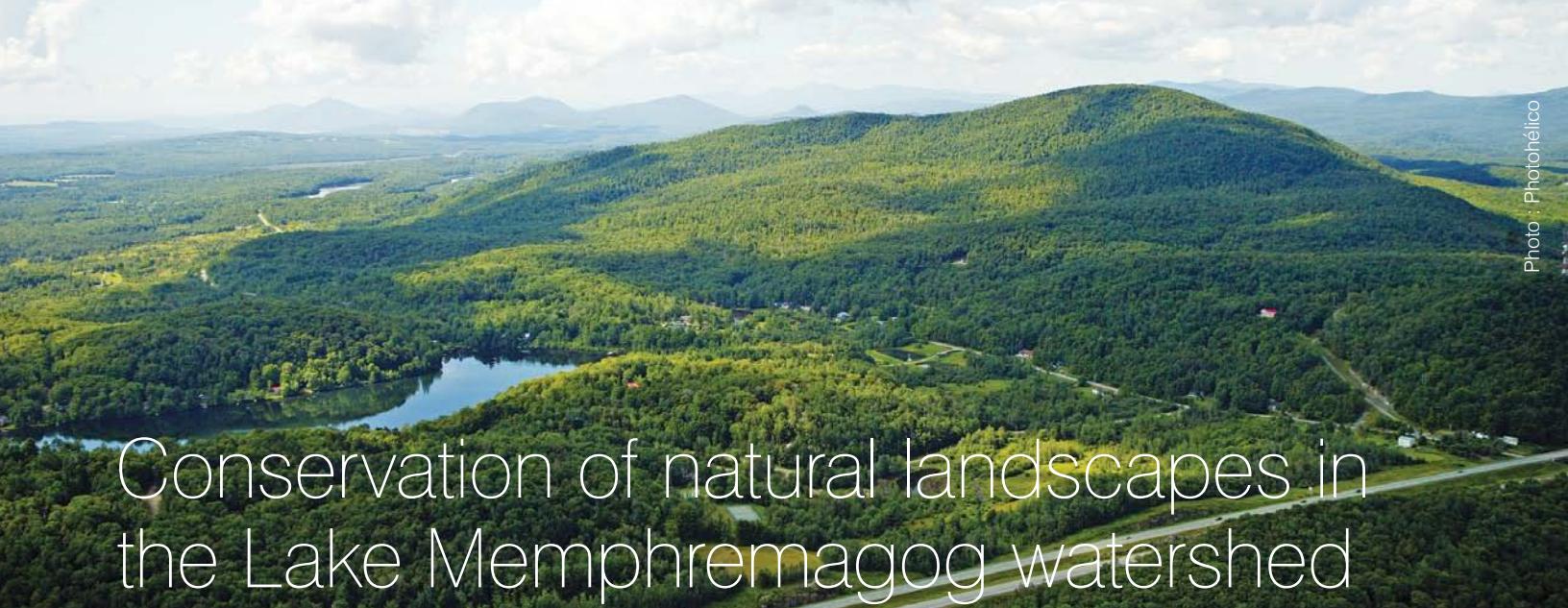


Photo : Photohélico

# Conservation of natural landscapes in the Lake Memphremagog watershed

## 2012-2013

### Positive results for conservation

In order to accomplish conservation in the Lake Memphremagog watershed, MCI prefers to work collaboratively with private property owners who participate, in a concrete way, in the conservation of the natural landscapes found on their properties. This approach is generating more and more interest, as the results discussed below indicate.

In addition to the protection in perpetuity of 590 hectares achieved thanks to Nature Conservancy Canada, in the past year, as in previous years, a number of communications and meetings with property owners have taken place. A certain number of owners who have met with MCI have indicated their interest in undertaking a conservation process, and already, at this hour, we anticipate obtaining further commitments over the course of the coming year. These owners are very keen to get more information and to understand the ways in which they can participate in the protection of their natural heritage. During these meetings, the various conservation options, such as donation of the land for ecological purposes, conservation servitudes, private nature reserves, as well as the sale of the land for conservation purposes are presented in detail, as are the financial and fiscal incentives associated with these various options.

Ecological inventories have been carried out by the Appalachian Corridor's biologists on two properties. For owners that we hope will eventually commit to undertaking the conservation process, this work identifies the flora and fauna to be preserved, as well as any areas of ecological interest.

With the aim of sensitizing property owners and MCI members to conservation issues, a number of communication efforts have been carried out, including 2 conferences on conservation, several infoletters, conservation factsheets, as well as meetings with property owners.

To meet our conservation objectives, MCI is also working collaboratively with the municipalities and cities that are within the watershed. MCI has undertaken, in partnership with the City of Magog, the first step in a project aiming to create ecological links between the forests of Mount Orford and the lake (see inset). Preliminary results of this project are very encouraging and we anticipate the project continuing over the coming years.

Finally, in order to ensure the achievement of these numerous projects, much effort has been put into obtaining funds from our various partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following organisations who have contributed generously to our conservation program : MDDEFP, Partners for nature; Environment Canada, EcoAction program; the City of Magog; as well as many private donors who have taken the preservation of the Memphremagog watershed, and the water quality of the lake, to heart.

*Francine Hone, Biologist*

### MCI can support you!

If you value the natural areas on your property and would like to protect them, many legal options are open to you to ensure their protection. Our conservation experts will be happy to answer any of your questions. Our goal is to help you reach your conservation and financial objectives by building a working scenario tailored to your individual needs. Should you choose to proceed, MCI will guide you, step by step and confidentially, throughout the conservation process. For any questions pertaining to the protection of your property please contact MCI at [conservation@memphremagog.org](mailto:conservation@memphremagog.org)

# Nature Conservancy Canada creates the first forestry conservation servitude in Quebec

## 500 hectares of forest preserved on Mount Chagnon

A little less than one year ago, Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC) finalized an agreement creating the first forestry conservation servitude in Quebec on a property of 500 hectares. This result was made possible thanks to a partnership with Memphremagog Conservation Inc., Appalachian Corridor and the forestry company Bois Champigny Inc.

The property in question is situated on mount Chagnon, in the municipalities of Bolton-Est and Austin. It will be bound by a servitude that will perpetually ensure sustainable forestry activities, preserve the forest cover, and maintain natural corridors essential for safeguarding protected natural areas.

This agreement was signed with a private landowner, the forestry company who also donated a part of the property (10 hectares) for ecological purposes. The process,

which had begun a number of years ago, highlighted the common objectives of both the landowner and the conservation organization : maintaining the forest cover while preserving the attributes and benefits of the forest for the community.

This property constitutes a critical link in the preservation of a natural corridor connecting the Green Mountain Nature Reserve and Mount Orford National Park. As an integral part of a more global North American conservation perspective, this property represents an important link at the Appalachian scale in the creation of a continuous trans-border forested corridor

For Memphremagog Conservation, the protection of this property, especially that portion in the Memphremagog watershed, will ensure the maintenance of the forest cover, the preservation of sensitive areas

such as waterways and their associated shorelines, and wetlands and their biodiversity. At the watershed level, the preservation of the ecological functions associated with these natural areas will have a beneficial impact on the water quality of Lake Memphremagog.

A forest conservation servitude binds a conservation organization and a private landowner in perpetuity. Maintaining his title to property, the latter can continue to conduct forestry activities according to the mutually-agreed-upon terms, while ensuring the long-term protection of the property's natural, ecological and landscape characteristics. The forest conservation servitude will remain effective indefinitely and any subsequent new owner will also have to respect the rights and uses established by the present agreement.



## The forest conservation servitude

The forest conservation servitude was inspired by a common US legal practice, notably used in the New England States. Known there as the Working Forest Conservation Easement, this type of conservation practice is the result of a collaboration between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and logging companies, that allows them to maintain forestry activities on thousands of hectares of land while at the same time protecting natural habitats and species at risk. An eloquent example is the Adirondack Park in the state of New York.

This type of servitude aims to reconcile forestry activities with the protection of natural landscapes. Forestry activities generate significant economic benefits for the region and the forest conservation servitude now offers the possibility of maintaining these activities within the larger long term perspective of sustainable development. The servitude on the Bois Champigny Inc. property allows logging,

but with specific restrictions. The servitude prohibits, in perpetuity, the fragmentation of the land, banning all residential and infrastructure development (such as roads). As well, the modification of waterways, bodies of water, shorelines and wetlands is prohibited, allowing for the protection of those species at risk found therein. Certain specific restrictions on cutting in ecologically sensitive zones also ensure the protection of species at risk and their habitat.

Furthermore, the owner has decided to voluntarily limit the company's forestry activities by obtaining the independent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, which requires an independent audit to which it must conform. It is important to recognize the crucial role of private property owners who voluntarily decide to participate in the conservation of healthy ecosystems in this large natural corridor. They are making a gesture in favour of conservation while at the same time innovating in the area of sustainable development.

# An essential ecological link for wildlife and for our community :

For many years now, MCI has been considering the establishment of an ecological link between Mount Orford and Lake Memphremagog, a link which seems to MCI to be normal and natural. This year, a first step has been taken in the establishment of such a corridor. Given that this territory covers a large surface area, including the watersheds of Castle Brook and Cherry River, MCI has undertaken mapping out the characteristics of that portion within the limits of the city of Magog. This first step was done with the collaboration of the City of Magog and the support of the consulting firm GENIVAR.

From a strictly ecological perspective, according to MCI, protection of such corridors could ensure the long term maintenance of the connection between the important natural areas of Mount Orford National Park, the Cherry River wetlands and Lake Memphremagog. By ensuring the free movement of aquatic and terrestrial fauna,



Photo : Photohélico

these corridors help avoid isolating animal and plant populations, reduce the chances of their disappearance without the possibility of recolonization, and ensure good genetic mixing among sub-populations. These natural corridors, used by wildlife for millenia, have been slowly eroded by developments that border them, or actually cut them into sections – Autoroute 10 being a good example. There is no question of moving the autoroute, but rather of properly managing the natural landscapes still in place in order to conserve a minimum space within which wildlife can freely move between Mount Orford Park, the Cherry River wetlands, Lake Memphremagog and the large forested blocks of the Appalachians.

Properly defined and managed, these corridors will also contribute to maintaining the water quality in Lake Memphremagog,

by limiting the risk of increased contaminants and sediments that result from increasing development pressures along Castle Brook and Cherry River.

Along with their ecological vocation, such corridors would also add an ecotourism element, favoring links between three areas of interest to visitors (i.e. Mount Orford National Park, the Cherry River wetlands and Lake Memphremagog).

Although this project of MCI's is only in its infancy, the preliminary results have been very promising, and its future seems assured for the next few years.

*Marc Gauthier, biologist.*

## Corridors for the preservation of biodiversity

Wildlife corridors are areas that promote the movement of wildlife, allowing free circulation between different habitats that they favour.

Along with the creation of protected areas, such as national parks, ecological reserves, private nature reserves and other protection measures on private land, the identification and protection of wildlife corridors is one of a number of tools proposed for the protection of biodiversity. Essentially, they aim to reduce or put a stop to the fragmentation of wildlife habitat, which is one of the largest current threats to the maintenance of biodiversity. Fragmentation is generally defined as the conversion of a large unbroken landscape into smaller blocks or islands of habitat of variable size and shape, separated by areas that are often hostile to wildlife.

Fragmentation is most often due to a change in the usage of a territory due to human development. However, natural causes, such as forest fires and insect infestations can also be contributing factors. Real estate development is a good example of a change in the usage of a territory. It reduces the size of the original natural landscape and breaks it up into islands where wildlife and forest flora can become isolated.

This partitioning of the landscape leads to the degradation or even the disappearance of specific habitats and may lead to multiple negative effects on the ecosystem and on the wildlife contained therein. Among these effects we see a reduction in the size of wildlife and plant populations. This reduction can lead directly to the disappearance of certain species, notably those with large home ranges, such as moose and large

predators. Wildlife communities can also be destroyed indirectly by changing the balance of species within the territory. For example, a reduction in the number of predators can lead to an explosion in the population of herbivores. These can then overexploit the flora and lead to its decline, and even the disappearance of certain plant species.

The project to protect the wildlife corridor along Castle Brook and Cherry River aims to preserve regional biodiversity by ensuring the free movement of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. We all understand that these natural landscapes contribute in great measure to the signature reputation of the Magog-Orford region. It is up to us to preserve it by an enlightened management of the territory

*Marc Gauthier, biologist.*

# A part of Mount Owl's Head protected forever!

Owners for many generations of a magnificent 94 hectare property on Mount Owl's Head, the Worthen family was interested in protecting it, but were reluctant to give up ownership. After much reflection within the family, they finally opted to establish a conservation servitude with Nature Conservancy Canada.

*«For over 90 years, our family has had a close connection to Lake Memphremagog and its unique environment, especially around Owl's Head. Several years ago three generations gathered to discuss the future, recognizing the need to take steps to be good stewards of what we all cherished. After researching and analyzing possible options, we realized that, because of the uniqueness of the mountain's ecosystem and our overall family goals, a conservation servitude with the Nature Conservancy of Canada best aligned with our long-term vision. Through the servitude, we are also able to honor the memory of Mary and Thacher Worthen and the deep respect and love of the environment that they instilled in all of us directly, or through their children, and which we hope to pass onto future generations. »*

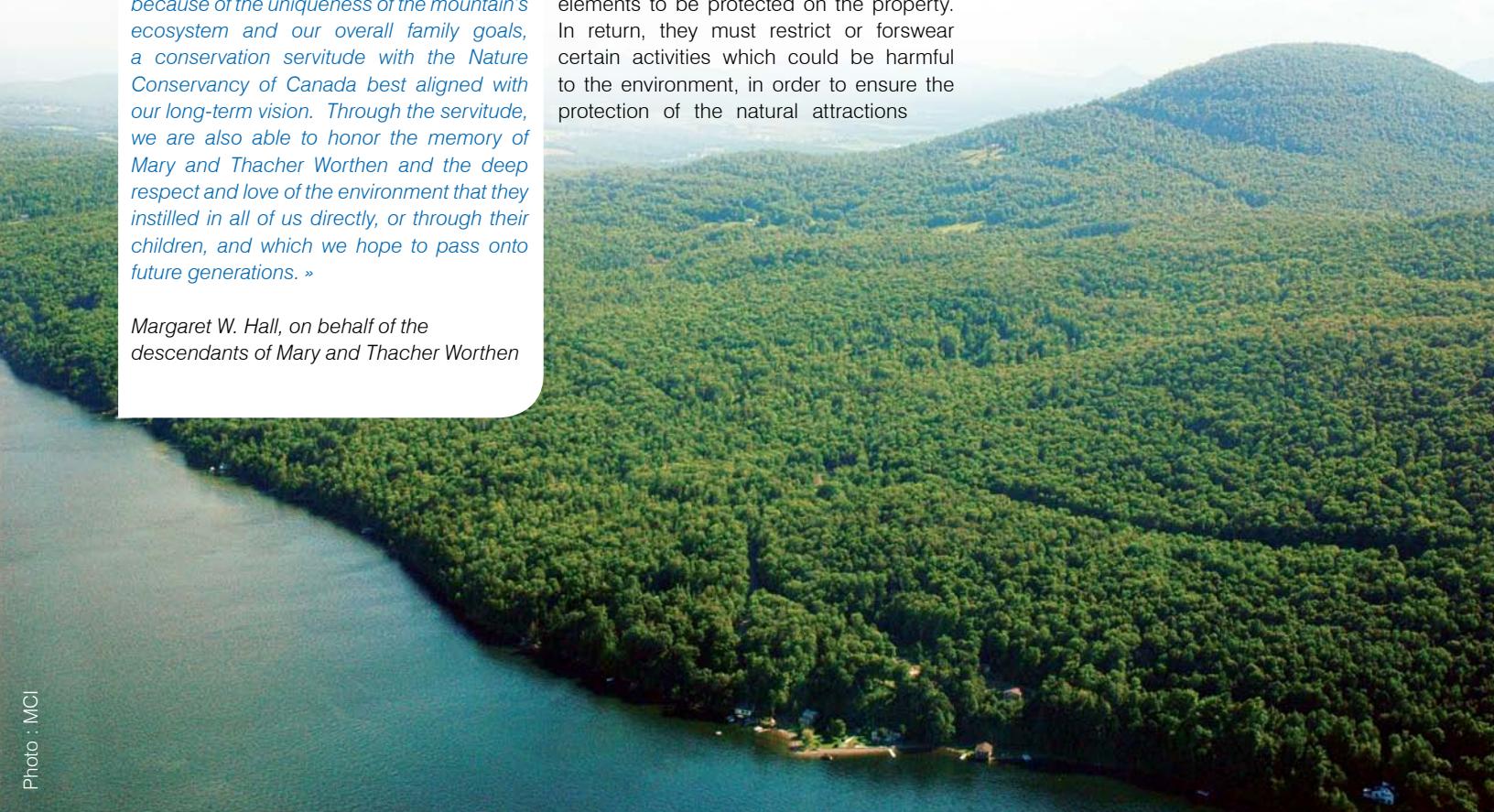
Margaret W. Hall, on behalf of the descendants of Mary and Thacher Worthen

Thanks to the support of Memphremagog Conservation, the Appalachian Corridor and Nature Conservancy Canada, all the steps necessary to ensure protection of the property in perpetuity have been completed. In fact, a number of steps are required before this type of agreement can be finalized (ecological evaluation of the property, determination of its fair market value, title search, etc.). These steps are planned and supervised by a specialist in conservation, who supports and guides the owners throughout the process.

The owners chose a conservation servitude, a legal agreement between the parties, negotiated case by case, detailing the elements to be protected on the property. In return, they must restrict or forswear certain activities which could be harmful to the environment, in order to ensure the protection of the natural attractions

to be found on the property. In this case, logging and real estate development have been restricted.

Furthermore, the conservation servitude allows the owners to carry out other activities on their land, as long as these activities respect the conservation objectives. The servitude is linked to the property title, and is thus transferred to the heirs or other eventual owners of the land. The servitude can be sold or donated. When it is donated for ecological purposes, it provides the owners with the right to certain fiscal benefits.



## Join our network of sentinels

MCI keeps track of all cyanobacteria blooms. Take photos and send them to us, with the precise time, location and extent of the bloom. You can also make other environmental complaints if you have been witness to environmental infractions or other work which could have a negative impact on the quality of the lake. We send all the information to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks, as well as to the affected municipality. Together we can monitor our precious lake!

# Memphremagog Watershed Association's Summer Season

Plans are almost complete for MWA's summer season, with a few dates and sites left to be determined. The theme for the summer season's events is a Focus on Wetlands. The primary goal of the Focus on Wetlands is to reinforce the extent and importance of wetlands in the Memphremagog Watershed and the efforts that can be made to protect and restore them. Emphasized topics will be the ability of wetlands to filter nutrients from lakes, provide wildlife habitats, and insure flood resiliency. That focus will start with a guided field trip, by kayak or canoe, exploring the wetlands at the Eagle Point Wildlife Management Area. The tentative date for the field trip is June 19<sup>th</sup>. The guide will be Paul Hamelin of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. If low water precludes a field trip, the back up site will be the lower Barton River. MWA is also planning a second wetlands field trip with a site to be determined. Lastly, MWA will be helping to support and promote an annual Willoughby Bog Walk hosted by the Westmore Association.

At the annual meeting in June, as we continue the focus on wetlands, the keynote speaker will be Shannon Morrison, District

Wetlands Ecologist for the VT DEC. MWA also plans to publish and distribute a map indicating wetlands in the watershed and highlighting areas with public access. Lastly, MWA is helping to support an educational program for elementary students on wetlands that will be offered by NorthWoods Stewardship Center.

In August, MWA will be hosting a Watershed Workshop. The keynote speaker will be Amy Picotte of VT DEC. She will be presenting VT DEC's new LakeWise Program. LakeWise is a program that recognizes good shoreland management practices by property owners. It is modeled after a very successful program in Maine. Representatives and guests from all the Memphremagog watershed lake associations will be invited. It will be a one day event with workshops in the morning followed by food and socializing in the afternoon.

MWA will keep MCI updated regarding dates and locations as plans are completed.

*Donald Hendrich, President*

## Distribution of Trees

Once again this year, MCI distributed 3,000 trees in three different towns. In collaboration with the respective municipalities, May 26<sup>th</sup> in Austin and in Magog and June 1<sup>st</sup> in Stanstead Township.  
Plant trees!



## Membership renewal

Have you renewed your MCI membership for 2013?

Since 1967, the MCI has been dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Lake Memphremagog and its surrounding country. While the success of this organisation is largely due to the work of its many volunteers, its success very much depends on the continuing financial support from its membership.

Our mutual love of our beautiful lake means that we must continue in our efforts to protect its health. We ask you to renew your membership for 2013 if you have not already done so, using the membership form that is included with this newsletter. If you wish, you may renew your membership on line by using the MCI web site at [www.memphremagog.org](http://www.memphremagog.org).



## MCI Board Members 2012-2013

**Gisèle Lacasse Benoit**, President  
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**Pat Trudel**, Vice-President and Treasurer  
Mansonicville 450 3550

**Claude Bernier**, Vice-President  
Quebec and Vermont Magog 819 847-0845

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**Anne Boswall**, Ogden 819 876-2838

**Jean-Claude Duff**, Austin 819 843-2131

**Tom Kovacs**, Quebec and Vermont Magog 819 843-3945

**Jean-Philippe Joyal**, Legal Advisor  
Magog 819 993-5303

**Peter Lépine**, Translator  
Ogden 819 876-2838

**Eric Smith-Peter**, Scientific Advisor  
Sherbrooke 819 810-3524

**Susan Watson**, MWA Relations  
Newport 802 334-5173

**Partners :**  
François Bélanger, eng.  
Donald Fisher, Ex-President  
Liz Goodwin  
Francine Hone, Biologist  
Terri Monahan,  
Conservation Specialist

## Useful Resources

**MCI Lake Patrol:** 819 620-3939

**MRC Memphremagog Lake Patrol:**  
819 620-7669 / 819 821-0435

**Ministère de l'environnement de l'Estrie:**  
819 820-3882

Emergency: Yvan Tremblay, ext. 248  
Environment Emergency 24h. 1-866 694-5454  
Wildlife Emergency 1-800 463-2191



**Memphremagog Conservation inc.**

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### Graphic design

[www.comma.ca](http://www.comma.ca)

### Printing

Imprimerie Debesco, Granby

This newsletter contains 100% post-consumer fiber paper.



# Illegal tree cutting: another assault against the lake!

Austin, May 13, 2013: A photo which speaks for itself and gives witness to a complete lack of respect for our precious environment: the illegal cutting of more than 75 trees in the shoreline buffer zone in Sargent's Bay, Lake Memphremagog, in the municipality of Austin! Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) condemns this senseless and inexcusable act and demands the imposition of the severest penalties possible.

According to the MCI's volunteer president, Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, "Such acts have been prohibited by the "Policy on the protection of shorelines, littorals and floodplains" for more than 35 years! It is important that fines severe enough to dissuade such behaviours be imposed in order to prevent such situations from

occurring in the future. This cutting will cost the owner of the property \$ 7,550 while his property is worth several million dollars! The message being sent is beyond understanding! For his part, the contractor who actually cut down the trees received a fine of \$ 6,850.

"MCI is asking all the municipalities which border the lake to adopt severe penalties for those who violate the rules, since current fines are in no way representative of the severity of the acts committed. Those who wish to break the rules would think twice before committing such acts!"

Mrs. Lacasse Benoit adds: "We deplore the fact that there are still citizens without scruples who act in this way. The owner of this property acted with full knowledge

of the rules: cutting trees, many of which were old cedars, within the 10 to 15 metre shoreline buffer zone is not permitted. This act harms the quality of the lake's water. In fact, shoreline buffer zones play a critical role at many levels: they contribute to the prevention or the reduction of contamination of the water by acting as a barrier to the flow of sediments and by minimizing shoreline soil erosion (sanitation function), they protect aquatic and shoreline habitats (ecological function), preserve natural landscapes (aesthetic function), serve as a screen against excessive heating of the lake's water, regulate the hydrological cycle, as well as ensuring the aesthetic qualities of the landscape."

Sargent's Bay, Austin





# Shoreline Construction: Outrageous in 2013!

Memphremagog Conservation Inc. is strongly opposed to the granting of permits for any installation on the shores of the lake. Expressing in the strongest terms its outrage that permission has been given to erect what are clearly boathouses, whatever they pretend to be, the organization points out that such buildings have been banned for at least the past 30 years under government policy protecting banks and shorelines.

The enormous edifice currently under construction is situated in the municipality of Magog. Its platform measures 35' along the lakefront by 30' in depth, and the passageway to reach it is surely at least 20' in length. In other words, the surface area of

this boat elevator measures 1000 sq. ft (one thousand square feet)! A second installation is underway in the municipality of the Canton of Stanstead.

MCI's volunteer president Gisèle Lacasse Benoît is scandalized by the situation: "We cannot understand how it is possible that permits could have been issued for such a monstrous structure, which clearly violates the spirit of the Politique de protection des rives. If there are loopholes in municipal bylaws, they have to be closed immediately. We at MCI reiterate our plea to local municipalities, which we made last July after cement posts were poured in the lake to hold up this gigantic structure. Austin is the only municipality to have changed its bylaw. All municipalities in

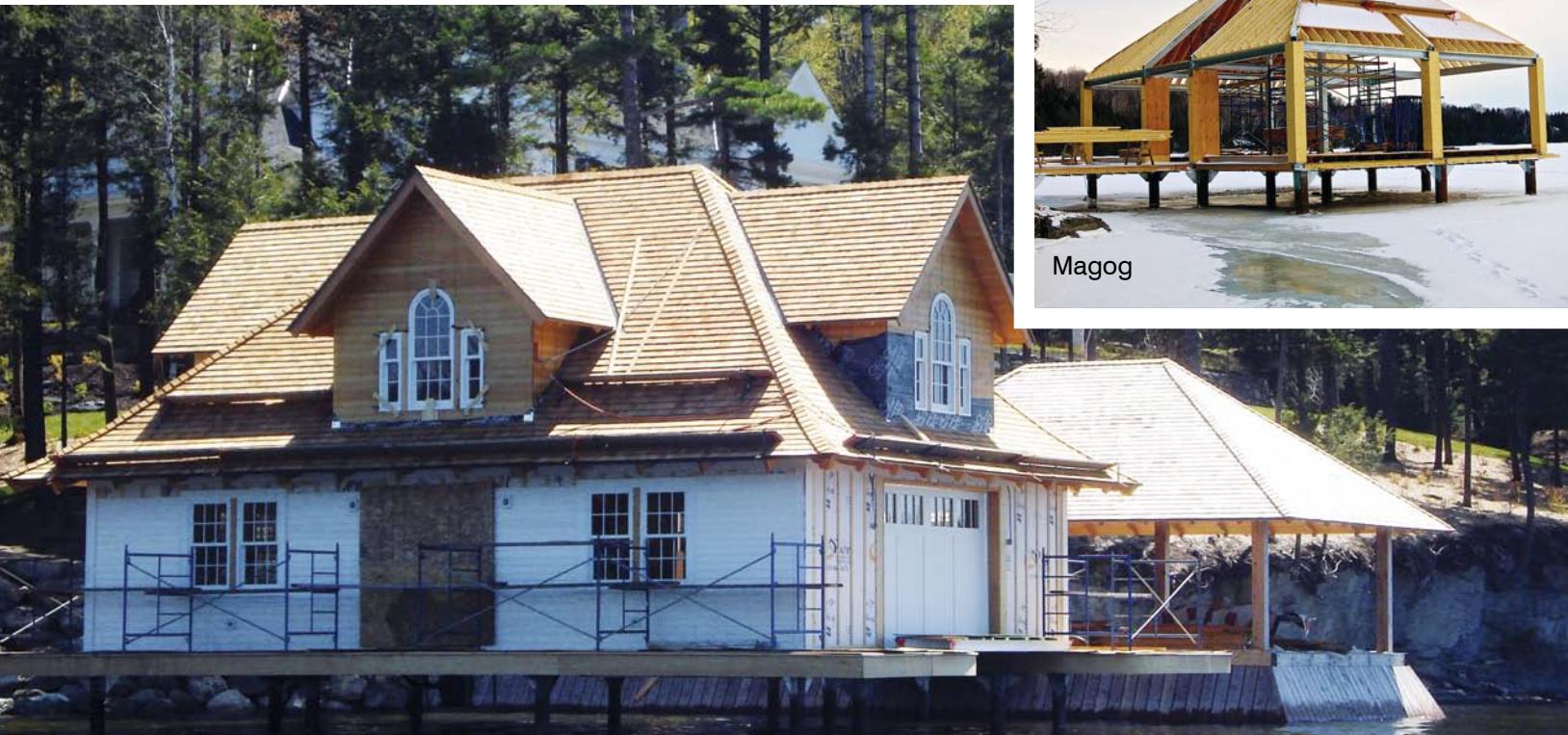
the area have to modify their legislation, so that no permanent structure of this kind is permitted along the shores of the lake."

Madame Lacasse Benoît concludes, "This kind of activity is no more and no less than an overriding of the public good for the sake of individual profit, not to mention its impact on the natural landscape and the disturbance to those living nearby."

The MCI team.



Magog



Stanstead Township