



MEMPHRÉMAGOG CONSERVATION INC.

Annual General Meeting

July 13, 2014, 9:30 AM

Murray Memorial Centre, 4680 ch. Georgeville, Georgeville, Qc

Minutes of the meeting

<u>Administrators</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Claude Bernier, President	YES
Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, outgoing President	YES
Tom Kovacs, Vice-President	YES
Paul Trudel, Treasurer	YES
Catherine Roy, Secretary	YES
Johanne Lavoie, General Manager	YES
Robert Benoit, responsible for the patrol	YES
Anne Boswall	NO
Jean-Claude Duff	YES
Mary Pat Goulding	YES
Jean-Philippe Joyal	YES
Peter Lépine	YES
Madeleine Saint-Pierre	YES
Erich Smith-Peter	YES
Perry Thomas	YES
<u>Administrative assistant</u>	
Cindy Margarita Pozo	YES
<u>Invited guests :</u>	
François Bélanger	NO
Francine Hone, conservation biologist and MCI collaborator	NO
<u>Patroller(s) :</u>	
Ariane Orjikh, Patrol Coordinator	YES
Anthony Bergeron-Maurice, Patroller	NO
Anaïs Messier, Patroller	YES

Meeting secretary : Cindy Margarita Pozo

1. Opening of the assembly by Ms. Claude Bernier, President :

Ms. Claude Bernier welcomes the attendees (some 50 MCI members are in attendance). She notes the presence of two former presidents of MCI, Mr. Jacques Charbonneau and Mr. Donald

Fisher. Mrs. Lisette Maillé, Mayor of Austin, and Mr. Robert Ranger, City Counsellor in Magog, are also present. She introduces the Board of Directors for 2013-2014.

2. Approval of the agenda :

A motion to approve the agenda is made by Mr. Peter Lépine and seconded by Mrs. Lise Lamarche.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of July 6, 2013 :

A motion to approve the minutes is made by Mrs. Madeleine Saint-Pierre and seconded by Mr. Erich Smith-Peter.

4. President's report by Ms. Claude Bernier :

Patrol : Ms. Bernier introduces the patrollers. She underscores the remarkable job that they do, given the multitude of their tasks and responsibilities.

Conservation program : Ms. Bernier congratulates Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie and Mrs. Francine Hone for their passion, consistency and tenacity in this challenging work. She is convinced that conservation is one of the lasting solutions for the maintenance of water quality in the Lake Memphremagog, and salutes their efforts.

Québec-Vermont Committee and MWA : MCI continues to sit on the Québec-Vermont Committee. It is Mr. Tom Kovacs who is representing us on this committee. As well, MCI maintains close ties with the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) of Vermont, represented on our Board of Directors by Mrs. Mary Pat Goulding.

Surveillance : MCI ensures a constant presence on Lake Memphremagog, thanks to its patrol and its network of shoreline residents. The organization works to improve regulations and also to ensure respect for current regulations. She notes the efforts of the Municipality of Austin in protecting the water quality of the lake. The assembly applauds the municipality's efforts.

Membership : She thanks Mr. Yves Fortier for his support. Mrs. Pozo will present the membership report later in the meeting.

Wake boat study : Ms. Bernier describes the study on large waves, in which MCI collaborated with the Conservation Society of Lake Lovering (CSLL). The study looked at the impact of 'Wake boats' on lakes. It has now been shown that large waves accelerate the erosion of the shoreline and cause sediment to re-enter the water column, as well as compromising the security of swimmers. Representations have now been made to Transport Canada's Bureau of Maritime Security to impose a limit of 250 m from the shoreline for the operation of this type of boat.

Partnership with Louise Abbott : Mrs. Abbott will present her book *Memphrémagog : An Illustrated History*, of which a portion of the sale proceeds will be donated to MCI.

Fitch Bay: A number of analyses indicate that the water quality of Fitch Bay is the most worrisome of the entire lake. In fact, phosphorus levels are particularly elevated, as are fecal coliform levels and the amount of suspended material. MCI is hoping to take action to improve the water quality. A planning committee composed of MCI Board Members and Mrs. Francine Hone (Biologist specializing in conservation) and Mr. François Bélanger (Environmental Engineer specializing in water treatment) has been formed. MCI plans to work with different partners, such as the MRC, other environmental organizations, local municipalities and various Government Departments. Over the coming months, a detailed action plan will be developed. MCI will assess the expertise and funding needed, and the various partners will be met with in order to get their commitment and participation in the project.

Thank Yous : Ms. Bernier gave a warm thank you to each and every member of the Board of Directors, as well as to the various volunteers for their work with MCI this year.

5. Awarding of the MCI-Gordon Kohl commemorative prize by Donald Fisher :

Mr. Donald Fisher presented the Gordon Kohl Memorial prize to Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit in recognition of her exceptional commitment to MCI since 2002, as well as for her 8 years of leadership as president. The assembly gives her a warm round of applause. The text of Mr. Fisher's remarks can be found on MCI's web site in the documents centre under the Tribute category.

6. Patrol Report by Catherine Roy and Ariane Orjikh :

Ms. Catherine Roy gives a brief overview of 2013, specifically on the turbidity study carried out by Nicolas Vachon, the study of swimmer's itch carried out by Renaud Beaucher-Perras, and the study of dissolved oxygen, carried out by Catherine Roy, all three patrollers in 2013.

Catherine introduces the 2014 patrol: Coordination of the patrol will be handled by Ms. Ariane Orjikh (also patroller in 2012). Ariane is a biologist, soon to receive her Masters Degree in Biology, specializing in international ecology. The patrollers are Mr. Anthony Bergeron-Maurice and Ms. Anaïs Messier, both final year students in the Bachelor level environment program at the University of Sherbrooke.

Ariane Orjikh presents the activities of the patrol for 2014: water sampling for the MDDELCC and the MRC, as well as for Magog's beaches and for the Villas de l'Anse; analyses of dissolved oxygen; and monitoring of the shoreline. The patrol is always available to provide information to shoreline residents. The patrol will also participate in a variety of events over the summer.

In 2014, Ms. Anaïs Messier will undertake a study to characterize the shoreline. She started in Ogden, and will complete the characterization of Fitch Bay. Mr. Anthony Bergeron-Maurice will carry out an analysis of Fitch Bay's tributaries, with the objective of identifying the most problematic of them. Ms. Ariane Orjikh, for her part, will continue her study of dissolved oxygen.

One MCI member wished to know which part of Fitch Bay is of most concern. Catherine Roy replies that it's the North portion of the bay, based on our water sampling (there are three

sampling stations in the bay). Another member wished to know who has the power to change things, based on these water samples. Catherine Roy replies that the results are sent to the MRC, who analyse the data and report on the results. These reports are then sent to the local municipalities. It is thus the responsibility of these elected officials to effect any needed changes. Mr. Robert Benoit adds that these reports are taken seriously, as our elected officials are more and more sensitive to the environment. Mrs. Maillé notes the ad hoc committees created to discuss similar problems across municipalities. Mrs. Maillé is the president of the Consultative Committee on the Environment of the MRC.

7. Report on the Conservation Program by Mrs. Johanne Lavoie :

Mrs. Johanne Lavoie presents a summary of the achievements in 2014 as well as those since 2009. The overall picture is as follows:

MCI's conservation program, created in 2009, reflects MCI's vision of <preserving natural landscapes and their ecological functions through proper planning and sustainable development of the territory>.

Three objectives underscore the program's actions: increasing the extent of protected areas in the watershed; promoting the balance between conservation and development of the area; preserving the quality of the water of the lake.

MCI's two preferred approaches, (1) voluntary conservation in collaboration with private property owners and (2) collaboration with municipalities, have allowed MCI to produce tangible results since 2009, thanks to the support of the following donors: Environment Canada, the Fondation de la Faune, and the municipalities of Austin and Magog.

Since 2009, MCI has met with 25 property owners, in order to provide them with information on conservation, as well as the legal options available to them. 8 ecological assessments have been carried out on private property, and more than 20 properties have been mapped in anticipation of meetings with the owners. Also, 4 areas of interest in the watershed have been surveyed, given their high ecological value. In terms of private protected areas, one private nature reserve of 60 hectares is in the process of being approved, and 3 property owners have committed to negotiating legal agreements covering some 150 hectares.

MCI was also a partner in the implementation of a number of protected areas, such as a forest conservation easement of 500 hectares and a gift of 10 hectares on Mount Chagnon, a conservation easement of 90 hectares on Mount Owl's Head, and the acquisition of 95 hectares of wetlands in the Millington bog.

As well, MCI completed an inventory of the watershed of the Lac Des Sitelles, identifying potential and actual erosion zones, in collaboration with the Association of Owners of Lac Des Sitelles, in order to properly plan the maintenance of the quality of the water of the lake.

In collaboration with the municipalities, MCI has carried out the following actions: In Austin, as well as in Magog, MCI produced an inventory of the natural landscapes across their entire territories, which will serve as a basis for integrating these landscapes in their urban plans, as

part of their ongoing review process. In Austin, MCI identified the actual extent of one of the most important wetlands in the area, the Millington bog. In Magog, MCI produced a portrait of their natural landscapes and studied the wildlife corridors in the Cherry river and Castle brook areas. Meetings were also held with the municipalities of Potton, Ogden, Stanstead Township, Orford Township, the Memphremagog MRC, local organisations, as well as with COGESAF and Appalachian Corridor.

The assembly congratulates MCI for its accomplishments.

8. Presentation and approval of the financial results as at December 31, 2013 by Mr. Paul Trudel :

MCI's financial results for 2013 were audited by the Accounting Firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton (RCGT). RCGT's results are presented to the assembly by Mr. Paul Trudel, MCI's Treasurer.

MCI's revenues, derived principally through donations and member contributions, were up \$3.5K, compared to 2012. Salaries, benefits and other expenses of the patrol were lower in 2013, as a result of hiring 3 patrollers instead of 4.

Communication charges for 2013 were up by \$3.4K, mostly as a result of our recruitment campaign, which was a success. Administration costs were much the same as in 2012 at \$24K.

All told, MCI has a surplus of \$12K, increasing our net assets to \$92K. MCI's financial situation remains very good, having improved in 2013.

The adoption of the financial results as at December 31 was moved by Mr. Paul Trudel and seconded by Mr. Donald Fisher.

9. Appointment of Auditors by Mr. Paul Trudel :

Mr. Paul Trudel moves to renew the mandate of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton as auditors for the 2014 financial year. Mr. Peter Lépine seconds the motion. The motion is adopted unanimously.

10. Ratification of the actions of the administrators :

Following a brief presentation by Ms. Claude Bernier, it is moved by Mrs. Linda Ghanimé and seconded by Mrs. Sandra Marshall that all activities, transactions and actions taken by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the corporation since the last Annual General Meeting be ratified and approved. The motion is adopted unanimously.

11. Membership report by Mrs. Cindy Margarita Pozo :

Mrs. Pozo presents the total 2014 membership as at July 13, 2014, versus the total for 2013. (see **ANNEX A : Report of membership today vs 2013**). Mrs. Mary Bassett congratulates MCI for its accomplishments. Mrs. Corinne Druelle suggests a door to door campaign to recruit more members. Various options are proposed by attendees.

12. Nominating Committee report by Ms. Claude Bernier :

Ms. Claude Bernier presents the Nominating Committee report and proposes the list of the members of the Board of Directors for 2014-2015, as follows: Ms. Claude Bernier, Mr. Robert Benoit, Mrs. Anne Boswall, Mr. Jean-Claude Duff, Mrs. Mary Pat Goulding, Mr. Tom Kovacs, Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit, Mrs. Johanne Lavoie, Mr. Peter Lépine, Mrs. Catherine Roy, Mr. Erich Smith-Peter and Mr. Paul Trudel. She also proposes electing Mrs. Linda Ghanimé, President of the environment committee of the Villas de l'Anse, who has 30 years of experience in environment. The nomination is seconded by Mrs. Mme Saint-Pierre.

Ms. Bernier thanks Mrs. Madeleine Saint-Pierre for the 9 years she has devoted to MCI. She will not be returning to the Board of Directors, but will continue with her translations from English to French for MCI. Mr. Jean-Philippe Joyal, a young lawyer who has worked with MCI for the past three years, will not be renewing his commitment. As well, Mrs. Mary Pat Goulding will now be the only MWA representative on the MCI board of directors.

13. Presentation of the book Memphrémagog : an illustrated history by Mrs. Louise Abbott :

Mrs. Louise Abbott presents her book *Memphrémagog : an illustrated history*, a bilingual work telling the story of Lake Memphremagog, as well as showing the richness of the landscapes, flora and fauna surrounding it.

14. Question period :

Some members indicated their interest in becoming more involved with MCI.

Mr. Erich Smith-Peter moves to close the meeting at 11:22 AM, seconded by Mrs. Gisèle Lacasse Benoit.

Claude Bernier
Assembly President

Cindy Margarita Pozo
Assembly Secretary

ANNEX A :

RAPPORT DES ADHÉSIONS / MEMBERSHIP REPORT
aujourd'hui vs 2013



CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALES / TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS			
2014 (en date d'aujourd'hui)		2013	
nombre / number	montant / amount	nombre / number	montant / amount
475	65 970 \$	616	83 553 \$

DONS PARTICULIERS ET CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES/ SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS & ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS			
2014 (en date d'aujourd'hui)		2013	
nombre / number	montant / amount	nombre / number	montant / amount
18	2 518 \$	37	8 908 \$

MUNICIPALITÉS / MUNICIPALITIES			
2014 (en date d'aujourd'hui)		2013	
nombre / number	montant / amount	nombre / number	montant / amount
5	8 557 \$	5	8 557 \$

Adhésions / Membership			
2014 (en date d'aujourd'hui)		2013	
nombre / number	montant / amount	nombre / number	montant / amount
448 (1000 membres)	53 645 \$	569 (1200 membres)	65 138 \$