

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Launch of a petition in support of the preservation of Mont Orford Park

Magog, January 13, 2005 – Our region is presently in the throes of a debate whose outcome could have enormous repercussions on its future. At first glance, one would be tempted to think that the battle is being waged between two groups: the promoters of the project and the environmentalists who are opposed to it. But there is more to it than that. The whole population should be concerned by the project. So it is in its best interest to be fully informed and to take position in the debate.

We believe that the debate must be primarily about the preservation of the integrity of the Mont Orford Park, a natural area which, with Lake Memphremagog, constitutes one of the two major tourist poles in the area. It must also be about the protection of Castle brook (another natural area that was declared special by the ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs) which flows into Lake Memphremagog, the source of drinking water for the towns of Magog and Sherbrooke. Finally, besides these ecological considerations, the debate must also address another important subject: our region's development in respect to the quality of life.

It is important that the population be fully aware of every aspect of the issue. The petition we are launching today should be considered as both an information tool for the population and a voice for those who, like us, are opposed to the landswap.

In order to increase the awareness of the population of the many issues of this project, a petition will be launched today by nine associations. It will be published in a local newspaper at first, and then posted on the Internet sites of many local, regional and national environmental organizations, since several aspects of the project could have far-reaching impact. But in the end, it is the people that must take a stand and make their position known. For us, it is essential that they have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the future they wish for Mont Orford Park.

We urge everyone to sign this petition to pressure the Quebec government into protecting the ecological integrity of the Mont Orford Park permanently, in compliance with the Parks Act.

La Fondation Marécage Memphremagog
L'Association de préservation du lac Magog
L'Association des propriétaires riverains du lac Bowker
L'Association pour la protection du lac Orford
L'Association pour la protection du lac Stukely
Le Club de conservation chasse et pêche

Le Memphrémagog Conservation
Les Amis du Marais de la Rivière aux Cerises
Les Amis du parc du Mont-Orford

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