



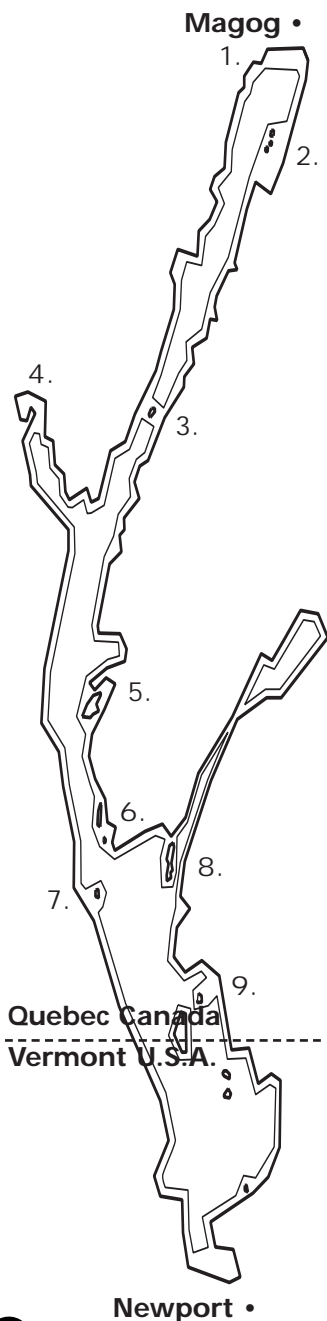
Memphremagog Conservation Inc.

61, Southière road
Canton de Magog
Quebec J1X 5R9
(819) 843-9476

memphremagog@canada.com
www.ville.magog.qc.ca/mci/

Memphremagog Lake

(not to scale)



Code of Ethics for Water activities on Lake Memphremagog

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The Code of Ethics **does not replace the regulations in effect** within the Memphremagog MRC region. Those who use the lake should be aware of these regulations and should respect them at all times; failure to do so can result in legal penalties. Copies of the regulations are available at municipal offices around the Lake, or from the Lake Patrol (819-822-7613). This Code is intended to complement MRC regulations. It may also serve as an effective model for other jurisdictions to adopt.

Principal directives

Lake Memphremagog, an area of exceptional beauty, is home to a widely diverse community. MCI believes that we can best sustain that community through **respect** - respect for the natural environment, which is at the heart of MCI's mission, and also mutual respect among all of us who use the Lake and its environs.

MCI proposes that voluntary compliance with this Code will **protect the Lake's ecosystem**, and at the same time **improve the quality of life and leisure** for all those who use it. The goal is to **minimize the level of invasive activities** on and around the Lake, but without overly restricting those activities which are, by their nature, more intrusive than others. The Code urges those who engage in such activities to be especially aware of the impact they can have, and to act accordingly.

Furthermore, the Code creates a zone of protection along the shoreline, on the boundaries of fragile environments and in areas where people might wish to enjoy more peaceful water activities (swimming, kayaking, canoeing, birding, fishing). These zones, **utilized by a vast majority of people**, represent no more than 20% of the total lake surface, and include those sections which are least navigable.

Water Quality

The quality of the Lake's water remains the key to its environmental health. It is also one of the things that attracts residents and visitors alike.

Do not throw anything into the lake or on the shoreline. Store all garbage until it can be deposited in an appropriate receptacle.

Be sure that your craft complies with all holding tank regulations.

Wherever possible avoid the use of two-stroke motors.

If you transport your boat from one lake to another, you are required to wash the boat thoroughly before launching. Wash stations are located around the Lake - their primary purpose is to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

Waves

Lake Memphremagog is a relatively large lake, **but** it is also very narrow. This makes it particularly vulnerable to waves created by boat traffic. Waves are the main cause of erosion along the shoreline, as well as damage to fragile ecosystems such as spawning grounds, marshlands and other animal habitats. Waves contribute to accidents and are a major source of concern and discomfort for those adversely affected by them.

As a general rule, boats should proceed at speeds which create the least amount of wave activity, especially near swimmers and other boats.

Waves should not be deliberately generated, nor should another boat's wake be used, with the intent of performing acrobatic stunts.

Speed of motorboats

It is between 8 and 25 km/hr that motorized craft of the size usually found on our lake generate the largest waves.

In order to reduce the production of waves and limit the risk of accident, limit speed to;

- **5 km/hr and no wave** at less than **200 meters** from the shore or within any protected shore zones designated below (see also map).
- **70 km/hr** maximum in the rest of the lake

At night, one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise, limit speed to **30 km/hr**.

Passage of a motorboat near a swimmer or another water craft

It is the right of users of the lake to engage in water activities in peace.

Swimmers and non-motorized water craft **have right of way** over motorized vessels, with almost no exception.

Motorboats must navigate in a manner which respects this right of way and avoid moving in the direction of swimmers and non-motorized water craft.

They should never come within **50 meters** of a swimmer or non-motorized craft unless specifically invited to do so. This 50 meter distance applies also when encountering wild animals!

In the case of a collision course, the motorboat must **clearly indicate its intentions** and change its route well before coming within 100 meters of a swimmer or non-motorized craft.

The speed of motorized water craft should be limited to:

- **10 km/hr** within **100 meters** of a swimmer or non-motorized craft
- **10 km/hr** within **30 meters** of another motorboat.

No motorized craft should approach within 100 meters of a designated bathing zone; however, if such a zone is situated within 100 meters from a landing zone, the approach should then be undertaken at the lowest speed possible.

Noise

Noise pollution is presently one of the greatest concerns on and around the Lake.

Noise serves no useful purpose in boating or water sports and should be **reduced to the minimum needed for propulsion**.

Motorboats should be equipped with a silencer, in good condition, designed to reduce motor noise to a minimum. External exhaust systems and Hollywood pipes do not meet this condition.

Wild driving (tight turns, wave jumping, acrobatics) as well as being dangerous, is a source of unacceptable noise levels and has no place in a natural environment.

The noise level of sound systems must be minimized so that only the occupant of the boat can hear it, so as not to disturb others in the area, either under way or while anchored.

Gathering on one or more boats for the purpose of musical entertainment again has no place on the lake.

Warning systems (horns, sirens) must only be used in case of emergency.

Mooring

Boats generally anchor at pleasant locations as a break in a trip, or to enjoy the natural qualities of the lake.

Never moor more than two boats side by side.

Moor at a distance of at least 30 meters from another boat or 60 meters when boats are moored together. On still nights in particular, sound carries a great distance over water; but at all times, keep noise levels to an absolute minimum.

Do not moor closer than 100 meters from the shore, a wharf, an island, a buoy, or an environmentally fragile area (e.g. banks of the Chery River, Castle Brook, marshland, nesting areas etc.); leave ample room for other boats to manoeuvre. Clusters of such moored boats should occupy only a very small proportion of the sectors of the lake where they form.

At night, use only positioning lights.

Personal watercraft and high performance boats.

These craft have the highest potential for invasive activities on the Lake, and those who operate them should be particularly aware of the detrimental effects they can have on the Lake itself and on the rest of the Lake community. In particular:

- do not engage in chases, acrobatic stunts, continuous circling, intentional capsizing, intentional generation of waves.
- do not come within 100 metres of a swimmer or non-motorized craft, or less than 50 metres of another motor boat.
- always drive sitting down.

Additional protected shore zones

The following are protected shore zones in addition to the zone extending 200 meters from the shoreline and the protection zones for swimmers and other crafts:

1. Magog Bay, to within 500 meters south of the north shore of the lake
2. The zone between Ile a l'Aigle (Needle Island), the Three Sisters and the east shore of the lake
3. The zone between the west shore of the lake, Lord's Island and the east shore of the lake
4. Sargent Bay, from 500 meters south of Green Point to the end of the bay
5. Quinn Bay, in the north, to east and south of Molson Island.
6. The zone situated between Long Island, Skinner Island, Minnow Island and the east shore of the lake.
7. The zone between Round Island and the west shore of the lake.
8. To permit convenient boat travel in the narrows of Fitch Bay and in the channel between the North side of Whetstone Island and the mainland, the protected zone is 100 meters from the shore.
9. The zone between Table Island and the east shore of the lake.

In the zones 1,2,3,7, a beacon would establish a zone of 30 km/hr to pass from one part of the lake to another or to the Magog River.

