News from Memphrémagog Conservation Inc.

Record Staff

Despite the situation with Covid-19, Memphrémagog Conservation Inc (MCI) is letting the public know that their administrative team is still hard at work from home, and that most of their summer activities are still on the calendar, with a few exceptions.

Lake Patrol

The organization’s lake patrol will be ready to begin its season on Lake Memphrémagog on May 19, and will begin patrolling as soon as the Québec government allows it. MCI is proud to welcome back Eric Phendler, Bishop’s University student in environmental sciences and biodiversity and ecology, who will coordinate patrol activities this year. The team also includes Frédérique Thibault-Lessard, completing her bachelor’s degree in environmental studies at the University of Sherbrooke, and Marguerite Duchesne, University of Sherbrooke student in ecology. The patrol can be reached by telephone or text at 819 620-3939 or by email at patrol@memphremagog.org if anyone has any questions or observations. This summer the patrollers will also be sharing news on Facebook.

Angler Survey

After one full year of working with the State of Vermont to assess the state of sport fishing on Lake Memphrémagog, the team is ready to begin its second season. Under the leadership of Maxime Vélinette, biologist and former MCI patrols, 5,500 anglers have already been interviewed on the Canadian side of the lake to learn more about their habits and opinions, and to develop a global portrait of sport fishing on Lake Memphrémagog. The study’s second season will end on this coming October 31st.

Annual tree distribution

MCI’s annual tree distribution in shoreline municipalities will be postponed until June or cancelled altogether. We are awaiting confirmation from Québec’s Ministry of Forests, Wildlife, and Parks.

The Memphrémagog Food Bank (BAM)—Providing emergency support during Covid-19 Pandemic

The Scoop

Mable Hastings

The Memphrémagog food bank (Banque Alimentaire Memphrémagog-BAM) is a charitable organization founded in 1991 and incorporated in 1995. The organization operates under a volunteer Board of Directors and through the efforts of a very devoted staff.

In 2013, the Food Bank modified its mission and its values as follows. The mission of the BAM is to provide temporary food assistance to residents in the Memphrémagog MRC who are in need striving to improve the quality of life and help to return to food independence. The values of BAM strive for respect through creating mutual aid, listening and non-judgmental assistance, integrity in guiding choices and actions to respect the rules, laws and to preserve the trust of the community, effectiveness in achieving its mission through sound management, commitment to all and the implementation of measures to return to the community and finally, altruism in fostering empathy, encouraging self-giving and the use of ones talents and time to serve others.

The BAM offers clients food troubleshooting skills, budget advice, consulting and reference services, dietary advice, children and infant foods and support. Christmas baskets, network service with emergency Energy Étrie and a social café. Their services are free however an evaluation is conducted when a request is made to better understand the person’s situation.

For anyone wishing to donate foods, the BAM accepts non-perishables and nutritious foods and for the most part, economical. In donating to the food bank, you can also include treats and some more expensive foods that disadvantaged families don’t usually get to buy due to budget restraints. Beyond the basics, think about what you would like to receive.

If you feel like being a part of the BAM team and it’s over 80 volunteers, you are welcome to offer a few hours of your time and talents (sorting food, gardening, cooking, etc.). You will likely help improve the quality of life of hundreds of people. The BAM staff team consists of ANDRÉE GAGNON, Executive Director, CELINE EDWARD, DANIEL LESSARD, JASMINE BÉARD, MYRIAM VIGNOLA, JOINEY SAVARD, JOSEF FONTAINE, FRANCINE LAVALLÉE and MADELEINE LAVALLÉE. The Board of Directors is made up of: FRÉDÉRIC DEMERS-President – Consultant, CHRISTIAN COUPAL, CHANTALE DEMERS, MICHEL MORISSET, MAREK WALKULZYK, MELISSA BEAUDOIN and JEAN-FRANÇOIS LALONDE.

“…”The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) serving the municipalities of Potton, Bolton-Est, Saint-Etienne de-Belton, Strukely-Sud and Eastman, the BAM has been outstanding in giving its support to our non-profit organization during the COVID-19 pandemic,” shared Mable Hastings-Executive Director. “There has always been a solid collaboration between BAM and our Partage/Share food bank however we feel we must note with the highest regard, the efforts and support we have received at the difficult time. The team at BAM have been outstanding”!

Considering the current pandemic situation in Québec and the measures put in place by the Québec government, the Memphrémagog Food Bank (BAM) has been obliged to put into place the following measures at this time;

- Reception is closed: Surplus at the reception desk is no longer available;
- Social café is closed: Social grocery store is closed.

Annual general meeting

MCI’s annual general meeting will be held on Saturday, August 22nd, 2020 at 9:30 a.m at the Austin Town Hall, if the Covid-19 situation permits it.

Aside Renewal of your membership for 2020

If you would like to receive a new sticker in recognition of the part they have played in helping to protect Lake Memphrémagog and its watershed.

People in a situation of food insecurity may contact us at: 819-868-4438 and requests will currently be conducted by telephone, rather than face-to-face meetings. Following the contact by phone with one of our workers, food aid will be distributed by means of warehouse conveyors, located in the parking lot on the side of the building. It should be noted that only one entrance is available, it’s the one on the side of the building. The BAM is located at 581 rue Sherbrooke in Magog, Québec J1X 2S4. 819-868-4438

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Photo: Courtesy