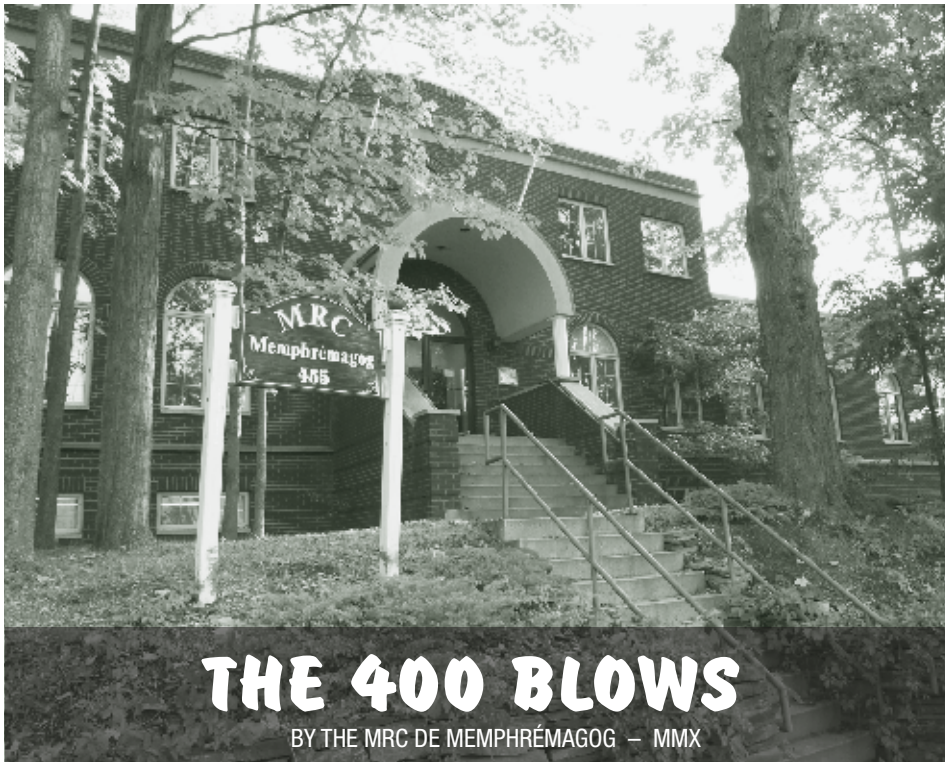


The Newsletter



The Sustainable Development Committee



THE 400 BLOWS

BY THE MRC DE MEMPHRÉMAGOG – MMX

The first feature-length film by François Truffaut, presented at the Cannes Festival in 1959, tells of the difficult childhood of 14-year old Antoine, his relationship with his parents and his love of the cinema. This universally appealing and clearly autobiographical film enjoyed enormous success, and for a good reason – it deals with life itself.

The fall is my favourite time for the quality of light, and its exceptional purity. The luminosity of September and October stimulates the creativity of photographers, amateur and others.

Autumn is also the season of film festivals.

The relationship between the photo and the cinema is clear to be seen, when we think of the exceptional quality of scenes engraved in our memories from such classic films such as *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Doctor Zhivago*... I agree – These examples are not really recent. What about *Apocalypse Now?* Or *Titanic*? They too had many arresting scenes, as I am sure you would agree. And what about such films as *The English Patient*, *El Laberinto del fauno* (*Pan's Labyrinth*), *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Avatar*? All share the same superb photography.

Like Antoine in *The 400 Blows*, the MRC is not lacking in ideas and projects. First let me outline the roles and responsibilities of an MRC in its context.

The MRCs in Quebec are required, by virtue of various laws, to assume a number of responsibilities, some of which we have examined in earlier issues of your Newsletter. They must, for example, maintain a land use and development plan which applies to the entire territory of the MRC and revise it and maintain it in force. In fact, this is the most important responsibility of the MRCs, and from this flow other tasks. Among these: to see that the planning programs and planning by-laws of the local municipalities are in compliance with this master plan, and that public works take into account the land use and development plan and its supporting documents.

MRCs also prepare the property assessment rolls for local municipalities governed by the Municipal Code, handle the sale of properties for failure to pay taxes and manage watercourses in their jurisdiction. They are also required to set up a local development centre, called the Centre local de développement or CLD, to look after economic development and to provide support for entrepreneurship in the MRC.

The MRC de Memphrémagog, the offices of which are situated at 455 MacDonal, in Magog, was created on September 23, 1981. It is administered by its council, which is made up of the mayors of the 17 municipalities on its territory. The meetings of its council are public and are held on the third Wednesday of each month, in the council room. You have not ever seen our offices? See the picture on the left...

The warden, Gérard Marinovich, chairs the council meeting and is supported by the acting warden, Jacques Demers, mayor of Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley. Mr. Marinovich, the mayor of Eastman, was elected in November 2009 in a secret ballot by members of the council, for a term of two years.

Since its creation, the council of the MRC has formed nine committees which are asked to make recommendations on various issues before it. These are sometimes recurring, such as the land use and development plan, and sometimes one-time issues, such as we will see in the following pages.

In this Newsletter, we are summarizing the main projects in which the committees of your MRC are playing a role, with the support of the hard-working, highly motivated and helpful staff (a photo is worth a thousand words!).

It happens that the members of the committees are working on updating several baseline documents for the MRC. Several large files have also been under scrutiny in recent months, so we would like to give you an update on each one. This issue of the Newsletter, therefore, has expanded, touching culture, the environment, the internet, land use planning, and the MRC's efforts to create regional partnerships.

Finally, we invited municipalities to tell us about their successful summer projects. You might see your own efforts in some of the events we describe; these are what we want to showcase!

Young Antoine, of whom we spoke earlier, was proud of his 400 shots. And you can be proud of your MRC, too!

Winter too provides its own light. Since it will probably last for several months, take advantage of it and we will talk about it in the spring!

Christine Labelle
Projects director



A new cultural policy for the MRC de Memphrémagog

By Sophie Charbonneau
Cultural development agent

A new cultural policy has just been adopted by the MRC de Memphrémagog. Among the priorities are support for initiatives arising from the cultural and municipal environment related to financing, promotion and joint action. Furthermore, the heritage sector should be the subject of specific measures as well.

The Cultural Policy 2010-2015 is the result of a huge public consultation in three stages that was begun in the fall of 2009:

1. A questionnaire intended for cultural and municipal workers;
2. A public consultation;
3. Validation of the first version of the cultural policy using the internet.

Once the Cultural Policy of the MRC has been adopted, the cultural committee should draw up an action plan, implement it and arrange for monitoring and follow-up. The action plan will allow the MRC to identify those interventions it intends to carry out in the coming years by showing the projects, structures and mechanisms that will be proposed.

A cultural policy is a political and public act that recognizes the importance of culture in the development of a community and as a way to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

For more information, visit:

http://www.mrcmemphremagog.com/pol_cult.html



The MRC de Memphrémagog team at the Capelton Mine in Hatley Township. From left to right: Steve Otis, Jonathan Roberge, Guy Jauron, Alexandra Roy, Émilie Gagnon, Alexandre Khazanov, Sylvie-Anne Laverdure, Christine Labelle, Emilio Lembo, Mélanie Desautels and Sophie Parent. Absent: Louise Champoux, Sophie Charbonneau and Carmelle Métivier.

Photo: Geneviève Vallière

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Revision: Louise Champoux, Émilie Gagnon, Christine Labelle

The revision of the Environment Action Plan

By Alexandra Roy
Environment project manager

The MRC de Memphrémagog adopted its first five-year environment action plan in 1995. The document was revised in 2000, then again in 2005, and in 2010 was considerably amended. In the fourth version, the form of the Plan has been completely revised by the members of the environment advisory committee (CCE). Six major themes have been retained: water, air, soil, forests, land uses and our common natural heritage. For each one of these, objectives have been set and the actions needed to

reach them have been determined. In order for the plan to meet the concerns of the local population as closely as possible, various actors have been invited to comment on the document during its revision, including municipalities and the associations dedicated to the protection of the environment in the MRC. Watch for the adoption of the environment action plan for 2011-2015 by the council of mayors: new projects are in the works in the MRC!



Jouvence, Canton d'Orford

Photo: Christine Labelle

The Residual Materials Management Plan

By Mélanie Desautels
Project manager

In 2004, the MRC adopted its first Residual Materials Management Plan (the PGMR, in French). The main objective of this tool is simple: to reduce the quantity of garbage being sent to landfill. To arrive at this goal, the PGMR prepares a portrait of the management of waste materials on the territory by the 17 municipalities, sets the objectives to be reached and presents an action plan. Reduction at source, re-use, recycling and recovery-adding value are the key words in the residual materials management plan.

The MRC must produce a PGMR that complies with the Quebec Residual Materials Management Policy (the *Politique québécoise de gestion des matières résiduelles*) and revise it every five years. Its sustainable development committee is charged with drawing up the next PGMR, and the revision began in 2009. However, since the government has delayed adoption of the next *Policy*, the MRC has been obliged to hold back on this revision, because it does not yet know the orientations and objectives to be reached. Despite this, the committee is continuing its work by identifying, among other things, the management of organic materials as a priority, so it will be able to proceed quickly when the Quebec policy is adopted.

The revision of the land use planning and development plan (the "Schéma d'aménagement et de développement")

By Steve Otis
Coordinator of land use planning

Under the *Land Use Planning and Development Act*, MRCs in Quebec are required to maintain the land use planning and development plans that apply to their territory, keep them in force and revise them periodically. As part of the process of revising its land use plan (the "schéma"), the MRC de Memphrémagog adopted a first draft in April 2009.

Control of residential activity in the agricultural zone appears to be a major concern for the MRC, which would want to precise rules that would be integrated into its land use and development plan to offer a framework for residential construction in the agricultural zone. Article 59 of the *Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities* (LPTAA) allows such rules to be laid down. It offers the MRCs the possibility of reaching an agreement with local municipalities, the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (the CPTAQ) and UPA (the Union des producteurs agricoles), for better control of residential construction in the agricultural zone.

The MRC is now considering the possibility of presenting an Application of a Collective Scope, the intention of which would be to reach an agreement as part of the present revision of its land use planning and development plan. The conclusions of the agreement would then be integrated into the content of the second draft version of the revised "schéma", and the population would be consulted on the rules stemming from it.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available at www.mrcmemphremagog.com.
Une version française du bulletin est disponible au www.mrcmemphremagog.com.

Modelling phosphorus transportation in the Lake Memphremagog watershed area

By Mélanie Desautels and Alexandra Roy
Project managers

The MRC has been a member of the Québec-Vermont Steering Committee, the objective of which is to improve knowledge about water quality in Lake Memphremagog and its drainage basin, since the beginning of the 1990s. Following the recommendations of this committee, the MRC has developed a project to model the transportation of phosphorus in the Lake Memphremagog watershed area. With a grant from the Conférence régionale des élus, the CRÉE, the MRC was able to give a mandate to a firm specializing in this work to carry out the first study which ended in January 2010.

The results were conclusive in several aspects. In addition to identifying the sectors of the drainage basin generating large phosphorus loads, the results also allowed us to estimate the quantity of phosphorus arriving every year in the lake.



Flow measurement device, Castle Brook.

Photo: Alexandra Roy

For the Quebec part of the watershed area, the lack of information concerning the flow in the major watercourse made it impossible to validate the quantities of phosphorus calculated in the modelling exercise. Furthermore, since the internal dynamics of lake Memphremagog are poorly understood, it appeared that more information would be needed to understand properly how the phosphorus moves in the lake.

A second data-collection phase was developed with the committee in spring 2010. Measuring devices were installed in the watercourses of the two main sub-basins in the Quebec end of the watershed area, that is, at Castle Brook and Cherry River. These devices made it possible to measure the speed of flow and the variation in the heights of the water. In the summer of 2010, the protocol was finalized and by May 2011, the stations will be fully operational. Coupled with the sampling results, the data obtained will make it possible to calculate the flows and loads and to validate the model developed in 2009.

The results obtained under this project are an essential discussion tool for making informed decisions. It allows to prioritize the interventions so that they are the most effective possible. To succeed in reducing the concentrations of phosphorus in the lake, concerted action by all the managers across the entire territory, supported by all the users of the watershed is vital.

Michael Dunn's legacy

By Steve Otis
Coordinator of land use planning

When the MRC learned that the Quebec government had been offered a property of more than 100 hectares on the shore of Lake Memphremagog, it immediately asked the government to accept this gift so the land could be protected and made accessible to the public. At the same time, the MRC asked to be consulted on its future. An opportunity to have a kilometre of shoreline, on Lake Memphremagog, still in its natural state, converted to public land, does not arise every day!

After having carefully evaluated the question, the Quebec government accepted this legacy from the late Michael Dunn. It was, of course, important to consider the consequences of refusing it, and also to understand the obligations related to accepting it. The property in question is a piece of land situated in southern Quebec, near large cities and easily accessible by road. Moreover, the land is on one of the most prestigious lakes in Quebec, and one where the shoreline is almost entirely in private hands. Clear rules therefore had to be set for the use and access to this property to take into account this unique situation.

This was the background for setting up a regional roundtable, by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) in July 2010. Its mandate is to propose the most appropriate status or way of managing this gift by Michael Dunn, to the Quebec government. The roundtable is made up of representatives of MRNF, the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP), the Ministère des Affaires municipales,



Blueberry Point, Ogden

Photo: Christine Labelle

des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMROT), the CRÉE (the regional council of elected officials of the Estrie region), the municipality of Ogden and the MRC de Memphremagog. All the possibilities will have to be studied by the participants,

which must take into account the potential and ecological value of the property, as well as the donor's wishes. The table is to make its recommendations between now and the end of 2010.

Regional billboard

Municipality of the Township of Potton

“Master composters” in Potton !

This spring, the Township of Potton formed a team of volunteer “master composters”. The small team has reached out to friends and neighbours to spread the word. It set up a booth at the Multicultural Festival in Potton and plans four workshops on this subject in the fall. One of these “master composters” created a new information leaflet, another constructed wooden compost boxes, and a third made compost for his whole street. Other activities are planned for next year; among others, the team plans to go into the schools and will set up a demonstration site.

This is a great first step toward reducing the amount of organic materials being sent to landfill!

Pour more information:

<http://potton.ca/township/garbage-recycling/master-composters>



Municipalité d'Eastman

The Big Clean-up Day

For the 18th consecutive year, a team of dedicated volunteers (45 of them!) gathered to clean up the roadsides in the municipality. We also took the opportunity to make a number of containers available to residents wanting to get rid of hazardous household wastes such as paint, varnish, aerosol sprays, compact fluorescent lights and batteries.

Participants arrived at 8 am at the town hall for a welcome breakfast, then everyone scattered along the roadsides to pick up nearly 2.8 tonnes of garbage! The morning ended with a drawing for prizes provided by the business managers of the town.

Municipality of the Township of Hatley

Investing in recreation activities is paying dividends

In the Township of Hatley, development of recreation and leisure has taken the form of investment in knowledge and skills: hiring a resource person.

Since then, a wide variety of recreational activities have been offered to children (hip-hop, multisports, etc.) and adults. In addition, this has made it possible to establish a local tradition: the annual family celebration. The most important result has been the setting up of the summer day camp. This summer, the camp lasted for eight weeks and 57 children took part. This service was very much appreciated by the children and parents in the community. A great success!



Municipalité de Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton

Local talent...

On August 14 and 15, 2010 at the municipal park, some 20 artists from Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and the neighbouring villages and more than 550 visitors were able to admire the work of local artists in a large tent. With the new village cooperative on-site, visitors enjoyed delicious refreshments in a warm and convivial atmosphere. We are already looking forward to the return of this event in 2011 which will continue the long tradition of artistic events in Saint-Étienne-de-Bolton and which will again show off the vitality of our artists.



High-speed internet access: the first step has been taken

By Louise Champoux
Projects agent

A few months ago, members of the council of the MRC de Memphrémagog adopted a strategy to help provide high-speed internet service in rural areas. The first step was to carry out an engineering study to determine the real needs of citizens and the technological possibilities for the region, and the results were completed and presented to elected officials in recent weeks.

Jacques Marcoux, president of the high-speed internet committee, noted, “Following this study, municipalities have been invited to pass a resolution indicating their interest in preparing a group call for tenders from wireless internet service providers. Some municipalities have formed a special internet committee, while others have decided to involve all members of their council. The high-speed internet committee, if the interested municipalities so wish, will coordinate this process on their behalf.”

The municipalities are, therefore, in discussion about the content of the call for tenders to be prepared. The technology or technologies that will be favoured remain to be specified. The needs and profile of each municipality are so different that it is quite possible that the preferred technology will vary from one municipality to another.

According to the calendar set by the high-speed internet committee, the next step is to launch the call for tenders; this is planned for the month of December, so a bidder can be chosen in the spring of 2011.

The municipalities are planning to have the service in place within 18 months. In the meantime, citizens are asked to direct their questions to their own municipality.

Breakfast - talk

→ Program « ICI ON RECYCLE! » (We recycle here!)

The MRC de Memphrémagog invites managers of industries, businesses and institutions to participate in a breakfast-talk on the management of waste materials and more particularly, on the recognition program « ICI ON RECYCLE! ».

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2010
Time: 8 to 9:30 am
Place: Estrimont Suites & Spa
44, avenue de l'Auberge, Orford
Cost: 15 \$ (service and taxes included)

To register, please fill out the registration form available online at <http://www.mrcmemphremagog.com>, in the section « Actualités » and send it before **November 10, 2010.**

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