

PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

Knowlton business invited to Montana to investigate solutions to blue-green algae and water-quality issues

While “Renaissane Lac Brome” was meeting in Knowlton on October 14th, one Lac Brome resident was in Montana at a research and development site learning about cutting edge technologies for dealing with such water-quality issues that are affecting the Lac Brome region. Mario Paris, president “CanadianPond.ca Products Limited”, located in Lac Brome, received an invitation from Bruce Kania, renowned inventor and environmentalist, to visit his Montana research facility to learn more about his newly patented “floating island” system for aquatic restoration.

The weekend seminar brought 12 of some of the most enthusiastic business people in the aquatics field from all over North America to attend the hands-on information workshop on restoring lakes through the use of the innovative new system. Mr. Paris’s firm was the only Canadian business invited to the meeting.

During the session the invitees took part in educational sessions that presented the latest data on the cleaning effects of floating islands as well as launching of several large floating islands at the research facility. The floating islands are being employed in pilot projects in cities like Chicago to deal with water quality issues and there are also several ongoing studies by American Universities and independent firms in the US and New Zealand to fully qualify the potential of the islands to help with problems such as blue-green algae and cyanobacteria.

Floating islands are a newly patented technology that uses recycled materials to create a special buoyant “matrix” that plants can grow in. The island material becomes a habitat for beneficial, water-cleansing bacteria. The roots of the plants also combine to add a natural filtration to the water. The islands also provide habitat for birds and shelter for fish making them a truly ecological solution. According to recent findings, a single 250 square foot island can offer as much restorative benefits as an acre of constructed wetlands.

These floating island “breakthroughs” are allowing municipalities around North America to address water quality problems at a fraction of the cost associated with building traditional wetlands. Who knows, perhaps one day Lac Brome or Lac Waterloo will have some floating islands to help clean up the lake water!

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NOTE: Feel free to use this press release as is or for more information or additional photographs or interviews with participants of the trip to Montana contact Christina Ishoj at 450-243-0976 or contact by email info@canadianpond.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MONTANA TRIP:

Feel free to use these photographs or contact Christina Ishoj at 450-243-0976 for higher quality images suitable for print.

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Mario Paris of Knowlton stands near one of the freshly planted floating islands.



The launch team in Montana watches the freshly planted island drift into the test basin.



Prior to planting the islands are fit together like large puzzles. The raw island is a recycled material and patented soil mixtures are used to ensure plants remain moist.

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