

## APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF CHARA

The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency has advised the Hamlet Board that cottage owners wishing to remove excessive weeds (Chara) in front of their cabins can do so after obtaining a permit. Removal of weeds without a permit can result in a substantial fine. Find the link to the website below.

From the website:

Human development around surface waters accelerates the evolution toward the mature productive stage and when unchecked, can lead to an unhealthy, over productive (hypereutrophic) level. Most aquatic plants that are considered nuisances are a result of excess nutrients and occur in and around surface waters within two biologic zones:

- the riparian or shoreline zone acts as a filter, removing nutrients from runoff prior to it entering the water body. Plants in this zone slow runoff thereby allowing water to soak in and replenish groundwater and they reduce erosion by anchoring soil in place; and
- the littoral zone is the shallow water around the shore of lakes in which there is rooted vegetation. This zone also removes nutrients entering the system from runoff and the density of the growth can sometimes be used as an indicator of the amount of nutrients present. The use of aquatic vegetation (macrophytes) to filter water has been recognized and is being engineered into sewage and industrial treatment systems. The littoral zone is also the main habitat for tiny animals (zooplankton) and minnows, which in turn are the food source for game fish such as pike and walleye.

The link for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency and Permit is:

<https://www.wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/>

After reading this page, the permit form can be found in the **Related Documents** box on the top right.

Permits can take up to 12 weeks to process. The Hamlet Board recommends that removal of weeds be done in non-peak times to avoid (as much as possible) spreading of algae fragments. We can all be diligent about monitoring regrowth.

According to the Water Security Agency website, Chara will proliferate to meet the demands for filtration from excessive nutrients. Reasons for its increased growth could be (but is not limited to) septic leakage or runoff from new construction. Cottage owners with concerns can test for septic leaks. New construction can be managed better to prevent runoff. We can all participate by preventing extra nutrients from entering the lake i.e. gathering and disposal of leaves and grass clippings offsite, not using fertilizer, etc.