

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Links Workshop – October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007

# **Aquatic Vegetation Removal & The Public Lands Act**

**Presenters:**

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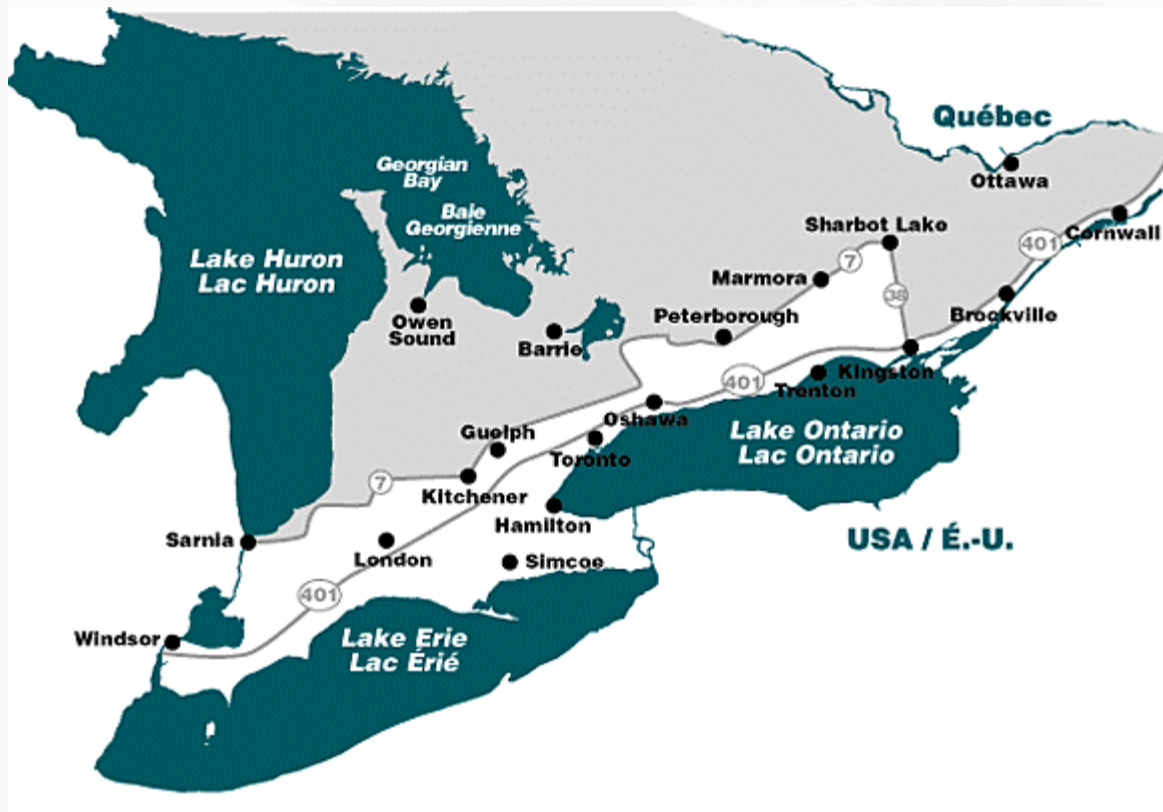
Photo: T.McLaurin

# **Who do you contact & Why**

- **MNR (Public Lands Act)**
- **CA (Fisheries Act)**
  - **May be referred to DFO**
- **Parks Canada – Rideau River System**
- **MOE – Chemical removal**

# Location: Do you require a permit from MNR?

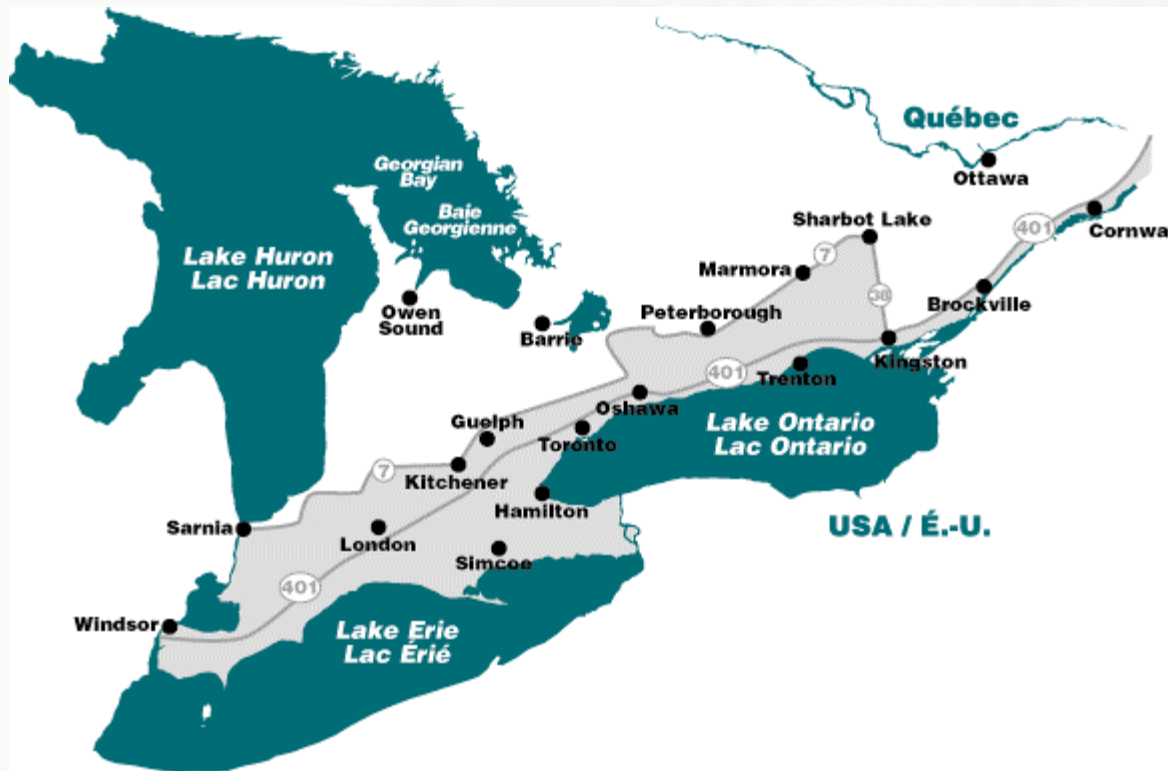
**You are north of Hwy 7 from Lake Huron to Sharbot Lake or north of Hwy 401 from Kingston to the eastern Ontario border (grey area).....**



**...Contact MNR**

# **Location: Do you require a permit from MNR?**

**Your project is more than 100 meters square and south of Hwy 7 from Lake Huron to Sharbot Lake or south of Hwy 401 from Kingston to the eastern Ontario border. (grey area)**






**...Contact MNR**

# **MNR Process: Applications for Aquatic Vegetation Removal**




## **Forms**

-  **Application forms for Work Permit/Vegetation removal**

## **Sketch**

-  **Location & nature of proposal in relation to owner's property including accurate measurements**
-  **Water's edge or ordinary high water mark**
-  **Property Boundaries**

## **Evidence that applicant has title to property abutting Crown**

-  **Declaration of Ownership form**
-  **Copy of recent tax bill**
-  **Sometimes a recent survey**

# **A Permit for Aquatic Vegetation Removal**

## **The Permit -**

**Legal document**

**Made out to land owner**

**Generic Conditions on back**

## **Conditions -**

**Sediment controls**

**In Water Timing Restrictions**

**Details of project**

**What you applied for is what you are limited to do**

**Only issued after CA/DFO has provided comment**

**PLAN AHEAD!!! Permit Process can take several weeks.**

# Why is Aquatic Vegetation Beneficial?

 **Spawning/nursery habitat for fish.**

 **Food source for waterfowl, amphibians & reptiles as well as the invertebrates attached to plants provide food for many species.**

 **Contribute to dissolved oxygen levels.**

 **Stabilize shorelines, reducing erosion & sediment in water.**

 **Help to maintain good water quality.**

# How to Prevent Excessive Aquatic Vegetation

 **Do not use fertilizers.**

 **Maintain a vegetated “buffer zone” (uncut grass & shrubs/trees) along shoreline.**

 **Use low or no phosphorous detergents.**

 **Maintain septic systems (pump out every 3-4 years).**

 **Fence out cattle from tributaries and lakes.**

 **Stop spread of exotic plants (wash boats/trailers)**

 **Dispose of cut aquatic vegetation far from the water's edge.**



# How To Control Aquatic Vegetation

## Physical/Mechanical Control

- Hand-pulling
- Cutter bar
- Mechanical Harvesters (commercial use)
  - Issues – turbidity, release of nutrients, kills YOY fish
- Bottom barriers – not usually approved because permanently destroys fish habitat.
- Dredging – not usually approved except for marinas and boat channels since can destroy fish spawning/nursery habitat, release contaminants, sediments & nutrients

## **Guidelines Used**

**Timing – must consider impact on fish eggs, young of the year fish, amphibians and reptiles**

**Timing Restriction Periods in MNR Kemptville District :**

### **Warmwater**

**March 15 – June 30**

**March 15 - July 15 for St. Lawrence R. & Ottawa R.**

### **Coldwater**

**October 1- May 31**

### **Mixed lakes**


**October 1 – June 30**


**(Big Rideau & Charleston)**

**Photo: T.McLaurin**


## **Guidelines Used**

 **Size and Configuration of treated area.**

 **Keep size of area to a minimum (must remember cumulative effect on lake)**

 **Swimming area – no larger than 60 sq. meters (e.g. 6m X 10 m).**

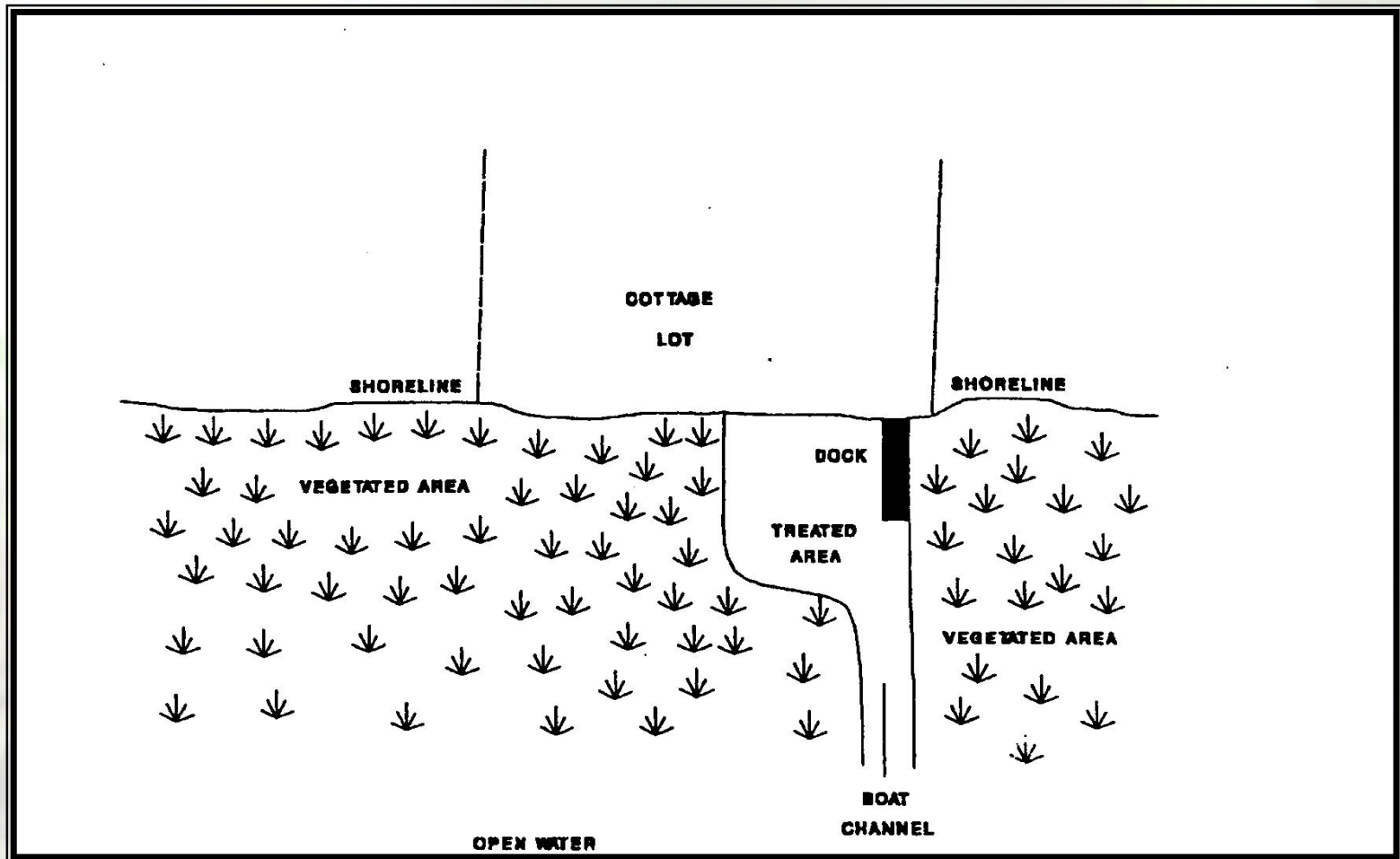
# Guidelines Used

 **Size recommendations for individual properties (for areas of heavy plant growth, reduce in Canadian Shield lakes where plant growth may be limited).**

<b>Frontage of Property</b>	<b>Maximum Width of Removal</b>	<b>Maximum Distance Offshore</b>	<b>Maximum Width of Boat Channel</b>
>22m	15m	30m	6m
<22m	8m	30m	6m

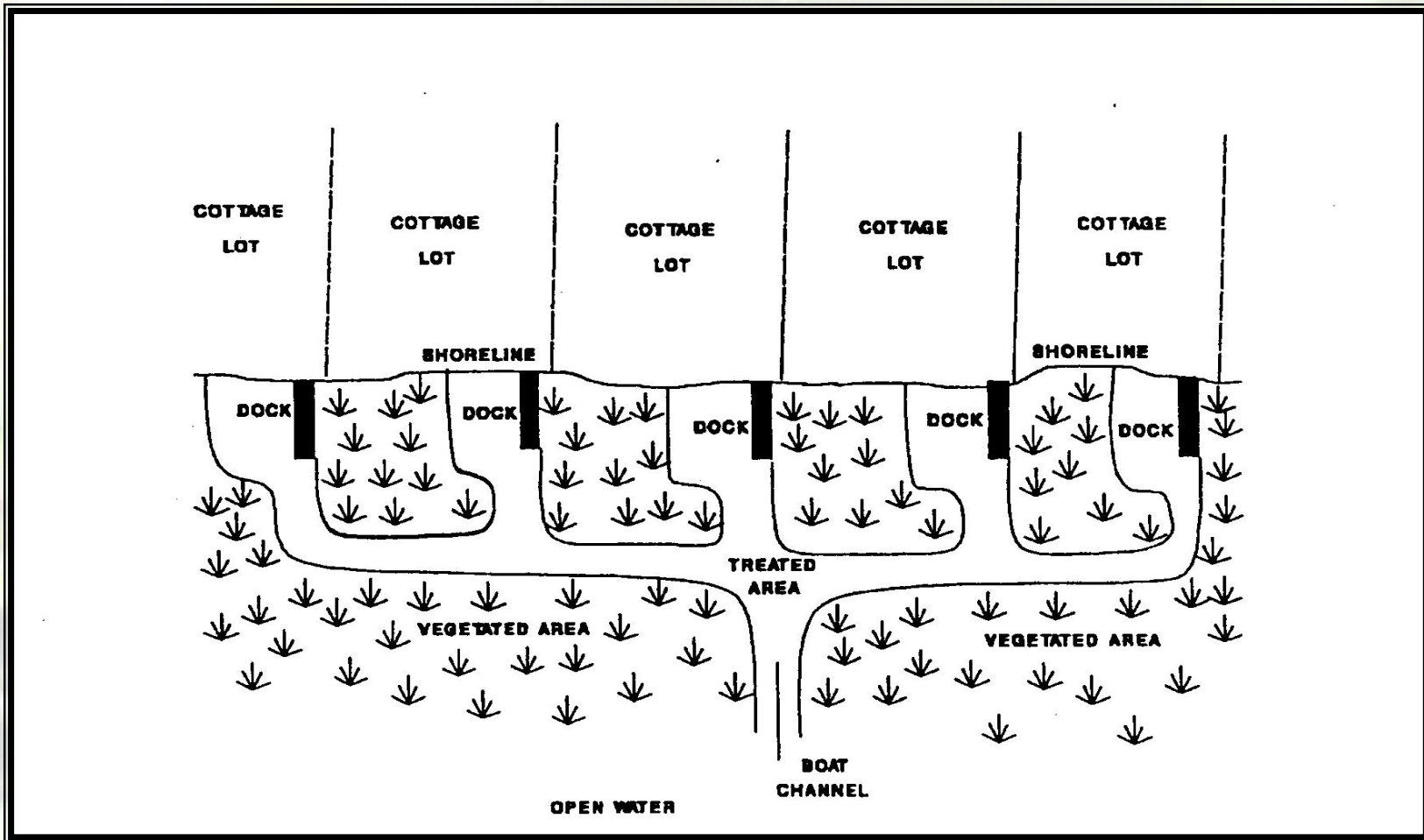
# Guidelines Used

## Single Boat Channel



# Guidelines Used

## Multiple Boat Channel





# **Factors MNR Considers When Reviewing an Application**

**Location**

- warm water or cold water
- known spawning/nursery site
- Provincially Significant Wetland

**Species at Risk**

- Stink Pot Turtle, Blanding's Turtle
- Cutlips Minnow

**Method of removal**

**Size of Area**

**Timing**

**Mitigation techniques (e.g. use of turbidity curtains)**

Photo: Microsoft.com



**Thank-you!**

**Any Questions?**