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## September Newsletter

2 messages

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**Kevin** <stewards@sccws.com>  
Reply-To: Kevin <stewards@sccws.com>  
To: kevin.sccws@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 3:40 PM

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Know Your Watershed

September 2020

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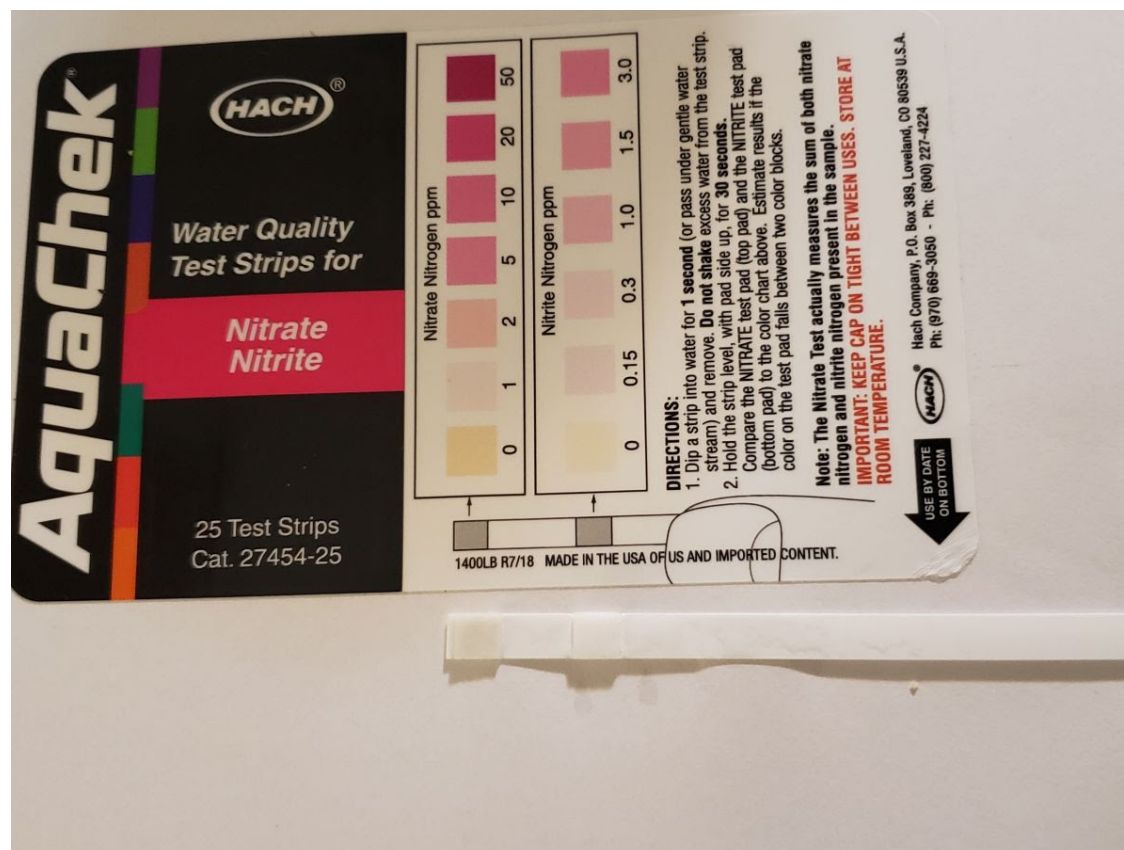
Algae bloom

**Recently, water users have been concerned about the levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous in our water supply. There have always been some of these nutrients in our water, but levels have increased creating significant impacts on water quality and watershed health. Increased levels of these nutrients promote plant and algae (including blue-green algae) growth in water which decreases the oxygen available in the water for aquatic wildlife. Blue green algae not only cause irritation for people swimming in the water it can be fatal for animals that drink from**

an infested water body. Concentrations of these nutrients tend to increase through the summer due to evaporation or run-off which increases the growth of these toxic algae blooms.

Results of SCCWS monitoring indicate that nitrogen and phosphorous levels in the Swift Current Creek are not high enough to promote excessive plant and algae growth. However at Duncairn Reservoir and Lac Pelletier there are significant algae blooms especially along the shores in late summer. This has created some questions about the levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in these lakes and the creek. The good news is residents can now measure nitrogen and phosphorous concentrations in areas that they are concerned about without having to send water samples to a laboratory. An app developed by Global Water Futures at the University of Saskatchewan allows watershed residents to measure and report nitrogen and phosphorous levels. The app works using the GPS and camera on your phone, the camera takes pictures of test strips to determine levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in the water. The location of the test is then pinned using the phone's GPS and the results are added to a database to learn more about nutrient levels in a watershed. The app is available on the Apple App store or Google Play Store. The testing strips can be purchased on-line or at pet stores. A video with instructions on how to use the app is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=qX1cb9RXifs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qX1cb9RXifs)



Using test strips to determine nitrate and nitrate levels in water. Using the GWF app will give measure the nitrate levels and add it to a database

As part of the Saskatchewan River Basin Phosphorous Testing Project, the SCCWS will be using the app to test its accuracy in our watershed. When we are collecting samples for this project, the SCCWS will take readings with the app and compare

**the results with the levels that were determined by the laboratory from the water samples collected.**

**The SCCWS is working with the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council, the South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards and the Carrot River Valley Watershed Association (4watersheds) on a project funded by the Lake Winnipeg Basin Program of Environment and Climate Change Canada. One of the goals of this project is to determine the source of phosphorous in the Saskatchewan Rivers Basin and how the tributaries are contributing to the levels of nutrients in South and North Saskatchewan Rivers.**

**This project also encourages citizens to learn more about their water and its quality. The 4watersheds group is promoting the use of the GWF app to have people measure and report the levels of nitrogen and phosphorous from water in their area. To encourage people to use the app and test their water the 4watershed groups have created a contest with two cash prizes, one a \$250 prize draw for people who become part of the Nutrient Watch: Testing the Waters Together Facebook Group, the other is a \$150 prize for the person who develops the most interesting method of water sample collection. More information on the Facebook group and the contests can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4watersheds/>. A video promoting the**



method of water sample collection contest can be found

at <https://www.facebook.com/nsrbc/videos/1218440848517183/>

For more information contact the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards at

[stewards@sccws.com](mailto:stewards@sccws.com) or call 306-770-4607, visit our web-site [sccws.com](http://sccws.com) or our

Facebook page for a link to the 4watersheds Facebook group.





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