

Peter Marykuca, June 13, 2011, Presentation on Bill-46: Save Lake Winnipeg Act

My name is Peter Marykuca, and again, I'd like to take this opportunity to address you. I want to reiterate some things that have gone on in the past because now is the time to bring them out, and I'd like to start.

The following words were printed in the Interlake Spectator, May the 9th, 1994. I quote the late author, Don Zarow Sr.: Is the day coming that we will stand on a beautiful sand beach on Lake Winnipeg and dare not go in the water? Well, it seems the answer to Don's letter-question is yes.

Years ago, about 1965, 1966, a report by Manitoba Environment, Mr. David Green, stated the Icelandic River basin was in toxic overload. It made front-page news in the Interlake Spectator as well. So what has changed in the past 17 years? Time and time again I see water filled ditches carrying algae and runoff from a cattle grazing and pasture that is being used by a hog operation as spread field as well. Just how many nutrients can this land absorb? Quarter section of land, 100, maybe 150 head of cattle on there, also used as a spread field for the hog operation across the road.

The lake is not polluting itself. The hog industry is a contributing factor. Most Manitobans are grateful that the NDP had the foresight and the courage to put in place the moratorium. Now what needs to be done is to stop all contributing factors that are occurring in the Interlake and other areas as well. We need to restrict the hog industry further by shutting some down completely for allowing manure to run off inadequate spread fields. If they made a mistake in their land-use selection, that's their problem. Why should the public and the environment suffer? Why should the public pay for their dumb mistakes?

Cattle farmers need to be restricted from fencing their cattle in and near all waterways.

The former Conservative government neglected to give hog industry permission—was neglectful in giving the hog industry permission to use non-arable marginal lands and cattle pastures, bush, at times, and Crown lands in the Interlake, so they can off-load their untreated sewage.

Considering that the Interlake is one of the several—one of several large areas in the world that is a groundwater charge area, has many artesian and flowing wells because of soil structures and its porosity, it needs and should be protected by law.

Billions of gallons of potable water are used in the hog industry because they want cheap flush toilets for their pigs to go along with their primitive liquid manure handling systems. The slurry is a toxic concoction that should be regulated under The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act. It should be dealt with as such. Every gallon should be accounted for. To allow the spreading of this filth is inconsistent with the public Health Act of Canada.

Liquid hog slurry contains known pathogens, viruses, bacterias, parasites, and who knows how many other known hog diseases, trace elements, including residue from hormones, antibiotics, detergents and disinfectants. It can and does contain E. coli. The stuff is passed off as a fertilizer. It is a known pollutant worldwide. It has ruined countries, including

waterways and land areas in North America. The stuff is not organic. It should—it could contain—contaminate—pardon me—it could contaminate soils for years to come.

A letter from a provincial engineer, dated back in 1994, stated that lagoons are not meant to treat the sewage. It's just raw sewage. Keep it in for a year and put it on the land. So it's untreated sewage. How many other barns in Manitoba are allowed to spread their waste on lands' surface and just leave it there exposed to both nature and wildlife?

As we should all know, to make things more disgusting, the Conservative government of the day allowed them to blend in the untreated human sewage from the barn workers because it would be expensive to have separate systems. How dumb is that?

What kind of bacteria mutations could be brewing in the lagoons? Because of the past and current events involving various diseases and the death of many from E. coli, this must be stopped immediately. As much as I hate to say this, I want to remind you all we've already had the unfortunate death of a toddler in Arborg from E. coli. They could not treat it nor figure out where it came from. How did this all happen and why?

The Municipality of Gimli put into action a bylaw, No. 1096, that was consistent with the public Health Act of Canada, prohibiting the importation and spreading of hog manure from outside its boundary to inside its boundary. That's why there's no pig barns in the RM of Gimli. That really bothered the Conservatives. Is that why the late Harry Enns said, don't let those people kick you out of the Interlake? I don't like to be referred to as those people. My sword's not bent.

The Municipality of Bifrost also imposed a restriction on the importation of hog manure from outside its boundaries because a Mrs. Kay Bergman presented council with a letter from her doctors stating that the stench from the hog waste contributed to her medical condition. Could it be that they got a whiff of something legal could drift their way?

The next time we have a related illness or death, the public should demand there be a full inquiry to find out how just what and who is responsible. A court of law should decide on the punishment. We need not any guidelines or regulations that are full of loopholes. Unless the Farm Practices Board, if it's still involved, can't help protect the public or the environment, get rid of it.

I have not recently noticed any rendering trucks on the highways. You should investigate how the hog industry is getting rid of their mortalities, and is it being done in a safe, friendly manner?

Thank you for your time.