

Sandpiper Beach / Lake MB
Estates Association,
R.M. of St. Laurent, MB

April 25, 2007 Presentation to the
CEC re its Hog Production
Industry Review



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are needed to see this picture.

An historical Métis Community

- St. Laurent is our largest Métis community situated on the sandy shores of Lake MB.
- Hunting, trapping and particularly fishing are their cultural traditions and financially support many Métis families.
- Lake MB is everything to its aboriginal communities; Métis and First Nations.

The Métis welcomed us

- Our Association members are year round residents, cottagers, commuters, students, seniors, retirees, French and English; residents from many different backgrounds, aboriginal and non-aboriginal alike.
- Our members are strongly opposed to intensive hog operations locating anywhere near our wetlands.

Why are our members opposed? See the Headlines:

Friday, April 6, 2007 THE INTERLAKE SPECTATOR

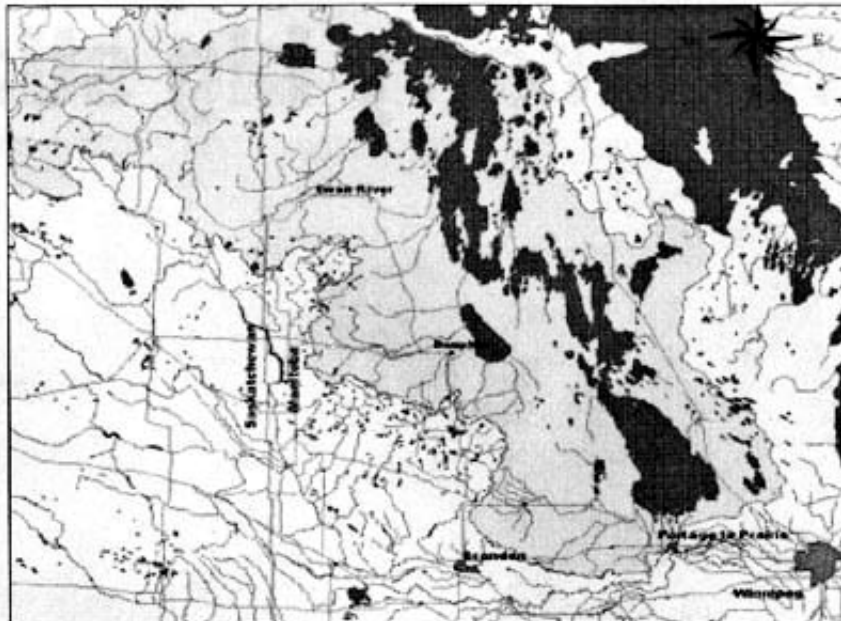
Lake Manitoba faces its share of eco-challenges

By Jim Mosher

Gordon Goldsborough knows a thing or two about Lake Manitoba. The director of the Delta Marsh Field Station since 1996, Dr. Goldsborough, a professor of botany at the University of Manitoba, began studying the marsh and the lake it feeds into as a student in 1980.

The biologist was recently appointed by Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick to chair the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board. It's a brand new board with a broad mandate to protect the interests of Lake Manitoba. The sweep of interest includes the flora and fauna, and the people and their industries and activities.

"This has been a very long time



The Lake Manitoba basin extends westward into Saskatchewan.

Hogs threat to rural water

Feb 21
2003
Wpg
Free
Press

*Too many giant barns
in wrong places: study*

By Helen Fallding

WELL water in one of
Manitoba's densest
hog-growing regions

Private well water in many parts of the province has previously been shown to be contaminated by nitrates, however, the study did not measure contamination levels. The researchers assessed the

Boil water advisory issued in Lundar

By Cindy McKay

Lundar is on a boil water advisory until further notice.

The notice was issued after tests confirmed drinking water contained high levels of bacteria.

"We have found two abnormal test results within the town of Lundar," said Dr. Tim Hilderman, Medical Officer of Health for the

the suspect test results Monday and inspected the area for obvious contaminants. Further testing of area homes on Tuesday uncovered one other resident with the same test results.

"Both TC and E-coli in high numbers could possibly come from human or animal waste that has leaked into the aquifer," says Hilderman "We are testing more

Lundar.

"We will then be able to tighten up the impacted area. It's better to go wider then pull back," Hilderman says of the blanket order. "We will know more in the next couple of days and early next week."

People can become very sick should they ingest the TC and *E coli* bacteria with salmonella and possibly Hepatitis A

Alberta's water table at risk

Avian flu could

spread to hogs,

expert says

Hogs use lots of water, 20 million litres a year

CBC News

Dozens of large-scale hog operations have started up in rural Manitoba and that has many people concerned about the water supply

**Doctors want
moratorium on
new hog farms**

"They want to look at the transmissibility of infection into the community from overburdened production, water quality and other environmental issues,"

Alberta's water table at risk from hog farms: scientist

CBC News

Dr. David Schindler believes
the excess manure could
jeopardize the province's water.

Boil-water advisory remains in effect in Lundar

By Cindy McKay

It's been three weeks since a strange smell alerted Lundar residents to a problem. Since then the town of Lundar has been under

province sets 200 coliform units per 100 millilitres as the upper limit of bacterial concentration in drinking water.

Human ingestion of water con-

don't know what the source is."

The data collected over the last three weeks is still being analyzed. The RM of Colwell sent a camera down into the sewer line to look for



Pig farm neighbours raising a stink over odours

Lundar to remain under boil-water advisory: top doc

By Cindy McKay

Lundar came under a boil water advisory last week and, according to Dr. Tim Hilderman, Medical Officer of Health for the Interlake Region, the advisory will be in effect until further notice.

"The boil-water advisory remains in effect for people who get their drinking water from town," Dr. Hilderman said from his office in Stonewall Wednesday. "The most interesting thing revealed over the weekend is that there are half a dozen more contaminated wells, with three showing sig-

nificant counts of total coliform (TC) and *E. coli* within the area. This means it was the right decision to put the order on the entire town."

Total coliform is a measure of bacterial concentration. *E. coli* is a bacteria found naturally in the intestines of warm-blooded animals. If ingested, it can cause flu-like symptoms, diarrhea and vomiting. Most people will get over bacterial infections, though pregnant mothers, the elderly and people whose immune systems are compromised can be more severely affected. In rare

Health risks

linked to hog farming



But there's good news too

Lake Manitoba gets board

By Jim Mosher

Christine Melnick, the province's water stewardship minister, says it makes good water sense to have an appointed board to protect the interests of Lake Manitoba.

Melnick formally announced the creation of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board late last month. The announcement took place at Delta Marsh Field Station, Feb. 27.

Creation of the board was one of the key recommendations of the Lake Manitoba Regulation Review Advisory Committee, which delivered its final report to then water stewardship minister Steve Ashton in July 2003.

"We've asked the board to look at water quality and fisheries issues," Melnick said in an interview Feb. 28. "We've implemented 85 per cent of the committee's recommendations. We've asked the new board to work with us on completing the rest."

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, a professor of botany at the University of Manitoba and director of the Delta Marsh Field Station, was appointed chairman of the Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board. He was also a member of the Lake Manitoba Regulation Review Advisory Committee, which focused primarily on the regulation of lake levels. At the



Stewardship board chairman Dr. Gordon Goldsborough is flanked by Interlake MIA Nevakshonoff and Water Stewardship Minister Christalae Melnick.

systems such as the Fairford River, issues around Lake Manitoba, Lake Provenuta, Lake St. Martin and Obviously we have challenges on the

- Water Protection Act seems constructive.
- Creation of Lake MB Stewardship Board.
- Dunnottar RM has outlawed septic fields.
- Conservation's "Examination" suggests some hope for Lake Wpg, and perhaps Lake MB too.
- Some ILOs appear to be improving – ex. Marble Ridge Hutterite Colony

But there's good news too

THE INTERLAKE SPECTATOR Friday, March 16, 2007

Interlake cottage country leads growth

INTERLAKE SNAPSHOT

Alexander	2,537	2,780	2,978	7.1
Arborg	1,012	959	1,021	6.5
Armstrong	1,866	1,905	1,919	0.7
Bifrost	2,851	2,967	2,972	0.2
Coldwell	1,399	1,320	1,339	1.4
Dunnottar	392	487	692	42.1
East St. Paul	6,437	7,677	8,733	13.8
Eriksdale	942	889	911	2.5
Fisher	2,154	2,049	1,944	(5.1)
Gimli	4,698	5,158	5,797	12.4
Lac du Bonnet, RM	2,280	2,405	2,812	16.9
Lac du Bonnet, Town	1,070	1,089	1,009	(7.3)
Riverton	566	594	537	(9.6)
Rockwood	7,504	7,654	7,692	0.5
St. Andrews	10,144	10,695	11,359	6.2
St. Clements	8,516	9,115	9,706	6.5
St. Laurent	1,020	1,172	1,454	24.1
Siglunes	1,585	1,513	1,480	(2.2)
Selkirk	9,881	9,752	9,515	(2.4)
Stonewall	3,689	4,012	4,376	9.1
Teulon	1,055	1,058	1,124	6.2
Victoria Beach	227	265	388	46.4
West St. Paul	3,720	4,085	4,357	6.7
Winnipeg Beach	746	801	1,017	27.0

But there's good news too

32 THE INTERLAKE SPECTATOR Friday March 30, 2007

Abandoned well capping offered by EICD

By Jim Mosher

The East Interlake Conservation District (EICD) will pay up to \$1,000 to cap abandoned wells. It's an EICD program that's been up-and-running for about a year, but there's still money left to do more capping. Sarah Coughlin, EICD general manager, told a

meeting of Village of Dunnottar council March 21.

"We haven't had full uptake on the program, so by all means give us a list of wells in the village you think may qualify," Coughlin said.

Coughlin appeared as a delegation to the meeting to give council a snapshot of the work of the conservation district. She was joined

by Dennis Persoage, who represents the RM of Rockwood on the EICD board, and an EICD employee.

The board is busy acquiring data about water quality. It's begun a two-year water-testing program in the Icelandic River and Fisher River sub-basins. Tests will analyze 80 parameters, such as chem-

ical and nutrient concentrations.

"There's quite a gap in data," said Coughlin. "There's very little water quality data for the Interlake."

EICD is also working on what's called an integrated watershed management plan. This plan brings in a variety of elements, such as groundwater, surface

formed, but he noted that its annual membership payment has increased.

Coughlin explained that the initial levy was a flat fee based on village, town or rural municipality designation. EICD has since moved to a land assessment-based formula.

What are our main concerns?

- We expect and demand healthy ground water.
- We expect and demand protection for Lake Manitoba waters and its fish stocks.
- Tourism is growing in our RM. All enjoy our beautiful public beaches, lakefront developments, marshes, navigable channels, bird watching, and our new golf course, except when there's the south wind stench.

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“There are dead zones now
all over our lake,
no fish there”
says Métis fisher
Audie Carrière

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“For the last few years, I haven’t been able to make enough from fishing. Not like I used to. I’ve had to go to Alberta to work”, states Métis fisher Dave Bruce

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“Thankfully, our kids are now on their own and doing well. I wouldn’t want to have to depend on fishing to pay for their post secondary education”, observes teacher and fisher Brigitte Carrière

And listen to our Métis Fishers



"Something needs to be done
very soon to protect the
fishery", warns Métis fisher
Merrill Bruce

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“I want my kids to have the opportunity to fish for a living. They’ve grown up with it. But I don’t know if that will be there for them”, worries Métis fisher Julien Chartrand.

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“I’ve been fishing for 41 years and I’m concerned about the dwindling fish stocks”, reflects Métis fisher Douglas Bruce.

And listen to our Métis Fishers



“When we first set our nets after freeze up, we often pull up nothing but algae”, complains Métis fisher Frank Bruce .

Water Water Everywhere

- Our RM is a highly sensitive ecological area – ILOs would not be environmentally sustainable.
- J R Cousins Report says our soils are too porous.
- Our Interlake wetlands are no place for any more sources of contaminants.
- 10 years to contaminate; 30 years to remediate.
- Our Lake MB algae concerns.

Points for the Province to Ponder

- With boil water advisories and beaches being closed for high e-coli counts, how long until our drinking water has to be boiled and our beaches closed?
- Will we heed the warning signs? Our lake and aquifer are having environmental chest pains; is an environmental heart attack necessary before we address the causes?
- Aren't these nature's way of telling us to slow down?
- We're flirting with environmental bankruptcy – so should we now add or expand hog factories? Wouldn't that be like buying a new car when you're already in financial trouble?

More Points to Ponder

- Has the Province considered if it has a legal duty to consult with Aboriginal people? Should the SCC decisions in *Haida*, *Taku River*, and *Mikeesew Cree* be followed before any more damage is done by the hog industry to the aboriginal fishing industry.
- Has the Province considered whether it is in a conflict of interest?

Review of Earlier CEC Interlake Hearings

- Respect and caution for “science”.
- We are encouraged by those operators who claim to cause minimal environmental disruption like the Marble Ridge Hutterite Colony, George Matheson of Stonewall, and Calvin Penner of Argyle.
- But as Darcy Pauls of Puratone freely admits, there’s more room for improvement.
- We agree with Larry Hofer that improvements are everyone’s responsibility.

Recommendations

- We endorse the recommendations of our neighbours the Concerned Citizens of Grosse Isle.
- We recommend that our RM should be designated at least a Class 6, and perhaps a Class 7, soils area.
- We recommend a more effective plan to cap abandoned wells.
- We recommend that the Province consider whether it has a legal obligation to consult with aboriginal fishers.

More Recommendations

- We recommend that the Province work cooperatively with DFO and Environment Canada – see EC News Release.
- We recommend stiffer penalties for polluters by expanding the jurisdiction of the Farm Practices Protection Board to award damages, to be paid into an environmental fund.
- We recommend that the CEC make the tough recommendations required.

Questions?

- Wells and aquifer – Harry Frederick, Interlake Well Drilling Contractor (retired).
- Fishers and our soil conditions – Cheryl Smith, life long St. Laurent Metis resident from one of its many fishing families.
- Other issues – Randal T. Smith, Q.C., President of Sandpiper Beach / Lake MB Estates Association.

Merci - Thank you

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