

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Date: February 10, 2026 12:05:44 AM

I am writing to oppose the 140,000 chicken operation proposal of the Harbour Colony (TRC 12-120). I am not opposed to development or farming, but believe a development of this size is problematic to the environment and neighbouring residents due to its location. The area that the colony is developing on was previously unpopulated greenspace with wetlands. Suddenly, wetlands will be removed and it will house a large population of people with 140K chickens (when they initially stated they would only have about 15K chickens). It will have a truck wash station, a water treatment plant, a sewage lagoon, a hog barn manufacturing plant, an abattoir, plus all of their community buildings. I hope that this project will be assessed as a whole for its environmental impact. I am concerned about Lake Winnipeg, the Willow Creek, the water table & aquifer and neighbouring wells. This operation will suddenly be drawing a lot of water from the aquifer and will likely contaminate nearby wells. They are developing on land that tends to have overland flooding in wet years. This development would be more suited on a piece of land farther away from Willow Creek, Lake Wpg and the neighbouring hog barn operation that already resides on their road. Conversely, perhaps this operation could seek to have less animal units, as they originally planned, to lessen their overall environmental impact. Thank you for your time.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: RE: Reference #TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 12:48:33 PM

To the Technical Review Committee, regarding Reference # TRC 12-120.

Dear members of the Technical Review Committee.

The purpose of this email is to express my strong opposition to the granting of a conditional use permit for a 140,000 chicken operation in the RM of Gimli (TRC 12-120).

My husband and I have a cottage in Silver Harbour, north of Gimli, within the RM of Gimli. Silver Harbour is a lakeside community and the wellbeing of our Lake Winnipeg is of crucial importance to me and my family. I am a member of the Silver Harbour Association, and we have an Environment Committee that advocates for proper, safe and environmentally appropriate care of Lake Winnipeg.

My specific concerns include the following.

1) Manure.

Our environment Committee calculated that 140,000 chicken produce about 9,000 tons of wet manure/year or about 3,500 tons of dry manure/year. On average that manure contains about 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium.

Storing wet manure on fields risks leaching into the groundwater and eventually into the aquifer.

I strongly oppose any manure storage on open fields.

Applying manure in the fall is another risky practice. The risk is great that large amounts of manure will end up in surface drains that empty into Lake Winnipeg, especially during overland flooding (which could happen every 5 years according to an article on Jan. 29th of our local paper, the Express) and during heavy spring run off.

Lake Winnipeg is sick and we cannot afford to put another drop of manure or other effluent into the lake.

Last but not least, the aquifer that supplies the Diageo Distillery with water, risks being contaminated by manure.

A number of years ago, a rocket propellant plant near Stoney Mountain caused the local aquifer to become contaminated. Residents in that area still cannot drink that water. I definitely do not want to see this happen in the RM of Gimli. It would be an economic, environmental and social disaster.

2) Dead chickens and slaughterhouse solid waste.

The application states that dead chickens will be composted.

No details are provided as to expected mortality rates and procedures re composting sites.

What safeguards are planned to prevent surface water, ground water and aquifer contamination?

And what about the foul odors that could be caused by the whole plan- including the manure and composting of dead chickens? People in the RM of Gimli rely on tourism heavily for their income. If there is a foul smell in the area caused by this business, tourists will stay away most likely.

In closing, **I wish to reiterate that I strongly oppose this conditional use application and I urge you to deny the application.**

Sincerely,

Alexandra Loewen

Cottage Owner in Silver Harbour, RM of Gimli

Member of the Silver Harbour Association

Silver Harbour (Arnes), MB

Resident at

Winnipeg, Manitoba

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-220
Date: February 9, 2026 9:04:46 AM

This email is to say we are deeply concerned and completely opposed to the proposed poultry farm.

Anita and Lou Caci

Arnes, MB

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Proposed poultry farming in the RM of Gimli
Date: January 31, 2026 6:42:20 PM

To whom it may concern:

This will be my second letter, voicing my concerns about this proposed colony development in the RM of Armstrong

First off it was one colony name and now they've changed their name. The first concern was about a proposed lagoon, which is very concerning considering it is so close to Willow Creek, which drains into Lake Winnipeg, which brings all sorts of problems in a lake that is already threatened.

This latest concern is the fact that they have now changed their name. I'm not quite sure why, are they trying to fool people that it's not the same colony??

And 140,000 chickens are to be housed in this colony and their manure is to be spread on low lying land, which will eventually drain into creeks and streams that will flow into Lake Winnipeg

Lake Winnipeg has been suffering from Phosphorus And nitrogen overload for years.

It's bad enough Winnipeg is allowing their excess sewage to be discharged into the Lake, and now this proposed huge poultry farm with manure that will for sure end up in Lake Winnipeg, maybe the last nail in the lakes coffin.

This colony has changed its name twice , What are they hiding?

They are planning a Slaughterhouse to be built on the premises, so one would surmise that they are also planning on having a large cattle presence as well ??

The government of Manitoba and their environmental branch needs to step up and say enough is enough!

What are we leaving our children and our grandchildren if we continue to make Lake Winnipeg a dumping ground?

Let's protect the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world and just say NO !

Thank you

Arleen Kristofferson

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony Development
Date: February 7, 2026 11:50:58 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of having a large poultry farm, plus abattoir, plus wastewater lagoon, approximately 5 miles, as the crow flies, from my residence. The community being built to service this operation, as well as all servicing vehicles for such a large venture, will also add much traffic to the already dangerous Highway #8. Most of the negative impact will be felt in the RM of Gimli. Odours from spreading manure, the abattoir, and the wastewater lagoon, are of a great concern to me.

I also wonder why in 2026 we are still allowing discharge to end up in Lake Winnipeg. It is a crown jewel contributing millions of dollars through the fishing and tourist industries, but it is treated very poorly, as indicated by the lack of penalties being imposed on the City of Winnipeg despite their horrible record of polluting the lake.

We had to fight to have a CEC hearing regarding the waste water lagoon. Even if the facility is built to specifications, I fear inspections are not performed frequently enough, and reporting anomalies is basically on the honour system. This also is a concern.

I feel this entire project has been a back door deal made within the RM of Armstrong, but the RM of Gimli and its residents will suffer detrimental consequences of the entire venture.

Sincerely,

Audry Letain

Sandy Hook, Mb.

Sent from my iPad

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120. Harbour Colony chicken operation permit
Date: February 8, 2026 12:22:52 AM

Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations.

Dear Mr Minister,

I am strongly opposed to the granting of a conditional use permit (TRC 12-120) to establish a 140,000 chicken operation at the new Harbour Colony and I urge you not to grant the permit for the following reasons:

The RM of Gimli will be the recipient of any and all pollution generated by this chicken operation. That is unacceptable.

140,000 chickens produce a lot of manure that will be spread on fields in the RM of Armstrong and the RM of Gimli.

I want to point out that the chicken operation will be located about 4 to 5 miles from Lake Winnipeg. All lands drain East into Lake Winnipeg.

Manure that is spread on the fields, in the fall, can end up in ditches, drains and even Willow Creek as a result of heavy rains, spring run off and overland flooding.

Storing fresh chicken manure on the land without adequate safeguards, endangers surface water, ground water and the aquifer.

The application does not provide sufficient guarantees that our environment will be protected. Some of the lands where the manure will be spread are located near the Diego Distillery. The underlying aquifer supplies water to the distillery.

Every precaution must be taken that the aquifer does not become contaminated. That would truly be a disaster for our RM of Gimli

I have heard that the RM of Gimli does not allow manure from other municipalities to be spread within its borders.

If this is in fact true, the Colony will have to find alternate uses for its chicken manure.

I am also concerned about the "composting of dead chickens". No information is provided as to what kind of process is used, what kind of facilities will be used and where. What is the expected mortality rate? What about odors? and what will be done to prevent ground water, surface water and aquifer contamination?

The environment where the Colony will be located is fragile and is prone to overland flooding. Any practice that can pollute the environment, including our waters, should not be allowed.

The initial proposal of the new Colony included manufacturing and only a 15,000 chicken

operation. Why was that changed? Was that just smoke and mirrors?

In closing, I wish to highlight one more major concern. Who checks on a chicken operation of that size, who does the monitoring of ground and surface waters and how often? What Government departments are charged with inspections to ensure that there are no negative environmental effects from such an operation?

The entire RM of Gimli is located along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Any pollution from the chicken operations will end up in Lake Winnipeg. Prevailing winds and currents will cause pollutants to move and will cause our sick Lake to become sicker.

Lake Winnipeg is already unable to deal with pollutants that flow into the lake. It has reached the limit of what it can handle.

We must not allow one more drop of pollution to enter the lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara, S Veldink
Arnes, MB,

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: #TRC-12-120
Date: February 8, 2026 9:06:31 AM

My name is Barbara Wakefield. I am a year round resident of the R.M. of Gimli.
I wish to state my opposition to the proposed Harbour Hutterite Colony plans.

The operation's stated plans propose the destruction of a Class 3 wetland area. If this is approved, it seems to be a walking back on promises to protect Manitoba's wetlands. Citizens need clarity on regulatory compliance regarding protection of local water quality. How can lands indicated in the assessment of manure application include those located in the Red River Valley Special Management Area or any other that is subject to flooding on average at least once every five years?

The potential for pollution of groundwater, vital for Diageo Distillers (Gimli's largest employer) and local citizens alike is at stake. The proposed operation seems to have grown exponentially since the members of the Crystal Springs Colony appeared before the R.M. of Armstrong Council in February, 2020.

Approval of a project of this scale contradicts the Province and R.M.'s commitment to save Lake Winnipeg and its tributaries from further degradation. The project must be rejected on the basis of its current plans. One has to wonder about future plans that have not yet been put forward.

Lake Winnipeg is a precious asset that Manitoba should respect and strive to rehabilitate.

Thank you.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 112-20
Date: February 4, 2026 2:04:01 PM

Dear All,

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers

We are extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg. Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorous and 52 tons of potassium. Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate ground water.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant run off and pollution.

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

For that reason, we appeal to all residents in the RM of Gimli to strongly oppose the Conditional use application. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

You can send your submission to:

by email: TRC@ Dear All,

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

Detailed info can be found at
http://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/public_registration.html .

Patricia Barret wrote a detailed and informative article in the Jan 29 edition of the Express Weekly News, p8.

We are extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg. Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorous and 52 tons of potassium. Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate ground water.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant run off and pollution.

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

For that reason, we appeal to all residents in the RM of Gimli to strongly oppose the Conditional use application. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC #12-120
Date: February 7, 2026 10:15:43 AM

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned community member regarding the proposed 140,000 chicken farm at 28-18-3E.

I am concerned about the potential impacts this farm and their manure spreading will have to surface water, Lake Winnipeg and downstream communities. Lake Winnipeg is peoples' livelihood, not to mention the area being a large tourist destination, and it is already at danger. What will the impact of manure spreading of this capacity in the Lake Winnipeg watershed have???

A colony/ farm operation of this size should have never been allowed to be built in this area so close to the lake, residences, and tourist areas.

Furthermore, how can a farm who initially proposed 15,000 layers now be looking at 40,000 layers? And 140,000 chickens in total? That would be like a resident requesting to build a single home dwelling and then building multiple homes on the land and operating multiple businesses. This does not make sense to me.

I am very much against this proposal and plan and I am asking decision makers to consider the environmental impact on this.

Cara Zabudny , RM of Gimli resident

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 6, 2026 5:57:44 AM

Good morning. I would like support an appeal **TRC 12-120**.
Carla Chornoby
Silver Harbour
Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 7, 2026 4:49:20 PM

I wish to state my opposition to this poultry operation. Lake Winnipeg is already in great danger with algae blooms. Water is becoming scarce due drought, never mind the pollutants already entering it. This could very well be the demise of this lake if the large poultry project goes ahead. We need to preserve our fresh water. This is a very bad idea.

Cathy Danyluk

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Cc: [info](#)
Subject: Harbor Colony Proposal (TRC 12-120) - Proposal Deficiencies
Date: February 9, 2026 10:29:36 AM

The above Proposal was reviewed online from the link provided in the CTV news article.

The Proposal as reviewed raises many questions due to lack of detail, non explanation of methodology in the determination of traffic numbers and failure to provide available mapping of other pertinent data.

Lack of Detail:

1) Traffic impact of one semi and one truck daily average - Questions: daily feed, supplements, bedding, groceries, fuel, eggs, broilers and roasters shipments not identified.

PTH #8 is an RTAC route while Husavik Road is a gravel RM of Gimli Class B road with a 20,000 kg GVW. Possible RM Spring Restrictions on Husavik Road may make deliveries and shipments impossible. The alternate access by PTH # 7 and RM of Armstrong gravel Road 106N presents the same problem.

Daily feed requirements may be in the order of 25,000 kg. Daily egg production may be in the order of 2500 to 3000 dozen. Inbound shipments of replacement chicks/birds and shipments of broilers, roasters and stewing hens unknown.

2) Water Usage - 11,440 gpd/477 gphour for watering birds, mixing feed, washing eggs, limited abattoir use and facility and equipment cleaning. A 250 person onsite staffing may require up to an additional 10,000 gpd. No evidence of well quantity capability provided.

Provincial waterwell mapping referenced but not provided. No evidence provided of waterwell monitoring adjacent to spread fields (10 yardsites).

3) Available Provincial "Designation of Drains" mapping in the Proposal area not provided.

4) Manure Production Calculations/Storage/Disposal: No quantity calculation provided

- possibly 1500-1600 tonnes per year. Fall application/tilling in will require onsite storage. Leaching out of nutrients due to rainfall may be expected. Leachate treatment not identified. Soil types in spread fields are mostly highly variable, spreading/tilling may occasionally be impossible due to climatic conditions. No identification of tillage equipment options was made. Spreader equipment type/weights and routes not provided.

The spreading of manure with mortality remains attractive to gulls, etc. should NOT be permitted in proximity to Gimli Airport due to increased potential for birdstrikes.

5) Quarry leases for sand, gravel, clay or bedrock in the Proposal area not identified.

6) No information regarding prevailing winds or historical climatic conditions in the Proposal area provided.

7) Rodents: No identification of a control program for potential rat problem.

Given the current condition of the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg due to nutrient overload no development proposal which has ANY possibility of contributing additional nutrients to the Lake should be approved!

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

K. C. "Chuck" Lund, P. Eng.(Senior Member)

MWF member

Retired MB. Highways - 40 years - Southern MB, Northern MB, Interlake & Parkland.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: #TRC12-120
Date: February 5, 2026 3:52:56 PM

Do not agree on the conditional use permit for the Harbour Colony to establish a poultry operation, #TRC12-120. Lake Winnipeg needs to be protected and this colony is close to Willow Creek that drains into Lake Winnipeg. We are concerned residents and property owners at Silver Harbour MB.

Sincerely,
Colleen Braun

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Hutterite Colony
Date: February 5, 2026 3:59:45 PM

I am writing you in opposition to the proposed Harbour Hutterite Colony's request to implement a conditional use permit for chicken coops for 140,000 chickens in the vicinity of the RMs of Armstrong and Gimli, near Willow Creek.

Lake Winnipeg is the 12th lake in the world and is also the sixth largest freshwater lake within the world; and is noted to be the third largest fresh water lake within Canada. Yet we as Manitobans continue to abuse this beautiful lake.

Myself, I had spent 12 summers sail boating on this beautiful lake and I have experienced the outbreak of muscles and on many numerous occasions experienced the stench of algae blooms both green and blue. And then of course Lake Winnipeg continually receives the runoff of urine and manure from many pork and beef farms surrounding the lake. This brings me to the last insult that Lake Winnipeg receives and that is the continual release of human waste from the city of Winnipeg sewage plants.

I hope you can understand what this beautiful lake has been going through and miraculously there's still time to save it. However by allowing the Harbour Colony to use the indicated property for their conditional use permit for a huge amount of chickens, Manitoba will be regressing in the future saving of this well used lake. The fish could become extinct, and definitely the beach dwellers will not be able to use the water during the summer. We will have ruined the lake further by allowing this permit to be issued with humungous amounts of manure being manufactured and then ending up in the watershed running off into the lake.

Why would you allow this to happen when this lake has already experienced so many hardships? Please be proactive in finding ways to eliminate any future hardships that the lake could endure. We should be trying to clean up the mess we have created and not add more burden to this beautiful lake. It should be saved for generations and not ruined!

So once again please consider my letter as total **OPPISITION** to the Harbour Hutterite colonies request.

Colleen Harper

Winnipeg MB
Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: reference number 12-120
Date: February 1, 2026 12:18:06 PM

To Whom it may concern - re reference number 12-120

My name is David Curry a resident of the RM Gimli and Vice President of the Silver Harbour Association. Silver Harbour, a lakeside community, situated in Anes a district in the RM Gimli.

This email letter is to register my/our concerns regarding the proposed Hutterite Harbour/Crystal Springs colony situated in the RM Armstrong.

The major concern is the effect that this Hutterite colony's project will have on the environment particularly our waterways and Lake Winnipeg.

What started out as a simple manufacturing facility has expanded to a full blown abbatoir facility to process thousands of poultry and who knows what else. But this is a standard Hutterite procedure - start with a simple proposal and expand to achieve their internal objectives knowing that there is little government enforcement. Apply the old adage "better to ask forgiveness than seek permission". And for the Hutterites it works every time. It should be noted that to this point in time there has been a total lack of transparency in the approval process of this Crystal Springs/Harbour project development. Certainly communication to the RM Gimli has been almost non-existent.

The Hutterite colonies have a very poor record when it comes to environmental standards. And in most cases they almost always locate near a waterway which is a convenient manner to remove effluent from their properties. And therein lies the essence of our concern .We are not opposed to poultry farming as such but we are opposed to drainage of poultry, hogs, effluent into our waterways which ultimately ends up in Lake Winnipeg.

We expect all levels of government to adhere to environmental standards, such as they are, and to ensure that all aspects of the Hutterite project plans are clearly defined. No undefined add-ons without government oversight.

On a final note, the Clean Environment Commission will be holding a hearing on the Hutterite's proposal for the establishment of a lagoon and there will be strong resistance to this proposal from the RM Gimli and its residents when there are viable alternatives.. Again environmental dangers to Willow Creek and Lake Winnipeg.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thanking you for your concern.

Best regards

Dave Curry

VP Silver Harbour Association

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Cc:
Subject: TRC 12-120 Harbour Colony poultry operation proposal
Date: February 9, 2026 8:30:45 PM

We are writing to formally express strong opposition to the proposed Harbour Colony poultry operation which involves the farming of 140,000 chickens in the RM of Armstrong and the spreading of resulting manure across fields located in the RM of Gimli MB.

As a concerned resident our primary objections is the environmental risks to Lake Winnipeg which is already under strain as well as wetland destruction and water quality. The areas marked for spreading are located in mainly RM of Gimli (not much in RM of Armstrong) which is in the Red River Valley Special Management Area... an area prone to flooding . It is also along Willow Creek which is a creek at risk where there are endangered bird species and walleye breeding areas... the high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen can and will wash into creeks and ultimately Lake Winnipeg which is having enough blue-green algae as it is.

The proposal to drain wetlands to accommodate the layer barn creates less natural filtration and flooding. The preservation of these wetlands is finally being recognized for what is... an important part of keeping Lake Winnipeg alive. This is a step backward draining wetlands. The impact of higher phosphorus and nitrogen is also concern for the drinking water of residents.

The size of this operation can and will create serious issues with air pollutants to those residents near and downwind of the operation. The town of Gimli will stink...not a great tourist attraction.

Another concern is the disposal of dead birds...composting in a field will attract predators and possibly create issues for migrating birds where avian flu is a real concern.

We also note that Harbour Colony is a "sister" colony of Crystal Springs Colony which is currently heading for a public hearing with the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission for a sewage lagoon. It is interesting to note that at that time it was noted that it would be 15,000 chickens on site... now the number has increased 10x!! Will the number remain or will there be another 10x increase. This appears to be a way of getting around the opposition to the previous sewage lagoon proposal near Willow Creek by Crystal Springs Colony.

We urge you to deny the current proposal for the health of the wetland, lake and the community.

David and Cathy Glen

Gimli MB R0C 1B0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: DO NOT APPROVE a 140, 000 chicken operation in Armstrong / Gimli RM - Environmental catastrophe for Lake Winnipeg and surrounding wetlands
Date: February 8, 2026 11:28:11 PM

Dear Minister,

As a resident of Gimli, someone with an environmental sciences background, and an owner of small 70 acre hay farm. I am pleading with the Provincial Environment ministry not to approve a planned 140, 000 chicken farming operation on the edge of Armstrong RM.

For the last 10 years the NDP government had been critical of the lax control over nitrogen and phosphates flowing into Lake Winnipeg. Additionally, the NDP Minister of the environment stated that by far the largest percentage of algae bloom causing nutrients flowing into Lake Winnipeg, some 90% was agricultural runoff and not from Winnipeg or surrounding community sewage. With this acknowledgement, how can a livestock operation of this immense size, be allowed less than 5 miles from the Lake and ride between Willow creek which drains directly into Lake Winnipeg?

I want to point out that the group driving this plan has already started construction to put pressure on the provincial gov't and the municipalities to approve. A livestock operation of maybe one third of this size, re-situated at least two miles away from Willow Creek, is at least manageable. What is being proposed is environmentally not manageable. How can the province spend billions along with the federal gov't to modernize the North Winnipeg Sewage plant, which causes roughly 10-13% of nutrient overload in Lake Winnipeg, and allow a livestock operation of this size virtually beside the lake, next to a creek that runs to thru a protected wetland, when they know farm run off is by far the largest source of pollution into the lake?

You must act to prevent what will be an ecological disaster affecting the fishing, tourism, and environment of the lake.

Thank you

David Podolchuk

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed 140,000 chicken operation at the Harbour Colony reference TRC 12-120.
Date: February 7, 2026 12:30:33 PM

Proposed 140,000 chicken operations at the Harbour Colony reference TRC 12-120.

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

I am extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg.

Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium.

Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant runoff and pollution.

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

For that reason I strongly oppose the Conditional use application. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Diane Boroditsky
Permanent Gimli Resident
Gimli Mb

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From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Ref: TRC 12-120
Date: February 4, 2026 12:51:44 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

As residents of the RM of Gimli, we **strongly oppose** the conditional use application by Ironclad.

This will have a huge, detrimental effect on the area and Lake Winnipeg, our health and the health of our precious lake.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Hay

Simon Hay

Reference TRC 12-120.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120. Harbour Colony chicken operation permit
Date: February 9, 2026 1:04:46 PM

To the Technical Review Committee, regarding Reference # TRC 12-120.

Dear members of the Technical Review Committee.

The purpose of this email is to express my strong opposition to the granting of a conditional use permit for a 140,000 chicken operation in the RM of Gimli (TRC 12-120).

My wife and I have a cottage in Silver Harbour, north of Gimli, within the RM of Gimli. Silver Harbour is a lakeside community and the wellbeing of our Lake Winnipeg is of crucial importance to me and my family. I am a member of the Silver Harbour Association, and we have an Environment Committee that advocates for proper, safe and environmentally appropriate care of Lake Winnipeg.

My specific concerns include the following.

1) Manure.

Our environment Committee calculated that 140,000 chickens produce about 9,000 tons of wet manure/year or about 3,500 tons of dry manure/year. On average that manure contains about 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium.

Storing wet manure on fields risks leaching into the groundwater and eventually into the aquifer.

I strongly oppose any manure storage on open fields.

Applying manure in the fall is another risky practice. The risk is great that large amounts of manure will end up in surface drains that empty into Lake Winnipeg, especially during overland flooding (which could happen every 5 years according to an article on Jan. 29th of our local paper, the Express) and during heavy spring run off.

Lake Winnipeg is sick and we cannot afford to put another drop of manure or other effluent into the lake.

Last but not least, the aquifer that supplies the Diageo Distillery with water, risks being contaminated by manure.

A number of years ago, a rocket propellant plant near Stoney Mountain caused the local aquifer to become contaminated. Residents in that area still cannot drink that water. I definitely do not want to see this happen in the RM of Gimli. It would be an economic, environmental and social disaster.

2) Dead chickens and slaughterhouse solid waste.

The application states that dead chickens will be composted.

No details are provided as to expected mortality rates and procedures for composting sites.

What safeguards are planned to prevent surface water, ground water and aquifer contamination?

And what about the foul odors that could be caused by the whole plan- including the manure and composting of dead chickens? People in the RM of Gimli rely on tourism heavily for their income. If there is a foul smell in the area caused by this business, tourists will most likely stay away.

In closing, **I wish to reiterate that I strongly oppose this conditional use application and I urge you to deny the application.**

Sincerely,

Don Loewen

Cottage Owner in Silver Harbour, RM of Gimli

Member of the Silver Harbour Association

Silver Harbour (Arnes), MB

Resident at

Winnipeg, Manitoba

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Conditional Use Permit For Harbour Colony TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 10:56:55 AM

To Whom It Mat Concern:

I am opposed to the Harbour Colony being issued a permit to build and operate a chicken operation. The ground and water contamination will have lasting negative effects on the surrounding area including Lake Winnipeg. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Geoffrey Boese
TRC 12-120

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Fwd: TRC deadline
Date: February 8, 2026 5:43:39 PM

As per attached email, please be advised that we strongly object. We own farmland west of there which is also prone to flooding.

Jan and Dave Goddard

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

Hi Everybody
I am forwarding Fred's email letter to the TRC
I have submitted my letter similar to Fred's

Also in a discussion with Kevin he indicated that the rumours for the CEC hearings will likely be heard in early March but not confirmed
Now back to the February 9 deadline it is extremely important that all associations and residents of Gimli register their opinions/ comments/ concerns etc to the TRC - there is a lot At stake and we cannot sit on the fence.
So we urge you to write to the TRC and encourage your constituents and anybody else in our RM to send their opinion to the TRC
Will try and keep you posted as I get news

Dave Curry
Silver Harbour Association

Begin forwarded message

Subject: Proposed 140,000 chicken operation at the Harbour Colony

Dear All,

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a

conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

Detailed info can be found at

http://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/public_registration.html.

Patricia Barret wrote a detailed and informative article in the Jan 29 edition of the Express Weekly News, p8

We are extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg.

Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorous and 52 tons of potassium.

Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate ground water.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant run off and pollution.

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

For that reason we appeal to all residents in the RM of Gimli to strongly oppose the Conditional use application.

IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

You can send your submission to:

by email: TRC@gov.mb.ca

by letter: Technical Review Co-ordinator Unit

Municipal and Northern Relations

[604-800 Portage Ave.](#)

[Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4](#)

by fax: 204 948 4042

Please note: Your submission must include: your name and reference TRC 12-120.

DEADLINE for submissions: Feb 09, 2026

Thank you,

Silver Harbour Association Environment Committee,
Don Loewen, Jim Glanfield, Dave Curry, Fred Veldink.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Proposed Hutterite Chicken Barns.
Date: February 8, 2026 3:13:12 PM

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal for a large chicken operation by a new Hutterite Colony close to Gimli. The planned chicken barns and processing of these birds on a huge farm will greatly put pressure on an already struggling large and watershed system. The Interlake water system has enough pollution assaulting it from existing farming operations, the constant sewage pump failures from Winnipeg and increasing population. At some point the Government must put a stop to big farm operations establishing Colonies and just keeping expanding with no care given to the environmental ramifications. The runoff from the waste lagoons will pass through private property as well as residential areas. This is unacceptable. I expect my Government to protect my evident and my right to cleanse water and a safe lake for recreation. We also have a large commercial fishing industry that is under pressure and depends on a healthy water shed. Please deny the application for the large chicken barn planned by the Hutterite colony.

Janet McDougall

Gimli, MB

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 2, 2026 4:07:29 PM

Technical Review Committee,

Re:TRC 12-120

I am very concerned about the Environmental Impacts of the Harbour Colony (Crystal Springs) proposed operations including the recent expansion to include 140,000 chickens, as well as the cattle, pigs, and 150+ people. Of course this development will have significant impacts on the Gimli Area and Infrastructure such as roadways, however.

I am especially concerned that they are planning to store effluent, and other waste products in a wastewater lagoon and furthermore plan to spread this waste effluent in open fields around the Lake Winnipeg basin, catchment and watersheds.

I believe that Lake Winnipeg, Willow Creek, and the ground waters are at Environmental risk from this operation. I am not a scientist but If I were a scientist it would still be difficult to assess and next to impossible to predict the impacts of these operations will have on the environment.

I am a regular paddler of Willow Creek and Marshlands. I am a regular swimmer, and boater in the Lake Winnipeg waters, I live three blocks of the lake and drink the artesian well water. I do not understand why such an operation has been allowed to be purchased and have its development approved next to the watershed without having been required to connect to the Gimli WasteWater Treatment Plant. I would suggest this is the most responsible and sound path to protecting the environment.

The Lake and Lands are in crisis and it is our job to protect them. It has been far too long and far too often Winnipeg has released its effluent into Lake Winnipeg. And though I know that improvements are being discussed or are underway, the lake is in crisis now and cannot wait! It can afford no more load. We need to step-up and protect the environment from further future catastrophes. Yes I am highlighting concerns about groundwaters, fish, birds, turtle habitats and to all of the other species that will be impacted including humans.

It is our job to be stewards of the environment so our children can enjoy them. Please take remedial action by requiring the Crystal Springs (Harbour Colony) to connect with the Gimli Wastewater Treatment Plant.

John Moore

Gimli, MB.

johnmmoore1959@gmail.com

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 6, 2026 12:06:08 PM

I strongly oppose the Conditional Use Application for the Chicken Operation.
Judith M. Potter

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony TRC 12-120 Proposed Poultry Operation
Date: February 1, 2026 2:40:06 PM

To: Technical Review Officer, Manitoba Environment and Climate Change

Date: Feb 1, 20268

Subject: Formal Opposition to the Harbour Colony Livestock Operation Proposal (RM of Armstrong/Gimli)

To the Technical Review Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen and stakeholder in the Interlake region to formally oppose the proposed 140,000-bird chicken operation by Harbour Colony. While I respect the agricultural heritage of our province, the scale and location of this industrial facility pose an unacceptable risk to the fragile health of Lake Winnipeg.

The Most Credible Arguments for Opposition

1. The "Phosphorus Debt" and Nutrient Overload

Lake Winnipeg is already 69% over the phosphorus target set by the International Joint Commission. This proposal seeks to spread manure across the RM of Gimli, an area where the soil's "phosphorus saturation" is a known concern. Adding 140,000 birds worth of manure is not "fertilizing"; it is nutrient loading into a watershed that can no longer absorb it.

2. Cumulative Watershed Impacts

The Province must look beyond this single application. We are seeing a "death by a thousand cuts" for Lake Winnipeg. Between this proposal and the nearby Crystal Spring wastewater lagoon, the cumulative impact of nitrogen and phosphorus runoff during spring snowmelt will accelerate toxic blue-green algae blooms, threatening both public health and the local economy.

3. Wetland Destruction (Class 3 Wetland)

The proponent's plan to remove a Class 3 wetland (0.12 acres) to facilitate construction is a direct violation of modern conservation principles. Wetlands are the "kidneys" of the Interlake; they filter the very runoff this operation will produce. Removing them to make room for industrial barns is ecologically regressive.

Specific Demands for the Ministry

In light of these concerns, I request that the Province of Manitoba:

1. Mandate a Full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A standard site assessment is insufficient for a project of this scale in a sensitive watershed.
2. Impose a Manure Spreading Moratorium in Sensitive Zones: Prohibit spreading on lands within the RM of Gimli that are prone to high runoff or have high existing phosphorus levels.
3. Reject the Removal of the Class 3 Wetland: Deny the "Water Control Works" license required to destroy the existing wetland on site.
4. Require "Nutrient Recovery" Technology: If this project proceeds, the proponent must be legally required to use advanced nutrient recovery systems rather than traditional field spreading.
5. Conduct an Independent Hydrological Study: Ensure that the local groundwater and surface drainage into Lake Winnipeg are protected by a third-party study, not one funded by the proponent.

Lake Winnipeg is often called "Canada's Sickest Lake." We cannot afford to prioritize industrial expansion over the very water that sustains our province.

Sincerely,

Kerry Seabrook

Sandy Hook, MB

Sent from my Atari 2600 Kerry Seabrook

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Re: #TRC 12-120
Date: February 6, 2026 7:26:15 PM

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal and Northern Relations
TRC@gov.mb.ca

February 5, 2026

Re: #TRC 12-120

I live on 51 acres in the R.M. of Gimli close to Harbour (and/or Crystal Spring) Colony's proposed intensive livestock operation in the R.M. of Armstrong. There are strong reasons to deny this intensive operation that sits on the border of the R.M. of Gimli and will impact everything downstream to the lake including the many fields the colony owns in the R.M. of Gimli where manure will be spread. I address three concerns, 1) conservation of the wetlands, lake, fishery and recreation, 2) tourism along the lake, and 3) the dishonesty of the applicant.

1) Migrating birds, resident eagles, and other wildlife will be attracted to the sewage lagoons to their detriment. The coposting of raw dead birds will attract other animals, perhaps spreading contamination or disease, and avian flu is always a concern with large numbers of wild birds landing on the lagoon. The more avian flu flourishes, the more likely it will mutate to affect humans as it has begun to. The antibiotic run-off from both the intensive livestock operation and the manure spread on the fields will make its way to the lake to no good end, to say nothing of the possible fouling of local wells. And we know from other such operations throughout the province, containment rarely succeeds. There will be leaks and over flows in heavy weather all of which will travel right into the lake where the nutrient overload is already damaging fishing and recreation.

2) Historically the R.M. of Gimli has been a tourist area. You will note there are no tractor dealerships, nor feed stores, nor a livestock vet facility because the local economy is not geared to farming. Its economic base is tourism and fishing, commercial and recreational. And of course there is the world class distillery that relies on uncontaminated ground water. You could consider this intensive livestock operation as sneaking in through the back door built on the borderline of Armstrong and Gimli as it is. When the inevitable leak or spill occurs, the damage will be done to Gimli, not Armstrong. It should be noted that the site chosen for this waste-water lagoon is on marshy land they intend to drain but which will be prone to flooding in wet years. What they have built to date has required hauling gravel rock from Sandy Hook quarry on the R.M. of Gimli roads, heavy loads every 20 minutes most weekdays for the last two years. It's impossible to believe what has been built on questionable land will not fail, or that inspections can be relied upon to pre-empt a disaster.

3) While municipal governments will promise oversight, given the short-term make-up of these governments it becomes easy to look away when the problematic results take years to reveal themselves. Elected officials rarely take the long view but selling out the future of the environment, recreation, water quality, etc. does not serve the greater good. We want the R.M. of Gimli to be a healthy natural playground for generations to come. An intensive livestock operation is not conducive to that future goal. Sadly, there is good reason not to trust the applicant for this operation. Their original presentation to the R.M. of Armstrong was for 97 people and 15,000 or so layers. Then they buy up farmland all over the R.M. of Gimli and now want to expand to 140,000? Do you really think there was no long range unstated plan from the beginning? It's easy to conclude they continue the way they started, proposing something modest but not stopping there. Falsification is the name of the game. This is a corporate mindset that favours intensive industrial livestock but it is being built in the wrong location. The planning appears devious and if it proceeds it will be to the detriment of not only the R.M. of Gimli, but to future tourists and residents who can no longer have the benefit, both healthwise and economic, of a healthy lake and wetland. Who is going to protect the lake and land from such projects that grant short-term gain to deceitful corporations but leave long-term destruction?

Yours truly,

Lorne Shukster

Sandy Hook, MB

Sent from somewhere Orioles visit.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 7, 2026 7:47:56 AM

Reference TRC 12-120

I strongly oppose the Conditional use application.
IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Mal Macdonald

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony RM of Gimli TRC 12-120
Date: January 31, 2026 7:57:12 PM

I am absolutely appalled that this could even be a possibility. They are going to absolutely destroy the water in our community and beyond. They must not be allowed to bring this chicken facility this close to so many people. I am absolutely opposed to this going forward.

Melanie Dryden

Gimli, MB
ROC 1B0

Pamela Larner

Gimli, MB
R0C 1B1

Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3G 0N4

reference TRC 12-120

Sir or Madam:

This letter is in regards to the proposed poultry operation and sewage treatment scheme to deal with it at the Harbour Colony Hutterite Colony (formerly called Crystal Springs) in the RM of Armstrong. This project has **NOT** been given the green light by the government, but is nonetheless, now partially completed by the colony. Rumours abound, including the most recent, which say that the number of birds to be processed at the facility have increased from the original application for 14,000 to now, 140,000 birds. A car wash has also been cited as a part of this Harbour Colony plan. As recently as last summer, people were commenting on the extent of work already completed on this **as yet unauthorized** project.

How is it possible that extensive work on infrastructure for the project has been allowed to proceed, **BEFORE** the application for it is even assessed and passed - or not - by the government departments in place to – supposedly – oversee all such applications in our municipalities?

Experts agree that the health of an already sick Lake Winnipeg and Willow Creek are in further jeopardy should the Harbour Colony succeed with their application **as it stands**. There are **other, environmentally sustainable options available** to the colony, which you have undoubtedly been made aware of by other concerned parties who have studied this proposal in depth, so I will not reiterate them here.

In sum, professionals in the field and local people have long been expressing grave concern over the inadvisability of this project. They have, further, long been requesting information from the government - which is their right - asking what is the latter's intent regarding it. We want to save Lake Winnipeg for future generations' use and enjoyment. Further pollution of Willow Creek and the Lake in particular is not a viable **OR** acceptable option.

Regards,
Pamela Larner

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: New Harbour Colony 140,000 chicken operation
Date: February 8, 2026 10:14:56 AM

I am writing today to voice my opposition to a large commercial bird operation and manure spreading proposal currently in your review for a Southern Manitoba Colony which has moved near Gimli in the Armstrong Municipality and is now calling itself Harbour Colony.

In my opinion and that of many academics and environmentalists, our Lake is fragile and can not be further endangered with such a large development and the resulting contamination to the Lake and area with overland flooding, Willow Creek pollution and from the manure broadcasting.

Please for the sake of our Lake and beautiful environment, do not allow this.

Best Regards,
Pat Nuspl

Sandy Hook, MB R0C 2W0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120 (Harbour Colony - Conditional Use Application)
Date: February 8, 2026 12:55:05 PM

Hello,

We strongly oppose the Harbour Colony's conditional use application for the establishment and operation of the large poultry farm. This operation could and will have a detrimental and negative environmental impact to the waterways including Lake Winnipeg and as well as to the surrounding ground soils and land.

The Harbour Colony's application must NOT be approved.

Regards,

Paul & Elaine Stimpson

Gimli, Manitoba
R0C 1B0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Reference TRC 12-120
Date: February 1, 2026 12:46:38 PM

To whom it May Concern:

I am providing feedback on the proposed Chicken operation along the R.M. of Gimli/Armstrong boundary by a Hutterite Colony.

I reside in Siglavik, R.M. of Gimli, on the Willow Creek in a residential area. About 83 homes are in this development along with many others in similar areas. We all have waterfront lots and homes.

The proposed development will greatly affect my living circumstances in that the waterway I live on will be subject to the effluent from this operation. The water is already affected by the pollution from Winnipeg and many algae blooms are occurring now due to this pollution. Adding to the problem is the newly proposed poultry operation.

I recently drove by the site of the future Hutterite Colony and there is now a ditch running from this site south to the Husavik Road and through a series of ditches connects to Willow Creek and then running to the area I live in including many other homes.

I have seen areas in southern Manitoba with such poultry operations and the smell, pollution and nitrogen increases directly affect anyone residing in the proximity to these operations.

I don not want to see my property values and living conditions go down "the drain" as many others have.

Please do the right thing and deny any such operation that will cause harm to living conditions in the area. All the assurances now will disappear in due course and I will be left with the consequences.

R.W. Bazylewski

Gimli, Manitoba
R0C 1B0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Reference # TRC 12-120
Date: February 5, 2026 5:49:08 PM

My name is Rand Melnyk. I am a year round resident of the RM of Gimli in Nes Country Estates. I use Lake Winnipeg recreationally for sailing and fishing. I have experienced the increasing on set of thickening algae blooms of recent years. Also, I communicate with numerous commercial fishers that share my concern with the health of our precious lake.

Recently there was an article in the Wpg. Free Press referring to the NDP government's mandate to implement the 30/30 plan which is to protect 30% of Manitoba's natural landscape by the year 2030. Lake Winnipeg and Manitoba waterways are included in this scope.

To put Lake Winnipeg, which is already seriously sick with eutrophication, at more risk with the advent of a massive poultry operation, is a blatant travesty to this end. Without detailed data and concise input from the CEC the Harbour Hutterite Colony project should not move forward until all detrimental environmental concerns are addressed.

The Harbour Colony project is profit driven. The question of manure management is at issue. Through various meetings with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation evidence of rule abuse of environmental concerns have surfaced. Who will monitor the Colony's adherence to the rules of effective manure management throughout its operation ? Their proposed on site lagoon and idea of solid waste storage on open fields (which may be prone flooding from nearby waterways) may not suffice in containing effluent draining into Lake Winnipeg.

Also, in an article in the Interlake Express edition of Jan. 29/26 there was mention of the Colony's plan to drain wetland to accommodate their manure management solutions. Science has proven that wetlands are natural filters for removing contaminants from waterways. The elimination of wetlands, especially in such close proximity to Lake Winnipeg is ludicrous.

Lake Winnipeg belongs to the people. I expect political will to address the potential of environmental detriment.

Regards,
Rand Melnyk

Sent from my iPad

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Technical Review Committee
Date: February 1, 2026 9:53:40 AM

REF #TRC 12-120

I would like to express my concern and opposition to the proposed expansion of the Harbour Hutterite colony expansion in the Armstrong RM. It seems obvious to me that this would not align with the Province of Manitoba's policies on reducing nutrients going into Lake Winnipeg and the MOU with the federal government on protecting the water quality of the lake. The fact the colony wants to drain a class 3 wetland shows the respect and consideration the colony has for the lake. How would this align with the net loss policy the government has in respect to wetlands? I am sure you know the area has flooded in the past which would result in the flood water draining into Willow Creek and then the lake.

I have read Manitoba is self sufficient in the chicken industry as we consume the output of our chicken production so why would we allow more production, Please show some leadership and give the lake and all the residents of Manitoba the respect they deserve instead of a small minority.

Thank you,

Randy Cranston
Gimli Resident

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 9:34:23 AM

Good Morning

I question how wise or environmentally responsible it would be to spread somewhere between 3500 to over 8000 tons of manure created by the 140,000 chickens near the Lake Winnipeg watershed catchment area.

This should not be allowed.

Sent by:
Randy

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 6, 2026 6:14:32 AM

I am submitting this to express my extreme opposition to this operation.

Ray McMurtry, , Silver Harbour.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Proposed 140,000 chicken operation at the Harbour Colony reference TRC 12-120.
Date: February 7, 2026 11:57:11 AM

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets. I am extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg.

Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium.

Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant runoff and pollution.

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

For that reason I strongly oppose the Conditional use application. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Permanent Gimli Resident
Gimli Mb R0C1B0

Richard Boroditsky MD,FRCS(C),FACOG,FSOGC
Professor Obstetrics and Gynaecology University of Manitoba
Mature Women's Health and Hysterectomy Alternatives

Winnipeg MB R3A 1R9

Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans .

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour colony
Date: February 8, 2026 4:00:05 PM

Just a concern about the proposed chicken operation. If the colony can't maintain control of its waste then it should not be given the ok. We have to do everything we can to protect Lake Winnipeg.

Questions and comments regarding proposed poultry operation (reference #TRC 12-120)

It is understood that the Harbour colony plans to establish a “poultry operation” with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets. Initially this proponent indicated in their lagoon proposal a maximum of 15,000 birds for domestic consumption, but appears to be drastically changing their information. The reason I draw attention to this point is because it unfortunately raises question to the accuracy of all other details provided by the proponent in their application. This is not a subtle change. The proponent has indicated that they intend to deposit the manure from their poultry operation on land in the RM of Gimli. It’s also indicated that this land where they are depositing the waste is often low-lying and flood prone. Thus meaning there is a high likelihood for contamination of ground and surface water systems.

I feel a project of this nature should not be allowed at a location like this due to its ecological sensitivity and environmental importance. As such, I oppose this poultry operation development (reference #TRC 12-120), as proposed, due to its environmental impacts with the following explanation.

The reports indicate that there is a new proposed poultry development that will clearly cause damage to the environment as well as socio-economic and health impacts to neighbors. I see absolutely no form of environmental impact assessment associated with the proposed works. The reports do not show any sort of quantification of the socio-economic or environmental damage, mitigation measures nor monitoring of the damage. Why wasn’t a proper environmental impact assessment conducted?

Is this newly published quantity of poultry in addition to the originally proposed 15,000 birds declared as part of the lagoon environmental submission? Or is this an incremental addition?

The reports indicate that this is “phase 1” of their planned expansion. How many more phases are there and what will they entail?

Ground and surface water quality are noted as items of major concern in the Willow Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan. However in the project proposal I only see further potential to deteriorate water quality, with no environmental impact assessment nor monitoring plan. Sadly this is very consistent with that which was submitted for the Lagoon project in the recent past.

Conversations with retired Manitoba Provincial Government staff indicate that extensive impervious soil geotechnical field studies were completed in the 1980s in the areas where the proponent is planning to distribute their poultry manure and the location of the poultry operation. The studies indicated that there are a large number of undocumented and “uncapped” wells in the area. It was found that these wells were not reported in well drilling logs and unfortunately there is little or no record of them. Given the timeframe of these studies there were paper reports developed, but it’s unlikely they were ever digitized electronically. We will try to find the reports if possible, but at this point we need to rely on “traditional knowledge” of the area. Because of these undocumented and uncapped wells, distribution of manure in these areas, especially flood prone areas, has a high likelihood of causing groundwater contamination. Contamination of groundwater is a major concern for local landowners as who rely upon it for drinking, and businesses like the distillery in Gimli rely on it for their industry.

The geotechnical conditions in the area of the proposed poultry operation and manure distribution are very inconsistent. This area is glacial till and soil conditions vary frequently from fine clay in one area to large boulders and gravel immediately adjacent. Because of this, any local contamination could spread very far very fast, without knowing it was happening until it was too late. This area isn't like areas in southern Manitoba where developments like this proposed one are more prevalent, where there is a thick layer of consistent impervious "Red River" clay to prevent the spread of contaminants.

What is the water source for this livestock operation? If groundwater, have detailed groundwater modelling studies been conducted to determine the impact on the aquifer? If not, why not? If surface water, which water body will it come from?

What will the impacts be to neighboring wells as a result of the water consumption from this project in terms of both water quantity and quality? What do modelling results say? If there are any impacts, how will neighboring properties be compensated? How will these impacts be mitigated?

The impacts on local well water quantity from this overall development are substantial and cumulative. There are water demands from the proponent for domestic purposes, the lagoon, poultry operation, the abattoir, the industrial truck wash, the industrial manufacturing operation, and more. Has a cumulative effects study been done on groundwater quality/quantity? If so, what are the impacts? Is there sufficient water supply for this development without adversely affecting neighboring properties?

This development is proposing to eliminate another wetland for the Willow Creek watershed. How many other wetlands has this overall development destroyed? We need to look at the overall impact to the Willow Creek watershed by this development, rather than incrementally. What are the impacts of removing this wetland on the health of Willow Creek and flood attenuation in the area? Will we see increased flooding in the area because of this project in combination with the lagoon project? The drains are currently over their maximum capacity as indicated in recent spring runoff.

In the initial application for the lagoon portion of this project, the proponent indicated that poultry would be raised at this location solely for domestic consumption (15,000). That poultry operation has expanded dramatically and it is noted that this is just "phase 1" of the expansion. Therefore the proponent has provided inaccurate information as part of their environmental licensing process for the lagoon. The lagoon was advertised for "domestic" waste, but clearly is being used on an industrial level. As such their lagoon environmental application should be nullified or updated with current information.

What component of waste from this poultry operation will be deposited in the lagoon? Has the lagoon be sized appropriately for this? If any waste from this poultry operation is going into the lagoon then it should have been part of the environmental assessment of the lagoon and in that EA process.

The report indicates that water control works are planned for this project. What are the details of these? Has the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) been consulted with and necessary Authorizations under the Fisheries Act been obtained with regards to the water control works and wetland drainage? When I last spoke to DFO they indicated they have not yet had the opportunity to conduct an environmental review of this entire development under the Federal Fisheries Act.

The reports indicate that the manure will be deposited in low lying flood prone areas, thus creating the potential for washing into local waterways and ultimately Lake Winnipeg. Has any hydrologic or hydraulic modelling been done to determine the potential for this? Has surface water quality modelling been done to determine potential increases in carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD) or nutrient loading on local waterways?

The reports indicate that odor control measures for the manure will not be used. Why not? Will there be odor control for the poultry operation?

Odor from industrial poultry operations is known to be very substantial and have severe social and environmental impacts on people and wildlife. What will be the magnitude and distance of the odor from the poultry operation? What are the health, social and environmental impacts associated with the odor on people and wildlife? How will these be mitigated or compensated? Will there be any odor monitoring of the poultry operation? If not, why? If there is monitoring, what type of monitoring? What locations? What equipment will be used? What specifically will be monitored? Who will do the monitoring? Will the monitoring results be publically available?

This area is known to have federally protected Species at Risk animals/birds such as the Red Headed Woodpecker and Golden-winged Warbler (reference at the end). The proponent indicates that manure will not be deposited on crown land, however the manure distribution and the industrial poultry operation (i.e., barns) are very close to the riparian corridor of Willow Creek which I believe to be crown land. The odor from the manure and the industrial poultry operation in general will impact crown land (e.g., Willow Creek riparian area and others). As such a review is necessary under the Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). Have you presented this application to Environment Canada (SARA) for review? If so, what was their response? When I last spoke to SARA staff they indicated to me that they have not yet had the opportunity to conduct an environmental review of this development. How will odor impacts on federally protected SARA species be mitigated? The toxic odor may be very harmful to these federally protected species or drive them away from their limited habitat (see reference at end).

A proposed conservation easement is in close proximity directly east of this development. What are the environmental impacts to that easement? I feel a development of this nature should not be allowed so close to a conservation easement.

The odor from this industrial poultry operation poses a health threat (e.g., respiratory problems) to nearby residents as well as wildlife. How will this be mitigated/compensated?

What are the cumulative effects on odor with this newly proposed poultry operation in combination with the lagoon? What about with the addition of their proposed abattoir?

This area is fairly pristine with large forested areas full of wildlife. The odor impact will adversely affect wildlife habitat and has the potential to drive wildlife away. What will the impact of this development be on wildlife health and populations? How will these impacts be mitigated?

There is a hog barn further west of this proposed development on Road 106N. What are the cumulative effects of these two developments, given their close proximity to one another?

Industrial poultry operations like this are prone to outbreaks of viruses such as avian flu. What will be the impacts of this industrial poultry operation be to nearby livestock operations?

Avian flu outbreaks are often associated with the mixture of feces between domestic and “wild” animals. As the plan to distribute this poultry manure is in the fall during duck/goose migration in the area (including towards Oak Hammock Marsh), this poses a potential risk for outbreaks in avian flu. We have recently seen large flocks of Canada Geese found dead near Winnipeg because of avian flu. What measures will be taken to prevent avian flu in migratory bird species?

Climate change is a significant concern globally and the production of greenhouse gases (GHG) is looked at closely with regards to environmental impacts. What is the expected increase in GHG resulting from the poultry operation and manure distribution? How will this be mitigated?

There will be an incredible amount of truck traffic associated with this proposed operation, hauling birds, eggs, feed, straw and so forth. Have truck traffic social/environmental impacts been quantified? What will the impacts be on road infrastructure, especially during spring road load restrictions and neighboring properties? How will these impacts be mitigated or compensated?

The reports indicate that the proponent intends to compost chicken carcasses. What are the details of this and environmental impacts associated with this? There is a substantial bear population in the area and will this cause the need to cull bear populations because of this development? Feathers are often incinerated in operations like this causing significant air pollution. What is the plan for elimination of feathers from this operation? What are the impacts of this?

Waste generated from the Harbour Colony will include manure waste from poultry operation, as well as from domestic, the abattoir, the industrial truck wash and from industrial manufacturing. There is no way to monitor the “type” of waste that is being distributed amongst the fields in the RM of Gimli. Will this be solely poultry manure? Or will it include solid waste from the other colony project components?

Where will chicken manure be stored until its “dry” for spreading? There will be a tremendous amount of chicken waste from this poultry operation. How will contaminants from this waste be prevented from entering surface and groundwater? How will odor be managed for this waste pile?

The RM of Armstrong has a bylaw that roughly states that neighboring developments should not cause harm to neighboring properties. I feel this proposed poultry operation, along with the lagoon violate this bylaw. Why isn't this being addressed? Why bother having these bylaws if they aren't enforced?

Construction of this poultry operation and the manure distribution plans could decrease property values of neighboring and impacted properties. How will this be mitigated/compensated?

Construction of this poultry operation and the manure distribution plans is likely to have emotional and psychological impacts on neighbors, in addition to environmental impacts. How will these emotional/psychological impacts to neighbors be mitigated/compensated?

Realistically speaking we should be looking at this “poultry operation” under the Environment Act. This type of development (i.e., the “poultry operation”) falls under Class 2 developments, Agricultural, meat processing and slaughter plants under the Manitoba Classes of Development Regulations. The poultry operation is simply one component of the proponent’s plans to develop a meat and slaughter plant. They aren’t proposing to keep these birds as “pets” are they? There is an abattoir clearly associated with this development with the intent of food production. Thus a proper environmental assessment is required under the Manitoba Environment Act.

Note the definition of “food processing plant” means a plant where agricultural products are processed into food as per the Classes of Development Regulation. And an abattoir is considered a food processing plant, which is a component of this “poultry operation”.

If any component of the waste from this “poultry operation” is going into the newly proposed sewage lagoon, that too is a trigger for a review under the Manitoba Environment Act. In reality, a Manitoba Environment Act review should have been conducted comprehensively in combination with the previously submitted wastewater lagoon, amongst other project components that likewise fall under the Manitoba Classes of Development Regulations.

As a reminder ***The Environment Act states:***

1(1) The ***intent of this Act*** is to develop and maintain an environmental protection and management system in Manitoba which will ***ensure that the environment is protected*** and maintained in such a manner as to sustain a high quality of life, including social and economic development, recreation and leisure for this and future generations, and in this regard, this Act

- (a) Is complementary to, and support for, existing and future provincial planning and policy mechanisms;
- (b) Provides for the environmental assessment of projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment;
- (c) Provides for the recognition and utilization of existing effective review process that adequately address environmental issues;
- (d) Provides for public consultation in environmental decision making while recognizing the responsibility of elected government including municipal governments as decision makers; and
- (e) Prohibits the unauthorized release of pollutants having a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Using the following definitions of:

“assessment” means an evaluation of a proposal to ensure that appropriate environmental management practices are incorporated into **ALL COMPONENTS OF THE LIFE CYCLE OF A DEVELOPMENT**.

Whereby **“development”** means any project, industry, operation or activity, or any alteration or expansion of any project, industry, operation or activity which causes or is likely to cause

- (a) The release of any pollutant into the environment, or
- (b) An effect on any unique, rare or endangered feature of the environment, or

(g) a significant effect on the environment or **will likely lead to a further development which is likely to have a significant effect on the environment**, or

(h) a **significant effect** on the social, economic, **environmental health** and cultural conditions that **influence the lives of people or a community in so far as they are caused by environmental effects**.

Whereby **“environment”** means

- (a) Air, land, and water, or
- (b) Plant and animal life, including humans

Whereby **“pollutant”** means any solid, liquid, gas, smoke, waste, **odour**, heat, **sound, vibration**, radiation, or a combination of any of them that is foreign to or in excess of the natural constituents of the environment, and

- (a) Affects the natural, physical, chemical, or biological quality of the environment, or
- (b) Is or is likely to be injurious to the health or safety of persons, or injurious or damaging to property or to plant or animal life, or
- (c) **Interferes with or is likely to interfere with the comfort, wellbeing, livelihood or enjoyment of life by a person**.

On the basis of the intent of the Act and its definitions **it’s clear that the environmental review should include all aspects of the development**. This includes the temporal aspect of construction impacts which have been substantial, damaging to the environment and a threat to public safety.

It’s unclear as to why Manitoba Conservation isn’t doing a proper comprehensive environmental review of the entire colony development, given its responsibility to uphold the Environment Act.

Respectfully,

Rob Tkach, M.Sc., P.Eng. (Retired)

References

Sanderfoot and Holloway, Air pollution impacts on avian species via inhalation exposure and associated outcomes, 2017.

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa8051#:~:text=Avian%20responses%20to%20air%20pollution%20include%20respiratory%20diseases%20and%20illness,changes%2C%20and%20impaired%20reproductive%20success.>

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Species at Risk Guide.

https://www.mbhabitat.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SAR_Booklet_LandownersGuide.pdf?_gl=1*1i5rvm2*_ga*MTcxOTI2OTU0Ny4xNzAwNjA1NTk3*_ga_D7EMQHLHEQ*MTcwMDYwNTU5Ny4xLjAuMTcwMDYwNTU5Ny4wLjAuMA

The following is from an individual who asked me to submit this on their behalf but wants to remain anonymous.

This situation, may will be the end of our municipality, our environment and our way of life.

This project had increased 10 fold and the name of the colony had also changed.

Weather patterns can no longer be trusted. The likelihood of overland flooding in the fall is there.

" Subject to flooding At least once every five years. "

There's absolutely no guarantee that "feces " spread on the land will be able to be incorporated into the soil.

Fall weather is often rainy.

If feces are spread and it rains, it will run off. That's a fact.

The land transfer and the proposed colony has been accompanied by talk of municipal complacency and perhaps corruption from day one.

If you live in this municipality you are going to be smelling feces .. that I guarantee..

Typically fall brings south west winds, the beautiful fall days we have experienced will be gone.

A stroll along the beach on a warm October day, will no longer expose us to the fresh autumn breezes.

"Be calm" they say. The province is watching them .

I think the past management of our environment by provincial departments is proof enough

that government can not be trusted to manage our environment.

Fields are stripped barren every fall.

There is not enough food to sustain mice.

Habitat had been destroyed, pockets of cover that allowed Creatures to sustain themselves have been destroyed, when miles of hundred year old oak trees are bulldozed, they will never return.

I realize that I can easily be addressed as non welcoming to this group, I don't have a problem with that, this is not a personal attack on them, it is a legitimate concern for all ratepayers.

What would disturb me is if complacency leads to the irreversible destruction that this group , this farm, this industry will do to our way of life.

I'm 65, old enough to see how our environment has been changed, it is our home.

Look at Google earth, look at manitoba, look at the areas on the image that appear to be far greener than the rest, these areas are extremely tied into the presence of other industrial farms.

Look at the area around the Washow River north of Riverton.

Look at the green.

The river once a fishing destination , is down river from a hog production facility.

Anglers could smell the essence of hog manure their hands . The river stunk.

Pig feces spread in an area that once held crystal clear spring water in its ditches.

Moss and algae and stench is the result.

People this project will result in catastrophic changes to our municipality our way of life, our environment, our home.

I love to think that things will be OK,

I'm not sure what can be done to stop this.

Proof reading this , isn't in the cards...

My stomach is turning,, I am sickened by confronting this issue.

Please forgive any grammatically incorrect ramblings..

Our way of life is being threatened.

This is not a personal attack, it is based on my concern for our environment..

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: HARBOUR COLONY - TRE 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 12:01:13 PM

Robert Goodall

Gimli MB. TRC 12-120.

We are opposed and concerned regarding any future development of the Harbour Colony now or in the future.

Lake Winnipeg is already environmentally sick and not one more drop of effluent or manure runoff should be allowed to enter the lake.

It must be strongly noted that Conditional use applications must never be allowed now or ever. IRONCLAD guarantees must always be in place to safeguard the environment.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: 140,000 chicken operation in Armstrong Municipality
Date: February 8, 2026 10:00:01 AM

Please accept this email as my opposition to the proposed operation by the newly renamed "Harbour Colony" to operate a 140,000 chicken barn and manure spreading operation in the Armstrong and Gimli municipalities.

Our Lake is dying, that is known. Any endeavours to save her are negated by allowing large operations like this Hutterite Colony proposal with it's potential for overland flooding, Willow Creek contamination and it's further plans for commercial development to continue.

Our fragile environment can not handle this, period.

Thank you,
Ron Nuspl

Sandy Hook, MB
R0C 2W0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Cc:
Subject: Crystal Harbour Colony Lagoon - Application for permit Conditional Use
Date: February 9, 2026 10:53:20 AM

Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake.

Russell and Cheryl Waugh
reference TRC 12-120.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: #TRC 12-120 Proposed Chicken Operation Concerns
Date: February 9, 2026 2:58:30 PM

Good Afternoon,

My name is Gail Henderson Brown. My husband, Peter and I are property owners in the RM of Gimli. My family and I enjoy swimming, sailing and walking on the beaches of Lake Winnipeg (both sides), as well as kayaking on Willow Creek. We are extremely concerned about The Harbour Colony's proposed 140,000 Chicken Operation and its potential negative effects.

Total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium. Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate groundwater. There may be a huge economic backlash if well water is damaged in this area for current residents and businesses such as the Seagrams Distillery.

The Gimli plant is the sole distillery for Crown Royal. The site operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, employing roughly 76 people. The distillery uses a 24-inch diameter well that taps into a massive underground aquifer between Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg. The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant runoff and pollution. There is a strong concern that the lands designated for manure application are located in the Red River Valley Special Management Area or other areas that are subject to flooding on an average basis at least once every 5 years.(Weekly Express Jan 29, 2026, Page 9 Patricia Barret).

Lake Winnipeg is already very sick and money has been spent over many years trying to encourage and improve better land and water management. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter the lake. Once something has been built and the damage is done, there is no fixing nor replacing an ecosystem as fragile as Lake Winnipeg, and surrounding waterways and underground water sources.

As a resident in the RM of Gimli my family and I strongly oppose the Conditional use application. IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Thank-you for giving us the ability to express our concerns.

Yours Truly,

Gail Henderson Brown

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Concerns: poultry operation TRC # 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 4:02:51 PM

TRC #12-120

Concerns about the application for a poultry operation by Boundary Colony RM of Armstrong:

- 140,000 chickens will produce tons of waste every year. Approx. 17 tons of nitrogen and 17 tons of phosphorus each year. The colony will be expanding their poultry operation in the future.
- the waste is planned to be spread on lands in the RM of Gimli which borders the property of Boundary Colony (formerly known as Crystal Springs Colony) only four miles from Lake Winnipeg.
- the waste should stay in the RM of Armstrong, not trucked into the RM of Gimli.
- plans to compost the chicken waste on land that floods and near Willow Creek which empties into Lake Winnipeg is very concerning. The fresh manure can leach into the ground water, rains can cause runoff and pollute Lake Winnipeg and Willow Creek.
- the water table is very high in the Interlake.

Suggest - the regulations for animal waste/poultry waste should be reviewed for the Interlake considering the close location to Lake Winnipeg and the contamination of the lake it will cause.

We have to protect Lake Winnipeg.

We cannot let big business ignore what is best for Lake Winnipeg.

Protect Lake Winnipeg for commercial fishing a multi million business...recreational fishing, boating and tourism that brings millions of dollars into many municipalities by the lake.

Gail Mastin, chair
Gimli Environmental Advisory Committee

Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 4:46:35 PM

BayShore Heights Cottagers Association
RM of Gimli
150 cottages

TRC 12-120

The Boundry Colony borders the RM of Armstrong and RM of Gimli.
The application from Boundry Colony to have a 140,000 poultry operation is very worrying. This is a factory and will grow.
Concerns that the bird waste will pollute Lake Winnipeg through rain runoff and contamination of ground water.
The spreading of raw poultry manue on lands is very common.
Spreading poultry waste on lands in the RM of Gimli, trucking the waste from RM of Armstrong, should not be allowed. Too close to Lake Winnipeg.
Tons of nitrogen and phosphorus produced every year is very concerning. Where will it all be spread??
Having compost piles in a flood area is not a responsible policy.

We need leadership to help protect Lake Winnipeg for generations to come.
Updated and Strict regulations are needed.

Gail Mastin, President
BayShore Heights Cottagers Association

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Proposed 140,000 chicken operation at the Harbour Colony
Date: February 9, 2026 3:45:03 PM

Re: TRC 12-120.

Technical Review Co-ordinator Unit

Municipal and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

To Whom it may Concern

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

We are extremely concerned about this operation especially in regards to negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg. We understand that total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year. That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorous and 52 tons of potassium.

Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied. Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate ground water.

The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant run off and pollution.

IRONCLAD guarantees in regards to safeguarding the environment must be in place before any permit is issued.

Please note our concern regarding this operation.

Regards

Ian Blicq, President

Loni Beach Residents Association

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony #TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 3:49:34 PM

To the Technical Review Co-ordination Unit,
Hello, my name is Jacqueline Lemay and I am a resident of the Siglavik area in Gimli, Mb.

The purpose of this email is to say that I strongly hope that the province will deny the proposed chicken-farming operation by Harbour Colony and the incorporation of the chicken manure into our surrounding fields.

Our waters in the Siglavik area are already polluted with floating islands of the blue/green algae, weeds, and unsafe for any living thing.

The main reason we moved into this area 5 years ago was to enjoy the water and the use of the canals leading into Lake Winnipeg, but instead it has just become a major disappointment, health concern, eyesore and extra work to constantly remove the thick floating patches of algae and weeds by our property.

I could go on, but I hope you can understand where I am coming from.

I have already voiced my concerns regarding the lagoon for Crystal Springs Colony as well.

Please keep our lakes clean, our town a tourist attraction and the Gimli real estate appealing.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Lemay

Reference TRC 12-120

Sent from my iPhone

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Opposition of New Project TRC 12-120.
Date: February 12, 2026 8:34:29 AM

We represent the community of Siglavik south of Gimli. We represent 83 property owners of Siglavik. We oppose any discharge into Lake Winnipeg, that forms our back yard.

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli as well as close to Willow Creek, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets. We request this application be denied in addition to the other application to discharge effluent from any manner of lagoon being developed on site.

Thank you,
James Sephton, President
Siglavik (Winnipeg Condo Corp #72)

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Proposed chicken operation of Harbour Colony
Date: February 9, 2026 6:36:21 PM

Technical Review Coordinator
Municipal and Northern Relations
TRC12-1

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express our family's concern over the government issuing a "conditional use permit" to the Harbour Colony re their proposed chicken operation in the Rm of Armstrong and adjacent to the Rm of Gimli.

We are long term residents of Gimli and want to ensure that Lake Winnipeg moves towards better health rather than risk further environmental damage. This operation would have a negative impact on the waterways in and around Willow Island, Gimli and Lake Winnipeg for years to come.

As well, once one large operation is allowed to spread manure in low lying areas near the lake, it may open the door to others. It is potentially a very negative precedent.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter.

Your truly,

Wendy Johnson & family
Brent Johnson & family
Brenda Johnson & family
Curt Johnson & family
Conrad Johnson & family

Sent from my iPad

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony
Date: February 10, 2026 12:54:39 PM

I am writing to oppose the proposed chicken factory farm development, TRC-120. I am a resident to the area who has already noticed increased traffic, speeding and passing on gravel roads near the new colony. I anticipate as this colony grows, there will be even more heavy traffic.

They are essentially building a small town inside of an RM. How was any of this even approved?? Nobody was informed any of this colony was even being built until a neighbor posed concern and they were constantly having intoxicated members of that colony going on their property essentially trespassing and causing disturbance..

Any other law abiding tax paying person has to submit to the RM ANYTHING they are building and the community is aware and can oppose or insert concerns.. YET this colony was being built under our noses.

Please do tell me how this colony will improve our 'economy' that's already crashing.

What they are building is not meant to be in a rural small town or even close to so many other people. This should be built further up north or away from any existing towns or neighborhoods exactly like the reservations are built.

I am very concerned how the waste will contaminate lake Winnipeg further as well as how it will be contaminating other wells and land near by.

Why are we not supporting LOCAL TAX PAYING FARMERS?

This is an outrage how this was even approved.

Sincerely,

A very frustrated community member

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Cc:
Subject: Proposed 140,000 chicken operation at the Harbour Colony
Date: February 9, 2026 4:39:31 PM

This email is in regards to TRC 12-120.
My name is Les Storozuk.
I am a resident of Siglavik.

I am opposed to allowing the proposal for a chicken operation so close to our lake.
Lake Winnipeg is in a serious state.
Both the province and the city of Winnipeg are spending significant funds on trying to fix the pollution of the lake.
To allow a new potential polluter to start up is madness.
They can say that they will be careful but we all know that the rain runoffs undoubtedly will take the effluents into the lake.

Please do not allow this operation to start.

Les Storozuk

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC-12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 3:28:47 PM

DATE: February 9, 2026
TO: Technical Review Co-ordinator Unit
Municipal and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
FROM: Lisa Shaw
President Spruce Sands Property Owners Association

Arnes, MB
ROC OCO

Dear Technical Review Committee:

The purpose of this email is to express opposition to the Harbour Colony's application for conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

We are specifically concerned regarding the devastating impact it will have on Lake Winnipeg. The colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli, is way too close to Willow Creek, that ultimately runs into Lake Winnipeg.

Lake Winnipeg is the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world and must be protected! It is already sick, and we can not risk one more drop of manure to enter our precious lake.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Lisa Shaw

President Spruce Sands Property Owners Association

To: Technical Review Co-ordinator Unit
Municipal and Northern Relations, Province of Manitoba
604-800 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

Delivered by email: TRC@gov.mb.ca

Subject: TRC 12-120 Harbour Colony's proposed 140,000 chicken operation

To Whom it May Concern,

The Harbour Colony, located in the Eastern part of the RM of Armstrong and adjacent to the RM of Gimli and close to Willow Creek which flows into Lake Winnipeg, has applied for a conditional use permit to establish a poultry operation with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets.

We are opposed to this project. Lochwoods Estates is located on Lake Winnipeg, about 12 kms north of Gimli. We are extremely concerned about this operation's highly likely negative effects on our waterways and ultimately on Lake Winnipeg. It is our understanding the total manure production will be at least 3500 tons/year.

- That amount of manure contains at least 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorous and 52 tons of potassium.
- Chicken manure must be composted before it can be applied.
- Storing fresh manure on the field is risky as it can leach into the ground and contaminate ground water.
- The areas where the manure will be spread are prone to flooding. Heavy rains can also cause significant run off and pollution.

While our neighbourhood is north of this project, we all see that Lake Winnipeg is very sick. We must not allow one more drop of effluent or manure run off to enter this iconic Manitoba treasure.

Sincerely,

D E Erickson

Dana Erickson, Chair Lochwoods Property Owners Association

CC: Residents of Lochwoods
RM Gimli

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Harbour Colony poultry operation
Date: February 9, 2026 5:47:44 PM

We are writing to express our concern regarding the proposed Harbour Colony poultry operation in the RM of Armstrong.

After reviewing the location, its proximity to Lake Winnipeg, normal water runoff and the recent years of excess moisture and overland flooding, notably 2022 and to a lesser extent 2024, it is highly likely that waste from the operation will flow into Lake Winnipeg.

We work in the agricultural industry and understand the importance of the sector. Also, we support expansion of the industry in circumstances which are sustainable and have a neutral or positive effect on the surrounding environment.

However, this particular project does have the potential to have an overall negative effect on the lake water, fisheries, tourism in the area and the nearby communities.

We respectfully submit that we do not support the proposal.

Mike & Mika Hacking
Gimli

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Re: TRC 12-120.
Date: February 9, 2026 6:34:01 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Spruce Bay Cottage Owners Association.

We are in opposition to the proposed Crystal Springs Colony operating lagoons for waste management.

The proposed undertaking for processing animals and human waste puts the community and the lake at risk. We should all be concerned as this is no small operation.

Even if the Colony follows all of the set-back and elevation requirements for the lagoons, there is a possibility of extreme rain events, which could overwhelm the storage capacity of the lagoons. This could cause a spill over of the lagoon and overland wastewater could damage the environment.

We have a sewage treatment facility in Gimli, does it not have the capacity to treat the effluent from the colony?

We must take extreme care and protect the lake from becoming more polluted.

We are hopeful you agree and will deny the operating permit for lagoons.

Best regards,

Richard Romanow,
President
Spruce Bay Cottage owners Association.

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Crystal Springs / Harbour Colony (TRC 12-120) - Proposed Development
Date: February 7, 2026 9:04:32 PM

Good day,

As a property owner (Fraserwood Area) and resident (Meleb) within the RM of Armstrong I am writing regarding the proposed development by the Crystal Springs / Harbour Colony within the RM of Armstrong. I am not writing regarding concerns about the proposed development but rather regarding my concern if the development does not go forward.

I understand that residents have expressed concerns, but I believe that many of these concerns originate from a lack of knowledge, understanding and in some cases unjustified negative opinions of the colony. As an active member of the community volunteering for events and different organizations I have become aware of how much the colony supports the local communities. I am aware of one or more instances where the colony provided housing to several individuals in the community when they were struggling. They have made contributions of food, mostly produce, to the Winnipeg Beach Food Connection and the Gimli Bible Camp / Camp Arnes. The colony even made and donated cinnamon buns to the Winnipeg Beach Legion during Boardwalk Days, a Winnipeg Beach annual event. This level of kindness and generosity exemplifies the kind of community members they are and how much they care about the people living in the Interlake.

In the past 2 years I have had the privilege of interacting with the colony on several occasions. I have had the opportunity to ask questions not only about their proposed development but also about their way of living. I have come to learn they have a long deep-rooted history in Manitoba as farmers cultivating the land and producing food that helps to sustain the people of not only Manitoba but Canadians. They are very environmentally conscious and stewards of the land, ensuring they take care of the earth they rely on to produce food for their colony and for the people of Manitoba.

The proposed development offers a unique opportunity to introduce a level of high-quality farming combining technology with traditional practices. All while making sure to meet or exceed the environmental standards of the province and the country. This kind of sustainable farming development project is critical for much needed growth within the region, bringing direct or indirect work/jobs for residents. In addition, the development will bring important revenue to the RM through increased property taxes helping to promote development and upgrade infrastructure within the community.

It is for all the above reasons that I would encourage the residents, landowners, business owners and politicians to support and approve this project with proper sustainable oversight for best practices.

Best Regards,

Sean Kasper & Kelsey Morgan

Gimli, Manitoba
ROC 1B0
February 8, 2026

To Whom It May Concern at TRC regarding 12-120,

I am writing with grave concern for Lake Winnipeg! Given the scope of the development proposed from Harbour Colony a.k.a Crystal Springs Colony that includes a poultry operation, a lagoon, as well as other areas of concern, Lake Winnipeg doesn't stand a chance of surviving! Given the potential environmental impacts of the scope of this development, I cannot comprehend why this government would even consider allowing any portion of this development.

Regarding TRC 12-120 - I strongly oppose allowing the poultry operation at W 1/2 28-18-3 EPM with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers, and 40,000 pullets (764 animal units). The waste and slaughter from these birds will cause pollution in Lake Winnipeg. There is no way for the Colony to avoid this given the proximity of Willow Creek to the development and the fact that the development is on flood prone land.

As I don't understand why the Honorable Mike Moyes, Minister of Environment and Climate Change isn't part of the decision whether to allow this poultry operation given the potential environmental impacts. I am copying him, as well as Premier Wab Kinew.

Regards,
Sharon Baker

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Conditional use application from Harbour Colony for a 140,000 chicken operation. (TRC 12-120)
Date: February 6, 2026 3:16:21 PM

To the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations.

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to express our strong opposition to the granting of a conditional use permit for a 140,000 chicken operation (TRC 12-120).

The Silver Harbour Association is a community organization in the RM of Gimli, that functions to protect the interests of our residents. Being a lakeside community, the wellbeing of Lake Winnipeg, is of crucial importance to each and every resident.

Our specific concerns include the following.

1) Manure.

We calculated that 140,000 chicken produce about 9,000 tons of wet manure/year or about 3,500 tons of dry manure/year. On average that manure contains about 17 tons of nitrogen, 17 tons of phosphorus and 52 tons of potassium.

Storing wet manure on fields risks leaching into the groundwater and eventually into the aquifer.

We strongly oppose any manure storage on open fields. Instead, concrete pads with raised borders should be used to prevent any manure from leaching into the soil.

Applying manure in the fall is another risky practice. The risk is great that large amounts of manure will end up in surface drains that empty into Lake Winnipeg especially during overland flooding and during heavy spring run off.

Lake Winnipeg is sick and we cannot afford to put another drop of manure or other effluent into the lake.

Last but not least, the aquifer that supplies the Diago distillery with water, risks being contaminated by manure.

A number of years ago, a rocket propellant plant near Stoney Mountain caused the local aquifer to become contaminated. Residents in that area still cannot drink that water.

We definitely do not want to see this happen in the RM of Gimli. It would be an economic, environmental and social disaster

2) Dead chickens and slaughterhouse solid waste.

The application states that dead chickens will be composted.

No details are provided as to expected mortality rates and procedures re composting sites.

What about odors? What safeguards are planned to prevent surface water, ground water and aquifer contamination?

The chicken operation will be located in an area that is prone to flooding and for that reason alone, no permit should be granted.

In closing I wish to reiterate that the Silver Harbour Association strongly opposed the conditional use application and we urge you to deny the application.

We would like to remind the Colony that the initial information supplied in 2021 in regards to economic activities, listed manufacturing as the main activity with a 15,000 chicken operation. Why all the changes?

Sincerely,

Frederik Veldink

President: Silver Harbour Association

Silver Harbour (Arnes), MB

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: Lake WPG/ Crystal Harbour Colony Lagoon
Date: February 9, 2026 11:20:36 AM

To whom this may concern;

I have great concerns regarding the Crystal Harbour Colony Lagoon situation and want you to know my husband and I strongly oppose the conditional use application they have applied for. Lake WPG is already a very sick lake and in need of more care as it stands. With the city of Winnipeg dumping it's waste already multiple times into this lakes system plus other issues our beautiful lake can not afford any more run off of fertilizers or high contents of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from their chicken manure. We're in serious enough need for more care of this lake already without these extra concerns I have just raised.

This is a lake where people enjoy fishing and earning their living by fishing from it, many enjoy eating those fish. It's a lake people enjoy swimming and paddleboarding and kayaking on. Multiple different kinds of birds live on or near this lake and eat from it as well. I myself, from my own front window, have watched Pelicans, swans, Great white Egrets, Blue Heron, Lanes, Cormorants, King Fishers, Geese, varieties of ducks and seagulls not to mention our gorgeous Bald Eagles and Osprey and multiple variations of song birds and swallows enjoying and eating from this lake, what a privilege and blessing to be a witness to and enjoy. Last fall I watched three otters enjoy their time in our bay swimming and playing and fishing themselves for a bite to eat.

If we don't take care of this lake and all of our waterways all will be affected including our drinking water that we get thru the aquifers that supply our wells.

So you see this is a dire situation with dire consequences.

Please do not allow this to go thru...

As I stated earlier my husband and I are very against this conditional use application by Crystal Harbour Colony.

Sincerely Susan Boese
A resident of the RM of Gimli

From:
To: [+WPG139 - TRC](#)
Subject: TRC 12-120
Date: February 9, 2026 8:22:54 PM

We are deeply against of letting the Hutterite colony to continue the idea of farming 140.000 chickens so close to Netly Creek in the RM of Gimli.
My husband and I bought land in Siglavik and built a beautiful home and we appreciate our waterways !
Grandchildren swim in our canals.

Also this area we all had to get wells dug for drinking water and our sewage gets sent to Gimli treatment centre.

It's terrible how the city accidentally dumps excess amounts of waste into the Red River.

Siglavik and Miklavik enjoy our boating and fishing.

When Mr Arnason developed the area , he made a berm before we reached Lake Winnipeg. We refer that circle of water as the Bay!
Islands have names as Crow Island , Willow Island and the other island never learnt its name!
Wade and I nickednamed it Joshua Tree since there's a tall robust tree all by itself!

Berm serves as a sandy beaches and trees to go for a picnic, water skiing, swimming and some fishing.

We have a paradise here!

Winnipeg has dumped 2 times its sewage on the south and east side of our picnic area we the people step into human waste.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely
Wade and Valerie Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

From: Diana Plett
Sent: February 24, 2026 9:38 AM
To: +WPG139 - TRC
Subject: The Harbour Colony TRC12-120

RM of Armstrong

Re: harbour colony application to establish a poultry operation.

To be completely blunt on this issue, I would like to state that this idea literally and figuratively absolutely stinks.

I thought we lived in a world where we are trying to be as green as possible. We keep hearing on the news how our precious Lake Winnipeg is being contaminated, and the location of this proposal is very near to the lake and all drainage from this land goes into the lake. I can't even fathom how this is being considered where are all the scientists and people that have knowledge on the situation like this on this proposal.

So please have noted that I do own property in the RM of Armstrong on road 108. Our location is completely off the grid because we are trying to do our best to make the world a better place to live in. Please, if you have any conscience and care for our future lives on this precious planet do not allow this to happen.

Thank you

Diana Plett

Winnipeg MB R2K 3Y4

Sent from my iPhone

To: Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal Portage and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R36 0N4

January 29, 2025



Re: #TRC 12-120:

The Express Weekly News, Jan. 29, 2026: Harbour colony proposes to farm 140000 chickens in Armstrong, spread manure in Gimli

I live in Gimli and I am concerned about this project. I have attended a couple of citizen meetings including one at the RM of Gimli. The overall concern is the health of Lake Winnipeg.

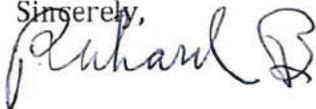
I appreciate the mandate work of the Technical Review and look forward to further clarity to the proposal as it unfolds and is presented to us.

I understand it is necessary to contain any waste run off by providing a pipe system and or trucks to transport it to the Gimli (or other) official waste facility. The amount of waste is way over the limits permitted by regulations. Also, the use of ponds for sewage and compost purposes is no longer considered a safe procedure with Lake Winnipeg's vulnerable condition.

Another possible proposal for a win/win situation may be the commercial use of this abundance of manure. If the Harbor Hutterite Colony packaged and distributed this manure they could not only preserve the environment and lake from excessive exposure, they could profit with the resource being created by their chickens.

I will be engaged and participating in the meetings and hearings arising on this subject with the RM of Gimli and concerned citizens who are organized to responding effectively.

Sincerely,



Richard Bredsteen

From: Tanya M
Sent: February 25, 2026 10:39 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC
Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Development of a Poultry Operation at W ½ 28-18-3 EPM. TRC 12-120

Tanya Mishtak

Rm of Armstrong
Malonton Manitoba Canada
February 17, 2026

To: Livestock Technical Review Committee
604-800 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 0N4

Re: Formal Objection to Proposed Development of a Poultry Operation at W ½ 28-18-3 EPM. TRC 12-120

Dear Livestock Technical Review Committee,

We are writing to formally object to the proposed construction of a poultry operation directly across from our residence at West ½ NE-21-18-3E Rm of Armstrong.

This proposal would permanently alter our living conditions at our home. We ask the Livestock Technical Review Committee to give serious consideration to the precedent this sets for locating new large-scale livestock operations directly across from existing residences.

While we understand the importance of agriculture in our community, growing up on farms. We have serious concerns about the impact this development will have on our family, our health, our property, the creek and the surrounding neighborhood.

Our concerns include:

1. **Odour and Air Quality** – Poultry operations are known to generate strong persistent odours, dust and airborne particles. Given the close distance to our home, operations may substantially affect and interfere with our ability to enjoy and use our home and property outdoors, various watersports in the ditch and the beautiful creek. Without a decision made in regards to a lagoon. The potential impact will be far greater and quality far less.
2. **Noise** – Ventilation fans, equipment, truck traffic, and construction/operational activity have already created ongoing noise disturbances.
3. **Increased Traffic and Road Safety** – Feed deliveries, service and construction vehicles, and livestock transport trucks will increase traffic on our road. Safety is already an ongoing concern for our family, our children, our pets and local residents. The proposed plan is to have all the traffic hauling the manure right past our yard. Who is responsible for road maintenance? Dust control?

4. **Property Value Impact** – The proximity of large-scale poultry barns may negatively affect residential property values in the immediate area. There are no contingency plans in place.
5. **Environmental Concerns** – Potential impacts and or contamination to local water quality, well water and or depleted and exhausted water levels. What happens in the event local wells get contaminated or need to be drilled deeper? Who would be financially responsible? Drainage, overland flooding, and the health of the ditch and creek which leads to Lake Winnipeg needs to be taken into great consideration.
 - a. All related risks and or exposure to any potential diseases.
 - b. Manure management and trafficking.
 - c. Pest control are significant issues that require careful review.

Potential health risks and or contamination contingency plans need to be set in place.

6. **Quality of Life** – The rural residential character of this area may/will be permanently altered by the introduction of intensive livestock facilities so close to homes who have had little to no communication or contact in regards to the life altering proposal.

Given the close proximity of this proposed development to existing residences, we respectfully request that the Livestock Technical Review Committee:

- Reconsider approval of this application
- Require greater setback distances from residential properties for any and all farm related buildings, added bush lines, zero tolerance for any travelling smells or sounds; discuss with local landowners exact location of the buildings as the map indicates the land description not the placement location.

We smell no odours now. Any kind of development should never take away our rights to enjoy our healthy way of life.

- Review a comprehensive environmental and traffic impact assessment; reroute all manure hauling and farm traffic to Road 107.
- Hold a public meeting to allow affected residents to voice concerns longer than 15 minutes if need be.
- Please review the News article attachment from The Express Weekly News Thursday February 20, 2020. Take note of the intentions and size of operation indicated. The number of people and animals which have grown exponentially.
- Consider imposing strict conditions, related to odour control, pest control, water, contamination and disease management (third party testing and reporting), traffic and noise management, and manure handling; all to include a contingency plan.

We invite all of you to come to our home before any decision is made. Experience what our life has become and talk about the direction this proposal will take it. Please contact us to set up a date and time that works for all of us.

We urge you to carefully consider the long-term potential consequences of approving this project in its current form. The health, safety, and well-being of nearby residents must be given appropriate weight in your decision.

We are not ok with the solution to pollution being dilution.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We request to be notified of any hearings or decisions related to this application.

Sincerely,

Tanya Mishtak

Hutterite colony to farm over 15,000 chickens plus manufacturing operation

Commercial fishers and environmental organizations raise pollution concerns

By Patricia Barrett

A new Hutterite colony that will be established on the Armstrong-Gimli municipal border intends to farm over 15,000 chickens, an unspecified number of cattle and sheep and set up a manufacturing operation to make hog barn parts.

Members of the Crystal Spring Hutterite Colony from Ste. Agathe appeared as a delegation at the RM of Armstrong's regular council meeting Feb. 11 to discuss plans for land they had purchased (Section 26-16-30) on the west side of Road 15E, which forms the border between the two municipalities.

Willow Creek, or its tributaries, runs through the Hutterite-owned land and along Road 107N. It flows east, emptying into Lake Winnipeg between the Siglavik and Miklavik subdivisions in the RM of Gimli.

The meeting drew residents from both Armstrong and Gimli, Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers and representatives from the People for



Edward Kleinsasser of Crystal Spring colony.

the Preservation of the Willow Island Coastal Wetlands (PWP), the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg (Coalition)

and the Gimli Environmental Advisory Committee.

"For the chickens, we're talking of,



Armstrong residents Joe and Steve with Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Bill Buckels (middle) have concerns about the colony operation.

say, a round number of 15,000 layers — that's selling eggs. And then the broilers — meat chickens," said Edward Kleinsasser, who was joined by fellow colony members David Kleinsasser and Jerry Waldner. Kleinsasser didn't say how many "meat" chickens would be raised.

When asked by Coun. Adam Krochenski how many cattle and sheep would be farmed, Kleinsasser didn't have a number.

"It's kind of a hobby farm at this point in St. Agathe," said Kleinsasser. "But here, because the possibility is here, we have more bush and pasture ... so I wouldn't be surprised if we go more into that."

Continued on page 15

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RCMP investigates firearm offences

Submitted

On Feb. 7, 2020, Cypsumville RCMP responded to several 911 calls reporting that a male was carrying a long gun and walking on the Main Road in Little Saskatchewan First Nation.

Another call was received stating that the male suspect had just pointed the firearm at a victim and demanded his snowmobile. The victim refused and got away safely.

Officers responded and made several patrols in the area. Further investigation led RCMP to an area in Fair-

ford First Nation. RCMP located the suspect and he was arrested without incident. No firearm was recovered at that time.

Police Dog Services attended the scene and conducted a search. A long gun was located buried in the snow and was seized by police.

Aaron Sumner, 32, of Fairford First Nation, has been charged with numerous offences including robbery with a firearm, pointing a firearm, careless use of a firearm, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose



RCMP police dog services located a long gun buried in the snow and using a firearm in the commission of an offence. RCMP continue to investigate.

> CHICKENS, FROM PG. 11

The colony does "not intend to build a hog barn," he said, but it does make parts for hog barns, employing 15-20 non-colony people in Ste. Agathe on a full-time basis. And the colony is considering expanding that manufacturing in Armstrong as it already works with Gimli-based Farox. The new colony would "probably" be hiring non-colony workers.

Reeve Susan Smerchanski said there's a hog-raising stigma associated with Hutterite colonies, and she knows some colonies have added a manufacturing component alongside agriculture. She cited colonies involved in the concrete and kitchen cabinet industry, as well as in fire truck manufacturing (the RM purchased a new truck for its Fraserwood fire department from a colony in the south).

As to when they plan to build the new colony, Kleinsasser said they'll probably start some digging this summer. They also need to figure out where to place the buildings.

"I guess we would start with where we are going to place the colony, where does it fit?" said Kleinsasser. "There's Willow Creek. We'd probably have the buildings next to the Willow Creek, and further up there'd be barns or the shops, going maybe west from the Willow Creek, more up on the hill."

In response to Smerchanski's question about population, David Kleinsasser said there will be about 77 people on the new colony.

Coun. Krochanski also raised the issue of how the colony's operations will impact RM roads.

Kleinsasser said the same number of trucks have been hauling grain out of the fields up to now and that won't change, but there may be some extra truck traffic while they're building. "And we'll get after you guys to

make sure they're in good shape," said Kleinsasser. "Let's face it, in the end you'll have more money because the property tax bill will be huge. So you'll have a lot of more money to fix those roads and keep them up."

Council didn't ask how the new colony intends to manage its animal manure, whether it will be stockpiling it on open fields or using it as fertilizer, and how it will handle any by-product created during its equipment manufacturing processes. But the reeve did say residents are concerned about the environment, the water and the lake.

"There are rules to follow regarding the spreading of manure and all the rest of it for any kind of farming operation that you have, whether it's the chickens or hogs or whatever," said Smerchanski. "There's always rules to follow to make sure we are protecting that water system."

Kleinsasser said the colony doesn't want to risk the health of its members and is also cognizant of the fishing industry on Lake Winnipeg.

"At Willow Creek we'll have our kids play along there, so we want that to be nice and clean," said Kleinsasser. "We want to be safe and environmentally friendly as much as anybody else."

As for two sections of neighbouring land the colony wants to purchase from the RM (the NW and NE of 29-18-3E), the reeve said council hadn't had an opportunity to discuss it. Council would have to consider all interested purchasers and publicly advertise the sale.

After the delegation wrapped up, the Express asked council what the colony intends to do with the two sections it wants to purchase.

"They just want to leave it to enjoy the beauty of nature," said Smerchanski, "for hiking, biking, skiing trails, listening to the birds, picking berries,

Just natural habitat."

CAO Corlie Larsen added the colony told the RM it intends to have no buildings on those sections if it's the successful purchaser.

Fred Veldink of the Coalition asked Smerchanski whether council would have to re-zone the colony's present section from agricultural to industrial in order to accommodate manufacturing.

"We'll have to work through that. It's a process," said Smerchanski. "It won't be excluded, we'll work through that."

An Armstrong resident who didn't give his name told the Express the land the colony owns is wet and on a rise. Rain and snowmelt — along with possible manure leakages — flow downhill and make their way to the creek as "everything flows into the creek and out to the lake."

One of the Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers who attended the meeting said by email he has grave concerns about the potential for agricultural and human wastes to enter the Willow Creek watershed and further pollute the lake.

"Every working day I directly witness the downstream damage caused by agricultural pollution and untreated human and animal waste, and the destruction of wetlands and wetland filters by factory farms," said Bill Buckels, who lives in the RM of Gimli.

"I'm completely shocked and firmly against the establishment of any and all factory operations, especially one disguising itself as a farm upstream from one of the best spawning areas on Lake Winnipeg."

Buckels said he's encountered huge swaths of fecal matter swirling around in Lake Winnipeg, negatively affecting the fish, his business and possibly his health.

"I have worked on my boat up to my knees in fecal material for weeks on end in recent years, and the problem is worsening," he said. "It doesn't

need any help by bringing in potential outside polluters."

As well, Buckels said he's concerned about what could likely become a "new town of up to 200 people" just five miles from the lake.

"I don't understand how land that is zoned for agricultural use can also be used for a large population of humans and human waste as well as for a factory, plus animal waste from what could be a 'starter flock' of 15,000 chickens in captivity," said Buckels. "Will they connect to Gimli's sewer system like the rest of us?"

PAP said by email after the meeting he's "extremely concerned" about the proposed commercial chicken operation that will straddle the two municipalities.

"Are the exceptionally limited tax dollars derived from this operation worth the health of our communities by possibly poisoning drinking water and further destroying the fishing and tourist industry?" said spokesperson Marjol Smith.

Chicken manure increases algal blooms in fresh water, she said, citing research. It contains four times the amount of phosphorous and nitrogen in hog manure.

An operation of 15,000 layers alone, as proposed, produces 1.89 tons of manure per day. That manure contains heavy metals such as arsenic, trace antibiotics and hormones, which contaminate soil and water — both runoff and groundwater, she said.

PAP also has concerns about odour from the chicken operation and emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulphide and poultry dust, which contains toxins that can cause lung and eye irritations not only to farm workers, but also to residents.

"Why would anyone support the establishment of such an environmentally and commercially destructive enterprise?" said Smith.

TRC 12-120

Hello, my name is Wayne Spakowski and I am responding to Harbour colony application for their poultry operation.

I live on SW-30-18-3 east and 2 miles west of the Harbour Colony.

I fully support their colony housing & livestock operation.

These hard working ~~and~~ people will live here and raise their chickens.

They are going to live here, raise their children here, farm here and will be the best stewards of their land and surroundings.

Their chicken manure will be applied to their fields in a proper manner and monitored.

They are not going to screw-up the land where their families live or their neighbors.

So in closing I fully support them and welcome them to our area. And I will be the 1st one down there with a welcome gift when the first family moves in.

Wayne Spakowski
Box 2

Malton, Man.

ROC 120

cell. 204-206-0120

house. 204-643-5182