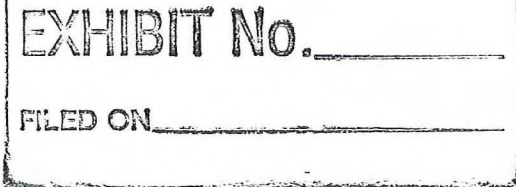


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May 5, 2007.

Committee Clerk, Anne Stokes,
Room 1405, Whitney Block,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ont. M7A 1A2



Attention: The Standing Committee on Justice Policy Considering Bill 198.

Dear Anne Stokes, Clerk,

Would you kindly make available this letter of comment to the aforementioned standing committee for their information, consideration, comment and acceptance.

Dear Committee members considering Bill 198, Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act, 2007. The following are comments and suggestions that I am making for your serious consideration in an attempt to see our precious Great Lakes cleaned up and remain as pure as possible for the millions of people who live within a few hours drive of their watersheds and rely on these waters as their source for drinking.

Some of what I have written are questions and others are comments and suggestions.

For the past 64 years this summer I have been coming to the Ontario shores of Lake Huron and now live here. Back in the 1940's, when I first came as a young boy from Toronto, there were times we drank the water from Inverhuron Bay. That day is long gone.

1. Is the safety of the Great Lakes water of serious enough concern that there will be stricter controls on the intensive farming operations that are located in the watersheds of Lake Huron, etc.? It is not just the location of the many such farming operations but also where they dump the rancid, liquid manure on many fields that are subtiled and near water courses that direct runoff to local streams and rivers then into the lake. The area has had several beach postings or closings over the past few years. This was a very rare event not many years ago.

2. Study and testing should be done on all residential and commercial properties along ALL the shores of the Great Lakes, testing the septic and private sewage systems. Any that fail dye testing, they should be posted and forbidden to be used until any septic seepage into the lakes and waterways is corrected.

3. Testing of recreation beaches should be done by the local Medical Officer of Health's staff, weekly during the period of May 24th to Thanksgiving. The local MOH told me they test once a month. *That is not often enough.* Kincardine is close enough to Walkerton to know full well what the results can be from lack of adequate testing of water where humans have direct physical exposure to it – this includes our children and grandchildren – and thousands more similar situations. Our countries must see these waters as one of their most valuable resources.

4. Can this legislation also include the prevention of all future dredging of the mouth of the St. Clair River? They do this to allow the ocean--going vessels to enter the upper Great Lakes without scraping their hulls on the bottom. This dredging causes drastic fluctuations in the level of Lakes Huron and Michigan and Georgian Bay. A constant level of water in these Great Lakes is more important than ships' bellies being able to come through this water way. If it is a problem, then let our two countries build one or two locks for the ships to pass through.

5. Referring to ocean--going vessels, is it not possible to somehow prevent them from dumping their polluted, foreign-fish-contaminated bilge waters in the Great Lakes? Have them change their bilge water in the St. Lawrence River where the fresh water is in its last mile of mixing with the Atlantic's salt water.

6. Another suggestion is to prevent all ocean--going vessels from entering the Great Lakes all together. Build transfer stations/facilities on the shore of the river and have the goods transferred to exclusive Great Lake freighters or to trains with the cargo being taken to its destination that way. And the reverse for when the products are being exported. That would keep any future foreign pollution from entering the Great Lakes through this means. (It would also provide more protection against terrorist attacks by people or weapons hidden in some of the millions of containers that enter our adjoining countries every year - uninspected.)

7. Continuing along this line, I think we should be able to sell fresh water from the Great Lakes to foreign countries that want to buy it. It would simply be pumped from the St. Lawrence River in a location before it mixes with salt water, be cleaned through large water treatment plants built along the shore and sold to countries that want to pay for it. (It is best we make it available to them rather than some of these countries be so desperate they may wage war to get it. That scenario is not totally out of the question when one thinks of the weapons and populations that could make it easy for certain nations or combinations of nations to take over our very *undefendable* country.)

8. Years ago I witnessed the untreated waste products from pulp and paper mills in communities on the north shore of Lake Huron dumping their untreated chemical wastes into the lake. Has that been cleaned up? I also witnessed the devastation from the tailings of a uranium mine and processing operation in

Elliott Lake that was in the same watershed of Lake Huron. Has that been stopped and cleaned up? I sure hope so with all such similar situations.

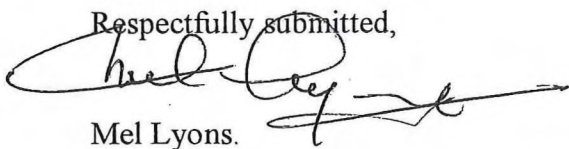
9. All municipal sewage treatment plants should be closely inspected and monitored for spills or any pollutants they are allowing into these lakes. Heavy fines should be laid where there are malfunctions of these treatment facilities and the local lake waters or watershed is contaminated. Get tough if you want clean!

10. As you are aware, Kincardine is about 10 miles south of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station. We trust it is being run in such a way that no pollutants find their way into this lake. Last year one of their large transformers sprung a leak and many gallons of its coolant, poisonous PCV (?), got into the lake. They did their best to try to isolate it and recover as much as they could. Why aren't those large transformers surrounded by holding facilities in case of such an event; either an earthen berm, as they do around large oil/gasoline storage tanks, or some other type of containment?

11. My wife and I have both had cancer since moving here permanently in 1992. I do not know whether there is any connection with what is in our water, but there seems to be a rather high incident of cancer in this area. We have belonged to the local Cancer Support Group that meets monthly for over 12 years and we do hear about what appears to be an increasing number of local cases. I just don't know if there is any connection to the water situation or whether anyone can/would tell us.

Thank you for taking time to consider these stated concerns. I ask that a copy of this document will be available to each member of the Standing Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Lyons', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mel Lyons.

Copies: Premier McGuinty, Prime Minister Stephen Harper,
and other Government and local officials.

