

Springfielders Have the Right to Have Input on how Their Property Taxes can be SPENT

“Vote NO” to Higher Taxes & Wasteful Spending Call now to vote NO 204-515-1252

KEEP OUR RURAL VALUES MAINTAIN OUR QUALITY OF LIFE and KEEP OUR TAXES DOWN

Usually, local improvements for major infrastructure projects, which provide specific services to new homes and multi residential developments, are funded by the property developers. Developers **usually** carry most of the water and waste infrastructure costs, as these improvements significantly increase the value of the new homes and properties (can double property value). Most municipalities usually administer these costs via a **Local Improvement Bylaw**.

HOWEVER ... Mayor Therrien, Councillors Fuhl and Warren chose not to do this!

Instead, they passed General Borrowing Bylaw 24-01 of \$12.5 million, for the Dugald Oakbank Water Supply (DOWS) which forces ALL SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS, rural, farm and urban, to pay for a large portion of the \$29 million new Water Treatment Plant. This is intended for the benefit of future development and will improve Developers profits. However, we already have over five developments approved for residential building on the go and many lots not yet completed. **This borrowing bylaw does not even include the proposed new Sewage Lagoon expansion which has exceeded the price tag of \$52.5M.**

Springfield Taxpayers Rights Corp (STRC) members completed an extensive canvas throughout the entire municipality, meeting with over 1,200 residents, and confirmed that:

- Over 90% of residents, we talked to said NO to paying for developer driven fees.
- Rural residents (2/3 of Springfield) already paid for their own wells and septic fields. They do not want to pay twice!
- Residents want to maintain their rural values.

How They Are Racing Us Into Debt

Councillors Andy Kuczynski and Mark Miller have questioned rapid growth and incurring such a large debt however, Mayor Therrien, Councillors Fuhl and Warren's plan is to accelerate the availability of serviced lots for home builds, from our current average of 50 new builds/yr to approx. 200/yr. Allan Akins, Director of STRC, states **“this is a poorly thought-out plan, that has very little to no support from the community and Council is siding with developers and builders at the expense of Springfield residents.”**

This plan doesn't make sense when there is **existing water capacity** for hundreds of currently approved and unsold/undeveloped lots which are sitting empty in Oakbank, Dugald & Anola. Also, there are over 6,000 acres currently designated for development of 5 acre lots. In West Pine Ridge alone, over 100 new lots could be developed when owners choose to subdivide their land. **Rural residential housing costs other tax-payers nothing** because purchasers pay for & install their own wells/septic tanks. Instead, of recognizing the balance and benefits of rural residential growth; Therrien, Fuhl and Warren are bent on supporting an unrealistic rapid urban development agenda (aligned with WMR Plan 20-50). No further consideration has been given to other costs and impacts that come with rapid urban growth, such as more schools and teachers, increased demands to traffic and safety concerns, especially on major connector roads such as Dugald and Garven Roads, and those related costs. Don't be fooled by Mayor Therrien's catchphrases that Springfield can no longer grow; that there isn't water for a McDonald's or a senior's home: sufficient water capacity exists and has been dedicated to hundreds of approved lots which still sit empty and a further number of REUS (residential equivalency units; the measurement used for assigning capacity) remain unallocated according to a report last year from the Manager of Water and Waste.

Therrien's, Fuhl's and Warren's plans to increase small, serviced lots from an average of 50 per yr – 200 per yr, **appears to be gambling with our future.**

Which Springfield Do You Want to Live In?

Springfield has been growing at a steady and planned manner according to the RM Development Agreement, including new businesses and industry. **STRC and most residents want to keep our municipality growing** but not at the expense of our rural values. Residents don't want to become a suburb of Winnipeg. People live in Springfield for the rural values it offers, a safe place to raise our families, diverse housing options and lower taxes. With Council's rapid urban development plan and wasteful spending (with less than 10% support from the community), the lifestyle Springfield residents have paid for will be eroded; financially burdening existing taxpayers and making it less attractive and possibly unaffordable for others.

We ask Council:

- Put a pause on the Water Treatment Plant or
- Commit to scale back the scope of the Water Treatment Plant for a more affordable and practical plan.
- Base their decisions on sound statistics and substantiated rationale.
- Listen to the voice of the people.

STOP WASTEFUL SPENDING

Sio Silica Is Still Here



My name is Georgina Mustard, and I've lived in Springfield for nearly 30 years. My husband and I are raising eight children, and today our family is the fourth generation living on the same property.

In 2016, Sio Silica began acquiring land and mineral rights across south-eastern Manitoba, including property directly behind our home, to develop a large-scale silica sand extraction and processing project. I first learned about the project in 2020 through neighbours circulating a petition. Like many residents, I was shocked and deeply concerned about the potential risk to our groundwater. For those of us who live here, groundwater is not an abstract concept - it is our drinking water, our livestock water, and the lifeblood of our farms and communities.

Since then, thousands of residents across Springfield, Tache, Reynolds, and surrounding areas have spoken out. With the guidance of Councillors Andy and Mark, we have attended hearings, signed petitions, and stood together to protect the aquifer that sustains southeastern MB's drinking water.

I was grateful to be in the Anola Community Club on Feb 16, 2024 when Premier Wab Kinew said No to Sio.

"The technology that Sio is proposing to use is a new method of extraction. With this unproven approach, we cannot guarantee the safety of drinking water for future generations in this part of Manitoba."

Premier Wab Kinew, Feb 16, 2024

But even after that decision - and after years of strong public opposition - the company continues to push forward.

Sio's most recent campaign is colorful and splashy, with a province wide pitch outside of Springfield about economic reasons, ignoring the environmental issues. They have splashy Open Houses in Club Regent but avoid coming to Springfield. Recently Sio has boasted that they have partnered with the U of M to conduct monitoring of the ground water levels and flow. Don't be fooled. This does not monitor the **quality of the drinking water**.

For us, the message remains simple:

- Our clean water and children's future is not negotiable.
- Water is life, and we will protect it.

Georgina & Josh Mustard: Wesley, Hunter, Kiearah, McKenna, McKinley, Ryder, Maisie, Callie

Sio has Splashy Open Houses in Club Regent but avoids coming to Springfield.

Springfield Residents Demand the Right to PARTICIPATE & SHAPE the Future of their Rural Municipality!

Is it Poor Planning or is there Ulterior Motivation?

WHY IS THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT SO LARGE?

Three independent engineers have confirmed that the proposed water treatment plant will be the third or fourth largest water treatment plant outside the City of Winnipeg.

It is massively oversized for our community's actual needs. It is designed to serve 40,000 people - yet only 1,400 residences are currently on piped water, with growth averaging just 50 new connections per year. To justify this scale, projected growth has suddenly jumped to 200+ homes annually - nearly triple the average over the last 10 years. Therrien has stated, "the design is to accommodate 200 homes for 20 years." In design review by three independent engineers, it is so oversized, it's capacity is actually 200 homes for 60 years. If that growth does not materialize, both urban and rural taxpayers will **be left paying the price** through our taxes, not just for new development but for excessive operating and maintenance costs.

Oversized infrastructure creates oversized risk! Higher taxes, pressure for accelerated development, and long-term debt payments could permanently alter Springfield's rural character and affordability, all the while our taxes will keep climbing!

Now, with the failure of WMR Plan20-50, Therrien, Fuhl and Warren should be held accountable for this impractical planning of the Water Treatment Plant! Additionally, if the anticipated housing boom fails to occur, the financial shortfall will not fall on developers — it will fall on us, the residents.

The timing of the urgent need for a reverse osmosis water treatment plant is not coincidental. It's when Sio Silica came to town proposing to drill into our aquifers, Therrien, Fuhl and Warren by supporting this oversized project are in effect, aiding in removing a key obstacle for Sio's mining project. The RO treated water may be required by rural residents when their wells get contaminated.

To design for 60 years is reckless. To say it is designed for only 20 years shows ignorance or ulterior motives.

Before committing to decades of borrowing, residents deserve transparency, fairness, and a true user-pay approach that protects existing ratepayers — not a growth gamble funded from our pockets.

We should demand that council STOP this wasteful spending and refer back to the more practical and affordable water treatment expansion plans prior to Sio Silica!



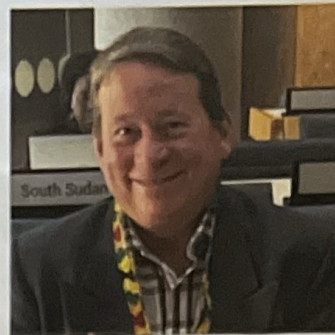
Hard-working, dedicated and true to their word, as proven by their actions, councillors Andy Kuczynski and Mark Miller, have faithfully represented the concerns of their constituents. Andy and Mark stood steadfastly alongside citizen advocates during the CEC hearings against Sio Silica. They spoke up against the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region Plan when loss of autonomy and other issues arose.

The gave people a fair say through a referendum and held well attended public forums where all were threatened respectfully. Andy and Mark stood up on behalf of the voters over these four years, when most often the odds were stacked against them. They never choose the easy path and clearly, there is no doubt that serving on Council is arduous. Their capabilities give me confidence, based upon their public record. In humility and great appreciation, we thank them for all they have done and hope they will run again!

Gloria Romaniuk, Long term Springfield resident



Andy Kuczynski



Mark Miller



How do I make my voice heard in Springfield?

For Springfield residents, it has become difficult to voice your concerns to this current Council. With previous Councils, residents could appear at council meetings and ask questions throughout, as topics came up on the agenda. That way, if Council had passed or rejected new motions, residents could ask questions about why that motion was relevant, or point out why the motion may not be in Springfield's favour.

In 2023, Councillor Glen Fuhl made a motion to implement our current "Delegation" system. This process requires residents to apply to be added to the meeting agenda. The agenda is controlled by CAO Draper, who has the ability to accept or to deny applications to become a Delegation or not.

I applied to be a Delegation on behalf of a very frustrated Springfield family after they had tried 9 different times to have Council address their concern. They called their Councillor Glen Fuhl, they sent numerous emails and eventually they did appear as a "Delegation". They told Council that their next door neighbour ran a home based business and was issued a Conditional Use Permit by the Development Officer. The neighbour had been stockpiling compost for a number of years, and it harbored a large colony of rats, swarms of flies, and incredible smell. The permit stated that the compost must be removed, and Council told the CAO to have it removed (in 2 separate orders). Incredibly, it was never removed and as spring run-off occurred and with every rain, the run-off flowed across this family's land then into their pond. They had the pond tested and it had 200 times the acceptable level of ecoli in it!

In frustration, they asked if I could advocate for them, thinking that Council may listen to a new voice. I finally got approved to appear as a Delegation in October '25, but after detailing the issue to Council I was stopped by the CAO who wanted to "investigate" the situation. She then refused to add this to Council's subsequent agendas for discussion. It seems like common sense to remove that compost, as it was ordered in the original Permit. However, the ecoli-laden compost remains on that property!

There has been no enforcement of the neighbor's Conditional Use Permit and this incredible situation continues. This is just one example of the lack of enforcement we have here in Springfield. Our Planning Department keep issuing these permits for home-based businesses, but there is no enforcement protocol in existence when things go wrong. Council is aware that we have very little enforcement in the RM , but they have not solved the issue for years now, especially since we lost our Springfield Police Force last year. If our Development Officer keeps issuing Conditional Use Permits , then we must have enforcement measures in place to protect residents when the mandated conditions are not adhered to.

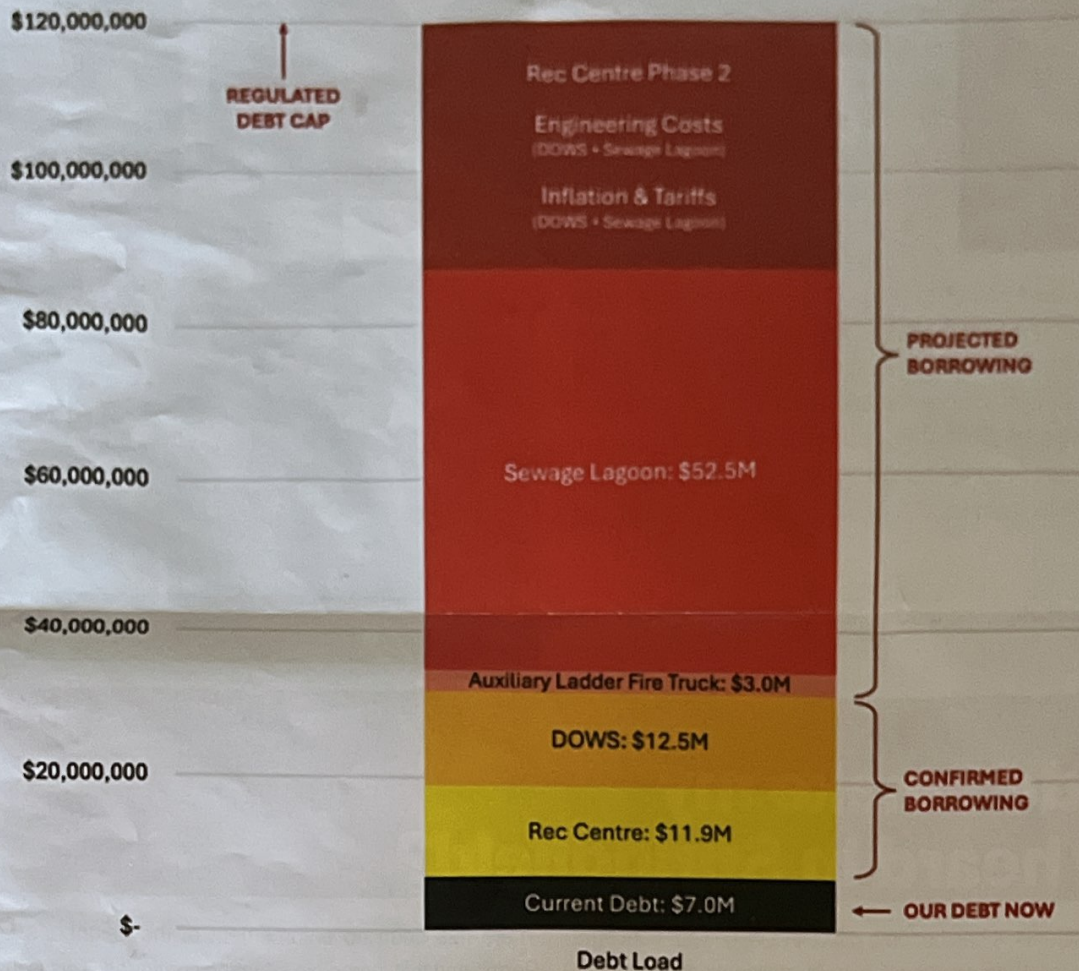
With our resident's voices restricted by the Delegation process that this current Council put in place, it is difficult to advocate for yourself as a Springfield resident. Hopefully we can put a few new Council members in place this fall, who will be confident enough to listen to residents and not shut them out of meetings.



Jill Overall

OUR EVER INCREASING DEBT LOAD

(covered by our taxes - for 20 years - not including interest)



- To date no grants or reserve commitments have been awarded to sewage lagoon
- Sewage lagoon & fire truck are 2024 prices
- Borrowing costs are optimistically based not realistic

We Stand by our Numbers:

Total Expenditure:	\$	120M
Less Grants:	\$	18M
Less Reserves:	\$	15M
Net Expenditure:	\$	87M
X Interest Rate:	\$	6.5%
Annual Interest Charge:	\$	5.6M

OUR DEBT WILL BE NORTH OF 80 MILLION PLUS INTEREST OVER A 20 YEAR REPAYMENT SCHEDULE. ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES COULD EASILY INCREASE BY AN ADDITIONAL 20% TO 40% OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS!

We believe...

Springfield residents—not outside interests or short-term development pressures—should determine the future of our municipality. Our community now faces a fundamental choice: aggressive urbanization that brings higher debt, higher taxes, and pressure on our land and water, or protecting the rural identity, farmland, green-belt and responsible growth that have long defined Springfield. The values and benefits of our rural lifestyle deserve to be preserved for future generations. That decision should be made by residents themselves in the October 2026 election.

Margaret Marion-Akins
Allan Akins
Glen Zaboroski
Ron & Gerri Hildbrand
Karen & Colvin Watchorn
Tangi Bell
Dorota Simard
Karl & Madine Lang

Janet Nysten
Joyce Vaags
Cynthia & Mike Sinclair
Dr. Elizabeth Hrycak
Helen Garrod
Dr. Tammy Ivanco
Georgina & Josh Mustard
Keith Sharpe

Darryl Speer
Karen & Richard Ainsely
Darren Tanner
Pat Burbank
Gloria Romaniuk
Maggie & John Grafeneder
Richard & Gerri Kuffner

Carolyn Whyte
Sue & Al Ziemski
Darryl Speer
Karen Lalond
Craig & Jolene Byers
Garry & Cherly Hudzick
Nikki Huggs

Dr. David Marsh
Heather Erickson
Hugh & Val Arkle
Gordon & Wendy Mackie
Rhonda & Rob Poseluzney
Jill & Eric Overall
Joan & Gerry Parent

The Springfield Taxpayers Rights Corp (STRC) is a large group of over 1500 concerned Springfield residents, which was instrumental in stop the Sio Silica and WMR Plan 20-50 projects. The STRC consists of many professionals including, but not limited to, engineers, are retired Chief Administrator Officer, Professors of the University of Manitoba & Winnipeg, lawyers, former councillors, politicians, doctors, teachers, business owners, farmers and a whole host of lay people.

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