

Loni Beach Residents Association

P.O. BOX 314
Gimli, Manitoba
ROC 1B0

April 22, 1992

Dear Neighbors,

With the winter slowly leaving and with signs of spring appearing, your Board of Directors wanted to let you know about some of the comings and goings in Loni Beach. Since the first general meeting we have met as a Board four times, have sent two delegations to the R.M. Council meetings, investigated the condition of the artesian wells and took the concerns about the well closures to the media. As well, by taking a petition re the North Point Access Road door to door, we tried to meet as many of you as possible in order to find out what your concerns were. We attempted to carry these concerns forward, as you will find when you read the attached Newsletter.

In this package you'll also find an application form for membership for the coming year. Membership fees are \$15.00 and are due on the 15th of May. In order to have a vote at the annual meeting, a member's dues must be paid for the year. The organization had 72 members this first year of operation, please remember it is only through an active membership that an association such as this can be effective.

This is an important year in that there will be a municipal election this fall. Each property owner has a vote, and there will be polls in both the Gimli area and in Winnipeg. We will need to make sure we know what the issues are, and that the people running for Council know what issues are important to us - "the taxpayer".

We will look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting- June 13. Remember that election of directors will take place so think about who you would like to see on your Board and working for our community.

On Behalf of the Directors,
Isabel Peterson
Secretary



LONI BEACH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Since our last general meeting your directors and President wish to give you an update of their activities on your behalf.

On Oct. 10, 1991, A. Cantor, A. Kilgour and A. Finnbogason appeared before the R.M. of Gimli council to present your concerns regarding the wells and drainage in Loni Beach. Allan Cantor outlined the concerns in a letter to Council. Their reply to the presentation was:

- a) Because the land levels in Loni are extremely shallow, drainage of Loni into the Lake is a difficult matter, at best, and becomes exacerbated if there is water running at all times from the wells.
- b) The presence of water in the ditches causes difficult maintenance problems for the road system since the water tends to wash out the roads.
- c) The maintenance of the ditches becomes difficult if private water lines run down the ditches which the Municipal maintenance people are reluctant to interfere with in trying to maintain the ditches by cleaning them, etc.

This was the first time the R.M. Council linked the closing of the wells with the maintenance of the roads and ditches in Loni Beach.

It was the conclusion of the Delegation that if these three matters were carefully explained to the residents, the residents, at least, would feel better about the fact that the wells could not be continued in their present state and that the residents should be encouraged to provide their own private wells.

The practice of multiple connections to the public wells has been long accepted and goes back historically to the 1930's. It had always been considered that the drainage problem had been, in part, caused by lack of regular maintenance by the R.M.

At the public meetings, and in particular, at the inaugural meeting of our Organization, the two issues, drainage in Loni Beach and the closing of the wells, were treated separately. We had tried to maintain that two wells should be allowed to continue for public use and that any existing well in good shape should be allowed to remain, provided those using the wells would be responsible for their maintenance, and that the users should be given the opportunity to organize themselves to repair or drill new wells on approved municipal property, if necessary, in order to avoid the possibility of numerous individual wells having to be drilled when the public wells were closed.

It was only at this meeting that the R.M. Council linked the two issues and gave some logic and rationality to the closing of the wells as a measure to preserve the road and drainage system for the area. The Council voted at this meeting to close all the public flowing wells in Loni Beach. This action was carried out by the end of October. One well, located at the Tennis Court (hand pump operated) is in place for the use of those who do not have their own well.

Your President, Allan Cantor, wrote to the RM Council, March 9/92 and brought to their attention the following:

1. At the meeting of Council, Oct. 10/1991, it was indicated to us that Council was considering drilling an artesian well near the creek on Lake Avenue. Will Council be pursuing the establishment of a free-flowing well on the creek so that water would be available for the residents throughout the year?
2. At that meeting, and at other times in conversations with Councilor Chudd, it was indicated that favourable consideration would be given to the drilling of community or common wells on public property for use of those arranging for such a well and paying the cost thereof. In light of the fact that the Municipality has now closed all of the public wells, and that summer residents are therefore obliged to make alternate arrangements for water for their properties, the current status of the above proposal is naturally of immediate concern to many of the residents.
3. The new well at the tennis courts is now locked. When will this well be unlocked so as to provide a source of water for residents who do not have their own source of water from their own wells or wish to delay until the late spring, the opening of their own wells?
4. When will the proposed drainage plan for the area be instituted and what is intended as to the disposition of the present water lines that are in the ditches which had been used to run water from the public wells to the individual cottages?

Your president appeared before the Council on 16/March/92 to follow up on the questions raised above. Following are his comments as a result of that meeting.

1. The Council is still prepared to look favourably on the establishment of a free flowing well, but no decision was made. However, we should continue to encourage Council to consider this matter if, of course, it is in the interests of the residents.
2. With respect to locating private wells on public property while I received a polite reception to my comments, I cannot say that there was any favourable reception, and it would seem to me that if several residents want to get together to drill a well for their collective use and want to drill it on Municipal land, they will have to make their own individual submission to Council for this purpose. It will only be then that it could be determined whether or not Council would be receptive to such use of public lands.
3. With respect to unlocking the new well, I am advised that their plan is that when freeze-up is over and it would be safe to open the well, the well will be opened and their comment was that they would expect that might be in mid-April. The Municipal Engineer will be looking into the matter and I was promised that we would be advised when the well was opened.
4. With respect to the Drainage Plan, apparently a copy of the Plan will be available in early summer for distribution. I recommended that some notice be given to the residents concerning the disposition of their water lines. I got the impression that they had not considered that these lines were a problem and were going to either bury them or leave them to one side. I suggested that, instead, they at least give residents notice that if they did not, themselves, pick up the water lines by a certain date, then the R.M. would be free to dispose of them in any manner they chose, and I believe the Council were receptive to this idea.

The institution of the Drainage Plan, I gather, will be on a stage basis and I think, again, this is a matter which we should continue to monitor so that we can perhaps obtain from Council a schedule for the implementation of the Plan.

I also discussed with the Council, Al Miller's offer to hire a student or two through the Government Jobs Programs for clean-up work in the area and the Council appeared to be receptive to cooperating with that program. I indicated that we would have to be responsible for any equipment that belonged to the R.M. that we might use and that the use of that equipment would have to be worked out, presumably, between Al Miller and the R.M. I gathered from comments made by the Councillors that we could expect their cooperation in this program. They pointed out, as we have, that there are risks involved in the following:

- a) Public liability for what the students might do;
- b) Worker's Compensation concerns;
- c) appropriate use & preservation of Municipal equipment.

Before proceeding to implement the program, I think we had best make sure that we cover these three matters.

Following the meeting Mr. Chris Fulscher replied to our concerns as follows:

"Futher to your delegation to Council I am now able to provide the following!.

1. Opening of well at Tennis Court - Weather permitting - April 15./92
2. A second aesthetic flowing well will be drilled and constructed east of Lake, near the creek this summer.
3. People wishing to reclaim their water distribution pipe should do so prior to May 1, 1992. Drainage work may commence anytime after this and the pipe will not be salvaged.

Other Matters of Interest ;

The question of the road to the North Point Development has been resolved There will be a 140 foot public reserve along both the Road and the Lake, and no access from the Loni Beach side. Your committee will ask that a sign indicating that Lake and Loni Avenues are not through streets be erected, and a further "Dead End" sign be placed at the north end of Lake Avenue.

One of the elected Directors - Wyman Sangster was transfered and will be moving out of the area. He therefor gave his resignation to the Board at our January 11/92 meeting. It was decided not to fill his seat for the remainder of the term.

The Annual Meeting of the Loni Beach Residents Association is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 1992 at 9:30AM at the Gimli & District Recreation Centre. All residents of Loni Beach are urged to attend. Your Directors solicit your concerns on any subjects relating to Loni Beach. We request that you put your comments in writing and mail them to the Association at P.O. Box 314, Gimli, MB. ROC 1B0 not later than June 1.

Please remember to fill in your application for membership for this year and mail it in with your membership fee. Thanks.