

# LONI BEACH PROGRESS

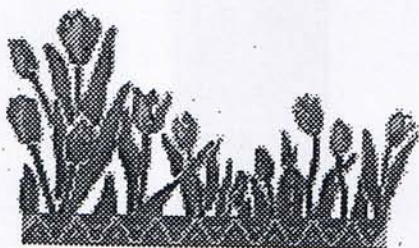
March 2003

With a view to highlighting "attachments" to Loni Beach, this Newsletter is comprised of the following attachments:

1. "I Remember Loni" – Lillian Lane, The Icelandic Canadian (Winter 1979);
2. "Loni Beach Task Force" – Al Miller (February 2003);
3. Election 2002 Results – The Spectator (October 26, 2002);
4. "The Loni Beach Sewer" – Gary Bunio (November 2002);
5. A giggle: RM of Gimli By-law No. 319 (September 14, 1951);
6. "Return of the Gimli Gliders" – H2O Publishing (Summer 2002); and
7. Further to, FYI and Froth.

Enjoy!

*Salín*



P.S. - Permanent address changed? Don't forget to advise the RM and us!



# I REMEMBER LONI

by Lillian Olson Lane

*Mrs. Lane shared first prize — \$50 — in the Islendingadagurinn Reminiscences Contest at Gimli, Manitoba, 1979 with Hallgerdur G. Schneider. Mrs. Schneider's story will be published in a later issue of the Icelandic Canadian.*

In my memory of Loni, the old family homestead, the sun is always shining.

Granted, night must have fallen regularly, even in summer: I recall grandmotherly warnings of the dangers of the "night air", invoking visions of evil spirits which might attack the unwary child who ventured outside. I even remember rainy days spent among books and other treasures in the roomy attic. There were times, too, when the wind swept through the trees and churned up waves on the lake.

Nevertheless, like the constant sun in a child's drawing, whatever the scene depicted, an aura of warmth and light bathes the recollection of that early childhood period.

The Sveinsson farm was situated on the lakeshore north of Gimli, on the long shallow bay defined to the north by the rocky treed point which hid from sight the neighbouring farm of "Birkinesi". The name "Loni", meaning an inlet of the sea, would be far more relevant to the home our grandfather left in Iceland than to this lake-side property; however, as a child I always thought the "lon" was the stream which wound through the pastureland to the west, fed by artesian wells, passed behind the barn and widened into a deep pool when it reached the sandy beach. This pool, reedy, red with mineral deposits, full of tadpoles and frogs in season, emptied slowly — helped or hindered as dammed or redirected by childish hands — through the sand into the lake.

In the early twenties the hard pioneer years — though not the lifetime habits of hard work — were well in the past for our grandparents, Gisli and Margret Sveinsson. They had achieved a measure of prosperity, their property extending westward from the lake — beyond where a small child might ramble — over pastureland and grain fields, probably to the northern road, where they had donated land for the town cemetery. There were also haylands to the south of town, at Willow Point.

By this time, I believe, grandfather had long since stopped combining fishing with farming, and concentrated on his herd of dairy cattle, horses and poultry, with all the associated activities of mixed farming. Small sections of his land were sold from time to time to "city people" for summer cottages — a process now, it seems, complete — and these cottagers (or "campers", as they were called) became customers as well as friends, arriving on warm summer evenings with their jugs for fresh supplies of milk and perhaps some new-laid eggs, and stopping to chat.

The house "afi" had built a good many years before was a spacious frame structure, three storeys and a cement basement. There was a big screened-in porch at the front, with a sleeping balcony over it, overlooking the water. Downstairs there was a small parlour at the front, separated by sliding doors from the central dining-room. There was a winter kitchen and a big summer kitchen at the back, each with an adjoining pantry. A small bedroom opened off the dining room, but of course the main sleeping quarters were upstairs.

There was a wall telephone in the winter kitchen, and a sink with a pump to draw up water from the cistern in the basement. I think the water drained directly outside from the sink, and this was the extent of our indoor plumbing. As for electricity, that was more than a decade away for the Gimli area. The cellar opening from the kitchen was dark and mysterious — and out of bounds.

Adjacent to the house at Loni was the well-house. Here the artesian water was piped, flowing constantly into a large wooden box and emptying out into the stream running to the lake. This was the family refrigerator, where milk, cream and butter was chilled and kept fresh in the cold, clear water.

Across the farmyard to the north was the big, red barn, with a lovely, big hayloft. On the south side was a carpentry shop, smelling fragrantly of sawdust and full of interesting tools. It was here that grandfather made a beautiful playhouse for my sister and me — large enough to walk about in and to hold child-size furniture and all our dolls' things.



house was the family-room in summer: here was the big cook-stove, the work and play areas, and the table where we usually ate, under the row of windows overlooking the farmyard, the road and wooden sidewalk, and the cottages across the way. The front parlour and the dining room were used for formal callers, but the casual visitors who were the more numerous usually stopped in the kitchen.

There always seemed to be people coming and going at Loni. Besides the family there were campers, local friends and tradesmen, relatives and other visitors, some stopping only for coffee or a meal, others staying as house-guests, especially during the Icelandic Festival.

But most important to us, along with our parents, were our grandparents: Gisli, slight of frame but strong, skilled, quick in thought and action, public-spirited, devout and generous; Margret, dignified in carriage, with a straight back and warm, maternal bosom, well-read and house-proud, cook and poet, and an excellent story-teller. However, in the egocentricity of the young, we saw them simply as our "afi" and "amma", who, in the ageless way of grandparents, were wondrously indulgent and endlessly tolerant of such childish misdemeanours as tracking sand all through the house and leaving the doors ajar for flies. Following the working adults about, we were never told we were in the way: all they were firm about with us was that we should care for each other, and that we should cherish the language and traditions of our ancestors.

From whatever landlocked prairie town we came that year, our arrival at Loni seemed always the same. After the hugs and kisses all round, it was a happy scramble over the long grass of the yard, through the swinging gate, and on to the sandy beach to see the Lake, which we had been looking eagerly for, all the way from Winnipeg Beach. Next, to the well, for a drink of the matchless Gimli water. Only after that was it back to the house, a good meal, and the comfort of the kitchen.

What luxury to go to bed on the screened-in balcony, seeing the stars above and sometimes the moon making a path on the water; then in the morning to wake with the sunbeams sparkling on its surface, and grandma bringing in a tray of cookies and chocolate as a pre-breakfast treat! After breakfast, there was a tour of the farm, renewing friendship with the old dog, Coalie, and the cat, Kisa, visiting the barn and the chicken enclosure.

Our favourite horse was an old mare, who, after many years of faithful service, was enjoying an honourable retirement — an early lesson in the humane treatment of animals.

Much of our holiday time at Loni was spent on the beach. Barefoot, dressed in light cotton frocks or play-suits, we built elaborate sand castles with ramparts and moats, and shells for windows. We wan-

dered treasure-hunting along the beach, and waded among the minnows and water-weeds near shore. Afternoons we put on bathing suits — dark, long-skirted and of cotton which clung awkwardly when wet, but no matter: we paddled and splashed in the water, wading out to the sandbars and digging holes in the wet sand. After bathing it was wonderful to come back to the house for hot chocolate and fresh "kleinur" or rolled pancakes.

In the meantime the work of the farm went on — but it was all fun to us. Whatever troubles afflicted our elders did not touch us, and the days passed happily in and around the area, with an occasional excursion beyond. It was always with sadness — and a collection of stones and shells as souvenirs — that we left Loni in September.

1925 was the last of these carefree Loni summers. Death, financial distress, vandalism and eventually fire brought destruction. Time, and the proliferation of cottages, seems to have swallowed up every trace of the old homestead. The very name "Loni" has become Loney Beach, so that a visitor might casually wonder what unknown Irishman had left his mark on the resort area.

\* WHAT?

Yet the spirit survives physical destruction. The benefits of a happy childhood, insofar as it was in their power to provide it, the forbearing love — suggestive of the grace of God, yet human in its family pride — these were enduring gifts of an earlier generation. These, and the sense of a great heritage in language, religion, and culture.

So in memory the sun forever shines over the beloved scene of our childhood summers. The heat shimmers off the baking white sand beach, the light sparkles on the blue water, and in front of the big old house stand Margret and Gisli Sveinsson, with their warm smiles and outstretched arms, welcoming their grandchildren back for another summer at Loni.



# Task Force Appointed

(Al Miller)

A fundamental in community planning is to "know the community"; and therefore it is essential to obtain accurate information on demographics and physical characteristics; as well as the expressed needs and interests of property owners in Loni Beach.

Recognizing this, your Loni Beach Board of Directors has appointed an eight-person Task Force to gather information by July 15, 2003 and to make recommendations for review by the end of August. In order to meet these deadlines, the Task Force will be recruiting up to 24 volunteers, working in pairs, to distribute a two-part questionnaire followed by direct interviews with all owners.

It is suggested that owners give some thought and discussion to the developments and improvements to Loni Beach and the historical data and improvements to their personal properties.

Ample space will be provided to encourage comments and observations. Most of the data will be obtained in Loni Beach, but plans can include making contacts in other areas for those who may be absent for any reason.

Task Force members are: Chairman Al Miller, Glen Brooks, Ron Lambert, Steve Millard, Bob Steele and board representatives Don Cobb, Bob Moroz and Larry Weber. The Task Force has held preliminary meetings to discuss and design the questionnaire, to plan the strategy for recruiting and orientation of volunteers and the data collection schedule.

All work will be done on a voluntary basis and expenses will be shared by the Loni Beach Residents' Association and the support of the RM of Gimli, which support has yet to be approved.

The Task Force will be seeking your support and cooperation for this project, and any inquiries may be directed to myself, Al Miller at 475-3906 or to any of the Task Force members.

### Rural Municipality of Gimli Results Reeve 2002

Candidate	Arnes	Gimli	Winnipeg Beach	Winnipeg	Advance	Moving	Mail-in	Total
Bill Barlow	72	1,078	402	256	62	23	236	1,829
Kevin Chudd	294	1,012	260	567	100	16	225	2,474
TOTAL	366	2,090	362	823	162	39	465	4,303
Number of voters	367	2,116	364	827	162	41	465	4,342
Voters on list								7,240
Per cent turnout								59.97

### Rural Municipality of Gimli Results Councillors 2002

Candidate	Arnes	Gimli	Winnipeg Beach	Winnipeg	Advance	Mail-in	Moving	Total
Bill Feschuk	60	269	34	75	14	36	4	492
Lynn Greenberg	214	927	122	305	66	174	12	1,820
Donna Harasymec	112	426	54	125	32	62	7	818
Marilyn Johnson	86	431	106	270	33	144	11	1,081
Doug Kozlowski	64	715	103	182	47	103	19	1,233
Danny Luprypa	117	882	134	359	60	250	4	1,806
Daphne Markusson	60	575	68	105	28	81	15	932
Ted Sherbrook	50	316	44	66	34	28	5	543
Gil Strachan	90	892	88	238	47	180	17	1,552
Jack Valgardson	60	779	59	206	38	132	8	1,282
Frank Woods	138	211	166	306	46	1132	2	982
Luke Zaborosky	137	668	218	347	61	165	9	1,605
TOTAL	1,188	7,091	1,196	2,584	506	1,468	113	14,146
Number of voters	367	2,116	364	827	162	465	41	4,342
Voters on list								7,240
Per cent turnout								59.97

### Gimli LUD Results 2002

Candidate	Arnes	Gimli	Winnipeg Beach	Winnipeg	Advance	Mail-in	Moving	Total
Gord Gowie	2	200	1	10	6	8	9	236
Everett Lloyd	5	599	1	33	20	20	18	696
Baldur Nelson	2	267	2	28	9	22	12	342
Melanie Specula	1	402	0	24	18	21	11	477
TOTAL	10	1,468	4	95	53	71	50	1,751
Number of voters	5	830	4	59	39	45	38	1,020
Voters on list								1,559
Per cent turnout								65.43



## The Loni Beach Sewer - GARY BUNIO

As all of you are aware, last year the RM of Gimli put forward a proposal to install a "low-pressure" sewer system in Loni Beach. The proposal, initiated at the request of residents to examine any type of sewer, was withdrawn by the Municipality at a Manitoba Municipal Board public hearing in June 2002, when it became clear that the application demonstrated neither the need nor the support required by legislation to proceed.

Municipal improvements generally proceed in Manitoba when a Municipality can demonstrate the projects are required and supported by the rate-payers. In the case of the low-pressure sewer, the need was originally presented as having something to do with water quality. Fortunately for our community, there have been no cases of well contamination from properly operated pump-in/out or septic systems. Unfortunately for the application, this meant there was no current demonstration of need of the system.

With regard to support for the improvement, it was clear the vast majority of the residents of Loni Beach were opposed, but not all for the same reasons. Opposition fell into three categories:

1. Issues with the advisability of a low-pressure system versus other sewer designs;
2. Concern regarding the pace of increased development that a sewer system would bring to the community;
3. And, concerns regarding the costs of the system, and amortization and downloading of costs to residents.

Without rehashing the hearing, it is sufficient to note the concerns raised had enough substance to remove consideration of the low-pressure sewer system.

An obvious question to ask now is; where do we go from here? The answer lies with a re-examination of the hearing questions, in a way that allows the residents of Loni Beach to decide what they want in their community in the next decade.

First with regard to need: Gimli is blessed with a remarkable water source, which is sufficiently deep to resist contamination in almost all circumstances.

Aesthetics however, are a different issue. Several reports of improperly operated septic fields and tanks were discussed at, and more significantly outside, of the hearing. It is imperative in the short term the Municipality develop, and enforce, revised guidelines on the acceptable use of septic and pump in/out systems. The Municipality regulates installation of the systems and must fulfil its fiduciary responsibility to ensure all installed systems operate properly.

In the longer term, it is important that the community of Loni beach decide how much development will occur within its boundaries. That development, and the associated increase in density and year-round occupation will determine when a sewer system will be required.

The kind of system deployed in Loni Beach of course will be decided when the time comes. The assessment today however is that the only suitable system would be a gravity system. It is cheaper when all costs are included and has more integrity that it's low-pressure alternative.

While on the topic of costs, when that day finally comes to install, the Municipality will need to come up with a creative way to amortize the investment over the long haul, ensuring that long-time residents do not find themselves unduly penalized. In addition, the majority of the cost should be picked up by the newer developments that have caused the increased density.

Finally, the issue should be re-opened in a way to maximize the entire community's input. The fractious nature of last year cannot be repeated. Loni Beach is all of our collective retreat from the petty competitiveness of the city - and we should keep it that way.

NOTE

There have been a number of articles recently in the Winnipeg Free Press concerning the health of Lake Winnipeg - See Jan 17, Feb 12, 18 and 19, 2003. *sim*



# By-Law No. 319

Consolidated and Amended

Whereas the Rural Municipality of Gimli in Council assembled, deem it expedient that certain By-Laws for regulating and governing the Local Improvement District of Loni Beach in said Municipality should be made.

Now therefore be it enacted and it is hereby enacted as follows:

1. - All garbage must be deposited in a properly constructed metal garbage can with tightly fitting lid; all tin cans and bottles to be kept in a wooden box or other receptacle and during Summer months on June 29th, July 15th, August 1st, August 15th, September 1st and September 17th, be placed outside the fence of the cottage next to the road: no garbage to be placed in wooden or cardboard receptacles.
2. - All closets during the Summer months must be treated at frequent intervals with some efficient disinfectant.
3. - No bonfires are permitted except in charge of an adult person who must be authorized by a written permit of a member of the Local District Council and all fires must be extinguished by such adult before he leaves same.
4. - Bicycle riding on sidewalk is strictly prohibited.
5. - Flowing wells and drains are to provide drinking water and must not be used for any other purpose.
6. - Refuse must not be deposited in surrounding lots or bush.
7. - Shooting with firearms, air rifle or sling shot, into or within the said District of Loni Beach is strictly prohibited.
8. - Residences, other than houses or cottages, is prohibited unless first authorized by written permit signed by two members of the said District Council. No tourist cabins shall be erected in the said District.
9. - By-Law No. 140, being the herd law for the Municipality, shall be in force during the whole year as regards the Loni Beach Local Improvement District.
10. - Indecent exposure of person, bathing without the regulation bathing suit and dressing or undressing outside the dwelling or bathing house, is strictly prohibited.
11. - Riotous and indecent conduct is strictly prohibited.
12. - Barbed wire on fences adjoining any sidewalk is prohibited.
13. - Motor vehicles shall not be parked at any time on any of the streets from Lake Avenue to Lake Winnipeg, within the limits of the said District.
14. - No picnicing shall be allowed on any street in, the District.
15. - No motor vehicle shall be driven at a greater speed in the said District, than 20 miles per hour during the months of July and August of each year.
16. - Any infringement of these By-Laws is punishable by fine, not to exceed fifty dollars or by a term of imprisonment in the common jail, not to exceed 30 days.

Done and passed in open Council assembled at the Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of Gimli, at Gimli in Manitoba, this 14th day of September, A.D. 1951.

(Signed) JOHN E. CHERNIAK,  
Reeve.

(Signed) JOHN HAAS,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

## RETURN OF THE

Photograph by  
Richard Philpo



## Gimli Gliders

Nothing more vividly symbolizes Spring in the Gimli & Beaches region than the return of the American White Pelican—known by locals as “Gimli Gliders”—who treat observers to an air show of snow-white and brilliant orange squadrons, gliding elegantly in seemingly rehearsed formation.

### “PELI” FACTS:

- Nearly 1/4 of the of the world's pelican population (200,000) “summer” in Manitoba.
- Weigh up to 30 pounds
- Wingspan of 8 - 9 1/2 feet
- “Thermal” fliers, who travel up to 100 km to feed. Often feed as a group, encircling and driving schools of small fish into shallower water near shore, before scooping them into their pouches and tossing their heads straight back for a dramatic “down the hatch” finish.
- Maintain a monogamous union, producing just one clutch of two eggs per season. Breed in nesting colonies at three years of age.
- Incubate their eggs using the webbed bottoms of their large feet (eggs hatch in about 30 days).
- Chicks are extremely susceptible to sunburn. The younger, weaker hatchling almost always dies.
- Extremely vulnerable to loud noise, and highly sensitive to human intrusions into their breeding colonies, causing them to abandon their nests



# Further to, FYI and Froth

## Further to:

Membership – Our official drive will begin with the next Newsletter – so start saving now! We will likely increase the cost to \$10, with no member gift and to \$15, with a gift. (Last year, the membership fee was the exorbitant sum of \$5). We are also considering lifting the present membership restriction to registered owners only and opening it up to all residents. Should we do so, our Association will obviously have the potential for more members and more money for special events, purchases, etc. Just think of the windfall were all of the Snidals to join!

Speed Limit – Last issue, we reported that an old bylaw, with a 40 km speed limit may still be in effect. Reeve Chudd has since advised that this bylaw has, in fact, been repealed. Nevertheless there is still hope – Reeve Chudd says he is pursuing an Appeal with the Highway Traffic Board and once again, we will keep the pressure on.

Street Names – The origins of "Howell" and "Vaughan" remain a mystery ... So here's the deal; everyone who provides our Newsletter Contact, Anne Loewen (new telephone number 774-9153) with accurate information as to the history of these names will be entered in a draw for – yes – you guessed it – a FREE membership!

And what about Comber Avenue? Is it "Comber" as in "beachcomber" or "Comber" (rhymes with "somber"), meaning a long curling wave? If no one knows, perhaps we should petition the RM to officially make it "Q-Cumber" ....

## FYI:

Did you know ... ?

- that there is a shuttle bus service from Gimli to Winnipeg – check out Karl-Jan Shuttle Service Ltd. at (866) 442-4426 (toll free).
- that infant car seats may be rented through the Gimli and District Health Auxiliary.