

# Loni Beach Progress

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The Annual Meeting was held Saturday July 8, 2000 at the New Horizons Centre and was very well attended. Those elected to the Residents' association Board for the following year were Jim Bright, Wilf Cook, Joan Guttormson, Fred Isford, Art Kilgour, Al Miller and Mal Wigg

The Board met on Tuesday, July 18 and established an Executive committee as follows:

Fred Isford – President  
Wilf Cook – Vice President  
Treasurer – Al Miller

The board appointed Pam Larusson as Secretary after she had graciously volunteered at the Annual Meeting to handle the responsibilities of this position. Please thank Pam when you next see her for accepting this job. Please also thank Al Miller for his past years of leadership as President, as well as Fred Isford for assuming this role for the following year.

The Board is pleased to announce that we have more paid members of the Association than ever before. Those of you who have not as yet become members will be contacted shortly by a volunteer to join the rest of your neighbours as active members of the Association. Once everyone has been contacted and all pertinent information has been gathered, your Board will begin to put together a new directory of all the residents of Loni Beach.

## Student Work Project

As you have no doubt noticed, this project is well under way. We are happy to have a young man by the name of T.J. Akehurst doing this work this year, and you are encouraged to show him your appreciation when you next see him in action. This project is funded this year by a government grant of \$550.00 and \$800 each from the R.M. of Gimli and your Association. The R.M. will be taking care of the public accesses to the beach this year through a separate contract.

## General

Your Board will encourage the R.M. to contact the responsible contractor to restore the public access at the north end of Loni to its original condition. Apparently the contractor(s) used this public access as a means of entry to property where a new lakefront cottage is being built.

Some of you, or people using your houses or cottages, are still leaving garbage out in plastic bags when heading for home. These bags are great targets for crows and loose-running dogs, creating unsightly conditions here in Loni. You are encouraged to purchase and use proper garbage cans for the disposal of your waste materials, saving some of your neighbours the job of cleaning up the mess mentioned above.

There is apparently a movement afoot by residents or (?) of Pelican Beach to reopen the issue of access to Pelican via Loni Beach. Their concern is that in the case of an emergency, there is only one way in and out of Pelican. At our Annual Meeting, those present expressed their disapproval of such a project, and you are encouraged to pass on your feelings on the subject to any member of the Board.

Your Board will be following up with Donna Smiley, our area's Environmental Officer, regarding two issues that have been reported, pertaining to Loni Beach. There is apparently a residence with its own gas tank and hose, and also a disreputable-looking caboose on property on Lake Street. You will be kept advised of any action taken in this connection.

Our thanks again to Dorothy Goldberg for once again sponsoring a yard improvement project, as well as a program for the best-decorated garbage can. These events will be judged during the August long weekend by Hans Wuthrich of Minerva Tree Farms, and Glen Brooks.

Thanks again go to our Reeve, Kevin Chudd, and Councillors Johnson and Luprypa, for their continued prompt attention to our various requests. We also thank the Office and Public Works for their courtesy and cooperation.

#### Annexation/Amalgamation

Since amalgamation has not yet been formally proposed, it serves little purpose to discuss it at this time. Amalgamation has many implications, which would have to be thoroughly studied before any judgements could be made.

The proposal by the Town of Gimli to annex a large portion of the central part of the R.M. of Gimli, has met with little support from the majority of ratepayers from all areas of the municipality, from Arnes to Sandy Hook.

The Manitoba Municipal Board has advised that there is no official annexation proposal from the Town of Gimli on file at the present time.

In October 1999, a workshop was held, attended by 86 ratepayers from the R.M. They reviewed annexation and studied related information. The following observations were made:

- 1) The Town of Gimli is a stable, thriving, and prosperous community, which has a tax base that is stronger than all Manitoba towns of a similar size, and compares favourably with larger centres such as Carman, Minnedosa and Killarney.
- 2) The Town annexed land from the R.M. when Vesturland was established, where there are presently 96 homeowners paying taxes to the town, and 136 serviced lots that are ready for home development. There are also many areas vacant in the downtown area that can be utilized to attract added commercial enterprise.
- 3) Cottagers, seasonal and retired residents form a large part of the ratepayers and have been the lifeblood of the Rural Municipality since the 1930's. Most of these people are in favour of a rustic, rural resort lifestyle and their ability to continue to elect their own R.M. Council that is sensitive to their needs and interests.
- 4) The R.M. of Gimli obtains its largest portion of revenue from residential properties. Available figures for 1999

reveal that Seagram's contributes \$972,898.00 but only \$317,896.00 is for municipal purposes; \$291,186.00 goes to the Evergreen School Division and \$363,816.00 to the Province of Manitoba.

- 5) The R.M. of Gimli generously supports programs and projects in the Town of Gimli. This cost sharing with the Town of Gimli is greater than assistance provided by any other Municipality in Manitoba.
- 6) Finally, the ratepayers in the R.M. of Gimli chose to live in its rural municipality. The cost-sharing projects and the patronizing of the Town of Gimli merchants have made the Town a prosperous urban trade centre.

Your Board will keep you in touch with these situations and endeavour to keep you fully informed of developments. Your comments are always welcomed and appreciated.

#### PRESS-TIME DEADLINE ITEMS:

To utilize the balance of this page.

Glen Brooks will again meet the challenge of designing our parade float for the Icelandic Festival. Look for it Monday August 7<sup>th</sup>; it's always a great event.

Our Regional Library includes the Town of Gimli, R.M. of Gimli, Arborg, Riverton, R.M. of Armstrong, and R.M. of Bifrost. The largest contribution is made by the R.M. of Gimli.

You may not know that the R.M. of Gimli is one of 117 Rural Municipalities in Manitoba. This does not include the 31 villages, 44 towns, and 8 cities in the province. The R.M. of Gimli is one of the smallest in size (20 miles along the Lake Winnipeg shoreline, and five miles deep). It is 10<sup>th</sup> in Total Taxable Assessment, and 1<sup>st</sup> in Business Assessment. It also supports more programs in the adjacent Town of Gimli than any other municipality that may support their neighbouring towns or villages.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER but remember:

There is great joy in swimming, boating, and fishing in Lake Winnipeg but WATCH THOSE CHILDREN when they are using the lake.