

Loni Beach Progress

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 1998

From your Board

We appreciate seeing the positive comments to our initial newsletter and encourage you to keep in touch with any of us with any concerns you might have. Your board met again on August 22 to go over some of the concerns and projects outlined in the last newsletter. In addition, there were several other items of interest that were discussed and will be commented upon in this issue.

If you were in the area over August long weekend and attended the annual parade on Icelandic Festival Monday, you must have seen the float entered on behalf of Loni Beach. Glen Brooks once again assumed this responsibility on your behalf and he and his crew put together a hilarious float that won one of the prizes awarded for this activity.

Sewer

Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey concerning a possible sewer system. The sewer plan as outlined by Cousins Engineering and distributed to property owners in Loni Beach has *not* received sufficient support to be approved. The engineer's report also indicates that the Town of Gimli lagoon is hydraulically overloaded and does not likely have the capacity to accommodate hook-ups from Loni Beach.

The cost of force-main lines from Loni Beach to Pelican Beach would be cost prohibitive without full participation and would not be approved without majority support. Loni Beach has been recognized as a residential rural resort area and the responses confirm that a large majority of Loni Beach residents are seasonal.

Donna Smiley, Environment Officer for Manitoba Environmental Operations Division has advised that there are numerous septic fields in Loni Beach that should cause no problems if they have been installed properly and are used sparingly. She stated that there have been no complaints of ground water pollution and no requests for testing drinking water.

She also stated that now that sewage tank trucks must use the facilities at the sewage treatment plant, the environmental standards are being achieved. For those using holding tanks sullage pits may be used for 'greywater', provided they meet the specifications.

Also Inside...

Traffic in Loni Beach
Big Bike Success
New Tennis Court
Elections and Taxes
Shoreline and Lake Statistics

Let's hope that if residents are having problems with septic fields they will install a holding tank and a greywater sullage pit as approved by the Environmental Operation Division. Their address is as follows...

102-236 Eaton Avenue
Selkirk, MB
R1A 0W7

Drainage

We're happy to report that the RM will review the drainage situation in Loni Beach. Your board met with Councilor Dan Luprypa, Chairman of Public Works and Public Works Superintendent Jack Feschuck. Several problem areas were visited and it was agreed that these would be studied to determine the action needed.

In connection with this drainage problem your board at its meeting on August 22 made a motion to contact the RM with a pilot project proposal that would include hiring a young student during the summer season to keep ditches cut and cleaned during this period. Many of you are already doing this yourselves in ditches bordering your property, but there are many areas where this is not done on a regular basis. We are hopeful that such a program can be instituted next season.

Garbage

Just a reminder that when you leave garbage out in plastic bags you are inviting a potential mess from animals and birds getting into the garbage and spreading it around the area. It is *not* the responsibility of the RM of Gimli people who pick up our garbage to clean up these messes as it usually falls upon a neighbor to do so. You are encouraged to put all your garbage in proper garbage cans or containers and if you rent your cottage to ask your renters to properly handle garbage when using your cottage.



Derelict Vehicles

In our last issue we spoke of the possible enactment of a by-law by the RM that would allow for the removal of derelict cars from property in Loni Beach. Your board was present at a recent RM Council meeting where such a by-law was enacted. Residents of the RM of Gimli now have until October 1 to clean their properties of abandoned vehicles and unsightly debris. Such by-laws do *not* apply to properties that are zoned for agriculture.

Traffic Issues in Loni Beach

Your board attempted to have the RM pursue reduced speed limits in Loni Beach during the summer season and a different speed limit at other times. The RM felt that this would be too confusing but agreed to apply for a legal speed limit of 40 kph.

No Access to Pelican Beach through Loni

The RM has taken action in this area by placing rocks around the turn-around and between the trees at the north end of Loni Beach. Additional trees will also be planted in this area later in the fall. The RM will also replace the current sign as you enter Loni Beach within the next month and this will include language to the effect that there is no access to Pelican Beach through Loni Beach.

The Big Bike Ride

Thanks again to Debbi Bissett for coordinating the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Big Bike Ride. Our Loni Beach team, called the Loni Hearts of Fire, raised over \$2500.00 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Thanks to those who pledged their donations.

New Tennis Court

It's good to see all the activity at the newly resurfaced tennis court in Loni Beach. Take advantage of this super facility! You may be interested to know that the total cost of resurfacing, new nets, and line painting was \$18,515.00 plus work done by the RM crew.

Miscellaneous Issues

Your board is continuing to follow up on rumored supposed uses of the old Camp Robertson property at the north end of Loni Beach. At the present time there is absolutely no activity regarding this property. Your board will keep in touch with the RM to protect all of your interests should some party show interest in the property. Board member Fred Isford has arranged for the purchase of 'Loni Beach' beach bags which will be included in your 1999 membership as was done with our 'Loni Beach' T-shirts and caps. Incidentally, there are still some caps available. If you are interested please call Fred at 642-8748. Some residents included other queries in their responses to the sewer survey. These queries are being forwarded to the RM Council for action or response and will be followed up by your board to ensure your concerns have been addressed in some way.

The information regarding Shoreline Erosion and Water Monitoring in this newsletter was included at the suggestion of Ron Lambert.

The Loni Beach Progress
Attn: Jim Robertson,
Secretary/Treasurer
Box 63
Gimli, MB
R0C 1B0

*Look for current
updates on Lake
Winnipeg water
levels and conditions
in next season's
issues of Loni Beach
Progress!*

Election Day

On October 28, all ratepayers may participate in electing a Reeve and four councilors for the RM of Gimli. Polling stations will be in Gimli and in Winnipeg. An advanced poll will be in Gimli Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. You may also apply for a mail-in ballot by writing to the RM of Gimli.

Tax Deadline

Tax deadline is September 30. Perhaps you are aware that the RM has reduced the 1998 tax mill rate but some owners may have an increase in their taxes because the assessment for their property has been increased by the Province of Manitoba.

Loni Beach Residents Association Membership

Some of you are not currently members of the Loni Beach Residents Association and we encourage you to join your friends and neighbors in this association. A membership application is attached to this newsletter and we'd appreciate your completing and submitting it to the mailing address in the bottom left hand corner of this page, along with a cheque or money order in the amount of \$5.00 to cover your annual dues. We'd love to have you as part of the group!

Shoreline Erosion

From Manitoba Environment Water Quality Management's Web Site
www.gov.mb.ca/environ

The shoreline is one of the most attractive features of Manitoba's lakes and rivers. In addition to the view, shorelines offer people a place to swim, tie a boat, or build a dock. They also provide essential habitat for numerous plants, fish, and animals.

Causes and Effects of Shoreline Erosion

Owners often remove rocks, trees, and other vegetation from the shoreline to beautify property, build structures or pathways, or provide access to water livestock. This can result in shoreline erosion. Excessive wave action created by using power boats including personal water craft too close to the shoreline will also cause erosion. Water quality deteriorates when the shoreline is eroded. The addition of soil and plant material to surface water increases the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen in the water, leading to increased growth of plants and algae. Increased siltation affects aquatic life and causes turbid waters. When silt settles, it collects between rocks and pebbles reducing the spawning success of fish and making it more difficult for fish to find aquatic insects on which they feed.

Vegetative Buffer Reduces Erosion

A vegetative buffer of trees, shrubs, and grasses extending 30 - 50 metres from the waterline provides water quality protection. It prevents erosion by holding soil, provides a wildlife corridor and habitat, and shades and cools the water for aquatic life during the

summer months. In addition to stabilizing the shoreline, a well-maintained vegetative zone will filter out sediments, nutrients, pesticides, and heavy metals carried by rain and snow-melt runoff.

You can reduce erosion on your property by maintaining a vegetative zone through grading, planting a permanent vegetative cover, and improving soil stability. Removing vegetation to improve access or the view leads to erosion, gullies, and bank slumping. The short-term gains from tilling to the water's edge are lost when more land disappears during a heavy rain or snow-melt, or from large waves during storms.

Direct access to the water's edge by livestock can damage or destroy the vegetative zone. Stream banks and shorelines become trampled, destroying vegetation and exposing bare soil to wind and water erosion. In addition, fecal material is introduced directly into the lake or river, increasing health risks to recreational users.

What You Can Do...

- Maintain or enhance the vegetative zone-allow natural vegetation to grow or plant more trees and shrubs with deep root systems along your shoreline. This will slow down nutrient-rich runoff and help prevent shoreline and bank erosion.
- Reduce the accessibility of surface water to livestock by pumping water to troughs or restricting shoreline access to a small area.
- Leave large boulders along your shoreline to stabilize it and to provide habitat for terrestrial and aquatic organisms, like turtles, waterfowl, and fish.
- Re-establish vegetation on steep slopes by holding groundcover seedlings in place with mulch and loose-weave mesh or burlap.
- Build steps or a ramp for access between the top and bottom of the bank.

Did You Know?

- Root systems of grasses, shrubs, and trees hold soil and help prevent erosion from wind and water.
- Access-points to stream crossings by cattle, all-terrain vehicles, and other large machinery exposes the stream to land runoff, carrying silt and pollutants, like herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- Altering your shoreline will affect water quality for downstream users.

Water Monitoring

Monitoring is done routinely in Manitoba to ensure that the guideline is not being exceeded. Each year, between 20 and 40 major beaches are monitored using internationally recognized protocols. At the present time, major beaches are monitored about once every two weeks. Multiple samples are collected from each beach on each sampling trip to ensure that the data are representative of the overall beach area. Included are the major beaches on Lake Winnipeg, in the Whiteshell Provincial Park, and in the south, central and northern regions.

The recreational water quality guideline for indicator bacteria is 200 fecal coliforms or 200 E. coli per 100 mL of sample. According to the Canadian guidelines, compliance should be based upon the average of at least five samples. Information provided by single samples is of limited value, since indicator bacteria can be variable within any beach area.

Test Results for the Gimli Area

Gimli Beach	Coliform Levels	Condition
26-May-98	73	Beach Acceptable
08-Jun-98	13	Beach Acceptable
22-Jun-98	144	Beach Acceptable
06-Jul-98	10	Beach Acceptable
20-Jul-98	23	Beach Acceptable
04-Aug-98	52	Beach Acceptable
17-Aug-98	95	Beach Acceptable

Sandy Hook Beach

26-May-98	16	Beach Acceptable
08-Jun-98	10	Beach Acceptable
22-Jun-98	59	Beach Acceptable
06-Jul-98	10	Beach Acceptable
20-Jul-98	28	Beach Acceptable
04-Aug-98	10	Beach Acceptable
17-Aug-98	160	Beach Acceptable

Winnipeg Beach

26-May-98	30	Beach Acceptable
08-Jun-98	13	Beach Acceptable
22-Jun-98	454	Beach Exceeds
Resample 25-Jun-98	37	Beach Acceptable
29-Jun-98	824	Beach Exceeds
Resample 30-Jun-98	70	Beach Acceptable
06-Jul-98	47	Beach Acceptable
20-Jul-98	49	Beach Acceptable
04-Aug-98	10	Beach Acceptable
17-Aug-98	91	Beach Acceptable

Matlock Beach

26-May-98	21	Beach Acceptable
08-Jun-98	10	Beach Acceptable
22-Jun-98	93	Beach Acceptable
06-Jul-98	10	Beach Acceptable
20-Jul-98	13	Beach Acceptable
04-Aug-98	12	Beach Acceptable
17-Aug-98	104	Beach Acceptable