

Loni Beach residents share their perspective on Gimli

By Roger Newman

Members of the Loni Beach Residents Association love everything about the Gimli community with a couple of minor exceptions.

The Loni Beachers — mostly cottagers with a smattering of permanent residents — were recently approached for their opinions about Gimli shortly after the election of the association's 2017-18 executive. Specifically, they were asked what brought them and kept them in their serene, heavily-treed neighbourhood just north of town.

The association's president is Salín Guttormsson who can speak with lots of authority because she is a life-long cottager whose mother Joan has a summer residence nearby. "Loni Beach is a very safe place that enabled me to do things as a child," Guttormsson says. "It's where I learned independence by going to the Gimli stores, the pool hall and arcade."

Today she enjoys the shallow swim-able lake and quiet Loni enclave while being "lovely and close" to Gimli's cultural attractions such as A-Spire Theatre plays and Tergesen's book launches. As association president, her prime concern is a need for better communication between the RM of Gimli council and Loni residents.

"Council has been responding better recently, but they could reach out more to let us know what is happening in our neighbourhood," Guttormsson said. "If there are property variances or an artesian well isn't working, we should be informed."

Guttormsson and association secretary Ron Lambert are also unhappy about the four-year lack of a Gimli-Winnipeg bus service. They say the absence of a bus forces big city car trips to fetch family members and friends. Lambert, however, is positive about the other aspects of Gimli life.

"I love the Icelandic presence — it adds huge interest to the community," said Lambert, a cottager since 1979. "There are the books of David Arnason, the films of Guy Maddin and the film festival started by Janis Johnson."

Lambert also feels the serenity the moment he turns into Loni Beach. "It's the beautiful trees,



The Loni Beach Residents Association represents the interests and views of cottagers and residents of this Gimli suburb. Board members pictured here are Ron Lambert, president Salín Guttormsson, Cheryl Hahlweg, Darena Snow, Jude Guzzi and Greg Carlson.

the birds and wildlife," he says.

Association director Greg Carlson, a professional forester, naturally mentions stately trees as a major Loni Beach asset. "I'm a Maritimer and Loni Beach gives me a sense of cottage country with a Maritime vibe," says Carlson, a cottager for four years. "When I'm in the city, I start on Wednesday to think about going to Loni on Friday."

Cheryl Hahlweg, the association treasurer, is a long-time Loni cottager who became a permanent resident last April. Her husband has a fairly short commute to work as he is the RM of St. Andrews public works superintendent based in Clan-deboye.

"I love the contrast in Loni Beach," Cheryl Hahlweg said. "You see all your friends in summer and it is quiet and peaceful in winter."

Director Jude Guzzi likes both cottaging and the "feel" of the town of Gimli. "The town has a hospitable atmosphere for everybody who comes to Gimli," Guzzi said. "It welcomes everybody from residents and visitors to immigrants who are the next generation of Canadians and day-trippers who are future cottage owners."

Another director Darena Snow shares Guttormsson's sentiment that Gimli is a safe place. "Children can walk independently down town," Snow said. "I also like Gimli's four seasons and the community's services; there is everything you need from grocery stores to a hospital plus

many festivals for entertainment. Our family loves it here and we've made new friends."

Other members of the new executive are vice-president Kim Krahn, director of communications Brennan Childs and past-president Campbell Alexander.

President Guttormsson said the

main duty of the Loni association is to be a conduit between residents and the RM of Gimli Council. "We also provide information to residents and promote our area. We'll continue to do this although there haven't been any really big issues in the past couple of years," she added.

Please join us for our
Annual General Meeting:
 Monday, October 2, 2017
 École Powerview School
 33 Vincent Street, Powerview-Pine Falls

5:30 p.m. Tradeshow

The health programs and services available in our region will be featured. Our Mobile Wellness Team, our program staff and our community partners will be available to provide expert advice and to offer healthy lifestyle ideas.

6:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting

There are many changes underway in health care. Join in a conversation between Dr. Brock Wright, president & CEO of Shared Health Services Manitoba, and Dr. Myron Thiessen, vice-president primary health care and chief medical officer of Interlake-Eastern RHA, as they explore health care change, why it's necessary and how you stand to benefit. A review of Interlake-Eastern RHA activities; presentation of the Community Leadership Award; and a question and answer period.

Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call 1-855-347-8500, e-mail info@ierha.ca, visit www.ierha.ca

