

AGM 2005

Loni Beach residents revive sewer issue

■ Issue floated at residents' association meeting



Loni Beach Residents Association members of new and outgoing executive. Ted Wyman, Grant Zipursky, Don Cobb, Lisa Squain, Saline Gultormsson, Jude Guzzi, Jeff Modjeski (Back row l-r) Rob Waldman, Joan Gultormsson, Jeff Kerr, Anne Loewen (front).

Roger Newman - Interlake Spectator

By Roger Newman

Some Loni Beach property owners are having second thoughts about the need for a sewer system in their cottage community just north of Gimli.

Although the community turned down sewers three years ago, several proponents of sewer construction revived the issue Sunday at the annual meeting of the Loni Beach Residents' Association (LBRA) in the New Horizons Club.

One sewer supporter was Jeff Modjeski.

"I am concerned about sewage and grey water," Modjeski told the meeting. "Holding tanks are not the answer."

Modjeski, later elected to the LBRA executive, contended that Loni Beachers are putting their heads in the sand because the government will "sooner or later" legislate the mandatory installation of sewer systems. He also suggested that in the long run, it would be more economical to pay for sewers than to spend \$6,000 for a holding tank and \$85 to \$125 for family pumpouts every two weeks.

Another speaker, Ron Dorman, said he understands the provincial government will legislate sewer systems "all around the lake" in the next five years.

"The cost goes up with delay," Dorman added.

Three other residents were also open-minded about a sewer project, but Rob Waldman felt proponents were far too low in estimating the cost of construction and maintenance. With people on both sides of the debate, Allan Cantor said a special association meeting should be held to discuss the sewer issue alone.

"I have a long-time investment in the community and would like to see an up-grade to a sewer system," Cantor said.

Saline Gultormsson, the retiring association president, agreed that a special meeting should be called. But before that happens, information about sewer systems will be sent out to residents.

In her presidential address, Gultormsson said recent concerns of Loni Beach residents have included road speed limits in the neighbourhood, access to public beach, rock groynes blocking pedestrians and the operation of personal watercraft. She also noted that the 240 Loni Beach property owners are celebrating their community's 100th anniversary this year.

Waldman reported that the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board has officially reduced the speed limit in Loni Beach to 40 from 50 kilometers an hour. He said that while the board made the decision in mid-June, the new signs are not

yet up, although hopefully they will soon be enforced by the RCMP.

Gultormsson said there has been less progress on some other issues, particularly the installation of buoys to separate swimmers from watercraft. She said Conservative Senator Mira Spivak is championing a federal bill to control watercraft, but there has been lobbying by the Bombardier manufacturers and the bill looks as if it is going nowhere.

"We have asked our council for buoys, but two months later, there are no buoys," the president told her audience. "If you have concerns, you should go directly to council or contact Senator Spivak."

Waldman said street signs have been mounted on all Loni streets, but the condition of roads in the community is "atrocious". The response from area councillor Danny Luprypa was that Gimli council has a plan to improve the roads over the next few years.

But Luprypa said that if residents want full asphalt treatment, they will have to pay for it as a local improvement district.

New members elected to the LBRA executive include Modjeski, Lisa Squair, Jude Guzzi, Grant Zipursky and Anne Loewen. Gultormsson returns as past-president while continuing directors are Waldman and Ted Wyman.