

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**1974 - 2024**



**Founded in 1974 & Still Going Strong !**

**50 Years in the Making...**

In Honor of  
Past & Current Members



Tree  
of Life &  
Remembrance

Gimli New Horizons Mission Statement

"The Centre will be an asset to the community by providing a pleasant place for recreation, relaxation and companionship, and by encouraging all members to remain active and socially connected while maintaining their physical and mental health"

## President's Speech at 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Cindy Stewart

Firstly before I begin I would like to thank Richard Szczepanski and Graham Watson for agreeing to research much of the history of what we know today as Gimli New Horizons 55+ Activity Centre. They spoke to Vic & Muriel Savage and Pauline Finlay who were able to provide information and documents to them and they poured through documents, newsletters and various files. They also spoke to Nancy Dudar who helped to organize the first meeting and her Mother who was part of the original group. Richard has chosen not to speak today so I am doing it in his stead. I too have gone through old Board minutes, newsletters and other various files and what a wealth of information.

Graham and I will be speaking and hope to keep it to a reasonable time frame. I am going to start and have made a few notes (ROLL OUT PAPER) seriously though. Gimli New Horizons as it became known as, was 1 woman's dream her name was MARY KRULICKI. Some of this is taken from the first minutes and a report dated January 20, 1975 (I was in Grade 12 at the time). Mary had met a member of the Fisher Branch New Horizons Club and told her about a grant that was available thru the Health and Welfare Branch of the Federal Government; The New Horizons program which enables retired people to create projects of their own choosing to benefit themselves and others in the community. The project covered an 18 month period and at the end of that time the program should be fully launched and be self supporting.

The essentials of the program were 1) participation and 2) Outreach; that is to get new members especially those living alone. In November 1973 Mary asked Adeline Pawulski, to help organize a meeting. Adeline then asked 3 others to help: Helen Krulicki, Nancy Dudar, and Connie Havard. They helped with donations from Gimli Merchants (*we all know food and prizes get people to meetings*). The meeting was to be held December 8, 1973 at the Provincial Recreation Training Centre. However, imagine the disappointment when the weather on December 8 did not cooperate and the meeting had to be cancelled because the roads were sheets of ice. Mary didn't give up though and set a new meeting date of February 14, 1974 at the same location. Even though that day was bitterly cold 67 people came out. They sat around the open fireplace, eating goodies (Sound familiar). After they moved to another room, Mr. Voth from the Gimli Health Unit explained the program (this program is still around today giving out grants). That night the first Executive came to be:

Mary Krulicki- President      Dr. Frank Scribner- Vice President  
Joey Thordason- Secretary      Helgi Johnson – Treasurer  
Margaret Strand- Assistant Treasurer

June 10, 1974 the cheque for \$10,705.00 arrives from New Horizons. The next step was where to meet? The Landmark Apartments were fine for meetings but what about starting activities? They inspected the old school but it was deemed unsafe and set for demolition. The K & K store (located kitty corner to where the Library is now) was too small. They had been in talks with the town of Gimli. On August 27, 1974 the following resolution was passed by the Council for the Town of Gimli: "Resolved that the agreement of the Gimli Yacht Club, that the group of the New Horizons be given the use of the multi-purpose addition to the Club premises, for a rental fee of \$100/ month for 9 months of the year (October- June)"

The official opening was October 25, 1974 with a Wine & Cheese party. Close to 200 people attended and they picked out the oldest 2 ladies and they held the ribbon when the Mayor Violet Einarson cut the ribbon. Just a quick note to end- The Fisher Branch group was called the "Elderly People Club". Thank goodness we didn't follow in those footsteps.

# **The History of GNH Property and Buildings**

## **by Graham Watson**

The following is a general outline of Gimli New Horizons' evolving history. It should be noted that the historical documents available contain somewhat contradictory information. From now on, the Centre will be referred to as GNH.

In prior centuries, the land on which GNH now stands was part of Indigenous territories.

This land has quite a varied history. In 1876, Jonas Dalman immigrated from Iceland, followed by Rosa Marteinsdottir, who came from the same region. They became the 57th couple to be issued a marriage license under the place name of Winnipeg. Later on, in 1912, the Dalman family, who were long established dairy farmers in Winnipeg, purchased and moved to a 10-acre farm north of what was then the town limits of Gimli, where they farmed for seven years. GNH is now located on land that was part of their farm.

Around 1920, One Big Union, a major labour union at the time, bought the farmland to create a summer camp, known to this day as the OBU Camp. The camp was made up of 12 seasonal cabins and other support buildings, including a kitchen and hall that were actively used for some 20 years. As you drive out of GNH's parking lot, you'll see a sign on the right dedicated to the OBU Camp.

The province bought the OBU Camp around 1939 on behalf of the Department of Education to start summer training courses for teachers to achieve their permanent teacher certificates. They would occupy the cabins for the entire month of July, followed by 4-H Clubs and others in August.

Twenty-six years later, in 1965, many buildings were winterized and the facilities became known as the Gimli Provincial Recreation Centre, intended to promote arts and craft courses for Manitobans. As a result, many arts and crafts clubs sprung up across the province – including Gimli.

The Centre was used for conferences, sports clinics and training youth leadership and playground directors. For example, the Manitoba Women's Institute held a biannual fall leadership "live-in" at the Centre and the Blue Bombers football club held its spring training camp there for two years.

Founded in 1974, GNH had used various buildings around Gimli over the years. The most significant was the Gimli Yacht Club, which the organization was able to access in the winter. An ongoing search for a building to rent or to buy that would meet the varied needs and the size of the growing membership was launched, but to no avail. GNH then began to view what was then called the Gimli Training Centre as a promising property. By late 1993, efforts were directed to the Manitoba Government Cabinet for GNH to lease the Training Centre's main buildings.

In 1994, GNH members toured the main buildings, some of the cabins and other parts of the Centre. That same day, the membership voted to sign a 20-year lease for a New Club House and subsequently signed it with the province. New Horizons moved its office and indoor activities to this location shortly afterwards. In early 1997, the province appears to have carried out considerable maintenance and repair of the buildings. Later, in 1997, it transferred ownership of a number of properties to the R.M. of Gimli, one of which is the current location of GNH. Shortly afterwards, the RM of Gimli and GNH replaced the 20-year lease with a 99-year lease. From 1997 through 2002, significant maintenance was completed and permanently shifting cabins were moved to become part of the main building or adjacent to it.

Presently, the RM of Gimli retains the ownership of the property and buildings, providing grading and snow clearing of the parking lot and grass cutting. The RM also offers grants from time to time (e.g., it made a major contribution to the recent replacement of roofing). In turn, GNH maintains the buildings (often applying for grants for major repair projects) and pays for insurance, utilities and other operating costs. Proceeds from Bingo pay for most of the utilities. Finally, East Interlake Health Authority provides a quarterly stipend that reimburses most of the office salaries. As you can see, "It takes a village to" keep our senior community club running. Thank you for all the support.

## How Did They Do It? by Graham Watson

The first issue of Hilites, GNH's monthly bulletin, appeared in April 1996. From that time forward, it has provided a detailed history of the organization's activities and endeavours. I reviewed the Hilites Newsletter in detail from the first issue until GNH hired its first employed office personnel in 2001.

Hilites was the brainchild of board member John Van Loon, who provided stewardship over the early years. At the time of the first issue, GNH boasted 200 members who paid a yearly membership fee of \$10, plus a compulsory \$5 name tag. Hilites started out as a small, thin, black and white monthly bulletin. In 2000, black and white photos and advertising via business cards were introduced. By January 2001, membership had dramatically climbed to 427.

Many of the fund-raising means and member activities are similar to those we have today. Unique activities included day bus excursions including a picnic, Spanish lessons, ice curling, darts and ceramics. There were also choral and square-dancing groups and a band, which all performed for other organizations. By the end of this time period, GNH was known in the local community for its Valentine's Social, St. Patrick's Casino, Spring Tea, perogies sales, Icelandic Pancake Breakfast, Christmas Craft and Bake Sale and Christmas Dinner and Dance. Hearing, health and foot clinics were also offered. Indoor smoking was allowed until January 1999.

Early on in this period, GNH was not open full time during the working week. A call for volunteers was launched to serve as "hosts" and be present Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. In July 1999, the facility was open for the first time during the entire working week. A vice-president was assigned to keep track of all the exterior door keys needed. Can you imagine running such a large organization without any employed staff? Volunteers manned the office to take telephone calls, track membership, take registrations for special events, keep the books, and do banking. Volunteers were also needed to assemble editions of Hilites: print the side of one page, reinsert it to print the other side, and then fold, assemble and staple them. Since there was no cleaning staff, volunteers cleaned the buildings on weekends.

Some things have clearly not changed. For instance, there have always been ongoing complaints about the gravel parking lot and some events were cancelled because of inadequate registration before a necessary deadline. Although volunteers were readily appreciated in the Hilites, calls were regularly launched for more volunteers. All sound familiar?

Hilites no longer acknowledges birthdays and expressions of sympathy due to governmental requirements about confidentiality. By about the year 2000, only one office computer had an internet connection, which was intermittent, and the computer ran on DOS rather than Windows. GNH got an email address just before the association began hiring its first employed personnel.

So that folks is how the membership ran GNH back at the turn of the century.

### Sources of Information:

Richard Szczepanski and Graham Watson interviewed long-term GNH members, Nancy Dudar, Vic and Muriel Savage, and Pauline Finlay. Their memories formed the basis for targeted searching of documentation.

Board minutes and Hi-Lites were reviewed by Richard, Graham & Cindy Stewart.

Books available at the Evergreen Regional Library – Gimli Branch:

"Fresh Air Unlimited" (2017) by David Butterfield, which documents the fresh air camps of Lake Winnipeg – including the One Big Union Camp.

"Gimli Saga" by the Gimli Women's Institute (1975):

- "Dalman Family" (pp 504-505)

- "Courses sponsored by the Department of Education" (pp 188-189)

"Wednesday, May 1, 1981" by Mary Shebeski and Dilla Narfarson in "Gimli Memories," documenting the origin, founding and early activities of the "Gimli New Horizons Senior Citizens' Club."

University of Manitoba Digital Collections. <https://digitalcollections.lib.umanitoba.ca/>

- Although not particularly helpful for the 50th anniversary, the Collection contains an amazing amount of Manitoba history. Just type in a search topic.

# **HISTORY OF GIMLI NEW HORIZONS**

## **1974**

The New Horizons grant we received from the Health & Welfare branch of the Federal Government was \$10,705.00. The board started looking for a suitable site to hold meetings: the old school was looked at but deemed unsafe. K & K store was also looked at but was too small.

Made an agreement with Gimli Yacht Club to rent for 9 months (Oct - June) of the each year during their off season.

## **1975**

Prime Minister of Iceland and his wife visit The Gimli New Horizons along with the Ambassador to Iceland.

## **1976**

Membership reaches 200 people.

## **1989**

The clubhouse at the Yacht Club is no longer meeting our needs. Started to look around, possibilities are the old arena site to build new clubhouse, 2 properties side by side: lots 93 & 95 on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Cost is \$40,100.00.

Incorporation status was added so the Centre could issue tax receipts.

## **1990**

Our first Pancake breakfast was run by volunteer members and held at The Icelandic Festival Building.

## **1994**

In May; 90 members go through the Gimli Training Centre to look at that property owned by the Provincial Government. 97 people attended the meeting after the viewing and a vote was taken to lease the property and the cabins. Vote was 88 in favour, 11 opposed (Membership was 190) A lease was signed on May 17, 1994 that was a 20 year lease starting on June 1, 1994.

## **1995**

Moved into our current building.

## **1996**

John Van Loon starts the first newsletter called "Hilites".

## **1997**

A new lease was signed in August with the R.M of Gimli that was for 99 years.

## **2001**

The Tree Of Life designed and painted by Jacqueline Goodman. First Fall supper was held. First paid office staff hired.

## **2002**

Name the Room contest was held: Grand Room, Card Yard, Coffee Spot & Harmony Room

## **2007**

New Mission Statement reads "The Centre will be an asset to the community a pleasant place for recreation, relaxation and companionship and by encouraging all members to remain active and socially connected while maintaining their physical and mental health".

## **2009**

Became a designated staging area for the Emergency Measures Organization.

## 2019

Because the new Gimli Senior Residence was being constructed on south parking lot, a new entrance on the north side was required.

## 2020 - 2021

We had to close the Centre due to COVID for the better part of 12 months.

## 2024

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> with 170 New Horizon Members and invited guests.

# RANDOM FACTS

### 1974-1975 First Activities:

Homecrafts- Quilts- Nov. 4  
Handicrafts- Nov. 18

Bingo- Nov. 5  
Ceramics- Nov. 29

Square Dancing – Nov. 6  
Perogies May 12-1975

**Coffee prices:** 1975- \$.10

2001- \$.25

2002- \$.50

2022-\$1.00

### Friday Lunches:

**1998** -Friday lunches are born- cost is \$3.00

**2003** -Friday lunches -\$5.00

**2019** -Lunches are increased to \$6.00

**2021** -Friday lunches are take out and due to cost of take out containers \$7.00

**2023** -Friday lunches are \$8.00

### Events:

**1974**- October 25- Official opening of Gimli New Horizons Inc. with a Wine and Cheese party. Ribbon cut by Mayor of Gimli, Violet Einarson. We had speeches and a sing song.

**1995**- Official opening of the new location of Gimli New Horizons Inc. on September 15. Open house 4-6 pm, Ribbon cutting- 5:30, Dinner 6:30, entertainment and dance to follow (Dining Room and Lounge for open house, large hall for supper)

**1999**- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: June 27, 1-4 pm- Bake & craft sale, cake cutting at 1pm 150 people attend.

**2009**- 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: June 14, 2-6 pm- Full course meal, entertainment, speeches and door prizes.

**2014**- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- "Dancing with the Stars"

**2024**- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary May 8, 1-3:30, goodie bags, speeches, luncheon, photo booth, large displays of thru the years.

### Membership / Activity Fees:

**1974**- Membership- \$1.00 and activity fee \$.50

**1981**- Membership- \$5.00 and activity fee \$.50

**1989**- Membership- \$10.00 and activity fee \$.50

**1996**- Membership- \$10.00 and activity fee \$.50

**2000**- Membership- \$10.00 and activity fee \$.50

**2002**- Membership- \$10.00 and activity fee \$1.00

**2003**- Membership- \$15.00 and activity fee \$1.00

**2006**- Membership- \$20.00 and activity fee \$1.00

**2007**- Non Member activity fee introduced

**2020**- Membership- \$20.00 and activity fee \$2.00

**2021-2024**- Membership- \$25.00 and activity fee \$2.00







## Favorite Memory Quotes by Members

Always feeling  
welcome from the  
start. Great place  
to be involved.  
Vivian S.

We've been members for over 10 years. Always loved the Christmas Dinner & Dances. Our love is the Dance Classes, we have met and made some very wonderful friends.

Irene T.

Pinching perogies  
then being  
promoted to the  
position of  
"runner"!  
Enjoy painting &  
the coffee breaks.  
Carol G.

Joining the ladies & men making perogies.  
Serving at Pancakes Breakfast  
& Fall Suppers.  
Modeling for the Fashion Show.  
Angela Z.

Working with Mrs. Krulicki at the Blue Bombers  
Camp...so many years ago! Lol  
Exercise classes with Marilyn C. Brenda T. and now  
Susie..  
Also enjoy helping at Fall Supper and making perogies.  
Penny M.

**Playing Bridge-of Course! Meeting new people  
and learning lots of Bridge strategies on  
Wednesdays & Fridays. Always lots of fun.  
Nancy A.**

Coming to the  
Pancake Breakfast  
with our entire  
family.  
Dad (Cec French)  
was so proud.  
Patti P.

**2024 Fashion Show  
"Celebrating  
Women" made me  
feel special  
"Man, I feel like  
a woman"  
Gorgeous!  
Vera S.**

Enjoy Carpet  
Bowling, Floor  
Curling & all the  
people I meet.  
Sadie H.



## Favorite Memory Quotes by Members

Enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day Casino. It was really well thought of and lots of fun, and many fun times at the Christmas parties.  
Phyllis L.

Floor Curling for the past 3 years. Wonderful folks, lots of fun!  
Eva S.

Having a good game of Cribbage & Floor Curling.  
Mel Z.

The Dances & Parties, Floor Curling, meals, also meeting new people.  
Margaret & Norman F.

I loved the Curling Bonspiels with the great entertainment in the Interlake. Lots of fun times & Christmas Dinners & Cribbage. The wonderful friends we have made & the fabulous staff. Great Golf & fellowship. Fun Times with perogy making!  
Linda S.

As Social Chairman, I have enjoyed so many activities from Fashion Shows, Country Dances, Christmas Gala, etc. So many wonderful people to share their talents.  
Val A.

Going to Old Time Dances at Gimli Yacht Club with my in-laws (the original New Horizons - Circa 1975)  
Ken D.

Playing Cribbage and helping with the Friday lunches.  
Dilla N.

30 years of fun, games and fellowship.  
Dave T.

My favorite memory is when my parents were here and my mom won a trophy for Carpet Bowling (and my dad didn't). She was so proud of that trophy! Now here I am, a member and enjoying it!  
Thanks!  
Mary



# Favorite Memory Quotes by Members

Golfing every summer with the Seniors at Sandy Hook and then having supper together. Thanks to Larry G. and Dave M. and others before them. Carol G.

My first year as a Lunch Leader (& 10 more!) So many Bridge games and a Harvey B. moment! So many Pancake Breakfasts, Fall Suppers, to help with, so many dishes to run through the washer. So many wonderful friends. Sharon P.

Loved coming here to Floor Curl. Met lots of friendly people and was very excited when the new rocks arrived. Clean-up is way easier. Carol E.

Making Mickey Mouse pancakes for the little and sometimes for the big kids during the Pancake Breakfast. Garth G.

Working at the Pancake Breakfast with my daughter and 3 grand children. Anything to do with food- Fall Suppers and Friday Kitchen Team. Playing Canasta. Audrey C.

Floor Curling for the past 3 years. Wonderful folks, lots of fun! Eva S.

Everybody & everything! Joyce D.

My husband no longer looks like a fool on the dance floor since taking dance lessons at Gimli New Horizons thanks to Gail & Don H. Anonymous

I have lived in Gimli going on 13 years and have participated every year in wonderful programs all thoroughly enjoyed, without which, life here would have been much less pleasant. Thanks so much for being here. Larry



## Favorite Memory Quotes by Members

Have enjoyed all the activities provided, the people involved, the staff, so nice!

**We are so fortunate to have all of the activities and wonderful people, staff & members!**  
**Connie & Ingvar**

It's a second home  
for so many folks.  
Ed K.

Appreciate the  
staff and the  
people who made  
me feel welcome.  
Harvey

So happy we joined, have made so many new friends! Love the painting group and always meeting new people. The girls in the office are amazing, always there to help when we need it!

Meeting so many  
friendly people.  
Ty V.

**I'm glad that I met a lot of people at the Centre. I enjoy Floor Curling. Adrian V.**

There are Many!  
Along with the  
good friends  
we've made since  
we retired to  
Gimli in 2005. At  
that time we  
were advised to  
join GNH to meet  
people! How true  
that was! Also  
the many fun  
hours of  
volunteering at  
Floor Curling,  
Perogies, Cards,  
etc!  
Mavis & Vince G.

Being able to participate in so many varied programs/activities. The Christmas Gala every year. A great place to meet and make friends.  
Anonymous



Just one of my favorite memories is our first day here we were welcomed by the Staff. They both smiled warmly & invited us to come with them for a quick tour. They talked about what being a member at GNH would be like. We felt warmly welcomed. Thank You!

Julie M.



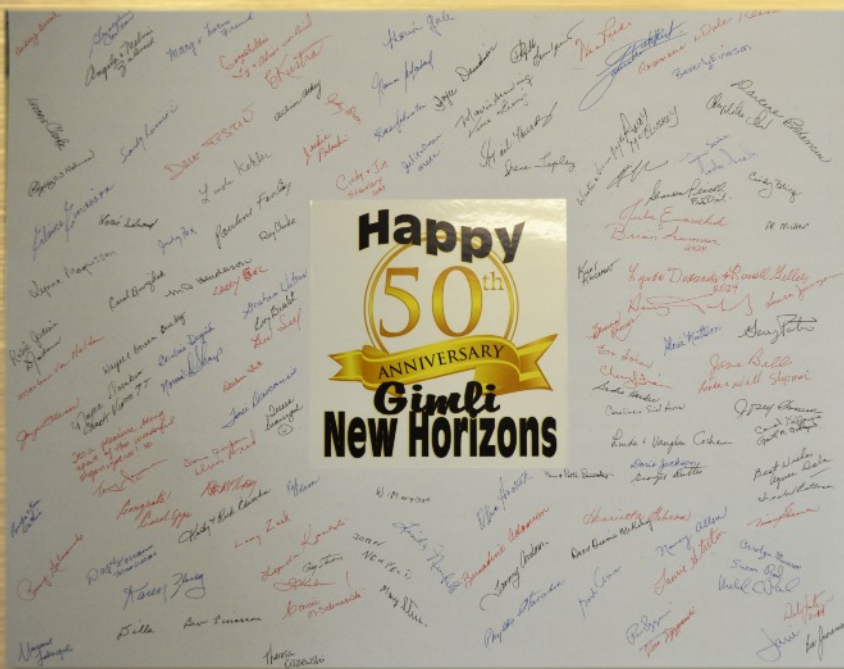


## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



**L-R: Margaret LaRocque, Evy Bialek, Jonie Johnson, Cindy Stewart, Julie Ewanchuk, Linda Cochrane, Graham Watson.**

**Missing: Lavona Clarke, Richard & Vera Szczepanski**



**Guest sign in at May 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Vera Szczepanski created an 82 page picture slideshow of the 50 years in the making of Gimli New Horizons.**



President: Cindy Stewart & Publicity: Graham Watson



Swag Giveaway

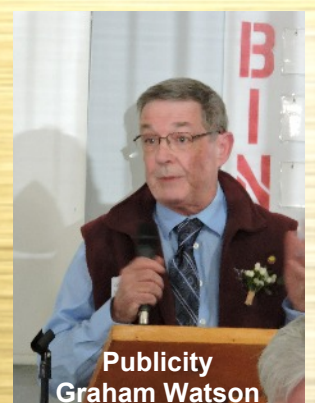




Office Staff



President  
Cindy Stewart



Publicity  
Graham Watson









**NEW HORIZONS**  
*Gimli*  
**55+ Centre**  
*50th Anniversary*  
1974 - 2024



For Gimli New Horizon's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the GNH Ukulele Group performed a few songs to entertain us. One that was special to GNH was our very own Ukulele group remake of the classic "Happy Anniversary" song from the Flintstones.

The "Happy Anniversary" song from 'The Flintstones' is a memorable tune that was featured in the episode titled "The Hot Piano," which is part of the first season of the original series. [The song is set to the tune of the "March of the Swiss Soldiers" from William Tell by Gioacchino Rossini](#). The lyrics are quite cheerful and go something like this:

**Happy Anniversary Happy Anniversary Happy Anniversary Haaappy Anniversary**

*Pour a cheerful toast and fill it* **Happy Anniversary** *But be careful you don't spill it* **Happy Anniversary**

Ooooo **Happy Anniversary Happy Anniversary Happy Anniversary Haaappy Anniversary**

*Happy she and happy he They're both as happy as can be Celebrating merrily Their happy anniversary*

*This catchy song is often used to celebrate anniversaries in a fun and lighthearted way. It's a classic piece from the beloved animated series that has brought joy to many over the years.*

**Here are the words that our group member, Gwen Lequire, came up with for this memorable occasion:**

#### **Chorus:**

Happy Anniversary      Happy Anniversary  
Happy Anniversary      Happy Anniversary

Tai Chi, Curling, Quilts, and Painting  
How to Choose? Can't pick just one.  
New Horizons is the place  
That we all go to have some fun

#### **Chorus**

Perogy making, Cribbage, Carving  
Yoga, Bridge and Bingo, too  
New Horizons keeps us moving  
Always something else to do

#### **Chorus**

50 years ago is when they opened up the doors  
50 years has come and gone  
So we are here to sing this song...

Oh.....

Happy Anniversary      Happy Anniversary  
Happy Anniversary      Happy Anniversary



**Thank you to our Ukulele group who performed for us on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

**Gayle Halliwell, Joan Morrison, Gwen Lequire, Arlene Martin, Mike Devlin, Kath Creasy**

## Grace

Let's give thanks for the  
Fellowship and friendship  
Of the past 50 years:

For the activities and special events  
We've celebrated together;

And the planners, leaders  
And participants who have kept us active  
As healthy as we age.

A special thanks to our staff  
Who keep us old folks informed,  
Active and safe.

We give for the meal we're about  
To enjoy  
And those who prepared it.  
We are truly blessed.....Amen

By Jackie Poloski

Land Acknowledgment  
Read by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Lynda Dodunski

Past President: Jackie Poloski

10 The Express Weekly News Thursday, May 16, 2024

## Gimli New Horizons 55+ Activity Centre celebrates 50 years

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli New Horizons 55-plus Activity Centre celebrated 50 years of providing older adults in the community with a number of programs and activities to keep them socially connected.

The anniversary celebration was held at new horizons' building on May 8 and included a look back in time, a luncheon and speeches from guests and local politicians.

During the celebration, new horizons board member Graham Watson said president Cindy Stewart acknowledged the centre's founding members, Mary Krulicki, Adeline Pawlowski, Helen Krulicki, Nancy Dudar and Connie Harvard, along with 62 supporters, who advocated for the centre in February 1974.

"A dream was born, which has resulted in today's thriving community," said Watson.

Stewart also noted that there have been 21 presidents over the centre's 50-year history providing guidance, and she thanked all the board members and volunteers past and present "who have made this community flourish."

Special thanks went out to Jonie Johnson and Margaret LaRoque, who work in the office, and Pauline Finlay was recognized as a 30-plus-year member.

Gimli New Horizons is made up of people who are 55 and older. The centre encourages its members to stay active and socially connected through recreational and social activities such as dances, fall suppers and other special events, health and wellness programs, educational programs and support groups at its facility on Loni Beach Road in Gimli's north end.

The centre currently has 520 members who participate in over 23 weekly activities and special events.

"You know the expression: It takes a village to raise a child. In this case,



President Cindy Stewart



Cindy Stewart and Graham Watson

it takes an entire community to keep a senior activity centre running and developing," said Watson. "Horizons is a great place to meet people, and there's always someone you know there."

During the celebration, Watson outlined the history of the current GNH property, which was the Dalman family's dairy farm in 1912, the One Big Union summer camp around 1920 and a property that the Province of Manitoba took over around 1939.

"The location had many uses over the years from a teacher certification facility, to Blue Bumber spring training camps to other learning opportunities," said Watson. "In 1994, GNH



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Gimli New Horizons 55-plus Activity Centre celebrated 50 years on May 8.



The sandwich-making crew.

moved to this location [on Loni Beach Road] initially having a lease with the province and later with the RM of Gimli."

The board expressed its appreciation to the RM of Gimli, whose mayor Kevin Chudd was in attendance. The RM now owns the land and the building, which has provided financial support for maintenance.

Stewart thanked the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, which provides funding for the centre's of-

ice staff.

Local dignitaries paid tribute to the centre and its members.

On behalf of Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson and Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan, Johnson's constituency assistant Tammy Axelsson presented 50th anniversary plaques.

GNH's Ukulele Group provided musical entertainment, including a song composed for the celebration.



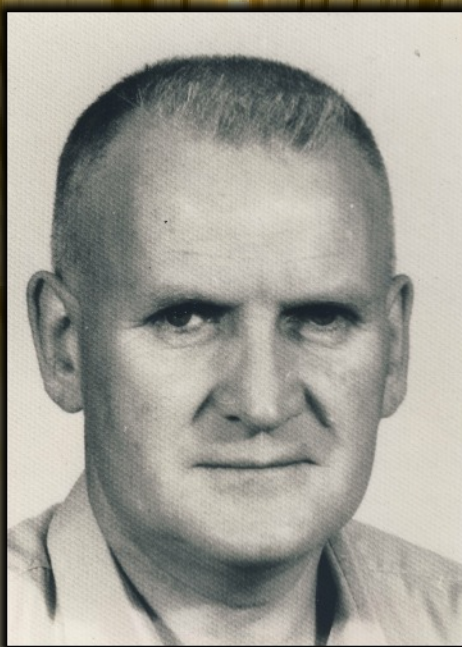
The setup crew.



*Mary Krulicki*  
1974 - 1975



*Walter Bisset*  
1975 - 1976



*Meryl Almond*  
1976 - 1977



## Past Presidents



*Jean Hannesson*  
1978 - 1979



*Adeline Gendur*  
1980 - 1981



*Lambert Harland*  
1982 - 1983

*Joe Szakacs*  
1984



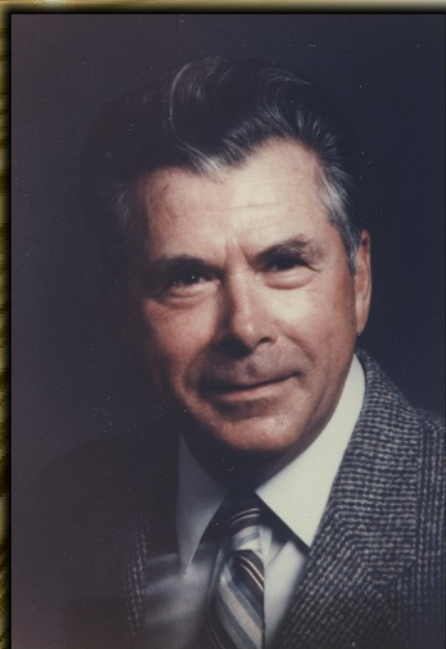
*Alex Pettigrew*  
1985



*Michael D Musack*  
1986 - 1987



## Past Presidents



*John Gottfried*  
1988

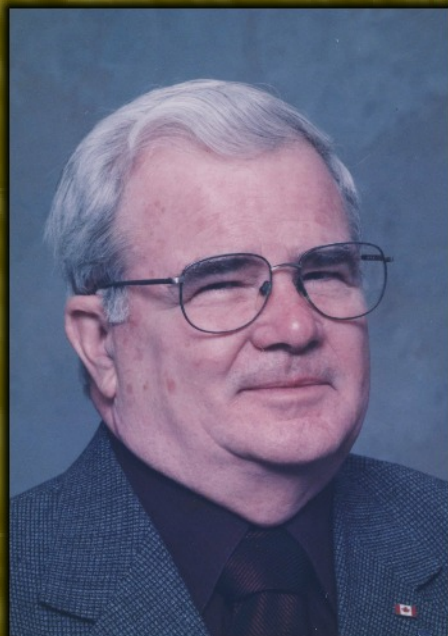


*Hill Bylholt*  
1989 - 1997



*Vic Savage*  
1997 - 1999

*Norm Black*  
1999 - 2002



*Gordon Page*  
2002 - 2004



*Dennis Nicolls*  
2004 - 2005



## Past Presidents



*Sharon Peichl*  
2005 - 2008



*Jackie Poloski*  
2009 - 2012



*Rod Allen*  
2012 - 2013

**Gordon Page**  
2013 - 2014



**Peter Magnusson**  
2014 - 2015



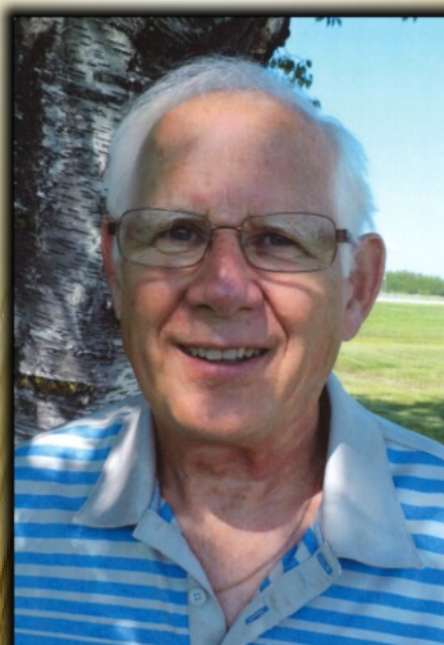
**Jackie Poloski**  
2015 - 2018



## Past Presidents



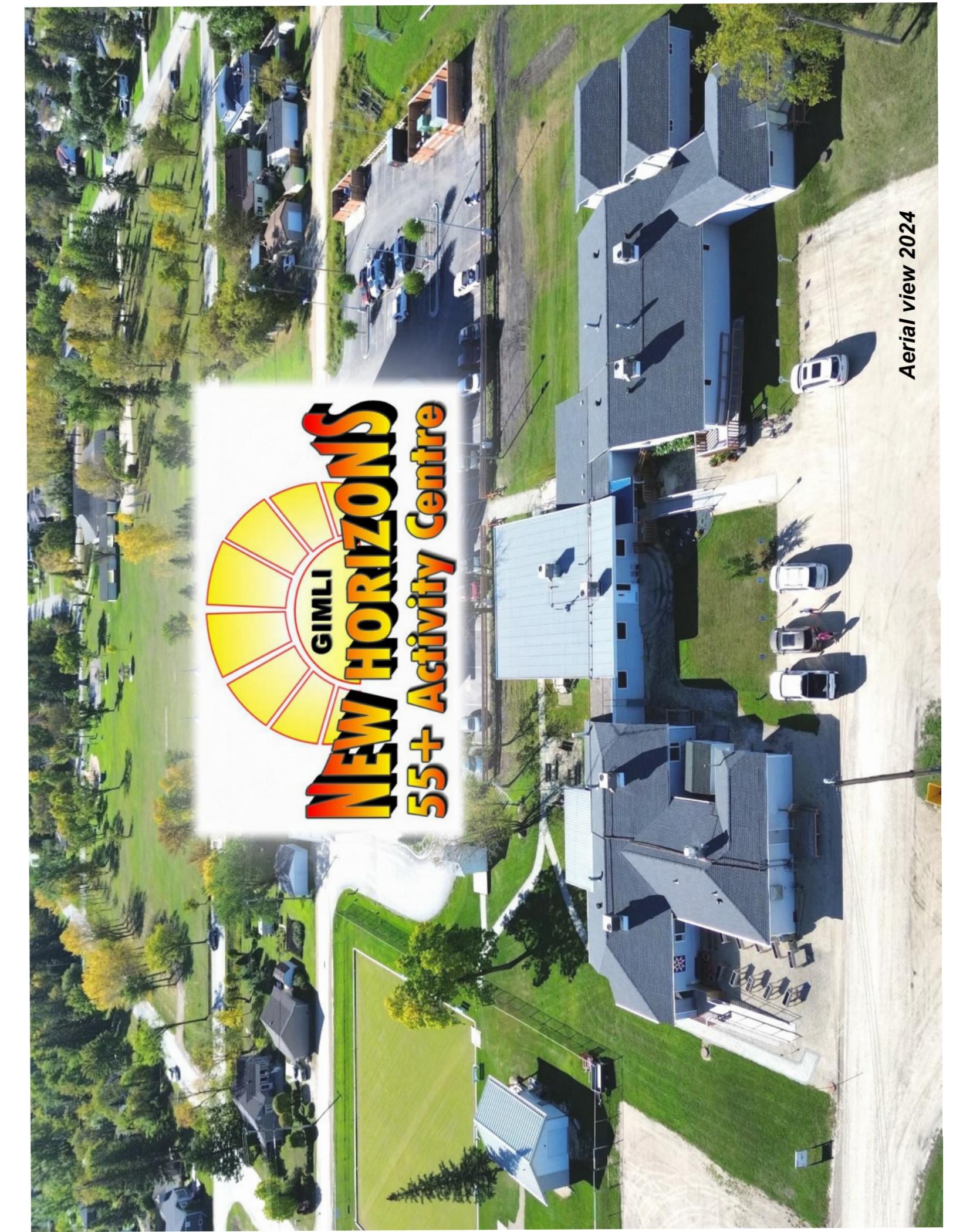
**Cindy Stewart**  
2018 - 2021



**Roy Clarke**  
2021 - 2022



**Cindy Stewart**  
2022 - 2025



**GIMLI**  
**NEW HORIZONS**  
**55+ Activity Centre**

The image is an aerial photograph of a large, modern, light-blue building complex with multiple gabled roofs and dormers. The building is surrounded by a well-maintained green lawn and a paved parking lot with several cars. In the background, there are more residential houses and trees with some autumn-colored foliage. The text 'GIMLI NEW HORIZONS 55+ Activity Centre' is overlaid in the center of the image, with 'GIMLI' in a small black font inside a yellow sun-like graphic, and 'NEW HORIZONS' and '55+ Activity Centre' in large, bold, yellow and orange fonts.

Aerial view 2024