



# THE TELLTALE Gimli Yacht Club

Lat 50° 37.835'N - Lon 096° 59.049'W

Winter 2018

## Commodore's Message

The Holiday season is past and the sounds of a busy summer are fast fading into history. The board has been very active getting organized for the coming summer.

Last summer was incredibly busy and successful in so many ways. We hosted our 50th anniversary celebrations including a hugely successful Open House and amazing dinner, the Canada 150 Birthday celebration on our front lawn, and one of the largest sailing schools in recent years. We hosted 150 people to celebrate the Canada Games Torch Relay, and of course we hosted the Canada Games on its 50th Anniversary. As usual we ran our Pursuit Race Series and our Wednesday Night Racing along with our annual Leukemia Cup fundraiser and the Manitoba Keelboat Championship. Club members cruised all over the lake and adventured far and wide across the planet.

At our AGM Phil Isaac was honored as one of our founders and he gave a stirring reminder that it was members working together that made the club succeed in those early days. I think that it is safe to say that this is still true today.

Without a doubt the positive volunteerism is alive and well at the club. To say our members are proud of our club is an understatement. Sailing School, Canada Games, Wednesday Night Racing, 50th Anniversary Dinner, Open House, Canada Games Torch Run, Leukemia Cup, Spaghetti Dinner, Club Wine & Cheese, Pursuit Races, New Construction, New By-Laws, Negotiations with our Neighbours, (Sail

Manitoba Team, Cadets, Coast Guard, RM of Gimli, Icelandic Festival, Harbour Authority, Department of Fisheries & Oceans). Members volunteering to get things done. Wow! It is quite humbling when in my position I see what everyone does to keep this ship sailing.

The privilege of being the commodore is you get to meet everyone. You get to see what they do and you certainly appreciate what has been done by all our volunteers in the past. Gimli Yacht Club is certainly alive, vibrant, and engaged. There isn't a club in Manitoba that is as engaged.

### Membership Fees & Categories

I was reminded the other day that our dues are extremely inexpensive compared to most other clubs. To be a member of the Kelowna Yacht Club you would have a bill as follows:

Kelowna YC	
Non Refundable Initiation Fee	\$3,500
Yearly Dues Regular (Couple)	416
Members House Account	500
Capital Improvement Fee	300
Total	\$1,216 + taxes
Standard Dock with electrical	
	\$67/ft. x30' = \$2,010
Social (No Boat)	\$272 + 500 + 200 = \$972
Intermediate 18-29=\$188	Youth 12-18 = \$47

As Commodore, I see the tremendous amount of work that our volunteers do, which has helped us keep our dues down. I am reminded of this every year when we hold our spring and fall work parties. Many have suggested that we need to re-examine the decision to move away from a club manager as some of the heavy



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lifting is done by too few volunteer members. Over the coming months we would like to poll our membership to get your feedback.

This year we raised and received over \$60,000 in cash and improvements by hosting the Canada Games. We received two grants for a total of \$20,000 to finish our Accessible Washroom. We received \$5,000 to re-build our back entrance and make it wheelchair accessible. The RM of Gimli expanded our North Parking Lot, while the DFO paved the South Parking Lot. We were given \$30,000 to buy a new race committee boat by the Canada Games Legacy committee, and we were able to upgrade our outdoor electrical connections in both the breezeway, and the North Wall of the club. Gimli's unique position as being the Provincial Sailing Centre, and a renowned International Sailing Centre, makes this support possible.

Had we paid for these improvements ourselves we would have had to raise our dues by over \$110/year for three years.

GYC has been asked to consider an associate and/or a modified racing membership. It really has come up because no single member uses the club to the same extent. Should we have different membership categories? How will this affect our revenues?

Some cruise, some race, some use the club, some never use the club, some use the kitchen, some don't, some only come during the week, others only come during the weekends, some come 4 times a summer and some are there all the time, some only use the club because of the crane while others never use the crane. We are definitely not a homogenous group.

Interestingly everyone outside of the club

thinks we are the same. To them, we are sailors and they are amazed at what we do in Gimli. Tourism Manitoba says that the Gimli Harbour is one of the top 5 tourism destinations in Manitoba.

Last spring, the board decided that a member is a member. We eliminated the Associate Membership as it seemed to be used by some to reduce fees. Like many other organizations, Health Clubs, Golf Clubs, The Harbour Authority, etc. dues are based on your membership, or your berth; they are not based on use.

Our membership fees do vary when it comes to the extras that some of us buy; crane, boat storage, trailer storage, locker storage etc., all of which are in addition to your basic club membership dues. These are valuable revenue sources for the club.

Our worry has always been, since we don't have a club manager, how can we police multiple membership categories? How can we value the difference of using the kitchen or not using the kitchen? Are we creating categories, or loopholes, that treat people differently yet they are still essentially a club member? Take a moment and let a Board Member know how you feel on this subject as it is our intention to make a recommendation at the AGM in the spring.

Darrell Friesen has been working hard as our treasurer, and he is hoping to announce a pay as you go membership option. Whether it will be monthly, quarterly or something else has not been decided. We are hoping to announce this very soon.

## By-Laws

The Adoption of the By-Laws has been a huge success with the communications committee



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admirably implementing and managing this area. Brochures were updated and bulletin boards were purchased to help us improve communication. A few discussions and complaints arose and were dealt with immediately to the satisfaction of all parties thanks to Lori Hiscock's guidance. The new policy, and Lori's insistence that issues be dealt with immediately were key.

In 2018 we want to make sure that this committee is focused on our new members only. We want to make them feel welcome, and to make sure they are introduced to as many members as possible. When you think of a club, you think of an organization that you join to share experiences with other likeminded individuals. My goal is to make everyone feel welcome.

## Wine & Cheese

Michele Evans, Brad Brad Boiselle, Rose Hull, Wendy McConnell, and company are without question the whirling dervishes of the social jet set of the club. Their glasses are half full, and they are keen to pass on the good cheer. Once again, the ad hoc committee organized a great Wine & Cheese event, helped out with the 50th anniversary dinner and always jumped in to lend a hand whenever they were needed. We are very grateful for all their help and good humour.

## 50th Anniversary Dinner

Gourmet Cooking by Rose Hull, Desert & New table cloths by Joanne Burns, Master of Ceremonies by Tom Smith, decorating by Michele Evans, and Sue Plueschow; they created a night to remember. Interest was so high that the event was sold out days in advance. The compromise solution was to sell tickets to the hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Those of us who did both were stuffed; the Hors D'oeuvres were amazing. Fig Leaf Wrapped

Rice Rolls, Prosciutto wrapped dates, it was a culinary experience to remember. We were entertained by the Gimli Choir singing the new club Anthem penned by Evelyn Ward-De Roo. An outstanding evening made possible by a great group of volunteers.

The 50th anniversary has been extremely successful in our discussions with all of our partners. No one had realized how long the club has been in Gimli. It is the board's intention to continue the celebrations for the next two years as 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the date that the club made its first lease with the Town of Gimli. For you history buffs the date of this first agreement is September 16th, 1969. It includes a demised diagram showing our entire property.

## 150th Canada Day Open House

One of the unheralded successes last summer was the July 1st open house held on the club grounds in conjunction with the RM of Gimli and the Canada 150 Committee. The largest cake in Gimli's history was cut, and served to over 400 celebrants. Over 60 visitors were taken on sailing rides by Luke Boguski in Kevin Stewart's Albacore, and 60 people went out with Mike Guezen and Mike Plueschow on our new RC Boat. Many new sailing school students were signed up. Sue Plueschow oversaw tours of the club where 80 people relaxed on the club deck with lemonade and cookies. She wove the club's burgees together to make a great display that lasted till end of the Canada Games. This was one of the most successful PR activities of the summer, and it earned us recognition throughout Gimli. As a key resident of the town we need to be active participants in the town and make sure that we promote ourselves. Great job everyone!



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## Wednesday Night Racing

Mike Guezen oversaw the organizing of WNR. With the retirement of Helmut, this was the first year that we had each of the boats help run the races and we had certified race officials run our races. The results were excellent with great races, protests, results all being posted on time. We even survived the complete meltdown and replacement of the club computer which necessitated Brian pulling the results off the old hard drive and installing them on our new computer. Thanks Brian. Participation was down in Division II and III and was the same in Division I during the year. Racing was hotly contested in all fleets with the results in Division I depending on who beat whom in the last race.

### Division I:

- 1st Rum Line
- 2nd Liquor Box
- 3rd Dog Hawse

### Division II

- 1st Privateer
- 2nd Ozama Rio
- 3rd Magic

The Pot Luck dinner at the end of the season was well attended with over 70 people feasting on an incredible array of delicacies.

Again, many thanks to Mike Guezen for organizing the series and for running numerous races during the year. He was helped by Eric Turner our newly minted "Chief Judge". Eric was just asked by Sail Canada to serve on the Judges Sub-Committee. Well done Eric. Mike was also helped by Brian Staysnec and Dale Kilimnik.

## Pursuit Races

What can you say about the Race Hungry sharks on Paragon? They volunteered at the

beginning of the year to run the 5 pursuit Races for the summer and true to their word they did an amazing job organizing all the races. Particular mention should go to Neal Boyd who did all the handicapping and timing, and ensured that the mark was set in a place that could be found. As always, the Pursuit series was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Event	Flying S	Non Flying S	# Boats
Hec & Back	Trinity	Festina-Lente	9
50th Anniv	Paragon	Solana	10
Leuk Cup	Paragon	Festina-Lente	15
Scally Wag	Liquor Box	Finisterre	11
Comm Cup	Paragon	Bonnie Blue	16

Much discussion occurred regarding Individual Skipper Handicaps. Several members have indicated that they want to do the calculations over the winter. By handicapping the skipper and boat, you can theoretically, like golf, make all the boats equal based on their previous years finishes of the skipper and the boat. I am looking forward to seeing how this will work out.

## Canada Games Torch Run

The 50th Anniversary of the Canada Games certainly brought the "Hottest Summer in Half a Century" to Gimli. Our first exposure of what was to come was the Torch Relay event on July 15th. Darlene Van Vlanderon helped organize this amazing event on behalf of the club. It included The Mayor of Gimli, Randy Woroniuk, MLA for Gimli, Jeff Wharton, and the CEO of the Games Jeff Hnatiuk. The Gimli Kinsman's Club hosted a Fish Fry at the club and over 200 guests and club members celebrated the coming games and the 20 volunteer runners who carried the Torch throughout the town. The Torch run started at the band stand by the hotel and finished at the club. Jeff Hnatiuk CEO of the Games brought



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the flame into the harbour in the Club's new Canada Games RC Boat. The flame was lit on the deck while the relay runners were honoured by the dignitaries present.

## Canada Games

What can we say? The GYC was awarded the event of the year by the Interlake Tourism Association at their annual awards banquet in September. At the end of January, Sail Canada announced that GYC will be awarded the "City of Kingston Regatta of the Year Award" at their annual dinner in March, for the club's running of the games.

GYC shone in every aspect. Kevin Stewart & Andrew Murtomaki (Sport Co-Chairs), Glenn Pollard & Susie Strachan (Venue Co-Chairs) and their numerous volunteers did a superb job of organizing and planning this incredible event. Over 100 athletes, 20 coaches and managers, over 50 officials from all across Canada, 50 volunteers from the GYC and the Gimli area, 20 volunteers from other clubs, and hundreds of visitors came by the club continuously for 10 straight days in July and early August. Thirty knot winds and light breezes were faced by the competitors and the organizers. Visitors, club Members, politicians and officials were impressed with the organization of the volunteer team. The Athletes Village was located at the Gimli High School and received rave reviews. They were all heard to breathe a deep sigh of relief when the last of the venue was dismantled as this meant their responsibilities had finally ended, and they could take a much-needed and well-deserved break.

## Leukemia Cup

Amongst everything else that transpired this summer, the Club raised over \$2,500 in support of research for a cure for Leukemia and Lymphoma. Eric Turner was extremely

happy to see that this, the 7th annual event was so successful, and thanked Wolfe & Luanne Smythe for being the number one fund raisers. Eric indicated that the club has raised over \$25,000 since it started hosting this event. Great job everyone.

## Sailing School

The sailing school under Lori Hiscock's guidance had a very successful year. Registrations were up and Luke Boguski managed the program extremely well. Cindy Blicq obtained a record 9 scholarships from local businesses which ensured that we had a healthy participation from the local Gimli community. Kayden Polachek will be our 2018 Head Coach. We are looking for volunteers to help with the program for this summer.

## Manitoba Keelboat Championships

This year was Gimli's turn to host the Manitoba Keelboat Championships. Eight boats competed for the top prize. Unlike the whole summer, heavier airs were experienced by the fleet which was lots of fun, and created enough mishaps to keep everyone talking well into the evening. Jim Fogg and his crew on Rum Line repeated their 2016 victory by narrowly defeating Charlie Burns and his crew on Liquor Box. Like the Wednesday Night Racing Series it was the last race that determined the winner. Many thanks to Kevin Stewart for being the Regatta Race Officer and to Mike Guezen and family assisting with Race Committee duties.

## Results

**1st** Rum Line Jim Fogg, Dale Kilimnik, Keith Holmes, Fred Finlayson

**2nd** Liquor Box Charlie Burns, Roger Burns, Cam McCulloch, Glen Penner, Michele Matter, Joanne Burns, Bert De Roo, Bob McIntyre, Gary Harmer

**3rd** Paragon Don Jones, Neil Boyd, Cliff Carefoot, Bill Spornitz, Peter Jones



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## Coast Guard News

Thankfully the Coast Guard base is going to remain in Gimli for the foreseeable future. Having just completed a trip to George Island and back in September, Gary Harmer and I were very appreciative of that fact. The remoteness of the north end of the lake is daunting. Fishers and sailors alike need the organized search and rescue capability of the Coast Guard. Their supervision of navigation is essential, and its loss would certainly result in untold tragedies on the lake. Fortunately, the club, the fishers, and the politicians were all heard.

The Coast Guard buildings to the north of the club are going to be finished over the winter. The Boathouse will take longer. We have been talking to DFO quite regularly resolving any construction issues that come up as soon as they do.

There have been several hearings in town regarding the variance requested by the Coast Guard, for their boat house. Glen Pollard has been representing the GYC at these meetings. It is clear that there is a desire by a number of people in Gimli for a plan to be developed governing the future of the Gimli waterfront. Glen has been working with a number of our harbour front partners to get this process kicked off.

## Gimli Harbour Authority

The Gimli Harbor Authority is in the process of rebuilding most of the Principal Docks in the Harbour. As with most of the Harbour improvements we are fortunate that much of this is funded by The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) as the Gimli Harbour is classified as a commercial fishing harbour eligible for this kind of assistance. As always,

we are in a unique position due to our long history at the harbour of being the only non-fishing organization that is a member of the Gimli Harbour Authority. I can tell you that Eric Turner has logged thousands of miles to represent us at the GHA meetings which have been very frequent over the last four months.

The Harbour Authority is trying to implement standards throughout the Harbour and you may have seen some of these in their last email to dock lessors. Currently we are in discussions with them to see if we can't amend some of the changes.

## Cruising

Some members have been talking about organizing a Gimli Flotilla to cruise the northern part of the lake this summer. A meeting is anticipated later in the winter to get this underway. Suggestions have already come forth that we should meet up with the Silver Harbour club, and the Gull Harbour cruisers. If you are interested in organizing a Flotilla to cruise north, please contact Mike Guezen.

As the oldest club on the lake I think we should cruising should be a big part of our mandate. Having just sailed all the way to George Island I think we should be redoing the Red Book – Cruising Book, as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Stu Whitley the original author was passionate about the lake and we should be too. Modern depth sounders, drones and old-fashioned fly-bys could be used to bring this book up to date in 2018. The history of each of these stations and harbours is fascinating and should be researched even further. I am sure that Tourism Manitoba would be very interested in this project.

## Sailor of the Year

At the recent Sail Manitoba awards Kayden Polachek, GYC, was awarded the Sailor of the



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year for his winning of the Sail West Laser regatta in July this summer. Kayden has been a long time Laser sailor in Gimli and beat three previous Laser champions with his victory this summer. Kayden has also agreed to become the GYC head coach of our sailing school for the 2018 sailing season. Well done Kayden.

### Sail Manitoba News

Brigitte Smutny is retiring from Sail Manitoba after 20 years with the association. Brigitte has been awarded the Coach of the Year by Sail Canada for her 20 years of dedicated coaching in Manitoba. Sail Manitoba just recently announced that Katja Smutny has been hired as Sail Manitoba's Executive Director and Shelby Williams has been hired as Sail Manitoba's Technical Director and Head Coach. We wish both Katja and Shelby all the best in their new roles. Both positions are effective April 1st, 2018.

### RM of Gimli News

We have been working with the RM and the DFO to create a new lease for the club. Much progress has been made, and we are hoping to make some announcements at the AGM.

### Archives

Jim Robinson has been hard at work cataloging over 300 pictures for our archives. We have talked to Darrell Friesen and we are looking for the best way to store these pictures to maintain our history. Anyone with old pictures from sailing adventures or club events is asked to get in touch with Jim, and if interested we will scan the pictures and return them to you once catalogued.

### Laser Masters & 2.4 Canadians

We are currently communicating with the Laser Association and the 2.4 m Class association with the view to hosting a major championship in 2019. We will keep you updated if these

organizations are interested in coming to Gimli.

### Nominations

We are only a few months away from the annual meeting and we will be looking for new board members. We want to bring the board up to 14 members. We have identified the following positions that need filling and we are looking for members to fill these positions, (Vice Commodore, Cruising, Racing, Sailing School, Communications, Social) Don Levins, will be retiring after 9 years on the board. The Nomination Committee consists of Nancy Foliott, Jen Hibard, Mike Guezen, Peter Jones and Charlie Burns,

Annual General Meeting & Awards Dinner  
The AGM and Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday March 17th , 2018 location TBA. The AGM will start at 5:30pm followed by drinks and dinner at 6:30pm. We hope to see everyone there.

### Gimli Board 2017-2018

Commodore	Charlie Burns
Director Communication	Peter Jones
Vice Commodore	Vacant
Director Facilities	Glen Pollard
Rear Commodore	Mike Guezen
Director Harbour Authority	Eric Turner
Treasurer	Darrell Friesen
Director	Don Levins
Secretary	Alyson Payette
Director	Wendy McConnell
Past Commodore	Nancy Foliott

Any comments, tall tales or other content for the Telltales? Send them to Peter Jones at peter.jones@umanitoba.ca



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