



Gimli Harbour Heritage Tour



Produced by the RM of Gimli Heritage Advisory Committee



"Gimli gratefully acknowledges the support of the
Province of Manitoba"



GIMLI
THE HEART OF NEW ICELAND

Gimli Harbour Heritage Tour

Gimli is the heart of New Iceland. Historically, Gimli harbour has provided the economic lifeblood of the community. From 1900 on, fishers ventured out from its sheltering piers. Today, sailors, Coast Guard and lake researchers also rely on its stout walls for protection from the tempests of their inland sea. The harbour area today reflects this changing economic role.



A1



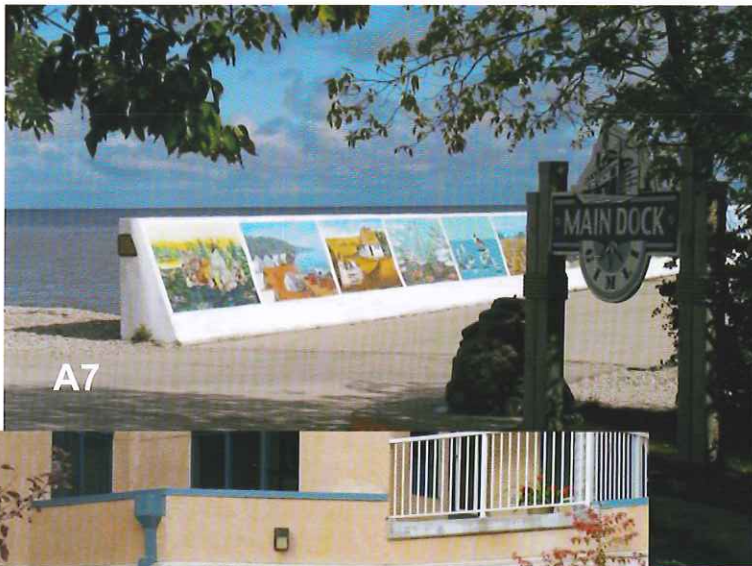
A6



A2



A4



A7



A3

A1. Lake Winnipeg Visitor Centre - 1 Centre St., Ph. 641-7974 GPS loc N50 degrees 37.908 minutes W96 degrees 59.044 minutes.

The Visitor Centre is housed in the former BC Packers fish processing plant and includes a lighthouse moved from the end of the pier. The centre showcases Lake Winnipeg's natural history and the legacy of the commercial fishery. Among the exhibits, you will discover a 1940s whitefish boat and a small-scale replica of the packing plant.

A2. T33 Jet and Cenotaph - Boulevard on 1st Ave. south of Centre St. GPS loc N50 degrees 37.869 minutes W96 degrees 59.144 minutes.

This military jet was donated to the community by those who served in the air force and trained at the Gimli airbase. The monument here honours Canada's veterans of both World Wars and the Korean conflict.

A3. New Iceland Heritage Museum - 94 1st Ave. Waterfront Centre Ph. 642-4001 GPS loc N50 degrees 37.850 minutes W96 degrees 59.168 minutes.

The gripping story of the Icelandic pioneers, who landed on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in 1875 and then wrestled a new life from the wilderness, is told here through films and exhibits.

A4. Viking Statue - south end of 2nd Ave. GPS loc N50 degrees 37.786 minutes W96 degrees 59.209 minutes.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, Asgeir Asgeirsson, the president of Iceland, unveiled this 15 meter statue and memorial to the discoverers of the North American continent.

A5. New Iceland Plaque (Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada Commemoration) - walkway SE of Viking Statue GPS loc N50 degrees 37.754 minutes W96 degrees 59.151 minutes.

This plaque commemorates the founding of New Iceland in 1875 - 76 by over 1000 Icelandic immigrants. The newcomers endured great hardships to settle land along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, granted to them by the Canadian government. The settlers worked hard to preserve their language and culture, and until their lands became part of the province of Manitoba in 1881, they essentially governed themselves with their own constitution.

A6. "Bill's Hill" and the Buried York Boat - east of New Iceland plaque GPS loc N50 degrees 37.775 minutes W96 degrees 59.114 minutes.

Medieval Vikings buried their chieftains in their dragon ships in burial mounds, together with their treasures and female slaves. This hill contains a buried York Boat with some artifacts but no treasures.

A7. Gimli Seawall Gallery - Gimli Dock GPS loc N50 degrees 37.925 minutes W96 degrees 59.021 minutes.

View the infinite colours of Gimli's past through Gimli Art Club paintings on the dock breakwater.

