

# *New 2017*

*Lynda Gianotti*

*"Paddles up", "Hold the Boat", "Hinge", and "Rotate" are all new terms that I learnt over the summer of 2017. From the first practise, I realized what a great organization and amazing group of Breast Cancer survivors the "Waves of Hope Westman" is. I am proud to say I am a member.*

*My life story includes a childhood and teenage years growing up in Manitoba small towns. I learnt to walk in Solsgirth, how to skate in the Cardale rink, play baseball in Foxwarren, and graduate high school in Virden. My Mom and Dad always encouraged my 2 brothers, sister, and myself to participate in activities/events and mentored giving back to the communities where we lived.*

*Dave and married late in life and have been very fortunate to have 2 sons, Tim and Cam. Our first years of marriage and being parents were spent between Bissett and Winnipeg due to jobs. Dave was a prospector and I worked for a school division. An opportunity took us to Craig, Colorado for a few years but we returned to Neepawa, Manitoba when Dave started a GPS business specializing in technologies for agriculture. We enjoyed living on an acreage 6 miles from Neepawa and had access to many outdoor activities right outside our back door. Our sons enjoyed living in Neepawa participating in many sports and working at the golf course and swimming pool during the summers. While Dave developed his business, I was the Neepawa Public Library librarian, helped with our business, and did contract work for Western Manitoba Child and Family Services. Both sons graduated from post secondary schools and presently, Tim is a teacher and Cam is a program analyst. Both are sharing their lives with two very special young women.*

*Retirement was a welcome option for Dave and I. We have recently downsized and sold our Neepawa home and have moved to Erickson. Summers are spent enjoying time at our cabin at Otter Lake and to date winters are spent in parts of BC. Our favorite place in BC is Sointula, a small Finnish community. Dave and I enjoy spending as much time outside as possible and try for daily walks/hikes. While I am quilting or knitting, Dave handicaps thoroughbred horse races.*

*Of course, health issues surface and we try to deal with them with a positive attitude and one day at a time. When I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I decided to have a lumpectomy and follow up treatments were radiation and hormonal prescription. I have been part of a test trial for the different time frame for radiation treatment. I feel very fortunate that my cancer was detected early through a mammogram.*

*Having a positive mental attitude while dealing with any cancer is very important. Being on the water, paddling with fellow "Waves", and sharing smiles and laughs at practises and festivals are what I value from being a member of our fantastic team.*