

BeauHead Senior Centre – Presentation

Hello. Good afternoon. I'm Shauna Neiser, mayoral candidate for Beausejour. Some of you will know me better as Shauna Crognali, daughter of Rene and Gloria Crognali.

Thank you for inviting me here today to talk to you about who I am, what I hope for for our town and even more so to hear from and listen to you – foundational members of our community.

I grew up here in Beausejour for my first 22 years. 14 years ago, my husband and I came back here to raise our daughter and to be closer to family – my parents, brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins. At that time, I said to my family - one day I want to be mayor of our town. And that time is now. A year ago, I retired from a rich 33-year career. While I have had a great year, I am now ready to take the next step and be your mayor.

I want to bring forward my years of experience, to lead our community - the town I live in...where I drink the water, use the garbage and recycling services and drive on the roads daily.

With my experience working:

as a Victim Services Coordinator with the City of Portage La Prairie and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;

as a Road safety issue specialist and a senior case manager with Manitoba Public Insurance and

as a senior case manager with Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, amongst many volunteer leadership roles, I am positioned strongly into this leadership role as mayor - to strategically lead our town into the future.

What I see, from speaking to community members and from my own perspective is:

- Beausejour is a steadily growing community: families are putting down roots, and seniors want to retire here.
- Residents want a town where they can live, work, play, and shop, without having to leave.
- Growth is already happening - the question is whether it happens with a plan, or without one.

There are “hot topics” – real challenges for senior residents that come with these are:

- Park Avenue refurbishment – with concerns regarding the change to parallel parking and accessibility to stores and services.
- High grocery cost attributed to limited competition for groceries within the town, the place many of our senior have to shop at as traveling outside of town is no longer an option due to normal mobility challenges that come with aging.
- Senior friendly housing – both in terms of accessibility to and within the home and affordable

So what do we need going forward so people can live, work, play, and shop, without having to leave...

1) Smart Growth, Built to Last:

We need to pursue the Town of Beausejour land annexation proposal to open up room for new homes and businesses with a real plan for infrastructure: water, wastewater, roads, and services *before* we build, not after.

Beausejour is perfectly placed – close to Winnipeg, close to cottage country. We need to use our location to draw in visitors, new residents, and new businesses from Winnipeg and cottage-country traffic.

We need to work with the Chamber, Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation and the Planning District to bring in new employers and support the businesses already here.

And we need to support housing options so people can stay in Beausejour at every stage of life: we need starter homes, family homes, and downsizing options.

That's' Smart Growth, built to last.

2) Affordability Now, and for the Future:

We need to grow the commercial and industrial tax base so the cost of better services doesn't fall on homeowners alone. We need to work collaboratively with the BBDC, the District Planning, the Chamber and industry to ensure our town is positioned and promoted for growth.

We also need to chase every dollar of provincial, federal, and developer funding available before asking residents to pay more.

That's Affordability Now, and for the Future

3) A Safe, Active, Connected Community:

I want to foster an open and collaborative government through greater transparency and communication with residents, real collaboration with town staff and partners, and clear up to date strategic priorities for the whole community.

Let's work on upgrading our playgrounds, arena, curling rink, and pool, the places families use every week.

I want to make the town easier and safer to get around for everyone by supporting the expansion of walking and biking trails, better sidewalks and crosswalks, especially keeping in mind our seniors and young families.

And I want to strengthen our partnerships with the Fire Department and RCMP through better collaboration to help keep Beausejour a safe place to live.

So...

- We need Smart Growth that's Built to Last:
- We need Affordability Now, and for the Future:
- We need a Safe, Active, Connected Community:

If you vote for me as your next mayor,

You will get stronger leadership, guided by decades of municipal and organizational experience.

As an example, I have collaborated with municipal governments, citizens and law enforcement throughout the province to support traffic safety and

crime prevention programming in their communities through my work as a Road Safety Issue Specialist dealing with issues of speeding, aggressive and distracted driving and as the Provincial Citizens on Patrol Coordinator with Manitoba Public Insurance where I helped bring 64 COPP groups together under a provincial advisory body.

You will get greater communication and transparency on issues before Council and in our Community.

You will get responsible growth that welcomes new homes and businesses without losing what makes this town special.

Through up-to-date strategic focus, not one that was developed in 2019 and not updated since, we will plan our town's growth while supporting our current residents and businesses.

You will get reliable services and infrastructure that keep pace with our community with this strong planning.

We will have greater collaboration with and empowerment of our employees and community partners, working towards common goals for the betterment of our community and businesses.

And you will get a more connected town with residents who are informed, engaged, and proud of where they live.

Beausejour has a real choice on the ballot — and I'm that choice for change.

Backed by 33 years of strong and real leadership experience, I'm ready to bring strategic direction to a town that's ready to grow, that's Beausejour, that's our town.

Thank you.