Manitoba 150 Looking Back thru Photos

Coole Coole

COME FOR A WEEKEND STAY FOR LIFE

2020



YOUR WINNIPEG - NORTHEAST MANITOBA CONNECTION

Linda Hapko linhapko@mts.net 204-345-0056 | Mike Smith mikesmithwendigo@gmail.com 204-340-2553 www.wendigorealty.ca 76 Second Street, Lac du Bonnet 1-888-345-0056



20 GREWINSKI, ONE OF A KIND WATERFRONT !! Custom built w 800' of shoreline on 53 acres. Vaulted ceilings, stone f/p, ensuite, sunroom, deck, hot tub, heated triple gar, yard to die for, 3 dr heated boat gar, so much more, 895,000



7 GREEN ACRES, WPG RIVER WATERFRONT, east shore. 1336 SF, 3 bdrm 1 bath home fully equipped with furniture, appliances + yard tools, including mowers. Outside is a dbl det garage + sheds. All you need is the key!! 394,000



54 LEESIDE, 2200 SF , 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 storey, energy efficient, custom built home on a double lot. Newer 30x26 garage + a 16x12 insulated work shed, large garden, fire pit area. Boat launch close by. 229,000



7 MARINE DR, PRICED TO SELL! Solid 2 bdrm bung, fully winterized, ready to go. Large open concept. Subdivision has a boat launch, beach + great marina. Dock spot available under separate agreement. 154,900



5-174 MINNEWAWA, Freestanding condo, 2 bdrms, 1 bath, large kitchen, tons of cabinets, separate laundry, green space out back door, close to all amenities. Quick possession avail. Priced to sell, call today. 149,900



15 ERICKSON LANE, Spectacular water views, 1428 SF, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, open concept bungalow, custom kitchen, hot tub, dbl garage, sunroom, private dock, incls ALL furniture + appliances. 274,900



0 STEVENSON POINT, 4.6 Acre WATERFRONT with MAJOR PRIVACY! Dream location at the end of Stevenson Point. 980 SF, 3 bed, 1 bath built on large granite outcropping. Hundreds of feet of waterfront, potential to subdivide. 285,500



4 BALSAM, 3 bdrm bungalow, double lot in town, det dbl gar, open living area, dining/ kitchen, numerous upgrades done. Bsmt completely finished. Close to schools, shopping, healthcare, 214,900



LEDIN ROAD, DOCK AT WATER !! Lovely 4 season home nestled in the trees. Newer upgrades such as deck, flooring, shingles and more. Cozy up to 1 of the wood stoves. WON'T LAST 159,900



117 LESLIE, IN TOWN, 1300 SF, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath bungalow, kitchen, LR, sunroom w patio doors to backyard, deck, 24x22 garage. Recent upgrades-shingles, windows, doors, gar shingles, hot water tank. 145,000



480 LEE RIVER RD, WATERFRONT, 2016 SF, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home, with extensive + expensive upgrades, 2 sunrooms, 2 decks, much much more. Nothing to do but enjoy! NO DISAPPOINTMENTS HERE!!! 699,000



WATERFRONT LOTS: From 79,900 to 250,000. Available on Sam Hearne, Belluk Rd, Ledin Rd, Poplar Pl, Wendigo Rd, Newcombe Rd and Hay Bay. Call for details



4 APSIT, 5 BEDROOMS! Full living quarters UPSTAIRS AND DOWN. Newer foundation, shingles, vinyl siding, many updates, close to town. Vendor motivated, all offers con-



17 HENDERSON, WHITEMOUTH, 1270 SF, 3-4 bdrm, large kitchen, den, rec room, mudroom, deck, 24x22 heated + insl garage. Recent upgrades windows, countertop, flooring, landscaping. Appliances incl'd. 149,900



137 LEISURE FALLS, "THREE FOR ONE"! 1 1/2 acres (3 separate titles), backs on to a creek. 1076 sf, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, lovely kitchen. Upgrades throughout. Mature trees, many outbuildings. Owner motivated. 139,900



180 LAKE, WATERFRONT IN TOWN !! 1730 SF, plus full finished walk-out bsmt, 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, dbl att insul garage, beautifully landscaped yard with fabulous views of the Winnipeg River. 449,000



193 BROOKFIELD RD. IMMACULATE 1344 SF. 3 bdrm 2 bath home. Large eat-in kitchen, patio doors to back deck. Ensuite off master, main flr laundry. 28x24 garage, insul'd, drywalled, heated. Located between LdB + Pinawa. 279,900



131 PARK, SHE-SHACK OUT BACK is the perfect complement to this home. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, generous living room, dining room + eat-in kitchen. Downstairs is a cold room, rec room, and a kitchen!! Good solid home. 169,900



MAPLE STREET, PINE FALLS, SO MUCH HOUSE FOR THIS PRICE !! Vendor motivated. 1578 s.f., 3 bedrm, 2.5 baths, full dev. Bsmnt, full fenced bkyrd, many upgrades. All this for 179.900



144 HORBATIUK, WATERVIEW 2 bdrm home (or rental property). LOW taxes. New 2000g water tank 2018. Septic tank + field, garage. 3 titles to property incls 220x63 lot that could be sold or built on. 117,000





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The incorporated Village of Lac du Bonnet's first mayor Joe Sparman is seen here riding Lac du Bonnet's infamous "Mugwump" in the Canada Day parade in 1967.

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COVER PHOTOS: Background Photo by Stu Iverson | "Great Horned Owlets in Nest" and "Young Red Fox" Photos by Rick McGregor

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EDITOR: Mark T. Buss

SALES: Marlene Hrysio LAYOUT & DESIGN: Candace Kekish

Lac du Bonnet Clipper, 74 Second Street, PO Box 218, Lac du Bonnet, MB R0E 1A0 • Phone 204-345-8459 • Fax 204-345-0380 • Email Idbnews@clipper.mb.ca • Website www.clipper.mb.ca

Welcome to the Town of Lac du Bonnet

On behalf of the council of the Town of Lac du Bonnet, we want to welcome you to our community.

Lac du Bonnet is a wonderful community, located in the hub of activity in eastern Manitoba, along the beautiful Winnipeg River, a quick one-hour drive from Winnipeg, our provincial capital. A great hub of Arts and Recreation. There are many artists and art events inspired by those living in the area (wood carvers, painters, musicians, Boreal Shores, Winnipeg River Arts Council, etc).

This year we are celebrating Manitoba's 150th. Our "four seasons playground" wasn't always a playground – it was the place of a lot of hard work. It was 150 years ago in 1870 that the last major expedition (the Wolseley Expedition) used the Winnipeg River as its route to the west. The Lac du Bonnet area is steeped in a lot of history because of the River, and so we celebrate with Manitoba this year. We have some long-term businesses and residence who have been a part of the community all their lives. We honour them for the major contribution that they have made to our journey through time.

Our town provides an environment where we promote the foundation of the family. You will experience a balanced blend of town convenience and amenities, together with a peaceful, laid-back place to raise a family.

We are a town with a great mix of retail shops, businesses and residents. We are proud of the investment of people, business and the provision of leisure opportunities; that is what makes Lac du Bonnet a wonderful place to live, do business and then retire.

Lac du Bonnet is an age friendly community. It truly is a four season playground for the young and the young at heart. You really need to see it for yourself to appreciate all our community has to offer.

Come visit and then stay! That's what I did.

Mayor Gordon Peters

Welcome to the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet

The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet is situated a short scenic drive northeast of Winnipeg, and our residents take great pride in our moto of being a "four seasons playground".

This year is special, as the Province of Manitoba celebrates its 150th Anniversary. Through the years, our municipality has contributed greatly to the development and rich history of our province. The fur trade, forestry, hydro electric production, brick factories, regional mining projects and commercial fishing are jus some of our region's contributions to our provincial history.

Today, the RM of Lac du Bonnet remains a mecca of activities. In the summer, you can navigate countless miles of scenic waterways, or golf our regions first class golf courses. If fishing is your passion, book a fly in trip or try your luck in our local waters which host professional tournaments, or enjoy a session of ice fishing at the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Trout Ponds. If you enjoy nature, walk a section of the Trans Canada Trail and catch a glimpse of the abundant wildlife, or learn of our region's history at the Lac du Bonnet District Museum or the Old Pinawa Historical Provincial Park. In the winter, you can snowmobile countless miles of the best-groomed trails, or snowshoe and cross-country ski our region's wilderness trails. There's something for everyone, young and old, to experience.

Please visit our website at www.lacdubonnet.com and plan a day trip or come spend the weekend. Whatever you decide, do bring your friends, family and loved ones; *come for a visit and stay for a lifetime*. It's our community spirit and people that will complete your adventure. You won't be disappointed.

On behalf of the municipal council and our committed staff, I welcome you and hope you enjoy our region's beauty and activities while "Lac du Bonnet Living."

Reeve Loren Schinkel





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Lac du Bonnet Rebranded Come for a Weekend Stay for Life

The Lac du Bonnet Community Development Corporation (CDC) has moved moved forward with rebranding the community they serve.

The longtime slogan 'A Four Season Playground' will be replaced by 'Come For A Weekend, Stay For Life' as per the blessing of the RM of Lac du Bonnet and other stakeholders who reportedly approve of the new handle.

Last May, a request for decision brought forward by Coun. Scott Jones noted the CDC was taking on the task of rebranding the area amid claims there are multiple users of the Four Season Playground brand. The request went on to say the Town and the RM felt the slogan was outdated and over used.

The desire to change brands reportedly came after a March meeting where several stakeholders including the CDC, the town and RM, Community Futures Winnipeg River, the Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce and Eastman Tourism were involved in the discussions.

"We figured it would take several meetings to (decide) what the rebrand would be, but it seemed like a light came on," Jones said. "Come For A Weekend, Stay For Life was unanimously supported."

Mayor Gordon Peters supports the rebranding.

"The new branding Come for a Weekend, Stay for Life, is very similar to the closing line that I have used for the last several years of my annual write up for the *Lac du Bonnet Living* magazine, Come visit and then stay!, so I actually really like the new branding," said Peters.

Peters said rebranding in name is the first step – the cost of transition and redoing all the signs and logos is the major expense and second step in the process.

Both the town and RM have indicated that increasing tourism is a priority and the CDC is in a position to help bring this project to fruition by bringing forward a strategic planning session with invited stakeholders facilitated by Travel Manitoba.

Travel Manitoba is the leader when it comes to marketing the province. They have agreed to work with Lac du Bonnet on rebranding and focus on developing tourism products for the area.

Den ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION LAC DU BONNET BRANCH #164 Email: ldbbranch164@gmail.com www.ldblegion.ca			
Monday Weekly Activities			
to Saturday	Bingo	Monday	7:00pm
Saturaay	Pokeno	Tuesday	2:00pm
Evervor	Pool	Wednesday	1:00pm
	- Grinnande	Wednesday	7:00pm
Welcom	B Darts	Thursday	7:00pm
	Lessons Offered Bridge	Friday	1:00pm
LIGHT MENU AND	Hard Card Bingo	Friday	7:00pm
HAPPY HOUR	Meat Draw & Chase the Ace	Saturday	2:30pm
EVERY HOUR 😳	Jam Session	1 st Saturday of each month	7:00pm



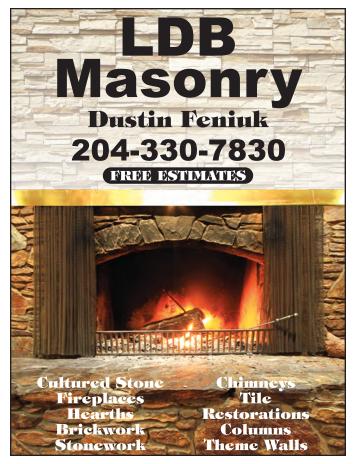
Wendigo Realty: A Name You Can Trust

endigo Realty is a business that delivers honest and flexible service to clients looking for a bigger home, a cottage on the lake, or that perfect place to retire.

The business is locally owned and operated and is a member of both the Manitoba Real Estate Board (MREB) and the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), with full access and exposure through Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and the Winnipeg Real Estate Board (WREB).

"Whether you are new to the Lac du Bonnet area, or have been living in the area for a long time, we will provide you with the care and expertise you would expect and demand from a professional," said Linda Hapko, broker of Wendigo Realty. "That means great client care and support- from constant communications, attention to detail and a positive experience for all during transactions- for the buyers, sellers and real estate colleagues."

Moving Wendigo Reality to 76 Second Street in early 2020, Hapko is an award winning licensed broker with knowledge and experience in the Winnipeg real estate market in addition to handling properties in North



Eastman. She has developed a reputation as a straightshooting business woman of integrity who offers clients her expertise in all aspects of the real estate trade including buying, selling and subdividing.

She was raised in Lac du Bonnet and her love and knowledge of the area serves her and her clients well. Whether you are buying or selling your home or cottage, or are selling your place in the city so you can retire on the lake, you can trust that Wendigo Realty will provide individual attention and national exposure.



Linda Hapko of Wendigo Reality in Lac du Bonnet has developed a reputation as a straight-shooting business woman of integrity.

Mike Smith grew up in Pointe du Bois and joined Wendigo Realty in 2015. Hapko said working in real estate is a natural fit because Smith knows his community and brings an integrity and passion to his work. As a real estate agent, Smith offers energy, hard work and creative service to every detail of the real estate transaction.

"This speaks of trust from those who ask us to find or sell their home," said Hapko.

The Wendigo team provides over 26 years of experience and is fully equipped to handle any size transaction. Clients who work with Hapko and Smith know they are in good hands because meeting the needs of their clients is their primary focus.

"It is about the people, not the agent... you are our No. 1 priority!" said Hapko.

Lag du Bonnet CA Community on the Lake

Swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, baseball and slow-pitch are popular summer activities.

Winter activities include curling, bowling, hockey, skating, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice fishing.

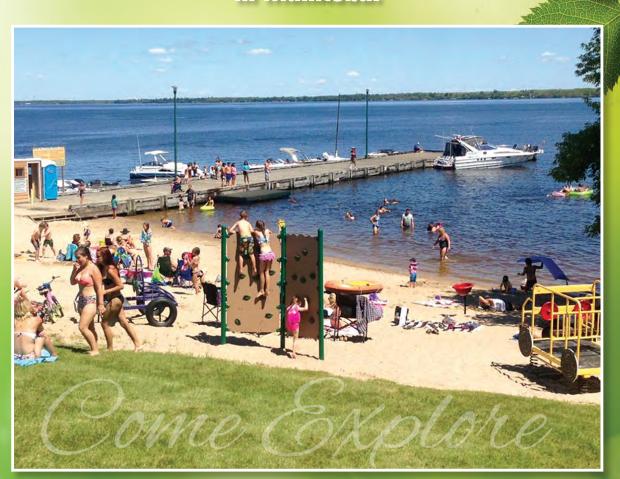
Walking and cycling trails are located in the area, as is the Old Pinawa Dam Provincial Heritage Park.

In and around Lac du Bonnet there are many parks to enjoy.

The beach has beautiful sand and play structures while families can watch from the grassed hillside.

Our town dock is also home to Manitoba's best rural Canada Day weekend fireworks display.

Our town is one of the most desirable places to **Integration 1998** in Manitoba.





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- Cooler cleaning services
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Lots of

Parking

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McArthur Avenue

North (PR 317)

Premium Fair Trade Coffees • Espresso, Specialty Coffees • Specialty Teas, Hot Chocolates • Soups, Sandwiches, Daily Specials • Assorted Baked Goods • Catering •

I Heart Coffee Made From Pure Water

Lac du Bonnet has a unique business that not only provides bottled water to the public but also uses it to make specialty coffees, teas and flavoured hot chocolate. This quaint coffee shop/deli offers customers a variety of homemade soup, sandwiches, daily specials and assorted baked goods for a snack or light lunch to enjoy on site or for take-out.

"We serve an array of specialty coffees and teas both hot and cold, but now we also offer a variety of whole bean coffees, coffee presses and stovetop espresso makers for home and cottage use," owner Chris Hall said. "We also bring in some hard to find food items like halva, imported chocolates and other international treats. So, if you are in the mood for a great cup of coffee drop by and maybe try something new while you are here."

Hall became involved in the business when her brother Andy Hall fell ill with cancer and was struggling to maintain his established Lac du Bonnet business called Pure Water. The original business provided water, and water treatment equipment and service.

"Since first stepping into my brother's shoes to help meet the community's needs

for great drinking water, I realized the need for a local place opened year-round to get really good coffee. I knew that the best water made the best coffee so it seemed like a natural next step," said Hall.

Prior to opening I Heart Coffee in the spring of 2018 Hall decided it would be a good idea to reach out to the public for feedback.

"I looked to the community for a few simple suggestions as to what they felt was missing and boy did they deliver. Requests poured in for different foods, indoor and outdoor seating and our most common request...a drive-through," said Hall.

In the summer of 2019, Hall did some reorganizing and created a small seating area inside the building and added an outdoor patio in the fall. Since opening, Hall said the biggest challenge she faced was getting permits and infrastructure in place to open the drive-through, whose construction is slated to begin in June.

"While our food menu is constantly evolving, our home-made soups (my own family recipes) and sandwiches have continued to be in high demand. Their popularity drove requests for us to offer catering and are still one of our most popular requests for our catered events," said Hall.

Hall said her customers and the community of Lac du Bonnet continue to inspire and encourage her with creative ideas and unwavering support. As a way of expressing gratitude to the community, I Heart Coffee has made



Chris Hall greets customers with a friendly smile at I Heart Coffee in Lac du Bonnet.

a commitment to donate a portion of sales to the Lac du Bonnet Youth Center during the months of August, September and October.

"We are hoping to make this an annual event, much like our yearly winter event during November through January when we hold promotions for the local food bank," Hall said. "While our contributions aren't huge, we chose these groups because of the incredibly important service they provide to this community."



Campbell's Foods Meeting Customers' Needs

Seven years at the helm of Campbell's Foods, owners Brian and Carol Cameron have made several positive changes to the business while maintaining the quality and customer service the store is known for.

Established around 1920 by Richie Neil Campbell, the store was originally located on the corner of Park and Second Street. The business ceased to operate in the 1940s when Richie Neil retired.

After a 35-year business absence from the community, Bill Campbell and his mother Ollie re-established his grandfather's grocery as Campbell's Corner Store at the corner of Park Avenue and Minnewawa Street.

Bill's brother, Dick joined the family business in 1980, bought out his brother and mother in 1988 and operated it solely until 2013 when he sold it to the Camerons.

Brian Cameron said he and Carol have owned property in Lac du Bonnet since 2004, and had plans to retire in the community at some point in the future. When they had the opportunity to purchase the grocery at 74 McArthur Ave., they jumped at it.

Having spent a career in the grocery industry, Brian said owning and operating his own store was something

that he always wanted to do. He recognizes that "the most important asset of any business is the staff."

"The staff are key. They are friendly, devoted and knowledgeable in meeting our customers' needs," Brian said. "We are all working hard to make sure there groceries on the shelves, especially these days."

Brian said having good suppliers ensures fresh, quality products for customers. He said they made several changes in that area since taking over the store including bringing in more Manitoba products.

"We have some local suppliers now and took on some local producers, and we think that's a good thing, especially for the local economy," Brian said. "We have lots of regular customers from Lac du Bonnet and surrounding communities and we really appreciate their support."

Significant upgrades have also been made in the store including a revamped bakery, equipment replacement and a face-lift to the interior.

"Everything we have done is to improve the shopping experience as the grocery business is changing all the time," Brian said.



In return, the Camerons believe it is equally important to give back to the community and they do their part by sponsoring events and community groups including the food bank, the Christmas hamper program, Canada Day weekend fireworks, the ice fishing derby and the Fire and Water music festival and many others.

The Camerons also support Lac du Bonnet's minor hockey and baseball programs.

<image>

Brian and Dave Cameron ensure a variety of fresh products are available at Campbell's Foods in Lac du Bonnet.

"For us it's important for kids to be active,"

Brian said. "It fosters teamwork and life skills." When asked what is the best thing about his work, Brian said, "I enjoy the variety of what we have going on here and interacting with the staff and customers."



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Our Outdoor Furniture is made for Entertaining

Country Classics Cedar Furniture

Country Classics Cedar Furniture is dedicated to producing hand-crafted, quality furniture for yearround residents and cottagers in North Eastman.

"Country Classics is a family-owned and operated business," said Don Kroker, who runs the business with wife Brenda and son Justin. "When we started the business, we knew what it took to succeed. We had to be different, and that is how we adopted our approach. We "All of our staining is brushed on and our choice of finish is called Super Deck, a penetrating tung oil available in many colours," explained Kroker.

Country Classics has blended colours to produce a stain unique to their business.

"It is a very warm honey colour and our customers seem to really appreciate our efforts. That said we will consider applying the colour protective product of

decided that it was necessary to handcraft the highest quality furniture we could, and it truly is the most uniquely beautiful cedar furniture you will find."

Kroker built his first chair in 2001 after retiring from farming and noted he then had no experience working with wood.

"Running a cow/ calf operation was my real passion. It just goes to show

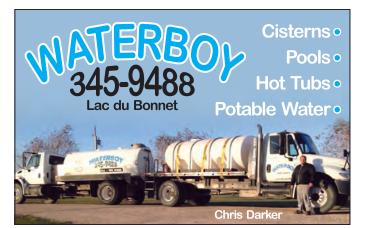


A colourful display of Country Classics Cedar Furniture.

said Kroker.

that a person can grow to be passionate about anything," said Kroker.

The cedar collection from Country Classics includes a variety of tables and chairs designed for outdoor use but these beautiful pieces can easily be incorporated into indoor seating areas such as recreation rooms, sunrooms or kitchens.





Country Classics uses materials that are sought after

"We have to compete with some very big players

in order to source clear western red cedar." Kroker

the customers' choice on special orders," said Kroker.

Country Classics gained a reputation of producing high quality handcrafted cedar furniture several years ago when the Krokers were approached by a cedar hot tub company that serves a global market. "The work

"The work done in my little shop is in every corner of the world,"

everywhere around the globe.

2020 Lac du Bonnet LIVING 15

'Country Classics furniture is very strong and durable'

cannot purchase what we use. We use 5/4 clear red cedar all kiln dried so the wood will remain stable. All stress points on our products are glued as well as screwed."

The production process begins by kiln drying the cedar down to under 10 per cent moisture content. Each piece is then sanded, revealing the grain and the quality of the board.

"We then hand select what will go into the furniture and cut parts according to the model we use," said Kroker.

The edges are finished with a 3/8" round over and assembly is completed by pre-drilling holes, proceeding through the gluing process and application of rust-resistant screws to the holes.

"After assembly, the entire piece is gone over with a palm sander using



The gossip chair from the Country Classics collection provides great seating.

150-grit sandpaper," said Kroker.

Kroker said Lac du Bonnet provides many great opportunities to display his products and Country Classics is a regular vendor at the Lac du Bonnet Farmers Market and at trade fairs around the region. Country Classics furniture is very strong and durable and the business also offers these same features and styles in their plastic collection.

Kroker said word of mouth travels and much of his new business comes from referrals.

"We are almost guaranteed that when someone makes a purchase from us they will buy again," Kroker said. "The products that we sell aren't something that needs to be replaced but people add to what they have or purchase as them as gifts."



John Angus Realty: A Legacy of Quality Service

John Angus Realty has been serving the North Eastman community since 2005, helping clients find the Ideal residential, waterfront, commercial or agricultural property.

Cam Harland joined the John Angus sales team in 2012. When Angus decided to slow things down and sell the company in 2017, Harland purchased the business from his predecessor.

When asked if he had any plans to make changes at the company Harland replied they would "absolutely be keeping the name" as it is established and recognized in the region.



Cam Harland (left) purchased the Lac du Bonnet real estate company from founder John Angus in 2017.

"I feel privileged to be able to meet so many wonderful people and to see so many unique properties," Harland said shortly after the purchase in 2017. "I've been so happy working here and to be taking the last step in my career. It's a happy time for me."

Harland maintains Angus on staff as a valued advisor and back up authorized official.

Kevin Edwards has been with John Angus Realty since 2013, and under the new ownership he assumed the role of Associate to Harland.

Janice Charko, Angus' wife and business partner has also remained on the scene as book keeper to the real estate company along with Harland's father Harvey Harland in the role of Agricultural Consultant.

"My Dad has extensive experience with agriculture and worked with the Canadian Grain Commission," said Harland, adding the knowledge and experience is especially important when dealing with clients looking to buy or sell farm land. Harland said that during the past three years under his leadership, the John Angus Realty team has become good friends with many of their clients and customers.

"We have been really lucky to be leading in an industry that allows for close relationships with wonderful people to blossom," he said.

Harland added that they have developed a nice network of referred business in those three short years.

"If you look after your customers' best interests, the rest will just follow," he added.

Harland said that although there are uncertain times ahead in the Recreation Real Estate Market, John Angus Realty has a fair amount of activity so far this year due in part to the anticipated decline on travel in the near future. He attributes this continued success partly to the team effort, quality service and lower interest rates.

The Harland and Edwards families are grateful to all their valued clients and customers, and look forward to meeting and working with many of them in the future.

"Whether buying or selling, we are here to service whatever needs your family may require in this local real estate market," said Harland.



2020 Lac du Bonnet LIVING 17

Dancyt's Full Line Grocery Store

The Dancyt family has played an important role in the Lac du Bonnet business community since 1946 when Alex Dancyt established a store to provide the public with essential grocery items.

Curtis and Connie Dancyt are the current owners of Dancyt's Fine Foods and represent the third generation of the family.

"My father and grandfather worked together in the store and I helped out after school," said Curtis.

Curtis' grandfather eventually sold his portion of the business to Curtis' father in 1979.

"I bought the business from my mother in 1989 and Connie and I are now turning over much of the operation to our son John and daughter Cheri (Waite)," Curtis said.

"We're already preparing our grandchildren to become the fifth generation of the Dancyt business," added Connie.

Dancyt's Fine Foods is well known as the home of the Kurtwurst sausage, one of the many recipes developed by Curtis since 1980 during his years behind the meat counter.

"I got creative and started experimenting with recipes," said Curtis.

"I still laugh when he started making Bratwurst," said Connie. "When she was only five or six years old, our youngest daughter Alex asked, 'Is that named after John?"

These days the couple is slowing things down a bit by selling their Pine Falls store three years ago and turning operations over to John and Cheri.

"Cheri has the grocery end of things under control, but I still look after the budget, finances and work schedules," said Connie.

Curtis' role in the meat department has been downsized now that John is in charge.

Connie recalled her move to Lac du Bonnet from her home in Churchill in 1978. Curtis was working in her northern home town and the two met at the local arena where Curtis played hockey with Connie's three brothers.

"I'm one who believes that an arena is the most important and central point in a community," said Connie.



18 Lac du Bonnet LIVING 2020

Connie and Curtis Dancyt are grateful for the community support their business has received over the years.

They continue to be avid sports fans. With grandchildren involved in organized sports, Connie and Curtis attend their games and cheer on the teams.

The members of the Dancyt family are firm believers in supporting the community, and their generosity can be seen frequently through their food and cash donations to a variety of events and functions in Lac du Bonnet.

"We're grateful to the community for supporting our business over the years," said Curtis.

Connie mentioned that many of their loyal customers drove to their Pine Falls location to do their shopping after their Lac du Bonnet store was lost in a fire in October 2009. The one item the Dancyts could not replace from the fire was a cherished Community Volunteer Award they received from the province in 2006.

"We were so proud to receive that award," said Connie.



After the fire, Connie noted they did not think they would actually get back to Lac du Bonnet as their children were running the Pine Falls store and she and Curtis thought of getting out of the business altogether.

"But then our current location came up for sale and we decided to purchase it and re-establish the store in Lac du Bonnet," said Curtis.

The Dancyts are firm believers in the Shop Local initiative and attend events, sponsor fundraising initiatives, host annual fundraisers for cancer research.



Garlic in Spotlight at Lac du Bonnet Farmers Market

By Teresa Carey

n idyllic acreage in the midst of a mixed boreal forest has turned out to be the perfect habitat in which to grow garlic, a fact Chuck Leibert discovered by happy accident when first trying his hand at smallscale organic farming on his 86-acre Bird River property.

He calls the place "Emma's Garden" after his grand-

the unintended consequence of driving up the taxes of adjacent properties. The road made getting there more convenient, but it had Leibert scratching his head as to how he was going to pay the tax bill.

"(Owning the property) sounds wonderful, but what will you do with it? You can't subdivide it; can't develop it. There's no history of farming in that area,"

A pivotal conversa-

"I said to my

mother, who settled there with her family in 1912. The land which still teams with natural beauty and abundant wildlife had never been farmed. Leibert's ancestors were all trappers and prospectors who eked out a living there through fishing and mining. "Nobody

farmed before," Leibert said. "I

was the first crazy one to try to farm it."

Until recent years, Leibert's property, a 40-minute drive north of Lac du Bonnet, could only be accessed by canoe. A neighbour's decision to put a road in had



Leibert instead decided to try his hand growing organic vegetables with the goal of selling them locally—to pay the taxes, and hopefully himself. Around that time, he enrolled in certificate course in permaculture,





Leibert's garlic field set in the boreal landscape.

which was being offered in Wisconsin, to help guide him in his new venture.

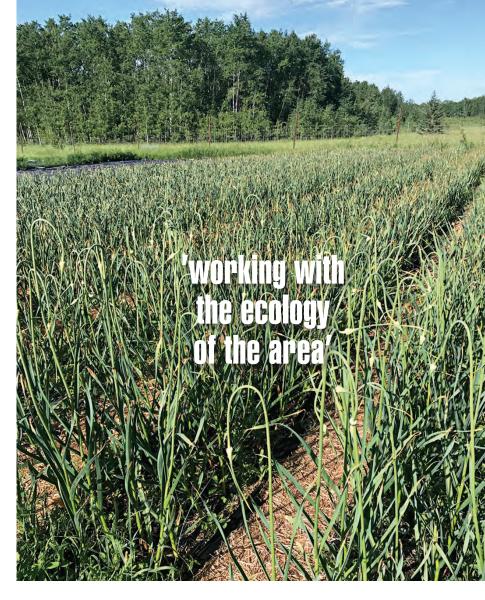
Leibert, along with his partner Julie Currie, began by growing vegetables part-time using standard organic methods, but the northerly location presented some disadvantages.

"In the early years, we were last to market with beans," Leibert said. "The Ladywood area would be two to three weeks earlier, (but) I did notice that the garlic went well."

"We could have done other things to make the other vegetables grow faster," he continued, "but it wasn't about competing. It was about working with the ecology of the area, mixed boreal forest. A lot of people would have cut down the trees, but we were not about that. We built a seven-foot fence to keep the deer and bears out of the garden. We fenced one acre. The field is about four or five acres, without cutting any trees."

"If we went non-organic it would help in the weeding, but the weeding is not the limiting factor, but it would arguably change the quality of the product," he said.

"Julie and I said, let's turn this disadvantage into an advantage. The snow cover and trees (are) a disadvan-



tage if you're growing radishes, but it is an advantage when you're growing garlic," he explained.

In 2014, Leibert decided to throw himself into farming full-time, endeavouring to develop it into a viable business.

"I took 2014 off to look for markets. I toured the bible





`world-class garlic'

and sports camps and talked to restaurant owners but I couldn't find a market for the vegetables. What I was told by one of the camp owners is that all of the potatoes needed to be the same size. I realized how the food industry worked, even out in the country."

However, from the first year of selling garlic at the farmers market in 2010, Leibert was convinced he could succeed with garlic as a crop. In the beginning years, the 500 heads of his organically-grown garlic he brought to the Lac du Bonnet farmers market would sell out in a week. "Up until 2015 we were growing 500 heads or less of garlic," Leibert said. "(Now) we are growing 10,000 heads and we are still looking to get bigger. The garlic, as a product, is winning. I have to figure out how to grow more. It's a world-class garlic—and that is its potential—and that's what keeps us going."

Leibert is now placing all of his focus on expanding his garlic crop, as well as his bottom line. However, he intends to continue targeting a local client-base, rather than shipping his product into the big city.

"Our approach is direct marketing, either through the

farmers market or through an email list. Someone will buy 20 lbs. of garlic and they'll distribute it to their families. We sell mostly to either visitors or cottagers. We've been locally focused through all this. We want to live out here, create our own jobs, our own income," Leibert said.

"Right now, the garlic is making under \$10,000 a year, but we will continue to grow it. (We're) aiming for two to three years to make a living. That's because it takes two or three years for the garlic to grow. It's limited by the garlic," he said.

It takes two to three years for the garlic plant to go from a bulbus to a full-size head of garlic, Leibert explained. The bulbi all have to be harvested, cloves separated and replanted two or three times. Only then will the plants



Leibert's partner Julie Currie at the Lac du Bonnet Farmers Market.





yield adequate-sized heads of garlic.

"We'll take 10,000 heads and keep about 30 to 40 per cent of that to grow another 10,000, then plant all the cloves in the fall," he said.

Another challenge Leibert and Currie have faced in growing garlic large-scale is the very short window of



Garlic made into powder and chips.



Chuck Leibert grows organic garlic at his Bird River property.

time for planting and harvesting.

"Garlic is not like tomatoes or cucumbers or zucchini. You don't pick a little at a time," Leibert explained. "We have three or four weeks to plant it, and one to two weeks to harvest the garlic in July. There is a two-week window where the garlic will go from good to mush."

Regardless, the effort put in is worth every bit to Leibert who is proud of the quality of his product.



Beach Baptisms in Lac du Bonnet

A bundant Life Chapel hosts an annual Beach Baptism in August at the Lac du Bonnet beach where people can come forward to take the plunge in the Winnipeg River.

"Every year we look forward to our Beach Baptism service down at the town beach. It's one of my favourite community events that we put on as a church," said Pastor James Schwab, who has baptized dozens of people during previous beach services.

Schwab said water baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision a person has made to live for Jesus for the rest of their life. It is a symbolic act that identifies with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection – to born again in water deep enough to be fully immersed.

"This is an important step in a person's life and we believe that it should be celebrated well and with everyone," Schwab said. "That is why we do what we do."

Last year approximately 200 people gathered at the beach for the event.

"It takes teamwork to make the dream work and we at Abundant Life have an amazing team that works great together in making this event possible every year," said Schwab.

The Abundant Life musical team perform a selection of inspirational songs throughout the service, and Schwab said the church has received positive feedback from people who enjoy hearing the melodies throughout the surrounding neighbourhood.

Prior to each baptism, the candidates shared their testimonies. The service concludes with a closing hymn and an invitation from Schwab for everyone to join them for a barbecue on the beach.



Pastor James Schwab invites people of all faiths to the baptism service in the Winnipeg River.

putting Jesus' love on display

"Whether it's music, the personal testimonies of those being baptized or the barbecue, we do what we do to be a blessing to everyone around us by putting Jesus' love on display," said Schwab.

The Abundant Life Chapel welcomes people of all faiths.





Museum to Benefit from Heritage Fund

unds raised through the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society Inc. Heritage Trust Endowment Fund and a matching provincial grant will allow the caretakers of the Lac du Bonnet District Museum and properties to maintain their sites in perpetuity.

In May 2019, Lac du Bonnet MLA Wayne Ewasko met with local officials and historical society representatives to announce funding from the Manitoba Heritage Trust Program in the amount of over \$3,800 was made available to compliment the \$7,600 raised by the Heritage Trust Endowment Fund.

The Manitoba Heritage Trust Program was estab-

lished by the Province of Manitoba in order to provide support for museums, archives and supporting organizations as well as to establish and grow endowment funds while providing longterm sustainable revenue for their organizations.

Eligible organizations are required to contribute a minimum of \$2,500 to an established heritage trust. The province will provide one dollar for every two dollar's raised for an organization's endowment fund. The province will guarantee support up to a maximum of \$25,000 to organizations that raise \$50,000.

and as far away as Sweden," Wruck said. "It provided a considerable amount of income for this trust fund, which is specifically for covering the expenses at the museum."

Wruck said approximately four per cent of the fund will be made available annually for upkeep to the grounds and buildings on an indefinite basis.

RM of Lac du Bonnet Reeve Loren Schinkel praised the work done by members of the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society and their effort to secure funding in the future.

"We can't move forward if we don't understand what



Terry Tottle (left) of the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society, Gus Wruck, MLA Wayne Ewasko, Reeve Loren Schinkel and Deputy Mayor Greg Short front the Hans Erickson log cabin.

"I understand the

importance of protecting and preserving our unique and diverse heritage within the Lac du Bonnet constituency and it makes me happy that our government is offering their support," said Ewasko.

Longtime historical society member Gus Wruck said the fund got off the ground when he and the Lac du Bonnet Foundation provided the initial funding, which was topped up by the gracious support of residents at home and abroad who donated to the museum in the memory of a Lac du Bonnet resident as per their obituary request.

"We had a number of donations from across Canada

our history is," Schinkel said. "We provide a portion of the funding and we do what we can, and I think residents are proud of that, but we couldn't do what we can without the efforts of everyone on the board."

Town of Lac du Bonnet Deputy Mayor Greg Short said the funds will be put to good use.

"The Lac du Bonnet Historical Society is doing a great job and they have a lot of irons in the fire. We need money to cover all this stuff and every little bit helps," Short said. "We'd like to thank the board for all their efforts."

MANITODA 150 Photos and writeups courtesy of the Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society



Pilot FJ. Stevenson accepts first shipment of Winnipeg *Tribunes* for delivery to Red Lake, Ontario at the Lac du Bonnet dock, June 1927 on a Western Canada Airways Fokker Universal Aircraft. By October the first official airmail service in Canada was flown by the same company to the same area. The few spectators watching were unaware that they were witnessing the opening chapter in the story of commercial aviation in Manitoba which began in Lac du Bonnet.



Lac du Bonnet's iconic town dock 1958 after the water was raised by McArthur Falls Generating Station. In the background on the left is the Central Norther Airways office, the old Lakeview Hotel, and the Allard Building containing Shaw's Drug Store. At the right is the LeVasseur home that housed the Canadian Airways office. The Beaver Lumber Company building is at the top right hand of the photo.



The first known general store owners in this building were Swedish immigrants Nels & Christina Johnson who operated as the "Blue Store" around 1914. This photo shows "R.N. Campbell General Store" as it appeared in 1950 at the corner of Second Street and Park Avenue. Richard N. Campbell ran his general store from 1916 until 1950 when the new owners George and Linda (Nellie) Ambrose from Whitemouth opened "Ambrose Pharmacy". Next this building became "Hood's Pharmacy" and then in 1975 Ken & Betty Carson operated "Carson Pharmacy" who in turn sold to the Ingham family as "Ingham Pharmacy" which operates to this day.



Lac du Bonnet's "elevator row" on the CPR Siding. The first grain elevator opening in 1934 operated by The Canadian Consolidated Grain Co. with Jack Wade as its' first manager. This elevator was demolished by UGG in 1982. The second elevator was built in 1950 by Interocean Grain Co. United Grain Growers took over both elevators in 1959. Jack Wade built the Wild Rice Processing Plant in 1950 which was built between the two elevators, and is all that remains today on PR 502.



Craig's Lakeview Gas Station was located just north where Sunova Credit Union is today. The gentleman shown on the left is Robert Gordon Craig. Craig's Lakeview Gas Station was later operated by Mike Danylchuck who had a Plymouth automobile dealership. Afterwards it was operated by Frank Champagne. A large wall mural of this gas station is painted on the south side of Lakeview hotel by local artist Sheldon Sveinson.



This photo is of the original Lakeview Hotel. In 1940 Nemirovsky (Nemy) General Store was transformed into this Lakeview Hotel. It flourished serving the rapid expansion of the area but the wartime rationing made it difficult for Ben Nemirovsky to obtain enough beer to carry on his business. Ben sold the hotel to Shea's Brewery in 1948. In 1965 Raymond Enright purchased the hotel and later demolished it in 1970. It was replaced with the Lakeview Hotel that stands today on Third Street and Park Avenue.



Dan Seddon's Store at Seddons Corner purchased by Dollard Wenzoski was moved across the road where the Seddons Post Office is today. Circa 1940.



Alex McIntosh purchased his uncle J.D. McArthur's 2000 acres farmland in 1925 of which only 200 acres were under cultivation at the time. As a tribute "McArthur Farm" was painted on the McIntosh barn roof. The farm shown is circa 1948 at this time Alex McIntosh had a dairy farm and lumber yard.



This photo shows the J.D. McArthur Sawmill, one of Lac du Bonnet's first industries, with brick silo. The Lac du Bonnet manufactured bricks from this silo were repurposed for the front of the Rural Municipality building on PR 317.



Charlie Lagsdin, a Latvian immigrant was as a cattle buyer, major fur buyer, metal recycler, wild rice harvester, farmer, and bee keeper among other trades. His home quarter section in Lettonia was totally flooded in 1954 from the fore bay of McArthur Falls Generating station as was almost the entire community of Lettonia.



Milner Ridge General Store, gas station and post office built by Mathew Pfiefer in 1917. This photo is taken circa 1950. Pfiefer was postmaster in Milner Ridge until 1943.



Looking east down lac du Bonnet's Third Street towards the Winnipeg River in 1924. The large home on the left belonged to Frank Allard, the RM of Lac du Bonnet's first Reeve. The Allard Building further down on the same side facing Park Avenue is where he operated his butcher shop.



The Woodbine Hotel built across from Lac du Bonnet's first railway station was operated by Tom Wellman. The saloon fell on hard times during Manitoba's prohibition 1916 – 1923, but its rooms were filled with constant visitors to Pinawa, Pointe, and Great Falls Hydro Generating Stations.



Rudolph Nejedly, Eddie and Louis Sikora from Brightstone. Local musicians played throughout the district at dances and wedding celebrations held at Holiday Beach, Riverland Hall, Lee River Hall, Lettonia Hall, Brookfield Hall, Brightstone Hall, Landerville Hall, Red Deer Hall, Thornquist Hall, Lac du Bonnet Municipal Hall, Pinawa Hall and Lagsdin Hall.



Credited as Manitoba's first woman mayor, Lac du Bonnet's Mayor Edythe Brown's achievements included paving Lac du Bonnet's streets and sidewalks. This is Park Avenue under construction circa 1955 looking north with Brown's Red and White Store on the right.



People flocking to the town dock on Dominion Day in the early 1930s where boat and canoe races along with greasy pole contests took place. At this time the Lakeview building housed Nemirovsky's General Store.



The Kost Bros. Grocery Store on First Street with Andrew and Annie Kost in front circa 1940. It also housed rooms for rent in the upper floor.



Bonnie Poultry Farm Riverland Elevator on Riverland Road on the east side of the Winnipeg River 1945 – 1967. The Bonnie Poultry Farm and Elevator were owned by the Purvis family, who owned the Interocean Grain Co. in Winnipeg, and had a summer home on the river near the farm. The farm was managed by John Lindgren who lived in Riverland.



Peter and John Apsit with dog teams at their trappers cabin circa 1935. To earn an extra winter income trapping could be very lucrative. Good beaver pelts brought in \$100.00 each in the 1940s reaching their peak in 1947 at \$195.00.



Ox pulling wagon in Lettonia circa 1925. Oxen were used extensively by the first homesteaders in our district until the time they could afford to purchase horses.



The first Lac du Bonnet Canadian Pacific Railway Station with clipped gable roof was situated ½ mile north of the village. This station was replaced by a newer station in 1925 on First Street.



Newcombe School teacher John Bunzeluk (Burnside) and his students painted this boulder to resemble Kenora's "Devil's Gap" in the early 1930s. A few years later the rock was blasted to widen the Newcombe (Wendigo) Road.



The second one-room Woodrow School #1897 was in Lowland on the western boundary of the RM of Lac du Bonnet. The school closed in 1966.



Here is a typical logging bush camp. There were at least seven camps like this throughout the district that supplied logs to the J.D. McArthur Lac du Bonnet Sawmill.



Wild rice (Manomin) was harvested by the Indigenous Peoples on the Winnipeg River System for thousands of years. In Lac du Bonnet a wild rice processing plant began operating in 1950. At its peak in 1968 this plant employed 18 people.



The first wooden Winnipeg River Bridge completed in 1908 had a swing span that opened to allow boats and barges through. Prior to the water raising in 1954, rock outcrops and currents near the bridge made navigation difficult. The west end collapsed under a City of Winnipeg Locomotive in 1914. This troublesome structure was finally replaced in 1931 by a new steel bridge by McCaw and MacDonald.



Helen and Ervin Linnert on the RM of Lac du Bonnet's Lee River Ferry circa 1940. The ferry was located just north of the Pinawa Generating Station.



Urban Sales and Service operated on Park Avenue for over 50 years. In the background is Mr. David with horse and wagon, Lac du Bonnet's Sanitation Engineer in 1954.



Travellers Hotel was built by Les Shapland in 1926 near Lac du Bonnet's second CPR Station (where Sunova Credit Union stands today). This hotel was fully modern and equipped with electric refrigeration. The hotel was destroyed by fire on August 10, 1935. Luckily there were no injuries.



The Winnipeg Electric Railway Company Pinawa Generating Station in Lac du Bonnet operated from 1906 to 1951. This privately owned company supplied the first year round hydro electric power in Manitoba to Winnipeg. It was a busy self contained community where the population never exceeded 75.

Killed in the Line of Duty RCMP Sgt. Richard H. Nicholson #5611

By Terry and Marlene Tottle Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society

There is nothing more devastating to a community than the loss of a man or woman in the military, police or firefighting forces.

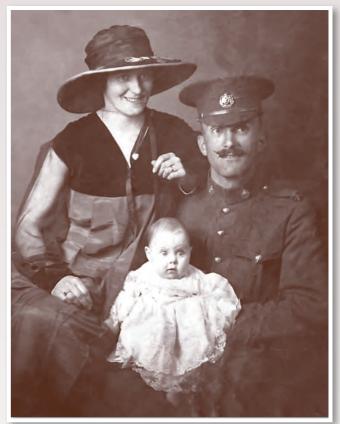
It was the tail end of the roaring 1920s, on Dec. 31, 1928, that the Lac du Bonnet Detachment lost RCMP Sgt. Richard H. Nicholson during the investigation of an illegal still near Molson. Even though prohibition had ended in Manitoba in 1923, the making of home brew was still commonplace throughout our district.

Richard H. Nicholson was born in 1895 in Ireland and immigrated to Canada in March of 1913. Upon meeting his brother John in Moose Jaw, Sask. they immediately left for Regina, applied and were accepted into the Royal North West Mounted Police (RNWMP).



RNWMP 1917 Model 55 McLaughlin Buick ...courtesy Rick Hall RCMP Vets Assoc.

In 1916 the RNWMP purchased their first motor vehicle, a Buick McLaughlin and because Richard Nicholson had experience driving motor vehicles in Ireland, he became the force's first chauffeur. Nicholson was promoted to the rank of corporal and being "Depot" Division chauffeur received extra pay of 50 cents per day on top of his \$1.10 daily pay.



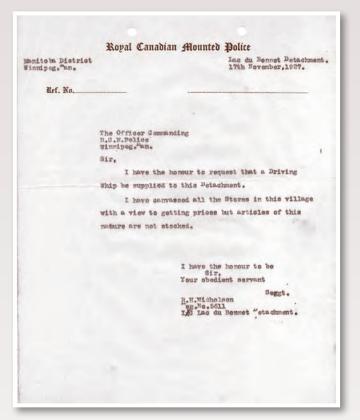
1918 Maggie and Richard Nicholson with daughter Alice ...courtesy Rick Hall RCMP Vets Assoc.

Promoted to Sergeant in September 1919, he was soon transferred to the Brandon, Manitoba detachment to become non-commissioned officer. In 1920 the RNWMP became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Sgt. Nicholson's duties in Brandon for the next eight years were to stop the unlawful manufacture of illicit liquor in the district north of Brandon.

On Dec. 2, 1926 Sgt. Nicholson was disciplined for not reporting the hangover of one of his men. Shortly after this incident he was transferred to the "boonies"... the Lac du Bonnet Detachment. His duties in Lac du Bonnet were similar to those he had in Brandon, searching for illicit liquor and helping the game warden con-

'located and seized a still operation...northwest of Molson'

trol game and fish poachers. The Lac du Bonnet RCMP Detachment at this time used horses for transportation and Sgt. Nicholson had trouble purchasing a driving whip in the village.



RCMP request letter from Sgt. Nicholson for riding whip ...courtesy LDBDHS archives

In Lac du Bonnet, surveillance of the Latvian communities of Lettonia and Lee River was a priority. The RCMP felt the Lettonia Farmers Association was a front organization for the Communist Party and kept tabs on communist, socialist and labor meetings, even though the meetings were conducted in Latvian and could not be understood. Sgt. Nicholson and others would file reports on these meetings and send them to head office. Sections of the RCMP-redacted reports are available in the Library and Archives of Canada.

Sgt. Richard Nicholson settled into his new community of Lac du Bonnet, attending St.John's Anglican Church where he was a dedicated worker, teaching Sunday school, reading the scriptures and leading the Cub Scouts. At this time the RCMP detachment was located on the corner of Second Street and today's McArthur Avenue. Ironically, the Provincial Liquor Commission operates a store on the same site today! On Nov. 9, 1928 Sgt. Nicholson and Manitoba Provincial Police (MPP) Constable John R. Watson located and seized a still operation from William Eppinger, four and one-half miles northwest of Molson. It was reported Eppinger was back in business the following month.

On the fateful morning of Dec. 31, 1928, Sgt. Nicholson travelled from Lac du Bonnet on the Canadian Pacific Railway train to Molson and arrived there at 8:30 a.m. He ate breakfast with MPP Constable John Watson at Molson's Riley's Hotel for an hour. Afterward they walked about a mile west towards the William Eppinger homestead where they approached his still operation in the bush.

Eppinger was surprised by Sgt. Nicholson and ran towards his loaded .35 Remington rifle which was leaning against a tree. Sgt. Nicholson grabbed the rifle first



Lac du Bonnet RCMP detachment headquarters corner Second Street and McArthur Avenue Mid 1920s ...courtesy LDBDHS photo archives

and used the butt of the rifle to hit Eppinger once in the shoulder and then on the back of the head. In the ensuing scuffle for the possession of the rifle it discharged, hitting Sgt. Nicholson in the right thigh. Eppinger ran into the bush. In -20 degree weather Watson took off his shirt to make a tourniquet and helped carry Sgt. Nicholson into the Eppinger home.

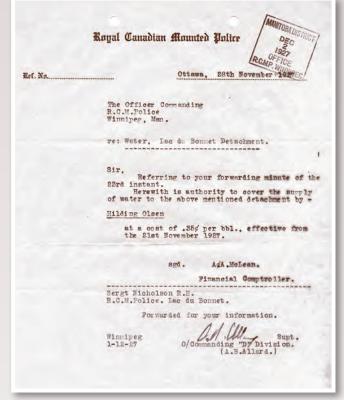
A Dr. Dubnov from Beausejour was summoned and reported Sgt. Nicholson was in very critical condition, suffering from shock and the effect of a hemorrhage caused by his wound that was about a foot long and six or seven inches wide. Dr. Dubnov did all he could but Sgt. Nicholson died of his injuries at 4:30 p.m. that afternoon and became the 49th member of the force to be killed on duty.

On January 1, 1929 William Eppinger was located and arrested by the MPP and charged with the murder of Sgt. Richard H. Nicholson. Eppinger's liquor was tested and found to contain 58.14 per cent proof of spirits. On Mar. 14, 1929 Eppinger was sentenced to serve five years for manslaughter.

Sgt. Nicholson was laid to rest at "Depot" Division



Unidentified RCMP in LdBcourtesy LDBDHS photo archives



A water supply correspondence letter with Nicholson signature ...courtesy of LDBDHS archives

Cemetery in Regina. In Lac du Bonnet a plaque in his memory can be found at the historic St. John's Church and on a cairn in front of the RCMP detachment in Lac du Bonnet.

The Manitoba Provincial Police (74 officers) were absorbed by "D" Division of the RCMP in 1932.

Sources and photos with permission : RCMP Vets Assoc. Richard Hall Logs & Lines of the Winnipeg River Latvian Pioneers, Socialists & Refugees in Manitoba Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society photo archives



RCMP on steps of Woodbine Hotel in LdB 1920s ...courtesy LdBDHS photo archives

Historic Lac du Bonnet Photograph Surfaces



Terry Tottle stands by the mural at the vendor entrance of the Lakeview Hotel.

For years, patrons of the Lakeview Hotel have seen the larger than life painting near the vendor door – a colourful rendition of a man holding a massive sturgeon. Now the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Soci-





The photo of Cliff Maquire with the 133 pound sturgeon was turned over to the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society.

ety has the photo to verify the fish tale.

The historical society recently acquired a photo of Cliff Maquire displaying a huge sturgeon that was caught in the Winnipeg River in 1984. The photo was provided by the Maquire family of Lac du Bonnet.

The story goes Daryl Spencer of Winnipeg landed the monster near Wendigo and turned it over to Natural Resources. They transferred it to Air Division to be weighed and measured... and photographed. The massive fish weighed in at 133 pounds and measured 77 inches in length.

It reportedly took Spencer three hours to land the beast, which he caught with a pickerel rig on a 12 pound test line.

The Lakeview painting was done by local artist Sheldon Sveinson.

'sturgeon played a significant role in the history of Lac du Bonnet'

According to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the largest lake sturgeon on record was caught in Manitoba in 1903, measuring 120 inches in length and weighing 400 pounds.

The oldest-known specimen came from Ontario and was about 154 years old.

The sturgeon played a significant role in the history of Lac du Bonnet as early settlers in the mid to late 1800s harvested thousands of these huge aquatic beasts for consumption and fuel, to such an extent that it nearly led to their demise.

Terry Tottle of the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society said sturgeon fisheries that once flourished in the region were closed in the early 1900s when numbers depleted enough to threaten the sustainability of the industry.

Small scale fisheries continued to operate in Manitoba into the 1950s, but the hope of seeing a resurgence of population numbers did not occur.

Despite the decline in numbers, there is evidence that some of these older fish survived the fisheries and are still thriving in the Winnipeg River.



History of the Lac du Bonnet **Christmas Hampers**

The Christmas Hamper program has been alive and L well in Lac du Bonnet since 1976, but few people are aware of how this annual gift giving originated.

"I packed my first hamper in 1976 for a family in my neighbourhood who were struggling financially, and I wanted them and their children to have a good Christmas," said Emily Konopetsky, the woman that started the initiative 43 years ago.

She purchased food and gifts to fill the hamper and delivered it to her neighbours who were surprised and

"That year I visited Centennial School and asked the students if they could help collect cans of soup for the hampers. The response was very successful and Centennial School became regular donors. They collected so much it was unbelievable," said Konopetsky.

By 1982 the committee was packing Christmas essentials for 20 Lac du Bonnet families and Borys reported this Christmas the committee will be handing out 110 hampers.

Despite the fact she is now 85 years young, Konopet-

sky has contin-

vital role in the

ued to play a

coordination

of the Christ-

mas Hamper

"She's a

contacts and

nates all of the volunteers.

sets up deliv-

ery, organizes

the wrapping

and prepares

the tags for

the gifts for

the children,"

committee

still coordi-

initiative.

wealth of information for

touched to receive the thoughtful gift.

"In 1997 I made up two hampers with some help from the community to fill them, but was warned by my husband that as more people were in need, I would not be able to continue this on my own," said Konopetsky.



Jo-Anne Borys (left) and Emily Konopetsky look through a folder containing information and history of the Lac du Bonnet Christmas Hamper program.

Konopetsky reached out to Oliver Greenfield who was the social worker at the health centre at the time, to ask

"He helped establish the program through the clinic and was able to get charitable status for the Christmas Hamper program," said Konopetsky. She recalled once the paperwork was filed, the churches of Lac du Bonnet came on board to assist.

The first official committee was formed on Jan. 13, 1978 and was comprised of Konopetsky, Greenfield, Vera McLean, Betty Stanley, Jessie Richmond and Edna Marley.

said Jo-Anne Borys, current chair of the Lac du Bonnet Christmas Hamper program.

Konopetsky said she can work comfortably from home and she doesn't even have to contact people anymore because they call her to volunteer or donate. When asked why she continues to devote her time to the cause she replied, "I just like to help people, especially children."

Konopetsky and Borys thanked all the Christmas Hamper volunteers past and present, along with the local businesses and individuals who make the initiative possible.

In 1978, for help.



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Lac du Bonnet Historical Society Presents...

The Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society Preservation Committee has been working to restore the former St. John's Anglican Church to its rightful place in the community by bringing back some of the activities and events that once attracted residents to the





Richard Inman was one of several Manitoba musicians to perform at the former St. John's Anglican Church.

popular meeting place.

"In 2017 the Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society, upon hearing of the deconsecration of St. John's Anglican Church, formed a Preservation Committee. The focus of this committee is to preserve the St. John's historical building, promote its history and celebrate it as a community space through arts and culture," said Janice Halliday, co-chair of the Preservation Committee.

In addition to presenting movie nights, hosting whist

parties and opening the hall for rentals for baby and bridal showers, family dinners and seminars, the committee has also been providing much-needed day camp spaces for children during professional development days at the local schools.

"We are considering holding another one during Christmas break depending on whether we can find the volunteers to help out," said Halliday.

One of the most popular events introduced this summer is The Listening Room, where local and Manitoba-based musicians are invited to share their talents with an audience at St. John's.

The lineup reads like a who's who of notable provincial talent including Richard Inman, Chris Carmichael and Romi Mayes along with local talent including Mary Louise Chown and Shannon Shewchuk, Paul McIntosh, Walter Mooney and Ken Kansas.

During Listening Room concerts, the artists are encouraged to talk and mingle with the audience and engage their participation in the performance to provide a more intimate experience. Tickets are available at Ingham Pharmacy and at the door.



Lee River Ancestral Remains Book



Ed Winters (left), Kevin Brownlee and Jaimie Isaac released the publication Stories of the Old Ones: Hunter and Fisher from Sheltered Water at the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg.

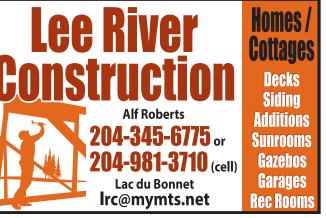
A publication takes readers on a 4,000 year journey into the past to explore the life of a young man whose remains were discovered along the shores of Lee River.

The book is entitled, Dibaajimindww Geteyaag: Ogiiyose, Noojigiigoo'iwe gaye Dibinawaag Nibiing Onji, which translates into English as Stories of the Old Ones: Hunter and Fisher from Sheltered Water was written by Kevin Brownlee, Curator of Archaeology at The Manitoba Museum.

"The foundation of my book is the recovery of ancestral remains from the Lee River near Lac du Bonnet in 1997," explained Brownlee.

Brownlee said archaeologist Ray Tuokko discovered





'allow the recovery of the burial...providing the bones and tools were treated with respect'

bones eroding out the bank of the river. Believing them to be human, Tuokko left the bones in place and contacted the authorities including the RCMP and Historic Resources Branch.

"The bones were determined to be human and second

bones and tools were treated with respect," said Brownlee. "All research would be made available to the community (particularly youth) and the remains and tools would be reburied following analysis."

Stories of the Old Ones: Hunter and Fisher from Shel-

they were determined to not represent a forensic or missing person," said Brownlee. "At that point Historic Resources Branch of the Manitoba Government took over responsibility."

Brownlee noted the first action taken was to contact Sagkeeng First Nation and work with the community.

"It was the decision of the community to allow the recovery of the burial and a full analysis of the remains providing the





'remains were those of a young man'

tered Water details the respectful archaeological recovery, study and reburial of this ancestor and tells a story of the life he might have lived through historical fiction.

In creating the story, Brownlee weaves together indigenous knowledge from late Elder Mark Thompson and other community members, with archaeological research, natural history, ethnographic collections, contemporary indigenous art and stunning photography.

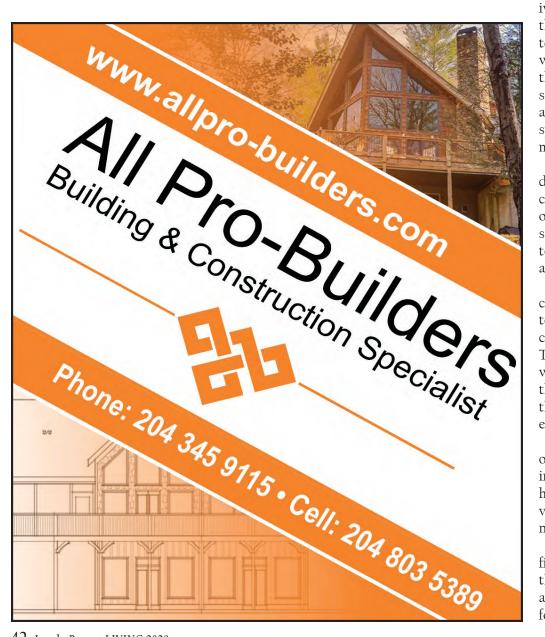
"The excavation, led by Gordon Hill revealed a large number of personal belongings with the remains," said Brownlee.

He identified some of the artefacts as projectile points for darts, harpoons and fish spears, native copper, shell beads, bear claws, elk teeth and beaver incisors.

"Gordon contacted The Manitoba Museum to help in the analysis and in 1998 the Manitoba Museum and Sagkeeng entered into a formal partnership," explained Brownlee. "I was an intern at the Manitoba Museum at the time working under Dr. E. Leigh Syms."

Brownlee said that when the museum began the analysis, they determined the individual lived about 4,000 years ago and further testing, which included osteobiography – the study of bones – was also undertaken.

"It was determined the remains were those of a young man in his mid-20s. Other studies included a detailed look into the tools made from bone, antler, shell and



ivory," said Brownlee. "In this process it was determined the bear claws were from a Grizzly Bear, the elk canines were from seven different animals and the harpoon and fish spear were made from moose leg bones."

The museum created a display case with replicas cast from the ancestors original tools, and a replica set of tools has been added to the permanent galleries at The Manitoba Museum.

"Once the analysis was completed the remains and tools were returned to the community for reburial. The documentation that was undertaken before the reburial has allowed this book to be written," explained Brownlee.

He said the community of Sagkeeng was actively involved in the project and he was fortunate to interview a number of community members.

"When they saw the fishing tools, the elders in the community immediately said these were used for sturgeon," Brownlee said. "Elder (Philip) Fontaine, who was born in 1912, spoke of the extensive sturgeon that once existed in the Winnipeg River and how the Pinawa Channel was used as a spawning ground for these giant fish."

In preparing the book, Brownlee worked with Jaimie Isaac from the Winnipeg Art Gallery, who is a member of Sagkeeng that helped get contemporary art into the book.

"The book reads as part museum exhibit and personal journey written to reach a broad audience," Brownlee said. "This approach was taken to engage with non-archaeologists especially youth in Sagkeeng community."

Brownlee who gives much credit to the book's designer, Ed Winters.

"Ed brought the story of this ancestor to life by integrating indigenous art, photos, figures and maps. Ed was also important part of the book development, the use of historic fiction was in part based on recommendations



Arrow head.

and even the framework that the book was written."

He said the book touches on many important topics including

climate change, the traditional role of women, importance of clean water and endangered species.

"The book takes a holistic approach by integrating both human history with natural history of the area," Brownlee added.

The Manitoba Museum recognizes that the path to reconciliation takes many directions and forms, and this publication was designed and written to contribute to this dialogue and to open a portal to the past to help us all build for a better future.



Lac du Bonnet

WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

WHO WE ARE

300+ members who share a common interest in angling, hunting, conservation

n

rc du Bonnet

IFF ASSOCIATION

PONDS

and wildlife habitat.

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- Family Ice Fishing Derby
- Reel Solutions for Youth
- Moose Management Action Plan
- Your local voice for progressive resource management
- Future Shooting Range

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Contact: Brian Choptain Membership Director 204-340-0792

Brian Shirtliffe President 204-345-9545

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN

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6 digital issues of Western Woods and Waters;
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www.ldbwildlifeassociation.com

REEL Solutions for Youth Sets the Hook

The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association's annual REEL Solutions for Youth event at the Lac du Bonnet town dock provides an opportunity for students of Centennial School to learn and experience the sport of fishing.

The Wildlife Association welcomes Grade 6 students

biology and showed them the different fish species that live in the Winnipeg River," said Brian Shirtliffe, former president of the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association. "He also gave a casting demonstration before giving the students their fishing gear."

and provides them with an introduction to the sport of fishing when they might not otherwise have access to the activity.

Students are also treated to a morning of informational workshops delivered by special guest speakers and professional anglers, followed by a hot dog lunch and an afternoon of fishing.



"After tagging all the sturgeon, the students were treated to a lunch of Art St. Amant's world famous hot dogs and then spent two hours in the afternoon fishing," added Shirtliffe.

The REEL Solutions program is very important to the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association as it demonstrates

A sturgeon is placed in a weigh-in box during the 2019 REEL Solutions for Youth event hosted by the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association.

Last year, Hooked Magazine editor Don Lamont also donated a rod and reel to each of the students involved in the program. Fish biologist Lee Murray and Eric their commitment to develop an appreciation of outdoor activities within local youth, hopefully for years to come.

Mullen, a graduate student at the University of Manitoba who is currently conducting a catch and release study of sturgeon on the Winnipeg River at Pointe du Bois, were also in attendance at the event. They arrived at the dock by boat with some healthy sturgeon that were weighed, tagged, measured and released as the students observed how fish populations are monitored.

"Don Lamont talked to the students about fish



Unique Program for Little Equestrians



Kristy Hirst and Rosie on the grounds of Little Equestrians located in the RM of Lac du Bonnet.

Kristy Hirst is living a dream as a new business owner dedicating her time to her two passions: children and horses.

Little Equestrians opened for business on her RM of Lac du Bonnet property in August 2018 to teach horsemanship skills, riding and fun activities geared around horses to children ages four to 12.

Hirst earned a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Red River College and devoted 17 years of her life to a career with children. In 2000, she returned to the classroom to study Equine Business Management in Alberta.

"I incorporated my experience and training into this program and it's such a beautiful thing when career and passion come together," said Hirst.

Hirst has a luxurious heated barn that serves as shelter for her horses Rosie, Bailey, Snickers and Ranger, with additional space for a tack room, an activity room, bathroom and a wash station for rinsing down the horses. The pristine facility opens into an outdoor area complete with riding track.

Hirst has seen first hand how children respond to her horses. She offers one-hour lessons, a day program and also takes bookings for children's parties.

"The day program starts with a sharing circle where the children introduce themselves and talk about why they have an interest in horses. We then read an equestrian related story and work on horse crafts that the children can take home with them," explained Hirst.

She said the morning wraps up with a visit with the horses and a ride before lunch is served.

"In the afternoon we work on horse skills, teaching the children how to groom the horses, handle them and approach them safely. The children can then do some more riding or participate in equine based play."



'love for children and a passion for the equine field'

Each day ends with a movie about horses.

"I have always had a love for children and a passion for the equine field. It's amazing to watch the interaction between the children and the horses," said Hirst. six children so everyone has a chance to enjoy quality time with the three horses on site.

For more information on Little Equestrians, call 204-345-5053.

She believes the therapeutic benefits of her program will be huge.

"Just watching the children get on a horse and see the smiles on their face is very rewarding. The program is stimulating, providing a nature experience so lacking in many children's lives today," she said.

Little Equestrians regularly has dozens families involved in programs. Summer hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Day program registration is limited to a maximum of





Royalty on the Winnipeg River

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (RMTC) Regional Tour continues to provide live theatre to communities along the Winnipeg River corridor.

Since 2014, the Winnipeg River Arts Council has been sponsoring the annual rural performances, which provides an opportunity for people in the region to enjoy this cultural experience at local venues like Lac du Bonnet, Great Falls and Pinawa.

RMTC Regional Tour actors annually perform to audiences throughout Manitoba and North Western Ontario from January to March. With as many as 25 performances scheduled over a five week time frame, organizers of the RMTC tour show their ingenuity and energy by devising and setting up simple sets that enhance the scenes and are easily disassembled for transport.

Throughout the regional tour's history, RMTC has brought a variety of professional productions to North Eastman including Armstrong's War (2014/15), Last Train to Nibroc (2016/17), A Christmas Carol (2017/18) and Buying The Farm (2018/19).

As part of the 2020 tour, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre made a stop at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre in February to deliver a performance of The New Canadian Curling Club. This delightful play, written by Mark Crawford, was directed by Miles Potter and featured Doug McKeag as Stuart MacPhail, Lorraine James as Charmaine Bailey, Omar Alex Khan as Anoopjeet Singh, Zhaopeng Meng as Mike Chang and Sophie Smith-Dostmohamed as Fatima Al-Sayed.

The performance had the audience laughing as community-minded Marlene enlisted four newcomers to Canada to learn the game of curling in an effort to diversify the club. As it happened, Marlene broke her hip and her politically incorrect ex-husband Stuart stepped in to help. From there, things go from bad to worse as the new Canadians have bigger worries than mastering this bizarre sport as customs, accents and language barriers, interspersed with challenges presented to the new Canadians, provided a stream of awkward events



and situations that eventually led McPhail to have a change of heart.

McKeag said The New Canadian Curling Club was his first tour with the RMTC and that he enjoyed the experience with lovely audiences from start to finish.

"This Lac du Bonnet audience was great, and intelligent. They got all the jokes," said McKeag, a veteran actor who has performed in all manner of live productions across Canada.

For more information about the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Regional Tour, visit royalmtc.ca/Festivals-Events/ Regional-Tour.asp



The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's 2020 Regional Tour of The New Canadian Curling Club made a stop at the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre in February.



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> LAC DU BONNET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



SnoPals Raising Funds to Replace Shelter

Eastman SnoPALS snowmobile club is taking on the project of replacing their Kings Kookout trail shelter located on the trail between Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa. The existing shelter was built 30+ years ago and it has surpassed its life span as it was built on the ground, and the years of weather and rot have taken their toll.

The project is a multi year project with fund raising being the first big task. The replacement 24' x 24' fully insulated building with disabled access is estimated to cost in the \$35,000 range. The new shelter will be built on a beautiful granite outcropping which will provide for a solid foundation for the new building.

This trail sees over 1000 snowmobiles per week during the season and the shelter is a popular spot to stop to warm up and have lunch. The SnoPALS have applied for various provincial and municipal grants but support from the public is needed if this project is to be completed.

Snowmobiling in the region brings in tens of thousands of dollars in economic activity to the service providers in Elma, Whitemouth, Seven Sisters, Pinawa



and Lac du Bonnet. Through an agreement with the Lac du Bonnet Charitable Foundation, all donations to this Kings Kookout Shelter will generate a tax deduction for the donor.

If you would like to support this project that enhances the recreational snowmobiling in the region please contact the SnoPALS at info@eastmansnopals.ca. All donors will be permanently recognized on a plaque in the new shelter and on the club website.



info@eastmansnopals.ca



Lee River Snow Riders: Club of the Year

The Lee River Snow Riders have earned the title of Snoman's Club of the Year and the members are honoured to be recognized for their accomplishments.

"Winning Snoman's Club of the Year award is a total team effort," said Brad Wall, club president. "Our volunteers are dedicated and passionate about their club and the sport of snowmobiling. Providing safe and smooth trails can't be done by one person. As a club, we're continually looking for ways to improve on both our trail systems and the snowmobiling experience."

The Snow Riders were awarded two additional accolades for individual contributions to the sport of snowmobiling. Theo Vanderzwan was named Groomer

of the Year while Darrel Mozil earned the Outstanding Snowmobiler nod.

Vanderzwan said he was very humbled to have been recognized.

"You have to enjoy what you do," said Vanderzwan. "If you're going to sit in a groomer for all those hours, you'd better like it. Grooming isn't just sitting in the cab and looking out the windshield. There's moving snow, adjusting blade heights on the drag and keeping the groomer on the trail. Sometimes you get stuck, sometimes a hose will break. There's always the unexpected and you have to be prepared."

Wall said Vanderzwan is a valuable member of the

Snow Riders team and puts a great deal of care into his volunteer work.

"Prior to opening the trails, Theo spends considerable time checking the ice conditions on the lakes and swamps over the 220 kilometres of the Lee River trail system. He logs hundreds of kilometres on his snowmobile doing this before the groomer leaves the shed. He cares greatly about the safety of his operators and will not take any risks to ensure their safety," said Wall.

Vanderzwan is the go-to man for the club and his years of experience as an equipment operator and licensed diesel mechanic are assets to the Lee River Snow Riders and are invaluable to them in terms of safety and efficiency. He organizes and oversees training and safety sessions with the operators before the season starts and he deliberately partners the new operators with the experienced members to ensure everyone is trained in the operation of the groomers.



'club membership has grown by 73 per cent'

"Upon season's end, Theo and his team will have groomed more than 5,400 kilometres per year at an average speed of eight kilometres," said Wall. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of Theo, thousands of snowmobilers yearly enjoy the trails within the Lee River system."

Lee River executive board member Brian Smiley was pleased Mozil won his award, noting club membership has grown by 73 per cent over the last two years to sit at 322 members.

Smiley added the significant growth can be attributed to several factors including the introduction of a three-year membership option and good relations and support from the business community and local publications.





Lac du Bonnet and Area Events Guide

LAC DU BONNET LIONS Meet-

ings – First and Third Monday of each month, LdB Community Centre, 7pm.

WEEKLY DOG WALKING

GROUP Winnipeg River Dog Walkers looking for like minded dog owners or just walkers for weekly get togethers. Anyone interested contact John at 204-367-8702.

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP

Meets at 1:30 pm on the last Monday of the month from January through June. Learn, connect and discover. Park Manor, 77 Park Ave., LdB. Call or email for info 1-800-565-3000 ex. 3440, donna.greening@parkinson.ca

LAC DU BONNET HISTORICAL

SOCIETY We meet every 2nd Monday of the month @ 7pm at St. Johns Church in LdB. All welcome!

LET'S DO LUNCH! Join us at Park Manor in Lac du Bonnet, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. Call Two Rivers Seniors 204-345-2228 for details.

LAC DU BONNET MMF LOCAL

For membership & Harvester cards contact SE Regional office 204-754-2721 or LdB Reps Ken 204-345-2212, Lorne 204-345-8052 or Dawn 204-345-6130.

LAKESHORE ALCOHOLICS

ANONYMOUS Lakeshore Group, Lac du Bonnet MB. Meetings: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 8pm Last Sunday of the month, open meeting. Lutheran Church of the Cross, 253 Mcarthur Ave. LdB.

AGASSIZ GARDEN CLUB Meets second Wednesday of most months at Lutheran Church of the Cross, 253 McArthur Ave. All are welcome.

STRUGGLING WITH SMOKING?

Visit an Interlake-Eastern RHA Primary Health Care Nurse. Talk to your Wellness Facilitator at your local health centre to find out about the latest individual and group programs. In Lac du Bonnet or Pinawa call 204-345-1220.

LAKESHORE AL-ANON Are you troubled by someone else's

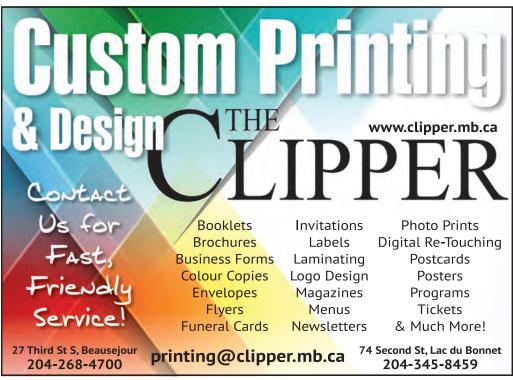
drinking? Meetings are held every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Lac du Bonnet Health Centre. Call Teri at 204-345-8712 for more information.

DIABETES & HEART HEALTH SESSIONS Find out the lat-

est health news. A Nurse and Dietitian will be on hand to answer your questions. Come 15 minutes early if you'd like your blood pressure, blood sugar and/or weight measured. FREE! Registration is not required. For information call 204-345-1230. Lac du Bonnet Health Centre on the last Monday of the month 10:00-11:15 am. or Pinawa Hospital on the last Tuesday of the month 10:00-11:15am.

LAC DU BONNET HEALTH AUX-ILIARY Meets the 4th Thursday of each month at the Health Centre at 1:30 pm. Always looking for new members. Please come out and join them.

WELLNESS NEWSLETTER Stay up to date with wellness in the Interlake-Eastern RHA. Send an email with SUBSCRIBE in the



subject line to wellness@ierha.ca to receive a free monthly e-newsletter including recipes and information about health promotion and education programs in the region.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR

SENIORS Two Rivers Resource Council Inc. Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa, Whitemouth/Reynolds. Phone 204-345-1227, 204-348-4610, 204-753-2962.

PREGNANT? If you are pregnant and feeling confused; if you want to talk to someone about your situation, please call 1-800-665-0570.

GET BETTER TOGETHER! Do you enjoy helping others? Do you have experience with health problems? Would you like to learn to better manage your own health as well? Get Better Together! Leader Training and Participant Programs, FREE! To inquire about Leader training and programs call Theresa toll free 1-877-979-WELL (9355), e-mail: wellness@ierha.ca

MB FARM & RURAL SUPPORT

SERVICES Are you feeling distressed and/or in crisis? Our trained counsellors are here to listen and to help. We offer telephone and on-line counselling for all rural and northern Manitobans. Toll free and confidential. Call 1-866-367-3276 or visit www.supportline.ca

RED CROSS ASSISTANCE

VOLUNTEERS The Canadian Red Cross is seeking Personal Disaster Assistance volunteers. These volunteers help any families in the area who experience a house fire by providing them 72 hours of assistance with their basic needs. For more information or feel free to contact Michelle, the Community Outreach Coordinator for Central Manitoba at michelle.ford@redcross.ca

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