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Welcome to the Town of Lac du Bonnet



On behalf of the residents and council of the Town of Lac du Bonnet, welcome!

We are an age friendly community and promote the values and foundations of community and family living. We are proud of our home and region and all it has to offer to anyone that enjoys a great quality of life.

Our community on the Winnipeg River is a short one hour drive (just one large coffee away) from Winnipeg on good roads. Lac du Bonnet is a four-season playground and the centre of vibrant social, economic and recreational activity as well as a nexus of arts and events that will inspire you and bring you back time and again, or perhaps to join and stay forever.

Our service clubs and organizations add to the unique vitality we cherish. There are tons of sports and activities for the kids to do year round, indoors and out.

We are a growing and thriving community full of opportunity experiencing a rebirth, setting the stage for a strong future.

We are a hub for industry and commercial development. Aviation, mining, forestry, farming, power generation, transportation and retail have over 100 years of history here and formed the backbone of commerce in our community and continues to do so.

We are continuing to develop and evolve to meet the needs of our time and future with services and housing being planned and added.

In the glorious summer, the renowned Lac du Bonnet Farmer's Market provides produce, arts and crafts from local merchants and artisans on Saturdays from late spring to fall. The Lac du Bonnet Beach and Town Dock provide safe swimming and fun in a beautiful location in the heart of town. The restaurants provide great fare after all the fun.

The Fire and Water Music Festival, Canada Day Weekend activities and the best fireworks show in Manitoba are calling.

There is outstanding multi-species fishing year round on the Winnipeg River and Lac du Bonnet. Come and experience the beauty of our local waterways and trails for hiking and exploring nature.

For activities in winter, the annual Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby is at the Town Dock. The lively Lac du Bonnet Arena is a hub of activity with skating, youth and recreational hockey. Join the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club and Bowling League and you won't lack for things to do. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing trails are nearby. The snowmobile trails are accessible and second to none.

Come Visit. Come Stay!

Mayor Ken Lodge
Town of Lac du Bonnet

Welcome to the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet



On behalf of council and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet.

Lac du Bonnet is situated a short scenic drive northeast of Winnipeg and we take great pride in our region being recognized as a "Four Seasons Playground."

In the summer, you can boat the Winnipeg River, Lake Lac du Bonnet, Lee River and Pinawa Channel, enjoying our breathtaking scenic waterways and fabulous sunsets.

If golfing is your sport, you can tee off at our region's many first-class golf courses.

If fishing is your passion, you can book a fly-in trip or try your luck in our local waters, which play host to professional tournaments.

If you enjoy nature, come walk a section of the Trans Canada Trail and view the abundant wildlife or camp at one of our many campgrounds for some quality family time.

If you enjoy history, you can get a glimpse by stopping at our regional Lac du Bonnet District Museum or the Old Pinawa Historical Provincial Park.

In the winter, you can snowmobile our vast network of the best-

groomed trails, snowshoe and cross-country ski our region's wilderness trails, or enjoy a session of ice fishing at the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association's trout ponds.

Visit our website at www.rmoflacdubonnet.com to plan a day or weekend trip for you and your family or friends! Check out the RM of Lac du Bonnet's website's recreation tab for activities and programs that appeal to you!

The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet continues to experience exceptional residential and business growth, but it's not the recreational opportunities — rather the overall quality of life and friendly people — that make it home.

So please make us a preferred destination in the coming months, as many folks have indeed come for a visit but ended up staying for a lifetime.

On behalf of council and our committed municipal staff, I extend everyone a warm Lac du Bonnet welcome.

Reeve Loren Schinkel
RM of Lac du Bonnet

Welcome to Lac du Bonnet Living 2026

Welcome, readers, to the 13th issue of Lac du Bonnet Living.

Tourism is an important component of Lac du Bonnet's economy. To compliment that, we at Clipper Publishing Corp. – publishers of the Lac du Bonnet Clipper newspaper – annually print a full-colour tourism guide focussing on Lac du Bonnet and area while highlighting places of interest, recreational opportunities, events, culture and local history.

Under the current political climate of continued international tariff trade wars and the concerns of some Canadians regarding travel to the U.S., experts predict 2026 to be a significant tourism year in Manitoba and all we offer along the Winnipeg River corridor.

We would like to give special thanks to all those individuals who volunteered their time, supplied photos and articles, and shared their knowledge and professional experience to shape this publication.

Please enjoy.

Mark T. Buss, Marlene Hrysió and Candace Kekish



COVER PHOTO:

13-year-old Owen Corrigan caught this 43" master angler jackfish on the Lee River.

PHOTO BY LAUREN CORRIGAL

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Photo: "Otters - Pinawa Bay" by Rick McGregor

Lions' Canada Day Ready to Roar



Darn the Torpedoes

Looking for a weekend event for family and friends? The Lac du Bonnet Lions-sponsored Canada Day weekend will be roaring once again from July 3-5.

The July long weekend is packed with activities drawing thousands of people from across the region. People can visit the parking lot by the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre to check out the Lions Family Fun Zone as well as a farmer's market, featuring a variety of home grown food, arts and crafts from dozens of vendors.

Throughout the weekend, a Wonder Shows midway located in the parking lot by First Street offers a variety of rides and games for the young and young at heart.

On the evening of Saturday, July 4, the crowd will gather at the Lac du Bonnet beach to watch what has



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become known as one of Canada's best fireworks displays. During the show put on by Arch Angel Fireworks, the crowd gazes in awe as the sky and the water below flash for almost 40 minutes with spectacular colour and light. Members of the Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa fire departments carefully overseeing the safety of the beach spectators.

The Lions fundraise annually for the fireworks show and he encourages the public to give generously at donation stations set up around town.

The Lac du Bonnet Arena board will be hosting their Canada Day beer gardens all weekend and their annual Rockin' On Sunshine concerts. After the Saturday night fireworks, singer Kevin Martin will perform. On Sunday, July 5 under a tent next to the rink. The first show at 3:30 p.m. features Shania Twain country-pop tribute, Forever and Always. The "B" Side Champs hit the stage at 5:30 p.m. playing everyone's favourite R&B classics. Things start rocking at 7:30 p.m. with ZZ Topless followed by Tom Petty cover band Darn the Torpedoes at 9:30 p.m.

The annual float and decorated bicycle parade takes



Parade watching.

place on Sunday at noon. Following the parade, the Winnipeg River Car Club holds its annual Show and Shine on Second Street.

If your hungry, members of the Pioneer Club come out in full force to cook and feed over 200 people at a pancake breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be a pickeral fry on Saturday from 3-6 p.m. at the community centre.

For the sporting fan, the annual mixed slo-pitch tournament takes place all weekend.

The Lac du Bonnet Lions Club received their charter in 1963 and true to their motto, they have been serving the community for almost 60 years. This dedicated and hard working group of volunteers represent the community spirit Lac du Bonnet was founded on, unselfishly extending a hand of assistance in virtually every event that takes place in the community.

Over 120 volunteers participate to help make the Canada Day gathering a success and an event celebrated as a home coming for many local families.



The midway is always a big hit.

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Fire & Water's 2026 Lineup Announced

Organizers of Lac du Bonnet's award winning Fire and Water Music Festival have announced the lineup for their 20th anniversary event.

Taking place July 24-26, Fire and Water Music Festival is a three-day event featuring music and art with a focus on local and provincial talent. Held at the Lakers Water Ski Club site on PR 502, the festival provides important opportunities for upcoming acts to introduce their talents to a broader audience and showcase their original material.

The festival is organized and run by volunteers, many of them being artists and musicians as well. The laid back environment of the festival encourages up front and personal contact with artists who often leave the stage following their performance and join the audience to catch the next act.

Fire and Water president Norine Harty said celebrating 20 years is a tremendous milestone for the community-run festival, which has undergone several venue changes, survived a pandemic and still continues to grow stronger.

"We continue our mission to showcase and celebrate independent Manitoba musicians and introduce our audience to emerging and local musicians," Harty said. "This is thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have committed hundreds of thousands of hours to plan and deliver the festival."

The 2026 line-up is a wonderful collection of talent. Leading the way is Cara Luft, one of Canada's most



Cara Luft

Photo by Joey Senft

respected and beloved singer-songwriters, makes a long-anticipated return with a joyful solo album – her first in over 13 years. Known for her warmth, authenticity and exceptional musicianship, Luft is a



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Fire & Water's 2026 Lineup Announced *CONTINUED*

Juno Award winner who has amassed legions of fans captivated by her talent for pairing heart-on-your-sleeve lyricism with indelible ear-catching melodies. Her new album, *My Heart Will Always Be*, is her most assured and personal work to date, reaffirming her legacy as an essential voice in folk music.

Experiencing Alex Maher live is a moment where music reminds us of its magic – when something clicks, and the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Layer by layer, he builds a song from scratch: starting with a beat, locking in a groove, adding synths, keys, and guitar. Then come the vocals – his own lyrics or a fresh take on someone else's – followed by a soaring alto sax solo that brings it all home. And just when you think you've seen it all, he does it again.

Sheena Rattai and Friends will perform a Tribute to Lilith Fair; a musical movement that celebrates the iconic women singer-songwriters of the 1990s with soaring harmonies, raw emotion and timeless songs. A powerful night of nostalgia, feel-good energy, and music that honours women's voices and their lasting impact.

After meeting by chance at a house show, Dom and Jacob (Dominique Adams and Jacob Brodovsky) accidentally wrote an album together and began collaborating on each other's solo work. When Dom and

Jacob bring their respective voices and writing styles together, they write intimate and thoughtful songs born out a true collaborative partnership.

Amby is a Winnipeg based band starring frontman Amber Landry, Ava Glendinning on guitar and vocals, Amilia Fehr on bass and Spencer Hanton on drums, Amby is an ensemble that plays music for lovers and losers who like alternative, folk, pop, and country music and are open to laughing and crying while listening.

Amby's songwriting is a deep and personal well of experience and emotion, their voice the bucket that pours it into a vessel of sound that is refreshing, honest, and intimate. The rest of the band gives this intimacy a grounded and supported sonic structure as they all skillfully and playfully serve up the songs.

The Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir composes toe-tapping songs rich with unexpected instrumentals and tremendous harmonies. During capti-

ivating live performances, the band takes the stage clad in 1930s house dresses – telling clever stories of strange, lovable, and relatable characters, engaging with their audience both on and off stage.

Dreams and Rumours is the he ultimate tribute band, paying homage to the legendary band Fleetwood Mac. Dreams and Rumours strives to embody the mastery



Fu Fu Chi Chi Choir

Photo by Kristen Sawatzky

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of sound and performance originated by this super-group. Each member of Dreams and Rumours has focused on mastering the details of their performance, allowing them to transport you to a place where you feel enveloped by the beautiful sounds Fleetwood Mac.

Andrew Neville is a festival favourite who returns to share his special blend of outlaw and classic country along with fun originals. Neville has been making classic rough and tumble country music since 2003 and cites artists such as John Prine, Johnny Cash, Fred Eaglesmith and Stompin' Tom as influences.

Jacob Brodovsky is a singer-songwriter from Winnipeg. In the tradition of other prairie songwriters, Brodovsky's songs are humble yet intricate, and as humorous as they are heartbreaking. He writes songs about feelings, the people who have them, the places that create them, and the fears we have about them.

A smaller festival with an annual attendance around the 200-person mark, Fire and Water's board of directors would like to keep improving the event and tailor it for people to attend and enjoy live music.



Andrew Neville

With the 20th anniversary on tap, Harty said organizers will be inviting their audience to share memories, photos and stories of past gatherings with them so they can be featured leading up to this year's festival.

For more information visit the Fire and Water Music Festival website at firewater.ca

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Boreal Shores Art Tour

A Welcome Detour



The Boreal Shores Art Tour encourages art lovers to explore the beauty of Eastern Manitoba.

The Boreal Shores Art Tour is ready to roll this summer.

Scheduled for Aug. 15 and 16, the Boreal Shores Art Tour (BSAT) is a free, road-trip worthy, self-guided art tour featuring artists at their studios or group locations scattered throughout the beautiful and diverse Boreal forest and shore regions of North Eastman. From the eastern shores of Lake Winnipeg through the Winnipeg River system to the Whiteshell Provincial Park, the tour showcases artists from diverse communities who love to explore all aspects of visual art.

First held in 2017, visitors met 34 talented artists at 16 locations during the two-day tour.

Two years later, over 700 people travelled the BSAT route, making an average of six stops each. Many people made it to every stop – an accomplishment



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that can only be done by devoting the entire weekend to driving the route.

Artists sold just under \$40,000 worth of art in those two days with reports purchased items were sent across Canada as well as the UK, Germany, France and the U.S. Less than half of the visitors were from the region while the rest came from all parts of Manitoba as well as from B.C. to the Maritimes.

Tour brochures and maps are available online on the BSAT website (borealshore-sarttour.ca) and at locations throughout the tour area. Peruse the brochure ahead of time to see who, what and where you want to go and see on the tour weekend. Pick up a passport at any of the locations and get it stamped at each stop. It's a perfect day or weekend road trip to take with your friends or family.

The Boreal Shores Art Tour is also good for businesses across North Eastman. Tour goers spend thousands of dollars buying gas, eating meals and paying for overnight accommodations.

Displaying Work

For those displaying their work in the BSAT, artwork must be original in concept, design and execution. Items must have artistic merit and be of acceptable quality. Accompanied by digital photos of the artwork, applications will be reviewed by an independent and anonymous board of whose decision to admit or not, using these guidelines, will be accepted

by the board of BSAT.

A total of 38 artists will display their wares at 20 tour stops in 2026, all the way from Victoria Beach to Falcon Lake. Those already pencilled in include Pinawa's Stu Iverson, Rick Cline and Ingrid Butenschon in Seven Sisters, Mary Louise Chown in River Hills, glassblower Gordon Boyd in Victoria Beach and painter George Tanner in Falcon Lake.

Boyd's blown glass work focuses on functional

objects, primarily drinkware. He says a well-crafted glass, made with care and intention, can transform simple moments into something special.

"I believe the objects we use every day should be more than just practical – they should be meaningful, bringing joy and a sense of connection to our daily lives," Boyd stated.

Using traditional glass-blowing techniques, he create unique, handmade pieces that celebrate the beauty of craftsmanship. Each piece is individually



Mary Louise Chown

formed, embracing the fluidity and unpredictability of molten glass.

"I'm drawn to the way glass captures light, movement, and energy, making each object feel alive in its own way. While my work is functional, I approach it with the mindset that objects can hold personal significance beyond their use."



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Gordon Boyd creates unique, handmade pieces that celebrate the beauty of craftsmanship.

Iverson is one of the region's most prominent photographers and has viewed several international locales through a lens. Iverson compliments his images by utilizing unique lighting produced by environmental conditions such as hoar frost and fog. His vast portfolio is not limited to any particular topic, but Iverson has an interest in capturing images of wildlife and nature.

Art Is a Stimulus

He said the Boreal Shores Art Tour, along with other art sales and tours, is an important incentive for artists and helps reinvigorate the artistic community.

"For all of us, the fact that there is an art show coming up acts like a stimulus to get ready, be prepared (and) finish some of those things we have been thinking about doing," Iverson said. "Having the tour, meeting the public (and) selling their art is great for most artists."

Iverson said the tour itself is as equally stimulating for viewers, many of whom look on it as a way to take a drive with family or friends and see the countryside or communities they have not visited in a while.

"For people going on tour we believe that taking a drive... talking with artists and others on the tour and seeing new art will be a great mental break from day-to-day concerns," he said. "Most people are just having fun and enjoying a low stress activity."

From a personal note, Iverson said art has to be shown, discussed, liked, disliked, sold or not sold to allow for the creation of more art.

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Kids Snowflake Bazaar A Family Treat

by Rick McGregor

If you have young children or grandchildren, the Kids Snowflake Bazaar (KSB) in Great Falls is something you should plan to experience with them.

Since 2017, the KSB has provided an opportunity for children to shop for gifts for their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends in a fun and educational event.

Three bazaars are run each year: Mothers Day, Fathers Day and Christmas. Items for purchase are laid out on tables and volunteers lead the children around the room, helping them shop for gifts.

Meanwhile, those who brought the children are sequestered off in the Parents Room so as to not see what the youths are buying. Before going off, the adults give the youths their shopping money and discuss their shopping list. Who do they want to buy



Gabriel, Nickel the Access Credit Union Mascot, Mellissa and Samuel (her boys).

Photo by Rick McGregor

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for? Prices range from 25 cents to \$3.50, providing them with an opportunity to shop for a number of people. While there is no age limit, the program is generally aimed at kids fourteen and under. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

The volunteers help them with budgeting as they shop, explaining how much money they have and how many people are on their list and helping them to decide how much they can spend on each gift. This is the first step in the educational process. The children also learn decision making and the benefit of giving rather than receiving. They also experience communicating with adults, patience, kindness, math skills and respect for others.

Other volunteers are set up in another area to help them gift wrap their purchases so the recipients will be suitably surprised when they open their gift.

The lady behind this wonderful idea is Mellissa Bourgeois. When asked how she came up with the idea, she said the idea is not new.

“Since our inception, I have heard of many such events taking place in many areas, but most seem to have started and then dropped off in the 1990s,” Bourgeois said.

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Kids Snowflake Bazaar A Family Treat CONTINUED



Just about ready for the kids.

Photo by Rick McGregor

basement in St-Georges, the bazaar quickly outgrew that and a subsequent location before ending up in the Great Falls Community Hall, their home since 2020.

The first event was a Christmas bazaar, attended by 104 children, with 15 tables and one Christmas tree.

Mothers and Fathers Day were added in 2020 when Bourgeois realized she had enough inventory to accommodate more gatherings. These events provide children with an opportunity to give back to the adult figures in their lives. Bonds are strengthened and positive skills are developed.

The most recent Kids Snowflake Bazaar this past Christmas had 217 children, 35 tables, seven Christmas trees and a number of display racks for additional gifts to purchase. They also have 165 volunteers but are always looking for more. Families attending over the years have come from as far away as British Columbia, but most are from the Eastman region.

Everything available for purchase has been donated. Everything is new or gently used and includes everything from jewellery to toys, stuffed animals,



Volunteer Lucas Berthelette in front of gifts for sale.

Photo by Rick McGregor

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board games, fishing tackle, clothes and many other items. Donations come from people cleaning and/or downsizing and from businesses donating unsold merchandise. Others come from parents who have brought their children in the past and watch for sales all year so they can buy items to donate.

Donations are also sought each year for an auction in the Parents Room. Prize packages are assembled and silent auction tickets are sold, providing another fundraiser for the KSB. Grant monies have also been received from many local organizations and businesses/sponsors.

The Kids Snowflake Bazaar is a registered non-profit organization and all monies raised are returned to the community. Since its inception, KSB has contributed over \$51,500 to organizations that also support youth across eastern Manitoba. This year, seven different organizations received funding. They also award one scholarship each year to a graduating high school student.

To participate with your kids, volunteer, donate or sponsor and for information about the scholarship, please visit their website at www.kidssnowflakebazaar.com to learn more.

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Rod Demoline Golf Tournament Set for September 9

The Lac du Bonnet Community Centre is hosting the 23rd annual Rod Demoline Golf Tournament on Sept. 9 at the Granite Hills Golf Club.

This event is the most significant fundraiser for the community centre as the revenue generated provides a large portion of its annual operating costs.

Lac du Bonnet Community Centre president Sharalyn Reitlo says the golf tournament is a great way for friends and family to get together or for businesses to say thank you to employees, business partners and loyal customers.

This annual tournament is held in memory of the late Rod Demoline, a community leader who held executive positions with the community centre, curling club, Lions and town council. Demoline passed away in 2003, but left a

legacy the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre and their tournament sponsors and golfers continue to honour.

In 2025, the event was a roaring success as golfers raised approximately \$12,000 with the winning team of Kyle Costello, Matt Turanski, Geoff Born and Jonny Litman shot a sizzling 56 or 16 under par.

Individuals or teams will enjoy 18 holes of golf in Texas scramble format, a shared power cart, lunch and prizes. Registration is at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Golfers will also be challenged to enter contests to win larger prizes and the organizers guarantee a fun time for all.

Golfers wishing to participate are invited to email ldbcommunityc@gmail.com or call 204-345-6737.



The Rod Demoline Golf Tournament is the most significant annual fundraiser for the Lac du Bonnet Community Centre.



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Winnipeg River Arts Council



*Kelly
Murray*

The Winnipeg River Arts Council Inc. (WRAC) is based in Lac du Bonnet with the office located in the Community Future's Winnipeg River building located at 4 Park Ave.

WRAC officially formed in 2011 with a 10-member board with funding from the Town of Lac du Bonnet, RM of Lac du Bonnet, Town of Powerview-Pine Falls, Municipality of Alexander and the LGD of Pinawa. Since then, WRAC's mission has been to support and promote local artists and arts organizations, raise awareness about the arts industry in the region and develop a connected community of artists, arts supporters and patrons.

WRAC is a not-for-profit, member-based organization. Membership is comprised of artists, patrons, arts organizations, not-for-profit organizations and businesses. Members pay annual fees, have voting privileges at the annual general meeting and receive a monthly newsletter. Artists are featured in the newsletter, on the website and on postcards used to promote both the artists and the arts council. The arts council also hosts, promotes and presents several exciting arts opportunities in the region.

The bi-annual Eastman Judged Art Exhibition (EJAE) is a favourite of WRAC president Kelly Murray. As a visual artist, Murray says the EJAE provides an opportunity to share her art form with members of the community and to receive feedback from judges so that she can improve her craft. This year, the exhibition will be held at the Great Falls Community Hall on June 12 and 13.

As WRAC president, Murray works to keep organizational administration streamlined and to develop opportunities like an artist database and art retreats to help artists thrive. Murray encourages local artists to get involved as members, volunteers or as elected members of the board to be a part of an exciting and creative future.

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (RMTTC) Regional Tour is another major event WRAC presents. For Mac Kinghorn, one of the founding members, presenting RMTTC in various venues throughout the region showcases the communities and their venues and makes it easier for many people to attend reasonably priced theatre productions. On March 13, 2027, RMTTC will present *Misery* by William Goldman, based on the novel by Stephen King.

In 2026, drama students from Lac du Bonnet, Great Falls, Sagkeeng First Nation and Powerview-Pine Falls as well as volunteers from the newly formed Men's Shed and Great Falls Community Hall helped with set up and strike down. This was a great opportunity to work and learn together behind the scenes with this professional theatre company.

In addition to these major events, WRAC artists and members are also in the community offering creative opportunities. Founding member Donna Besel offers creative writing workshops throughout the year and is the co-host of Wild Writing in the Boreal, an annual writing retreat held at Falcon Trails Resort. Vi Enns-Preston, one of WRAC's newest board members, offers art making and crafting sessions to seniors.

WRAC seeks to enhance the North Eastman Region through the arts including artist promotion, professional development, arts education, talent development, grant writing assistance and networking opportunities.

To learn more about our artists, art making and our partner organizations contact winnipegriverarts@gmail.com



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open the door to new opportunities for economic development and growth in the province's eastern region.

The restoration project is more than science; it is about community. With over 500 jobs and an annual contribution of \$160 million to the local economy, CNL is committed to ensuring this work benefits the region today while creating possibilities for tomorrow. Steered by engagement with Indigenous Nations, local municipalities, and residents, we are building trust and shaping a future that reflects shared priorities: safety, partnership, sustainability, and opportunity.

From research to renewal, Whiteshell Laboratories continues to inspire progress. Together, we are closing a historic chapter and opening new doors for future generations.

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Men's Shed Building Community Connection



The Lac du Bonnet Men's Shed is a community-based group where men come together to build skills, explore interests, and form meaningful friendships. Beyond activities like woodworking, gardening, or cooking, it is a supportive,

"shoulder-to-shoulder" environment where men can connect more comfortably.

This is especially valuable for those facing loneliness and a loss of purpose due to aging, retirement, major life changes or simply seeking the companionship and conversation with a group of like minded people.

In the summer of 2025, HEROS Alliance did a survey of men aged 15 to 65-plus in the Lac du Bonnet area that explored health, relationships, parenting and access to care, and found that connection and relationships are key to well-being.

From the findings of that survey and subsequent meetings, the local chapter of the Lac du Bonnet Men's Shed was born in October 2025 and has been meeting every other Tuesday since.

While each Shed is unique, all share a focus on creating a welcoming space for connection, shared experiences, and community involvement. The movement began in Australia in the 1990s and has grown globally, with over 170 Sheds across Canada. Men's Sheds

Canada, a national charity established in 2022, supports the growth and development of these groups.

Men's Shed plays an important role in addressing issues like social isolation, depression, and low rates of help-seeking among men. By fostering connection and purpose, they contribute to improved mental and physical well-being. Through partnerships and ongoing research, Men's Sheds Canada is also working to strengthen awareness and support for men's health across the country.

Men work side by side, talk casually and build relationships without pressure. An informal, safe, and non-threatening environment where men can connect through shared activities. It focuses on building camaraderie, creating opportunities for social interaction, sharing skills, and working together on group



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projects. At its core, it is a place where men can socialize openly and respectfully, free from personal bias, judgment, or criticism.

Activities the Lac du Bonnet Men's Shed to date have included volunteering to assist with local organizations, exploring options to contribute to community initiatives, coffee, conversation and games. We are open to suggestions from the community for opportunities to assist with local projects.

The group's goals include acquiring a permanent space where activities such as wood working, metal working, mechanical services to name a few can be done on a regular basis at various hours throughout the day. Getting more members to join the group is always on the agenda, as well as opportunities to assist local community groups where help is needed.


The Lac du Bonnet chapter of Men's shed meets every other Tuesday at the Lutheran Church of the Cross Social Hall, 253 McArthur Avenue, Lac du Bonnet at 6:30 p.m., Men of all ages are welcome, come check it out and bring a friend. Visit us on our social media pages for updates or feel free to reach out to us at ldb-menshed@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



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New Lac du Bonnet PCH On Schedule



Lac du Bonnet Heritage Corp. CEO Gordon Peters said having care close to home and family is critical as we age.

Photo Courtesy of IERHA

The province of Manitoba says construction of the Lac du Bonnet personal care home (PCH) remains on schedule and on budget for fall 2027 completion.

Earlier this year, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced the facility will give every family confidence that their loved ones can access the care they need in a space that feels familiar and safe.

“Projects like this allow residents to share meals around real kitchens, welcome grandchildren into bright living rooms, support health-care workers and offer hospital patients a more appropriate place to heal,” Asagwara said.

The 95-bed, \$66.4 million facility will

replace the existing 30-bed personal care home, adding 65 net new long-term care beds for seniors in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA), with construction underway since fall 2025. The project helps seniors and patients move from hospitals or the community

into PCHs that better match their needs or appropriate level of care, and keeps them closer to home, the minister noted.

Foundation work is complete while masonry, steel erection and hollow-core installation is underway. The facility uses a contemporary small-house design model that groups resident rooms into eight self-sufficient households with dedicated kitchens, dining and living areas. Ex-



Premier Wab Kinew at the podium as RM of Lac du Bonnet Reeve Loren Schinkel (left), Lac du Bonnet Mayor Ken Lodge and Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara (right) in March 2025.

Photo by Rick McGregor

panded spaces will support improved airflow, infection prevention and the use of modern technology in a home-like setting.

The Lac du Bonnet PCH has been more than 30 years in the making. This project was originally announced in 2012 by the then Greg Selinger NDP government and cancelled by the Brian Pallister Conservatives in 2017 as part of a series of health care facility project cuts across the province to reduce the provincial deficit.

With the IERHA identified as the health association most in need of personal care home spaces in Manitoba, Lac du Bonnet in turn has been identified as the community most in need in the service area.

The Lac du Bonnet Heritage Corp. was formed in 2018 under the direction of former mayor Gordon Peters, who remains on as CEO. The working group consulted with the town and RM, the province, private sector PCH facilities and construction firms in preparation for a facility design and capital cost estimate as part of a business plan submission to the IERHA.

The project was put back on the table by Heather Stephanson's PC government in August of last year ahead of the fall election. But shortly after winning



Photo Courtesy of IERHA



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New Lac du Bonnet PCH On Schedule CONTINUED



The 95-bed, \$66.4 million facility will be completed in the fall of 2027.

Photo Courtesy of IERHA

the election, Premier Wab Kinew and his government put this project on “pause” along with several others after alleging the finances they inherited were not as originally believed.

In March 2025, Kinew and Asagwara were in Lac du Bonnet to announce the long-awaited PCH was on again.

“After many years of uncertainty, the Town of Lac du Bonnet is thrilled that Premier Kinew and his cabinet have finally moved the

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Lac du Bonnet PCH project forward,” said Town of Lac du Bonnet CAO Marley Seymour. “This is an exciting moment for our community, as it represents a long-awaited step in providing our seniors with the care and support they deserve, close to home and family. We look forward to seeing this important project continue to progress and to the benefits it will bring to our residents for years to come.”

Construction is scheduled for completion in fall 2027, with the facility aiming to open by the end of that year. The IERHA will own and operate the building. Peters emphasized community need and long-awaited progress.

“The Lac du Bonnet Heritage Corporation did the original planning and design of the new PCH, and we are very pleased that the development is continuing,” said Peters. “Seeing the new facility start to take shape is exciting for our community. PCH beds in our area have been short for years and the community waits with great anticipation for the PCH to be completed so the residents will have a place to go as they age and need care. It will be close to home and family, which is so critical as we age.”



Photo Courtesy of IERHA



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- Diane & Alan Richter

Over the years, En Vogue Furniture has expanded its offerings to meet the evolving needs and tastes of its clientele, continually bringing in fresh styles and timeless classics alike.

The business takes pride in serving not only Lac du Bonnet, but also the many surrounding communities that come to rely on En Vogue for quality and value.

- Written by: Vanessa Richter



Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor

Who we are and What we hope to achieve



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The Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor is a regional tourism and economic development initiative rooted

in collaboration, community pride and a shared belief in the potential of this remarkable river system. Our work is guided by a simple but powerful idea: that the Winnipeg River and the communities along its banks have stories, experiences and opportunities worth sharing with visitors near and far.

The Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor Committee defines its core purpose through a mandate to “showcase the welcoming communities along the Winnipeg River and the opportunities for adventure for visitors and friends, near and far,” said Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor chair and Town of Lac du Bonnet Coun. Greg Short.

Our committee is made up of local representatives, local business owners, and local organizations who

An advertisement for Alexander. It features a close-up of a young child's face, smiling, with a hand holding a black and yellow butterfly in front of them. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green. The text is overlaid on the image.

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bring on-the-ground knowledge, lived experience, and a shared passion for the region. Our committee works collaboratively to raise the profile of the incredible people and places in the region, increase visitation, foster opportunities for education and reconciliation, and advance business development and investment throughout the corridor. At its heart, this project is about strengthening our communities while inviting others to experience what makes them special.



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Pepsi (the dog) on his way to Coca Cola Falls.

river system offers something for everyone – whether you’re an adventurer seeking new routes, a fishing enthusiast drawn to its renowned waters, an outdoor lover exploring trails and shorelines, or a history seeker interested in the stories that have shaped the region. The Winnipeg River is more than a waterway; it is a living connection between communities, cultures, and landscapes.

How It Began

The Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor project began in 2022. The momentum behind the project was built through strong partnerships and local leadership. Alexander Coun. Diane Dubé was instrumental in lobbying council to support the creation of a broader tourism initiative that would promote the Winnipeg River as a destination of choice.

Communities including Powerview-Pine Falls, the Town and RM of Lac du Bonnet and Pinawa were approached to participate, each committing to an annual financial contribution toward operating costs – an important demonstration of shared investment and belief in the project’s value.

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Collaboration is at the core of everything we do. The Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor Committee is grateful for the support from the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (Economic Development Council of Bilingual Municipalities of Manitoba), Community Futures Winnipeg River, Travel Manitoba and Eastman Tourism, who have all helped move this initiative forward. Together with our municipal partners, businesses, organizations, and residents, we are building a foundation that supports sustainable tourism growth and long-term economic development.

As we continue to grow, the Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor remains committed to telling authentic stories, supporting our communities, and inviting visitors to discover a river system that truly is worth exploring.

We're proud of where we've come from – and excited about where the river will take us next.

To learn more about Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor or to get involved, please visit winnipegrivertourismcorridor.ca or email us at info@winnipegrivertourismcorridor.ca

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Gliding Through the Winter Trails

Cross country skiing along the Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor



Powerview-Pine Falls Duck Lake Ski Club

When winter settles in along the Winnipeg River, the landscape changes. The forests grow quieter, the river edges freeze over, and fresh snow transforms familiar places into something new. It's a season that invites you to slow down, and one of the best ways to experience it is on cross country skis.

Throughout the Winnipeg River Tourism Corridor – a regional tourism and economic development initiative highlighting the potential of the river system – local ski clubs quietly get to work each winter, grooming trails and maintaining routes that wind through forests, past open spaces, and alongside the river itself. These trails connect more than just kilometres of snow, they connect communities, landscapes and the shared love of winter.

In Powerview-Pine Falls, the Duck Lake Ski Club offers a trail system that feels like a true winter escape, starting right at the edge of town and quickly carrying skiers into the quiet of nature. The 11 kilometres of groomed trails glide through mixed wood forest, across open meadows, and into peaceful spruce bogs, where the only sounds are skis on snow and the wind moving through the trees. Midway along the route, the chalet provides the perfect place to stop and take a break, warm up, and enjoy the stillness before continuing on. With an outhouse

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LdB Cross Country Ski Trails

make it easy to navigate at your own pace, inviting skiers to slow down and take in the beauty of winter.

Nestled north of PR 307, between Whitemouth Falls Wayside Park and the Seven Sisters hydro dam, the Seven Sisters Falls trails offer a scenic escape for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts. With three loop options – a short 3K, a medium and a long 7K – you can choose the distance that fits your pace. The trail is fairly easy, yet delightfully varied, featuring fun hills perfect for a long, fast glide. Most of the route winds through lush bush, but it also passes the Seven Sisters hydro dam, where the Whitemouth River meets the Winnipeg River, offering picturesque open-water




Seven Sisters Falls Ski Map

located nearby, it's a comfortable and convenient rest point that makes spending a full winter day on the trails easy and inviting.

Further south, the trails maintained by the Lac du Bonnet Cross Country Ski Club wind through the Agassiz Provincial Forest, offering skiers a chance to experience rolling terrain, forested ridges, and quiet winter landscapes. With 16 kilometres of groomed trail, there's plenty of room to explore, whether you're heading out for a shorter ski or spending more time enjoying the outdoors. Clearly marked routes

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Gliding Through the Winter Trails *CONTINUED*

views. Keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife, including white-tailed deer, rabbits, and majestic bald eagles. Thanks to meticulous grooming, the trails are always in top shape, especially after fresh snowfall. A perfect blend of adventure, nature, and tranquillity awaits at Seven Sisters Falls.

In Pinawa, the Whiteshell Cross Country Ski Club maintains over 40 kilometres of groomed ski trails, reflecting the community's strong connection to the outdoors. The trail network is remarkably varied, weaving through upland boreal forest, wetlands, granite outcrops, and even the local golf course. Skiers can choose between gently rolling terrain or more technically challenging routes: the golf course trails offer rolling loops with a few optional steep hills, while the forest trails feature numerous climbs of up to 20 metres in



Duck Lake Ski Club Chalet



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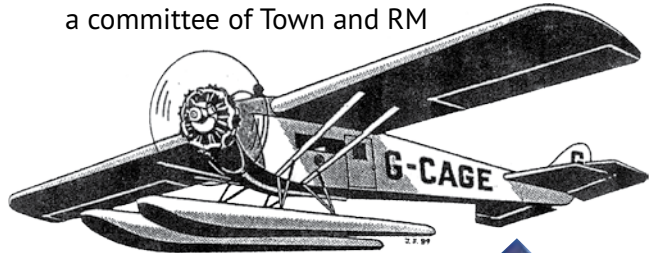
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Lac du Bonnet




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*Lac du Bonnet MHAC Mission Statement:
to maintain this community's commitment to the
preservation and presentation of Lac du Bonnet's
heritage resources and to provide
opportunities for public awareness,
education and participation in
heritage conservation.*



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elevation, along with downhill trails that include curves and sharp turns. Together, these trails offer everything from relaxed gliding to thrilling, skill-testing descents. It's easy to spend a full winter day here by skiing in the morning, exploring town paths or river views in the afternoon and ending with the satisfying feeling of having truly experienced the season.

Cross country skiing along the Winnipeg River isn't about rushing from one place to the next. It's about fresh tracks after a snowfall, quiet forests, and the simple rhythm of moving through winter at your own pace. Whether you're visiting one trail system or exploring several communities along the corridor, these ski destinations offer a chance to see the Winnipeg River region in its most peaceful and memorable season.

Before heading out, be sure to check local trail conditions, confirm whether an online or in-person waiver or sign-in is required with the local ski club, and consider supporting the volunteer-run ski clubs that make these winter experiences possible by making a donation or joining the ski clubs.



Skiing through the Agassiz Provincial Forest as part of the Lac du Bonnet Cross Country Ski Club.

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Wooden TCT trail sign

Photo by Sonya Richmond

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This national legacy stretches 28,000 kilometres across every province and territory connecting the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. The TCT incorporates trails that existed previously and trails that were built specifically to be used for the core activities of hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The trail includes land and water routes that were historically created and used by Indigenous peoples as seasonal travel and trade routes, as well as snowmobile routes where trails groups have formed partnerships.

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Pine Falls

In this area, the Bluewater South section of Trans Canada Trail spans 40 kilometres from Pinawa Dam to Great Falls Dam. From the ruins of the first year round operating hydroelectric generating station in Manitoba, the trail heads west, then turns north to meander through the Lee River Wildlife Management Area. This 10-kilometre section of trail is mainly boreal forest and granite rock outcroppings and offers wildlife viewing and bird watching. This is the home of deer, bears and wolves so trail users should not be surprised to get a fleeting glimpse of them on the trail.

Some municipal roads are used as connecting links between trail sections, and Old Pointe Road serves this function from the north end of the Lee River Trail to the Winnipeg River Bridge. The trail crosses the river at the bridge, and continues west before making a turn north onto Blueberry Rock Drive, another municipal road. The road leads to the parking lot at Blueberry Rock Hiking Trail, an outdoor recreation area with trails, a lookout tower, picnic tables and fire pits. This popular location is visited by outdoor enthusiasts in all seasons to

enjoy hiking, biking, snowshoeing, berry picking and a cookout around the fire pit.

Heading north on Mackenzie Point Road, the trail continues to the south end of the Manitoba Hydro dyke along the Winnipeg River. This five-kilometre stretch of dyke is perfect for hiking or bike riding and is adjacent to the habitat of geese, ducks, and eagles. The view of the Winnipeg River from the dyke is spectacular, with the outline of McArthur Falls Generating Station in the distance.

The trail crosses Hwy 11 at Crescent Bay Road and continues north along a hydro corridor before crossing the highway back to the dyke for another six kilometres, ending in the parking lot at the Great Falls dam. This junction is the north end of Bluewater South Trail and the northeast boundary of Red River North Trail.

The work that goes into trail development, maintenance and promotion is a collaborative effort

amongst local trails associations, provincial trail bodies, the national Trans Canada Trail organization, and various local partnerships in each region. Volunteers are the heart and soul of these groups, and without



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Get Out and Enjoy a Trail Near You CONTINUED



Great Trail Hike

their efforts there would be no Trans Canada Trail.

The Lac du Bonnet Trails Association is the local group that is dedicated to developing, maintaining, marketing and promoting non-motorized recreational trails in the Town and RM of Lac du Bonnet, including the Bluewater South Trail. Volunteers write grant applications, supervise maintenance work, pick up debris and garbage, stain the tower and tables at Blueberry Rock, organize special activities on the trail, install signage, develop maps of the trail, and act as liaison with provincial and national organizations. Their reward for all this volunteer work is knowing that people appreciate the trails in our area and use them respectfully by leaving no trace. Get out and enjoy a trail near you!

For more information about the Trans Canada Trail and to use the interactive map, go to www.tctrail.ca

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Lac du Bonnet offers endless opportunities for all ages and interests. We invite you to join us and enjoy what makes Lac du Bonnet so spectacular and a wonderful place to live or visit.



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Reynolds Paying It Forward

Lac du Bonnet sports journalist helps student scribe succeed

Lac du Bonnet's Sean Reynolds knows how much a helping hand means when embarking on a career, so when the opportunity came to help out a local aspiring journalist, he was only too happy to help.

This past hockey season, Reynolds invited Springfield Collegiate student journalist Sierra Smith to attend the Winnipeg Jets game with him. He showed her how to get to the different interview areas, the press box and to ice level.

Smith and Reynolds' daughter Charlie curl together. In conversations at the rink, Smith mentioned to Reynolds that she was interested in sports journalism and was interning at *The Clipper*.

That resonated with Reynolds, who has worked with *The Clipper* in the past. He credits his time with the now defunct Lac du Bonnet *Leader* newspaper for

helping him get into Ryerson University (now the Toronto Metropolitan University) for journalism.

"I'm a big believer in journalism and in the power of local journalism," Reynolds said. "I respect (*Clipper* president) Mark Buss as a person and am happy to help out. It's important."

"The fact Sean would take time out of his busy schedule and help out a young person interested in journalism says a lot about his character and his passion for the trade," Buss said. "Paying it forward like this is immeasurable."

Attending Ryerson from 2004-2006, Reynolds started working at Sportsnet before returning to Winnipeg to work at Global Television. He made the move to CBC in 2008 where he became the host of CBC's News Winnipeg at 11 p.m. In 2017, Reynolds moved back to



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Sportsnet where he continues to work as a reporter and host on Hockey Night in Canada.

Reynolds suggested Smith come to a game so he could show her the ropes so she'd be ready if she was ever assigned a game to cover. He said even established professionals have to learn how to move about the Canada Life Centre. In a time-sensitive role like a sports reporter, knowing how to get from Point A to Point B quickly is crucial.

"There is a lot to learn on the fly," Reynolds said. "What is it like in the press box? In scrums with players? Going through it ahead of time helps you figure things out."

Reynolds said sports journalism is significantly different than when he started out. Back then, journalism graduates looked for a post in a smaller city to get experience. They move up to a larger city and then a national spot.

That was already changing when Reynolds was building his resumé. Many sports departments closed.

"There was no movement," he said. "You have to find different ways to get there."

Reynolds and Winnipeg *Free Press* journalist Ken Wiebe started the Kenny and Renny podcast a few years ago, giving them another way to have conversations with their audience. That can be a starting point for a young journalist to find their voice. If they do well, it can be a stepping stone to a media organization.

Smith took plenty of notes during her few hours with Reynolds. She came out richer for the experience.

"I spent the entire game with Sean," she said. "We were seated beside each other (in the press box), which helped; if I had any questions, he would be able to answer them."



Sean Reynolds showed Sierra Smith how to get to the different interview areas, the press box and ice level during a Winnipeg Jets game at Canada Life Centre.

Smith met Wiebe and Reynolds' camera man. As it was her first Winnipeg Jets game ever, it was definitely special to be able to witness the events from up in the press box.

"I just watched the game, observing it from my own eyes," Smith said. "It was cool to be up there. I learned how fast everyone works, so you really have to stay on point with it all."

Reynolds thinks Smith has a bright future.

"From what I saw, she's a quick study."

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Boubard named Miss Indigenous Canada

Gena Boubard plans to use her Miss Indigenous Canada title to raise awareness in support of 2SLGBTQIA+ youth in Sagkeeng First Nation and other First Nation communities in Manitoba and across Canada.

Boubard, 24, is Anishinaabe, Two-Spirit and non-binary. Crowned Miss Indigenous Canada on July 26 at the pageant held at Six Nations of the Grand River near Hamilton, Ont, this year's pageant included 19 competitors from First Nation communities across Canada.

Miss Indigenous Canada's mission is to empower and encourage Indigenous youth to develop leadership skills, give back to their communities and connect to their cultures. The pageant features an essay competition, interview, cultural presentation and scrapbook featuring the competitor's work within their home community.

"The focus of the pageant is not on beauty. It was to honour the diversity of Indigenous traditions, values and practices. It didn't feel like a competition," Boubard said. "All of the competitors were incredible and devoted to their communities."

Boubard was very surprised to be announced as Miss

Indigenous Canada 2025.

"I didn't enter to win, but to raise awareness of Two-Spirit people."



Gena Boubard plans to use her Miss Indigenous Canada title to support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

Photo Courtesy of Taylre Media

Boubard was recognized for her efforts in organizing and running Sagkeeng's first Pride event held in June. The day included a parade, powwow, community feast, inspirational speakers and entertainment.

Boubard said the local community was very supportive.

"It was really beautiful for people to come together."

At the age 17, Boubard was crowned Miss Southern Manitoba and competed in the Miss World Canada 2018 pageant. Parents and siblings provided inspiration and serving as strong positive role models.

Boubard hopes to continue generating support for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and their families.

"I'd really like to spark conversations within communities to better support our youth."

Boubard added that discrimination and violence against Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals still exists within some communities.

"I want to show them they're not alone."

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The Roaming Church

by Jennifer Strassel, Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society

St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church was on the move last fall as the almost 90-year old house of worship was driven to its new home at the Lac du Bonnet District Museum grounds.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church has moved three times since it was built in 1937: from Brightstone to Lac du Bonnet in 1960, then to a private property off PR 520 in 1996, and now to Halliday Park.

B R I G H T S T O N E B E G I N N I N G S

Brightstone was a farming district located approximately eight kilometres northwest of the Town of Lac du Bonnet. In 1937, Reverend Hewko established the St. John the Baptist church for the Ukrainian Catholic families of the area. Previously, church services were held in the school.

Brightstone postmaster John Stanko donated one acre of land east of Morski Road for the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The cemetery was located further west on Okrainec Road.

To raise money for a building fund, the Brightstone neighbours hosted raffles and picnics and sold meals and drinks at house parties. Donations of bricks, paint, nails, and other materials were also collected.

Jacob Navrot, who operated a sawmill with son, Walter, supplied the lumber. The roof shingles were made of poplar as it was abundant in the area and free.

John Stanko constructed the onion dome and covered it with sheet metal.

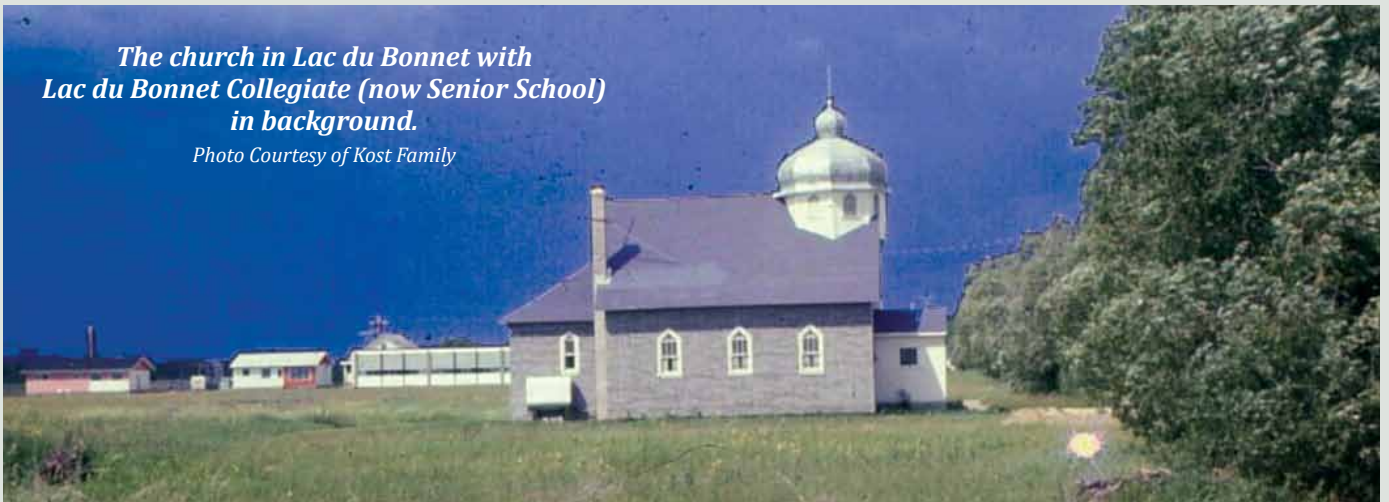
Over three months, volunteer labour built a small church with a capacity of 50 people.

Various priests travelled from Winnipeg to offer services, though eventually the church was underutilized as many families attended other churches or didn't attend church at all. An annual picnic was held at the church on July 7, St. John's Day. Special celebrations were the only time the church was filled.

T I M E I N L A C D U B O N N E T

The church in Lac du Bonnet with Lac du Bonnet Collegiate (now Senior School) in background.

Photo Courtesy of Kost Family



In the 1950s, as more Brightstone families moved to Lac du Bonnet and attended the Notre Dame du Lac Roman Catholic Church, Father Joseph Kamenecky

of Beausejour held occasional services in the Brightstone church, but more often at Notre Dame du Lac. In November 1959, Father John Iwanchuk hoped

that the Brightstone church could be moved to Lac du Bonnet, where services could be held in the old church once again.

In March 1960, the new parish of St. Anthony Petchersky was formed with a new church executive and a ladies organization. A \$1,000 donation allowed the new parish to purchase 2.75 acres of land. In August 1961, the Brightstone Ukrainian church was moved into the Town of Lac du Bonnet and placed on the land at the west end of McIntosh Street, near the Lac du Bonnet Collegiate sports fields. When the church

was consecrated by His Excellency Metropolitan M. Hermaniuk, it was renamed the St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Once a month, Father Izyk came from Winnipeg to hold a Ukrainian-language service for the 25-member congregation, mostly comprised of seniors who understood the language. By 1989, services were no longer held in the church. In 1995, the church was moved by truck to the Larson family's private property along the Pinawa Channel.

THE MOVE TO HALLIDAY PARK

Site preparation at Halliday Park began over three days in late September 2025. Grant Hein, vice president of the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society, prepared the grounds and managed the moving project. A portion of the concrete for the foundation was donated by Al Meisner.

On Oct. 22, after a year of preparation, the St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church finally arrived home in Halliday Park.

Throughout the cold, cloudy and rainy day, Manitoba Hydro crews led the move along PR 520 and onto PR 313, disconnecting and lifting transmission lines, and getting power restored as quickly as possible. On the Winnipeg River Bridge, vehicles were stopped in both directions, allowing the church to cross safely. The intersection of PRs 313 and 502 was temporarily closed and traffic backed up as Hydro and Bell MTS crews moved lines to allow the church to pass under and over them.

Once at Halliday Park, the trucks struggled through the rain-soaked ground to place the church on its new concrete foundation. Reimer Movers, along with Marvin and Garrett Hueston, expertly guided the whole process.



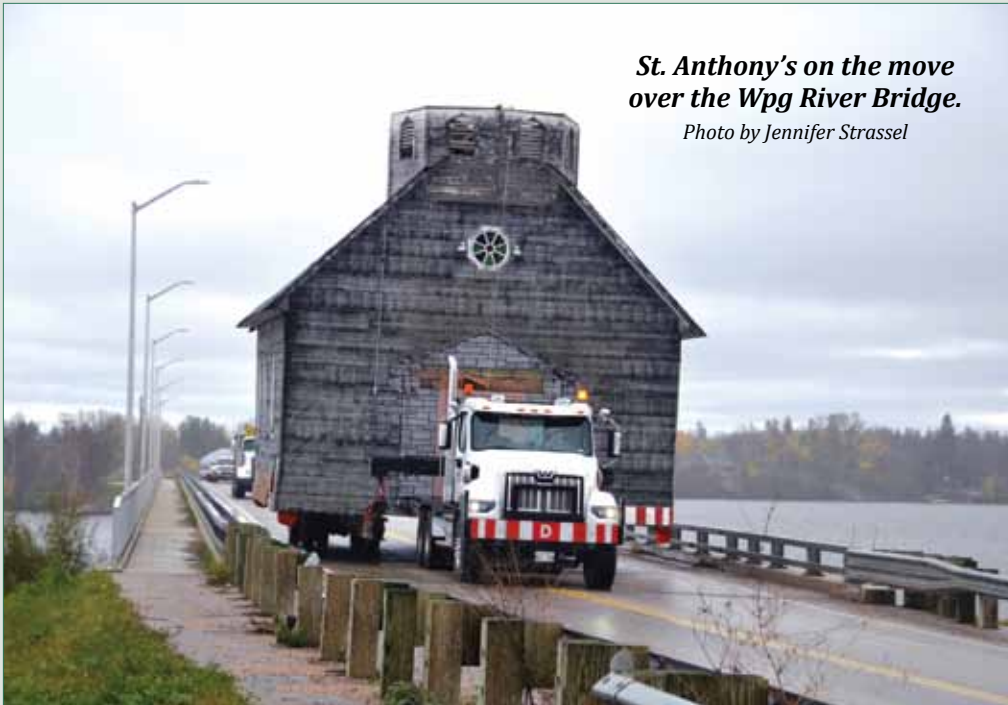
Pouring concrete into the foundation forms.

Photo by Jennifer Strassel



Hydro crews lifting lines at the intersection of PRs 313 and 502.

Photo by Jennifer Strassel



St. Anthony's on the move over the Wpg River Bridge.

Photo by Jennifer Strassel

Two weeks later, on Nov. 5, the distinctive onion domes were put in place by Fern's Craning (Ste. Anne, MB) and Marvin and Garrett Hueston. With recent heavy rains, the crane truck got stuck in the mud and Marvin's Ram truck was able to pull it out so work could continue.



Placing the church's onion dome.

Photo by Jennifer Strassel



Garrett and Marvin Hueston placing the cross.

Photo by Jennifer Strassel

The church remained on the steel moving beams until March 2026, when Marvin and Garrett Hueston lowered the building onto the permanent concrete foundation.

The church's journey is not over yet!

The Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society is still in need of volunteers and financial help to restore the St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church to its former glory and reopen the church to the public.

More information on how to donate to the church's preservation can be found on their website at ldbhistorical.ca

100 Years of Pine Falls

by Jennifer Strassel

*Compared to neighbouring Winnipeg River communities,
Pine Falls is the youngster at just 100 years old.
For 83 of those years, Pine Falls was a company town, entirely supported
by the paper-making industry.*

PINE FALLS PULP AND PAPER MILL

Pine Falls Mill Site, October 1926

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



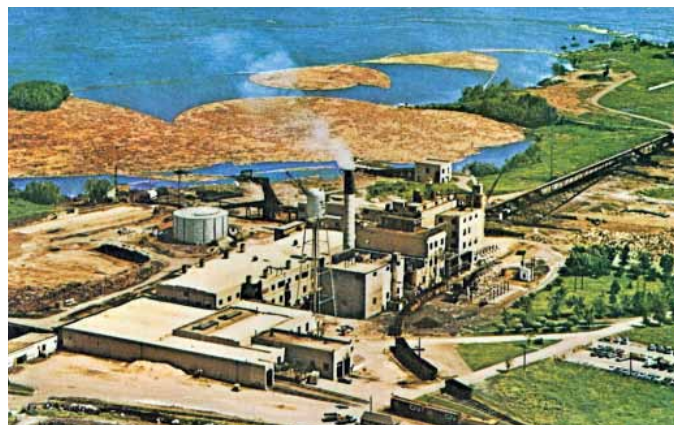
In May 1921, J.D. McArthur's Manitoba Pulp and Paper Company was granted Pulpwood Berth No. 1. By October 1922, they received a second pulpwood berth and a permit for developing the Pine Falls power site, with the stipulation that the electricity could only be used for the paper mill.

During the winter of 1922-23, the proposed mill site was partially cleared, docks were built at Fort Alexander for summer transportation and a camp established. In March 1923, the Manitoba Pulp and Paper Company negotiated a 99-year lease on the 520-acre mill site and purchased another 200 acres for the townsite.

After partnering with Ontario's Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company in 1925, McArthur was effectively demoted to figurehead status. A further partnership expansion in late 1926, including Quebec's Abitibi Power and Paper Company, resulted in the newly renamed Manitoba Paper Company. Through

these upper management changes, progress was finally made on construction of the paper mill.

In September 1925, the first crew, including Duncan McDonald and his two-horse teams, arrived by boat



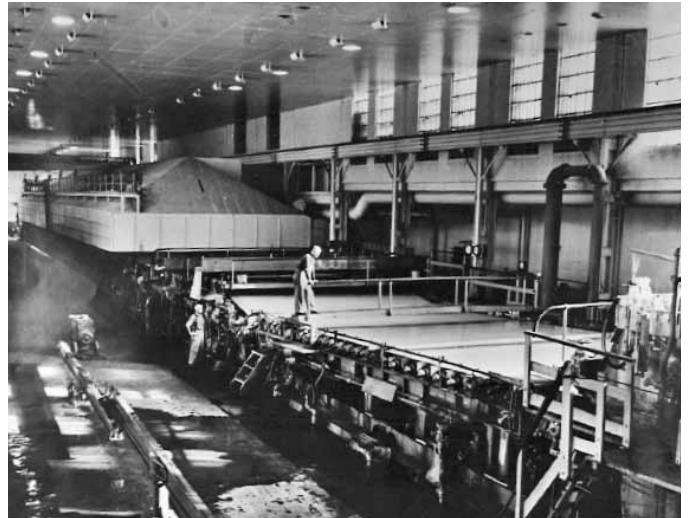
Pine Falls paper mill and mill pond full of logs.

Photo courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

to start further clearing of the mill site and put up camps.

After numerous delays and a route change, the Canadian National Railway branch line from Beaconia arrived in spring 1926. Thousands of tons of steel, shipped in from Selkirk's rolling mills, formed the bulk of the structure that quickly dominated the landscape.

As many as 1,800 men were on site, battling heavy August rains and ankle-deep mud. Whenever a new shipment of rubber boots arrived, hundreds lined up to purchase a pair. Horses, bogged down in the muck, were replaced by oxen hastily borrowed from local farmers and Indigenous people. As the rain continued, all that kept construction moving was a narrow-gauge railway floated on logs.



First Paper Machine

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



Oxen at the Temporary Train Station, 1926

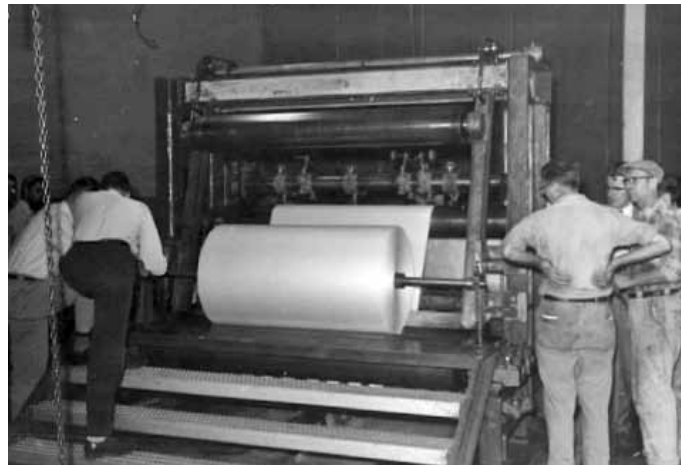
Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

Carter Halls Aldinger Company of Winnipeg did the mill and townsite construction. A transmission line from Great Falls supplied electricity to the site. Powerful overhead searchlights enabled the night crews to continue working "as if in daylight." The SS Keenora often stopped so passengers could experience the creation of a new company town.

Paper making was not a known trade in Manitoba, so experienced paper makers were brought in from Eastern Canada. Many of the men who worked on construction of the mill also stayed in the growing community.

January 1927 – The Manitoba Paper Company coal-fueled mill produced its first paper.

Feb. 5, 1927 – The first train car load of Manitoba pa-



Winder rolls up paper.

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



Finished Rolls of Paper

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

PINE FALLS PULP AND PAPER MILL continued

per was shipped to *Manitoba Free Press* in Winnipeg.

Feb. 8, 1927 – The *Manitoba Free Press* printed its first issue on Manitoba made newsprint.

Through the years, around 300 men worked at the mill and there were another 300 to 400 men in logging camps to supply the mill with wood. The Woods Department cut conifer trees in the forests adjoining the Maskwa and Winnipeg rivers and floated the timber downstream to the mill.

1928 – Abitibi Power and Paper Company took over mill ownership. Over the years, there were a lot of company name changes. Locals simply referred to them as “Abitibi” throughout.

1929 – 1,200 people lived in company housing. More lived in “Tin Town” off company property.

1929 – Paper production averaged 258 tons per day.

1932 – Due to the depression and a lack of orders, the mill was shut down.

A skeleton crew remained as watchmen, to run the office and telephone switchboard and to maintain the townsite.

1935 – The mill reopened with one machine in July. By the fall, they were running two.



Truck Loaded with Logs

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

1950 – The Province of Manitoba renewed the timber berth for another 25 years.

May 1965 – Last log drive on the Winnipeg River.



Horses Hauling Logs

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



***The tugboat named Lac du Bonnet at work.
This boat is displayed outside the Winnipeg River Heritage Museum.***

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

December 1965 – First train car load of woodchips arrived from Saskatchewan.

1970s – The mill’s timber came from a large area on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and from a portion of the Interlake.

1985 – The mill reached record paper production of 500 tons per day.

1992 – Manitoba Model Forest project begins.

September 1994 – Local mill management and employees purchased the paper mill from Abitibi.

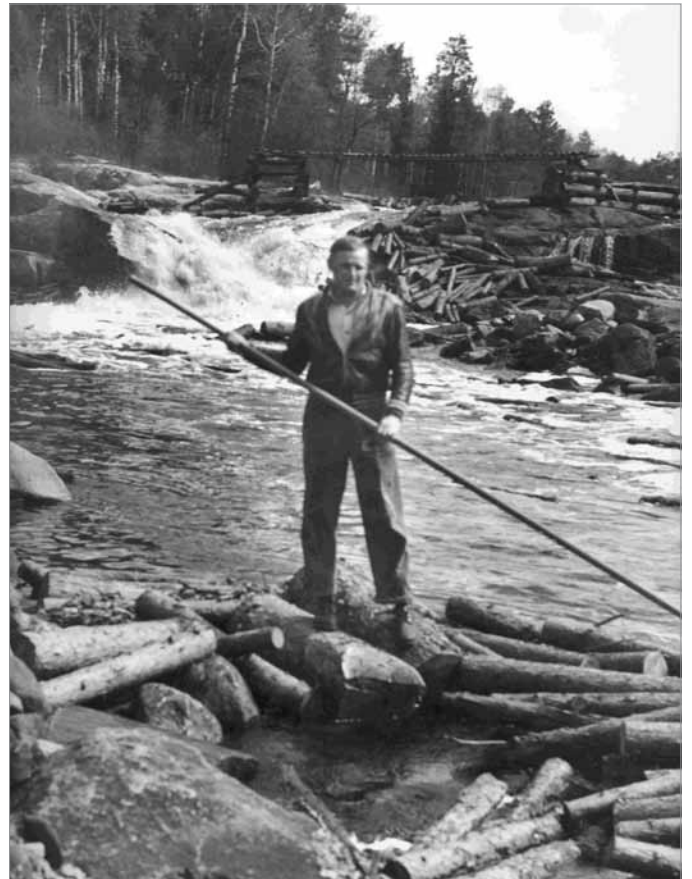
1996 – Newsprint recycling plant opened.

1998 – Tembec purchased the mill.

1999 – Construction began on a \$125 million industry-standard thermo-mechanical pulping (TMP) mill. This allowed the aging mill to upgrade to newer, more environmentally friendly technology and replaced the stone groundwood and sulphite pulping processes. The heat recovery unit also limited the amount of coal needed. This TMP mill was operational in 2001.

September 2009 – The paper mill closed due to declining demand for newsprint.

2011-2014 – The Pine Falls Paper Mill was demolished. The rail line was also removed.



Tony Schreyer on a log drive.

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



MANITOBA PAPER COMPANY, PINE FALLS, MANITOBA

PINE FALLS TOWNSITE

The unique Pine Falls townsite was designed by well-known town planner, Leonard Schlemm, Spanish River townsite designer, Joe M. Metz and the mill owners. It was centred around a Village Green with the houses and roads running circular around this park. This design was intended to create a better sense of community with a built-in central meeting place.

It was a company-owned model town with sewer, water and telephone service, and no fences, outbuildings or back lanes. It had stores for all groceries, dry goods and hardware needs. They took great care to preserve the natural trees and planted hundreds more once the townsite's construction was complete.

Spring 1927 – Pine Falls Boat Club established. It lasted until the early 1930s.

1929 – The road was graded to St-Georges and corduroy to Great Falls. By August 1930, the road was graded to Pine Falls and to Lac du Bonnet the following year.

There was daily train service from Pine Falls to Winnipeg.

1938 – The Chateau Theatre opened, with a dance hall and bowling alleys.

1940 – Five Pin Bowling League begins.

1946 – Wooden sidewalks replaced with concrete. All sidewalks were completed in 1950.

1948 – Hudson's Bay Store opened, replacing the Mercantile Store.



Hudson's Bay Company Store

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

1948 – Manitou Lodge opened. This hotel is now apartment housing at 2 Pine St.

1948 – The Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 64 Pine Falls opened. An additional storey was added in 1952.

1950 – Recreation centre completed with over 7,000 hours put in by 300 volunteers. This rec centre burned in 1966 and was rebuilt in 1967. The new rec centre had a skating rink and curling ice and is the current Access Arena.

1951 – Outdoor swimming pool on the Winnipeg River opened.

1955 – Fred Carriere’s garbage wagon pulled by horse team was retired and replaced with a truck.

1962 – An Eaton’s order office opened.

1970 – The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) took over townsite policing from the local paper company police force. In 1970, there were six RCMP officers. By 1979, nine officers covered 3,600 square miles and the communities of Sagkeeng, Little Black River, Hollow Water, Bissett and Pine Falls, the Villages of Seymourville, Manigotogan and Powerview, the LDG of Alexander and RM of Victoria Beach.

1973 – Pineview Lodge senior citizens home opened on a river view lot donated by the paper company, with 18 self-contained suites, kitchen and lounge area.

1984 – A pool with separate wading pool and dressing rooms was built at 1 Walnut St.

Pine Falls School

On Oct. 1, 1926, the two-room Pine Falls School opened. Laura Douglas taught Grades 1-3, and Harold Greenway was the principal and teacher for Grades 4-8. There were about 50 students in each room.

1927 – The five-room school with chemistry lab was completed. The Pine Falls School was company owned and operated. Students travelled from Sagkeeng, Powerview and St-Georges to attend. Powerview’s Leonard School (established in 1917) offered Grades 1-8, then students continued at Pine Falls School, which was Kindergarten to Grade 12. Leonard School closed in 1971.

1962 – The new high school wing was completed with a large gymnasium and locker rooms.

2007 – Pine Falls School was closed and students attended Powerview School. The building was used for administration purposes and school sports tournament overflow.

Oct. 14, 2023 – The 96-year-old Pine Falls School was destroyed by fire.

Pine Falls Hospital

In 1926, the community’s first doctor, E.D.R Bissett and nurses Anne Danseraeau and Antonette Viau worked out of a makeshift four-bed hospital in two different houses.

1927 – Pine Falls Hospital was built on Maple Street, with a separate building for doctor’s offices.

1928 – The hospital featured an operating room, x-ray room, one private ward, one semi-private women’s ward and one public men’s ward. There were two doctors, a matron and three nurses.

1929 – Nurses’ residence added as second storey.

1937 – Addition of three private rooms and staff dining room.

1941 – Basement addition for laundry facilities. Prior to this, Charlie Young, the Chinese restaurant owner and laundry man, returned the laundry in large wicker baskets in a wagon to the hospital every morning.

1952 – New wing joined the doctor’s offices to the hospital building

1964 – A new brick building with basement was added to the original white, wooden hospital. At this time, the Pine Falls Hospital and the separate Department of Indian Affairs hospital were amalgamated. This new, modern facility had an operating room, case room emergency ward, a diagnostic unit and spaces for a medical clinic and public health. This building is still in use today.

1972 – Became an accredited hospital, meaning it was recognized as a high-quality health facility.

1987-88 – Further upgrades and renovations were incorporated with the 1964 portion.

1989 – The 1927 white building was demolished. The Sunnywood Manor Personal Care Home was built in its place, opening in May 1990.

1990s – X-ray, lab and dialysis units were added to the Pine Falls Hospital.

2017 – The Giigewigamig Traditional Healing Centre opened at the Pine Falls Health Complex. This healing centre provides indoor and outdoor spaces for Indigenous healing ceremonies and offers the use of traditional medicines, teachings and language.

2026 – The Pine Falls Health Complex serves the

communities of Pine Falls, Powerview, Sagkeeng, Black River, Hollow Water, Bissett, Manigotagan, Seymourville, Aghaming, Victoria Beach, Grand Beach, Grand Marais, the Municipality of Alexander and surrounding areas. It is also home to the EMS station.

Pine Falls Post Office

In 1926, the post office opened in the camp store. Don E. McCulloch was the postmaster from 1926-1947, though as the manager of the Mercantile Store, he worked out of his office there, meaning Viola Simonson essentially ran the post office for 10 years.

1928 – Post office moved to beside the Mercantile Store. This building had 100 post boxes. Viola had several part time workers to help.

July 1950 – A large building across the street replaced the tiny frame building. This new building had 700 post boxes and is still in use today at 23 Pine St.

Places of Worship

1926 – The first church services were held in the construction camp dining hall.

1927 – St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church opened at 39 Pine St. The building has been converted into the Wings of Power community and family resource centre.

1928 – United Church was built at 5 Walnut St. They had a 30 to 50 member congregation and Ladies' Association.

1937 – The Anglican Church of the Advent at 2 Holly St. opened. Prior to this, Anglican services were held in the school.

1950 – Notre Dame Du Laus Roman Catholic Church opened in Powerview at 40 Laura St.

There are also a Roman Catholic church and an Anglican church in Sagkeeng, and a Roman Catholic church in St-Georges.

Pine Falls Curling Club

Began in November 1927 with one sheet of ice in a former construction bunkhouse. Ladies' curling started in 1928. By 1949, the four-sheet curling rink was included in the new recreation centre. In 1967, after the rec centre was rebuilt, the Pine Falls Curling Club had five ice sheets. It is still in use today as the Access Arena at 11 Elm St.

Pine Falls Golf Course

Opened on May 5, 1929, with seven permanent greens and a small shelter. The property was the original construction camp "Tin Town" until 1928,

Pine Falls Golf Course was opened in May 1929.

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum



when the paper company purchased the land for a golf course. The first golf tournament, the Northeastern Manitoba Golf Tournament, was held in August 1937. Today, the nine-hole golf course still features scenic views of the Winnipeg River.

Pine Falls Generating Station

Engineering work began on the Pine Falls hydroelectric generating station in 1948. Main construction began in May 1949. The first power was sent out in November 1951 and was fully completed in the summer of 1952.



Pine Falls Generating Station with road across, over the Winnipeg River, circa 1952

Photo Courtesy of Winnipeg River Heritage Museum

The Pine Falls generating station also serves as the bridge over the Winnipeg River to access the north shore of Sagkeeng First Nation and the Broadlands area. It also has a log chute where, when the river was still in use for log drives, the logs were pushed through to the mill side.

Amalgamation with Powerview

Powerview began as a temporary living area off company-owned land for those working on the Pine Falls mill. The transient workers' shacks and rough buildings were nicknamed "Tin Town." As more families arrived and built better homes, another area of shacks to the south was called "Bannock Town." This changed with the construction of the Pine Falls hydroelectric generating station.

The Village of Powerview was incorporated in 1951.

In 1998, Tembec no longer wanted to support the Town of Pine Falls, who would have to become self-sufficient. In 2005, the two communities were amalgamated, becoming the Town of Powerview-Pine Falls.

4P Festival

The 4P (Paper, Pea, Power and Pickerel) Festival started in 1981 and has been held annually on the September Long Weekend for 45 years. Named for the paper mill, being the Walleye Capital, the generating station and St-Georges' peas.

To learn more about the 100 year history of Pine Falls, visit the Winnipeg River Heritage Museum in St-Georges, or borrow the book 'From the Beaches to the Falls: A Winnipeg River – Lake Winnipeg Heritage' from a local library.

Vezina wins MB Country Music Award

*Singer-songwriter's tune about Pine Falls
named Song of the Year*



Brandi Vezina (right) and co-writer Scott Nolan won top honours for their song *Paper Town*.

Photo Courtesy of MCMA

Singer-songwriter Brandi Vezina was honoured to have *Paper Town*, a deeply personal song she co-wrote with Scott Nolan, win the 2025 Manitoba Country Music Association's Fay Walker Song of the Year award.

The MCMA awards were presented at Club Regent Event Centre last fall. This was the first time that Vezina was nominated in this award category.

"I was so excited," she said. "My grandparents were there and that was the best part."

Vezina hails from a seventh generation Métis family with strong musical roots. *Paper Town* captures the history of Pine Falls and its pulp and paper mill which closed in 2009. For the first six years of her life, Vezina and her mother lived with her uncle Norm in Stony Point near Pine Falls. Norm worked at the mill and was 46 when it closed. Vezina said the closure impacted him enormously.

Vezina met Winnipeg singer-songwriter Nolan at a music festival in Kenora. She said she told him about how greatly the Pine Falls mill closure affected her uncle, other workers and the entire community. Nolan said she had to write a song in remembrance of these people including her great-grandfather and great-uncles who had cut wood for the mill.

Vezina's uncle Norm died in January 2022 and she and Nolan wrote *Paper Town* that October.

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“We just talked about the story and went back and forth,” she said. “The song really wrote itself.”

Vežina said the song is a story of loss, resilience and remembering where she came from.

“I knew the song was special. I’ve really worked hard on my craft as a songwriter.”

Paper Town is one of six songs on Vežina’s EP *Grit & Glamour* released in October. The Manitoba Arts Council and Manitoba Film and Music recognized the cultural significance of this song through their support of Vežina’s *Grit & Glamour* tour that ended with a performance at Grey Cup Fest’s Coors Light Concert Series on Nov. 14.

She said she co-wrote the other songs on her EP between 2022 and 2024 with musicians she admires.

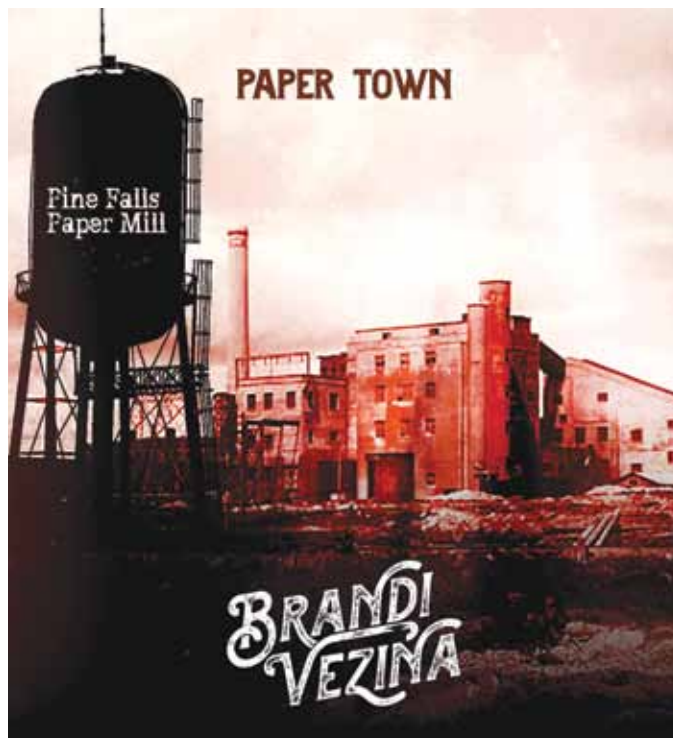
The video for *Paper Town* was shot in Pine Falls last May and features community members who formerly worked at the mill themselves and others holding photos of deceased loved ones who were mill workers. Vežina said her uncle’s friends Ray Bouvier and Grant Pachkowsky are shown holding Norm’s treasured Yankees jacket. Pine Falls resident Verla Fortier allowed parts of the video to be filmed inside her home.

Vežina is grateful for the support she’s received from the community and those whose lives were impacted by the mill’s closure.

The recognition she and Nolan have received for *Paper Town* is giving her confidence and encouragement to keep developing her songwriting skills.

“I think authenticity is the way I need to move forward,” she said. “The idea is to be grateful for the songs and ideas that choose me.”

She added 2026 will see her release more music and announce a tour schedule.



Vežina’s song ‘Paper Town’ from her new EP Grit & Glamour, reflects her family’s connection to Powerview-Pine Falls.

Photo Courtesy of MCMA

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'Memories of Pointe du Bois' Preparing for Print

Work on a book detailing the history of Pointe du Bois is nearing completion with hopes it will go to print this year.

Memories of Pointe du Bois is being written by former resident Catherine (nee White) Juskow with the support of many from the community who feel the places and memories of those who lived there should not be forgotten.

The 300-page book has been a labour of love for Juskow, who has spent the last several years collecting stories, photos and family histories as well as laying out the book. She is now encouraging those wanting copies to step forward and either order books or provide monetary support.

"Judging from the last printing quote from 2021, I am concerned that amount will not be enough to make the book as affordable as people would like," Juskow said. "Although I do not want to guess at the cost, it would help to know how many people are interested in purchasing the book, as the price goes down as the amount ordered goes up."

The Pointe du Bois Generating Station was built on the Winnipeg River between 1909 and 1911 by the City of Winnipeg. Its purpose was to supply power to the city in competition with the privately owned Winnipeg Electric Company.

From a population that ranged between 300 and 400 in its heyday, Pointe du Bois dwindled to 79 people by 1996.

Manitoba Hydro inherited the company town approx-

imately 40 kilometres northeast of Lac du Bonnet in 2002 as part of its purchase of Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls hydroelectric dams. Over the next decade, Hydro reportedly put little into the upkeep of the town site.

With a new spillway structure built for operation in 2014, and the old spillway sealed off, Manitoba Hydro began decommissioning the entire town site in 2013. The last residents were told to be gone two years later.

The *Memories of Pointe du Bois* project started with Louise Kollinger, who created a Facebook page in 2013, followed by a reunion that September.



Cathy Juskow working on 'Memories of Pointe du Bois' in her home office.

When the page fell quiet after the town was razed in 2015, Juskow and others decided they simply couldn't let the town disappear. A private *Memories of Pointe du Bois* Facebook group was set up in 2017 to encourage people to share their information. Members came forward from as far away as Australia to reconnect with Pointe families and share pictures and information on the page.

A gathering was held in Lac du Bonnet in May 2019 with 96 people in attendance. All unanimously supported the project of a the town history book with a commitment to purchasing the publication when complete.

From there, Juskow created a database of photos, names, dates, job descriptions of residents and their families, along with information about what living in Pointe du Bois was like over the century the community existed.

The project has received some funding for pub-

lication including a Manitoba Heritage Grant through the Winnipeg River Heritage Museum, along with funding from the Manitoba Electrical Museum as well as photos for the project. A grant was applied for through the LDB Foundation in conjunction with the Lac du Bonnet Historical Society Inc. with a Manitoba Hydro matching grant pending.

Those grants as well as other funds collected from gatherings in 2013, 2018 and 2019 have been placed into an account monitored by Maureen Smith and Cathy Olive. They will be used to offset the printing costs.

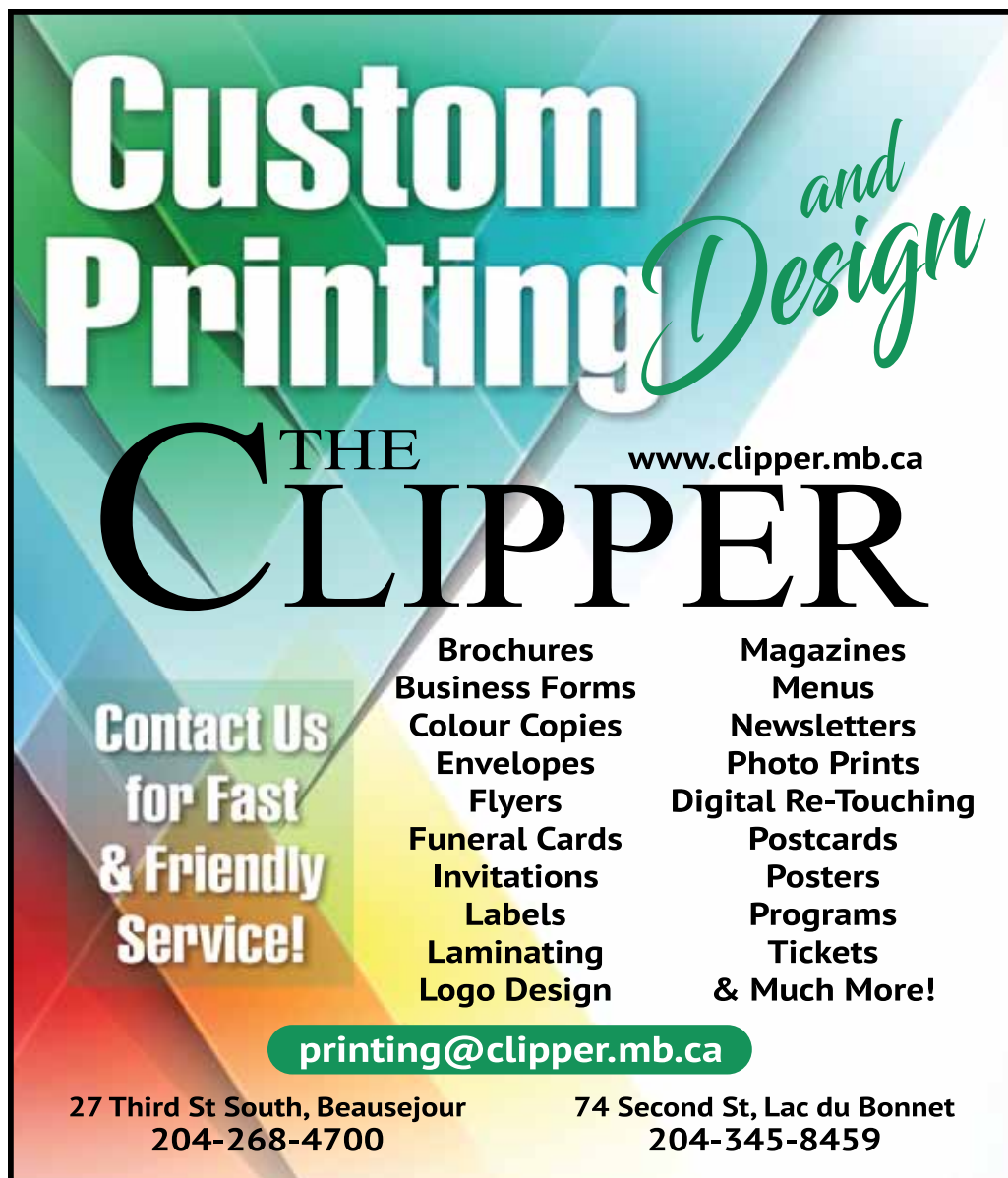
“All that is left are some final additions and I am in the process of requesting quotes for the printing of the book,” Juskow said. “I have spent (years) researching, collecting photos and other information, writing and laying out of the book. I am however, not going to be able to put the book out there if I must pay anything out of pocket for its printing.”

According to Juskow, she has over 240 orders for the book already with more pending. Individuals who want to order a book or have questions can message Juskow via email at pointedu-bois1911@hotmail.com or through the *Memories of Pointe du Bois* Facebook page.



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