



- Municipal Heritage Site
- 1927 Airmail from Lac du Bonnet
- Lettonia's Johnson Family Pump Organ
- Brightstone Co op Cash Register
- Wild Rice fundraiser
- Mugwamp returning to Lac du Bonnet

MUSEUM Tours

July & August

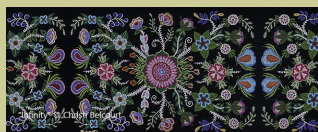
by appointment
204-340-3411

Church Tours

July only

by appointment

With 2020 restrictions the museum is open for tours only at this time. We encourage you to check out our website & facebook for stories and updates.



We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society

2020 Newsletter

LAC DU BONNET DISTRICT MUSEUM

former St. John's Anglican Church a Designated Municipal Heritage Site

Heritage is a critical part of Lac du Bonnet's identity. The Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society upon learning of the deconsecrating of the local Anglican Church worked hard to acquire this historic landmark.

Through the Society's efforts, the Town of Lac du Bonnet has designated the former St. John's Anglican Church as a Municipal Heritage Site.

In 1905 Wycliffe College student W. Ellis came from Toronto to hold Anglican services in Lac du Bonnet's one room schoolhouse. The population of the district was four hundred at the time and Ellis was able to gather enough church families to form a congregation.

In 1906 a 24 x 45 foot wood frame building with tie rod truss roof support and eight Gothic inspired windows was constructed. A simple brick chimney for a wood burning stove extended out the roof at the SE corner. Local residents Thomas Houston and Alexander Spence with his three sons Bill, Warner, and John, who were employees of the local J.D. McArthur Lumber Mill and Brickworks were the laborers. Wood & bricks used for the construction were *manufactured in Lac du Bonnet* at the Lac du Bonnet Mining, Developing &

Manufacturing Company owned by John Duncan McArthur.

St. John's Anglican Church is the last remaining example of a Gothic Revival inspired pioneer place of worship in the Town of Lac du Bonnet. The structure was placed on a traditional east west axis on a corner lot, typical of Anglican traditions at the turn of the 20th century. This steeply pitched wood frame structure with pyramidal roofed belfry stands as a monumental reminder of Lac du Bonnet's early pioneers and their Christian faith. It represents the gathering place of many of our areas First Peoples and settlers from 25 nationalities.

The first church service was celebrated on August 12, 1906 and the official opening on September 9 when Rev. A. A. Adams from Kenora became the incumbent.

The church cost \$850.00 to erect with an additional \$100.00 raised by the people of Lac du Bonnet to provide church pews. The church was consecrated on October 4th, 1908 by the First Bishop of Keewatin, RT. Rev. J. Lofthouse and given the patronal name St. John. In 1916 under Rev. R. E. Lemon a 32 foot belfry was added to the church entrance by Hans Johnson and Henry Park. A simple cross topped the

pyramid spire with decorative corbels, and 12 wooden louvers to let the sounds of the bell be heard throughout Lac du Bonnet. By 1917 the former St John's Anglican Church provided services in Whitemouth, Pointe du Bois, and Pinawa (Winnipeg Electrical Railway Company Generating Station). *Today, St. John's stands as the oldest remaining significant building of this time period in the Town & RM of Lac du Bonnet.*



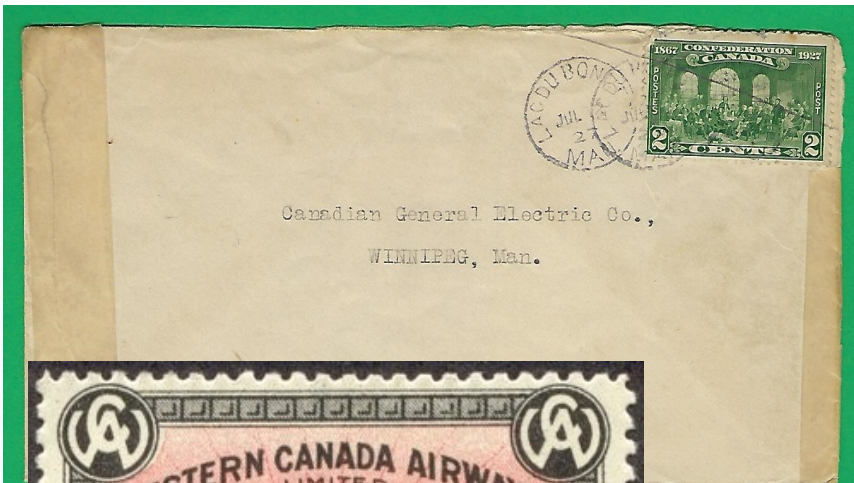
The old church upper belfry is showing its age (104 years). The paint is peeling, the bell louver casings need attention, and some details have been removed over the years. The society is planning to do an exterior upper restoration and preservation project to protect this defining element. The society has applied for grants in hope of covering some of the costs.

1927 AIR MAIL FROM LAC DU BONNET

The first airplane flights to the area occurred in 1922 but, in December 1926, Western Canada Airways, Ltd. (WCA) established a regional base of operations in Lac du Bonnet and opened its head office in Winnipeg. In March 1927 Western Canada Airways applied for and received permission from the Canadian Government to issue its own semi-official stamps and begin to carry mail commencing on May 10 to Rolling Portage (Hudson), Goldpines, Red Lake, and Woman Lake. Within a few weeks service was begun to the eastern Manitoba mining locations of Rice Lake and Lac du Bonnet. On June 1, 1927, WCA initiated air mail service as a semi-official air mail carrier from Lac du Bonnet to Winnipeg and to other locations in Eastern Manitoba.

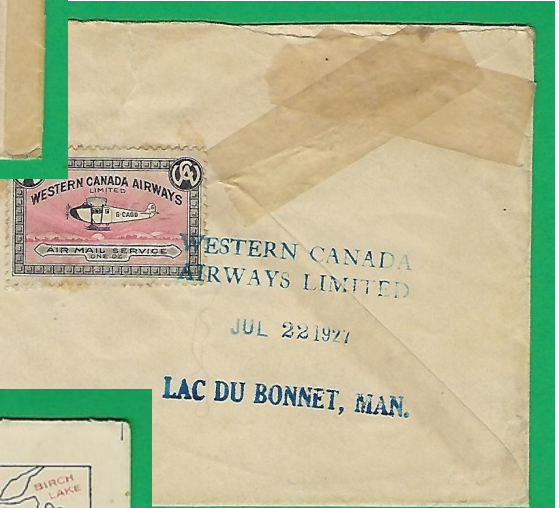
The new stamp was printed in black & light red which showed an image of the G-CAGD Fokker Universal Aircraft.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE for more interesting aviation photos !

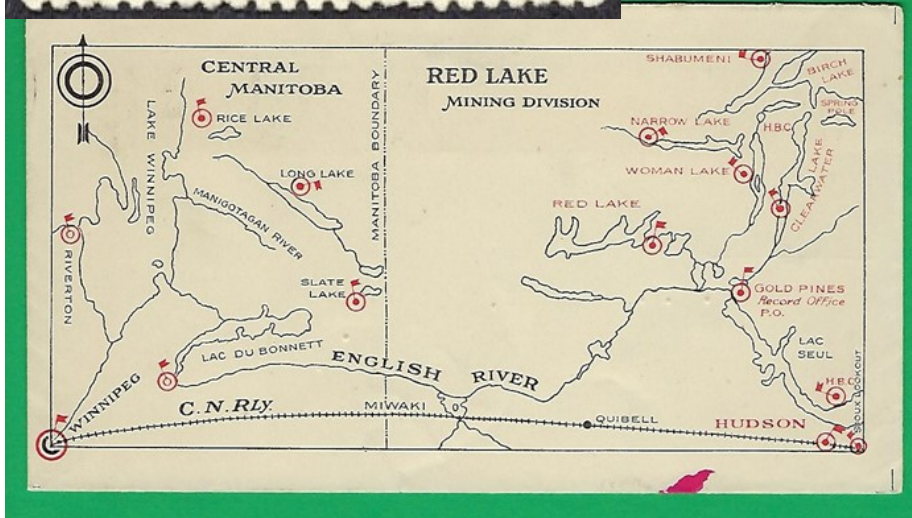


Canadian General Electric Co.,
WINNIPEG, Man.

**Maude McCulloch was
LdB's Postmistress from
1926- 1930 who would
have cancelled this stamp
in Lac du Bonnet**



LAC DU BONNET, MAN.



**photos courtesy of
Tom Reyman**

The Pump Organ by Gay Kirby

Edward Johnson (pronounced Yanseun) immigrated from Latvia to Boston due to the political unrest in the late 1800's. He and his 6 brothers were raised as musicians by their father, Fritz Johnson. In Boston, Edward shared his musical talents and hand wrote music and conducted church choirs of 200 - 400 singers.

He later moved to Winnipeg as part of the Latvian community. He met and married Emily Melbard; a slight and tough lady who had also immigrated from Latvia. They moved to Libau, Manitoba where they had two sons, Arwid and Albert (born 1916). Then, like many in the Latvian community, they took advantage of the opportunity, granted by the Canadian Government, to homestead north of Lac du Bonnet. The land was free if they agreed to work it. They did.

The Latvian community decided to rename the area Lettonia in honor of their home country. Edward and Emily bore two more sons, Art and Edwin (Sam).

Even in depression times, Edward's love of music moved him to hire a Professional Musician, (who would come from across the lake even in winter) to teach his sons. All of the sons could each play 3 – 5 instruments...horn, piano, banjo, clarinet, accordion, guitar, mandolin, and the pump



organ.

Edward bought this pump organ and it traveled from Winnipeg to the homestead on horse and buggy damaging a part of its decorative scroll work. This was unacceptable to the boys (three of which turned out to be engineers and one an electrician). Being young they did their best to replace it and you can see their best efforts on the left side of the mirror. When the lake was raised in 1954 this organ was brought to Edward and Emily's new home in Lac du Bonnet. On Edward's death in 1958, Emily brought it to her son Albert's home in Winnipeg. It was my honour (Albert's daughter) growing up to oil its wood each weekend for my Grandma Emily. And later, after my music lessons to play it for her. Many years later, when I married and moved to La Salle, the pump organ moved with me. Forty years later when my husband and I moved back to Lettonia...the pump organ moved again. Now it is still close by me here in this lovely museum, a new home where you can enjoy it.

Listen...you can hear its beautiful happy voice...a family singing, playing

Ornate Empire Pattern nickel plated National Cash Register model 522.2 from Brightstone Co-op Store in the RM of Lac du Bonnet. This register was manufactured in 1914 and would have been purchased 2nd hand when the Brightstone Co-op Store opened in 1938. It was used until the 1970s. The coveted top sign "Amount Purchased" is missing.
donated to Lac du Bonnet District Museum by
Ruth Hapko



**manufactured by William Doherty
Organ Co., Clinton, Ontario**

**Doherty was one of the most
successful organ & piano builders
& distributors in Canada who
established a retail branch in
Winnipeg in 1908.
This organ dates between 1898
and 1913
donated by Gay Kirby**

*The Lac du Bonnet & District
Historical Society appreciates
the community's interest &
support. Donated local
artifacts & photographs are
archived, catalogued, &
exhibited according to
provincial museum best
practices.*

Lac du Bonnet & Area boasts over 25 nationalities. The Lac du Bonnet District Museum is compiling recipes from the old homesteads. This fundraising cookbook called "Heirloom Recipes" .. too good to forget ...will be available to purchase in the museum. If your family homesteaded in the area and you are interested in being included we are asking for a photo, short family story, and up to 4 family favorite recipes. If you are interested in becoming part of this fundraiser please email your recipes to : info@ldbhistorical.ca or contact: 204-340-3411.

Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society

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Manitoba R0E 1A0

Email:
info@ldbhistorical.ca

LDBHISTORICAL.CA

St. John's Heritage Church & Arts Centre
for up to dates events visit their website :

sjccentre.ca

Listening Room
Bazaar
Programs

"Working in the present while preserving the past for now and the future"

Facebook page
Lac du Bonnet District Museum

brochure created by
Marlene Tottle
Museum Operations

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society celebrates its 10th anniversary of operating the Lac du Bonnet District Museum and 1 year since it acquired the Historic St. John's Church.

We thank those individuals and businesses, and the Town & RM of Lac du Bonnet who have helped us on our continuing journey.

More than ever our non profit organization needs financial support through these challenging times. The Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society has felt the economic affects of Covid 19. A lot of our programs, events, and fundraising have been cancelled which directly impacts the revenue for our yearly operating costs.

Please consider Making a lasting investment in Lac du Bonnet's history by supporting the Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society.

No matter the size, all gifts have an impact enabling us to collect, archive, conserve, and exhibit photos & artifacts relevant to our area.

"It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations". Christine Gregoire

We encourage you to check out our website & facebook for local stories and updates.

Terry Tottle

We welcome your support with a donation, volunteering, and becoming a member.
Email: info@ldbhistorical.ca

MEMBERSHIPS:

Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00

Donations

Patron	\$100-\$499
Sustaining	\$500-\$999
Sponsor	\$1000-\$4999 or
Benefactor	\$5000+


Note: Income tax receipts will be issued for donations.
Registered CRA Charity #890282379RR0001

Membership Benefits

- Use of museum library books
- LdB Museum annual newsletter and updated events
- Free + reduced admission on selected museum events + programs
- Preferred booking for special events
- 10% off selected retail items in Museum with membership card
- Vendor discount if a current member

Wild Rice or Manomin was a sacred staple for the Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) for thousands of years. It was considered a gift from the Creator...

Du Bois Wild Rice since 1915
1 lb bag Certified organic



WILD RICE FUNDRAISER
\$9.00 / BAG

Fundraising
money raised goes directly to the society contact us



Joe Sparman riding the Mugwump in the Canada Day Parade 1967. The society is anxiously waiting for a parcel containing a Mugwump crest being donated by Deb Grabke Hamer in Edmonton.



Volunteering

Volunteers are the driving force for the LdB and District Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, which operates the Lac du Bonnet District Museum & St. John's Heritage Church & Arts Centre
Connect with history by volunteering!
Contact us: info@ldbhistorical.ca