



Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society Inc.



Newsletter 2026

LAC DU BONNET DISTRICT MUSEUM

St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church A Historic Church on the Move

- St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church 2025 move
- Brightstone where it all began
- New Outdoor Exhibit 2026
- Children of the Fur Trade winner for 2025
- Memoriam
- Letter from the President
- "Listening Room" OPEN MIC every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at St. John's Heritage Church & Arts Centre

MUSEUM HOURS

opening May 16, 2026
May & June weekends only
12:00 – 4:00
July & August
Wednesday – Sunday
10:00 – 4:00

We always 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.



Through inclement weather, on Wednesday Oct 22, 2025, Reimer's Moving crew travelled over the Winnipeg River Bridge with a separate trailer behind carrying the onion dome destined for Halliday Park.

Photos credit Jennifer Strassel



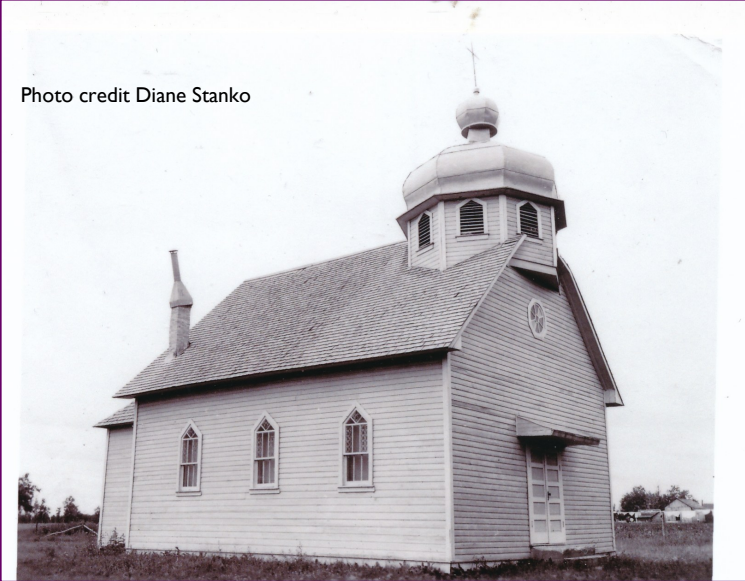
After sheet metal & wood repairs to the dome were made, a crane hoists the dome into place on Nov. 5, 2025.

Latvian Historical Society Board member, Wayne Zeemel proudly wearing his Ukrainian attire on moving day. The church now awaits lowering onto the new concrete footing.

Brightstone where it all began

The first wave of Ukrainian pioneers settled in Manitoba between 1891 & 1914 from Poland, W. Ukraine, and other Eastern Slavic countries. Ukrainians settled in Brightstone, 7 miles west of lac du Bonnet. These pioneers gave the community the name "Brightstone" (large hill of granite outcropping that shone with the morning dew with reflection of the sunlight).

Photo credit Diane Stanko

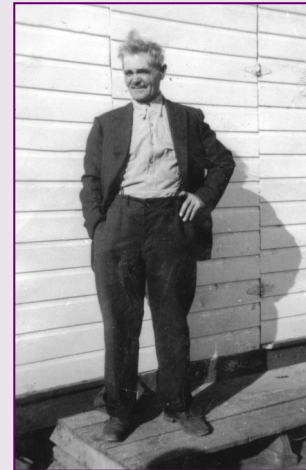


Designed by Father Hewki and built in 1937, St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church was constructed with local milled lumber by Brightstone Ukrainian pioneers on 1 acre of land donated by John Stanko in the RM of Lac du Bonnet. (east of Morski Rd. south side of PR 317). This wooden church (24 x 30 ft.) held 52 parishioners.

This wooded structure has a unique octagonal tower with an onion dome. The original horizontal wood siding is painted yellow. The double entry doors, pointed windows, octagonal upper window, and pointed tower vents are unique to Ukrainian Church architecture.

Brightstone began with the establishment of St. Mary's Polish Roman Catholic Church, post office with John Stanko as the postmaster (1913 - 1944), formation of a school district (1912) with Leona Gorecki as its first teacher, John Hollop first store, (1919), Jacob Hapko coffin maker & barber (1914 - 1935), and John Malyk blacksmith.

A community hall was built in 1925 and in 1937 St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Wojciechowski family had the first horses in the district in 1913, and he was a cooper or barrel maker. The Co - Op Store began in 1938 and ran until 1968. Ukrainian immigrants were profoundly Christian people and they brought this deep faith with them.



John Malik (Malyk) Brightstone
Blacksmith
Photo credit Hemminger family

Photo credit: Diane Stanko



Brightstone School #1646 was a one room school-house built along Hwy #317 operated until 1968 in Brightstone in the RM of Lac du Bonnet.

Leona Gorecki was the first school teacher. Leona later married Jack (John) Stanko & later moved to Detroit Michigan USA where they raised their family.

Brightstone where it all began (continued)

Brightstone Post Office was located on the farm of John Stanko, born in the Ukraine in 1874 and immigrated to Canada with his wife Mary. John was very industrious & community minded. He was instrumental in building the Post Office, St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church, and the Brightstone Cemetery. John Stanko was the 1st Postmaster from 1913 - 1944, the year of his death. His son Emil and Mary took over as Postmaster until 1963. Anna Hopko took over as acting Postmistress until closure in 1966.



Photo credit: Diane Stanko



St. Mary's Polish Catholic Church was the first church in Brightstone attended by Polish and Ukrainian settlers. It was built between 1915 & 1916 on 3 acres of donated land from Maciej Stupak. The church closed in 1969 and in 1985 after the bell was removed the church was burned by orders of the Parish.

Photo credit: Adeline Wazny



"Toboggan" the word comes from the Mi' Kmaq "tobakun" and was essentially developed by Mi' Kmaq, Cree, Algonquin, Innu, and Frist Nations used them to transport people, game, and supplies over snow. It was adopted by Fur Traders then settlers and has become a popular recreational item today.

New outdoor exhibit coming 2026

Local MMF Red River Cart Outdoor Exhibit

The Red River cart was a mode of transportation used by Metis people in the Prairies during the settlement of the West in the early 1800s to carry loads across distances. The name of the cart derives from the Red River along which the Red River Colony (1812-70), inhabited mainly by Metis peoples, was settled. The Métis had their own Michif words for the cart, including *aen wagon* and *aen charet*.



In partnership with local Lac du Bonnet Metis Federation



Children of the Fur Trade Game proved to be a successful event at the Museum.

Thanks to our partnerships:

- * Carnation Corner Plus
- * Deals for Dollars
- * LdB Regional Library
- * I ♥ Coffee

And local MMF



In Memoriam : Longtime Society members and Museum builders



WILD RICE
Long Grain Organic
\$12.00 / 1 lb.
call: 345-6329



Norm Plato
December 1, 2024



Gus Wruck
April 27, 2025



Gordon Dawson
July 29, 2025

Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society

PO Box 658
Lac du Bonnet,
Manitoba
R0E 1A0

Email:
ldbhistorical@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

ldbhistorical.ca

Check out our Facebook pages for history, events & updates

Lac du Bonnet
District Museum



St. John's Heritage
Church & Arts
Centre

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

Newsletter created by
Marlene Tottle
Lac du Bonnet District
Museum Director

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society has completed a very ambitious year: the move of the historic St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic church to the Museum grounds in Halliday Park.

The award winning "Latvian Heritage Trail" was completed showcasing the impact Latvian settlers had to our region. All proceeds from the sales of the booklet go to the church preservation projects. (available at the RM office or 345-6329

"Open Mic" in the listening room of St. John's Heritage Church & Art center has become quite popular. The Society is close to breaking even through its small hall rentals on the overhead of the facility allowing this free community event.

Thanks to the Town & RM of Lac du Bonnet, Lac du Bonnet Charitable Foundation, & Manitoba Heritage Resources for our 2025 grants.

The Lac du Bonnet District Museum was fortunate to be able to hire university honors student Marina Milne who brought fresh ideas and organization before continuing studies in Museology in Cork, Ireland!

Huge thank you to our community for continued support.....
Terry Tottle

If you have a love for history & some time to share, our Museum would love to connect with you. We are inviting seniors, youth, & community members to get involved in meaningful ways—from exhibits & programs to leadership & executive roles. This is an opportunity to learn, contribute, and be part of a community that values stories, knowledge, and connections across generations.

If interested please call 204-345-6329

We welcome your support with a donation, volunteering, and becoming a member.

Email: : ldbhistorical@gmail.com

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.

NEW! Online membership registration!
go to our website: ldbhistorical.ca

Because of thoughtful people like you the Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society is able to continue its preservation mandates. We are ever so grateful for your confidence in our Society. Your trust in us is humbling and, together, we can achieve great things. As this is another challenging year the Society is reaching out to the public to consider donating today.

Please consider renewing or taking out a membership for 2026. We are so grateful to our donors, members, and volunteers for sticking with us. We could not do what we do without your support.

Great Gift Ideas
year round
Visit: MUSEUM SHOP



ldbhistorical.ca



The Lac du Bonnet & District Historical Society is committed to our community we all love by supporting History and Culture. The Society acquired the Historic former Anglican Church in 2019. Paul McIntosh, Ken Kansas, and Walter Mooney were the first musical performers that spring and coined the venue the "Listening Room". The Historical Society supports the use of the church for performing arts and with **Fire & Water** at the helm it is an opportunity for the Society to step back and dedicate more time and effort on preservation projects. Be sure to support us through **Open Mic** and various **Concert Series**.

Volunteers THANK YOU!

Volunteers are the driving force for the LdB & District Historical Society, a registered CRA charity, which operates the Lac du Bonnet District Museum, St. John's Heritage Church & Arts Centre, and St. Anthony Petchersky Ukrainian Catholic Church
Connect with history by volunteering!