

# Supporting Manitoba's Wildlife

Lac du Bonnet's abundance of boreal forest and access to the Winnipeg River system and its tributaries makes the region a mecca to outdoor enthusiasts of different varieties.

Included in this group are hunters, anglers, trappers, hikers, wildlife and bird watchers, along with those who relish bush craft or other types of water sports.

Given the many uses of these natural resources, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association was established to help protect Manitoba's natural habitat for future generations.

Comprised of over 400 members, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association was re-established in 2009, following the shut-down of the previous organization that operated in the area since 1975.



Since 2009, the association has taken a business-like approach to its operation, establishing a constitution and bylaws, a comprehensive strategic plan, annual operational plan and detailed position descriptions for each executive and board position.

The mission of the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association is "to make northeastern Manitoba a better place to live, hunt and fish by protecting and enhancing our wildlife and fishery habitat and resources."

To this end, the association has played a critical role in speaking out on issues that have the potential of having a negative impact on the resources important to the association. For example, within the last year, the Wildlife Association has taken an interest and been outspoken on the matter of TANCO Mining of Canada Ltd. putting forth a proposal for the draining of Bernic Lake, and the subject of Treaty Land Entitlement within

the RM of Lac du Bonnet and its potential impact on habitat and resources.

As an affiliate member of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association has become involved in matters of a provincial nature and national scale. Each year, the association closely monitors changes made to provincial hunting and fishing regulations and is a strong advocate and defender of the rights of hunters and anglers.

In the past, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association was a strong advocate for the abolishment of Canada's long-gun registry, which took place in 2012.

Although opposed to the long-gun registry, the association remains a strong advocate for safe and responsible use of firearms. In this regard, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association provides opportunities for the Manitoba Hunter Safety Training Program in Lac du Bonnet.

Since its revival in 2009, members of the association have spent countless hours in fund raising activities, which assist in the delivery of programs and activities in the community.

In addition, the association has worked closely with children in attempting to instill an understanding, appreciation and respect for our habitat and resources.

In addition to its own activities and programs, the association has been extremely supportive of and involved in other community events, such as the Lion's Club Canada Day celebrations, the Fire & Water Music Festival, and the Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Challenge.

Presently, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association plays a significant role with the following community organizations:

- Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee;
- Lac du Bonnet & District Charitable Foundation;
- Eastern Manitoba Designated Trails Committee;
- Lac du Bonnet Chamber of Commerce;
- Lac du Bonnet Waterfront Redevelopment Committee.

Moreover, the Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association has played a significant role on the Cooperative Committee for Moose Management, which has been addressing the declining moose population in Game Hunting Area (GHA) 26.

This committee involves stakeholders from a wide variety of cultures and disciplines and requires an open mind and understanding of the pressures placed on all our natural resources.

To date, the work of this committee and the response of government have been instrumental in increasing moose numbers in this critical area.

The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association is an advocate of making informed decisions. Therefore, the association strongly advocates educational opportunities to learn and understand the myriad of issues facing the future of our habitat and resources.

The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association welcomes new members and encourages you to check out its web site at: [www.ldbwildlifeassociation.com](http://www.ldbwildlifeassociation.com)