



Lac du Bonnet has a long and rich cultural heritage that is unique to Manitoba.

Many communities in Manitoba owe their development and settlement of their lands to immigrant farmers. This has provided them with a rich agricultural heritage which is exemplified in local museums. Lac du Bonnet is situated on the interface between the rich prairie lands and the Canadian shield. This has provided a rich diversity of immigrants to our community, including farmers, lumbermen, trappers, miners and merchants. They were also able to interact with the native Aboriginal people they found in the area.

It is the goal of the Lac du Bonnet and District Historical Society to highlight these unique features in their museum located in Halliday Park.

# step into the past

Pictured at right: There's lots to see at the Lac du Bonnet Historical Museum.



A new display this year will be Brightstone: Our Ukrainian Heritage.

Ukrainian immigrants gave the community the name "Brightstone" after a large hill of granite outcropping that shone with the morning dew and the reflection of the sunlight.

The railways often provided a much-needed source of work and extra income for homesteaders. Many were also forced to work other jobs to get enough money to buy the necessary farm equipment and keep the family farm going. During the 1920s and 30s,

up to 30 oxen teams went to Lac du Bonnet to sell wood from the Brightstone district.

The land was the fruit of the homesteaders' labour. They put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into it and sometimes it was generous in return. Other times it took its toll on people. Homesteaders and their families were often separated from friends and relatives and many suffered years of hardship and loneliness. The men often left their wives and children to seek work 40 miles away by foot on a section

gang or lumber camp or 20 miles to the Pinawa Hydro Power Plant.

Some time in June will be the museum's Old Fashioned Picnic – bring a picnic lunch and see the displays in the museum. December 6 is the society's Heritage Wine and Cheese event – come out to sample some new wines, enjoy the entertainment and snacks, and learn what the Historical Society has been doing this year.

For museum hours visit [ldbhistorical.ca](http://ldbhistorical.ca)