## trails

## Recent improvements to the Blueberry Rock hiking trail mean a better nature experience for hikers

The Blueberry Rock Hikng Trail of Lac du Bonnet s one of our community's ewels. Situated northeast of own a short distance down Blueberry Rock Dr. from Hwy. 313, visitors feel like hey are deep in the forest ind are the only ones expeiencing the very best of the

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION LAC DU BONNET BRANCH #164 and the LAC DU BONNET LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY Working with the Community, the Elderly &

the Youth

LADIES AUXILIARY GENERAL MEETING First Tuesday of the Month

BRANCH GENERAL MEETING
Third Tuesday of the Month

45 McArthur Ave, Lac du Bonnet MB

45-65 Members & Quests Canadian Shield.

Ancient rock and quiet trails invite hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and snowshoers on a quest that takes them away from computers, cell phones, radios and television, and into the quietness of nature where one can hear only birds and see the quick flicker of the tail of a white-tailed deer.

The Lac du Bonnet Trails Association has been very busy with the Blueberry Rock Renovation Project. In January 2012 our trails association received a Manitoba in Motion grant of \$2,000. Another \$1,000 was received from the Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby in June 2012.

These partnerships with provincial and local bodies

A new garbage can at the south entrance, as well as signage.

are significant in that grants such as these provide essential funding to help keep local trails maintained so that users of all ages and abilities can visit the trails, have fun, and increase health and fitness.

With the \$3,000 in grant money, stain was purchased for the newly-repaired tables and tower to brighten their appearance. Three signs were installed along the trail to indicate the location of the tower and parking lot. To help draw attention to the existence of the trails, four highway signs were installed on PR 313 and two more signs were added on Blueberry Rock Dr.

A trailhead sign has been developed by local artist Sheldon Sveinson, and will replace the existing sign at the entrance to the parking lot. The RM public works department supplied a new garbage can at the south entrance to the trail, and the garbage cans in the tower area were repaired and painted.

The Lac du Bonnet Trails Association is very proud of these trails, and has spent countless volunteer hours cleaning up debris, repairing, painting, brush-clearing, and monitoring the area for vandalism. The hope is that as others become more familiar with Blueberry Rock and start to value its important place in our community, they will also feel that sense of pride, and will take ownership of the trails.

Nature and all it has to offer belongs to all of us, and it is up to all of us to respect the beauty of our area and help look after it. We are all stewards of the environment.

> -Submitted by Maureen Williams

