

# Honouring Our Heritage



## Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee striving to maintain local history

By Arlene Davidson

The Lac du Bonnet Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) has some lofty goals.

Their mission to identify, protect, promote, develop and interpret Lac du Bonnet's heritage is a task which has bravely been tackled by the most dedicated, community minded individuals this region has to offer.



This Canadian Vickers Vedette sculpture, erected at the Lac du Bonnet Boat Launch, celebrates Lac du Bonnet's rich aviation history.

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The MHAC was established by the local municipal councils under the authority of the Heritage Resources Act to act as advisers on local heritage issues within their municipalities.

Their mission to identify, protect, promote, develop and interpret the heritage of the community of Lac du Bonnet is facilitated through the exchange of information and communication of activities among its membership and the Winnipeg River community at large.

The committee has identified that the Lac du Bonnet region has a vast immigration mix with early settlers arriving from over 25 countries including Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine and Germany.

French settlers from Quebec were attracted to the region for work in the lumber industry and the Hutterites were enticed by the abundance of available farmland the region had to offer. Scottish and English settlers established many of the services and businesses required to support the needs of the growing community.

The committee has identified and established over 20 sites that serve as reminders of the past and celebrate the heritage of the Lac du Bonnet region. Some of these sites include the

Canadian Vickers Vedette sculpture erected at the Lac du Bonnet Boat Launch as part of Lac du Bonnet's rich aviation history and the Ylatala Log House. The house was purchased by MHAC in 2007 because of its unique log construction.

Many traditional artifacts that have been preserved including the power plants at Old Pinawa, Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls and old homesteads in the Bird River and Brightstone areas have been left in their original locations due to size.

Memorial informational plaques have also been commissioned and erected to preserve the memories of Riverland School, St. Mary Polish Church Cemetery, Lac du Bonnet Brick Plant, the Inter-West Fuel and Peat Company, the Lac du Bonnet Saw Mill and Locomotive No. 2 that ran on the Pointe du Bois Tramway.

Prominent people from the region have also been recognized with memorials including community founders John Duncan McArthur and Walter Wardrop and Lac du Bonnet's first physician, Dr. W.J. Wood.

For more information about the Municipal Historical Advisory Committee, please contact Gordon Emberley at 204-345-8916 or visit their website at [www.lacdubonnet.com/mhac](http://www.lacdubonnet.com/mhac)

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