

LdB ICE hands out cold hard cash

The Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby has recently distributed a total of \$10,000 to deserving community organizations.

The Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby (LdB ICE) is a non-profit organization that disperses funds raised from the derby back into the community to help support non-profit organizations through grants, bursaries, donations and paying a volunteer workforce. To date, approximately \$225,000 in funding has been injected back into the community.

The Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby Grant Program received 14 grant applications this year. After careful evaluation of all applications, 12 were selected.

"This \$10,000, along with the \$12,269 distributed to organizations for their (community volunteer) hours, and an additional \$2,000 earmarked for bursaries to be distributed in June 2024, represents a total reinvestment of \$24,269 back into the community," Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby GM Darlene Lamoureux stated.

The Lac du Bonnet Ice Fishing Derby has provided grant funding of \$500 for food supplies to the Snack Program Project at Lac du Bonnet Senior School. This project addresses basic needs regarding daily nutritious snack as well as building skills and community engagement.

The Lac du Bonnet Community Garden received \$1,000 for irrigation line extensions, completion of the greenhouse with potting tables for early spring planting and autumn harvest preparation, and to improve accessibility to tools and equipment in their garden shed.

The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association (LdBWA) received an additional \$500 towards benches and tables to provide resting spots at the LdBWA Ponds for anglers, hikers, and nature enthusiasts. The ponds serve as a hub for outdoor recreation, featuring picnic sites, interpretive trails and a stocked trout pond.

The LdBWA also received \$1,250 towards constructing specialized benches

with galvanized steel frames to accommodate participants, spectators, and students during instructional activities at the outdoor education centre and shooting facility. These benches, strategically placed across the trap, archery and main ranges will ensure stability and deter theft.

The Boreal Shores Art Tour (BSAT) received \$500. The free, self-guided driving tour happening Aug. 17-18 features individual artist studios and group artist locations throughout North Eastman from the east beaches of Lake Winnipeg, through Powerview-Pine Falls, Silver Falls, Lac du Bonnet, Pinawa and Whitemouth to Falcon Beach. The 2024 Tour features 41 artists at 31 stops.

Other organizations receiving grant funding include Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre received \$1,250 for youth mental health programming, \$1,000 for Lac du Bonnet Pioneer Club freezer replacement, \$1,000 for the Lac du Bonnet Regional Library garden



Photo submitted

LdBSS resource teacher Jessica Szustakowski (left), education assistant Marilyn Stewart, resource teacher Julie Martens and Darlene Lamoureux, LdB ICE GM.

project and \$1,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 164 Lac du Bonnet for air conditioner replacement in their hall. Lac du Bonnet's Cross Country Ski Club and Whitemouth

School each received \$500 for skandic repair and inclusive skating initiatives respectively. The Fire and Water Festival, happening Aug. 2-4, collected \$1,000. "We thank all organiza-

tions for their applications," stated Lamoureux. "We appreciate the dedication and impactful work of each group and we wish you success with your upcoming projects."

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TCT continued from front

"There's also Manitoba Hydro's little boat launch there and they have allowed, historically, people to use that boat launch, which is a bad idea because it's right in front of the spillway."

But she disagrees with

both the provincial government and Manitoba Hydro's attempts at passing the buck to local volunteer stakeholders who have already invested plenty of time and resources into a problem that wasn't of their making.

"Somebody had to provide the permission for the quarry. Someone had to make the quarry. And together you should have resolved that issue," she said, referring to the provincial government and Manitoba Hydro. "The bureaucracy is getting in the way of doing the right thing."

As far as she is concerned, Manitoba Hydro should own the responsibility for the quarry.

"That quarry wasn't there until you came

along...usually if you do logging or mining, you have to rehabilitate your area," she said, adding the province and Manitoba Hydro should work together and take an ethical position to remediate the quarry.

As a member of the community, Softley said she is "frustrated at what seems like a process that has become so overly complicated."

"The quarry is not our problem, but it is impeding our trail access, as well as the right to forage, fish, hunt," she said, adding there "is a bigger picture" that also includes an Indigenous perspective. "We have support from Indigenous groups in the area. We did medicinal plant tours with one of their members to garner their support for the trail restoration as we went forward."

Softley said their association's executive director Dan Lester has managed to secure two-thirds of the funding needed to create a small parking area.

"I did identify an area for parking that we verified is municipal," she said, adding the municipality would cover the remaining third of the cost.

But "they're unwilling to proceed with that until there's an agreement for access; understandable on one hand, on the other hand, let's just, you know, put our best foot forward and get her done."

Where the situation goes from here remains to be seen.

"What's next is the question," she said, adding the rep from Manitoba Hydro will process the information from the meeting and bring it up the department's hierarchy for consideration.

The ball seems to bounce back and forth between the provincial government and Manitoba Hydro, she added.

"We tried to put it in both courts because (they're) both responsible," she said. "They end a conversation with, 'It's not that easy.' Well, you're going to have to tell me why."

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Spring Food Drive
 On **Wed. June 5 from 5:30 - 8:00 pm** volunteers from the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, the LdB Senior School, the Beausejour Cadet Squadron and the LdB Youth Centre will be canvassing the LdB community and area for donations to the Lac du Bonnet Food Bank. Donations of any non-perishable food item or cash donations will be gratefully accepted. Donations over \$20.00 will be sent a tax receipt.
 If you are missed during the canvas, donations can be dropped off afterward in the special boxes at Dancy's Foods or Campbell's Store.
 If you would like to help with the Lions canvas or require information, please call Lion Rolly or Lion Bev at 204-345-2823. Volunteers are always appreciated and should be at the LdB Arena by 5:30 p.m.
 Thank you for extending a helping hand!

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