



LdB Canada Day celebrations a blast
By Lory Mitton

Lac du Bonnet's busiest weekend of the year was yet again an exciting and memorable bash which brought thousands of visitors to town to celebrate Canada's 145th birthday.

An estimated 25,000 people caught sight of the electrifying display of fireworks, organized by the Lac du Bonnet Lions. Coordinated to music, approximately 6,100 shots were fired at a cost of nearly \$35,000 in a show that did not disappoint.

"As Canadians, we enjoy freedoms, opportunities and a diversity that is unmatched throughout the world," says Premier Greg Selinger. "Canada Day is a time to celebrate our shared values and appreciate our distinctive qualities that make our country one of the most welcoming in the world. Friendly Manitoba is a place where people from around the world can come and feel at home."

Laughter and thrills were had by those who headed down to the midway. Wonder Shows began as a midsize carnival which soon grew to accommodate 3 acres of rides, games, and fun food.

With the Farmers' Market open on both Saturday and Sunday, local farmers and artisans were supported by the folks taking in the festivities.

Residents and guests camping in town for the Slopitch tournament were served a pancake breakfast two mornings in a row as hosted by the Pioneer Club.

With so many gathered on the streets of Lac du Bonnet to watch the red and white floats of the Canada Day Parade, it was hard not to make new friends. This was certainly true for local resident, Geoff Blacklin, the owner of Lily and Jack, two Old English Sheep Dogs. While waiting for the parade, he met Winnipeg resident Brie Mitchell, owner of Macey, a dog of the same rare breed.

There was plenty to do for the children. Faces were painted and treasures were found by those who were at the Community Centre on Saturday afternoon. Small Rooms, a folk trio from

Winnipeg put on a children's show after the annual Canada Day Parade and Miss Minnewawa Pageant on Sunday.

After demonstrating grace and poise in the Miss Minnewawa contest, Jessica Fitkowsky, Miss Home Hardware, was passed the crown from last year's winner, Kaylin Champagne.

Those who missed the pageant may have been found next door at the Curling Club, taking in the beautiful display of 120 locally made quilts.

Lac du Bonnet's young people from the Youth Rec Centre were seen washing cars - a fundraiser for the centre. Also taking advantage of the large crowds in Lac du Bonnet was the Lac du Bonnet Senior School Travel Club. Those participating in the 2013 Travel Club are going to Kenya.

"It's a volunteer trip to help build a school," explained Brianne Fielbelkorn. She and Kylie Lussier were raffling off ostrich eggs to help lower costs for the trip.