

Newsletter provided to printer on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024



## About that water tower... the community has spoken!

We would like to thank the many, many residents who took the time to share their thoughts about the hamlet of Lac La Biche's water tower.

We received more than a thousand responses to an online survey, and nearly 70 per cent of participants voted in favour of keeping and repainting the tower, rather than demolishing it.

Council will continue discussions about the water tower as part of 2025 budget discussions.

## 2025 Green Initiatives Calendars are coming

Our 2025 Green Initiatives Calendar will soon be available at County facilities for you to pick up at no charge.

The calendar contains important environmental information for residents, as well as stunning photos of our community's natural beauty, taken by our very own talented residents.



Our new Mountain Bike Adventure Park in Alexander Hamilton Park, and our long-awaited new skatepark and bicycle pump track in McArthur Park, all opened to the public in October.

## Have your say about our 2025 budget

Our annual budget is the key to everything we do, so we don't want to do it without you.

Join us at one of two drop-in open houses to share your thoughts about future County programs, projects and services.

**Hamlet of Lac La Biche**  
View Point Room, Bold Centre  
Tuesday, Nov. 12  
5-8 pm

**Hamlet of Plamondon**  
Festival Centre  
Wednesday, Nov. 13  
5-8 pm

We also have our online budget simulator, "A Balancing Act," available. The simulator allows community members to build and propose their own version of our 2025 budget, answering all of the same questions that Council needs to wrestle with as part of the budgeting process. Visit [laclabichecounty.com](http://laclabichecounty.com) to try it out. It's a good way for members of the public to participate in our budget discussions at their own pace and on their own schedule.

All of the feedback we receive will be compiled and shared with Council for consideration.



## Ernie and Linda Desjarlais earn Rural Beautification Award

The winners of our 2024 Rural Beautification Award, celebrating those who go above and beyond to make their piece of the countryside look good, are Ernie and Linda Desjarlais.

The Desjarlais' Normandeau-area property earned this honour for its vibrant flowerbeds and greenery. The award recognizes residents outside the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon for their gardening, landscaping and environmental contributions.

If you know a rural resident with a beautiful and inspiring property, nominate them for next year's Rural Beautification Award by visiting [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com).



*Agricultural Service Board chair Sterling Johnson (far left) and Acting Agricultural Fieldman Brennan Scott (far right) present a special driveway sign to Ernie and Linda Desjarlais.*

## Are your spruce trees dying?

We've been receiving lots of calls from residents who are having trouble with their spruce trees. If your trees have been struggling lately, it could be due to one of these two common fungal problems that are known to occur in our area.

### **Cytospora Spruce Canker**

**Signs:** Trunk and branch lesions, deformations, reduced growth, white pitch flow

**Controls:** Water affected trees, cut and burn branches that have red needles in the fall and winter, use a balanced fertilizer

### **Rhizosphaera Needle Cast**

**Signs:** Needles dying, new growth on tips followed by brown or purple needles, tiny black bumps on needles

**Controls:** Prune and burn infected branches, remove bottom branches as the fungus usually starts low and moves upward, apply fungicide in the spring and early summer

If you have questions, our horticulturist has answers! Call 780-404-7661 or email [lindsay.kozakevich@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:lindsay.kozakevich@laclabichedcounty.com).





## WORKINGS OF THE WATERSHED

Our Watershed Management Plan is designed to keep the lands and waters that drain into Lac la Biche (the lake) healthy and sustainable.

You can read the plan online at [laclabichcounty.com](http://laclabichcounty.com). Ongoing goals include reducing algae blooms, and boosting the lake's recreational value and the region's economy.

The lake is affected by everything that goes on around it, so the plan has a full implementation committee to make sure it stays on track. Information about the committee's activities, including current priorities and upcoming projects to improve watershed health, can also be found on our website.

### Plamondon wetland reconstruction

Wetlands are an important part of our ecosystem, but lots of them in our area have been disturbed by development over the years.

Starting this month, we're going to rebuild a wetland at the site of the former reservoir in Plamondon. Restoring 1.4 hectares of wetland will improve water quality, flood mitigation and drought resistance in the surrounding area, including Plamondon Creek, and local schools and residents will be able to help with planting vegetation next year. This project was made possible through Alberta Environment and Parks' Wetland Replacement Program and Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program.



## It Starts With Hope: All things gingerbread!

The holiday season just isn't the same without gingerbread! Learn to take your gingerbread to the next level with professional techniques in this fun, **free** workshop led by Nicole Mountain.

**Tuesday, Nov. 19**

**5:30-7:30 pm**

**Portage College, Lac La Biche campus**

*Supper is provided, and free childcare is available upon request!*

**For parents of youth ages 7-18**

To register or for more information, call 780-520-7183 or email

**[christine.martin@laclabichcounty.com](mailto:christine.martin@laclabichcounty.com)**.

You can also register online at **[boldcenter.ca/activeLLBC](http://boldcenter.ca/activeLLBC)**. The

deadline to register is Friday, Nov. 15.



It Starts With Hope is a parenting support group. Parenting is hard, and having a network of peers to back you up can make all the difference in the world when you're trying to raise healthy kids who will reach their full potential.

So even if you're normally hopeless as a baker, let this gingerbread workshop remind you of one very important fact... it starts with hope!



## Dates to Remember

**Nov. 10-16**  
Métis Week.

**Monday, Nov. 11**  
Remembrance Day. County offices, landfills and transfer stations will be closed for the holiday.

The Bold Centre, North Country Co-op Arena and Portage Pool will run on holiday hours.

**Tuesday, Nov. 12**  
2025 budget open house at the Bold Centre. See front page for details.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13**  
2025 budget open house at Festival Centre in Plamondon. See front page for details.

**Nov. 21-24**  
Festival of Trees at the Bold Centre.

**Nov. 22-24**  
Christmas Shopping Extravaganza at the Bold Centre.

**For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on [laclabichcounty.com](http://laclabichcounty.com).**

Your County In Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and is available to every resident.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available. All you need to do is call (780) 623-1747 or fill out the online form at [laclabichcounty.com](http://laclabichcounty.com) (click on "Resident Newsletter" in the menu under "Our Services").

Use the same contact information for any address changes or to unsubscribe.



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**NOT ALL  
HEROES  
WEAR CAPES**

## National Lifeguard Certificate



**Tuesdays & Thursdays  
March 4-April 3, 2025  
4:00-8:30 pm**

### Prerequisites

- Age 15
- Current Standard First Aid
- Bronze Cross (Need not be current)
- 100% attendance required

**Cost: \$250 (includes all materials)**



To register visit [boldcenter.ca/active/lbc](http://boldcenter.ca/active/lbc)  
or contact  
Portage Pool at 780-623-6777



### CONNECT TO A HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE!

Accessing Bold Centre and Portage Pool programs has never been easier. Use your smartphone or tablet camera to scan the QR codes at right.



Scan to register for programs.



Scan to view Activity Guide.

[www.laclabichcounty.com](http://www.laclabichcounty.com)