



Skating oval now ready on park trout pond

The skating oval in Alexander Hamilton Park is now ready for you and your family to use.

Every year, our Parks & Open Spaces team clears this circuit on the trout pond's frozen surface, so all residents can enjoy a natural outdoor skating experience. Alexander Hamilton Park is south of Lakeland Drive, on the hamlet of Lac La Biche's eastern edge.

Lighting has been installed for evening use, and firewood is freely available.

Join us for Family Day in the park!

Give the skating oval and other wintry entertainments a try at our Family Day Festival on Monday, February 17.



See the sidebar on page 3 of this newsletter for more information.



Lac La Biche County recently proposed lobbying to bring mandatory agricultural education to all schools in Alberta — and this proposal has been endorsed by both Rural Municipalities of Alberta and a gathering of Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards (ASB). **See page 3 for more information.** From left: Lac La Biche County ASB member Jolene Yackimec, County Councillors George L'Heureux and Colette Borgun, ASB members Lawrence Gingras and Debbie Burdek and the County's Agricultural Fieldman Jacob Marfo at the provincial ASB conference.

Safe Place program coming to our community

When you feel unsafe, where do you go to get help? Soon, all you'll have to do is look for the colourful decal at right.

Lac La Biche County is in the early stages of launching a Safe Place program. This program originated in Seattle and then was implemented in British Columbia, to help protect LGBTQ+ residents. The program has since been expanded to offer help to any and all victims of hate crime, harassment or bullying.

How it works: Participating local businesses, community facilities and schools can display the Safe Place decals on their walls and windows, identifying them as locations where people experiencing hate crime, harassment or bullying can get help, safely contact the County's Peace Officers for further assistance, and



wait for help to arrive. This program will run in partnership with the RCMP, and we are expecting it to be up and running by the end of February.

Are you interested in adding your business or facility to our list of official Safe Places? Call (780) 623-6767 to get more information, or visit our website (laclabichecounty.com) for updates.



Fire season starts March 1

Fire season begins on Sunday, March 1, and we are reminding residents to take steps to protect the community and the environment.

From March 1 to October 31, fire permits are mandatory for all burning except for campfires. The County and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry can also order fire bans and other restrictions to help prevent wildfires.

The County and the Province handle fire permitting and wildfire management in different areas of Lac La Biche County, because a large part of our municipality is covered by Alberta's Forest Protection Area. A map of the County, showing who is responsible for which areas, can be found on our website (laclabichecounty.com).

To obtain fire permits from the County, or to get more information about fire season, call (780) 623-6767. Fire permits are free but site visits and inspections may be required, and permits may come with conditions. The County has the right to suspend or revoke fire permits at any time.

The permitting system and regulations are put in place for public safety, so the authorities know where to expect smoke, and so that burning is limited or prohibited when conditions change for the worse. The County will strictly enforce penalties for burning without permits or for not complying with fire restrictions.

I'm concerned about the possibility of a wildfire in my area. What can I do?



We offer free FireSmart assessments! A trained inspector will take a look at your property and recommend ways to reduce the risk of a wildfire threatening your home and outbuildings. Call (780) 623-6774 for more information or to book a free consultation today.

Green Rebate Program returns for 2020



The County wants to reward residents who take steps to consume less energy and water. Whenever you buy certain Energy Star or WaterSense-certified appliances or fixtures, you could earn some money back.

Please call our Utilities department at (780) 623-6730 for more information. You can find the program application form on our website (laclabichecounty.com).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1) You must be a resident of Lac La Biche County.
- 2) Your purchase must have been made between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
- 3) Your appliance must be an Energy Star or WaterSense-certified item from the following categories:

Category	Rebate
Clothes washer	\$100
Dishwasher	\$75
Water heater	\$150
Furnace or boiler	\$400
Low-flush toilet	\$50

Green Rebate Program applications for 2020 need to be submitted no later than January 31, 2021.

The Inspections Group Inc. now responsible for all local safety codes services

The Inspections Group Inc. is now responsible for collecting, processing and issuing plumbing, gas, electrical, building and private sewage disposal system permits (also known as Safety Codes Permits) for local developers.

Applicants will be able to apply for safety codes inspections and permits directly through The Inspections Group website. They can also visit our Planning & Development staff members at County Centre (13422 Highway 881) if they need assistance with the application process. The majority of customers will not see any change in service levels because of this change in process.

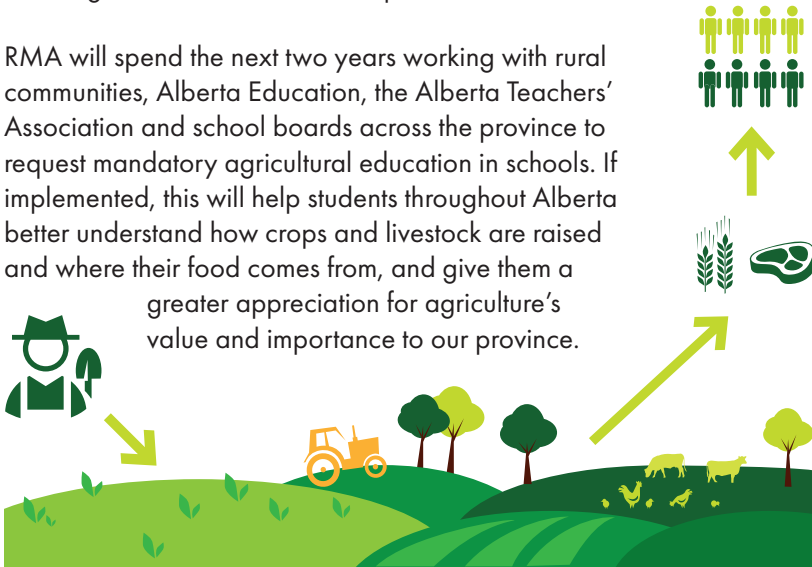
For more information, please call (780) 623-1747 and ask to speak to our Planning & Development department. To contact The Inspections Group, please visit the company website (inspectionsgroup.com) or call the toll-free number: 1-866-554-5048.

County's mandatory agricultural education proposal receives widespread support

Agriculture is one of our oldest and most productive industries — but as times change and more people are disconnected from farming, our knowledge about the food we eat every day declines.

Lac La Biche County has an idea for a potential solution. At a Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) meeting in late 2019, the County proposed lobbying to bring mandatory agricultural education to all schools in Alberta. The proposal became an official RMA resolution with strong majority support, and the same idea was recently endorsed at an Agricultural Service Boards provincial conference.

RMA will spend the next two years working with rural communities, Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association and school boards across the province to request mandatory agricultural education in schools. If implemented, this will help students throughout Alberta better understand how crops and livestock are raised and where their food comes from, and give them a greater appreciation for agriculture's value and importance to our province.



Did you know? Flying lanterns are illegal in Alberta

After recent sightings of flying lanterns in our area, the County would like to remind residents that these devices are illegal in Alberta and may pose a threat to public safety in the right conditions.

Flying lanterns (sometimes called sky lanterns) are like miniature hot air balloons. The user lights a flame at the base of the lantern, which then rises up and floats away — but what goes up must eventually come down, and flying lanterns have been known to start fires when they land. In dry conditions, a flying lantern that comes down in a wooded area could easily ignite a wildfire. That's why flying lanterns are forbidden throughout Alberta.

With fire season right around the corner (see opposite page), we are reminding residents to be cautious and stay informed. Thank you for helping us protect our community and our natural environment.



FAMILY DAY FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 17·12-3PM

ALEXANDER HAMILTON PARK

Everyone is welcome for sledding, curling, a free hot lunch and much more. Fun van will be on-site.

Come and see performances by the Kehewin Native Dance Theatre Group and the Two Euros!

FREE BUSSING TO AND FROM THE EVENT!

Plus free cinnamon buns and hot chocolate from New Life Victory Church.

Bring a donation for the food bank and help us fill an ice fishing tent!

If the temperature dips below -15 the event will be moved to the Bold Center. Follow @llbcountyFCSS on Facebook for updates.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit laclabichecounty.com or contact Christine at 780-623-6754.



FCSS Family and Community Support Services
Lac La Biche County



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.

The programming doesn't end on Family Day!

Like Lac La Biche County Family & Community Support Services on Facebook (@llbcountyFCSS) for all of the latest news about upcoming FCSS programs and services. Our FCSS team takes great pride in listening to our community, including youth and senior citizens, and developing innovative programs to meet **your** needs.



Dates to Remember

February 17, 2020

Family Day Festival. See page 3 for more information. County offices, landfills and transfer stations will be closed for statutory holiday.

February 21, 2020

Teen Chill Zone, with outdoor skating and s'mores for youth ages 13-17, from 4-7 p.m. in Alexander Hamilton Park. Call or text (780) 520-7183 for more information.

March 1, 2020

Fire season begins. See page 2 for more information.

March 5, 2020

The Power Of The Connected Family, with Dr. Jody Carrington. Two free talks on family connections to the community and the importance of relationships. Registration is required for either session. Call (780) 623-6365 for more information or to register.

Check out the **Community Events Calendar** on the County's website (laclabichcounty.com) for more events happening in our area.

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 provide your e-mail address to intouch@laclabichcounty.com.

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

March is Nutrition Month

Nutrition is extremely important to your health, but not everyone can meet with a registered dietician. That's why the Bold Center is hosting special nutrition workshops next month, to help you make healthy and balanced choices.

Like the Bold Center on Facebook (@boldcenter) to be the first to find out about nutrition workshops and other upcoming events and programs.



Seniors Pickleball

Enjoy friendly, drop-in style play in this self-led pickleball program for peoples ages 50 and up. Equipment is provided or you may bring your own.



WHEN:

Tuesdays and Thursdays until April 2
10-11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

Fieldhouse, Bold Center

COST:

Pay \$65 for all remaining dates, drop in for \$6 or use your All Access Membership

