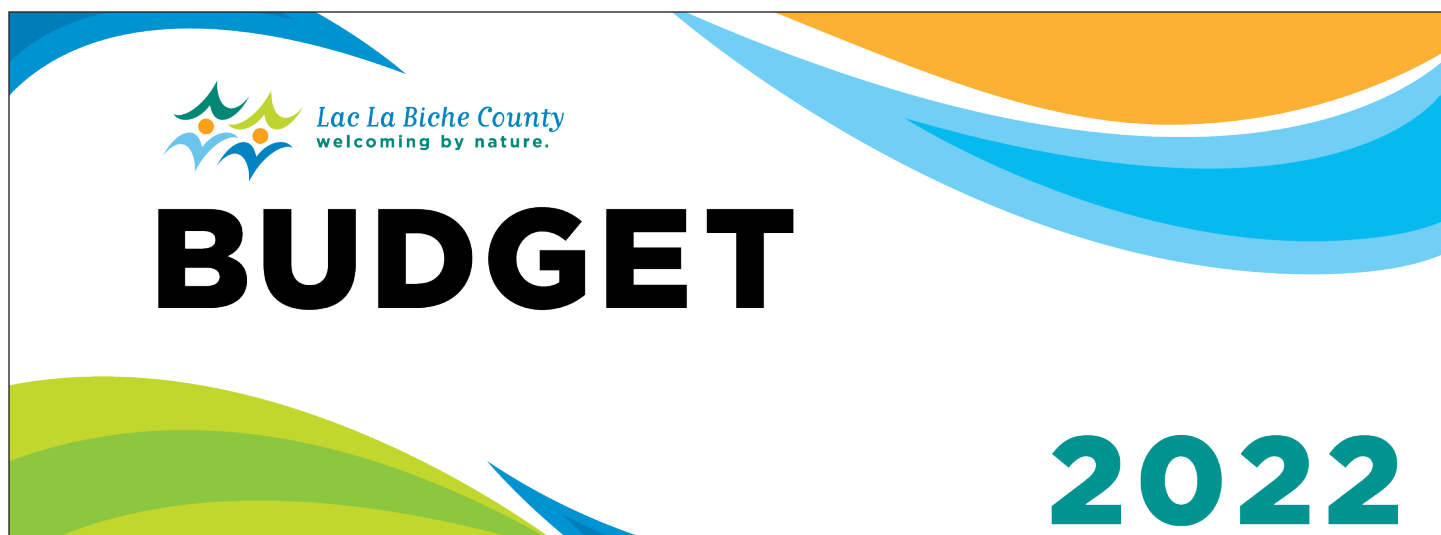


2022 Budget Highlights - Building on a Strong Foundation



After several weeks of deliberations, Lac La Biche County Council approved the 2022 municipal budget at the December 21, 2021 Special Council Meeting.

Operating expenditures for 2022 are set at \$61,365,867 million, and new capital spending is \$32,297,806 million, which is higher than last year. This approved budget is based on a 0% tax revenue increase (subject to changes in property assessment).

This year's capital budget includes:

- \$27 million for the Aquatic Centre adjacent to the Bold Center (funding with an approved infrastructure grant of \$15 million and a possible debenture up to \$12 million)
- \$16.4 million multi-year investment in the Main Street Utility Replacement and Revitalization in the hamlet of Lac La Biche (Phase 2 and 3)
- \$4.3 million for the Young's Beach Paving Project
- \$1.8 million for Bridge File 72382 (30 km south of Lac La Biche)

- \$1.6 million for the Bold Center Sports Field Change Room Facility (the \$1.6million is from reserves that were set aside in 2021)
- \$200,000 in 2022 for a multi - year back lane paving program (Year 2 of 5-year program)

This year, \$6.7 million will be set aside in reserves. By the end of 2022, the County will have \$31.3 million in accumulated reserves, which will allow the municipality to replace and build new infrastructure as needed.

"This budget sets a new direction for Lac La Biche County," said Mayor Paul Reutov. "The projects we have planned in 2022 will attract new residents and tourists, encourage new business ventures, and diversify our economy. We are working to modernize and grow our community—Lac La Biche County has a bright future ahead of it."

A full summary of the budget will be posted on the County's website in the coming weeks. Council will set municipal tax rates in the spring of 2022, after assessments are determined.

Wetland reconstruction projects underway in Lac La Biche County

Wetlands are a vital part of the ecosystem. They reduce the impacts of floods and droughts, improve water quality, reduce erosion, and provide critical habitat for many flora and fauna.

There are currently two projects in Lac La Biche County to reconstruct wetlands that have been historically infilled, which include:

1. The Bold Center wetland reconstruction project.

This project is a true example of collaboration, as this was made possible by the teamwork of Lac La Biche County, Alberta Government, Government of Canada, and Healthy Waters Lac La Biche. Lac La Biche County obtained 50% of the funding from Alberta Environment and Park's Wetland Replacement Program, and Healthy Waters Lac La Biche obtained the other 50% of funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program.

This location was chosen because:

- It is a low-lying area that had erosion issues due to the runoff it received from the Bold Center roof and parking lot.
- The reconstructed wetland will remove the erosion issues and will filter the contaminants in the runoff that is being expelled from the Bold Center parking lot.
- It will be used as an outdoor classroom, with informative workshops and educational signage. Local schools and residents will be invited to participate in the completion of the wetland reconstruction project during 2022, this will include live staking of aquatic vegetation in the spring and fall. Educational signage will be installed along the perimeter, informing visitors on the importance of wetlands.

2. Field Lake wetland reconstruction project

This project was made possible through Alberta

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment and Climate Change Canada

Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



Environment and Park's Wetland Replacement Program who funded 100% of this project with Lac La Biche County.

This location was chosen because:

- It is in the Red Deer Brook sub-watershed, which has historical issues of contamination and flooding.

- The reconstructed wetland will filter contaminants and help reduce the impacts of any future flood or drought events.

The construction of the wetland is not over yet! In 2022, we will need help planting vegetation. Please stay tuned for more details.



Enter for a chance to win two cash prizes of \$300 or a two-night stay in a cabin at Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park!

Lac La Biche County, Healthy Waters Lac La Biche, and Alberta Parks want you to show us how you're keeping our lakes blue. We will ask you, each month in 2022, to show us a specific action that helps keep our lakes blue, if you participate, you'll be entered in the draw to win. At the end of the year, the draw will be made for the chance to win one of three prizes.

This month, we want you to show us an alternative to salt in reducing slippery conditions on your sidewalk or driveway. Salt is essential for safety; however, it's important to use best management practices for its application and reduce your use as much as

possible. Some ideas for alternatives to salt include sand, gravel, rubber mats, cleats, wood ash, etc. Salt on the ground ends up in our water bodies and can be damaging or even fatal to many species, so it's important that we reduce our use of this and use best management practices for its application.

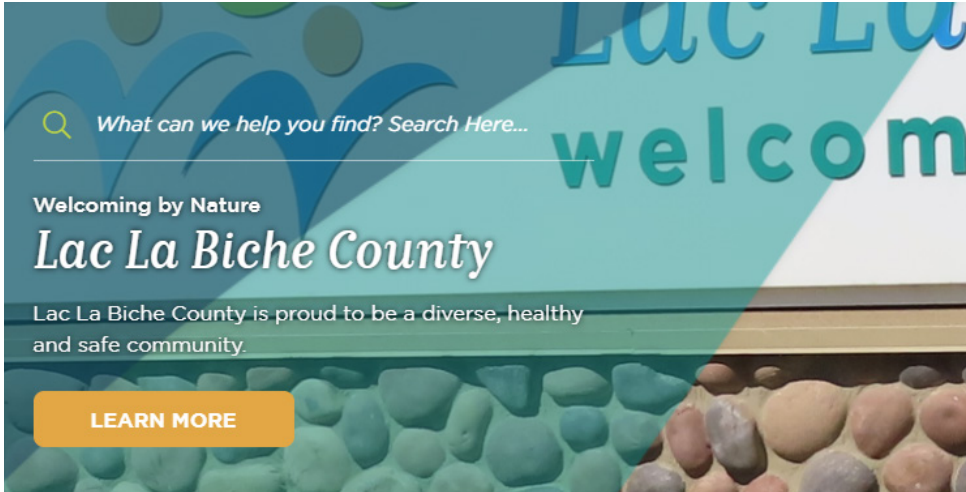
To enter the draw this month, share your alternative to salt on the ground by posting a picture or comment on Healthy Waters Lac La Biche Facebook page or tag them in your post. Once you complete this, you'll be entered in the draw. Each person has 12 chances to be entered in the draw, one entry

per month, with the final draw at the end of the year.

For more information, email: healthy-waterslaclabiche@gmail.com, green@laclabichecounty.com, or call 780-623-6739.



Lac La Biche County Launches New Website



Lac La Biche County strives to maintain a high level of communication with its residents using a variety of tools. Maintaining a municipal website that offers information about programs and services, as well as the bylaws and policies that make them possible, is important to achieving this goal.

On December 13, 2021 Lac La Biche county launched a new Municipal website to replace the former website that was in service for a number of years.

The renewed website offers a range of improvements:

- Design features that make viewing and accessing information on mobile devices easier

- Electronic forms to make contacting us quick and efficient
- Renewed information about services and programs to help connect residents to them
- Streamlined connection to virtual meetings

Images used on the website are also a reminder of how beautiful our region is.

We will continue to add new information and features to the new website over the coming weeks and months.



FEATURED FCSS PROGRAMS

Due to COVID-19, participants must preregister for all programs. Please call 780-623-6365 or message our Facebook page to sign-up.

Young Family Connections Family Swim

Thursday, January 13
6:00 am-7:30 pm
Portage Pool

Learner's Permit Course

Friday, January 14,
10:00 am-4:00 pm
Bold Center

Teen Chillzone - Virtual Trivia Night

Friday, January 14
6:30-8:30 pm
ZOOM

It Starts With Hope Parent Group

Topic: Vaping
Thursday, January 20
7:00-8:30 pm
ZOOM

For more programs, follow FCSS and FCSS Young Family Connections on Facebook!

TALK BOX TIP

When you play together and talk about what you are doing, you are helping your child learn new words and ideas



January 27th is Family Literacy Day! Whether you stay in and read books together or head out for some winter fun, you will have lots of chances to talk about new ideas using new words.





Dates to Remember

January 25

Regular Council Meetings Resume

February 1

Deadline for community advertising submissions for Community Activity Guide Spring/Summer 2022 edition.

February 5

Fitness Workshops: Core Training for Sport (9-10 am) and Spinal Stabilization (10:30-11:30 am) – pre-registration required. Each workshop \$15.

February 16-19

National Lifeguard & Aquatic Emergency Care Combo Course – pre-registration required. Call 623-6777.

February 17 & 18

Go Girl and Be Bold Boy events (free programs, pre-registration is required) partnered with Kidsport Lac La Biche.

February 21

Family Day

Due to COVID-19, events may be subject to postponement or cancellation.

Check the Community Events Calendar at laclabichecounty.com for more local events.

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@laclabichecounty.com.

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



Canadian Publication Agreement #41492052

Winter Session of Programs begin at the Bold Center!



Register now for swim lessons, aquatic leadership courses, adult fitness classes (virtual), youth recreation, culture & fitness programs & more!

Classes resume the 2nd week of January, register early & receive discounts to ensure minimum numbers are met at least one week prior to class start dates.

Visit www.boldcenter.ca for more details!

Snowshoe rentals available from the Bold Center!

