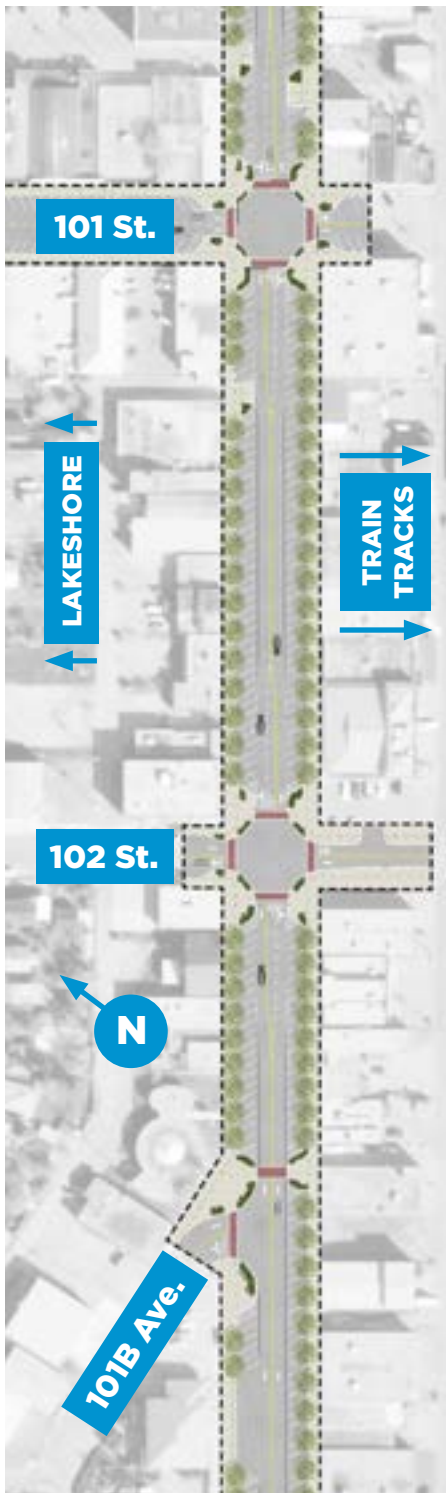


# YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH

Issue No. 137 March 2023



**Above:**  
The redesign of Richard & Devonian Park gives a preview of what you can expect. The same idea of using a mixture of natural and modern elements to create a sense of place and encourage community-gathering will be applied to the hamlet of Lac La Biche's Main Street between 100 Street and 103 Street.

**Left:** The current streetscape design calls for adding vegetation like mature trees and planters to create natural "buffers" between pedestrians and vehicles, as well as building sidewalk bulb-outs at intersections and crosswalk locations.

## Main Street rebuild moving forward

One of Lac La Biche County's largest construction projects in years will begin this spring.

Water and sewer lines under 101 Ave. (Main Street) between 100 St. and 103 St. in the hamlet of Lac La Biche will be replaced to prevent future breaks and backups, and the street's surface will be rebuilt to create a more welcoming atmosphere for community members and visitors.

The total budget for this project is approximately \$35 million. The biggest cost will be replacing the utility lines, which is necessary to keep them in good working order. As it is, the County spends a lot of money on repairs each year, and nearby businesses are impacted every time something goes wrong.

We expect this construction work to be done over a two-year period, and we will minimize disruptions to local businesses as much as possible.

For up-to-date project information, visit [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com) and click on "Main Street Revitalization" on the homepage.

### Features to come include:

- Mature trees, landscape beds and benches
- Enhanced signage and lighting
- Rustic art inspired by the County's natural and cultural features



## The workings of the watershed

As a Disney character once said, "We are all connected in the great circle of life." While Mufasa wasn't talking about the Lac La Biche Watershed, he makes a good point — all of the people, plants and animals on the lands and in the watercourses that drain into our namesake lake affect each other. Our new Lac La Biche Watershed

Management Plan (WMP) takes them all into account, and the plan's implementation committee includes representatives from many different walks of life to provide big-picture thinking when we address the WMP's 89 different action items.

The committee is currently focusing on the County's Land



Use Bylaw, which is under review (see below). Wetland conservation, incorporating traditional Indigenous knowledge into land-use planning, beaver control and septic systems have also come up for discussion. More updates on the committee's work are coming soon.

## Fire season is back, fire permits now required

With March's arrival comes the return of fire season.

As the days grow longer and we start to see more springlike weather, the chance of wildfires threatening our community grows. That's why fire permits are required for all burning except campfires from March 1 to October 31.

The County has a new system that lets residents apply for free fire permits online. Visit [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com) to apply. Please note it may

take up to three days for your permit to be issued.

**Note:** The Government of Alberta handles fire permits in the Forest Protection Area. Call (780) 623-5388 for these permits.

If you're not sure who you need to contact, or for more information about fire season regulations, call the County's Peace Officers at (780) 623-6767 for assistance.



## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON THE GO:



### LAND USE BYLAW REVIEW:

Our current Land Use Bylaw (LUB) dates from 2017, and it has been revised many times since then, so the time has come for a full rewrite. Alberta's *Municipal Government Act* requires every municipality in the province to have a LUB for regulating development. Updating our LUB is a normal process that should happen every five to seven years, to help us keep up with the times and reduce red tape.

The first round of public consultation took place in the fall of 2022. A draft of the proposed rewritten LUB will be available for the public to review in the near future, and our Planning & Development team will organize a public open house as well as other feedback opportunities to hear from residents.

Public input is critically important for each of the above projects. For more information about them, call Planning Technician Sheeja Vimalan at (780) 623-6755 or email [sheeja.vimalan@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:sheeja.vimalan@laclabichedcounty.com). For general inquiries, please email [planning.development@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:planning.development@laclabichedcounty.com). Public input opportunities like open houses will be posted on our website ([laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com)) and social media.

### AREA STRUCTURE PLANS:

Area Structure Plans (ASPs) are long-range, flexible plans that detail how we see development happening in specific areas.

#### Hamlet of Beaver Lake ASP

This ASP dates from 1993 and includes the neighbourhoods of Young's Beach and Holowachuk Estates. Our team will organize a public open house in the near future to inform and consult with the area's residents.

#### South Lac La Biche and Highway 36 ASPs

These two ASPs will be combined and updated as one document because the plan areas are right beside each other and have seen similar changes. This project has not started yet.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



### ODDS AND ENDS

The Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is our primary tool for managing local development, but it is not the only one. The LUB sets rules for each and every property type in the County, but other County bylaws and policies and even Government of Alberta rules may come into play for certain developments.

Below are a few of the most common "odds and ends" that landowners and developers may encounter.

#### TRANSPORTATION

If your property is within 300 metres of a provincial highway, or 800 metres of a highway intersection, then a roadside development permit must be issued by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. The provincial government can also add required steps like nearby intersection improvements for traffic safety, and any cost is up to you to pay.



#### ENVIRONMENT

If your property is next to an identified wetland, then your development application must be sent to Alberta Environment and Parks for review. The County also has environmental policies, like the Riparian Setback Matrix that determines how large the "buffer zone" between a wetland or water body and the rest of your property needs to be when you subdivide it.



#### WATER AND SEWER

If your property is within 400 metres of a municipal water and sewer line, you will be required to connect within a certain timeframe if you haven't already. The cost to connect will be your responsibility to pay. The Mandatory Water & Sewer Connections Bylaw was adopted in 2015 to make this possible, because water and sewer lines are often the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly option.



#### FIRE PROTECTION

Depending on your project, a fire protection plan may be required. This will ensure you and the County's Fire Services department are on the same page about emergency response, on-site water supply options and other firefighting considerations.



## Teen Chill Zone: St. Patrick's Day Party

Have ye the gift o' the gab?

They say everybody's a wee bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so here's a free opportunity for local teenagers to indulge their inner leprechauns.

**Who?** Anyone 12-18 years old

**What?** Supper, games, challenges, music, prizes and more

**Where?** Hylo Community Hall

**When?** Friday, March 17

**How much?** Absolutely free!

Participants can meet at the hall at 5 p.m. or take the bus from the Bold Center at 4:30 p.m. We're heading to Hylo to host our first pop-up event.

For more information, call Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 520-7183 or email [christine.martin@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:christine.martin@laclabichedcounty.com).

Can't make it? Well, *lá fhéile Pádraig sona duit* ("Happy St. Patrick's Day to you" in Gaelic) and like and follow Lac La Biche County Family & Community Support Services on Facebook to learn about future Teen Chill Zone activities!

## Democracy. In real time.



Did you know all of County Council's regular and special meetings are livestreamed? Be the first to know about topics that interest you by watching live Council discussions online at [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com).

Video recordings of public meetings are also saved for one year.





## Dates to Remember

### Friday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day.

Teen Chill Zone St. Patrick's Day Party (see page 3).

### Friday, April 7

Good Friday. County offices will be closed for the holiday.

### Monday, April 10

Easter Monday. County offices will be closed for the holiday.

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

You can also submit your own events to the calendar on behalf of community groups. Simply click on "Submit an event" below the event list on the homepage and fill out the electronic form.

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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](mailto:intouch@laclabichcounty.com).

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

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## Bold new direction for the Bold Centre

Council has approved a new logo for the Bold Centre that celebrates the multiplex's bright, dynamic future.

With new sports fields, a new campground and a new aquatics centre that's still to come, the Bold Centre is becoming even more of a hub for recreation and community life in the County. The new logo is the latest step in

the transformation, inspired by the County's logo but designed to show the Bold Centre's special place in the County family.

While the logo has been approved, it is not fully in use yet. An implementation plan will be made for updating the logo on building and road signs, employee uniforms and more over time.



**The name of the facility will not change, except for the Canadian spelling of "Centre." It's still a bold, innovative facility with a catchy name that invites community members to be their best selves.**

## March is Nutrition Month

Visit the Bold Centre's Facebook page for information about mindful eating, connecting with family and culture through food and spicing up your meals with new recipes.

Stay tuned for hands-on workshops, presentations and much more.

