



YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH

Issue No. 150 April 2024

Street sweeping? When?

Sign up for alerts. Never miss the memo again!

When you sign up for street sweeping and snow removal alerts, updates go directly to your cellphone, email inbox or land line. **PLUS:** We can use the same alerting system to quickly notify you about local emergencies like floods and wildfires.

Visit laclabichedcounty.com to register (click on "Local Emergency Alerting System" on the homepage).

Main Street construction

Phase 2 of replacing water and sewer lines and rebuilding the streetscape of 101 Ave. in the hamlet of Lac La Biche will begin this spring.

Phase 2 includes work along 101 Ave. (Main Street) from 102 St. to 101 St., as well as some work on 101 St. on either side of the intersection with Main Street.

For construction updates, and information about traffic detours and how to continue accessing businesses and amenities in the construction zone, visit laclabichedcounty.com.

GRAND OPENING TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FACILITY

**Saturday, April 27 at the new Transitional Housing Facility
9016 Pinelands Road, next to Alexander Hamilton Park.**

Everyone is welcome to tour the new Transitional Housing Facility, learn about our four-stage program to help individuals safely transition out of homelessness, and celebrate this vital addition to our community.

11 am	Facility tours
11:30 am	Opening ceremony
12:15 pm	Lunch and facility tours
2 pm	Closing ceremony

The Transitional Housing Facility is operated by our valued partner, Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Society.

It takes a community to beat homelessness.



About the Transitional Housing Facility

Transitional housing has been a need in our community for years. The new facility is built around a four-stage program to help individuals who are experiencing homelessness break the cycle.

- 1 Entering the program:** Building relationships, gauging needs and developing personalized plans for moving forward.
- 2 Providing supports:** Addressing addictions, mental health and other challenges.
- 3 Building life skills.**
- 4 Transitioning out of homelessness:** Entering market rental accommodations with ongoing check-ins for support.

Many community partners helped turn this idea into a reality, including Alberta Health, Alberta Works, Hope Haven Society, Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre, Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Society, Métis Nation of Alberta Region One, Portage College and two private citizens. The project was funded by Lac La Biche County and a federal grant of \$150,000 through the Rural Development Network.

In support of County Council's goal of social wellness, we will not turn a blind eye to homelessness, and we will encourage compassionate services for all of our residents.

Exercise your green thumb this spring

Spring has sprung, which means it's time to grab your gardening gloves and trowels.

Tree Seedlings

We have bundles of saplings available for purchase.

Haskap x 3	\$22.23
Blue Spruce x 3	\$11.37
Mustang Cherry Plum x 2	\$23.98
Tower Poplar x 2	\$12.28

To place an order, fill out the interactive online form at laclabichcounty.com (click on "Agriculture" in the menu under "Our Services"). If you need help, call 780-623-6739.

Community Garden

Are you interested in growing a garden but don't have the space for one? The Community Garden in Alexander Hamilton Park has plots available for residents to grow their own plants and produce.

Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Plots are free, except for newer raised-bed plots, which cost \$20 each.

To apply for a plot, fill out the form on our website. Applications are accepted until June 1. If you need any assistance, call 780-623-6739.



New raised-bed plots in the Community Garden.

Gardening During Drought Workshops

If the long-range forecast has you nervous about gardening prospects, join us for one of two free gardening workshops to learn how to manage drought conditions this upcoming season. Refreshments will be provided, and you can enter to win essential gardening supplies.

Thursday, April 25 • 6-8 pm
Festival Centre, Plamondon

Tuesday, April 30 • 6-8 pm
Rich Lake Agriplex (small hall)

Call 780-623-6739 or email green@laclabichcounty.com for more information or to register.



Hamlet of Lac La Biche water and sewer upgrades coming

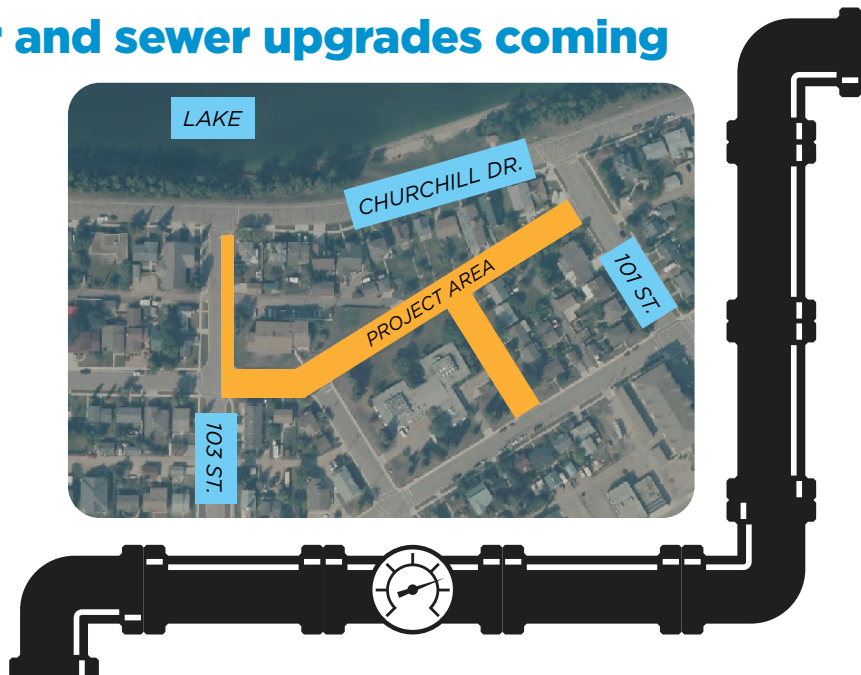
Something good is in the pipeline.

The water and sewer lines under 104 Ave. from 101-103 St. and under 101A St. in the hamlet of Lac La Biche are scheduled to be replaced in 2024. We know residents in the area have had enough of line breaks disrupting their day-to-day lives, and the current lines are more than 60 years old. Replacing them will mean better water quality and more reliable services for residents.



Where can I learn about other local construction projects?

Visit laclabichcounty.com and click on "Construction Projects" in the menu under "Our Services." The page includes a map of all planned 2024 construction.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



THE ROLE OF P&D

Development doesn't happen in a vacuum. There's a big picture that's decided by County Council, and then the job of our Planning & Development department is to ensure developments fit into the picture.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

P&D assists with creating and implementing important documents like the Municipal Development Plan and the Land Use Bylaw, which serve as rulebooks for development. Council reviews and approves these documents, as well as high-level concept plans for potential future developments.



Do you mean like that 91 Ave. concept plan?

Yes, exactly! Our P&D team led a series of public consultations to develop a plan for the future of Lac La Biche hamlet's 91 Ave. corridor. We know the area is ripe for development, so we need a community-backed vision for what it could look like in the future.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Land development includes the process of subdivision and rezoning. Although P&D assists with these types of applications, they must receive approval from the higher-ups, like the Municipal Planning Commission or Council.

LAND MANAGEMENT

P&D assists with all matters involving municipal land sales, land leases, encroachment and erosion concerns, and more.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITTING

This is the real meat and potatoes of P&D's work. Development Officers guide applicants through the entire permitting process, no matter how big (or small) the project. The P&D team ensures projects align with the bylaws, plans and policies that Council has adopted, as well as provincial laws and other considerations.

SAFETY CODES

Once you have your development permit, Alberta law requires you to obtain all necessary Safety Code permits. There are permits for building, gas, electrical, plumbing and private sewage disposal systems. Our P&D crew helps developers understand which permits they need, and works closely with certified inspectors to make sure the rules are followed and no corners are cut.



Growing Minds

Growing up is a journey filled with twists and turns. There are no maps, but we can give kids and preteens the tools they need to solve life's many puzzles.

Growing Minds is a five-session program helping youth ages 7-12 learn how to develop growth mindsets and strategies to build resilience. Growth mindsets focus on the journey, not the destination — if you believe you can improve your abilities with time and effort, and you don't let failure keep you down, then you have a growth mindset.

Each participant in Growing Minds receives a Big Life Journal for learning about themselves and gaining confidence. Each session is filled with fun, active and creative activities designed to teach healthy ways to approach challenges, learn from setbacks, and bounce back stronger than ever.

Growing Minds 1.0 (ages 7-9):
May 21, May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18 (all Tuesdays) from 4-6 pm at Plamondon Festival Centre.

Growing Minds 2.0 (ages 10-12):
May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19 (all Wednesdays) from 4-5:30 pm at the Bold Centre (View Point Room).

For more information, or to register, call 780-623-0146 or email deborah.menard@lacialbichecounty.com.



Dates to Remember

Monday, April 15

Spring fitness classes begin at the Bold Centre.

Thursday, April 25

Gardening During Drought Workshop from 6-8 pm at Festival Centre in Plamondon. See page 2 for details.

Saturday, April 27

WIBIT swim, with inflatable obstacle course, from 12-4 pm at Portage Pool.

Tuesday, April 30

Gardening During Drought Workshop from 6-8 pm at Rich Lake Agriplex. See page 2 for details.

Monday, May 20

Victoria Day. County offices will be closed for the holiday.

Friday, May 31

Deadline to submit No Spray Requests, to opt out of roadside spraying for weed and brush control.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on 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 provide your e-mail address to intouch@laclabichcounty.com.

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



Get your activity on!

Discover the wide range of events, programs, services and workshops available to keep you and your family active this spring and summer with the latest Community Activity Guide.

Check out the guide online at boldcenter.ca, or pick up a printed copy at the Bold Centre's front desk or Portage Pool.

The Community Summer Camp Guide, an insert showcasing day camps and summer programs, will be distributed next month to serve as your ultimate local resource for filling those long summer days.

