

Indigenous Relationship Coordinator joins team

We are pleased to announce the hiring of an Indigenous Relationship Coordinator, who will help us continue building positive, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities.

Chantel Sparklingeyes, a Métis professional born and raised in the local area, is a graduate of University nuhelot'ine thaiyots'j nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills' Indigenous Bachelor of Social Work program. She has been involved in non-profit social work for the past nine years. One of Chantel's first tasks is to create a Reconciliation Action Plan for the County, in partnership with local Indigenous communities.



OUR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional and ancestral lands of the First Nations peoples of Treaty 6, Treaty 8 and Treaty 10 territories and the Homeland of the Métis people. Lac La Biche County continues to be home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial, and we recognize the vital contributions of Indigenous culture, history and perspectives in our shared past, present and future.



Braxton Patenaude performs at Heart Lake First Nation's traditional Pow Wow. Braxton is a champion Chicken Dancer, performing in a style and regalia inspired by the prairie chicken's mating dance.

As National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is fast approaching, we encourage all residents to experience and learn about local Indigenous cultures and communities throughout the year.

Budget 2024: Why it's important to you

The County's annual budget is so much more than a giant collection of spreadsheets. It's the key to everything we do, so we don't want to do it without you.

Council will start discussing a proposed budget for 2024 this fall, and the public will be able to give feedback at two open houses. Our online public engagement tool and budgeting simulator, "A Balancing Act," will also be available for residents to provide input and try their hands at budgeting. Keep an eye on this newsletter, our website (laclabichecounty.com) and social media channels for updates.

Creating a budget for an entire municipality is not an easy process, but none of our programs and services can happen without one. So if you have an opinion on how much we spend and what we spend it on, now is the time to share it with us. We build budgets based on our needs and Council's priorities, and while we cannot include everything, you can tell us if you think we're missing something important.

#DYK? We make multi-year financial plans, so right now we have a basic idea of what our budgets will look like all the way to 2027. We can anticipate our cash flow's ups and downs and plan accordingly. You can see these plans online at laclabichecounty.com. The most up-to-date versions are included in our 2023 budget package.

Plant seeds with Agricultural Service Board bursaries

Agriculture is all about next generations – growing another generation of crops, raising another generation of livestock. So what about the next generation of agricultural professionals?

Our Agricultural Service Board (ASB) offers two bursaries of \$1,000 each to local students pursuing agriculture-related studies. Applications are now being accepted, and the deadline to apply is Sunday, October 1.

To find the application form, visit laclabichcounty.com and click on “Agriculture” in the menu under “Our Services.”

Agriculture is one of Lac La Biche County’s oldest and best loved industries, with millions of acres of cropland and pasture. Our ASB is a partnership between local producers and County Council to support area farmers and ranchers.

#DYK? We provide equipment rentals, weed and pest control products, a subsidized veterinary care program and so much more for our local agricultural sector. Visit our website or call (780) 623-6739 for more information.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our cutting-edge Law Enforcement Training Centre practically pays for itself, earning around \$400,000 in revenue this year. The Centre trains law enforcement personnel from across Canada.



Our Family & Community Support Services programs (FCSS) have had more than 12,500 participants this year. That’s around 1.5 times the entire population of Lac La Biche County. Programs are offered for people of all ages, from infants to seniors.



September 18-22 is Septic Awareness Week. We know you’d rather not think about sewage after it’s gone, but the trick is making sure it stays gone. The County has a Backflow Preventor Subsidy Program to help you protect your home from sewer line backups. You can receive up to \$1,000 to install a backflow preventor. Call us at (780) 623-6730 for more information.

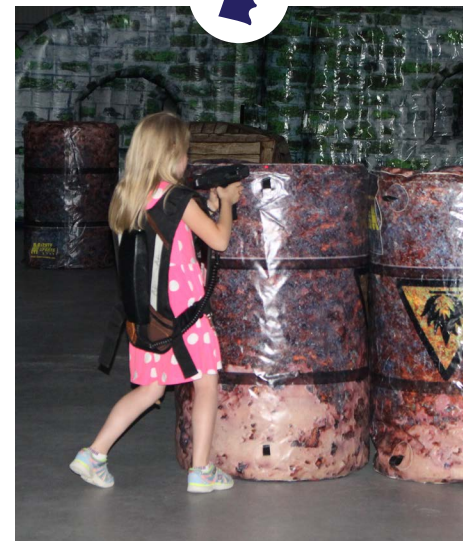
ATTENTION NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY GROUPS: You could receive professional laser tag equipment for free!

Our laser tag equipment and inflatable obstacles have become surplus to our needs, so non-profit organizations are invited to ask for these items as donations, so they can increase interest and add value to their community services.

Please email your request to recreation@laclabichcounty.com by Friday, September 30, 2023. Include your organization’s intended use for the equipment and its benefit to the community.

This package includes all necessary equipment and accessories to set up and run games of laser tag for up to 18 participants. A list of all items in the package is currently posted on the County’s website (laclabichcounty.com — click on “Sale of Surplus Equipment” in the menu under “Our Services”).

If there is no interest from local groups, these items will be listed for public sale online at govdeals.com.



Lac La Biche East: A new nexus for future development

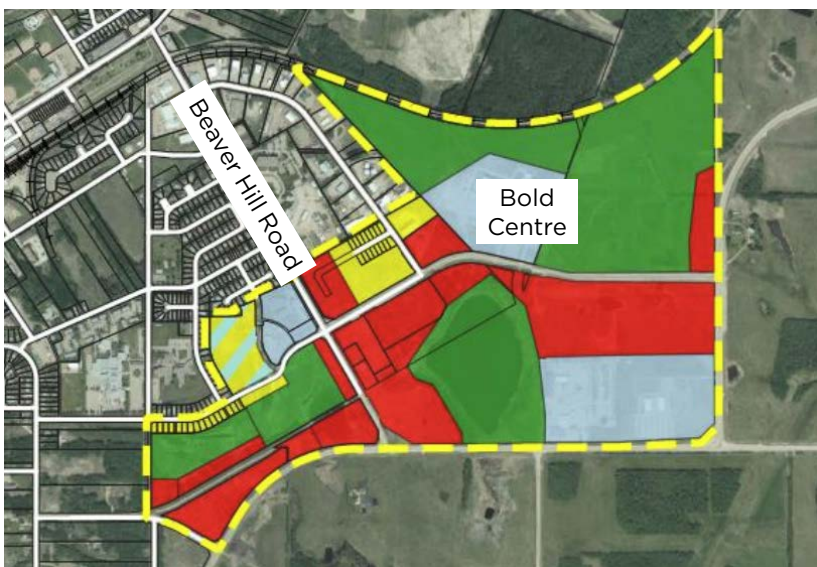
Country singers may or may not be construction experts, but David Allan Coe once said “It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; its the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.”

Sure, the intersection of Beaver Hill Road and 91 Ave. in the hamlet of Lac La Biche has looked better, but we’re laying the foundation for great things to come.

A Tim Hortons restaurant is under construction at the corner and a one-acre parcel across the street is for sale — and we do have a plan for it, but the details are confidential. We’re not just being secretive; Alberta’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act forbids us from revealing too much before the deal is done.

Meanwhile, a whole lot of dirt is being moved around to prepare the area for further development, and we’re preparing a development concept plan. Most of the lands in the area are County-owned, so we need a high-level roadmap to guide our development efforts. A foundation to stand the test of time, if you will.

You can learn a lot about what’s planned for the area by looking at the Lac La Biche East Area Structure Plan (map below) that was adopted in 2022. An Area Structure Plan shows the types of development, not specific projects, that we anticipate happening in the area, based on the existing land uses (e.g. what it makes sense to put near a multiplex) and what community members have told us they want to see.



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|---|---|
|  <i>Future Commercial</i> |  <i>Public Institution</i> |
|  <i>Recreation & Open Space</i> |  <i>Future Residential</i> |



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

All community members are invited to attend National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremonies on **Saturday, September 30.**

Ceremonies to commemorate residential school victims, honour survivors and show solidarity with families and descendants will take place at **11 am at the Bold Centre.**

Canada’s residential school system has been called an act of cultural genocide. The system’s goal was to break Indigenous children’s connections to their home communities and cultures so they could be assimilated into settler society. Thousands of children died as a result of abuse, disease and malnutrition. Many residential school survivors were traumatized by their experiences, and the system’s painful legacy continues to affect Indigenous communities to this day.

VOICES IN SPIRIT

A photo and video project in remembrance of residential school victims, in honour of survivors and in solidarity with families and descendants.

Join us Saturday, Sept. 16 at 10 am in the Bold Centre’s View Point Room to be photographed by Lorna Dancey holding written messages you would like to share.

Open to all community members. Call the Bold Centre at (780) 623-3829 if you would like to participate.



Dates to Remember

Friday, Sept. 8

Let's Connect Community Information Night at the Bold Centre from 5-8 pm.

Drive-in movie, showing "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," at the Bold Centre Sports Fields at 8 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 9

Bold Free Day. Enjoy free access to the Bold Centre's amenities to experience what it can do for you.

Saturday, Sept. 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. See page 3 for more information.

#DYK? The Events Calendar on laclabichecounty.com is an easy way for community members to find out what's happening, and a free advertising resource for event organizers. To add a new event as a member of the public, simply click "Submit an event" and fill in the fields.

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.



Free Alberta Culture Days workshops

Join us at the Bold Centre to celebrate arts and culture and discover new creative outlets. All supplies are included; space is limited so pre-registration is required!

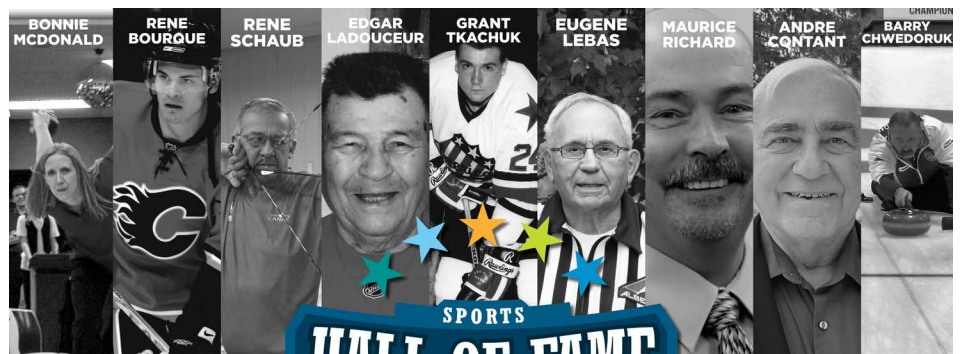
Saturday, Sept. 23

Two separate daytime classes to introduce kids ages 3-5 and kids ages 6-9 to different art forms and encourage imagination and creativity, and an afternoon printmaking class for adults.

Saturday, Sept. 29

A morning sock puppet workshop for kids ages 6-9, and an afternoon Snuff (furry) puppet workshop for youth ages 9-14. Both workshops will be led by Hawkey Studios.

Call the Bold Centre at (780) 623-3829 for more details!



Nominations for the Lac La Biche County Sports Hall of Fame are open until October 1! There are categories for athletes, coaches and community builders. Criteria and nomination forms can be found online at boldcenter.ca/sports-hall-of-fame.