

## So about that water tower...

What do you think we should do with the old water tower that's dominated the hamlet of Lac La Biche skyline since 1967?

Council is considering two options: repainting the tower, and demolishing it. Both are estimated to cost at least \$400,000, so we want to hear from community members before making a decision.

Use your smartphone or tablet camera to scan the QR code below and fill out a short, anonymous survey before Monday, Sept. 30. You can also provide alternative ideas for the County to consider.



Lac La Biche County Councillor Sterling Johnson (left) and Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche MLA Brian Jean (right) present the 100 Year Farm Family Award to Todd Thompson, whose family has been farming the same land continuously for an entire century.

## National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

All community members are invited to attend National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremonies on Monday, Sept. 30.



2 to McArthur Park. The walk will begin at 10 am.

Ceremonies to commemorate residential school victims, honour survivors and show solidarity with families and descendants will take place at 11 am in McArthur Park.

Prior to that, community members are welcome to join an Every Child Matters walk, hosted by Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement, from Parkland Motel

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.

# 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 Tuesday, October 1.

To find the application form, visit [laclabichcounty.com](http://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.



## Plamondon Village Square design concept approved

Concept only. Details subject to change.



Council has approved a plan for a new public gathering space on the hamlet of Plamondon’s main street.

The above concept, created by a Plamondon Revitalization Committee and a third-party designer after consulting with members of the public, will be used as the basis for a future construction project.

The project, called Plamondon Village Square, will turn an empty lot on Highway 858 into a park with a gazebo, flowerbeds, interpretive signage, a violinist statue and other nods to the area’s cultural and natural heritage. The next step is to seek bids for the construction work, so stay tuned for updates.

### LEGEND

- 1. Bench seating
- 2. Gravel pathway connection to future development
- 3. 24-foot gazebo/stage
- 4. Interpretive signage and flowerbeds
- 5. Shade trees
- 6. Decorative flowering trees
- 7. Artistic panels inspired by nature
- 8. Flowerbeds
- 9. Paved pathway with lighting
- 10. Access pathway
- 11. Picnic table seating
- 12. Year-round fire pit
- 13. Covered fire pit, acting as a secondary stage
- 14. Bench seating
- 15. Violinist statue
- 16. Community clock
- 17. Designated parking for food trucks

# Budget 2025

Don't forget — it's yours.



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

Keep an eye on this newsletter, our social media channels and our website ([laalabichcounty.com](http://laalabichcounty.com)) for updates on opportunities for residents to get involved and provide input, in-person and online.

None of our programs and services happen without a budget. So if you have an opinion about 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 can't include everything, you can tell us if you think we're missing something.



**FireSmart™ your property.  
It's the smart thing to do.**

Wildfire is a fact of life in northern Alberta, and we take protecting our community very seriously. That's why we have free local programs to help you safeguard your home!

- 1. Free FireSmart™ Home Exterior Assessments:** Receive a no-strings-attached list of recommendations for reducing wildfire risk.
- 2. Wildfire Mitigation Incentive Program:** Apply for funding to help cover the costs of projects that reduce wildfire risk.
- 3. Wood-Chipping Program:** After your FireSmart™ assessment, let us help you take care of wood-chipping.

For more information, call 780-623-6774 or visit [laalabichcounty.com](http://laalabichcounty.com).

## WE'RE RECRUITING.



Join an elite volunteer force that protects and serves our community. Firefighters are paid-on-call, and all training and equipment is provided.

For more information, visit [laalabichcounty.com](http://laalabichcounty.com).



## CHAT BOX

**Mondays • Bold Centre • 5:30-7 pm**

Parents and caregivers have a lot to talk about with their kids. How do you ask — and answer — the tough questions? How do you approach important topics that you're unsure about with respect and empathy?

CHAT BOX is a free program designed to get youth ages 7-12 and the parental figures in their lives talking.

### DATES

Oct. 21  
Nov. 18  
Dec. 16  
Jan. 27  
Feb. 24  
March 24  
April 28  
May 26



Each month's session will feature a new topic, like social skills, emotional intelligence, peer pressure, social media, substance abuse, and more. A free meal is provided at each session, and participants can expect a variety of activities to encourage one-on-one conversation and small-group discussion.

Pre-registration is required! Register at the Bold Centre or online at [boldcenter.ca/activeLLBC](http://boldcenter.ca/activeLLBC), or call Deborah Menard at 780-623-0146.

Be sure to follow Lac La Biche County Family & Community Support Services on Facebook for regular updates.



# Dates to Remember

## September 3-22

Portage Pool closed for annual maintenance.

## September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. See front page for local event details.

County offices, landfills and transfer stations will be closed for the holiday.

## October 8-10

Power Up North entrepreneurs' conference at Portage College's Lac La Biche campus.

Learning themes include Transforming Culture, Innovating Hires and Elevating Brands. For more information or to register, visit [powerupnorth.com](http://powerupnorth.com).

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.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@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:intouch@laclabichedcounty.com).

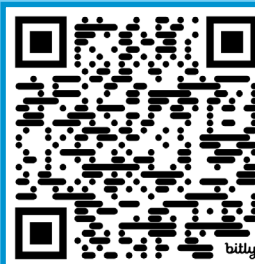
Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.



**NOMINATIONS OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 1!**

### CONNECT TO A HEALTHY, ACTIVE LIFESTYLE!

Accessing Bold Centre and Portage Pool information and programs has never been easier. Use your smartphone or tablet camera to scan the QR codes at right.



Scan to register for programs.



Scan to view Activity Guide.