

YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH

Issue No. 140 June 2023

PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2023

Property tax notices are in the mail, and ratepayers have until Friday, June 30 to pay taxes without penalties.

2023 LAC LA BICHE COUNTY TAX RATES	
Residential & Farmland	3.2448
Urban Non-Residential	10.000
Rural Non-Residential	18.7320

The rates above represent how much municipal tax you owe per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The County has no control over assessments; we also have no control over the provincial requisitions for education and seniors' lodges that get added to your tax bill.

Council decided to increase residential, farmland and rural non-residential rates slightly for 2023. There are several reasons why this happened:

1. The Government of Alberta requires municipalities to achieve a 5:1 ratio between their highest and lowest tax rates. There is no specific timeline to meet this requirement, but we have to move in that direction. Our ratio in 2023 will be 5.77:1, down from last year's ratio of 5.89:1.
2. Inflation affects the County just like everyone else. Goods we buy and services we use cost more from year to year.
3. The County has historically provided services to residents at very subsidized costs. For example, our water and sewer fees are very low, despite the high costs of building and maintaining these utilities.

The residential mill rate has only increased by 0.1248 mills, so the owner of a \$450,000 home in Lac La Biche County will pay around \$56 more in municipal taxes this year.

Council has taken the above factors into consideration, but doesn't want to burden residents.

Lac La Biche County's residential tax rate remains one of the lowest in Alberta. The property value your tax bill is based on and the provincial requisitions that get added play big roles in how expensive your total bill becomes.

"Even with the small increase in residential taxes, our residents enjoy some of the best municipal programs and services in the province at a low cost."

Mayor Paul Reutov

What you get in return for your taxes:



State-of-the-art recreation facilities, including a brand-new aquatics centre (construction will start later this year)



Parks and playgrounds, outdoor rinks, walking trails and boat launches (more per resident than comparable municipalities)



Road maintenance like dust control, gravelling, pothole-patching and snow removal on 2000-plus kilometres of roads



Firefighters and Peace Officers, as well as emergency prevention and preparedness programs that are free for residents



Social, wellness and community-building programs for local children, youth, families and seniors



Grants for community groups, event sponsorships and more (over \$2.5 million given each year for the last three years)



Landfills and transfer stations (where loads of up to 500 kg. of residential waste are free) and the curbside pickup program



Water, sewer and natural gas services, which are provided at subsidized rates, and fill stations for rural residents



Programs that protect our natural environment and lakes, and services that support local agricultural producers

Community event features in *Your County In Touch*

We proudly feature local events in our newsletter that meet the following criteria:

- Large event, of general interest to the community and visitors
- Open to the public (may be ticketed or non-ticketed)
- Supported financially by Lac La Biche County
- Added to the Community Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.com and advertising on its own through available channels

We cannot guarantee events will be featured in our newsletter, and we reserve the right to replace event features with Lac La Biche County news at any time. For more information or to submit an event, email communications@laclabichcounty.com.



Green Initiatives Calendar contest now open

Do you have a high-quality photo that shows Lac La Biche County's natural beauty?

Enter it in our 2024 Green Initiatives Calendar photo contest!

The free Green Initiatives Calendar contains everything you need to know about the County's environmental programs and services. We take pride in filling the calendar with locally sourced photos of our natural landscapes, wildlife and more.

Photos must be taken within Lac La Biche County. Please send high-quality files by email only (cellphone photos may not be acceptable).

Send photos to communications@laclabichcounty.com along with your name and the general area where your photos were taken. All winning photographers will receive a prize from Lac La Biche County.

COMMUNITY EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, June 4th, 2023

Located at Venice Heritage Park, Venice, AB

VENICE PICNIC

EST. 1946

Main attractions:
Famous homemade pasta and chicken cacciatore buffet, live music by Girlz With Guitarz, slo-pitch tournament, and petting zoo.

Other activities:
Bingo, concessions, silent auction, children's games, spaghetti eating contest.

Scan for more information

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



Business Patio & Sidewalk Furniture

With Main Street in the hamlet of Lac La Biche being rebuilt to become more attractive and friendly to pedestrians, local restaurants may be thinking about using the sidewalks in front of their premises as patios. This is a great idea! If the sidewalk is County property, like the ones on Main Street, then a License of Occupation (LOC) is required.

Fortunately, LOCs are easy and inexpensive. Business owners should submit requests by email to planning.development@laclabichedcounty.com, and be sure to include details about their intended uses of the sidewalk (e.g. two tables and four chairs, etc.), the hours of operation and the agreement length they have in mind (e.g. six months, etc.) The fee to apply for an LOC is \$30 per agreement.

If you have questions about LOCs or anything else related to local development, call our Planning & Development department at (780) 623-1747.

The Art of Conversation

There's a reason why relationship experts say communication is essential. **The Art of Conversation** is a free program for youths ages 10 and up and a parent, guardian or grandparent to create, connect and communicate in a welcoming and supportive setting.

Dates: Wed. July 12, 19 and 26
(registration deadline is two days before each class)

Time: 7-8 pm

Location: McArthur Place

Participants will create a different art piece each week while a wellness coach leads conversations on a variety of topics to encourage connection, collaboration and relationship-building. Refreshments and all art supplies are provided.

To register, call (780) 520-7183 or email christine.martin@laclabichedcounty.com.



In partnership with Successful Kids-Successful Families as part of Northern Lakes Family Resource Network.

WANTED

★ USED AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS ★

We're rounding up agricultural plastics like grain bags, baler twine, silage plastic and bale wrap so they can be properly recycled. Turn 'em in on Saturday, June 27 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Bold Centre.

Plastics should be brought ready for recycling. For example, we're accepting baler twine in clear collection bags, which are available for free from the County. For more information about how to package agricultural plastics and get them ready, call (780) 623-6739.

In partnership with Cleanfarms.



Dates to Remember

Tuesday, June 27

Agriculture Appreciation Day at the Bold Centre at 5 pm. Visit laclabichcounty.com for details.

Friday, June 30

Deadline to pay property taxes without penalties.

Deadline to apply for business licences at no charge. Fees for business licences apply on and after July 1. Visit laclabichcounty.com for more details.

Saturday, July 1

Canada Day. Celebrations at Lac La Biche Mission and evening fireworks (location TBD).

Friday, July 14 - Saturday, July 15

Lakeland Country Fair at Lakeland Agricom.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.com. You can also submit your own 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@laclabichcounty.com.

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



NEW SUMMER FITNESS CLASS PASS

\$70 per pass

July 10 to August 11

Get five weeks of classes with a max. of 10 classes per week.

Max. numbers for classes still apply. Classes are first come, first served.



For more information, call (780) 623-3829 or visit boldcenter.ca.

SWIM FOR LIFE Instructor Course

The Swim For Life Instructor Course is an important opportunity for all lifeguards in training, preparing future instructors to teach and evaluate swimming skills to Lifesaving Society standards.

Participants learn proven teaching methods, lesson and course planning skills and a variety of stroke development drills and correction techniques.



Prerequisite: Age 15; Bronze Cross certification or higher (does not need to be current)

Dates: July 4-7

Times: 9 am to 5 pm

Cost: \$300 (includes all materials)