

YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH

Issue No. 148 February 2024



Lac La Biche County Fire Rescue is recruiting

Lac La Biche County's fire department is actively searching for new members to join our rural fire halls (Hylo, Owl River and Rich Lake).

Fire Rescue members are paid for responding to calls and attending training sessions.

For more information about joining, call 780-623-6774 or visit laclabichecounty.com and click on "Become a firefighter" in the menu under "Work With Us."



Fire season returns next month

As spring inches closer, so does the threat of wildfires.

Fire season begins March 1. Fire permits will be required for all burning except campfires.

Members-at-Large needed for boards and committees

Did you know Lac La Biche County Council is not the only decisionmaking group for our community? And did you know that behind every decision is a discussion, an idea, a recommendation, or all three? And did you know that joining a board or committee is one of the best ways for you to inform Council's choices or have an ongoing say in the running of our community?

We have a number of upcoming board and committee vacancies, so consider this your invitation to find out more and consider applying. More information about all vacancies can be found at laclabichecounty.com/p/ committee-vacancies.

Assessment Review Boards (Local Assessment Review Board/Composite Assessment Review Board)



The Assessment Review Board makes decisions on matters related to property assessments and tax notices. The board meets as needed and is seeking Members-at-Large for three-year terms.

Economic Development Advisory Committee

This committee makes strategic recommendations to Council about high-level economic development matters, like prioritizing objectives, policies and projects.

The committee is seeking members for the following seats for one and two-year terms:

- Non-Profit
- Indigenous
- Member-at-Large (Resident or Non-Resident)

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board



The Subdivision and Development

Appeal Board hears appeals of subdivision and development decisions made by the County. The board meets as needed and is seeking Members-at-Large for three-year terms.

Agricultural Appeals Committee

This committee hears appeals of decisions made



under Alberta's Weed Control Act and/or Agricultural Pests Act. Agricultural and/or legal expertise is considered an asset, but members of our Agricultural Service Board are not eligible to join this committee. The committee meets as needed and is seeking Members-at-Large for the year 2024.

Continued on page 2.

Grab your wings and start shovelling with Snow Angels

Winter may not have arrived on time, but it's never too early or too late for neighbours to help each other out.

Snow Angels is a volunteer-based program that helps seniors and individuals with low mobility clear snow from their walkways.

Individuals, families, community organizations, businesses and groups (anyone willing!) can become Snow Angels.

Ready to earn your wings and start shovelling? For more

information or to receive a volunteer or residential application for the program:

- Call 780-623-6726
- Email kristen.shewchuk@ laclabichecounty.com

How can I tell who needs a Snow Angel's help?

Residents who need a Snow Angel's assistance have signs on their properties. Each sign has a small shovel installed, making it easy to take a few minutes and help your neighbours in need.



New board member needed for local Library Board

Continued from front page.

Another board in need of new members is the Lac La Biche County Library Board, which manages two sites (Stuart MacPherson Public Library at the Bold Centre and Plamondon Municipal Library at Ecole Plamondon School) as well as pop-up locations. The Library Board serves all of Lac La Biche County and neighbouring Indigenous communities. The board plays a leadership role in providing high-quality library materials and welcoming services, because everyone knows a library is so much more than a book-lending service. The board meets up to six times each year and is seeking one member for a three-year term.

How to apply for a board or committee vacancy:

- 1. Visit **laclabichecounty.com** to learn more about the board/committee you're interested in and any application requirements.
- 2. Complete a Committee Member Application Form (available on the website) and email it to legservices@laclabichecounty.com.
- 3. If you have any additional questions, email legservices@laclabichecounty.com.

Go with the flow: Learn the ins and outs of fire flow

Fire flow. Two four-letter words that can have a multiple-alarm impact on a development.

Fire flow is the amount of water needed for firefighting in a specific area. When there are no fire hydrants nearby, fire flow should be provided by an on-site water supply.

What does that mean for developers? Join us for an open house to get your questions answered over a free cup of coffee. Where: Tea Room, McArthur Place When: Thursday, Feb. 22 from 5-7 pm What to expect: A casual drop-in opportunity to find out about fire flow regulations, Safety Codes permits and more.

Questions in the meantime? Call 780-623-1747 or email planning. development@laclabichecounty.com.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



APPLIANCES

Before changing an appliance, you should contact our Planning & Development department to find out if Safety Codes permits are required. These permits guarantee that work meets Alberta safety standards.

Generally, permits are required when you relocate an appliance in your home, because that means you're changing the plumbing setup, ventilation, wiring, etc.

- You will need permits if you are replacing a furnace or boiler, even if the new unit will go in the same place as the old one.
- You may need permits if you're replacing a water heater. It depends on the appliance style and if there are going to be ventilation changes.
- You **won't** need permits if you're replacing a toilet, dishwasher or washing machine, as long as the new appliance goes in the same place.

To ask our team about permits and when they're required, call 780-623-1747 or email planning.development@ laclabichecounty.com.

GREEN REBATE PROGRAM

It's never been a better time to reduce your water and energy consumption and shrink your environmental footprint.

We want to reward residents who do right by our environment, so did you know you can get money back every time you buy an eligible Energy Star or WaterSense-certified appliance or fixture? Rebates range from \$50 for a low-flush toilet to \$400 for a furnace or boiler.

PLUS: Don't forget about the Buy-Local Bonus. To promote local business, we'll add 10 per cent to your rebate if you buy from a retailer in Lac La Biche County.

For more information about the Green Rebate Program, visit **laclabichecounty.com** and click on "Utilities" in the menu under "Our Services."



Family Day

What do sleigh rides, shelterbuilding, obstacle courses and cinnamon buns have in common? They're all best enjoyed as a family, and they're all going to be part of our annual Family Day celebrations!

When? Monday, Feb. 19 | 12-3 pm Where? Bold Centre How much? FREE!

- Cinnamon buns and hot chocolate, provided by New Life Victory Church
- Family crafting station
- Family photos
- Free chili lunch, sponsored by Britton's Your Independent Grocer
- Fun in the great outdoors, like fire-lighting, shelter-building and more survival skill-building with John Ritchie of Hideaway Adventure Grounds
- Indigenous relay races, organized by Lac La Biche County's Focus Indigenous committee
- Live music by Girlz With Guitarz
- Sleigh rides
- Special VIP section for seniors
- Ultimate Challenge inflatable obstacle course

We will also be collecting cash and item donations for the local food bank.





Dates to Remember

Monday, Feb. 12

"Plamondon Village Square" open house at Festival Centre, Plamondon, from 6-8 pm.

Monday, Feb. 19

Family Day celebrations from 12-3 pm at the Bold Centre. See page 3 for details.

Free public swim at Portage Pool from 1-4 pm.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Second session of winter fitness programs at the Bold Centre begins, running until March 28.

Thursday, Feb. 22

Fire Flow & Safety Codes open house at McArthur Place from 5-7 pm. See page 2 for details.

Friday, March 1

Fire season begins. Permits will be mandatory for all burning except campfires.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichecounty.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 <u>intouch@</u> <u>laclabichecounty.com</u>.

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



Canadian Publication Agreement #41492052



New Aquatics Facility starts construction this month!

Access to the Bold Centre is going to look a bit different this month, but our state-of-the-art multiplex will remain open as we prepare to add a brand-new Aquatics Facility.

Feb. 5-13: Construction fencing will be set up. Half of the main entrance will be blocked off, but the sliding doors will be open.
Feb. 14-18: The entire main entrance will be closed so the existing canopy can be removed. Patrons will be asked to use the food court entrance.

Feb. 19-March 31: The main entrance will go back to being only half-closed.

For more information and project updates: boldcentreaquatics.com

