

Fire season ends

Fire season has ended as of October 31, which means fire permits are no longer required, but residents are asked to continue notifying the County about any burning they plan to do by calling (780) 623-6774. This tells us where to expect smoke and prevents false alarms.

Fire season may be over, but it's not time to throw caution to the winds. Remember that if you lose control of a burn and the County has to put it out for you, then you may be billed for the cost of the emergency response.



Priority focus areas

These are Council's high-level priorities for our community in the County's 2022-2032 Strategic Plan. These are driving forces behind County programs and services, and the annual budget.



Flourishing Economy



Service Excellence



Strategic Communication



Social Wellness



Tourism & Recreation



Environment & Agriculture



Grade 4 students toured the Plamondon landfill in October as part of Waste Reduction Week. Here, Environmental Services Coordinator Randi Dupras shows youngsters a pile of tires taller than she is, all destined to be recycled. Did you know Lac La Biche County was recently named a Collection Site Award of Excellence winner by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority, for the comprehensiveness of its recycling programs? See page 2 for more information.

Council to start 2023 budget discussions Residents invited to give input at open houses and online

The annual budget is the key to everything Lac La Biche County does, and we don't want to do it without you.

Council will start discussing a proposed budget for 2023 later this month, and the public is invited to give feedback at two open houses. The first will be on Tuesday, November 22 at Festival Centre in Plamondon from 5-8 p.m. The second will be on Wednesday, November 23 at the View Point Room in the Bold Center from 5-8 p.m. Keep an eye on our website (laclabichecounty.com) and Facebook page for updates.

New this year, we're trying an online public engagement platform called A Balancing Act, which will put residents in the driver's seat for a budgeting

simulation. Council has to make a lot of tough decisions at budget time (should we plan to hold the line on taxes, should we reduce services to save money, etc.) while thinking about big-picture concerns like inflation. From November 4-25, the public can use this simulator to try their hand at municipal budgeting and give feedback to Council electronically.

To access A Balancing Act, visit laclabichecounty.com/p/budget.

Council has set guiding principles for the budget, and Administration has drafted a proposal that considers Council's strategic goals and priorities for the community (see list at left), the organization's needs and specific directions that Council has given.

County recognized for recycling collection site excellence

Lac La Biche County has been recognized by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) as a 2022 Collection Site Award of Excellence winner.

Winners are chosen annually for exceptional dedication to meeting all collection site requirements, and for running sites that are organized, convenient and safe for residents and businesses to use.

Residents may not realize how much goes into operating an excellent landfill or transfer station. To qualify for an award like this, a recycling collection site must have electronics, paint, tire and used oil recycling programs, must properly separate and store materials, and must have processes in place to prevent spills and groundwater contamination.



(From left) ARMA Director of Operations (Electronics and Tires) Che-Wei Chung, County Environmental Services Coordinator Randi Dupras, County Environmental Services Manager Molly Fyten, County Waste & Recycling Supervisor Dan Gaudet and ARMA Director of Operations (Paint and Used Oil) Erin Tessier.

"We take pride in the way we operate and manage recycling and waste programs for our residents and businesses. We are also proud to be leaders in this field," says Molly Fyten, the County's Manager of Environmental Services. "Our hope is

that we see growth in the use of these programs each year and greater acceptance of them by everyone."



As mentioned above, we have recycling programs for electronics, paint, tires and used oil. Wondering what else you can recycle at a Lac La Biche County landfill or transfer station? We now have an electronic What Goes Where tool on our website (laclabichecounty.com — click on "What Goes Where" in the menu under "Our Services"). Try it out and see for yourself just how much it's possible to recycle.

FROM THE COUNCIL TABLE: Bits, bites and highlights from Lac La Biche County Council



Medical professional attraction and retention

The regional shortage of medical professionals is very concerning to Lac La Biche County, and we know access to quality medical care is often a major factor in families' decisions to move to and stay in our community.

Council recently transferred almost \$400,000 into a special "reserve fund," which means the money is being saved for a specific use — in this case, initiatives designed to attract and keep medical professionals in the local area. Administration will present a proposed initiative to Council as part of 2023 budget discussions.

Transitional housing project

Council has approved money to help set up transitional housing to assist the community's homeless population. The housing project will be on a County-owned property in the area of Alexander Hamilton Park.

Private driveway and road maintenance

Council has accepted revisions to the County's Private Driveway and Road Maintenance Policy and Procedure. A key takeaway for rural residents is rural driveway snow-clearing (the County's Flag Purchasing Program) will now cost \$50 per flag instead of \$25 per flag. Keep in mind that it still costs the County about \$200 to clear a driveway each time, so it may look like the County is now making money at residents' expense but that's not the case. The County is trying to recover costs, but we are not profiting in this scenario.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



SECONDARY SUITES

Thinking of turning your basement or garage into a suite for rent? Don't let us stop you — but let us help you stay on the right side of the regulations so you don't run into difficulties.

What is a secondary suite? A secondary suite is a self-contained suite, with its own amenities like a kitchen and bathroom, within an existing building on the same lot as a single detached dwelling. Think basement suites or garage suites.

Depending on the zoning of your property, a secondary suite may be a permitted use, a discretionary use or simply not allowed. You can find out your property's zoning by using the County's free online MuniSight map tool (go to laclabichcounty.com/p/maps) or you can contact our Planning & Development department.

The County's Land Use Bylaw says only one secondary suite is permitted on a lot. The bylaw also contains size and placement regulations. For example, a secondary suite cannot have more than two bedrooms, cannot be placed in the front yard and cannot block the view from a house on the neighbouring lot. Also, a secondary suite should be designed and finished to appear "visually compatible" with the main dwelling on the property (i.e. it should look like it belongs there).

Why are there so many rules? These regulations are in place to make sure secondary suites are built in a controlled manner and contribute to natural neighbourhood growth in a positive way. Due to their plumbing, electrical and other needs, secondary suites must also meet the requirements of Alberta's *Safety Codes Act*.

How do I apply to build a secondary suite? A property's registered owner, or an agent on their behalf, can apply for a development permit. They will need:

- A completed application form, signed by all registered owners
- A copy of the certificate of title, dated within 30 days of the application
- The application fee

NOTE: Once the application is considered complete, a Development Officer may take up to 21 days to review it and advise of next steps.

For more information, or to submit a development application, contact our Planning & Development team at (780) 623-1747 or email planning.development@laclabichcounty.com.



NEXT GENERATION Teen Volunteer Group

Teenagers interested in volunteering to help with children's activities at the Festival of Trees later this month should call Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 520-7183 or email christine.martin@laclabichcounty.com. There are plenty of volunteer spots available!

Joining the Next Generation Teen Volunteer Group is an easy way for local youth to ease into volunteering with support and mentorship from experienced professionals. Every person has unique gifts and passions, and volunteering is a great way to discover what you're good at while cultivating new skills. All the while, you'll be making a difference and making a positive impact on your fellow community members.



Seniors Holiday Social: Eat, drink and be merry!

Local seniors and emerging seniors are invited to a free Seniors Holiday Social on Thursday, Dec. 1.

This annual event, organized by Lac La Biche County Family and Community Support Services, is a great opportunity for older residents to start the holiday season with good cheer, good company and good food. Join us in the Community Hall at the Bold Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a free meal and live musical entertainment.

For more information, please call James Verhaege at (780) 623-6726. To arrange free transportation to or from the event, call (780) 623-6763.





Dates to Remember

Tuesday, November 22

Budget open house at Festival Centre, Plamondon, from 5-8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23

Budget open house in the View Point Room, Bold Center, from 5-8 p.m.

Thursday, November 24

Light Up The Night & Santa Parade in downtown Lac La Biche, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 25

Free swim at Portage Pool from 1-3 p.m. sponsored by Al-Pac.

Saturday, November 26

WIBIT swim at Portage Pool from 12-4 p.m.

November 26-27

Festival of Trees & Christmas Shopping Extravaganza at the Bold Center.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on our website (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.

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



Wellness Workshops



Corrective Exercise For DESK Jockeys



Fall: Nov. 16, 2022
Winter: March 15, 2023

As a child, were you ever told to sit up straight? We were. Do you now sit for long periods of time at work and at home? We do. This workshop will help you correct bad posture habits that come from prolonged sitting — habits that can turn into serious problems for your whole body.

Register now, online at boldcenter.ca or call (780) 623-3829, and stay tuned for more Wellness Workshops this winter. *Note: all workshops need a minimum of three registrants in order to run.*

WATER, FUN AND WORK

Do you enjoy being around water, helping people, gaining leadership skills and having fun at work? If yes, Aquatic Services is the place for you.

You can start taking lifeguarding courses as early as 13 years old, and achieve Canada-wide certification by the time you're 16. Aquatics can provide a rewarding experience as either a part-time job or a lifelong career in community recreation.

PLUS: The County plans to build a brand-new Aquatics Centre, so opportunity is knocking.



We offer:

- Competitive pay and a fantastic benefits package
- Flexible work hours
- Training and professional development opportunities

For more information, contact Portage Pool: (780) 623-0777 or poolstaff@laclabichedcounty.com.