



New doctors headed to Lac La Biche County

Our community is set to receive a much-needed injection of healthcare services.

Four new doctors are on their way and should start work within the next year and a half, pending approval by Alberta Health Services. AHS is also expecting new international nurses to join our local healthcare team this winter.

The doctor shortages we've been experiencing are troubling for everyone. The County has been working hard to help recruit and retain medical professionals, and we proudly support organizations like the Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation and the Regional Attraction & Retention Society in their work. Healthcare is a cause that's near and dear to all community members' hearts, and we know access to reliable medical services plays an enormous role in our residents' quality of life.

FIRE SEASON HAS ARRIVED

Spring is just around the corner, and we're expecting a dry one.

Fire season runs until October 31. Permits are required for all burning except campfires. Fortunately, permits are free and easy to get.

For fire permits from the County:

1. Visit laclabichecounty.com.
2. Click on "Protective Services" in the menu under "Our Services."
3. Scroll to "Burn Permits and Fire Season" and click on the permit application link.
4. Complete the interactive form.
5. Need help? Call 780-623-6767.

Note: We can only issue fire permits for lands outside the Forest Protection Area. If you live in the FPA, you must get your permits from the Government of Alberta. Visit alberta.ca/get-a-fire-permit or call 780-623-5388 for information.

Burning without a valid permit is against the law and can be extremely dangerous. Getting a permit also tells us when and where to expect smoke, so firefighters don't waste precious time and resources responding to false alarms.

Your burn is your responsibility

In every fire season, we ask residents to burn responsibly by obeying the conditions listed on their permits and paying close attention to fire restrictions. This year, we can't emphasize this responsibility enough. All signs point to drought conditions this spring and summer, which could mean a *very* busy fire season, so we are urging residents not to take any chances.

If you lose control of a burn and the fire department has to put it out, you may be charged for the cost of the emergency response.

Take steps to protect yourself and your property:

1. All residents should have emergency plans and emergency kits.
2. Residents should apply for **free** FireSmart property assessments. We can recommend ways to make your property safer, and we can even help with brush removal. Visit laclabichecounty.com/p/protective-services or call 780-623-6774 for information or to apply.
3. Agricultural producers should have fire extinguishers with them when they're out working.
4. No matter what vehicle or equipment you're using, be aware of how it affects dry soil and vegetation. Make sure any "hot spots" are monitored and cleaned so they don't accidentally start fires.



Sign up for our Local Emergency Alerting System

With an unusually mild winter behind us, many residents are wondering about our emergency preparedness — and theirs — in the months ahead.

One easy thing that every resident can do is register for the County's Local Emergency Alerting System. Every second counts in a crisis; this system provides instant notifications about nearby emergencies.

Visit laclabichcounty.com and click on "Local Emergency Alerting System" to learn more and register. You can sign up for text messages, voice calls or emails (or all three) and you can also subscribe to optional non-emergency notifications.



CONSTRUCTION AT A GLANCE



- The old retaining wall along the lakeshore below Churchill Drive in the hamlet of Lac La Biche is being removed and replaced with large rocks to enhance and better protect the shoreline.
- A permanent pier is being installed in McArthur Park. We expect it to be fully complete in June.
- Work has started on a new state-of-the-art public pool and aquatics facility at the Bold Centre.

We always notify residents and business owners who are going to be directly affected by construction, but you can also find a list of ongoing projects at laclabichcounty.com.

WATERSHED WORKINGS: Plamondon Creek restoration



As part of our Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan, we're looking at ways to restore shoreline habitat along Plamondon Creek, in partnership with local landowners. This creek flows into Plamondon Bay, affecting Lac La Biche Lake's overall water quality. Healthy shorelines are essential for clean water and strong ecosystems, as they can filter runoff, prevent erosion, and provide food and homes for birds, fish and other wildlife.

Plamondon Creek is not the only water body we're examining. In order for a Watershed Management Plan to be successful, we need to look at all of the lands and waters that drain into Lac La Biche Lake.

PLUS: We have applied for the Government of Alberta's Wetland Replacement Program, so we can adapt the decommissioned reservoir on the west side of Plamondon to a more natural state.



New bike and skate park coming soon!

Council has approved a design for McArthur Park's new bike pump-track and skate park. Construction can start this spring as part of Phase 2 of redeveloping McArthur Park, and they should be open to the public by early August.

Nominations open for Environmental Stewardship Awards

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to care for the environment? How about a local business or community group that's leading the way with green thinking?

Nominations for our Environmental Stewardship Awards close Wednesday, May 1.

There are four award categories: Individual, Community Organization or Group, Business/Institutional, and Agriculture.

The winner in each category receives an award certificate and a cash prize of \$500. This is one of our many ways of encouraging environmental responsibility in our community.

For more details about the awards program, visit laclabichcounty.com, call 780-623-6739 or email green@laclabichcounty.com.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



PROPERTY HISTORY

Your property tells a story. If you've ever wondered what happened in the chapters before you took possession, our Planning & Development team can bring you up to speed.

We can provide copies of permits and approvals that Lac La Biche County has issued for your property, so you can finally tell what the deal is with that old shed in the corner of the yard, or why the previous owners never built a deck in the ideal spot for one.

How do I ask for my property's records? If you are the property owner, or if you have authorized someone else by written consent, you can complete a routine disclosure request form (available on our website) and email it to planning.development@laclabichcounty.com. Keep in mind there will be a fee for the records search.

To find the form:

1. Visit laclabichcounty.com.
2. Click on "Access to Information" in the menu under "Our Services." Then click on "Routine Disclosure & Active Dissemination Procedure." The form is at the end of the procedure document.

Our team will search your land file(s) and provide available records.

Plan for Alexander Hamilton Park's future approved



Council has approved a management plan for Alexander Hamilton Park, to balance the park's many different uses and prepare for improvements.

Two new developments that are already planned include a stormwater pond and a mountain bike trail system. These and other future additions, like expanded walking trails and enhanced picnic spots, need to be compatible with the park's existing features, especially its status as an off-leash dog area.

Alexander Hamilton Park is many things to many people, and we would like to thank the 300-plus community members who shared their thoughts with us in the making of this plan. To read the full plan, visit laclabichcounty.com.

Golf course upgrades

Our beautiful golf course needs some TLC, and golfers can expect some temporary changes to the course layout this spring, summer and fall.

Tee boxes, cart paths, water hazards and landscaping on multiple holes will be improved as part of a seven-year construction plan. Our goal is to keep it as an 18-hole course as much as possible, which may mean dividing some holes into two and re-routing pedestrian and cart traffic while the improvements are made.

Healthier Communities GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the date: Thursday, July 4 at Lac La Biche Golf & Country Club. Help us raise funds for local healthcare with a fun-filled day.



Transitional housing open

A facility to help people who are experiencing homelessness break the cycle and find stable housing is now up and running next to Alexander Hamilton Park.

The facility opened in January and can be accessed through the park. It is run by the Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Society, and offers a four-stage program to help people transition out of homelessness.

If you have questions about this project, you can call 780-623-6819 or you can email anita.polturak@laclabichcounty.com.



Dates to Remember

Fire season runs until October 31. Permits are required for all burning except campfires.

Sunday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day.

Saturday, March 23

WIBIT swim from 12-4 pm at Portage Pool.

Friday, March 29

Good Friday. County offices will be closed for the holiday.

Monday, April 1

Easter Monday. County offices will be closed for the holiday.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.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@laclabichcounty.com.

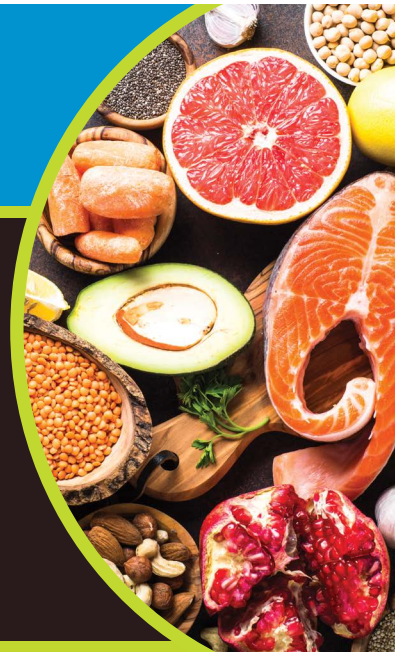
Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.



March is Nutrition Month

The foods we eat play a huge role in our wellbeing. A healthy, balanced diet helps you live longer and avoid disease — and feel better while you do it.

Follow the Bold Centre on social media for local Nutrition Month events like workshops, taste-testing experiences and more, offered in partnership with Alberta Health Services and Lakeland PCN.



March Membership Promotion:

2 months for 1

During the month of March, buy a one-month All-Access Bold Centre and Portage Pool membership and receive a second month free! Visit the Bold Centre's front desk or call 780-623-3829 for details.