



Watershed Management Plan being updated

Lac La Biche County is updating the Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to replace the previous WMP from 2009. Throughout 2020, the County and the WMP Steering Committee have been preparing a draft WMP.

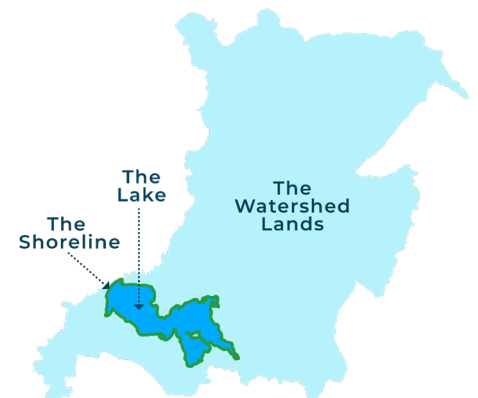
What is the WMP?

The WMP is a comprehensive, science-based plan that will coordinate action for the protection and improvement of Lac La Biche, its shore lands, and watershed. It is a guidance document and planning tool primarily for decision makers (municipalities and local authorities), non-governmental and community organizations, industry, and watershed residents.

The WMP will establish goals, objectives, and recommendations that aim to help protect the watershed and the lake. The WMP identifies three geographic areas where these recommendations can take place: **The Watershed Lands, The Shoreline, and The Lake**. The recommendations for these areas will address topics such as land cover, biodiversity, land use, phosphorus management, water quality, and riparian areas.

What's Next?

In the coming months, the draft WMP will be posted on the Lac La Biche County website and there will be online public engagement sessions to learn more about the WMP. Watch for



updates on the County's WMP webpage and a newsletter in early 2021 for more information.

Project Update Email List

If you would like to be added to the email list for project updates, please email Randi.Dupras@laclabichecounty.com.

Fire Services recruiting for all stations

Paid-on-call firefighters operate in five districts

Lac La Biche County Fire Services is looking for everyday heroes to join the ranks across the region. They have stations across the County in Owl River, Hylo, Rich Lake, Plamondon, and Lac La Biche.

Did you know?

- Fire Services currently has 63 members, including full-time administrative staff.
- Fire Services had 467 calls in 2020. Approximately \$3.9 million in property was saved due to structural firefighting response.
- The department completed 90 FireSmart home assessments, and conducted wood chipping on 65 properties. Staff also performed Fire Smart prescriptions on Blais Resort across 3.7 hectares, which reduces the likelihood of wildfires threatening homes and properties in that area.
- Staff completed 39 Safety Codes Fire Inspections in 2020.
- One firefighter recruit class was held in 2020 with 10 successful students (7 probationary firefighters and 3 cadets).
- In the June 2020 flood, firefighters were instrumental in not only assisting to pump water out of flooded areas but also in providing rescue services for residents



In 2021, a new 20,000 square foot firehall will be operational as the Regional Fire Services facility housing headquarters, Station #1 staff, and apparatus. This building will enhance operational response and training, including our annual recruit classes.

In addition to 40 hours of training, new cadets and recruits will have knowledge in hazardous materials, vehicle extrication, ladder work, breathing apparatus, ropes and knots, protective equipment, water supply and WHMIS, in addition to several other vital areas.

Will you answer the call? Apply to be part of our team in 2021!

Visit www.laclabichcounty.com/firefighters



Nominations open for Environmental Stewardship Awards

Nominations are now open for Lac La Biche County's 2021 Environmental Stewardship Awards. Do you know an individual or community group that has gone above and beyond in their efforts to preserve Lac La Biche County's natural environment? Nominate them for an environmental stewardship award, and those efforts could be celebrated for all to hear. Nominations are accepted for four categories: Individual, Community Organization/Group, Business/Institution, and Agriculture. You may even nominate yourself.

Winners in each category will receive \$500, a certificate, and public acknowledgement their achievement.

To learn more about the criteria and selection process, or to download a nomination form, visit laclabichedcounty.com.

Council approves waiving Fire Inspection/Occupancy Load Limit Fee

To help local businesses comply with the requirement for occupancy load permits (legal number of customers permitted at one time) during the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has approved waiving the permit fee (\$125) retroactively in effect Jan. 1 through to Apr. 1, 2021.

Temporary occupancy load permits for businesses/organizations are required due to the Province's COVID-19 regulations. This permit legally determines how many customers are permitted to enter a business at one time and is processed through Lac La Biche County Fire Rescue Services

Please ensure the electronic form has been completed if you haven't done so already: www.laclabichedcounty.com/occupancyloadpermit.

Grant Opportunity: COVID Relief Support Program

Lac La Biche County has created the *COVID Relief Support Program* to assist non-profit organizations with expenses and deficits that are a direct result of COVID-19. Qualifying organizations may apply for up to \$1,000. Priority will be given to organizations which did not receive funding under the first intake.

To learn more, visit laclabichedcounty.com/covidrelief

Application Deadline: February 15, 2021

UPCOMING FCSS PROGRAMS

Due to COVID-19, participants must preregister for all programs. Please call 780-623-6745 to sign-up.

Family Day

Watch for ideas on how to celebrate Family Day 2021 safely with your family while still getting outside and enjoying all the wonderful things our community has to offer! Details coming soon! Please stay tuned to the FCSS Facebook page.

For more programs, follow FCSS and FCSS Young Family Connections on Facebook!

TALK BOX TIP

Talk Box is a parent's guide to creating language-rich environments.



Singing is a great way for children to learn new words.

Don't forget to make up actions for the songs!





Dates to Remember

February 15

COVID Relief Support Program application deadline

February 23

Regular Council Meeting
10:00 am

February 27-28

Winter Festival of Speed

Check the Community Events Calendar at laclabichedcounty.com for more local events.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, changes have been made to Lac La Biche County facilities, programming and services. Visit laclabichedcounty.com to learn more.

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.



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**Want to provide input on Lac Biche County's upcoming aquatic centre project?
Keep an eye out for this postcard in your mailbox in early February, and make your voice heard!**

A new pool?!

Tell us what you think.

The County is developing a concept plan for a new pool complex at the Bold Center. The concept plan will show the different amenities that would be part of a new pool.

We need to hear from you! Please go online and share what your household thinks should be in a new pool complex. The Portage Pool has served the community well but it's time to plan for a new pool at the Bold Center.

If you would rather complete a paper copy of the questionnaire or have questions please contact recreation@laclabichedcounty.com. You will still need your ACCESS CODE for the paper copy.



Aquatic Centre Concept Plan – Household Survey

Visit www.laclabichedcounty.com and click on the link so you can tell us what you think. You will need to have your ACCESS CODE to participate in the survey.

XXXXXX

Access Code

The deadline to share your thoughts is **February 19, 2021**.

