



YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH

Issue No. 153 July 2024

2024 Green Initiatives Calendar

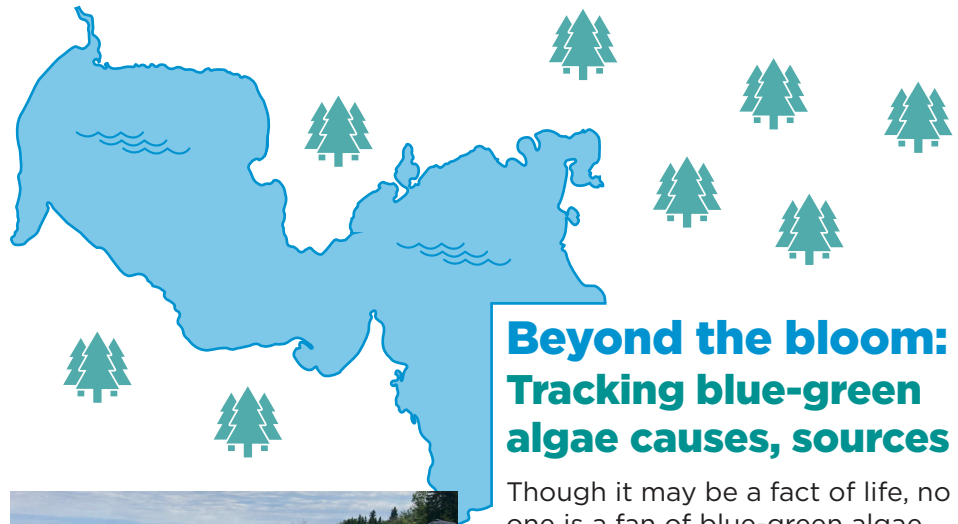


Submit your photos for our 2025 Green Initiatives Calendar

A jaw-dropping view of the Northern Lights, a pelican on the water, a doe and fawn in the early morning mist — we who live here are spoiled with photogenic moments, and we're asking local photographers to submit their best shots for our 2025 Green Initiatives Calendar.

The annual calendar features photos of Lac La Biche County's natural beauty and wildlife in all four seasons, and the deadline to submit entries for next year's calendar is Wednesday, July 31.

To enter: Email photos to green@laclabichedcounty.com and be sure to include your name and the general location(s) where your photos were taken. Photos must be taken in Lac La Biche County. Each winning entry will receive a prize.



Beyond the bloom: Tracking blue-green algae causes, sources

Though it may be a fact of life, no one is a fan of blue-green algae.

Lac La Biche County is one of 11 collaborators in a project to improve lake health. The project will collect water samples and satellite images of popular recreational lakes, including Lac la Biche Lake. The plan is to create an app for tracking blue-green algae blooms and seeing which beaches or areas are affected in near-real time, so residents and visitors can plan around them.

This data will also help us learn more about the root causes of blue-green algae blooms in our biggest local lake, so we can make informed and data-driven decisions about lake health.

We hear people when they say "fix the lake," and we wish it was that simple. It's a complex process, but we're committed to doing what we can to keep the lake healthy and sustainable for future generations.



Among other programs, Lac La Biche County tests water quality at lake entry points, preserves and restores wetlands and shorelines, and encourages environmental awareness in the community.

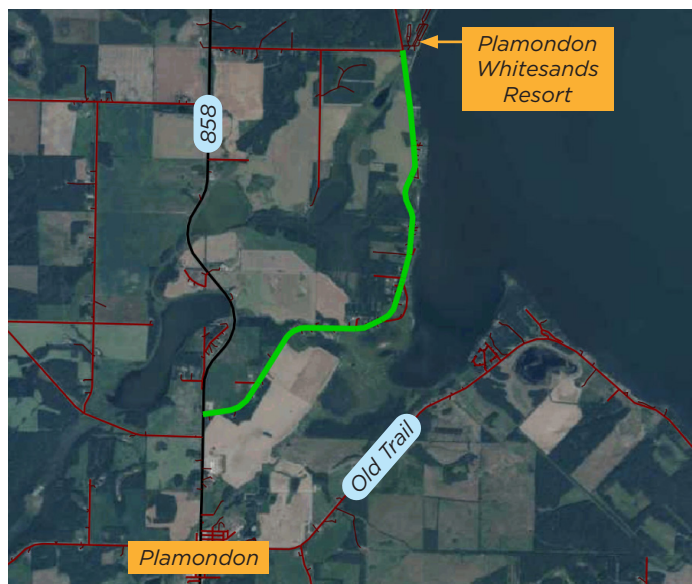


A new "bioswale" for filtering runoff in McArthur Park.

Campsite Road major repairs

Council has budgeted \$1.41 million to improve around 2.3 kilometres of Campsite Road, the road connecting Highway 858 to Plamondon Bay and Plamondon Whitesands Resort.

The road suffers from potholes, ruts and washboarding. Council considered different options to improve the situation as part of 2024 budget discussions. We expect surface repairs to be completed by September. In the meantime, Campsite Road should be used by local traffic only. Other improvement projects happening in and around Plamondon include building an addition to Plamondon's fire hall for equipment storage, and installing a second pump at the local truck-fill station to reduce wait times.



What about Highway 858? It's a mess every time it rains!

Highway 858 is managed by the Government of Alberta, and County Council has been asking for it to be improved for many years. The unpaved section between the La Biche River and Blais Resort is a safety concern, as anyone who's ever driven on it after a heavy rainfall knows, and Council takes every opportunity to raise the issue with provincial politicians.

We would like to acknowledge the Government of Alberta has committed to improving Highway 881. The Province's 2024 budget has set aside almost \$100 million over the next few years to build climbing and passing lanes for driver safety along the highway.



Nominations open for 2024 Rural Beautification Award

Who's got the best-looking bit of countryside in Lac La Biche County?

Every summer, we recognize rural residents who go above and beyond to make their properties look good with the Rural Beautification Award.

Residents with farmsteads or acreages outside the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon are eligible for nomination. Our evaluators carefully consider aspects like landscaping, foliage and decorations, and choose one winning property. Past winners

have had everything from antique farming equipment on display to orchards, ornamental bridges and more. Last winner's lucky recipients were Charmayne and Julian Lemay.

All nominations must be received by Wednesday, July 31. Visit laclabichedcounty.com for more information about nominating, or call 780-623-6739. The Rural Beautification Award is given annually by our Agricultural Service Board, and winners each receive a driveway sign and a special mention in *Your County In Touch* later in the year.



Last year's Rural Beautification Award winners were Charmayne and Julian Lemay, who received the award from Councillors Colette Borgun and Kevin Pare.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



AREA STRUCTURE PLANS

We have recently updated our website with an interactive map of Area Structure Plans in effect in Lac La Biche County. To find it, go to laclabichedcounty.com and click on "Planning and Development" in the menu under "Our Services," then click on "Statutory Plans."

What is an Area Structure Plan, or ASP? An ASP is a framework for development in a specific area. Generally, once an area is identified for development, an ASP tells us how that development will unfold over time, and where roads and public utilities need to go to service the development.

Each ASP is adopted by Council as a bylaw, so it stays on the books as a series of guidelines for development until it's either amended or repealed. If you live in an area that's covered by an ASP, it may affect the types of development and land use that are allowed.

Just like our Land Use Bylaw, ASPs are not meant to get in the way of development. They simply make sure factors like future population growth, the environment, etc. are taken into consideration when developments are planned. If you have questions about ASPs, please contact our Planning & Development department at 780-623-1747, or email planning.development@laclabichedcounty.com.

Main Street construction update

We are now well into Phase 2 of the three-phase Main Street Revitalization project in the hamlet of Lac La Biche. Construction this year is taking place along 101 Avenue from 102 Street to 101 Street.

Work on Phase 2 is expected to be completed in the fall of this year, despite the unusually wet construction season we've experienced. The bulk of the project costs and timeline come from water and sewer line replacements, as the existing lines under Main Street are very old and becoming unreliable.

New street lights, traffic lights, planters, trees and sidewalk features have been installed in last year's construction zone (between 103 Street and 102 Street), so residents and visitors to the hamlet's downtown core get a sense of how Main Street will look when the project is completed in 2025.



Game Of Cards

Something good is in the cards, and we're not bluffing.

In partnership with Bad Moon Comics and Games, we've launched a new program for kids ages 8-12 to master two wildly popular card games while having fun this summer.



Disney Lorcana

Tuesdays: July 9, 16 and 23

Pokémon

Tuesdays: Aug. 6, 13 and 20

Cost: FREE! Game instructions, snacks and beverages are included.

All program sessions take place from 10 am to 12 pm at Bad Moon Comics and Games on Main Street in Lac La Biche. Registration is required, and kids can join for just one or multiple sessions of their choice.

Card and board games are great ways for kids to connect while learning critical thinking, communication, problem-solving and other skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

For more information, please call 780-623-0146 or email deborah.menard@laclabichedcounty.com.

To register, call 780-623-3829 or visit us online at boldcenter.ca/activellbc.



Dates to Remember

Thursday, July 25

Urban Poling for Mobility & Urban Poling For Fitness workshops. Call 780-623-3829 or visit boldcenter.ca/activellbc for details or to register.

Wednesday, July 31

Deadline to submit photos for 2025 Green Initiatives Calendar contest. See front page for details.

Deadline to submit Rural Beautification Award nominations. See page 2 for details.

Aug. 2-4, 2024

Lac La Biche Summer Days.

Aug. 6-9, 2024

Summer Art Intensive Camp. Call 780-623-3829 or visit boldcenter.ca/activellbc for details or to register.

Junior Volleyball Camp. Call 780-623-3829 or visit boldcenter.ca/activellbc for details or to register.

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



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Lac La Biche County *welcoming by nature.* RECREATION PROGRAM *cenovus ENERGY*



On Fridays, join Mad About Science

The Summer Shack is Back!
Join us for surprises all summer long.



Located at Dumasfield Park

Monday to Friday • 12:30 - 4:30 pm
July 2 - August 23 • Ages 6 - 12

FREE!

www.laclabichedcounty.com