



2021 FireSmart assessments available for free

Spring is just around the corner, but that means wildfire season is too. Lac La Biche County can help you get your home ready for wildfire season by performing a free FireSmart assessment and wood chipping services on your property.

Lac La Biche County Fire Chief John Kokotilo says an assessment helps residents identify specific actions they can take to reduce wildfire risks on their property. These include, but aren't limited to, wildfire fuel reduction (thinning/laddering trees, cutting tall grass), building construction, and fuel source (like propane tanks) relocation.

Kokotilo adds that in the last three years, Lac La Biche County has averaged 80-100 assessments and wood chipping projects annually.

"These initiatives have helped to ensure that those residences that were involved in our program have just become that less susceptible to wildfire," he says. "Residents that had previous FireSmart mitigation can usually look at a three-to-five year reoccurring maintenance schedule."

Kokotilo says that on top of providing an increased sense of safety, being part of a FireSmart community also helps residents develop closer relationships with neighbours and local fire agencies, as well as a sense of pride in caring for the natural environment around the community.

To book your free FireSmart assessment, or to book FireSmart maintenance on a previously assessed property, call (780) 623-6774.

Notice: Community Garden Survey Feedback required

Lac La Biche County needs your feedback and is asking you to complete a quick community garden survey to help guide upcoming changes.

Did you know? The community garden has been in place since 2010 and is managed by the County's Environmental Services department.

The community garden is currently a free program for residents of Lac La Biche County and provides a way for people to enjoy their gardening passion in the outdoors, nurturing seedlings to grow and flourish into edible creations. It is a wonderful opportunity for residents to work together and promotes healthy living.

The County is considering a potential relocation of the community garden. Another area of consideration is utilizing raised beds; however, there is a cost associated to build these and may require the gardener to pay an annual fee to utilize the raised bed plots. Overall, Council has directed staff to encourage more feedback from residents to guide changes and decisions to ensure the experience in the community garden is improved and positive.



There's more! For all surveys completed, residents will be entered into a random draw to win either a rain barrel, composter, or green cone next month!

Please note that contact information entered in the survey will not be shared for any other purpose than the draw and will not be linked for future staff follow-up.

You can find the survey online at www.laclabichcounty.com/communitygarden.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW Available Online

What were some of the County's major projects last year? What caused the spring flooding and how did County staff fight it? How much roadside grass was mowed? Find that out, plus much more, in the 2020 Year In Review.

If you didn't receive a physical copy in the mail, you can view the Year In Review at www.laclabichcounty.com



Dust Abatement Program Applications Open

If springtime dust is an issue at your property, Lac La Biche County's free Dust Abatement Program can help you deal with it.

In accordance with policy, a one-time application is available for a distance of up to 200 metres on municipal roadways directly in front of farmsteads, residences, cemeteries, community organizations, churches and businesses.

Applications received on or before April 30 will automatically be incorporated into the dust abatement program provided the request is compliant with policy. Applications received after April 30 and up to June 1 may be transitioned into the dust abatement program if scheduling permits.

You can find a fillable application form online at www.laclabichedcounty.com.

For more information, email transportationservices@laclabichedcounty.com.

There is no charge for this service.

Planting & Pruning Workshop

Tuesday, April 13, 6:00 pm, via Zoom

Hosted by Lindsay Kozakevich, this workshop will focus on planting basics such as garden prep, transplanting, seed starting and seed sowing. Lindsay will also teach you the basics about pruning such as shaping, fruit bearing, avoiding witches broom or water sprouts, and preventing the spread of plant diseases.

To register, email green@laclabichedcounty.com



FEATURED FCSS PROGRAMS

Due to COVID-19, participants must preregister for all programs. Please call 780-623-6365 to sign-up.

Cozy Corner - Virtual Programming for kids aged 3-6
Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29

Crafternoon - Virtual craft and story for kids aged 18 months - 3 years
Mondays, April 12, 19, 26

Baby Talk - Virtual support group for expecting moms and parents of kids aged 0-18 months
Wednesdays, April 14, 21, 28

Read and Roll Book Set 2
April 15 - May 20. Seven week program for kids aged 3-4. Register online at <http://short.llbcl.ca/ReadandRoll>

Teen Skill Zone, Resumes, Interviews, and more!
Friday, April 30, 1-4 pm

The value of one, the power of many.
Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 18-24. Watch for the street banners and how to register to get a thank you gift for your favourite volunteer.

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.



Your child learns about talking and listening from the day they are born - the learning continues until they are an adult.





Dates to Remember

April 12

Steampunkery: A STEAM Program
4:30 pm, Stuart MacPherson Library.

April 13

Planting and Pruning Workshop
6 pm via Zoom. See page 3 for details.

April 22

National Canadian Film Day
Stuart MacPherson Library
6-8 pm.

Due to COVID-19, events may be subject to postponement or cancellation.

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

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

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



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.



Canadian Publication Agreement
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Coming Soon!

Printed guides are expected to arrive soon after Easter.

Activities and courses are tentatively scheduled to start in late April/early May.

Get your copy, or check out the online version at:

www.boldcenter.ca