

PUZZLING OUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We all want to see the community grow and thrive. On Jan. 20, Lac La Biche County Council held a special meeting to discuss economic development, and to hear updates on the County's work in this area.

Council has asked for new policies that will attract investors to the community, either to start new businesses or to buy existing ones that are for sale.

Council has also discussed the need for development-ready lands in desired areas throughout our municipality. The County is working on an investor's guide, to showcase development-ready lands and sell potential investors on our community's advantages.

The County's Business Licensing Program has been a major step forward. Not only does it provide us with up-to-date business statistics, but it also helps us advertise and communicate more effectively with the businesses that are operating in our community.



The Indigenous Collaboration Committee, meeting in November 2022: (from left) Heart Lake First Nation Band Administrator John Fleming, Lac La Biche County Chief Administrative Officer Dan Small, Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre Board Member Merle Patenaude, Beaver Lake Cree Nation Councillor Shirley Paradis, Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement Chairman Stan Delorme, Métis Nation of Alberta Region One President James Cardinal, Lac La Biche County Mayor Paul Reutov, Kikino Métis Settlement Councillor Lee Thom, Lac La Biche County Councillors John Mondal and Sterling Johnson and Resource One Aboriginal Business Association President Shawn McDonald.

MEET THE NEW INDIGENOUS COLLABORATION COMMITTEE



In the spirit of reconciliation, a new committee is bringing regional Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders to the same table to work together.

The Indigenous Collaboration Committee was formed in 2022 with representatives from Lac La Biche County, neighbouring First Nations and Métis Settlements, Métis Nation of Alberta Region One and local Indigenous-led organizations. The committee's purpose is to help build respectful relationships, create a venue for honest

conversations about issues that matter to Indigenous peoples, and provide recommendations to Lac La Biche County Council on how to achieve goals that will benefit all in the region.

Please see the events calendar on laclabichecounty.com for upcoming Indigenous Collaboration Committee meetings. Agenda packages are posted ahead of each meeting.

mâmahisicikewin...
...working together

Worm Composting Wednesday

Wednesday, Feb. 15 • 5-6:30 p.m. at McArthur Place

It's the dead of winter. You don't think composting is possible, until one day a bold notion comes to you. What if you got Mother Nature's own organic recycling team on your side?

Help is available — in the form of red wiggler worms. Join a **free** vermicomposting workshop hosted by LICA

Environmental Stewards to learn the basics of year-round composting with worms, and take home a vermicomposting bin of your own (one per household). Space is limited so please register by calling (780) 623-6739 or email green@laclabicherecounty.com.



Benefits of vermicomposting:

1. Worms take their jobs seriously, so composting happens faster.
2. Worms believe in good customer service, so you get better compost.
3. The equipment takes up less space than regular composting equipment.

Featured project: New Aquatics Centre



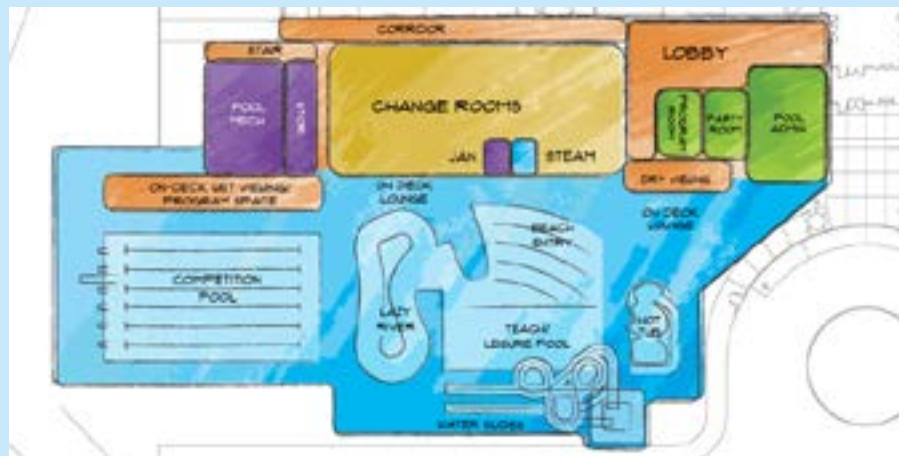
How much? The estimated total cost is around \$27 million, with \$9 million from provincial grants, \$6 million from federal grants, and the County borrowing \$12 million.

Where? Attached to the front side of the Bold Center.

When? Construction is expected to start in 2023 and be completed in the fall of 2025.

Why? Portage Pool is aging, and many residents have been asking for a new and improved aquatics facility to serve the community and contribute to a higher quality of life for residents.

The current concept plan (see below) for the new facility includes a teaching/leisure pool, a six-lane 25-metre competitive pool, a lazy river, water slides, hot tub, steam room, multi-purpose and program rooms, and viewing space. The concept is subject to change as the County goes through a progressive design/build process.



Spay & Neuter AWARENESS

Save a litter. Spay or neuter your critter.

February is Spay & Neuter Awareness Month. Did you know a cat or dog that hasn't been spayed or neutered can have literally thousands of descendants in their lifetime?

In partnership with Lac La Biche Regional Humane Society, the County is offering a 50 per cent rebate on spay and neuter costs to County residents, to encourage them to help control the local pet population.

For more information, or to apply for this program, go online at www.llbrhs.com/snip.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED



Buying A House Or Land

Buying property is an exciting step — until you find out the property has baggage. Prevent surprises by pulling a certificate of title. This is something anyone with the property's legal land description can do. The certificate tells you who the legal owners are, and lets you know about any restrictions that affect the property.

So how do I find out a legal land description? Go to laclabicherecounty.com/p/maps and use our free MuniSight program to look up the property. The legal land description looks a bit like a set of coordinates. For example, the description for our new grader shop in Craigenid is NE-5-65-13-4.

I've got the description. Now what? Visit your local registry office or use SPIN2, an online tool provided by the Government of Alberta, to pull a certificate of title.

What else should I research before making an offer?

1. You can get a home inspection done by a certified inspector to spot any potential safety concerns.
2. You can ask our Planning & Development department for copies of all permits that have been issued for the property. This is called a Routine Disclosure. The fee for this service is \$50.
3. If you have a real property report prepared by a land surveyor, you can ask us for a Compliance Certificate, which will identify any encroachments or other issues with where things are situated on the property. This service also costs \$50.

For more information, or to submit a request, call the Planning & Development team at (780) 623-1747 or email planning.development@laclabicherecounty.com.



Monday, February 21 from 12-3 p.m. at Alexander Hamilton Park

Join us for an afternoon of community-building and wintry fun for all ages.

- Skating (if ice conditions are good and the skating oval on the trout pond can be maintained)



- Sledding, sleigh rides and snowshoeing
- Ice fishing
- Crafts and snowman-building
- Live music
- **FREE** chili meal as part of Food Banks Alberta's province-wide efforts to bring Albertans together, proudly sponsored by Britton's Your Independent Grocer.

Plus: New Life Victory Church will be making and handing out fresh cinnamon buns.

Note: If the temperature dips below -15 degrees Celsius, the event will be moved to the Bold Center.

For more information, call Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 520-7183 or email christine.martin@laclabicherecounty.com.



Dates to Remember

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023

Valentine's Day.

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023

Worm Composting Wednesday. See page 2 for details.

Monday, Feb. 20, 2023

Family Day Festival. See page 3 for details. County administrative offices will be closed.

Free public swim at Portage Pool from 12-4 p.m.

Feb. 24-26, 2023

Lac La Biche Winter Festival of Speed.

March 1, 2023

Fire season begins. Fire permits will be required for all burning except for campfires.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.com. You can also submit your own events.

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.



Join us for arts and crafts, games and sports, indoors and outdoors at the Bold Center. Call (780) 623-3829 for more information or to register.