

## Property tax payment deadline extended

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to pay Lac La Biche County property taxes without penalties has been extended to July 31, 2020.

Tax notices have been mailed to all ratepayers. Offices at McArthur Place and County Centre have reopened to the public, and residents can pay their taxes at either building. There are also options for paying without visiting in person, and instructions for these can be found online at [laclabichecounty.com](http://laclabichecounty.com). We are happy to accept payments online, by mail or through your bank.

## Property tax mill rates

Council set mill rates for properties in Lac La Biche County on May 12, 2020. The mill rate determines what amount per \$1,000 of a property's assessed value is taxable.

2020 mill rates:  
Residential and farmland — 3.12  
Urban non-residential — 10.00  
Rural non-residential — 18.3647

The mill rate for residential and farmland properties has risen slightly (up from 3.00 in 2019), but depending on their property values, many residents are not likely to see a big increase in the taxes they pay this year. The tax bill also includes requisitions to fund education and seniors lodges, but these are beyond the County's control.

## Lac La Biche County's reopening plan: One step at a time for a safe return to normal

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for our community members. In one way or another, all of us have needed to adapt. Many Lac La Biche County programs and services have continued, but in new and different ways (see page 2 for details). We are looking forward to fully reopening our facilities and resuming our regular activities, and we have a plan for safely returning to normal, in line with the Government of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy.

Below are our plans for reintroducing County programs and services during each stage of the provincial relaunch. At every step of the way, we will assess how our organization and our community are faring and, if necessary, adjust our plans.

**Note:** We need to make sure we have the resources to keep both the public and our staff members safe in each stage, so our reopening dates may not exactly match the Government of Alberta's relaunch dates.

### STAGE 1: Started May 14, 2020



- **June 1, 2020:** County offices reopened to the public.
- Boat launches are now in place for the summer.
- Some outdoor programs may begin, with physical distancing requirements. Details will be announced soon.

### STAGE 2: Start date to be announced

- Libraries may reopen during this period.
- The Government of Alberta will permit some larger gatherings, subject to physical distancing requirements. Details on affected County programming will be announced at a later date.

### STAGE 3: Start date to be announced

- The Bold Center, Plamondon Arena and Portage Pool can reopen with enhanced protection controls in place.
- Physical access to Council meetings may be restored during this time.

*The above information represents what we know and expect at this point, so it is subject to change. The Government of Alberta and municipalities across the province are figuring out the best way to proceed, one step at a time. Please call (780) 623-1747 if you have any questions about the County's reopening plans.*

## YOUR COUNTY IN TOUCH... FROM A DISTANCE



Everyone has faced challenges during the course of this pandemic. It's fair to ask "What has Lac La Biche County been doing?" We have continued to serve our residents while following the Government of Alberta's public health measures. Where possible, we have found new ways to deliver programs and services, and in some ways we have actually increased our levels of service.

### GENERAL PUBLIC WORKS:

All regular operations like dust control, grading, pothole-patching, sidewalk repairs, street sweeping and utility maintenance have continued uninterrupted.



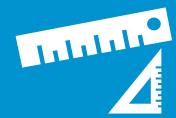
### CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

We are continuing with all of our budgeted capital projects. We currently have about 25 capital projects on the books for 2020, to continue improving and expanding our infrastructure. A list of current construction projects, with locations, timelines and other details, can be found online at [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com).

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Our Planning & Development department's services have been available throughout the pandemic. The department has actually received a higher-than-usual number of inquiries and requests for development permits, and we are happy to support local developers with their planned projects.

We recognize the difficulties the pandemic has caused for local businesses. Our Economic Development staff members receive daily requests for information and assistance, and we are continuing to promote our community and region to potential investors and visitors in the "new normal" created by COVID-19.



### RECREATION AND FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMS:

From virtual fitness classes to equipment lending to live question-and-answer sessions on Facebook, our staff members in this area are remotely delivering programming that meets the community's changing needs from week to week. Follow the Bold Center and Lac La Biche County Family & Community Support Services on Facebook for updates (@boldcenter and @llbcountyFCSS). We are looking forward to offering in-person outdoor programming this summer, as circumstances allow, until the Bold Center, Plamondon Arena and Portage Pool can reopen.



### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES:

Landfills and transfer stations have not closed to the public, and activities like weed control have not been interrupted. Where possible, initiatives like Environment Week have become virtual events. Agricultural services like equipment rentals and clubroot management remain available.



### PARKS AND OUTDOOR SPACES:

County-owned parks, playgrounds, sports fields (no organized games or league play) and boat launches are open and being maintained for public use. In fact, we're planning to add more this summer. The Paul Richard Memorial Spray Park, however, remains closed at this time, as per provincial regulations (other McArthur Park areas are open).



## How your County continues to operate and serve you

### PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

The importance of community protection has never been clearer. Our Peace Officers have been responding to resident and business concerns 24/7, including educating about the Government of Alberta's public health orders when necessary. Our firefighters are available to respond to emergencies at all times, and have responded to 165 call-outs so far this year.



### COUNCIL MEETINGS:

County Council meets regularly, with physical distancing measures in place and some members choosing to participate digitally. The public can still watch Council meetings by joining Zoom videoconferences. Meetings are also streamed live on YouTube.



## Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods:

*Another confidential way to report problem properties*

If your neighbourhood has a suspicious property that you think is being used for illegal activities, you can report it by contacting Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN). This is a special unit of Alberta Sheriffs that uses citizen tips to investigate problem properties where any of the following are taking place:

- Drug trafficking
- Prostitution
- Gang-related crime
- Child exploitation

SCAN investigates properties and tries to resolve problems informally when possible, and the police become involved if evidence of criminal activity is found. The goal of SCAN is to work alongside Alberta residents and property owners to promote safety and responsibility at the local level.

SCAN keeps the identities of people who submit complaints confidential. Your information can't be shared with anyone, not even other law enforcement agencies or the courts, without your consent. To contact SCAN, call 1-866-960-SCAN (7226) or visit scan.alberta.ca.

## ART IN THE PARK RETURNS SOON



For kids ages 0-6 and caregivers

Art In The Park is back, with some changes to fit the current situation. Due to COVID-19, participant numbers are limited and program drop-ins will not be allowed. Please call (780) 623-6365 to register in advance.

### Upcoming Lac La Biche dates

McArthur Park Rotary Gazebo | 10:30 a.m. to noon

Weekly from June-August. Please call for updates or follow us on Facebook (search for "FCSS Young Family Connections") for new information.

### Upcoming Plamondon dates

Festival Centre park | 10:30 a.m. to noon

June 23, July 14, August 18

## TEEN



## SOCIAL CLUB

Connect with your friends over supper, games and fun activities in the McArthur Banquet Room.

Limited spots available per night to ensure that Alberta Health Services guidelines are followed. Please contact Christine at Lac La Biche County FCSS to register. Call (780) 520-7183 or email [christine.martin@laclabichecounty.com](mailto:christine.martin@laclabichecounty.com).

6-8:30 P.M. TUES. / WED. / THURS.

AGES 13-17 McARTHUR PLACE

FREE EVENT JUNE 16-AUGUST 27

Due to the changing COVID-19 situation, this program will be constantly evaluated and adapted to meet new regulations and our community's needs.

Current Alberta Health Services guidelines will be followed at all times.



## Lifejacket lending

At this time, the Lifejacket Loaner Station in McArthur Park is not expected to reopen in 2020. The loaner station has potential to be a high-touch area, and we need to help prevent any potential spread of COVID-19.

Residents and visitors who wish to borrow lifejackets for swimming and boating can still do so for free by calling the Bold Center at (780) 623-3829. We are still committed to helping everyone in our community enjoy outdoor recreation while being safe in and around the water.



## Dates to Remember

**June 24, 2020** - Lac La Biche Region Watershed Stewardship Society annual general meeting at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Follow @llbrwss on Facebook for updates.

**July 1, 2020** - Canada Day. County offices, landfills and transfer stations will be closed.

Check the Community Events Calendar at [laclabichedcounty.com](http://laclabichedcounty.com) for more local events. Due to COVID-19, local events may be changed or cancelled at short notice.

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](mailto:intouch@laclabichedcounty.com).

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

## June is Recreation and Parks Month: Get outdoors, get involved, get prizes

Recreation and parks are an essential part of our community's fabric. They mean a higher quality of life for our residents, and chances to rejuvenate and reconnect in the midst of this pandemic. Here in Lac La Biche County, we're fortunate to have not only a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, but also one of the biggest and best backyards in Alberta in which to enjoy them.

Show your love for recreation and parks this month. Submit photos of you, your family members and friends connecting with one another and nature in the great outdoors (while following public health measures and physical distancing requirements) throughout June for chances to win prizes. Email photos to [recreation@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:recreation@laclabichedcounty.com) (no submission limit!) and we'll award prizes for the most creative, most fun and most outrageous submissions.



## Remote and responsible recreation programming

The Bold Center continues to offer virtual programming and equipment lending to help residents continue leading healthy, active lifestyles. Residents can also look forward to outdoor fitness classes and our free Summer Shack recreation program for kids starting soon. Visit us online at [boldcenter.ca](http://boldcenter.ca) or on Facebook (@boldcenter) for the latest updates.

## Show your love for local with #LLBOnline festival

Join us live on Facebook (@LLBTourism) on June 10, 17, 24 and July 1 to celebrate Lac La Biche County's local businesses and experiences. Tune in for virtual tours, how-to demonstrations, gift giveaways, online shopping and more! This program is in partnership with Community Futures Lac La Biche, the Lac La Biche and District Chamber of Commerce and Festival Seekers, to help the region's entrepreneurs and creators boost their online presence and keep spending local.