



From left: Councillor and Agricultural Service Board (ASB) chair George L'Heureux, ASB bursary recipients Holly Morrisseau and Morgwn Martin, and ASB members Debbie Burdek, Jolene Yackimec and Lawrence Gingras.

Local students receive ASB academic bursaries

Did you know the County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) awards two student bursaries each year? This year's recipients are Holly Morrisseau and Morgwn Martin, who have each received \$1,000 to help them complete their studies.

The ASB Bursary is open to local students pursuing careers in fields related to agriculture. Generally, the deadline to apply is October 1 annually.

The ASB is an advisory and advocacy group with representatives from County Council, Administration and the local agricultural community. The board supports agricultural producers in the area, and makes recommendations to Council on farming-related matters. For more information about our ASB, including the annual bursary, please visit our website (laclabichecounty.com) or call (780) 623-6739.

County and Portage College partnering to host Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards in 2021

Lac La Biche County and Portage College will co-host one of Alberta's foremost cultural events, the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Awards in 2021.

A community celebration of the arts is being organized for June 12, 2021. The event's theme will focus on the region's status as a cultural crossroads overflowing with natural beauty, with more than 150 lakes and rivers flowing on either side of a continental divide.

"Our community is one of the most historic and diverse in Alberta," said Lac La Biche County Mayor Omer Moghrabi. "Hosting this event will be a great honour for us, and fantastic way to share the richness and vibrancy of the northeast region's arts scene with the rest of the province."

The Distinguished Artist Awards gala will be held at Portage College. Previous recipients of the Distinguished Artist Award include Alex Janvier and Jane Ash Poitras, whose works are displayed in the College's Museum of Aboriginal Peoples' Art & Artifacts.

"We've seen that this area can be truly inspiring to many who visit our region," said Portage College President and CEO Nancy Broadbent. "We look forward to the ripple effect this event will have on art communities and especially our students in the art programs."

As part of the celebration, the County and College will also be fundraising for an arts endowment fund, to support emerging artists and help build our community's artistic legacy.

A webpage with more information (found on Portage College's website) will be updated as details are confirmed, so stay tuned.



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
OF ALBERTA ARTS AWARDS

Fire season begins, permits now required for burning

With March's arrival comes the return of fire season.

As the days grow longer and we start to see more springlike weather, the chance of wildfires posing a threat to our community grows. That's why fire permits are required for all burning except campfires until October 31.

Permits are free but site visits and inspections may be required, and permits may come with conditions. The County has the right to suspend or revoke fire permits at any time.

The County and the provincial government handle fire permitting and wildfire management in different areas. This is because most of our County falls within Alberta's Forest Protection Area. A map of the County, showing who is responsible for which areas, can be found on our website (laclabichcounty.com).

To get a fire permit from the County, or to get more information about fire season, call (780) 623-6767.

The permitting system exists to help protect the community and the environment during the warmer months. It gives us a way to track burning activities, so we know where to expect smoke, and it gives us a way to limit burning if conditions change for the worse. The County will strictly enforce penalties for burning without permits.

Fire bans and restrictions

There may be times when the County and the provincial government need to order fire bans and other restrictions to help prevent wildfires. This typically happens when it's unusually hot and dry in our region, creating perfect conditions for fires to spread quickly.

When a fire ban is announced, all fire permits are suspended or cancelled



and all forms of burning are prohibited, including campfires. Generally, the County follows Alberta Agriculture & Forestry's lead on this.

To find out what restrictions are in effect, if any, call (780) 623-6767. You can also visit our website to find information (click on "Current fire restrictions" on the homepage).

We would like to thank all of our residents in advance for complying with restrictions and helping to keep our community safe.

FROM THE COUNCIL TABLE:

New and improved bylaws to govern traffic, pet ownership and more

Several Lac La Biche County bylaws have recently been amended. Most of the changes are to help make the bylaws clearer and more consistent. Major changes that residents should be aware of have been listed here, but visit our website (laclabichcounty.com) to read the complete versions of these bylaws.

Traffic Bylaw — Major changes

- If road maintenance like snow removal needs to be done and vehicles are in the way, the County now has the authority to tow them at the owners' expense. The County will work to provide ample notice in areas that are going to be affected by this kind of work.
- Anyone wishing to hold a parade or another event that will obstruct local roadways needs to get permission from the County.
- During fire bans, the County can restrict or prohibit the use of off-highway vehicles on public lands. This is because

quads and similar vehicles can accidentally start wildfires.

- The age to operate an off-highway vehicle without adult supervision has been reduced from 18 to 16.

Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw — Major changes

This bylaw was formerly known as the Animal Control Bylaw. Our Peace Officers responded to approximately 700 animal control complaints in 2019. Changes to this bylaw have been made to encourage compliance.

- Dogs that have been placed in the pound will be held for 72 consecutive hours before being made available for adoption. Weekend days and holidays are now included in that 72-hour window.
- Dogs that are licensed, microchipped or otherwise identifiable will be held for 10 days while Peace Officers work to contact their owners.
- Dogs running at large may result in fines of \$250 per occurrence. Dogs that are picked up and placed in the pound will incur an impound fee of \$50 per animal per day. Impound fees must be paid before owners can retrieve their animals.

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Lac La Biche County Library Board seeking public input to help create new five-year plan of service

Lac La Biche County's Library Board is required to write a strategic plan every five years, to submit to the provincial government.

Members of the communities served by Lac La Biche County Libraries (which operates two branches and three pop-up locations) are invited to help create the next strategic plan. Developing a strategic plan helps the Library Board understand local community needs and fine-tune library services to meet those needs.

Residents of Lac La Biche County, as well as neighbouring First Nations reserves and Métis Settlements, are welcome to provide their feedback at one of two public input sessions on Monday, March 16. The sessions will take place in the Wild Rose Room at the Stuart MacPherson Public Library, from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.

For more information, please contact Library Director Maureen Penn by calling (780) 623-7467.



Amendments to Community Safety Bylaw

Continued from page 2.

The third major bylaw that has been amended recently is the Community Safety Bylaw.

Community Safety Bylaw — Major changes

- Fines for violations that pose a risk to public safety (fighting in public, using a dangerous object, encouraging someone to commit an offence, etc.) have increased.
- Fines now include a different rate for second offences. If someone violates the bylaw a second time within a year of the first offence, they may face a higher fine.

Complete versions of these bylaws can be found on our website. If you have any questions about these bylaws, please contact Peace Officers by calling (780) 623-6767.



It Takes A Village: Challenging behaviours in youth

As a parent, managing your child's challenging behaviours can be both frustrating and exhausting.

This free workshop, the latest in our It Takes A Village series, will review challenging behaviours related to aggression, non-compliance and attention-seeking, and it will teach strategies and techniques for intervening to bring out the best in your child.

Where: View Point Room, Bold Center

When: Monday, March 23 | 6-8 p.m.

Cost: Free!

Presented by Registered Psychologist and Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute trainer Danielle Forth

Free childcare and a light supper are provided for participants, but registration is required. Please call (780) 623-6754 or email christine.martin@laclabichecounty.com to register.

It Takes A Village is a series of parenting information sessions, open to all community members interested in supporting local youth. The workshop series is founded on the idea that caring for youth should be a shared community goal, and sessions often tackle topics that parents, guardians, teachers and others may be unsure how to address.





Dates to Remember

March 16, 2020

Lac La Biche County Library Board Plan of Service public input sessions at the Stuart MacPherson Public Library from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. See page 3 for more information.

March 17, 2020

St. Patrick's Day.

March 19, 2020

First day of spring.

March 20, 2020

Teen Skill Zone: The Power of Public Speaking, for ages 13-17, from 12:30-3 p.m. in the Wild Rose Room at the Bold Center. Register by March 18. Call (780) 623-6754 for more information or to register.

April 1, 2020

Tree seedling orders available for residents. Call (780) 623-6739 for more information.

Check out the Community Events Calendar on the County's website (laclabichcounty.com) for more events happening in our area.

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.



March Is Nutrition Month

Nutrition is extremely important to your health, but not everyone can meet with a registered dietician. That's why the Bold Center and partner organizations are hosting special nutrition workshops this month, to help you make healthy and balanced choices.

Build Your Own Power Bowl*

Monday, March 16 | 7-8 p.m.
Bold Center
Ages 10 and up | \$5 per participant

Gym Jam — Special topic for Nutrition Month: Affordable Healthy Snack Options

Tuesday, March 17 | 5:30-7 p.m.
Portage College Gymnasium
All ages welcome | No cost to participate

Build A Fruit Bouquet*

Monday, March 23 | 7-8 p.m.
Bold Center
Ages 15 and up | \$20 per participant

Food Is Fuel

Thursday, March 26 | 7-8 p.m.
Bold Center
Ages 12 and up | No cost to participate

Colouring Contest

When you stop in to use the Bold Center's indoor playground or drop your child off in Child Mind, ask to colour one of the Nutrition Month pictures for a chance to win a prize.

***Pre-registration required. Please call the Bold Center at (780) 623-3829 to register.**

