

Your County in Touch

Issue No. 53, December 11, 2015



Santa's Helpers and County fire fighters help families in need



Lac La Biche County took part in the first annual Santa's Helpers Santa Claus parade on December 4. County fire fighters and the Lac La Biche Fire Fighters' Society worked to raise funds for local families in need during the holiday season. Their goal was to raise \$25,000 during a three-day blitz of events that included an open house at the Lac La Biche fire hall on Saturday. They ended up raising \$41,000. Great work Santa's Helpers!

Portage Pool closed December 20 to January 3

Portage Pool will be closed over the holiday season in order to repair pool facilities and equipment. Repairs will begin on Sunday, December 20, and should continue until Sunday, January 3.

Main drain covers in the 25 metre pool will be replaced (existing covers expire next year), and leaks in pool infrastructure will be repaired. Staff will also continue to apply floor coating while the pool itself is being serviced, and do a deep clean of all public areas.

Facilities staff will also repipe and replace all of the urinals in the men's change room. Afterwards, they'll dismantle the old reception desk and replace it with a new one.

The work will ensure that Portage Pool continues to meet safety standards in the new year.

The pool is projected to reopen on Monday, January 4, 2016. For the most up-to-date information, residents can call 780-623-6777 (the pool's voicemail will be updated regularly).

Pool staff appreciate your patience, and wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Photo contest for 2016 County calendar another great success

For the second year in a row, Lac La Biche County held a photo contest to fill our annual Green Initiatives calendar. The calendar is the perfect place to showcase talented local photographers as well as the beauty of the Lac La Biche region.

We received hundreds of entries and we would like to thank everyone who took part and submitted their beautiful work.

After much deliberation, here are this year's winning photographers:

- Mel Skladan - cover photo and April
- Zandra Gargus-Lind - January
- Christine Braund - February
- Jason Caine - March and June
- Jen Mueller - May
- Megan Posein - July and August

- Sine Abougoush - September
- Dot Kinnell - October
- Karen Kaufman - November
- Lianne Plamondon - December

Congratulations to our winners. Thanks to your photos, the 2016 calendar is another great success.

If you'd like to submit photos for next year's calendar, please keep in mind that we need high quality, high resolution photos of the County in all seasons, so keep your camera handy and your eyes peeled!

The 2016 Green Initiatives calendar, which has all kinds of information about County programs and events, should be in mailboxes by the end of December.

County receives funding for fire prevention campaign

The County has received \$500 from the Office of the Fire Commissioner to purchase educational materials to teach fire prevention to the County's pre-school and elementary students.

The money will be used to purchase curriculum that the County's fire fighters will use to educate local youngsters about the importance of being fire smart.

Some components of the curriculum for kids will be:

- When you hear a fire alarm, go outside and stay outside.
- Practice fire drills and escape routes with your family.
- Tell an adult if you see matches or lighters.

Christmas fire safety

The likelihood of a fire starting at home is greater during the winter months, especially during the holiday season. Fires and candles are burning, decorations are plugged into multiple electrical outlets and flammable materials are stacked under the tree.

Here are some tips to keep fire safe during the holiday season:

- Make sure all smoke detectors are in good working order with fresh batteries.
- Make sure to use the proper extension cord for the job—outdoor cords for outdoor lights, indoor cords for indoor decorations—and never overload electrical outlets.
- When burning candles, make sure they are set on sturdy holders away from animals and children and put them out before leaving the room.

New tipping fees to start at County landfills January 1, 2016

Starting January 1, 2016, Lac La Biche County will be implementing a tipping fee structure based on weight rather than volume for all industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) loads, as well as for construction and demolition materials. Residential loads will continue to be free of charge, up to 500 kilograms.

Until now, tipping fees have been based on the size of the load, not the weight.

Charging by weight will enable the County to more accurately track the waste coming into our landfills and charge tipping fees on a more equitable basis. In many cases, landfill users may see a reduction in rates.

Why make this change now?

Alberta landfills have a maximum capacity that is mandated by the province. All five of the County's former landfills—now transfer sites—have reached capacity. Beaver Lake and Plamondon are the County's only two remaining landfills. In 2010, both Plamondon and Beaver Lake landfills were projected to have 20 to 25 years left before reaching capacity. They are now estimated to have 10 to 15 years remaining. This estimate has been reduced because of the volume of waste being disposed of in the County. A significant source of the County's waste volume is recyclables that are not being sorted from non-recyclable loads and disposed of in the landfill.

Starting January 1, 2016 the tipping fee for ICI and construction and demolition waste will be \$50 per tonne for waste that does not contain recyclables and \$100 per tonne for unsorted waste containing recyclables.

Tipping fees are higher for waste that contains recyclable materials because these loads take up unnecessary space in our already overtaxed landfills. Please sort

all recyclables from waste prior to arriving at the landfill.

Residential waste will continue to be free of charge, up to 500 kilograms. Residents are encouraged to separate their recyclables and make use of the recycling facilities at County landfills and transfer sites in order to do their part. Keep in mind that sorting your waste from your recyclables will help keep your residential waste below the 500 kilogram threshold.

For a complete list of tipping fees and an overview of recyclable materials accepted by the County, visit laclabichcounty.com or call 780-623-6739 to request a hard copy.

What is the process when I arrive at the Beaver Lake or Plamondon landfills?

- Line up in the queue for the weigh scale.
- Once the scale is clear, proceed onto the deck until you reach the stop sign.
- You will be asked to identify yourself and what materials you have to dispose of—residential, ICI, construction or demolition waste and/or recyclables. Your incoming weight will be recorded. The scale operator will direct you to the right locations for disposal.
- Dispose of your waste and recyclables in the appropriate locations.
- Return to the scale and the scale operator will record your outgoing weight.
- The scale operator will inform you what payment is required, if any.

If you have any questions about the new tipping fee process, call the County's Environmental Services department at 780-623-6739 or email green@laclabichcounty.com.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey complete for 2016, report to follow

The 2016 Lac La Biche County Citizen Satisfaction Survey concluded at the end of November. The purpose of the survey was to get public feedback about County programs in order to improve our services to residents. A random telephone survey of 400 households was conducted by an independent research company. Residents could also take part in the survey online.

Thanks to local grocers for taking part in reusable bag campaign

This fall, the County's Environmental Services department embarked on a campaign to reduce the number of plastic bags used in the County. Plastic bags are the second most littered object in the world, after cigarettes, and Canadians use nearly 10 billion a year.

Staff approached the owners of Sobeys and Independent Grocers to ask for their help to encourage the use of reusable

Marcomm Works, an independent consultant, will compile the data and prepare a report for Council for their review in early 2016. Once Council has reviewed the survey's findings, the results will be made available to the public.

Thank you to all residents who took the time to voice their opinions in the survey.

bags. Both grocery chains took part and displayed signs in their windows reminding patrons to bring reusable bags when shopping.

Thanks to Sobeys and Independent Grocers for taking part.

Do your part this holiday season by remembering to bring reusable bags when shopping and to keep packaging to a minimum where possible.

2015 Rural Beautification Award goes to Warawa's Lakeview

Estates property



Lise and Kevin Warawa have lived at their Lakeview Estates property for 11 years, and recently added their own touch to their indoor and outdoor spaces. Their outdoor efforts netted them Lac La Biche County's 2015 Rural Beautification Award, an annual prize given to residents living outside the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon for outstanding landscaping.

By moving existing trees and planting new ones, their priorities were creating

shelter belts and privacy. They used tree species native to and uncommon in Alberta (including oak, blue spruce, ponderosa pine, Swedish aspen, and mountain ash, larch and balsam spruce). They first incubated them, then transplanted the trees and added organic mulch to help them acclimate to Albertan soil. They focused mostly on evergreen trees because they stay green year-round, a boon in an area with winters as long as ours. As a bonus, the trees attract a lot of wildlife.

Each year, the award is open to nominations from rural neighbours or friends. For more information on the County's rural beautification award, visit laclabichecounty.com.

Find funding for your non-profit with FCSS and County services

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) grants are designed to fund volunteer and community groups that provide preventive social services or programs. For other programs, events, or services that do not fit within FCSS's preventive mandate, the County offers Community Social Services grants.

But, did you know that the County's FCSS and Community Development department also offers assistance with tools for finding grants offered by other organizations?

Ajah Fundtracker (ajah.ca) is a comprehensive database of national and international funders to which Lac La Biche County has access. The database allows groups to search grants by areas of interest and geography, allowing them to fund programs that may not otherwise be covered by FCSS or the County.



Non-profit groups can book time with County staff at McArthur Place to use the database. This is an excellent opportunity to explore funding options from other sources, and may allow community groups to plan events that require multiple sources of financial support.

For more information about any of these grants or the Ajah Fundtracker, contact Anita Polturak, Manager of FCSS & Community Development, at 780-623-7979.

Your County in Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and 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.



Dates to Remember

December 20 to January 3

Portage Pool closed for repairs. Pool projected to re-open on January 4.

December 24, 25, 28, and January 1

County administration offices closed.

January 1

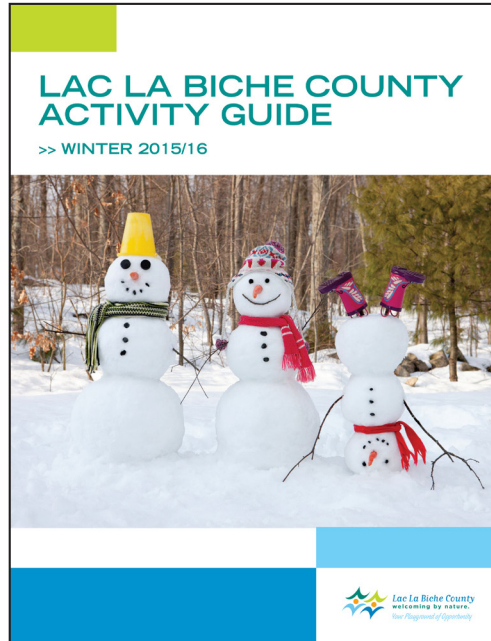
New tipping fees at County landfills come into effect. See laclabichedcounty.com for more information.



Lac La Biche County
Box 1679
Lac La Biche, AB T0A 2C0



First edition of the Lac La Biche County Activity Guide now available in print and online



We've just released the first edition of the Lac La Biche County Activity Guide (pictured left), a new publication that aims to inform residents about recreation, events, and social services. Are you curious about this season's fitness classes at the Bold Center, swim lessons at Portage Pool, or family programming provided by Parent Link? This guide has listings for those programs and more! It also includes information on some of the Bold Center's services, like personal training and child minding.

A print copy will be stuffed in mailboxes County-wide. Residents are also able to consult the online edition at laclabichedcounty.com or boldcenter.ca.

A new edition will be published several times a year. For more information, call 780-623-3829.

Free Admission Day at the Bold Center - Saturday, January 2, 2016

On Saturday, January 2, everyone will be able to use Bold Center facilities free of charge. Try out free demos of fitness classes! Patrons will also enjoy family and youth activities, along with prizes and giveaways, from 12 to 4 pm. Cake and refreshments will be served at 1 pm to celebrate 5 years of operation.

Transportation to and from the Bold Center will be provided. For more information, call 780-623-3829.