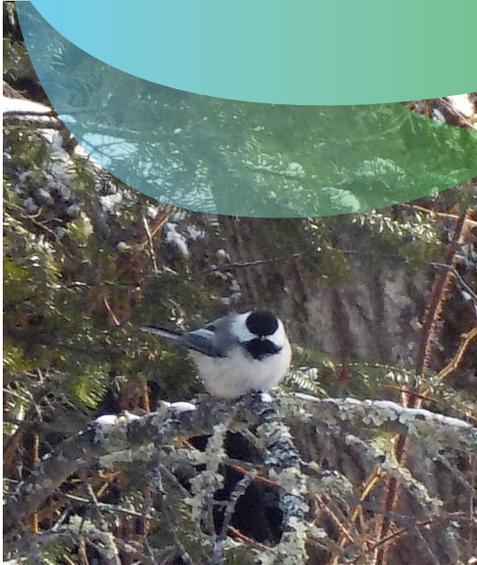




Your County in Touch

Issue No. 68 April 3, 2017



(From left) Mayor Omer Moghrabi, Municipal Affairs Minister Shaye Anderson, Deputy Mayor Robert Richard and Councillor Rick Olson at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties convention. Local politicians met with Anderson to discuss Lac La Biche County's specialized municipality application and other matters important to local governance.

Capital budget highlights

- Sidewalk replacement program: \$900,000
- Hamlet road resurfacing program: \$1.4 million
- Water and sewer rehabilitation program: \$4 million
- Entrance signs for Lac La Biche, Plamondon and other hamlets: \$225,000
- Mission Beach subdivision water and sewer servicing (phase one): \$1.7 million, with a portion to be financed with a local improvement levy.
- Township Road 652 (Elinor Lake Road) base and pave for approximately half of the road's graveled section: \$7 million, with further construction and capital costs proposed for 2018.
- Floating dock with boat slips near former Big Dock location: \$150,704 (grant-funded)
- Various new vehicles and equipment, including a new fire truck and rescue boats.

2017 budget passed, taxation discussions to follow

Lac La Biche County's budget for 2017 has been finalized and formally adopted by Council.

The budget was approved on Tuesday, March 14. The annual budget is one of the County's most important documents, outlining the amounts to be spent each year on municipal projects, programs and services.

This year's budget includes approximately \$51.9 million in operational expenditures and around \$28 million in capital spending.

County Administration presented the draft budget in early January, after an interim budget was approved to maintain the County's day-to-day operations in the meantime.

Council discussed the budget at 13

special meetings, deciding which capital projects to undertake in 2017 and making plans for future years. The finalized budget contains projects that will continue building and improving the County's infrastructure, and it also brings new projects to the table (see sidebar at left for a list of capital project highlights). An overview of the budget will be posted on the County's website.

"Council and Administration have gone through this year's budget with a fine-tooth comb, and the finished document is a responsible financial plan that reflects our priorities," said Mayor Omer Moghrabi. "We're still facing a challenging economic climate, but we also have opportunities to reduce our infrastructure deficit and lay the groundwork for years to come."

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County now accepting dust control applications

Every year, the County accepts applications from rural residents for 200-metre calcium chloride dust control treatment.

There is no charge for this service in 2017. However, residents are still asked to submit an application on or before April 30, 2017 to be considered. Late requests may be considered until June 1, depending on the number of requests received.

You can find a printable version of the form by visiting laclabichcounty.com/our-services/roads-streets.

For more information, contact transportationservices@laclabichcounty.com.

Local crime prevention education sessions

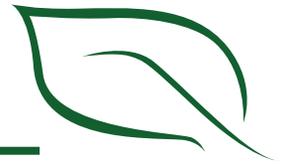
The County's Peace Officers and local RCMP officers are holding crime prevention education sessions to inform residents about ways to protect their homes and possessions.



A session at the community hall in Craigend on March 22 had around 35 attendees. Sessions were previously held in Hylo and Missawawi Estates.

Future sessions will be scheduled in Lac La Biche, Plamondon, Owl River and Rich Lake. Dates and times will be advertised when confirmed. The County's Protective Services department is also open to requests from community groups. Please call (780) 623-6767 for more information.

SPRING INTO 2017 GROWING SEASON



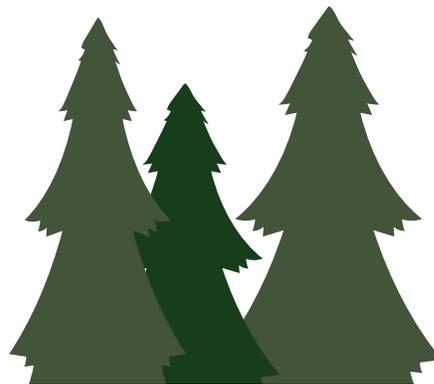
Apply for plots in the County's Community Garden

Have you got a green thumb? The Community Garden in Alexander Hamilton Park has 40 plots available for local residents to grow their own plants and produce. The garden is fenced and has a water tank as well as a composter on-site.

Applications will be available starting

Monday, April 24. Garden plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. You can apply for a plot in person at the County Centre offices on Highway 881, or online at www.laclabichcounty.com.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, May 19.



Tree seedlings available to order in mid-April

County residents can add some foliage to their properties this spring. From April 18 until May 19, the County's Environmental Services department sells one-year-old tree seedlings at a reduced price. Call the department at (780) 623-6739 for more information.

Earth Day and Clean Sweep upcoming

Earth Day is a global celebration of environmentalism that takes place on April 22. For almost 50 years, activists and ordinary people alike have used Earth Day to inspire others to help protect the planet.

Next month, the County is partnering with Big Dog 103.5 FM to carry out the Community Spring Clean-Up, bringing community residents together to clean up the local area. The event is set to take place Saturday, May 13. Stay tuned for updates.

IDEAS FOR EARTH DAY

- As part of your spring cleaning, consider bringing unwanted items to one of the County's Reuse Centres, located at all landfills and transfer stations except for Elinor Lake. Reuse Centres are where you can pick up and drop off gently used items, free of charge. Certain restrictions apply.
- Unplug appliances and electronics when you're not using them. Even when turned off, they can still draw electricity.
- Plant a tree or a shrub. You can order trees for your property through the County's Environmental Services department (see above).
- Start composting at home. With composting, it's easy to turn organic waste into fertilizer. Composters are sold at the County Centre for \$72, plus GST. Rain barrels are also available for \$78.05, plus GST.

New Summit Heights Barrel Fill operational

County staff have installed a new two-inch barrel fill station at the Summit Heights reservoir (east of the hamlet of Lac La Biche on Lakeland Drive).

Like the airport reservoir, the potable water fill system accepts coins and has an option for accounts. The system has a heated pad to park on while filling. During the summer, we will be building a loop road for ease of access to the barrel fill.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 780-623-7494.



Off-leash area for dogs available

Alexander Hamilton Park is Lac La Biche County's first designated off-leash area for dogs.

Off-leash areas are ideal for both dogs and their owners to play and socialize. The designation for Alexander Hamilton Park is part of the County's commitment to providing recreational

opportunities for residents — and their four-legged companions, too.

Please note that not all park users are dog owners, and owners must be in control of their pets at all times. Alexander Hamilton Park is on Lakeland Drive, past Lucky Strike Bowling Alley, on the eastern side of the hamlet of Lac La Biche.

Taxation discussions to take place next month

Continued from front page.

The next step is for Council to set the local property tax rates. Council is expected to receive information about local property assessment in mid-April, with tax rate discussions to follow.

Council and Administration are continuing to lobby the provincial government to approve specialized municipality status for the County, which will guarantee the County's split mill rate.

In the meantime, the County's Finance department has compiled 2016 year-end financial statements and auditors have reviewed them. The audited statements will be presented to Council in April, and the statements will be released to the public on or before May 1.



Volunteer Fair & Bistro

Calling all past, present and prospective volunteers in Lac La Biche County! The Volunteer Fair & Bistro is scheduled for April 27, to mark National Volunteer Week and to thank community members for their volunteerism in 2016. The event will take place in the Devon Room at the Bold Center from 4-7 p.m.

There will be appetizers, a coffee bar, mocktails and light entertainment. The event is an ideal opportunity for volunteers and representatives of different community groups to socialize and network. All community members with an interest in volunteering are welcome.

The Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Community Development department's new Volunteer Database will be launched at the event. Organizations interested in setting up booths at the event should contact Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 623-6754 or by e-mail at christine.martin@lacobichedcounty.com.

New FCSS grant deadlines

Please note that Lac La Biche County FCSS is now working with new community grant application deadlines.

For grants of \$2,500 or less, applications will be accepted every month. There will be two intake periods for grants exceeding \$2,500 this year. The first intake period will end on April 30, and the second will end on October 31.

For more information, please contact the County's FCSS Coordinator Aimee Gauthier at (780) 623-6819.

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@lACLAbichecounty.com.

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



Dates to Remember

April 14

Good Friday. County offices and landfills/transfer stations closed.

April 17

Easter Monday. County offices and landfills/transfer stations closed.

April 18-May 19

Tree order applications available.

April 22

Earth Day.

Laser Tag Re-Launch Weekend at Bold Center.

April 24-May 19

Community garden applications available.

April 30

Dust control applications deadline.

May 1

Summer landfill hours start.



Laser Tag Re-Launch Weekend to kick off season

The Bold Center will once again be offering laser tag this spring, summer and fall, starting with an exciting re-launch weekend in April.

The weekend will feature extended drop-in times and free drop-in admission. On Friday the 21st, laser tag will be available from 3-8 p.m., in conjunction with the Greater Lac La Biche C.H.I.L.D. Coalition's Spring Fair. On Saturday the 22nd, it will be available from 2-4:30 p.m., coinciding with Alberta Parks' Dark Skies Preserve event.

Regular laser tag rules, safety precautions and supervision

requirements will apply. Laser tag is for kids ages 5 and up, though some exceptions will apply for the re-launch weekend only. Closed-toe, no-heel footwear is required to participate.

After the re-launch weekend, normal drop-in times will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4-6 p.m. Group rentals and bookings will be available on those days from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 10 p.m. as available.

Please call (780) 623-6357 or (780) 623-6351 for details and availability.

Want to Spring Break those bad habits? Purchase or renew an annual Bold Center/Portage Pool pass from April 9-15th and receive a free promotional gift.

The Lac La Biche County Spring 2017 Activity Guide is now available for pickup at the Bold Center. An online version can be found on the County and Bold Center websites. Registrations for spring programming are now open.