

Remember to check for hot spots at winter burn sites



Double checking your winter burn sites is an important wildfire prevention step.

Winter burn fires are also referred to as “Zombie fires” because they can come back to life in the spring when hot embers deep inside the burn site are renewed by warmer temperatures and wind.

Wildfire hazard conditions are usually their highest in spring before rains arrive and foliage begins to green up.

Prior to spring you may contact Fire Services at 780-623-6774 to schedule a free assessment of your burn site with a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) to check for hot spots.

Preparing for the driest time of the year each spring is important to reducing the overall risk of wildfire.

Agricultural Burning Tips

If you have a fire permit follow the directions on it. Doing so will help ensure you are taking necessary precautions and appropriate safety measures are in place. Lac La Biche County follows Alberta Agriculture and Forestry’s hazard restrictions when issuing burn permits.

Monitor your burn; don’t leave your field while it’s burning. Burn small areas at a time and have a plan to deal with any emergencies.

Have a water truck and other equipment on hand. Till the outside borders of the field to create a fire break. Monitor the site after your burn and check for hot spots that may remain.

Consider reducing the scale of the burn by baling the un-harvested crop or straw, and removing it from the field. Burn the bales away from your field in a smaller, controlled area. This is easier to monitor and manage than burning swaths in a field.

Lastly, make sure you have sufficient property insurance in the event that your fire gets out of control, or spreads to neighboring land. If you are found responsible for starting a wildfire, you can be charged under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*.

Costs associated with non-negligent incidents are covered by the County. Call 9-1-1 for all emergencies.

Fire Permit Season

To protect the community and the environment, permits are required for all burning (besides campfires) from March 1 to October 31.

Permits are free but site inspections are required, and permits may be conditional to ensure safety for everyone.

More information about fire permit season is available on our website: laclabichecounty.com/protective-services

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Changes implemented with Complaint Line

Residents who call the Lac La Biche County Complaint Line will notice some changes to the way the system works.

After dialling 780-623-6767 an initial recording will be played before switching to hold music. While the music is being played the Complaint Line system is automatically contacting all available, on-duty Peace Officers.

If no officer picks up the call and you are prompted to leave a message, it is because all available officers are dealing with an emergency or complaint.

Please be sure to leave a voicemail message so Peace Officers can return your call as soon as possible.

"We want to assure residents that all calls made to the Complaint Line will

be followed-up by our department," says Chris Clark, Enforcement Services Manager. "As a reminder to residents, if your call is urgent and requires a police response 9-1-1 should be called."

Lac La Biche County employs 11 Peace Officers and the Enforcement Services department works in partnership with local RCMP to provide services to residents of Lac La Biche County.

Enter to Win

Lac La Biche County, Healthy Waters Lac La Biche, and Alberta Parks want you to show us how you are taking steps to Keep Our Lakes Clean.

Each month we will ask you to show us a specific action you are taking to meet this goal. If you participate, you'll be entered into a draw to win one of three prizes. The draw for the winners will be made at the end of the year.

This month, we want you to show us your phosphate free or biodegradable soaps, shampoo, laundry detergent or other products. Phosphates make their way to our water bodies, and lead to blue green algae blooms in our lakes, so it's important to reduce our use of these products.

To enter the draw this month, show us your phosphate free or biodegradable soaps, shampoo, laundry detergent or other products by posting a picture or comment on the [Healthy Waters Lac La Biche Facebook](#) page, or make a post on your own page and tag @llbrwss!

- Prize #1 - a cash prize of \$300**
- Prize #2 - a cash prize of \$300**
- Prize #3 - a 2-night stay in a cabin at Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park!**

Once you complete this, you'll be entered in the draw. Each person has 12 chances to be entered in the draw, one entry per month, with the final draw held at the end of the year.

For more information:

healthywaterslaclabiche@gmail.com
green@laclabichecounty.com | 780-623-6739



Home improvements & permits

Did you know you may need additional permits to finish your basement project?

If you are renovating by creating or removing walls and/or rooms, the applicable safety code permits will be required and can be obtained through The Inspections Group Inc. website: <https://www.inspectionsgroup.com/>

If you are looking at creating a secondary suite or rental suite, a development permit and applicable safety code permits will be required.

A secondary suite is defined in the County's Land Use Bylaw (No. 17-004) as a self-contained accessory dwelling unit that is located within or on the same lot as an existing single detached dwelling. It has food preparation, sleeping and bathing facilities, which are separate from those of the principal dwelling.

A secondary suite also has an entrance separate from the entrance to the principal dwelling, either from a common indoor landing or directly from the exterior of the structure.

For more information please contact the Planning and Development department: 780-623-1747 | planning.development@laclabichedcounty.com

Typical uses include basement suites, garden suites, granny suites and garage suites.

Section C2.26 of the Land Use Bylaw regulates the following for secondary suites:

- 1) Maximum of one (1) secondary suite may be permitted on a lot.
- 2) A secondary suite shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) bedrooms.
- 3) All secondary suites shall comply with the requirements of the Alberta Safety Codes Act or its successor.

Table C2.4 of the Land Use Bylaw also regulates setbacks, suite size and height for secondary suites.

To submit an application for a development permit, visit our website: <https://laclabichedcounty.com/p/development> or contact us directly to

FEATURED FCSS PROGRAMS

Teen Chillzone, March 4

Pool Party at Portage Pool

4 pm | Friday, March 4

Join other teens to end the week off with some fun! FREE event.

Young Family Connections:

Plamondon Family Fun Night

5:30-6:30 pm | Tuesday, March 8

Festival Center Plamondon

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

Income Tax preparation for low-income households is available. Call 780-623-6361 for information or to schedule an appointment.

Teen Skillzone

Resumes, Interviews and More!

1-4 pm | Friday, March 25

McArthur Place - Ages 13-17 - FREE

Need help to prepare and make the most of a potential job opportunity? In partnership with Lac La Biche Employabilities, you will learn how to properly make a resume and cover letter. You will also receive links to potential employers to strengthen your job search. For more information: 780-623-6754 or christine.martin@laclabichedcounty.com

Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Café

8-9 pm | Thursday, March 31 | On ZOOM

A group that looks at a different Triple P Tips every month. Help understand what to do for specific family issues dealing with youth. For more information: 780-520-9868 or cornelia.fechner@laclabichedcounty.com

Teen Chillzone

4 pm | Friday, March 18 | McArthur Place

The Day After St. Patrick's Day

We provide the ingredients and you create a mouth-watering dessert of your choice...but it has to be green. FREE event.

Wildfire prevention tips this spring

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Fire Smart Assessments

Lac La Biche Protective Services can help add another layer of protection to your property by conducting a free Fire Smart assessment.

Trained inspectors look at rural properties that have direct interface with the forest and recommend ways to reduce the danger of a wildfire starting and spreading on it. The recommendations are based on a Wildland-Urban Interface Plan that analyzes hazard risk levels and identifies areas of concern.

Free FireSmart assessments can be requested online by visiting laclabichedcounty.com/protective-services and submitting an electronic request form.

To help deal with woody debris, the Fire

Smart program also offers free wood chipping for residents of Lac La Biche County.

\$34,068.19

That's how much FCSS distributed to local non-profits in 2021.

There is plenty of funding left for 2022! If you work for a non-profit offering preventive social services, email fcss@laclabichedcounty.com for an application form.

FCSS Family and Community Support Services
Lac La Biche County

TALK BOX TIP

St. Patrick's Day is in March.

We talk about rainbows, the colour green, chasing leprechauns, and pots of gold.

This month's activities highlight colours, shapes, counting, and nursery rhymes.





Dates to Remember

Adult fitness classes resume in person & start week of March 7

• **Youth (12-15 years) Access Fitness I**
Saturday, March 19 | 9 am - noon
Cost: \$20

• **Youth (12-15 years) Access Fitness II**
*Prerequisites: Access Fitness I
Saturday, March 19 | 1-3 pm
Cost: \$25

• **Fun Fit Friday (6-12 years)**
Friday, March 25 | 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Cost: \$20/participant

• **Healthy Back Functional Core Workshop**
Saturday, March 26 | 9-10 am
Cost: \$15

Lakeland Interpretive Society AGM
Wednesday, March 16 | 7 pm start
Bold Center Viewpoint Room
For more information:
780-623-1727
info@laclabichemuseum.com

Water Safety Instructor Training
April 11 - 14 | 9 am - 6 pm (4 days),
Portage Pool
For more information or to register:
780-623-6777
poolstaff@laclabichemuseum.com

Award Nomination Deadline: Environmental Stewardship Awards

\$500 prize for each of 4 categories:

- Community Organization/Group
- Individual
- Agricultural
- Business/Institutional

Nominations are being accepted until May 1, 2022

For more information email green@laclabichemuseum.com, or call 780-623-6739

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@laclabichemuseum.com.

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



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.



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March is Nutrition Month: Bold Center Events



GROCERY STORE LIVE (Facebook) Event

Healthy Food Swaps on the fly & Healthy Meal Options along with quick meal ideas for those busy days.

Grab and go snack ideas you can make at home and eggs to go.

Recipes will be featured on our Bold Center social media pages.
Date/Time: TBA
Cost: Free



RECIPE MAKEOVER CHALLENGE

Send us creative healthy recipes along with a photo, the recipe, and what you did to improve the nutrition. Be entered for a chance to win an AIR FRYER! Selected recipes will be shared on our Social Media.

THE MONTH OF MARCH
Send your entries to:
fitness@laclabichemuseum.com



FOOD DRIVE

For the month of March bring your healthy non-perishable items to the main desk at the Bold Center and be entered in a draw for a \$100 Bold Center gift card.

- 4+ items per entry, no limit on entries
- All donations will go to the Waskasoo food bank

