

St. Isidore Plamondon 100th Anniversary

- The parish of St. Isidore is celebrating its 100th Anniversary on May 2, 2015. The celebration will include a banquet on Saturday, May 2 and a breakfast on Sunday, May 3, followed by mass.
- Council approved a funding request of \$1,500 from St. Isidore parish to support this event, under the County's Ad Hoc funding policy. (The County's Event Sponsorship program precludes funding requests from religious groups.)

Multi-Year Sidewalk Program Tender

- Council approved the tender of a multi-year sidewalk replacement program for infrastructure in the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon.
- The program, which will see roughly 20 kilometres of concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks replaced in the hamlets between 2015 and 2019, will cost just over \$3,200,000.
- Up to four kilometres of sidewalk will be replaced this year in the hamlets as a result of the program.

Holowachuk Walking Trail

- The County has applied for a development permit to construct a walking trail parallel to provincial Highway 881 connecting Holowachuk Estates with Beaver Lake hamlet. The construction of the walking trail is one of the capital projects approved in the 2015 budget.
- Alberta Transportation has requested that the County submit a contingency plan for the walking trail should future development require road widening or twinning in that area.
- Council passed a motion stating that the County agrees to relocate any portion of the walking trail that parallels Highway 881 if required for twinning, at no cost to Alberta Transportation, in order to move forward with the project.

Richard Memorial Spray Park

- Due to changes to the scope of the Richard Memorial Spray Park project—a project that will see a spray park constructed in McArthur Park in memory of Lac La Biche resident, Paul Richard—Council rescinded a number of previous motions made regarding the park. The motions, many of which concerned the budget for the park, no longer reflect the current status of the project.

- Council approved a motion to adopt the revised budget for the Richard Memorial Spray Park, totalling \$940,019, which includes \$225,000 that was carried forward from the County's 2014 budget for the project, and the \$250,000 donation from the Richard family that initially launched the project.

Proposed Change of Status from Municipal District to Specialized Municipality

- The County has been researching the possibility of applying for a change of municipal status from a municipal district to a specialized municipality. Wood Buffalo and Strathcona County are designated specialized municipalities and are similar to the County in that they are large municipalities that serve both urban and rural areas.
- Lac La Biche County encompasses over 16,000 square kilometres and is home to many diverse communities. It has two major urban centres as well as a significant rural area and population.
- The specialized municipality designation provides for the needs of a municipality with both urban and rural populations.
- Council approved a motion directing Administration to undertake the process to change the County's municipal status to that of a specialized municipality. This would require the provincial cabinet to issue a new regulation authorizing the change, effective in 2016.
- At the April 28 Council meeting, Administration will bring forward more information about the application process—which will include a public consultation—and any possible financial impacts to the County.

Allocation of Surplus to Capital Reserves

- The County's 2015 Capital Plan, which was adopted as part of the 2015 budget, identified over \$112 million in capital projects that will require funding over the next few years.
- As part of the 2015 capital budget, Council agreed to allocate reserves to specific infrastructure objectives after prioritizing capital projects to be completed over the next three to five years.
- Council approved \$26,000,000 to be placed in reserves for future capital project expenditures. Council will begin prioritizing the future capital projects that will be funded by this reserve next month.

Well Drilling Equipment Tax Bylaw

- Council passed an updated Well Drilling Equipment Tax Bylaw which authorizes the County to impose a tax on equipment used to drill oil and gas wells.
- The County has had a Well Drilling Equipment Tax Bylaw since 1998; however it was necessary to update the bylaw to reflect the current version of well drilling tax regulations.