

Your County in Touch



Municipal Development Plan (MDP) nearing completion

The planning process shaping the vision for future development in Lac La Biche County is in its final stages. The Municipal Development Task Force and County Council have reviewed the MDP, and will now be holding open houses for the public to see what our region will look like in the coming future.

Last year, the County conducted a survey and public consultation to determine what was important to citizens when planning for future development. The results of that survey, along with professional input regarding land use, residential, environment, and business concerns, have been integrated into a formal plan that aims to achieve the best way forward in the face of the massive developments that are coming our way.

Council, County officials, and development consultants will be present to discuss the plan and address any concerns citizens may have.

The open houses will take place in **Lac La Biche at McArthur Place on Monday, March 25;** and

The Plamondon Festival Centre on Tuesday, March 26.

For both sessions, doors open at 7 p.m., with a presentation at 7:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer session.

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County Spotlight

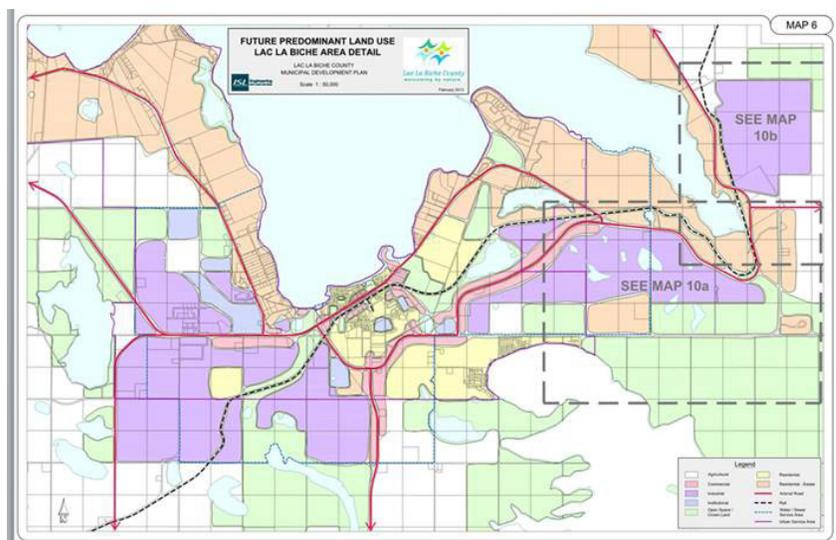
Community Engagement Meeting

Council and Administration will hold another "Get INFORMal with Lac La Biche County" meeting at the Plamondon Festival Centre from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 27. Please stop by to discuss municipal topics and initiatives.

Youth Survey online - win an iPad Mini!

FCSS has created a survey for youth across our region aged 10 – 24 to help us recognize problems youth newcomers may face when moving to the area. Answers will enhance programs to welcome newcomers.

The survey closes on March 14, 2013. Complete it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YJY9TCS>.



*This map outlines the essential ideas of the MDP and will be up for discussion at the open houses.
(Purple/Pink = Industrial; Orange/Yellow = Residential; Green = Open Spaces/Crown Land; White = Agricultural*

Did you know?

Lac La Biche County Family & Community Social Services (FCSS) provides grants to community organizations who run services and programs that improve the lives of citizens and aim to support development of the full potential of people.

FCSS is currently accepting grant applications. Please contact their office via phone at 780-623-7979 or e-mail at fcss@laclabichcounty.com for more information and assistance with obtaining a variety of different grants.

FCSS is also looking for a board member who would, among other things, help steer the grant process.

Fire permits

Starting March 1, all burning activities in Alberta's Forest Protection Area, excluding campfires, require a fire permit from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

During the month of March, Lac La Biche County will not require permits in its Regional Fire Department's zone of control, and instead will be running an educational campaign to improve residents' understanding of fire laws prior to our permit season start date of April 1.

If you are unsure whether you live in the Regional Fire Department's zone of control (County) or in the Forest Protection Area (Provincial government), please call 780-623-6767 or view the map posted at www.laclabichcounty.com/protective-services.

Staff contact: Albert Bahri
Manager, Protective Services
T: 780-623-6820
albert.bahri@laclabichcounty.com

Medevac update

County Council is continuing to lobby the provincial government to maintain the medevac flight time standards that we require.

While the closure of the City Centre Airport is likely a done deal, the County has the support of a majority of northern Alberta municipalities to continue advocating for existing airport-to-hospital travel times.

Council has provided a grant of \$5,000 to the Save Our Medevac Society to continue their lobbying efforts.

Council will be asking the Minister of Health for a solution at the upcoming Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) meeting.

Staff contact: Shadia Amblie
General Manager, Communications & Human Services
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Agricultural Service Board awards scholarships

Every year, the Lac La Biche County Agricultural Service Board provides scholarships to local students pursuing educational opportunities in agriculture-related fields. This year's recipients were Jessie Stevens, taking her Environmental Biology degree at the University of Saskatchewan, and Stephanie Burchill, who is in the Western Ranch and Cow Horse program at Lakeland College. The scholarship cheques were provided in December to give the students a fiscal boost against their second semester expenses. Keep up the good work, ladies!



Agricultural Fieldman Kyle Beniuk (l) presents the award to Stephanie Burchill (r).



Jessie Stevens (l) accepts her certificate from Lac La Biche County CAO Roy Brideau (r).

County staff recognized during Queen's Diamond Jubilee



Congratulations to Communications Coordinator Karl Kopan (r), pictured here at the awards ceremony with LCol R.W. (Rob) Kamphuis (l), on his award of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his volunteer involvement with Cadet, Scout, and community theatre programs.



CAO Roy Brideau (r) received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for his ongoing contributions to municipal governance. Mayor Aurel Langevin (l) presented the medal to Roy on behalf of CAMA (the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators).

Citizen Satisfaction Survey results

In late November/early December, the County commissioned a phone and internet survey to find out residents' opinions and concerns about the County. This adds to a similar survey conducted in 2011 as suggested in the most recent organization review.

The summary report for the 2012 Citizen Satisfaction survey is now available at www.laclabichcounty.com/2012survey.

Some of the key findings include:

- 93% of respondents described their quality of life in Lac La Biche County as good or very good.
- The overall best ratings went to ease of bill payments & program registration, well-maintained facilities,

and good programs and services generally.

- Residents are most satisfied with fire department services, the County's recreation facilities and programs, and Family and Community Support Services.

The most frequent suggestions were about improvements in road maintenance, waste management, access to program information, customer service, attraction of new businesses, and bylaw enforcement.

For more information about the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, contact Shadia Amblie:

T: 780-623-6769

shadia.amblie@laclabichcounty.com

Predator control service for farms

In an effort to maintain a high level of service in predator control, agricultural producers who have recently experienced livestock losses due to predators are asked to share their experience with Lac La Biche County's Agricultural Service Board.

Please contact Renewable Resources at 780-623-6739 or green@laclabichcounty.com.

Updates to the Land Use Bylaw

The County is considering some changes to the Rural Industrial District and new use definitions that will affect how industry is allowed to use land. Examples include:

Light Industrial Uses would include water hauling businesses and retail or rental stores.

Medium Industrial Uses would include tank farms, large parking lots for industry, and small recycling facilities.

Heavy Industrial Uses would include asphalt or concrete plants and gravel crushing facilities.

Any applications for Heavy Industrial Uses would need to submit an environmental impact assessment, a risk assessment report, and an emergency response plan, all prepared by a qualified professional. They must also be approved by the Municipal Planning Commission.

The public hearing for these changes will be held on the March 12 Council meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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Community Fitness HAPPENS at the **BOLD** CENTER

Your County in Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and is available to every resident. To make it easier, faster and more convenient for you, we would like to send this newsletter to you electronically. This will also save paper, postage and the environment. All you need to do is call 780-623-1747 or provide your e-mail address to intouch@lابلابichecounty.com. Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.

We have tried to ensure our mailing list is up-to-date but please let us know if you have received this newsletter twice or if your address has changed. Thank you.



Dates to Remember

March 9

Kinsmen On-the-pond Hockey

March 10

Daylight Savings Time begins

March 23 - 26

Lac La Biche & District Music Festival

March 29 - 7 - 9 p.m.

Community Engagement Meeting
Plamondon Festival Centre



By popular demand, Bold Center patrons who hold annual memberships will have free access to select classes each month.

If you hold an annual membership, in addition to using all fitness facilities and equipment, registration fees will be waived for the following classes:

Cross Cycle Fit (evening section)

April 8 to May 1
Mon./Weds., 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Tabata Training

Afternoons: March 5 to 28
Tues./Thurs., 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

Mornings: April 9 - May 2
Tues./Thurs., 7:30 - 8 a.m.

Abs & Butt Circuit Training

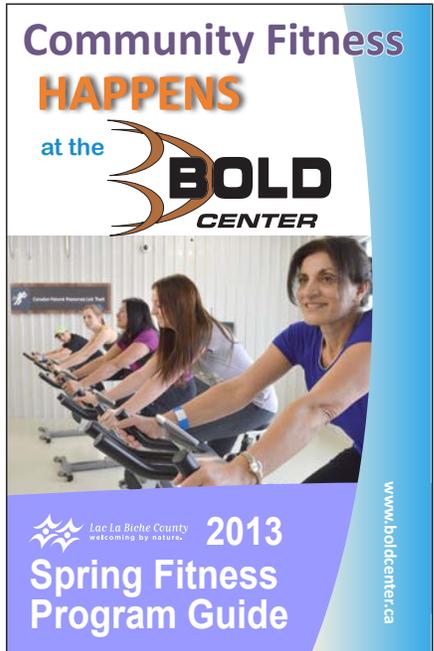
March 4 to 27
Mon./Weds., 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Zumba Circuit Training

April 9 to May 2
Tues./Thurs., 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Staff contact: *Christine Martin*
Recreation Program Coordinator
T: 780-623-6351

christine.martin@lابلابichecounty.com



Choose your spring fitness program!

Spring Fitness Program Guides are available at County facilities and online. 'Like' the Bold Center's Facebook page to get immediate updates on the programs that are featured in these guides.