

# Your County in Touch



Lac La Biche County  
welcoming by nature.

Issue No. 18 • May 1, 2013

## Work to begin on Beaver Hill Road



**The County has been working since 2012 to develop a comprehensive plan to move forward with upgrades to Beaver Hill Road.**

The County's Transportation department is tackling a long awaited project during the 2013 road construction season – Beaver Hill Road.

The noticeably rough north end of Beaver Hill Road is the part of the project that will receive the most attention. When work begins engineers have a plan to fix historic drainage issues underneath the road.

Due to the natural drainage corridor along Beaver Hill Road towards the lake, the road will require storm sewer changes near the Canadian National (CN) Railroad crossing. Work will take place on either side of the crossing, around it and underneath it taking

into consideration the needs of CN when doing our planning.

Key improvements to be made to Beaver Hill Road are:

- Just over 3 kms will receive a new base and pavement.
- Upgraded LED lighting to reduce power use;
- Wheelchair accessible curb entrances to the sidewalks giving everyone access to businesses, the Bold Center and new high school.

"We took a little extra time to find out what the entire scope of the project would be before getting started," says Jeff Lawrence, General Manager Operations.

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**YOU  
MATTER**   
2013 Municipal Census  
**You're not just a number to us!**

Lac La Biche County is conducting a census to gather sufficient data about those who live and depend on services in the municipality.

The data is important because future funding and grant applications are based on per capita statistics.

For the first time ever, the County has been given approval to conduct a shadow population count. These are temporary residents who have been in the County a minimum of 30 days in the 2013 census year and depend on services here.

The 2013 Municipal Census seeks the following statistical information:

1. The number of people in your household;
2. The type of dwelling you reside in;
3. The age ranges and genders of the people living under your roof.

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## New Land Sale Policy

To guide the sale of surplus lands, a new policy has been put in place for Council and Administration to follow when the sale of County-owned land is deemed feasible.

The policy provides a consistent way to manage land sales, makes the process transparent, and maximizes the financial benefit to the County by selling land at fair or greater than fair market value.

There are five ways adopted by the County to sell surplus land:

- (1) Marketing it by listing it with a local realtor;
- (2) via public auction;
- (3) By public sale (which would include newspaper or online notices);
- (4) Public posting on the internet (this might include eBay, Kijiji);
- (5) Lastly, Council may by resolution, authorize Administration to conduct a sale through a sole source process.

In all cases, the listing shall include: a property description; legal land location; property size; current zoning; road access; services; offsite levies; and appraised value.

To determine the value of the land the County will engage the services of an independent, accredited land appraiser to set a value based on the principle of market value.

The procedure for the sale of surplus land is overseen by the County Chief Administration Office (CAO) and all sales must have the approval of Lac La Biche County Council.

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## New BNR plant to begin

The County's new Biological Nutrient Removal facility (BNR) will soon enter testing stages and will come online in the following weeks.

When it does, the BNR facility will meet all environmental regulations and treat wastewater to the highest standards in North America.

A key improvement with the BNR plant is right in the name - the removal of phosphorous and other nutrients from the water as part of the treatment process.

Nutrients left in treated water cause the growth of algae, but with higher standards in place, water returned to its natural origin will not contribute to the growth of algae in our lake water. This is important because algae can change the taste and smell of treated water.

To bring the BNR plant into service, seven days of start-up testing will take place. Once the equipment and processes are confirmed to be functioning properly, the new plant will be brought online and will begin treating wastewater from homes and businesses in Lac La Biche County.

Until a full switchover takes place,

the existing waste treatment facility continues to operate under a one-year Wastewater System Operational approval from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources. Due to its age it no longer meets the environmental standards expected from modern wastewater treatment plants.

Both federal and provincial governments contributed dollars toward this project. The Government of Canada contributed \$3.8 million and the Government of Alberta invested an additional \$12 million.

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### MDP session input

Our appreciation to everyone who contributed ideas towards the further development of the draft Municipal Development Plan (MDP).

All input will be considered as part of a submission to Council and another opportunity for public review will take place before the adoption of the plan.

## FCSS and CSS grants awarded

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) provides funding for programs and projects that are preventive or early intervention human services.

Since January 1, the FCSS Board has approved a combined total of \$61,506 in grants to: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lac La Biche & Area; Plamondon & Wandering River Community Resource Society; Lac La Biche Moms & Tots; and the Plamondon District Community Development Society.

The grants are for youth programming, program materials and supplies, and volunteer appreciation.

There has also been \$40,000 in Community Social Service grants distributed. These include: the Program for Adult Learning; Lac La Biche Victims Services Society; and the Lac La Biche Safety Awareness Society.

If you have an idea for a prevention or early intervention project, and would like to know how to apply for a grant please call the FCSS office.

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## Portage Pool: maintenance is key

With recent repairs made to Portage Pool and a new cleaning and maintenance regime in place, it is a goal for the County that the pool will experience greater operational periods and fewer unexpected downtimes into the future.

When the decision was made to keep the pool closed until all work was complete, the focus was to ensure the facility was safe for everyone to use. The closure helped Portage Pool develop and train staff on a new preventative maintenance program that reduces the chances of closures.

Pools are facilities that have among the highest maintenance requirements. There are three things that will cause the pool to close: mechanical issues; lack of qualified, available staff; and when the pool is fouled by a user of the facility.

Fouled is when a swimmer, usually a child or youth, vomits or has a bowel or bladder accident in the pool negatively affecting the Ph balance of the water. It only takes one accident to close down the pool for as long as seven days.

In the case of the pool being fouled, the pool must be drained, the health unit advised, the pool thoroughly scrubbed by staff, it must then be filled back up and the water warmed to the right temperature. The water is then re-tested.

Sometimes many small contaminants can add up and cause down-time. These are

added to the pool by users. Some of them include: lotions; hairspray; make-up; shampoo, or particles of clothing that come in with a swimmer. These underscore the requirements for all users to shower, and shower well, before they enter the pool.

What can parents do to help reduce the chance of a fouling incident shutting down the pool?

Some simple precautions on the part of parents/guardians can make a big difference:

- use special undergarments specially designed for young children in pools;
- remind children to use the washroom before they enter the pool;
- even after children are out of diapers, get them to take washrooms breaks often;
- don't allow children to go into the pool if they are not feeling well (ie: nausea, upset stomach).

Regular users of the pool are encouraged to check for social media updates. On Facebook, search for the Bold Center, 'like' the page, and receive updates.

You can also call Portage Pool staff at 780-623-6777.

## Beaver Hill Road

*Continued from Page 1.*

"Beaver Hill Road is a major corridor for the community. We considered future growth in the Hamlet and traffic flow increases as part of the design."

Beaver Hill Road is a main thoroughfare for many drivers and leads to the Bold Center, the new location of the high school and several residential subdivisions. The school will bring increased traffic along the route and crosswalk upgrades are part of the plan.

There will be some inconvenience to those who depend on Beaver Hill Road, but no type of road construction project can take place without disruption. To keep traffic flowing and minimize disruption to business and inconvenience to others who use Beaver Hill Road, a single lane of traffic will be maintained during construction. There are no plans to totally close the road at any point.

To ensure everyone is aware of the upcoming project, a consultation process has already taken place. The consultant for the project and county staff have already met with homeowners and businesses along the route to ensure they are aware of all the upcoming work.

The project will begin on May 1. The first lift of pavement is anticipated by October 31, 2013 with total project completion mid-summer 2014, weather depending. Planning for this project began in spring of 2012 and the investment in the community is \$10 million.

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## 2013 Municipal Census begins in May

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All information collected in the census will not be disclosed for any other purpose (such as bylaw enforcement or taxation purposes) and is protected under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*.

Owners of single family dwellings are being sent a census form which they can fill out. Other ways to participate include

visiting [www.laclabichcounty.com](http://www.laclabichcounty.com) to download, complete and mail the form; or by speaking with enumerators who will come to your home if you have not submitted a response.

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# Outdoor Boot Camp HAPPENS at the



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@laclabichedcounty.com](mailto:intouch@laclabichedcounty.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

### May 11, 2013

2013 Clean SWEEP (Street Waste Education Enhancement Program). Watch for details on our website.

### May 22, 2013

Deadline for Do Not Spray Requests. For info. 780-623-6366.

### May 24, 2013

Registration deadline for Community Garden plots.

### June 15, 2013

The Lac La Biche Kids Society hosts the Summer Solstice Half Marathon. For details call 780-404-7277.



Tired of working out indoors? Need some fresh air? This is the class for YOU!

Outdoor Boot Camp will help to increase muscular strength and endurance, improve cardio respiratory fitness, reduce stress, and burn some serious calories all in one fun and activity filled hour.

**Dates:** Monday and Wednesday  
May 6 – 29 (no class May 20)

**Time:** 6:45-7:45 pm

**Location:** McArthur Park

**Cost:** Full Session \$56  
Drop in for \$10  
One use Fitness 10 Pass

No payments can be taken at McArthur Park. Payment and registrations must take place at the Bold Center prior to participating in the class.

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## Aqua Fitness Courses Portage Pool

**Aqua Zumba**  
April 8 - May 29  
Mon/Wed, 5:30 - 6:15 pm

**Aqua Fit**  
April 10 - May 31  
Wed/Fri, 9-10 am

## Save lives and earn competitive wages

Apply now  
for a  
lifeguard  
position.



Work full-time, part-time or casual at Portage Pool

For a full description of position requirements and how to apply, go to our website:  
[www.laclabichedcounty.com/careers](http://www.laclabichedcounty.com/careers)  
Or call Human Resources at 780-623-6770.



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