



Your County in Touch

Issue No. 8 • July 20, 2012



County Spotlight

5 Years of Unity

August 1, 2012 marks the fifth anniversary of the amalgamation of the Town of Lac La Biche and Lakeland County. Running up to Pow Wow, the County will be having meet and greets at community halls around the county, and free ice, and swim times at the Bold Center and Portage Pool. See inside for more details.

Pow Wow Days

Lac La Biche County is pleased to be a major partner in the 50th annual Pow Wow Days and Fish Derby. The parade kicks off on Friday, August 3, and is followed by a long weekend of fun activities. Follow Lac La Biche Pow Wow on Facebook for the latest information.

Election workers needed

Please visit www.laclabichedcounty.com. Under the Council tab, click "By-Election Information" and then view the link to the Deputy Returning Officer application.

Mayor Kirylchuk's Resignation leads to Sept. 5 By-election

After eight years in a municipal leadership role, Mayor Peter Kirylchuk has resigned his post as Mayor of Lac La Biche County due to health reasons. Deputy Mayor Langevin automatically became the Acting Mayor. Acting Mayor Langevin resigned on July 10 to run for the office of Mayor (as per the Municipal Government Act, sitting members of Council may not run for other positions of Council while in office). Gail Broadbent is currently the Acting Mayor, and MJ Siebold is currently the Acting Deputy Mayor.

As the Lac La Biche County Mayor is elected at Large, the Alberta Municipal Government Act requires the position of Mayor to be vacant for no longer than 12 months. The County will hold a by-election for the position of Mayor on Wednesday, September 5.

Nomination Day for the mayoral by-election will be on Wednesday, August 8, 2012. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit the County's website for more information. Nomination packages are also available at the County Centre Office.

Eligible voters must be at least 18 years old, Canadian citizens, have resided in Alberta for the six consecutive months prior to Election Day, and reside in Lac La Biche County on Election Day.

Advance polls will be held on Wednesday, August 29 in Lac La Biche and Plamondon.

On Election Day (September 5), voting will be carried out at polling stations in Lac La Biche, Plamondon, Craigend, Hylo, Rich Lake, and Owl River. As the Mayor represents all residents of the County, and Lac La Biche County has adopted a modified voting procedure, voters may vote at the polling station of their choice.

There were previous discussions with regard to filling the Ward 2 position vacated by Mr. Langevin, and whether or not the County is legislated to hold a by-election for the ward vacancy. Preliminary interpretations of the Municipal Government Act indicated that filling the ward vacancy was not required. However, County Administration recently consulted further with both Municipal Affairs and the County's solicitors on this unique situation, and has been advised that the better interpretation is that the County must hold the Ward 2 by-election. This requirement is based on the timeline before the 2013 general municipal election and the County currently having two Councillor vacancies. The Ward 2 by-election must be held no later than October 8, 2012, 90 days after the resignation of Mr. Langevin, but Council has yet to set the date.

Contact: *Melanie Kanarek*
Manager, Legislative Services

T: 780-623-6806

melanie.kanarek@laclabichedcounty.com

Did you know? Municipal Addresses

Five years ago, during the heady days of amalgamation, Lac La Biche County completed Lakeland County's project to implement a municipal address system.

The standardized addresses brought us up to national standards. This allows emergency response staff such as firefighters and emergency medical technicians from all across Canada to figure out where you live from their first day on the job.

If you call 911, they will expect your municipal address. It is what emergency staff are trained to use. Your legal land description is no longer the most useful way to communicate your location.



The address as stated on your sign will be the most helpful to people trying to find you, even if your road has another common name used by you and your neighbours. For example, if your sign says 16123 Twp Rd 675, but you give your address as 16123 Easy Street (because "that's what we've always called it!"), the ambulance might take a little bit longer to figure out your location.

*If you lack a municipal address sign, contact:
Beth Thola, GIS Coordinator
T: 780-623-6811
beth.thola@lACLbichecounty.com*

2012 - 2015 Communications Plan Adopted by Council

Well-coordinated, effectively managed and responsive communication procedures that meet the needs of County Council, municipal staff, the public, and potential employees are the goals of a new three-year communications plan adopted by County council at its July 10 meeting.

Work began on developing the plan after a Strategic Communications Planning Team, a subcommittee of County Council, was struck in December 2011. Comprised of

two members of Council and four members of County department staff, the team set to work gathering information through a consultation process. Meetings included the input of County staff and community members who had ideas for helping the plan succeed.

The approved plan sets goals and priorities that address the needs of external and internal target audiences in a timely, open, transparent and client-focused manner. The County recognizes these initial priorities may change and each year the plan will be revisited and evaluated to ensure the changing needs of the community and County staff continue to be met.

For County residents, implementation of the

Communications Plan provides:

- increased awareness and transparency of decisions made by the County;
- greater access to on-demand information and customer services;
- the ability to engage themselves in planning and decision-making

processes and receive outcomes as soon as they are made.

Residents will also be asked to help improve communication by filling out a participant evaluation form as a standard part of any public meeting, town hall or community

session and by taking part in an annual citizens satisfaction survey.

These are all goals to help establish Lac La Biche County as a strong, well-managed organization, promote the County as an employer and community of choice in northeastern Alberta for prospective employees, residents, and visitors while positioning Lac La Biche County as a growing, progressive and productive community.

The 2012-2015 Lac La Biche County Communications Plan is available at www.lACLbichecounty.com under the Documents and Maps tab.

*Staff contact:
Shadia Amblie, General Manager
Communications & Community Services
T: 780-623-6769
shadia.amblie@lACLbichecounty.com*



Lac La Biche County to Celebrate 5th Anniversary

Lac La Biche County is celebrating a five-year milestone, and we want residents to share in the festivities.

On August 1, 2012, the municipal district we know as Lac La Biche County will mark its five year anniversary of the amalgamation of the former Town of Lac La Biche and the former Lakeland County.

The amalgamation is a result of discussions that took place back in 2006 between the Town of Lac La Biche and Lakeland County regarding the possibility of amalgamating. This ultimately led to a vote on April 30, 2007, in which a non-binding plebiscite was held in the Town of Lac La Biche and Lakeland



County to determine whether or not the residents were in favour of amalgamation.

Residents of the former Town of Lac La Biche voted 93% in favour of amalgamation, while 53% of Lakeland County residents supported amalgamation.

Five years have passed, and the County wants all citizens to have an opportunity to share in the celebration. That's why we're throwing an anniversary party at a number of community halls from Monday, July 30th to August 4th. There will be games and crafts for children of all ages, and of course cake and refreshments. Come meet staff and councillors who serve your area, and sign our giant anniversary card!

Join us for the celebrations:

Monday, July 30 – **Hylo/Venice Community Hall** at 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday, July 31 – **Plamondon Festival Centre** at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tuesday, July 31 – **Owl River Community Centre**: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 1 – **Craigend Community Hall**: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wednesday, August 1 – **Rich Lake Community Hall**: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Thursday August 2 – **Lac La Biche, McArthur Place**: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Plus, from July 30 to August 3 at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. take advantage of free public swimming at Portage Pool and public skating at the Bold Center.

Curbside Carts Rolled Out

Lac La Biche County and its residents have taken an important step toward ensuring the solid waste we all create is managed in a responsible and efficient way.

During the last week of June, the County rolled out its first curbside pickup and recycling program, part of the County's Solid Waste Transitional Plan, adopted by Council last January and introduced to the public at a town hall meeting on February 13, 2012.

One of the main concepts of the program is to help increase recycling and thus reduce the number of items going to the landfills. The purchase of one brown household refuse cart and one blue recyclable material cart for each address was approved at the March 27, 2012 Regular Council Meeting.

From previous door-to-door surveys conducted in the Hamlet of Lac La

Biche in June 2011, and in the Hamlet of Plamondon and rural subdivisions in August 2011, the County heard that 95% of respondents strongly agreed it was important to keep recyclables out of the landfills. About 67% of the respondents said they were in favour of implementing a curbside pickup program.

While there were a few hiccups in the recent cart rollout process, the pickup service of solid waste went into full force on July 3 in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche and on July 4 in the Hamlet of Plamondon and select rural subdivisions.

The brown household refuse carts will be emptied weekly by our solid waste contractor; Tuesday within the Hamlet of Lac La Biche and Wednesday in Plamondon and participating rural subdivisions.

The blue recycling carts are emptied every second Thursday alternating between the Hamlet of Lac La Biche and the Hamlet of Plamondon and our rural subdivisions. So if you live in Lac La Biche, your recycling was picked up on July 5 and again on July 19. Plamondon and rural subdivisions had their carts emptied on July 12.

We appreciate everyone's commitment and patience as we work toward helping the program run at its full potential, and we welcome any suggestions that might help us meet this goal. For more information on the curbside pickup service, and what to put in the brown and blue carts, visit www.laclabichcounty.com to view the Frequently Asked Questions about the program.

Mad About Science - Taking Registrations



Each summer, youth between the ages of 6-12 have the opportunity to explore science and learn more about the environment as part of a summer day camp called Mad About Science.

Hands-on activities, cool experiments, great games and fantastic prizes will catch the interest of junior scientists while information about fish, soils, invasive and endangered species encourage everyone to find out more about our environment.

This exciting educational science program, created and administered by Lac La Biche County at no-charge to County residents, had its first session

take place at McArthur Place on July 12, and a second session in Plamondon on July 19.



Cidra Kaufman (left) and Payton Sehn (right) extracted DNA from strawberries at the first Mad About Science Session at McArthur Place. Thanks for participating, ladies!

Subsequent sessions are planned at the following locations and dates throughout the County:

- Craigend Community Hall – July 26
- Hylo/Venice Hall – August 16
- Plamondon Festival Centre - August 9
- Fork Lake – August 23
- McArthur Place – August 2

All sessions take place from 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

For more information or to register, contact:
Molly Fyten, Environmental Field Coordinator
T: 780-623-6725

molly.fyten@laclabichcounty.com

Dates to Remember

July 30 - August 3

5 Year Anniversary Celebrations

August 3 - 6

Pow Wow Days & Fish Derby

August 8

Mayoral Nomination Day

August 29

Mayoral Advance Polls

September 5

Mayoral By-Election Day

Your County in Touch

Your County in Touch is produced every two weeks 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 we need is for you to call us at 780-623-1747 or send an e-mail providing your name and address to **intouch@laclabichcounty.com**. Call the same number 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.