



Your County in Touch

Issue No. 19 • June 3, 2013

Understanding your 2013 tax notice

Your tax notice is a breakdown of where your annual property taxes go. Although it is sent to you by Lac La Biche County, it includes levies and taxes from other agencies.

For the municipality's portion of the notice, County Council set tax rates by first determining the goals it wishes to achieve.

Based on this direction, County Administration develops a budget after considering costs of all programs and external funding such as grants from the provincial and federal programs.

If required, Administration makes recommendations for any changes in the municipal and fire mill rates, which Council approves or reworks.

Property taxes are made up of: the general municipal levy which is necessary for financing municipal operations; the Fire Protection Services levy to finance the cost of fire

protection in the County; the Alberta School Foundation levy to finance the Alberta School Foundation requisition levied by the Province of Alberta; and the Seniors Foundation levy to finance the Greater North Foundation requisition.

Requisitions are levies set by agencies outside of the County. Lac La Biche County doesn't control requisitions but must include them on tax notices that property owners receive each year. They are clearly listed on your tax notice.

Among the information on the back of your tax notice are the terms of payment, penalties for late payment and timelines for payment of your taxes. There is also contact information for the County assessors, Municipal Assessment Service Group Inc., should you have any questions about your assessment value or wish to file a complaint.

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A snapshot of the 2013 mill rates

Depending on the type of property assessment and building activity, ratepayers might not see an increase caused by the County:

- If a property has been assessed as residential or as farmland, no building improvements have occurred and the market value hasn't increased, the municipal mill rate has not changed.
- If your property is assessed as a non-residential in the urban services area, the municipal mill rate has not changed.
- If your property is in the rural

services area of the County and have been assessed as non-residential, the municipal mill rate increases. This is due to more industrial activity taking place in the County creating a need for increased maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

The Fire Protection Mill Rate has been set higher across the taxation board to offset fire operating expenses and to ensure we have adequate fire services in the County.



Health society seeks Members-at-Large

The William J. Cadzow Hospital Auxiliary Association, in partnership with Lac La Biche County, is seeking Members-at-Large to serve on the following board for a three-year term:

Lac La Biche Health Society

The Lac La Biche Health Society serves as a branch society of the William J. Cadzow Hospital Auxiliary Association to:

- 1) Aid in providing volunteer services and financial contributions to the Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre in order to support patient comfort and care.
- 2) Raise and allocate funds for necessary equipment and facility upgrades for the Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre in order to enhance the quality of health and wellness within the community.

Interested?

All interested persons are encouraged to submit their cover letter and completed questionnaire, Attention: Mélanie LeRouzic, Special Projects & Research Coordinator, Lac La Biche County by June 12, 2013.

Please contact the County Office, visit www.laclabichedcounty.com or e-mail melanie.lerouzic@laclabichedcounty.com for additional information.



2013 Tax Notices

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Assessment Open House

The County assessor will be hosting an Open House at the County Centre from 11 am to 9 pm, Thursday, June 13 to answer your questions and explain the assessment process.

Anyone wishing to appeal the assessment of their property value can do so within 60 days of the mailing date of the tax notice. Instructions are on the back of the notice itself.

Monthly Payment Option

By filling out an Application for Pre-Authorized Debit Plan Agreement, those wishing to pay their property taxes on a monthly basis can do so via automatic withdrawal from a bank account. The forms are available by visiting the County Centre. Please bring your banking information with you.

Programs for Seniors

The Government of Alberta has three programs to help seniors pay for property taxes.

The first is the Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors Program (a tax deferral program).

Second, there is the Alberta Seniors' benefit (which provides monthly cash benefits).

Third, is a new program called the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program (which works through a home equity loan).

You can find more information about these Government of Alberta programs by visiting www.health.alberta.ca/seniors/property-tax-assistance

Staff contact: Maurice Gushta, Manager Finance
T: 780-623-6804
maurice.gushta@laclabichcounty.com

Plamondon Recreation, Parks and Open Space master plan

Lac La Biche County recently commissioned a consulting team, led by Expedition Management Consulting, to complete the Plamondon Recreation, Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

The project is the first phase of the County's recreational master planning process, which is currently underway and will conclude this fall.

The main goal of the master plan is to produce a comprehensive document that will guide decisions related to recreation, culture, parks and open spaces in Plamondon in the short, medium and long term.

The consulting team is asking Plamondon area residents to participate in the process given that their involvement will be critical to the success of the plan. Specifically, the team wants to gain an understanding of public needs pertaining to the future development of recreation, culture, and

parks facilities and services.

There are a variety of ways that residents can become involved including:

- 1) Public Input Meeting - 7 pm, June 24, 2013, Plamondon Festival Centre;
- 2) Household Survey – will be mailed to Plamondon and area households in June;
- 3) Public presentation of the final plan will take place this fall

In addition to the above, the consultant team has been busy meeting with stakeholder groups and will be hosting a stakeholder forum on June 10, 2013.

If residents are part of a stakeholder group, they can provide their views to their representative in the process.

Staff contact: Shadia Amblie
General Manager,
Communications and Human Services

Unsightly properties a focus

The County's annual Clean Sweep Program has ended for 2013, but Lac Biche County's peace officers continue to check for unsafe or unsightly properties.

Peace officers ask that property owners keep their land clean and remove:

- graffiti;
- loose or bagged garbage;
- furniture and appliances;
- machinery and car parts.

In addition, keep grass and shrubbery trimmed, repaint fences and exterior of your home, and check your property for hazardous chemicals (paint, motor oil, brake fluid, etc).

If a peace officer sees anything unsafe or unsightly on your land, or if a resident files a complaint with Protective Services about your land, a

peace officer can issue a 'compliance notice.' This notice might be verbal or written, and gives you a deadline of up to 14 days to fix the problem. The notice might give you specific instructions on how to remove the unsafe or unsightly elements on your property, which should always be followed.

Complaints can be peace officer observed or called in from residents.

A peace officer could also send you a notice in the mail, put it on the door of a building, or personally deliver your notice. In all cases, if you fail to meet the deadline or don't follow instructions, peace officers could issue fines described in the Community Standards bylaw.

Albert Bahri, Manager Protective Services
T: 780-623-6769
protectiveservices@laclabichcounty.com

New Environment Stewardship Advisory Committee formed



Lac La Biche County has a focus of keeping our environment in top condition to benefit everyone in the future.

With this in mind, when County Councillors created the new Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee (ESAC) on December 18, 2012, they had our natural surroundings in mind.

ESAC provides a valuable link between Council and members of the public. By researching environmental standards and conducting consultations on County matters, members of the committee help Councillors make informed decisions about environmental policy.

There are three public members on the Committee: Marv Fyten, Tim Polzin and Brian Deheer. Two Council members are also part of the committee: MJ Seibold and Guy Piquette. Together all five are voting members of ESAC.

The committee is already busy implementing the Lac La Biche Watershed

Management Plan, an Education and Communications Plan, Green Plans and a Wetlands Policy.

Household Hazardous Waste Round-up & Enviro Fair

June 8, 10am - 2pm

The County's annual Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up will take place on June 8 from 10 am to 2 pm at McArthur Place.

We'll take your unwanted electronics (TVs, VCRs, and computers) and old chemical substances (paint, nail polish, and used motor oil). Bring in waste and receive a treat compliments of Lac La Biche County!

Check out Alberta Environment's full list of eligible items online at: environment.alberta.ca/02811.html

Enjoy free hot dogs, refreshments and browse environmental displays by various groups and agencies.

*Staff contact: Molly Fyten,
Resource Recovery Coordinator
T: 780-623-6362
molly.fyten@laclabichedcounty.com*

Is Lac La Biche a welcoming community?

Lac La Biche County's Family and Community Support Services is conducting a survey about services and support mechanisms for newcomers to our community.

Called the Lakeland Region Integration Project, it involves gathering responses in three rural municipalities: Lac La Biche, Cold Lake and Bonnyville.

The goal and vision of the project is to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all newcomers. You can take part if you are over the age of 18.

The survey consists of eight online

questions that will just take a few minutes to complete. The data we collect is important to guide programs and services for new Lac La Biche County residents.

Those who complete the survey can enter their name into a draw to win an iPad mini. A link to the survey can be found on our website online survey which closes June 25.

*Staff contact: Monette Gauthier,
Community Engagement Liaison, Social Planning
T: 780-623-6751
monette.gauthier@laclabichedcounty.com*



The Lac La Biche County's social planning department provides an opportunity for seniors to participate in day trips to visit interesting places and enjoy time together. The first two trips are:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2013

'Diana, a celebration'

West Edmonton Mall

Cost: \$65 each, not including lunch

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013

Driving Miss Daisy

Mayfield Dinner Theatre, Edmonton

Cost: \$90 each, includes meal

For information or to book a seat call

Linda Johnson/ 780-623-6726

linda.johnson@laclabichedcounty.com



Music Everywhere / July 15 - 19

Hosted by Ms. Helve Sastok

AM - 6 to 9 yr old program

PM - 10 to 14 yr old program

Register by: July 5, 2013

Learn music composition!

Possibilities with Rogest / Aug 13-15

AM - 8 to 10 yr old program

PM - 11-14 yr old program

Register by: August 9, 2013

Create marine dot art!

Fee: \$30 per participant

For information or to register call

Cheryl Craig/ 780-623-6763

cheryl.craig@laclabichedcounty.com

Summer programs

HAPPEN at the

www.boldcenter.ca / 780-623-3829



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@laclabichecounty.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

June 13, 2013

Assessment Open House
11 am to 9 pm, County Centre

June 15, 2013

Lac La Biche County Surplus Equipment Auction. Visit our website to view the items.

June 27, 2013

Agriculture Appreciation Day / banquet and comedian / Lakeland Agricom. RSVP 780-623-6739.

July 11 to Aug 22, 2013

Mad About Science. To register call 780-623-6725.

July 25, 2013

Community Engagement Meeting Owl River, 7 pm.



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.



Tues & Thurs evenings/ June – August
Minimum 3 ladies on field at all times
Ages 17 & over
Team Fee: \$225
Register by: Friday, June 7, 2013

Staff contact: Reno Larocque, Recreation Programmer
T: 780-623-6370 / 780-404-5580 / reno.larocque@laclabichecounty.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN JUNE

- June 5 - Tianna's Carnival
- June 12 - Wyatt's Mini Stick Tourney
- June 19 - Jehan's Water Fun
6 to 7:30 pm / regular drop-in fees apply

Staff contact: Christine Martin, Program Coordinator
T: 780-623-6351 weekdays / christine.martin@laclabichecounty.com



Soccer Camp - July 8-12 / Ages 6-16 / Fee: \$127
Volleyball Camp - July 15-19 / Ages: 12-18 / Fee: \$125
Fitness & Nutrition Camp - July 15-19 / Fee: \$125
Ages 13-15 (8:30 am - noon); Ages 16-17 (1-4:30 pm)
Staff contact: Reno Larocque, Recreation Program Coordinator
T: 780-623-6370/780-404-5580 / reno.larocque@laclabichecounty.com

FUN IN THE SUN IS BACK!



JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, GAMES, SWIMMING, MAD ABOUT SCIENCE, LIBRARY VISITS, FIELD TRIPS AND MORE.

JULY 2 - AUGUST 23
AGES 6 - 12

REGULAR HOURS
MON - THURS 9-4 PM
FRIDAY 9-3:45 PM
FEE \$75 PER CHILD PER WEEK

EXTENDED HOURS
MON-THURS 8-5:15 PM
FRIDAY 8-3:45 PM
FEE \$80 PER CHILD PER WEEK

For more information,
please contact
780.623.3829
and ask for Mikaela,
Sam, or Mariam



BOLDCENTER.CA/PROGRAMS