



Your County in Touch

Issue No. 15 • December 18, 2012

Year-end message from Council

With the start of a new year upon us it is a good time to take stock of the County's accomplishments and challenges during 2012.

This reflection is a great way to help us determine where we are and adjust the path forward.

To a large degree 2012 was a year of transition for our County. We welcomed a new Chief Administrative Officer along with many new staff members to build capacity and expertise for future growth.

County Council and Administration are all aware of the fact that the decisions we make now must fit into the future for a municipality that anticipates a large volume of accelerating growth.

With this in mind we've created an Economic Development Authority to formulate an Economic Development Plan and gather data integral to helping our County grow and attract business.

When considered with other work going on, such as: increased communications with our ratepayers via a Strategic Communications Plan; the implementation of our Solid Waste Transitional Plan; and,

getting caught up financially with the 2011/2012 budget and planning for 2013, we hope you would agree that much progress has been made in the last twelve months.

We don't intend to stop there and will keep adjusting to changing conditions and looking to the future in all the decisions we make. We invite your participation and will continue to keep everyone informed.

On behalf of Lac La Biche County, we wish everyone all the best of the holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.



Sincerely,
Lac La Biche County Council



County Spotlight

2013 Waste Management Calendars

All mail boxes in Lac La Biche and Plamondon will receive a calendar full of information on solid waste disposal services in the County. If you don't receive one, please contact 780-623-6739 or green@laclabichcounty.com.

Holiday Office Closures

County Centre, McArthur Place, Portage Pool, and all landfills are closed Dec. 24, 25, 26, and Jan. 1.

The Bold Center is closed at noon on Dec. 24 & 31, and all day Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1.

Holiday Curbside Pick-up

Solid waste (brown carts) will be collected on December 27 and Jan. 2 in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, and on December 28 and Jan. 3 in Plamondon and subdivisions. Recycling (blue carts) will be picked up on Dec. 31 in Plamondon and subdivisions, and Jan. 4 in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche.

2013 Green Initiatives Calendar

About the same time as this newsletter goes out, post office boxes in the region should expect to receive the 2013 Green Initiatives Calendar.

The calendar is packed full of information on ways to deal with garbage, including:

- curbside pick-up days
- landfill/transfer station info
- recycling & composting tips and tricks
- Mad About Science dates
- Occasional recycling program dates, such as the Household Hazardous Waste Round-up and the Spring and Fall Clean-ups

The calendar came about as a result of efforts to improve the predictability of our green initiatives in order to communicate these programs to residents sooner.



Front cover of the 2013 Green Initiatives Calendar

We hope the calendar will prove to be a useful guide that will promote participation in these initiatives.

If you don't receive a calendar this week, please contact:

Karen Dominey
 Resource Recovery, Ag, and Environment Clerk
 780-623-6739
green@lac labiche county.com

Christmas tree recycling

The County has introduced Christmas tree recycling for the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon, and the country subdivisions of Young's Beach, Holowachuk Estates, Lakeview Estates, Clearwater Cove, Sunset Bay and Lac La Biche West, as part of the new curbside pickup and recycling program.

If you do not live in one of these areas, you can still recycle your tree: use the trunk for firewood or kindling and use the branches as mulch under acid-loving bushes and shrubs, such as evergreens.

The trees will be chipped and mulched for compost or landscaping materials. For every tree we collect, we will plant a tree in one of the County's parks.

To participate, set out your un-bagged Christmas tree on the curb between January 2 – 15. Ensure your tree is free of tinsel and other decorations.

Call Karen at 780-623-6739 to advise that you are putting your tree out for pickup, and please provide your address and phone number.



Make sure the base of your Christmas tree is immersed in water at all times, and never place lit candles on or near the tree.



Above: Environmental/Innovation Coordinator Molly Fyten (r) presents John Dolan (l) with a twin rotor composter. John and his wife Denise Cadieux-Dolan won the composter after entering a draw by completing a survey on Phase III of the curbside pick-up program. Subsidized composters are available for purchase at the County Centre office.

Road safety: yellow and red, snow plow ahead

County snow plow and sand truck operators work to provide drivers with added safety on winter roads.

However, the equipment they operate can pose a threat if drivers don't safely share the road with them.

Equipment operators have a busy role actively watching for vehicle traffic and pedestrians moving around them while at the same time operating the controls of this heavy equipment.

Even with flashing lights to alert everyone to the danger, the operators are sometimes surprised by drivers who pass them in a rush.

Gerald Turgeon, transportation foreman for Lac La Biche County, says drivers are putting themselves, and others, at risk by doing so.

"We ask that drivers stay back at least 30 metres from snow/sand trucks and graders," says Turgeon.

According to Turgeon, this following distance gives operators line-of-sight visibility with vehicles behind them.



Combination snow/sand trucks like this one, along with road graders, play an important role in keeping County roads safe during snowy and icy road conditions.

Sand being spread on the roads and blades that extend to the sides of graders can also pose a hazard to vehicles passing.

Plow/sand trucks move snow and sand the road between 50 km/h and 60 km/h depending on conditions. In

blinding snow conditions drivers pull over every five kilometers to allow vehicles to pass.

"Our goal is to maintain the roads without any incidents but we can't do it without the cooperation of drivers," adds Turgeon.

FAQs on snow removal and curbside pick-up

Where do I put my recycling or solid waste cart during a parking ban?

We're improving our co-ordination to ensure snow clearing occurs in alternate weeks from recycling pick-up, so residents won't need to worry about a possible interaction between their carts and the snow plows.

We had originally asked residents to leave their carts on the sidewalk during parking bans, where they would still be accessible for the collection truck while not in the way of the snow plow. This turned out to be unrealistic, as the snow plow would still risk knocking over carts with plowed snow.

Why have there been delays in curbside pick-up service?

There have been a few instances where curbside pick-up has been occurring late in the evening as our contractor finishes the collection route once a truck break-down has been repaired. We sympathize with residents who were disturbed by the noise.

If your cart has not been emptied by the end of its regularly scheduled day (and it was on the curb on time), please leave it out for an extra day, as our contractor will pick it up the following day. Call Karen at 780-623-6739 to ensure we're aware of the need.

Why remove snow at night?

In commercial areas (Main Street), the no-parking ban requires almost zero enforcement at night, making it a good time to clear these areas.

In residential areas, snow removal begins at 6:30 a.m. Parking bans begin at midnight so that cars will have been moved by the time the snow plows begin clearing. We would like to thank motorists for their cooperation in finding alternative parking spots during the parking bans.

For information about these items, call 780-623-1747 or e-mail main.office@lacobichcounty.com.

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 you need to do is call 780-623-1747 or provide your e-mail address to 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

December 24, 25, 26, and January 1

County Centre, McArthur Place, Portage Pool, and landfills closed

December 24-January 1

The Bold Center is closed at noon on Dec. 24 & 31, and all day Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1.

January 2 to 15

Christmas Tree Recycling Pick-up



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.



Holiday Activity Happens at the **BOLD CENTER**

Winter Holiday Kids Program

January 2, 3, & 4 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Ages 6 -12

Includes fun crafts and activities in the morning followed by a field trip and movie in the afternoon. Registration fees are **\$25 per day, or \$60 for all three days.**

Register in person at the Bold Center no later than **4:30 on December 28.**

Call 623-3829 for more information or e-mail Mikaela at mikaela.norton@laclabichedcounty.com.

Holiday Fitness Gift Certificates:

1. Certified Personal Training Sessions
2. Fitness Class 10-Pass
3. Bold Center Membership



New Year's Fitness Classes

January Line-up (Starting Jan. 7 or 8)

Cycle Cross-Fit - All fitness levels

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:15-10:15 am

Bender Ball - All fitness levels

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:15-12:45 pm

Tabata Training - Advanced fitness levels

Mondays & Wednesdays 6 - 6:30 pm

Cardio Kick Box Circuit - All fitness levels

Mondays & Wednesdays 6:45-7:45 pm

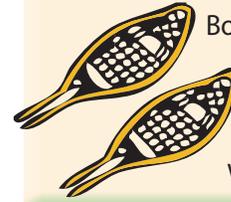
50+ Walk On Program (through April)

Mondays & Wednesdays 9 -10:30 am

All these courses instructed by Sue LaPierre. Register at the Bold Center.

Did you know...?

Lac La Biche County Recreation rents out snowshoes. Visit the Bold Center, put down a \$30 deposit and a \$5 rental fee, and try them at home for a weekend.



Free Ice Time for all ages:

Thursday, Dec 27	1-3 p.m.	Hockey
Friday, Dec 28th	1-3 p.m.	Skating
Wednesday, Jan 2	1-3 p.m.	Hockey
Thursday, Jan 3	1-3 p.m.	Skating
Friday, Jan 4	1-3 p.m.	Skating

New Year means New Volleyball Leagues!

January 15 through March 28

Tuesdays - Men's League
(starts Jan. 15)

Thursdays - Co-ed League
(starts Jan. 17)

Bold Center
\$225 per team
8 - 10 p.m.

To register your team, or for more information, contact:

Reno at 780-623-6370 or at

reno.larocque@laclabichedcounty.com

