



# Your County in Touch

Issue No. 14 • November 27, 2012

## Snow removal policy under review

During the recent snow falls, Lac La Biche County received a number of concerns about the rate of snow removal. As a result, our snow removal policy ([available on our website](#)) is currently under review.

To clarify some misconceptions:

In urban areas, plowing will start in the commercial district after an accumulation of two inches of snow, and in the residential districts after four inches.

Priority #1 (to be cleared within 24 hours of the end of a major storm) includes the airport and arterial roads. In the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, the arterial roads are Highways 36 and 55 (101 Ave/main street and the road in front of Vera M. Welsh). Clearing these roads is the responsibility of the Province and their contractor, Carillion.

After the first snowfall in November, Carillion was short on staff, so the County eventually assisted with clearing those highways within the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. However, we do not have any formal agreement with Carillion. We aim to amend this situation in the future.

Part of our policy balances the timeliness of snow removal against overtime pay costs. Normally, roadway snow removal takes place during regular work hours on workdays.

Generally, this means that the following will not be cleared on

weekends unless traffic is seriously disrupted or the deadlines below have passed:

- Priority #2 roads (collector roads such as 94 Ave in Lac La Biche, to be cleared within 72 hours);
- Priority #3 roads (residential roads, to be cleared within four days); and
- Priority #4 roads (back alleys and private snow plow flagged driveways, to be cleared once priorities 1, 2, and 3 are cleared).

Also under consideration is the amount of snow cleared from residential roads. In order to completely clear the roads, we'd have to enforce a residential parking ban during winter.

Some complaints have been received regarding sidewalks at County facilities being cleared before some roads. This is due to sidewalks requiring different equipment which cannot sit idle while the roads are cleared before starting on sidewalks.

Motorists are reminded to please drive to the condition of the roads.

These priorities are currently being reviewed by Administration and will be reviewed by Council this year.

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## County Spotlight

### Holiday Curbside Pick-up

As a result of statutory holidays, the curbside pick-up days will change during the final week of 2012 and the first week of 2013.

Solid waste (brown carts) will be collected on December 27 and January 2 in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche, and on December 28 and January 3 in Plamondon and subdivisions.

Recycling (blue carts) will be picked up on December 31 in Plamondon and subdivisions, and January 4 in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche.

### County Survey

The second annual Community Satisfaction Survey is being conducted this week over the phone. The full story is on the back of this newsletter.

So please don't be suspicious of calls from Trend Research asking you for your opinions about Lac La Biche County - we've asked them to ask you!



## Council meets Ministers to discuss the big issues at AAMD&C

At the recent meeting of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C), members of Council and Administration met with five provincial Ministers. Council lobbied these senior Cabinet members on some hot topics which, despite being under provincial jurisdiction, are of sufficient importance to our residents that they merited the full efforts and extensive preparation of all members of Council and Administration.

Topics discussed with the relevant ministers included:

- Medevac standards;
- Dialysis and diagnostic equipment in Lac La Biche;
- CN Rail relocation;
- Airport expansion;
- Secondary access road & intersection at the new high school;
- Concern about the Water Act process (in which the County was

not considered a valid complainant in a peat moss extraction venture);

- Solid waste disposal sites (the Province built them but the County is now responsible for costs of closing them);
- Social and affordable housing;
- Annexation of ID 349 lands (the caribou reserve);
- Expediting public land to the County (the crown land east of the Hamlet of Lac La Biche for expansion);
- Big Dock project;
- Plamondon/Caslan Connector, Plamondon/Highway 63 Connector, and Highway 858 completion.

The complete briefings that Council presented to the Ministers is available on our [website](#). Further citizen lobbying on issues near and dear to their hearts will help our advocacy process.

## Community Engagement Meeting at Craigend Hall

Council and Administration will be visiting **Craigend Hall on Nov. 28 from 7 - 9 p.m. for the first Community Engagement meeting.**

Lac La Biche County will host a series of public input meetings (once every two months) in communities throughout the County in a casual, open house format. The meetings are meant to encourage County stakeholders to join the discussion and provide input on municipal initiatives.



*Lac La Biche Parent Link's Grand Opening in their new home at the Bold Center was commemorated with a custom cake (above) and a unique ribbon-tying ceremony (left). Pictured left to right:*

- Anita Polturak, Manager of Social Planning*
- Deputy Mayor Gail Broadbent-Ludwig*
- Parent Link Programmer Aimee Gauthier*
- Participant Callum McKinley & his mother Jana McKinley*
- MLA Shayne Saskiw*
- Audrey Franklin - Child and Family Services Authority*



## Career Centre offers job-seeking resources in library

Finding employment and looking at career options in today's job market depend on accessing a variety of resources. A new Career Centre at the Stuart MacPherson Public Library will serve as a one-stop solution for those on the job search.

Development of this new community resource follows a goal of the Lac La Biche County Library Board to provide visitors with access to a wide range of resources, programs and services that assist in exploring career opportunities and identifying qualifications for selected career paths.

The Career Centre, which was made possible by a donation from StatOil, offers hardcopy reference materials and a dedicated computer station with subscriptions to career planning web sites. Members of the Library staff are available to help job seekers access these materials and use the computers to develop resumes and conduct searches.

Monthly career nights are part of the vision for the new centre. Partners and interested employers are invited to host evening sessions to explore the many aspects of career exploration, job hunting and career planning.

Alberta Human Services career counselling services will also add to the Career Centre's offering and will take place by appointment during evening hours at the library location. More details on how to book appointments will be available in the new year.

Partners in the Career Centre include: StatOil, Lac La Biche County Library Board, JAWS, Portage College, Alberta Human Services and CAREERS: The



*Anne Marie Frecette is one of the library staff members on hand to help job seekers access the Career Centre resources.*

Next Generation.

A library membership is required for Career Cruising online services from home but the other services are free for all Lac La Biche County residents.

*For more information, interested job hunters are encouraged to drop by the Library (soon to be in the View Point Room), give them a call at 780-623-7467, or visit [www.stuartmacphersonlibrary.ca](http://www.stuartmacphersonlibrary.ca).*

## Library temporarily moving for school construction

Library and County staff have been working together to ensure library patrons can access services while construction of the new high school takes place immediately adjacent to the Stuart MacPherson Library.

Plans for the high school include the addition of a second floor directly above the library and the addition of several new entrances from the new school into the library. The original blueprint was to be the same square footage as the existing library. However, under Alberta Education's library sizing criteria, the scope of the project was reduced and Alberta Infrastructure was able to provide a footprint of approximately half the

second floor design. The scope of the school project requires more intensive structural upgrades to support the floor over the current library space, and the construction for the next 18 months will cause major disruptions in noise, odors, and chaos, which is why the library is being displaced.

As part of a plan to maintain library services, the library will be temporarily relocated to the Viewpoint Room and another vacant room in the Bold Center. The rooms were chosen based on the library's needs as a virtual library and its ability to maintain inter-library loans, Supernet connection, and to minimize disruptions to patrons.

"Library staff are dedicated to ensuring

the same quality and enthusiasm of service to our loyal patrons while at the same time assisting the high school project to move forward," says Loraine Anderton, Library Board chairperson.

"Staff will continue to run existing programs and manage an anticipated increase in inter-library loan volumes during this period of time. We thank our patrons for their support while this work takes place."

County staff will help the library to move its resources starting Dec. 3 and will result in the library being closed for the move, and re-opening on January 7 in its new temporary home. Library programs will continue running during the closure.

## 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@lacialabichcounty.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

### November 28 - 7 p.m.

Community Engagement Meeting at Craighend Hall

### December 3 through January 6

Stuart McPherson Library closed, re-opening upstairs on January 7

### December 13 - 9:30 a.m.

Public Open House on 2013 Budget in Council Chambers



## Fitness Training Happens at the **BOLD** CENTER

Lac La Biche County is very pleased to welcome Sue LaPierre as the full-time Fitness Instructor at the Bold Center. Sue has been in the fitness industry for over 26 years and is looking forward to providing a variety of fitness services to the youth, adults, and seniors in the County.

Sue is very excited to be working full time at the Bold Center. Before you set out on a course of action she can give you a fitness assessment to determine what would work best for you based on your individual goals.

Upcoming group fitness classes:

- **Fusion** (Hatha Yoga, Fitness, Pilates combined);
- **Cardio-Kickboxing;**
- **Butt Camp;**
- **Cross-Cycle Fit;**
- **Absolutely Abs;**
- **Total Body Stretch;**
- **Tabata Training; and**
- **Strength & Toning.**

*If you would like more information on personal training or would like a complimentary consultation, contact Sue at 780-623-6377 or by e-mail at [sue.lapierre@lacialabichcounty.com](mailto:sue.lapierre@lacialabichcounty.com).*



## Community Satisfaction Survey

For a second year Lac La Biche County will be conducting a citizen satisfaction survey to hear what residents think about the County's level of services.

The survey is the result of an action plan that was presented to Council after the organizational review was conducted last year. A list of recommendations was made to help improve and enhance the municipality as a service provider and as an employer. In fact, the first recommendation on the list was to initiate a regularly scheduled community satisfaction survey to gauge changes in the public's perception of services, programs, administration and council.

Last November the satisfaction survey was conducted for the first time through Trend Research, a market research firm from Edmonton. Trend Research telephoned 400 random homes to ask a number of questions ranging from quality of life to the level of satisfaction with County programs and services.

The results from last year's survey were compiled, presented to members of Council, and made public. They will be compared to this year's results.

The survey has been tweaked a bit to reflect current services, and will be conducted by Trend Research starting the week of November 26, 2012. If you're contacted, please take about nine minutes to complete the telephone survey and tell us what you think.