

BUSINESS LICENCING program on the way

A Business Licencing Program is coming into effect in Lac La Biche County on January 1, 2023.

Any business operating in the County will require a valid licence, but there will be a six-month grace period for businesses to join at no cost for the entire first year. There will be small fees for businesses that get their licences after July 1, 2023.

Annual licence renewal fees will apply:

- Resident business: \$50
- Non-resident business: \$75
- Home-based business: \$25

The County has deliberately aimed to keep these fees low, so the program is not a burden to businesses. A Business Licence Program actually supports the business community in several ways:

- We have up-to-date business statistics, which is useful information to share with investors.
- Licenced businesses can add their information to an online directory, which the County will manage.
- In an emergency, we will know exactly who to contact for supplies and other needs.

Keep an eye on our social media and website, laclabichecounty.com, for more information.

2022 Rural Beautification Award Winner

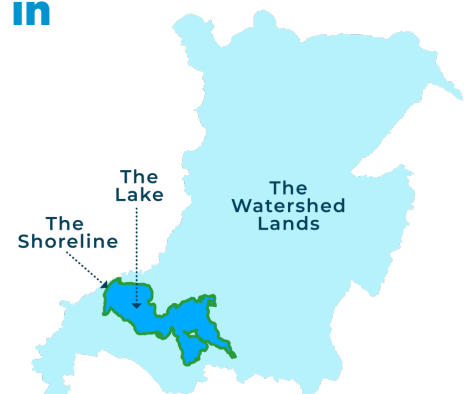


Isidore Gauthier (left) is the winner of Lac La Biche County's 2022 Rural Beautification Award. This annual honour goes to a resident living outside the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon who goes above and beyond to make their property look good. Mr. Gauthier received a special driveway sign from Deputy Mayor Kevin Pare. For Mr. Gauthier, who has lived and farmed on the same property since the 1970s, "rural curb appeal" is a bit of a family tradition — his father owned the farm across the road, and was recognized for having a beautiful property three years in a row!

Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan committee dives right in

We all want to be proud of our namesake lake, but that's sometimes hard on the days when blue-green algae coats the shore.

We get it, and we want our residents to know we're taking steps to care for not only the lake (all 234 square kilometres of it) but also the much larger watershed that surrounds it. It's not a simple matter to "fix the lake" — we need to keep an eye on all the lands and waters that feed into it. That's why a Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was adopted in 2021, and an implementation committee has started work on the plan's 89 different recommendations.



What's in the plan?

The plan is built around five main goals, including reducing the impact of algae blooms — although the plan makes it clear there is no "silver bullet" for that.

Continued on page 2.

What's in a Watershed Management Plan?

Continued from front.

The good news is less than 10 per cent of the watershed has been disturbed by human activity like development. The bad news is Lac La Biche (the lake) is easily affected by surface runoff and shoreline development, even those that happen far away from the lake itself.

Runoff can wash things like fertilizer and manure into the water, and these add to the already high levels of

nutrients in the lake. Water that contains so many nutrients is likely to see algae blooms when it's warm and lower oxygen levels when it's cold and frozen over, which is a double whammy for the plants, animals and people who rely on it.

It's a very complicated issue, and every possible solution will need support from the community to be successful. The WMP's implementation committee



has 14 members, representing Lac La Biche County, Indigenous partners, industry representatives, local residents and community members and more. The committee will meet monthly, and you can expect to hear more about the members' work as time goes on. To read the full plan and find out more, visit laclabichecounty.com.

Beaver Lake Area Structure Plan due for an update

Revising the main planning document for the hamlet of Beaver Lake is now underway.

Throughout December, the County is contacting residents of Beaver Lake (the hamlet, which contains Young's Beach and Holowachuk Estates subdivisions, not the Cree Nation) to ask about existing and future development in the

hamlet. This information will help us update the Beaver Lake Area Structure Plan (ASP), which has been in place since 1993. The ASP is the framework for subdivision and development in the area (e.g. where we see future growth happening, where new infrastructure will be needed, etc.) For more information, or to provide your input directly, please contact Planning

Technician Sheeja Vimalan at (780) 623-6755 or email sheeja.vimalan@laclabichecounty.com.



FROM THE COUNCIL TABLE: Bits, bites and highlights from Lac La Biche County Council



Snowmobile club support

Council has granted \$50,000 to the Lac La Biche Back Country Riders, a new local snowmobile club, to help expand the region's trail network. A well-developed and sustainable trail network, which could connect to other trail systems in northeastern Alberta in future years, will be a powerful winter tourism attraction.

Transitional housing update

After a public hearing, Council has not given second reading to a rezoning bylaw that would have allowed building an emergency shelter on public property near Alexander Hamilton Park.

Council has asked for information about alternative sites for the shelter, as well as a public consultation plan for the transitional housing project.




Temporary housing for the community's homeless population has been available in Bonesville subdivision, but this was never meant to be a permanent arrangement.


PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SIMPLIFIED





PERMITS, PERMITS, PERMITS


A Development Permit is almost always required for building projects. It's not a cash grab — it's a way for us to monitor and regulate development in the community, which we're legally required to do.

 **I am planning a project in 2023!** It's a good idea to apply for your Development Permit this winter if you can, because spring and summer can be very busy for our Planning & Development department. Beat the rush by applying early.

 **I already have a permit!** Make sure you follow your permit's conditions of approval. If an approved development includes construction and the project isn't started within 12 months of being permitted, the permit will expire. You can apply for an extension before then, and we can grant one extension of up to 12 months as long as your plans have not changed.

 **We can tell you which other permits you need for your project, like roadside permits issued by Alberta Transportation, but it's up to you to acquire them.**

 **Why do I need permits?** Every property in the County has a zoning (e.g. highway commercial, high-density residential, etc.) and each zoning has permitted and discretionary land uses. Processing Development Permit applications is how we make sure the developments that happen in our community are following the rules. Every municipality in Alberta uses a similar process.

 **What about Safety Codes permits?** Safety Codes permits are regulated by the Government of Alberta, to make sure developments that include construction, electrical work, plumbing and other aspects are done to a certain standard. We can tell you which Safety Codes permits your project needs. If work starts before you have the necessary permits, you will have to pay double the usual fees.

 **This is a lot of information. Who do I talk to about all this?** For more information or to apply for a Development Permit, reach out to our Planning & Development team at (780) 623-1747 or email planning.development@laculichcounty.com.

For Safety Codes inquiries, or to book inspections, call The Inspections Group at (780) 594-4301 or email questions@inspectionsgroup.com.



Get on the road with FCSS

Getting a driver's licence is a major milestone, and we can help you achieve it.



An Alberta Class 7 Learner's Licence Prep Course is being held Saturday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the View Point Room at the Bold Center.

This free interactive course is designed for youth ages 14 and up who want help preparing for the written Learner's Licence test.

To register, please contact Community Outreach Worker Christine Martin at (780) 520-7183 or email christine.martin@laculichcounty.com. You can also sign up at the Bold Center's front desk.

Supported by Community Adult Learning, Community Futures, EmployAbilities and Tribal Chiefs Employment & Training Services Association.

Coming soon: 2023 County Budget

We would like to thank everyone who attended our budget open houses and gave their input online using A Balancing Act, our new budget simulation tool. The annual budget is the key to everything we do, so it's very important for us to know what our residents think about the County's service levels and spending plans.

The goal is to have our 2023 budget adopted by Council in mid-December so we can hit the ground running in the New Year. You'll be able to read budget highlights in January and February editions of this newsletter, and the complete budget will be available online at laculichcounty.com.





Dates to Remember

December 1-24, 2022

Purchase a Bold Center gift certificate between these dates and receive a special gift for every \$100 you spend. Certificates are available for purchase at the Bold Center or online at boldcenter.ca/activeLLBC.

December 9, 23, 29, 30, 2022

Public swim at Portage Pool from 1-3 p.m. Sponsored by AI-Pac.

December 31, 2022

Glow swim at Portage Pool from 1-4 p.m.

December 31, 2022

Last day to try the County's online budget simulator, A Balancing Act. Electronic feedback on our 2023 budget is no longer being collected, but residents are encouraged to learn more about municipal budgeting and try it for themselves. Find the simulator on laclabichcounty.com.

For more County and community events, visit the Events Calendar on laclabichcounty.com. You can also submit your own events.

Your County in Touch is produced by Lac La Biche County and is available to every resident.

An electronic version of this newsletter is available. All you need to do is call (780) 623-1747 or provide your e-mail address to intouch@laclabichcounty.com.

Use the same contact information for any address changes, additional copies or to unsubscribe.



Session Dates:

January 18-April 5, 2023

Cost:

\$300 per team

Deadline to register: January 14

Day:

Wednesday

Time:

7-10 p.m.

Location:

Bold Center

Register before January 11 to receive 15 per cent off! Call the Bold Center at (780) 623-3829 to sign up.

Holiday facility and service hours*

McArthur Place and County Centre

Closed **Dec. 26-28** and **Jan. 2**.

Bold Center and Plamondon Arena

Dec. 24: 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 25-26: Closed

Dec. 27-30: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dec. 31: 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed

Jan. 2: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Portage Pool

Dec. 24: Lane swim from 12-1 p.m. and public swim from 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 25-26: Closed

Dec. 27-28: Lane swim from 12-1 p.m. and public swim from 1-4 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed

Jan. 2: Lane swim from 12-1 p.m. and public swim from 1-4 p.m.

Childmind at the Bold Center

Dec. 24-26: Closed

Dec. 27-29: Indoor playground open 12-4 p.m. and Childmind 4-6 p.m.

Dec. 30: Indoor playground open 3-6 p.m.

Dec. 31: Childmind from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and indoor playground open 12-2 p.m.

Landfills and transfer stations

Closed **Dec. 26-28** and **Jan. 2**.

Curbside pickup service

Pickup in the hamlet of Lac La Biche will take place on **Dec. 28**. Pickup in Plamondon and rural subdivisions will take place on **Dec. 29**.

Community Access Bus

Not running **Dec. 25-26** and **Jan. 1-2**.

***Only changes to regular scheduled hours have been noted here.**

