

County News

Friday, February 16, 2024 | Volume 2

Lacombe County is holding a PUBLIC HEARING

to update the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw



BYLAWS NO. 1406/24 and 1407/24

Lacombe County is holding a PUBLIC HEARING to hear your input on the proposed bylaw changes that would allow for two dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District parcels of 10 acres in size or larger.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

A Public Hearing presents the proposed bylaw, and gives members of the public an opportunity to speak to Council about it and provide input before adoption. Your input is valued and encouraged.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed bylaw changes will have an opportunity to do so at the Public Hearing.

WHEN IS THE PUBLIC HEARING?



Thursday, March 14, 2024



7:00 pm

For more information, please contact Planning Services or visit the County's website

Cajun Paradis, Senior Planner
Email: planning@lacombecounty.com
Phone: 403-782-8389

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Participate in the public hearing to voice your opinion. There are 3 ways you can provide input!

1 Attend and speak in person

**Lacombe County Office,
Council Chambers**

Located 2½ miles west of Highway 2 at the intersection of Spruceville Road and Highway 12

2 Attend and speak virtually

Join by Zoom or by Phone

Instructions for accessing the meeting by phone or computer/laptop can be found on the County's website at www.lacombecounty.com/dwellings

3 Provide written comments

If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing but want to provide input, please send your comments to Planning Services prior to March 14, 2024. Your comments can be sent by:

EMAIL planning@lacombecounty.com
FAX 403-782-3820, or
MAIL RR 3, Lacombe AB, T4L 2N3

Individuals may speak for a maximum of 5-minutes.
All submissions will be public information.

learn more at
www.lacombecounty.com/dwellings

or read more on page 2



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www.lacombecounty.com



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Lacombe County
RR3, Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3

County News is available to read on our website every month. If you wish to stop receiving County News by mail, email communications@lacombecounty.com with your mailing address and we will take you off our mailing list.

Background on Dwellings in the Agricultural Area

(continued from cover)

The County's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw were adopted in July 2017, following an extensive review process involving significant consultation with our community, including County landowners, residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

During the community consultation to update the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw in 2017, we heard a desire from the community to allow more dwellings in the agricultural area.

The 5-Year Review of the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw completed in 2023 identified that increasing the number of dwellings allowed on agricultural parcels is a continued area of interest to the community.

During the community consultation about dwellings in the agricultural area in 2023, we heard again a desire from the community to allow more dwellings in the agricultural area.

There is a strong trend of our agricultural area being the primary area to reside in, which reflects the culture of our area as an agricultural community. A key factor in supporting our community is to keep the agricultural community vibrant, populated and able to sustain itself; therefore, ensuring that there are adequate housing opportunities.

In response to the feedback from the 2017 community consultation, 5-year review, and 2023 community consultation, Council has proposed bylaw changes to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw

to allow 2 dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District parcels of 10 acres in size or larger.

2017 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

During the first round of consultation in 2016, the foundations and direction for future development were built. In this round, 60% of respondents supported two dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District parcels of 10-80 acres.

During the second round of consultation in 2016, the issues were analyzed. In this round, 65% of respondents supported reducing the parcel size for two dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District parcels. The minimum size majority was however unclear, as it was split quite equally between the options of parcels at least 3 acres in size, at least 10 acres, at least 40 acres, and the existing policy of at least 80 acres. Based on this survey feedback, Council chose to take a gradual approach to expanding dwellings allowed in the agricultural area, and proposed reducing the minimum parcel size for two dwellings from at least 80 acres to at least 40 acres. The intent of the gradual approach was to reduce the minimum parcel size for two dwellings incrementally and monitor results.

During the third round of consultation in 2017, the draft growth strategy was presented. In this round, 60% of respondents agreed with two dwellings being allowed on Agricultural 'A' District parcels of at least 40 acres. Further, 28% of respondents were neutral, and less than 12% of respondents were not satisfied with allowing two dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District parcels of at least 40 acres.

5-YEAR REVIEW OF THE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND LAND USE BYLAW

Since 2017, there have been 254 new dwellings in the Agricultural 'A' District. Since 2017, 4 additional dwellings were built due to the reduction in the minimum parcel size for two dwellings from 80 acres to 40 acres. Since 2017, 20 inquiries were also made on allowing two dwellings on agricultural parcels less than 40 acres.

2023 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A public meeting was held by Lacombe County at the County office on November 29, 2023, with a total of 61 attendees.

A survey was held for a two-week period following the public meeting, and saw a total of 199 survey responses. Highlights + the full results of the community consultation are available at www.lacombecounty.com/dwellings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the full draft bylaws and find more information, please visit www.lacombecounty.com/dwellings

We recognize that planning policy can at times be complicated, and we are happy to provide any clarification that is required.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cajun Paradis, Senior Planner with Lacombe County at 403-782-8389 or planning@lacombecounty.com.

FEBRUARY 13 | Canada's Agriculture Day!

As Lacombe County marked Canada's Agriculture Day on February 13, 2024, it's a prime opportunity to honour and express our deep appreciation for our local producers, as well as those beyond our borders, who play a pivotal role in feeding the world. This day shines a light on the immense efforts and dedication of agricultural producers within Lacombe County, whose commitment to the land and to our community ensures that our tables are always abundant with nutritious and delicious produce.

Agriculture in Lacombe County is more than just an occupation; it's a cornerstone of our community, embodying a legacy of hard work, resilience, and a profound bond with the earth. Our local agricultural producers are guardians of the agricultural heritage, innovating for sustainability while nurturing the crops and livestock that sustain not just our local population, but also contribute significantly to global food security.

On Canada's Ag Day, let's celebrate the vital contributions of Lacombe County's agricultural community. Their dedication

reaches far beyond our local fields and farms, impacting lives across the nation and around the globe. By supporting our local producers, we champion a sustainable, prosperous future for agriculture, reinforcing the fabric of our community and ensuring the well-being of generations to come.

Let us all take a moment to recognize the hard work and achievements of our agricultural community. Their unwavering dedication not only strengthens Lacombe County but also exemplifies the spirit of resilience and community that defines Canadian agriculture. Here's to the hands that feed us, today and every day.



SAVE THE
date

2024 SPRING TUNE UP
Health & Safety Tradeshow

March 21, 2024 | 10AM - 3PM
Lacombe Memorial Centre

+ + + +
+ + + +
+ + + +
+ + + +



Catch the MAN VAN® at Lacombe County's Spring Tune Up health and safety event: A Lifesaving Opportunity for Men's Health

As we embark on a new year, the importance of prioritizing health and well-being takes centre stage. It's the perfect time to shed light on a crucial aspect of men's health – the prostate.

In Alberta, 1 in 6 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime which often progresses with little to no warning signs. Early detection is the key in effectively treating this disease.

Did you know that a simple blood test can provide valuable insights into your prostate health? If you or someone you care about has a prostate, this message is for you.

The MAN VAN®, operated by the Prostate Cancer Centre, is Canada's first mobile men's clinic offering free PSA (prostate-specific antigen) blood testing which can help with early prostate cancer detection. And we're thrilled to announce that we're rolling into your area!

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

If you or a man in your life is between 50-70*, take control of your health and make it a point to stop by the MAN VAN® on March 21, 2024, to GET CHECKED. This invaluable opportunity provides a fast, free PSA blood test, and men over 18 can also receive additional health measurements including blood pressure, blood sugar, waist circumference and mental wellness checks – all without the need for an appointment.

Just 10 – 15 minutes can save your life.

Join us at: Lacombe Memorial Centre, 10 AM – 3 PM

Remember, it's a blood test, not a glove test.

*Please note that testing guidelines and age criteria are region-specific. For more information about the MAN VAN® Program, testing guidelines, or to inquire about booking a MAN VAN® Clinic for your business or community event, visit www.getchecked.ca.

Let's make health a priority this January – see you at the MAN VAN®!

The Prostate Cancer Centre relies heavily on donations to continue the work we do every day. If you are in a position to give, please donate now.

Join us on March 21 for a Spring Tune Up health and safety event

Lacombe County is excited to announce its seventh annual "Spring Tune-Up" event on March 21, 2024. Anyone interested in their health and farm safety is invited to attend this free event, which will feature a variety of healthcare and safety professionals.

"The health and safety of our rural community is important to Lacombe County," explained Jalene Makus, Lacombe County Agriculture Coordinator and event organizer. "By bringing in vendors that support both physical and mental health/safety, we are doing our part to support and connect attendees with relevant and useful information."

Date: March 21, 2024

Time: 10 AM – 3 PM

Location: Lacombe Memorial Center

Cost: Free with a BBQ lunch 11 AM – 2:30 PM

Everyone who attends the event will have their name entered for raffle door prizes.

NEW THIS YEAR | SPECIAL PRESENTERS

Each hour, a different presenter will take the stage to discuss various topics relevant to the community, such as commercial vehicle inspections, and ecosystem services.

Watch our social media/website for more details!

There will be approximately 30 organizations on-site for this year's event, including:

- **Rural Crime Prevention Centre**
- **SPCA**
- **Man Van (11 AM - 3 PM)**
- **Alberta Lung Association**
- **Lacombe County Community Peace Officers**
- **Red Deer/Lacombe ALUS**
- **Wolfcreek Primary Care Network**
- **Building Bridges to Health Naturally**
- **Canadian Blood Services**
- **Just Safety Supplies**
- **Alberta Mental Health**
- **Red Deer Restorative Justice Program**
- **Hear Right Canada**
- **Lacombe County Fire**
- **Alberta Health Services**
- **ATCO**
- **FORTIS**
- **Northwood Safety**
- **RCMP Livestock**
- **AWES**
- **Red Deer River Watershed Alliance**
- **AND MANY MORE!!**

To learn more about the event, or for any questions, please call 403-782-8959 or email jmakus@lacombecounty.com.

SAFETY FIRST

Upholding Public Safety: The Consequences of Removing Traffic Control Devices

In our relentless pursuit of efficiency and streamlined traffic flow, the removal of traffic control devices may seem like a tempting solution. However, the repercussions of such actions are far-reaching and pose a significant threat to public safety.

Traffic control devices, such as signals, signs, and speed limits, play a pivotal role in maintaining order on our roadways. They serve as a visual language that communicates rules and regulations, guiding motorists and pedestrians through urban and rural highways. Removing these essential markers undermines the very foundation of a safe and organized transportation system.

One immediate consequence of stripping away these safety measures is an increase in traffic accidents. Without clear directives, drivers are left to navigate intersections and roadways without a standardized framework, leading to confusion and chaos. The resultant spike in collisions not only endangers the lives of motorists but also places an undue burden on emergency services and healthcare systems. Additionally, rising healthcare expenses, higher insurance premiums, and productivity losses due to traffic disruptions create a ripple effect that permeates every aspect of our communities.

As stewards of public safety, we must resist taking shortcuts and prioritize the principles that ensure the smooth and secure functioning of our roadways and the well-being of those we serve.

Lacombe County Community Peace Officers

LACOMBE
COUNTY

WE'RE HIRING!

Manager of Fire & Emergency Management

Permanent Full Time
Monday-Friday (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM + meetings and
events outside of regular business hours)

Full Details
www.lacombecounty.com/careers

Apply by February 26, 2024 to
hr@lacombecounty.com



Mirror residents reminded to shovel sidewalks

Residents in Mirror are reminded that all snow and ice must be removed from their sidewalks within 48 hours of a snowfall, pursuant to Bylaw 1098/09.

Should the County have to pay for an employee or contractor to clear the snow/ice from a property, the occupant or owner will be charged for the cost and may face additional fines.



RED DEER LACOMBE RURAL CRIME WATCH | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 23, 2024 @ 10:00 am
Haynes Hall, Haynes, Alberta

AGENDA:

10:00 AM | Trish McAlister, Program Manager, Central Alberta Drug Treatment Court Services, John Howard Society. Trish will speak on the delivery of drug treatment court, myths related to individuals and the penalties for drug offences. She will provide insight on programs and work related to the issues.

12:00 PM | Lunch Soup, sandwich and squares. Tea, coffee and water to be provided. **Catered lunch with donation AND RSVP.** Contact rdcrimewatch@gmail.com by March 19, 2024 to RSVP.

1:00 PM | AGM We are looking for board members and encourage anyone interested in serving on our board to attend.

For questions, or to RSVP for lunch, email rdcrimewatch@gmail.com.

Mirror Dog License Renewals

A license is required for all dogs in Mirror. Dog tag renewals will be mailed out in December 2023. **The fee is \$15.00 for an altered dog and \$25.00 for an unaltered dog. After February 28, 2023, the cost increases to \$30 for an altered dog and \$50 for an unaltered dog.** For more information, please call (403) 782-6601 or visit <https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/animal-control.aspx>.

Lacombe County will issue a tag for each dog, which must be attached to a collar work by the dog at all times. Lacombe County Enforcement Officers will do checks to ensure compliance.

If you would like to report a contravention of the Dog Control Bylaw, please call 403-506-9380, or email info@klassickennels.com.

****For animal welfare issue please contact the Alberta SPCA at <http://www.albertasPCA.org>*****

MIRROR CORNER

MIRROR & COMMUNITY MARKET



SUNDAY MARCH 3RD
10AM-2PM
5015 51 STREET MIRROR, ALBERTA

KITCHEN RENTAL
FOR INTERESTED
CHEFS/CATERERS
FOR A
"POP UP" LUNCH
PLEASE CONTACT

\$10
TABLE
RENTAL

LOOKING FOR
BUSKERS TO
PERFORM ON
OUR STAGE!

ALL RENTAL FUNDS GO TOWARDS A NEW CHAIR LIFT AT THE
MIRROR COMMUNITY HALL
SELL YOUR ITEMS WHILE HELPING US FUNDRAISE!

INTERESTED?
EMAIL MANDER088@HOTMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

MIRROR
COMMUNITY
HALL

INDOOR WALKING

Join us for indoor walking every Thursday 10am-12 noon

For more info or questions contact
Chelsea Klinck
(403) 430-0384

MIRROR & DISTRICT MUSEUM



THANK YOU

To all our sponsors for the 2023
Festival of Trees!

We had a great success raising \$1475.00
for the Alix and Bashaw Food Banks
and a big thanks to all our volunteers!

MIRROR & DISTRICT MUSEUM



AGM MEETING

MARCH 5, 2024 @ 6:45PM
Mirror and District Museum Association
4910 53rd Street

JOIN OUR WONDERFUL GROUP AND HELP
PLAN THE FUTURE OF THE MIRROR AND
DISTRICT MUSEUM!

LACOMBE
COUNTY

HAMLET OF MIRROR
DEVELOPMENT
INCENTIVE
GRANT

Are you located in the Hamlet of Mirror,
on lands zoned
Hamlet Commercial 'C-H' District or
Hamlet Industrial 'I-H' District?

Are you starting a business on an
unimproved parcel of land or in a
vacant building?



Are you expanding an
existing business?

Do you have Development Permit
approval for the proposed business?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE
FOR A DEVELOPMENT
INCENTIVE GRANT!



Schedule a meeting with one of our
Planners to determine if you are eligible!



Planning Services
403-782-8389



2024 Mirror Dog Tags

A license is required for all dogs in
Mirror. For more information, please
call (403) 782-6601 or visit www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/animal-control.aspx.

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each dog, which must be attached to
a collar worn by the dog at all times.
Lacombe County Enforcement Officers
will do checks to ensure compliance.

If you would like to report a
contravention of the Dog Control Bylaw,
please call 403-506-9380, or email
info@klassickennels.com. **For animal
welfare issue please contact the Alberta
SPCA at <http://www.albertaspca.org/>***

Jolly Seniors

Pancake breakfast every second
Sunday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Booking Mirror Community Hall

Call Lisa 403-788-3890 or cell 403-505-
3894.

Friends of the Mirror Library Society/ Mirror Library

The Mirror Library would like to remind
patrons of the many items available for
borrowing. We carry books for everyone,

audiobooks, DVDs, games, and puzzles.

Hours: Wednesdays 2-5 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
2nd & 4th Saturdays
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please like us at: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/booksinmirror)
[booksinmirror](https://facebook.com/booksinmirror) for the most up to date
information. The Library also has
meeting spaces for rent and free Wi-Fi.
Please contact us through the Facebook
page or email booksinmirror@gmail.com.

Mirror Royal Canadian Legion Branch 189 - 5015 50th Avenue

Meat Draws Saturday at 4 p.m.
General meetings second Sunday

at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise posted).

Mirror and District Museum

Contact mmuseum@cciwireless.ca if
you would like to volunteer and for hours of
operation

CN Rail crossing delays

If you experience delays longer than 20
minutes at the Mirror rail yard crossing,
call CN Rail at 1-800-465-9239. Follow
the prompts and be ready to provide
details shown on the crossing signal
mast to CN personnel. Transport
Canada may be reached at 1-888-463-
0521.

ENVIRONMENT

How ALUS Helps Minimize the Effects of Drought

I wish ALUS could make it snow (or rain) when and where moisture was needed, in the perfect amount. Since that's not the case...how can ALUS help minimize the effects of drought?

ALUS helps farmers and ranchers increase the overall health of their riparian areas, forest areas, and pastures.



A healthy forest like this is one of the best drought-fighting tools we have.

Healthy forests, riparian zones and pastures have the following easily recognized features in common: diverse vegetation layers, lots of different types of plants, abundant leaf litter covering the soil, tons of soil organic matter, soil with high porosity and high aggregate stability, to name a few.

In a drought, these features of healthy forests, riparian zones and pastures help capture the limited precipitation we do get. Here are just a few examples:

- Multiple layers of vegetation capture snow all winter long, and slow melting down, enabling springtime snowmelt to get down into our soils, aquifers and water bodies.
- In the heat of summer, leaf litter cools soil and decreases soil water evaporation.
- Porous, stable soils are a mixture of tiny "holes" that enable water to get down into plant root zones rather than running off, and particles that are able to grab onto water and make it available for plants and the billions of microorganisms that make our agriculture productive
- Vegetation layers slow down and break up the larger rain drops that make up our summer storms (which we can still get in a drought). This means the water can get down to the ground in a way that reduces its potential for negative erosion, while increasing its potential for positive infiltration into the soil.

These things above, are examples of "drought-minimizing ecosystem services", that ALUS supports. ALUS can cost share with you, if you want to make changes on your land to improve forest, riparian zone and pasture health and fight drought. And, ALUS can pay you up to \$100 per acre per year on the acres you produce these ecosystem services from.

To learn more, contact me any time (403-505-9038). Or, visit www.alus.ca.

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

THE MEDICINE RIVER WATERSHED SOCIETY

LIGHT SUPPER PROVIDED!

April 10
6-9 PM

Benalto
Community Hall

The Medicine River Watershed Society will present the results of their **2023 River Water Quality Sampling Program**.

Learn how ALUS & RALP are helping farmers & ranchers adopt practices that enhance water quality in the Medicine River watershed & how you can apply.

REGISTER HERE!

Red Deer County

or call
Agriculture Services
403.342.8654

LACOMBE COUNTY

WE'RE HIRING!

River Weed Inspectors

Seasonal Full Time (2-month, July & August)
Monday-Friday (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

Full Details

www.lacombecounty.com/careers

Apply to hr@lacombecounty.com.

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

OPERATIONS

Lacombe County Brushing Program

Lacombe County is responsible for maintaining our road allowances, which includes brushing trees and other vegetation to ensure safety for travellers.

Part of our winter brushing is done in preparation for road construction, but our primary focus is on the travelling public's safety. We maintain sight lines at intersections and rail crossings on a scheduled rotation.

Lacombe County ensures that roadways are clear, including tree and limb removal and brushing in back alleys, subdivisions and machinery roads. This work is done to minimize trees falling on roads - damaging vehicles and equipment, and keeping our roads as safe as possible.

If you see any problems on County roads, please call us at 403-782-3567.

Please note: Alberta Transportation maintains and operates **ALL NUMBERED** highways in the County (i.e. Hwy 12, Hwy 20, Hwy 597, Hwy 815, Hwy 601, Hwy 2A, etc.). **If you see any issues or have any concerns on these roadways, please get in touch with Mainroad Alberta Contracting LP at 1-877-875-3263.**



NOTICE | BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Notification of Municipal Works for bridge construction on Township Road 411A, over the Medicine River near Leedale.

Construction work will start Monday, February 26, 2024, and includes demolition, bridge replacement and other work in the project scope. Work is expected to last until May 31, 2024 (weather permitting).

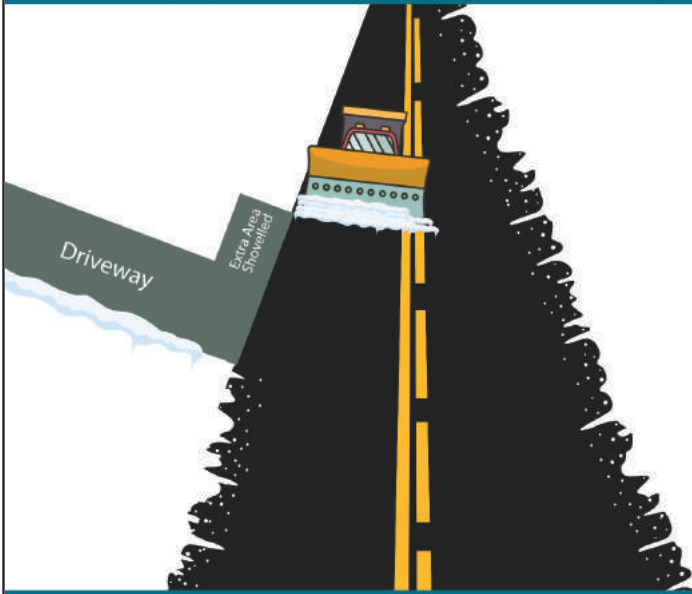
Please drive with caution around construction crews, and obey all signs.



LACOMBE COUNTY

WINTER TIP

When shovelling snow after a major snowfall event, an excellent way you can help the County's graders and also avoid having to re-shovel the snow again is by shovelling an extra area, left of your driveway. This allows the County's graders to push snow into that area, so you don't have to reshovel the area in front of your driveway!



When shovelling, **DO NOT** push snow to the other side of the road or into the County right-of-way / ditch.

Moving snow into the County right-of-way can: lead to unsafe conditions for motorists and graders; impact the County's ability to efficiently provide snow removal; may cause damage to County roads and equipment or utility infrastructure; and can even cause spring flooding!

The best practice is to shovel snow to the right side of your driveway. This makes it easiest for our operators to move the snow in the direction of plowing.

If you notice a broken or missing sign on a County road, call us ASAP!!

BROKEN OR MISSING ROAD SIGNS?

LACOMBE COUNTY

Phone: 403-782-6601
Email: info@lacombecounty.com

Facebook (@LacombeCounty)
Instagram (lacombecounty)
Twitter (@LacombeCounty)

AGRICULTURE

A'S & Q'S about ALUS & RALP

What is ALUS?
What is RALP?
What are they funding?
How do I apply?

All these questions and more will be answered
in a series of community meetings.

 19 March
1-3 PM LACOMBE
MEMORIAL CENTRE

 21 March
7-9 PM VILLAGE OF CLIVE
LIBRARY

 10 April
6-9 PM *BENALTO
COMMUNITY HALL

 16 April
1-3 PM NEXSOURCE CENTRE
SYLVAN LAKE

 17 April
7-9 PM ABBEY CENTRE
BLACKFALDS

*Includes a presentation from the Medicine
River Watershed Society

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR THE SESSION THAT
BEST SUITS YOUR SCHEDULE AND LOCATION,
OR CALL RED DEER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
AT 403-342-8654



LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP
SYMPOSIUM

DAY 1

8:30 AM -
5 PM



Designer Cows for Your Ranch

MARCH 1 & 2, 2024

Olds College, Olds

- FERTILITY OBSERVATION AND MEASUREMENTS
Steve Campbell, Tailor Made Cattle
- RED SOLO CUP COW
Steve Campbell, Tailor Made Cattle
- GENETIC TOOLS FOR SELECTION AND HYBRID VIGOR SCORES
John Basarab, PhD, Livestock Gentec
- BETSY IDENTIFICATION AND RECORD TRACKING TECHNOLOGY FOR
REPLACEMENT SELECTION
Mokah Shmigelsky, One Cup AI
- COST EFFECTIVE HEIFER DEVELOPMENT
Bart Lardner PhD, University of Saskatchewan

DAY 2

8:30 AM -
1:30 PM

- TOPIC TBA
Desiree Gellatly PhD, Olds College
- EPD'S FOR COMMERCIAL HERD IMPROVEMENT
Jay Wildman, Select Sires
- PRODUCER EXPERIENCES PANEL

*OPTIONAL LIVE CATTLE DEMO WITH STEVE CAMPBELL

- Narration on cattle selection from pen
- Livestock Gentec sampling demo with
"hidden" hybrid vigor score
- Betsy demonstrated cattle for
identification and commercial
applications.

***space is limited, extra fee applies**



DEADLINE FEB 29: Moisture Deficiency Insurance and Endorsement Programs

The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation is encouraging agricultural producers to enroll in Moisture Deficiency programs

The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is encouraging agricultural producers to enrol in the [Moisture Deficiency Insurance \(MDI\)](#) and [Moisture Deficiency Endorsement \(MDE\)](#) programs.

MDI is an insurance program where the client insures native, improved, bush, or community pasture. MDE can be purchased

along with dryland Hay Insurance. This endorsement uses precipitation information from a network of weather stations across the province to reflect moisture conditions.

MDI and MDE are based on the amount of precipitation that falls at the selected weather stations for the months and monthly weighting during the insurance period selected. Losses are paid based on the accumulated precipitation at the weather stations and not on actual pasture conditions or growth at the farm. AFSC has a map of weather stations and a graph of moisture normals by weather station for 2023 available for review.

An MDI and MDE payment history calculator is also available.

Applications can be made by creating or logging into your AFSC Connect account. The last day to apply for, make changes to, or cancel MDI or MDE applications for the 2023 growing season is February 29, 2024.

To learn more about Moisture Deficiency Insurance, please use Live Chat on www.AFSC.ca or AFSC Connect, call the Client Care Centre or contact your preferred AFSC branch office.

AGRICULTURE

ATTENTION

Grain Bag and Twine Recylers in Lacombe County

Are you recycling your agricultural plastics and twine to help the environment?

IT ONLY WORKS IF YOU RECYCLE RIGHT!!

We have found many recycling issues, which have led to twine bags thrown in the garbage (rather than appropriately recycled). Please ensure you are following the proper steps (below).



NO feed bags ~ NO grain totes ~ NO silage plastic ~ NO bale wrap

ABOUT

Grain Bag and Twine Recycling in Lacombe County

Grain Bag Recycling



Details:

This service is offered free of charge to agriculture producers operating within Lacombe County. The grain bags will be rolled and collected on farm site for eventual delivery to a plastic recycling center in Alberta.

Requirements:

- Agriculture producers who request grain bag recycling services must provide one individual on site, capable of assisting the rolling and collection operation.
- Grain bags **MUST BE FREE** of grain, mud, dirt debris, and vermin.
- To ensure used grain bags are eligible for recycling, grain bag collection services should be scheduled within one week of grain extraction.
- Grain bag collection services are offered free of charge.

Twine Recycling



Details:

Producers can pick up Clean Farms Twine Recycling Bags at any Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Site during regular business hours. Twine will only be accepted if it is placed in the Clean Farms Twine Recycling Bag, and then brought to the collection site.

Requirements:

- 1. Shake** – Remove as much debris, snow or ice as possible. Excessively dirty twine may be rejected, or subject to a landfill tipping fee or additional charges at drop off.
- 2. Bag** – Place loose twine in a Clean Farms Twine Recycling Bag and tie bags to close. Please do not knot the twine. Clean Farms Twine Recycling bags are available free of charge at any Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Sites.
- 3. Return** – Return to a Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission Transfer Site during regular business hours.

Expanding 2023 livestock drought recovery support

The governments of Canada and Alberta are expanding drought livestock assistance eligibility to help producers maintain breeding herds.

The 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance initiative is expanding eligibility to 23 new regions and extending the application deadline. Funding for this joint AgriRecovery initiative is provided through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

Livestock producers in eligible regions who altered their usual grazing practices due to drought conditions for more than 21 days this season can apply for financial support to cover losses incurred to manage and maintain female breeding animals such as cattle, bison, horses, elk, sheep, goats, alpacas, yak, musk ox, deer, water buffalo and llamas. A minimum of 15 animals per type of livestock are required to qualify.

Funding for the new regions will open on Jan. 29. Applicants in this intake may receive payments of up to \$150 per head. The application deadline is Feb. 22 and extraordinary costs can be incurred until March 31. This expansion also gives producers who were already eligible another

opportunity to apply.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) continues to administer the initiative. Livestock producers can get more information and apply by visiting AFSC's website.

QUICK FACTS

- AFSC administers four business risk management programs that provide insurance and income stabilization for Alberta's farmers and ranchers. These include AgriInsurance, AgriStability, AgriInvest and AgriRecovery.
- AgriRecovery is one of the business risk management programs under the Sustainable CAP. The federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework helps agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from natural disasters.

Apply or find more information at <https://afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery/>.

Conservation Tillage: A Tool in Central Alberta



WEBINAR REWIND | Interested in conservation tillage and how it's used in Central Alberta to prevent soil erosion?



WEBINAR OVERVIEW | Ross Mackenzie was a Soil and Crop Research Scientist with Alberta Agriculture. Using his 38 years of experience, Ross provides insight on:

- the principles of soil and water erosion
- soil science
- tillage practices and other soil erosion mitigation practices.



Scan the QR Code to watch on YouTube



LACOMBE COUNTY

LACOMBE COUNTY

To book grain bag collection or further questions regarding agriculture plastics or twine recycling, please call 403- 782-8959.

NATIONAL Invasive Species WEEK FEB. 26 - MAR. 3, 2024



WILD BOAR

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)



PRUSSIAN CARP / GOLDFISH

(Photo from Government of Alberta)



PALE YELLOW IRIS

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)

Lacombe County wants YOUR help to protect Alberta from the destructive impacts of Invasive Species!!

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES SIGHTINGS!

You can do this through the Alberta Invasive Species Council's Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMaps app). Learn more about this - and all about invasive species threats - at <https://abinvasives.ca/take-action/>.

Together, our actions can help raise awareness about the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species.

For information on all these invasive species, visit <https://abinvasives.ca/>.



Dreissena polymorpha
(Zebra mussel)
(Actual size ~ 15 mm)

Dreissena rostriformis bugensis
(Quagga mussel)
(Actual size ~ 20 mm)

Sits flat on ventral side
Triangular in shape
Color patterns vary

Will not sit flat on ventral side, topples over
Rounder in shape
Dark concentric rings on shell
Paler in color near the hinge

ZEBRA & QUAGGA MUSSELS
(Photo from U.S. Geological Survey via Alberta Invasive Species website)



FLOWERING RUSH

(Photo from Government of Alberta)



SEA BUCKTHORN



HIMALAYAN BALSAM

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)

WILD BOARS

Feral pigs (also known as wild boar at large) are one of the most damaging invasive species in North America. Some folks are keen to hunt wild boar at large, but this is not a viable control option.

We are asking for your help to report observations of wild boar at large and damage they may have caused. You can do this through AISC's free invasive species reporting app, EDDMaps (iPhone or Android), by emailing AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca, calling 310-FARM, or by contacting your local municipality.

More information can be found by accessing AISC's [Squeal on Pigs Quick Facts Card](#) or [Alberta's Feral Pig Fact Sheet](#).

ZEBRA & QUAGGA MUSSELS

Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra or quagga mussels, can be spread from one waterbody to another on boats or gear that have not been properly cleaned, drained and dried between uses.

Prevention is as easy as Clean - Drain - Dry! Visit <https://www.alberta.ca/clean-drain-dry-your-gear.aspx> for more details.

PRUSSIAN CARP / GOLDFISH

Aquatic invasive species are non-native animals or plants that can cause economic or environmental harm in waterways where they are introduced. Prussian Carp, a type of wild goldfish, is a harmful aquatic invasive species and has recently been found in Alberta. The species invades aquatic ecosystems and poses severe threats to aquatic habitats and native fish populations.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!! Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants, dead or live animals into water bodies. If you catch a Prussian Carp while fishing, kill it. It is illegal to use live bait fish in Alberta.

FLOWERING RUSH

Common aquaculture plants can become invasive if they are not native to Alberta. Wind and water can spread seeds and plant fragments beyond your garden, which creates new populations that can dominate ecosystems and ruin habitats for native species.

Prevent the spread of flowering rush.

1. Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants, dead or live animals into water bodies.
2. If you see flowering rush, report it to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline (1-855-336-2628) or use EDDMaps Alberta from your smart phone.

3. DO NOT pull or dig it, as small fragments can break off and start new plants.

PALE YELLOW IRIS

Pale yellow iris (also know as yellow flag iris) is a perennial forb introduced to North America as a pond ornamental plant. It reproduces both by seed and vegetatively by pink, freely branching rhizomes. These rhizomes are fast spreading and can out compete other plants for space.

Yellow flag iris is sold through garden centers and the internet. **Do not purchase or grow this plant.**

Pulling/cutting yellow flag iris repeatedly over several years can eventually kill plant. Digging is effective but can fragment rhizomes which can produce new plants, so be sure to remove as much plant debris as possible.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

LACOMBE COUNTY IS HOSTING A

FARMER'S PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION COURSE

COURSE DETAILS

Farmers who wish to use restricted pesticide, such as Phostoxin, are required to have a Farmer's Pesticide Certification. The Stored Grain Endorsement is required to fumigate with aluminum phosphide & the Exterior Rodent Control is required to use restricted rodenticides.

When registering, provide name, phone number and your current pesticide certificate number, if applicable. You may pay by cash or cheque at the door.

Lunch and refreshments provided.
MAX 20 ATTENDEES!! Registration required (contact below)

\$150/person + GST for the Farmer's Pesticide Course

\$75/person + GST per Endorsement module (1/2 day each)

\$275/person + GST for ALL THREE COURSES

DATE	TIME	COURSE
APRIL 11, 2024	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Farmers Pesticide Course
APRIL 12, 2024	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Stored Grain Endorsement
APRIL 12, 2024	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Exterior Rodent Control

LACOMBE COUNTY ADMIN BUILDING

403-782-8959
jmakus@lacombecounty.com

LACOMBE COUNTY

Dugout & Grant Opportunities

Work Shop

LACOMBE COUNTY



GREY WOODED FORAGE ASSOCIATION

Dugouts are an important water source for agriculture producers and rural residents.

Learn about best practices to improve water quality and quantity, how to mitigate common issues and much more.

Hear about available grants for constructing new dugouts, water wells along with funding for pasture management and more.

Water Act Basics

Dugouts

Funding Programs

Offsite Watering

March 5

Condor Community Hall

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Lunch Included

To register, please contact
Clearwater County
Agriculture & Community
Services at 403-846-4040 or
landcare@clearwatercounty.ca

Wild boar are an **invasive species** that threaten our **environment and economy**.



SQUEAL ON PIGS!

Learn more or report signs and sightings to:

- EDDMapS
- wildboar@gov.ab.ca
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality

SEA BUCKTHORN

Sea Buckthorn is not a native species to North America. It is highly invasive (especially in riparian areas) and displaces naturally occurring vegetation and wildlife. In September 2019, Lacombe County Council passed Bylaw 1299/19, which elevated Sea Buckthorn to a local Noxious Weed within Lacombe County.

Sea Buckthorn is often used as an orchard species. As an allelopathic plant, Sea Buckthorn releases growth inhibitors into the soil preventing the establishment of native plant species.

Contact Lacombe County at 404-782-8959 for control options if you see Sea Buckthorn.

HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Himalayan balsam is an invasive herbaceous plant that was initially introduced to North America as a garden ornamental. Himalayan balsam is widely distributed across Canada and can be found in eight provinces. Himalayan balsam creates dense and tall stands that prevent native plants from establishing and reducing biodiversity. This plant is a prolific nectar producer and produces about 800 seeds per plant. This annual species can aggressively replace native perennial plants along riverbanks, leading to soil erosion.

Cutting the plant below the lowest node can help stop regeneration. Smaller infestations can be controlled by hand pulling.

SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Do you have questions about subdivision or development activity?

Contact Us:

Lacombe County Planning Services
(403) 782-8389
planning@lacombecounty.com

Dale Freitag
Director of Planning Services

Cajun Paradis
Senior Planner

Natasha Wright
Planner / Development Officer

Nicklas Baran
Planner / Development Officer

Kerrie Taylor
Economic Development Officer

Allison Noonan
Planning Services Administrative Assistant

Daniella Gonzalez
Planning Services Receptionist

January 1, 2024 to January 31, 2024

Development Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Development	Decision <i>(otherwise pending)</i>
1	01/24	DMD Rock Products Ltd.	NW 32-40-27-W4M & SE 31-40-27-W4M	Sand & Gravel Pit <i>(Renewal, No Changes)</i>	Approved
2	02/24	Tyson & Brooke Hueppelsheuser	Lot 1 Block 2 Plan 122 4004 (NE 24-41-02-W5M)	768 ft² addition to existing residence	Approved
3	03/24	Darren & Sherri MacRae	Pt. NE 15-39-26-W4M	Setback Relaxation & Addition to Existing Garage	Approved
4	04/24	J.T. Setters and Sons Construction Ltd.	SE 21-39-27-W4M	Sand & Gravel Pit <i>(Renewal, No Changes)</i>	Approved
5	05/24	Michael Boos & Carolyn Cota	NE 10-39-25-W4M	Mini Distillery <i>(known as Outlaw Boos)</i>	Approved
6	06/24	Tyler Nowochin	Lot 26 Block 4 Plan 856MC (Birch Bay, Gull Lake)	Setback Relaxation	Approved

Subdivision Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Subdivision	Decision <i>(otherwise pending)</i>
7	S-001-24	Bearisto & Associates Engineering	NE 14-40-26-W4M	Fragmented Parcel	
8	S-002-24	Austin Clark	Lot 2 Block 1 Plan 942 3543 & W 1/2 14-39-28-W4M	Boundary Adjustment	
9	S-003-24	B&A Planning Group	Pt. SW 31-39-25-W4M	Industrial <i>(Railyard Expansion)</i>	
10	S-004-24	Brian & Sharon Sauer	NW 23-39-23-W4M	Boundary Adjustment	
11	S-005-24	Brian & Sharon Sauer	S 1/2 22-39-23-W4M	Fragmented Parcel	

Lacombe County | Assessment Update

NEW AND PROGRESSIVE BUILDINGS

Assessors have completed development permit inspections for the 2023 calendar year (2024 Tax Year). Development permits consisted of, but not limited to, new building construction such as dwellings, garages, modulars, and warehouses. Inspections are conducted so all characteristics affecting value are considered when the Assessor determines the property’s assessment. For the 2024 tax year, the assessment prepared must reflect the physical condition of the property as of December 31, 2023.

FAQ: I constructed a new building on my property, it is not considered complete by the physical condition date. How does this affect my assessment?

- The Assessor will value the current state of construction as of December 31st. For example, if con-

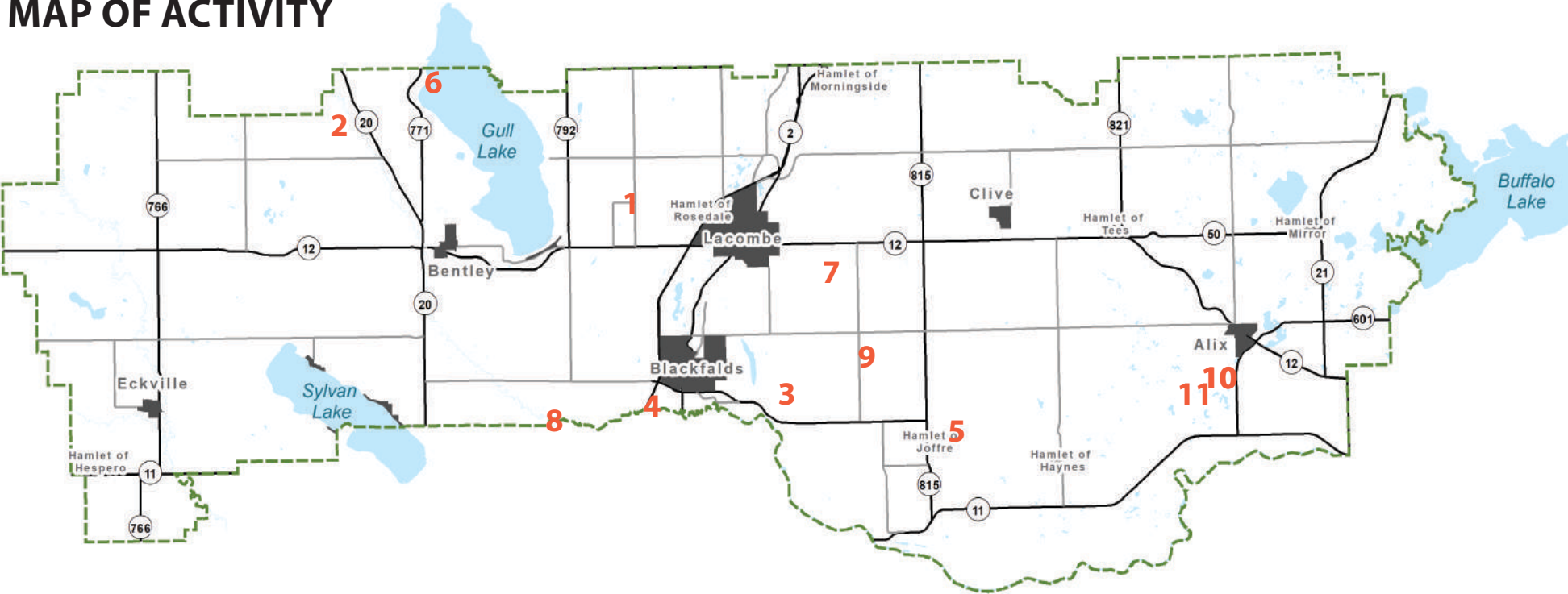
struction was deemed to be 50% complete by this date, the assessment would reflect this progressive value for the 2024 tax year. Once the development is completed the following year, the structure will be assessed at its full market value.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

Lacombe County municipal Assessors will be visiting properties throughout the municipality this year to verify property information for the purpose of ensuring accurate and equitable assessments – we appreciate your cooperation in doing so.

Our assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the Lacombe County Administration Office.

MAP OF ACTIVITY



How to responsibly deal with old buildings | Tips for County residents

Have you ever had an old building and unsure how to properly dispose of the structure? The *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* sets clear guidelines on waste management practices to ensure the protection of our natural resources. As residents, understanding and following these regulations is crucial, particularly when it comes to disposing of materials that cannot be easily recycled or burned. Here are some essential tips for Lacombe County residents on how to manage waste responsibly.

1. Know What You Can't Bury or Burn

It's vital to recognize that not all waste can be disposed of by burying or burning. Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, burying and/or burning certain materials is strictly prohibited due to their harmful environmental impacts. These materials include:

- Treated lumber
- Rubber
- Plastic
- Petrochemicals
- Asbestos
- Containers that previously held pesticides or other chemicals

Burying these items can lead to soil and water contamination, posing serious risks to both human health and the environment.

2. Consider Your Site's Location

Before deciding to bury any waste, consider the proximity of your disposal site to the water table or water wells. Disposing of materials near these sensitive areas can lead to contamination of drinking water sources, a concern that should be avoided at all costs.

3. Obtain Necessary Permits for

Burning
If you plan to burn waste as a method of disposal, remember that a fire permit is required between March 1 and October 31, as per Lacombe County's Fire Protection Bylaw. Always check if there's a fire ban in place before burning anything. This step ensures that your waste disposal method is not only legal but also safe for you and your community.

4. Explore Recycling Options
Many materials that cannot be burned or buried might be recyclable. Before you decide to dispose of waste, contact the Alberta Recycling Management Authority at 1-888-999-8762 for information on local recycling options. Recycling helps reduce the amount of waste in landfills and minimizes environmental impact.

5. Seek Guidance When in Doubt
If you're unsure about the disposal of certain materials, it's better to seek guidance than to risk non-compliance with environmental laws. Contact Alberta Environment and Protected Areas at 310-3773 or 1-877-944-0313 for clarification on what you can and cannot bury. They can provide you with the most current and comprehensive advice on waste management practices.

By following these tips, Lacombe County residents can play a significant role in preserving the environment for future generations. Responsible waste management not only complies with legal requirements but also contributes to the overall wellbeing of our community and the protection of our natural landscapes. Let's all do our part in maintaining the beauty and health of Lacombe County.

Lacombe County is hosting a PUBLIC MEETING
...and you're invited!

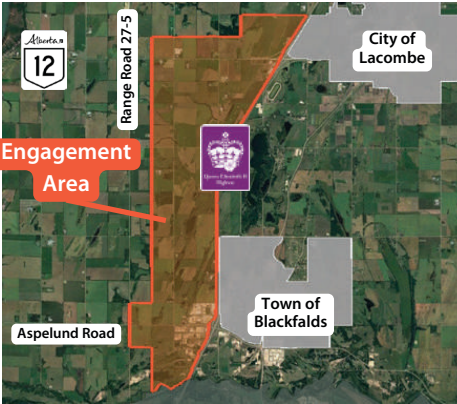


QEII WEST
AREA STRUCTURE PLAN

The QEII West Area Structure Plan is one of the most important local plans in Lacombe County, covering the lands west of the QEII Highway, west of Lacombe and Blackfalds. The Plan provides a framework for future commercial and business industrial development opportunities at strategic nodes while protecting the agricultural community's right to continue farming.

In November 2023, the County held an initial public meeting and survey to seek the community's input on the update of the Plan. The County also conducted a study of relevant information and policy pertaining to the Plan. With this feedback and information, we have created a draft Plan for public review and feedback!

CONTEXT MAP



For more information, please contact Planning Services
Cajun Paradis, Senior Planner
Nicklas Baran, Planner / Development Officer
Email: planning@lacombecounty.com
Phone: 403-782-8389

DETAILS

- Thursday, March 21, 2024**
- 7:00 PM**
- Lacombe County Office**
Located 2½ miles west of Highway 2 at the intersection of Spruceville Road and Highway 12

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

There are two main components to this public engagement opportunity:

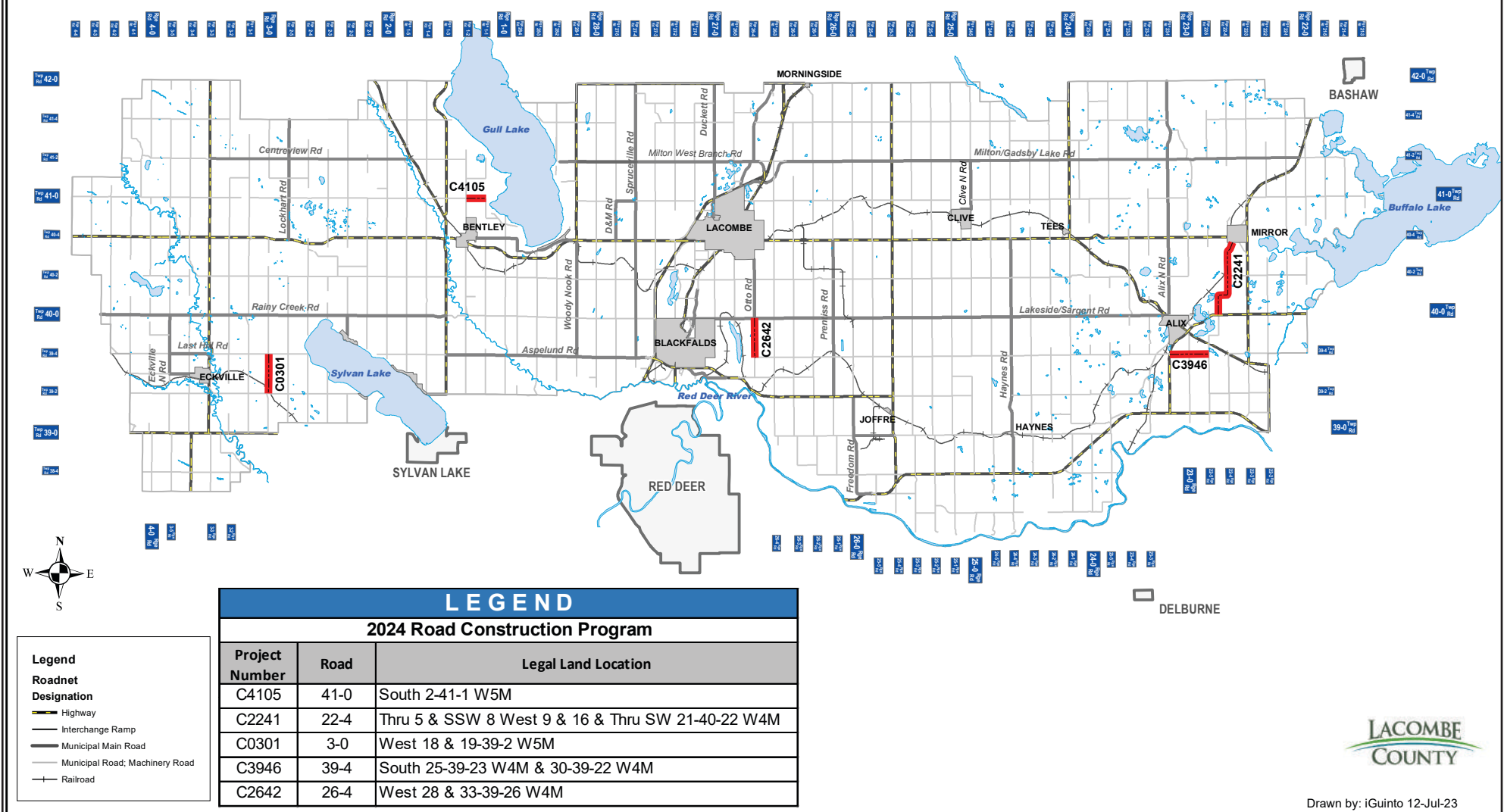
- Attend the Public Meeting**
The public meeting will provide an overview of feedback received in the first survey, the major plan updates informed by the community feedback, and key highlights of the draft Plan.
- Complete the Survey**
After the Public Meeting, there will be a second survey seeking feedback on the draft Plan. Your input is important to ensure we got the draft Plan right! You will have until April 4, 2024 at midnight to complete the survey.

learn more at

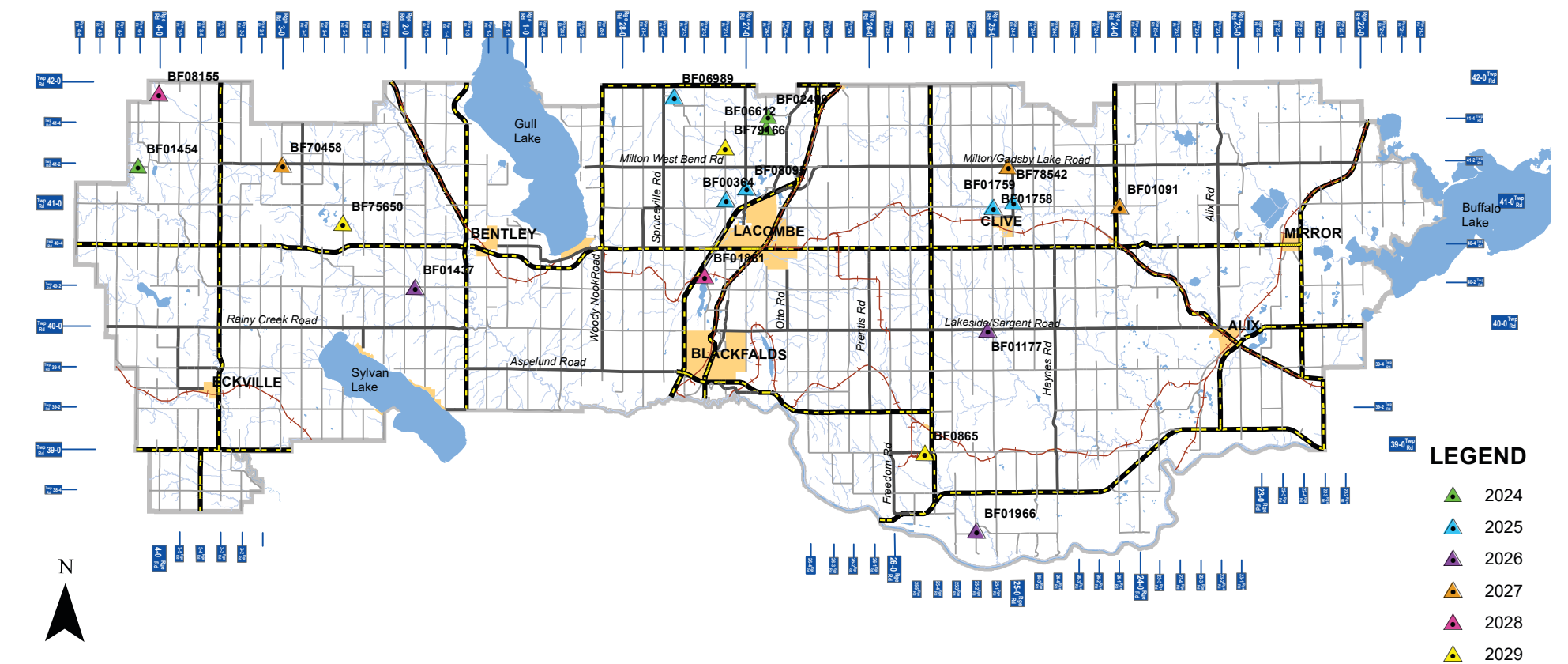
www.lacombecounty.com/QEIIWestASP



2024 LACOMBE COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM



2024-2029 PROPOSED LONG RANGE BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



Chain Lakes Gas Co-op Ltd. | Community-focused energy solutions



Located in the charming Hamlet of Tees, stands a hub of community-focused energy solutions, Chain Lakes Gas Co-op Ltd. Since its inception in 1974, Chain Lakes Gas Co-op is a membership-owned organization dedicated to providing natural gas services to its members across Lacombe County, Ponoka County, and Camrose County. With a philosophy rooted in co-operation, sustainability, and community development, Chain Lakes Gas Co-op has become a pillar of reliability and affordability in Alberta's natural gas sector.

Chain Lakes Gas Co-op was established after recognizing the lack of private utility service in rural regions,

which were deemed unprofitable. As a solution, the Alberta Government passed the Rural Gas Act in 1975, paving the way for the creation of co-operatives like Chain Lakes Gas Co-op. Since then, the co-op has steadily grown, boasting a membership of over 2,000 customers spread across 2850 square kilometres.

Chain Lakes Gas Co-op is dedicated to delivering dependable and cost-effective natural gas services to their members in Lacombe County. Shown from past successes, Chain Lakes Gas Co-op takes pride in their accomplishments and are working for a strong future growth. Some of the upcoming initiatives are:

- Investing in new infrastructure and technology to enhance efficiency and safety.
- Exploring new markets and opportunities to broaden revenue sources and reduce reliance on external suppliers.
- Improving customer service by offering more options and benefits to our members.
- Strengthening community involvement and environmental responsibility by supporting local projects and reducing the carbon footprint.

Over the years, Chain Lakes Gas Co-op has learned

valuable lessons about collaboration, financial management, and industry dynamics. Operating in a sector marked by regulatory complexities and market fluctuations has presented its challenges. However, the co-op remains steadfast in its commitment to overcoming obstacles with professionalism, integrity, and dedication.

Choosing Lacombe County as its base was a strategic decision for Chain Lakes Gas Co-op. The County's support, favorable conditions, and commitment to sustainability align closely with the Co-op's vision and values. Together, they have created a symbiotic relationship that benefits both the co-op's members and the broader community.

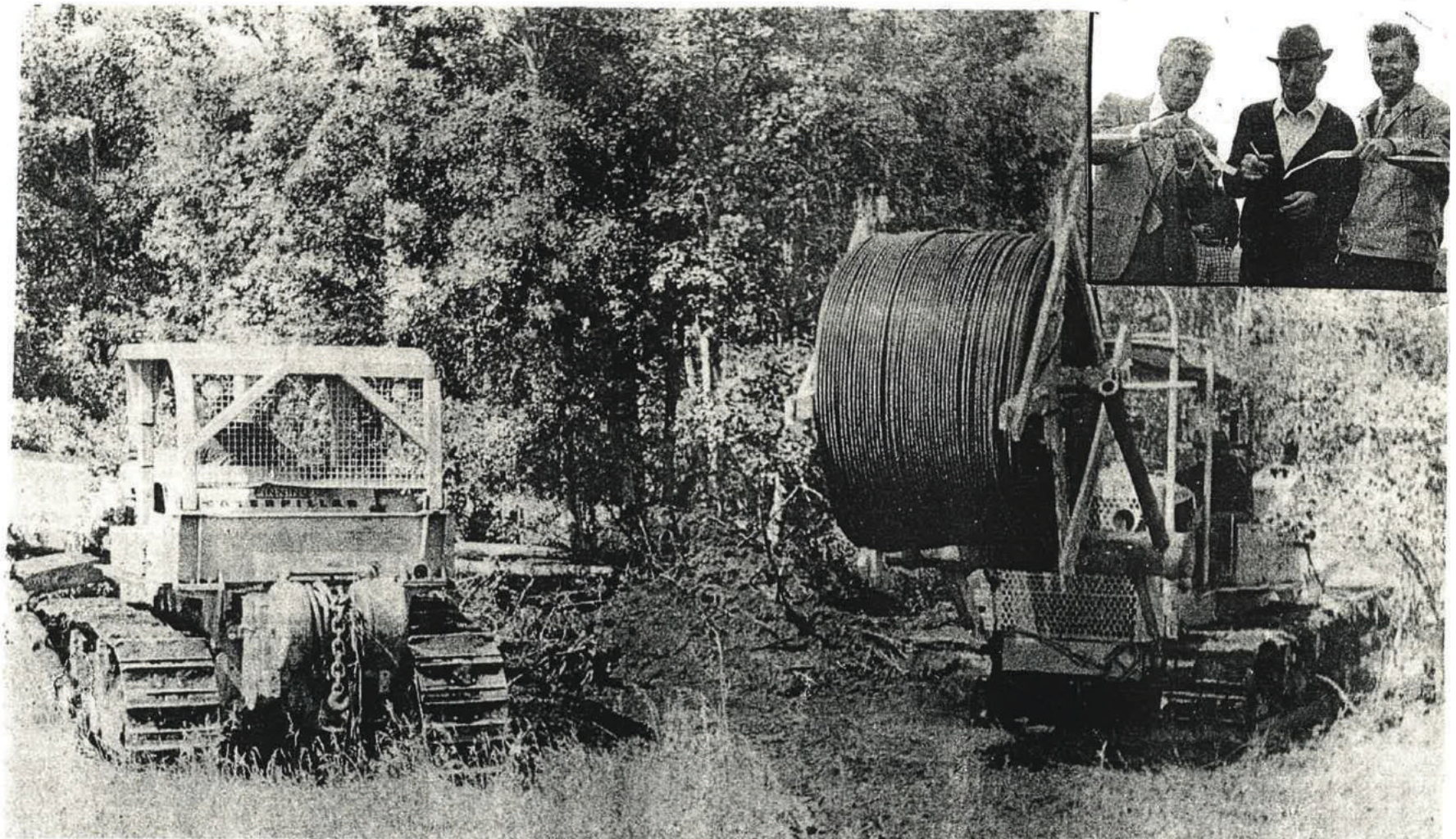
Chain Lakes Gas Co-op's journey is marked by numerous achievements, from its humble beginnings to its status as a leading natural gas provider in Central Alberta. With a focus on safety, reliability, and innovation, the co-op continues to thrive, serving as a testament to the power of community-driven solutions.

Website – <https://chainlakes.ca/>

Email – office@chainlakes.ca

VOL LXIX — No. 46

Published at Lacombe, Alberta, Wednesday, August 13, 1975



officially open Chain Lakes gas co-op

Official opening of the Chain Lakes gas co-operative took place in a field east of Tees Monday. In attendance were most directors of the co-op, contractors, and other interested parties.

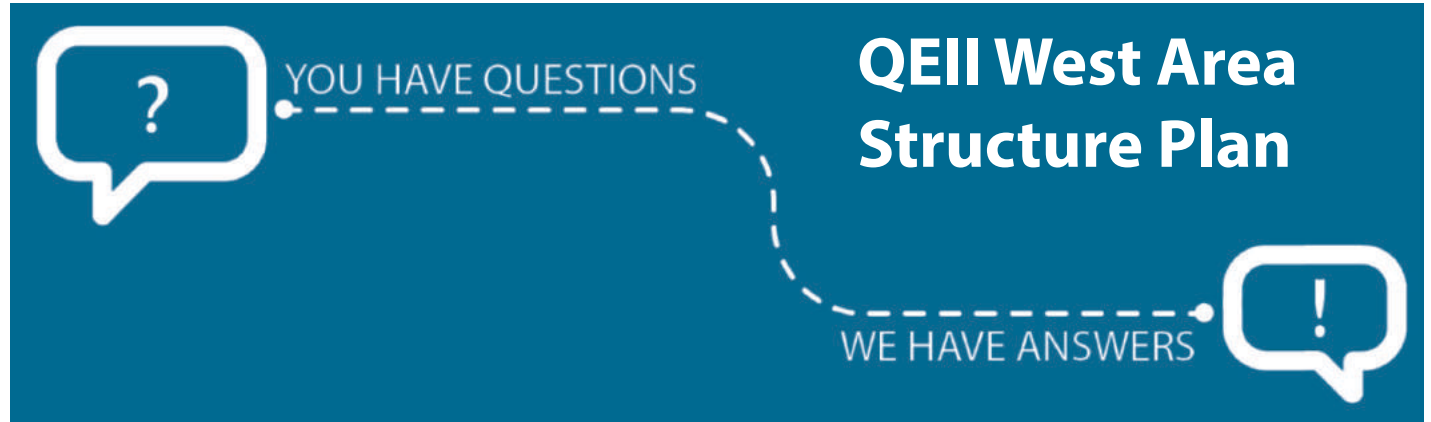
A short program, emceed by county utilities officer Phil Ackerman, was held prior to the ribbon cutting. During his

talk Mr. Ackerman gave the gathering a short history of the co-op. The original meeting was held on December 13, 1973 and the franchise area approval was received of August 30, 1974. Construction of the office and warehouse building in Tees began in May of this year, and field construction started on July 26.

The larger picture above shows one of the crawler units plowing the plastic pipe underground while in the insert, Frank Pewtress, co-op president cuts the ribbon to officially open the new service. Assisting him are Lacombe MLA Jack Cookson, right; and assistant deputy minister of Alberta Utilities and Telephones, Doug Brooks.

Planning Services

Frequently Asked Questions



In 2023, Lacombe County began updating the QEII West Area Structure Plan and conducted a public meeting and survey in November 2023 to seek the community's feedback.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The Highway 2 West Area Structure Plan was initially adopted in 2012 to address growing demand for commercial and business industrial development west of the QEII Highway, between Lacombe and Blackfalds. The lands covered by this Plan constitute the most attractive and desirable lands for commercial and industrial development in Lacombe County due to its strategic location along the QEII.

WHY IS THE COUNTY UPDATING THE PLAN?

The County regularly updates its area structure plans to ensure they are aligned with the community's vision and the County's current Municipal Development Plan. This Plan update is important since many planning factors have changed since 2012. The County has updated its Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw, has adopted updated Intermunicipal Development Plans with both urban municipalities. Water and wastewater servicing is also available in both development nodes.

Updating the Plan ensures the County's policies are consistent and transparent for the community, local businesses, and future developers.

WHAT DID THE COUNTY HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC IN NOVEMBER 2023?

The County held a public meeting on November 22, 2023 to inform the public of the Plan update and ways they can participate. This was followed by a two-week survey.

WHAT DID THE COUNTY DO WITH OUR FEEDBACK?

Since the survey closed, County staff have done a thorough analysis of the public engagement feedback, background information, and policy.

County staff have used this feedback and information to prepare a new draft of the QEII West Area Structure Plan that is rooted in the community's vision of the Plan Area. The Plan's vision statement is:

The QEII West Area Structure Plan envisions the Plan Area to be an agricultural and business hub - where agriculture continues to be supported as the primary land use while new, diverse, and innovative forms of commercial and business industrial development continue to cluster at the strategic nodes identified in this Plan.

The following major changes have been made from the existing Plan:

1. REDUCTION OF THE PLAN AREA

The Highway 2 West Area Structure Plan area currently includes a large stretch of land west of the QEII Highway, all the way from Lacombe to Blackfalds (9,600 acres). Only 3,850 acres of this area is identified within the future development nodes. In the survey, several respondents indicated that the Plan Area should be reduced in size to only include the two development nodes. We have reduced the Plan Area to only include the two nodes.

2. REDUCTION OF COMMERCIAL BUFFER

In the Lacombe Node, the existing Plan includes a 400-metre commercial buffer from the QEII Highway and Highway 12. In this buffer, the County may only consider a development proposal for commercial development. No business industrial can be considered in the buffer. The purpose of this is to protect highway frontage for highway oriented commercial development.

In the past decade, the County has seen more demand for business industrial development than commercial development. Further, in the survey, respondents indicated a preference of business industrial. As such, the draft Plan reduces the commercial buffer from 400 metres to 200 metres along Highway 12 while maintaining a 400-metre buffer along the QEII Highway.

3. REGIONAL SERVICING REQUIRED

Regional water and wastewater servicing is now available in both nodes and is one of the most safe and sustainable methods of servicing. As such, the Plan requires all new commercial and business industrial development to connect to the regional system. Private or communal services can continue in the Agricultural 'A' District.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Since the County has adopted a new Economic Development Strategy, we have added a section on economic development and have incorporated Council's vision statement of Success Grows Here! throughout the draft Plan.

5. AGRICULTURAL USES

Wording has been strengthened in the Plan to clarify that agricultural uses may continue in the development nodes for as long as the landowner desires. Policies have been added that support the right of agricultural operators to continue normal operations without hindrance from new adjacent development.

HOW CAN I REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT PLAN?

The County is hosting a second public meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the County Office. This will be followed by a survey to seek your feedback. For more information, please see the ad on Page 13.



WHAT WE HEARD



63%

of respondents are satisfied with the existing Plan's policies to protect existing agricultural uses



56%

of respondents are satisfied with the existing phasing of development in the Plan to protect agricultural lands outside the nodes

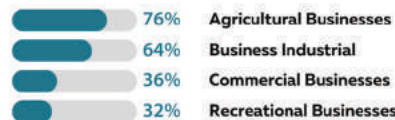


54%

of respondents believe just the right amount of land is identified for future business development. In contrast, 39% believe too much land is identified.

30 responses

Respondents were asked what kinds of businesses they'd like to see in the Plan Area.



to read the whole summary report, including all verbatim responses, visit our website

www.lacombecounty.com/QEIIWestASP



62%

of respondents are satisfied with the standard to which Wild Rose Commercial Park has been developed



67%

of respondents are satisfied with the standard to which North / South Aspelund Industrial Parks have been developed



58%

of respondents are satisfied with the design and provision of open space in the Plan Area's new developments

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LACOMBE COUNTY SPOT *light*

FLYING CROSS RANCH

Located in the picturesque landscape of Lacombe County, Flying Cross Ranch stands as more than just a riding facility. It's a sanctuary where individuals of all ages can embark on a journey of self-discovery, connection, and personal growth through their interactions with horses. Offering riding lessons and equine care education, Flying Cross Ranch not only imparts equestrian skills but also fosters a deeper understanding of the profound benefits horses bring to our mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing.

The importance of horses in promoting mental and physical health cannot be overstated. Studies have shown that interacting with horses can have a therapeutic effect, reducing stress, anxiety, and depression while improving mood and overall wellbeing. Moreover, horses provide a unique opportunity for individuals to develop essential life skills such as patience, empathy, and effective communication.

One of the core values at Flying Cross Ranch is the belief in the power of community and connection. Founder Roy Sturgeon, whose deep-rooted passion

for horses began at the tender age of 4, has dedicated over 5 decades to the equestrian world. With Flying Cross Ranch situated on his family's farm, Roy's intimate connection to the land and its inhabitants is palpable in every aspect of the operation.

Roy's extensive background in the horse industry serves as the foundation upon which Flying Cross Ranch thrives. His wealth, knowledge and experience is not only evident in the quality of instruction provided but also in the genuine care and respect shown towards both the horses and the students. Under Roy's guidance, Flying Cross Ranch has become a haven where individuals can cultivate confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging.

Flying Cross Ranch has a goal to provide a supportive and welcoming environment that fosters confidence and learning. "We believe that everyone should have access to the joy of horseback riding, regardless of their age, size, or level of experience," said Roy Sturgeon. The Ranch focuses on beginner riders whether you are 4 or 64 (or older), a complete novice, or

returning to the sport as an adult. We're here to help and encourage you every step of the way.

To demonstrate our commitment, Flying Cross Ranch offers a ****FREE**** introductory lesson for all new riders. Come out and meet the friendly horses and Roy! Experience the comfort and confidence that comes from learning horse riding.

CONTACT FLYING CROSS RANCH

Phone: 403-350-7368

Email: info@flyingcrossranch.com

FOLLOW THEM ONLINE

Website: <https://www.flyingcrossranch.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/flyingcross-ranch/>



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 25, 2024

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

An update on the 2023 Lacombe County Environmental Action Plan (EAP) was received for information.

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

The projects proposed for the 2024 EAP were approved as presented. The 2024 EAP focuses on energy efficiency, waste creation and disposal, land use in the built and natural environment, water quality and security, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

COUNCIL EVALUATION

The Council Evaluation process received approval. The Council Evaluation will be conducted concurrent to the County Manager evaluation.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the 2023 Employee Engagement Survey were provided for information to Council.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM POLICY REVISION

The County's Certificate of Recognition (COR) audit findings proposed revisions to the Health and Safety Management System Policy that were approved by Council.

HOUSE AT TEES REMOTE SHOP

The County Manager was directed to award the hazardous material cleanup of the house at the Tees Remote Shop, in the amount of \$39,688.00, to ASK Environmental. A suitable contractor shall

be secured to conduct the well abandonment at the cost of up to \$3,000.00, with both costs to be funded from the Asset Retirement Obligation Liability Fund. The removal of the remaining portion of the house, outbuildings, and general cleanup of the property, at an estimated cost of \$40,352.00, is to be completed in-house utilizing County resources and funded from the 2024 Operating Budget.

NEW PAVEMENT MASTER PLAN

Council will review the New Pavement Master Plan at the April 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

SANDY POINT PAID PARKING USAGE STATISTICS

Based on information provided in the Sandy Point Paid Parking Usage Report, it is estimated that 3%, or less, of all users of the beach and boat launch at Sandy Point are residents of Lacombe County, with a large majority of the users coming from Lacombe, Red Deer, Edmonton, and Calgary.

Council received the Sandy Point Paid Parking Usage Report for information.

PROPERTY TAX LATE PAYMENT PENALTY CANCELLATION REQUEST

A motion that Lacombe County cancel the \$551.45 in late payment penalties levied on tax account #3903343001 did not receive Council approval.

CITY OF LACOMBE 2024 RC(1) RECREATION CAPITAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS

By resolutions of Council, Lacombe County will contribute up to \$149,779.00 to the City of Lacombe's

annual capital projects at the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre and Lacombe Memorial Centre, funded through the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

SYLVAN LAKE INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan Committee Terms of Reference were approved as presented.

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND SPORT TO VISIT MEDICINE LODGE SKI HILL – FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Council will provide representation at a meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Sport during his visit to the Medicine Lodge Ski Hill on February 2, 2024.

WOLF CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Barb Reaney and Kevin Newman, representatives of Wolf Creek Public Schools, provided a presentation on the School Social Work Program.

MIRROR BALL DIAMONDS PRESENTATION

Ron Smithman, a representative of the Mirror Association of Ball Diamonds, Campground, and Skating Society, presented proposed changes to the Mirror Ball Diamonds.

BDO AUDIT PLANNING REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council received for information BDO Canada LLP's plan for the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Lacombe County for the period ended December 31, 2023.

Calling Alberta YOUTH! | YI#LOVEALBERTA

Do you have big dreams for the future? Are you looking for a place that can offer you endless opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed?

The YI#LOVEALBERTA Youth Challenge is designed to engage students in understanding the world in which they live, focusing on citizenship, identity and quality of life. The goal is to have students share, in their own words, why Alberta is a great place to study, work and live.

PRIZES

The first, second and third place submissions will be awarded cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively with a matched amount awarded to the student's classroom.

Entries must meet the requirements outlined in the Official Rules and Regulations.

Create a short video to show us why you love Alberta— and why others should too! Full contest details and contest rules at <https://www.lovealberta.ca/>



Council Highlights & Minutes can be found on our website at www.lacombecounty.com/en/our-government/agendas-and-minutes.aspx



Regularly Scheduled Meetings for Lacombe County Council

Committee of the Whole - First Tuesday of every second month at 9 a.m.

Council & MPC - Second and fourth Thursday of every month, starting at 9 a.m..

The public and media are welcome to attend all Council & MPC meetings. An agenda will be posted to the website prior to the meeting.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 8, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING BYLAW NO. 1399/23

A public hearing was held for Bylaw No. 1399/23. Bylaw No. 1399/23 is a bylaw of Lacombe County to amend the Lacombe County Land Use Bylaw, Bylaw No. 1237/17 as it relates to land use designation on Pt. SW 31-39-25-W4M and the Dow Chemical Rail Yard expansion.

Following the public hearing, Bylaw No. 1399/23 was given second and third reading and so passed.

DWELLINGS ON AGRICULTURAL 'A' DISTRICT PARCELS

Council received an overview of the feedback received from the community consultations regarding Dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District Parcels that were held in November and December 2023.

By resolution of Council, Administration was directed to draft bylaw changes to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to allow two dwellings on Agricultural 'A' District Parcels of 10 acres in size or larger. The proposed bylaw changes will be presented for Council's consideration of first reading in February 2024.

PLANNING SERVICES UPDATE

Council received an update on the progress and activities of the Planning Services Department for 2023.

DECEMBER 5, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING NOTES

The following recommendations from the December 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting received Council approval:

- The Paid Parking Program Review was received for information. The County Manager was directed to obtain more in-depth data regarding users of the paid parking program for consideration at a future Council meeting.
- The County Manager was directed to prepare a report and recommendation regarding options for future expansion of water servicing to the Blackfalds Joint Economic Area, for consideration at a future Council meeting.
- The Alberta Association of Community Peace Officers (AACPO) presentation was received for information. A representative of the Peace Officer Program, Public Safety, and Emergency Services will be invited to present at a future Committee

of the Whole meeting subsequent to the County receiving the report commissioned by the AACPO on the safety of Community Peace Officers in carrying out their assigned duties.

- The Subdivision Policies presentation was received for information.
- The Community Organizations Property Tax Exemption Regulations presentation was received for information.
- The Pictography presentation was received for information.

CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN

The Lacombe County 2022-2027 Corporate Business Plan was presented to Council. The Corporate Business Plan identifies specific initiatives that address each of the four strategic goals established by Council and sets out the timelines for completing each initiative. The Corporate Business Plan is intended to be a fluid document and, as such, will be updated annually.

COUNTY MANAGER EVALUATION – ESTABLISH PROCESS AND SET DATE

The annual performance evaluation of the County Manager will be informed by Councillors on an individual basis for compilation and review by the Reeve, Deputy Reeve, and County Manager on February 8, 2024.

OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Council will request to meet with the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, during the 2024 Spring RMA Convention in Edmonton.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MINISTERS REGARDING TAXATION ON OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

In follow-up to discussions held at the RMA Fall Convention, a letter will be sent to the Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, to reiterate Council's concern regarding taxation on oil and gas development.

LETTER FROM MINISTER SCHULZ REGARDING DROUGHT

Council authorized the establishment of a committee, comprised of representatives from all County

departments, for the purpose of developing a Drought Risk Management and Response Plan for Lacombe County. This initiative is in response to a letter from the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, requesting municipal action regarding the current drought conditions in Alberta.

RMA SPRING CONVENTION

Council will attend the 2024 RMA Spring Convention that will be held at the Edmonton Convention Centre March 18 – 20, 2024.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Council received an update on the progress and activities related to Economic Development in the County.

2024-2026 ASPHALT LINE PAINTING

The County Manager was authorized to award the 2024-2026 Asphalt Line Painting and Other Works tender to 624091 Alberta Ltd. o/a RanN Maintenance Western Division in the amount of \$249,692.14.

POLICY OP(20) BRIDGE MATERIAL SALES – UPDATE

Council approved amendments to Policy OP(20) Bridge Material Sales to increase credit limits for customers who purchase bridge materials on approved credit.

ALIX NATURE TRAIL FUNDING REQUEST

A motion to approve an annual operating grant to the Alix Nature Trail Society in the amount of \$13,000 for the operations and maintenance of the Alix Nature Trail did not receive Council approval.

TOWN OF BLACKFALDS AND LACOMBE COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES OPERATIONAL COST-SHARING AGREEMENT

Council approved The Town of Blackfalds and Lacombe County Recreation Facilities Operational Cost-Sharing Agreement as presented.

BYLAW NO. 1405/24 LACOMBE COUNTY 2024 RATES AND FEES BYLAW

Council moved first, second, and third readings of Bylaw No. 1405/24 Lacombe County 2024 Rates and Fees.

REMINDER | Ice Fishing Hut Registration



Lacombe County is no longer managing the voluntary Take It Off Program on Gull Lake and Buffalo Lake, as Alberta Environment and Parks has made it mandatory to identify all ice shelters in the province.

All ice fishing shelters that are on the ice for more than 24 hours **must** be labelled (2.5 cm block letters) with WiN number or name and phone

number. **Ice fishing shelters must be removed from the ice by March 31.**

By identifying your ice shelter you help to ensure that all ice shelters are taken off the lake by the end of the ice fishing season. This helps to protect the environment and ensure the safety of anglers and boaters.

More information is in the 2023 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations at <https://albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/>.

→ WATER WELL MANAGEMENT FOR WELL OWNERS



Understand why it's important to care for and maintain your water well.

The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management. Learn how at this free virtual workshop.

HOSTED BY:



PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:

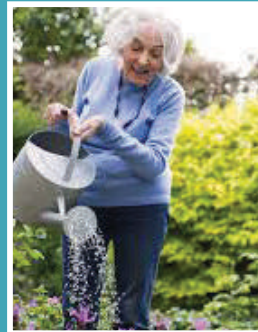


→ JOIN US. REGISTER ONLINE TODAY.

HOSTED BY: Lacombe County
DATE: March 6, 2024
START TIME: 6:30 PM
PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://shorturl.at/bHRS4>

Supports for Seniors

Did You Know? There is financial assistance available for Seniors over the age of 65 for household assistance such as housekeeping, snow removal, or grass cutting?



Special Needs Assistance for Seniors considers specific items that fall into one of the following three categories:

**Appliances/furniture | Health supports
Personal supports**

MORE INFORMATION AT:
<https://www.alberta.ca/seniors-special-needs-assistance.aspx>

UPCOMING EVENTS



GRANT WRITING 101 WORKSHOP

Take the free online Grant Writing Course (or numerous other Non-Profit Courses) at: <https://www.alberta.ca/lookup/non-profit-online-courses.aspx>

Grant writing ...ugh. Sound familiar? For many non-profit volunteers and staff, grant writing can seem like a time-consuming task in creative writing, with the payoff being the luck of the draw. The truth is, with steep competition for limited grant dollars, a well-written grant is only part of the success formula. This video series covers core proposal and grant writing skills, how to avoid common pitfalls, understanding what funders look for, and tips on maintaining good relationships with your funders.

GRANT WRITING 201 WORKSHOP - LACOMBE

Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024

Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: In the Lacombe County Room at the Lacombe Memorial Centre

Visit www.lacombe.ca/grants to register and to see Lacombe's local grants.

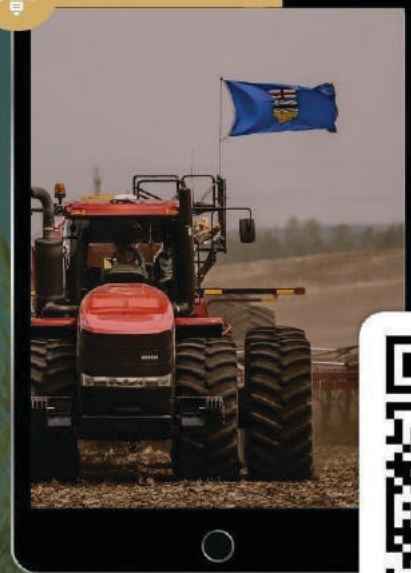
Hear application tips from the administration that oversees these grant funds. Learn the do's, don'ts and common issues in grant writing at the local level. Suggested Prerequisite – Grant Writing 101
Supper is included with your free registration by February 21, 2024.

For more information email recreation@lacombe.ca or call 403-782-1251.

CALLING ALL FARMERS



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



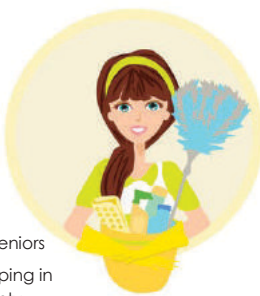
HELP CREATE AN ALBERTA-MADE SOLUTION

PARTICIPATE IN OUR SURVEY TO GROW THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN ALBERTA.



AROUND THE COUNTY

HOME SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SENIORS



Home Support is available to eligible seniors needing assistance with light housekeeping in Lacombe, Clive and Lacombe County.

- ✓ Trained & screened Home Support Providers
- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ Bi-weekly
- ✓ Monthly

Did you know you may qualify for reimbursement up to \$1300 a year for housekeeping. Ask us how.

Contact Lacombe & District FCSS:
(403) 782-6637

Or Clive FCSS (Tuesdays, Thursdays)
(403) 784-2020

Services Offered

- Laundry
- Kitchen
- Bathrooms
- Living Rooms
- Dusting
- Mopping
- Vacuuming
- Meal prep assistance

Supported by: **fcss**
Lacombe & District
Family and Community
Support Services

**LACOMBE
COUNTY**

Clive

fcss
Lacombe & District
Family and Community
Support Services

**Lacombe
Connex**

**LACOMBE
COUNTY**

Did you know?
County residents within 20 km of
Lacombe can book the bus for errands
& medical appointments.

Please call 403-782-6637 for more information
or to reserve your spot

**PrimaryCare
Network**
RED DEER

**MOVE YOUR
Mood**

Youth Anxiety to Calm Workshop

Feeling Overwhelmed, Stressed, or Anxious?

Join our free workshop for ages 12-17.

Learn tools to understand and manage your anxiety.

To register call 403.314.3297
www.reddeerpcn.com

March 7- April 11
Thursdays 5:00-6:30
Workshop held at New Sheldon Kennedy Centre of Excellence
in the Move your Mood studio.
#210, 70 College Circle
Red Deer, AB | T4R 0V4

**servus
credit union**

**PUBLIC LIBRARY
BLACKFALDS**

Free memberships for Lacombe County patrons! When signing up provide your legal land description.

Programming

All Age Story Time All ages
Music & Movement Ages 1-4
Toddler Sensory Class Ages 2-3
Reading Buddies Ages 6-10
Anime Club Ages 8+
Canasta Club Ages 18+
Dungeons and Dragons tabletop roleplaying games
Multiple Youth & Adult sessions

**For more program information check out our website and social media*

Borrowing

Our library card gives you access to a variety of services, eResources such as eAudio, eBooks, eMagazines & more!

Visit us on our website
& social medias

Hours

Sunday	1 pm - 5 pm
Monday	10 am - 8 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	10 am - 8 pm
Thursday	10 am - 6 pm
Friday	10 am - 6 pm
Saturday	10 am - 5 pm

Contact

403-885-2343
www.blackfaldslibrary.ca
Eagle Builders Centre 5302 Broadway
Avenue, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

WHAT WE DO

Alix and Area Community Resource Centre

Highlights

The **Alix Food Bank** is supported by the community through donations and partnership with the Alix Mirror Wellness Supports Society. Don't hesitate to use this resource. Please **contact us**, to access a food hamper. In addition, **access fresh veggies**, delivered weekly to the Centre. Available to everyone, typically on Tuesdays. Thank you Pik-N-Pak Produce for the wonderful donations and volunteers who help to make sure veggies are brought to our community every week.

Winter Wishes 2024
Every March we host 'Winter Wishes' programming to help get our community through the last of winter and boost morale! Programs include:
1) A complementary gift for all ages, including free warm seasonal items. Stop in all month.
2) A pantry top-up to replenish staples, also available for anyone. Available all month.
3) And an online auction, a fun way to support the Centre- either by donating or placing bids during the event.
Auction details: March 11 - 21, 2024
We are accepting cash, gift cards, gift baskets, experiences or items. Think spring and summer vibes! We are happy to receive both anything new/ like new or money towards a purchased lot. Proceeds support programs for all ages at the Alix and Area Community Resource Centre. Please contact Jill if you are interested in making a donation, (403) 588-5199. Follow our FB page!

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE: This program offers free income tax assistance, during March and April for seniors or low income tax returns. Contact us for more info or to sign up.

Services Available

- Information & Referral
- Resource Navigation
- Volunteer Services
- Family Wellness
- Meals on Wheels
- Community Services
- Adult Learning
- Alix Food Bank
- Wise Owls

alixmirrorwellness@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook
@AlixandAreaCommunityResourceCentre
www.alixcrc.com

Monday to Thursday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed all statutory holidays
Bay 1, 5008 50 Ave, Alix, AB
403-396-3369



Encore Art Show & Sale

● ● ●

Showcasing Alberta Artists

April 26 & 27, 2024

Contact
 Phone 403-352-1765
 E-mail csturgeon@lacombe.ca
 Address Lacombe Memorial Centre
 5214 50 Ave, Lacombe, AB T4L 0B6

Lacombe Arts Endowment Grant 2024 Call for Submissions

Open to Artists of all forms and mediums



The Lacombe Arts Endowment Committee is happy to announce grant funding is available to artists looking to further their development, education and training in the arts. There are no age restrictions, and all local artists are encouraged to apply.

\$2,500 Maximum Per Grant

Details are available online at www.lacombe.ca or by calling 403-782-1258. Application packages can also be picked up in person at City Hall.

Application Deadline is March 29, 2024



gull lake centre
gulllakecentre.ca

Summer Camps

Come Dive In to Summer!

Discover camps for kids ages 5-18, just 15 minutes outside of Lacombe.

Sign up now at gulllakecentre.ca

Have a **NEW** idea to build community?



EVENTS
RECREATION
ARTS
CULTURE

\$100,000 in available funds

COMMUNITY BUILDER PARTNERSHIP

Intake dates are March 29 & August 30
 For more information call 403-782-1251 or visit lacombe.ca/grants



Blue Feather Award Nominations

Do you know a Bluebird Nestbox Trail operator? Nominate them for our Blue Feather Award!

Each year, Ellis Bird Farm presents a Blue Feather Award to an Alberta bluebird trail operator who has made a significant contribution to bluebird conservation in Alberta.

Nominations forms can be found on our website and will be accepted until May 15, 2024!



Bluebird and Purple Martin Partnership

Do you have a bluebird trail or purple martin colony? We'd love to connect with you!

Ellis Bird Farm is looking to partner with Central Albertans who have bluebirds or purple martins and are interested in sharing information and experiences.

If you have these birds on your property and would be interested in signing up for seasonal updates on bird arrivals, populations and general conservation efforts, please email or call us for more details!

www.ellisbirdfarm.ca | info@ellisbirdfarm.ca | 403-885-4477



Over The Hill & Loving The View

located in the Town Office 4918-50 Avenue

The Seniors Drop In welcomes everyone 55+ to join us for our regular Tuesday/Thursday afternoons.

- Tuesdays 1 pm Socialize/cards/games
- Thursdays 1pm Socialize/cards/games
- Potluck Last Tuesday each month

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP FEE \$10

Special Outings - dinner theatres and more. Have an idea? Let us know.

Special programming (no charge) on Mondays/Wednesdays

- Mondays 10 to 11 am Seated Range of Motion Exercises
- Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:45 Chair Yoga - light movements

Registration required for Seated Range of Motion Chair Yoga

Move your body, make connections & socialize!

Call 403.748.2160

These programs are open to 55+ You do not need to be a member of the Drop In to attend thanks to....

BENTLEY SENIORS DROP IN, FCSS/TOWN OF BENTLEY, EDMONTON SENIORS CENTRE, BRENDA STRAFFORD FOUNDATION/REC@HOME

Make a SPLASH

at the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre
5429 53rd Street

The Gary Moe Sportsplex is home to the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre (KAC). Come take a dip at the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre. We offer a climbing wall, small slide, rope and many special events throughout the year.

What's Happening at the pool:

- February is 2 for 1 fitness month for all of our lane swims and water fitness classes.
- Check out our February Break schedule (Feb 18-23) for special programming
- Family Day weekend hours:
 - Saturday, February 17, 2024-regular hours, regular swim lesson schedule
 - Sunday, February 18, 2024-regular hours, no regularly scheduled swim lessons
 - Monday, February 19, 2024-STAT hours, February Break swim lessons, Public Swim 1:00-5:00 pm only

For more information on the KAC schedule, pool rentals and advanced courses call 403.782.1278 or visit www.lacombe.ca/pool.



CITY OF LACOMBE

ZENTANGLE

No Drawing
Experience
Needed!

Zentangle art aims for the drawer to take pleasure in the joy of drawing but also to gradually eliminate anxiety and stress through concentration and natural emptiness. This produces calming therapeutic effects and feelings of pleasure and relaxation, leading to a state of meditative pleasure.

This is an introduction to the wonderful world of Zentangle! In this workshop, you will spend time learning the Zentangle method and then you will have an opportunity to create your own unique designs using Zentangle ideas. In the latter part of the workshop, you can choose to make your own unique artwork using Zentangle patterns.

Join us for a 2 hour workshop where we will practice mindfulness, create amazing patterns, dwell in the world of "zen," and have fun! You'll be amazed with your designs.

Investment: \$20
Location: Town Office Bldg.
Time: 6:30 to 8:30pm
Date: Wed, March 13th

Supplies Provided

Instructor: Karin Hitchcock is a local artist, psychotherapist, and teacher. She believes that the creative process fosters mindfulness practice and can help in creating opportunities to practice wellness. She has a local counselling practice in Lacombe and is passionate about encouraging people to embrace their creative side.

Call Community Services
to register
403.748.2160



Minfulness Matters



- Celebrating 75 YEARS -

Many of us remember planting the pine trees given to us in Grade 3 years ago! In Lacombe, those pine trees were sponsored in part by Hanna seeds and the Lacombe and District Garden Club. This year the L&DGC turns 75!

In honor of this, we would like to celebrate by giving to the community packages of sunflowers for all to plant! Please, also feel free to plant the seeds on the park or work grounds, or in your own gardens! The plants may be left in the ground to help feed the winter birds!

Help us celebrate!! Plant a Sunflower! Feed the Winter Birds!

Plant the sunflower seeds in a sunny location - 10 cm deep, water and watch them grow! Although drought tolerant, the blooms will be bigger and more prolific. We enclose in the package gigantic, orange/rust colored, and teddy bear seeds.



lacombe
memorialcentre

The perfect place for people to connect.

Book your upcoming event now!

- training/workshops • meetings
- anniversaries • weddings
- celebrations of life • exercise classes

Visit www.lacombe.ca/lmc or call 403-782-6668

Home of Anna Maria's Cafe, Mary C. Moore Public Library, Lacombe & District FCSS and the Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce.

Need financial assistance with room rentals?
See if you qualify at lacombe.ca/grants

BENTLEY BOUTIQUE

Use west entrance beside bay door.
Bentley Long Term Care Facility
4834 - 52 Avenue, Bentley

Open Tues/Thurs 10-12 & 1-3

Stretch Your Budget

Recycle Clothing

Swap Kids Clothes As They Grow

ALL FOR JUST A SMILE!

Bentley FCSS

Interactive Family Programming for ages 0-6

Mondays 9:30 to 11
Literacy & Music

Fridays 9:30 to 11:30
Stay & Play

Location: Basement of Town Office
Contact: Community Services 403-748-2160
Programs Facilitated by: Parenting Proactively 101

Bentley FCSS

Free Income Tax Filing

FCSS Volunteers trained by the CRA can help file returns for individuals with LOW TO MODEST INCOMES & WITH SIMPLE TAX SITUATIONS.

Opens: March 1, 2024
Closes: April 30, 2024

Eligibility for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program:
Individual: Maximum total income \$35,000
Couple: Maximum total income \$45,000
add \$5,000 for one dependent \$2500 for each individual dependent

Your tax situation is not simple if you are:
Self-employed, have a business or rental income and/or expenses, have capital gains or losses, have filed for bankruptcy, are completing a tax return for a deceased person.

Forshee Hall AGM

Join us at the Forshee Hall for a potluck, and card night after our Annual General Meeting. Share your ideas and vision for our community hall.

Bring your favorite dish to share

Sunday, March 24th @ 4 PM

More information: forsheehall@gmail.com

fcss Lacombe & District Family and Community Support Services

Bentley FCSS

Clive FCSS Clive Family and Community Support Services

LACOMBE BENTLEY CLIVE
403-782-6637

NEW PROGRAM

Games Afternoon

Scrabble
Cuchre
and more!

every other
Thursday 2pm
Feb 8, 22
March 7 & 21

Free For Adults

Hosted by
Mary C Moore Public Library in
the Kinnamen Room
2nd floor of the LMC

FOUR EYES FILM SERIES PRESENTS

SCRAPPER

LIZA CAMPBELL HARRIS DICKINSON
WINNER Audience

FEBRUARY 21
7PM @ LACOMBE CITY CINEMAS

SCRAPPER
Living alone in her London flat, 12-year-old Georgie must confront reality when her estranged father, Jason, shows up out of nowhere. Uninterested in a sudden new parental figure, she remains stubbornly resistant to his efforts. As they both adjust to their new circumstances, Georgie and Jason soon find that they still have a lot of growing up to do. Country: UK

BRINGING INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL, INSPIRING AND IMAGINATIVE FILMS TO YOUR TOWN. ONE NIGHT PER MONTH PRESENTED BY MARY C MOORE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LACOMBE CITY CINEMAS AND FILM CIRCUIT

ADVANCE TICKETS AT THE LIBRARY 2 WKS PRIOR TO EACH FILM \$9
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR \$10

tiff **FILM CIRCUIT**

BECOME A MEMBER!

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
AT 7:00PM

THE LINCOLN HALL SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION, SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, & ENJOY REFRESHMENTS!

www.lincolnhall.ca

LACOMBE COUNTY

Follow us online TODAY for current Lacombe County information

f LacombeCounty **X** @LacombeCounty **www.lacombecounty.com**

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	MARCH 1	2
3	4	5 Dugouts and Grant Opportunities Workshop (Pg. 11)	6 Working Well Workshop (Pg. 20)	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 - County Council 9AM - Public Hearing Ag Dwellings 7PM	15 County News Submissions Due	16
17	18	19	20	21 - Spring Tune Up: Event 10AM - 3PM - Public Hearing QEII West ASP 7PM	22 County News Published	23
24	25	26	27	28 County Council 9AM	29 Good Friday (OFFICE CLOSED)	30
31						

Upcoming Events: APRIL 2: Committee of the Whole meeting | APRIL 11-12: Farmer's Pesticide Certification Course | April 11: County Council | April 25: County Council.

Help us promote YOU!



Do you know a **business, person, place or volunteer** you want to see profiled in County News?

Do you have a photograph you want to share?

If so, email **communications@lacombecounty.com** with your ideas, photographs or stories.

We'd love to hear from you!



Proudly Maintaining Your Highways
Counties: Lacombe | Ponoka | Red Deer | Wetaskiwin
Report road conditions 24/7
1 877 875 3263



Follow us online, and stay up-to-date on Lacombe County news, events and other information!



facebook.com/LacombeCounty



instagram.com/lacombecounty



twitter.com/LacombeCounty



youtube.com/LacombeCounty



www.lacombecounty.com

Phone | 403.782.6601 Email | info@lacombecounty.com Fax | 403.782.3820

COUNTY NEWS

is published by Lacombe County and printed by CentralWeb.
If you have feedback or story ideas, please contact:

Nicole Plewis, Communications Coordinator
communications@lacombecounty.com
403.782.6601

Lacombe County Directory

RR3, Lacombe Alberta T4L 2N3 www.lacombecounty.com

Department Numbers:	Main Office - 403-782-6601	
	Planning Services - 403-782-8389	
	Community Services - 403-782-8959	
	Operations - 403-782-8379	
	Public Works Shop - 403-782-3567	
General		
After Hours Emergency Answering Service	403.357.1210	
Administration Fax	403.782.3820	
Public Works Fax	403.782.5356	
For Service Requests, see our website - or phone the switchboard at 403-782-6601		
Council	Home	Cell
John Ireland, Div. 1 (jireland@lacombecounty.com)		403.392.3981
Brenda Knight, Div. 2 (bknight@lacombecounty.com)	403.788.2168	403.550.2168
Barb Shepherd, Div. 3 (bshepherd@lacombecounty.com)		403.340.9724
Dwayne West, Div. 4 (dwest@lacombecounty.com)		403.660.2328
Ken Weenink, Div. 5 (kweenink@lacombecounty.com)		403.350.8014
Allan Wilson, Div. 6 (awilson@lacombecounty.com)		403.506.3735
Dana Kreil, Div. 7 (dkreil@lacombecounty.com)	403.746.3607	403.358.9400
Senior Administration		
Tim Timmons, County Manager ttimmons@lacombecounty.com	Call 403-782-6601 to speak with the County Manager or with a Lacombe County Director	
Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services mminchin@lacombecounty.com		
Bill Cade, Director of Operations bcade@lacombecounty.com		
Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services dfreitag@lacombecounty.com		
Dion Burlock, Director of Community Services dburlock@lacombecounty.com		

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