

# County News

Friday, February 20, 2026 | Volume 2

## City of Lacombe, Lacombe County form task force in response to Lacombe Research Centre Closure

The City of Lacombe and Lacombe County are taking coordinated action following the federal government's announced closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada).

Earlier this week, the City and County established a joint task force comprised of elected and senior administrative leadership to coordinate advocacy, engagement, and communications related to the proposed closure. The task force includes the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Lacombe, the Reeve and Deputy Reeve of Lacombe County, and senior staff from both municipalities, including economic development leadership.

"This is not an abstract policy decision—this is a major disruption to agricultural research capacity and to families in our region," said Mayor Thalia Hibbs. "The Lacombe Centre has been a pillar of innovation for 119 years, and the research underway today is more relevant than ever to food security, climate resilience, and productivity. We are working with urgency and with partners at every level to have this decision reviewed."

The municipalities are collaborating closely with MLA Jennifer Johnson and MP Blaine Calkins, along with industry partners and stakeholders. In recent days, the task force has met with industry representatives and research partners, including representatives from the Lacombe Centre and Western Crop Innovations, to confirm impacts and to ensure advocacy efforts are grounded in current, factual information.

Importantly, the Lacombe Centre is not a legacy site. It is actively delivering high-value, applied research today—over \$5 million in research projects in recent years, with multiple projects underway through late 2026. Current

work includes disease resistance and monitoring, production efficiency, crop and livestock genetics, and practical pathways that support a net-zero beef target.

"Our concern is the national consequence of losing publicly funded agricultural research capacity," said Lacombe County Reeve John Ireland. "In a time of global uncertainty and trade volatility, Canadian competitiveness depends on research that supports producers, strengthens food systems, and improves productivity. If capacity like this is dismantled, it is difficult—and in some cases impossible—to rebuild."

The City and County have scheduled meetings with federal officials within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to discuss the impact of the closures and to advocate for the decision to be revisited. The task force has also requested meetings with Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to address provincial implications and potential supports.

The municipalities have jointly communicated that the proposed closure would have significant impacts on employees and families, and would undermine the long-term value of specialized land bases and long-term trials that cannot simply be transferred without loss of continuity and data value.

The City of Lacombe and Lacombe County will continue to provide updates as confirmed information becomes available and as advocacy efforts progress.

Learn how the City and County are advocating for the Lacombe Research & Development Centre—visit our website for updates:  
[www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC](http://www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC)

## Fire Permit season begins March 1: Don't forget yours!

**Lacombe County reminds people that permit requests are free and easy to submit.**

Lacombe County is reminding all ratepayers, residents, and businesses of the upcoming fire permit season beginning March 1, 2026. To ensure community safety and environmental protection, the County requires fire permits for all controlled burns. Unauthorized burning can lead to significant fines and fire department response charges.

**NEW for 2026:** To give the public time to adjust to changing fire threat levels, Lacombe County will now provide 24 hours' notice before a fire advisory, fire restriction, or fire ban is put in place or lifted. This will be clearly communicated on our website, [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com), as well as on our County-run social media platforms.

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# JOIN US: Seasonal Opportunities

**To express interest in the jobs below, please forward your application no later than 8:00am, February 23, 2026 to [hr@lacombecounty.com](mailto:hr@lacombecounty.com).**

## WEED INSPECTOR/ SPRAYER OPERATOR

(full-time, 4-month, and  
full-time, 6-month)

Lacombe County is seeking a Weed Inspector/Sprayer Operator for the Agriculture Department. This role includes conducting weed inspections on public and private lands, educating landowners, and operating herbicide application equipment to control noxious weeds. Applicants should have agricultural knowledge, strong communication skills, and the ability to work independently outdoors.

**Dates:** April to late-August (4-month)  
April to late-October (6-month)  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

## MOWER OPERATOR

(full-time, 5-month seasonal)

Join Lacombe County as a seasonal Mower Operator in the Community Services Department. This position involves operating mowing equipment to maintain municipal road allowances and public lands, performing routine maintenance, and ensuring safety compliance. Ideal candidates are dependable, safety-conscious, and able to work outdoors in physically demanding conditions.

**Dates:** Mid-June to mid-October.  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 5:00pm

## RIVER WEED INSPECTOR

(full-time, 2-month seasonal)

We're hiring a River Weed Inspector for a unique summer role in the Community Services Department. This position involves canoeing local rivers to handpick prohibited weeds along sensitive riverbanks, occasionally using backpack sprayers, and ensuring environmental stewardship. Candidates should be physically fit, self-motivated, and comfortable working outdoors in variable conditions.

**Dates:** July and August  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm.

## SANDY POINT BEACH MAINTENANCE CREW

(full-time, 4-month seasonal OR 5-month seasonal)

Join our team as a Sandy Point Beach Labourer in the Operations Department. This position involves maintaining beach areas, cleaning facilities, emptying garbages, and operating small equipment for landscaping and upkeep. Ideal candidates enjoy working outdoors, are self-motivated, and can interact professionally with the public.

**Dates:** Late-April to late-August (4-month) | Late-April to late-September (5-month)  
**Hours:** Sunday-Thursday (7:00am - 5:00pm) OR  
Tuesday-Saturday (9:00am-7:00pm)

## SUMMER GENERAL LABOURERS

(full-time, 4-month seasonal)

Looking for summer employment? Lacombe County is seeking Summer General Labourers for seasonal work in the Operations Department. Duties include assisting with maintenance and construction crews, performing manual tasks, and operating light equipment. Applicants should be physically fit, safety-conscious, and enjoy working outdoors.

**Dates:** Late-April to late-August (4-month)  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 5:00pm

**To express interest in the jobs below, please forward your application no later than 8:00am, March 9, 2026 to [hr@lacombecounty.com](mailto:hr@lacombecounty.com).**

## MOTOR SCRAPER OPERATOR

(full-time, seasonal)

Lacombe County is hiring a Motor Scraper Operator for the Operations Department. This role involves operating a motor scraper to move and level dirt for road construction projects, reading grade stakes, and performing routine equipment maintenance. Candidates should have experience with heavy equipment, knowledge of road construction techniques, and the ability to work outdoors in physically demanding conditions

**Dates:** Late-April to late-November  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 5:30pm

## WATER TRUCK/PACKER OPERATOR

(full-time, seasonal)

Join our team as a Water Truck/Packer Operator in the Operations Department. This position supports road construction projects by operating water trucks and packers, performing safety checks, and assisting with general construction tasks. Applicants should have experience with construction equipment, a Class 3 driver's license, and the ability to work outdoors in all weather.

**Dates:** Late-April to late-November  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 5:30pm

## FENCING LABOURER

(full-time, seasonal)

Lacombe County is seeking a Fencing Labourer to assist with removing and installing fences, operating tractors, and supporting culvert and erosion control installations. This role requires physical strength, attention to safety, and the ability to work outdoors in variable conditions. Preference is given to candidates with fencing or construction experience.

**Dates:** Late-April to late-November  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 5:30pm

## OFFICE SUMMER STUDENT

(full-time, seasonal)

As the Office Summer Student, you'll be a welcoming first point of contact for residents, stakeholders and staff, gaining hands-on experience in customer service, administration, and local government operations

**Dates:** Late-April to late-August  
**Hours:** Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

# Lacombe County announces upcoming changes to Paid Parking Program for County ratepayers

Lacombe County is expanding its Paid Parking Program to include free parking for Lacombe County ratepayers. **Beginning May 15, 2026, eligible Lacombe County ratepayers will be able to park at no cost** at Sandy Point Beach & Boat Launch and Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch **AFTER** registering through the HotSpot Parking system.

Each property tax account will be **eligible to register three (3) different license plates**. This must be done at least 24 hours before parking at Sandy Point or Sunbreaker Cove, to ensure they are properly verified.

This update follows Council direction from the February 12, 2026 Council Meeting, where Council approved creating a parking exemption for Lacombe County ratepayers.

“Since launching the Paid Parking Program, we

have heard from ratepayers who felt they should not have to pay for parking at facilities supported by their municipal taxes. This update reflects that feedback and recognizes the ongoing contributions of Lacombe County ratepayers,” said Lacombe County Reeve John Ireland. “We encourage ratepayers to register early so they can enjoy a smooth and positive start to the season.”

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This exemption is available only to Lacombe County ratepayers who:

- Own property in Lacombe County, and
- Pay municipal property taxes on that property, and
- Provide proof of:
  - **Ownership** — their tax notice
  - **Residency** — a government issued ID or a utility bill

## Please note:

- Permits are issued per tax roll account, not per individual.
- Seasonal lot renters are not eligible, as they do not pay municipal taxes on the property.

**Registration is scheduled to open in April 2026.** We will provide step-by-step instructions and registration information before the Paid Parking Program begins in May 2026.

Keep an eye on the County website, County News, and our social media pages for updates as the launch approaches.

# Lacombe County responds to sudden closure of Lacombe Research and Development Centre

Lacombe County is expressing deep concern and disappointment following the federal government’s sudden announcement that the Lacombe Research and Development Centre will be closed. This long-standing agricultural research station has been a cornerstone of innovation, scientific advancement, and community identity in Central Alberta for more than a century.

**Impact on the Community** The County is deeply concerned about the immediate human impact. More than 100 employees and their families are affected, along with industry partners and research collaborators who rely on the Centre’s unique infrastructure, land base, and scientific expertise.

“It is disappointing to hear about the potential closure of the Lacombe Research Station. The Station has served as a centre for agricultural innovation for 120 years and has benefited not only Central Alberta but all of Western Canada,” said Lacombe County Reeve John Ireland.

“The Research Station holds a proud legacy, but the key concern is the loss of the current trial program, which could help keep Canada at the top of global agricultural production. Lacombe County, and the agriculture community as a whole, hopes that this decision will be reconsidered, given the irreplaceable benefits of the institution.”

**Impact on Research Capacity** The loss of long-term research capacity is particularly troubling. Across the Prairies, agricultural research programs with decades of continuous data — including organic research plots in Saskatchewan maintained for nearly 20 years — are being abandoned due to similar federal cuts. Closing

the Lacombe Research and Development Centre will mean losing more than a century of continuous agricultural research, work that cannot simply be restarted elsewhere. At a time when food security, climate resilience, and innovation are more important than ever, dismantling this infrastructure is short-sighted.

“We are a proud agricultural region, and the work done at this station has shaped farming practices not just here, but across the Prairies. Closing it sends a troubling message about the value placed on rural communities and the producers who feed this country,” said Reeve Ireland.

The closure also creates significant uncertainty for agricultural organizations and producer groups that depend on the Centre’s laboratories, greenhouses, research plots, and technical expertise. Other provinces are already reporting uncertainty about how their programs will continue without federal support — concerns shared by Lacombe County.

**Loss of Independent Research** The loss of unbiased, public-interest research capacity will be one of the most significant consequences of this closure. For decades, the Lacombe Research and Development Centre has provided producers with independent, science-based information that is not influenced by commercial interests. This work has supported informed decisions on production practices, emerging technologies, crop and livestock management, and long-term sustainability.

The County worries that once federal, arm’s-length research capacity is diminished, producers will be left with fewer trusted sources of

information — a gap that cannot be easily filled by private industry or short-term project funding. Losing this centre creates a serious gap in trusted, independent support for farmers at a time when innovation and resilience are more important than ever.

## Next Steps

Lacombe County is calling on the federal government to pause this decision, engage in meaningful dialogue with local governments and agricultural stakeholders, and fully assess the long-term economic, scientific, and community impacts before proceeding.

“For more than a century, this research station has been a fixture of agricultural advancement in Western Canada. You cannot easily replicate 119 years of research history, specialized land, and long-term trials elsewhere. Once this site is lost, it’s gone forever,” said Reeve Ireland

The public may also voice their concerns by contacting the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food at: [aafr.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca](mailto:aafr.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca).

Losing this historically undisturbed research land — with its unique long-term data sets, specialized infrastructure, and nationally relevant research programs — would represent a permanent setback for agricultural innovation in the region

See what we are up to at [www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC](http://www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC)



# CONT. FROM FRONT: Fire Permit season begins March 1: Don't forget yours!

"If Fire Services has to respond, there will be associated costs - whether the fire was permitted, accidental, or the result of negligence or permit non-compliance. The best way to avoid those charges is simple: follow the permit conditions and never leave your fire unattended," said Dave Bain, Manager of Fire and Emergency Services for Lacombe County. "With conditions shifting quickly throughout the spring, it's critical that residents stay alert, follow their permit conditions, and use extra caution. A safe burn protects your property, your neighbours, and our firefighters."

*Insurance Reminder:* Residents are strongly encouraged to review their insurance policies to confirm that firefighting costs are covered, as fire response charges will be levied for all responses.

## OBTAINING A FIRE PERMIT

Fire permits are free, quick, and easy to obtain online at any time via the Lacombe County website at [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com), offering 24/7 accessibility. They are also available in person at the Lacombe County Office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or by contacting the Community Services Department at 403 782 8959 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fire permits provide an important layer of safety for residents and their neighbours by outlining

the requirements to ensure that all burns are conducted safely and responsibly.

## PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

If you are found in contravention of Lacombe County's Fire Protection & Emergency Response Bylaw, enforcement action will also be taken.

Penalties start at a minimum \$250 fine for a first offence, in addition to being responsible for the full cost of any fire department response.

Additional charges under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act may also apply.

## SAFETY FIRST: CHECK WINTER BURN PILES

Given this year's unusually dry winter, residents are urged to carefully check any winter burn piles. These can smoulder unseen for weeks and unexpectedly reignite, posing a significant fire risk.

"It's critical to ensure that all controlled burns are fully extinguished and to adhere to safe burning practices," said Bain. "Please be proactive and check your winter burns to ensure there is no chance of them flaring up later."

If you burned at any time this past fall or winter, take time to revisit your burn site and ensure the fire is fully out. For more information, visit <https://>

[www.alberta.ca/safe-burning](http://www.alberta.ca/safe-burning).

## FIRE RESPONSE CHARGES

Pursuant to the County's Fire Protection & Emergency Response Bylaw and the County's Rates and Fees Bylaw, fees will be levied for Fire Department Responses, as follows:

- Engine (Pumper Truck): \$740 per hour
- Tender (Water Tanker): \$740 per hour
- Brush Truck: \$740 per hour
- Rescue Unit: \$740 per hour
- Command Vehicle (Incident Command Truck): \$215 per hour

*(Rates effective April 1, 2025)*

A maximum fee (cap) of \$10,000 shall be levied on responses to properties classified as residential or farmland. The cap does not apply to:

1. Responses involving properties of non-County residents, ratepayers, businesses, etc.
2. Responses:
  - a) to a fire that was ignited during a fire ban,
  - b) to a fire that was ignited without the required fire permit being obtained, and
  - c) to a fire that was ignited with the required fire permit, but a condition of the permit was not complied with.

# Insurance Reminder: Are You Covered for Fire Response Costs?

Spring brings increased activity across Lacombe County — busier roads, on-farm operations, and more outdoor burning. It's an ideal time to review your insurance policies and confirm that you're protected in the event of an emergency.

Under Lacombe County's Fire Protection and Emergency Response Bylaw and supporting policy F(1), residents, businesses, and vehicle owners are invoiced when the fire department responds to emergencies - including structure fires, grass or brush fires, burning barrel incidents, and motor vehicle accidents. These charges are typically covered by insurance, but only if you have the appropriate coverage before an emergency occurs.

This cost recovery model ensures that those who receive emergency services contribute directly to the fire services that protect them, rather than relying solely on property taxes. Many municipalities across Alberta charge for fire department response services.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

If a fire or accident occurs, and Lacombe County Fire Services crews respond to the call, you will receive an invoice for:

- Fire department response to structure, grass, brush, or other property fires
- Motor vehicle fires or collisions
- Equipment and apparatus used during the call
- Time spent extinguishing the fire, checking for hotspots, or ensuring the scene is safe

Insurance often covers these costs, but policies

vary. Contact your insurance provider to confirm that you have sufficient coverage for both your vehicle AND your home/property:

- Whether fire response fees are included
- What limits or conditions apply
- Whether both your home/property and vehicle policies include coverage

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Lacombe County staff can help clarify what types of incidents are invoiced and how cost recovery works.

## EXAMPLE OF HOW INVOICING WORKS

For a typical fire where multiple units respond, the invoice may include per hour charges for:

- Engine (Fire Pumper)
- Tender (Water Tanker)
- Brush Truck
- Rescue Truck
- Command Truck (Incident Commander)

Understanding the costs behind fire and emergency services response invoices

Here is an example of how Lacombe County invoices for fire and emergency services response calls. Let us say Mr. John Ratepayer had a fire on his farm involving a small outbuilding that caught fire. Lacombe County Fire Service responded to this fire with three fire apparatus.

- Engine – 2 hours
- Tender - 2 hours
- Brush Truck – 2 hours

The fire crews responded and began extinguishing the fire. After the fire was extinguished, the crews looked for hot spots and ensured not only

that the fire was out, but also that it would not rekindle, then returned to the fire hall, cleaned up the equipment and prepared it for the next call.

The invoice amount would be as follows:

Invoice Description	Hours	Unit Rate	Amount
Engine 2	\$740.00	\$1,480.00	
Tender 2	\$740.00	\$1,480.00	
Brush 2	\$740.00	\$1,480.00	
			\$4,440.00

## DEFINITIONS OF EQUIPMENT USED AT CALLS

**RESCUE TRUCK:** A specialized vehicle used primarily for rescue operations, including vehicle extrications, medical emergencies, and technical rescues. It carries little or no water but is equipped with hydraulic tools, rescue gear, lighting, ropes, airbags, and medical supplies.

**ENGINE:** The main firefighting apparatus designed for structure and vehicle fires, rescues, and medical calls. It typically carries 500–1,000 gallons of water, along with hoses, pumps, ladders, and essential firefighting and rescue equipment.

**TENDER:** A high capacity water tanker that supports firefighting efforts in rural or non hydrant areas. It usually carries 1,500–3,500+ gallons of water and equipment for rapid water transfer to other apparatus.

**BRUSH TRUCK:** A small, off road capable unit built for wildland and brush fires in hard to reach areas. It typically carries 200–500 gallons of water and specialized wildland gear such as hoses, hand tools, and portable pumps.



# SAFETY FIRST

## Lacombe County welcomes new District Fire Chief to Eckville

Lacombe County is pleased to announce the appointment of John Philips as the new District Fire Chief for the Eckville Fire Department. Philips brings more than a decade of experience in the fire service, a long-standing commitment to training and continuous improvement, and a deep connection to the Eckville community.

“John is a dedicated leader whose passion for training, community service, and team development makes him an excellent fit for this role,” said Dave Bain, Lacombe County Manager of Fire & Emergency Services.

With a brother who has served in the fire service for 18 years, Chief Philips had been interested in firefighting for many years. His fire service career began after a life-changing incident at work reshaped his priorities. Soon after the incident, he and his family settled in Eckville, where he took a job that would allow him to be home every night. Philips immediately reached out to the local fire department, eager to contribute.

“After being involved in an incident at work, it reshaped my approach to daily life, and it prioritized the importance of supporting your neighbours and contributing to your community,” said Chief Philips.

### EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP

Philips quickly stepped into leadership roles within the Eckville department. After just two years of service, he was appointed Lieutenant/Training Officer, a position he held for nearly seven years. He later advanced to Deputy Chief, responsible for training and continuous improvement initiatives.

His progression into the District Fire Chief role feels like a natural next step for him.

“I’ve always gravitated toward leadership roles and strive to make a better situation for everyone while I’m there,” he said. “I’m excited to continue building on the incredible work of the Chiefs who came before me.”

### VISION FOR THE ECKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Philips is eager to continue strengthening community engagement and elevating the department’s already strong training foundation.

“Our community has always been an incredible supporter of this department. That connection is what motivates us every day. It makes hard days better knowing that the efforts of your team are appreciated by the community.”

Philips says he plans to focus on continued community outreach by the Eckville Fire Department through breakfasts, school tours, hall tours, parades, fireworks events, and new initiatives introduced by the department’s outreach committee.

### SEE WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT!

Eckville and the surrounding area have long embraced its fire department, and Philips says that support fuels the team’s commitment.

Like many small-town fire departments, the Eckville Fire Department is always in need of more helping hands. Philips also emphasizes the importance of public involvement and encourages residents of all ages and backgrounds to consider volunteering.

“Many people hesitate because they think their schedule, age, or fitness level might hold them back,” Philips said. “Most of the time, that simply isn’t the case. Take the leap. Ask questions. You might find yourself gaining a fire family.”

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Lacombe County would like to thank outgoing fire chief Stuart Carde for his dedica-



Welcome to John Philips, new District Fire Chief for the Eckville Fire Department.

tion and commitment.

Stuart Carde was District Fire Chief for the Eckville Fire Department from 2012-2025. Throughout his tenure, Carde led with integrity, purpose, and a clear vision that helped shape the department into the strong, professional team it is today. His unwavering commitment to training and operational excellence set a standard that will continue to guide the department for years to come.

Carde’s leadership strengthened the department’s readiness and reinforced a culture rooted in doing things the right way—responsibly, collaboratively, and with pride. His extensive fireground knowledge, earned over decades of hands-on experience, was generously shared and has influenced countless firefighters’ ground knowledge.

Carde’s legacy will remain a cornerstone of the Eckville Fire Department, and we wish him the best in his well-earned retirement.

## FIRE PERMIT SEASON

is March 1 - October 31

Do you have a Fire Permit?  
SUBMIT IT ONLINE BEFORE BURNING!



mobile requests through the website



online Fire Permit Request



call into the office at 403-782-6601

Fire permits can also be requested in person at our office.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**March 30th, 2026**  
Tees Community Hall  
Railway Ave, Tees, AB

RSVP: Let us know your coming!  
Send an RSVP by March 22, 2026  
rd ruralcrimewatch@gmail.com

6:30pm

**Red Deer Lacombe**  
ALBERTA RURAL CRIME WATCH ALBERTA

Red Deer Lacombe Rural Crime Watch are providing the opportunity for citizens of the Tees, Clive, Alix and Bashaw communities to listen to a presentation and meet with the RCMP K Division Community Engagement and Outreach team. This meeting will also be attended by members of the Blackfalds and Bashaw detachments of the RCMP. We encourage members of the public to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with and learn more about law enforcement in our community.

LACOMBE COUNTY

# MIRROR CORNER



## Mirror Dog Tags

A license is required for all dogs in Mirror. Lacombe County has a flexible dog-tag licensing system for residents of Mirror. Any new licenses issued will be valid for the lifetime of the dog. Existing licenses will remain valid until renewal, at which point dog owners must obtain a lifetime tag under the new structure.

Lifetime license fees:

- \$25 – Dog that is both altered and microchipped
- \$75 – Dog that is either altered or microchipped
- \$150 – Dog that is unaltered and not microchipped
- \$15 – Replacement dog tag

If you receive a violation notice under the Dog Control Bylaw, you can pay it within 30 days to receive a 50% discount; after that period, the full penalty applies.

To order your new tag or view full bylaw details, visit [lacombecounty.com/dogcontrol](http://lacombecounty.com/dogcontrol) or call 403-782-8959.

Lacombe County will issue a tag for 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](mailto:info@klassickennels.com). \*\*For animal welfare issues please contact the Alberta SPCA at <http://www.albertaspca.org/>\*\*\*

## Jolly Seniors

Pancake breakfast every second Sunday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

## Booking Mirror Community Hall

Call Lisa 403-788-3890 or call Mike Carr 403-788-3778 (Home) or 403-357-8239 (Cell) for hall information.

## Mirror and District Museum

Contact [mmuseum@cciwireless.ca](mailto:mmuseum@cciwireless.ca) if you would like to volunteer and for hours of operation

## 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, audio books, DVDs, games, and puzzles.

**Hours:** Wednesday 1-5 PM

2nd & 4th Saturday 11 AM - 3 PM

Please like us at: [facebook.com/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](mailto: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).

## 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.

# AGM

Mirror Recreational Society

March 12, 2026 | 6:30 PM

If interested in volunteering, taking on a roll of a board member, or just looking to be someone that can be called on to lend a helping hand occasionally, please consider attending to learn more.

Thank you from the existing members.

# 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.

# Hamlet of Mirror



## Area Structure Plan



### Lacombe County is holding a PUBLIC MEETING and ONLINE SURVEY to update the Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan, and needs your feedback!

The County commits itself to open, transparent and collaborative decision-making, and the community's feedback is critical to this Plan update.

The Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan is intended to guide growth and development in the Hamlet of Mirror. The Plan identifies where different types of development may occur, and outlines the expectations for these developments. The Plan's most recent update occurred in 2018, and it is due for a review!

### How do I participate?

There are two opportunities to learn more and share your thoughts. We encourage all residents, landowners, or businesses in the Hamlet of Mirror to participate!

#### 1 Attend the Public Meeting

The public meeting will provide you with an overview of the Plan's update.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**7:00 PM**

**Mirror Community Hall**  
5012 50 Ave, Mirror AB

#### 2 Complete the Survey

After the public meeting, you can give feedback through a survey available for three weeks. The survey will be accessible on paper and on the County's website via the link and QR Code below.

PLAN AREA



For more information, please contact Planning Services  
Nicklas Baran, Planner / Development Officer  
Will Cebuliak, Planning Intern  
Email: [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com)  
Phone: 403-782-8389

learn more at

[www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP](http://www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP)



# OPERATIONS

## Your Roads Explained: Snow Removal in Lacombe County

Every winter, Lacombe County is responsible for keeping more than 2,000 kms of paved and gravel roads safe and passable. Our crews work hard after each snowfall to clear snow and ice in a timely, efficient, and safe manner.

Because every storm is different, snow removal timelines depend on both the severity and duration of the snowfall—but our goal remains the same: to maintain roads to reasonable winter driving conditions as soon as possible.

### PAVED ROADS

#### Order of Priority

1. County-designated Primary Main Roads
2. County-designated Secondary Main Roads
3. Main access roads leading to subdivisions
4. Hamlets and Subdivisions

Our goal is to clear snow and ice from paved roads as quickly as possible while minimizing backtracking and travel time. Under normal winter



conditions, we strive to have all paved roads maintained within 12 hours after a snowfall ends.

**Note: All numbered highways in Lacombe County (e.g., Highway 2A, 12, 20 or 597) are maintained by Alberta Transportation through their contractor Mainroad Alberta.**

For concerns or to report an issue, call 1-877-875-3263.

### GRAVEL ROADS

#### Order of Priority

1. Local Roads – Snow removal begins in alternating areas to ensure fairness. Crews work in a sequence that reduces unnecessary grader travel.
2. Public Access and Machinery Roads – Opened to established residences or for agricultural transport when possible and when conditions allow.
3. Winging Snow and Other Maintenance – Performed once primary snow removal is complete.

Snow removal typically begins when snow accumulation reaches about 5 cms. The goal is to have the entire gravel road system cleared within four days after a snowfall, depending on the storm's severity and duration.

All gravel roads in Lacombe County are designated school bus routes, meaning they receive equal priority during snow clearing.

### PRIVATE PROPERTY

Lacombe County **does not clear snow from private driveways or yards.**

Residents who need this service can visit [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com) and search “area contractors” for a list of local snow removal providers.

### A QUICK SAFETY REMINDER

When clearing your own property, **please do not push snow across County roads.**

This practice creates dangerous ridges and icy patches that can cause collisions and damage equipment.

### WHO CLEARS WHAT?

#### LACOMBE COUNTY

- County roads (paved and gravel)
- Hamlets and subdivisions
- Main access routes to subdivisions

#### AB TRANSPORTATION

##### (Mainroad Alberta)

- All numbered highways (e.g., Hwy 2A, 12, 20, 597)
- Contact: 1-877-875-3263

#### PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS

- Responsible for driveways and private lanes
- County does not provide snow removal on private property
- Visit [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com) and search “area contractors” for local options.

**MIRROR & DISTRICT MUSEUM**

**Limited Quantities Available!**

**Birdhouse Decorating Kit Now \$30!**

Please message our page to order and arrange pickup

All proceeds to support the Mirror Museum in repairs & maintenance of our 3 properties

**What's in the kit?**

- A charming white wooden birdhouse
- Set of colorful paints and brushes
- Tips on the best/safest locations to place your finished birdhouse
- All packed up in a colourful reusable shopping bag

## Did You Know?

Lacombe County maintains more than **2,000 kms of roads** each winter — that's roughly the same distance as driving from Lacombe to Thunder Bay, Ontario!

Each storm brings unique challenges for our crews. Depending on snowfall amounts, wind, and temperatures, it can take anywhere from **12 hours to four days** to return roads to reasonable winter driving conditions.

**MIRROR & DISTRICT MUSEUM**

## AGM MEETING

**MARCH 19th, 2026 @ 6PM**  
**Mirror and District Museum Association**  
**4910 53rd Street**

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

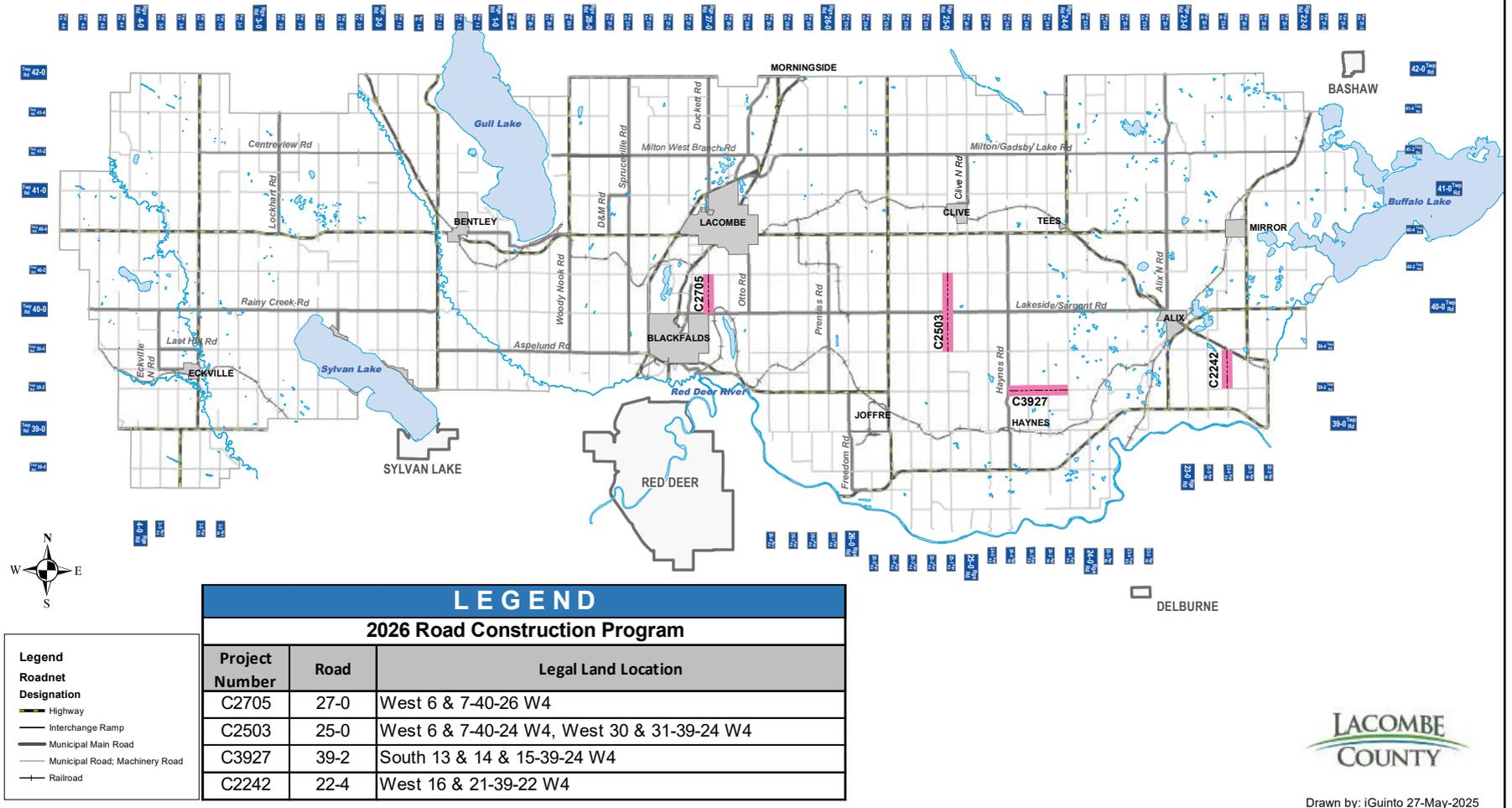
**stay and Play**

**Free Preschool Program**  
**At the Mirror Library**  
**Every Tuesday from 10 to 12**

Playful activities!  
 Lots of Fun!  
 For Children 0-5 & their caregivers!

For More Information:  
[facebook.com/lacombefrn](https://facebook.com/lacombefrn)

## 2026 LACOMBE COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM



Lacombe County attempts to build 10-12 miles of local road each year. The long-range road construction plan is updated every second year. Gravel pit reclamation and development are also part of their scope of work. The size of the projects and weather patterns have a large effect on this program.

## Check your burn piles!

With warming temperatures and dry conditions, it's important to stay vigilant when burning or checking previously burned sites.

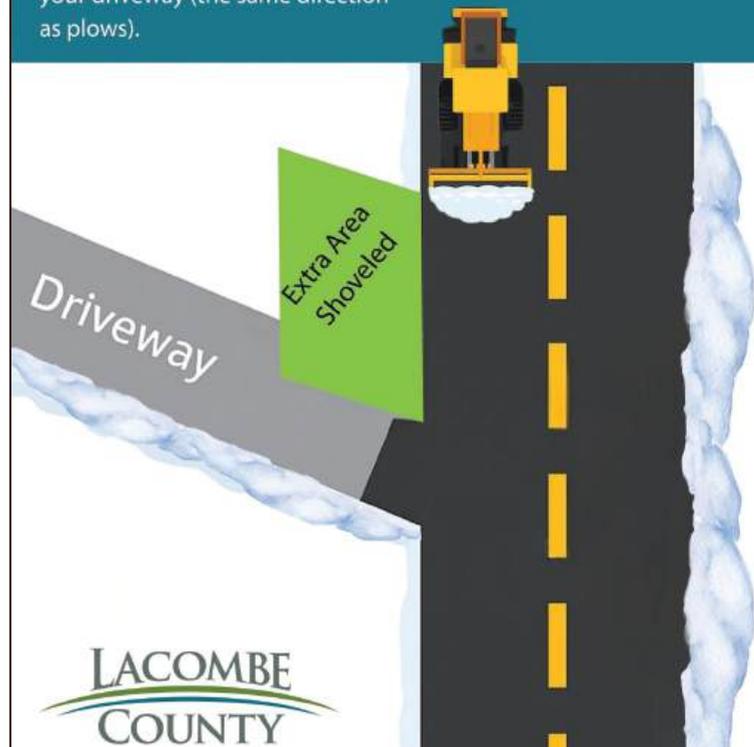
- ✓ Revisit your burn sites
- ✓ Stir and soak the area thoroughly
- ✓ Check for heat under ash or debris
- ✓ Monitor conditions before starting any new burn



## WINTER TIPS

Let's work together to keep roads clear and safe this winter!

- ✓ Shovel an extra space to the left of your driveway
- ✓ Shovel snow to the right side of your driveway (the same direction as plows).
- ⊘ NEVER push snow across the road or into ditches — it can cause safety hazards, flooding, and road damage.





# PLANNING SERVICES

Frequently Asked Questions

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.  
WE HAVE ANSWERS



## Red Deer County Annexation

The Lacombe County Planning Services team is currently completing background work for a potential annexation application involving nine quarter sections of land located in Red Deer County along Township Road 39-0, between Range Road 2-1 and Range Road 3-0 (see map right). The current boundary along these sections of land presents inefficiencies, as the northern quarters of the sections fall within Lacombe County, while the southern portions fall in Red Deer County.



This article aims to answer your questions about this annexation project.

### WHAT IS AN ANNEXATION?

Annexation is the process of transferring lands from the jurisdiction of one municipality to another municipality. This process adjusts the boundaries of the municipalities.

In Alberta, annexation is normally intended to provide additional land supply for an urban municipality to grow. It is less common for a rural municipality to initiate an annexation.

Annexation does not change the

ownership of land. The landowners continue to own their property. Annexation simply adjusts the boundary of the municipalities and as a result, some land that was previously under the jurisdiction of one municipality would now become a part of another municipality.

In this case, Lacombe County's bylaws and policies would apply to the subject lands currently located in Red Deer County should an application be made and approved.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ANNEXATION?

Currently, the County boundary in this area does not make sense and can be confusing to some. The purpose of this annexation proposal is simply to adjust the boundaries of both municipalities to ensure that the boundary is logical, while also improving efficiencies in infrastructure management and governance for Red Deer County and Lacombe County. Lacombe County is not pursuing this annexation for the future development of these lands.

### WOULD THIS ANNEXATION IMPACT LACOMBE COUNTY RESIDENTS?

The proposed annexation would have a minimal impact on residents of Lacombe County. If the annexation is successful, the maintenance of the southern half mile of the roadways adjacent to the subject parcels would fall under the jurisdiction of Lacombe County.

This change will have a minimal financial impact on Lacombe County, since Lacombe County and Red Deer County already collaborate on road maintenance in these areas.

However, the proposed annexation will present some changes for the landowners of the subject lands, with Lacombe County's Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw having several differences from Red Deer County's planning framework. These differences will be communicated to all impacted landowners.

### IS ANNEXATION COMMON IN LACOMBE COUNTY?

While there has been annexations initiated by urban municipalities surrounded by Lacombe County, this is the first time that Lacombe County will be initiating an annexation. As the "initiating municipality," it will be the responsibility of Lacombe County to initiate negotiations, facilitate community engagement, complete background research and submit required documents to the province.

### WILL I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MY FEEDBACK?

Yes, the County will be hosting a public meeting in late Spring / early Summer of 2026, and will be followed by the release of a survey which will be open for three weeks after the public meeting. All members of the public are welcome to submit comments through the survey. However, the consultation would specifically reach out to affected ratepayers to ensure their views are adequately heard and considered.

In the Spring, keep an eye out for advertising on the public meeting and survey in the County News, on the County website, and posted on our social media pages!

### ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about this annexation proposal, please contact Planning Services at 403-782-8389 or [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com).

**Round-Up Your Used Plastic Twine for a Chance to Win Big Prizes!**

**\$12,000** in Total Cash Prizes!

From now until May 31, 2026, bring all the used plastic baler twine you can round-up to a participating Alberta collection site for a chance to win a cash prize!

**GreatTwineRoundUp.ca**

**The Great Twine Round-Up**

cleanforms ALBERTA RECYCLE IT!

Alberta

# ENVIRONMENT

## Lacombe County's 2026 Resident Environmental Sustainability Program: Introducing FoodCyclers

Lacombe County is excited to announce the 2026 edition of our Resident Environmental Sustainability Program. For a second year, the RESP program is offering an innovative indoor composting solution: FoodCyclers™.

This annual initiative is designed to support property owners in their environmental goals through subsidized projects. Lacombe County Council voted in favour of subsidizing \$100 per FoodCycler™ unit.

### WHAT IS A FOODCYCLER?

A FoodCycler™ is a compact, indoor compost alternative that accelerates the natural decomposition process through aerobic digestion. These countertop-friendly machines transform your kitchen waste into nutrient-rich material that can benefit your garden and reduce household waste. With FoodCyclers™, you can effortlessly minimize your environmental footprint while contributing to a greener community.

### Benefits of the FoodCycler™:

- Up to 90% volume reduction
- Quiet, compact, odourless operation
- Easy to clean, easy to operate, no special training or skills required
- Quick (compared to composting, the FoodCycler™ processes food waste in hours, instead of months)
- Produces a valuable soil amendment, low in odour, and less attractive to wildlife.
- Reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) impact vs. landfill.

### HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Thanks to subsidies from external partners ranging from \$300-\$400 and an additional \$100 subsidy through Lacombe County, Lacombe County residents can purchase a FoodCycler™ at a significantly reduced cost. Each unit receives a \$400-\$500 cost deduction, making this an affordable and impactful way to adopt sustainable practices.

Participants in the FoodCycler™

Pilot Program are required to:

- Track the number of composting cycles completed over a 12-week period.
- Complete a short survey at the end of the program to share their experiences.

### REGISTRATION DETAILS

- **When:** Registration opens mid-to-late January 2025.
- **How:** Visit <https://bit.ly/FCLacombe> to register and select your preferred model (or scan the QR code below):
  - o **FoodCycler™ Eco 3** (\$200 +tax), which typically retails for \$600
  - o **FoodCycler™ Eco 5** (\$300 +tax), which typically retails for \$800
- **Availability:** Only 100 units are available! Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Registering for the program here does not guarantee your spot in the program. You will be contacted if you are selected to participate. Priority will be given to Lacombe County residents.

### IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- **Device Shipment:** FoodCyclers™ will be shipped to Lacombe County on March 15, 2025. Delivery will take approximately two weeks.
- **Device Distribution:** Units will be distributed to participants in April. Pick up will be required during Lacombe County office hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M-F). Payment of \$200 (Eco 3) or \$300 (Eco 5) will be required at the time of pickup or in advance online.
- **Pilot Period:** April to June 2025 (12 weeks). Divert your food waste using the FoodCycler™ during this time, and track the amount of waste you divert with a tracking sheet (provided by the municipality).
- **Post-Pilot Survey:** Participants are required to complete a survey following their 12 week commitment to share

their feedback and contribute to the program's success.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more details on the science behind FoodCyclers™ and the resulting by-product, visit the FoodCycler™ blog: The Science Behind FoodCycler.

Join us in making a positive environmental impact! Together, we can lead the way in sustainable living and inspire others to follow suit. Register for your FoodCycler™ and help Lacombe County grow greener, one household at a time.

Learn more at [www.lacombecounty.com/foodcycler](http://www.lacombecounty.com/foodcycler), by calling 403-782-8959 or emailing [jnakonechny@lacombecounty.com](mailto:jnakonechny@lacombecounty.com).

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



# ENVIRONMENT

## 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 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations at <https://albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/general-regs.html>.



## CHECK IT OUT:

### Medicine River Watershed Society website

The Medicine River Watershed Society advocates for the health of both the Medicine River and the related Paska-



poo aquifer.

If you would like to learn more about the watershed society activities /advocacy and how you can help, please scan this QR code, which will take you to the Medicine River Watershed Society website or visit them at <https://medicineriverwatershed.ca/>.

## Invasive Species Awareness Week: FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 1

Invasive Species Awareness Week (#InvSpWk) runs from February 23 to March 1, bringing together organizations across Canada to raise awareness about the growing impact invasive species have on our natural landscapes. If you love spending time outdoors, this is a great time to learn more about how you can help protect our forests, lakes, and wild spaces.

Visit our website and follow us on social media throughout the week for updates, local information, and simple actions you can take to keep Alberta's ecosystems healthy.

**Learn about invasive species**

## Friends of the Blindman River

### Our Waters Event

### Guest Speakers & Annual General Meeting



Wednesday, February 25



Bentley Community Hall



Doors Open & Pizza - 5 p.m.  
Annual Meeting - 5:30 p.m.  
Speakers to Follow



To register and to learn more, please visit [BlindmanRiver.ca](http://BlindmanRiver.ca) or scan the QR code.



*This event was made possible through the generous funding provided by the Red Deer River Naturalists.*

# AGRICULTURE

## 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.



Today, we honour our farmers.

Today, we celebrate our agricultural legacy.

And today, more than ever, we stand united to protect the resources, research, and expertise that keep Lacombe County at the forefront of Canadian agriculture.

## Celebrating Canadian Ag Day in Lacombe County — and standing up for the future of local agriculture

February 10, 2026 was Canadian Agriculture Day, a day to celebrate the people, passion, and pride behind the food that sustains our communities. Agriculture is the backbone of Lacombe County — with 98.6% of our land zoned for agriculture and more than 1,010 farms across 668,102 acres, it is not just an industry here; it is our identity and our economic foundation.

From livestock to crop production, from generations-old family farms to innovative ag partnerships, Lacombe County's producers help feed Alberta, Canada, and the world. And today, as we honour the hardworking individuals who keep our food system thriving, we are reminded of how essential strong, local agricultural capacity truly is.

That is why the federal government's recent decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre weighs heavily on our entire region. The Centre has been a cornerstone of agricultural innovation for more than a century, supporting practical, unbiased research in livestock, forage, crop science, meat quality, food safety, and sustainable farming — all tailored to Western Canadian conditions. Its closure will affect more than 100 employees and their families, disrupt long-term trials and decades of irreplaceable scientific knowledge, and remove a trusted, public source of research that producers rely on every single season.

On a day dedicated to celebrating Canadian agriculture, we reaffirm our commitment to advocating for the future of local ag research.

Lacombe County, along with municipal partners, producer groups, and community members, continues to call on the federal government to pause and reconsider this decision and meaningfully consult with those who stand to be impacted most.

Today, we honour our farmers.  
Today, we celebrate our agricultural legacy.  
And today, more than ever, we stand united to protect the resources, research, and expertise that keep Lacombe County at the forefront of Canadian agriculture.

Happy Canadian Ag Day!



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

## ATTENTION

### Grain Bag and Twine Recyclers in Lacombe County

Are you recycling your agricultural plastics and twine helping to promote agriculture sustainability?

#### IT ONLY WORKS IF YOU RECYCLE RIGHT!!

Please ensure you are only recycling clean baler twine and/or grain bag plastic, to ensure all product is accepted for recycle. See the following instructions below.



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

# Rat on Rats | Alberta Rat Control Program

**RAT ON RATS!**

## Keep Alberta Rat-Free

**Know how to spot a rat!**  
Rats can be anywhere from farms to cities, car engines to kitchens; and they can even hitchhike on vehicles to move from place to place. Rats spread disease, damage buildings and destroy crops. Learn the signs and be aware to keep Alberta rat-free.  
Join the Rat Patrol!

Report sightings to [rats@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca)

## NORWAY RATS

*Rattus norvegicus*

Alberta is "RAT-FREE" for over

**75** years

Pet rats are **NOT** allowed in Alberta

Rats are native to Asia, in North America, they are considered a pest.

### SIGNS OF RATS

- droppings
- gnaw or chew marks
- burrows or nests
- rub marks on walls
- strange noises



reproduce multiple times a year, at **8 weeks old**, with up to 12 litters per year of **12-18 rats**

**35**

Rats can host **more than 35** different diseases that can be transmitted to humans.

**\$19,000,000,000**

Rat damages (food contamination, structural, public health risks and agricultural losses) are estimated to cost \$19 billion annually in the US.

Report signs or sightings to:

- [rats@gov.ab.ca](mailto:rats@gov.ab.ca)
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality
- EDDMapS app



# Wild Boar in Alberta: Economic, Environmental, & Social Impacts

Wild boars, also known as feral pigs, are an invasive species in Alberta, with populations primarily in north-central and northwestern regions. They pose significant challenges across economic, environmental, and social sectors.

The government is changing how it manages wild boar to protect Alberta's livestock industry.

- Wild boar are now a pest in all circumstances, not just when at large.
- It is illegal to hunt or trap wild boar in Alberta, with certain exceptions.

For more information on these changes, or to report a sighting, visit: [alberta.ca/wildboar](http://alberta.ca/wildboar)

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- **Agricultural Damage:** Wild boars cause extensive damage to cultivated crops through rooting and trampling, leading to significant financial losses. In Texas, crop damage from feral pigs ranged from \$10,000 to \$300,000 USD between 1989 and 1994.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** They damage irrigation systems, ponds, and fencing, increasing costs for farmers and landowners.
- **Livestock Health Costs:** Wild boars carry diseases such as brucellosis, pseudorabies, and swine fever, which can spread to livestock and increase veterinary and management costs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- **Ecosystem Disruption:** Wild boars uproot vegetation, alter plant community structures, and disturb native plant communities and forests.
- **Soil and Water Damage:** Their

rooting leads to erosion, siltation of streams, and changes in soil chemistry due to increased nitrogen from their manure.

- **Invasive Species Spread:** Their soil disturbance creates ideal conditions for invasive plant species to establish and spread.
- **Loss of Soil Biodiversity:** Heavy feeding on earthworms and decomposers disrupts soil formation and nutrient cycling.

### SOCIAL IMPACTS

- **Public and Livestock Health Risks:** Wild boars transmit diseases and parasites that pose risks to both humans and animals. Consumption of improperly cooked meat or contaminated water can lead to infections.
- **Safety Concerns:** Aggressive and highly intelligent, wild boars can be dangerous to humans and domestic animals.
- **Challenges in Control Efforts:** Non-professional hunting can make wild boars more evasive, complicating organized control measures.

For more information or to report wild boar sightings, contact 310-FARM (3276) or your local municipal agriculture department. You can report any sightings through AISC's free invasive species reporting app, EDDMaps (iPhone or Android), by emailing [AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto: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](#).

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](mailto:wildboar@gov.ab.ca)
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality

# UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

## INFORMATION SESSION CROP DISEASES

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE**  
 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
 AB Agriculture and Irrigation, Crop Health Assurance Department  
 Western Crop Innovations Lacombe  
 Lakeland College  
 Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network  
 U of A Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science

**MAR. 26, 2026 | 10AM - 3PM**  
 12PM: Lunch provided

**LACOMBE MEMORIAL CENTRE**  
 5214 50 Ave, Lacombe

**Join us in the afternoon for networking opportunities and a variety of demonstrations addressing key disease issues**

- Learn about findings from Provincial Crop Disease Surveys & ongoing research.
- Receive an update on the status of Alberta Crop Diseases, including Aphanomyces, Stripe Rust, Cereal Leaf Spots, Fusarium Head Blight & more.
- Learn about new clubroot and blackleg variants & how these diseases are changing.

**TO REGISTER:**  
 403.782.8959  
 jmakus@lacombecounty.com











LACOMBE COUNTY

## Lacombe County Presents TREE PRUNING & MORE

with Toso Bozic, Certified Arborist & Owner of  
Yard Whisperers

May 12, 2026  
 Lacombe County Office  
 5:00PM - 8:00PM  
 FREE | Light refreshments

Join us for an informative and engaging FREE workshop with Toso Bozic, who brings 28 years of experience in trees, forestry, and agroforestry. Enjoy learning practical tips to keep your trees healthy and thriving!

**Topics Covered:**

- ✓ Types of pruning and times of year
- ✓ Common mistakes
- ✓ Tools and Safety
- ✓ Fruit Tree Pruning (apples, pears, cherries, raspberries, etc.)
- ✓ AND MORE!! Make sure to bring YOUR tree questions

**TO REGISTER:**  
 Contact Jalene Makus at 403-782-8959, or email jmakus@lacombecounty.com

Agricultural Workshop Series



Scan to register!

## Farmer Pesticide Certification Course Review and Test

**February 25, 2026**  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Innisfail Legion  
 \$50 includes lunch

Certification if test is passed!

**Credits Available!**

Earn **3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** towards **Certified Crop Advisers** (1 Soil & Water, 2 Pest Management) and **4 credits** towards **Pesticide Applicators certification**.

Please note: This course is not eligible for Farmer Pesticide Certification Renewal, unless the exam is rewritten.

**Red Deer County**

For more information or to register, visit: [RDCounty.ca/AgEvents](http://RDCounty.ca/AgEvents)

Questions? 403.342.7367 or [agriculture@rdcounty.ca](mailto:agriculture@rdcounty.ca)

## PRODUCER FUNDING 101 WEBINAR SERIES



### SESSION 4: REGIONAL FUNDING



REGISTER HERE

This webinar covers an overview of Alberta-wide programs before moving into breakout rooms to address regionally applicable funding opportunities followed by a Q&A.

**MARCH 05**  
12:00PM









# Enrolling it in ALUS: A Cost or Pay Calculation

By Ken Lewis, ALUS Coordinator

Come spring, when (hopefully), we see those “wet spots” / “low spots” / “frog ponds” in the fields again, you’ll have a choice: to farm through them or farm around them.

Since we have ALUS in our County, the question becomes: will you make more money farming through those low spots to grow a traditional crop like canola on those acres, or will you make more money enrolling those low spots in ALUS and getting paid to produce ecosystem services on those acres?

Maybe now’s a good time to do some back of the napkin calculations at least.

For the farming numbers below, I’m putting in estimates – you can always put your own numbers in. I’m showing calculations for canola, you’ll have different numbers for different crops.

## A) Costs of Growing Canola

- Crop: Round-Up Ready Canola
- Input Costs: (seed, fertilizer, chemical): \$310 per acre
- Field Operations (equipment and labour for seeding, spraying, harvesting): \$80 per acre
- Post-Harvest/Marketing: \$15 per acre.
- Overheads (insurance, land costs, operating interest): \$130 per acre.
- Total Costs: \$535 per acre

## B) Revenue from Selling Canola

- \$15.25 per bushel

## C) Canola Yield Needed to Break Even (with the above costs)

- 35 bushels per acre.

Once you’re got an accurate break-even yield,

you’ve got to ask yourself: can I reliably get that yield, in the low spots in the field?

If the answer is “nope”... then you might want to consider ALUS.

If the answer is “maybe...sometimes” (or some variation), then you still might want to consider ALUS.

With ALUS, you can choose to farm around those low spots (ALUS calls them “ephemeral or temporary wetlands”), and get paid up to \$100 per acre per year (on the low spot acres). This is a per-acre-annual revenue that is guaranteed – literally (via an ALUS Conservation Agreement) – for 5 years or more.

ALUS can also cost-share with you (at up to 50% of the total costs), to seed those low spots to perennial forage, if that is something you want to do.

To learn more, please contact one of us:

- Ken Lewis (ALUS Coordinator) 403-505-9038 or klewis@rdcounty.ca
- Jenna Dell (ALUS Field Tech) 403-392-4616 or jdell@rdcounty.ca



## LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP: RUMINATING ON NUTRITION

Pomeroy Inn & Suites, Olds AB  
Serving Size **March 13 & 14, 2026**

---

Amount per serving

**SOME TOPICS INCLUDE:** **TICKETS STARTING AT \$120**

The Importance of Feed Testing	% Daily Value*
Mineral and Vitamin Deficiency Symptoms	
Finishing Cattle on the Farm	
Learn to Use Rationing Tools Such as SheepBytes and CowBytes	
Forage Mineral/Vitamin Deficiency in Central Alberta	
Ruminant Nutritionist Panel	






### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DR. PHILLIP LANCASTER**

Dr. Phillip Lancaster brings a strong foundation in practical livestock management and applied research to beef cattle nutrition. Raised on a livestock and crop farm in west-central Illinois, he combines hands-on experience with scientific expertise to improve efficiency, health, and sustainability in beef production systems.

At Livestock Roundup: Ruminating on Nutrition, Dr. Lancaster will share insights from two sessions:

- **“Producer Questions from BCI Cattle Chat”** – an interactive discussion based on real producer questions, with live audience participation.
- **“What Are We Learning About Gut Health in Cattle”** – the latest research on rumen function, microbial balance, and nutrition strategies to boost health and productivity.

Dr. Lancaster’s practical focus and approachable style make his presentations a highlight for producers and industry professionals alike.



Visit [cafla-ab.ca/cafla-events/](http://cafla-ab.ca/cafla-events/) for more info

## Apprenticeship Program Application Deadline Extended

Want to learn how to grow food for your community? Apply for a farm apprenticeship! Young Agrarians apprenticeships are paid opportunities on Host Farms in Western Canada. For 4-8 months, apprentices work alongside seasoned farmers to gain hands-on skills while building their farming network through peer groups and farm tours.

**Application deadline:** February 15, 2026  
**Full Details:** <https://youngagrarians.org/programs/apprenticeship-program/>

← YOUNG AGRARIANS →  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

**WANT TO LEARN HOW TO FARM?**

Apprenticeship placements available in  
BC, AB, SK and MB



# SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

## January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026

### Development Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Development	Decision
1	01/26	Bobbi Modin	SW 21-39-27-W4M	Sand & Gravel Pit Expansion	Pending
2	02/26	Alair Homes	NW 12-40-28-W4M	Dwelling w/Attached Garage & Veranda Replacement Dwelling Setback Relaxation	Refused
3	03/26	Darrell & Susan Stang	NW 14-39-28-W4M	Community Facility Renewal River Valley Wedding Venue	Approved
4	04/26	Dayne Johnson	Lot 7 Block 1 Plan 982 4780 (SW 23-39-27-W4M)	Mechanic Trailer Service & Repair Renewal	Approved
5	05/26	Terry Brenda	Lots 37&38 Blk 34 Plan 7159A1 (Hamlet of Mirror)	New Mobile Home w/Detached Garage	Approved
6	06/26	Tyson Simanton & Morgenne Skinner	SE 13-39-28-W4M	Home Based Business, Major Trailer Sales Business Momentum Trailers	Pending
7	07/26	Cameron & Ardyth Cunningham	Lot D Plan 6189RS (SW 14-40-27-W4M)	Home Based Business, Major Jac's Small Engine Repair	Approved
8	08/26	Kim & Gail Schmitt	Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 962 2191 (NW 25-39-02-W5M)	Cannabis Production Facility Renewal, Humble Farmers Organics Inc.	Approved
9	09/26	Jeremy & Shannon Deleeuw	Unit 61 Condo Plan 102 2165 (DeGraff's RV Resort)	Park Model	Approved
10	10/26	Dan & Dawn Tees	NE 36-40-24-W4M	Dwelling w/Attached Garage, Covered Deck & Veranda Second Residence	Approved
11	11/26	Bradley & Jennafer Rowley	Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 142 3398 (NE 27-40-24-W4M)	Home Based Business, Major Heavy Duty Repair Shop BH Repair	Approved
12	12/26	Prairie Solutions Inc.	Parcel C Plan 1632ET (SE 33-40-26-W4M)	Minor Business and Trade Prairie Solutions Inc. Renewal	Pending
13	13/26	Audrey & Rodney Krenzler	NE 21-40-27-W4M	Home Based Business, Major Commercial Kitchen Grandma Cluck Cluck's Kitchen	Approved

### Subdivision Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Subdivision	Decision
14	S-001-26	William Murto Farming Ltd.	NE 18-39-02-W5M	1 <sup>st</sup> Parcel Out	Approved
15	S-002-26	Marcil Farms Ltd.	SE 36-38-24-W4M	Fragmented	Pending

Do you have questions about subdivision or development activity?

Contact Us:

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

Cajun Paradis  
Director of  
Planning Services

Nicklas Baran  
Planner /  
Development  
Officer

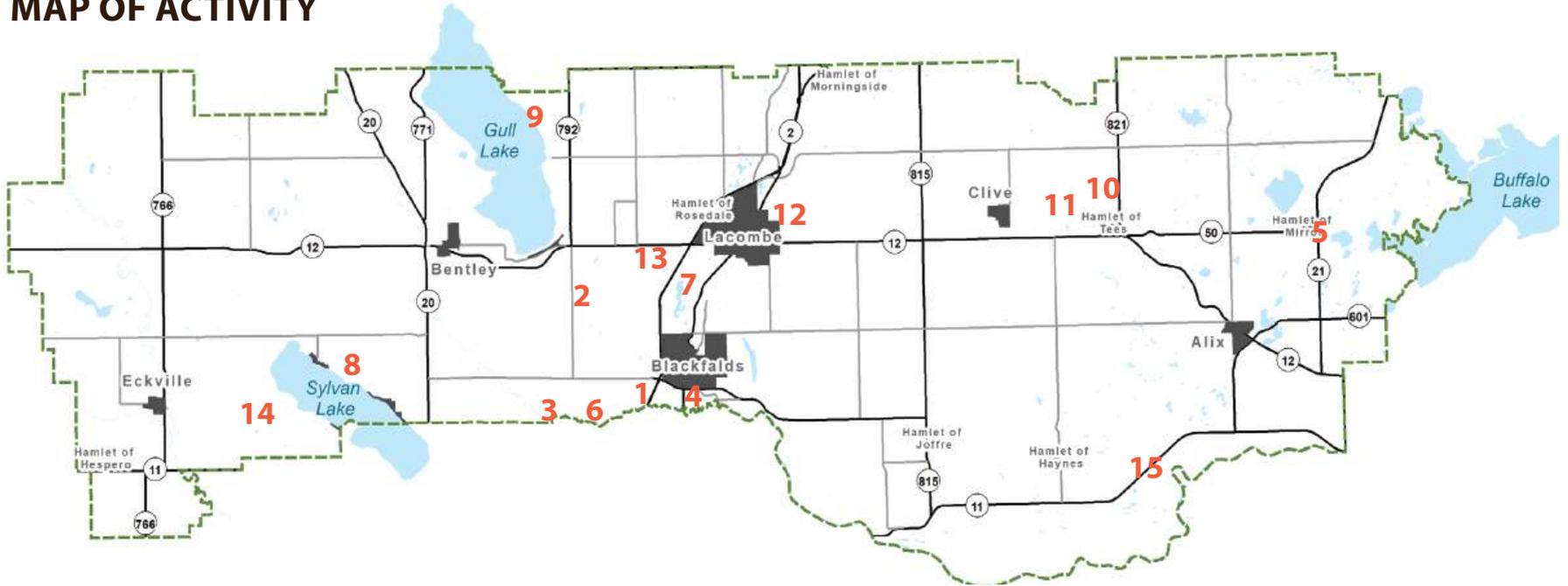
Will Cebuliak  
Planning Intern

Kerrie Taylor  
Economic  
Development  
Officer

Allison Noonan  
Planning Services  
Administrative  
Assistant

Daniella Gonzalez  
Planning Services  
Receptionist

**MAP OF ACTIVITY**



LACOMBE COUNTY

**PLANNING SERVICES**

Frequently Asked Questions

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.  
WE HAVE ANSWERS

**Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan Update**

Lacombe County is updating the *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* and will be hosting a **PUBLIC MEETING** and **SURVEY** to provide information about the project and collect your feedback.

The public meeting will be held at the Mirror Community Hall on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm. The survey will be available for three (3) weeks after the public meeting, and will be available on paper at the public meeting, or on the County website at [www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP](http://www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP).

We encourage all residents, landowners or businesses in the Hamlet of Mirror to participate! Your participation is a critical piece of this project, and this article aims to answer your questions about the Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan update and how you can contribute to its cre-

ation.

**WHAT IS THE HAMLET OF MIRROR AREA STRUCTURE PLAN?**

The *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* is a planning document that is intended to guide growth and development in the Hamlet of Mirror. The Plan identifies where different types of development may occur and outlines the expectations for these developments. Furthermore, the Plan will strive to capture the community's vision for the hamlet and turn it into a plan that will shape how the community grows over time.

**WHERE DOES THIS PLAN APPLY?**

The *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* applies to all lands within the Hamlet of Mirror, as outlined in red (below).

**WHY IS THE PLAN BEING UPDATED?**

The *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* was originally adopted by County Council in 2007, shortly after the former Village of Mirror dissolved and became a hamlet under the jurisdiction of Lacombe County. The Plan has been updated multiple times since it was first adopted, with 2018 being the last time changes were made.

The Plan is being updated for several reasons, including the need to update the Plan's policies to encourage efficient growth and development that reflects the community's vision for the hamlet. Additionally, the updated Plan will integrate utility servicing information that has recently been made available to the County

and will be able to better represent the existing context of the hamlet by including new developments in the community.

**WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING AND SURVEY?**

The public meeting for the *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* will be informational, with the County's Planning Services team providing attendees with an overview of the Plan's Update and outlining what residents can expect from the project.

After the public meeting, you will be able to provide us with your feedback on the project, and thoughts on growth and development in the Hamlet of Mirror.

**WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?**

The full public meeting ad can be found on Page \_\_\_ of this paper. For more information on the *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan* update, please visit the County website at [www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP](http://www.lacombecounty.com/MirrorASP)

Additionally, please keep your eyes out for advertising on the Plan update, found on our social media pages, in the County News, and posters and signs posted throughout the Hamlet!

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions about the update to the *Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan*, please contact Planning Services at 403-782-8389 or [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com).



# ATTENTION WILSON'S BEACH RESIDENTS

New municipal addresses have recently been assigned to all properties in the Wilson's Beach subdivision and official notification letters containing each property owner's **new municipal address were mailed in early December 2025.**

**Please watch for this important correspondence.** Using the correct municipal address is essential for emergency services (911), deliveries, and various other purposes. We kindly ask residents to begin using their new address as soon as possible and to update it with banks, utilities, government agencies, and other contacts. Thank you for your cooperation.

# ASSESSMENT 101

## *What you need to know*

The assessment roll must be completed and submitted to the Province prior to February 28 each year to ensure quality standards are met. This year, Lacombe County Assessors' inspected and/or reviewed nearly 3,000 properties for the 2026 assessment roll.

Reasons for inspection or review include: sales validation, general re-inspection, land model reviews and new construction or annual property changes. The Assessment Department is grateful for the cooperation of those property owners who cooperated with the requests for information. Information about the physical characteristics, condition and the usage or activity occurring on a property are important elements to establishing an accurate and fair assessment base.

The assessment base is used to equitably

distribute the tax burden of the municipal and provincial governments. Taxes provide services we all benefit from, such as roads, safe water, emergency services, recreational opportunities, etc., as well as supplementing education funding. Again, we wish to thank you for your cooperation this past year.

**NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS** Lacombe County municipal Assessors are reviewing and visiting properties throughout the municipality throughout the year as required to verify property information, ensuring accurate and equitable assessments – we appreciate your cooperation with data collection activities. Our Assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at the Lacombe County Administration Office.

### MEET THE TEAM

The Lacombe County Assessment team is made up of the following individuals:



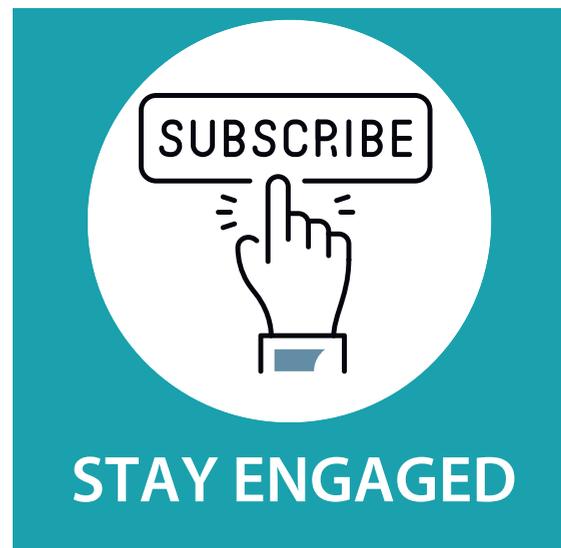
Angel Svennes



Andrew Beecraft



Nolan Bepalko



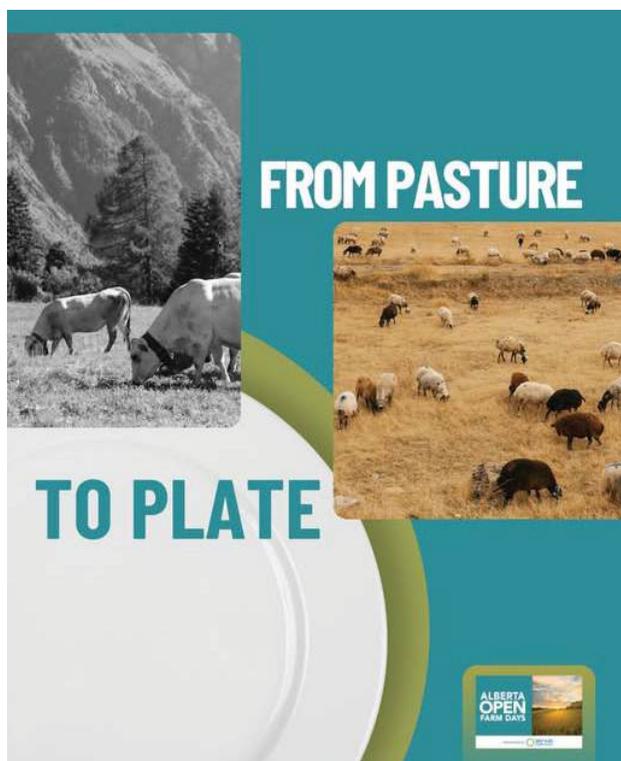
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Get Lacombe County news updates delivered to your inbox.

[lacombecounty.com/subscribe/](https://lacombecounty.com/subscribe/)



Scan the QR code to subscribe TODAY!



Alberta Open Farm Days is an annual province-wide event that invites those in the agriculture and food sector to open their gates and connect with the public for a weekend of discovery on August 15 and 16, 2026.

### ALBERTA OPEN FARM DAYS IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR HOST FARMS!

**What It Is:** Farms and agriculture-related businesses across Alberta participate as hosts by welcoming visitors to their location during the event weekend. Hosts choose which day or days they are open and their hours of operation. Each participating location is asked to offer at least one complimentary experience for visitors. Hosts may also offer optional paid experiences. Every host is encouraged to showcase their role in agriculture in a way that reflects their operation, values, and story.

**When:** The third weekend in August each year – Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, August 16, 2026.

**Why Participate:** Alberta Open Farm Days provides an opportunity to connect with curious

consumers, educate the public about agriculture and food production, and promote direct sales, agritourism experiences, or community partnerships.

**Who Can Participate:** Any farm, ranch, business, or organization with a connection to agriculture, food production, culinary experiences, heritage, or tourism is welcome to participate. This includes those offering tours, demonstrations, tastings, or workshops related to food and agriculture, such as:

- Farms and producers
- Accommodations
- Tour operators
- Retailers
- Restaurants
- Communities and associations
- Agricultural Societies
- Beverage producers
- Cooking schools
- Agritourism attractions
- Finished food products
- Markets

**LEARN MORE AT:**  
[albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/](https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/)



**WILD BOAR**

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)

# NATIONAL Invasive Species WEEK FEB. 23 - MAR. 1, 2026



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



**PRUSSIAN CARP / GOLDFISH**

(Photo from Government of Alberta)

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/>.**



**FLOWERING RUSH**

(Photo from Government of Alberta)



**PALE YELLOW IRIS**

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)



**SEA BUCKTHORN**



**HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

(Photo from Alberta Invasive Species website)

## APPLY TODAY: Community Program Grants available

Lacombe County is committed to strengthening the quality of life for residents and fostering civic pride by providing financial support for community programs, events and activities.

*Policy RC(9) - County Support of Community Programs, Events and Activities* provides additional support for organizations in the County and its urban municipalities, as well as for the municipalities themselves. Support will be given for events and activities which are held for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public, demonstrate a financial need, and other criteria explained in the policy.

**The application deadline is February 1, 2026; applicants will be advised by March 31, 2026 of the status of their application.**

**Policy Guidelines/Procedures:**

**Eligibility:** Urban municipalities within the County, and community organizations in the urban municipalities within the County and within Lacombe County are eligible for funding, subject to the following guidelines:

To be eligible for consideration, programs:

- Must demonstrate a need for financial support from the County;
- Must be held for the enjoyment and benefit of the general public;
- Must be hosted on an annual basis and/or recognize significant milestone events;
- Must not charge an admission, entrance or registration fee for the program, event or activity;
- Must receive at least an equivalent amount of funding from the urban municipality in which the program, event or activity is being held as that being requested from the County;
- Must receive at least an equal amount of funding from the community organization if the program, event or activity is being held in the County; and
- Must take place in the County, or in the urban municipalities within the County in 2026

The following are not eligible for support under this policy:

- Capital facilities and equipment;
- Youth and adult sports teams and associated programs, events and activities;
- School reunions;
- Private functions;
- Community organizations, programs, events and activities that receive support from the County through other programs or policies.

**Funding Allotment & Allocation:**

Funding will be based on \$0.75 per capita based on the current year official population of Lacombe County and the urban municipalities within the County, with a \$1,000 minimum allotment per town or village, and a \$500 minimum allotment per summer village.

**To view the Policy and a downloadable application form, see the County Website and look for the Grants and Funding page <https://www.lacombecounty.com/our-government/budget-and-finance/grants-and-funding/>.**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Business Resources: Grants, Programs & Supports

Access to the right resources can make a meaningful difference when starting, expanding, or adapting a business. Each year brings new funding opportunities, programs, and supports, and 2026 is no exception. As we move into the year, several federal, provincial, and regional initiatives are opening or continuing that local businesses and entrepreneurs should be aware of.

While navigating grants and programs can sometimes feel overwhelming, Lacombe County Economic Development is here to help connect businesses with the right information and partners.

Many funding streams operate on annual or cyclical intakes, and early awareness is key. Depending on eligibility and business focus, opportunities may include:

- Federal and Provincial grant programs supporting business growth, innovation, and sector development
- Agricultural and value-added initiatives such as Canadian Agricultural Partnership-style programming and related supports
- Tourism development funding supporting rural experiences and destination enhancement
- Innovation and productivity programs de-

signed to strengthen competitiveness and adoption of new technologies

Program criteria, timelines, and eligibility vary, and funding is often competitive. Businesses considering expansion, modernization, diversification, or collaboration are encouraged to explore options early.

Economic Development's role is not to administer grants, but to help businesses navigate the landscape. This may include:

- Identifying programs that align with your project
- Connecting you with regional or sector specialists
- Providing letters of support where appropriate
- Helping position projects within broader regional priorities
- Facilitating introductions to partner organizations

Sometimes the most valuable step is simply starting the conversation, even in early idea stages.

Lacombe County works closely with regional partners who provide hands-on business sup-

ports, including:

- Community Futures Central Alberta - offering business advisory services, lending programs, and planning support for entrepreneurs and small businesses.
- Central Alberta Regional Innovation Network (CARIN) - connecting businesses to innovation resources, mentorship, and ecosystem partners focused on growth and competitiveness.

These organizations bring expertise, tools, and guidance that complement municipal support and strengthen the regional business environment.

Economic conditions continue to evolve, and successful businesses are those that stay informed and proactive. Whether you are launching a new venture, exploring diversification, or planning future investment, understanding available supports can open doors and reduce risk.

If you are considering a project in 2026, I encourage you to reach out. Early conversations help ensure you are connected to the right resources at the right time.

**Contact Lacombe County Economic Development to start the discussion at [economicdevelopment@lacombecounty.com](mailto:economicdevelopment@lacombecounty.com)**



BUSINESS



# SPOTLIGHT

## MOONLIGHT WELDING

*Supporting Industry and Creativity from the Heart of Lacombe County*

**CELEBRATING BUSINESS IN LACOMBE COUNTY**

Local businesses often play a critical role behind the scenes, keeping farms running, supporting contractors, and helping infrastructure projects move forward. Moonlight Welding is one of those businesses. Established in 2003 by owners born and raised in Lacombe County, the company has grown alongside the community it serves, providing welding and fabrication solutions grounded in local knowledge and strong relationships.

Operating from a single facility in Lacombe County, Moonlight Welding runs two complementary fabrication divisions. Their industrial shop focuses on supporting local contractors and agricultural operations through fabrication and repair services. A large portion of their work involves building concrete forms, including precast forms and specialized extruding forms installed on paving machines that produce continuous sidewalks, curbs and gutters, traffic barriers, cattle feed bunks, swales, and other essential infrastructure components.

On the other side of the shop, technology and

creativity come together through their CNC plasma cutting capabilities. Added approximately ten years ago, this equipment significantly expanded the business's efficiency and design flexibility. The same technology used in industrial applications also supports the production of customized retail and specialty products, including signage, meat smokers, fire pits, and fire pokers, demonstrating the versatility of modern fabrication.

The integration of advanced technology with hands-on trades expertise has allowed Moonlight Welding to grow while remaining rooted in its local identity. By serving contractors, farmers, and businesses throughout the region, they contribute to the strength of Lacombe County's industrial and agricultural sectors while also offering unique custom products for individual customers.

Lacombe County Economic Development is proud to recognize Moonlight Welding as a locally grown business that reflects the skill, innovation, and adaptability found throughout our region's trades sector.

### CONNECT WITH MOONLIGHT WELDING

- Website: moonlightwelding.ca
- Website: shopmoonlightdesigns.ca
- Address: 27118 Township Rd 401, Lacombe County
- Phone: (403) 373-9170

*If you own or operate a business in Lacombe County and would like to be considered for a future spotlight, we encourage you to connect with the Economic Development Officer.*

*Please email [economicdevelopment@lacombecounty.com](mailto:economicdevelopment@lacombecounty.com)*

**EVERY BUSINESS HAS A STORY WORTH SHARING.**



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 8, 2026

## PAID PARKING - 2025 SEASON REVIEW

Council received a presentation on the 2025 Paid Parking Program and directed that the program at Sandy Point Beach and Boat Launch, and the Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch, be amended to provide free parking for Lacombe County ratepayers for the 2026 season.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

Council adopted the Long Range Planning Services Program for 2026-2028.

## HAMLET OF MIRROR AREA STRUCTURE PLAN – PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting to seek feedback on the Hamlet of Mirror Area Structure Plan will be held on March 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mirror Community Hall.

## REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT MEETING REGARDING MEDICINE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT

Council agreed to the Medicine’s River Watershed Society’s request to participate in an in-person meeting with the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Energy and Minerals, and MLAs Jason Nixon, Jennifer Johnson, and Devin Dreeshen, in Edmonton during the Rural Municipalities of

Alberta 2026 Spring Convention, to discuss shared concerns regarding the status of the Medicine River and its aquifer.

## REVIVE ENERGY CORPORATION - PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT PLAN

A motion to approve Revive Energy Corporation’s proposed tax payment plan, which included paying the 2023-2025 arrears and the future 2026, 2027 and 2028 property levies over a three-year period starting in 2026 with all tax penalties being waived during this period, did not receive Council approval.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING NOTES

The following recommendations from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 2, 2025 received the approval of Council:

- That the involvement in Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Programming presentation be received for information.
- That the Annexation Regarding West Side of Sylvan Lake presentation be received for information; and further, that the County Manager be directed to prepare a report and recommendation for Council’s consideration at a future meeting.
- That the Community Organization Property Tax

Exemption Regulation (COPTER) presentation be received for information.

- That the Fire Bans and Fire Conditions presentations be received for information; and further, that the County Manager be directed to prepare a report and recommendation on year-round fire permitting for Council’s consideration at a future meeting.
- That the feedback received during the election campaign be received for information.
- That the feedback regarding the Governance of Local Municipalities seminar be received for information.

## BYLAW 1452/26 TEMPORARY BORROWING BYLAW

Council approved Bylaw 1452/26, a bylaw of Lacombe County to authorize borrowing for the purpose of financing operating expenditures.

## METRIX GROUP LLP - AUDIT PLANNING REPORT TO COUNCIL

Council received an overview of Metrix Group LLP’s plan for the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Lacombe County for the period ended December 31, 2025 and approved the services and terms as set out in the engagement letter from Metrix Group LLP.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January 29, 2026

## RED DEER ANNEXATION – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council received a presentation on the proposed annexation to address a boundary anomaly affecting approximately 1,440 acres along Township Road 39-0, between Range Road 2-1 and Range Road 3-0, located in Red Deer County. Council endorsed the Terms of Reference and authorized the County Manager to proceed with the annexation process in collaboration with Red Deer County.

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD FIELD VISIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Council received a presentation on the results from the 2025 Agricultural Service Board field visit conducted by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and reviewed the associated recommendations and proposed corrective actions. Council directed the County Manager to implement the recommended corrective actions as identified in the report.

## EDUCATION AG TOUR

Council received a presentation and report outlining the Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society and Clearwater County Education Ag Tour, a field trip program designed to introduce students to local agriculture through visits to area farms.

## WATER WELL STATIC WATER LEVEL TESTING PROGRAM

A motion to purchase a water level sounder and develop a Water Well Static Well Level Testing Rental Program was defeated.

## PRESENTATION ON THE BASHAW AND DISTRICT REGIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOUNDATION

Council received a presentation from Georgina

Gaudet and Ted Szumlas, representing the Bashaw and District Regional Health and Wellness Foundation. Their presentation focused on the Bashaw Model of Primary Care, which offers an innovative and sustainable alternative to the primary care access issues experienced by rural Albertans.

## 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Council received an update regarding the 2025 Environmental Action Plan.

## 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Council received a presentation on the 2026 Environmental Action Plan and approved the plan as presented.

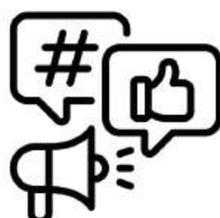
## REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE – ROAD PLAN 5895 KS

Council approved the closure of Road Plan 5895 KS lying within the NE 13-41-23 W4M.

## REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE – ROAD PLAN 6111 BM

Council approved the closure of Road Plan 6111 BM lying within the NW 28-40-24 W4M.

**Council Highlights & Minutes can be found on our website at [calendar.lacombecounty.com/meetings](https://calendar.lacombecounty.com/meetings)**

Find Lacombe County online



# Now hiring for the 2026 Census!

APPLY ONLINE:

[census.gc.ca/jobs](https://census.gc.ca/jobs)



## Winter 2026 Working Well Workshop Series

# Water Well Management for Well Owners

Get information and resources on how to manage and protect your water well. The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management - learn how at these free virtual workshops.

### Workshop 1:

#### Getting to know your well

February 18, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Groundwater 101, How Your Well Works and Understanding your Drilling Report

### Workshop 2:

#### Maintaining and managing your well

February 25, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Common Well Problems, Identifying Contamination Risks and Shock Chlorination

### Workshop 3:

#### Sampling, testing and treating well water

March 4, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Taking Water Samples, Testing and Water Treatment Options

Register here: [Working Well - Resources | Alberta.ca](https://WorkingWell-Resources|Alberta.ca)



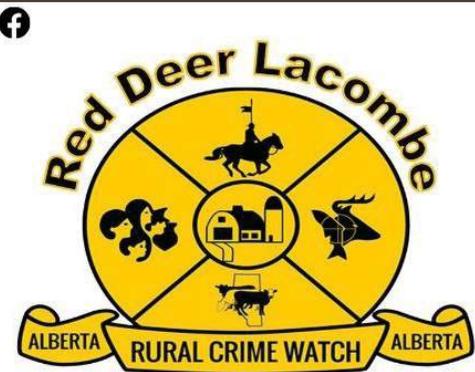
## 2025 LIVESTOCK TAX DEFERRAL

Due to challenging weather conditions, Agriculture Canada reports more regions now qualify for the 2025 Livestock Tax Deferral. This support helps producers manage extreme weather impacts.

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows farmers that carry on a farming business in a prescribed area who sell all or part of their breeding herd due to drought, excess moisture or flooding to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year. When prescribed regions are identified, the list is posted to this web page.

**Lacombe County is on the 2025 List of Prescribed Regions.**

For full details, visit: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-production/weather/livestock-tax-deferral-provision> or scan the QR code below



# AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Lacombe Memorial Centre**  
County Room  
5214 50 Ave, City of Lacombe

**10:30am** - AGM to take place  
**12:00pm** - catered lunch from Milly Oak Cafe & Catering (\$14 fee/person, must send in a RSVP by March 22nd, 2026 to be included)  
**12:30pm** - Guest speaker for the day will be Julie Matthews. Covering some of the latest and greatest frauds and scams, along with what communities can proactively do to prevent them.



**March 28th, 2026**



Let us know your coming!  
Send an RSVP by March 22, 2026  
[rdruralcrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:rdruralcrimewatch@gmail.com)



FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER - JULIE MATTHEWS.  
Freelance consultant on fraud prevention and education. Presentations and workshops for businesses, seniors and community groups. Former investigative TV reporter and senior investigator for Service Alberta.



# February update from Ellis Nature Centre

"Wake up out of your winter slumber! We here at Ellis Nature Centre have begun event planning and want to introduce to you, the first of 2026 events!

## EVENTS

**Bird Diversity & Adaptations of Flight:** On April 11th, we will once again introduce the Beaverhill Bird Observatory as they return for their 3rd year in a row. They will give a brief presentation of Beaverhill history, what they do, bird diversity in Alberta, and Adaptations of Flight. They'll once again bring one of their educational birds, who will interact with attendees. This session is limited to 40 people and cannot be exceeded due to the health and safety of the educational bird.

Adult tickets are \$10 each. Family Tickets are \$15 each and include admission for 2 adults and 2 children. Please email us at [info@ellisnaturecentre.ca](mailto:info@ellisnaturecentre.ca) if you require additional children's tickets.

**Purple Martin Demonstration:** On April 12th, John Bontje will take over as we take a closer look inside the Purple Martin condos! We'll lower and open the houses to give you an up-close view of their layout and explore the different stages of the nesting process. Learn how and when eggs are laid, when they

hatch, and how tiny nestlings grow and develop until they're ready to take their first flight as fledglings.

Pre-reg or drop in, \$10 per person, 1-3:30pm, max ~25

**Soap Making Workshop:** On March 21st, a beloved fan favourite, Soap Making with Eliza Jane Studios. Back by popular demand is Susan with her soap making workshop. Due to such popular demand in 2025, we are bringing Susan back 3 times over the 2026 season! Start Spring off strong with your own, personalized bars of soap where you get to pick the scents, colors, and design! Each participant will take ~6-8 bars of soap home with them. This adult only class has only 16 spots available, secure your spot now at [throughout website!](http://throughoutwebsite.com)

Pre-reg, \$85 per person, 1:30pm-3pm, max 16, adults only

## SCHOOLS

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the school and home groups that have booked for our spring field trip programs! Registration filled up fast with few available spots left! Book through our website now, email, or give us a call to see if we can fit you in!

## OWLS

The Ellis Nature Centre Live Owl



Cam is now up and streaming for you to enjoy!

This season has already started off strong, with lots of activity and some familiar (and possibly new!) faces at the nest.

As some of you may know, the pair that got us excited last year ultimately chose to nest elsewhere, but we have high hopes for 2026!

While we can't confirm whether this is the same returning pair, "Albert" appears to have a noticeable white spot is his head - something not

observed in previous "Albert" males. What do you think? Could this be the same Albert with a new marking, a different male altogether, or perhaps a touch of albinism?

Want to watch "Albert" and "Ellie" live? Visit our YouTube channel. Be sure to visit our channel throughout the season as highlights are posted regularly.

Thank you for watching!

~ Ellis Nature Centre

# Scholarships available through Red Deer Polytechnic

**Did you know: Lacombe County supports THREE scholarships at Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP). Students can apply from March 1-May 31 (and will be notified in June/ July if they are the successful recipient, with funds will be paid out in the fall). Learn more at <https://www.rdpolytech.ca>.**

Apply from March 1 to May 31. Learn more at [rdpolytech.ca](http://rdpolytech.ca).

## Lacombe County Leadership Scholarship

**Eligibility:** A student entering the first year of any Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) post-secondary program in the upcoming academic year as a full-time student. Student must be a current or former resident of Lacombe County and have graduated from a high school within Lacombe County in the last three years.

**Criteria:** Academic achievement and demonstrated excellent leadership qualities through community involvement.

**Value:** 1 @ \$1850.00

## Lacombe County Leadership Scholarship for Apprentice

**Eligibility:** A 1st year RDP apprentice who attended an Apprenticeship program in the most recent academic year. The apprentice must be continuing their studies in the subsequent year of the program at RDP in the upcoming academic year. The apprentice must be a current or former resident of Lacombe County.

**Criteria:** Academic achievement, financial need and demonstrated excellent leadership qualities through community involvement.

**Value:** 1 @ \$1850.00

## Lacombe County Scholarship for Rural Students

**Eligibility:** A full-time RDP student who attended a Bachelor of Science program in the most recent academic year. The student must be continuing full-time studies in the subsequent year of the program at RDP in the upcoming academic year. The student must be a Canadian Citizen or landed immigrant. Preference given to a student who is a current or former Lacombe County resident pursuing a career in Agriculture or Agri-Business, Environmental and Conservation Sciences or Veterinary Medicine. Secondary preference to a student with a rural background.

**Criteria:** Academic achievement and financial need.

**Value:** 1 @ \$1850.00

NEW! SPRING MEET - LIVE RACING DATES:

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

1:10 p.m. Mountain Time

SUMMER/FALL LIVE DATES:

JULY							August							September										
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				
				1	2	3	4						1							1	2	3	4	5
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30						
								30	31															

1:10 p.m. Mountain Time    4:10 p.m. Mountain Time

## Take control of your property taxes with the Tax Installment Payment Plan!

TIPP is a hassle-free way to pay your property taxes monthly, spreading payments over the year instead of making one lump sum in August.

Payments are automatically withdrawn from your bank account on the 15th of each month, helping you stay on budget and avoid costly late penalties:

- 6% penalty for unpaid taxes after August 31
- 10% penalty for unpaid taxes after December 31

**How TIPP Works:**

- Taxes are billed in May and cover the calendar year (January 1–December 31).
- Your monthly payment is calculated by dividing your most recent tax bill by 12.

- Payments start January 15 and ensure your account is fully paid by December 15.

**What you need to know:**

- Property taxes are due annually on August 31
- Sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) before December 31, 2025
- If you missed the December 31 deadline, no worries; you can sign up in 2026 anytime before July 31. We will require you to pay the missed monthly amounts up front and then withdraw monthly payments.

Enjoy peace of mind knowing you're on track and penalty-free. Sign up for TIPP today!

## Tax Installment PAYMENT PLAN



Sign up TODAY for the monthly plan.

Contact Lacombe County at (403) 782-6601 or visit [www.lacombecounty.com](http://www.lacombecounty.com) for more details.



Automatic Budget-friendly Simple Convenient



# Keeping Alberta's crop research alive

**Lacombe County is home to some of the most coveted agricultural land on the Prairies. Yet when farmers plant a new variety, few stop to consider where it came from — or what went into developing the technology they're putting into their soil.**

## MEET WESTERN CROP INNOVATIONS

Western Crop Innovations (WCI) is a plant breeding and research centre developing barley and triticale varieties tailored for Western Canada. Though the organization was established in April 2024, it is hardly a new player in the crop breeding space. WCI continues the tradition of the Field Crop Development Centre (FCDC), founded in 1973 by the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and based in Lacombe for nearly 50 years. After the Government of Alberta began withdrawing from agricultural research and development, and following a three-year period operating under Olds College, the program was nearly discontinued.

Supporters of the FCDC rallied to change the fate of the program, leading to the creation of WCI — a non-profit organization supported through a public-private partnership involving the provincial government, industry groups, and private companies.

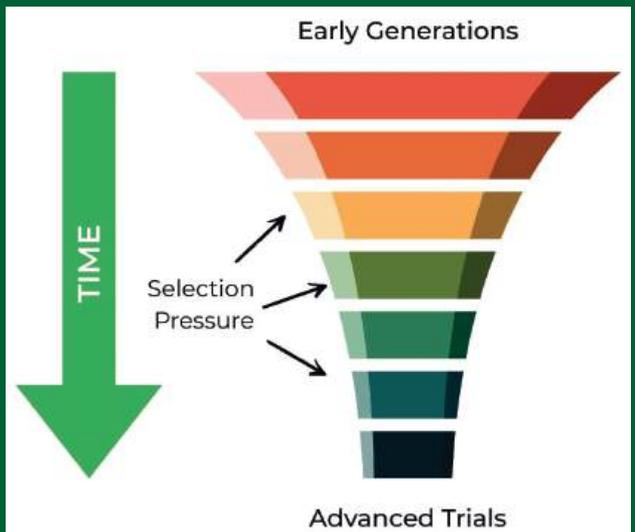
## BREEDING AND RESEARCH FOCUS

WCI is home to two breeding programs and four research teams that provide in-house expertise in plant pathology, grain quality, biotechnology, and agronomy. Together, these teams support WCI's barley and triticale breeders while also conducting research that strengthens the Canadian cropping sector. Working from a core land base of nearly 400 acres, WCI plants, manages, and evaluates approximately 40,000 research plots each year in Lacombe and at off-site locations across Central Alberta. This work is carried out by a core staff of 26 employees, supplemented by seasonal and contract staff, and functions like a living assembly line: early-stage breeding material, advanced lines, and near-ready varieties are all grown and evaluated at the same time to keep new crop options moving steadily toward farmers' fields.

This approach is essential because developing a new crop variety takes time — typically a minimum of eight to ten years from the parental cross to commercial release. Timely access to the latest genetics is critical for producer success. As disease, pest, and environmental pressures evolve, varieties with updated resistance genes and improved tolerance to stresses such as drought help protect yields, maintain grain quality, and safeguard farm profitability.

## COLLABORATION IS KEY TO SUCCESS

Plant breeding in Canada is a highly collaborative space, particularly for cereal crops. To register a new variety, breeders must demonstrate measurable improvement over what is already available on the market — one of the key reasons the process takes so long. Performance indicators assessed include yield and lodging resistance (often top priorities for producers), as well as disease resistance, end-use quality traits, and performance across a range of soil types and growing conditions. To generate the data required to meet these registration standards, many of Canada's breeding and agricultural research programs participate in material exchange, reciprocal plot testing, and Cooperative Registration Trials. This interdependence played a significant role in WCI's outcome in 2024. Closing its doors would not only have ended barley and triticale breeding in Alberta, but also created gaps in the broader plant breeding system — a challenge the sector is once again facing today.

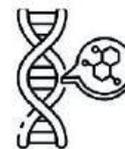


**The Plant Breeding "Funnel":** as breeding material advances through the development pipeline, breeders make selections, cutting the weakest lines and advancing those exhibiting traits of interest. Where early generation trials have several thousand candidate lines, only 1-2 will be put forward for registration, on average.



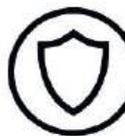
### Grain & Silage Quality

~17,000 samples evaluated by Near-Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) annually for 30+ traits



### Biotechnology

2500+ lines screened annually via marker-assisted selection (MAS)



### Pathology

~12,000 lines screened for disease reactions annually through our disease nurseries



### Agronomy

WCI's newest program is building capacity to provide variety-specific best practice recommendations

# Why sustained public support is crucial for crop innovation



## PARTNERSHIPS CAN SAVE RESEARCH

Western Crop Innovations is a clear example of what this kind of collaboration can achieve: a program brought back from the brink through shared commitment and partnership. Today, WCI continues to innovate not only in seed development, but also in its business model, demonstrating how public and private entities can work together to strengthen Canada's agricultural sector.

While industry partners are stepping up, they cannot shoulder the cost of agricultural research alone. Sustained public investment, alongside private collaboration, remains critical. Constituents are encouraged to engage with their elected representatives at both the federal and provincial levels to voice their support for continued agricultural research funding.



## IMPACTS OF RESEARCH CLOSURES

The federal government recently announced budget cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), along with its intent to close three AAFC research stations; including AAFC Lacombe, as well as four satellite research farms. Just as industry once rallied to support WCI, agricultural organizations are now speaking up on behalf of AAFC. The closure of these stations would not only affect the people employed there, but also the broader agricultural research and agri-business sectors that collaborate closely with these teams.

While defined timelines have not been disclosed to the public, organizations like WCI are evaluating what gaps may need to be filled in the 2026 growing season if AAFC's sites are closed or operating at reduced capacity. AAFC research projects currently underway may need to be modified, relocated, or, in some cases, could be abandoned altogether. These are examples of potential short-term consequences. However, the long-term impacts of reduced research and development (R&D) capacity can be far more serious. Returning to the analogy of an assembly line: if the first stage of the line shuts down, the rest can continue operating only until existing inputs are exhausted. There is often a lag before end users even realize there is a problem. In the same way, producers are unlikely to feel the effects of reduced agricultural research immediately — but by the time those impacts appear on-farm, it may be too late to easily correct course.

This is a risk WCI knows well. Once a research program is dismantled, it can be extremely difficult — if not impossible — to rebuild. Even when land and facilities remain available, the loss of specialized expertise and the disruption of training and knowledge transfer significantly reduce operational efficiency. Re-establishing programs also requires major capital investment to repair, upgrade, or replace facilities and equipment that may have deteriorated during periods of inactivity.

## WCI: PROOF THAT RESEARCH INVESTMENT DELIVERS STRONG RETURNS FOR THE ECONOMY.

On February 4, Alberta Canola published a letter to the federal Minister of Agriculture on behalf of eleven Alberta crop and livestock industry organizations, stating: "Producers and industry stakeholders are not asking the government to act alone. Rather, we seek a stable, predictable public research framework that enables effective partnerships, leverages private investment, and supports innovation that serves the public interest."

Research investment has repeatedly been shown to deliver strong returns for Canadian producers and, in turn, contribute to the broader economy. Studies have demonstrated that public investment in crop research generates significant economic value through improved productivity, risk reduction, and market competitiveness. For this reason, agricultural research and development have been widely recognized as public-good services for decades.

Programs like WCI and AAFC rely on continued public support and advocacy to remain viable. This investment does not benefit farmers alone — it underpins a sustainable food system that serves all Canadians. Moreover, a key message emerging from these discussions is that agriculture has not yet reached its full potential as a driver of Canada's economy and export growth. As political and environmental landscapes continue to shift, Canada is uniquely positioned to expand its role in global food production in the decades ahead. A stronger agricultural sector means a stronger Canada.

Continued investment in research and development is essential to ensuring the sector can maximize this opportunity and deliver long-term economic and societal benefits.



# RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

## Home Support Services

Reliable Housekeeping for Seniors

Trained & Screened Providers

### Services Offered:

- Laundry
- Kitchen, Living room, Bathroom cleaning
- Dusting
- Mopping
- Vacuuming
- Meal prep assistance
- Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly
- Lacombe, Blackfalds, Bentley, Clive and Lacombe County



Healthy Aging Alberta

SUPPORTED BY:

Lacombe & District FCSS:  
403-782-6637

Bentley FCSS:  
403-748-2160

Clive FCSS:  
403-784-2020

**CALL NOW!**






## 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**



## Seniors 55+ Wellness Mornings

*Special programming (no charge) on Mondays/Wednesdays*  
*"Live" Instructors are zoomed in on the large screen TV*

- Mondays 9:45 arrive 10 to 11 am **Seated Movers & Groovers**
- Wednesdays 10:30 arrive 10:45 to 11:45 am **Chair Yoga - light movements**

**Move your body, make connections & socialize!**  
Call 403.748.2160 Location: Town Office/Seniors Drop In space



*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 9:45 to 11 am **Seated Movers & Groovers**
- Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:45 **Chair Yoga - light movements**

Registration required for these programs  
**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

### Find Lacombe County online



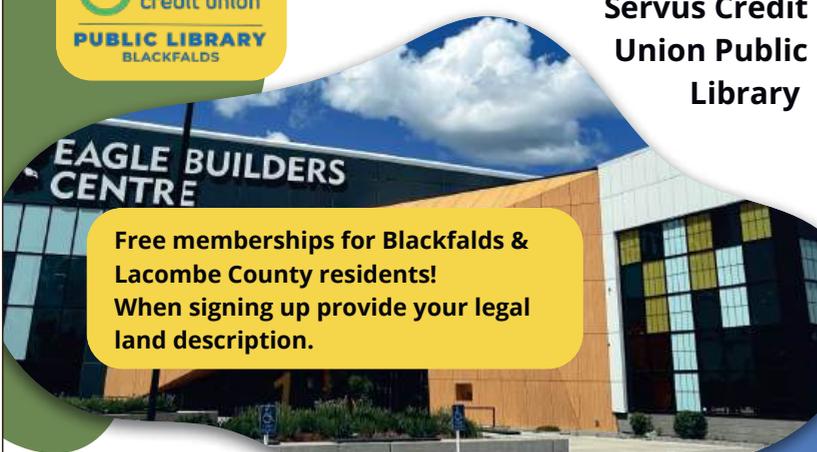
/LacombeCounty @lacombecounty Lacombe County /LacombeCounty lacombecounty.com

# AROUND THE COUNTY



**Blackfalds' Servus Credit Union Public Library**

**Free memberships for Blackfalds & Lacombe County residents!**  
When signing up provide your legal land description.



**EAGLE BUILDERS CENTRE**

**Programming**

- Baby & Toddler Time *Ages 0-3*
- Music & Movement *Ages 1-4*
- Crafty Corner & Games *Ages 6-9*
- Videogame Club *Ages 8+*
- After School Arts & Crafts *Ages 10+*
- English as a Second Language Instruction *Ages 18+*
- Family Board Games *All Ages*

*\*For more program info, check out our website & social medias*

**Borrowing**

From e-books, to audiobooks, to magazines, to our Library of Things, you'll be able to find what you need. Access our online collection from the comfort of your own home!

**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](http://www.blackfaldslibrary.ca)  
 Eagle Builders Centre 5302 Broadway Avenue  
 Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Visit us on our website & social medias



## 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 admission fitness month-for all water fitness classes and lane swims.
- Special programming for February Break runs February 16th-20th, 2026.
- March 16th-wear green and put your name in for a draw.
- March 22nd-28th, March break join us for special programming.
- March 29th, Beach Bash, 12:15-4:00 pm. Tickets on sale now!

For more information on the KAC schedule, pool rentals and advanced courses call 403.782.1278 or visit [www.lacombe.ca/pool](http://www.lacombe.ca/pool).



**City of LACOMBE**

## WHAT WE DO

Alix and Area Community Resource Centre

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## WINTER WISHES

online auction

When: March 11 - 23, 2026  
Where: Facebook @AlixandAreaCommunityResourceCentre

**Please look ahead to our next fundraiser and consider helping out!**  
*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 (during March).
  - 2) A pantry top-up to replenish staples, also available for anyone (during March).
  - 3) And an online auction, a fun way to support the Centre- either by donating or placing bids during the Facebook event.
- Auction details:**  
 We are accepting cash, gift cards, gift baskets, experiences or items. 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, before March 2, 2026, if you are interested in making a donation. (403) 588-5199



### 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](mailto:alixmirrorwellness@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook @AlixandAreaCommunityResourceCentre  
[www.alixcrc.com](http://www.alixcrc.com)

## MABCSS PRESENTS:



### 3RD ANNUAL MAY LONG SLO PITCH TOURNAMENT

MAY 15-18 2026  
 MIRROR ALBERTA BALL DIAMONDS & CAMPGROUND

FREE CAMPING  
 DIRT ROAD MUSIC CABARET SATURDAY NIGHT MAY 16 2026  
 \$450 ENTRY FEE  
 6M-4W FORMAT  
 UMPS PROVIDED FOR ALL GAMES  
 CASH PRIZES FOR BEST HILARIOUS TEAM UNIFORMS  
 DRINK TICKETS TO BE WON  
 FOOD TRUCK ON SITE

TEAM REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN    CONTACT MEAGAN: 403-741-8095

**Monday to Thursday**  **10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
 \*Closed all statutory holidays\*  
 Bay 1, 5008 50 Ave, Alix, AB  
**403-396-3369**

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS



**March 17**  
10am-4pm  
at: LMC

**COST \$60**  
includes  
lunch



### Marketing for Nonprofits WORKSHOP

This one day session provides an overview of how to apply marketing principles and create a marketing plan.

**Topics covered will include:**

- Defining your brand
- Defining your marketing mix (the four P's)
- Identifying your target audience
- Creating effective messaging
- Collaborating with the media and community
- Discussing marketing best practices

Register by March 10th by contacting CLLLA at 403-782-7955 or office@cilla.com

**March 31**  
10am-4pm  
at: LMC

**COST \$60**  
includes  
lunch

### Risk Management for Volunteer Managers WORKSHOP

The purpose of a Risk Management Plan is to protect your organization, staff, volunteers, and clients. Managing risk doesn't have to be an intimidating or overwhelming task! A successful risk management strategy is one that is tailored to you.

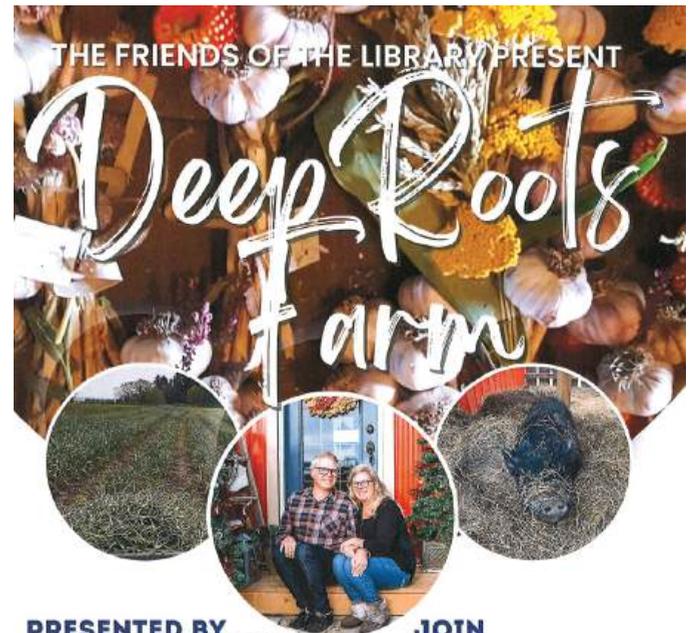
**In this 1-day workshop, you will discover how to:**

- Discover what is risk and risk management
- Define the in-depth process of risk management
- Create and implement a risk management plan
- Evaluate the outcomes

Register by March 24th by contacting CLLLA at 403-782-7955 or office@cilla.com

## LINCOLN HALL EVENTS

- AGM Meeting - March 10th
- Pancake Supper - April 25
- Easter Bingo and Cake Walk - April 2
- Spring Market - May 9



PRESENTED BY  
**MARK &  
BRENDA OF**



**JOIN  
US!**

- ✓ THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26
- ✓ 7PM in the Kinsmen Room in the LMC
- ✓ Free to attend

Mark and Brenda will share the inspiring story of their local regenerative farm

403-782-3433

5214 50 AVE LACOMBE

lacombelibrary.com

**FREE!** Fridays 9:30 to 11:30

**Stay & Play**  
Ages 0-6 with an adult



Location: Basement of Town Office  
Contact: Community Services 403-748-2160

**A Registration Form MUST be filled in prior to your child attending!**  
Please call 403-748-2160

**FREE!** Mondays 3:15 to 5:15  
**Kids Klub**

Grades 3 to 5

**Kids Klub**

Where young minds meet big ideas!



Town Office Basement - Community Room



403-748-2160



**FREE**

**SaturPlay**

10-12

Feb. 28/26

Basement of Bentley Town office

Bring your children!

Grab a coffee and meet new friends!



For information call Carolyn @ 403-896-3915

**WONDER STRUCK**

**SUMMER CAMPS**

gull lake centre  
creating space to connect

REGISTRATION OPENS JAN 7TH!

CAMP	AGES	DATE	PRICE + GST
Scamper	5 - 7	June 19 - 21	\$180
Scamper's Adult	18+	June 19 - 21	\$180
LTD Week	14 - 18	June 27 - July 3	See web
Family Camp	All ages	July 5 - 10	See web
Jr. Teens 1	12 - 14	July 12 - 17	\$590**
Kids	9 - 11	July 19 - 24	\$590**
Teens *NEW*	13 - 15	July 26 - 31	\$590**
Juniors	7 - 10	Aug 4 - 7	\$480**
Jr. Teens 2	12 - 14	Aug 9 - 14	\$590**
Sr. Teens	15 - 18	Aug 16 - 22	\$620**

\*\*EARLY BIRD \$50 OFF UNTIL FEB 28, 2026

camp@gulllakecentre.ca    403-782-2495    gulllakecentre.ca

# Arena Grand Re-Opening

March 26, 2026  
Established: 1965-1966

**YOU'RE INVITED**

- 5-6pm **Public Skate**
- 6:15pm **U5/U7 short game**
- 7pm **Opening Ceremonies**
- 7:15pm **Alumni and Celebrities Game In Memory and Honor of Tyler Haarstad**

Town of Bentley  
the place to be

## Lacombe Arts Endowment Grant 2026 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](http://www.lacombe.ca) or by calling 403-782-1258. Application packages can also be picked up in person at City Hall.

**Application Deadline is the last business day in March**

# LACOMBE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2026

LACOMBE FCSS & THE CITY OF LACOMBE  
April 23, 2026  
Lacombe Memorial Center - Doors Open 5:30pm

Nominations for the 2025 Volunteer Awards are open.

Categories: Scan Here to Nominate!

- Leaders of Tomorrow (Age 8-11)
- Leaders of Tomorrow (Age 12-14)
- Leaders of Tomorrow (Age 15-18)
- Volunteer of the Year Adult (Age 19-59)
- Volunteer of the Year Senior (Age 60+)
- Business of the Year - Corporate Volunteerism
- Family Volunteers of the Year (2 or more)

Look for the nomination forms and information on our website.  
Recognize a volunteer in our community today!

APRIL 17 & 18, 2026

# ENCORE ART SALE

Lacombe Memorial Centre

**A Celebration Of The Arts**

**ARTISTS CALL TO ENTER**  
[WWW.LACOMBE.CA/ARTSALE](http://WWW.LACOMBE.CA/ARTSALE)

CITY OF LACOMBE

# MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Working Well Workshop (6:30pm)	5	6	7
8	9	10 Hamlet of Mirror ASP Public Meeting	11	12 County Council (9AM)	13 County News Submissions Due	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 County News Published	21
22	23	24	25	26 County Council (9AM) Crop Disease Info session (10AM)	27	28
29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	3 Good Friday (Office Closed)	4

**Upcoming Events:** April 3: Good Friday (Office Closed), April 6: Easter (in lieu of Easter Sunday), April 7: Committee of the Whole, April 9: County Council Meeting, April 23: County Council Meeting.

## ATTENTION: Notification of Access for County Assessors

Under the authority of the Municipal Government Act, Part 9, Lacombe County's Assessors regularly visit properties throughout the municipality to collect and verify the information for the purpose of preparing property assessments. An inspection may occur at any time throughout the day between 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m.

Assessors operate vehicles marked as the Lacombe County and carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at the Lacombe County Administration Office at 403-782-6601.

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

For current road conditions on X, safely follow @DriveBC

## 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
Mark Visscher, Div. 3 (mvisscher@lacombecounty.com)		403.350.4709
Dwayne West, Div. 4 (dwest@lacombecounty.com)		403.660.2328
Roger Van Haren, Div. 5 (rvanharen@lacombecounty.com)		403.896.9931
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	
Cajun Paradis, Director of Planning Services cparadis@lacombecounty.com	
Dion Burlock, Director of Community Services dburlock@lacombecounty.com	

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



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

## COUNTY NEWS

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