

# County News

Friday, March 20, 2026 | Volume 3

## Task Force leads coordinated advocacy in Lacombe Research & Development Centre closure review

The City of Lacombe and Lacombe County, together with regional and agricultural partners, are providing an update on federal efforts to review the proposed closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre (LRDC).

“This isn’t just a local issue — this is a national research asset,” said City of Lacombe Mayor Thalia Hibbs. “For more than a century, the LRDC has delivered the kind of independent, high value agricultural research that Canada relies on. Losing it would undermine food security, reduce competitiveness, and take away opportunities for students, researchers, and producers across the country.”

### ADVOCACY PROGRESS & FEDERAL COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

On February 24 and 26, representatives from the LRDC Closure Response Task Force — including Mayor Hibbs, Lacombe County Reeve Ireland, and Western Crop Innovations research scientist Lori Oatway — appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri Food. Their testimony highlighted the Centre’s national research importance, economic impacts, and the irreplaceable nature of its long term scientific trials.

Following the hearings:

- The Task Force will submit a detailed report by March 19 outlining national, community, and industry impacts.
- The Standing Committee will then have 45 days to prepare and table its final report in Parliament.

“Producers across the Prairies — and around the world — rely on the research done in Lacombe,” said

Reeve Ireland. “Once you dismantle a research hub like this, the data, the expertise, and the continuity are gone forever. We owe it to the agricultural community to fight for its future.”

### WHAT THE TASK FORCE HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Through coordinated regional advocacy, the Task Force has:

- Lobbied the Federal Government to look into their decision to close the LRDC
- Successfully testified before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, asking for the decision to be reversed
- Generated significant national and provincial media coverage
- Built strong partnerships with agricultural organizations and industry groups
- Engaged rural municipalities across Alberta, many of whom have submitted letters of support
- Advanced municipal advocacy, including:
  - Resolutions will be presented at the Spring RMA Conference and Alberta Municipalities Spring Caucus calling for the federal government to reverse the closure;
  - Mayor Hibbs’ will provided remarks at the Alberta Municipalities Spring Caucus
- Prepared contingency plans with partners to respond to the final decision of the Standing Committee

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## Farm Vehicle Safety checks coming in April

Lacombe County’s two-day voluntary farm vehicle safety check event is back, taking place at our Tees (April 15) and Rainy Creek (April 16) satellite public works shops. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the safety and awareness within our agricultural industry, while also promoting ‘Vision Zero’—a key component of the Lacombe County Traffic Safety Plan.

‘Vision Zero’ embodies our belief that no loss of life on Alberta’s roads should be considered acceptable. By conducting Farm Vehicle Safety checks, we are taking a significant step towards ensuring our community remains safe and fostering a posi-

tive relationship with our local producers.

“Our local agricultural producers play a crucial role in our community, and it’s imperative that they can conduct their operations without the fear of being stranded or, worse, involved in an accident due to equipment failure,” said Rylan Zens, Lacombe County Community Peace Officer. “These checks are about education and collective effort to enhance road safety for everyone.”

In Alberta, farm vehicles are held to the same equipment regulations as commercial vehicles.

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# FROM FRONT: County to host voluntary Farm Vehicle Safety checks

Lacombe County's initiative aims to collaborate with our farming community to not only ensure compliance but also promote a positive image of our agricultural sector.

During the event, Commercial Vehicle Inspectors will conduct comprehensive safety inspections in accordance with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) standards. Participants will receive:

- A personalized vehicle inspection report detailing any safety concerns.
- Guidance on necessary repairs to ensure compliance.
- Answers to questions about electronic logging devices (ELD), load securement, and other transportation regulations, with Peace Officers on-site to assist.

For those operating under a Safety Fitness Certificate, inspection results will be recorded on Carrier Profiles. Please contact CPO Services for further clarification at 403-782-8959.

## EVENT DETAILS:

### Dates & Locations:

#### EAST LOCATION

April 15, 9 AM to 3 PM:  
Tees Shop, located at the intersection of Hwy 12 and Hwy 821, Tees.

#### WEST LOCATION

April 16 9 AM to 3 PM:  
Rainy Creek Shop, located on Rainy Creek Rd near RR 3-0.

## FARM VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKS

### Join us!

Lacombe County will be hosting a two-day voluntary farm vehicle safety check at our public works shops located in the east and west sides of the County.

The purpose of this check is to increase both the safety and the awareness of vehicle safety in our agricultural industry.

Reserve your spot on:

**April 15, 2026**

**East - Tees Shop**  
Hwy 12 and Hwy 821, near Tees  
9AM - 3PM

**April 16, 2026**

**West - Rainy Creek Shop**  
Rainy Creek Road, near RR 3-0  
9AM - 3PM

**Contact Community Services to book your spot**  
403-782-8959 | [tgessleman@lacombecounty.com](mailto:tgessleman@lacombecounty.com)

*Drop ins are welcome, but priority will be given to those who book an inspection appointment. Refreshments will be provided.*



### Additional Information:

We welcome you to drop in anytime between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Booking in advance is recommended to ensure priority; drop-ins will be accommodated if space permits.

For those bringing multiple vehicles, please stagger your arrivals by approximately 20 minutes to

facilitate a smooth process.

For more information or to book your inspection time, please call 403-782-8959 or email [tgessleman@lacombecounty.com](mailto:tgessleman@lacombecounty.com). We look forward to your participation in making our roads safer for everyone.

# FROM FRONT: Joint Task Force continues advocacy efforts regarding the Lacombe Research & Development Centre closure announcement

## NEXT STEPS

As the federal review process continues, the Task Force will:

- Submit the March 19 written brief
- Monitor the Standing Committee's 45 day reporting period
- Continue outreach with provincial and federal representatives
- Maintain consistent public messaging and address emerging misinformation
- Continue work on contingency options while prioritizing a full federal reversal

The City of Lacombe and Lacombe County remain united in seeking a full reversal of the closure decision.

We extend our sincere thanks to the producers, researchers, municipal partners, and community advocates whose voices continue to strengthen this effort. Updates will continue as the federal review unfolds.

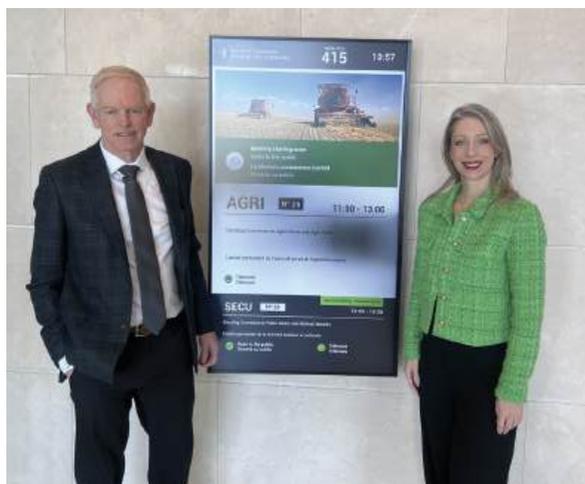
"Our community, our producers, and our partners across the province have shown how much this

Centre means. We will continue advocating tirelessly until this decision is reversed," said Mayor Hibbs.

"This research belongs to all Canadians," added Reeve Ireland. "We will continue pushing for a solution that protects the LRDC's legacy — and its future."

The Task Force continues to publish updates and media coverage at:

- Lacombe County: [www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC](http://www.lacombecounty.com/LRDC)
- City of Lacombe: [www.lacombe.ca/LRDC](http://www.lacombe.ca/LRDC)



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



2026 Lacombe & District Tradeshow

# MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

 **FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2025**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**

 **FRIDAY: 2-8 PM**  
**SATURDAY: 10AM - 4PM**

 **LOCATION:**  
**GARY MOE SPORTSPLEX**  
5429 53 St, Lacombe, AB

Take this opportunity to meet with Lacombe County Councillors and County Staff about the issues and updates that matter to YOU!



## Lacombe County is holding a PUBLIC HEARING



to update the *Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw*

BYLAW NOS. 1453/26 & 1454/26

Lacombe County reviews the *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw* each year to ensure the documents continue to support our community's vision. If you are a County landowner, resident, or business, we encourage you to participate in the upcoming Public Hearing and provide feedback on the proposed changes.

Back in 2017 when the *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw* were adopted, the County committed itself to accountable and transparent decision-making and annual progress reporting. This allows the County to strive for continual improvement each year and ensures the documents are 'living documents', continuing to stay up-to-date with trends in land use planning, development pressures in the area, and the needs and desires of the local community.

### WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

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

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

### WHEN IS THE PUBLIC HEARING?

 **Thursday, April 9, 2026**

 **9:15 AM**

### HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

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

- 1 Attend and speak in person**  
**Lacombe County Office, Council Chambers**  
*Located 2½ miles west of Highway 2 at the intersection of Spruceville Road and Highway 12*
- 2 Attend and speak virtually**  
**Join by Zoom or by Phone**  
Instructions for accessing the meeting by phone or computer/laptop can be found on the County's website at [www.lacombecounty.com/annualreview](http://www.lacombecounty.com/annualreview)
- 3 Provide written comments**  
If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing but want to provide input, please send your comments to Planning Services prior to April 9, 2026. Your comments can be sent by:  
**EMAIL** [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com)  
**FAX** 403-782-3820, or  
**MAIL** RR 3, Lacombe AB, T4L 2N3

All submissions will be public information.

For more information contact Planning Services  
Cajun Paradis, Director of Planning Services  
403-782-8389 or [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com)

or learn more at

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



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## Discover Ag

Stay Safe. Grow Smart.



Hands-on Interactive Learning

Livestock & Agricultural Experience

Safe, Family-Friendly Activities

**April 18, 2026**

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Westerner Park | Neeralta Pavilion | Free Admission!

Discover Alberta's rich agricultural landscape and meet the people who help put food on your table. Explore interactive learning activities, live demonstrations, livestock exhibits, vendor booths, and more!

[westernerpark.ca/events/discover-ag](http://westernerpark.ca/events/discover-ag)



# SAFETY FIRST



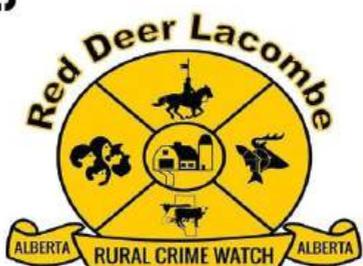
**YOU'RE INVITED!**

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

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

**6:30pm**

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.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**March 28th, 2026**

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

# 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.



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.

## Fire Permit season began 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.

"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>.

### 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.

# MIRROR CORNER



**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)

Join Us For An  
**EASTER Party**

CRAFTS, GAMES, SNACKS, PRIZES  
Hotdogs also provided

**MARCH 28 1 PM**

MIRROR COMMUNITY HALL  
SPONSORED BY MIRROR REC SOCIETY  
AND LACOMBE COUNTY RC9 GRANT

**Tees Chili Cook-off and Family Fun Bingo  
Saturday April 18**



The Tees Ag. Society is hosting a Chili Cook-off followed by an evening of Family Fun Bingo. Submit your favorite chili to the community test. Or come and sample the chilies, select the winner and then join us for Bingo games.

All ages welcome. Many prizes to be won!!

When: Saturday, April 18  
Where: Tees Community Hall  
Time(s): 5:30 pm – Chili Cook-off entries (please bring your chili in a slow cooker)  
6:00 pm - Chili tasting and supper  
6:30 pm - Bingo Card sales begin  
7:00 pm - Bingo Games begin

Cost: \$5.00/person  
\$20.00/family for chili supper complete with fixin`s  
Free supper for cook-off entrants  
Bingo cards are \$1 each and are good for the evening.



Enter a Chili: Contact Crystal at 403-304-8080  
More information: Contact Carla at 403-784-3055 or 587-447-8199

Special thanks to Lacombe County for sponsoring this event!!

## 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.

**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.albertaspc.ca>.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@ccewireless.ca](mailto:mmuseum@ccewireless.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.

# OPERATIONS

## Your Roads Explained: CULVERT AWARENESS

### What to know this spring

Each spring, parts of Lacombe County may experience runoff backup due to frozen culverts. Frozen culverts can create problems with the natural flow of water.

If you see a culvert backup issue, please call the County Office (403-782-6601), the County Shop (403-782-3567), or email [operations@lacombe-county.com](mailto:operations@lacombe-county.com). The Operations Department will be responsible for coordinating and prioritizing action based on the need and severity of the situation. **Please note that Lacombe County crews do NOT go onto private property to clean out or steam the culverts.**

Lacombe County has developed a Flood Mitigation Plan to deal with flooding and flood-related issues. The plan addresses immediate, medium, and long-term processes to properly and safely manage a flood event.

Residents should be cautious and avoid venturing into unsafe areas where there may be washouts or other spring runoff. Watch for hazards

and ensure the road is stable when approaching flooded areas and washouts. Remember, your safety comes first! Lacombe County will use media releases, website updates and social media posts to inform residents of road closures and dangerous areas.

We use a steamer truck for opening up frozen culverts. This piece of equipment is essential in the case of a slow melt where the temperatures drop at night, causing ice blockages. The County prioritizes its efforts to clear blocked culverts based on road usage and severity.

Extreme weather events can threaten bridges and major culverts. Localized flooding is the most common situation in Lacombe County, which is usually short-term with minor traffic disruptions.

Major flooding is more prevalent on the Blindman River and the Medicine River. The bridges south of Bentley are the most prone to possible damage. The bridges in the County's northwest area, which mostly are standard bridges, may also be threatened. Implementing detour routes for road and bridge repairs will cause inconvenience but should not isolate residents.



## 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
			TOTAL \$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.



# Annual Review

## Municipal Development Plan & Land Use Bylaw

### Frequently Asked Questions

When the *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw* were adopted in 2017, the County committed itself to being accountable and transparent in its decision-making by monitoring the effectiveness the implementation of the policies each year.

This allows the County to strive for continual improvement each year and ensures the plans are ‘living documents’, continuing to stay up-to-date with trends in planning and development and the needs and desires of the local community.

Every year, the County publishes an annual review report, which is basically a “report card” of how each policy of the *Municipal Development Plan* is performing. The findings of the report, with Council direction, are used to draft bylaw amendments, leading to continuous improvement and fine-tuning of our policies every year.

#### WHAT ARE THESE PLANS?

Lacombe County’s *Municipal Development Plan* is our community’s vision for the future. It outlines a framework for how certain parts of the County can grow and develop into various compatible land uses

while preserving all other lands for agriculture.

The County’s *Land Use Bylaw* is the implementation tool of the *Municipal Development Plan* and places all land in the County into land use districts, outlining how development can occur in each district.

Combined, these two documents ensure community interests are protected; development is safe and logical; and opportunities for development are provided at strategic locations while ensuring large tracts of agricultural lands elsewhere are protected for future generations.

#### WHAT CHANGES ARE BEING PROPOSED THIS YEAR?

Proposed changes to the *Municipal Development Plan*:

- Amend the confined feeding operation referral policy to add that no new or expanded confined feeding operation shall be permitted less than 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) from the boundary of Chain Lakes, Gabriel Lake, Gadsby Lake, and Spotted Lakes

Proposed changes to the *Land Use Bylaw*:

#### Public Submissions

- Remove ‘recovery centre on W ½ Pt. SW 16-39-01-W5M’ as a discretionary use in the Agricultural ‘A’ District.
- Amend the off-road vehicle storage regulations in the Recreational Vehicle Resort ‘R-RVR’ District to allow for two off-road vehicle units per condo unit and consider a trailer as one off-road vehicle unit, and clarify wording related to outdoor storage provisions

#### Assorted Housekeeping Amendments

- Amend the maximum height of accessory buildings in country and lakeshore residential districts from 20 ft (6.10 m) to 24 ft (7.32 m).

#### HOW CAN I SUBMIT MY FEEDBACK?

Council has scheduled a **PUBLIC HEARING** to hear your feedback on the proposed bylaw changes.

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

valued and encouraged.

**For full information on the public hearing, please see the ad on Page 5.**

#### WHERE DO I FIND THE ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT?

To read the 2025 review of the *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw*, draft bylaws, and see more information, please visit [www.lacombecounty.com/annualreview](http://www.lacombecounty.com/annualreview) or scan the QR code to read on your mobile device.



**Any Questions?** If you have any questions about the annual review, please contact Planning Services at 403-782-8389 or [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com).

# 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.

# 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





# The Temporary Electric Fence: the Greatest Thing Since Sliced Bread?

By Ken Lewis, ALUS Coordinator

For some, the title of this article might put an old jingle from a certain TV commercial for peanut butter in your head. My apologies if so.

But aside from that: is temporary fencing one of the best tools you can use for your livestock grazing management?

Short answer is: Yes (in my opinion). But, let's look at the longer answer.

We'll use a basic example (see the air photo):

- Black lines are the original permanent, four-wire barbed fence around the large pasture
- Yellow/green lines are new cross fences, dividing the 120 acre pasture into 4 roughly equal sized (~30 acre) smaller "paddocks" for rotational grazing.
- In total, these 3 new fencelines are 1.2 miles long
- Water is provided to each paddock, at the trough shown in blue (where the paddocks all come together)
- With the new fencing and watering, rotational grazing with significant growing season rest periods can now happen in this pasture.

## Comparison: Single-Wire Temporary Electric Fence vs. 3-wire Barbed Permanent Fence

In the table below, I'm putting in "typical" numbers. Go ahead and put your own numbers in, for your farm/ranch.

	3-WIRE BARBED	1-STRAND ELECTRIC
Materials	3-4" 6' posts, spaced 16' apart; standard staples; 19,008' of wire; 3 gates; 9 braces. COST: \$7,560	Pigtail step-in posts, spaced ~30' apart; energizer, ground rods, 3 gates; leads. COST: \$3,420
Labour and Equipment	15 hours x 2 people x \$30 per hour + 2 day post pounder rental X \$150 per day. COST: \$1,200	6 hours x 1 person X \$30 per hour. COST: \$180
Total Cost (1.2 miles of cross fencing)	\$8,760	\$3,600

So, based on these "typical" numbers, the temporary electric fence is roughly 40% of the costs of the permanent barbed wire fence.

What about factors other than cost? Here's a pros and cons look at some of these other factors.

FACTOR	SINGLE-STRAND ELECTRIC	3-WIRE BARBED
Wildlife	Wildlife friendly, especially if taken out when cows aren't there	Can be wildlife friendly with 42" maximum top wire, and 18" minimum bottom wire heights. Friendliness improves if gates left open when cows aren't there
Lifespan of fence	10 + years (especially if taken out and stored when cows not there)	20 + years
"Changeability" / Adaptability	Maximum. You can change the fenceline locations, paddock sizes etc. whenever you want with just a bit of labour	Minimal, without a whole bunch of work (pulling staples, rerolling wire, pulling and repounding posts, etc).
Repairs (due to a cow or a moose going through, a tree falling on it, etc.	Not difficult: splice the wire, replace a broken post or two. Minimal tools or equipment needed.	Not difficult: splice the wire, re-staple on a post or two, replace a broken post or two. May need tools / equipment (wire stretcher, post pounder)
Training (of livestock)	Requires training of livestock (to varying degrees), so that the fence becomes a "psychological" barrier	Does not require training. It is a physical barrier.
Labour	By definition: it is removed and installed each year	By definition: One-time installation only.
Technology	"High Tech" – Things to think about include the energizer, grounding, lightning protection	"Low (No) Tech" – things to think about include keeping wires tight

You can probably think of many more factors and the pros and cons of each type of fence. If you'd like to learn how ALUS can help you adopt electric fencing for adaptive grazing management and ecosystems services production from your riparian areas and forest areas, please contact us any time:

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



FREE

## ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOP

Get help completing YOUR EFP

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program helps identify and mitigate environmental risks in your operation, enhances understanding of beneficial management practices, and can increase profitability while qualifying for grant funding through EFP certification.

**Wednesday**  
April 15, 2026

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
*Subway lunch provided*

**Lacombe County Administration Building**  
40403 Range Road 27-4

TO REGISTER:

Please create an account before this session at [www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com) or call for assistance. Participants need to bring their own laptop or tablet

CALL: 403-783-8959

EMAIL: [jmakus@lacombecounty.com](mailto: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
- ✓ Hands-on Fruit and Ornamental Tree Pruning tips
- ✓ AND MORE!! Make sure to bring YOUR tree questions

*This is a hands-on workshop. Please bring your own pruning shears*

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

## 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 | 9 AM - 3 PM**  
12 PM: 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](mailto:jmakus@lacombecounty.com)

<b>9:00 – 9:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and Coffee/Refreshments Welcome</b>	
9:30 am	Dr. Mike Harding <i>Plant Pathologist, AAFC Brooks</i>	An overview and findings from crop disease surveys in Alberta
10:00 am	Dr. T.K. Turkington <i>Plant Pathologist, AAFC Lacombe</i>	What is the Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network (PCDMN) and how it can benefit you and your farm.
10:20 am	Dr. Sajid Rehman <i>Research Scientist, WCI Lacombe</i>	The role of disease resistance for barley leaf spots and fusarium head blight management
<b>10:40 am</b>	<b>Break Coffee/Refreshments</b>	
11:00 am	Dr. Reem Aboukhaddour <i>Research Scientist, AAFC Lethbridge</i>	The latest on stripe rust of cereals in Alberta and implications for management
11:20 am	Dr. Stephen Strelkov & Yixiao (Becky) Wang <i>University of Alberta</i>	Blackleg and clubroot of canola: The latest on these diseases and the use of host resistance to combat those disease
11:40 am	Dr. Syama Chatterton <i>Plant Pathologist, AAFC Lethbridge</i>	The latest on Aphanomyces of field peas and lentils and potential management strategies
12:00 pm	Dr. Robyne Davidson <i>Pulse Research Specialist, Lakeland College</i>	Pulse Disease Management with alternative pulse crops.
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00 -3:00 pm	Networking	Network with the professionals. View and participate in a variety of demonstrations addressing key disease issues

# 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.

**LACOMBE COUNTY**

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**

# SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

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

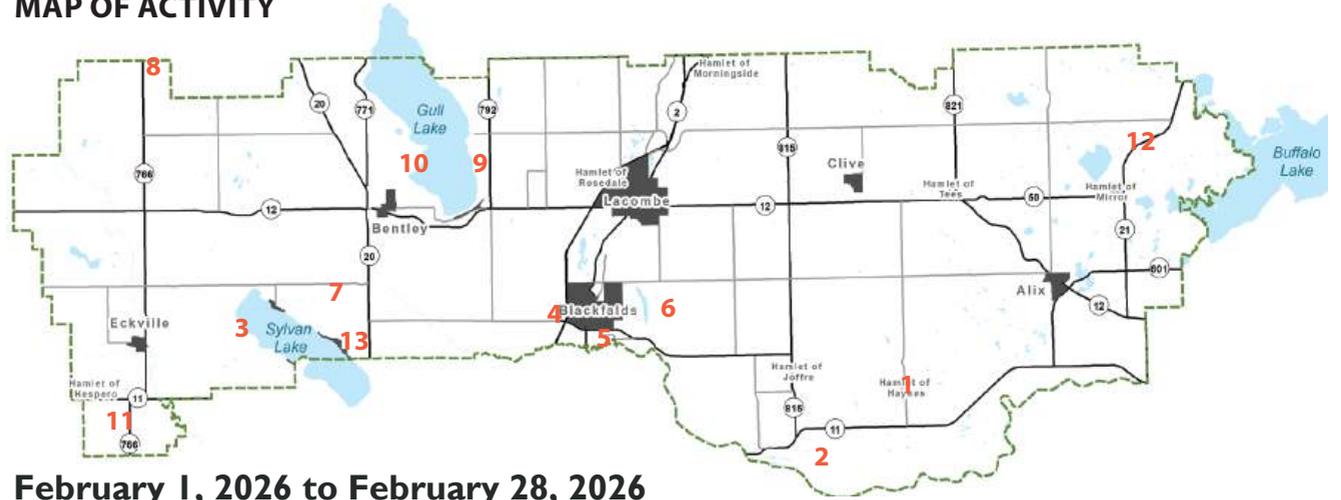
**Natasha Wright**  
 Planner / Development Officer

**Will Cebuliak**  
 Planning Intern

**Allison Noonan**  
 Planning Services Administrative Assistant

**Daniella Gonzalez**  
 Planning Services Receptionist

**MAP OF ACTIVITY**



**February 1, 2026 to February 28, 2026**

**Development Applications Received**

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Development	Decision
1	14/26	Lawrence & Jessica Vogel	Lots 8-10, Block 2 Plan 7702AY (Hamlet of Haynes)	Detached Garage	Approved
2	15/26	Chad & Emma Nixon	Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 062 872 (Jones Creek Meadows)	Home Based Business, Major Renewal, Four Arrow Equipment Services	Approved
3	16/26	Callaghan Construction Ltd.	Lot 13 Block 1 Plan 074-0786 (Eagles Quay, Sylvan Lake)	Dwelling, Single Detached w/attached garage, covered porch, two verandas & detached shed	Approved
4	17/26	Big League Cultivation	Lot 2 Block 3 Plan 072-9331 (Aspelund Industrial Park)	Outdoor Storage <i>Tsunami Water Solution</i>	
5	18/26	Falcon Homes (2020) Ltd.	Lot 7 Block 1 Plan 192 1146 (Burbank Heights)	Dwelling, Single Detached w/attached garage and veranda	Approved
6	19/26	Burnt Lake Trail Construction Ltd.	SW 27-39-26-W4M	Dwelling, Single Detached w/attached garage & covered deck Third Dwelling on property	Approved
7	20/26	Tanya Lee	Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 232 1465 (Pt. NW 32-39-1-W5M)	Dwelling, First w/attached garage & covered deck	Approved
8	21/26	Adam LeBlanc & Elizabeth Ellsworth	Pt. NW 34-41-03-W5M	Dwelling, First w/attached shop Replacement dwelling	Approved
9	22/26	Veld Homes	Lot 3 Block 1 Plan 172 0385 (Wilson's Beach Estates)	Dwelling, Single Detached w/attached garage, covered patio & screened in porch	Approved
10	23/26	Delta Land Co. Inc.	Lot 1 Block 2 Plan 142 2128 (Sandy Point RV Resort)	Eating and Drinking Establishment Clubhouse w/partially covered decks	Approved

**Subdivision Applications Received**

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Subdivision	Decision
11	S-003-26	Colin & Debra McMann	NE 29-38-03-W5M	1st Parcel Out	
12	S-004-26	Terry Buelow	SE 11-41-22-W4M	Fragmented Parcel	Approved
13	S-005-26	Bemoco Land Surveying Ltd.	W 1/2 SW 16-39-01-W5M	Public Use (Lighthouse Christian Academy)	

# How to Get the Most Out of Your Perennial Forage

Many dairy and beef producers are looking to establish perennial forages this year, and like any crop, seeding forage is an investment. Successful establishment requires careful planning, good management, and a bit of cooperation from Mother Nature.

## Start With Good Land Preparation

Beginning with a clean field is essential. Small forage seeds can be easily outcompeted by fast growing weeds, so take the time to apply a burn down to remove weed pressure before seeding. Use the footprint test to check seedbed firmness, only a faint footprint should be left when walking across the field.



## Choose the Right Species for Your Conditions

Select species that best suit your field characteristics and production goals. Consider factors such as:

- Soil variability (alkaline areas, low spots, etc.)
- Intended use (hay, grazing, or a dual purpose stand)
- Moisture trends in recent years as some species tolerate drought far better than others.

## Invest in High Quality Seed

Purchasing Certified No. 1 seed reduces the risk of weed contamination and improves germination success. This step is often overlooked but can make the difference between a productive stand and a disappointing one.

## Soil Testing and Fertility

Conduct a soil test to determine nutrient availability. Like other crops, forages require nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulphur. Applying a portion of nutrients with the seed is beneficial, but always check safe rates for seed placed fertilizer to avoid seedling injury. Seeding rates vary by region, and seeding depth should remain shallow, only 1/2 to 3/4 inch. Because the small forage seeds contain limited energy, excessive depth can severely hinder emergence.

## Using Cover Crops Wisely

Cover crops can be a valuable tool when establishing perennials by providing shelter from wind and heat, while also generating first year forage.

If using a cover crop, always cut the seeding rate in half to reduce competition with the young forage seedlings. Ensure you are considering your long term goals, the forage stand or the cover crop?

## Timing Your Seeding

Early spring seeding is ideal, offering good moisture conditions and a full season for establishment. Early summer seeding can also work if adequate moisture is present. For wet areas that are difficult to access in spring, consider dormant seeding. However, it is critical that the seed does not germinate before winter, or it may not make it through the winter. Keep in mind that perennial forages often require one to two years to fully establish, so patience is key.

## Maintaining and Rejuvenating Stands

Over time, forage stands may require rejuvenation to remain productive. Consult your Agronomist or Seed Representative for guidance on the best practices for long term stand health. If you need assistance choosing the best forage species for your operation, feel free to reach out to me, I'm always happy to help.

*Submitted by Michelle Brown*

*Regional Sales Manager, DLF Canada (Pickseed)*



## Lacombe County is holding a PUBLIC HEARING

to rescind the Ponoka County/Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan

BYLAW NO. 1456/26



Lacombe County is proposing to rescind the Ponoka County/Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan.

First Reading to Bylaw 1456/26 was given on February 26, 2026 by Lacombe County Council.

### WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

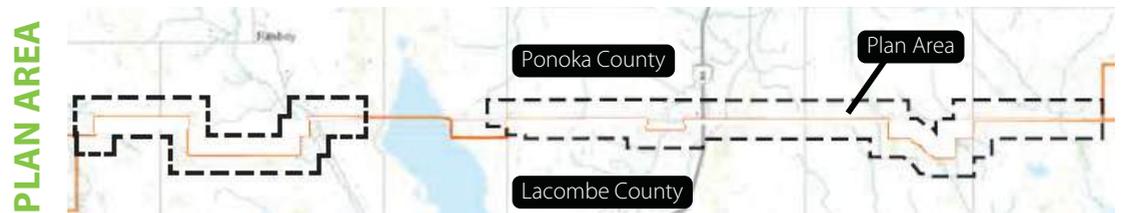
A Public Hearing presents the proposed bylaw, and gives members of the public an opportunity to speak to Council about it and provide input. Your input is valued and encouraged!

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

### WHEN IS THE PUBLIC HEARING?

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

**9:00 AM**



### HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

**1 Attend and speak in person**  
Lacombe County Office,  
Council Chambers

*Located 2 1/2 miles west of Highway 2 at the intersection of Spruceville Road and Highway 12*

**2 Attend and speak virtually**  
Join by Zoom or by Phone

Instructions for accessing the meeting by phone or computer/laptop can be found on the County's website at [www.lacombecounty.com/ponokacountyIDP](http://www.lacombecounty.com/ponokacountyIDP)

**3 Provide written comments**

If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing but want to provide input, please send your comments to Planning Services prior to April 9, 2026. Your comments can be sent by:

**EMAIL** [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com)  
**FAX** 403-782-3820, or  
**MAIL** RR 3, Lacombe AB, T4L 2N3

For more information  
contact Planning Services  
Will Cebuliak, Planning Intern  
403-782-8389 or [planning@lacombecounty.com](mailto:planning@lacombecounty.com)

or learn more at

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



# Medicine Hills Ski Lodge celebrates grand reopening

Some Lacombe County Council members helped celebrate the official reopening of the Samson T-Bar at Medicine Hills Ski Lodge following major upgrades to the hill's main lift. These improvements mark an important milestone for the community-run ski area, enhancing safety, reliability, and the overall experience for local families and visitors.

The Medicine Lodge Ski Club undertook a significant modernization of the Samson T-Bar, including a new deropement safety system, updated electronics, a variable-speed drive wheel, and

replacement of the lift's Ts with durable modern spring box assemblies. In addition, the Club is completing a desktop water supply feasibility study to explore the potential for future snow-making at the hill.

The total project budget is \$427,436, supported through a combination of organizational funds, local government grants, and provincial funding. Once all grant funding is finalized, Lacombe County's contribution will total \$190,637, including both direct capital support and in-kind assistance with spatial (GIS) data for the water study.

The project aligns with recommendations from the 2023 Medicine Lodge Ski Hill Masterplan and Asset Utilization Study, a partnership initiative between the Town of Bentley, the Ski Club, and Lacombe County.

The County is pleased to support this important regional recreational amenity, helping ensure Medicine Hills Ski Lodge remains a vibrant, accessible winter destination for residents and visitors for years to come.



## ASSESSMENT 101 | *What you need to know*

The Assessment Department has completed and filed the 2026 Assessment roll by the legally required deadline of February 28. The standard for property valuation is "market value" unless otherwise stated in the Legislation. Market value is the most probable value a property could be expected to realize in the open market with typical conditions, presuming knowledgeable buyers and sellers as of a specified date. For the 2026 assessment, the specified valuation date is July 1, 2025. The assessment must reflect the property's physical characteristics and usage as of December 31, 2025.

### PROPERTY INSPECTIONS IN 2026

More than 3,000 properties were inspected or reviewed to prepare the 2026 assessment roll. Inspections/reviews were completed for the following reasons:

- validate sale details & update the physical characteristics of properties that transferred ownership between July 2024 and July 2025,
- physical changes to property (new construction, renovations, removals),
- update the physical characteristics where new information became available (e.g. lot servicing in Mirror, subdivisions consolidations, Crown or municipal lease agreements), and/or
- update changes to the usage of the property.

### UNREPORTED CHANGES

In previous newsletters we've asked property

owners to advise us when buildings have been removed from their property so we can maintain an accurate record. These changes needed to be verified by December 31, 2025 to be reflected on this year's assessment notice. If an assessor could not verify these changes prior to December 31, 2025, we will not be able to make the change for the 2026 tax year. Once we can verify the changes we update the record for the 2027 tax year.

### AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2026

General re-inspections were completed on the properties in the subdivisions near both Gull Lake and Sylvan Lake. New information about the land servicing became available in the Hamlet Mirror, the land portion of the assessed value was reviewed and updated to reflect the new information for all lots in Mirror. Property owners in these areas may notice changes in their value different from the typical change expected by the class.

### PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAX NOTICES

Currently, Lacombe County assessment and tax notices are combined and mailed on one notice. Although assessments are complete, property tax rates have not yet been determined. The overall tax rates consist of three parts: the portion required by Council to support municipal infrastructure and services, the Provincial Education portion, and the Senior's Housing portion. A tax rate is determined for each assessment class. These rates are applied to your 2026 property assessment, by assessment class, to determine the total taxes levied on your property for the calendar year of 2026. Once Council sets the tax rates the combined notices can be generated and mailed.

**NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS** Lacombe County municipal Assessors are continuously reviewing and visiting properties throughout the municipality 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 questions or concerns, do not 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 Bespalko

# WILD

## About Bees

**We know native pollinators are on the decline, but what's the most effective way we can help?**

**Create more HABITAT!**

This April, Lacombe County invites you to support local pollinators by purchasing our specially curated pollinator seed mix and the informative Wild About Bees handbook.

**Wild About Bees Handbook & Seed Mix - \$22.92**

Your package includes:

- Step-by-step instructions on creating a high-quality pollinator garden specifically designed for native pollinators
- Guide for every species included in your seed package
- A list of Lacombe County's top 20 favourite pollinators
  - Information on additional resources to support your gardening efforts

**The seed mix contains 100% native wildflowers, carefully selected and thoroughly researched to thrive within the Aspen Parkland Ecoregion.**

**How to Purchase:**

Once ready, you can pick up your Wild About Bees handbook and seed package at the Lacombe County Office (Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm).

Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for updates and details about the program launch!

**Pick up your Wild About Bees handbook and seed package at the Lacombe County Office (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm)**

**Watch our website and/or social media channels for details regarding the launch of this program**

**LACOMBE COUNTY**

## WE'RE HIRING!

### Community Peace Officer

Full-Time Position  
10-hour days on a 4-day rotation

**Full Details**  
[www.lacombecounty.com/careers](http://www.lacombecounty.com/careers)

Apply by April 1, 2026 to [hr@lacombecounty.com](mailto:hr@lacombecounty.com)

**LACOMBE COUNTY**

## WE'RE HIRING!

### Deputy County Fire Chief

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

**Full Details**  
[www.lacombecounty.com/careers](http://www.lacombecounty.com/careers)

Apply by April 1, 2026 to [hr@lacombecounty.com](mailto:hr@lacombecounty.com)

**CAFLA**  
CENTRAL ALBERTA FORAGE AND LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

# WE ARE HIRING

### AGROLOGIST / REGISTERED TECHNOLOGIST IN AGROLOGY / CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR

**What you'll be doing:**

- ✓ On-farm demo projects
- ✓ Soil & forage sampling
- ✓ Producer advisory + support
- ✓ Workshops, field days & extension
- ✓ Working with partners & researchers

**JOIN OUR TEAM**

To apply:  
Email resume + brief cover letter to [tatyana@cafla-ab.ca](mailto:tatyana@cafla-ab.ca)  
Subject: Agrologist / CCA Application - [Your Name]

Visit our website to view the full job posting <https://cafla-ab.ca/careers/>

## 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 Paskapoo 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/>.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 12, 2026

## PARKING FEE EXEMPTION FOR LACOMBE COUNTY RATEPAYERS

Council approved amendments to the paid parking program at the Sandy Point Beach and Boat Launch, and the Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch. Lacombe County ratepayers will now receive free parking for up to three vehicles per tax roll account. An information campaign will be launched to explain the details of the program.

## ACCRETION RELATED ROAD CLOSURES

Council approved the road closures and consolidation of approximately 2.925 hectares adjacent to Gull Lake to facilitate land accretion of the following road plans:

- Part of 9th Avenue, Plan 2026 AJ containing 0.111 hectares
- Part of 8th Avenue, Plan 2026 AJ containing 0.064 hectares
- Parts of Lanes, Block 42, Plan 2026 AJ containing 0.056 hectares
- Lake View Walk, Plan 2026 AJ containing 2.694 hectares

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB) MEETING NOTES

Council reviewed the minutes of the January 14, 2026 Lacombe County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting and approved the recommendations as follows:

- That the Wild Boar Regulation Report be received for information.

- That the presentations from Alberta Beef Producers, Western Crop Innovations and Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum be received for information.
- That the County Manager draft amendments to Policy AG(4), Coyote Control Devices and Chemicals, to align with the Compound 1080 Product Stewardship Program for review at a future ASB meeting.
- That the 2025 Insect Surveillance Report be received for information.
- That the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions be received for information.
- That the 2026 Agricultural Extension Activities Report be received for information.
- That the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference agenda be received for information.
- That the Pre-session Worksheet be received for information.

Council approved the January 14, 2026, Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes as presented.

## ALBERTA LAMB PRODUCERS FUNDING REQUEST

A funding request from the Alberta Lamb Producers to support the development of Livestock Guardian Dog Best Management Practices and public education resources did not receive Council approval.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY AND GUIDEBOOK

Council approved revisions to Policy AD(40), Public Participation, along with an updated guidebook: Your County, Your Conversation: How and Why You Should Get Involved in the Decision Making Process.

## CLIVE MINOR BALL 2026 RC(1) RECREATION CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

Council approved \$7,343 in funding for the Clive Minor Ball's Ball Diamond

Scoreboard project. The funding will come from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

## TOWN OF BLACKFALDS 2025 RC(1) RECREATION CAPITAL FUNDING REQUESTS

Council approved \$89,356 in funding to the Town of Blackfalds for 2025 projects, including the guest services area renovation project at the Abbey Centre and the new football/soccer field constructed at the Iron Ridge Secondary School Campus. The funding will come from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

## PAUL HANKINS AND SAM HANKINS - PRESENTATION REGARDING FIRE INVOICING

Council received a presentation from Paul and Sam Hankins regarding concerns related to their fire invoice. Council directed the County Manager to prepare a report and recommendation for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

## AL SCHOLING - PRESENTATION REGARDING FIRE INVOICING

Council received a presentation from Al Scholing regarding concerns related to his fire invoice. Council directed the County Manager to prepare a report and recommendation for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

## PRESENTATION ON THE PARKLAND AIRSHED MANAGEMENT ZONE

Council received a presentation from Kevin Warren, Executive Director of the Parkland Airshed Management Zone Association, on the Parkland Airshed Management Zone regarding air quality monitoring in Alberta and planned 2026 initiatives.

## BYLAW NO. 1455/26 SUBDIVISION PLAN CANCELLATION

Council approved all three readings to Bylaw No. 1455/26, cancelling the Plan of Consolidation registered in the Alberta Land Titles Office as Plan 242 2372 within the N 30-39-25-W4M and the S 31-39-25-W4M, returning the lands to their previous subdivision status.



**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!

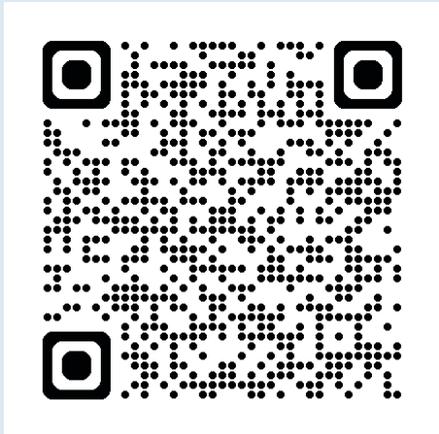
**GreatTwineRoundUp.ca**

**The Great Twine Round-Up**

cleanfarms RECYCLE IT!

Alberta

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



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 26, 2026

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING NOTES

The following recommendations from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 3, 2026 received the approval of Council:

- That the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Updates presentation be received for information; and further, that the County Manager be directed to obtain a legal opinion regarding the enactment of a Land Use Bylaw setback requirement on electrical generation and data processing facilities for presentation to Council at a future meeting, pending the outcome of the AUC public engagement process on setback requirements for renewable infrastructure projects.
- That the letter from the Lacombe Concerned Citizen's Group regarding the Land Use Bylaw be received for information.
- That the Grader Division Review 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 Review of Divisional Boundaries presentation be received for information; and further, once the 2026 census information is received, that Council review the matter of Division Boundaries again.
- That the Deputy Reeve Rotation discussion be received for information.
- That the verbal update on the Gull Lake Regional Trail be received for information; and further, that the work completed to date be

endorsed.

- That the presentation on Utility and Approach Inspection Fees 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 in conjunction with the 2027 Rates and Fees Bylaw update.
- That the Use and Management of County Reserve Lands Policy and Bylaw presentation be received for information.
- That the update regarding the Lacombe Research and Development Centre be received for information.

## GULL LAKE REGIONAL AND LAKEVIEW ESTATES TRAIL ADDITION

Council approved the addition of approximately 800 meters of trail along Range Road 28-4 to connect to the Gull Lake Regional Trail network. This extension will enhance access to the regional trail system for the communities of Lakeview Estates, Brighton Beach, and Brownlow's Landing. The estimated contracted services cost of \$110,000, which includes base/pave, tree mulching and environmental services, will be funded from the Community Resource Reserve.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE FEES – INVOICE APPEALS

Council confirmed invoice numbers IVC00047726 and IVC00047572 and approved waiving the late payment charges on each invoice, provided that the respective invoices are paid in full by April 1, 2026.

## RESCINDMENT OF PONOKA COUNTY/ LACOMBE COUNTY INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Council approved first reading of Bylaw No. 1456/26, a bylaw to rescind Bylaw 1309/19, the Ponoka County/Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan.

A public hearing is scheduled for April 9, 2026 commencing at 9:00 a.m. in the Lacombe County Council Chambers.

## BASHAW & DISTRICT REGIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Council received a report outlining a request from the Bashaw & District Regional Health & Wellness Foundation for support of a community-owned Bashaw Medical Clinic. Council approved that a letter of support be forwarded to provincial representatives and that a resolution be presented at the 2026 Fall RMA Convention to advocate for community-owned primary care clinics.

## RMA EMAIL RE: LACOMBE RESEARCH CENTRE RESOLUTION

Council approved a revision to the resolution that will be brought forward by Lacombe County at the RMA Spring Convention scheduled for March 16-18, 2026. The proposed resolution that will be submitted is:

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) advocate to the Government of Canada (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) to reverse its decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre;*

# 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/>.***

## 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



Each month, an animal rescue brings new challenges, new animals in need, and new success stories as pets find their forever homes.

In February, we had 86 intakes, 83 animals adopted into loving homes, and 23 pets who received spay or neuter surgeries through our SNAP (Spay and Neuter Assistance Program). These numbers reflect the ongoing need for rescue support in our communities and the impact that responsible pet ownership programs can have. Last week, we had a single day with 22 intakes alone, a reminder of how quickly the need for rescue can grow.

### 2027 Calendar Contest: Fresh Starts & Big Hearts

Our 2027 "Fresh Starts & Big Hearts" Calendar Contest is halfway through! This annual fundraiser invites you to enter your pet and collect votes - with every vote directly supporting the build of our new veterinary clinic.

It's a great opportunity to celebrate the animals who brighten our lives while helping provide care for those still waiting for their second chance. Please check our Facebook page to vote or enter your pet!

Thank you for standing with us!

403-785-7427

[www.savinggracecanada.com](http://www.savinggracecanada.com)

Alix, Alberta

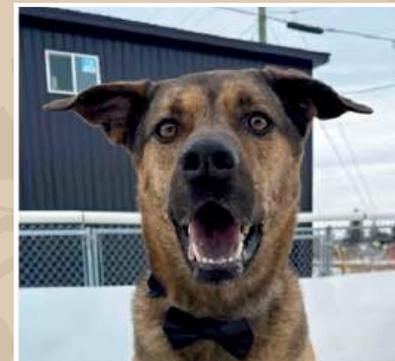
## PETS OF THE MONTH

This month, we are featuring Hugo and Hobbes as our Dogs of the Month. You can learn more about them and see other adoptable animals by visiting our Facebook page.



**HUGO**  
4 Year Old Male  
Breed Best Guess: Pit Cross  
Sweet, gentle giant, with some health issues caused by a traumatic dog attack. Likely not good with cats or small children. Weight 86.4 lbs

**HOBBS**  
4.5 year old male  
Breed Best guess: Shepherd Cross  
Looking for a calm, single-pet home. Smart, loyal and food-motivated. Weight: 63 lbs



# 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

# 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



SUPPORTED BY:

Lacombe & District FCSS:  
403-782-6637

Bentley FCSS:  
403-748-2160

Clive FCSS:  
403-784-2020

**CALL NOW!**



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

**Move your body, make connections & socialize!**  
Call 403.748.2160

**BENTLEY SENIORS DROP IN, FCSS/TOWN OF BENTLEY, EDMONTON SENIORS CENTRE**

## LINCOLN HALL EVENTS

Pancake Supper - April 25

Easter Bingo and Cake Walk - April 2

Spring Market - May 9

# AROUND THE COUNTY

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS



March 19  
10am-4pm  
at: LMC

COST \$60  
includes  
lunch

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@cllla.com



March 27  
10am-4pm  
at: LMC

COST \$60  
includes  
lunch

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@cllla.com



## Joffre Site COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Haynes Hall**

Travelling east on Highway 11, turn north (left) on Range Road 244 for 3.3 km to Township Road 390. Cross over 390 and take first left.

Join us for refreshments and take advantage of the opportunity to talk with industry representatives one on one! **Business update presentation starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Q&A session.**

- Get business and facility operations updates
- Discuss any topic of interest
- Provide your input and suggestions
- Fun activities for kids!



We hope to see you there!



Learn a proven process for winning government grants. The course is created and taught by David Kincade, a professional grant writer with 25+ years of experience.

- Includes your grant calendar (e.g., customized list of grants)
- Create a master grant application you can use year after year
- Ideal for people seeking more than \$50,000 in grants

The City of Lacombe is excited to host David Kincade's Advanced Grant Writing Course™ from June 15th to June 19th, 2026 at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. 14 spots are available.

**Schedule:**

Monday: 1:00pm – 4:15pm  
 Tuesday: 8:45am – 12:00pm. Lunch. 12:30pm – 3:45pm  
 Wednesday: 1:00pm – 4:15pm  
 Thursday: 8:45am – 12:00pm. Lunch. 12:30pm – 3:45pm  
 Friday: 8:45am – 12:00pm

**Deliverables:**

- 21 hours of in-person training to help organizations build a master grant application
- Online grant writing portal for 12 months following the course (over 14 hours of instructional video and over 140 lessons)

**Question and Answer:**

- Organizations will receive complimentary assistance in applying for a training grant with the course instructor, so please contact us as soon as possible.
- The training grant (Canada-Alberta Productivity Grant) may cover 50% of the trainee cost.
- Course Cost Per Trainee: \$5,000. Training Grant covers \$2,500 per trainee. Plus GST.
- The training grant is first come, first serve. **Submit by May 14, 2026.**
- A reminder that the grant is reimbursed. The organization is required to pay the tuition before the course starts, and it submits for reimbursement the day after the course.
- If the organization is ineligible for the CAPG, they are required to fund the course cost.
- Learn more: <https://albertabusinessgrants.ca/grant-writing>



Contact: davidk@albertabusinessgrants.ca or 780-297-6177 to register by May 30th.

# MARCH 26 2026 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Servus Credit Union Room at the Lacombe Memorial Centre  
5214 50 Ave, Lacombe, AB

Meeting will begin at 6 pm with light refreshments available.

The public is welcome, and encouraged, to join!

Lacombe & District Historical Society

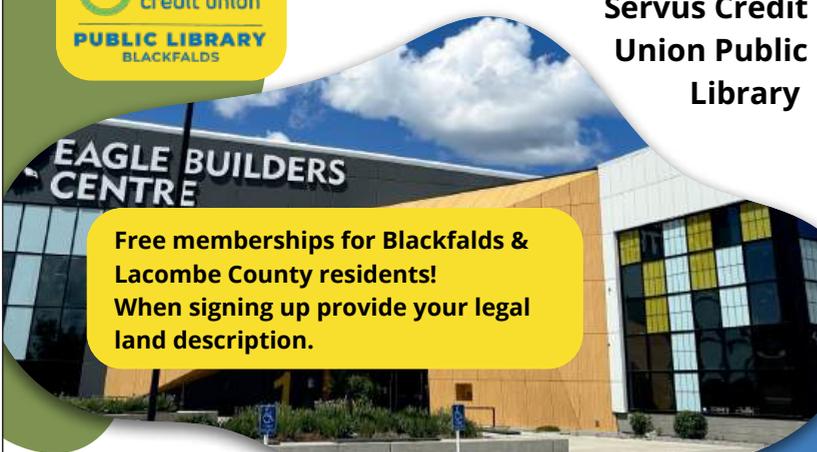


# AROUND THE COUNTY



**Blackfalds' Servus Credit Union Public Library**

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



**Programing**

**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:**

- March 29th, Beach Bash, 12:15-4:00 pm. Sno-cones, popcorn, and inflatable fun. Tickets on sale NOW!!
- Easter weekend hours:
  - Friday, April 3rd, 2026- Public Swim 1:00-5:00 pm only
  - Saturday, April 4th, 2026- Regular hours
  - Sunday, April 5th, 2026- Regular hours
  - Monday, April 6th, 2026- Public Swim with Easter Egg hunt 1:00-5:00 pm only

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



## WHAT WE DO

Alix and Area Community Resource Centre

**Volunteerism Strengthens Communities**

*Join Us*

You are invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Dessert & Beverages Come & Go

**Monday, April 13**  
6:30PM-8:30PM

**Open to all volunteers, all ages!**

*Have you been able to pick up some of the fresh veggies, delivered weekly to the Centre? Available to everyone, on Tuesdays at 1PM.*

*Thank you Pik-N-Pak Produce for the wonderful donations and volunteers who help to make sure veggies are brought to our community every week.*

## INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Trained volunteers can help file FREE basic income tax returns. For seniors and individuals with low to modest incomes and simple tax situations. Drop off your tax information anytime. All tax slips and receipts must be provided.

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

*\*Closed all statutory holidays\**

Bay 1, 5008 50 Ave, Alix, AB  
**403-396-3369**



### 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)

LACOMBE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# SPRING TRADESHOW & MARKET

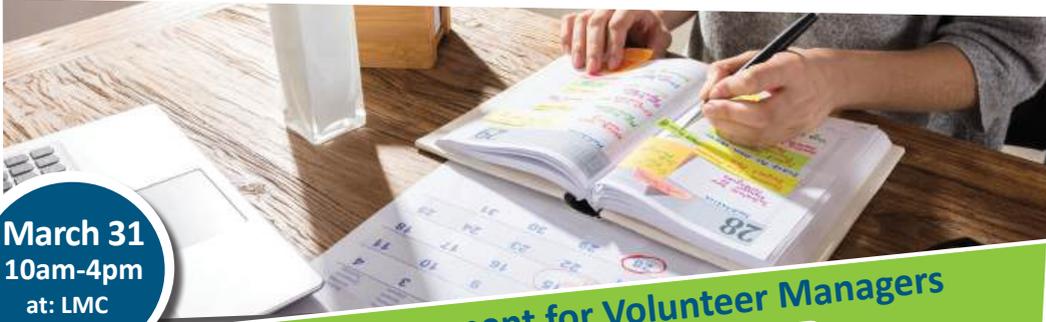
**APRIL 17TH 2-8PM**  
**APRIL 18TH 10-4PM**  
**GARY MOE AUTOGROUP SPORTSPLEX**

- ✓ 100+ VENDORS
- ✓ FREE BOUNCE CASTLES
- ✓ PET ADOPTION EVENT
- ✓ FREE FAMILY PHOTOS
- ✓ POKEMON PLAY & TRADE
- ✓ HIRING & RECRUITMENT EVENT

ADMISSION \$2 DONATION TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SPONSORS





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

## Risk Management for Volunteer Managers WORKSHOP

COST \$60  
includes  
lunch

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@cllla.com



## Arena Grand Re-Opening

March 26, 2026

Established: 1965-1966



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



## Now hiring for the 2026 Census!

APPLY ONLINE:

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



## HAYNES HALL

Date  
8th April 2026

Time  
7:00 -8:30 pm

- 2025 Financial Review
- Planning for 2026



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**FREE**  
**Stay & Play** Bentley  
**Playgroup-**

Child ages 0-6 plus Caregiver  
Friday @ Town of Bentley Office  
Basement 9:30-11:30  
Free play, craft, story & more!

Heather McLaren:  
403-704-4600

**Family Resource Network**  
**Kids Klub** Bentley  
Ages- 6 plus

After School program  
Mondays @ Town of Bentley  
Office Basement 3:15-5:15  
Snack Included

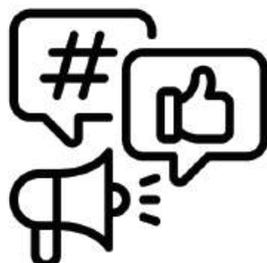
**FREE**

To Register:  
Barb Carson- 403-748-2160  
Heather McLaren- 403-704-4600

**FREE**  
**SaturPlay**  
10-12  
March 21/26

Basement of Bentley Town office  
Bring your children!  
Grab a coffee and meet new friends!

For information call Carolyn @ 403-896-3915



Find Lacombe County online



/LacombeCounty



@lacombecounty



Lacombe County



/LacombeCounty



lacombecounty.com

**WONDER STRUCK**

**SUMMER CAMPS**

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

# 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:

- 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)

Scan Here to Nominate!

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

## 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

## SPRING BREAK FAMILY DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

FEATURING  
BENJAMIN CHRISTIANI  
BLAINE LUTWICK

Includes Country, Line and, square Dance Instruction

**6:30-10:30 PM**

**Lincoln Hall**  
41319-AB-792  
Lacombe County

Come kick up your heels and cut loose!

Tickets at the door.  
**\$10-Individual**  
**\$35-Family**

Bring a snack to share  
**\$1 per pop**

Profits to The Broom Tree Foundation  
Call Julie for more information - 403-318-1725

# APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	APRIL 1	2	3 Good Friday (Office Closed)	4
5	6 Office Closed in lieu of Easter	7 Committee of the Whole (9AM)	8	9 County Council 9AM	10 County News Submissions due	11
12	13	14	15 Environmental Farm Plan Work- shop 10AM - 2PM	16	17 Lacombe & Dis- trict Tradeshow 2-8PM	18 Lacombe & Dis- trict Tradeshow 10AM - 4PM
19	20	21	22	23 County Council 9AM	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	MAY !	2

**Upcoming Events:** May 12: Tree Pruning Workshop (Pg.11), May 14: County Council, May 18: Victoria Day (office closed), May 28: County Council

## **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**

**511**

For current road conditions on X, safely follow @DriveBC

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

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

Nicole Plewis, Communications Coordinator  
communications@lacombecounty.com  
403.782.6601

## Lacombe County Directory

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

### Department Numbers:

Main Office - 403-782-6601

Planning Services - 403-782-8389

Community Services - 403-782-8959

Operations - 403-782-8379

Public Works Shop - 403-782-3567

### General

After Hours Emergency Answering Service 403.357.1210

Administration Fax 403.782.3820

Public Works Fax 403.782.5356

**For Service Requests, see our website - or phone the switchboard at 403-782-6601**

### Council

Home

Cell

John Ireland, Div. 1 (jireland@lacombecounty.com) 403.392.3981

Brenda Knight, Div. 2 (bknight@lacombecounty.com) 403.788.2168 403.550.2168

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

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

Call 403-782-6601 to speak with the County Manager or with a Lacombe County Director