

## Lacombe County 2025 property assessments/ tax notices mailed-out

Municipal property assessments and tax notices were recently mailed out to Lacombe County ratepayers. Residents can expect to receive their 2025 tax notices in the coming weeks. If you have not received your notice by June 1, 2025, please contact Lacombe County's Assessment Department at 403-782-6601.

"We encourage ratepayers to be proactive and ensure they have received their assessment and tax notice from Lacombe County," said Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services at Lacombe County. "It is essential to review the notice promptly to verify the information and address any concerns in a timely manner."

With the potential for another Canada Post strike later this month, mail delivery to and from Lacombe County could be disrupted. We are hopeful that all property assessment and tax notices will be delivered before any disruption occurs. However, please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure you receive this information, regardless of a postal strike. If you haven't received your property assessment/tax notice, please contact Lacombe County.

Property owners are required to pay their taxes by the deadline, which is August 31, 2025. Please note that penalties will be applied after this date, even if you have not received an official tax notice.

The County's assessment and tax notice is a combined document. Here are some key points to consider:

Anyone wishing to appeal their assessment has

60 days from the notice of assessment date to do so. The complaint date is indicated on your notice of assessment.

- Please be aware that a per parcel fee will be charged for individuals filing complaints against assessments.
- The fee will be refunded if the Assessment Review Board decides in favour of the complainant.
- The property tax payment deadline is August 31, 2025.
  - Property owners who miss the tax payment deadline will face a 6% penalty on the outstanding taxes owed starting September 1, 2025.
  - An additional 10% penalty will be added on December 1 for all unpaid taxes after November 30.
- Don't Procrastinate! Lacombe County has a zerotolerance policy for late payments.
  - Didn't receive your assessment/tax notice? Contact us right away!
  - See an error on your assessment notice? Contact us right away!
  - Received your assessment/tax notice? Pay it TODAY, and avoid any late payment worries!
  - Don't want to pay it all at once (or do you find you're always last-minute)? Sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP).

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## Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture: Lacombe County in search of the 2025 Farm Family Award recipient

Lacombe County and the Lacombe and District Chamber of Commerce are partnering for a third year on the Farm Family of the Year Award, aiming to recognize the exceptional achievements and contributions of ranch and farm families within our community. The winners of this esteemed award will be announced at the 2025 Chamber Gala in October.

"The Farm Family of the Year Award is a meaningful way to recognize the hard work, resilience, and innovation of our local farm and ranch families," said Reeve Barb Shepherd. "These families are the backbone of our rural communities, and their

commitment to stewardship and sustainability plays a vital role in shaping Lacombe County's future. We are honoured to celebrate their achievements and the legacy they are building."

The Farm Family of the Year Award acknowledges excellence in technical farm production and sustainability practices, family farm business management, agricultural industry involvement, and community and rural citizenship. This recognition highlights the remarkable accomplishments of ranch and farm families who have made significant contributions to the agricultural sector.

~ Article continues on Page 11

## LACOMBE

SUCCESS GROWS HERE!

**Publication Mail Agreement No 43726064** 

Return undeliverable items to: Lacombe County RR3, Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3

County News is available to read on our website every month. If you wish to stop receiving County News by mail, email <a href="mailto:communications@lacombecounty.com">communications@lacombecounty.com</a> with your mailing address and we will take you off our mailing list.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK Celebrating the people behind the services

May 19–25 marks National Public Works Week — a time to recognize the vital contributions of the people who help build, maintain, and support the services and infrastructure we rely on every day.

At Lacombe County, this includes a diverse and dedicated team:

- construction crews who improve and repair roads and bridges;
- grader operators, truck drivers and snow plough operators who keep our roads safe year-round;
- parks crews who maintain trails and green spaces;
- utility operators who ensure reliable water and wastewater systems;
- mechanics and welders who keep our fleet running;
- and support staff who help make it all happen behind the scenes.

Their work doesn't go unnoticed, and its impact is felt across the County — in the roads we drive, the water we use, the equipment we depend on, and the spaces we enjoy. These staff members are essential to the safety, connection, and livability of our communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the

entire Public Works team. Your expertise, care, and commitment make Lacombe County a better place to live, work, and do business, and we are proud to recognize and celebrate your efforts.







## Golf Cart Pilot Program continues | Register yours for the 2025 season

Lacombe County is reminding residents about its ongoing participation in Alberta's Golf Cart Pilot Project. Launched in the spring of 2024, this five-year provincial initiative allows municipalities to authorize golf cart operation on designated local highways, providing an efficient and environmentally friendly transportation alternative.

In Lacombe County, operators must be at least 14 years old and hold a minimum Class 7 (Learner's) driver's license to ensure basic traffic law understanding. Golf carts are only permitted to operate during daylight hours—specifically, from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset—and the number of passengers cannot exceed available seats. Towing vehicles or equipment is not allowed.

To ensure compliance with Lacombe County bylaws, all golf carts must be permitted annually and display the corresponding decal prominently on the front of the cart. Operators must also carry a minimum of \$2,000,000 in liability insurance coverage.

**HOW TO OBTAIN A GOLF CART PERMIT** 

Residents are strongly encouraged to register online for faster service and to avoid delays.

- Online Registration: Complete the registration and payment process online
- In-Person Registration (by appointment only):

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment and ensure you bring all required documentation to support your application.

## **Required Documentation:**

- Proof of valid Class 7 (Learner's) or higher driver's license
- Proof of liability insurance coverage (minimum \$2,000,000)
- Payment of the annual permit fee

Residents are reminded to drive safely, maintain golf carts according to manufacturer specifications, and immediately report any collisions involving a golf cart on a designated highway.

Golf cart permits issued by Lacombe County are not automatically valid in other municipalities unless explicitly stated. Operators planning to travel beyond county borders should verify local rules with the respective municipalities.

For more details or to register, visit: www. lacombecounty.com/golfcarts.





## Understanding Alberta's fire ratings: What they mean and what's allowed

As Alberta heads into wildfire season, it's important to understand the different fire risk levels and what they mean for residents. To keep communities safe and protect natural areas, Lacombe County follows Alberta's standard fire rating system: Fire Advisory, Fire Restriction, and Fire Ban.

In fact, in the span of 2 weeks, Lacombe County has gone from a Fire Advisory (April 25) to a Fire Restriction (May 1), and then to a full Fire Ban (May 8). This quick shift is a strong reminder of how rapidly wildfire conditions can change, especially with dry weather, strong winds, and limited moisture.

Because fire ratings can escalate quickly, it's essential to stay informed and understand what each level means. Here's a breakdown of what each level means, and what is and isn't allowed:

## Fire Advisory

Issued when conditions are dry and the risk of wildfire is increasing.

### Allowed:

- Backyard fire pits using clean, dry wood
- Campfires on private land and in campgrounds
- Propane/gas fire pits and barbecues
- Burn permits (may still be issued on a case-by-case basis)

### Not Allowed:

Fireworks

**Reminder**: Always monitor your fire, keep water nearby, and fully extinguish flames before leaving.

## **Fire Restriction**

Issued when fire hazard conditions are serious. For example, if specific conditions change (ie. Wind, limited moisture, etc.).

### Allowed:

- Wood campfires in designated campgrounds, on private land, and in backyard fire pits
- Propane/gas-powered appliances (fire pits, stoves, barbecues)
- Some industrial operations with approved fire safety plans

## **Not Allowed:**

- Fires on public lands, including random camping and backcountry areas
- Burning of brush piles, debris, or windrows
- Fire permits are restricted/ suspended and new permits are not issued
- Fireworks

## **Fire Ban**

Issued when the fire risk is extreme and fire fighting resources are limited.

### Allowed:

 Propane/gas-powered appliances with an on/off switch

## Not Allowed:

- All open fires, including backyard fire pits and campfires
- Charcoal barbecues, fireworks, tiki torches, etc.
- All burn permits are cancelled

## Stay Informed

Fire ratings can change quickly. Before you burn, camp or plan a campfire:

- Visit www.albertafirebans.ca for province-wide updates
- Check www.lacombecounty. com or follow Lacombe County on social media for local updates

To report wildfires, call 310-FIRE (3473).

## Staying fire-safe is a shared responsibility. Thanks for doing your part to protect Lacombe County.

**Improperly Discarded Smoker's Materials** 

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Use caution while operating Off-Road Vehicles or farm equipment, as hot exhaust pipes pose a fire hazard.				
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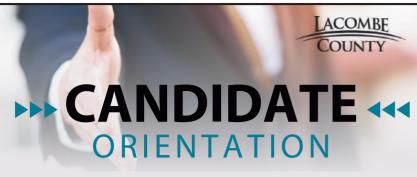
fires to spread rapidly.



Discarded cigarettes are one of the leading causes of preventable fires in our

municipality. Use caution when disposing of cigarette butts, as they can easily

Even a small gust of wind can sustain and carry embers from a discarded cigarette, causing

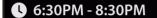


## **Thinking About Running for Municipal Office?**

Lacombe County, in partnership with the City of Lacombe, the Towns of Blackfalds, Bentley, and Eckville, and the Villages of Alix and Clive, is hosting a Candidate **Orientation** for anyone considering running in the upcoming municipal election.

Whether you're thinking about serving on Lacombe County Council or on one of the councils in our partnering municipalities, this workshop will provide valuable insights into the responsibilities of elected officials.







### This two-day interactive session will cover:

- ✓ How council decision-making works.
- The roles of governance, management, and service delivery
- Where municipal funding comes from and how it's allocated.
- ✓ Time commitments and work-life balance as an elected official
- The responsibilities of councillors in serving their

All potential candidates from municipalities within Lacombe County are welcome!

For more information or to register for this workshop: Contact Meghan Richer-Poth at 403-782-8962 / mricher-poth@lacombecounty.com













## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION | Get in**formed about running for Council

Considering running for Lacombe County Council? Are you ready to make a difference in your community?

If you're considering running for local council in a rural Alberta municipality, this is the perfect opportunity for you! Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) are hosting a webinar to help you prepare for this year's election.

Running for

Webinars

Municipal Office

Join this informative session to learn about:

- The roles and responsibilities of County coun-
- Insights from experienced councillors and guest speakers
- Key information to help you decide if local office is right for you

Next Date: June 5, 2025

Location: Online (registration required)

Can't attend this session? Additional opportunities and resources

Visit the Alberta Municipalities website to register or learn more: https://www.abmunis.ca/events/municipal-election-webinar-ruralmunicipal-district-counties-1.



## **Why Municipal Government** matters - and why you should consider running for Council

When most people think about government, they think about the federal or provincial levels. But it is your municipal government—the one closest to home—that often has the most direct impact on your day-to-day life.

From the roads you drive on, to the parks your family enjoys, to how communities are developed, to the snow being cleared after a storm—municipal government decisions affect you daily. In Lacombe County, Council plays a vital role in shaping these services and ensuring our communities thrive.

## **LOCAL DECISIONS, LOCAL VOICES**

Municipal councillors are your neighbours. They understand the needs of the region because they live and work here, too. Their decisions shape:

- Local road construction and maintenance
- Agricultural and environmental services
- Emergency response and fire protection
- Land use planning and development
- County-supported community programs and infrastructure funding

Running for municipal office is your chance to shape the future of your community. It's not about politics—it's about service, stewardship, and standing up for what matters to your neighbours.

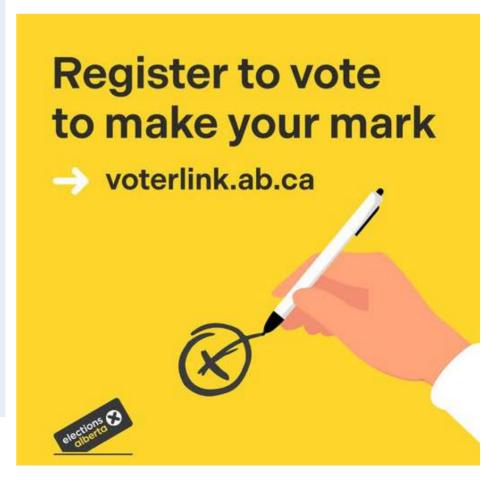
### WHY RUN?

Municipal councils need people from all walks of life—farmers, business owners, parents, retirees, and everyday residents—who care about the places we call home.

- You know your community's needs.
- You care about how tax dollars are spent.
- You want to make a difference for future generations.

When you run for municipal council, you're stepping up to be a voice for your community. The decisions you make will directly impact your neighbours, your family, and your local quality of life.

Learn more at www.LacombeCounty.com/Election.



## What you need to know to run for **Lacombe County Council**

If you're passionate about your community and want to make a difference at the local level, consider running for municipal office in the 2025 Alberta Municipal Election. Here's a simplified guide to get you

## **STEP 1: LEARN ABOUT THE ROLE**

Before running, understand the responsibilities of a Councillor or Reeve. Councils make decisions about roads, utilities, planning and development, emergency services, and budgets. In Lacombe County, the council includes a Reeve and six Councillors representing different

Tip: Attend a Council meeting or talk to a current Councillor to learn more about the commitment.

## STEP 2: FILE A "NOTICE OF **INTENT"**

Candidates can submit an optional Form 3A: Notice of Intent any time before Nomination Day (September 22, 2025). This helps municipalities plan ahead and identify who to send candidate packages to. This information is also required if you intend to raise campaign funds and/ or incur campaign expenses before filing a nomination form. You are able to campaign before Nomination Day, HOWEVER you must submit your Notice of Intent before you begin ANY campaigning.

- Available at the Lacombe County office or website (www. lacombecounty.com/Election).
- Deadline to file is September 22, 2025 at 12:00PM (noon).

## **STEP 3: MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To run, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old on Nomination Day.
- Be a Canadian citizen
- Have lived in Alberta for the past
- Be a resident of Lacombe County and live in the Division you plan to run in for a minimum of 6 months prior to Nomination Day.
- Not be otherwise disqualified under the Local Authorities Election Act.

## **STEP 4: GET NOMINATED**

To officially become a candidate, you must submit a Nomination Form (Form 4).

You need 5 eligible voters from your division to sign your form

File it in person at the Lacombe County office

Nomination Day is Monday, **September 22, 2025** 

Nominations close at 12:00 noon

### **STEP 5: PLAN YOUR CAMPAIGN**

Once nominated, you can start campaigning. This may include signs, social media, meet-and-greets, or attending events.

## Things to know:

- All campaign materials must comply with County and provincial rules (e.g., sign placement)
- Keep detailed records of contributions and expenses
- You are responsible for your own campaign costs

PLEASE NOTE: If you spend or raise more than \$1000 - even if it's your own money - you must open a campaign bank account and submit financial disclosure forms after the election

## **STEP 6: ELECTION DAY**

## **Election Day is Monday, October**

Candidates with the most votes in each division will be elected to a fouryear term.

## **RESOURCES & SUPPORT**

Municipal Affairs has all the information you need to know in order to run for Municipal Council. Visit https://www.alberta.ca/municipalelections to access this information and to find the Candidate Guide

Lacombe County is hosting a twoevening information session on June 25 and June 26 for anyone considering running for Council. You can find details at www. lacombecounty.com/Election or by emailing mricher-poth@ lacombecounty.com.

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta are also hosting webinars designed for anyone thinking of running for a rural municipality. You can find information and register at https://rmalberta. com/advocacy/municipal-election-

- Visit www.lacombecounty.com
- Review the Local Authorities **Election Act**
- Questions? Please email returningofficer@lacombecounty. com or call 403-782-6601

YOUR VOICE. YOUR COUNTY.

## **HOW TO RUN FOR COUNTY COUNCIL**



What you need to know for a successful campaign

## **KNOW THE ROLE**

Councillors help guide decisions on roads, development, budgets, and services. You can learn the role by:
• Attend a Council meeting (in person

- or listen virtually).
- Talk to current councillors.
- Learn what's involved by attending a





## **SUBMIT A NOTICE OF** INTENT

Let Lacombe County know you're planning to run. Here's what you need to know:
• Fill out Form 3A – Notice of Intent.
• Submit before September 2025.
• Available online or at the County Office.

## **GET NOMINATED**

- Make sure you're eligible to run:
   Be 18+ and a Canadian Citizen on Nomination Day.
- Live in Alberta for 6+ months prior to Nomination
- Day.
  Live in Lacombe County, within the Division you intend to run in, for 6+ months prior to Nomination

Have your Nomination Form filed IN PERSON to the County Office by NOON on September 22, 2025. It needs to have the signatures of five (5) eligible voters from your division on it.





## **GET READY FOR ELECTION**

Promote your campaign and track your donations/spending.

Attend information sessions or webinars to help your prepare.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR **COMMUNITY!**

RUN FOR COUNCIL IN 2025

Information, resources and forms available at www.lacombecounty.com/Election

Questions? Please email the Returning Officer: returningofficer@lacombecounty.com





## **SAFETY FIRST**



## Be Prepared for Anything: Emergency Preparedness Starts Now

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week), held May 4–10, 2025, is a national initiative led by Public Safety Canada to encourage all Canadians to take action before emergencies happen. While the official week has passed, the message remains just as important—especially as we head into the seasons where wildfires, floods, and severe storms are more common in Alberta.

The theme of this year's campaign was "Be Prepared. Know the Risks," a timely reminder that emergency preparedness is not just a oncea-year task—it's an ongoing journey. Knowing what risks you might face in your region and taking small, practical steps today can make a big difference when the unexpected happens.

## What does being prepared look like?

- Know the risks in your area: In Lacombe County, this may include wildfires, tornadoes, power outages, or flooding.
- Make an emergency plan: Talk to your household about what to do and where to

go in different scenarios.

- Gather supplies: Ensure you have enough essentials—like food, water, medications, pet supplies, and important documents—for at least 7 days.
- Stay informed: Sign up for local alerts, follow trusted sources, and stay connected to County updates.
- Make community connections:
   Neighbours helping neighbours is a vital part of any emergency response. Check in with others and offer help when safe to do so.

Preparedness is about reducing risk, supporting emergency responders, and protecting the well-being of your family and community. The more prepared we all are, the more resilient we become.

Visit alberta.ca/beprepared to explore resources and start your preparedness journey today.

## Stay safe this May Long Weekend and all summer long

As we head into the May Long Weekend—a kickoff to summer fun in Alberta—Lacombe County is reminding residents and visitors to stay safe while enjoying all that our beautiful region has to offer. Whether you're hitting the road, heading to the lake, or exploring the outdoors, a few simple precautions can make all the difference.

## Road Safety: Share the Road

- Expect more vehicles on highways and rural roads this weekend. Please: Slow down and drive with caution, especially on gravel roads and near intersections.
- Watch for farm equipment and slow-moving vehicles give them plenty of space to maneuver.
- Be alert for cyclists, pedestrians, and recreational vehicles like ATVs and golf carts, especially in hamlets and lake communities.

## **Campfire Safety**

Planning a backyard fire or a weekend of camping? Always:

Check for fire advisories or

- bans at www.albertafirebans.ca.
- Keep your fire small, attended, and fully extinguish it with water—not just soil—before leaving
- Use approved fire pits or fire rings when possible, and keep a shovel or bucket of water nearby.

## Lake & Water Safety

Whether boating, kayaking, or swimming, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Wear a lifejacket—it's one of the easiest ways to prevent drowning.
- Don't drink and boat. Alcohol use is a leading factor in waterrelated incidents.
- Watch children closely and never leave them unattended near water, even shallow areas.
- Consider wearing brightly coloured swim suits, especially in lakes (see image right).

## **Camping & Outdoor Recreation**

- Pack a first aid kit and be aware of your location in case of emergency.
- Store food securely to avoid

attracting wildlife.

Leave no trace—pack out what you pack in and respect natural spaces.

## **Protecting Kids & Pets**

- Apply sunscreen and bug spray regularly.
- Keep pets cool and hydrated, and never leave them in parked vehicles.

Talk to kids about outdoor safety, especially near water and wildlife.

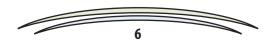
As we welcome the warmer weather, let's all do our part to make this summer safe and enjoyable. Have a wonderful and safe May Long Weekend from all of us at Lacombe County!

## In the Lake



## In the Poo





## MIRROR CORNER



## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO MIRROR

WAYS TO ACCESS:

- 1. Stop in to the Mirror Community Library for a referral
- 2. CONTACT IN PERSON or BY PHONE EITHER
- Alix and Area Community Resource Centre OR
- Bashaw & Area Community Resource Centre

## All Ages

Print/ Copy/ Fax & Technology Services Community Services and Events

Volunteer Services
Wellness Services

## Child, Youth & Family

School Setting Supports Youth Summer Programs Afterschool Program

### Senior & Adult

Seniors In-Home Supports Seniors Outreach Workers

Transportation to Medical Appointments Adult Education and Career Planning

## Free Preschool Program At the Mirror Library Every Tuesday from 10 to 12 Playful activities of For Children 0-5 their caregivers! For More Information: facebook.com/lacombefrn



### Social Services

Food Hampers

Information & Form Support

Assistance in Navigating Systems and Accessing Services

Meals on Wheals



FREE Weekly Veggies
Puzzle Exchange

In Bashaw: Medical Clini NOW OPEN!



Bay 1 & 2, 5008 50 Ave, Alix AB 403-396-3369 4909 50 Street, Bashaw, AB 780-372-4074



## **Alix-Mirror Wellness Services**

Our goal is to educate the community of Mirror about the services available to them, within the region served by Alix and Area Community Resource Centre and Bashaw & Area Community Resource Centre. Please note, as we do not have an office in Mirror there are still points of connection, like the Mirror Community Library for any residents to get information and contact details.

-Alix Mirror Wellness Supports Society



Want a chance to win some amazing prizes including a day at Country 9 Golf, gift cards, treats and more? Enter our Father's Day Raffle today! Our Raffle is your chance to win all of dad's favorites while supporting your local library!



## 2025 Mirror Dog Tags

A license is required for all dogs in Mirror. The fee is \$15.00 for an altered dog and \$25.00 for an unaltered dog. After February 28, 2025, the cost increases to \$30 for an altered dog and \$50 for an unaltered dog. For more information, please call (403) 782-6601 or visit <a href="https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/animal-control.aspx">www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/animal-control.aspx</a>.

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. \*\*For animal welfare issues please contact the Alberta SPCA at http:// www.albertaspca.org/\*\*\*

## **Jolly Seniors**

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

## **Booking Mirror Community Hall**

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

## **Mirror and District Museum**

Contact <a href="mmuseum@cciwireless.ca">mmuseum@cciwireless.ca</a>
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

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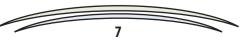
Please like us at: facebook.com/booksinmirror for the most up to date information. The Library also has meeting spaces for rent and free Wi-Fi. Please contact us through the Facebook page or email booksinmirror@gmail.com.

## Mirror Royal Canadian Legion Branch 189 - 5015 50th Avenue

Meat Draws Saturday at 4 p.m. General meetings second Sunday at 1 p.m. (unless otherwise posted).

## **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**

## Watch for construction | 2025 paving program starts soon

Lacombe County has contracted Central City Asphalt Ltd. to pave the following roads:

- Eckville West (Twp Rd 393)
   & Eckville North (Rge Rd 35)
   (Schedule "A") from 53 St to
   Rainy Creek Road for 7.087 km,
   starting June 16.
- Sunbreaker Cove (Rge Rd 22) (Schedule "B") from the Boat Launch to Rainy Creek Road for 2.122 km, starting July 10.
- Sandy Point Access Road (Schedule "C"), starting July 8.
  - from Rge Rd 11 to the "T" Intersection for 1.534 km
  - from the "T" Intersection to the Beach Access for 0.147 km
  - from the "T intersection to the South Parking Lot for 0.407 km
- Meridian Road (Rge Rd 10) &

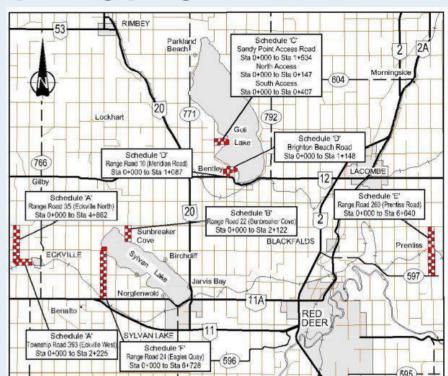
Brighton Beach Road (Schedule "D") from Hwy 12A to the east end of Brighton Beach Road for 2.235 km, starting July 6.

- Prentiss Road (Rge Rd 260) (Schedule "E") from Hwy 597 to Lakeside Sargent Road for 6.640 km, starting July 2.
- Rge Rd 24 (Eagle's Quay)
   (Schedule "F") from Hwy 11A
   to Eagle's Quay Subdivision for
   6.728 km and Pelican Bay Access Road for 0.08 km, starting
   Lune 2

All work is expected to be completed by the second week of July (weather permitting).

Work will include asphalt concrete pavement (EPS) and other work.

Please contact the Operations department with any questions or concerns regarding this project.



## Your Roads Explained: Gravel Roads, Dust Control, and how to Request Service

Lacombe County's gravel road network is a vital part of daily life—connecting homes, farms, and businesses across the County. With more than 2,000 kilometers of roads to manage, Lacombe County has a comprehensive maintenance program in place to ensure these roads remain safe, accessible, and functional year-round.

In this installment of Your Roads Explained, we're digging into how gravel roads are maintained and resurfaced, how dust is controlled, and how you can report issues or request services.

## **KEEPING GRAVEL ROADS IN SHAPE**

Gravel roads require regular attention to stay in good condition. Through the spring, summer, and fall, Lacombe County's Operations team carries out routine grading to smooth out ruts and washboard. Additional gravel is applied as needed to reinforce the road base and maintain a safe driving surface.

Other regular maintenance activities include:

- Brushing clearing vegetation along roadways to improve visibility and safety.
- Sign maintenance repairing or replacing signs to ensure clear communication for drivers.
- Bridge inspections and repairs preserving the structural integrity of vital crossings.

It's important to note that the County does not provide grading services on private property. However, residents can contact the Operations department for a list of local contractors if this service is needed.

## MANAGING DUST: THE DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

Living near a gravel road often comes with one major nuisance: dust. To help mitigate this, Lacombe County offers a cost-shared Dust Control Program for residents, businesses, and agricultural operations.

Each spring, residents can apply to have Calcium Chloride applied in front of their property. This service helps bind gravel and reduce dust throughout the summer months.

**2025 Dust Control Rates:** Additional coverage beyond 200 meters is available but is not eligible for cost-sharing. To take part in the spring application, both your application and full payment must be submitted by May 15.

If you miss the spring deadline—don't worry! A summer application window is also available, with a deadline to apply and pay by August 8, 2025.

Costs for both spring and summer are as follows:

- Two applications: \$3.58 per linear meter (up to 200 meters)
- Single application: \$1.79 per linear meter (up to 200 meters)

For more details or to apply, contact the Public

Works Shop at 403-782-3567 or email operations@lacombecounty.com.

## **NEED TO REPORT A ROAD ISSUE?**

Whether it's washboard, a soft spot, a sign knocked down, or general road damage, the County relies on residents to help identify issues early. If you spot a concern, there are several ways to submit a service request:

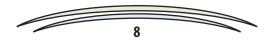
- Online: Use the Report a Concern form on the County's website (at the top of the main page www.lacombecounty.com).
- Phone: Call the Public Works Shop at 403-782-3567 or the main office at 403-782-6601.
- After Hours Emergency: Call 403-357-1210.
- Email: Send details to operations@lacombecounty.com.
- **In Person**: Visit the County Office at 40403 Range Road 27-4.

If there is an immediate risk to public safety, always call 911.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

Want to know when maintenance is happening in your area? Subscribe to road construction and maintenance updates at lacombecounty.com.

Gravel roads are a shared responsibility, and through regular maintenance, responsive service, and resident support, Lacombe County works hard to keep our road network safe and dependable for everyone who travels it.



## **ENVIRONMENT**

## **CONSTRUCTION SEASON REMINDER**

Please drive carefully and obey ALL signs and speed limits during construction. If you have questions or concerns regarding any project, please contact the Operations department at 403-782-8379.

All notifications and maps can be found at lacombecounty.com under Construction Notifications (in Quick Links)

## Remove stored items from Reserve Land by May Long Weekend

\_acombe County is reminding residents that all seasonal items stored on County reserve lands must be removed by the May long weekend (May 19).

Through the Special Use of Reserve Permit (SURP) program, Lacombe County may authorize certain temporary uses on reserve land, such as:

- Winter storage of boat lifts and docks
- Beach clean-ups
- Repairs to licensed encroachments
- Removal of unauthorized items

Winter Storage Guidelines: Seasonal items—such as boat lifts and docks—may be stored on reserve lands from the September long weekend to the May long weekend, provided they don't impact the environment or obstruct public access.

For more information, visit our website at www.lacombecounty.com, or contact the Community Services Department at 403-782-8959.

## **SHARE THE SHORELINE NESTING BIRD AWARENESS**

Lacombe County would like to remind people recreating around our major lakes and green spaces that they are sharing space with nature.



Migratory bird nesting season extends from April to the end of August

Birds will nest anywhere - on the ground, in trees and shrubs, and on human structures and items



It is illegal to kill, injure, or harass migratory birds, their nests, and eggs



Do your part by remaining conscious. Stick to designated trafis, avoid vegetation removal, bioxs of guitoof rusy details impecting needing birds.



## Calling citizen scientists: Lacombe **County launches photo project to** monitor environmental changes

Lacombe County is excited to launch a new community science initiative that invites residents and visitors to help monitor environmental changes on three of our major recreational lakes—Sylvan Lake, Gull Lake, and Lacombe Lake.

Through the use of Chronolog, a time-lapse photo monitoring system, participants can contribute to ongoing environmental stewardship by simply snapping a photo. The County's Environmental Services team has installed three Chronolog stations at:

- Burns Nature Park (Sylvan
- Sandy Point (Gull Lake)
- Lacombe Lake

## **HOW IT WORKS**

Each Chronolog station features a fixed photo bracket fixed above a sign with directions. Visitors can place their phone into the bracket, take a photo, and submit it using a quick and easy QR code found on the sign below.

Over time, the photos are compiled into a public time-lapse, showing how the landscape changes throughout the seasons and years.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Sylvan Lake (Burns Nature Park): This location helps track water levels, shoreline dynamics, and erosion patterns-key indicators of climatic and environmental change.

Gull Lake (Sandy Point): Chronolog images from this point will help monitor lake levels and shoreline conditions, supporting the lake's ecological balance and recreational

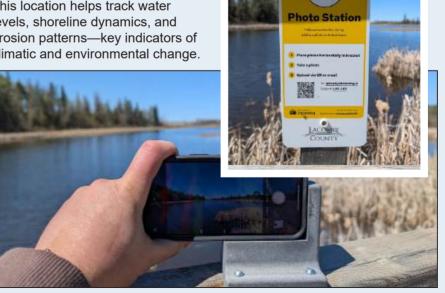
Lacombe Lake (Trans Canada Trail): In addition to capturing seasonal shifts, this photo point plays a role in tracking the spread of invasive species like pale yellow iris, a prohibited noxious weed found at the lake.

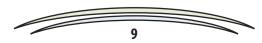
This initiative supports sustainable lake management and provides a powerful visual tool for understanding long-term environmental changes. Plus, it gives the public an easy and meaningful way to get involved in local conservation.

## **BE PART OF THE PICTURE**

Next time you're at one of these beautiful lakes, stop by the Chronolog station, take a photo, and contribute to a growing archive of environmental history.

To learn more about how Chronolog works, visit www.chronolog.io/howit-works.





## **AGRICULTURE**

## Weed season is around the corner: Early detection is KEY!

Most weeds start appearing in mid-May (usually) and are easiest to control when they first "pop up". If you see a troublesome weed, you should take action early, as leaving them can have significant negative impacts. The longer you leave weeds, then more difficult they are to control or eradicate from your property.

The Weed Control Act of Alberta directs that all landowners are responsible for keeping weeds under control. This also includes Lacombe County. The County is responsible for controlling weeds on properties under County control, and directing private landowners/tenants to do so on their properties as well

## **Weed Inspections**

The Agriculture team believes that early detection and rapid response is the most effective method of managing invasive plants.

The employment of seasonal weed inspectors and the use of new technology assist Agriculture staff in maintaining an effective, long term weed control program.

## **How We Can Help**

Agriculture staff are available to work with residents to prevent and resolve weed control issues. They can assist by identifying plant species and presenting solutions based on resident and County experience, along with research results using various weed control methods.

Call Lacombe County at 403.782-8959 if:

- · You have concerns about weeds on a property.
- You would like a consultation on weeds on your property.
- You want to drop off a weed sample for identification. (Please call prior to coming in, if you require immediate identification.)
- You want a list of local herbicide or pest control applicators in your area.

## More information

We have a list of noxious and prohibited weeds on our website at: <a href="https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/business-and-development/weeds.aspx">https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/business-and-development/weeds.aspx</a>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lacombe County at 403-782-8959.

## 10

## What you "weed" to know about weeds in Lacombe County

Lacombe County's Weed Inspection Program has begun. Our goal is to protect productive, valuable and sensitive lands within Lacombe County from prohibited noxious and noxious weeds, regulated under the *Alberta Weed Control Act* that Lacombe County enforces.

Prohibited noxious and noxious weeds will:

- Reduce the habitat available for native plant species, which threatens species of insect, plant, fish and animal that depend on native plants.
- Reduce property values for residents and agricultural producers.
- Reduce production from agriculture and other rural industries.
- Increase land management expenses for counties, businesses and property owners.

For further information in which apply to all county landowners, check out the *Alberta Weed Control Act*: <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1">https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1</a>

Alberta Weed Control Regulations <a href="https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2010">https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2010</a> 019

## Who is in my field? (Pictured below)

Alexis de Boon and Julia Butcher (pictured below) are Lacombe County's Weed Inspectors for the 2025 season. They will be inspecting: County, private, and public lands for prohibited noxious and noxious weeds.

## Commonly Asked Questions: Can a weed inspector come onto my property without my permission?

Yes, under the provincial *Weed Control Act*, County Weed Inspectors have the appointed authority to enter any private property to monitor for noxious and prohibited noxious weeds and enforce

compliance with the Act. They do not need the homeowner's permission to do so. They are, however, restricted to only outdoor lands and business hours. Under the *Weed Control Act*, a person shall not willfully obstruct or delay an inspector in the exercise of their duties.

## How does a weed inspector know which properties to inspect?

Weed inspectors patrol within Lacombe County's jurisdiction. They may decide to inspect a property based on a number of factors, including:

- A random inspection,
- A visual sighting from the roadway
- A reported sighting
- A known history of an infestation in the area.

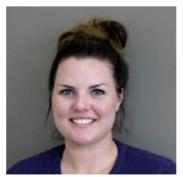
## What is a Prohibited Noxious Weed vs. Noxious Weed?

Prohibited Noxious weeds need to be 100% destroyed each year. They are classified as detrimental weeds but are not yet widespread in the province, making total eradication possible. Noxious weeds are widely spread across Alberta, which may be difficult to eradicate, but will alternatively be managed every year to stop the spread.

## More information

We are here to help! Ask us about plant identification, weed control options, or private herbicide applicators for hire. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Lacombe County's Agriculture Department at 403-782-8959.

We have a list of noxious and prohibited weeds on our website at: <a href="https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/business-and-development/weeds.aspx">https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/business-and-development/weeds.aspx</a>



**Jalene Makus** 



Alexis de Boon



Julia Butcher

You may see these County staff conducting weed and pest inspections this season. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 403-782-8959.

## **Continued from front:** Lacombe County opens 2025 Farm Family of the Year Nominators

The nomination form and award criteria can be found at https://www.lacombecounty.com/FarmFamily.

**PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE FARM FAMILY AWARD:** This is the third year that the County has led the collection of nominations for the Farm Family Award. The past recipients include:

## 2024 – Cody Congdon & Family (Rocky Top Gelbvieh)

Cody Congdon and his family operate Rocky Top Gelbvieh, a purebred cattle farm known for its top-tier genetics and sustainable practices. The fourth-generation farm uses rotational grazing and a four-year crop cycle to promote soil health. Cody is actively involved in the Canadian Gelbvieh Association and promotes innovation in cattle breeding. The family's teamwork and commitment to agriculture exemplify the values of Lacombe County's farming community.

## 2023 - Grose Family (Rodono Industries)

The Grose family of Rodono Industries received the award for their leadership in

technical farming, sustainable operations, and community involvement. Their operation blends tradition with innovation, contributing to both local food production and agricultural progress. The family is actively involved in rural initiatives and mentoring future farmers. Their values reflect the strength and resilience of Lacombe County's farm families.

## ABOUT THE NOMINATION PROCESS:

The nomination period for the Farm Family Award is from May 16, 2025, until August 15, 2025. Nominations can be submitted in person or by email to communications@lacombecounty. com. Eligible nominees must be Lacombe County producers whose primary source of income is agriculture.

Nominees must demonstrate a profound commitment to one or more of the following criteria:

## 1. Achievements and/or Innovations in Technical Farm Production:

Recognizing those who have made remarkable advancements in agricultural technology, techniques, or methods.

Sustainability Practices:
 Honoring individuals who 1\
 have implemented sustainable farming practices, contributing

to the preservation of natural resources and the environment

- 3. Family Farm Business Management:
  Celebrating families who have
  exemplified excellence in managing
  their farm businesses, showcasing
  exemplary leadership and strategic
  decision-making.
- 4. Agricultural Industry Involvement: Acknowledging individuals who have actively participated and contributed to the agricultural industry, sharing knowledge and fostering growth.
- Community and Rural Citizenship:
   Recognizing farm families who have made outstanding contributions to their local communities and exemplify strong rural values.

Nomination forms must be completed in their entirety and submitted no later than August 15, 2025. For more information, please email communications@ lacombecounty.com or call (403) 782-8959.

## **FOR RENT**

**Pasture Sprayers** 

Lacombe County Agriculture Services Has
Pasture Sprayers for County Residents to Rent

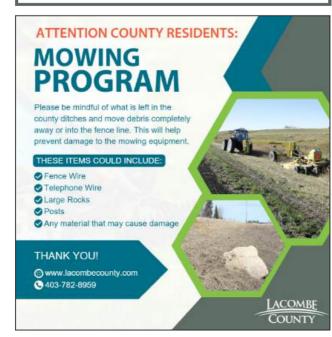




RENTAL RATE - \$50.00/DAY
DEPOSIT - \$200.00 (deposit refundable when sprayer returned in good condition)

:FOSII - \$200.00 (deposit refundable when sprayer returned in good cond

- Pull type 400 gallon water capacity, 20 gallon/acre coverage
- Designed for spraying range and pasture in rough terrain
- Has additional hand gun system and fence line spraying nozzle
- Simple to operate
- Can be pulled by trucks OR tractors



## Why Now is a Great Time to Plan a 2026 ALUS Project

By Ken Lewis, ALUS Lacombe Coordinator

I don't think I've ever heard someone say: "Whoops, I made a plan too soon". This applies to things you want to do on your farm or ranch, as much as anywhere else.

As you may have heard, many of the funding programs available for farmers and ranchers to adopt environmentally beneficial management practices, are in extremely high demand. Application "windows" have only been open for a few weeks, and limited funding gets allocated quickly.

This is no less true for ALUS. ALUS continues to grow in the County, and interest in it grows even faster. As a quick reminder, ALUS provides funding to farmers and ranchers to help cover the costs of environmental improvements on your farm / ranch, and makes annual payments to you for your ongoing management of important environmental features like riparian areas, water bodies, native range and forests.

So, now's a great time to start planning an ALUS Project for your farm or ranch in 2026.

By starting now, you can contact us and we can start working with you to figure out the best things to do, and the best ways to do them. When you start planning a project now, for work that will take place in 2026, that gives everyone lots of time for additional resources to be brought to the table, whether that's additional information, technical expertise, easier access to equipment, even maybe extra funding.

When you prepare an ALUS project plan in the coming weeks, for work you'll do in 2026, you also get the opportunity to put your project in front of our ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) for a "first look". The PAC, made up of farmers and ranchers and other subject matter experts in the agricultural and environmental field can give you extremely useful feedback on your project idea, and help you turn a great idea into an even better one, and provide you tips and tricks that they've seen over the years.

And finally, by starting to plan your ALUS Project for 2026 in the next few months, it gives us a chance to come meet you and see your place in the growing season, take pictures of the project area when it's not under 2 feet of snow, and gather up information that will help your project look that much better when our ALUS PAC is making decision about funding.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact us any time. My cell number is 403-505-9038, and my email address

is klewis@rdcounty.ca. Or contact ALUS Field Technician Jenna Dell, at 403-392-4616 or jdell@rdcounty.ca.

If you'd like to fill out our ALUS Expression of Interest, scan the QR code below and it'll take you there:





## The Animal Health Act, Emergency Readiness and YOU!

Alberta's Animal Health Act (AHA) is a comprehensive framework designed to protect animal health, public health, and food safety. A key component of the Act is its role in enhancing emergency preparedness, particularly during disease outbreaks or natural disasters. The Act authorizes the Minister to use and disclose information to support disease control, surveillance, and emergency response efforts.

Under the AHA, the Chief Provincial Veterinarian has the authority to implement control measures, such as establishing control zones and issuing movement restrictions, to contain and manage disease outbreaks effectively.

**Emergency Preparedness for Livestock Owners** 

In Alberta, livestock owners are encouraged to develop comprehensive emergency plans to safeguard their animals during crises. Key steps include:

Mapping the Property: Outline all buildings, power and water sources, access points, and hazardous material storage areas.

Establishing Muster Points: Designate safe locations with adequate feed, water, and shelter in case evacuation is necessary.

Transportation Planning: Ensure availability of suitable vehicles and practice loading animals to facilitate swift evacuation.

Animal Identification: Use visual identifiers like ear tags or tattoos and maintain up-to-date records.

Emergency Contacts: Compile a list of essential contacts, including veterinarians, animal handlers, and feed suppliers.

Record Keeping: Store all critical information both onsite and digitally for easy access during emergencies.

Additionally, registering livestock with Alberta Agriculture's Traceability Program is crucial. It aids in tracking animal movements and enhances response efficiency during emergencies. Don't wait for an emergency – now's the time to take action so when a crisis arrives you have everything in place.

Aligning with Emergency Preparedness Week

Earlier this month was Emergency Preparedness Week, which serves as a reminder for all Albertans to assess and improve their emergency readiness. For the agricultural community, this

includes ensuring that emergency plans are in place and up to date. Resources such as the Emergency Preparedness Week Resources provide valuable guidance on creating effective emergency plans tailored to various needs, including those of livestock owners.

By integrating the principles of the Animal Health Act into emergency planning, livestock owners can enhance their preparedness and resilience against potential crises.

Combining the legislative support of the Animal Health Act with proactive emergency planning empowers Alberta's livestock owners to protect their animals and livelihoods effectively. As EP Week emphasizes, preparedness is a shared responsibility, and utilizing available resources ensures a robust response to emergencies.

For more information and resources, visit:

- Alberta's Animal Health Act
- Farm Animals and Livestock Preparedness
- · Emergency Preparedness Week Toolkit

By taking these steps, Alberta's agricultural community can ensure they are well-prepared to face emergencies with confidence.

## Mountain Pine Beetle on the decline—but targeted verbenone protection encouraged

Over the past decade, Alberta has made significant strides in controlling the spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB)—a destructive pest responsible for the loss of millions of pine trees across Western Canada.

Thanks to sustained efforts by the Government of Alberta, including aggressive control measures, strategic harvesting, and monitoring programs, MPB populations have declined dramatically in recent years. These efforts have helped preserve forests and limit the beetle's spread into new areas.

Despite the progress, landowners with treasured pine stands may still want to take preventive action—particularly during peak beetle flight season. One of the most effective tools for individual tree protection is verbenone, a pheromone-based repellent that tells incoming beetles a tree is already occupied.

From June to September, Lacombe County is selling verbenone pouches to residents for personal use. While widespread outbreaks are no longer the immediate threat they once were, verbenone can still play a role in protecting high-value or isolated pine trees from potential beetle activity.

Verbenone quick facts:

- · Use on pine trees only.
- · Best applied between June and July.
- Sold in packages of 5 pouches for \$75.50.

Available to Lacombe County ratepayer.
 Please come to the Administration Building to purchase.

For more details or to purchase verbenone, please contact the Agricultural Services department at 403-782-8959.

## PROTECT YOUR PINE TREES

Verbenone pouches now available

Lacombe County is once again offering verbenone pouches to help landowners protect pine trees from Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) attacks.



**AVAILABILITY: June to September** 

RECOMMENDED APPLICATION: Early to mid-June through July

MINIMUM PURCHASE: 1 full package (5 pouches)

COST: 1 Package (5 pouches)/\$75.50 (inc. GST)

## **PURCHASE PROCESS:**

Ratepayers can purchase their verbenone at the the Lacombe County Administrative Office.

We have 20 packages in stock, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact the Agricultural Services department at 403-782-8959.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS & WORKSHOPS**

## **Exciting events planned at Ellis Nature Centre**

Our 2025 Spring programs filled up fast and we are excited for the new season and summer students. Thank you to

everyone that registered for our school programs, we look forward to seeing you!

Our summer day camps are now open for registration! Check out our website for topics that

range from farming, birds, wetlands, and wildlife!

Tickets for the 4th annual Harvest Dinner Fundraising Gala are now available on the Lacombe Museum website. Please join us for an event that delivers a farm-to-folk experience featuring culinary skills from Milly Oak café head chef Derek Laydon. He is offering a local, home-made meal that is complimented with live and silent auction items, desserts, and live entertainment.

Enjoy a morning at the Ellis Nature Centre on May 10 for our World Migratory Bird Day, 8-10am. This is an opportunity to celebrate the return of our North American migratory bird species. This event does not require registration. Donations are welcome, however, are not required to attend this event.

Love birds but don't know where to start?

Participate in our Learn to Bird event from 8-10am on May 24th where you can learn the different types and behaviors of birds in your area. There are 18 spots available for registration with a fee of

\$10 per person.

Put those bird ID skills to the test on May 31st and join us for our very own May Species Count. All are welcome to join as this event is free and does not require registration.

Calling all new and returning volunteers! We will be hosting a Volunteer Orientation on May 16th and May 24th. We will have light snacks and refreshments while we review our summer projects, tasks, and events for this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Chloe at info@ellisnaturecentre.ca for more information.

Happy birding from the Ellis Nature Centre

## **RETHINKING WEEDS**

## WHAT'S INVADING YOUR FIELDS & HOW TO STOP IT

What you'll learn from the experts!

Cunning Kochia & Wily Wild Oats:

Update on herbicide resistant weeds

New Grass Invaders:

Strategies to control new annual brome invaders in rangeland Hands-on Weed ID:

Get hands-on weed II training with 45+ different species











10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Lacombe Research & Development Centre Bus Transportation Required:

Lacombe County Office (10:00 AM departure)
 CrossRoads Church, 38105 Range Road 27-5,
Red Deer County (10:00 AM departure)

(\$) \$30/person

To learn more or to register your spot, visit https://RethinkWeeds.eventbrite.ca or scan the QR code



partnership with:

LACOMBE







Sponsored by:



## 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.

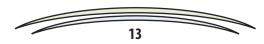
## **How to Purchase:**

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





## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



## LACOMBE COUNTY SPOT light

## LACOMBE FRESH

Grown with care, shared with pride.

Lacombe Fresh is a local success story that's deeply rooted in family farming, innovation, and a passion for community connection.

Co-owned by Carmen Tiemstra,
Lacombe Fresh is the result of a unique collaboration between two long-standing family-run greenhouses—Doef's Greenhouses and Gull Valley Greenhouses—located right here in Lacombe County.

Together, these two operations grow fresh produce year-round using innovative greenhouse technology. Their offerings include tomatoes, lettuce, beans, basil, mint, bok choy, dill, eggplant, cucumbers, bell peppers, hot peppers, and green onions. This wide variety of produce is distributed through Pik-N-Pak Produce to local grocery stores throughout Central Alberta, their on-site Lacombe Fresh store, various Alberta farmers' markets, and directly to restaurants and wholesalers across the region. Uniquely, their Pik-N-Pak/Lacombe Fresh store is open 24 hours a day, allowing customers to stop in any time, select fresh produce (and other locally sourced goods), and run purchases through the self-checkout system, making fresh food access truly convenient.

"We use lighting systems to grow year-round in Alberta's cold climate, and we prioritize biological pest control whenever possible," Carmen explains. "It's part of our commitment to growing clean, healthy food and protecting our environment."

While Lacombe Fresh is their farmers' market brand and has only operated under that name for five years, the roots of the business go back decades. Doef's Greenhouses was established in 1979, Gull Valley Greenhouses in 1992, and Pik-N-Pak Produce, a cooperative created to distribute locally grown produce, has been in operation since 1995. The Lacombe Fresh brand was born when both families decided to join forces and market together under one banner, simplifying the customer experience and making their

produce easier to access.

Carmen, who married into the Tiemstra family, now works alongside her husband and in-laws at Gull Valley. The Doef family also continues to operate as a multi-generational team. "It's truly a family business. Our kids are involved, and we're seeing the next generation grow into these roles too," she says.

Lacombe Fresh supplies fresh produce to several Lacombe County and regional businesses, including Milly Oak, Eastside Eatery, ONA Café, Leto's, Tollers, and Moe's. As a member of the Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, they stay connected to others in the industry, share ideas, and learn from fellow growers to keep improving.

So, why is Lacombe County a great place to do business?

"It's a welcoming community where people want to support local," Carmen says. "We really believe we can thrive when we support one another."

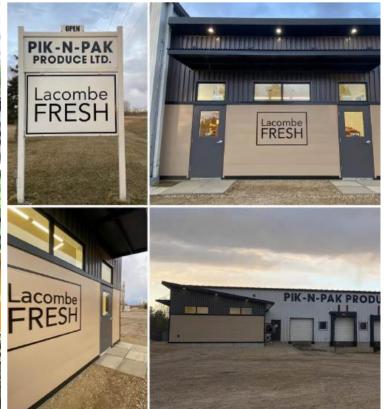
## Lacombe FRESH

Beyond the quality of the food, Lacombe Fresh brings something more to the table, a meaningful shopping experience. Whether you're visiting their greenhouse store or finding them at your local farmers' market, you're not just buying vegetables; you're building a connection with the people who grow your food.

Looking for crisp, flavour-packed, locally grown produce that lasts longer in your fridge and supports the community? Find Lacombe Fresh at farmers' markets across Central Alberta, or follow them on Instagram @lacombefresh to stay inspired.







## Collaboration builds stronger communities

In today's economy, no business or municipality operates in isolation. Regional collaboration is key to building resilient local economies, supporting innovation, and ensuring our communities grow in ways that reflect shared values and priorities.

At Lacombe County, we understand the power of working together. That's why we partner with nearby municipalities on a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening our local economy. Whether it's aligning strategies, supporting local events, or planning for long-term growth, these partnerships help ensure that businesses and communities across our region can thrive.

We also work alongside many non-profit organizations, including Lacombe Regional Tourism, Community Futures, and the Lacombe Regional Chamber of Commerce, to name a few, to support business development, tourism, and entrepreneurship. When possible, we collaborate directly with Lacombe County businesses, too, especially when we share a common vision of growth and opportunity.

The Economic Development team at Lacombe County is always open to networking, collaboration, and finding ways to support local business. Whether it's through our business directory, one-on-one visits, or local networking events,

we want to hear from you. You can reach us at economicdevelopment@lacombecounty.com.

## Let's build something together.

If you're a business owner or entrepreneur in Lacombe County, reach out. Attend a business networking session. Join a forum. Share your story and help shape the future of economic development in our region.

Together, we're stronger—and the future is brighter when we build it side by side. With your support, we can ensure that *Success Grows*Here!







## Show your Alberta side. Buy Local.

When the going gets tough, Albertans stick together. That's why Alberta's government is launching a new campaign to benefit hard-working Albertans.

Global uncertainty is threatening the livelihoods of hard-working Alberta farmers, ranchers, processors and their families. The 'Buy Local' campaign, recently launched by Alberta's government, encourages consumers to eat, drink and buy local to show our unified support for the province's agriculture and food industry.

Alberta's government supports consumer choice. We are providing tools to help folks easily identify Alberta- and Canadian-made foods and products. Choosing local products keeps Albertans' hard-earned dollars in our province. Whether it is farm-fresh vegetables, potatoes, honey, craft beer, frozen food or our world-renowned beef, Alberta has an abundance of fresh foods produced right on our doorstep

## **Check out these resources:**

- Buy Local Alberta (<a href="https://www.alberta.ca/buy-local-alberta">https://www.alberta.ca/buy-local-alberta</a>)
- Made in Alberta Product Catalogue (<u>https://madeinal-berta.co/catalogue/</u>)
- Alberta Agri-Food Products and Services Export Catalogue (<a href="https://www.alberta.ca/agri-food-export-catalogue">https://www.alberta.ca/agri-food-export-catalogue</a>)

# COUNTY WWW.LACOMBECOUN

## LOCAL

SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT LOCAL
STAY STRONG

You make a real difference by supporting local businesses. When you shop local, your money stays local, and helps to support local jobs, community programs, community events and charities. Every dollar spent locally makes our community stronger.

WWW.LACOMBECOUNTY.COM/BUSINESSDIRECTORY



## **SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY**

Do you have questions about subdivision or development

## **Contact Us:**

activity?

Lacombe County Planning Services

(403) 782-8389 planning@ lacombecounty.com

Dale Freitag
Director of
Planning Services

Cajun Paradis
Manager of
Planning Services

Nicklas Baran
Planner /
Development
Officer

Will Cebuliak
Planning Intern

Kerrie Taylor
Economic
Development
Officer

Allison Noonan
Planning Services
Administrative
Assistant

Daniella Gonzalez
Planning Services
Receptionist

## April I, 2025 to April 30, 2025

**Development Applications Received** 

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Development	<b>Decision</b> (otherwise pending)
1	34/25	Aggregate Design Studio	Lot K Plan 1751HW (Pt. SE 36-40-27-W4M)	Dwelling w/attached garage & pickleball court Replacement Dwelling	Approved
2	35/25	Caralee Blacklock	Pt. SW 10-41-27-W4M	Home Based Business, Minor Catering Kitchen, The Culinary Pursuit	Approved
3	36/25	Carrie Toms	Lot 26 Block 90 Plan 7159Al (Hamlet of Mirror)	Setback Relaxation Enclosed Porch, Existing	Approved
4	37/25	Ralph Howes	NW 10-40-01-W5M	Dwelling Replacement, Mobile Home	
5	38/25	Corey Wittig	NE 02-41-02-W5M	Dwelling w/attached garage	Approved
6	39/25	Anton Nosov & Dorothy Magtalas	Lot 6 Block 31 Plan 7159Al (Hamlet of Mirror)	Dwelling w/veranda	Approved
7	40/25	Audrey Noblet	Pt. SW 23-41-24-W4M	Dwelling, Second Existing Residence	Approved
8	41/25	Valley Mountain Homes	Lot 14 Block 2 Plan 042 4146 (Greystone Ranch)	Dwelling w/ attached garage and covered deck & veranda	Approved
9	42/25	2408287 Alberta Ltd.	Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 142 0250 (Pt. NW 11-40-26-W4M)	Dwelling w/ detached garage and veranda	Approved
10	43/25	William Brown	Pt. SW-04-40-23-W4M	Home Based Business, Major Renewal, Bill's Waterwell Services Ltd.	Approved
11	44/25	Dynamic Modular Homes	Unit 190 Condo Plan 142 2139 (Sandy Point, Gull Lake)	Park Model	Approved
12	45/25	1598768 Alberta Ltd. Mervyn Pidherney	Lot 22 Block 1 Plan 142 5076 (South Aspelund Industrial Park)	Heavy Equipment Sales OES Rental Building & Yard	
13	46/25	Shawn & Randean Playford	N Pt. SW 14-41-26-W4M	Home Based Business, Major Renewal, Inline Welding Ltd.	Approved
14	47/25	Dalen & Danielle Everson	Lots 5 & 6 Plan 1970EO (Brownlow's Landing, Gull Lake)	Shed	Approved
15	48/25	Curtis & Melanie Rangen	Pt. NE 28-39-03-W5M	Dwelling w/attached garage and addition	
16	49/25	Maddox Dance Company	Unit 8 Condo Plan 162 2594 (Wild Rose Commercial Park)	Commercial School Renewal, Maddox Dance	Approved
17	50/25	Valley Mountain Homes	Lot 14 Block 2 Plan 042 4146 (Greystone Ranch)	Detached Garage	
18	51/25	JP Builders Inc Paul White	Lot 10 Block 1 Plan 192 1146 (Burbank Heights)	Dwelling w/attached garage	
19	52/25	Brad & Heather Pedersen	Pt. SW 14-41-26-W4M	Dwelling, Second Existing Mobile Home	Approved

# MAP OF ACTIVITY | Hamist of Hamist

## **Subdivision Applications Received**

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Subdivision	<b>Decision</b> (otherwise pending)
20	S-009-25	Bemoco Land Surveying Ltd.	Pt. NW 30-39-22-W4M	1st Parcel Out	Approved
21	S-010-25	Ryan & Jessica Ivan	Lot D Plan 5864KS (Blackstone Estates)	Residential	Approved
22	S-011-25	Bemoco Land Surveying Ltd.	Pt. SW 10-40-23-W4M	1st Parcel Out	Approved
23	S-012-25	Peter & Sonja Janssen	Pt. SW 11-41-27-W4M	1st Parcel Out	Approved
24	S-013-25	The Track on 2 Inc.	Block 1 Plan 992 0636 (Pt. SW 23-40-27-W4M)	Commercial	
25	S-014-25	Patrik & Jessica Stocker	NW 11-38-25-W4M	1st Parcel Out	Approved
26	S-015-25	Pamela Darnell	NW 34-39-26-W4M	1st Parcel Out	
27	S-016-25	Paula Law	Pt. SW 18-40-26-W4M Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 962 4007	Boundary Adjustment	

## Tax Installment PAYMENT PLAN



Contact Lacombe County at (403) 782-6601 or visit www.lacombecounty.com for more details.



Automatic
Budget-friendly
Simple
Convenient

## Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch NOW COMPLETE!

Good news for boaters: construction on the Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch in now COMPLETE (as of May 15, 2025).

The newly upgraded launch is in the existing location, and features significant improvements, including:

- · increased width
- longer ramp length
- new dock and gangway system

This upgrade utilized prefabricated cable concrete panels for increased durability and reliability, along with a steeper grade to facilitate easier and safer boat launching, ultimately enhancing overall functionality and user experience.

Happy boating!



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Canada LLP 100 179D Leva Avenue Deer County AB T4E 1B9

### **Independent Auditor's Report**

### To the Members of Council of Lacombe County

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Lacombe County and its controlled or owned organizations (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the consolidated statement of operations, consolidated statement of changes in net financial assets, and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 2024 and its consolidated results of operations, its consolidated change in net financial assets, and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for

## Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

### Emphasis of Matter - Restatement of Comparative Information

We draw attention to Note 32 to the financial statements, which explains that certain comparative information presented for the year ended December 31, 2023 has been restated. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

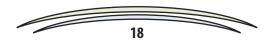
As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants Red Deer, Alberta



### Lacombe County Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2024	202
		Restate (see Note 3)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 4)	\$ 55,905,403	
Investments (Note 5)	46,583,600	16,487,83
Taxes receivable (Note 6)	826,765	1,017,29
Accounts receivable (Note 7)	9,118,076	3,884,49
Inventories for resale (Note 8)	723,135	809,99
	113,156,979	106,975,61
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 9)	3,871,574	2,515,82
Asset retirement obligation (Note 10)	2,350,551	2,236,69
Employee benefit obligation (Note 11)	1,341,801	1,266,88
Deposit liabilities	1,301,386	1,337,05
Deferred revenue (Note 12)	6,307,731	4,565,96
	15,173,043	11,922,42
Net financial assets	97,983,936	95,053,19
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 13)	283,540,935	286,006,38
Prepaid expenses and inventories of supplies (Note 15)	6,706,915	6,664,20
	290,247,850	292,670,58
Accumulated surplus (Note 16)	\$ 388,231,786	\$ 387,723,78

Liability for contaminated sites (Note 19)

Funds held in trust (Note 20)

### Lacombe County **Consolidated Statement of Operations**

	Consondati	ca statement (	or Operations
	Budget		
For the year ended December 31	2024	2024	2023
			Restated
	(see Note 28)		(see Note 32)
	(,		(,
B			
Revenues Taxation - net (Note 21)	\$ 37,103,860	37,366,016	\$ 36,157,850
Taxation - other (Note 22)	840,000	813,389	754,625
Government transfers for operating (Note 23)	1,580,530	1,497,543	1,484,157
Sales, user charges and costs recovered	2,486,080	2,996,091	2,937,112
Sales to other governments	1,362,920	1,722,623	1,598,239
Permits, licenses, fines, penalties and rentals	647,680	1,008,424	880,004
Interest, royalties and patronage allocations	3,478,420	4,421,557	4,316,959
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	-	1,796,189	1,896,316
Development levies	228,000	1,277,163	7,199
Other	12,100	141,804	135,168
	47,739,590	53,040,799	50,167,629
- 00			
Expenses (Note 24)	( 02 4 757	( 400 304	( 447 40(
General government	6,834,757	6,409,396	6,147,196
Protective services	4,609,652 29,766,288	4,295,217 29,363,810	4,269,232 28,780,980
Transportation services Environmental services	4,721,485	4,679,691	3,389,483
Cemetery	59,220	52,215	81,241
Social and family services	398,400	389,384	393,749
Recreation and cultural services	3,600,842	3,630,482	3,072,309
Planning and development	1,273,020	1,214,464	1,087,804
Agriculture services	1,647,288	1,393,864	1,342,715
Write-down of tangible capital assets	-,,	1,527,451	679,183
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	=	847,614	15,137
,	52,910,952	53,803,588	49,259,029
Annual surplus (deficiency) before other income	(5,171,362)	(762,789)	908,600
Other Income			
Government transfers for capital (Note 23)	3,680	293,292	3,588,488
Contributed assets (Note 13)	- -	977,503	177,300
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Annual surplus (deficiency)	(5,167,682)	508,006	4,674,388
as. sa. pias (acriciones)	(3,137,302)	300,000	1,07 1,000
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	387,723,780	387,723,780	383,049,392
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 382,556,098	388,231,786	\$ 387,723,780

## Lacombe County Consolidated Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

For the year ended December 31	Budget 2024	2024	2023
			Restated (see Note 32)
Annual surplus (deficiency) Acquisition of tangible capital assets Acquisition of contributed assets Amortization of tangible capital assets Gain on sale of tangible capital assets Loss on sale of tangible capital assets Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets Write-downs of tangible capital assets	\$ (5,167,682)\$ (23,076,780) - 22,924,053 - - 1,159,730 -	508,006 \$ (22,684,477) (977,503) 22,924,053 (1,796,189) 847,614 2,624,496 1,527,451	4,674,388 (15,379,820) (177,300) 22,428,283 (1,896,316) 15,137 2,069,425 679,183
Change in prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies  Net change in net financial assets  Net financial assets, beginning of year	(4,160,679) (475,530) (4,636,209) 95,053,192	2,973,451 (42,707) 2,930,744 95,053,192	12,412,980 188,425 12,601,405 82,451,787
Net financial assets, end of year		97,983,936 \$	

Lacombe County
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2024

## 26. Remuneration Disclosure

Disclosure of remuneration for municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by Alberta Regulation 313/2000 is as follows:

	Com	pensation	 nefits & owances	 Total 2024	Total 2023
Councillors:					
Division 1	\$	67,542	\$ 11,830	\$ 79,372	\$ 72,381
Division 2		74,578	13,322	87,900	88,985
Division 3- Reeve		81,392	7,995	89,387	86,848
Division 4		63,537	11,325	74,862	72,560
Division 5		69,707	10,934	80,641	83,840
Division 6		58,233	11,381	69,614	69,864
Division 7		71,331	13,170	84,501	88,613
Administration:					
County Manager		296,129	73,825	369,954	382,349
Designated Officer		153,872	28,746	182,618	171,583
Designated Officer		136,585	27,561	164,146	153,417

Council Compensation: includes base pay and per diem

Council Benefits and Allowances: includes the County's contribution for health, dental and insurance benefits, and mileage paid for attending meetings.

County Manager and Designated Officer Salary: includes regular base pay.

County Manager and Designated Officer Benefits and Allowances: includes the County's contribution for Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, health, dental and insurance benefits, pension, professional memberships and tuition.

## Lacombe County Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31		2024	2023
			Restated (see Note 32)
Operating transactions Annual surplus (deficiency) Items not involving cash	\$	508,006	\$ 4,674,388
Change in accretion liability Contributed assets Amortization Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets Write-down of tangible capital asset Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets		113,861 (977,503) 22,924,053 (1,796,189) 1,527,451 847,614	403,866 (177,300) 22,428,283 (1,896,316) 679,183 15,137
Changes in non-cash operating balances Taxes receivable Accounts receivable Inventories for resale Prepaid expenses and inventories of supplies Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Employee benefit obligation Deposit liabilities Deferred revenue	_	190,525 (5,233,583) 86,856 (42,707) 1,355,747 74,913 (35,664) 1,741,762	129,739 2,575,365 (237,213) 188,425 (484,149) (621,075) 20,027 (1,356,535) 26,341,825
Capital transactions Acquisition of tangible capital assets Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	_	(22,684,477) 2,624,496	(15,379,820) 2,069,425
Investing transactions (Increase)/decrease of investments Restricted cash balances	_	(30,095,764) 1,057,444 (29,038,320)	1,568,596 (66,604) 1,501,992
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(27,813,159)	14,533,422
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	_	79,012,468	64,479,046
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	51,199,309	\$ 79,012,468
Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of: Cash and cash equivalents Less: restricted (Note 4)	\$	55,905,403 (4,706,094)	\$ 84,776,006 (5,763,538)
	\$	51,199,309	\$ 79,012,468

The full Financial Statement document is on our website: https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/our-government/ financial-statements-and-indicators.aspx

## CONTINUED FROM COVER: Check your mail for 2025 Property Assessment/Tax Notices

"Like other online bill payments, there may be a processing delay for online tax payments. Therefore, individuals planning to pay their taxes through electronic banking should not leave it until the last minute," advised Minchin. "To avoid all penalties, Lacombe County must receive tax payments by the last business day in August."

Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services at Lacombe County, added, "We recognize the importance of timely tax payments for the smooth functioning of our community. It is crucial for residents to fulfill their obligations and submit their payments by the specified deadline. We are here to assist and answer any questions related to property assessments and tax notices."

## **HOW TO PAY**

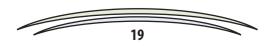
Tax payments are payable to Lacombe County (no later than August 31, 2025) and using one of the following options:

 By mail to: Lacombe County, RR3, Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3 Mailed payments must be postmarked by Canada Post no later than August 31 of the current year. If the postmark is illegible or missing, the actual date of receipt by Lacombe County will apply.

- In Person: At the County Office (40403 Range Rd 274, Lacombe County, AB) during office hours.
- Deposited in the envelope mailbox located at the road entrance to the County office (Do not submit cash).
- Through Your Financial Institution: Payments can be made at most financial institutions through internet or telephone banking.
  - Set up Lacombe County as a bill payee using the roll number for taxes.
  - Each roll and utility account number needs to be set up individually or payments may be misapplied.
  - Funds must be received in the County's bank account no later than August 31, 2025.
- Electronic funds transfer (EFT): businesses ONLY, please contact the office if interested in paying by EFT.

- Funds must be received in the County's bank account no later than August 31, 2025.
- By Credit Card: visit www.lacombecounty. com and pay through OptionPay, a secure third-party site, to make payment by credit card. (Please note that there is a fee for this service. Lacombe County does not receive any of the credit card fees).
- Tax Installment Payment Plan: Those enrolled in the County's tax installment plan (TIPPs) will see their payment adjusted to reflect the new tax rates for 2025 on their next monthly payment.

\*\*The above due date and penalties DO NOT APPLY to ratepayers enrolled in the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP), which allows property taxes to be paid on a monthly basis instead of one single payment. Enrollment application forms are available at the Lacombe County Administration office or on the Lacombe County website.



## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

## April 10, 2025

## RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICY AD(24) REVISION

Council approved amendments to Respectful Workplace Policy AD(24). The revised policy includes updates that align with recent enhancements to the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Code, which expands employer responsibilities for reporting, investigating, informing, and training.

## MIRROR ASSOCIATION FOR BALL DIAMOND, CAMPGROUND & SKATING RINK RECREATION CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

Council approved funding of up to \$8,600 toward the Mirror Association for Ball Diamond, Campground & Skating Rink's fence replacement project at the second (west) ball diamond. Funding will come from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve. Council also agreed Lacombe County will manage the project and provide the Association's \$8,600 share upfront, with the Association repaying its 50% share at a rate of \$1,000 per year starting in 2025.

**PUBLIC HEARING BYLAW 1433/25** 

A public hearing was held for Bylaw No. 1433/25. Bylaw No. 1433/25 is a bylaw of Lacombe County

to establish alternate methods for advertising

The bylaw was developed to allow the use of

digital platforms, such as the County website,

social media, and email, alongside traditional print and mail for public notifications, improving

maintaining legislative compliance.

**RESERVE ALLOCATION** 

Cemetery Development Reserve.

surplus allocation to reserves.

**2024 OPERATING SURPLUS AND** 

communication effectiveness and accessibility while

was given second and third reading and so passed.

Lacombe County realized a 2024 operating surplus

of \$4,844,070 of which \$3.3 million was available

for reallocation to capital reserves. By resolution

Council, the \$3.3 million was allocated to the

following capital reserves: the New Pavement

Reserve, the Water/Wastewater Reserve and the

**2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** 

Representatives of BDO Canada LLP presented

year ended December 31, 2024. By resolution of

were approved, as amended, to include the 2024

Council, the 2024 Audited Financial Statements

the draft 2024 Audited Financial Statements for the

Following the public hearing, Bylaw No. 1433/25

statutory notices.

## ALIX WAGON WHEEL MUSEUM FUNDING REQUEST

Council approved funding of \$3,000 toward the Alix Wagon Wheel Museum Association's fire suppression and ceiling/attic renovation project. Funding will come from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve. Council also approved an additional \$2,500 in funding, contingent upon the Village of Alix increasing its financial commitment to the project by the same amount.

## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT. 2025

Council received an update on the proposed amendments under Bill 50 – the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

### **TAX RATE BYLAW**

Council approved first, second, and third readings to Bylaw No. 1435/25, a bylaw to authorize the rates of taxation to be levied against assessable property within Lacombe County for the 2025 taxation year. Council also

approved an additional contribution of \$165,600 to the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

## **EAGLE BUILDERS PRESENTATION**

Council received a presentation from Mr. Dennis Haan and Mr. Craig Haan of Eagle Builders on the company's future growth plans within the County as well as a request for tax incentives for a proposed new facility. Council received the presentation for information and directed the County Manager to prepare a report and recommendation regarding the request for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

## ANIMALS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS BYLAW

Council received a presentation regarding Bylaw No. 1428/25, a bylaw to amend the Lacombe County Land Use Bylaw, Bylaw No. 1237/17, as it relates to Animals in Residential Districts. A summary of the feedback from the March 13, 2025, public hearing was provided. Council approved second and third readings of Bylaw No. 1428/25.

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

## April 24, 2025

2025 received the approval of Council:

- That the Minimum Tax on Low Assessment Properties presentation be received for information; and further, that the County Manager be directed to prepare a report and recommendations for Council's consideration at a future meeting for the 2026 taxation year.
- That the Citizen Satisfaction Survey initiative be deferred to the Fall of 2026 to align with the development of the next strategic plan.
- That the Rural Crime presentation be received for information.
- That the County Manager be directed to prepare a report for Council's consideration at a future meeting regarding potential changes to Lacombe County Councillor appointments to the following, with any such changes to take effect at the 2025-2026 Lacombe County Organization Meeting:
  - o Alberta Synergy
  - o Alix & District Chamber of Commerce
  - o Blackfalds & District Chamber of Commerce
  - o Central Alberta Synergy
  - o Friends of the Blindman River
  - o Mary C. Moore Public Library Board
  - o Parkland Airshed Management Board
  - o Parkland Regional Library Board
  - o Red Deer/Lacombe Rural Crime Watch
  - o West Central Stakeholders
  - o Town of Blackfalds/Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan-Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Committee
  - o Rimbey Regional Synergy
  - o Red Deer Rural Restorative Justice
- That the County Manager be directed to prepare a report to support Lacombe County's participation in the development of the City of Lacombe/Town of the Blackfalds/Lacombe County Regional Collaboration Committee for Council's consideration at a future Council

meeting.

 That the County Manager be directed to prepare draft amendments, for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting, to the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw and the Fire and Emergency Response Bylaw to allow the County Manager to recover outstanding fire response fees through the tax roll.

## OFFER TO PURCHASE PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN THE HAMLET OF MIRROR

Lacombe County received multiple bids in early 2025 for two tax-forfeited properties in the Hamlet of Mirror. By resolution of Council, the following bids were accepted:

- Lots 16-20, Block 13, Plan 7159AI \$75,000 (GST inclusive)
- Bid #2 for Lots 14-17, Block 4, Plan 7159AI -\$40,000 (GST inclusive)

## **OPERATIONS POLICY REVIEW**

Council approved amendments to policies OP(31) Fencing Adjacent to Undeveloped Road Allowances and OP(41) Culverts-Manure Management. The updates include revised naming references and corrections to spelling, grammar and formatting.

## LINCOLN HALL COMMUNITY SOCIETY CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST

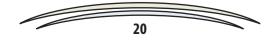
Council approved funding of up to \$6,170 for the Lincoln Hall Community Society's kitchen upgrade project, with the contribution to come from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

## **PROCEDURES BYLAW**

Council approved first, second, and third readings to Bylaw No. 1436/25, a bylaw which provides for the orderly proceedings of Council meetings and the transacting of business by the Council of Lacombe County.



The following recommendations from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 1,



## Understanding Your 2025 Property Tax Payments: A Guide for Lacombe County Taxpayers

As Lacombe County prepares for its annual property tax assessment and collection process, it's crucial for all taxpayers to be informed and prepared for the upcoming deadlines. Our aim is to ensure that each resident and business owner is equipped with the knowledge to fulfill their obligations smoothly and efficiently.

Here's everything you need to know about the 2025 property tax cycle:

## **Property Tax Notices Dispatched**

Lacombe County will send out our 2025 Assessment and Tax Notices in May. These notices serve as your formal announcement of the property tax due for the current year. Please watch your mail for these important documents.

### **Haven't Received Your Notice?**

If you have not received your tax notice by the June 1, 2025, it is imperative to contact the Lacombe County Office immediately. Timely communication ensures you remain informed of your tax obligations and prevents any penalties for late payments.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure you have received your property assessment and tax notice.

## **Updating Your Mailing Address**

YOU - the taxpayer- are responsible for ensuring Lacombe County has your correct mailing address. Updates to your mailing address are essential for receiving your tax notice and other important communications from the County.

In addition to being responsible for ensuring Lacombe County has your new mailing address, you need also to ensure that the Alberta Land Titles Office has your correct mailing address.

Updates to your mailing address are essential for receiving your tax notice, other important County communications, as well as any mailings from the Alberta Land Titles Office.

Please provide any changes to your address promptly to avoid any miscommunication by calling:

- Lacombe County at 403-782-6601 or emailing info@lacombecounty.com.
- Alberta Land Titles changes can be found at <a href="https://servicealberta.ca/pdf/ltmanual/">https://servicealberta.ca/pdf/ltmanual/</a> CHANGE OF ADDRESS.pdf.

## **Assessment Complaint Process**

Questions regarding your property assessment can be answered by County assessment staff. If you disagree with your property assessment, you can file a complaint through the formal complaint process. The deadline for filing complaints will be indicated on your notice, and it is essential to act swiftly if you believe your assessment is inaccurate.

Detailed instructions on how to lodge a complaint are available on our website (<a href="https://www.lacom-becounty.com/en/living-here/assessment.aspx">https://www.lacom-becounty.com/en/living-here/assessment.aspx</a>) and at our office.

## **Payment Deadlines and Options**

All property tax payments are due no later than August 31, 2025. Lacombe County offers several convenient payment options.

- By Mail: Send your payment to Lacombe County, RR3, Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3. Ensure your mail is postmarked by Canada Post no later than August 31 to avoid penalties
- In Person: Visit our County Office at 40403 RGE RD 274, Lacombe County, AB, during office hours. Additionally, a secure envelope mailbox is available at the road entrance for non-cash payments.
- Electronically: Payments can be made via internet banking or, for businesses, EFT. Ensure funds are sent several days before the deadline to ensure the funds are received in the County's bank account by the deadline. Payments not received in the County's bank account after August 31 will receive a late payment penalty.
- By Credit Card: Use OptionPay via our website, www.lacombecounty. com. Note that this service incurs a fee, which does not go to Lacombe County.
- Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP): Enroll in TIPP for monthly payments instead of making a single annual payment. Enrollment forms are available at our office and online.

## **Late Payment Penalties**

DON'T PROCRASTINATE! Lacombe County has a zero-tolerance policy for late payments.

- Didn't receive your assessment/tax notice? Contact us right away!
- See an error on your assessment notice? Contact us right away!
- Received your assessment/tax notice? Pay it TODAY, and avoid any late payment worries!
- Don't want to pay it all at once (or do you find you're always lastminute)? Sign up for the Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP).

Payments after the August 31 deadline will incur a 6% penalty on September 1 on the outstanding taxes. A further 10% penalty will be applied on December 1 for outstanding tax balances after November 30.

\*\*These penalties do not apply to taxpayers enrolled in TIPP.

## Why Stay Informed?

Property taxes are a significant aspect of mu-

## Responsibilities for Residents TAXPAYERS' GUIDE

Watch for your 2025
Assessment & Tax Notices
in the mail.

We will send out our 2025 Assessment and Tax Notices in early May. These notices serve as your formal announcement of the property tax due for the current year. Please watch your mail for these important documents.

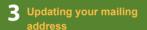




Didn't receive a notice?

Assessment and Tax Notice by mid June, contact the Lacombe County Office immediately.

It is <u>YOUR</u> responsibility to ensure you have received your notice



YOU - the taxpayer - are responsible for ensuring Lacombe County has your correct mailing address.

Updates to your mailing address are essential for receiving tax notice, other important County communications, and info from the Alberta Land Titles Office.





Assessment complaint process

Questions regarding your property assessment can be answered by County assessment staff.

There is a deadline for filing a complaint, which will be indicated on your notice.



All tax payments are due no later than August 31, 2025. Lacombe County offers several convenient payment options (mail, in person, electronically, credit card, payment plan)

DON'T PROCRASTINATE! Lacombe County has a zero-tolerance policy for late payments.



www.lacombecounty.com

nicipal finance, directly affecting the quality of services and infrastructure in Lacombe County. By staying informed and meeting your tax obligations on time, you contribute to the continued development and maintenance of our community.

For any queries, assistance, or to update your information, please contact the Lacombe County at 403-782-6601. Let's work together to ensure a smooth and efficient tax process for everyone involved.



## 310-RCMP launched for non-emergency police reports

Effective April 2025, individuals in Alberta will be able make non-emergency police reports by calling 310-RCMP, or 310-7267. The new function is designed to streamline the crime reporting process, optimize early stages of investigations, and reduce unnecessary calls to 911.

"310-RCMP was created to help eliminate confusion about which detachment someone should call if they experience a non-emergency. Non-emergencies often require a police response, but not necessarily an immediate police attendance." says Chris Spence, Director of the Alberta RCMP Operational Communication Centre. "We encourage people to report non-emergencies, as this helps us focus frontline efforts on high-priority calls and deploy resources in areas that need it most."

310-RCMP calls are directed to the Alberta Operational Communication Centre who then dispatch non-emergency calls in the order of their priority. These calls will receive a police response.

Long-distance charges do not apply, and no

area code prefix is required. The number is accessible to all Albertans within the province with a phone line or an active mobile phone with a cellular signal.

## Non-emergencies:

- Do not pose an immediate or potential threat to life or public safety.
- Include crimes that have already taken place prior to being discovered.
- Often do not require police attendance, but do require police response.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- · Minor motor vehicle collisions.
- · Break and enters that already took place.
- Scams in which money or personal information was not transferred or provided.
- · Lost property.
- Property damage under \$5,000.
- Theft under \$5,000.

Ways to report non-emergencies:

- Call 310-RCMP (7267)
- To report online, download the Alberta

RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

 Alternatively, visit www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ab and select Online Crime Reporting under quick links.

While these types of reports are important, they are not an emergency.



## ASSESSMENT 101 | What you need to know

## WHY DO WE ASSESS PROPERTIES?

Assessment is the process of valuing property to fairly and equitably distribute a municipality's total property tax requirement among property owners. Assessment establishes the value of a property in relation to similar properties and does not itself generate property taxes. Property taxes are generated when the Provincial school & municipal tax rates are applied to the assessed value of your property. Assessment preparation activities are set out by the Province in Statutes and Regulations.

If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at the Lacombe County Administration Office.

## HOW IS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO PREPARE THE ASSESSMENT COL-LECTED?

The characteristics of a property may be collected by mail-in/on-line questionnaire or survey, during an in-person physical inspection, a phone interview, or using any electronic data available through imagery, land titles, private data bases, social media, and any other resource the Assessor has available to them.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN IN-PERSON INSPECTION?

When an Assessor arrives at a property, he or she will attempt to first make contact at the residence or primary building and are happy to explain why we are there and what we are doing. Each Lacombe County Assessor carries an ID.

An in-person physical inspection consists of the



### following

- physically collecting/verifying the measurements and uses of buildings and other structures,
- reviewing the details of existing improvements, such as the type of construction, number of bathrooms, basement development, heated/cooled areas, fireplaces, any renovations or updates completed to the property, etc.),
- requesting details regarding the sale/purchase of a property. This is done so the
   Assessor can determine if they can use it to
   determine typical market values for similar
   properties.

County Assessors may collect this information by requesting a physical 'walk-thru' of each building when the owner/occupant is present (otherwise, the Assessor will try to do an external 'walk-around'). Other collection methods may include in-person interviews (at the door or by phone), drive-by, mail, or email asking you for information about your property. Additionally, an Assessor may review market research based on listings, public advertisements, real property reports, etc.

## WHAT DOES AN ASSESSOR NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY PROPERTY TO PREPARE THE ASSESSMENT?

An Assessor will gather information that is likely to influence the value on what someone will pay for a property, such as: type of construction, size, age, and other physical characteristics (i.e. heating type, plumbing fixtures, interior finish, basement finish, renovations, etc.). An assessor must "classify" the property based on the use of the improvement and/or land (e.g. residential, farm land, commercial, industrial/manufacturing – a property may be dual or multi-purpose, residential & industrial). This means the Assessor will make

observations about the use of the property in order the classify it.

## Residential Request for Information (RFI) – Reminder Notice

The Assessment Department mailed out Residential Request for Information surveys to Ranges 1 & 2 and lake settlements around Sylvan Lake and Gull Lake April 1. This is a reminder to please respond to this request by June 1st, 2025, to confirm/update property assessment data. Failure to provide the requested information prior to the response date may affect your ability to appeal your property assessment for the following tax year.

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.

## Update your Mailing Address!

If your address has changed, make sure to notify us. Call 403-782-6601 or email info@lacombecounty.com.

We also recommend **updating the title of your property with Alberta Land Titles.** You can obtain a form from us, by calling 780-427-2742, or online <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/land-titles-overview.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/land-titles-overview.aspx</a> (under Change of address and name).

## Planning Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

## ? YOU HAVE QUESTIONS Signs, Signs, Signs Signs WE HAVE ANSWERS

## WHAT IS A SIGN?

The County's Land Use Bylaw defines a sign as "an object or device used for the purpose of advertising or calling attention to any person, matter, thing or event." Signs have many uses! Some examples include identifying a property, advertising a business or event, providing important safety information, identifying a landmark, and more.

## DOES MY SIGN REQUIRE A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT?

All signs, as well as alterations or relocations of existing signs, require a development permit, unless section 6.23 of the Land Use Bylaw lists the sign as exempt. Examples of signs exempt from development permit requirements include signs for elections, property identification, hazard awareness, construction, private sale, real estate sale, and identifying an agricultural operation.

If your sign requires a development permit, there is a \$50 development permit application fee. However, if you are applying for a business development permit, you can apply for a sign in the same application.

If you are unsure if your sign requires a development permit, do not hesitate to contact Planning Services at 403-782-8389 or planning@lacombecounty.com. We are happy to answer any sign related questions.

## WHAT TYPES OF SIGNAGE ARE ALLOWED IN THE COUNTY?

Freestanding and façade signs are the two types of signage allowed by Lacombe County, and development permit requirements depend on the type and purpose of your sign.

A recent update to this section of the Land Use Bylaw includes a new size restriction for freestanding signs and a full list of regulations pertaining to freestanding and façade signage is outlined in section 6.23 of the Land Use Bylaw. This section can be found on the County's website, and feel free to contact Planning Services if you have any questions.

## WHAT TYPES OF SIGNAGE ARE PROHIBITED IN THE COUNTY?

The following types of signage are prohibited in Lacombe County:

- A sign that is erected or displayed from a motor vehicle, trailer or sea container
- A sign erected or displayed from a fence, retaining wall or vegetation (unless approved by the development authority)
- · A sign with video display or audio
- A sign attached or displayed on the roof
- A sign with hazards such as balloons, flags, streamers or ribbons attached to it
- A sign placed on County-owned land, including the County road right-of-way and County reserve land
- Signage identifying a business, development, or service not authorized to operate in the County
- Signage that obstructs or obscures the view of traffic safety signage, or any other signage deemed a hazard for motorists or pedestrians

The above-mentioned prohibitions have been placed to ensure the safety of County residents and to protect the character of the local

community.

## WHY DOES LACOMBE COUNTY PROHIBIT TRAILER SIGNS?

Lacombe County has a long-standing tradition of protecting the rural character of our community by prohibiting non-compatible development. Trailer signage detracts from the serene agricultural and natural charisma the County is known for. The County's regulations allow for free-standing and façade signage, which serve the same purpose without negatively impacting the aesthetics of the overall landscape.

## WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE PLACES PROHIBITED SIGNAGE ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY?

The County typically follows up with enforcement action when notified of instances of prohibited signage, as outlined in Question 4. The County will first attempt to work with the landowner to have the signage removed. When this is not successful, the County has no choice but to pursue further enforcement action. With respect to signage on private property that is allowed with a development permit application (freestanding and façade signage), the County will notify the landowner of the development permit requirements, and will work with the landowner to authorize the signage on the property. Any signage placed on County land may be removed by the County at any time.

QUESTIONS? Contact Planning Services at 403-782-8389 or planning@lacombecounty.com

## **Changes to the Agricultural Container Recycling Program**



## **Agricultural Container Recycling**

In January 2022 Clean Farms announced that the <23L Agricultural pesticide and fertilizer container recycling program will transition from

a municipal-based collection model to a retail-based collection model across the province of Alberta over the next three years ending December 31, 2024.

Effective January 1st, 2025, Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission no longer accepts the <23L agricultural containers (Eckville, Alix/Mirror, and Prentiss). Retailers in Lacombe County that will take your Agricultural pesticide and fertilizer containers for recycling are:

 Central AB Co-op – Lacombe 3407-52 Ave Ph:403-782-2232 (Seed & Pest. Bags, Tote Bags, Ag Containers <23L, Totes and</li> Drums)

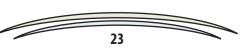
- Richardson Pioneer East of Lacombe on Hwy 12 and Range Road 261 Ph:403-782-3033 (Seed & Pest. Bags, Ag Containers <23L, Tote Bags, Totes and Drums)
- Nutrien Ag Solutions Bentley 4801-52 St Ph:403-748-3991 (Seed & Pest. Bags, Tote Bags, Ag Containers <23L, Totes and Drums)
- Central AB Co-op Eckville 4828-50 Ave Ph:403-746-2011 (Seed and Pest. Bags, Tote Bags, Totes and Drums, Ag Containers

<23L)

Parrish & Heimbecker – Joffre Hwy Junction 815 & 597
Ph:403-588-7200 (Seed & Pest. Bags, Tote Bags, Ag Containers <23L, Totes and Drums)

LRWSC does not accept Agricultural Seed & Pest. Bags, Tote Bags, and Totes & Drums.

For further information, contact your agricultural chemical retailer or Lacombe Regional Waste Services Commission at (403)782-8970.



## **Disposing Lithium Batteries | DO NOT PLACE IN TRASH!**



## THE RISKS OF IMPROPER LITHIUM BATTERY DISPOSAL

Improper disposal of lithium batteries poses significant risks to both human health and the environment. It is crucial to handle and dispose of these batteries correctly to avoid potential hazards and prevent environmental contamination.

## **LITHIUM BATTERY FIRES**

Lithium-ion batteries, if not disposed of properly, can be a fire hazard. LRWSC has had multiple landfill fires in the last six years because of improper battery disposal. These fires can have devastating effects on human lives, property, and the environment.

## LITHIUM BATTERY TOXICITY

Apart from the risk of fires, improper disposal of lithium batteries can also result in the release of toxic chemicals. Cobalt, manganese, and nickel are among the dangerous

contaminants found in lithium-ion batteries. When these batteries end up in landfills, there is a real danger of these toxic substances seeping into the surrounding soil and groundwater, posing a threat to plant and animal life.

## **LANDFILL CONTAMINATION**

Lithium batteries that are thrown into landfills can cause significant environmental contamination. The leakage of hazardous metals such as cobalt, manganese, and nickel can pollute the soil and groundwater. This contamination not only harms the local ecosystem but also increases the risk of underground fires in landfills.

Proper disposal of lithium batteries is vital to mitigate these risks and protect our health and environment. By responsibly recycling these batteries, we can prevent fires.

reduce toxic chemical exposure, and prevent the contamination of our landfills.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING LITHIUM BATTERIES

Recycling lithium batteries is crucial for the environment and our future. By recycling these batteries, we can prevent the need for new mineral extraction, reducing the negative impact on our planet. This process helps conserve valuable resources and promotes a circular economy where materials are reused rather than discarded.

One of the significant benefits of battery recycling is the recovery of valuable metals and materials. Lithium batteries contain components like cobalt, nickel, and plastic, which can be extracted and reused through recycling. While

not all parts of a lithium battery are recoverable, the majority can be recycled, contributing to the conservation of valuable resources.

Recycling lithium batteries also plays a crucial role in reducing the risks associated with improper disposal. Batteries that end up in landfills can pose threats to the environment and human health. They can leak toxic substances like cobalt, nickel, and manganese, polluting the soil and water sources. Recycling helps prevent these risks and ensures that batteries are disposed of safely.

## HOW TO RECYCLE LITHIUM BATTERIES PROPERLY

Properly recycling lithium batteries is essential to ensure their safe handling and disposal. To start, it's recommended to remove the battery from the device whenever possible. If the batteries are physically damaged, they should be stored in an insulated plastic bag to avoid any short-circuiting. It's important to keep lithium batteries in a cool and dry place to prevent combustion.

LRWSC accepts all batteries at our sites for recycling, please ask the attendant where batteries can be safely placed.

Do NOT place batteries in the Rubble Bins or the Compactor Hopper.







## Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice | Repair, Restore, Build



Lacombe County is proud to support the Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program (RRDRJ), a community-based initiative focused on repairing harm and fostering accountability across Central Alberta. This program provides an alternative approach to justice—one that prioritizes healing, empathy, and meaningful accountability over punishment.

## What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice shifts the focus from punishment to repairing the harm caused by wrongdoing. It brings together the person responsible, the person harmed, and other affected individuals in a facilitated conversation to acknowledge what happened, take responsibility, and develop a plan to make things right.

This process addresses not only the consequences of harmful actions but also their underlying causes—personal, relational, and societal. The goal is to promote long-term healing, restore

relationships, and strengthen community ties.

Restorative justice is voluntary and not suitable for every situation. It requires that the person responsible accepts accountability and is willing to participate meaningfully. For those who choose this path, it represents a powerful step toward reconciliation, healing, and personal growth.

Making a Difference in Rural Communities
The RRDRJ program is open to people of all
ages and is available throughout Central Alberta.
Thanks to support from sponsors—including

Thanks to support from sponsors—including Lacombe County and Lacombe County Rural Crime Watch—these services are offered at no cost to participants.

In schools, restorative practices are helping youth understand the impacts of their actions and take steps toward making amends. These early interventions play a crucial role in preventing future involvement with the justice system and creating safer learning environments.

Short-term outcomes include greater victim satisfaction, offender accountability, and repaired relationships. Long-term benefits include reduced re-offending, a more cost-effective justice system, and safer, more connected communities.

## **Referral and Access**

Cases may be referred to the RRDRJ program

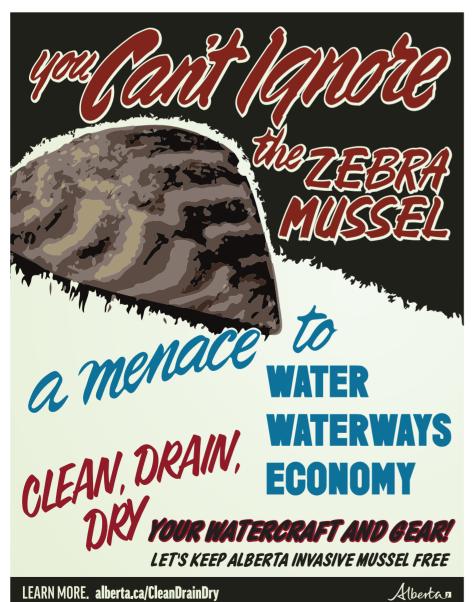
by police officers, Crown prosecutors, school administrators, or even community members. Restorative justice may be considered either as an alternative to formal charges or as part of a post-charge process—provided all parties agree to participate and the person responsible does not deny their role in the incident.

Each referral is carefully considered to ensure that the process is safe, respectful, and productive for everyone involved.

Lacombe County's Ongoing Commitment
In 2023, Lacombe County updated its Rural
Crime Watch Policy to allow broader support
for community-based crime prevention efforts,
including restorative justice. This change reflects
our commitment to proactive, compassionate approaches to public safety.

We are proud to be a 2025 Silver Sponsor of the RRDRJ program and thank Lacombe County Rural Crime Watch for their support of restorative practices in the classroom. Together, we are helping create safer, healthier communities across Central Alberta.

To learn more about the Rural Red Deer Restorative Justice Program, access their services, or find out how you can support this important work, visit rrdrestorative justice.ca.





Hey Alix MAC graduate, did you know that the Alix Lions Club awards two \$1000 Scholarships to graduates to help them with the cost of post secondary education?

Qualification requirements:

- 1. Graduated from Alix MAC high school
- 2. Satisfy entrance requirements to a post secondary institute
- 3. Demonstrate leadership requirements
- 4. Be recognized as an individual of honesty and integrity

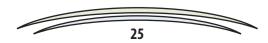
The following information must be submitted with the scholarship application:

- 1. A one-page letter self-written letter expressing why you should receive the
- 2. A transcript of your Grade 12 marks
- 3. Confirmation of acceptance from a post-secondary institution indicating the specific field, school or faculty which you are attending (please note the scholarship cheque is made payable to the institution, not the student)
- 4. Letter of reference (maximum of two) with a detailed summary of your character, leadership roles within the school, involvement in extra-curricular activates at school, work experience and special interests and hobbies.

Application documents to be sent to Alix Lions Club, Box 35 Alix Alberta TOC 0B0

Application deadline is September 1.

For more information, contact Mark Kenney at  $\underline{mckenney.ab@gmail.com}$ 





## **Paid Parking Program**

<u>REMINDER</u>: the Paid Parking Program is in effect from May - October at the following locations



## **Sandy Point Beach**

\$3/hour
OR
\$15/day for parking at Sandy
Point Beach.



## **Boat Launches**

\$10/day to launch only \$20/day launch and park <u>Applies to:</u>

Sandy Point Boat Launch
Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch

Questions? Prepay? Visit www.lacombecounty.com/paidparking





## **Annual Pass**

- \$120/year Sandy Point Beach Parking
- \$160/year Boat Launch & Parking
- \$80/year Boat Launch ONLY\*

(\*doesn't include parking)

## Motorcyclists are back on Alberta's roads; keeping an eye out for them could save lives

As the weather warms up, more motorcyclists take to the roads. The Motorcycle Safety and Awareness campaign aims to educate both motorcyclists and drivers about the importance of sharing the road responsibly. Enforcement agencies will be conducting various activities, including safety checks, awareness programs, and community outreach, to ensure that everyone understands the rules and practices safe driving habits.

Motorcyclists are encouraged to wear appropriate protective gear, maintain their bikes, and follow traffic laws diligently. Drivers, on the other hand, are reminded to check blind spots, signal intentions clearly, and give motorcyclists ample space. By working together, we can reduce accidents and make Alberta's roads safer for everyone.

Unfortunately, about one-third of collisions involving a motorcycle end in death or injury, compared with about one in 10 deaths or injures for all other vehicle collisions.

When driving, please remember:

- Be aware of motorcyclists.
- Be cautious when driving near motorcyclists because they are smaller and less visible than cars.
- Motorcyclists can improve their own safety by doing the following:
- 26

- · Ride defensively and avoid blind spots.
- Obtain the proper training motorcycles demand a high degree of skill.
- Start out on a smaller bike if you're a new driver and move up to a bigger bike when you have more experience.
- Focus on riding with no distractions. Riding takes all of your attention.
- Wear the right gear, including a certified helmet, leathers, closed shoes and eye protection:

## **Motorcycle visibility**

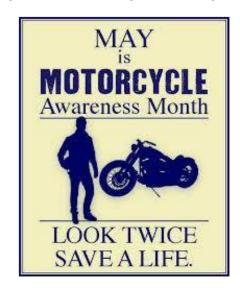
Staying safe means being visible. Since motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles, they can be difficult to see on roadways and in parking lots. Make yourself visible on a motorcycle by following these 5 steps.

- Wear reflective tape Place reflective tape around your wheel rims and on any part of your motorcycle that is closest to a light source. At night, reflective tape will make your motorcycle look like a bigger vehicle.
- 2. Wear bright safety gear You are just as visible as your bike when you're on the road. Wearing high visibility jackets and helmets like orange, yellow and white will instantly draw other motorists' eyes to you.
- 3. Ride a bright bike A brightly-coloured motorcycle increases your chance of being noticed by other motorists. Riding a black or darkly coloured bike makes it harder for drivers to see you.
- 4. Avoid blind spots Whether you are driving

on the highway or parking, always position yourself where other drivers can see you. Motorcycles can be difficult for drivers to see in their rear-view mirrors. Find a lane position where you can be seen by all cars on the

5. Use your brakes - If another vehicle is following you too closely or you are concerned that they are not slowing down fast enough behind you, tap your brakes. By doing so, your brakes will act like a giant blinker light warning other motorists of your location and distance from theirs.

Let's embrace Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month with a commitment to protecting lives and fostering a culture of safety. Remember, safety starts with you!



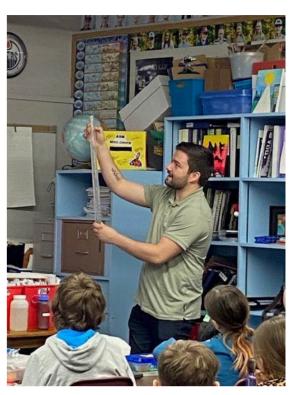
## Medicine River Watershed Society celebrates Earth Day with Eckville Grade Six Students





Members of the Medicine River Watershed Society (MRWS) attended the Eckville Grade six class on last month. The students learned about the Medicine River Watershed and the aquatic and amphibian life that lives there. They participated in a water sample analysis drawn directly from the Medicine River, learned about how beavers help to restore wetlands and how we can co-exist with them which is so important—especially during times of drought—and even made their own rain gauges.







## Hearts and Hands United: Community Support Pours in for Rescue!

In April, our organization was overwhelmed by four generous contributions that made a lasting impact.

Sponsor Energy, a long-time supporter, donated \$6,450. CEO Jennifer and Special Relations Manager Yanin visited the facility, bringing gifts for the animals and spending time with the team

We also thank Mortgages with Crystal—Crystal Langille Bellamy and Lodge 43 of Sylvan Lake for their generous contribution of \$1,356.20, which was raised during their "Burger of the Month" campaign. Their support highlights the incredible power of local businesses coming together for a meaningful cause.

We are thrilled to announce that COBS Bread of Red Deer raised over \$10,000 during their March fundraising campaign! This generous donation will go a long way in supporting our mission and making a real difference for the animals in our care.

Additionally, Marshall's of Nisku donated a bin full of much-needed supplies, and they were excited to have a visit from a special dog named Eden. Eden brought extra joy to their day and showed just why our work is so important.

We are deeply grateful to all who contributed. Your support shows the incredible impact of community partnerships in helping animals in need.

## **RISING STAR: SAVING GRACE WINS FASTEST-GROWING CHARITY AWARD!**

We're proud to share that the Veritas 500 Foundation has named our organization the fastest-growing charity in Canada in the Animal Welfare category for 2024.

We also placed 3rd among charities in Alberta and 52nd overall across Canada. This recognition reflects the dedication of our team and the strength of the community that supports us. It's proof that even a small-town rescue can make a national impact.

Our Executive Director, Erin Deems, was notified of the honour in March, and we received the official award in April. It's a meaningful milestone that marks how far we've come, thanks to the ongoing efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

To everyone who's adopted, donated, volunteered, or simply shared our mission—thank you. Your support made this possible.

We look forward to continuing our work and making an even greater difference in the lives of animals in need.

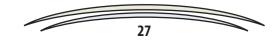
## CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION RANGE ROAD 26-2

Lacombe County is notifying residents of an upcoming road construction project starting on May 1, 2025 on Range Road 26-2 (West 2 & 11-39-26 W4 from Twp Rd 39-0 north to HWY 597)

Construction will start Thursday, May 1, 2025 and is expected to take +/- 5 weeks to complete (weather permitting). Minor delays may occur.

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





<u>403-785-7427</u> <u>www.savinggracecanada.com</u>

## **RESOURCES FOR SENIORS**







## E 2025 Seniors' 55+ WEEK



## MONDAY JUNE 2

Chair Yoga 9-10 AM with Lifelong Learning At the Wolf Creek Church

\*Call to Register 403-782-7955

FCSS Afternoon at the **Movies Featuring** 'Beverly Hillbillies' Showing at **Lacombe City Cinemas** 

\$5 Admission (Includes popcorn and pop) Tickets available at the door OR at Lacombe FCSS

1:15 PM and 1:45 PM

starting May 12.

Bingo 7PM (Doors Open at 6PM) at the Lacombe Legion

\$6/6 Cards

## TUESDAY JUNE 3

Seniors Workout & Light Refreshments 9:30-11 AM

At the Burman University PE Centre

**Outdoor Community Market** 11 AM -4 PM

At Royal Oak Village

Healthy Aging: Avoiding **Frailty Education Session** 1-2 PM

with our Wolf Creek PCN Geriatric Nurse, Maggie at the LMC Kinsmen Room

A Treasure of Talents: **Resident Market** 1:30-4 PM At Charis Village

**Ice Cream Social** 2:30-3:30 PM At Lacombe Extended Care

## WEDNESDAY JUNE 4

Learn to play Pickleball 9-11 AM

(Instructors & equipment on site) At the Burman University PE Centre

> **Glow Music Bingo** 11 AM - 12 PM

At the Lacombe Performance Art Centre

Water Fitness (with Potluck to follow) 11:10-11:55 AM

At the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre

> Strawberry Tea 1:30-3:30 PM \$3 Admission At the Kozy Korner

## THURSDAY JUNE 5

Tea & Nature Walk or Interactive Display 9:30-11:30 AM

\$10 Admission At the Ellis Nature Centre

**Kitchen Demonstration** 10-11 AM

At Royal Oak Village Supporting Local | How do we do it?

> Tea & Goodies with Entertainment 1:30-3:30 PM

At the Lacombe Legion

Taoist Tai Chi 6:30-7:30 PM

At St Cyprian's Anglican Church

## FRIDAY JUNE 6

Voices of the Writers Guild 10 AM-12 PM

At the Mary C. Moore Library

Outdoor BBQ with Entertainment 12 PM

At the Lacombe Seniors Lodge

Learn to Line Dance 3:00 - 4:00 PM

In the LMC Kinsmen Room

Glow Music Bingo 7-8 pm

At the Lacombe Performance Art Centre (cash bar)

## FREE CONNEX BUSSING

Available to all daytime Seniors' Week events <u>by reservation.</u> Call 403-782-6637 Ext. 308 to book.

FREE WATER FITNESS CLASSES AT THE KINSMEN AQUATIC CENTRE 1/2 PRICE LIBRAY CARDS ALL WEEK

\*All events are FREE unless stated otherwise.



## Find Lacombe County online

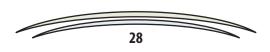












@lacombecounty

Lacombe County

## **AROUND THE COUNTY**



**Borrowing** 

medias

Card Club Ages 18+

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

Anime & Otaku Club Ages 8+

**Knitting & Crochet** Ages 18+ Evening Pajama Story Time All Ages

\*For more program information

check out our website & social

Monday 10 am - 8 pm 10 am - 6 pm 10 am - 8 pm Thursday 10 am - 6 pm Friday 10 am - 6 pm Saturday 10 am - 5 pm Visit us on our website Contact 8 f W 0 403-885-2343 www.blackfaldslibrary.ca

**Eagle Builders Centre 5302 Broadway** 

Avenue, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0



& social medias

## Special programming (no charge) on Mondays/Wednesdays

- 9:45 arrive 10 to 11 am Wednesdays 10:30 arrive 10:45 to 11:45 am Chair Yoga - light move

Seated Range of Motion

Registration required for

Seated Range of Motion Chair Yoga

Move your body, make connections & socialize!

Call 403.748.2160 **Bentley Seniors Drop In** 

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





located in the Town Office 4918-50 Avenue

## The Seniors Drop In welcomes everyone 55+

Tuesdays

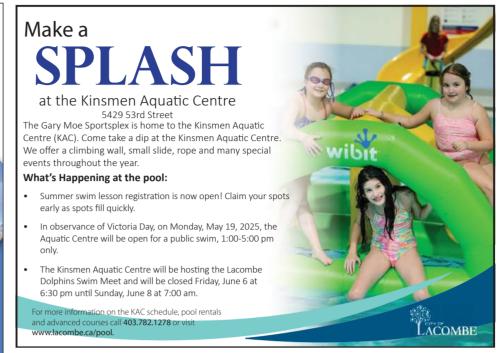
10 am

Socialize/cards/games

 Thursdays Potluck

Socialize - Toast & Coffee Last Tuesday each month

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





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 16 to June 20, 2025 at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. 10 spots are available.

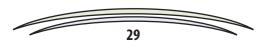
Monday: 1:00pm - 4:15pm Tuesday: 8:45am - 12:00pm. Lunch. 12:30pm - 3:45pm Wednesday: 1:00pm – 4:15pm Thursday: 8:45am – 12:00pm. Lunch. 12:30pm – 3:45pm Friday: 8:45am – 12:00pm

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

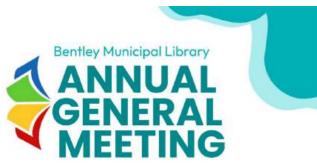
## **Ouestion and Answer:**

- 1. 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 Job Grant) may cover 66% of the trainee cost.
- Course Cost Per Trainee: \$5,000. Training Grant covers \$3,333 per trainee. Plus GST.
- The training grant is first come, first serve. Submit the first week of April.
- 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 CAJG, they are required to fund the course cost. Learn more: https://albertabusinessgrants.ca/grant-writing

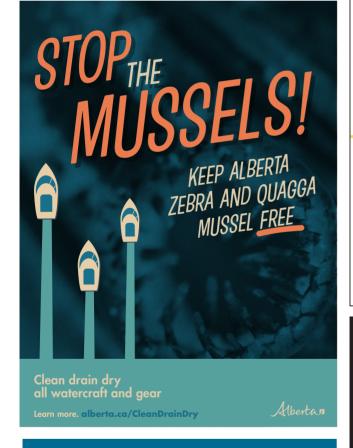
Contact: davidk@albertabusinessgrants.ca or 780-297-6177 to register.



LACOMBE



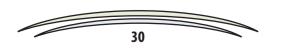




## **LINCOLN HALL NEWS**

We will send out more information in the near future - but watch email and social media for more information on upcoming events:

 First Annual Father's Day Pub Night @ Lincoln Hall - Friday, June 13th





Nominations can be filed from January 1, 2025 until Noon on September 22, 2025

Visit LacombeCounty.com/Election for more details



2025
Municipal Election



LACOMBE



## McMan

MCMAN YOUTH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

McMan needs Foster Homes throughout the Central Region.

Safe Children, Strong Families, Supportive Communities.

For more information please contact Jacki @ 403-348-3008

## IMPORTANT NEWS

BENTLEY RODEO AND AG SOCIETY



WE ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE THE CANCELLATION OF THE 2025 BENTLEY RODEO DUE TO PERTINENT UPGRADES OF THE FACILITY.

WE WILL RESUME OUR ANNUAL RODEO IN AUGUST 2026. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

## Salute to The Educators, Teachers and Support Staff





2025 BENTLEY TOWN AND COUNTRY FAIR (NO RODEO THIS YEAR) WILL BE HELD AUGUST 8-9, 2025. PARADE THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS "SALUTE TO TEACHERS, EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF"

PARADE, PANCAKE BREAKFASTS, FARMERS MARKET, HIGH SCHOOL REUNION, CAR SHOW, DRIVE IN
MOVIE, FIREWORKS, GREAT SHOPPING, & MORE! BENTLEY WILL BE THE PLACE TO BE!



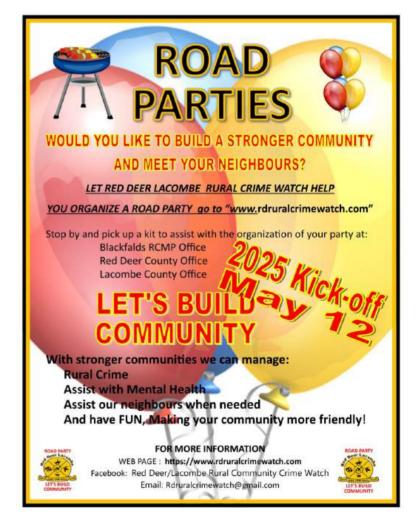






A network of community allies for older adults.









Council Highlights & Minutes can be found on our website at

www.lacombecounty.com/ en/our-government/agendasand-minutes.aspx



	JUNE 2025							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		Committee of the Whole (9AM)						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
				Council Meeting (9AM)				
15	16	17 Rethinking Weeds (Research Station Tour) Page 13	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24 Potential Candidate Workshop 6:30PM (Pg. 4)	25 Potential Candidate Workshop 6:30PM (Pg. 4)	26 Council Meeting (9AM)	27	28		
29	30	JULY 1  CANADA DAY (Office Closed)	2	3	4	5		

<u>Upcoming Events:</u> July 1 - Canada Day (Office Closed), July 10 - Council Meeting (9AM), August 28 - Council Meeting (9AM)

## **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.



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



LacombeCounty





LacombeCounty



LacombeCounty



www.lacom

Phone | 403 782 6601

601 Email Linfo@lacombecounty.co

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
Barb Shepherd, Div. 3	(bshepherd@lacombecounty.com)		403.340.9724
Dwayne West, Div. 4	(dwest@lacombecounty.com)		403.660.2328
Ken Weenink, Div. 5	(kweenink@lacombecounty.com)		403.350.8014
Allan Wilson, Div. 6	(awilson@lacombecounty.com)		403.506.3735
Dana Kreil, Div. 7	(dkreil@lacombecounty.com)	403.746.3607	403.358.9400

Senior Administration	
Tim Timmons, County Manager ttimmons@lacombecounty.com	
Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services mminchin@lacombecounty.com	Call 403-782-6601
Bill Cade, Director of Operations bcade@lacombecounty.com	to speak with the County Manager or with a Lacombe
Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services dfreitag@lacombecounty.com	County Director

Dion Burlock, Director of Community Services

dburlock@lacombecounty.com

