

County News

Friday, July 19, 2024 | Volume 7

Lacombe County receives the 2024 Planning Award of Merit by the Alberta Professional Planners Institute.

Lacombe County has been awarded the 2024 Planning Award of Merit for Implementation Success by the Alberta Professional Planners Institute.

This Award recognizes Lacombe County's annual review process of the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw as a highly innovative, forward-thinking, and collaborative approach to ensure the County's planning framework remains up-to-date and aligned with our community's vision and ongoing trends in planning.

The Award was presented to Lacombe County Planning Services staff during a special awards luncheon on July 10, 2024 at the Canadian Institute of Planners / Alberta Professional Planners Institute Conference in Edmonton.

"When we originally contemplated the idea of doing an annual review in 2017, we couldn't find any other case studies where an annual review approach was used as a successful implementation tool in Alberta," said Cajun Paradis, Senior Planner. "Nonetheless, we decided to take the bold move to incorporate an annual review requirement into our Municipal Development Plan. Essentially, every year, we give our Plan a report card showing whether its policies have met expectations. Fast forward

six years later, this has proved to be a highly effective and successful tool that has allowed us to continuously improve and refine our planning policy to be current and relevant."

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 2



Lacombe County participates in provincial pilot program, allowing for golf carts on public roads

Lacombe County is excited to be participating in a new provincial pilot project that will allow the use of golf carts on designated public roads. This initiative follows the signing of a Ministerial Order last month by The Honorable Devin Dreesen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, which created the Pilot Project (Golf Carts) Regulation under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act.

This regulation authorizes participating municipalities, like Lacombe County, to pass bylaws that permit registered users to legally operate golf carts on public roads.

"After years of advocating for this change, we are very pleased to be part of this pilot project and to have the opportunity to collaborate with Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors," said Lacombe County Reeve Barb Shepherd. "It is rewarding to see it finally come to fruition, and an honour to be leading an initiative. This has been asked for by residents, especially those living in lake communities, and we are excited to see it become a reality."

Lacombe County has 22 Residential Lake Districts (RLD)

located around Gull and Sylvan Lake. Historically, the practice of utilizing unregistrable golf carts as a mode of transportation on public roads in and around these RLDs has been a source of concern for Lacombe County, much to the frustration of residents in these areas. Approximately three years ago, due to the increase in the number of golf carts on public roads and the expansion of RLD areas, Lacombe County initiated an education and enforcement program aimed at reducing unlawful golf cart use on public roads.

"Residents in our lake communities have been asking for this, and we are excited to be able to pilot the golf cart program for them. Registration costs will ensure that the users of this program are funding it, instead of County taxpayers," said Tim Timmons, County Manager.

There will be a permit fee for golf carts, for them to operate within RLDs of Lacombe County.

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www.lacombecounty.com



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From cover: Lacombe County receives Planning award

Each year, County Planning Services staff collect data and metrics that are used to critically evaluate whether each policy of the Municipal Development Plan is performing as originally intended. These results are published in a report available to the public. Based on the results and submissions received from the community, County staff may propose changes to the Municipal Development Plan or Land Use Bylaw to address policy shortfalls. The bylaw changes are presented to the public for further comment before being considered by Council for final adoption.

“While almost all municipalities strive to create plans that are ‘living documents’, Lacombe County took this to full realization,” said Tim Timmons, County Manager. “In 2017, County Council and Administration saw the immense dialogue being generated from the public engagements of our Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw update and committed to keeping the momentum alive by continuously refining and updating our plans to align with ongoing trends and the vision of our community.”

The County’s Municipal Development Plan seeks to protect large tracts of agricultural lands in the County from loss and fragmentation, while also providing opportunities for high-quality development at strategic locations. The County’s Land Use Bylaw is the implementation tool of the Municipal Development Plan, and places all land in the County into land use districts, outlining various developments that can be considered in each district. Lacombe County has won two provincial awards in 2018 for the innovative public engagement approach that was used in the last update of the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

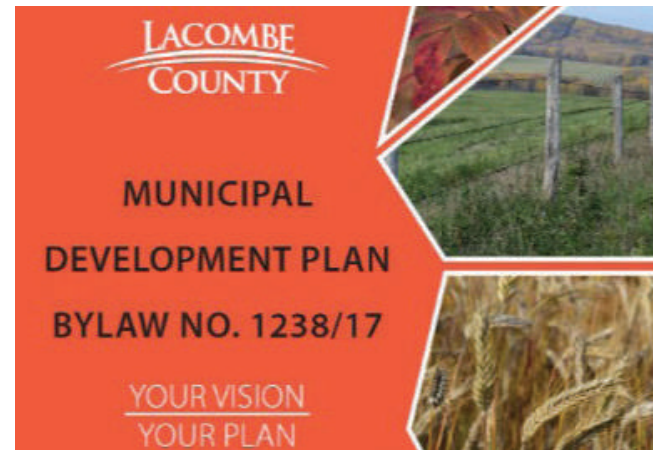
“While all municipalities in Alberta are required to have a municipal development plan and land use bylaw, Lacombe County is one of the few, if not only, municipality in Alberta that has incorporated a systematic process to review these documents every year” said Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services.

The annual review allows the County to monitor its progress on important priorities, which have led to tangible benefits to our community. For instance, since adopting the annual review, the County has increased its trail inventory by 24%; increased its number of interpretive parks signs by 71%; and has seen a 720% increase in land enrolled in the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program.

The annual review process has also catalyzed further engagement on hot policy topics. For instance, in late 2023 and early 2024, the County conducted community engagement on the topic of dwellings in the agricultural area. This helped informed important policy decisions made by the County.

“On behalf of Lacombe County, I would like to thank the Alberta Professional Planners Institute for recognizing the hard work and dedication of our Planning Services Department in developing and executing this annual review process,” said Barb Shepherd, Reeve. “We hope that the recognition of this work through the Award of Merit will encourage other municipalities to explore similar approaches that can help revitalize their municipal plans.”

For more information on the Award, please contact Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services at planning@lacombecounty.com or 403-782-8389.



FROM COVER: Lacombe County launches golf cart pilot program

The permit fees are:

- \$60 - Residential Lake Districts not otherwise specified
- \$100 Sandy Point (included paid parking fees)

As a pilot community, Lacombe County has enacted a bylaw to regulate the operation, and control of golf carts on highways and municipal lands within the County.

“This pilot project marks a significant step forward in addressing these concerns by providing a legal framework for the operation of golf carts on designated roads,” said Mark Sproule, Manager of Community Peace Officer Services. “The new regulation and bylaw will enhance the enjoyment of residents by allowing a convenient mode of transportation on designated public roads.”

The new Golf Cart bylaw includes the following regulations:

- Participating municipalities can permit golf carts to operate on designated public roads identified by signage with a maximum posted speed limit of 50 km/h or less.

- The municipality must provide a permit system for golf carts operating on these roadways.
- The municipality must report the specific information from the participating registered golf carts annually to the Province.

Operators must be aware of the restrictions and responsibilities they have under this new bylaw. These are on our website: www.lacombecounty.com/golfcarts. Over the coming weeks, we will focus on educating residents about the new regulations and ensure the successful implementation of this initiative.

For more information about the pilot project and how to apply for a permit, please contact Lacombe County’s office or visit our website: www.lacombecounty.com/golfcarts.



Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture: Nominations open until Aug. 15 for Farm Family Award

Lacombe County and the Lacombe and District Chamber of Commerce are partnering for a second 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 2024 Chamber Gala in October.

"The Farm Family Award provides a unique opportunity to honour the invaluable contributions made by ranch and farm families in Lacombe County," said Reeve Barb Shepherd. "Their dedication and innovation continue to drive the agricultural sector forward, thus ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. We are excited to celebrate their accomplishments."

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.

Visit www.lacombecounty.com/farmfamily to access the nomination form and to find full details on the award criteria.

About the Nomination Process:

The nomination period for the Farm Family Award is from June 14, 2024, until August 15, 2024. Nomina-

tions 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.
- 2. Sustainability Practices:** Honoring individuals who 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.
- 5. 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, 2024. For more information, please email communications@lacombecounty.com or call (403) 782-8959.

2024 FARM FAMILY AWARD

Lacombe County and the Lacombe and District Chamber of Commerce have partnered for the 2024 Farm Family Award to celebrate the achievements and contributions of ranch and farm families within our community!

Nominees must demonstrate one or more of the following:

1. Achievements and/or innovations in technical farm production
2. Sustainability practices
3. Family Farm business management
4. Agriculture industry involvement
5. Community and rural citizenship

Visit www.lacombecounty.com/FarmFamily for more information and to find the nomination form!

Nominations are open until **August 15, 2024**





Sandy Point Beach is now more accessible: Introducing the Mobi-mat and beach accessible wheelchair!

Lacombe County is ready to officially launch our new Mobi-mat and beach accessible wheelchair (Mobi-Chair) at Sandy Point Beach! These new amenities - derived from a County staff innovation initiative - will ensure the beach is accessible for everyone, whether they have a mobility impairment or simply find it challenging to navigate the sandy terrain. The Mobi-mat and MobiChair are here to help users fully enjoy the beach experience.

The Mobi-mat, located next to the washrooms at Sandy Point Beach, can be used by anyone with wheels, such as walkers, strollers, wheelchairs, etc. The mat allows for much easier access through the sand to the water.

The MobiChair is not limited to individuals who use wheelchairs. It is also available for those who cannot swim, have motor disabilities, or need assistance navigating the beach. The MobiChair is available for use at no cost!

OPERATING DAYS & HOURS:

- Tuesday-Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Special Availability on Mondays of long weekends

RENTAL INFORMATION:

On-Site Registration: Rentals are on a first-come, first-served basis. We will assess the demand and consider online reservations for future seasons if needed. Users will fill out rental forms and waivers with on-site personnel at Sandy Point Beach.

Location: The MobiChair will be stored outside the shed during the day for public visibility and will be secured with a lock. Access is granted only through staff. It will be stored in the garage overnight.

Rental Duration Options: Users can rent the MobiChair for 1 hour, 2 hours, 3 hours (half-day) or 6 hours (full day)

Personal Information Required: To rent the MobiChair, users or their support persons must provide personal information, including their name, phone number, address, city, postal code, driver's license, and license plate number.

Safety Guidelines: Users must follow all safety instructions provided by the staff. The MobiChair should be used under the supervision of a responsible adult if the user is a minor or requires assistance.

Full details can be found online: <https://www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/sandy-point-beach.aspx>



SAFETY FIRST

Stay in the KNOW with RAVE communication platform for watch advisories from the RCMP

WHAT IS RAVE?

RAVE is a web based communication platform that RCMP officers are mandated to fan out real time alerts to community members in Alberta. Alerts are operational and educational in nature. They might look like BOLOs (Be On the Look Out), Crime Prevention, Victim Services, and District reports. Alerts are sent via email, text message or phone call – preference is on the account user.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

This communication can strengthen partnerships between volunteers associations and police. Community members can assist police and be a useful resource to their local detachment and their respective community. RAVE will also be a useful educational tool for Crime Prevention and Victim Services information. Information is trusted and received in real time.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about RAVE, how to opt in, and other frequently asked questions at <https://www.ruralcrimewatch.ab.ca//rave>.




FIRE PITS:

THE DO'S AND DON'TS FOR SAFE BURNING IN LACOMBE COUNTY



1. Ensure your fire pit/BBQ is constructed of bricks, concrete block or heavy gauge metal (or other suitable non-combustible material).
2. Be at least 3.3 metres (10 feet) away from buildings, property lines or other materials that could catch fire.
3. Supervise your fire at all times until it is entirely extinguished (this includes hot ashes and smouldering embers)
4. Use proper fuel such as wood, charcoal, manufactured fire logs, fireplace pellets, propane or natural gas.
5. Watch our website or social media pages for fire bans.
6. Keep a pail of water nearby, and use it to extinguish the fire.
7. Be a kind neighbour - ensure your smoke is going UP and not blowing into someone's property

Questions? Call 403-782-8959 and speak with the County Fire Chief



LACOMBE COUNTY, AB


100 Radon Test Kit Challenge




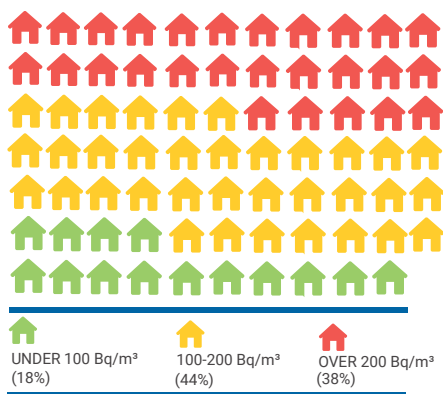
76 HOMES

participated by testing for radon gas during the winter of 2023 using 91-day alpha track tests. This represents approximately 2% of the community dwellings.

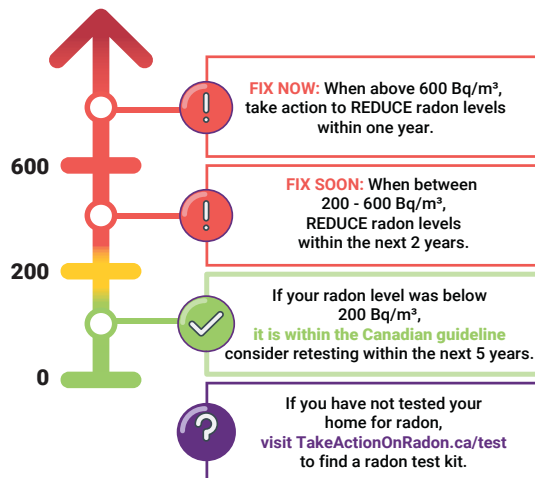
38% of homes tested above Health Canada's guideline of 200 Bq/m³

 Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground.

 Exposure to elevated levels of radon is linked to increased chances of developing lung cancer.


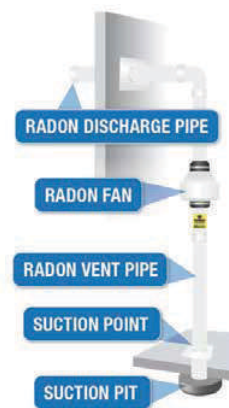


Levels can vary between neighbouring houses. The only way to know your radon level is to test.



Since radon levels fluctuate over time, testing with a long-term test (of at least 91 days) provides a better estimate of your annual radon exposure. Many digital detectors are available to purchase or to borrow for shorter test durations, but we still recommend testing for at least 91 days. If you borrow a digital monitor for a shorter test, consider following up with a long-term test.

A **radon mitigation system** is installed with a fan that draws air (and radon) up from beneath the foundation and discharges the radon to the outdoors where it disperses the radon to low levels. This system reduces radon levels by preventing radon from entering your home.



Since 2014, the Alberta Building Code has required the installation of a short "radon stub pipe" through the basement floor of new houses. This is not a complete radon mitigation system; it is simply the connection point if a system is required. **Long-term (91 day) radon testing is still necessary to determine if additional mitigation steps are required to reduce the radon levels in a new home.**

Radon gas levels are reduced the most by installing a **radon mitigation system**. Research shows that **certified radon professionals** can reduce levels by over 90%. Other steps, such as increasing ventilation and sealing cracks, can help in the short-term but are less effective.

**HOW TO FIND A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL**
TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/

Certified radon mitigation professionals are trained to properly assess your home, and design systems to efficiently and effectively reduce your radon level.

Missed your chance to test?

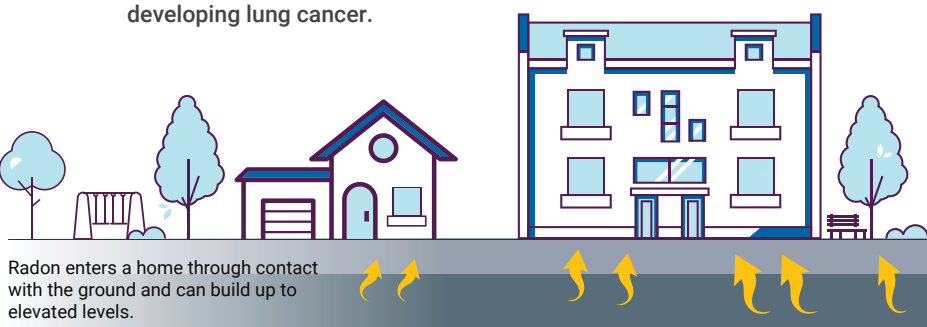
Check out Take Action on Radon's website for more information on how to access a long-term (91-day) test kit in your region and how to properly test your home.

TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test

Already tested and want to help?

If you are willing to share your data to help us better understand radon in your community, submit your information to our online radon depository.

TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share



MIRROR CORNER



2024 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, 2023, the cost increases to \$30 for an altered dog and \$50 for an unaltered dog. For more information, please call (403) 782-6601 or visit www.lacombecounty.com/en/living-here/animal-control.aspx.

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

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

Jolly Seniors

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

Booking Mirror Community Hall

Call Mike Carr, home 403-788-3778 or cell 403-357-8239 for hall information.

Friends of the Mirror Library Society/Mirror Library

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

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

Please like us at: facebook.com/booksinmirror for the most up to date information. The Library also has meeting spaces for rent and free Wi-Fi. Please

contact us through the Facebook page or email booksinmirror@gmail.com.

Mirror Royal Canadian Legion Branch 189 - 5015 50th Avenue

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

Mirror and District Museum

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

CN Rail crossing delays

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

LACOMBE COUNTY HAMLET OF MIRROR DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT

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

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



Are you expanding an existing business?

Do you have Development Permit approval for the proposed business?

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE
FOR A DEVELOPMENT
INCENTIVE GRANT!**



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



**Planning Services
403-782-8389**

Build stronger communities this summer

Would you like to build a stronger community and meet your neighbours?

Stop by the Blackfalds RCMP, Red Deer County Officer or Lacombe County Office and pick up a Road Party Kit!

Included in your Road Party Kit is:

- Coupons from local businesses to help with your event.
- Ideas on how to organize a road party.
- Invitation template.
- Donation box for Rural Crime Watch.
- USB stick with forms and a place to include photos.
- Name tags
- Clip board
- Instructions on setting up a WhatsApp with your neighbours
- Sign in sheet for your WhatsApp
- Rural Crime Watch Membership application.

Learn more at www.rdruralcrimewatch.com.



ROAD PARTIES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS?

LET RED DEER LACOMBE RURAL CRIME WATCH HELP

YOU ORGANIZE A ROAD PARTY go to "www.rdruralcrimewatch.com"

Stop by and pick up a kit to assist with the organization of your party at:
Blackfalds RCMP Office
Red Deer County Office
Lacombe County Office

LET'S BUILD COMMUNITY

With stronger communities we can manage:
Rural Crime
Assist with Mental Health
Assist our neighbours when needed
And have FUN, Making your community more friendly!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WEB PAGE : <https://www.rdruralcrimewatch.com>
Facebook: Red Deer/Lacombe Rural Community Crime Watch
Email: Rdruralcrimewatch@gmail.com



Follow us online TODAY for current Lacombe County information



LacombeCounty



@LacombeCounty



www.lacombecounty.com

ENVIRONMENT

Lacombe County Environmental Stewardship Award now open

Over the past three years, Lacombe County has shone a light on remarkable individuals and groups with the Environmental Stewardship Award, celebrating their dedication to ecological conservation on their properties within the county.

NEW FOR 2024: This award, previously limited to individuals, is now open to community non-government organizations as well.

Nomination Process:

- **Open Period:** July 15, 2024, to September 30, 2024.
- **How to Nominate:** Submit nominations in person or via email to jberry@lacombecounty.com. Include full contact information of the nominee and a detailed description of their environmental efforts.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Must be a resident/organization in Lacombe County.
 - Recipient can only win once.
 - Nominations must be submitted by September 30, 2024.
 - Forms available at www.lacombecounty.com/EnvironmentalAward.
- **Award:** A one-time cash prize of \$1,500 will be awarded, recognizing significant contributions to environmental stewardship.

About the Environmental Stewardship Award:

The Environmental Stewardship Award is part of Lacombe County's commitment to environmental sustainability. In 2021, the Environmental Community Engagement Program was launched, encompassing educational and sustainability initiatives. This program was extended by the Council in 2023 due to its success.

Past Winners:

- **2023: Ward Nelson** - Notable for planting over 2000 trees and implementing solar-powered livestock watering systems.
- **2022: Joan Olafson** - Continued stewardship of 80 acres encompassing wetlands, forest, and streams.
- **2021: Sharon and Rick Wiebe** - Developed a community garden, off-site watering systems, and other sustainable projects.





Nominations OPEN
July 15 - September 30



How to Nominate?
Fill out the form (located on our website). Submit in person or email jberry@lacombecounty.com



Criteria
Resident OR organization in Lacombe County.
Can only win ONCE.

Water Conservation Conversation!

Many parts of Alberta are preparing for a drought after several dry years. Lacombe County residents, farmers and businesses are encouraged to find ways of conserving water. The **Water Conservation Conversation** provides simple tips and resources for saving water. We will have these posted on our website, too, at www.lacombecounty.com/drought.

WATER CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR LACOMBE COUNTY CATTLE PRODUCERS

In Lacombe County, where agriculture forms the backbone of the community, water conservation is not just a practice but a necessity. Cattle producers have the power to lead in sustainable water use and help safeguard this precious resource for future generations.



- 1. Routine Maintenance to Fix Leaks**
Water systems, such as troughs and pipelines, are prone to leaks which can lead to significant water waste. Conducting regular inspections and repairing leaks promptly ensures that every drop is utilized effectively, boosting the efficiency of water use across your operation.
- 2. Invest in Automatic Shut-off Water Troughs**
Water troughs that feature automatic shut-off mechanisms prevent overflow, saving water and reducing the need for constant monitoring. This smart investment not only conserves water but also enhances the operational efficiency of daily farm activities.
- 3. Adopt Rotational Grazing**
Implementing rotational grazing helps maintain healthy pasture cover and optimizes soil moisture retention. This method allows grasslands to regenerate, which prevents soil erosion and conserves water by enabling the soil to hold moisture longer.
- 4. Effective Management of Ponds and Reservoirs**
Ponds and reservoirs can lose a significant

amount of water to evaporation and seepage. Techniques such as lining ponds or covering reservoirs can drastically reduce water loss. Additionally, managing the surrounding vegetation can decrease evaporation rates, further conserving water.

- 5. Upgrade to High-Efficiency Irrigation Systems**
Modern irrigation systems, like drip or targeted sprinkler systems, can dramatically reduce water usage by directing water precisely where it is needed, thus minimizing evaporation and runoff. Transitioning to these systems can be a game-changer in terms of water conservation.

- 6. Monitor Water Usage with Smart Technologies**
Utilizing smart meters and water management software can help you track water usage in real-time. These technologies not only detect leaks but also help producers understand their water usage patterns, leading to more informed decisions about water management.

- 7. Implement Rainwater Harvesting**
Capturing and storing rainwater provides an alternative water source, which can be used in various farm operations. This practice reduces dependency on local water supplies and ensures that there is an additional reservoir of water available during dry spells.

Water is a finite resource that demands our respect and careful management. For producers in Lacombe County, adopting these water conservation strategies is not just about compliance; it's about taking proactive steps towards sustainability and efficiency. By embracing these practices, ranchers can ensure that they are doing their part in preserving water resources while maintaining a productive and profitable operation. Let's commit to these changes, for the health of our lands and the future of our community.

*Visit our website to find more Water Conservation tips:
www.lacombecounty.com/drought.*

OPERATIONS

Don't get left in the dust!

If you missed the May 15, 2024 deadline, don't worry! You can still get a fall application for Dust Control. If you are interested in having Calcium Chloride in front of your residence or place of business, please contact Cassandra at the County shop at 403-782-3567.



Ratepayer's 2024 cost-shared rate for one application is \$1.82 per lineal meter, to a maximum of 200 meters. **If you require more than 200 meters**, the additional will NOT be cost shared.

Please contact us if you would like to get on the list for fall applications **before August 9, 2024**.

Note: The application of dust abatement may cause some possible effects, such as loss of vegetation. Lacombe County is not responsible for any claims or damages resulting from the application process.

If you are interested in finding out more about the County's Dust Control Program, please call Cassandra at 403-782-3567, Ivy at 403-782-8379 or email operations@lacombecounty.com

Keep an eye on fire activity this summer

As we approach the peak of summer, Alberta is expected to experience hot and dry conditions that significantly increase the risk of wildfires. With temperatures rising and precipitation levels expected to drop over the coming week (as of the time of publishing), it's crucial for all residents and visitors to stay informed and take necessary precautions to prevent wildfires.

The Government of Alberta and Alberta Wildfire continuously monitor fire conditions and issue fire bans, restrictions, and advisories as needed. These measures are vital for protecting our forests, wildlife, and communities. It is everyone's responsibility to stay updated on current conditions and adhere to these regulations to help mitigate the risk of wildfires.

There are several ways you can stay informed about current fire bans and wildfire information:

- **Alberta Fire Bans** website (albertafirebans.ca). This site provides a comprehensive and up-to-date map showing the status of fire bans, restrictions, and advisories across the province. It is an essential resource for anyone planning outdoor activities, whether it's camping, hiking, or simply enjoying nature.
- The **Alberta Wildfire** app is available for download on both mobile devices, offering real-time updates and notifications on wildfire status and locations. You can also follow Alberta Wildfire on social media platforms such as Twitter ([@AlbertaWildfire](https://twitter.com/AlbertaWildfire)) for the latest news

and information. These channels are regularly updated with crucial information on wildfire conditions, safety tips, and emergency procedures.

- **Alberta Emergency Alert** app/[website](https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-alerts): Personal preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Emergencies and disasters can occur anywhere, at any time. It is your responsibility to ensure you are prepared if an emergency or disaster occurs. Emergency alerts are issued to provide you with critical information about an immediate threat, where it is occurring, and what action you need to take.
- **Lacombe County Website**/Social Media: Lacombe County strives to keep our local fire information current for residents and visitors.

As of June 18, there was a Fire Advisory in place for Lacombe County. With hot, dry conditions in the long-term forecast, this could change quickly, so use any of these tools to stay in the know!

Remember, even if there are no active fire bans in your area, it is important to practice fire safety at all times. Ensure campfires are fully extinguished before leaving them unattended, avoid using fireworks or incendiary devices in wooded areas, and report any signs of wildfire immediately to local authorities.

By staying informed and vigilant, we can all play a part in protecting Alberta's beautiful landscapes and communities from the devastating impacts of wildfires.

Understanding Lacombe County's ROADSIDE MEMORIAL POLICY

Lacombe County understands that residents may want to create roadside memorials to honour loved ones who have passed away in motor vehicle accidents. However, due to potential safety concerns for both the travelling public and maintenance staff, the county has set specific guidelines for these memorials. Here's what you need to know about the policy:

Key Points of Policy OP(44) Roadside Memorials

Approval Process

- Individuals wishing to place a roadside memorial must submit a written request to the County Manager, including the specific location and description of the memorial.
- The County Manager or their designate has the discretion to approve or deny these requests.

Duration of Memorials

- Approved roadside memorials are not permanent and can remain in place for one to five years.
- It is the responsibility of the individual who erected the memorial to remove it once the approval period ends.

Safety and Maintenance Concerns

Memorials must not pose hazards to travelers or maintenance staff. If deemed hazardous or in disrepair, the County has the right to remove or relocate them.

Certain objects are prohibited, including those that:

- Are placed directly on the roadway.
- Are heavy or have a solid base that could be dangerous to vehicles.
- Impede construction or maintenance operations, restrict driver sight lines, distract drivers, or obstruct traffic control signs or devices.
- Are made of reflective materials or are illuminated.
- Are placed on bridges, around culverts, or near street lights and other roadway fixtures.
- Cause concerns for adjacent property owners.

Maintenance Responsibility

- The person who sets up the memorial is responsible for its upkeep.
- Lacombe County will not be liable for any damage to or loss of the memorial due to road maintenance, construction, or other activities.

This policy ensures that while individuals can honour their loved ones, the safety and functionality of Lacombe County's roads are maintained. If you are considering placing a roadside memorial, please adhere to these guidelines to ensure compliance and safety. For more information or to submit a request, please contact the County Manager's office at 403-782-6601.

By following these guidelines, we can respect the memory of those lost while ensuring our roads remain safe and functional for everyone.

AGRICULTURE

JOIN US on August 8 for an Ag Farm & ALUS Tour!

Join us for a day in Lacombe County, as we explore local farms and Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) projects.

DETAILS

- Arrive at 9:00AM
- The bus leaves from the Lacombe County Office at 9:30 AM, and returns at approximately 4:30 PM
- Cost: \$54.58
- Lunch will be provided.

Tour stops include:

SUN VALLEY FARMS

Explore Central Alberta's largest Sunflower farm, with 3 walking trails, SunShop and More! Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/sunflowervalleyfarms/>.

ELLIS NATURE CENTER- AMP GRAZING

Ellis Nature Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation, education & sustainable agriculture. We promote environmental education and wildlife conservation, monitor and conduct research on mountain bluebirds, tree swallows and purple martins, and manage over 480 acres of agricultural land. The Visitor Centre, original farmhouse, demonstration gardens and wetlands are set aside for wildlife and public enjoyment. Learn more at <https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/>.

LUNCH AT NOVA CHEMICALS COMMUNITY NATURE TRAIL

The land of the NOVA Chemicals Community Nature Trail has never been tilled for agricultural use and vegetation includes native grasses, willow, bush, poplar and aspen stands. The area also supports wetlands and has natural drainage channels to Jones Creek. The wetlands and vegetation offer a great habitat for birds and other wildlife. The new stormwater management system built as part of NOVA Chemicals' rail yard expansion to the west of this area enhances the wetland / habitat capability. The trail system provides an excellent opportunity for people to connect with nature and learn about local wildlife and plants — as well as the area's history.

PLEASANT VALLEY MILLS

Pleasant Valley offers consumers and manufacturers healthy, cold-pressed, non-GMO canola oil for everyday cooking use. When it comes to delivering the highest quality and most natural product possible, simple processes are key, and we work to be transparent with ours. You will always know where our ingredients come from and how we make our products, so that you can thrive and live your best life.

ZUIDHOF FARMS

Zuidhof Feeders sprawls over the rise of a hill in the rolling parkland of central Alberta. Its towering feed mill can be seen for miles. Pens of feeder cattle are squared off over the hillside. Hundreds of bales are stacked in rows nearby. Adjacent to the farm site, cattle dot the landscape. The Zuidhofs run a 6,000 head feedlot, a 500 head cow-calf operation and a 3,500 acre grain farm. They grow barley for silage as well as for cattle feed, but most of their feed barley is purchased. They plant canola, peas, and wheat for cash crops.

REGISTER TODAY online via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lacombe-county-farm-and-alus-tour-tickets-941448386467> (scan the QR code in the ad above) or call 403-782-8959.

JOIN US FOR AG FARM & ALUS TOUR

SAVE THE DATE: August 8, 2024



TOUR STOPS INCLUDE:

- Sunflower Valley Farms
- Zuidhof Feedlot
- Pleasant Valley Mills
- Ellis Nature Centre
(rotational grazing project)
- Nova Chemicals Nature Trail



REGISTER TODAY:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lacombe-county-farm-and-alus-tour-tickets-941448386467>

For more information:
403-782-8959
www.lacombecounty.com






Prussian Carp CARASSIUS GIBELIO



3X Females can spawn up to three times in one year, making them prolific invaders.

Once established, they can be **very difficult** to get rid of.

24 HOURS The amount of time prussian carp can survive out of the water.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE

If you catch a Prussian carp, **keep it and kill it. Do not release it.** Then call the Hotline 1-855-336-BOAT. Never release fish from your aquarium or pond.



Alberta was the first jurisdiction in North America to have an invasive Prussian carp and can be found around the main stem and tributaries of the Bow, Rosebud, Red Deer and South Saskatchewan Rivers.



Prussian carp impact native fish populations by out-competing them for food and habitat, as well as spreading disease and pathogens.



It is not known what caused the invasion of "wild goldfish", however it is suspected to have been **intentionally released**.



Intentional release of invasive species is illegal and could lead to jail time and/or substantial fines.

Alberta

AGRICULTURE

ATTENTION COUNTY RESIDENTS:

MOWING PROGRAM

Please be mindful of what is left in the county ditches and move debris completely away or into the fence line. This will help prevent damage to the mowing equipment.

THESE ITEMS COULD INCLUDE:

- ✓ Fence Wire
- ✓ Telephone Wire
- ✓ Large Rocks
- ✓ Posts
- ✓ Any material that may cause damage

THANK YOU!

www.lacombecounty.com

403-782-8959

LACOMBE
COUNTY

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)

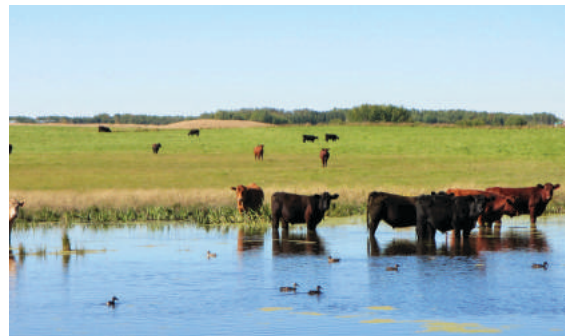
- ❖ Pull type - 400 gallon water capacity, 20 gallon/acre coverage
- ❖ Designed for spraying range and pasture in rough terrain
- ❖ Has additional hand gun system and fence line spraying nozzle
- ❖ Simple to operate
- ❖ Can be pulled by trucks OR tractors

Wetlands in Pastures: How ALUS Works with Grazing

By Ken Lewis, ALUS Coordinator

In recent months, we've done some articles on ideas for enhancing wetlands in your crop fields, and on the economics of farming around wetlands in your crop.

This month, we'll have a look at wetlands in your pastures.



Cows and ducks – and other wetland critters - get along fine, with grazing management that enhances wetlands

Ecosystem services that society gets from pasture wetlands are the same as for cropland wetlands and wetlands in "natural areas". This includes things like groundwater recharge, flood and drought resiliency, wildlife and waterfowl habitat, water filtration and even carbon sequestration. For livestock producers, ecosystem services from wetlands also include livestock feed and of course livestock drinking water.

Some grazing management practices that can enhance the ecosystem services your pasture wetlands provide, include things like:

- Providing livestock water in a trough, on high ground away from the wetland
- Using rotational grazing to give the wetland plants a chance to rest and recover from livestock grazing
- Delaying grazing in pastures with wetlands, to give the other critters that live in the wetlands, a chance in the spring/early summer to complete their life cycles
- Moving salt / minerals away from wetlands to attract livestock to other parts of your pasture
- Fencing wetlands to control how and when livestock access wetlands and the riparian areas around them.

If you want to do any (or all) of the above practices in your pastures with wetlands, ALUS can provide funding to you: up to 50% of the costs of installing fencing or alternative watering (for example), PLUS up to \$25 per acre per year on the wetland or riparian acres that you're enhancing.

To learn more: contact Ken Lewis at 403-505-9038, or Jenna Dell, ALUS Field Assistant at 403-392-4616.

Red Deer County



FARM TO TABLE TOUR

CONNECTING TO OUR LOCAL ROOTS!

You're invited to experience a premier Open Farm and dinner event!

Discover and learn about agriculture in your community with a bus tour to three farms in Red Deer County. Five talented, local chefs will then masterfully craft the local produce into an amazing meal for your taste buds to enjoy.

When: August 17, 2024 from NOON - 8:00 PM

Where: We will meet at Canyon Ski Hill. The tour will bring us to YR Bison Ranch, Red Shed Malting and Garlic Goodness, before returning to Canyon Ski Hill for dinner.

Register: Call our Ag Department at 403-342-8654.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING LAND USE BYLAW AMENDMENT

Dr. Chandiramani has submitted an application to Lacombe County to amend the *Land Use Bylaw* to allow a “recovery centre” on the N ½ 22-41-23-W4M on the north side of Gadsby Lake.



The “recovery centre”, for adult men and women, would be located on 200+ acres of land that includes two 10,000+ square-foot buildings. The organization behind the proposed centre aims to provide a long-term, evidence-based program for adult men and women in need of a residential treatment setting. The facilities will be staffed 24/7. No detoxification services will be provided at this location.

An application has been submitted to Lacombe County to amend the *Land Use Bylaw* to add “recovery centre” as a special discretionary use on the subject property that is currently zoned Agricultural ‘A’ District. The general public is invited to a public meeting where the project will be presented, and the proponents will be available to take comments and answer questions.

Meeting Date and Location

Date: Thursday July 25, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Presentation to begin promptly at 6:30 pm
Location: Tees Community Hall, 24 McNabb Street, Tees

Further Information regarding the project can be obtained from
Contact Person: Dr. Ravi Chandiramani
Email: decravedoc@protonmail.com

Comments will be accepted following the public meeting until August 01, 2024. Comments may be emailed to decravedoc@protonmail.com

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

2024 NOTICE OF PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Property inspections will be ongoing for the remainder of 2024. Lacombe County is aware of new construction and significant renovations due to development and safety codes permitting. However, we would appreciate your assistance with demolitions or removals of homes, garages, sheds, or any other buildings and/or changes to use of land and existing buildings. An assessor must verify a building has been removed or a change in the use of the property has occurred prior to December 31 or it will be assessed and reflected on your 2024 Assessment and Tax Notice. If any of these changes have occurred on your property and you are unsure if the County is aware of it, please contact the Lacombe County Assessment Department.

WHY INSPECTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL?

The information we collect about a property must be current so that assessors can prepare an accurate and equitable assessment of your property and other similar properties in the municipality each year. This is especially important if the property has recently changed ownership or if renovations or modernizations have been completed.

When we arrive at a property, we will attempt to 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.

We will do our best to answer your questions during the inspection; however, some inquiries require further research and information. If this is the case, we may request contact information, so follow-up can be done to answer your questions.

DID YOU KNOW?

In Lacombe County manufactured homes are assessed to the registered owner of the land on which they are located? In situations where the registered owner of land is NOT the same as the owner of the manufactured home, Assessors appreciate the assistance of both owners to collect the necessary information to prepare the assessment. The assessment and tax notice is mailed to the registered owner of the land the following year.

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

Lacombe County municipal Assessors will be visiting properties throughout the municipality to verify property information to ensure accurate and equitable assessments – we appreciate your cooperation in doing so. Our assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at the Lacombe County Administration Office.

ATTENTION:

Notification of Access for County Assessors

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

Our assessors carry identification and will present it upon request. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at the Lacombe County Administration Office.

2024 RMA POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP

Registration Deadline: August 31, 2024

The RMA established the RMA Post-Secondary Scholarship Program in 1995. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is presented to one successful applicant from each of the RMA's five districts annually.

 [Learn More](#)



 www.rmalberta.com



2nd Floor, Summerside Business Centre
1229 – 91 ST SW
Edmonton, AB T6X 1E9

Tel (780) 427-2444
Email lprr.appeals@gov.ab.ca
Website www.lprr.alberta.ca

NOTICE OF HEARING

Our File: AN24/BENT/T-01

July 8, 2024

Marc Fortais
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Bentley
Box 179
Bentley AB T0C 0J0

Tim Timmons
County Manager
Lacombe County
RR#3
Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3

Re: Notice of Annexation Hearing – Town of Bentley Proposed Annexation

The Land and Property Rights Tribunal (Tribunal) will conduct a public hearing respecting an application by the Town of Bentley (Town) to annex land from Lacombe County (County). The hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: August 15, 2024
TIME: 10:00 AM
LOCATION: This hearing will be conducted via WebEx

The proposed annexation area involves approximately 221 acres (89 hectares) of land. The application states that the proposed annexation provide the Town with land for future commercial and industrial growth.

Although the two municipalities have negotiated an agreement, an objection to the proposed annexation requires the Tribunal to conduct a public hearing. The public hearing process will allow the Tribunal to receive information and evidence from interested parties about this matter. After considering the submissions from all parties, the Tribunal will make an annexation recommendation to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

A hard copy of the annexation application can be viewed at both the Town and the County municipal offices during normal business hours. A map of the annexation area and information about the proposed annexation can be found on the Town's website at: <https://townofbentley.ca/business-development/building-development/bentley-lacombe-joint-development-initiative/>.

If you wish to participate in the hearing and/or want to make an oral submission to the Tribunal during the proceedings, please register with the Tribunal office by 12:00 noon on **Friday, August 6, 2024**. Written submissions pertaining to the hearing should be received by the Tribunal no later than 12:00 noon on **Friday, August 6, 2024**. Copies of all written submissions received by the Tribunal will be forwarded to the Town and the County prior to the hearing and may be made available to the public.

For more information about the annexation application, please contact:

Town of Bentley

Albert Frootman
Consultant
Parkland Community Planning Services
Unit B, 4730 Ross Street
Red Deer, AB T4N 1X2
Phone: 403-710-8996
Email: albert.frootman@pcps.ab.ca

Lacombe County

Nicklas Baran
Planner/Development Officer
Lacombe County
RR#3
Lacombe County T4L 2N3
Phone: 403-782-8389
Email: nbaran@lacombecounty.com

Written submissions regarding the proposed annexation should be sent to the Tribunal Case Manager at the address below. For more information about the annexation process, please contact:

Kellie Lau
Subdivision and Development Appeals Case Manager
Land and Property Rights Tribunal
Second Floor, 1229 – 91 Street SW
Edmonton, AB T6X 1E9
Phone: 780-415-1857
Email: kellie.lau@gov.ab.ca

To call toll free – dial 310-0000 and follow the instructions.

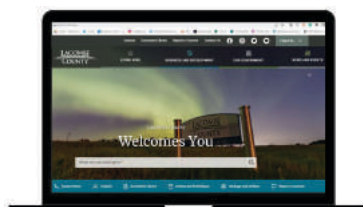
STAY IN THE KNOW!

<https://subscribe.lacombecounty.com/Subscribe> to receive emails on:



News/
Announcements
Events
Council Meetings
Safety Alerts
Construction
Notifications
OR...Subscribe to

Individual pages of interest



Summer plans at Ellis Nature Centre

There are lots of different ways to get involved with Ellis Nature Centre & the work they do this season!

New this year is the Friend of Ellis Program - for a one-time donation of \$20, you'll be pledging a lifetime of support to our ongoing education, conservation, & sustainable agriculture efforts as we continue the work of Charlie & Winnie Ellis. As a Friend of Ellis, you also receive exclusive benefits such as access to our site in the off-season, 10% off Myrna Pearman's books & our nestbox kits, & the ability to purchase a Friend of Ellis hat to show your support.



You can sign up on our website at <https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/friend-of-ellis/> or at the Visitor Centre during your next visit.

This year, we're also co-hosting Lacombe Museum's annual Harvest Dinner, happening on Saturday, September 7 beginning at 5:45pm. The dinner will be taking place at Ellis Nature Centre, and all proceeds from the event will be shared between us & Lacombe Museums. There will be a five course dinner featuring local farm to table food, prepared by the chef from Milly Oak in Lacombe. There will also be a dessert auction & a silent auction to boost fundraising efforts! This event will truly be a celebration of the Lacombe community, supporting two wonderful community organizations. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the Ellis Nature Centre visitor centre, the Lacombe Museum flatiron museum, or online at <https://lacombemuseum.com/event/2024-harvest-dinner/>.



Additionally, we have many more events coming before our closing day on October 15. Most notable is our annual Bug Jamboree, happening this year on Saturday, August 10. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of insects, some of the tiniest creatures we share the natural world with. We'll have featured presenters such as John Acorn (the Nature Nut), Ben Acorn, Charity Briere, Dave Lawrie, Ken Fry, and Ilan Domnich.

You can find more information about Bug Jamboree and a full list of our other events at <https://ellisnaturecentre.ca/calendar/>

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



facebook.com/LacombeCounty



instagram.com/lacombecounty



twitter.com/LacombeCounty



youtube.com/LacombeCounty



www.lacombecounty.com

SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

June 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Development Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Development	Decision <i>(otherwise pending)</i>
1	69/24	Dwayne Sauer	Lot G Plan 5864KS (Greystone Ranch)	Home Based Business, Minor <i>Renewal, First Stop Contracting</i>	Approved
2	70/24	Reg & Sheila McIlwain	Lot 6 Block H Plan 912 3256 (Rosedale Valley)	Shed	Approved
3	71/24	Delta Land Co.	Lot 1 Block 2 Plan 142 2128 (Sandy Point Resort, Gull Lake)	Addition to shop and setback relaxation	Approved
4	72/24	Barry & Arlene Cuff	Lot 8 Block 3 Plan 151Z (Rosedale Valley)	Recreation Facilities, Indoor <i>Renewal, Dance Studio</i>	Approved
5	73/24	Michelle Eadie	SW 28-41-27-W4M	11,408ft² Pole Building for outdoor rec facility known as Prairie Dog Sports Inc.	Approved
6	74/24	Lucas Letourneau	Lot 2 Block 1 Plan 102 2549 (NW 17-40-26-W4M)	Community Facility <i>Renewal, The Big Red Barn</i>	
7	75/24	Jason Allan	SW 01-40-23-W4M	Dwelling, First <i>Replacement, Mobile Home</i>	Approved
8	76/24	Big League Cultivation	Lot 2 Block 3 Plan 072 9331 (North Aspelund Industrial Park)	Cannabis Production Facility <i>Renewal, No Changes</i>	
9	77/24	Travis & Leanda Husebey	Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 232 2278 (Pt. NE 3-41-03-W5M)	Dwelling, First <i>Moved-In Residence</i>	Approved
10	78/24	Dynamic Modular Homes	Unit 117 Condo Plan 142 2139 (Sandy Point Resort, Gull Lake)	Modular Home	Approved
11	79/24	Border Paving Ltd.	SW 15-41-27-W4M & NW 15-41-27-W4M	Sand & Gravel Pit <i>Renewal, Expansion</i>	Approved
12	80/24	Border Paving Ltd.	SE 16-41-27-W4M	Sand & Gravel Pit <i>Renewal, Expansion</i>	Approved
13	81/24	Steve & Michelle Tiemstra	Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 922 1199 (NE 35-39-26-W4M)	Home Based Business, Major <i>Renewal, WR Design & Cut Inc.</i>	
14	83/24	Henry Jaffary	NE16-39-26-W4M	Dwelling, Second <i>Modular Home</i>	Approved

Subdivision Applications Received

No.	File No.	Applicant	Legal Description	Proposed Subdivision	Decision <i>(otherwise pending)</i>
15	S-018-24	Henricus Bos & Tinie Eilers	NE 23-41-27-W4M	1 st Parcel Out	Approved

Do you have questions about subdivision or development activity?

Contact Us:

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

Dale Freitag
Director of
Planning Services

Cajun Paradis
Senior Planner

Natasha Wright
Planner / Development
Officer

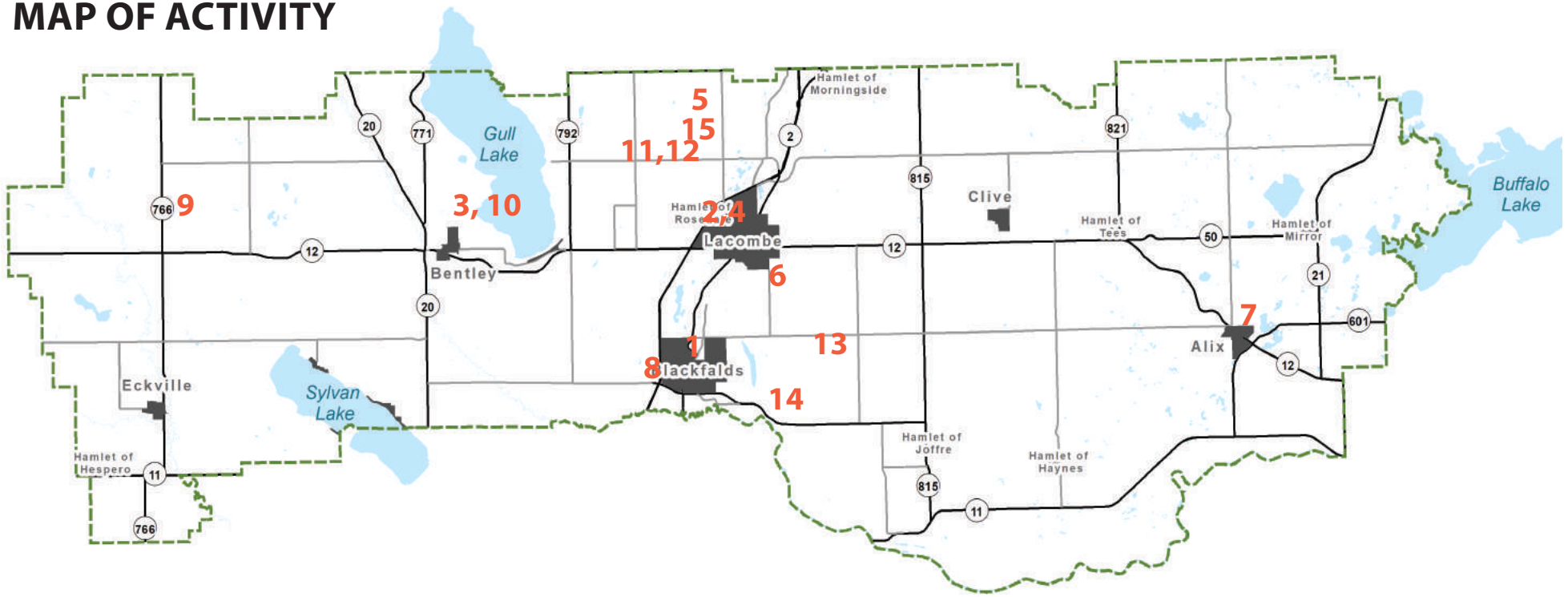
Nicklas Baran
Planner / Development
Officer

Kerrie Taylor
Economic Development
Officer

Allison Noonan
Planning Services
Administrative Assistant

Daniella Gonzalez
Planning Services
Receptionist

MAP OF ACTIVITY



Lacombe County adopts QEII West Area Structure Plan to drive economic growth and protect agricultural lands

Lacombe County Council has officially adopted the QEII West Area Structure Plan, a comprehensive framework that will guide future commercial and business industrial development in the area west of the QEII Highway, west of Lacombe and Blackfalds.

The Plan, developed in consultation with the community, provides a framework for future commercial and business industrial development at strategic transportation routes that helps enhance the quality of life for residents, all while protecting agricultural lands from loss and fragmentation elsewhere in the County.

Other features of the QEII West Area Structure Plan include:

- **Identifies where future commercial or business industrial development can potentially occur.** The Plan clearly shows the strategic nodes suitable for future commercial and business industrial development while protecting other lands for continued agricultural uses.
- **Outlines development standards for future commercial and business industrial development.** The Plan outlines the County's expectations for new business development in the Plan Area, including the requirements for water/waste-water servicing, stormwater management, fire protection, and built form/aesthetics.
- **Outlines standards for environmental protection.** The Plan requires developers to integrate and preserve large areas of trees, river banks, and the natural landscape character into their developments to protect the environment and preserve significant features. The Plan also requires developers to create site development guidelines for their developments outlining the standards for landscaping, building design, signage, and screening.
- **Protecting the right of agricultural producers to continue normal operations.** The Plan allows for agricultural uses to continue on any parcel for as long as the landowner desires. Further, the Plan allows existing agricultural businesses, rural residences, and farming operations to continue to expand and thrive.

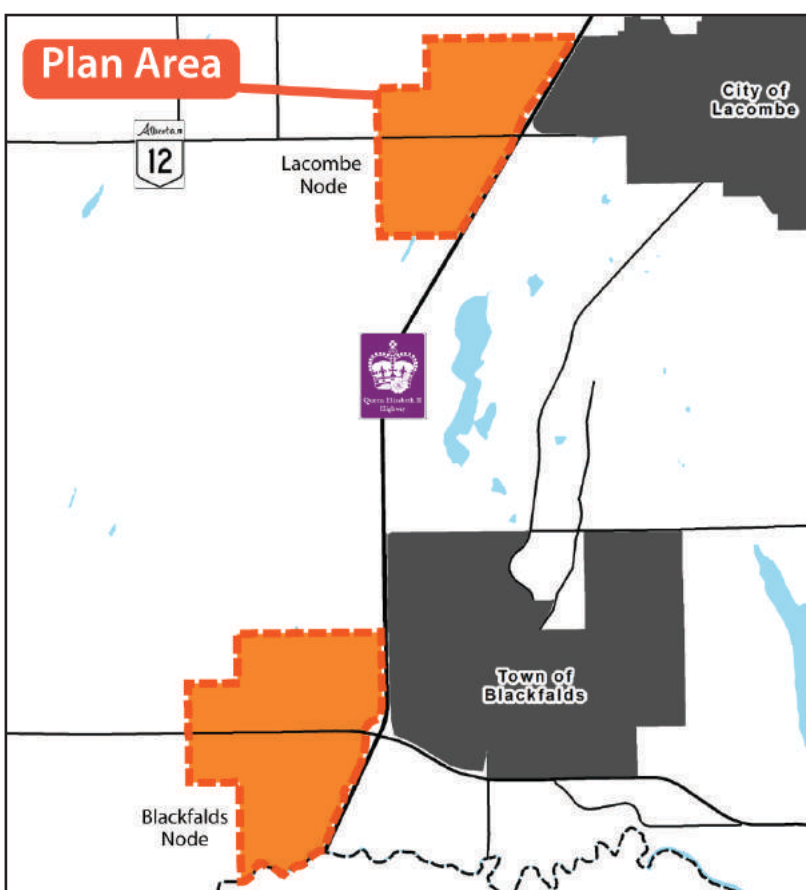
agricultural land protection by providing opportunities for commercial and business industrial development at strategic nodes while protecting all other lands in the County for agricultural purposes, ensuring that Success Grows Here! for all our community."

"The Plan will be a living document, subject to review and updates as needed to address new development pressures, policy updates, and the community's desires," noted Tim Timmons, County Manager.

Lacombe County Council is confident that the adoption of the QEII West Area Structure Plan will set the stage for responsible and sustainable development in the Plan Area. By adhering to the policies and guidelines outlined in the Plan, Lacombe County aims to create a thriving community that attracts high-quality investment that supports our community while also protecting our agricultural community.

"The QEII West Area Structure Plan is an excellent example of how land use planning can be used to leverage economic development, leading to high-quality investment in our community," said Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services. "North and South Aspelund Industrial Parks and Wild Rose Commercial Park are well-known for their design quality and ability to integrate ecosystem services into the business park setting. This has been Lacombe County's approach for decades, and it has proved successful in attracting development at strategic nodes while conserving large tracts of agricultural lands for the benefit of future generations."

For more information about the QEII West Area Structure Plan, please visit the Lacombe County website or contact Planning Services (email: planning@lacombecounty.com / phone: 403-782-8389.



"The QEII West Area Structure Plan covers the most attractive area for future business development in Lacombe County," said Reeve Barb Shepherd. "This Plan will guide future development in a way that balances development with



Tel: 403 342 2500
Fax: 403 343 3070
www.bdo.ca

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

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Council of Lacombe County

Opinion

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, 2023, and the consolidated statement of operations, consolidated statement of change 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, 2023 and its consolidated results of operations, its consolidated measurement gains and losses, 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 our opinion.

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

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.

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

Lacombe County Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2023	2022
		Restated (see Note 1)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 84,776,006	\$ 69,859,982
Investments (Note 4)	16,487,836	18,056,432
Taxes receivable (Note 5)	1,017,290	1,147,029
Accounts receivable (Note 6)	3,884,493	6,459,858
Inventories for resale (Note 7)	809,991	572,778
	106,975,616	96,096,079
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,515,827	2,503,661
Asset retirement obligation (Note 8)	1,877,217	1,790,710
Employee benefit obligation (Note 9)	1,266,888	1,887,963
Deposit liabilities	1,337,050	1,317,023
Deferred revenue (Note 10)	219,437	1,751,126
	7,216,419	9,250,483
Net financial assets	99,759,197	86,845,596
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (Note 11)	286,082,772	293,904,405
Prepaid expenses and inventories of supplies (Note 13)	6,664,208	6,852,631
	292,746,980	300,757,036
Accumulated surplus (Note 14)	\$ 392,506,177	\$ 387,602,632
Contingencies and commitments (Note 23)		
Liability for contaminated sites (Note 24)		
Funds held in trust (Note 25)		

Lacombe County Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	Budget 2023	2023	2022
			Restated (see Note 1)
	(see Note 27)		(see Note 1)
Revenues			
Taxation - net (Note 16)	\$ 36,156,500	\$ 36,157,850	\$ 33,338,856
Taxation - other (Note 17)	800,000	754,625	902,635
Government transfers for operating (Note 18)	1,471,760	1,484,157	1,386,101
Sales, user charges and costs recovered	2,395,440	2,937,112	2,408,830
Sales to other governments	1,297,250	1,598,239	1,505,708
Permits, licenses, fines, penalties and rentals	578,820	880,004	959,432
Interest, royalties and patronage allocations	3,049,310	4,316,959	2,273,537
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	-	1,896,316	2,622,749
Development levies	172,500	2,040	2,529,301
Other	12,100	135,168	79,488
	45,933,680	50,162,470	48,006,637
Expenses (Note 19)			
General government	6,442,442	6,147,974	6,140,642
Protective services	4,622,980	4,269,232	3,566,451
Transportation services	29,296,035	28,498,730	29,039,087
Environmental services	3,230,380	3,434,490	3,047,799
Cemetery	58,510	81,241	68,424
Social and family services	454,250	393,749	386,621
Recreation and cultural services	2,919,560	3,074,458	2,943,643
Planning and development	1,183,030	1,087,804	1,032,110
Agriculture services	1,435,427	1,342,715	1,125,972
Write-down of tangible capital assets	-	679,183	793,469
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	-	15,137	29,022
	49,642,614	49,024,713	48,173,240
Annual surplus (deficiency) before other income	(3,708,934)	1,137,757	(166,603)
Other Income			
Government transfers for capital (Note 18)	3,987,150	3,588,488	6,817,705
Contributed assets (Note 11)	-	177,300	4,258,200
Annual surplus (deficiency)	278,216	4,903,545	10,909,302

Lacombe County
Consolidated Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

For the year ended December 31	Budget 2023	2023	2022
			Restated (see Note 1)
Annual surplus (deficiency)	\$ 278,216	\$ 4,903,545	\$ 10,909,302
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(20,327,210)	(15,262,580)	(25,626,602)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	22,216,784	22,216,784	21,401,363
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	-	(1,896,316)	(2,622,749)
Loss on sale of tangible capital assets	-	15,137	29,022
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	1,360,900	2,069,425	2,830,692
Write-downs of tangible capital assets	-	679,183	793,469
	3,528,690	12,725,178	7,714,497
Change in prepaid expenses and inventory of supplies	(445,330)	188,423	(281,609)
Net change in net financial assets	3,083,360	12,913,601	7,432,888
Net financial assets, beginning of year	86,845,596	86,845,596	79,412,708
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 89,928,956	\$ 99,759,197	\$ 86,845,596

Lacombe County
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2023	2022
		Restated (see Note 1)
Operating transactions		
Annual surplus (deficiency)	\$ 4,903,545	\$ 10,909,302
Items not involving cash		
Accretion Expense	86,507	106,603
Amortization	22,216,784	21,401,363
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	(1,896,316)	(2,622,749)
Write-down of tangible capital asset	679,183	793,469
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	15,137	29,022
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Taxes receivable	129,739	(520,798)
Accounts receivable	2,575,365	2,878,006
Inventories for resale	(237,213)	(23,263)
Prepaid expenses and inventories of supplies	188,423	(281,609)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,166	(1,272,212)
Employee benefit obligation	(621,075)	425,859
Deposit liabilities	20,027	48,125
Deferred revenue	(1,531,689)	(4,386,725)
	26,540,583	27,484,393
Capital transactions		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(15,262,580)	(25,626,602)
Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets	2,069,425	2,830,692
	(13,193,155)	(22,795,910)
Investing transactions		
Decrease of investments	1,568,596	1,551,765
Restricted cash balances	(66,604)	786,224
	1,501,992	2,337,989
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	14,849,420	7,026,472
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	68,509,580	61,483,108
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 83,359,000	\$ 68,509,580
Cash and cash equivalents is comprised of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 84,776,006	\$ 69,859,982
Less: restricted (Note 3)	(1,417,006)	(1,350,402)
	\$ 83,359,000	\$ 68,509,580

Lacombe County
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

21. 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:

	Compensation	Benefits & Allowances	Total 2023	Total 2022
Councillors:				
Division 1	\$ 57,583	\$ 14,798	\$ 72,381	\$ 76,207
Division 2	72,413	16,572	88,985	97,484
Division 3- Reeve	75,035	11,813	86,848	86,299
Division 4	59,588	12,972	72,560	75,674
Division 5	68,103	15,737	83,840	81,546
Division 6	57,170	12,694	69,864	71,262
Division 7	70,836	17,777	88,613	91,228
Administration:				
County Manager	287,502	94,847	382,349	322,996
Designated Officer	143,683	27,900	171,583	165,909
Designated Officer	127,488	25,929	153,417	129,875

Council Compensation: includes base pay and per diem.

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

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, tuition and mileage.

Calling Grain Producers in the Canadian Prairies!

Are you a grain producer in the Canadian Prairies? If so, you are invited to participate in a research survey that will be collecting data on the adoption of winter wheat and ultra-early seeding of spring wheat in the Canadian Prairies. This survey will take approximately 15 to 30 minutes.

To participate in this study you must be

- 18 years old or older
- A grain producer in the Canadian Prairies

If you meet the above criteria and are interested in completing the survey, please go the link below or use your phone camera on the QR code.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/LkNoQwSBMjehAWez8>



The Adoption of Winter Wheat and Ultra-Early Seeding of Spring Wheat in Canadian Prairies

Pro00130833

Principal Investigator: Jacey Toerper

If you have any questions please only contact Dr. Linda Gorim at gorim@ualberta.ca or Jacey Toerper at toerper@ualberta.ca to protect your confidentiality.



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



Feeding the Future at Nutrien's Joffre Nitrogen facility

Nutrien's purpose is Feeding the Future, and as a leading provider of crop inputs and services, the company is working to safely and sustainably feed a growing world. It operates a world-class integrated network of production, distribution and agriculture retail facilities to serve the needs of farmers.

The Joffre Nitrogen facility is a key part of the company's global network. The site has been in operation for more than 35 years and has an annual production capacity of about 500,000 tons of ammonia. In the agriculture business, ammonia is primarily used to provide nitrogen to crops as a nutrient. Ammonia is needed to make plants grow and is vital to helping feed the world's growing population.

Serving Farmers

The ammonia produced at Joffre travels by pipeline to Nutrien's Chigwell distribution terminal, which is located about 20 km north of the Joffre plant. From Chigwell, it's sent out by rail or truck to retailers including Nutrien Ag Solutions, other Nutrien nitrogen facilities, and commercial customers for upgrading to agricultural or non-ag products. The fertilizers produced serve farmers across Western Canada.

"We have about 40 employees and contractors between the two sites, many of whom have been with us for 10 years or more, and the majority live right here in the central Alberta region," explains Joffre General Manager Stephen Hicks. "We operate as one integrated team, and that's been fundamental to our success."



Caring for the Environment

Environmental stewardship is another factor to the site's success. "As part of our production process, we've been using by-product hydrogen from a nearby industrial producer since 1987, which helps us reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," says Hicks.

During its planned maintenance turnaround in 2023, the site upgraded its natural gas-powered steam generator to improve safety, efficiency and reduce emissions. In addition, the site used solar hybrid light towers for outdoor work, which is more environmentally friendly compared to diesel-powered lighting. "By improving energy efficiency, we're minimizing our GHG emissions while improving the sustainability and safety of our operations," explains Hicks.



Safety Focus

Safety is a core value at Nutrien, and the Joffre facility and Chigwell distribution terminal have made notable achievements in that regard. "We all work together and look out for each other, ensuring that everyone goes home safe at the end of the day, and there have been no lost-time injuries since 2011," says Hicks. "In addition, Chigwell was a recipient of Canadian Pacific Railway's (now CPKC) Safe Shipper Award in 2023 and for several years prior. This reflects our ongoing commitment to safety and the daily collaboration between production sites, our Transportation, Distribution & Logistics team, and our rail partners."

Community Spirit

With more than 35 years of operation under its belt, the Joffre facility is looking forward to a bright future with continued community engagement and support. "We're proud to be a member of this community," says Hicks. "We strive to make a meaningful difference by partnering with groups like the Lacombe and District Family and Community Support Services Society, the Red Deer Public School District Foundation, Red Deer Food Bank, the Red Deer Christmas Bureau Society, as well as our annual United Way campaign."



NOVA Chemicals' Joffre facility is one of the largest global ethylene and polyethylene production centres. It includes five manufacturing facilities: three for ethylene production and two for polyethylene production. Ethylene is the building block NOVA Chemicals uses to produce polyethylene - the most prevalent plastic produced globally. Polyethylene keeps food fresh, can resist high temperatures, and plays a critical role in safe and sterile medical supplies. The plastic is extremely versatile and durable, and its demand continues to rise.

Locally made products are shipped via truck and rail to customers in pellet form and used to make packaging materials like milk containers and grocery bags, food and e-commerce packaging, large toys, and houseware items. NOVA's Joffre Site produces 3.4 billion pounds of polyethylene each year along with energy products and coproducts, totaling approximately 830 million pounds per year.

As a founding member of Responsible Care®, NOVA Chemicals has a commitment to ensure that they provide maximum customer benefits while simultaneously protecting public health and the environment and frequently evaluates the safety of their products.

NOVA CHEMICALS JOFFRE:

A Lacombe County staple since 1979

Engaging with the local community

NOVA Chemicals, a part of the Lacombe County community for 45 years, has been a proactive and collaborative corporate partner. It maintains this relationship by disseminating news and information by hosting open houses and outreach sessions. Community members can stay up to date with plant operations by calling the Joffre Site Operations Information Line (403.314.2882) or opting in to receive Texts from NOVA.

NOVA also supports the central Alberta community through strategic community investment and volunteerism. Last year NOVA Chemicals employees volunteered with 22 local agencies, providing 1,500 hours during the United Way Days of Caring. NOVA Chemicals has supported the United Way since the mid-90s, resulting in over 25,500 hours of employee volunteerism and over \$12 million dollars raised by employees and corporate-matching dollars! This past fall, NOVA made significant contributions to support mental health programs in central Alberta by investing \$200,000 across five organizations.

Caring for the environment

Every summer, [NOVA's community newsletter, SiteLine](#), shares a wealth of information on air quality, noise management, recycling, and water resources. The latest edition highlights NOVA Chemicals' participation in a major water-sharing agreement, organized by the Government of Alberta, underscoring their commitment to water conservation. The latest SiteLine also provides information on what to expect when flaring and explains how the 'big clouds' / moisture plumes are formed from the site cooling towers.

NOVA's Sustainability Action Team organizes several environmental stewardship initiatives like highway and river valley clean-ups, tree planting, and drives on-site recycling practices.



Community Nature Trail

The NOVA Chemicals Community Nature Trail is an environmental legacy project to mark a significant growth milestone as part of the Polyethylene 1 Expansion Project. The area of the Community Nature Trail is unique in many ways and demonstrates how wildlife habitat / agricultural / industrial / recreational land uses can exist harmoniously together. With 5 km of looped trails, the trail system provides an excellent opportunity for people to connect with nature and learn about local wildlife and plants — as well as the area's history. The Community Nature Trail is open year-round from sunrise to dusk, welcomes dogs on a leash, and has a sheltered picnic area.



NOVA Chemicals believes it can help shape a world where the plastic products vital to our lives are even better tomorrow than they are today. NOVA remains fully committed to its environmental performance. Along with the rest of the plastics industry, it believes plastics has a key role to play in helping Canada meet its climate ambitions. This belief is the foundation for its mission to reshape plastics for a better world.

To stay current on all things related to NOVA Chemicals' Joffre location, visit novachem.com/Joffre.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LACOMBE COUNTY SPOT *light*

KRAAY FAMILY FARM

*Celebrating 25 Years of Fun & Farming
at Kraay Family Farm*

For 25 years, Kraay Family Farm, Home of the Lacombe Corn Maze Inc., has been a cherished seasonal agritourism destination in Lacombe County, Alberta. With 50 dedicated seasonal employees and over 40 attractions and activities, including a world-famous corn maze, jumping pillow, and mini golf, Kraay Family Farm offers a unique and memorable experience for families and visitors of all ages.

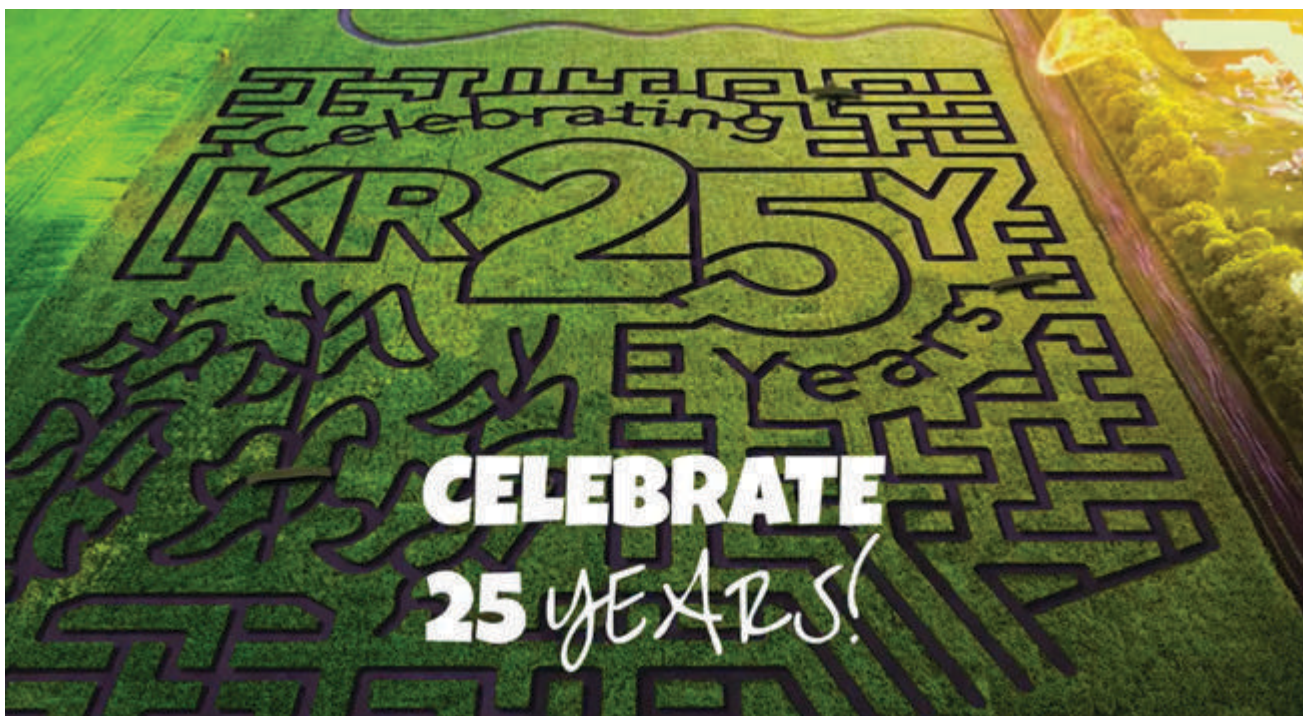
The Kraay Family Farm was founded to provide additional income for the family farm. Over the years, it has blossomed into a beloved destination, attracting visitors from near and far. "Lacombe County provides great land, an ideal central Alberta location, collaborative neighbours and county, and an amazing community," says Rachel Kraay, who married into the family in 2003 and now helps run the farm with her husband Reuben and his parents, Ed and Linda Kraay.

Kraay Family Farm is the original corn maze in Alberta, and its corn maze is renowned worldwide. As the farm celebrates its 25th anniversary, it continues introducing new activities and attractions yearly. The farm is undergoing a significant transformation, including the construction of a new entrance and exit building, slated for completion in 2025. This dedication to innovation ensures that each visit to Kraay Family Farm is as exciting as the last.

Operating on 40 acres, Kraay Family Farm grows corn, pumpkins, sunflowers, and fun. The farm's focus on agritourism allows it to combine a passion for agriculture with creating fun, memorable, and educational experiences for families. "It's rewarding to see visitors connect with the land, learn about farming, and enjoy unique outdoor activities," Rachel shares.

Running a seasonal agritourism business comes with its challenges. "We've learned many lessons over the years, with the biggest lessons being you can't control the weather, consistency and attention to detail are crucial, and investing in employee training is essential," Rachel explains. The farm also places great importance on continually seeking and acting on customer feedback to improve its offerings.

Rachel actively participates in local and regional tourism boards and collaborates with several tourism and entertainment entities across North America. She emphasizes the value of industry groups for networking, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy, which help busi-



nesses like Kraay Family Farm thrive and adapt to changes.

The agritourism industry has seen a rise in popularity and demand for diverse agricultural offerings, driven by advancements in online capabilities and a growing focus on sustainability and conservation. Kraay Family Farm stays ahead of these changes by maintaining a learning mindset, attending conferences, networking, and staying engaged with the local and wider agritourism communities.

Kraay Family Farm's season runs from July 15 to October 19. The Kraay family looks forward to welcoming visitors and neighbours as they prepare for another exciting season. Their commitment to sustainability, community, education, and fun remains at the heart of their operations.

Kraay Family Farm continues to be a shining example of how agritourism can create lasting memories, foster community connections, and promote agricultural traditions. Here's to many more years of growth, innovation, and fun at Kraay Family Farm!

- Website: <https://www.kraayfamilyfarm.com/>
- Facebook: [/kraayfamilyfarm](https://www.facebook.com/kraayfamilyfarm)
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-m8ljKmN5t1PadOSez1wbyw>
- Instagram: [/kraayfamilyfarm/](https://www.instagram.com/kraayfamilyfarm/)
- Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lacombecornmaze/>



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 27, 2024

NEW PAVEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Council received a presentation regarding proposed amendments to Policy OP(45) that bring the policy in line with the implementation of the Lacombe County New Pavement Plan.

Mike Garrity and Jim Jardine addressed Council to discuss paving Range Road 2-4.

Council approved Policy OP(45) New Paved Road Criteria as amended.

AGKNOW FUNDING REQUEST

Council approved a one-time donation of \$2000 to the AgKnow program. AgKnow is an Alberta-based mental health support organization for agricultural producers. It provides free counselling and therapy resources to producers and veterinarians, as well as suicide prevention training and crisis recovery support to producers impacted by natural disasters.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Council reviewed the meeting notes of the April 18, 2024 Lacombe County Agriculture Service Board (ASB) meeting and approved recommendations as follows:

- That funding be provided to the Hearland Training Hub in the amount of \$1962.
- That the resources from the Spring Tune-Up event be directed toward the Classroom Agriculture Program and additional agricultural extension events.
- That the Sea Buckthorn Control Report be

received for information.

- That the Alberta Cooperative Agricultural Extension System Report be received for information.
- That Council endorse Administration to complete the Weed Control Regulation Survey and that it be received for information.

That all discussion items be received for information.

REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF SEASONAL GATE ACROSS SCOTT DRIVE

Council reviewed feedback from residents of the Ebeling Subdivision in response to a request for input regarding the request for installation of a seasonal gate across Scott Drive. Of the ten property owners who submitted responses, seven were opposed and three were supportive of the installation of a gate.

The County Manager was authorized to have signage installed near the beach at Scott Drive to deter vehicles from driving on the beach; and further, that the cost of signage be shared between Lacombe County, the Summer Village of Gull Lake, and Alberta Parks.

AMENDMENT TO THE 2024-2028 LONG-TERM ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Council approved the 2024-2028 Long Term Construction Program as amended, to include the removal of C0343 and the addition of Range Road 3-1 from Township Road 41-2 (Centreview Road) north for 1.25 miles. C0343 will be reconsidered when Council updates the 2026-2030 Long Term Construction Program in the fall of 2025.

TRI-PARTY ALBERTA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT

By resolution of Council, the matter of the Tri-Party Alberta Community Partnership Grant was lifted from the table.

The matter of a tri-party Alberta Community Partnership Grant was deferred to the Lacombe, Blackfalds, and Lacombe County Intermunicipal Development Plan and Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Committee for consideration.

2024 PROPERTY TAX LATE PAYMENT PENALTY REQUEST

A motion that Lacombe County approve the payment plan proposed by HESC Energy Corp. for its tax accounts with payments paid over a six-month period beginning July 15, 2024, and with the stipulation that penalties during the term be waived, did not receive Council approval.

TRIDENT EXPLORATION (ALBERTA) CORP. PROPERTY TAX WRITE-OFF REQUEST

Council approved the write-off of 2019 to 2023 property taxes and penalties for the tax accounts related to Trident Exploration Corporation in the amount of \$821.41.

BYLAW NO. 1417/24 ASPELUND INDUSTRIAL PARK WATER AND WASTEWATER BYLAW

Council moved first, second, and third readings of Bylaw No. 1417/24, a bylaw respecting water and wastewater services in the Aspelund Industrial Parks.



Council Highlights & Minutes can be found on our website at www.lacombecounty.com/council

Regularly Scheduled Meetings for Lacombe County Council

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

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

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



Join the Recycling Roundup!

Get ready to bring your recyclables for free:

ELECTONICS * PAINT * TIRES * USED OIL MATERIALS * HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Alix/Mirror Transfer Station

September 21, 2024

1:00 PM - 4:45 PM

40319 Range Road 231

Bentley Transfer Station

October 5, 2024

1:00 PM - 4:45 PM

Eckville Transfer Station

October 19, 2024

8:00 AM - 11:45 AM

3219 Township Rd 400

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

July 11, 2024

2025 OPERATIONS HEAVY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL PURCHASES

The annual fleet evaluation and capital purchase process has identified a need to replace seven pieces of County equipment.

By resolution of Council, the County Manager was authorized to tender and award for the purchase of the seven pieces of equipment at an estimated cost of \$4,215,000 and to dispose of the existing units at an estimated trade-in or private sale value of \$865,000. The difference between the purchase of the numbers and the sale of the old units, in the amount of \$3,350,000 will be funded from the Fleet and Equipment Reserve.

RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE POLICY REVISION

Council approved updates to Policy AD(24) Respectful Workplace. The Respectful Workplace policy is the directing document of Lacombe County's harassment and violence prevention plans.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Council was provided with a Summer 2024 update by the Drought Management Committee which included information about the current drought situation in Alberta and implementation of the Drought Management Plan.

LACOMBE COUNTY SUCCESS GROWS HERE! FILMS

Council viewed 10 videos that have been recently created to promote Lacombe County to various audiences for multiple purposes. The videos will be used on social media platforms and can be used at different trade shows and events to showcase Lacombe County. Production of the videos was funded through the Rural Economic

Development Microgrant.

2023 TAX SALE (PUBLIC AUCTION) FOLLOW-UP

On November 24, 2023, the County held its annual tax sale via public auction. This auction, held in accordance with section 418 of the Municipal Government Act, involved three property titles with outstanding (for more than two years) property taxes. The subject properties are located in Mirror and vary in location, services, and zoning. No bids were received at the auction for any of the properties.

In accordance with section 424 of the Municipal Government Act, the County has the authority to have these properties transferred into the name of the County if no one purchases the properties through the tax sale process. By resolution of Council, Lacombe County will acquire title to the following properties:

Lots 14-17 Block 4, Plan 7159AI; Lots 16-18 and 20, Block 13, Plan 7159AI; Lot 13, Block 13, Plan 7159AI and offer them for sale in accordance with Municipal Government Act.

LACOMBE COUNTY/EAGLE BUILDERS PARKING LOT – OPENING

The new proposed date for the official opening of the new parking lot adjacent to the Eagle Builder's main office in the Aspelund Industrial Park is September 12, 2024 or September 26, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

MEGLOBAL SITE TOUR

Lacombe County Council will tour the MEGlobal site on October 2, 2024.

COMMUNITY AGGREGATE PAYMENT LEVY REGULATION REVIEW

The current CAP Levy Regulation expires on December 31, 2024. As such, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) is engaging with the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association (ASGA) to discuss possible changes to the CAP Levy Regulation. As

part of this negotiation process, RMA is inviting member municipalities to share their experiences with the current CAP Levy Regulation and any possible regulatory changes that may be required. This input will help guide RMA's approach to the negotiation process.

A letter to Rural Municipalities of Alberta expressing Lacombe County's 1) experiences with the Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy Regulation and 2) position with respect to changes to the CAP Levy Regulation, was endorsed by Council.

BYLAW NO. 1418/24 PILOT PROJECT (GOLF CARTS)

The Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors signed a Ministerial order on June 14, 2024, creating the Pilot Project (Golf Carts) regulation under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act. As such, the Pilot Project (Golf Carts) Regulation authorizes a participating municipality to pass a bylaw permitting registered users the opportunity to operate a golf cart on public roadways lawfully.

Council moved first, second, and third readings of Bylaw No. 1418/24, a bylaw of Lacombe County authorizing the operation, regulation, and control of vehicles on highways and municipal lands in Lacombe County.

Council also moved first, second, and third readings of Bylaw No. 1419/23, a bylaw of Lacombe County authorizing the establishment of fees for various services, supplies, information, applications, and appeals provided to the public.

The County Manager was directed to develop a Golf Cart Program allowing the use of registered golf carts on designated routes within Lacombe County Residential Lake Districts.


CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADON SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS

Pam Warketin, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARTS) provided Council with a presentation regarding the Take Action on Radon initiative as well as general information about recent radon test results in Lacombe County.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

TAX DEADLINE: AUG. 31

Combined property assessment and tax notices were mailed in early May. If you have NOT received yours, please contact Lacombe County at 403-782-6601.



Pay your property taxes BY AUGUST 31, and avoid any late tax penalties! Learn more at www.lacombecounty.com/taxes.

Tax Installment PAYMENT PLAN



Sign up TODAY for the monthly plan.

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



Automatic Budget-friendly Simple Convenient

AROUND THE COUNTY

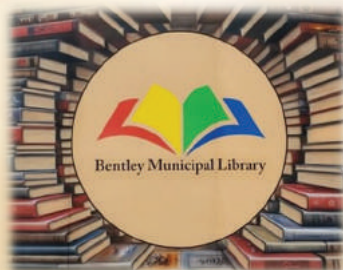


Bentley & District Ag Society Town & Country Fair August 8 - 11th, 2024 75th Anniversary

Bentley Municipal Library

Thursday, August 8
8:00 am Pancake Breakfast
9:00 am Museum Open
1:00 pm Parade
2:00 pm Bench Show
3:00 pm Junior Rodeo

Friday, August 9
7:00 am Pancake Breakfast
9:00 am Museum Open
10:00 am Bench Show
12:30 pm Bench Show Presentations
6:00 pm Rodeo
Dusk Drive-In Movie —



Saturday, August 10
7:00 am Pancake Breakfast
9:00 am Kruzin' West Show & Shine
9:00 am Museum Open
11:00 am Bentley Fire Department BBQ
11:00 am Bentley Library Petting Zoo
2:00 pm Bentley Farmer's Market
6:00 pm Rodeo
9:00 pm Cabaret Dance
10:15pm Fireworks

Sunday, August 11
10:00 am Church Service
10:00 am Museum Open

For dates and times of all events. www.bentleyagsociety.com Like us on



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Xtreme Raceways

Nestled near Alix, Alberta, approximately 30 minutes east of Red Deer, Xtreme Raceways is a 160-acre motocross facility that has become a rider's paradise. This non-profit organization, led by property owner Greg Martens and President Robin Marshall, is fueled by a passion for motocross, a deep commitment and a strong bond with the community of riders who call their track home.

At Xtreme Raceways, riders of all skill levels can enjoy various tracks tailored to different riding styles. There's something for everyone, from the thrill-seekers in the FMX park to those who prefer the scenic trail/enduro system. The facility operates from spring to fall and offers an ideal setting for every ride.

"Xtreme Raceways is more than just a motocross park—it's a community," says Martens. "We're here to fuel your passion for motocross and provide a place where riders can connect with nature and each other."

During the operational season, the facility hosts various events, including open practice days, Tuesday Night Motos + Mini Motos, specialized training sessions, and race events. Whether you're racing competitively or riding for fun, there's always a spot for you on the starting line.

The Mini Motos program is aimed at youth riders aged 5 to 16. It offers lessons and practice drills in a welcoming, enjoyable, fun atmosphere.

With a history spanning over 2 decades, Xtreme Raceways was established from a deep love for motocross, a huge passion for the sport and the community it builds. Over the years, the park has grown and improved, becoming more than

just a place to ride for many. For some, it's a stress reliever; for others, it's an adrenaline rush or a place to spend quality time with family and friends outdoors. Operated as a non-profit organization, Xtreme Raceways is supported by a dedicated committee and volunteers who share the same passion for motocross and family-based values.



"We're proud to be one of the largest facilities in Alberta," says Marshall. "While we don't have expansion plans, we're continually upgrading our facilities. We're working

towards having the best watering system for the track in the province, and our grounds and tracks have received significant upgrades."

Recent improvements include a live time tracking system on both the main and intermediate tracks, allowing riders to track their lap times. Future upgrades will enhance access, spectator and trailer parking, service road access, washroom facilities, and bike wash stations.

Come rev up your engines at Xtreme Raceways, not just this season but each season, for a heart-pumping motocross thrill in the great outdoors. Refuel at the concession stand or have a family picnic. At Xtreme Raceways, every ride is an adventure waiting to happen.

FOLLOW THEM ONLINE:

Website: <https://www.xtremetraceways.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GREGMARTENS8/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/xtremetraceways/?hl=en>





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

Programming
It's not too late to sign up for the Summer Reading Program! ★
The program runs from July 2nd to August 9th.
Kids & teens can track the minutes that they read per day & earn prizes & enter draws. While adults can take part in a reading bingo & enter into a draw!
*For more program information check out our website & social medias

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

Hours

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

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

Visit us on our website & social medias



TD Summer Reading Club

Make a SPLASH

at the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre
5429 53rd Street, Lacombe AB

What's Happening at the pool:

- Still spots available for summer swim lessons!!!
- August Long Weekend hours:
-Saturday and Sunday, August 3 & 4- regular hours
-Monday, August 5 - Public Swim 1:00-5:00 pm only
- We are closed Friday, August 9 at 3:00 pm until Sunday, August 11 at 10:00 pm due to the Lacombe Dolphins Swim Meet
- Fall program registration opens Tuesday, August 6 at 8:30 am
- Spray Park is open for the season, 10:00 am- 8:00 pm, seven days a week-weather permitting

For more information on the KAC schedule, pool rentals and advanced courses call 403.782.1277 or visit www.lacombe.ca/pool.





Seniors Drop In

located in the Town Office 4918-50 Avenue
If you are 55 or older - we invite you to join us!
Socialization, fun & wellness programs

Summer Wellness Program



- **Wednesdays 10:45 to 11:45 am Chair Yoga - light movements - arrive at 10:30**

Wellness Mornings

Registration required for
Move your body, make connections & socialize!
Call 403.748.2160
Donations Accepted

Chair Yoga

Never worry about falling or about your mobility level again. This class is designed to accommodate for those in wheelchairs, or who are concerned about their balance. The class is stretch-worthy while still being relaxing. It's the perfect balance for those looking for a yoga class that meets their mobility needs.

WELLNESS MORNING PARTNERS:
BENTLEY SENIORS DROP IN, FCSS/TOWN OF BENTLEY
EDMONTON SENIORS CENTRE,



WHAT WE DO

Alix and Area Community Resource Centre

Highlights

Summer 2024 Youth Programs
Any youth attending school in the fall are welcome to join us for fun activities and adventures this summer.
~Cost is \$50 monthly or \$10 drop-in. This includes all drop-in, outings and night at the centre (except swimming lessons).
~A one time waiver and registration forms are required to attend summer programs. Stop in to sign before or on the first day of attendance.
Please let us know in advance if you wish to attend any outings. Please note there is no drop-in when outings are planned.

Wellness Services Additions...
In recent months the service offerings at our facility have expanded! We are excited to announce: Moon Child Wellness & Energy Healing and Stettler Medi-Aesthetics. Visit their websites directly to learn more & book in Alix!

SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS
If you are needing extra support at home or with your daily routines, we may be able to help. Programming for older adults now includes Meals on Wheels, transportation to medical appointments and Wise Owls- basic home support and extended outreach services. Please contact us to learn more about fees, eligibility, how we can assist you and to arrange services.

Next Connecting Clans
Community Art In The Park- Monday, August 12, 6:30PM-8PM at Heritage Park beside the Centre

Services Available

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

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





gulllakecentre.ca



Summer Camps

Come Dive In to Summer!
Discover camps for kids ages 5-18, just 15 minutes outside of Lacombe.
Sign up now at gulllakecentre.ca




The perfect place for people to connect.

Book your upcoming event now!

- Christmas parties
- meetings
- training/workshops
- weddings
- anniversaries
- small conferences
- celebrations of life
- exercise classes

Visit www.lacombe.ca/lmc or call 403-782-6668 ext 1

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

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

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

Upcoming Retrofit Project at Dow plant

Dow's polyethylene plant at the Prentiss site (known as LP-7) is a world-class manufacturing facility in Lacombe County. In this Industry Spotlight, we highlight the LP-7 retrofit project as we expand the capacity of the site in the years ahead.



LP-7 retrofit project

Through Dow's [Decarbonize & Grow strategy](#), we are looking across our operations and value chains to lower our carbon footprint while growing our business.

We have a clear roadmap and investment plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, while also meeting customers' increasing demands for more sustainable and circular products.

The LP-7 Retrofit project is a significant investment at the Prentiss site that supports the new growth plan to expand global markets for high value-added, low emissions petrochemical exports.

The retrofit will further diversify the product mix produced at the Prentiss site, and debottleneck the existing plant to use ethylene from the new cracker under construction in Fort Saskatchewan.

Project schedule

The project will occur in two phases with the upgrade to the existing product mix anticipated by late 2025, and increased polyethylene capacity anticipated by late 2027. Additional railcar loading and an upgraded railcar wash system are also included in the project, as well as additional rail and track.

Temporary construction facilities are being prepared at the Prentiss site. Earthwork and site preparation will begin in July, with piling and construction taking place later this summer.

The safety of our employees and communities is our top priority as work progresses. Additional information will be shared with site neighbours.



Stay engaged with Dow

www.dowcanada.com or on social media:
Facebook: [Facebook.com/DowCanada](https://www.facebook.com/DowCanada)
X: [@Dow_Canada](https://twitter.com/Dow_Canada)

24-hour information

Prentiss Community Line: 403-885-7249
24-hr security line: 403-885-7129



If your child attends school in:
Lacombe & County * Bentley * Clive * Alix

You may qualify for
Tools for School!

APPLY NOW!!!
School Supplies OR
New Shoe Voucher
DEADLINE TO ORDER IS JULY 31, 2024

CONTACT 403-782-6637 OR
WWW.LACOMBEFCSS.NET



Information collected that you provide to Lacombe & District FCSS is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) Section 33(c). This information will be used for the purpose of the "Tools for School" program. Your personal information is protected from unauthorized access, use and disclosure under Part 2 of the FOIP Act. Questions regarding this collection of personal information may be directed to info@lacombefcss.net or 403-782-6637

BENTLEY BOUTIQUE

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

Open Tues/Thurs 10-12 & 1-3

Stretch Your Budget

Recycle Clothing

ALL FOR JUST A SMILE!

Swap Kids Clothes As They Grow

DROP-IN

PICKLE BALL, BADMINTON AND FLOOR HOCKEY

AT THE
GARY MOE AUTO GROUP SPORTSPLEX

For more information, visit lacombe.ca/dropin

Check-in at the Information Desk to receive a wristband and borrow equipment.

AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	AUG, 1	2	3
4	5 HERITAGE DAY (Office Closed)	6	7	8 Ag Farm & ALUS Tour (see Page 8)	9 County News Submissions due	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 County News published	17
18	19	20	21	22 County Council 9AM	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Events: September 2 (Labour Day - Office Closed), September 12 (County Council meeting), September 26 (County Council meeting), October 1 (Committee of the Whole meeting)

Help us promote
YOU!



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

Do you have a photograph you want to share?

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

We'd love to hear from you!



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




Lacombe County Directory

RR3, Lacombe Alberta T4L 2N3 www.lacombecounty.com			
Department Numbers:		Main Office - 403-782-6601	
		Planning Services - 403-782-8389	
		Community Services - 403-782-8959	
		Operations - 403-782-8379	
		Public Works Shop - 403-782-3567	
General			
After Hours Emergency Answering Service		403.357.1210	
Administration Fax		403.782.3820	
Public Works Fax		403.782.5356	
For Service Requests, see our website - or phone the switchboard at 403-782-6601			
Council		Home	Cell
John Ireland, Div. 1	(jireland@lacombecounty.com)		403.392.3981
Brenda Knight, Div. 2	(bknight@lacombecounty.com)	403.788.2168	403.550.2168
Barb Shepherd, Div. 3	(bshepherd@lacombecounty.com)		403.340.9724
Dwayne West, Div. 4	(dwest@lacombecounty.com)		403.660.2328
Ken Weenink, Div. 5	(kweenink@lacombecounty.com)		403.350.8014
Allan Wilson, Div. 6	(awilson@lacombecounty.com)		403.506.3735
Dana Kreil, Div. 7	(dkreil@lacombecounty.com)	403.746.3607	403.358.9400
Senior Administration			
Tim Timmons, County Manager ttimmons@lacombecounty.com		Call 403-782-6601 to speak with the County Manager or with a Lacombe County Director	
Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services mminchin@lacombecounty.com			
Bill Cade, Director of Operations bcade@lacombecounty.com			
Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services dfreitag@lacombecounty.com			
Dion Burlock, Director of Community Services dburlock@lacombecounty.com			

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www.lacombe
county.com

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

COUNTY NEWS

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403.782.6601