

History in the making: Museum official opening

Community invited to Lac La Biche County Museum opening this Thursday

DRUV SAREEN
POST STAFF

The Lac La Biche County Museum and Visitor Centre will have its grand opening ceremony this Thursday — August 15. The museum will be open during its regular hours that day (it's been open since the May long weekend) but the official celebration will take place from 1-3 pm.

"We just actually moved from the MacArthur place over the winter, right into the Jubilee Hall. We have some new exhibits," said Rosalie Nicholls, a tourist ambassador for the Visitor Information Center.

"We're on Main Street now, so people can actually locate us and see us right downtown when they're driving through," said Nicholls. "At MacArthur place, it was really hard for people to find us."

The museum has already benefitted from the move according to Nicholls.

"We've doubled our visitors since we've been here," she said.

Local History

The museum's features offer a wide-ranging focus of local history and culture from written documents to diaramas, costumes and photos. One of the exhibits at the museum highlights the mink farms, an important industry for the history of the region, and one that helped many Lebanese immigrants find success in this community.

One of the other exhibits is about Herb Erickson, a famous archer and poet from Lac La Biche who recently passed away at the age of 102. Erickson was a veteran of the Second World War and was a staple in the archery community of the region. The Lakeland Archer's outdoor practice facility is named after him.



Cultural and historical clothing displays are prominent in the new Lac La Biche County Museum. History of the area and its people are represented by several displays featuring items from Indigenous settlement to the early days of the Aurora movie theatre and local sports (in the far right cabinet the clothing and bows from the late Her Erickson are displayed).

Bold art display unveiled on Thursday

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The Lac La Biche Art Club is ready to show of it's largest piece to date. This Thursday — August 15 — at 3:15pm (after the museum's grand opening) the art club will be unveiling its new installation, located on the roundabout at the Bold Center.

The project is a collaboration between the art club and the municipality, and represents months of work.

The concept was originally designed by Melanie Braund, a local artists from Plamondon, who designed the concept in September 2018 and spent

over 300 hour plasma cutting and welding pipes to create the piece.

The centrepiece of the project is a large feather cut from industrial pipe. Braund says the feather is a connection to the history of the land.

"My vision had to be inclusive of many things. I kept in mind the history of the area, the buildings, activities and the community spirit. From there I imagined a spiralling feather," said Braund. "The feather was inspired by the history of indigenous native culture and the nature that encompasses the area."

Braund also factored in the library

and high school at the Bold Center.

"To pay tribute to these I decided a large-scale book needed to sit in front. On one of the curled pages I wanted it to say "History of Lac La Biche" and on the other side I wanted to show a perception of a written test where it shows a final grade of A+ to represent the high school," she said. "For the final concept of the space I designed a bench/arch with imagery of people you might see at the Bold Center or in the community."

Art Club president Sandy Makokis elaborated on how the design evolved.

"The design has grown from nine pieces in the original concept plan to 17 pieces in the final installation," she said. "[Melanie] has worked non-stop to have the pieces ready for our proposed timeframe and the club has worked steadily to keep the project in motion with the county."

Donations from the community were an essential part of this project. Large sections of pipe were donated t, with many art club members relying on their community connections to secure donations. The piece received support and donations from Enbridge, Thompson Bros Construction from Fort McMurray, Portage College and Lac La Biche Transport.

Braund says the entire process for




Local artist Melanie Braund's project is unveiled officially Thursday.

the piece has been a blessing and the donations helped increase the value of the piece.

"The Bold Center roundabout sculpture ... was something I've always wanted to do. The timing was right for me. The community spirit and support has been amazing," she said. "The art club and its members have been following my progress and managing the behind the scenes stuff so wonderfully, plus without the donations from generous companies, this project would not be a success," she said.

The dedication ceremony will be attended by the mayor and council and other community members who have helped to create the project.



LAC LA BICHE NATURAL GAS CO – OP

2019 Annual General Meeting:

Lac La Biche District Natural Gas Co-op Ltd.

Where: Lac La Biche Heritage Society
10112 102 Ave.

Date: Thursday September 26, 2019

Time: 5:30 pm Doors Open
6:00 pm Supper

Annual General Meeting will Commences after supper

- ◆ Election of Directors
- ◆ Two Directors will be elected for a Three year term

Evening Agenda:

◆ Supper	◆ Chairman Report
◆ Meeting called to order	◆ Managers Report
◆ Introduction of Directors, Staff & Auditors	◆ Auditor Presentations
◆ Financial Report	◆ Election of Directors
	◆ Scholarship Presentation

Come out for a fun Evening!!
There will be Door prizes and Free Supper !!

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▶ 1.5" road crush	▶ Pit run
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