

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ECHO Lacombe announces support for Lacombe & District Historical Society**

**Lacombe, Alberta (September 29, 2018)** – ECHO Lacombe Association is proud to announce funding support to restore the original windows, doors and machinery in the Lacombe Blacksmith Shop Museum, along with fire prevention and public safety improvements.

"The Blacksmith Shop Museum is such a uniquely Lacombe attraction," said ECHO Lacombe Association President Drayton Bussiere. "It is the oldest operational blacksmith shop in Alberta and an important historical resource for our community. We are certainly enthusiastic to provide funding for these important upgrades."

The shop's ability to provide authentic educational experiences hinges on the state of the building and the machinery inside.

"We are thankful for the financial support which will help us conserve the Blacksmith Shop," said Lacombe & District Historical Society President Jennifer Kirchner of the Lacombe & District Historical Society. "This project aims to ensure that the shop remains a source of community pride while enabling it to continue playing an important educational, cultural and tourism role."

The ECHO Lacombe Association president is excited by the opportunities the group is able to support.

"This truly is a grassroots approach to community development," said Bussiere. "And so easy for area residents to get involved. I encourage those of you who haven't checked out Echo Energy to give it a closer look. All profits are dedicated to local projects; the more people we recruit, the bigger the impact we will make."

Along with supporting this Blacksmith Shop initiative, Echo Lacombe Association has also funded the new Echo Stage, the host venue for the popular Music in the Park series, as well as Neighbourhood Life's Echo Coffee Bike, which has been in high demand at block parties and local events. It also continues to sponsor important local events like the Culture & Harvest Festival, Light Up the Night festival and the Social Media Breakfast series.

## **About the ECHO Lacombe Association**

The ECHO Lacombe Association includes representatives from the City of Lacombe, Burman

University and the Lacombe and District Chamber of Commerce, as well as an additional six members from the community at large. The group seeks to improve the quality of life within Lacombe by fostering a collaborative environment focused on cultivating innovation, nurturing a business-friendly culture, promoting sustainable growth and creating a safe, inclusive, vibrant and healthy community.

For information on the Echo Energy program, and to apply for the ECHO Lacombe Fund, please contact Guy Lapointe at (403) 782-1263 or <a href="mailto:glapointe@lacombe.ca">glapointe@lacombe.ca</a>.

To find out more about the Lacombe & District Historical Society, please visit <a href="http://mhma3.blogspot.com/p/blacksmith-shop-museum.html">http://mhma3.blogspot.com/p/blacksmith-shop-museum.html</a>.

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