



YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BIG LAKES COUNTY
JANUARY 2022 / ISSUE #41

BIG LAKES CONNECTIONS

New Website

Big Lakes County dot ca got a makeover! Check out the new site and take our survey!

P.1

2021 Tax Penalties

If you have not paid your 2021 taxes by January 31, 2022 it will be subjected to a penalty of 14.5%

P.1

Cold Weather Tips

The weather has already dropped below -30 C° learn how to protect your home this winter.

P.2

Fire Hall Spotlight: Enilda

The Enilda Fire Department began in the early 1980s. Learn more about this local institution.

P.2

BIG LAKES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Another year gone! Big Lakes County is looking forward to a busy new year. On December 15 and 16, Council passed our 2022 Interim Operating and Capital Budgets. With so many new faces on Council, this was a long and thorough process. These new budgets ensure that we can continue to provide the current level of service you expect. Here's to a bright New Year!

New Year New Website

Big Lakes County dot ca got a makeover this past year! Big Lakes Administration is pleased to present our new and improved website that will be launching early this year. Built with our ratepayers in mind, you can find all new online forms, department information, resources, public events, and more!

Take our survey and share your thoughts with us to be entered in to win some Big Lakes County swag. Follow our social media, @biglakescounty for more information.

2021 Tax Penalties

If you have not paid your 2021 property taxes get them paid before January 31, 2022! A 14.5% penalty will be issued on February 1, 2022 for any balances still owing. If you would like to sign up for our Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP) it is not too late. The Big Lakes County TIPP's program allows

you to pay your property taxes on a monthly basis instead of one payment in June. TIPP makes budgeting easier and eliminates the risk of late payment penalties. Call our Tax and Assessment Clerk at 780 523 5955 for more information.

Snowplow Agreements

Big Lakes County is still accepting applications for Private Driveway Snowplowing for County residents for the 2022 winter season. Agreements can be found on our website and submitted to a County office.

We would like to remind residents to refrain from pushing snow across the road into the opposite ditch or directly onto the road. Keeping the snow on your own property can help with drainage in the spring and help the graders during the winter months. If you have any questions on driveway snowplowing please contact our Public Works department at 780 523 5955.

DATES TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDARS



New Years Day Statutory Holiday
Regular Council Meeting
Municipal Planning Commission Meeting
Regular Council Meeting

January 3rd
January 12th
January 26th
January 26th

Winter Weather Tips

1. Chimney Safety

With winter in full swing and many using wood burning fireplaces for heat, Big Lakes County Fire Services would like to remind everyone of some safety tips for chimney care and maintenance. Chimney fires are a dangerous and serious problem, but they are almost entirely preventable. Regular cleaning can reduce the buildup of creosote along the chimney walls which facilitates the start of a chimney fire. Regular chimney inspections will ensure the basic soundness of your chimney structure and flue as well as the basic appliance installation and connections. Annual chimney inspections and cleanings are a critical part of your home maintenance and will ensure you and your home have a safe and happy winter season.

2. Prevent Frozen Pipes

Freezing and bursting pipes are a common and expensive frustration to many people. If your home's internal temperature goes below 14 C°, your plumbing can freeze. When we get hit with a cold snap, it's important to keep heat circulating to your plumbing. You can do this by keeping interior doors open, keeping your garage and exterior doors closed, and opening cabinet doors where there is plumbing (such as under the kitchen sink and in the bathroom).

If your furnace fails or struggles to keep your pipes warm enough, keeping water moving through the pipes can help prevent them from freezing. You can turn on a tap to a trickle or drip to keep water moving. You don't need to do this to all faucets — choose one or a few pipes that run along an external wall or through a colder area of your house. Frozen pipes are a risk of living in Alberta but with the proper measures they are preventable.

3. Winter Emergency Kit

It's a good idea to always keep an emergency kit in your trunk. You never know what might happen or what you might need. It should include a first aid kit, windshield wiper fluid, an ice scraper, fuel line antifreeze, booster cables, some kitty litter,

traction mats and a shovel in case you get stuck in the snow, a flashlight so you can see, and road flares and a reflective vest so others can see you. Matches and a "survival candle" so you can warm your hands without draining the car's battery, as well as extra clothing and a blanket (a lightweight, heat-reflective blanket is best). You can buy your kit or make your own.



Fire Hall Spotlight: Enilda

The Enilda fire district has 15 dedicated volunteers, and over 200 years of accumulated years of membership. The Enilda Fire Department began in the early 1980s with Craig Bissell as Fire Chief. The second and current District Chief is Donald Bissell who has dedicated over 40 years in the volunteer fire service.

Enilda's new fire hall was built in 2010 and currently houses the County's newest apparatus: the Range which was purchased in 2018 and was even deployed to the Chuckegg Creek fires in 2019. Many members of the Enilda community have served on the department over the last 40 years, and they are always welcoming new members.

The Enilda membership is strongly committed to community involvement, and you will often find them out and about volunteering in community events. If you are interested in joining this family of dedicated, hard-working volunteers, please reach out to Big Lakes County Fire Chief Jason Cottingham at firechief@biglakescounty.ca, or stop in to a practice every 1st or 3rd Wednesday at 7:30pm to meet our members and pick up your application.

WINTER HOURS

Transfer Station winter hours - October 1 - March 30

Big Lakes County Transfer Stations are open Wednesday & Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

The Regional Landfill is open Monday, Thursday & Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Help keep our County clean by properly securing your load and bringing your waste to a Transfer Station or Regional Landfill.

If caught illegally dumping waste, residents can face fines. If you witness someone dumping illegally, write down as much information as you can and report it to Big Lakes County.

Please note: the Transfer Stations are closed Christmas Day. The Regional Landfill is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, and Easter Sunday.