



YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM BIG LAKES COUNTY
MARCH 2022 / ISSUE #43

BIG LAKES CONNECTIONS

Volunteer Appreciation
Help us celebrate! Nomination forms can be picked up at our offices or filled out online.

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Notice of Public Hearing
Big Lakes County intends to close a portion of undeveloped road allowance.

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Wildfire Season Begins
During wildfire season, fire permits are required for any burning, except campfires.

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Firefighter of the Month
Meet Sasha Bennett our new recruit in the Jousard Fire District and Firefighter of the month!

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BIG LAKES DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

As winter transitions into spring, fluctuating temperatures can affect our roads and infrastructure. Big Lakes County would like to remind residents to be aware of weather and changing road conditions. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or visit us online for news and updates! Report any issues by calling our Public Works department at 780 523 5955. Hang in there, warm weather and sunshine is on the horizon!

Ag Safety Week

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW) is an annual campaign held the third week of March of each year. Your Farm, Your Family, Your Success is a three-year campaign celebrating farm safety across Canada. In 2022, the aim of the campaign is to inspire farmers, farm families, and farming communities to value #FarmSafetyEveryday. Farm safety is about more than just being aware of hazards. It's about having meaningful conversations that reflect on the importance of farm safety. And it's about making long-term changes that benefit all who live and work on or visit Canadian farms. From March 13-19, we will be posting information supporting Ag Safety Week in Big Lakes County on our social media. For more information, visit agsafetyweek.ca.

Volunteer Appreciation

We are accepting nominations for our Volunteer Appreciation events in Big Lakes County! National Volunteer Week is

April 24-30, 2022 and is an opportunity to celebrate the vibrancy and impact of volunteerism in our community and across our country. Any group or individual may submit one or more nominations to the Big Lakes County FCSS.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the County office, the Town office, all FCSS outreach offices or filled out on our website. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2022. All nominees must live in Big Lakes County or the Town of High Prairie and meet the eligibility criteria. Visit our website for more information and to fill out a nomination form.

Income Tax Program

Tax season has begun, all Big Lakes Family & Community Support Services staff are trained volunteers with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. If you have a simple tax situation and a modest income we can help file your taxes. Call your local FCSS office to book an appointment. For more information visit our website.

DATES TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDARS



Regular Council Meeting
Municipal Planning Commission Meeting
Regular Council Meeting

March 9th
March 23rd
March 23rd

Career Opportunities

Every summer Big Lakes County hires a variety of seasonal workers. Come join our team. The following seasonal positions are open:

- Public Works Laborers (May to September)
- Mower Operators (June to September)
- Class 1 Drivers (May to September)
- Agricultural Laborers (May to August)

For more information on the current career opportunities at the County and to apply visit our Employment page on our website.

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. in the Big Lakes County Council Chambers in High Prairie for the purpose of leasing a portion of undeveloped road allowance north west of High Prairie on Township Road 774. For more information visit our Public Notices page on our website.

Are Your Taxes in Arrears?

Taxes in arrears are outstanding property taxes plus applicable penalties and interest, that have accrued if you are more than one year behind on your taxes. Properties in Big Lakes County that have outstanding property taxes from the year 2020 or later are in arrears. Notifications will be sent out after March 31, 2022. A full list of properties is available for the public to view in our office.

If you have received a letter of notification or have reason to believe that your taxes are in arrears, please call our Tax and Assessment Clerk at 780 523 5955 and we can help you resolve this issue.

Business Refurbishment Program

Apply for Big Lakes County's Business Refurbishment Program and receive up to \$10,000 to make visible improvements to the appearance, design, or function of your business! Any retail or

commercial business within Big Lakes County registered under the Big Lakes County Business License program may apply. For more information visit our website! The deadline to apply is April 15, 2022.



Firefighter of the Month: Sasha Bennett

Sasha is a new recruit in the Joussard Fire District and has already shown a strong dedication to the fire services and brings a lot of energy to the fire hall when she is there. Congratulations Sasha, thank you for your commitment to Big Lakes County Fire Services and the Joussard Fire District. We look forward to many years of working with you!

Wildfire Season

Wildfire Season has officially begun! Fire permits are now required for any burning (excluding campfires). Big Lakes County residents can get fire permits from the County's Fire Guardian Bill Lesiuk by calling (780) 507-9848 or emailing fireguardian@biglakescounty.ca. Fire permits are issued by Alberta Wildfire to track burning across the province.

These permits determine whether smoke is a wildfire or from some permitted burning. Knowing in advance where permitted burning is happening ensures that our firefighters are able to put out new wildfires instead of investigating a permitted burn.

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.