



Your Monthly Newsletter for December 2022

# Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #52

## Join Our Team!

We're hiring a full-time Housekeeper within the FCSS Department.

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## Christmas Hampers

The application deadline is December 9th. Learn how you can donate to this program.

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## Shelterbelts

Learn more about our 2023 shelterbelt season in the Ag Services section.

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## Firefighter of the Month

Meet Rod Sutherland who has been a volunteer firefighter in the Grouard Fire District for 7 years.

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## Big Lakes County Department Highlights

The Big Lakes County Administration and FCSS offices will be closed from December 26 - January 2, reopening on January 3. If you need to get hold of us after hours, please call 780-523-5955. Big Lakes County Council and Staff wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

### County Assessors

Compass Assessment Consultants Inc. will be travelling door-to-door in selected areas within the County boundaries starting on Monday, December 12, 2022, through to Friday, December 16, 2022, to conduct property re-inspections.

The areas as planned will be residences that have applied for permits and any residence with known changes. Learn more at [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) or contact us at 780-523-5955.

### We're Hiring

Big Lakes County is seeking a qualified, highly motivated, and organized individual to fill the full-time position of Housekeeper within the FCSS Department. [Learn more and apply today at \[biglakescounty.ca\]\(http://biglakescounty.ca\).](#)

### Christmas Hamper

Big Lakes County provides Christmas hampers to some of our low-income residents. Hampers include fixings for a turkey dinner, cereal for breakfast, and a wrapped toy for children under 16. If you would like to apply for a hamper, please make an appointment with an FCSS worker in your community.

**The application deadline is Friday, December 9.** Monetary donations will receive a tax receipt. We are not able to accept food or toy donations. Find us at [www.biglakescounty.ca/services/fcss](http://www.biglakescounty.ca/services/fcss) or follow us on Facebook @BigLakesFCSS.

### Cancelled Meetings

The December 28th Municipal Planning Commission Meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for December 13th. The December 28th Regular Council Meeting has been cancelled.

### We Want To Hear From You!

We want to hear your feedback on what should be included in the 2023 BLC budget! Stop by the County Council Chambers on December 5th or 6th between 9 am – 10 am and ask questions and share your feedback on values and priorities for the upcoming budget year. The 2021 Big Lakes County Financial Statements are available on our website. Copies can also be obtained at the High Prairie and Kinuso Administration Office.

## Mark Your Calendars

**DEC 5-6** Budget Meetings

**DEC 13** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

**DEC 14** Regular Council Meeting

**DEC 26 - Jan 2** Offices Closed Reopening Jan 3

**DEC 28** Regular Council Meeting - Cancelled

**DEC 28** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting - Cancelled

## 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 10 am to 5 pm.

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

## Reminders

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.

## Agricultural Services

Get out and be heard about applied research happening in the Peace Country!

- Big Lakes County is partnering with Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) to host an East Peace Annual Update at Triangle Hall on December 9th from 10am – 4pm. PCBFA will be presenting on their past year's activities and will also create space for your input as to the future of PCBFA's work and role in the region. Visit the Big Lakes County events page for more info.
- Big Lakes County is also looking at how best to continue supporting applied agricultural research in the area, as provided by PCBFA and SARDA. Peace region counties and municipal districts are proud funders of these applied research organizations, and we want to ensure that the support and input we provide to these organizations align with the needs and interests of our county producers. We have released a survey looking to hear your history in utilizing applied research produced and presented by PCBFA and SARDA and to glean your insights and interests as to what work has been and might be of benefit to you going forward. Look for the survey on our Big Lakes County website.
- **Say what? Shelterbelt season already?** Be on the lookout for information and order sheets on shelterbelt orders for 2023. We want to get a bit more colourful, and pollinator-friendly next year, so we are looking to introduce the idea of multifunctional shelterbelts to you. If that sounds a bit intimidating to plan, don't worry! We are looking to have a January workshop on shelterbelt species, design, and planting. Keep an eye out for details!

## Public Hearing

Council is considering a proposed amendment to the Big Lakes County Land Use Bylaw No. 03-2017. The purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 26-2022 is to amend Section 6.31 – Relocation of Existing Buildings. The Public Hearing will be held on December 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Big Lakes County Administration Office.



## Firefighter of the Month: Rod Sutherland

Rod Sutherland has been a firefighter with the Grouard Fire District for seven years and shows a strong dedication to his community and fire services. Rod responds to many incidents as our main apparatus operator. He brings a lot of knowledge to fire services and has stepped up often to assist with training. Along with his Grouard membership, Rod is always looking for ways to expand his training and expertise. He often attends extra training sessions and signs up for training opportunities outside the county. Thank you, Rod, for your continued commitment to Big Lakes County Fire Services, and we look forward to your continued success and future growth in your district and within fire services as a whole.