



Your Monthly Newsletter for January 2023

# Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #53

## Join Our Team!

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

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## Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who donated!

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## Enter to Win

Attention farmers, take our survey for a chance to win a gift card.

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## Firefighter of the Month

Meet Guy Berube who has been a wonderful addition to the Jossard Fire District/

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## Big Lakes County Department Highlights

### Tips to Keep Water Pipes from Freezing

**Tip #1: Keep the Heat On** - Heat can help prevent pipes from freezing, and if pipes freeze and burst, it can cause a lot of water damage to the property and your possessions.

**Tip #2: Allow Faucet to Drip** - This will relieve pressure in the system.

**Tip #3: Keep Interior Doors Open** - When the temperatures drop, it is a good idea to keep these cabinet doors open so that the heat from the rest of the house can keep the pipes warm. Keep all interior doors open so that the heat can flow throughout the home.

**Tip #4: Seal Up Cracks and Holes** - Caulk any holes or cracks near the pipes. This should be done on both interior and exterior walls. Doing so can help keep the warm air in.

**Tip #5: Apply Heating Tape** - For pipes that are easily accessible, electrical heating tape may be an option to keep them from freezing.

**Tip #6: Add Extra Insulation** - Pipes that are located in areas that do not have proper insulation, such as basements or attics, may need extra insulation to keep from freezing.

### Fire Services

The Grouard Fire District would like to send a HUGE thank you to the Grouard Senior Society for their generous donation of a BBQ.



### 2022 Tax Penalties

If you still need to pay your property taxes, please pay them before January 31, 2023! A 14.5% penalty will be issued on February 1, 2023, for any balances still owing.

If you would like to sign up for our Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) it is not too late. TIPP 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.

## Mark Your Calendars

**JAN 11** Regular Council Meeting

**JAN 25** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

**JAN 25** Regular Council Meeting

**FEB 8** Regular Council Meeting

**FEB 13** Big Lakes Library Board Meeting

**FEB 20** Family Day - County Offices Closed

## 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.

## 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\*\*.](#)

## Family & Community Support Services

### Christmas Hampers: Thank You!

Big Lakes FCSS would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the 2022 Christmas Angels program. Because of your contributions, we assembled and delivered 67 hampers to residents across Big Lakes County. This included 54 children, who each received a wrapped gift. We'd also like to thank our volunteers who helped deliver the hampers. We could not have done this without you!

### Community Food Cupboards

We are accepting donations of non-perishable dry goods for the Community Food Cupboards. Donations can be dropped off at any time to the food cupboard, or contact your local FCSS office for more information. We greatly appreciate all the donations we have already received!

## Agricultural Services

### BLC Large Animal Veterinary Bursary

Are you a practicing large animal veterinarian, a new graduate, or a student in a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program? If yes, then we want to hear from you!

Big Lakes County is offering a practicing veterinarian a \$20,000 annual bursary for every year of employment in the County where practice achieves 75% provision-of-service to large animal clients. Students can also apply for \$20,000 per academic year with a year-for-year return to service agreement to practice in Big Lakes County. Call us for more info at 780-523-5955.

### Attention Farmers!

Big lakes County wants your input on your experience, as a farmer, using applied research and extension developed and delivered in the Peace County and we'll enter you for a draw for a \$150 Freson Bros gift card. Click here to take our 5 -10 minute survey. Survey closes January 15, 2023.



## Firefighter of the Month: Guy Berube

Guy Berube joined the Jousard Fire District in April of 2022 and recently graduated from Probationary Firefighter to Firefighter. Guy is an asset to the Big Lakes County Fire Services, coming in as a Class 1 driver with many years of driving experience. We are lucky to have Guy with his dedication, willingness-to-learn attitude, and excellent leadership skills as he guides and helps our large junior firefighter population in Jousard. Self-proclaimed as a "Senior-Junior," Guy has an awesome sense of humour and is always willing to learn more and drive our Juniors to any training session they can catch. Thank you, Guy, for your commitment, and we look forward to many more years working with you. Of course, the Juniors say thanks as well!

