



Your Monthly Newsletter for February 2023

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #54

Join Our Team!

We're hiring Ag Laborers, FCSS Youth Worker and FCSS Housekeeper

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Water Rates

New water rates come into effect March 1, 2023

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Ag Events

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Firefighter of the Month

Meet Captain Dustin Seghers of the Kinuso/Faust Fire District

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Big Lakes County Department Highlights

We're Hiring!

Agriculture Laborers (Seasonal) - Are responsible for the inspection and control of weeds, pests, and vegetation control throughout the County.

FCSS Youth Worker - Are responsible for the after-school program that operates weekday evenings. This part time position is 12 hours per week.

FCSS Housekeeper - This position provides essential housekeeping support within the home environment to clients throughout Big Lakes County and the Town of High Prairie.

Recreation Survey

Big Lakes County and the Town of High Prairie are developing a Joint Recreation Master Plan.

Previous surveys conducted as part of the process identified three top new recreation projects desired by the community: a splash park, an off-leash dog park, and a multiplex.

The outcome of the survey will help in deciding what projects to include in the plan. Survey closes February 15, 2023. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NXH7LZR>

Snow Removal

The County is responsible for 1,327 km of roads. After a heavy snowfall, our priority is to clear the County's road network as efficiently and quickly as possible. Please refrain from plowing County roads or pushing snow across the road into the opposite ditch or directly onto the road. Our Public Works crew are out clearing roads and will have the main road system plowed in a timely fashion.

During a heavy snowfall, snowplow operators may leave a "ridge" in front of some approaches. This is avoided whenever possible, but ridges are occasionally a part of winter life. If there is a ridge you would like removed, please contact us at 780 523 5955. Thank you for your help in keeping our roads clear in as safe a manner as possible.

Big Lakes Family Day Activities

Find them on the County's events page on the website or the Big Lakes County or Big Lakes FCSS Facebook pages.

New Water Rates Effective March 1

Council, as part of its 2023 budget deliberations, decided an increase in water rates was necessary for 2023. This will allow the County to recover a higher percentage of what it costs to operate our utility systems, as well as allowing us to set aside some money for future improvements to water plants, distribution lines, and sewage systems. The new rate of \$7.06/cubic meter comes into effect MARCH 1, 2023. The previous rate was \$6.78/cubic meter.

Mark Your Calendars

FEB 7 Big Lakes County Library Board Meeting

FEB 8 Regular Council Meeting

FEB 20 Family Day - County Offices Closed

FEB 22 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

FEB 22 Regular Council Meeting

MAR 1 Wildfire Season Begins

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

Your Big Lakes Agricultural Service Board attended their annual provincial conference in January. County councillors and members-at-large debated and voted on issues of importance for our region and for the broader province that get formally submitted as advice to provincial ministers. Topics ranged from the challenges of solar installations and soil erosion issues in southern Alberta to issues of elk, grizzly, and water runoff management here in the north, to advocating for mid-level veterinary professionals and for better admissions criteria for farm kids into Alberta vet programs. Say a thanks to our Agricultural Service Board members if you see them in passing for the work they do for agriculture in our County!

Elk Damage on Stored Feed

It's that time of year when elk can start looking to get into your stored feed. If you are not already keeping an eye on your stockpiles, now would be a good time to clear any snow drifting around protective fencing and make sure the fencing is secure. The County offers scare cannons for rent which can assist in temporary prevention. Discount rentals are available as we're curious to see how well scare cannons might work to help discourage elk presence at stored feed.

Winter Calving?

Check out the resources on the Ag Services page on the Big Lakes County website!

Agricultural Extension Opportunities

Big Lakes County is hosting a Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Workshop High Prairie Legion on March 2nd from 6pm to 9pm. A light supper will be provided.

Lesser Slave Watershed Council is hosting a Working with The Land: Stewardship Workshop High Prairie Legion on February 8th from 5:30pm to 8pm.

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association and SARDA Ag Research are hosting numerous events on topics such as, drought recovery, soil health, cover crop design, beef cattle management and forest grazing. Visit their websites for more details.

Firefighter of the Month: Captain Dustin Seghers, Kinuso/Faust Fire District

Dustin joined the Kinuso Fire District in June 2009 and was promoted to Captain in 2015. As a second-generation firefighter, Dustin demonstrates a huge passion for fire services and spends countless hours ensuring the halls he serves are always maintained and ready for operation. Dustin has numerous training certifications, including NFPA 1001 Level 1 and Level 2 firefighter and received his Alberta Emergency Services medal in December 2022 for 12 years of service. Thank you, Dustin, for all your dedication and years of service to Big Lakes County Fire Services and the communities you serve.

