



Your Monthly Newsletter for April 2023

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #56

Join Our Team!

We're hiring full-time, part-time, and seasonal positions. Apply today!

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Summer Hours

Transfer Station summer hours come into effect April 1st.

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Congratulatory Message

Council sends greetings to citizens or businesses celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries.

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Firefighter of the Month

Meet Firefighter Diana Bissell of the Enilda Fire District

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Big Lakes County Department Highlights

We're Hiring!

- Agriculture Laborers (Seasonal)
- Labourers (Seasonal)
- Mower Operators (Seasonal)
- FCSS Youth Worker
- Alberta North Central Alliance Administrative Director
- GIS Administrator
- Payroll Administrator
- County Custodian
- Grants Officer

For more information or to apply, visit biglakescounty.ca.

2023 Wall Maps

The 2023 Wall Maps are now available at the County Administration Office in High Prairie for \$30+ GST. If you would like to purchase a map, please call us before coming in so that we can prepare the map for you at 780-523-5955.

Adopt A Dog

Big Lakes County now adopts dogs out from our Animal Care Facility! Visit the Animals for Adoption page on the County website to see all the dogs up for adoption and fill out an application form online.

Special Council Meeting

A Special Council meeting has been scheduled for April 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Big Lakes County Council Chambers to adopt the 2023 Final Capital and Operating Budgets.

Dust Control

Applicants will receive one application of dust suppressant to cover 150 meters of road at a cost of \$700.00 + GST. Additional meters will be available at a rate of \$4.70 per meter. Deadline to apply is May 1st.

Alberta Land Titles Processing Delays & Impact on Taxation Notices

Alberta Land Titles is reporting a four to five-month delay in processing land title transfers. In cases where a property has recently been sold, this may result in new owners not receiving their combined Assessment and Tax Notice that will be mailed out in May of 2023. If you have recently bought land, please make sure that your lawyer sends a copy of the seller's information to our tax department so we can make sure that you receive your notices in time. The deadline for payment of taxes remains June 30, 2023.

Grants

Business Refurbishment Program - DEADLINE EXTENDED:

You can apply for this grant and receive up to \$2,500 to make visible improvements to the appearance, design, or function of your business! If your costs are a minimum of \$5,000 then you qualify. Apply on the County website by **April 14th**.

Return of Service Bursary: Attention post-secondary students! Did you know you could receive up to \$3,000 from Big Lakes County? Apply on our website before May 15th.

Community Futures Beautification Loan Program: Your business could benefit from interest-free loans to participate in community beautification efforts, for a term of 3 years! You can even gain access to an additional loan for more improvements after the initial loan is paid off! Apply today at 780-849-3232 or visit communityfuturesl.com.

Request For Quotations

Gravel truck owners are invited to submit, on forms provided, their rates based on a percentage of the County rate, for the 2023 gravel season. Deadline is May 15th.

Mark Your Calendars

APR 01 Transfer Station Summer Hours Begin

APR 07 Good Friday - County Offices Closed

APR 10 Easter Monday - County Offices Closed

APR 12 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

APR 19 Special Budget Council Meeting @ 9AM

APR 26 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting @ 9AM

APR 26 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

Agricultural Services

Spray Exemption Policy

BLC offers the opportunity to apply for a spray exemption for roadside spraying on county roads adjacent to your property. An application is available in the Agricultural section of our website or by calling the Ag Fieldman at 780-523-8249.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP)

The next five-year Federal-Provincial investment in agriculture is set to begin in April 2023. Introductory information suggests similar goals and programs to CAP, but with the addition of a “Resilient Agricultural Landscapes” program. This new program will have an emphasis on the utilization of best management practices that provide ecological goods and services, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and water quality, amongst others.

Environmental Farm Plans and ALUS

If you don't have yours completed yet, now would be a good time to get some help from the Lesser Slave Watershed Council with trained EFP technicians. Call them at 780-532-9800. Plus, ask about ALUS, which provides financial support for farmer-delivered, nature-based solutions on your land to sustain agriculture and biodiversity for your benefit and for the broader community.

Crown Grazing Leases – Wait Times

The Ministry of Forestry, Parks and Tourism responded to Council that they have reduced wait times to three months and are looking to further improve that by summer 2023. If you've been stuck in the queue for longer than three months for a grazing lease application, renewal, or transfer, and are willing to share your information with us, please contact the Ag Fieldman as we are looking to follow-up with the Province to try and advocate on your behalf to speed up the process.

Council Appoints New CAO

At a Special Council meeting held on March 17, 2023, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Jerry Gautreau as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for BLC, effective April 5, 2023. Mr. Gautreau replaces Interim CAO, Mr. Roy Brideau.

Summer Hours

Transfer Station summer hours
April 1 - September 30.

Big Lakes County Transfer
Stations are open Wednesday &
Sunday from 10 am to 7 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.

Congratulatory Message

Big Lakes County Council sends greetings to citizens or businesses celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to receive a certificate, please fill out a form on our website or visit our High Prairie or Kinuso Admin offices or FCSS offices.

Notice of Public Land Sale

Notice is hereby given that BLC is accepting bids for the sale of the following land: 14 1st ST NE, Hamlet of Grouard with a lot size of 0.15 acres, and a reserve bid of \$4,000. Any person wishing to place a bid on a lot must do so prior to May 1st at 2:00 p.m. Contact the County Admin Office at 780-523-5955 for more information.

Firefighter of the Month: Diana Bissell, Firefighter, Enilda Fire District

Diana joined the Enilda Fire District in 2015, following a long line of Bissell's in fire services. Truly the Enilda Fire Hall could not function without the dedication, time, and work that Diana puts in every day. Diana continuously organizes, arranges, and attends all Enilda Fire District events. Furthermore, her dedication to training and attending calls does not go unnoticed. The membership of Enilda depends on Diana to keep everyone in line. As we always say, “it's always done with a smile and joke.” Thank you, Diana, for your continued service to the Big Lakes County Fire Services. We are excited to watch you evolve and grow as a firefighter.

