



Your Monthly Newsletter for March 2023

# Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #55

## Join Our Team!

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

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## Wildfire Season

Wildfire season begins March 1, 2023. Fire permits are now required.

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## Ag Events

Learn more about farm safety week.

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## Firefighter of the Month

Meet Firefighter Andrea Werner of the Faust Fire District.

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## Big Lakes County Department Highlights

### We're Hiring!

Big Lakes County is hiring the following positions:

- Agriculture Laborers (Seasonal)
- FCSS Youth Worker
- Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
- Labourers (Seasonal)
- Communications Coordinator
- County Custodian
- Mower Operators (Seasonal)

For more information or to apply, visit [biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca).

### 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.

### Wildfire Season

Wildfire Season has officially begun! Fire permits are now required for any burning (excluding campfires). If you live in the Permit Area, you can obtain a permit from the County's Fire Guardian, Bill Lesiuk, by calling (780) 507-9848 or emailing [fireguardian@biglakescounty.ca](mailto:fireguardian@biglakescounty.ca). If you live in the Forest Protection Area, please call Alberta Wildfire at 780-523-6524. If you need to know whether you live in the permit or forest protection areas, please visit the Fire Services page on the County website or call 780-523-5955.

### Upcoming Meetings

The Municipal Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for March 22, 2023 has been rescheduled to March 29, 2023 at 9am. The Regular Council Meeting scheduled for March 22, 2023 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2023 at 10am. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of the Big Lakes County Administration Building.

### Volunteer Appreciation

National Volunteer Week is April 16-22, 2023 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 of High Prairie office, all FCSS outreach offices or filled out on our website. The nomination deadline is **April 3, 2023**.

### Request For Quotations

**Heavy/Light Equipment Registry:** Individuals and contractors are invited to submit, on County forms provided, their list of equipment and their desired rates for the 2023 season. Deadline is March 15, 2023. Contact the Public Works department for more information.

**Trades Registry:** All interested trades people are invited to submit, on County forms provided, their trades and desired rates for the 2023 season. Deadline is March 15, 2023. Contact the Public Works department for more information.

## Mark Your Calendars

**MAR 01** Wildfire Season Begins

**MAR 02** BLC Shelterbelt & Eco Buffer Workshop

**MAR 8** Regular Council Meeting

**MAR 22** Regular Council Meeting - Cancelled

**MAR 29** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

**APR 07 & 10** Easter - 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.

## Agricultural Services

**Shelterbelt Trees for Sale!** Order your trees today by visiting  
[biglakescounty.ca](http://biglakescounty.ca) or visit the Admin Building in High Prairie.

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

**Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW)** is an annual  
campaign being held from March 12-18. The current  
campaign focus is *Your Farm, Your Family, Your Success* aimed  
at celebrating farm safety across Canada. The call to action  
is encouraging farmers, farm families, farm workers, and  
farming communities to commit to #FarmSafetyEveryday.

The County will provide daily social media posts from March  
13-17 highlighting different aspects of farm safety. Check-out  
the following farm safety resources:

- Canadian Ag Safety Week at [casa-acsa.ca](http://casa-acsa.ca)
- AgSafe Alberta at [agsafeab.ca](http://agsafeab.ca)
- Ag Health & Safety Alliance at [aghealthandsafety.com](http://aghealthandsafety.com)
- For Families Archives at [abfarmsafety.com](http://abfarmsafety.com)

## Grants

**Business Refurbishment Program:** 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 March 15th.

**Return of Service Bursary:** Attention post-secondary  
students! Did you know you could receive up to \$3,000 from  
Big Lakes County? Apply on the County 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](http://communityfuturesl.com).

## Firefighter of the Month: Andrea Werner, Firefighter, Faust District

Andrea joined the Faust Fire District in February 2020.  
Despite her start during the COVID-19 pandemic and having  
training shut down for most of her first year, Andrea has  
proven her dedication and commitment to her community  
and fire service by remaining active throughout these  
times. There is rarely a community event or training session  
that she does not attend, and she always lends a helping  
hand. Andrea's sense of humour and quick comments leave  
everyone on their toes, and she always makes training and  
events enjoyable. Thank you, Andrea, for your perseverance  
through your initial years, dedication, and commitment to  
your community and the Big Lakes County Fire Services. We  
look forward to many more years with you and watching you  
grow and succeed with us!

