



Your Monthly Newsletter for May 2023

# Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #57

## Join Our Team!

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

Page 1

## Wall of Fame

Get your nominations in! The deadline is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Page 2

## Public Hearing

A Public Hearing will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. **Page 2**

## Firefighter of the Month

Meet Firefighter Kevin Torkelson of the Kinuso Fire District.

Page 2

## Big Lakes County Department Highlights

### We're Hiring!

- Agriculture Laborers
- Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- Labourers
- Gravel Pit Scale Attendant
- Mower Operators

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

### Big Lakes Annual County BBQ



### Big Lakes County Wall of Fame

Do you know someone in BLC who has been involved in long-term activities that provide a benefit to, bring credit or distinction to, or enhance life in your community and whom you believe needs to be recognized for their contributions? If so, then nominate them for the Big Lakes County Wall of Fame. Deadline is **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. Visit our website for more info.

### 2023 Tax Season

Property Assessment and Tax Notices have been mailed out. Property taxes are due and payable on or before the last business day of June 2023, which this year is **Friday, June 30, 2023**. Please contact our Tax and Assessment Clerk if: your address has changed, you have bought property in the last four months, or you do not receive your tax notice by the end of May 2023.

### Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP)

The Big Lakes County TIPP program allows you to pay your property taxes monthly 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.

### Road Bans

Big Lakes County Road Bans have been in effect since April 3, 2023. They are passed under the authority of the County's General Traffic Bylaw and the Provincial Traffic Safety Act. The duration of bans is weather dependent. The County is responsible for the maintenance of all municipal roads. An important part of this responsibility is the protection of roadways during the spring breakup, which can result in serious structural damage. Questions about transporting goods or produce, or if you observe any activities, which have the potential of damaging a roadway, please call 780 523-5955. More information can be found on our website and social media outlets. We thank all motorists for their cooperation this road ban season.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## Mark Your Calendars

**MAY 10** Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

**MAY 22** Victoria Day - County Offices Closed

**MAY 24** Regular Council Meeting - Cancelled

**MAY 29** Big Lakes Library Board Meeting @ 4PM

**MAY 31** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting @ 9AM

**JUNE 22** Annual County BBQ @ 11AM - 2PM

## 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.

## Agricultural Services

### Avian Influenza

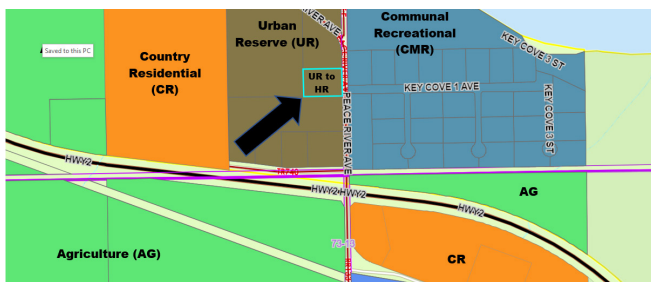
The human health risk of avian influenza is extremely low, but if you keep chickens commercially or as a backyard flock, it can be deadly for your flock. To protect your birds, be on alert for early detection of symptoms and prevent contact with other animals and wild birds. If you have a backyard flock, a move into a coop or away from open water bodies may be warranted during the major migratory period. And if you find dead wild birds (particularly around dugouts), avoid handling and call 310-0000. For more information visit [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca) and search for Avian Influenza.

### Noxious Weeds

The Agricultural Services department employs four seasonal weed and pest inspectors, and they'll start hitting the road in mid-May on the lookout for prohibited and noxious weeds. Visit Alberta Invasive Species Council website at [abinvasives.ca](http://abinvasives.ca) for more info on specific weeds or report a weed by visiting [eddmaps.org](http://eddmaps.org). Keep on the lookout for scentless chamomile (also called Mayweed) and tall buttercup as they top the list for early season noxious weed problems.

## 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. 05-2023 is to re-district Plan 062 3891, Block 1, Lot 11 within the Hamlet of Joussard from the Urban Reserve (UR) District to the Hamlet Residential (HR) District. A Public Hearing will be held on **May 10, 2023**, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. For more information, please visit our website.



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers, guests, and council members who were able to join us for the Big Lakes Volunteer Recognition event in Kinuso. Big Lakes FCSS received 252 nominations this year! Thank you to the Central Slave Lake Agricultural Society for the donation of the hall rental and to Barb Seghers and her amazing team for catering for us.

## Firefighter of the Month: Kevin Torkelson, Firefighter, Kinuso Fire District

Kevin joined the Kinuso Fire District in 2020 and has been an asset to the team ever since. When asked about the fire department, Kevin's answer is simple, *"I just enjoy giving back to the community through the local fire department."* Fire service is a family affair, as Kevin has two brothers who also serve with him. Kevin is always willing to learn and takes the time to attend training and fire department events to serve his community and help keep it safe. Thank you, Kevin, for the time you have spent with the Big Lakes County Fire Services, and we look forward to many more years of working with you.

