



Your Monthly Newsletter for July 2023

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #59

MDP & LUB Update

Big Lakes County is conducting an update for our MDP & LUB.

Page 1

Notice of Dust Control

The County will be providing dust control to residents.

Page 1

Fence Line Spraying Program

Landowners can sign up to have fencelines sprayed.

Page 2

Firefighter of the Month

Meet Firefighter Brandon Cardinal of the Grouard Fire District.

Page 2

Big Lakes County Department Highlights

Community Services

Bylaw Officer

Big Lakes County's bylaw officer Scott Stewart began his duties with the County on June 19, 2023. As he settles into his role, he will familiarize himself with the County's resident and bylaw needs.

Dog Adoption Program

Are you looking for a furry friend? Our dog adoption program connects you with a diverse selection of loving dogs in need of forever homes. For more information, contact our Animal Care & Control Officer.

FCSS

Community Food Cupboards

The staff at FCSS are so grateful for the amazing support our residents have shown toward our Community Food Cupboards. The cupboards were installed as part of a grant we received from the Second Harvest program in 2022 to address gaps in food accessibility following the pandemic. We realize that the need still exists and thank everyone who has donated, and who continues to donate to this program. Every little bit helps!

There are many ways for you to contribute to this program, and everything from a cash or cheque delivered to an FCSS office or leaving a can of soup in one of the cupboards is appreciated!

Seniors Buddy Program

Big Lakes FCSS has some pretty amazing volunteers who

are eager to meet you! If you are a senior over 65, we have a volunteer that is available to come for a social visit in your own home. All of our volunteers must complete screening and training to take part in this program. If you or someone you know could benefit from regular visits with a friendly face, contact FCSS.

Planning & Development

MDP & LUB Update

Big Lakes County has engaged ISL, a local consultant, to support the County to complete a targeted update of the County's current Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) to reduce red tape and better meet community needs.

The project has just started and you will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed updates in July, through an online survey, an open house and a community pop-up event. The details on the open house and pop-up event will be released in the coming weeks. To learn more about the project and to stay up to date, visit: www.biglakescounty.ca/services/municipal-development-plan-mdp-land-use-bylaw-lub/.

To take the survey online, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/BigLakesMDPLUBUpdate>.

Public Works

Notice of Dust Control

In 2023, Big Lakes County will be providing dust control to County residents who want dust suppressant applied to the roadway adjacent to their residence. Residents must complete an application and pay an application fee.

Applicants will receive one application of dust suppressant to cover 150 meters of road at a cost of \$700.00 + GST. Additional

Mark Your Calendars

JULY 3 Admin Offices Closed

JULY 12 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

JULY 26 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting @ 9AM

JULY 26 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

JULY 28 Dust Control Application Deadline

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.

meters will be available at a rate of \$4.70 per meter.

Application forms are available at the County officer or online
at: www.biglakescounty.ca/resources/forms

Deadline for applications is: FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023.

How to Detect Water Leaks

The best way to determine if you have a leak in your
plumbing system, is by first checking your water meter. Make
sure no water is being used inside or outside of your house.

1. Open the flap on the meter, flash a bright light on the face to
activate, it will cycle through the current read and flow rate.
Flow rate should be zero if no water is being used.

2. Or, you can also take a meter reading and wait 1 or 2 hours
and take another meter reading (make sure no water is used
during this time). If the reading has changed, you may have a
leak.

If you will be away for an extended period of time, ensure
that your inside valve is shut off!

Agricultural Services

Fence Line Spraying Program

Have you noticed the persistent Canada Thistle and Sow
Thistle growing along the edges of your property adjacent
to County Road allowances? These narrow strips of weeds,
when left idle, are a major weed proliferation source to
your croplands, and County Road allowances. They are
often difficult and/or time consuming to control due to their
proximity to fences, power poles, etc., and are often missed
during field spraying operations.

The County has recognized this situation and will provide
to landowners, the spraying of these transition zones under
the Fence Line Spraying Program. The requested areas
will be incorporated into our annual spray rotation, free of
charge. To sign up for this program, landowners simply need
to complete a form identifying the lands where spraying
is required. The spray request forms are available at the
County administration offices, and on our website under

forms. Once completed, forms can be submitted online or at
our administration offices. If you have any questions please
contact our Agricultural Services Department.

Rural Renewal Stream

Big Lakes County & the Town of High Prairie are no longer a
part of the Rural Renewal Stream. At the June 14, 2023 Regular
Council Meeting, Council made a motion to remove themselves
from the program. If you are a business owner in our region
that is interested in this program, we recommend reaching out
to your local Chamber of Commerce.

Fire Service Agreement

Big Lakes County and Swan River First Nation have officially
signed a fire service agreement. The intent of the agreement is
to have a mutual understanding of how Big Lakes County Fire
Service shall operate on Swan River First Nation if we are ever
called upon for fire services within the Nation.

Firefighter of the Month - Brandon Cardinal

Brandon joined the Grouard Fire District in 2020 and has been
a dedicated member ever since. He consistently volunteers for
any extra community activity and rarely misses a practice or
a call. Brandon is an asset on any scene and steps up to help
when needed to assist with training nights or teaching new
members. Thank you Brandon for your continued dedication
to your community and the Big Lakes County Fire Services, we
look forward to working with you for many years to come.

