



Your Monthly Newsletter for November 2023

# Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #63

## Organizational Meeting

Council held its organizational meeting on Oct. 24.

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## BLC Financial Position

Big Lakes County's financial position has proven to be a very stable one throughout 2023.

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## Join Our Team!

We're hiring staff for several positions.

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## Fire Permits

Fire permits are not required for controlled burns as of Nov. 1.

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## Big Lakes County Department Highlights

As winter approaches, Big Lakes County would like to remind our residents that we are currently accepting applications for private driveway snowplowing services. As daylight hours decrease, remember to set your clocks back on Sunday, November 5!

### Taxes

Important reminder! For those residents that have not paid their 2023 property taxes, don't forget to pay-in-full before February 1, 2023. Penalties of 14.5% will be applied as of that date. If you have any questions, please contact our Taxation Department.

### Organizational Meeting

Big Lakes County Council appointed Ward 8 Councillor Tyler Airth as Reeve, and Ward 7 Councillor Lane Monteith as Deputy Reeve at the annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

### We're Hiring

Big Lakes County is seeking qualified and highly motivated individuals to join our team! We are seeking to fill the full-time position of Executive Assistant, and part-time position of Animal Care Attendant, [Learn more and apply today at \*\*biglakescounty.ca\*\*](#).

### BLC Financial Position

Big Lakes County's financial position has proven to be stable throughout 2023 as we are back to regular operations after

the COVID-19 pandemic.

*BLC's Financial Statement (in millions \$) As of Sept. 30, 2023*

	2023 Projections	2023 Budget	2023 Variance
Revenues	\$ 37.015	\$ 34.983	\$ 2.032
Expenses	31.789	32.105	0.316
Transfers to Reserves/Debt	2.878	2.878	0.00
Surplus (Deficit)	2.348	0.000	2.348

While the County's current financial picture is predicting a surplus of approximately \$2.35M, this is directly attributed to several factors, including:

- 1) Higher than anticipated water/wastewater revenues,
- 2) Increased investment revenues, and
- 3) Unanticipated grant payments from other levels of government.

### Financial Statements

Please be advised that the 2022 Big Lakes County Financial Statements are available on our [website at \*\*biglakescounty.ca/services/financial-accountability\*\*](#). Copies can also be obtained at the High Prairie and Kinuso Administration Offices. If you have any questions, please call Dave Reynolds, Interim CAO & Director of Corporate Services, at 780-523-5955.

### Christmas Hamper

FCSS provides Christmas hampers to some of our low-income residents. Hampers include fixings for a turkey dinner, cereal for breakfast, and a wrapped toy for children under 16. If you would like to apply for a hamper, please make an appointment with an FCSS worker in your community. **The application deadline is Friday, December 8.**

### Mark Your Calendars

**NOV 8** Regular Council Meeting - Cancelled

**NOV 13** Office Closed in lieu of Remembrance Day

**NOV 22** Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

**NOV 22** Regular Council Meeting

**NOV 22** Big Lakes Library Board Meeting



### Reminder!

Help keep our County and Waste Transfer sites clean!

A friendly reminder to please maintain the cleanliness of our waste transfer sites. Let's work together to ensure they remain clean and user-friendly for all community members. Proper disposal and a little extra care go a long way in preserving our community's environment!

## Bylaw

A reminder to Big Lakes County residents regarding the use of Off-Highway Vehicles. Anyone that is at least fourteen years old and the holder of a valid Class 7 Operator's Licence may operate an off-highway vehicle on a highway that is maintained by the County, subject however to the following conditions:

- (1) Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the provisions of the Traffic Safety Act and its regulations shall apply to the operation of off-highway vehicles on County highways.
- (2) Operators of off-highway vehicles on County highways shall travel on the extreme right-hand side of the road or in the ditch, in the same direction as the motoring public and shall travel single file at all times.
- (3) The maximum speed at which off-highway vehicles are permitted to travel on County highways is 50 kilometers per hour.
- (4) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle within the territorial limits of any Hamlet within the County at a speed in excess of 30 kilometers per hour.
- (5) The hours of operating an off-highway vehicle on a County highway within a Hamlet shall be restricted to the period of time between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. in any one day.
- (6) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle on any schoolyard, any posted recreation area or playgrounds within the County.
- (7) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle unless the said operator is wearing a safety helmet securely attached on his or her head.
- (8) No person shall ride as a passenger on an off-highway vehicle unless the said person is wearing a safety helmet securely attached on his or her head.
- (9) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle on any County highway where signs prohibit.
- (10) No person shall allow an off-highway vehicle to be left running and unattended.
- (11) No person shall operate or be a passenger on an off-highway vehicle where the number of persons on the off-highway vehicle exceeds the number of persons that the off-highway vehicle is designed to carry.

## Agriculture

With the calves shipped, and harvest coming to a close, Big Lakes Ag department is happy to announce our fall workshops. Our Forest Grazing workshop with PCBFA has been rescheduled to November 10th, at Triangle Hall. Come join PCBFA, Cows and Fish, and other local producers for a full day of learning and lunch! Preregistrations preferred.

We are also working with SARDA! On November 30th, we will be hosting a 2023 Agronomy Update at Triangle Hall. We will have a panel of local agronomists, specialists and consultants coming to review the 2023 season, present some of their research findings, and provide insights into 2024. Come join us for morning presentations, free lunch, and an afternoon of discussion. More information on these events can be found on our website and social media.

The County has also started taking nominations for the 2024 Farm Family of the year. If you know of a local farm family that represents strong community values, and a commitment to land stewardship, please send your nominations into [asstagfieldman@biglakescounty.ca](mailto:asstagfieldman@biglakescounty.ca) or call 780-507-9840.



## Fire Permits

As of November 1, the County does not require a fire permit for controlled burns. With the changing seasons, it's vital to remain vigilant regarding burn piles and open fires. When managing burn piles, ensure they are well-contained, maintain a safe distance from any structures and always have supervision. Stay informed about local weather conditions and adhere to local regulations regarding open burning. Let's continue to keep fire safety at the forefront of our minds to keep our community and community members safe!