



Your Monthly Newsletter for February 2024

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #66

A Message from the Reeve

Dear Fellow Community Members;

As January draws to a close it has certainly felt like one for the record books. We started the new year with next to no snow and warmer than we ever expected, only to be reminded of what we in the north can expect for winter weather. With temperatures well below -40C and a few hard hitting snow storms, we did our best to hunker down and show mother nature we can bear it. The extreme strain on our power grid has sparked Council to continue our push for economic development within our municipality supporting all methods of power production.

Big Lakes County Council and Administration has taken advantage of a slower month to take part in workshops to help build on the ongoing services provided in the County to identify efficiencies and possible expansion opportunities for our communities. The strong collaboration shown in these workshops has reinforced my thoughts that we have a great blend of individuals on both sides that have one common goal - to make life in Big Lakes County the best it can be. We plan to achieve this through our commitment to accountability, transparency, and improving our community.

I had the great pleasure to represent the County in presenting long standing service awards to members of our Fire Service that have continued to serve our County for many years. It was an honour to be able to address our members and thank them for their dedication to our community and protecting all those within it. The bravery and sacrifice that not only the members themselves make, but their families as well, every time their phone rings not knowing what they may be responding to, yet never hesitating to answer that call. For that I commend all of our members current and past as they have made Big Lakes County a safer place to live.

Reeve, Tyler Airth

Big Lakes County Department Highlights

We're Hiring!

Agriculture Laborers (Seasonal) - In this role, the responsibilities include the inspection and control of weeds, pests, and vegetation control throughout the County. If you are interested in joining the Big Lakes County team, please visit our website at biglakescounty.ca.

Notice of Public Hearings

Land Use Bylaw Amendments

Council for Big Lakes County is considering a proposed amendment to the Big Lakes County Land Use Bylaw No. 03-2017. The purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 02-2024 is to re-district Pt. SW 28-74-17-W5 west of the Town of High Prairie from the Highway Commercial (HWC) District to the Country Residential (CR) District.

Council is considering another proposed amendment to the Big Lakes County Land Use Bylaw No. 03-2017. The purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 21-2023 is to re-district Plan 242 _____, Block 1, Lot 1 within SW 32-72-09-W5 south of the Hamlet of Kinuso from the Agriculture (AG) District to Highway Commercial (HWC) District.

Copies of the proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendment may be examined by contacting the office of the County Administration Office between the hours of 8:15 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Any person, group of persons, or person representing them who claims to be affected by the proposed bylaw amendment may make an oral or written submission to Council for consideration. If you would like to make a presentation to Council, contact our office at 780-523-5955.

The Public Hearing will be held on February 14, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and 1:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Big Lakes County Administration Office. Council will consider any oral or written presentations with respect to the proposed Land Use Bylaw amendment.

For more information contact Pat Olansky, Executive Director of Community Services & Planning.

Seeking Members At-Large

Annually, the Council for the Big Lakes County seeks interest from individuals to be part of various boards and committees to serve our public. Council seeks individuals with interest and expertise in the following areas:

- Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
- Assessment Review Board
- Big Lakes County Library Board

If you are interested in serving your community in this way, please complete an application online or visit one of our offices.

Mark Your Calendars

FEB 14 Regular Council Meeting

FEB 19 Family Day - County Offices Closed

FEB 21 Big Lakes County Library Board Meeting

FEB 28 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

FEB 28 Regular Council Meeting

MAR 1 Wildfire Season Begins

Winter Hours

Transfer Station winter hours
October 1 - March 31

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.

Animal Care Facility Adoption Page

Because of the overwhelming interest in the animals available for adoption through our Animal Adoption program, we have created a whole new Facebook page dedicated to our wonderful animals!

If you would like to continue to receive information and updates on the animals available for adoption, head over to our new page and give us a follow: Big Lakes County Animal Care Facility.

Agricultural Services

Integrated Pest Management

Are you thinking of your garden plans already? Why not plan your Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? IPM is the idea of using the right tool for the job when it comes to your pests or weeds. This can look like any from mowing/pulling to spraying. The Ag Services Department sent out a courtesy letter late January with some general information regarding weeds found in your area, with the hopes that it will provide an opportunity to assess which control measure is the best fit for you, without the time crunch of the weeds flowering. If you have any questions about the letter you received or noxious weeds, please contact our Ag department.

Predation Workshop

Peace Country Beef and Forage is holding an event at the Legion Hall on February 24th in High Prairie. Joe Englhart from Spruce Ranching Co-op will be coming to speak on managing predation through different techniques. Come join PCBFA for coffee, communication, and community at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Farm Family Award

The nomination window for the Farm Family Award ends June 15, 2024. Please make sure to have your nominations submitted and choose the family whom you think is most deserving! Please send your nominations to asstagfieldman@biglakescounty.ca or call 780-507-9840.

2023 Big Lakes County Honors Celebration

The Big Lakes County Fire Chief Jason Cottingham and Deputy Fire Chief Luci Martinson hosted a Christmas and Honors celebration on January 13th at the Faust Community Hall for our County firefighters, thanking them for the sacrifices they make in their daily lives to keep our community safe. Reeve Tyler Airth and Councillor Robert

Nygaard attended the event, and presented the awards to our firefighters along side our Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.

Our Big Lakes County Fire Chief, Jason Cottingham was awarded with a well-deserved 22 years of Fire Service medal at this event. Chief Cottingham has demonstrated unmatched dedication, bravery, and leadership. His commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens has been nothing short of extraordinary. He has not only been a pillar of strength in times of crisis but also a source of inspiration to all those fortunate enough to work alongside them. We extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to our Fire Chief for his outstanding service, and we look forward to many more years of his exceptional leadership in safeguarding our community. Thank you for your service!

Big Lakes County - Years of Service Awards

5 Years

Peter Spruyt
Colebee Harding
Amanda Caouette
Adam Caudron

15 Years

Ian Churchill

10 Years

Avery Getz
Hunter Wedmid
Michael Zatorski

20 Years

Herman Southerland, JR
Conrad Cardinal

Fire Service - Years of Service Awards

20 Years

Kieran Moore

25 Years

Mykola Wedmid

30 Years

Jim Zinyk
Fred Caudron
Darron Riddle

Alberta Emergency Services Awards

12 Years

Brian Simpson

22 Years

Kieran Moore
Jason Cottingham

Everett Samuelson

30 Years

Jim Zinyk
Fred Caudron

Youthwrite Summer Camp

The Big Lakes County Library Board is excited to announce that they will be sponsoring two deserving students to attend the Youthwrite Summer Camp! If you are between the ages of 11 and 17 and would like to be considered for this wonderful opportunity, please contact our librarian via email at librarian@kinusolibrary.ab.ca, or apply online at biglakescounty.ca.