



Your Monthly Newsletter for January 2024

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #65

A Message from the Reeve

Dear Fellow Community Members,

As we welcome the new year, we as a Council embrace all that is to come for 2024. This year marks the midpoint of our elected term and is the outset of our third year as a Council working together to better the community we all live in.

We will strive to continue approving projects that will enhance our community through improving infrastructure to support tourism and industry, with the assurance these projects get beyond plans on paper and are completed. In alignment with that, we want to ensure that we endeavour to enhance the quality of life for all our residents throughout the municipality. We welcome the opportunity to see our residents at meetings to voice their opinions on matters of importance. Guided by our strategic plan, we will encourage the growth of our community and lay the groundwork for a future that we can all take pride in.

Wishing you all a year that is filled with joy, good health, and prosperity!

Reeve, Tyler Airth
Big Lakes County

Big Lakes County Department Highlights

Snowplow Agreements

Big Lakes County is still accepting applications for Private Driveway Snowplowing from County residents for the 2024 winter season. Agreements can be found on our website and submitted to a County office.

The County is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,300 km of rural roads. During heavy snowfalls, the highest priority is to maintain the key road network. The task is made more difficult when snow is plowed onto roadways.

When snow is pushed onto the road, it can lead to the formation of a snow/ice ridge on the road, posing significant potential hazards, can cause damage to vehicles and increases likelihood of injury.

Additionally, this activity is not permitted under the "General Traffic Bylaw", is a danger for all motorists, causes gravel loss, is a substantial personal liability and creates potential drainage problems.

Please do not push snow across the road onto public roadways or into the opposite ditch while completing snow removal on private driveways and approaches.

If you have any questions on driveway clearing or need to obtain a "Snow Removal Sign (triangle)", please contact our Operations department at 780-523-5955.



2023 Alberta Wildfires: Support for Households

As part of our ongoing assistance to impacted communities, the Canadian Red Cross has launched the **Support for Households** program. This program offers personalized recovery support and financial incentives for a range of mitigative and maintenance activities to help households impacted by the 2023 Alberta Wildfires.

Personalized Recovery Support

Personalized recovery support is available to those with a primary residence that was destroyed or saw major damage as a result of the 2023 Alberta Wildfires. It is available to those who are homeowners, tenants, or live in a community-owned home.

The Canadian Red Cross teams work directly with impacted people to help them navigate their recovery journey and access available community resources and support.

Residential Mitigation Incentives

Support for residential mitigation and maintenance activities is available to Albertans with a primary residence that was not damaged, or that incurred minor damage, in a community that was under an evacuation order or alert during the 2023 Alberta Wildfires.

These activities reduce the risk of wildfire spread around your home and can range from small, short-term tasks you can complete independently to larger, long-term projects that require the support of a professional.

People who were impacted by the 2023 Alberta Wildfires and would like to learn more about this support, or to apply, are encouraged to visit www.redcross.ca/2023albertafires

If you have questions about the **Support for Households** program or need assistance registering, please contact us at ABRecoverySupport@redcross.ca or by calling us at 1-833-966-4225 from Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. MT

Mark Your Calendars

JAN 01 New Years Day - Admin Offices Closed

JAN 10 Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 9AM

JAN 10 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

JAN 15 Utility Payments Due

JAN 24 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting @ 9AM

JAN 24 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

2023 Tax Penalties

If you still need to pay your property taxes, please pay them before January 31, 2024! A 14.5% penalty will be issued on February 1, 2024, for any balances still owing.

If you would like to sign up for our Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) it is not too late. TIPP allows you to pay your property taxes on a monthly basis 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.

Family & Community Support Services

Christmas Hampers: Thank You!

Big Lakes FCSS expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who generously supported the 2023 Christmas Angels program. Thanks to your contributions, we were able to prepare and deliver 78 Christmas hampers to residents throughout Big Lakes County. This effort extended to the children of families receiving the hampers, each of whom received a thoughtfully wrapped gift. A special acknowledgment goes out to our dedicated volunteers who played a crucial role in the hamper deliveries. Your selfless assistance was invaluable, and we sincerely appreciate your contribution to the success of this program!

Community Food Cupboards

We welcome contributions of non-perishable dry goods for the Community Food Cupboards. Feel free to drop off your donations at the food cupboard anytime. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to your local FCSS office. Thank you for the generous donations we've received so far; your support is truly appreciated!

Agricultural Services

With 2024 now officially here, we would like to thank everyone who was able to get their shelterbelt order in before

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.

the new deadline. The Farm Family Award nominations are also being accepted for 2024. 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 or call 780-507-9840.

Firefighter of the Month: Avery Getz

Avery Getz started in the Joussard Fire District as a Junior in 2012. Avery continues to show passion for the fire service and is always the first to step up for training sessions and deployments. As a senior member of the Joussard fire district Avery has really shown initiative and stepped up to help in training and guiding our new members and the juniors that we have. Notably, Avery was promoted to Captain this spring. A message from Avery "Have you ever thought of joining your local fire department? Then you should, and if you haven't ..well you should. It doesn't matter if you are young or old there is always something you can do to help out, so think about it and join today."

