



Your Monthly Newsletter for January 2025

Big Lakes Connections

ISSUE #77

A Message from Council

Dear Community Members,

At the December 11, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed the interim operating and capital budgets for the upcoming year. These budgets are key to ensuring we can continue delivering services and making improvements that benefit our community.

As we look ahead, we're excited about the projects planned for 2025 that align with our Strategic Plan and our shared vision for Big Lakes County. From infrastructure enhancements to community development initiatives, these projects will build on our progress and strengthen our County for the future.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with residents, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure that Big Lakes County continues to thrive. Thank you for your support as we move forward together.

Big Lakes County Reeve, Deputy Reeve and Councillors

Big Lakes County Department Highlights

Animal Adoption Program



Meet Mack, Mr. Mack, Mackerel, Macadamia Nut, Big Mack, a dog by many (nick) names! Mack is a seven-month-old mixed breed puppy, an energetic and playful boy who is looking for a lively, active home to spend the rest of his life with.

Mack is a smart and curious young dog who has been growing like a weed before our eyes, and we've had the pleasure of teaching him obedience, leash skills (though in his mind a leash is still

a snack), and manners. Mack loves both people and other dogs alike, and learns very well from older, more experienced dogs. He is good with older kids (13+) and would love to find a home with time to keep teaching him all the best parts of being a family dog and help him burn off his boundless puppy playfulness!

To adopt Mack or learn more about him contact our Animal

Care Facility via email at animals@biglakescounty.ca, call us at (780) 523-5955 or visit our website at www.biglakescounty.ca.

Snowplow Agreements

Big Lakes County is still accepting applications for Private Driveway Snowplowing from County residents for the 2025 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 Public Works department at 780-523-5955.

Mark Your Calendars

JAN 01 New Years Day - Admin Offices Closed

JAN 08 Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 9AM

JAN 08 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

JAN 09 HP Admin Office open @ 9AM. FCSS & Kinuso Office open @ 10AM

JAN 22 Municipal Planning Commission Meeting @ 9AM

JAN 22 Regular Council Meeting @ 10AM

2024 Tax Penalties

If you still need to pay your property taxes, please pay them before January 31, 2025! A 14.5% penalty will be issued on February 1, 2025, 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.

Christmas Hampers

Big Lakes FCSS expresses heartfelt gratitude to all who generously supported the 2024 Christmas Angels program. Thanks to your contributions, we were able to prepare and deliver 72 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!

Public Hearings - January 8, 2025

Big Lakes County is holding a Public Hearing for the proposed Municipal Development Plan Bylaw (MDP) No. 25-2024 and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) on January 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. respectively, in Council Chambers at the Big Lakes County Administration Office.

This is an opportunity for residents who feel affected by the proposed bylaws to share their thoughts, either through written submissions or by presenting their views directly to Council.

The proposed MDP and LUB are available for review online at www.biglakescounty.ca. Copies are also available for inspection at the Big Lakes County Administration Office during regular office hours (8:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday).

If the new bylaws are adopted, they will replace the current Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 02-2017 and Land Use Bylaw No. 03-2017

Transfer Station 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 and open on New Years Day. The Regional Landfill is closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day.

Reminders

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!

We encourage all community members to get involved and help shape the future of Big Lakes County!

Agriculture

The Agricultural Services department is excited to welcome everyone to 2025! As we step into the new year, provincial grants are reopening, and custom shelterbelt orders are now closed. Thank you to everyone who submitted their orders! Be sure to watch for native species offerings coming soon.

The new year also brings fresh opportunities, with program updates rolling out in the coming months. We're also introducing our monthly Big Lakes County Agriculture News to keep local producers informed about the latest developments in agriculture across our region. Stay updated by visiting our website at www.biglakescounty.ca. We look forward to supporting you in 2025!

Fire Services

Congratulations to Melvin Goulet on successfully completing the recruitment requirements and probationary period for our Big Lakes County Fire Services Team! Your dedication to learning and consistently showing up to practice has already proven your commitment to the team. Welcome aboard, Melvin! We're excited to have you and look forward to many more years of working together.

If you are interested in joining our Fire Services Team and serving your community, check us out online at www.biglakescounty.ca or call our Deputy Fire Chief, Luci Martinson at 780-523-1547.

