

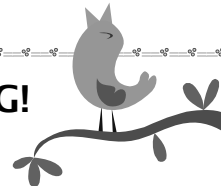
# M.D. of Big Lakes Newsletter

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"Spring"  
2007



## WELCOME TO SPRING!

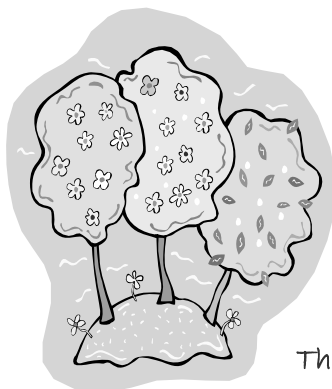
Spring is a time for renewal. It is a time when the earth shakes off the chill and bitterness of winter in exchange for a warm and soothing sun. The return of birds, leaves, and flowers reminds us that life is constantly changing. The timing of this newsletter could not be more appropriate. Amidst all the change that this season brings, the Municipal District of Big Lakes is also going through significant change.

First, the MD of Big Lakes will experience a bitter sweet moment when it bids farewell to Mr. John Eriksson. John served this municipality with unrivalled dedication for 13 years. On April 14<sup>th</sup> we will see John off to his well earned retirement. Big Lakes wishes John all the best in his future pursuits. He will be missed.

The MD also recently bid farewell to Mrs. Kathy Campbell. Kathy served most recently in the position of Public Works Secretary. Kathy's smile and laughter will be missed by her friends here in the office, but we wish her great successes in her new position with ATCO.

On happier notes, the MD of Big Lakes is very excited to welcome two new employees to our team. Helen Kozié and Karen Zelman started with the MD on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are very excited about the skills and the abilities that Helen and Karen bring to our team.

One never knows what the future will bring. But just as the arrival of spring brings excitement for the coming summer, the changes at the MD office bring anticipation of the upcoming successes.

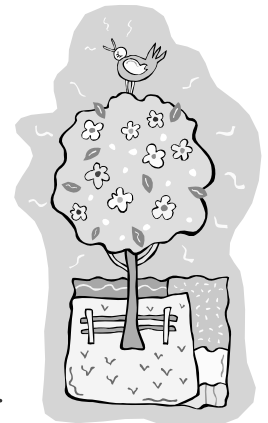


Farewell John and Kathy.  
Welcome Helen and Karen.

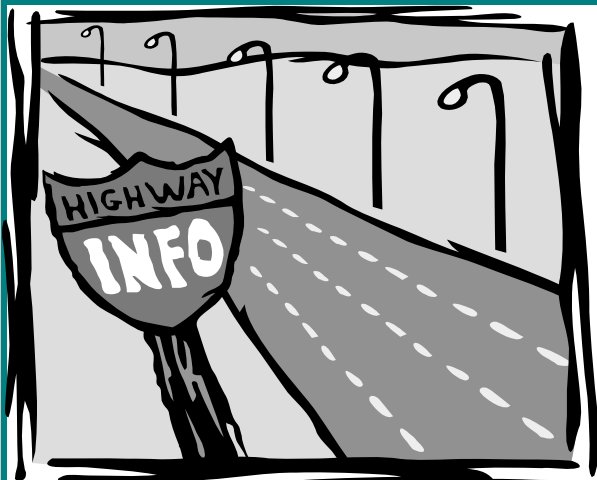
### POINT TO REMEMBER

The first day of spring is one thing,  
and the first spring day is another.

The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.



The Municipal District of Big Lakes has published this document for information purposes only, it in no way endorses any of the companies listed, nor does it take responsibility of the accuracy of the information provided. Information should always be verified with the individual companies. This list is not exhaustive, it merely notes some service providers available.



# Is your Information Highway too slow?



Did you know there are



**HIGHSPEED INTERNET** options available within the M.D. of Big Lakes?

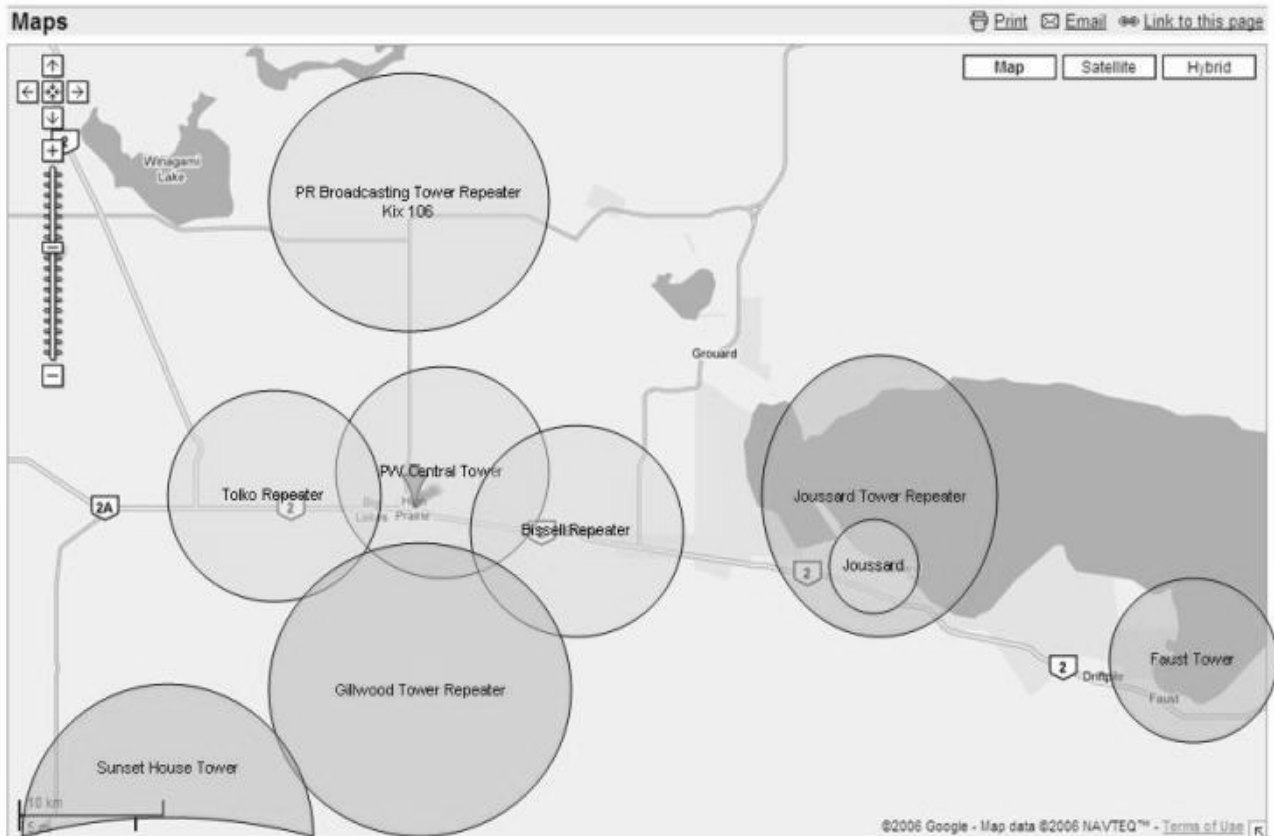
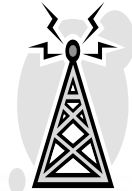
## SATELLITE

COMPANY	XPLORENET	NETKASTER
SERVICE AREA	EVERYWHERE IN CANADA	EVERYWHERE IN ALBERTA
INSTALLATION/ EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	\$399.99 (FINANCE OPTIONS AVAIL.)	\$199 to \$799 depending on service term
MONTHLY FEE	\$54.99 TO \$199.99	\$59.99 to \$199.95
CONTRACT TERM	NO TERM, 12, 24 OR 36 MONTH	NO TERM, 12 MONTH, OR 36 MONTH
DOWNLOAD SPEED	Up to 512Kbps to 2Mbps	512Kbps to 2.0Mbps
UPLOAD SPEED	Up to 512Kbps to 2Mbps	128Kbps to 500Kbps
WEBSITE	<a href="http://www.xplornet.com">http://www.xplornet.com</a>	<a href="http://www.netkaster.ca">http://www.netkaster.ca</a>
CONTACT	<b>Skyline Micro Systems Inc.</b> 2-9899-112 Ave Grande Prairie AB, T8V 7T2 780-539-9677	<b>Netkaster Regional Office</b> PO Box 94002 Calgary, AB, T2S 0S4 1-877-991-5600

# WIRELESS

COMPANY	PRAIRIE WIRELESS	SNIPER COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE AREA	See diagram below	Slave Lake and Area
INSTALLATION	\$350	\$200.00 (other equip. required)
MONTHLY FEE	\$40 Residential \$90 Commercial	\$50
CONTRACT TERM	None	None
DOWNLOAD SPEED	1Mb	?
UPLOAD SPEED	1Mb	?
WEBSITE	<a href="http://prairiewireless.ca">http://prairiewireless.ca</a>	<a href="http://www.snipercom.com/highspeed.htm">http://www.snipercom.com/highspeed.htm</a>
CONTACT	780-536-7688	780-849-2777

-  Current Coverage Areas
-  Future Coverage Areas

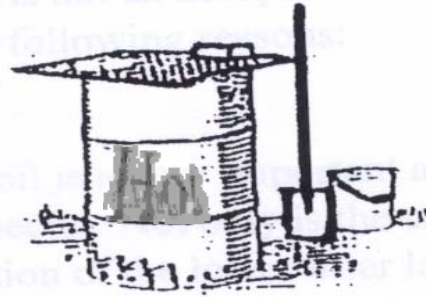


## *Fire Season Is Upon Us!*

**Don't Forget These Simple Steps !**

### Debris Disposal:

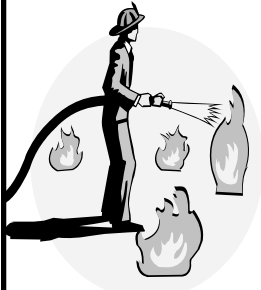
- Obtain Fire Permit from local authorities or better yet, haul debris to a landfill site.
- Barrel in good condition.
- Ground clean and maintained for 3 metres.
- Help combustion. Steel rods or pipes will hold burning material up and give a better burn.
- Draft holes not larger than 5 mm in diameter.
- Mesh size of screen not larger than 7 mm.
- Weights to screen on barrel.
- Keep fire fighting tools on hand.



**Be FIRE SAFE!**

**Never Leave Your Fire Unattended !!**

Before You **BURN IT!**  
Get A **PERMIT !**



**PERMITS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW.**

For Information Call:

MD of Big Lakes 523-5955 or  
Forest Protection Division 523-6620

**If You Spot a  
Fire !**



call collect 310-FIRE

(310-3473) or

#FIRE

on the Telus

Mobility Network.

## **GRADING PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS**

Grading of private driveways may be provided by the Municipal District to residents on a cost recovery basis.

The cost of each grading will be a minimum of \$35.00 + GST = \$37.10

Agreements are available at the M.D. Administration office in High Prairie

Driveways will NOT be graded unless Agreement is signed in advance.

**NOTE:** Private driveways are generally graded ONCE road maintenance is complete.



## Agricultural Service Board Report - Spring 2007

### Agricultural Service Board Report - Spring 2007

With a massive spring snow melt runoff likely to cause some degree of flooding, landowners should be taking proactive steps to protect themselves, their property and livestock.

Some steps to consider include: 1) Moving stored items in basements off the floor, or to an upstairs storage area; 2) Check sump pumping equipment to ensure it's working, and consider having a backup system such as a gas powered pump and hose readily available; 3) For those with calving livestock their bedding sites should be located in the highest elevated land location available with extra straw, while also providing fresh clean water in troughs (vs standing water from snow melt) to reduce the likelihood of scours and pneumonia; 4) Ensure drive way culverts are unobstructed from debris and ice. The MD will have available steam trucks out to thaw out frozen culverts, but due to likely a surge in demand, delayed response times may result in problems, therefore assistance by landowners will prevent or minimize damage to both residential property and MD road infrastructure.

For the 2007 season MD will continue to offer beaver **dam blasting** on private lands for a nominal fee. For the blasting service a \$200 + GST charge will apply for the first beaver dam, and \$100 + GST for each additional beaver dam. Up to 1 week of trapping will be provided with each contracted blasting occurrence.

**Rental Equipment** available to MD ratepayers include land scrapers, land roller, trailer sprayers, backpack sprayers, quad sprayer, cattle squeeze, loading chute, corral panels, post pounder, truck-mount seeders, quad seeder, hand seeder, post hole auger, measuring wheel, bran applicators (for grasshopper bait application or seed broadcasting). In 2007 the MD is scheduled to add to the rental fleet a 10ft mower (from MD mowing program), tree fogger (for insect pests), wire-spooler, and possibly a trailer mounted hydraulic tree spade.

In the Kinuso area there is also a line of rental equipment (located ½ mile east of the Spruce Point Park / Hwy 2 turnoff) consisting of a landroller, post-pounder, scraper, and loading chute.

For landowners that have ordered **Shelterbelt trees** for 2007 through either PRFA, or Alberta Agriculture, their trees will be shipped to, and distributed from the MD office in early May. Tree order recipients will be notified by phone by the MD administration office upon the tree shipment arrival. The deadline (March 15) for spring tree delivery has past, however orders and delivery can still be made later into the year, but the tree varieties will be limited and shipping costs will apply. For PFRA shelterbelt trees see: [www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt](http://www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt); for provincial shelterbelt trees see: [www.marketland.net/index](http://www.marketland.net/index).

For the 2007 season the MD will likely be hiring additional field staff for performing **weed spraying operations and roadside mowing**. Qualified candidates will have an agricultural background or post secondary school agricultural training, and possess a valid driver's license, a pesticide applicator's license, ATV Rider Training certification, H2S Alive certification and similar related job experience. The wage range is from \$16 to \$23/hr with the starting rate depending on qualifications and experience. These temporary summer positions generally commence in late-May through to September. Resumes will be accepted between now and the end of April 2007.

In an effort to protect the water quality, fish spawning grounds and wildlife habitat along area rivers and lakes, the MD, in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife, PFRA, and other conservation organizations, is offering conditional funding **Riparian Fencing** to cover up to 100% of the fencing material costs that restrict livestock from accessing riparian areas along adjacent water bodies. Since funding is limited priority will be based on the water's fish bearing capability and how early requests are received.

**For additional information regarding the above mentioned - Please contact the MD of Big Lakes Agricultural Fieldman at 523-5955.**



## **BIG LAKES F.C.S.S. NEWS**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK** will be held April 15-20th. Big Lakes F.C.S.S. is planning Volunteer celebrations in recognition of all the contributions that so many residents make to our communities.

**INCOME TAX TIME IS UPON US.** If you are low income and need assistance with your tax forms, contact your nearest Big Lakes F.C.S.S. office for assistance. This service is provided free of charge to the residents of the Town of High Prairie, the M.D. of Big Lakes and the Village of Kinuso.

**HIGH PRAIRIE and AREA DRUG COALITION** is working to bring awareness of drug problems in our communities. They will be mailing our information to all residents. Your assistance is needed if you have any information that would be useful to the R.C.M.P. to help with their investigations regarding illegal drug sale use. The mail out will have a form so you can provide anonymous information which can be mailed to the R.C.M.P. Please lend a hand to make our communities safe and drug free places.

**An AGE FRIENDLY STUDY** was done in high Prairie as the province selected our community as the Rural Age Friendly Community of Alberta. University researchers, funded through the Government of Canada, recently conducted a study of seniors and service providers on what makes High Prairie age friendly. Big Lakes F.C.S.S. assisted as the community liaison for the study.

**BULLYING** is an issue we all need to address. As adults, we tend to brush the seriousness of bullying off as most bullying incidents last only 37 seconds. But bullying has serious affects on the victim which can lead to suicide. By age 24, sixty percent of bullies have a criminal conviction. Adults need to step in when they see kids and youth being bullied. Bullying is an underrated and enduring problem.

**SENIORS WEEK** will be held June 3rd—9th. Big lakes F.C.S.S. has plans for a great week for all area seniors. Watch for posters and come enjoy Seniors Week with Big Lakes F.C.S.S.

Big Lakes FCSS

*"Making a difference in your community"*



**M.D. of BIG LAKES - TRANSFER STATIONS**

**Hours of Operation**

*\*Winter Hours—effective October 1 to March 31*

*\*Summer Hours—effective April 1 to September 30*

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<b>BANANA BELT (Pt. NE 11-73-17-W5)</b>	<b>Winter Hours</b>	<b>Summer Hour</b>
Wednesday & Sunday	11:00 am—6:00 pm	11:00am—7:00 pm

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<b>ENILDA (SE 01—74-16-W5)</b>	<b>Open 24 Hours—Bagged Household Waste Only</b>	
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<b>FAUST (SE 07-73-10-W5)</b>	<b>Winter Hours</b>	<b>Summer Hours</b>
Wednesday	11:00 am—7:00 pm	11:00 am—7:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am—7:00 pm	11:00 am—9:00 pm

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<b>GROUARD (Pt. NE 32-75-14-W5)</b>	<b>Winter Hours</b>	<b>Summer Hours</b>
Wednesday	11:00 noon—7:00 pm	12:00 am—8:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am—7:00 pm	11:00 am—9:00 pm

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<b>HEART RIVER (NE 31-76-17-W5)</b>	<b>Winter Hours</b>	<b>Summer Hours</b>
Wednesday	1:00 pm—7:00 pm	1:00 pm—9:00 pm
Sunday	10:00 am—5:00 pm	10:00 am—5:00 pm

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<b>HP WEST/GILWOOD (NW 24-74-18-W5)</b>	<b>Open 24 Hours—Bagged Household Waste Only</b>	
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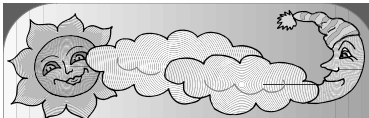
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<b>JOUSSARD (NW 33-73-13-W5)</b>	<b>Winter Hours</b>	<b>Summer Hours</b>
Thursday	11:00 am—7:00 pm	12:00 noon—8:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am—7:00 pm	11:00 am—9:00 pm

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<b>REGIONAL LANDFILL (NW 09-73-15-W5)</b>	<b>12kms South on East Prairie Road</b>	
Monday/Thursday/Saturday	10:00 am—5:00 pm	PH: 523-5760

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**M.D. of Big Lakes**

**On-Call (24 hrs)**

**523-5955**

**Toll Free:**

**1-866-523-5955**

**“NOTICE”**

**The MD of Big Lakes Office will be**

**CLOSED**

**April 6th (Good Friday) & April 9th (Easter Monday)**

