

## NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

### Municipal District of Big Lakes

Effective October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 winter hours of operation for the M.D. of Big Lakes' waste transfer sites will be as follows:

#### BANANA BELT

Wednesday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day

#### ENILDA

Open 24 hours (*bagged household garbage only*)

#### FAUST/KINUSO

Wednesday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day

#### GROUARD

Wednesday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day

#### HEART RIVER

Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day

#### HIGH PRAIRIE WEST/GILWOOD

Open 24 hours (*bagged household garbage only*)

#### JOUSSARD

Wednesday and Sunday - 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day

#### REGIONAL LANDFILL

Monday, Thursday and Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed-Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day  
Ph: 523-5760

M.D. of Big Lakes  
On-Call (24 hrs)  
523-5955  
Toll Free  
1-866-523-5955



Just  
A  
Reminder!

A 7.5% penalty will be added to the outstanding balance on all M.D. of Big Lakes tax accounts as of January 1, 2008



#### From Your MD Councillors:

<i>Reeve Alvin Billings</i>	<i>Banana Belt/HP East</i>
<i>Deputy Reeve David Marx</i>	<i>Hrt River/Salt Prairie</i>
<i>Raymond Dupres</i>	<i>Enilda/Big Meadow</i>
<i>Ken Killeen</i>	<i>Kinuso</i>
<i>Fern Welch</i>	<i>Grouard</i>
<i>Randy Ehman</i>	<i>Sunset Hse/Gilwood South</i>
<i>Violet Campiou</i>	<i>Faust</i>
<i>Ken Matthews</i>	<i>Gilwood/Gilwood North</i>
<i>Guy L'Heureux</i>	<i>Joussard</i>

The Staff and Council of the M.D. of Big Lakes would like to welcome our new Superintendent of Public Works,  
David Lainchbury



# M.D. of Big Lakes 2007 Winter News

Ph: (780)523-5955 Toll Free: 1-866-523-5955 Fax: (780)523-4227 Web: [www.mdbiglakes.ca](http://www.mdbiglakes.ca)  
Box 239, High Prairie AB T0G 1E0 Email: [biglakes@mdbiglakes.ca](mailto:biglakes@mdbiglakes.ca)

## REEVE'S MESSAGE:

Greetings to all of you. We, your Council, have just commenced our three year terms. It is recognized that being a sustainable community is of high priority, and will be a focal point for us during this term in office.

Early in 2008 we will be dedicating time to reflect on what opportunities are available to the MD of Big Lakes and then to set strategic goals in advance of finalizing our 2008 budget.

One such process has already commenced, and that is developing a master plan for our hamlets. Our infrastructure capacity will also be analyzed for the hamlets, as well as our rural water co-ops.

2008 is to be a landmark year for our Protective Services. Enilda, Faust, and Grouard Fire Departments, along with our FCSS staff, will move into new Municipal Services Facilities.

The New Year is also the start of enhanced area policing, with a particular focus on drug enforcement. This endeavour is the result of a partnership with the Town of High Prairie and Peavine Metis Settlement. We are hopeful other local jurisdictions will soon confirm their commitments.

*"On behalf of Council and Staff, I would like to wish you all the best during this Festive Season and a prosperous New Year."*



# P RIVATE DRIVEWAY S NOWPLOWING

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

The cost of each snowplowing will be a minimum of \$35.00 + GST.

Agreements are available at the M.D. Administration office in High Prairie as well as the Grouard, Enilda, Kinuso, Jousard and Faust FCS offices.

*(Please be advised that FCS offices have restricted hours of operation...please call before you go.)*

Driveways will **NOT** be plowed unless a Snowplow Agreement is signed in advance.

**Note:** Private driveways are generally plowed **once** road maintenance is complete.

## A Message from the Public Works Dept.

Winter is here. Please drive carefully and be alert when following or passing a snow plow or grader.

Please respect the dangers of driving in our winter climate.

Reduce speed and give yourself more time to travel.



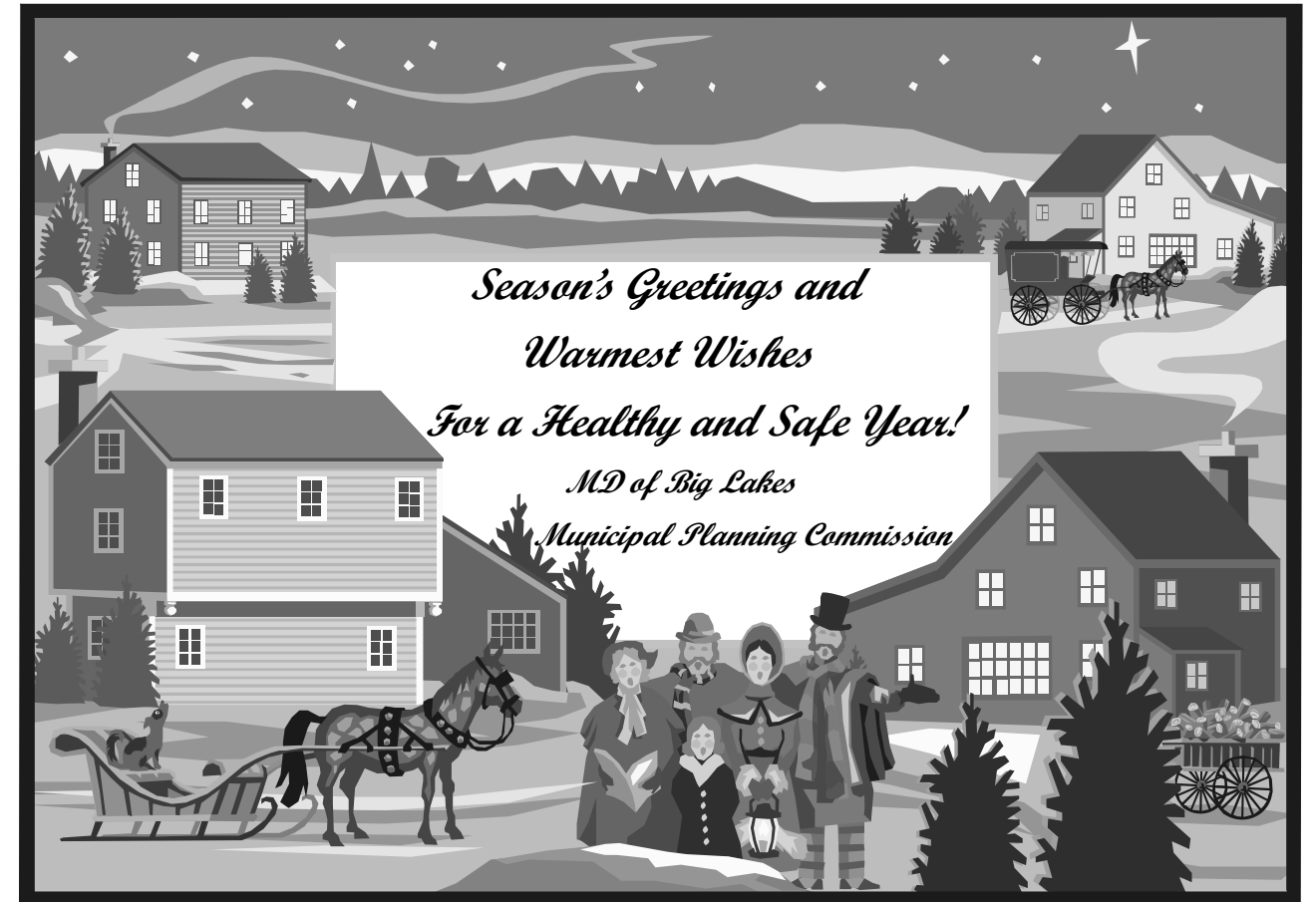
*"Have a great holiday and the best for the New Year"*

Joyeux Noël

On behalf of the Firechief and Firefighters from the Municipal District of Big Lakes. Season Greetings with Warmest wishes for a Healthy and fire safe year.



Drive Safely Ho-Ho-Ho!



*Season's Greetings and Warmest Wishes For a Healthy and Safe Year!*

*M.D. of Big Lakes Municipal Planning Commission*

## ~Municipal District of Big Lakes Rural Addressing~



The MD of Big Lakes is glad to be in the final stages of completing its municipal addressing project. This project will see the installation and completion over the course of 2008. It is important to understand that these new rural addresses will be used to locate residents for 911 calls. TELUS will set up this portion of the project, and we hope that this will also be completed in 2008.

**Residents need to understand that there will be an installation crew who will be on their property in order to put these signs in the ground.**

**Please Note:** If you have an alternate method of attaching a sign, for instance you have a fence, or a post already in the ground, and you would prefer your sign to be located there, please contact us to let us know. Not having to put a post in the ground will ensure that we will get this whole system up faster.

**The sign must be visible at all time of the year, regardless of weather conditions.**

**Contact:** Municipal District of Big Lakes Office

Phone: 523 5955

Fax: 523 4227

Email: [mapping@mdbiglakes.ca](mailto:mapping@mdbiglakes.ca)

**Thanks for all your help!**



## Agricultural Service Board Report—Mountain Pine Beetle

For the forest industry and landowners of smaller private rural coniferous woodlots and shelterbelts, the Mountain Pine Beetle has started show up in the Swan Hills, Snipe Lake and Jackpine Wildland areas within the municipality.

Sustainable Resource Development are aggressively slowing the spread and eradicating this pest in the Green Zone FMA's, while the municipality this winter has started into the preliminary stages of having a contractor initiate a control program on 'White Zone' (private) lands. On these lands there are likely only a few hundred mature trees requiring control, therefore the control work (cutting and burning) should be completed over a few weeks duration this winter. To report trees exhibiting damage please call 310-bugs (310-2847)

For more information on Mountain Pine Beetle see Alberta Agriculture's website link: [www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa11095](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa11095) .



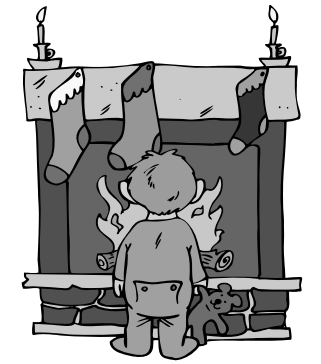
~Happy Holidays~

Gary Braithwaite – Agricultural Fieldman

### *A Message From Big Lakes F.C.S.S.*

*As the holiday season approaches, take the time to realize how much your family needs you.*

*Think of them PLEASE! DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!*



## “FIRE SAFETY TIPS

## FOR THE HOLIDAYS”

*Ironically, there is an increase in home fires during the Christmas Season due to carelessness and the built-in fire hazards of Christmas decorations. Here are some suggestions for a Fire Safe Holiday:*

- *If using a real tree keep your Christmas tree in a sturdy container and check the water level daily, a dried out tree is a serious fire hazard.*
- *Keep a real tree outside until you decide to decorate it.*
- *Ensure your tree does not obstruct exits or is set up near sources of heat, radiators, hot air ducts, TV set, fireplace etc.*
- *Check all Christmas lights for worn insulation, loose sockets etc. Use only CSA Certified lighting sets.*
- *Never use candles for lighting in Christmas trees.*
- *If you are going to use candles, ensure they are in a secure base and will not ignite combustibles. Never leave children unattended where candles are in use.*
- *Use extension cords sparingly. Prevent cord damage...do NOT place cord near traffic, through doorways or under rugs.*

*Smoking... Special advice during holiday celebrating:*

- *No smoking near decorations.*
- *Have large ashtrays...where needed.*
- *Before going to bed, check for lost cigarette butts smoldering in upholstered furniture.*

*Never leave cooking unattended! Do not use a pot or pan to heat oil. It is highly recommended that thermostatically controlled appliances such as a deep fat fryer be used.*

- *Keep pot handles turned so children can't pull them down.*

*Stove Top Fires... Pan fires should be treated with care. First turn off the heat source and then smother fire with a large lid. Never use water on grease fires. Never try and carry a burning pot, as flames may come in contact with you causing you to drop the pot and creating a larger fire.*

*Matches and lighters are tools not toys, so keep them out of the reach of children.*

*Planning For Fire Escape...Know your plan ahead of time. You should know how to get children out of bedrooms if the front or back doors are blocked by smoke or flames. Make sure all escape options are known in advance.*

*Smoke Alarms can alert occupants in the early stages of a fire while conditions are such that a safe evacuation is still possible.*

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM!**

*Test your smoke alarm once a month. If it's not working-get it fixed. If you have a battery operated smoke alarm, change the batteries when the time changes occur spring and fall.*

*Having a problem deciding what to get the person who has everything? A smoke alarm or fire extinguisher makes a unique gift idea, especially if one day they save a life. Fire safety is important year round but especially during the Festive season.*

## Hitting the road - Taking what you really need for the winter journey

For many people an integral part of the holidays is being with family and friends. For those who live far away from their loved ones, this means a long road trip is necessary. Whether your journey involves an hour-long jaunt or a full day's drive, safe driving in winter requires planning ahead before you hit the road.

Albertans often wish winter away, but the reality is that we will eventually experience slippery roads, drifting snow and poor visibility. The motoring public needs to prepare for these potentially dangerous driving conditions. It's an inevitable part of holiday and everyday winter travel.

For your comfort and safety – in addition to your peace of mind – you should carry an emergency road kit. This kit should be stored in the trunk or cargo space of your vehicle and should include:

- ice scraper;
- snow brush;
- shovel;
- sand, salt or kitty litter;
- booster cables;
- flashlight;
- blanket;
- extra clothing and footwear;
- emergency food supplies;
- axe or hatchet;
- matches;
- candle in a deep tin;
- fire extinguisher;
- paper towels or rags;
- first aid kit;
- compass;
- road map.



After packing or replenishing these supplies, ensure your vehicle is in good working order before heading out on your trip. Before any winter trip, particularly a long road trip, you should have your vehicle winterized and checked by a qualified auto technician. Have a thorough vehicle inspection, paying close attention to your vehicle's battery, belts, hoses, anti-freeze, brakes, heater, defroster and windshield wipers.

Once your vehicle is ready for the road then prepare yourself for the journey by checking weather conditions before you venture out. Inquire about road conditions for the route you are traveling to ensure these roads are in safe traveling condition. As well, reduce the stress of winter driving by giving yourself plenty of time to get your destination.

Keeping your radio tuned to local stations for weather bulletins or warnings is also a good idea. Don't take the chance if the weather is bad or road conditions are hazardous. Wait until it's safe to make the trip.

There is no place you need to be that is worth risking your safety or the well being of others. Enjoying the holiday season starts with arriving not only alive but safe and sound.

## The Top 10 - Road Safety Tips



Here are 10 ways to help make Alberta's roads safer.

### **Buckle up! It's the law.**

Buckle up with a properly fastened seat belt no matter how short the journey.

Protect children traveling in your vehicle. Use child safety seats according to manufacturer's instructions.

Make sure teenagers buckle up.

### **Keep your hands on the wheel**

Keep your mind on the task at hand. Pull over to talk if you are using a cellular phone. Driving isn't the time to be shaving, putting on make-up, or eating your lunch.

### **Stay alert**

Check traffic in all directions before entering an intersection.

Watch for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and children playing.

### **Obey the speed limit**

Slow down when road and weather conditions are poor.

### **Give yourself a space cushion**

Leave space around your vehicle so you have room to stop or manoeuvre in an emergency.

### **Always check your blind spot**

Look in your mirrors and shoulder check before you change lanes.

Be aware of other driver's blind spots. Can they see you?

### **Yield the right-of-way**

If in doubt, let the other driver go first.

### **Reduce your risks**

Practice courtesy at all times. Share the road. Don't cut people off or make sudden lane changes.

Obey traffic control devices. A stop sign means come to a complete STOP.

Be cautious when approaching intersections.

A yellow light means clear the intersection - NOT try to beat the light.

Make yourself visible. Day or night, always turn your headlights on, use your running lights, and make sure your tail lights are working...

Use your signal lights so others on the road know what you're going to do.

Don't follow too close.

### **Make the smart choice -- Drive alert**

Alcohol, medication, fatigue or stress affects your driving. Drive only when you are fully alert.

### **Have your vehicle serviced regularly**

A well-maintained vehicle is a safe vehicle.