



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Municipal District of Big Lakes

Effective October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 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



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, 2009



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>

M.D. of Big Lakes

On-Call (24 hrs)

523-5955

Toll Free

1-866-523-5955



M.D of Big Lakes 2008 Winter News

Ph: (780)523-5955 Toll Free: 1-866-523-5955 Fax: (780)523-4227 Web: www.mdbiglakes.ca

Box 239, High Prairie AB T0G 1E0

Email: biglakes@mdbiglakes.ca

A MESSAGE FROM THE REEVE...



Seasons Greetings!

The M.D. was pleased to welcome and congratulate two new senior staff members recently. Superintendent of Public Works, Lenard Racher, commenced with us on November 10th, and Jeff Renaud has been promoted to Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

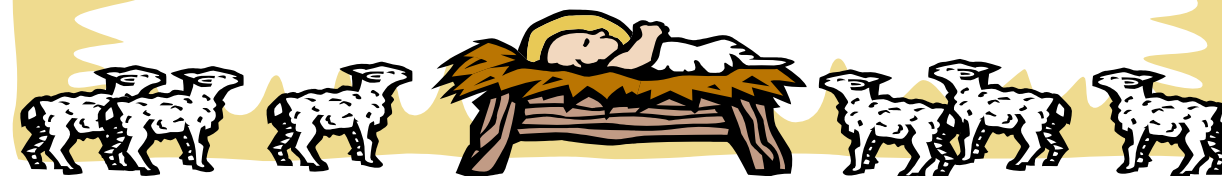
After a thorough recruitment process, Council was pleased to discover the best CAO candidate was their very own Deputy CAO.

We are anxious to start the new year with Jeff, Len, and all our dedicated staff.

2009 promises to be another exciting year with initiatives like construction of the Seal Lake Road, planning of a proposed Grouard Historical Village, street dust control in Joussard, and the completion of the Craig Bissell Municipal Services Facility in Enilda, to name a few.



On behalf of Council, I wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a
Healthy and Happy 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.

Something to Remember...

When you are removing snow from your driveway this winter please remember that the snow can not go onto a MD street or roadway. Section 27 of the general traffic Bylaw states that no person owning or occupying property within the MD, to which entry or exit for vehicles is made onto a MD highway, shall allow water, mud, slush, ice, frozen snow or snow to be pushed onto the MD highway or to let such materials remain on the MD highway as a result of clearing or cleaning the exit or entry to the said property.

Leaving snow piled or on the road can cause a serious traffic hazard. Violations could result in a **\$100 fine** and/or property owners or occupant maybe billed for the clean up.



A Message from the Utility Dept.

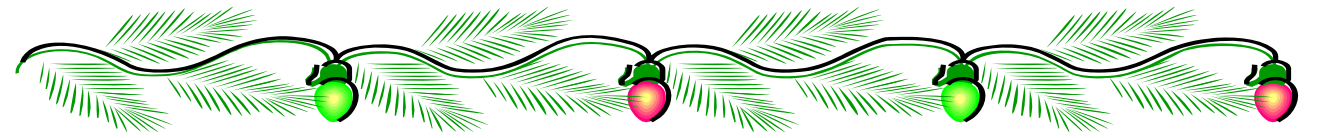
Effective November 1, 2008 –water rates for customers in the MD of Big Lakes will increase to \$2.30/cubic meter and water tokens will increase to \$3.00/token

Important Notice!!

The MD's policy states "No person shall open, close or interfere with any hydrant or valve of the water works system without permission of the Public Works Superintendent."



The penalty for the first time offence is **\$500.00** and **\$1000.00** for the second offence as stated in the bylaw #09-2008 section 6.

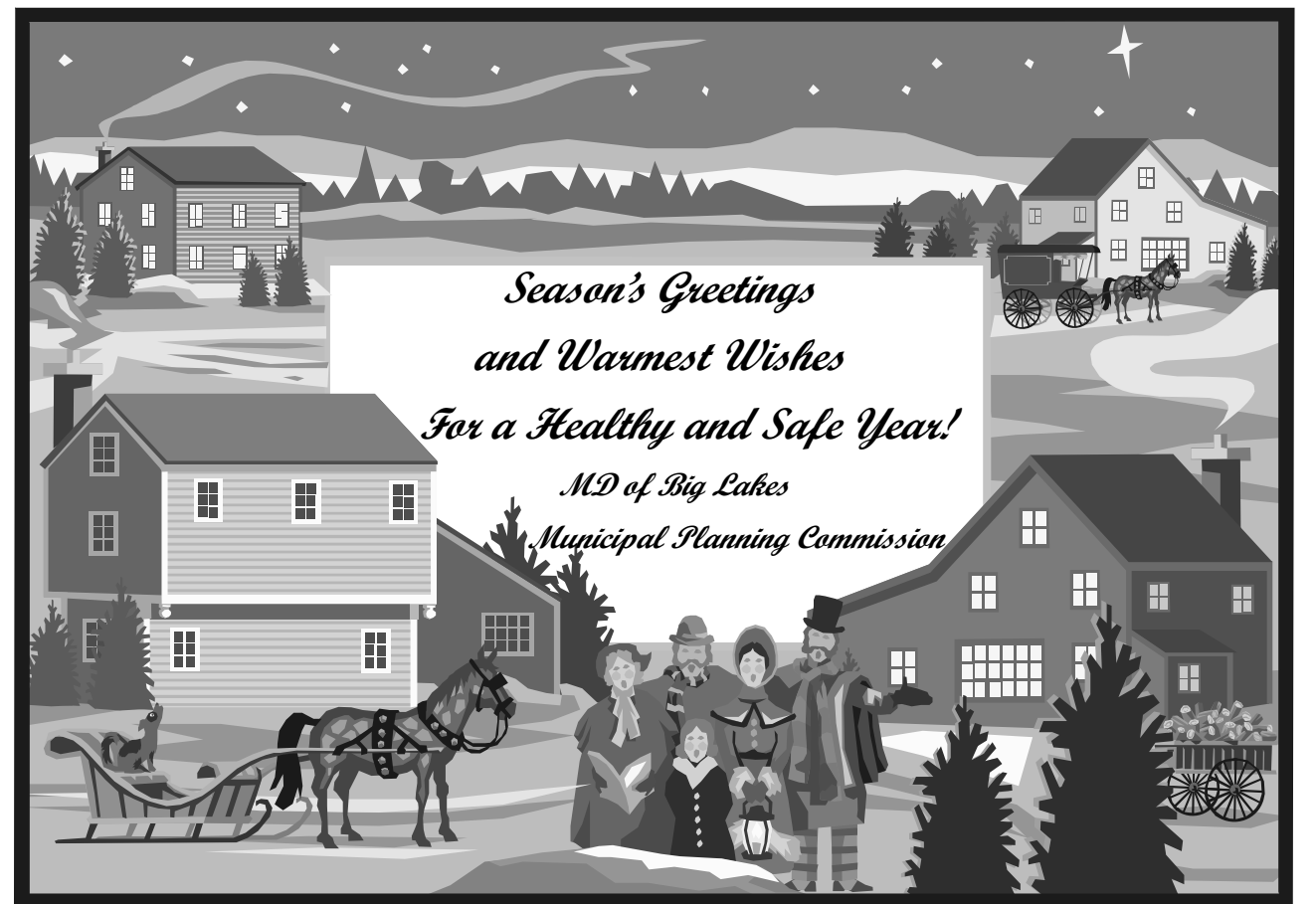


Are You Developing or Building? Did You Obtain Your Permits?

Your building project may require a development and building permit before you start.

The M.D. of Big Lakes can help you figure out what you need to build a safe project. It will give you peace of mind when you sell your house knowing the work complies with the regulations. It's easy.

Just call us at 780-523-5955 or visit our website at www.mdbiglakes.ca.



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

*MD of Big Lakes
Municipal Planning Commission*

Agricultural Service Board Report

Over the past few years the Agriculture Service Boards (ASBs) and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) have been working cooperatively to control and eradicate the **wild boars** at large throughout the province. When running at large these animals pose a threat to property, and somewhat to the safety of people, and as such have recently been declared a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. This means that it is now legal to shoot them.

In the MD of Big Lakes wild boars have been spotted on lands from the Triangle area to the Gilwood area. Most commonly they are seen at night on silage piles and un-secure grain storage sites.

The MD is considering entering into an agreement with the province which would see the recently announced available provincial funding accessed to subsidize a bounty program for participating municipalities.

For landowners that have ordered **shelterbelt trees** for 2009 through either PFRA or Alberta Agriculture, trees will be shipped to and distributed from the MD office. As is done annually the trees are scheduled to arrive for pickup at the MD administration office in High Prairie in early May. Upon arrival tree order recipients will be notified by phone to pick them up. Orders should be made immediately to ensure availability of the desired tree species. Orders will be accepted up and until deadline of March 15, 2009.

For PFRA shelterbelt trees see: www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt

for provincial shelterbelt trees see: www.marketland.net/index.



~Happy Holidays~

Gary Braithwaite – Agricultural Fieldman



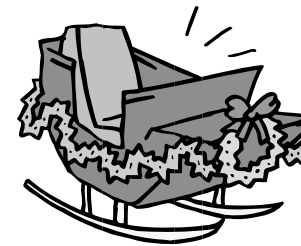
My dog tag is my ticket Home!

The first step in responsible dog ownership is to licence your dog.

The MD of Big Lakes Animal Control Bylaw (which has been in effect since 1995) requires all dogs over the age of six months to be issued and wearing a dog tag.

The dog tag is valid for the life of the dog unless the dog changes owners or moves to another municipality.

Dog tags are available at the MD office in High Prairie and they are **FREE** of charge. If your dog is picked up and it is wearing a tag, attempts will be made to contact and return the dog to the owner instead of impounding the dog (for first offence), which will save you over \$100. in fines and impound fees. Any dog that is picked up that is not wearing a tag will be impounded even if it is known who the owner is.



Protective Services thought
the following facts regarding some
Provincial Traffic Laws
might be of interest to our readers...



Under the Traffic Safety Act of Alberta or its Regulations

- All lights on a motor vehicle or trailer must be in good working order at all times.
- Except for back-up lights, it is an offence for a vehicle to shine a white or glaring light to the rear (broken brake light or tail light lens).
- Trailers being pulled on a road must have functioning brake and turn lights.
- Farm vehicles being operated on a public road must have brakes and a rear view mirror.
- Mufflers on a motor vehicle must be in good repair and connected when the vehicle is operated on a public road.
- All motor vehicles operated on a public road must have a properly functioning speedometer.
- All motor vehicles on the road must be equipped with mirrors enabling drivers to see the road to the rear and vehicles coming up from behind them (this includes bale hauling trucks and wide loads).
- Passenger cars must be equipped with a proper front and rear bumper while on a public road.
- All motorists are required by law to stop before entering a road from a driveway, parking lot or field approach.
- At an intersection controlled by a stop sign, all motorists must stop no further than 3 meters (10 feet) from the intersecting roadway.
- Lights on a motor vehicle are required to be lit at night or during conditions of poor visibility (this includes blowing snow or fog or other hindrances to visibility).
- Motorists must not drive with their windshield or windows obscured (ice, front or snow etc).
- Trailers must always be attached properly when on a public road and trailer attachments must be of sufficient strength to hold the trailer and its load. Towing a trailer with inadequate means of attachment or without a safety chain is illegal.
- Motorists/vehicle owners must promptly notify the Registrar of any name or address change.
- No driver may possess two driver's licenses.
- All drivers must produce their driver's licence, vehicle registration and insurance immediately on demand of a Peace Officer.
- All vehicles/trailers must display licence plates at all times while on the road and plates must be clearly visible.
- Licence plates must be for the vehicle/trailer they are displayed on (you may not transfer these between trailers or vehicles without doing so through the Registrar).
- Vehicles and trailers may not be parked on a public road without being properly licensed and insured.

The foregoing are some of the more unknown and/or potentially dangerous infractions that area Law Enforcement Agencies have come across during the year.

This is not a comprehensive list of laws but presented for information. Any questions about these or other concerns may be directed to the MD Peace Officer at 780-523-5955 during office hours or your local RCMP Detachment.

“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
- 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. Don't let a preventable tragedy, like fire, ruin your festive season. Please direct any fire safety concerns to your community Fire Chief.

“On behalf of the Firechief and Firefighters from the MD of Big Lakes...

Seasons Greetings with Warmest Wishes for a Healthy and Fire Safe Year!”



'Christmas Angel'



2008 Program!

Christmas is coming and Big Lakes FCSS is launching the 2008 'Christmas Angel' program to provide food and toy hampers for Christmas for truly needed residents who live in the MD of Big Lakes and the Village of Kinuso, residents of Reserves and Metis Settlements will not be included.

We are asking for donations to assist us to reach our goal of \$6,000.00 this first year based on estimates of helping 35 families. Big Lakes FCSS staff will put together the hampers, wrap toys and ensure those less fortunate have Christmas too. Children from babies to 17 yrs of age will receive an age appropriate gift.

Arrangements have been made through the MD of Big Lakes to issue official tax deductible receipts for any donations of \$50.00 or more for the 2008 income tax year. We ask that donations be made payable to the MD of Big Lakes.

Donations can be mailed to Box 239 High Prairie, T0G 1E0 or dropped off at your local FCSS office. All donations will go to purchase food and toys. There will be no administration cost for staff time etc. Every donation large or small will help us reach our goal so everyone enjoys Christmas with food on the table and a few toys under the tree.

All applications will be screened so only needy residents qualify for 'Christmas Angels'.

As we approach this holiday season lets make those less fortunate who live close to home our top priority.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sharon Strang, Director

Big Lakes FCSS



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!