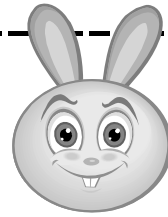


Regional Landfill Authority & MD Transfer Stations

Summer Hours of Operation

Effective April 1st—September 30th

BANANA BELT (Pt. SW 11-73-17-W5)	Wednesday & Sunday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm
ENILDA (SE 01-74-16-W5)	Open 24 Hours "bagged household garbage only"
FAUST/KINUSO (SE 07-73-10-W5)	Wednesday 11:00 am - 7:00 pm Sunday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm
GROUARD (Pt. NE 32-75-14-W5)	Wednesday 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm Sunday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm
HEART RIVER (NE 31-76-17-W5)	Wednesday 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
HP WEST/GILWOOD (NW 24-74-18-W5)	Open 24 Hours " bagged household garbage only"
JOUSSARD (NW 33-73-13-W5)	Wednesday 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm Sunday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm
REGIONAL LANDFILL (NW 09-73-15-W5)	12kms South on East Prairie Road Monday/Thursday/Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



M.D. of Big Lakes Newsletter

Box 239, High Prairie AB T0G 1E0

Ph: (780)523-5955 Toll Free: 1-866-523-5955 Fax: (780)523-4227

Web: www.mdbiglakes.ca Email: biglakes@mdbiglakes.ca

"Spring"
2009



Hello...from Big Lakes Administration!

This time of year is one normally characterized by optimism. However, it seems more difficult to be optimistic this year with the cold still hovering and the volatility in the economy. Here at the MD of Big Lakes optimism remains. As we look forward to the coming months several exciting events lay before us. These include:

- Completion of the Seal Lake Connector road. This road will provide direct access to employment opportunities for those involved in the oil and gas industry.
- Relocation of the Enilda Fire Service into their new facility. Faust and Grouard having relocated into new facilities this winter.
- Implementation of a new council policy designed to utilize local labour and equipment on municipal projects where possible.
- Completion of the renovations to our municipal office in High Prairie.

We also await word on the following Building Canada Fund applications for :

Grouard Water/Sewer servicing

Water/Sewer servicing of east end of Faust

Paving the Gilwood road

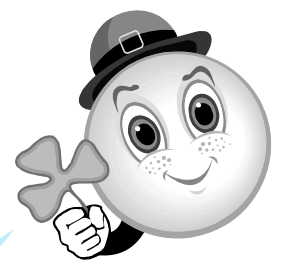
Paving of the Spruce Point Park road; and

A Major Community Facilities Grant application for construction of a new seed cleaning plant.

As you can see the MD of Big Lakes is undertaking considerable initiatives this year. Under the leadership of your elected officials our municipality will weather these difficult times and do everything we can to maintain optimism in our region.

Happy and Prosperous Spring

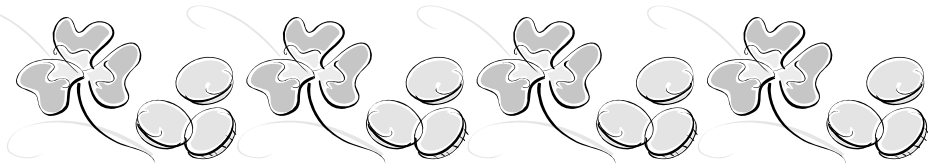
Jeff Renaud, CAO



2009 TAX YEAR

Tax Notices will be mailed by the third week of May, with a due date of June 30, 2009.

Please contact the M.D. of Big Lakes if you have not received your notice by May 30, 2009



"NOTICE"

The MD of Big Lakes Office will be
CLOSED
April 10th & April 13th
(Good Friday & Easter Monday)



M.D. of Big Lakes

On-Call (24 hrs)

523-5955

Toll Free:

1-866-523-5955





Protective Services—MD Peace Officer's Report

Protective Services would like to remind readers of the Community Peace Officer's mandate and what issues the MD Peace Officer deals with.

The MD of Big Lakes employs one Community Peace Officer, that is responsible for the enforcement of twelve provincial statutes and several municipal bylaws.

Issues the Peace Officer deals with include traffic violations (speeding vehicles, stop sign violators, suspended drivers, uninsured and/or unregistered motor vehicles, seat-belt violations, and other moving violations), commercial vehicles (overload vehicles, dangerous goods transportation, road use routes), off highway vehicles, liquor violations, unlawful dumping, animal cruelty, stray livestock, trespassing and bylaw violations (traffic, dogs, public order and noise).

The Peace Officer conducts regular patrols of the 1200 km of local roads, the four MD hamlets and all of the three-digit primary highways within the MD.

The Peace Officer also works with/provides assistance to the RCMP, Town of High Prairie Enforcement Services, Provincial Law Enforcement Agencies, Emergency Services and other MD Departments. The Town of High Prairie and the MD have an agreement in place, which allows the Peace Officers from each Municipality to work in the other's area.

The Peace Officer does not provide services to the Village of Kinuso, First Nations or Metis Settlements. Criminal offences like impaired driving and drug dealing are the responsible of the RCMP.

The Peace Officer works 4 or 5 days per week with various shifts from between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. If someone is available dog control complaints that are received during the Peace Officer's scheduled days off will be dealt with by someone from Ag Services or the Dog Catcher. All other complaints will not be dealt with until the Peace Officer returns to work.

All complaints must be called into the MD Office at 780-523-5955 during regular business hours. Once the Peace Officer receives the complaint it will be prioritized depending on the nature of the complaint. All attempts will be made to deal with the complaint as soon as possible but some complaints may take between three to ten working days to be dealt with.

The above information is tendered to remind readers that dog control is far from all that the Peace Officer deals with. The Community Peace Officer provides a variety of services throughout the MD.

For information on this or any other concern, contact the Community Peace Officer at 780-523-5955.

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day

"Please Don't Drink and Drive"



Big Lakes FCSS

"Making a difference in your community"

Tax time is here. April 30th is the filing deadlines for your income taxes. If you are low income, Big Lakes FCSS will help you complete the necessary forms.

Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19th—April 25th. Big Lakes FCSS will be looking to recognize the volunteers of our communities. Watch for upcoming events.

Seniors Week is June 7th—June 13th, with planned activities for Monday to Friday. Watch for posters soon.

M.D. Barbeque will be held on Thursday, June 25th, on the front lawn at the Municipal District of Big Lakes. This is a time to have lunch with Council members. Everyone is welcome!

Bicycles will soon be on our streets. **Remember** a "helmut" protects you from serious head injury!

Are you turning 65 this year??? Come to a Big Lakes FCSS office to fill out your forms. The service is free and we make sure you apply for all senior programs you may be eligible for.

High Prairie Office

Ph: 780-536-0062

Fax: 780-523-4902

kjgould@telusplanet.net

Joussard Office

Ph: 780-776-3811

Fax: 780-776-3821

Faust Office

Ph: 780-355-3896

Fax: 780-355-3000

Patcampiou@telusplanet.net

Enilda Office

Ph: 780-523-5655

Fax: 780-523-5655

Kinuso Office

Ph: 780-775-3663

Fax: 780-775-3669

fcskay@telus.net

Grouard Office

Ph: 780-751-3880

Fax: 780-751-3880

FCSS Director

Ph: 780-776-0008

(Faust, Grouard and Enilda FCSS offices will be moving to the new municipal services buildings soon!!)



Agricultural Service Board Report - Spring 2009

The MD now has a Livestock Electronic Tag Reader (Gallagher brand) available for rent for MD ratepayers. The rate is \$5 for a 2-day weekday period, or for over a weekend.



The MD is now participating in Alberta Agriculture's one year pilot bounty program for Wild Boars for the 2009 calendar year. In the fall of 2008 the province declared Wild boars, outside of captivity, to be declared an agricultural pest. The terms of the program are:

Under the Wild Boar Control Program, \$100.00 per boar is available subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Payment will only be made to persons having authorization from the landowner and only for eradication of wild boars running at large within the Municipality.
- 2) All eradication should be done with the landowner's consent before the removal of wild boar from a property is attempted, since wild boars properly enclosed are not considered a pest, or eligible for bounty reward.
- 3) All persons must sign an AFFIDAVIT that the wild boars harvested were from within the Municipal District of Big Lakes and the animals were running at large within the Municipality.
- 4) The amount payable to the person is subject to the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman and/or Municipal Council.
- 5) To be eligible to receive the \$100 payment, the person must provide a 'pair of ears' from each harvested wild boar turned into the MD administration office.
- 6) Owners of Wild Boars are not eligible for the bounty.

Note: Local Wild Boar Producers should notify the municipality of escaped wild boars to prevent animals from inadvertently being harvested under this bounty program.

For landowners that have ordered **Shelterbelt trees** through either PRFA, or Alberta Agriculture (Marketland supplier), 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 for spring tree delivery is March 15. After this date orders can still be made but delivery would be later into the year, the tree varieties will be limited, and shipping costs will apply. For PFRA shelterbelt trees see: www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt; for provincial shelterbelt trees see: www.marketland.net/index.

A significant spring snow melt runoff is likely to cause some degree of **flooding** shortly; therefore landowners should be taking proactive steps to protect themselves, their property and / or livestock.

Some steps to consider include: 1) Moving stored items in basements off the floor, or to a higher elevated 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 bedding sites should be located in the highest elevated land location available with extra straw, while also providing fresh clean water in troughs 4) Ensure drive way culverts are open and free of debris and ice.

For additional information regarding the above mentioned please contact the MD of Big Lakes, Agricultural Fieldman at 523-5955 or visit the MD's website www.mdbiglakes.ca.



Why do I need a Development Permit?

The M.D. of Big Lakes Land Use Bylaw states that "no person shall undertake any development in the Municipal District unless a development permit has first been issued pursuant to this bylaw, and the development is in accordance with the terms and conditions of a development permit issued pursuant to this bylaw."

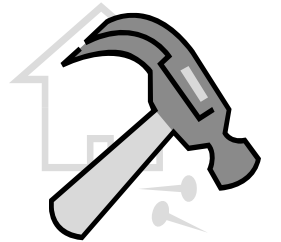
The M.D. of Big Lakes Land Use Bylaw and the Municipal Government Act defines "development" as:

- i) an excavation or stockpile and the creation of either of them.
- ii) a building, or an addition to or replacement or repair of a building and the construction or placing of any of them on, in, over or under land.
- iii) a change of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the use of the land or building, or
- iv) a change in the intensity of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or building

If any of the above is being considered, a development permit is required. There are some exceptions which are outlined in the M.D. of Big Lakes Land Use Bylaw. **Currently the fine for proceeding with development without a development permit is double the permit fee. Council is currently revisiting the penalty and this amount may soon change.**

What sorts of things require a Development Permit?

- New buildings, including cottages, dwellings and manufactured homes.
- Structural additions or alterations that would result in substantial changes to the roof, foundation, or exterior walls of a structure or alterations that would result in an expansion of the useable floor area of a structure to serve to reduce existing setback distances.
- Change of use of a building.
- Sheds greater than 100 square feet in size located on a residential lot.
- Attached and detached garage, carport, storage building, sundeck, patio, or balcony.
- Communications towers
- Bed & Breakfast
- Campgrounds



(Contact the Community Development Officer to find out if a permit is required for your type of development.)

Is a development permit the same as a building permit?

No, a development permit is not the same as a building permit. A development permit allows a specific type of development on a specific parcel of land in the community to proceed in accordance with the municipality's land use bylaw. *A development permit is required before you obtain a building permit.*

A building permit allows construction of buildings or structures to proceed on condition of compliance with the Alberta Building Code which addresses building and fire safety. Building permits are required for the construction, alteration, repair, relocation, demolition, or change of use of a building. Farm accessory buildings, and non-hazardous accessory buildings under 100 square feet are exempt.

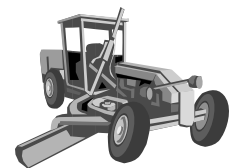
What is the cost of a Development Permit?

The cost of a Development Permit is as follows:

- \$60.00 for the first \$100,000 (cost of development)
- Plus \$10.00 for each \$100,000 thereafter

PUBLIC WORKS

- Equipment registration or "Equipment Hourly Hire" quotes are due in by Mar16, 2009.
- Gravel Truck Quotations forms will be available once Council determines haul rates for 2009, usually mid April.
Quotations due back by May15, 2009.
- MD Transfer stations summer hours will be in effect as of April 1, 2009.
- Applications for dust control will be available beginning of May 2009.



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 = \$36.75
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.

FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED !!

Albertans require permits starting April 1, 2009 in the Forest Protection Area By Order of the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. Where you require a permit from the Municipal District—April 1, 2009 is still the start date for the new season until October 31, 2009.

PLEASE ENSURE...

That all winter burning has been extinguished properly to prevent holdover fires!

Fire permits will be issued by **Municipal District of Big Lakes** Fire Guardians.

Request for Fire Permits can be obtained by contacting your local Fire Guardian or by contacting the MD Administration Office.

Residents in areas of the White Zone and Green Zone outside of this former no-permit zone will continue to get fire permits from the Alberta Forestry Service.

Fire Permits will be issued as follows:

The MD Fire Guardian for Gilwood/South will issue fire permits on Mondays:

Mena Olson 780-523-2080 cell: 780-536-7469

The MD Fire Guardian for North/Grouard will issue fire permits on Wednesdays:

Len Yandea 780-523-5828 cell: 780-523-6419

The MD Fire Guardian for High Prairie & Area will issue fire permits on Fridays:

Mena Olson 780-523-2080 cell: 780-536-7469



Remember the lighting of fires in the Municipal District of Big Lakes without a fire permit will be against provincial law. According to the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, those who start fires without a permit or negligently with a permit may be subject to paying the costs of fire suppression and fines.

Before You **BURN IT!**

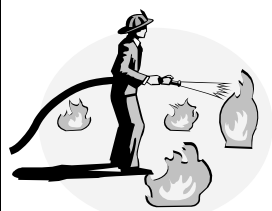
Get A **PERMIT!**



PERMITS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW.

For Information Call:

MD of Big Lakes 780-776-0007 or
Forest Protection Division 523-6620



If You Spot a Fire!

call collect 310-FIRE

(310-3473) or

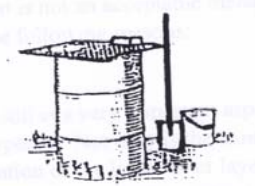
#FIRE

on the

Telus Mobility Network.

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 !!

Should you have any questions, please contact **John E. Gould (MD Fire Chief)** or **Vicki Calhoon** at the M.D. of Big Lakes office in Jousard @ 776-0007.