



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Municipal District of Big Lakes



Effective **October 1, 2009** through March 31, 2010

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



Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday Nov. 1st

at 2:00 am

turn your clocks BACK ...

1 hour!



NOTICE

The FCSS Hamlet Offices

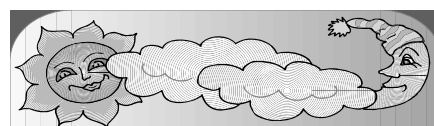
will be re-opening

the week of

September 1st

returning to

regular office hours.



M.D. of Big Lakes

On-Call (24 hrs)

523-5955

Toll Free:

1-866-523-5955



of Big Lakes NEWSLETTER

2009



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

Email: biglakes@mdbiglakes.ca

Box 239, High Prairie AB T0G 1E0

Message from the Reeve

Greetings from the MD of Big Lakes,

Wow, I simply cannot believe that I am already preparing the opening statement for the Fall 2009 newsletter. It seems like only yesterday that we were preparing the spring newsletter. I guess summer never lasts quite as long as one might hope.

Here at the MD of Big Lakes the fall represents a time of great activity. For your information I provide some highlights of activities happening this fall:

- On September 1st the MD will welcome Kinuso as the newest Hamlet. (A special thank you to all those involved in making this a smooth transition).
- Paving of the Gilwood Road will commence
- Paving of the Snipe Lake Road North will commence
- Paving of the Spruce Point Park Road will commence
- Initial budget deliberations for the 2010 year will begin

In addition to these projects, the MD of Big Lakes is proud to welcome Mrs. Cathy Wilcox as the newest member of our administrative team. Mrs. Wilcox has accepted the position of Grants Manager with our municipality. Mrs. Wilcox's duties include assisting local non-profit organizations with grant applications. I encourage you to contact her at the main office if you have any project in need of funding.

Also, please be advised as of October 31st the fire sheds currently located in the rural areas will be removed. This is due to increased legal liability associated with these sheds. We apologize for any inconvenience.

On behalf of the Council and Staff of the Municipal District of Big Lakes I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy, safe, and prosperous fall season.

Respectfully,
Alvin Billings, Reeve

"MD-ANNUAL BARBEQUE"

Sept. 17th

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Everyone Welcome!



School Zones are in effect from:

8:00am to 9:30 am

11:30am to 1:30pm



"Don't pass school buses stopped with flashing lights."

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Construction and Paving Projects

- Seal Lake Connector Road Clearing was completed this spring with the Road Construction about to begin
- Range Road 190 (Twp Road 733A to Twp Road 740) road construction is now complete
- Township Road 750 (West of Rge Road 172) road construction is now complete
- Spruce Point Park Access Road Paving is scheduled to begin September 2009
- Gilwood Road Paving is scheduled to begin September 2009
- North Snipe Lake Road Paving is scheduled to begin September 2009
- Kinuso Centre Street & Railway Avenue Paving is also scheduled to begin September 2009

Bridge Repairs / Replacements

Two bridge repair/replacement projects were completed this summer in the Aggie and Kinuso areas with funding through Alberta Transportation.

Road Maintenance

The MD roadway gravelling program is nearing completion.

Water and Wastewater Department

With Provincial Funding through Alberta Transportation the Hamlets of Enilda, Faust, Grouard, and Jousard will see Lift Station Upgrades starting this year.

Kinuso Dissolution

Public Works is looking forward to working with the residents of Kinuso following the dissolution on September 1st, 2009.



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.



ATTENTION!!!!

PLUMBERS, DEVELOPERS and RESIDENTS

The MD's policy states

"No person shall open, close or interfere with any hydrant or valve of the water works system without the 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.

Big Lakes FCSS News

School's In!

A new school year has started and school zones are back in effect. Remember to slow down in the school zone areas and when a school bus is stopped with flashing lights, stop until the bus driver turns off the flashers.

Student Sleep Requirements

Contrary to what most teenagers think, they actually require 9 to 10 hours of sleep to do their best each day. Moods and marks can be much improved with a decent nights sleep.

Big Lakes FCSS Office Hours

All the hamlet FCSS offices are open to public as of September, with their regular office hours.

Working Seniors

Another change that will benefit low income seniors is the amount they can earn before it affects their eligibility for Guaranteed Income Supplement. The amount has increased from \$300 per year to \$3500 per year or almost \$300 per month. This will allow low income seniors to work part time and not have their supplement affected. Call your Big Lakes FCSS worker for details.

Fraud Artists Are Out To Get You

Identity theft is on the rise. Don't give out your personal information on the phone or on the internet. A bank or credit card company you deal with already knows your information.

Don't be fooled to give this information over the phone. If someone contacts you for information tell them to send a letter. The RCMP Card Buster contact is 1-888-495-8501.

M.D. OF BIG LAKES - DEVELOPMENT

Q. Do I need a development permit?

A. No person shall undertake any development in the M.D. unless a development permit has first been issued. There are a few exceptions which are outlined in section 4.2 of the Land Use By-law, which include sheds less than 100 square feet in size and farm buildings. Contact the Development Officer to verify if your development requires a development permit.

Q. Can I subdivide my property?

A. That depends on the size of the property and the land use district it is in and for those parcels in the Agriculture District, how many times it has been subdivided in the past. Contact the Development Officer for clarification.

Q. What are the regulations for sewage disposal systems?

A. Sewage system regulations are determined by Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing. The minimum distance for private sewage systems varies depending on the type of disposal system. The private sewage standards set out design standards, installation standards and material requirements for on-site private sewage systems less than 25 cubic meters sewage volume per day.

Contact Information:

Safety Services

16th Floor, Commerce Place

10155-102 Street

Edmonton, AB T5J 4L4

Phone: 1-877-421-6929

Fax: (780) 427-8686

Email: safetyservices@gov.ab.ca

Yield to Emergency Vehicles



What to do when you hear sirens

The lights and siren of an emergency vehicle may signal a life-or-death situation for somebody.

A few seconds delay can prove fatal.

You must yield right of way

Make way when an emergency vehicle – fire, ambulance, or police – is approaching with its siren on and/or lights flashing. Carefully pull over to the right hand side of the road and come to a **STOP**.

Emergency lights come in different styles

Emergency vehicles may use a flashing red light, flashing red and blue light, or flashing alternating headlights. Any of these lights means “yield the right of way.”

What about traffic lights?

Even if you have a green light, you must yield the right of way when an emergency vehicle is trying to cross the intersection. If you're stopped at a red light and an emergency vehicle is trying to get past you, it's legal to pull ahead and let the vehicle pass. Just make sure that it's safe and the traffic is stopped.

Listen for sirens

If you hear a siren, be prepared to yield the right of way to a vehicle coming from an intersection on your right or left.

Turn down the stereo

If your car stereo is so loud that you can't hear an emergency vehicle's siren, it's too loud for safe driving.

Waste Management Report - Fall 2009

At the gated/manned transfer sites (Kinuso-Faust, Jousard, Bananabelt, Heart River and Grouard) they will accept, from MD residents only, the following (free of charge): tires (no rims on), vehicle batteries, used oil, domestic bagged trash, wood, cement and asphalt, yard organics (leaves, trees, lawn clippings), metals, White Goods (fridges, freezers, stoves, dishwashers), E-waste (TV's, monitors, computers, printers, scanners, copiers, fax machines, VCR's, DVD/CD players, stereo systems, projectors, answering machines, telephones, microwave ovens, mix masters, coffee makers, toasters, vacuum cleaners, gaming systems), and dry cell household batteries (**new for 2009**). The recycle bins located in the MD hamlets and the Town of High Prairie accept cleaned household plastic containers and bags, glass, tin and smaller metal containers, and newspapers.

Pesticide containers (empty and rinsed) are only accepted at the Bananabelt and Regional Landfill locations.

For the Enilda and Gilwood transfer sites only bagged household trash from MD residents only is acceptable. Periodic remote camera monitoring for enforcement purposes is in effect at these 2 sites.

Other wastes exclusively accepted at the High Prairie Regional Landfill include fish guts, and asbestos containing wastes (by arrangement only ph 780-523-5760). All wastes being hauled must be safely secured and/or tarped to prevent loss during transportation to waste any disposal site. Hazardous and liquid (except paint) wastes can be taken to the Swan Hills Waste Treatment Plant (ph 780-333-4197). Residential waste disposal fees are covered for MD residents through their payment of municipal taxes. For non-MD residents and non-waste authority partners they can only use the High Prairie Regional Landfill to dispose of wastes for a nominal tipping fee which is charged based on tonnage and / or waste material type. See the MD's website:

www.mdbiglakes.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=26

for Waste Collection locations and hours of operation.

Remember the 3 R's (recycle, re-use and reduce) to reduce waste costs and protect our environment.

Agricultural Service Board Report - Fall 2009

The MD is currently participating in Alberta Agriculture's one year pilot bounty program for **Wild Boars** for the 2009 calendar year. Wild boars harvested outside of captivity are by law declared an agricultural pest. 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. (see the MD's website for additional details on program).

Now is the best time to order **shelterbelt trees** to ensure the desired species are in supply and available for the spring of 2009. Orders can be placed from website forms for: 1) PFRA shelterbelt trees see: www.agr.gc.ca/pfra/shelterbelt; 2) for provincial shelterbelt trees see: www.marketland.net/index.

To ensure optimal growth, pest resistance and winter survival of tree saplings and mature trees, they should receive a thorough watering to saturate the immediately surrounding soil by mid-September due to the extremely dry conditions experience this growing season to date. Spraying out the deeply rooted perennial weeds (Canada Thistle and Perennial Sow Thistle) using Lontrel will also serve to enhance growth and increase the available moisture for the trees. Spraying control should be done at label rates to prevent adverse herbicide effects on the trees. For precision placement of the weed spraying it should be performed using a backpack sprayer using the higher water volumes to be most effective. Applications in the rooting zone (within the drip-line) should be done sparingly while at the same time avoiding direct contact with the tree foliage. These particular perennial weeds can effectively be controlled between now and the first heavy frost, which is generally in late September.

The MD is continuing its **Fenceline Spraying Program** which is for control of noxious weeds on fencelines of agricultural fields immediately adjacent to MD road allowances at no charge. This spraying provides control of the weeds that are typically missed by both the landowner and the MD. The landowner's consent is required for this spraying and is offered until September 15 annually. Fields in stubble are preferred so access and spraying for vehicle/sprayer travel can be performed from the landowners property outwards.

To arrange for farm water pumping activities through Alberta Agriculture's **Water Pumping Program** producers can call 780-422-5000. To access toll free dial the gov't RITE line at 310-0000 first then this number.

For producers looking for information on BSE, West Nile Virus, Fusarium, grasshoppers, provincial grant programs can access it through Alberta Agriculture's website at: www1.agric.gov.ab.ca. Alternatively internet subscribers can have current news emailed to them directly by subscribing for Alberta Agriculture's free biweekly newsletter by visiting: www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/ksub.nsf.

Alternatively people can call AAFRD's Ag-Info Centre at 1-866-882-7677 toll free. For information about the newly announced **Growing Forward Agricultural Policy and Grants**

(replaces the former Environmental Farm Plan Initiative) see website: <http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1217941012105&lang=eng>.

The various Municipal application forms can be printed from the internet by visiting the MD's website: www.mdbiglakes.ca and selecting 'form downloads'. For additional information regarding the above mentioned please contact the MD of Big Lakes office or the Agricultural Fieldman at 780-523-5955.

Upcoming Events: Water Workshop Nov. 2, 2009 – High Prairie; Contact: SARDA 780-837-2900





**Fire Safety Message:
from the M.D. of Big Lakes
Fire Chief, John E. Gould**

This year's **Fire Prevention Week** is from
October 4-10, 2009 and its theme, is to;

Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned!

Most fatal fires happen in the home, where people feel the safest. Young children and senior adults are especially at high risk for fire deaths. Fortunately, there are many ways to prevent fires in the home.

I have provided you with some fire and life safety tips, with your continued support, needless injuries and deaths from fire can be prevented. Together, we can keep our children and our communities safe!

A Sound You Can Live With (test your smoke alarm)

Smoke alarms save lives...but only if they are installed and are in working order. In Alberta, smoke alarms were not installed in 65 percent of rural- and 30 percent of urban-homes which had fires. Smoke alarms, just like any other electronic device can wear out or fail to work. That is why regular testing to ensure they are working is important. A working smoke alarm can mean the difference between life and death for your family.

Evacuation of mobility - impaired persons

In residential occupancies, create a "buddy" system in which the mobility impaired person's neighbors provide assistance. However this is a prearranged when creating your fire escape plan.

Smoke Alarms & Fire Escape:

If a fire breaks out in your home, smoke alarms will give you early warning to help you escape. By practicing a fire escape plan, you and your family will know how to escape to safety during a fire emergency.

Ensure there is at least one working smoke alarm near sleeping areas and on every level of your home.

Ensure smoke alarms are working by testing monthly and replacing batteries twice a year when you set your clocks ahead and when you set them back.

Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

Use of Fireplace Efficiently and Safety

An advanced combustion fireplace can be a beautiful, inviting and environmentally friendly source of energy in your home. However, you are the essential part of the formula for success. Follow these basic guidelines to maximize you fireplace's performance and ensure its safe operation:

Have the fire place installed by a qualified serviceperson and make sure you have the proper chimney for your unit.

Carefully read the manufacturer's instructions before operating the fire place for the first time;

Check the manufacturer's instructions before adding or modifying a mantle or surroundings (minimum clearances are required);

When the fireplace is operating, turn down your home's main thermostat whenever possible;

Keep the viewing glass clean to maximize radiant heating (ask you fireplace dealer to recommend a good cleaner); and

Clean and check your fireplace (including latches and gaskets) and chimney on a regular basis.

Halloween Safety!

Carve Jack O'Lanterns with adult assistance.
Avoid flames from matches or candles.
Wear a safe costume.
Follow the rules that your parents set.
Carry a flashlight when trick or treating
Stay with a group on well-lit, familiar and safe streets.
Don't be mean or destructive.
Save all treats until an adult checks them.

HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN



...from the desk of Cathy Wilcox—Grant Manager

The MD of Big Lakes Council is pleased to announce the creation of the Grants Manager position. This position will be devoted 60% to administering MD grants for such things as roads and utilities, and 40% to assisting community groups within the MD with their own grants.

The position was approved by Council in late 2008. MD Council recognizes the huge financial needs faced by its non-profit groups and sees this position as a way to expand their financial resources beyond the limited MD budget. The need for accountability in the grant world has made grants management more time-consuming so this position will also alleviate the growing work-load of other MD staff.

Cathy Wilcox has been appointed as Grants Manager and began work at the MD office on July 20. She has been busy researching grant opportunities and is now ready to help the non-profit groups in the MD with their enquiries. It is important to note that Cathy will not be able to take over grant-writing for groups, but she will be able to provide face-to-face support in other ways:

- Explain grant processes
- Research grant opportunities
- Link projects with appropriate funding
- Interpret grant requirements
- Provide tips for writing proposals
- Give grant budget advice
- Proofread proposals and evaluation reports
- Suggest fundraising ideas for finding matching funds
- Find answers to questions



Grants can be daunting for volunteers, but they are often a necessary source of funding that can expand a group's capacity to get projects moving. Cathy hopes to lessen the mystery and frustration and give our non-profit groups an edge in securing new funds.

Cathy will be contacting non-profit groups directly in the coming weeks to discuss their projects and funding needs. But if your group is already facing a need for assistance with grants, call Cathy at 780-523-5955, or email her at grants@mdbiglakes.ca.