

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



April 2021

Councillor Sheila Lalonde's Update

Happy Easter everyone! Spring is here according to the calendar and as I write this, Mother Nature is saying "No"! Right now, its snowing and the temperatures are in the minuses still.

The Arctic Winter games scavenger hunt was a success. We had 20 participants, and of those, 11 turned their sheets in for the draw. The Sherk family won the snowshoes and Arctic Winter games swag! Congratulations! I am extremely pleased that Sapræ Creek residents take such pride in our community, and enthusiastically participate in activities that promote engagement and collaboration. Although we won't know until March 31st when the new dates for the games will be, I'm hopeful that they won't be cancelled altogether.



We had a flood preparedness update on March 9th, and it looks like were on track with mitigation efforts. The triple dams are being installed in the flood prone areas downtown and Waterways, and there is a sandbag program for residents in flood prone areas. There have been upgrades to the water treatment plant and measures in place to prevent cross contamination of our drinking water. For Draper residents, Administration is working on a grant program and there will be a flood mitigation update on April 13th. Draper's temporary connector road will be complete by March 31st. The road will be across from the Horse Pasture park and will use the old Draper road alignment. This is only to be used if Draper road is inaccessible.

We also had a lively meeting on March 23rd regarding the urban hen pilot program. That bylaw passed and comes into effect on May 1, 2021 and will run until April 30th, 2023. There will only be 50 licences issued and the applicants will have to meet certain guideline standards.

The Atco gas update for Draper residents clarified some of the requirements needed by Atco to bring natural gas services to Draper. Draper falls under the rural connection program. That's why Atco needs a commitment from the residents before they will bring the lines to the area. From what we were told at the council meeting, 60% of the fee is required up front and the remainder on installation. I believe that the total cost was estimated at approximately \$7700. Atco will be reaching out to Draper residents again now that the road alignment information has been shared with them by Administration.

During the March 10th Sapræ Creek board meeting, someone had asked about the fire hydrants in Sapræ and if they are commissioned or not. They are not commissioned. This is expected to be done by the end of July. I was told that there will be communications and the insurance companies will be notified.

Construction in Sapræ Creek for this year will include addressing the drainage issues at the playground this Spring. This contract has been issued to Wilco. Road construction will be an ongoing thing again this summer, but on the bright side, this looks to be the last summer of major road construction. This year, the final layer of asphalt will be installed, deficiencies repaired and addressed, ditch work and landscaping to be completed, and the lines painted. Fingers crossed that we have a nice summer with very few rain delays.

Although, this is the April newsletter, I will be attending the Chamber of Commerce virtual luncheon on March 25th. Premier Jason Kenny will be the keynote speaker, and I believe that there will be some interesting questions for him. On March 26th, I have my AUMA Energy and Infrastructure meeting and one of the agenda items is the changes to the disaster relief program. This is definitely on my radar, as disasters are not only floods but a multitude of other things as well.

That's all I have for now, Take care of each other,
Sheila



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo continues to monitor the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and follow the direction of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

For regular updates, please visit [Alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

For municipal information related to COVID-19, visit rmwb.ca/COVID19.

Municipal Face Covering Bylaw re-activated

Province-wide face covering requirement continues to be in effect

On March 24, Alberta Health Services reported 52 active COVID-19 cases in the RMWB. With cases above 50, the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw has been re-activated for a minimum of 30 days from March 24.



Face coverings are required in public transit, all indoor public places, all places of worship, all indoor workplaces, in K-12 schools when required, and when you might come within 2 metres of people from outside your household.

The Government of Alberta's province-wide face covering requirement continues to be in effect. When the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw is also in effect, the provincial requirement supersedes the Municipal Bylaw on most matters. For more information on the provincial requirement, visit alberta.ca/masks.

Stay up-to-date with information on the status of the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw at rmwb.ca/facecovering or by calling Pulse.

Engineering/Construction Updates

Rural Water and Sewer Servicing (RWSS)

- The force main from Sapræe Creek to YMM Airport is complete.
- The lift station project is substantially complete and seasonal deficiencies are to be completed by Q2 2021.
- The asphalt laying on Weiss Drive and Spruce Valley Drive was completed.
- The water and sanitary mains and services are complete, with deficiencies to be addressed. Work is planned to resume by May 2021 (weather dependent) and construction is planned for completion this year, including addressing deficiencies, the final lift of asphalt, remaining ditch work and landscaping by September 2021. The intent is to achieve substantial completion and handover the water system and sanitary system to Underground Services for operations by September 2021.

Sapræe Creek Trail Rehabilitation

- Road rehabilitation completed and deficiency work will be completed in 2021.

A Frame Road Paving, Lift Station and Sanitary Force Main Installation

- Design completed and tender posted including all components of the project (i.e. road, lift station, and force main).
- Overall project construction will commence in Q2 2021 and end in Q3 of 2023.

Roads

- Installation of three street lights at the intersection of Sapræe Creek Trail and Spruce Valley Drive.
- Street sweeping and line painting within the community is generally completed in early June; however, this work will be dependent on rehabilitation work completed by Engineering (as noted above).
- Sapræe Creek Trail line painting is scheduled for early June and mid-September.

Drainage

- Installation of a drainage system by way of swales and culverts to improve drainage through the park and playground area. This work was awarded to Wilco and will begin in Spring 2021.

Olympian Sign

- Fabrication and installation of the Olympian recognition sign on the existing community “Welcome” sign is planned for completion in June 2021. A more detailed briefing note was provided on Wednesday, March 17.

Annual Park Maintenance

- Regular, annual maintenance will continue and includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - Improvements to the information board at the mailboxes
 - Mowing of park and greenspace areas
 - Horticultural planting
 - Forestry operations and hazard tree removal
 - Playground maintenance and inspections
 - Sports field maintenance (infield was replaced in 2019)
 - Litter picking and beautification

RURAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE (RWSS)

NOW AVAILABLE IN SAPRAE CREEK



The **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo** is pleased to announce that the RWSS program is now available in Sapræe Creek

What is RWSS, exactly?

RWSS stands for rural water and sewer servicing. The simplest explanation is this: RWSS is the system required to provide piped water and sewer services to your community – similar to Fort McMurray.

Homeowner Service Connection Guides will be dropped off to your door in April. This guide offers a step-by-step outline of the RWSS connection process, including a Frequently Asked Questions section, and a complete listing of qualified contractors. You will also find all the forms necessary to complete an application.

Want the information sooner? The electronic version of this guide can be found at rmwb.ca/rwss.

We are committed to supporting rural residents throughout this program, and we invite you to contact **PULSE** at **1-800-973-9663** if you have questions or concerns.

Indigenous Learning Series Update

We've made an important update to the online Indigenous Learning Series. Residents who take and complete the modules may now request a certificate of completion by email. This free learning series provides an important opportunity to learn and to reflect on ways people can personally contribute to advancing Reconciliation. To learn more and to take the courses, visit our website at www.rmwb.ca/trc.



2021 Property Assessment Notice

It's important to carefully review your Property Assessment Notice. The deadline to address any concerns is **April 12, 2021**

If you have questions or concerns about your assessment, please visit our frequently asked questions at rmwb.ca/assessments or speak to an assessor by emailing pulse@rmwb.ca or calling Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free 1-800-973-9663.



If you have already spoken to an Assessor and still wish to file an appeal visit: rmwb.ca/arb for more information.

Why is this important?

The assessed value of your property will be used to establish the amount of property tax billed. Any error on your Property Assessment Notice could impact that amount.

*Your assessment reflects an estimated market value of your property as of July 1, 2020, including any physical changes up to December 31, 2020.

RMWB invites local multidisciplinary artists to submit proposals for igNIGHT 2021

Multidisciplinary artists, organizations and / or collectives from all disciplines are invited to submit proposals to the Public Art Committee of Wood Buffalo for igNIGHT – a temporary public art exhibition designed to engage the interest and imagination of the community using illuminated artworks.

igNIGHT 2021 Design Theme

igNIGHT 2021 aims to align with the resolution of the declaration made by the UN General Assembly that 2021 is the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. This declaration aims to build awareness of the important role of fruits and vegetables in nutrition, food security and human and planetary health. It also aims to promote the reduction of food loss and waste and encourage sustainability and safety of the food chain process.

Virtual Information Session

igNIGHT 2021 will host a virtual information session on **April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** Discussions will include a deeper exploration of the design theme, site information and additional resources to support the application process. The details to join igNIGHT 2021 virtual information session will be available in the coming days.

Key Dates

- Virtual information session: April 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- Deadline for Submission: Thursday, May 6 at 3 p.m.
- igNIGHT Exhibition: Oct. 1 – 10

To sign up as an artist and to review the request for proposal, visit rmwb.ca/igNIGHT.

Want to be a candidate in the 2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB **2021**
Elections

The next municipal election will be held on **October 18, 2021**. Interested candidates will find important information on rules and eligibility requirements, links to official forms, and more on our website at rmb.ca/elections

VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY (VPR)

The VPR is a free, voluntary and confidential service that helps improve the safety of residents living at home who may be at greater risk during an emergency.

The program provides key information to local emergency responders to efficiently identify and assist vulnerable individuals during an emergency.

The VPR is available to residents in the region who experience any of the following:

- Mobility issues
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmental or cognitive impairments
- Challenges related to mental health
- Individuals who require electricity for life-sustaining equipment (life support, oxygen or dialysis)



**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

Individuals registering for the Vulnerable Persons Registry must have a permanent address and at least one (1) valid contact number on their application. Individuals who are unable to meet these criteria will not be eligible for the registry.

To register, visit rmb.ca/VPR or call Pulse.



Travelling to Fort McMurray this winter?

Watch out for on-street parking restrictions!

Winter Maintenance Zones season begins Oct. 15! This means there may be on-street parking restrictions in effect while snow is being removed from residential streets in Fort McMurray.

Make sure to follow posted signage and electronic signage in the neighbourhood you park your vehicle. On street parking restrictions occur on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. if winter maintenance is needed.

Help us clear a path through winter and plan ahead for on-street parking restrictions at rmwb.ca/snowplow.

How do Winter Maintenance Zones work?

Every neighbourhood has been divided into five Winter Maintenance Zones, one for each weekday. Each Winter Maintenance Zone is further broken down into four subzones 1, 2, 3 and 4. On the day that each Zone is active, some of the Subzones within the larger active Zone will be serviced and others will be relaxed. Residents will be able to park in relaxed Subzones without being ticketed or towed. Relaxed Subzones will be communicated on neighbourhood electronic signage, WMZ email Alerts, social media and rmwb.ca.

Residents can find the neighbourhood Zones and Subzones on street signage and online at rmwb.ca/snowplow.

If you have any questions about Winter Maintenance Zones, connect with Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free at 1-800-973-9663 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

*Make it count.
Yeltsı dırı yultágh.
Ôma ekwa akihtah.*



Census 2021 launches throughout RMWB

On April 1, 2021, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo officially launched their Census 2021 campaign, urging all citizens to make it count. The 2021 Municipal Census will count all residents living in the Urban Service Area, Hamlets, and Project Accommodations. The municipal census will not count people living on reserve lands as this is done through the federal Census of Population.

The information collected is important for planning services such as schools, parks, utilities, and emergency services that support our families and communities. Further, the census provides vital information to industry, community groups, businesses, and the social profit sector.

In respect of COVID-19 guidelines, residents will be strongly encouraged to complete the Census online or by phone. In situations where this is not possible, in-person enumeration will be physically distanced.

Online & Phone Options:

Enumerators will hand deliver your PIN letter to you in early April.

- Online: Visit rmwb.ca/census on or after April 1. Use your designated PIN to complete a brief questionnaire. Residents can also scan the QR code on their letter to complete the census on their mobile device.
- Phone: Through the PULSE line **(780-743-7000)** & **1-800-973-9663 (toll free)** staff can connect you with an enumerator. The enumerator is able to work with you over the phone to complete the census on your behalf or schedule a follow-up call. You can also reach the Census 2021 team at census.2021@rmwb.ca.

Local Option:

The RMWB is working with local members of your community to serve as socially distant enumerators. They will be reaching out to members of the community to complete the Census with you on your behalf. Please reach out to your local Municipal Contact Office.

Complete your census and you could win. Visit rmwb.ca/census for prizes and details or ask your local enumerator.



RMWB holding Public Hearing on the new Land Use Bylaw

The proposed Land Use Bylaw (LUB) has gone through the first reading at Council and a Public Hearing will be held on April 27, 2021. The Public Hearing is one of the final steps before Council adopts the proposed Land Use Bylaw. This will be the final opportunity for public to submit feedback on the draft LUB.

A Land Use Bylaw (LUB) guides what can take place and be built anywhere in our region. The proposed LUB No. 21/003 includes improvements to language, updates on provisions, modifications to dated sections, and introduces new rules and regulations. These proposed changes, based on in-depth feedback we received from residents, rightsholders and stakeholders, make the new LUB more flexible and responsive to current building trends.

A copy of the proposed Land Use Bylaw as well as a Summary of Changes document are available at rmwb.ca/lub

A full list of public participation details and requirements are available at rmwb.ca/PublicHearing.

Registration to speak during the Public Hearing, **must** be submitted prior to **4:00 p.m.** on Monday, **April 26, 2021**.

Written comments will be accepted up until the closing of the hearing. To submit a written online comment, please visit www.rmwb.ca/publichearingsubmission.

For more information or further questions regarding the submission process, please contact PULSE [780-743-7000](tel:780-743-7000) or toll-free [1-800-973-9663](tel:1-800-973-9663).



We received these submissions so far!

The Creek Chronicles
Saprae Star
Saprae Creek Connection

This is a contest for all residents to participate in.

Submit your suggestions to
Joanne.clark@rmwb.ca or Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca

Spring Tree Care Tips

After the long winter, your trees and shrubs are enjoying the warm air and sunshine. A good time to do some tree maintenance is when snow is melting.

- Prune dead branches
- Check for pests
- Remove lights and ornaments
- Remove salty snow
- Refresh mulch
- Fertilize
- Water



Elm pruning ban begins April 1

To reduce the risk of [Dutch Elm Disease](#) (DED), pruning of elm trees is prohibited throughout Alberta each year from April 1 until Sept. 30. DED is fungal disease spread by bark beetles that affects elm trees. The best way to prevent DED is to keep your trees healthy.

If you have concerns about a tree, you can book a Tree Doctor appointment through Pulse. A Municipal arborist will inspect your tree and make recommendations for tree health.

Find more tips on tree care and advice for a healthy landscape at rmwb.ca/trees

For further information or questions, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663, or online at rmwb.ca/pulse

River BREAKUP

Watch out for thin ice – it's river breakup season!

As temperatures continue getting warmer, please avoid travelling on-ice or near riverbanks.

River forecasts and updates on ice conditions are available at Alberta Environment and Parks' website and the AB Rivers mobile phone app. For more information visit, rivers.alberta.ca

Prepare for river breakup

During the spring months, there is an increased risk of flooding when ice on the Athabasca, Clearwater and Christina rivers begins to melt and break apart. It is important to prepare for river breakup and stay safe by:

- Downloading the Alertable app to receive [municipal emergency alerts](#)
- Signing up for [Alberta Emergency Alerts](#) by downloading the app
- Taking [proactive measures to prepare households](#) close to a river
- Reviewing [community emergency plans](#) and having a [household emergency plan](#)
- Having a [72-hour emergency kit ready](#)

Temporary flood mitigation in place by April 1

While permanent flood mitigation projects are ongoing, temporary flood protection measures are being installed for river breakup season. All temporary measures are scheduled to be in place by April 1.

Select roads and areas are being closed during river breakup season. For everyone's safety, please follow all posted signage, keep a safe distance from equipment and do not enter closed areas.

Find everything you need to know about river breakup at rmwb.ca/riverbreakup

780-743-7000 ~ 1-800-973-9663 ~ rmwb.ca/riverbreakup



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



ALERTABLE

Get local emergency alerts right to your phone

Download Now!

Download on the App Store | works with the Google Assistant | GET IT ON Google Play | GET IT ON amazon alexa

How it works

Alertable is a third party platform that allows the Municipality to send local emergency alerts right to your phone through the Alertable app.

How to download

Download the free Alertable app for iOS and Android smartphones, Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant home devices. Then, select your location in the region. Now, you're ready to start receiving emergency notifications.

Why use Alertable

Alertable is free to download and simple to use. Notifications are fast, reliable, private and easy to hear, see and read. Alertable connects you to the local emergency information you need to know, when you need to know it.

Find more information about Alertable, and other emergency alert systems available to you, at rmwb.ca/emergencyalerts.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Community scavenger hunt winners

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games Rural Hamlet - Your Time to Shine Community Scavenger Hunts - we are blown away by your support!



Congratulations goes out to the following grand prize basket winners:

Fort Chipewyan: Pamela Paquette and family

Fort McKay: The Shott family

Saprae Creek: The Sherk family

Anzac: Jessica Vanee and family

Conklin: Tiarra Tremblay

Janvier: Isabella Fontaine

We look forward to holding more community events in your hamlets as move forward with the planning of the Arctic Winter Games.

AWG to announce winning designs for torch wrap, cultural medallion and pin

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society would like to thank everyone who submitted a design for our torch wrap and cultural medallion and pin artist call outs. Stay tuned to our social media as we will be announcing the winners in April.

As the Games take place on Treaty 8 Territory, ancestral and traditional land of the Cree, Dene and Métis peoples, it is important to the Host Society to honour and showcase our Indigenous heritage and the culture we proudly have in our region and we look forward to sharing the winning designs with you that reflect this.

Don't miss out! AWG 2022 merchandise 50% off



As announced in March, there has been a planned postponement of the Wood Buffalo 2022 Arctic Winter Games and we are pending a new date. This means we are having a MASSIVE merchandise blowout sale.

All limited edition 2022 adult and youth apparel and accessories are now 50% off! Residents in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay and Anzac can use our Rural Delivery Program by shopping online at awg2022.org and have their items delivered to them by a local volunteer free of charge.

The sale runs until all items are sold.



For any questions, please contact Pulse!



Residents in rural communities can contact the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 24/7 by contacting Pulse via the following:

- 780-743-7000
- 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free)
- www.rmwb.ca/pulse

MACOY presents free virtual workshops for youth that explore the arts and focus on mental health

Local youth from age six to 17 are invited to participate in **free** virtual workshops that explore the arts and focus on mental health. Presented by the Arts and Culture committee of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY), the Unity Within Our Community Youth Art Workshops series will be held virtually on Apr. 24 and 25 with **registration closing on Apr. 17**.

Workshops available

The Unity Within Our Community workshop series includes the following workshops:

- Bollywood Dance Fun
- Graphite Pencil Art
- Wood Buffalo Regional Library Craft
- Movement for Mental Health
- Nature Art

Registration and materials required

To register, please visit MACOY's [website](#) and fill out the registration form.

For more information about Unity Within Our Community workshops, please visit rmwb.ca/MACOY.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
COMMUNITY CONTACTS:		SOCIAL MEDIA:	
RCMP	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION  @RMWOODBUFFALO  @RMWOODBUFFALO	
FISH & WILDLIFE	780-743-7200		
HEALTH LINK	811		
ALL EMERGENCIES	911		

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca

Deadline for May newsletter submissions:

April 22, 2021

APRIL 2021

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Good Friday 	3
4	5 Easter Monday	6	7	8	9 	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 	17
18	19	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 	