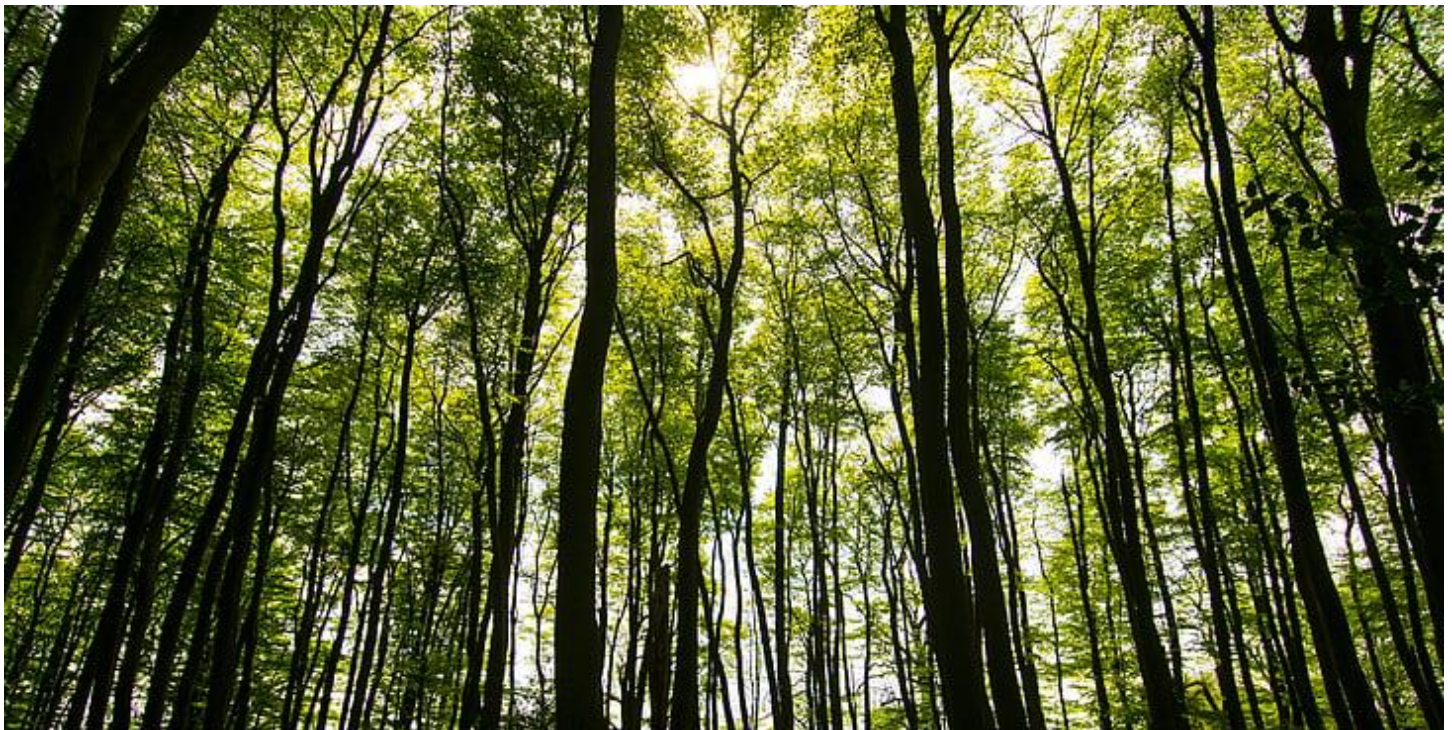


# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



# August 2021

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](https://rmwb.ca/COVID19).

### Alberta's Vaccine Program

Alberta's Vaccine Program is well underway. Currently, any Albertan **12 years of age or older** is eligible to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are now being offered in stages. As of June 21, 2021, Albertans who received their first vaccine in March, April or May are now eligible to book their second dose appointments.

Anyone who is eligible is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. All approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, help prevent serious illness and save lives.

To learn more about the vaccine program or to book your appointment, visit [alberta.ca/vaccine](https://alberta.ca/vaccine) or call 811.

### Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

Alberta enters Stage 3 of the Province's [Open for Summer Plan](https://openforsummer.ca) on July 1, 2021.

The plan aims to ease COVID-19 restrictions in three stages as vaccination targets are reached and hospitalizations decline.

Stage 3, the final stage in the plan, will see the easing of most province-wide restrictions. For more information, visit [alberta.ca/openforsummer](https://alberta.ca/openforsummer).



## Municipal Face Covering Bylaw no longer in effect

On June 22, 2021, Council voted to repeal the Municipal Face Covering [Bylaw \(No. 20/024\)](#), meaning this bylaw is no longer in effect. However, **masks are still required on public transit** and in taxis or rideshare cars.

## Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

As of July 1, 2021, the province is in Stage 3 of the Government of Alberta's [Open for Summer Plan](#) and most COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines have now been eased. This includes the general indoor provincial mask mandate. However, masking is still required in specific settings, as determined by the Government of Alberta. This includes acute and continuing care settings, as well as on public transit and in taxis or rideshare cars.

For more information about Alberta's Open for Summer Plan at [alberta.ca/openforsummer](https://alberta.ca/openforsummer).

## Visiting other communities

While the RMWB Face Covering Bylaw is no longer in effect and the province-wide mask mandate eased, there may be First Nations and some municipalities in Alberta and Canada that have additional masking protocols in place. Should you travel to another community, please plan ahead and review each area's COVID-19 mandates.

For more information, visit [rmwb.ca/facecovering](https://rmwb.ca/facecovering) or call Pulse.

## Engineering/Construction Updates:

### Rural Water and Sewer Servicing (RWSS)

#### Saprae Contract 1

Water and sanitary system are 100% complete. Second lift of asphalt laying on Weiss drive and Sol park drive is completed. Ditch work, asphalt on roads, landscaping and driveway repairs are in progress. Remaining work including ditch work, landscaping and deficiencies are to be completed by end of October.

#### The Parks team have been working toward playground improvements, including:

- Dead trees removed and live trees were re-mulched
- Herbicide treatment
- Updated turf (cleaning shale)
- Saprae Creek sign will be refurbished, along with the and post and rail in playground area
- Floral displays

#### Saprae 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 Saprae 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).
- Saprae Creek Trail line painting is scheduled for early June and mid-September.

#### Construction Work Hours

The Municipality would like to remind all residents that construction season has started. As per Bylaw No. 21/010, Part 4, regarding noise control, construction is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday or a statutory holiday. If you experience any noise discomfort outside of these hours, please contact PULSE at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.



## Grants available for community organizations, athletes and performers

Local non-profit organizations, athletes, performers, coaches, instructors and artists are encouraged to apply for the Municipal grants currently available through the Community Investment Program (CIP). All applications are now being accepted **online** through the [CIP Grant Portal](#).

The **deadline** to apply for the Community Impact Grant and the Games Legacy Grant is September 7, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. MST.



### CIP Grant Portal

Starting in 2021, all CIP grant applications are being accepted through the CIP Grant Portal. The online portal will make the application and reporting process easier, faster and more efficient. CIP staff will be available to assist organizations with online application submissions.

- **Are you a new applicant?** If you haven't applied for a CIP grant in the last five years, you must [register](#) to get started.
- **Are you a returning applicant?** If you, or your organization, have applied for a CIP grant within the last five years, you are pre-registered. Please reach out to [CIP@rmwb.ca](mailto:CIP@rmwb.ca) for login details.

### One-on-one support

Staff are available to help navigate the CIP Grant Portal, application process and answer any questions you may have. One-on-one support is available to applicants through virtual meetings or over the phone. For more information on how to book your one-on-one meeting, contact [PULSE](#).

Applications are being accepted for the following grants:

**Community Impact Grant** – Provides funding through three grant streams to local non-profit organizations to support community needs and contribute to the priorities identified in the 2018-2021 Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Strategic Plan.

**Games Legacy Grant** – Provides funding to athletes, performers, artists, teams, coaches or instructors in Wood Buffalo.

More information about the grants offered by the Community Investment Program, including guidelines and application forms, is available at [rmwb.ca/CIP](http://rmwb.ca/CIP).

For any questions or concerns, please contact PULSE at 780-743-7000, toll-free at 1-800-973-9663 or online at [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse).

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 [rwmb.ca/elections](http://rwmb.ca/elections)

Want to be a candidate in the  
2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB **2021**  
Elections

## Nominate your neighbours or local businesses for beautifying our region

Participants in the program can win great prizes!



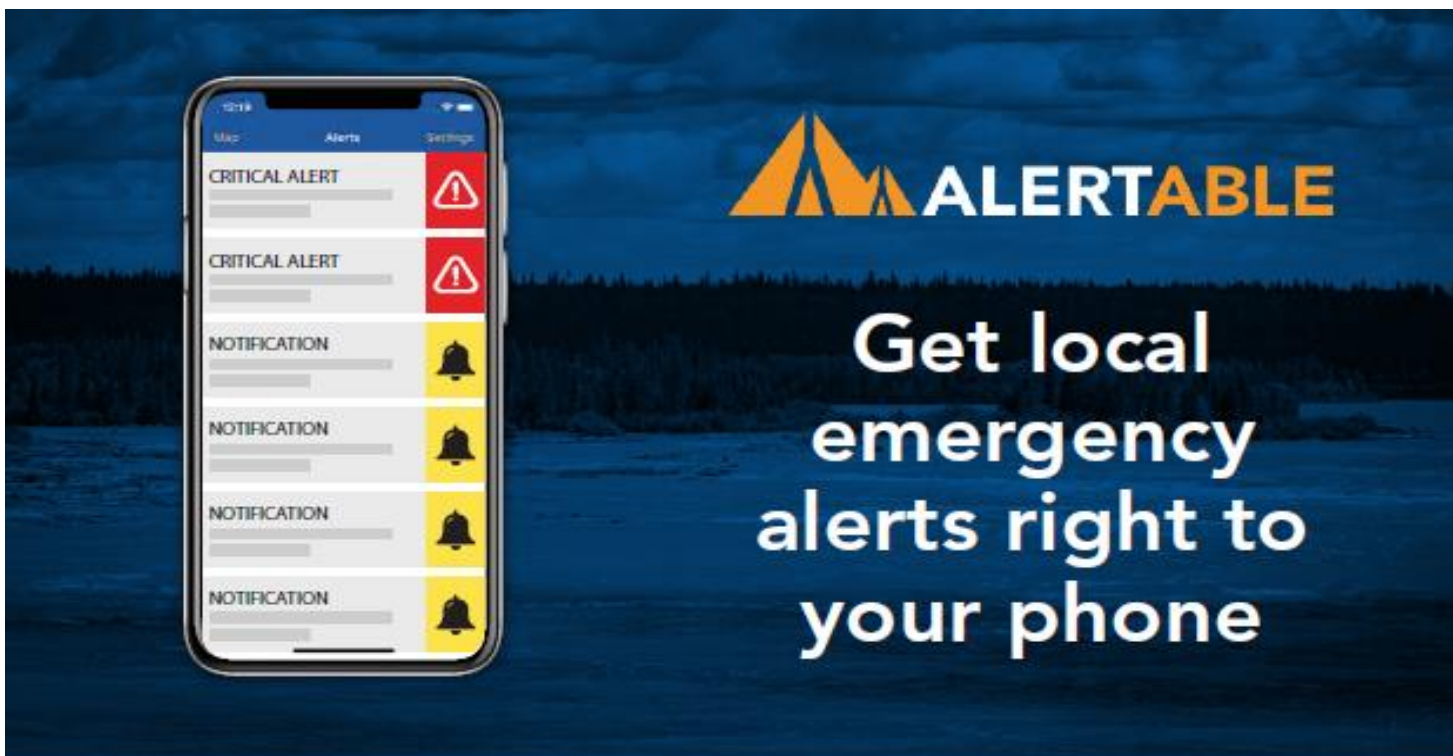
Wood Buffalo Communities in Bloom (CIB) committee invites you to recognize your neighbours or local businesses for their outstanding efforts in front yard or store front beautification through the Nominate Your Neighbour program. This year, participants in the program will be entered into a random draw to win the “Best Garden Selection” prize package from Scott's Canada or a Communities in Bloom prize package.

### Win a prize!

By random selection, 12 nominees of the Nominate your Neighbour program will receive the “Best Garden Selection” prize package from Scott's Canada, and 12 nominators will receive a Communities in Bloom prize package.

Residents can nominate their neighbours online by visiting [rwmb.ca/CIB](http://rwmb.ca/CIB) until Aug 31. Nominate often to increase your chances at winning!





Get local emergency alerts right to your phone

Download Now!



### 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](http://rmwb.ca/emergencyalerts).



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

## SIGN UP FOR THE **Vulnerable Persons Registry**



If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency. Stay prepared by joining the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR).

### What is the VPR?

The VPR is a free, voluntary and confidential service that improves the safety of vulnerable residents living at home. This is done by communicating directly with registrants during emergencies and by sharing key information to local first responders.

### Who is eligible?

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)

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 [rmwb.ca/VPR](http://rmwb.ca/VPR) or call Pulse.



## RMWB seeks Indigenous Artists and Curators to be part of downtown and waterfront revitalization programs

Local, provincial and national curators can apply to bring the Indigenous history and identity to revitalization efforts

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is seeking an Indigenous Curator to play a critical role in bringing Indigenous identity and history to revitalization efforts within downtown Fort McMurray and its waterfront. Local, provincial and national curators are encouraged to apply before **August 8**, with preference given to a curator with a connection to Indigenous culture in the region, or who has previous experience with local Indigenous initiatives and projects in Wood Buffalo.

The curator will develop and execute strategies for sharing the history and connection that Indigenous Peoples have to this land through the inclusion of public art in waterfront and downtown revitalization design plans. This position will work in collaboration with Municipal staff, the Interdepartmental Working Group, the contracted design firms for waterfront / downtown revitalization, and multiple First Nation and Métis partners and organizations in the region.



### Key information

- Budget: a total budget of \$30,000 will be awarded for the term of this project
- Source of funds: project is funded by the Public Art Reserve Fund as per section 3.1.1 *Percent for public art allocations and municipal funding strategy* of the [Municipal Public Art Policy PRL-160](#)
- Term: August 2021 – March 2022 with the opportunity for additional terms
- **Deadline for submission: Sunday, August 8, 2021**

To learn more, please visit [rmwb.ca/callforcurator](https://rmwb.ca/callforcurator).

For further information or questions, contact PULSE at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or visit [rmwb.ca/pulse](https://rmwb.ca/pulse).

## Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth recruiting new members for 2021-2022 term



Local students in grade 7 to 12 are encouraged to apply for the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY) for the 2021/2022 school year. Students on MACOY have a voice in the decisions that affect youth in Wood Buffalo by advising Municipal Council on services, programs and issues.

"Youth in our region are bright, energetic, and bring an important perspective to the issues and opportunities we face as a community," said Mayor Don Scott. "MACOY continues to play a vital role advocating for social change and addressing mental health needs for youth, while providing input on downtown revitalization, the Municipal Development Plan and other projects. I encourage all youth looking to make a difference in our region to apply and join MACOY."

### **Apply online until August 16**

Applications are being accepted online until August 16. Returning MACOY members in grade nine or higher, may apply for the General Assembly, while new applicants may apply to join one-of-five committees.

### **MACOY Committees**

There are five different committees within MACOY, and all have specific mandates. They include Social Equity, Engagement and Outreach, Art and Culture, Regional Planning and Health and Wellness.

MACOY members meet once a month and participate in numerous events throughout the school year.

To learn more and apply, visit [rmwb.ca/MACOY](https://rmwb.ca/MACOY).

## Join the 6 Week Reconciliation Challenge!

Beginning August 19, we'll be inviting all residents to join us in a **6 Week Reconciliation Challenge** as we move towards *The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation* on September 30, 2021.



With ongoing confirmations of terrible wrongs etched into the Indigenous experience, many Canadians have asked how they can help advance reconciliation.

An important step is to actively participate in learning. As such, activities will be offered every week to create better awareness of local Indigenous culture and history, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, Principles of Reconciliation and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

In the coming days, more information will be provided through the RMWB Facebook and Twitter accounts on how to take part or visit [rmwb.ca/TRC](http://rmwb.ca/TRC) for more.

**Residents who complete the 6 Week Reconciliation Challenge will be provided a certificate as well as a gift package.**

Every journey begins with the first few steps – please join us in this journey of learning.



## Sign up for a free water sample of your home until August 20!



You can now request a free water sample of your home through the Residential Water Sampling Program. Residents who live in the region and are connected to the Municipal service line are eligible for the program.

Through the program, samples are taken from the tap in your home by a trained water sampling technician and tested for the presence of lead in your home's private waterworks system.

The Municipality regularly tests for lead and other substances in the region's water distribution system, and results have consistently shown that lead concentration is well below the limit established by federal and provincial legislation. However, testing at the customer's tap provides further opportunity to ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality of drinking water in our region.

### Eligibility:

To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Live in the region
- Live in a home that is connected to a municipal service line
- Be home during the time of sample collection
- Submit the water sample [request form](#) at [rmwb.ca/watersampling](http://rmwb.ca/watersampling) by August 20, 2021

To learn more about the program, visit [rmwb.ca/watersampling](http://rmwb.ca/watersampling) or contact Pulse.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

THE WOOD BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION'S

# COMMUNITY ODOUR MONITORING PROGRAM

SMELL SOMETHING?

## TELL US

WHEN YOU SMELL AN ODOUR, SUBMIT AN OBSERVATION IN THE APP

## THE COMP APP

COMP.WBEA.ORG

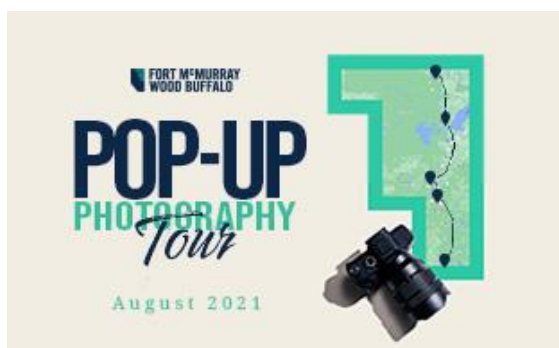
To better understand the odours in our region, the Wood Buffalo Environmental Association (WBEA) is asking community members to check out our COMP app and share information about the odours you are experiencing.

The WBEA launched the Community Odour Monitoring Program (COMP) and the COMP App so people could anonymously submit odour observations and track odour events in the RMWB. The collected information is then compared to the ambient air quality parameters measured at the WBEA's air monitoring stations to determine if there is a relationship between regional odours and air quality. Submitted observations can be found at [comp.wbea.org](http://comp.wbea.org), and findings are reported to the public in an annual report. The 2019 COMP Annual Report can be found [here](#).

Please share your odour observations on the COMP app (available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices) and help us better understand the odours in our region!

## Join Us for a Region-Wide Pop-Up Photography Tour!

**SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES: August 16, 2021, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
at the community park/firehall**



What about your life connects you to the region? Whether it's fishing at your favourite local lake, spending time as a family at the community park, or exploring the land in your hiking shoes, we invite you to participate in a region-wide *Pop-Up Photography Tour* this August.

Public Art Wood Buffalo is partnering with Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism (FMWBEDT) to capture the everyday life of those who call this region home through photography and videography. The photos and videos captured will become a part of the Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo place brand and will be used on a larger scale to promote the region. A selection of the gathered images will also be used to create a dynamic mural at Kiyām Community Park.

Well-known and respected artists Crystal Mercredi and Lucas Seaward will tour from Fort Fitzgerald to Conklin throughout August to capture the unique landscapes, peoples and cultures in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. Join the fun by registering to be a part of a photography pop-up or everyday life video and you could be part of a national campaign! Learn more by visiting [rmwb.ca/PublicArtPhotoTour](http://rmwb.ca/PublicArtPhotoTour).

### **Mentorship Opportunity:**

Are you a photographer or videographer who would like to learn from the pros? Join Crystal and Lucas with your personal equipment while they're in your community by submitting your interest at [participate.rmwb.ca/PopUpPhotoTour](http://participate.rmwb.ca/PopUpPhotoTour).

Learn more about the Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo place brand at [WeAreFMWB.ca](http://WeAreFMWB.ca).

FORT McMURRAY  
WOOD BUFFALO  
**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
& TOURISM**







# Fort McMurray Forest Area Outlook

## When lightning strikes

55 lightning wildfire starts between July 2 & 16 in the Fort McMurray Forest Area



### Did you know?

Lightning is around 27,000 degrees Celsius. That is six times hotter than the surface of the sun.

Wildland firefighters had a very challenging July in the Fort McMurray Forest Area. When weather conditions generate tens of thousands of lightning strikes in a short time, causing multiple fire starts, we refer to it as a 'fire flap.' In very high or extreme wildfire conditions lightning can ignite a single tree that can quickly spread from tree to tree. This can evolve into a crown fire. These fires run along the top of the trees, have the potential to move quickly, and can be very difficult to manage.

Additional resources were called in to assist with managing these wildfire starts including wildland firefighters, aircraft and heavy equipment. A big 'shout out' to them for managing many starts.

### Wildfire smoke

Special air quality statements were issued as smoke from wildfires in western Canada continued to plague residents in Alberta. To find out where the smoke is coming from visit [firesmoke.ca](http://firesmoke.ca). Individuals may experience symptoms such as increased coughing, throat irritation, headaches or

shortness of breath. Children, seniors, and those with cardiovascular lung disease, such as asthma, are especially at risk.

For more details, [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/wildfire-smoke.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-quality-health-index/wildfire-smoke.html).

For more information please visit Alberta Health Services at [www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/air.aspx](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/air.aspx).

### From the Front Line

*Incident Commander Marc Freedman (from the Edson Forest Area) managed the Muskeg Complex during the Fort McMurray Forest Area lightning event.*



"At one time there were 13 wildfires going in the complex and at the peak we had 187 wildland firefighters managing the fires. We prioritize the deployment of aircraft, crews and heavy equipment based on the following priorities: human life, communities; and values at risk."

For more info, see Alberta Wildfire [wildfire.alberta.ca](http://wildfire.alberta.ca)



An aerial photograph of a forest with a wildfire burning in the center, sending a large plume of white smoke into the sky. The surrounding forest is green, and the ground is brown and charred.

  
**TAKE THE  
PLEDGE TO  
REDUCE  
WILDFIRES**

Protect our forests,  
take the wildfire pledge,  
win a helicopter tour

Commit to reducing human-  
caused wildfires today



*Alberta*

A group of five people, including children and adults, are sitting around a campfire at night. They are wearing warm clothing and appear to be enjoying the fire. The scene is illuminated by the warm glow of the fire.

**Soak it. Stir it.  
Soak it again.**

*Alberta*





## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

[koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca](mailto:koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for September newsletter submissions:

August 25, 2021

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](http://www.rmwb.ca/pulse)



**780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663**  
[rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse)

Call. Submit online.  
 Real answers every time, all the time.





# AUGUST 2021

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>Heritage Day Office Closed</b>	3	4	5	6 	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 	21
22	23	24	25 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	26	27 	28
29	30	31				