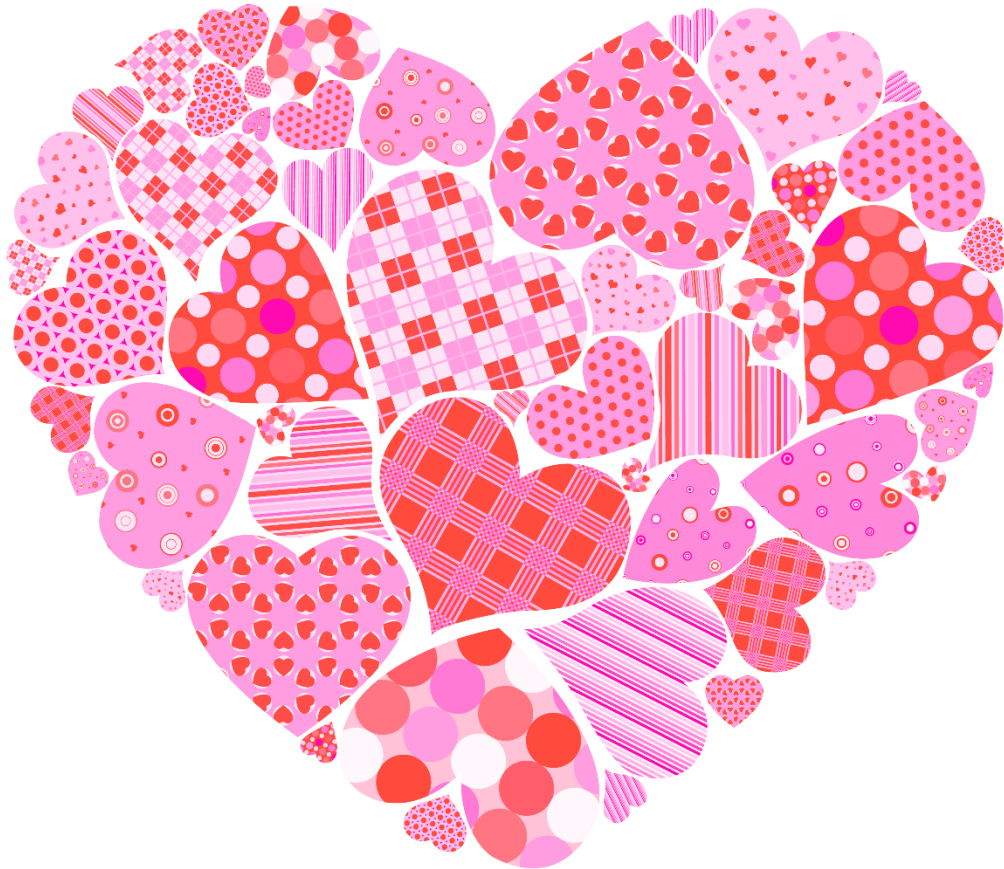


SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



February 2022

Covid-19

Stay Informed

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 provincial updates, please visit alberta.ca/COVID19.

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

Vaccine Program

The Government of Alberta's Vaccine Program continues to be well underway.

Everyone 5+ can now get vaccinated. Children 5 to 11 must book online or by calling 811 as walk-ins are not available at this time.

For Albertans 18+, [third doses](#) are now available to 5 months after their second dose.

Albertans 18+ are now eligible for a [third dose](#) if it has been 5 months since their second dose.

COVID-19 vaccines help prevent you from getting infected and protect you from getting severely sick if you do get it. All vaccines are safe, effective and save lives.

To learn more, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Rural Water and Sewer Service

Service connections for Sapræe Creek are ready for hook up since September 2020. To find out if a service connection is available in your area, please visit rmwb.ca/rwss.

RWWS Application Committee has a weekly time slot every Wednesday from 1:30-2:30 pm. Residents and contractors can book time for a one-on-one virtual meeting with the application committee by contacting Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free 1-800-973-9663 or pulse@rmwb.ca.

It is important to note that the funding period for the RWSS project is available for five years from the date when the service connection was made available in your hamlet. Residents have the opportunity to choose from a lump sum payment or in installments. There are around 150 installments – of approximately \$66 every two months. For more information, please visit rmwb.ca/rwss or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free 1-800-973-9663 or pulse@rmwb.ca.

L Robert Industrial Park Lift Station, Forcemain and A Frame Road Upgrades

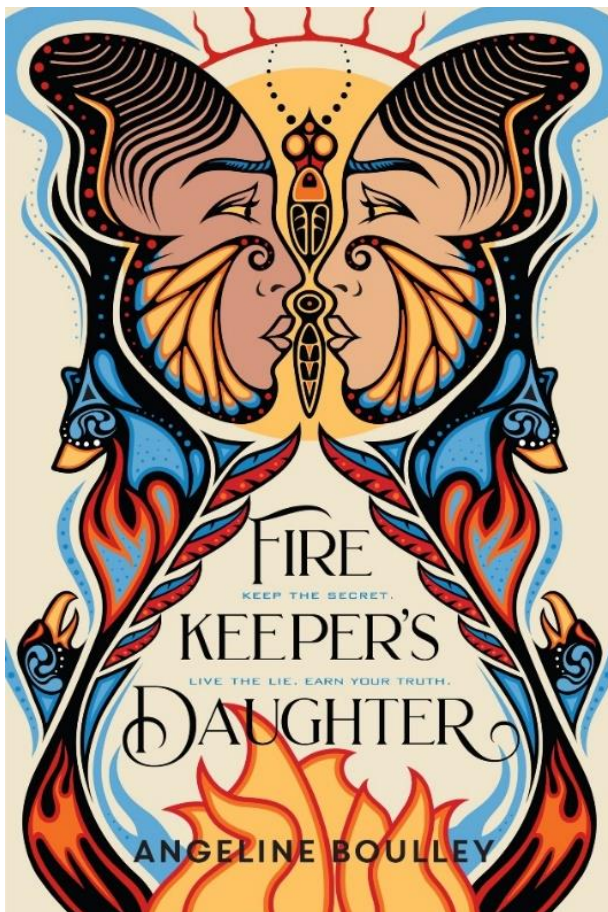
Gravel Road has been completed. Excavation for the lift station is 90% complete. A third of the pipe required has been laid for the forcemain. Next steps include foundation work for the Lift Station and resume laying sanitary forcemain piping in February. Road work should resume in June/July. Estimated completion date is June 30, 2023.



The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) and the Wood Buffalo Regional Library (WBRL) welcome you to the It's Time to Read book club. This virtual book club will feature the works and voices of Indigenous authors to increase understanding and awareness of Indigenous culture, history, and current issues. Help us build bridges through books and advance reconciliation in the region.



Settle in with a blanket, a cup of tea and participate in It's Time to Read from the comfort of your own home! The book club is entirely virtual. Check back regularly for discussion, polls and other exclusive content. Subscribe to ensure you don't miss any of the action. All are welcome to join; however, it is important to note books may contain adult content, including but not limited to adult language and themes, and violence.



Join us as we read our first book in January 2022: *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley. Copies will be available to borrow from the bookshelf. The first 20 subscribers will receive a free copy of *Firekeeper's Daughter*. Giveaway is only open to Wood Buffalo residents.

A message from Emergency Management: Blizzards

Individuals and families should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours. The following steps will assist you in building your preparedness plan.

If you live in a rural area, be prepared to be without services like water, power or heat for up to 72 hours - have a well stocked emergency kit prepared.

check the weather forecast and gather items from any other buildings you might have to go to, to avoid leaving the house during the storm.

Know the risks and make a plan

Knowing the risks and hazards can help you and your loved ones prepare for the unexpected. Making a plan will help you cope with the stress of an emergency or disaster.

Build a kit

By taking a few simple steps you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies. Be sure your kit includes a battery-powered/crank radio, flashlight or weather radio in case of a power outage.

Vehicle safety and traveling consideration

Have a safety plan - advise people when you are leaving, destination and check in time frame.

Check road conditions before you start your journey. Use the [AMA Road Report](#) The [online 511 service](#) or call 511.

If you find yourself stuck in a vehicle during a severe storm, remain calm! Stay inside the vehicle, run the engine every once in a while, and be aware of fumes. Ensure the exhaust pipe is not blocked, and continually allow fresh air in.

For more information on winter safety and emergency planning check out the [AEMA website](#) and the [RMWB site](#)



2022 – 2023 Wood Buffalo RCMP Policing Priorities

2022 - 2023

POLICING PRIORITIES SURVEY

Jan. 17 - Feb. 14

rmwb.ca/RCMP



2022 – 2023 Wood Buffalo RCMP Policing Priorities

Have your say about policing priorities for 2022 – 2023 before the survey closes Feb. 14! Each year, Wood Buffalo RCMP establish policing priorities to ensure that — in addition to responding to calls for services — officers focus on the policing issues identified as important by community members.

The RMWB has partnered with the RCMP to conduct this brief survey to make sure policing priorities align with issues identified by residents as important. These priorities are determined based on the feedback the RCMP receives from the municipalities and communities they serve. Information collected from this survey will be reviewed and considered by RCMP, the RMWB council and policing committees in the region.

How to Submit the Annual Policing Priorities Survey

The survey will be live Jan. 17 – Feb. 14 and will be available online and in print at various locations. Visit rmwb.ca/rcmp to learn more. Contact PULSE at 780-743-7000 to find print copies or receive support submitting your response by phone. Please mail or drop off completed hard copy surveys to Wood Buffalo RCMP at 105 Paquette Drive Fort McMurray, AB T9K 0P5.

Are you considering post-secondary education? Join the MACOY Virtual University Speaker Series to gain valuable insight

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth (MACOY) is inviting **local high school students** to register for the **MACOY Virtual University Speaker Series** and join current university students from across the country as they discuss different areas of post-secondary studies, the application process, life on campus and more.

The MACOY Virtual University Speaker Series will host **monthly weekend sessions** on the following dates:

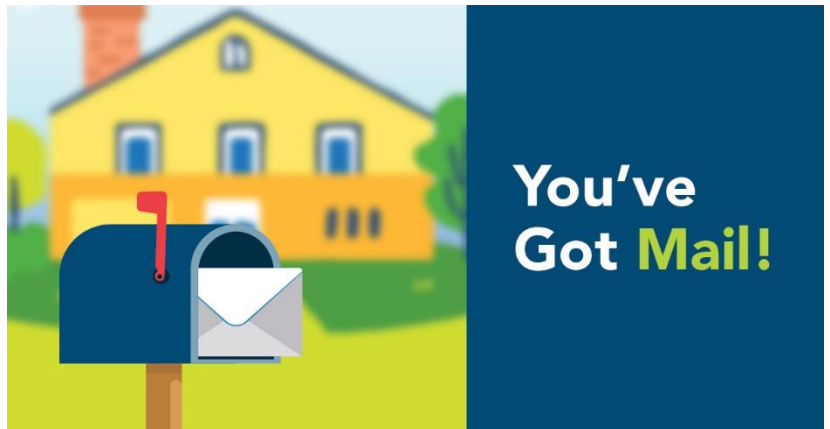
- Feb. 12 and 13
 - **Theme:** Law and Business
 - **Registration deadline:** Feb. 11 at 12 p.m.
- March 12 and 13
 - **Theme:** Education and Humanities
 - **Registration deadline:** March 11 at 10 p.m.

All sessions will be held **via Microsoft Teams** and will take place from **2 – 4 p.m.** To register, visit rmwb.ca/MACOY.

Check the mail! – 2022 Property Assessments are on the way

Make sure to check the mail for your 2022 property assessment notice.

- 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.



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, 2021, including any physical changes up to December 31, 2021.

Tax rates are not disputable, so it is important to ensure that your assessed value is accurate before the 4:30 p.m. deadline on **April 12, 2022**.

BYLAW BRIEFS

Driveway snow removal reminder

Snow removal is an inevitable part of winter in our region. The proper cleaning and clearing of snow ensure public safety on roadways, sidewalks, and driveways. Collaborative efforts from the Municipality and residents make proper snow removal possible.

Bylaw Services would like to remind residents to remove snow or ice on sidewalks adjacent to their property within 48 hours after a snowfall and that the snow should not be placed on a Highway, Public Place or private property that is not their own.

Bylaw Services thanks residents for their compliance as this ensures a safe Wood Buffalo. For any questions regarding snow removal visit rmwb.ca/snow or contact PULSE at 780-743-7000. For more information, please review the [Community Standards Bylaw No. 21/010](#).





Help Build Our Community

rmwb.ca/boards

BOARDS AND
COMMITTEES

Public, Industry, Indigenous and Rural representatives needed for RMWB boards and committees

The Municipality is accepting applications for volunteers with knowledge and experience in specific sectors to serve on four Council-appointed advisory committees and boards.

Residents who meet the application requirements and who are looking to get involved and take part in decisions affecting their community are encouraged to apply. The Municipality is recruiting for specific positions on the following committees:

- **The Advisory Committee on Aging:** (two positions) Indigenous Representative, Public At Large – Rural Representative
- **Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee:** (two positions) Health and Wellness Sector Representative, Oil and Gas Sector - Public At Large Representative
- **Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee:** (one position) Indigenous Representative
- **Wood Buffalo Housing Development Corporation Board:** (two positions) Public at Large Representative

Applications will be accepted until February 14, 2022. To learn more or to apply online, visit rmwb.ca/boards

WHERE DO WE GO WITH TRANSIT?



We are back!

In case you missed it, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is working on a new Transit Master Plan.

Last year we heard where you think we should go with transit in the rural areas. We have taken what we heard and drafted the Transit Master Plan.

Now is the time to let us know what you think of the recommended changes to transit in RMWB.

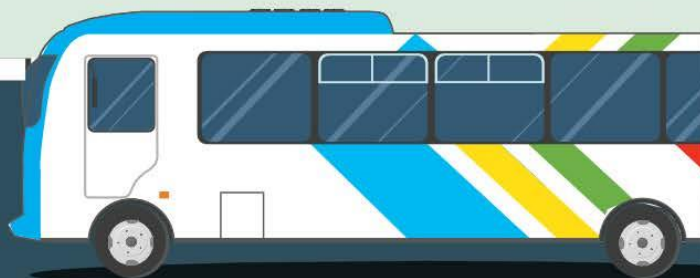
Visit us on rmwb.ca/transit-masterplan to leave an idea, ask questions, or comment on the locations tab.

A new transit survey will be open on February 14-28, 2022, with questions specific to the rural areas.

Please let us know where you think we should go with transit!



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO





The **Municipal Development Plan (MDP)** is available for **viewing**. Over **the last year on-going engagement has occurred** gaining understanding of the vision, direction, and priorities for the region. Feedback provided was thoughtfully collected and considered when creating the draft MDP. Be a part of our region's future and **provide your final feedback**.

How to get involved?

- **Online survey** available on rmwb.ca/mdp;
- **Phone survey** through PULSE 780-743-7000; and
- **Rural virtual open house: February 23 6:00pm-7:30pm**, pre-register is encouraged on rmwb.ca/mdp.

Deadline to provide feedback is March 13, 2022.

What is an MDP?

The MDP is a plan on how we will evolve, thrive, and expand as a region for the **next 20 years**. The previous MDP from 2011 was created when the social, cultural, economic environment were very different.

The MDP will define where we're going. **Your voice on the proposed plan is vital**. To learn more about the MDP visit rmwb.ca/mdp.



Public Art Bench Program
Community Engagement Coming Soon

**Anzac
Saprae Creek Estates**

Take part in the conversation that will inspire a local artist to create a front-row seat to the character of your community.

Curious? Contact us at participate@rmwb.ca



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



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 or call Pulse.



We want your original poetry for our 2022 Words in Motion Poetry Booklet! The deadline to submit is January 31, 2022. Visit <https://bit.ly/WIM2022> for all the details. All ages are welcome to enter.

Need to get your free library card or help with placing a hold? Give Miki a shout at miki.mcnaughton@wbrl.ca.

Don't forget – we're more than books! Check out video games, music and more! Browse the catalogue at wbrl.ca.





Rural Municipalities of Alberta
 2510 Sparrow Drive
 Nisku, Alberta T9E 8N5

January 4, 2022

RMA CAOs

RE: Call to Action – Expanding reach & impact of RMA’s Internet Speed Testing project

Dear CAO,

I am writing with a “Call to Action” to share resources with and ask your municipality to help RMA get more rural data for our internet speed testing project. As you are well aware, access to highspeed internet is a necessity for economic development, attracting and retaining families in rural areas, and facilitating quality of life. We know that internet speeds in rural Alberta are lagging behind our urban neighbours. However, there is a gap in information available to decision makers related to just how poor internet speeds are in many rural areas.

To address this gap, RMA has partnered with the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) to conduct a multi-year rural internet speed testing project. This project allows rural residents to directly participate in our advocacy by arming us with the information about rural internet speeds to tell the story of connectivity in rural Alberta.

To help us increase our testing numbers, which ultimately increases the strength of our data, I am providing you with some information to share with residents. I ask that you please use this to start conversations about our project and share the opportunity to participate with your residents. Enclosed in this package is:

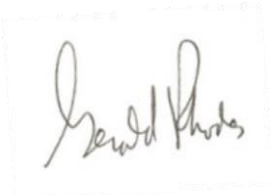
- A poster that can be displayed in a public space. Feel free to make copies, or contact RMA and we will send you a digital file that can be used to print extras.
- Several post cards and brochures explaining the program. Feel free to share these with residents.

Digital versions of each resource will also be shared by email with you and your mayor/reeve to encourage your staff and council to spread the word on the project as well through social media and other channels. If you would be interested in information on how to further promote the project through your municipality’s social media channels, we are happy to assist.

Lastly, and most importantly, we ask that you promote this internet testing project to your citizens via your regular municipal communications done via your local newspapers or municipal newsletter. We will be forwarding by email as well files that your communications staff can easily use for advertisements in these communications.

In closing, I thank you for your assistance in sharing information about our internet speed testing project with your residents. If you have any specific questions about the project, please contact Warren Noga, Policy Advisor (warren@rmalberta.com).

Sincerely,



Gerald Rhodes Executive Director
gerald@RMAlberta.com
780.955.4076

RESOURCEFUL. RESPONSIVE. RESILIENT.



Let's get rural Alberta online with high-speed internet!

Learn more about how you can help and run an internet speed test by visiting:

RMAlberta.com/speed-test





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 March newsletter submissions:

February 24th, 2022

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)



780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663
rmwb.ca/pulse

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



COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14 <i>happy Valentine's day</i>	15	16	17	18 	19
20	21 Municipal Offices Closed Family Day!	22	23	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 	26
27	28					