

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



February 2023

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Project Name:

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

Current Status

- **Lift Station:** Upcoming work includes fixing the interior wall elevation, metal deck (Q-Deck) on mezzanine, installing air exchange units, and completing masonry wall and roof.
- **Forcemain:** Work is substantially complete pending full Substantial Completion Certificate (SCC).
- **A-Frame Road:** Work is substantially complete pending full SCC. Some seasonal deficiencies will be completed in 2023.

Progress Since Previous Update

- **Lift station:** Lower floor benching and stripping of channels, exterior grading, 60% complete installation of site gravels, etc.
- **Forcemain:** Marker ball installation complete.
- **A-Frame Road:** Remediation work on ditch is complete for the year. Will resume in 2023.

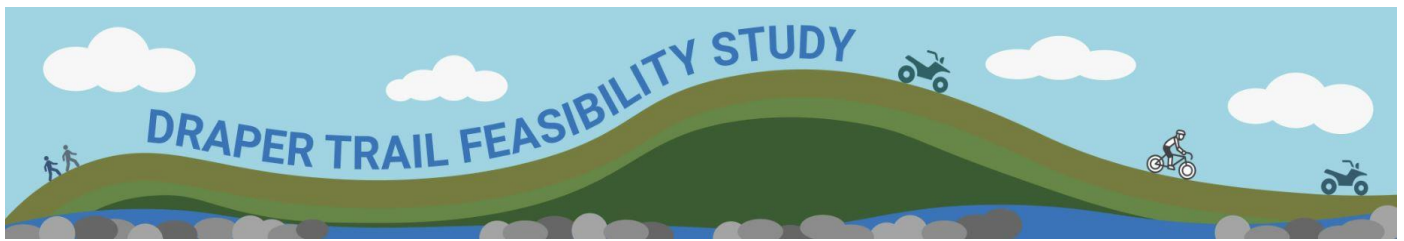
Next Steps

- Fully execute SCC for Forcemain and A-Frame Road
- Complete the following on the Lift Station: Fix interior wall elevation, Q-Deck on mezzanine, Install air exchange units, mezzanine and bathroom walls, support beam structures.

Expected Project Completion Date

September 30, 2023

For more information, please visit rmwb.ca/construction and subscribe for email updates directly to your inbox.



Draper Trail Feasibility Study

Engagement Opportunity – February 6

Join a virtual engagement session on February 6 to learn about the project and what we heard from you throughout the first phase of public engagement.

- **When:** Monday, February 6, 2023
- **Time:** 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Virtual – Microsoft Teams

RSVP By February 3

If you'd like to attend this virtual engagement, please **RSVP** to info@edsgroup.ca by Friday, February 3. Or visit rmwb.ca/participate to get a meeting link. An RSVP isn't required, but it will help us plan for the session.

Engagement Recap

On December 5, 2022, we hosted a virtual engagement session. Watch a video of the session at rmwb.ca/participate. You also shared feedback through an online survey, quick poll, mapping tool and ideas forum.

Important Considerations

This project is for a feasibility study only. Which means, this study will examine what uses residents would like to see and if this project is possible. Timelines for potential improvements to the trail are not known at this time.

Learn more and RSVP at rmwb.ca/participate, or scan code:

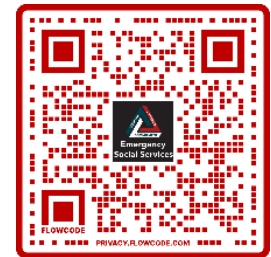


Emergency Social Services (ESS)

Emergency Social Services provides support during emergencies by providing a safe place for evacuees when they are displaced. Registration centres or other evacuation sites are set up provide accommodations, as necessary, for up to 72 hours as evacuees to plan their next steps as they transition to recovery.

Registration centres may provide the following services:

- Food/water
- Shelter
- Clothing
- First Aid/emotional support
- Family reunification
- Animal care and rescue assistance



To learn more about ESS, or to join the ESS Team, visit rmwb.ca/ESS or scan the QR code:

Vulnerable Persons Registry

Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency.

The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a service that improves the safety of vulnerable residents living at home.



**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

This is done by communicating directly with registrants during emergencies and by sharing key information to first responders about individuals on the VPR. Go to rmwb.ca/VPR to find out more.

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](#).





Watch your mailbox for your 2023 Assessment Notice!

Property Assessment Notices for the 2023 Tax Year will be mailed in early February to all property owners in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

The assessment reflects the market value of your property as of July 1, 2022. Please take some time to review your Property Assessment Notice carefully.

Have questions or concerns about your property assessment?

Call 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 to speak with an assessor. Assessors are available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, to speak with property owners.

If you are still concerned with your assessment after speaking with an assessor, you can file an appeal with the Assessment Review Board. All appeals must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on April 18, 2023.

For more information visit rmwb.ca/assessments.

What happens next?

Council will set the 2023 tax rate in May. Property taxes are determined by applying the approved tax rate to the assessed value shown on your Property Assessment Notice. Property Tax Notices will be mailed in May.

Rural Water and Sewer Service: Questions about utility billing?



Once I connect to the Rural Water and Sewer System, how much will my utility bills be?

You will receive a utility bill every two months. Your bill will always contain the following charges:

Rural Water Sewer Connection fee	Depending on how you chose to finance your connection, this rate could vary. For most homes, it will be \$65. On your first utility bill after connecting, this fee will likely be \$68.25, as it is prorated.
Fixed Water fee	\$42.56
Water Consumption fee	A variable rate of \$0.88/m ³ that is based on how much water you consume and is measured from your water meter.
Fixed Sewer fee	\$21.82
Sewer Consumption fee	A variable rate of \$0.52/m ³ and is calculated using the same amount of water you consumed, but at a lower rate.
Garbage collection fee	A fixed rate of \$53.16 (includes waste disposal fees, recycling and curbside collection).

How are these charges calculated?

The above rates are based on a residential water meter that is 16 mm or 19 mm in size. There are different rates for larger water metres and higher rates for homes in Fort McMurray.

Although it's unlikely your home has a bigger water meter than 19 mm, it is possible. If your water meter is a different size, your rate can be found in the Council approved Fees, Rates and Charges bylaw (No. 21/019).

Based on an average consumption of 20 cubic metres, your estimated bi-monthly utility bill after connecting will be \$210.54. These are 2022 rates from the Council approved Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw (No. 21/019).

This bylaw is updated annually, typically in the first quarter. It's customary to see increases to utility rates as part of the bylaw updates. The rates in the approved, current bylaw are what will be reflected on your utility bill.

Why does the sewage metered rate match the water metered rate on my bill, if a significant amount of the water I’m using is for landscaping or outdoor use?

The variable sewer charge on your bi-monthly bill is based on the amount of metered water that you use, but at a discounted rate.

There is no way to meter the amount of sewer used, and this practice is in line with other municipal utility rates.

How do my rural utility charges compare to Fort McMurray utility charges?

Water and sewer rates in the rural communities are lower than in Fort McMurray.

	Water: Fixed + Variable Fee	Sewer: Fixed + Variable Fee
Urban Service Area - Residential	\$37.23 + \$0.88 /m3	\$18.17 + 0.52/m3
Rural Service Area - Residential	\$21.28 + \$0.88/m	\$10.91 + 0.52/m3

The variable fees above reflect a standard meter size of 16mm & 19mm.


Other meter sizes are reflected in the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw

How to read your utility bill

I have more questions. Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit rmwb.ca/rwss!

You can also connect with us through Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll free at 1-800-973-9663 or at rmwb.ca/pulse, and a project contact will follow up to answer your questions.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 2K4

UTILITY BILL REPRINT

DOE, JOHN ACCOUNT#
Saprae Creek BILLING PERIOD: 2022/04/30 TO: 2022/06/30
BILLING DATE: 2022/06/30 PENALTY DATE: 2022/07/29

SRV ADDR: INV #: 03081

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CODE	READING	CONSUMPTION	AMOUNT
2022/06/30	GARBAGE COLL SAPRAE C	A			53.16
2022/06/30	RURAL WATER AND SEWER	A			65.00
2022/06/30	SEWER CONSUMPTION	A	723	28	14.56
2022/06/30	FIXED CHARGE SEWER	A			21.82
2022/06/30	WATER CONSUMPTION	A	723	28	24.64
2022/06/30	FIXED CHARGE WATER	A			42.56
AMOUNT DUE					221.74

Please Note: All charges/payments shown are up to and including the 'Billing To Period' date of this invoice.

Your bill explained

- 1 Includes curbside collection, waste disposal, recycling fees
- 2 RWSS Program Connection Fee
- 3 \$0.52/m3 variable rate - based on the same water consumption, at a reduced rate
- 4 Fixed rate for sewer (\$10.91 per month) x 2 months
- 5 \$0.88 /m3 variable rate - based on water consumption on water meter
- 6 Fixed rate for water (\$21.28 per month) x 2 months

Did you know there are general standards you must follow for your water delivery or sewer haul?

Your water and sewer tanks must:

- Be properly vented with a minimum capacity of 4,500 litres.
- Have an easily accessible fill point with a 50-millimetre (2-inch) camlock no less than 0.9 metres (36 inches) and no more than 1.2 metres (48 inches) from the surface labelled **WATER**.
- Include adequate protection to prevent surface water or foreign matter from entering the tank.

Here's what to do for your scheduled water delivery or sewer haul.

- Post the date and volume of water required (in litres) in a visible place if no overfill is installed.
- Trim all low hanging branches and raise low hanging wires to provide access and prevent damage to delivery trucks.
- Provide clear access by removing vehicles and other obstacles on delivery day.
- Delivery truck must be able to drive within 15.24 metres (50 feet) from connection points.
- Ensure your water tank has a 2-inch camlock and your septic tank has a 3-inch camlock.
- Restrain dogs and other animals.
- Remove any animal waste from the area around your tank connection.

Need some help converting your water measurement into litres?

Gallons (gal)	Imperial gallons (imp gal)	Litres (L)
264	219	1,000
330	274	1,250
396	329	1,500
462	384	1,750
528	439	2,000
594	494	2,250
660	549	2,500
726	604	2,750
792	659	3,000
858	714	3,250
924	769	3,500
990	824	3,750
1,056	879	4,000
1,122	934	4,250
1,188	989	4,500
1,254	1,044	4,750
1,320	1,099	5,000

If you require any additional information, call Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.

Water and Septic Truck Delivery Notice

Please follow the requirements below to give water and septic delivery trucks the access they need to provide continuous service to you and all residents:

1) Basement water tanks or water tanks that are not visible:

All residents must have their volume posted in a visible place so the water delivery contractor can see the proper date and proper amount of water required (displayed in litres).

2) Hanging branches and wires on driveways:

All low hanging branches must be trimmed to prevent damage to trucks, and low hanging wires are to be raised to allow water delivery truck and septage removal trucks to enter your property (minimum 15 feet of clearance).

3) Provide clear access:

All vehicles/obstacles are to be removed from driveways during the delivery schedule.

4) Dogs:

All dogs are to be tied up to allow the service provider to access your property.

5) Winter conditions:

Please have snow removed from driveways and pathways to water and septic hook ups, thaw receivers and caps for hose access.

6) Maintenance of cam-lock/hoses:

The winterization and maintenance of the cam-lock fitting and hoses is the responsibility of the homeowner. All cam-locks and hoses are to be drained and water removed to prevent freezing and breakage of cam-locks.

7) Safety of septic tanks:

All septic tanks must be equipped with a “stinger” and an approved lid on the tank.

8) Driveways:

If your driveway is soft (spring thaw), it is the homeowner’s responsibility to contact the RMWB to suspend delivery or to extend a proper hose (with the required cam-lock) down the driveway to the location of delivery.

These requirements are in accordance with Bylaw No. 07/035 (Water Utilities Management Bylaw). If you require any additional information or resources, you can call the Pulse Line at 780-743-7000



Get outside and enjoy WinterPLAY Feb. 24-March 5!

WinterPLAY will offer free outdoor family-friendly activities, including fireworks, ice sculptures, horse-drawn wagon rides, hockey and ice skating for everyone to enjoy.

Watch for WinterPLAY updates including a schedule of events at rmwb.ca/winterplay
You can get involved and fundraise for a local community group.

The organizing team is seeking support from local community organizations and groups to help with the event. Local social profit organizations, or groups fundraising for a local social profit are eligible to apply for one of the 11 fundraising opportunities. Groups will receive \$500 per four-hour group shift in exchange for general event support.

Learn more and apply online at rmwb.ca/winterplay

WinterPLAY Snack Shack is looking for food vendors

Four heated tents are available for local commercial or social profit organizations to provide food sales to event participants Feb. 24 to March 5.

Complete an application and let organizers know your availability and what food items you will serve. Suitable vendors will be contacted by Feb. 6.

Find more details in the online application at rmwb.ca/winterplay



It's Time to Read Book Club begins 2023 with bestselling memoir: *In My Own Moccasins*

Join the It's Time to Read Book Club as it explores *In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience*, Helen Knott's fearless account of addiction, intergenerational trauma, and the wounds brought on by sexual violence.

First published in 2019, the national bestseller was longlisted for the RBC Taylor Prize, and won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Indigenous Peoples' Publishing. Knott's debut memoir is also the story of sisterhood, the power of ceremony, the love of family, and the possibility of redemption.

About the Book Club

Featuring the works and voices of Indigenous authors, the book club is a partnership of the **Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo** and the **Wood Buffalo Regional Library** and is part of ongoing efforts to build more understanding and awareness of Indigenous culture, history, and current issues.

Join the Conversation

You can find more information about the book club on rmwb.ca or join the conversation on the club's Facebook Group: *It's Time to Read*. Book club members regularly explore and discuss story themes and share thoughts. All are welcome to join; however, it is important to note that books may contain adult language and themes.

About the Author

Helen Knott is an Indigenous poet-writer, grassroots activist, leader, social worker, and educator from the Prophet River First Nation. *In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience* is her first book. Her second book, *Becoming a Matriarch*, is slated for release in 2023.

It's Winter: Be Prepared

Individuals and families should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours.

The following will help you build your preparedness plan.

Rural Areas:

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 hazards can help you prepare for the unexpected.

Build a Kit:

By taking a few simple steps, you will be 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:

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

Check road conditions online at 511 Alberta or call 511 before you start your journey.

If you find yourself stuck in a vehicle during a severe storm, remain calm! Stay inside the vehicle, run the engine occasionally, 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 rmwb.ca/emergency-preparedness

COMMUNITY INFORMATION



Sapare Creek Residents Society Annual General Meeting

7:00pm @ Vista Ridge

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

RARA 2023

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

PRESENTED BY



Our Vision

“To bestow appreciation for the achievement of Aboriginal people in or from this region by recognizing excellence in specific fields, by doing this in such a way that more and more people and institutions participate in ensuring the Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards make a positive impact on the lives of all people.”

OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS

www.raraevent.ca/nomination-forms/

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Female Youth Of The Year
- Male Youth of The Year
- Elder of the Year
- Trapper of the Year
- Leadership Award
- Athlete of the Year
- Adult Student of the Year
- Arts Award
- Volunteer of the Year
- Entrepreneur of The Year
- Female Citizen of The Year
- Male Citizen of The Year
- Culture Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS:

- Complete form on the website
- Print out form, scan and email to rara.nominations@gmail.com

For additional information or assistance, please contact:

- Co-Chair, Stella Lavallee at 780-381-7457 or
- Co-Chair, Tammie Tuccaro at rara.rmwb@gmail.com



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:

feather.bourque-jenner@rmwb.ca

Deadline for MARCH newsletter submissions:

February 24th, 2023

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
 <p>WOOD BUFFALO 2023 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES</p> <p>January 29 – February 4</p>			1	2	3 	4
5	6 Draper Trail Virtual Engagement 6:30pm	7	8	9 Saprae Creek Society AGM 7:00pm Vista Ridge	10 	11
12	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17 	18
19	20 <i>Happy Family Day</i> RMWB OFFICES CLOSED	21	22	23	24 Newsletter Deadline 	25
26	27	28				