

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



July 2021

Councillor Sheila Lalonde's Update

Saprae Creek and Draper July 2021

As I write this, we are in the middle of a heat wave. I don't think that I've ever seen forecasted highs in the low 40's. I think I may have to invest in an air conditioner if we get too many more days of above 30°C.

We are just entering Stage 3 of the Re-open Alberta Plan and masking will no longer be mandatory except in certain situations. As we venture out with or without a mask, my wish is that we all be kind to one another as nobody knows what the other person may be going through.

Council highlights for the month of June include the repealing of the State of Local Emergency (SOL) and the revoking of the Face Covering Bylaw. While the RMWB has revoked the Face Covering Bylaw related to the mandatory wearing of masks in the region, we are still required to follow the Government of Alberta's provincial mask mandate.

We're starting to wind down for summer break and we have just two more meetings before that happens (July 6th and 13th). As a Council, we've had a few big requests from various groups in our region. The Fort McMurray Airport Authority (FMAA) was granted funding to help with their operating costs until travel begins to pick up; the McMurray Métis funding request will be back before Council on the July 13, 2021; and the Sultan Management Group (SMG) request for a land transfer in Abraham's Landing was denied, but a motion was brought forward to help SMG to find land at a fair market value. A couple of bylaws will be up for second and third reading on July 13, 2021 as well; a Change of Use Bylaw and a Special Events Bylaw. If you have questions regarding these bylaws, please reach out and I can ask them during the Council Meeting.

I attended the AUMA Infrastructure and Energy meeting virtually, and the discussion topics were the national broadband funding and how it seems like smaller projects aren't qualifying; Firesmart and their long-term vision; and the Companion Animal Disaster Response and how they've used the lessons learned from our fire.

We had a virtual meeting with Premier Kenny and our MLA's Tany Yao and Laila Goodridge. We discussed concerns on lower rural vaccination rates and the possible reasons why; the ongoing concerns with Highway 881; the access road to Dore Lake in Fort Chipewyan; the East Clearwater Highway; the ongoing concerns with the railway and the shifting of the tracks; and our emergency dispatch and the funding for our Hero medi-vac services. Overall, it felt like a positive meeting so hopefully our concerns were heard.

Anyways, that's it for now. Stay safe and 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.

For municipal information related to COVID-19, visit 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 or call 811.

Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

Alberta enters Stage 3 of the Province's [Open for Summer Plan](#) 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.



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.

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 or call 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.

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)
- Sapræe Creek sign will be refurbished, along with the and post and rail in playground area
- Floral displays

Work on the drainage system at the park will commence in early July.

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.

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.

Bringing Nature Back from 2016 Ashes

Giving a hand to Mother Nature with Soil Bioengineering

When the Horse River wildfire swept through Fort McMurray in May 3, 2016, it devastated the equivalent of more than 840,000 soccer fields. Affected natural areas lost native forests and terrain features resulting in problematic erosion and drainage issues, loss in water quality and wildlife habitats, and enhanced risk to private and public properties.

In an effort to restore the forest ecology, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo initiated the 2016 Wildfire Erosion and Drainage Control project. In collaboration with a team of multi-discipline engineers and environmental scientists from Associated Engineering, 300 wildfire-related sites were assessed to identify and prioritize fire-damaged areas for remediation.

Recognizing that extremely vulnerable areas would be further damaged with the use of conventional solutions, the Associated team recommended a balanced combination of nature-based solutions using soil bioengineering along with conventional engineering.

Kristen Andersen, a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control from Associated, has more than 23 years of experience restoring degraded sites and explained this innovative technology: "Soil bioengineering is the use of natural elements such woody vegetation naturally occurring on river valley slopes to provide soil stability with their deep roots, prevent soil erosion, increase water quality, recover wildlife habitats, and add more resiliency against the negative effects of climate change.

Bioengineering is also a technique to establish plants in highly disturbed areas shortening the time for them to establish properly. It is a way to give a hand to Mother Nature to heal wounds and have all the benefits of fully working natural areas."

The RMWB with Associated Engineering have managed the treatment of 70,000 m² around the Municipality with bioengineering techniques. The sites are now planted with balsam poplar and willows, which are both approved FireSmart trees for having enhanced resilience to fires. After one growing season, the area is already seeing the benefits of restoration works. The restored sites no longer experience erosion from overland flow. The forest is regenerating, plantings have taken root, filling the firebreaks and covering bare land with new green foliage. As the plants continue to establish, they will create conditions that promote several other species to grow, further stabilizing the soil and increasing ecological functions.



Pictures from AE



In Sapræe Creek two bioengineering sites have been identified next to Spruce Valley Drive. Installation on one site has been completed with the second site expected to be completed this summer.

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

Want to be a candidate in the
2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB **2021**
Elections

Municipal Census 2021 extended to July 31

Make it count.



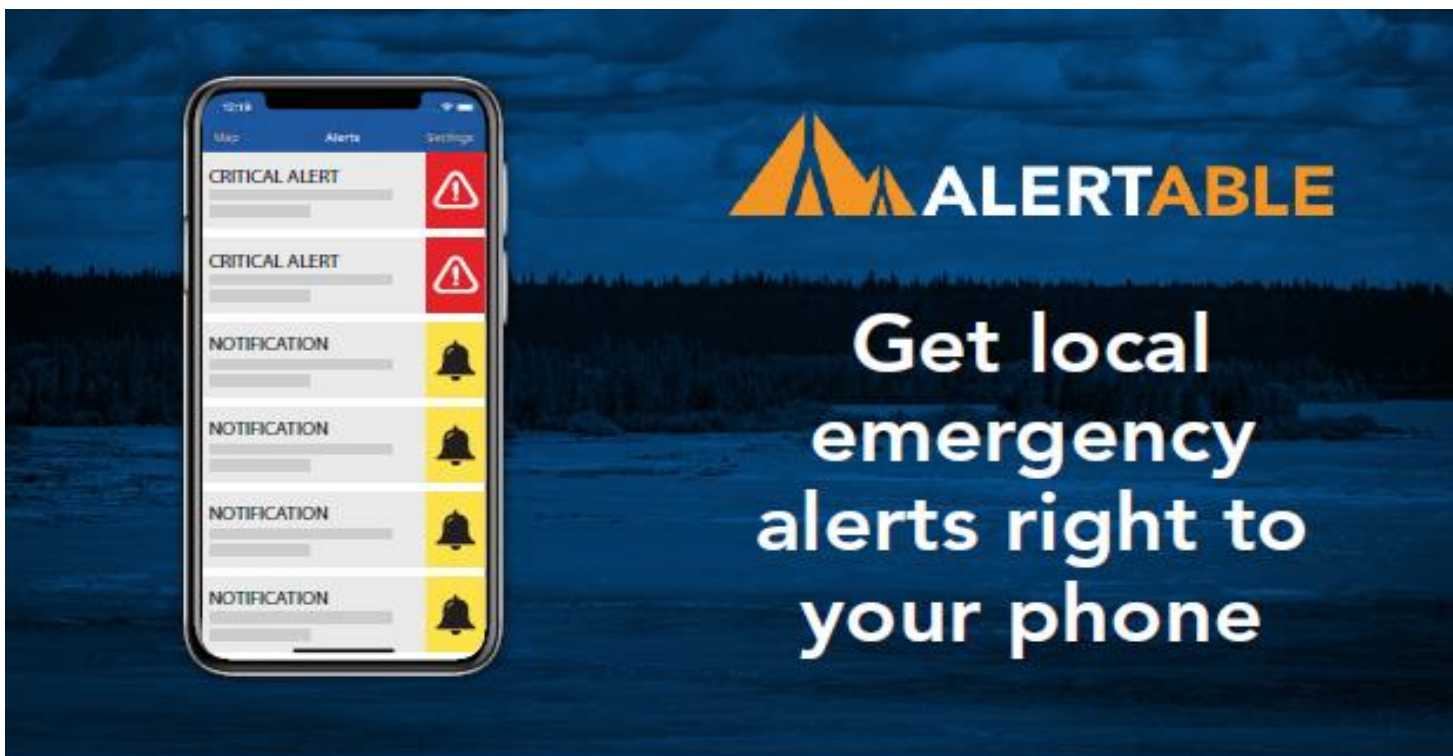
The Municipal Census 2021 has been extended until July 31, 2021 to provide residents more time to complete. There are numerous ways on how to participate:

- Online at rmb.ca/census
- Over the phone through the PULSE line 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663
- In person with a socially-distanced enumerator

Don't know your Census PIN?

Each dwelling has a unique PIN, you can obtain yours by emailing census.2021@rmb.ca or contacting PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.

For more information about Census 2021 visit rmb.ca/census.



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.



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 or call Pulse.



Help create a litter-free Wood Buffalo. Register for the 2021 Community Cleanup today!

Warmer weather is in the air throughout the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and it's time to cleanup our region. The 2021 Community Cleanup Campaign is running through October 28, giving us all the opportunity to pitch in and beautify our region.

The RMWB can provide residents with bags, gloves, and picker sticks to assist in your cleanup efforts. Outdoor social gathering limits must be followed. Mandatory physical distancing must be always maintained between members of different households. Register through your local Rural Contact Office and a RMWB staff will register your group and cleanup location while also coordinating a time to pick up with materials from the Rural Contact Office.

[Check out our Community Cleanup map before choosing your potential area.](#)

Please remember to follow local public health requirements and provincial guidelines with your group.

When your cleanup is finished, please contact your local Rural Contact Office to coordinate the return of the materials.

We encourage residents to share their community cleanup efforts on social media. Share your posts with others by using the hashtag "#cleanupRMWB".

Throughout the campaign, we encourage residents to visit rmwb.ca/cleanup to see which sites have already been cleaned in their region. Thank you for doing your part to keep our region clean!



Yard Waste Collection

Curbside yard waste collection continues!

From Spring to Fall, curbside collection will include the pick-up of yard waste material including grass clippings, leaves, flowers, weeds, plants and small twigs and sticks.

To ensure smooth and efficient yard waste collection, please:

- Place all [accepted yard waste](#) material inside of brown paper bags. Do not put yard waste in plastic and/or compostable plastic bags. They will not be accepted.
- Place up to four bags (16kg) of yard waste out to the curb by 7:30 a.m. on your [collection day](#).
- Place bags *beside* your collection bins, not inside of them.

Items that are **not** accepted:

- Kitchen food scraps, pet waste or non-organic garden waste such as broken plant pots.
- Commercial yard waste.
- Any yard waste placed in plastic or compostable bags. These bags are not compatible with the shredding machines at the landfill.

The public drop off area at the Municipal landfill also continues to accept yard waste at no charge year-round, seven days a week from 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

For more information, visit rmwb.ca/yardwaste or contact [Pulse](#).

Residents with Private Cisterns and Septage Systems

The RMWB would like to remind residents that maintenance of private water and sanitary systems are the responsibility of the homeowner. Alberta Health Services (AHS) recommends that systems be tested twice a year and cisterns cleaned and disinfected once per year.

Septage tank maintenance

Septage tanks also require proper inspection and maintenance. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

- Have your septic tank checked annually for buildup that can reduce your tank's efficiency. You may need to have your tank pumped by a professional sewage hauler every couple of years to ensure proper operation.
- Do not enter your septic tank. During the treatment process, sewage gives off dangerous gases. Always hire a professional for tank maintenance tasks.
- Do not allow livestock, vehicles, or any type of pathway to cross over your disposal field at any time. This practice helps prevent pipe breakage, soil compaction and excessive freezing due to compaction during the winter months.
- Keep your treatment system area well-maintained. Trim grasses and other vegetation short.
- Always consult your operations manual provided by the septage tank installer for specific maintenance guidance.

Water quality

All water supplied to residents comes from the water treatment plant and has been tested to ensure it meets quality standards and is safe to drink. The Municipality follows rigorous safety and quality regulations, including regularly submitting samples to an AHS laboratory.

Should residents note a concern with their drinking water, please follow the steps AHS recommends such as testing the water, ensuring maintenance has been completed, and conducting visual inspections to rule out abnormalities. Should these steps not result in resolution, please contact PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.

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, 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!



A photograph of a wildfire in a forest, with a yellow banner overlaid in the center. The banner contains a fire shield icon, the title 'TAKE THE PLEDGE TO REDUCE WILDFIRES', a call to action, and a QR code. The background shows a forest with smoke and flames.



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 photograph of a group of people sitting around a campfire at night. The text 'Soak it. Stir it. Soak it again.' is overlaid on the left side. The Alberta logo is in the bottom right corner.

**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
COMMUNITY CONTACTS:		SOCIAL MEDIA:	
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

Deadline for August newsletter submissions:

July 23, 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



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

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



JULY 2021

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	15	16 	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline 	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31