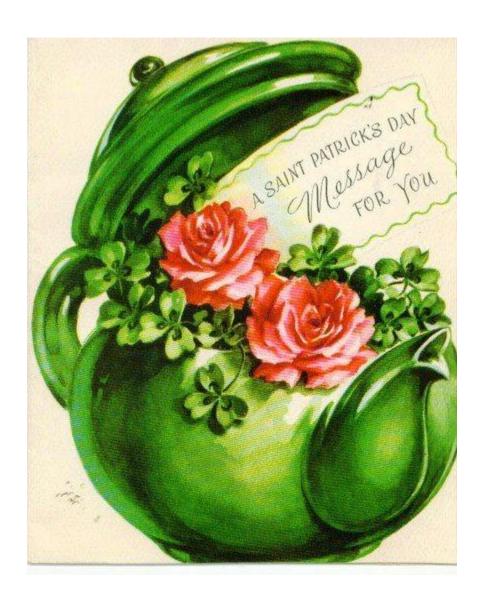
SAPRAE CREEK NEWS





March 2021



Councillor Sheila Lalonde's Update

Good morning everyone! Spring is getting closer and the days are getting longer. Personally, I'm waiting for camping season to start and the snow to go away so I can get my gardening started. I love harvesting my veggies in the fall.

Just a quick update on what I've been up to for February. We've met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Transportation Rick McIver. He's covering both Ministries at the moment. We brought up concerns regarding flooding and funding for the flood mitigations, as well as how future Disaster Relief Funding will look for our floodways since we've been told that this could be changing in the future. The Fort Chipewyan winter road was a part of our discussions which



were focused on the difficulty in bringing the weight limits up this year. And of course, Emergency Medical Dispatch. We raised our concerns regarding the length of time AHS has taken to verify addresses as well as the fact that their dispatchers aren't familiar with local landmarks. We all know where the Reserve Road is in Saprae and where the "S" bend is in Draper, but the AHS dispatchers have no idea due to the fact that they don't live here. As a Council, on February 9, 2021, we voted to stop transferring RMWB 911 Emergency Communication Centre calls to the AHS Provincial Dispatch Centre and do it ourselves as we had been doing prior to January 19, 2021. AHS got a temporary injunction and filed for a permanent injunction which will be back in court sometime this summer.

I participated in an AUMA forum regarding the possibility of an Alberta Police Force and what that would cost municipalities. Most of the municipalities are not in favour of this as the projected costs to towns and cities will not keep the service up to the level of the RCMP. From what I understand, there will be more engagement from the government before they decide.

The Land use bylaw rewrite has had its first reading and will be back before Council around the end of April. There are a lot of proposed changes that will affect Saprae and Draper, so please have a look. If there are any that you think need some tweaking, please let me know and I'll add to my list of questions and concerns. I can be reached at Sheila.lalonde@rmwb.ca

The next flood mitigation update to Council is scheduled for March 9, 2021, and I know that the RMWB is preparing for spring river break and getting their temporary solutions put in place. I'm really hoping for a smooth, non-flood river break this year.

At the Spring district meeting for RMA last month, the Northern Alberta Development Council spoke about the bursary that northern students can apply for. I'm including the address so that if you know of anyone who may qualify, please direct them to check into this. The webpage is nadc.bursary@gov.ab.ca
Any funding for post-secondary schooling is helpful, especially in today's economy.

The Arctic Winter Games Host Society is having a community scavenger hunt from March 6-12, 2021. Visit the Arctic Winter Games website to register and get more information on the rules and who your community representative is...hint (it's me for Saprae and Draper). This looks to be fun and you could win prizes!

Anyways, stay safe and take care of each other.

Until next month, 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.

Province-wide face covering requirement still in effect

Provisions of Municipal Face Covering Bylaw suspended

On Feb. 26, 2021 most provisions of the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw were suspended. This is because on Feb. 25 Alberta Health Services (AHS) reported less than 50 active cases of COVID-19 in the region.

While most provisions of the Municipal Bylaw are suspended, the Government of Alberta's province-wide face covering requirement remains in effect. As of Feb. 26, 2021, **face coverings are still required** in public transit, all indoor public places, all places of worship, all indoor workplaces, in K-12 schools when required, when you might come within 2 metres of people from outside your household.



Municipal Bylaw may be reactivated

Under the Municipal Bylaw, provisions will be re-activated for a 30-day period if AHS reports 50 or more cases of COVID-19 in the region.

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



Rural Water and Sewer Service Updates

Municipal water and sewer service connections are now available through the Rural Water and Sewer Service Program for many homes in the following communities:

- Saprae Creek Estates
- Conklin
- Janvier

Lot owners are responsible for connecting to municipal water and sewer lines. You could be eligible for municipal funding to support the cost, if you act within five years of when connections are available.

- Go to our website: rmwb.ca/rwss
 - Review the Homeowner's information package
- Start the application process: Download and complete these Forms*:
 - Application Form
 - Funding Agreement
 - Assignment of PaymentForm
 - Worksheet for the Preparation of Quotation

- 3. Email the completed application and forms to rwss.applications@rmwb.ca
- Pay the application fee: Go to: pay.rmwb.ca/RuralWater
- Hire a Certified Contractor** to do the work
- Pay connection fee: Paid in lump sum, or in installments.

For details on any of these steps or about the timing of connections for other communities, please visit our website: rmwb.ca/rwss

For help completing forms, call PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 or email pulse@rmwb.ca



^{*}Forms are at our website rwmb.ca/rwss.

^{**}From the Alberta Municipal Affairs' Private Sewage System Installer Certification List

Engineering/Construction Updates

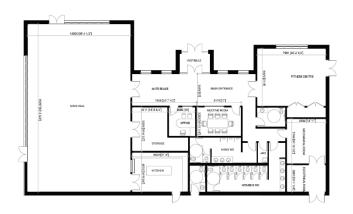
Saprae Creek Estates residents!

You may remember community engagement that took place in 2015 about a new community hall in your neighbourhood. We asked you about what the building should look like and what it could be used for. The Saprae Creek Residents Society and the RMWB project team are happy to share an update, as the project team is now in the Final Design phase. Once Final Design is complete, the project will be presented to Council for the Capital Budget needed for construction. We will provide further updates as they are available. Take a look at the final floor plan and outdoor renderings.

Nestled amidst the trees on the corner of Spruce Valley Drive and Freestone Way, the building brings a contemporary twist to a mountain lodge theme. Designed with the community in mind, the facility provides a central gathering space for people of all ages and abilities, with space for a variety of activities and programs.

At 2475 square feet, the space will accommodate gatherings of up to 300 people. A vaulted ceiling and generous windows will provide plenty of light and views of green space and trees.







Please note, this project is subject to Council approval.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has scheduled a Public Hearing to take place via electronic communications in accordance with the Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation, Order in Council 99/2020, on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. regarding the following:

Bylaw No. 21/003 – Land Use Bylaw

Bylaw No. 21/003 proposes to replace the current Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 as required changes were significant enough to warrant the development of a completely new Land Use Bylaw (LUB) rather than continuing to amend the existing one. The new LUB No. 21/003 proposes improvements to language, provision updates, modifications to dated sections, and the introduction of new regulations. While it will follow the general zoning framework of the existing LUB, changes in the new LUB will include:

- Changes to accessory building and home business requirements
- Addition of FireSmart provisions
- Changes to parking requirements
- Addition of new secondary suite typologies

- Changes to signage requirements
- Simplifying and reducing the number of districts
- Changes to property districting
- Updated definitions and land uses
- Addition of design standards

The provisions in the new LUB are not retroactive; they will be applicable when approving new development or new subdivisions. There are rules in place to protect existing buildings or uses that no longer comply with the LUB that allow these non-conforming buildings and uses to continue with certain provisions regarding future alterations or uses.

A copy of the above-noted Bylaw and all related documents, including an Executive Summary of the proposed changes, may be inspected by contacting the Planning and Development or Legislative Services Department between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday: Bylaw No. 21/003 is also available on the Municipality's website at Public Hearing - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (rmwb.ca)

Planning & Development <u>planningdevelopment@rmwb.ca</u> 780-799-8695

or Legislative Services

 $\underline{legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca}$

780-743-7001

During the COVID-19 Pandemic Council will be conducting Public Hearings through electronic communications in accordance with the Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation, Order in Council 99/2020.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Public Hearing via the following options:



Written Submissions Prior to the Hearing:

Written comments to be included in the Council Meeting Agenda Package, must be received prior to 12 noon on Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

- Submit written comments online at www.rmwb.ca/publichearingsubmission; or
- Email written comments to Legislative Services at <u>legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca</u>. You <u>must</u> include your full name and clearly indicate support or opposition of the proposed bylaw and/or specified section of the proposed bylaw.

Written Submissions Received after April 14, 2021:

Written comments will be accepted up until the closing of the Public Hearing.

- Submit written comments to legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca
- Written comments received following the April 14, 2021 cut-off will be provided to Council via an update to the Council Meeting Agenda Package; or provided to Council via email as they are received.
- Written submissions received <u>during</u> the Public Hearing will be shared with Council verbally during the hearing for a maximum of 5 minutes.
- Written submissions not already included in the Council Meeting Agenda Package, will be added in their entirety to the Council Meeting Agenda Package after the close of the Public Hearing, which is made available to the public and posted on the Municipality's website.
- Emails that are received after the Public Hearing has been closed, or submissions not relevant to the Public Hearing will not become part of the record of this hearing and will not be considered by Council.

Verbal Submission at Council Meeting via Teleconference:

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

- Pre-register on-line at www.rmwb.ca/publichearingsubmission. or
- Email Legislative Services at <u>legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca</u> or call Legislative Services at 780-743-7001 with the following information:
- The following information must be included with your registration:
 - o your full name,
 - o daytime phone number,
 - o the telephone number that you will be dialing in from; and
 - o an email address at which you may be contacted

All registrants will be emailed the details on how to participate prior to the start of the hearing. Each registrant will be given a maximum of 5 minutes to address Council.

DATED at Fort McMurray, Alberta this 25th day of February, 2021.

Jade Brown

Chief Legislative Officer

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

9909 Franklin Avenue Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

Phone: (780) 743-7001

Email: legislative.assistants@rmwb.ca



Check the mail! - 2021 Property Assessments are on the way

Make sure to check the mail for your 2021 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 <u>pulse@rmwb.ca</u> 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, 2020, including any physical changes up to December 31, 2020.

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, 2021.

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.



WE ARE HIRING!

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is currently accepting applications for a variety of permanent positions throughout the municipality. A leading employer within the region, the RMWB prides itself on providing a positive work environment where we can work together to make the region the best it can be for its residents.

As well, seasonal student opportunities are also currently open for application until March 7, 2021. These roles are available for any student who have obtained their High School Diploma or GED equivalent and have completed one year of post-secondary education.

To submit an application and view full job descriptions for all available positions, please visit rmwb.ca/employment.



Watch out for thin ice - river breakup season is approaching!

As temperatures continue getting warmer, the ice on rivers and lakes in the region is beginning to melt and break apart. Please be extremely careful near shorelines and avoid travelling on ice.

When ice begins to melt, water levels may rise or ice jams may occur, which increases the risk of flooding. If living or travelling in areas in close proximity to rivers, it is important to stay alert and prepared for potential emergencies. Learn how you can prepare and how the Municipality is preparing for river breakup season, by checking out the RMWB webpage listed below.

River forecasts and updates on ice conditions are available at Alberta Environment and Parks online tool and AB Rivers mobile phone app.

You may sign up for local emergency notifications by subscribing to the RMWB Alertable online tool or downloading the mobile phone app.

Find everything you need to know about river breakup season, including support resources, at rmwb.ca/riverbreakup.

Sandbag program

The municipal sandbag program begins in March. Stay tuned to our social media feeds and rmwb.ca/recovery for the latest information.

Bylaw Services: Driveway snow removal reminder

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

For residents, Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079 governs snow removal in our region; this ensures safety precautions are met as well as consistency of efforts. Bylaw Services reminds residents of some important sections of the bylaw in regards to snow removal of driveways;

- Residents are responsible for snow and ice removal on their driveways and the sidewalks abutting their homes (Section 13.26 & 13.27).
- Residents are not permitted to place snow and/ or ice from private property onto the highways or other public places of the Municipality (Section 13.30), this includes ditches (Alberta Traffic Safety Act, "highway" definition).
 Snow and ice are to be removed within 48 hours of the time when it was formed or deposited (Section 13.26 & 13.27).



Bylaw Services thanks residents for their compliance as this ensures a safe Wood Buffalo. For any questions regarding snow removal, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000





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.





Share your thoughts about off-highway vehicles in Fort McMurray

Take the online survey until March 8!

The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Master Plan for the Fort McMurray Urban Service Area is being updated and feedback from the community, including non-OHV users, is needed!

While residents living in **rural communities are certainly encouraged to participate**, updates to this Master Plan are focused on Fort McMurray.

The OHV survey is available until March 8 at rmwb.ca/ohv

Master Plan does not include OHV Bylaws

OHV Bylaws are not being changed as part of Master Plan update. However, the Master Plan may include recommendations to review or adjust the current OHV Bylaw for the Urban Service Area at a future date.

If changes to the OHV Bylaws are proposed in the future, recommended updates would be presented to Council for approval at a public hearing. There will be future opportunities for residents to formally share their thoughts about any proposed change.

Independent consulting firm leading update to OHV Master Plan

The Municipality has hired an independent, consulting firm to lead the update to the OHV Master Plan for the Urban Service Area.

Prior to this survey, targeted workshops were held with OHV groups and stakeholders, local right holders, regulating bodies, representatives from different levels of government and municipal staff. The feedback collected through these workshops and the results of the public survey are being used to shape the update to the OHV Master Plan – Urban Service Area.

Find everything you need to know about OHVs and take the survey at rmwb.ca/ohv





We received these submissions so far!

The Creek Chronicles
Saprae Star
Saprae Creek Connection

We will continue to take submissions until March 31st, 2021 This is a contest for all residents to participate in.

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



Do you like to take pictures? Do you like to draw?

We are looking for pictures and/or images of Saprae Creek to use in the Community Newsletter

Submit your digital pictures or artwork to joanne.clark@rmwb.ca



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS







The Province of Alberta is working in partnership with the Government of Canada to provide employment support programs and services.





















EMPLOYERS INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE!

To participate please visit www.choosewoodbuffalo.ca & click "Complete Survey".

All employers in the region are requested to complete the Labour Study Employer Survey. The labour study survey encompasses the entire Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo region, including Indigenous communities. The study will assist individuals, companies, and institutions in making decisions surrounding future training requirements, future hiring demands resulting from changes in the market, labour trends, and attraction and retention practices. The Labour Study is anticipated to be completed in March 2021 and will be made available as a public good.

The project is being conducted by Applications Management Consulting Ltd. in partnership with Willow Springs. Responses are confidential and results will be compiled in group form by. This survey can be completed over the phone by calling 780-425-6741 or online at www.choosewoodbuffalo.ca.

To request a paper copy or for technical questions, contact Gurpreet Sidhu at 780-425-6741 or gurpreet.appl@mac.com. Please direct any other questions related to the project to Lisa Sweet, Director of Business & Investment Attraction, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism at 780-793-1063 or lisa@choosewoodbuffalo.ca.





Arctic Winter Games call for artists

Design the Games cultural medallion and pin



Have your work handed out to an international audience!

We are inviting artists, designers, and creative individuals living in the Wood Buffalo region to participate in a design competition to create a cultural medallion and culture pin.

The pin design should be inspired by the diversity of cultures of the region, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, while the concept design for the cultural medallion will reflect Wood Buffalo's rich Indigenous heritage and the Medicine Wheel, which symbolizes equity and the cycle of life in the natural world.

The design competition is open to individuals over 18-years-old who are living in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The selection panel will choose one

Indigenous artist for the medallion design and one artist for the culture pin. All winners will receive an honorarium and the selected designs will be reproduced by a professional fabricator.

Apply before March 4, 2021.

For more information and to apply, visit awg2022.org.

AWG seeking local artists to design Games Torch wrap

We are looking for local artists to design the official Games Torch.

The design should reflect travelling and connections, the interconnectedness of the communities in the Wood Buffalo region and celebrate everyone's time to shine.



The winning design will be reproduced by a graphic designer to become a vinyl wrap on the Games torch that will travel from Fort Fitzgerald, Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Anzac, Janvier, Conklin, Saprae Creek and Fort McMurray as part of the Torch Relay. Apply before March 15, 2021. For more information and to apply, visit awg2022.org.





AWG hosting community scavenger hunts

The Wood Buffalo 2022 Arctic Winter Games Host Society is excited to launch Your Time to Shine Community Scavenger Hunts for Wood Buffalo residents from March 6-12, 2021, event dates may vary.



The community scavenger hunts will be held in Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, Saprae Creek, Anzac, Janvier and Conklin.

Rural Hamlet – Your Time to Shine Community Scavenger Hunts are free events coordinated through local volunteers in each community, whose contact information can be found below.

- Registration can be completed through the designated community volunteer. The first 25 people to register per rural hamlet will receive a gift bag. One gift bag will be provided per registration.
- Clues are designed so participants can stay in their vehicle for the duration of the hunt.
- All completed entries will be eligible to win one grand prize basket per rural hamlet which includes a pair of show shoes, Games merchandise, snacks and winter supply bundle.

All scavenger hunt participants must follow Alberta Health Services COVID-19 guidelines. Only people from the same household can be in one vehicle during the hunt.

Community contacts:

- Anzac Amber McIntosh Wilson, executive. Assistant@willowlaketinytots.com
- Fort McKay Thembie Nyathi, Tnyathi@fortmckaymetis.com
- Fort Chipewyan Tamera Ellingson, Tamera.Ellingson@rmwb.ca
- Janvier Justin Herman, ceo@chardmetis.com
- Conklin Kim Desjarlais, kimd@crdac.ca
- Saprae Creek Sheila Lalonde, sheila.lalonde@rmwb.ca

For more information visit awg2022.org or contact your community volunteer.



WHO WE ARE:

The McMurray Sno-Drifters is a non-profit organization that was formed in the early 1980's. As a club, we provide a safe winter recreational sport for individuals and families within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. In partnership with local Search & Rescue, we also help our members to be informed about regulations and safe sledding practices.



OUR TRAIL SYSTEM:

Through the efforts of volunteers and sponsors, we provide Fort McMurray and surrounding communities with approximately 300kms of award-winning trails. Our trails are located in the following areas: *Thickwood trail* is on tower road in timberlea, *Anzac trail* can be accessed through our garage on highway 881 or Anzac and *Stony Mountain trail* is located approximately 30km south of town at the stony mountain staging area.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Cost: \$90.00

To ride our trails, an ASA Membership trail pass is required. Memberships are readily available at the following locations:

4G Motorsports

NAPA

Bumper to Bumper

Syncrude Club 63 Social Club.

Trail passes are from the Alberta Snowmobiling Association (ASA) and are recognized on all ASA trails across Alberta.

What does the pass get me?

As a pass holder, you are now apart of the Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club. You now have access to approx. 300km of a well-maintained groomed trail system (thickwood/saprae/anzac/stony mountain) along with over 5000km of groomed trail in Alberta.

How do I benefit?

We are a community! We have volunteers that love to spend their time outdoors and helping us out. Our volunteers-built 8 fire pit shacks along our trail system and continually stock wood for other members enjoyment throughout the season.

McMurray Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Association mcmurray.snodrifters@hotmail.com 780-792-7603 www.snodrifters.ca



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 severe difficulty with mobility, vision or hearing
- Have developmental/intellectual, cognitive or mental health challenges
- Require electricity for lifesustaining equipment such as life support, oxygen, dialysis etc.



To register, go to rmwb.ca/VPR or call Pulse.

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





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					
FISH & WILDLIFE	780-743-7200	@WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION				
HEALTH LINK	811					
ALL EMERGENCIES	911	@RMWOODBUFFALO				
		@RMWOODBUFFALO				

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca

Deadline for April newsletter submissions: March 25, 2021



MARCH 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
			C E		A	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Newsletters submissions due		
28	29	30	31			

