

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY

March 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.

Government of Alberta eases some COVID-19 measures

On February 9, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced a new [three-step plan](#) for easing public health measures across the province. In February, several measures were removed including:

- The Restrictions Exemption Program
- Capacity limits in some settings
- Some mandatory masking requirements

In March, more COVID-19 measures are expected to be removed. Find full details on the Province's three-step plan, and on all current measures at alberta.ca/COVID19.

Vaccine Program

The Government of Alberta's Vaccine Program continues to be on-going.

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.

Everyone 18+ and adolescents 2 to 17 with underlying health conditions can get a [third dose](#) 5 months after 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.

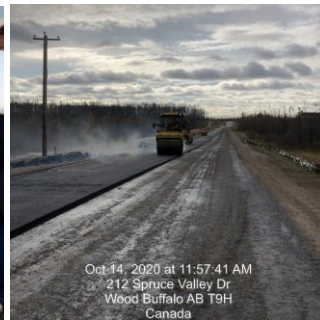
To learn more, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Engineering Update

Saprae Contract 1 - RWSS

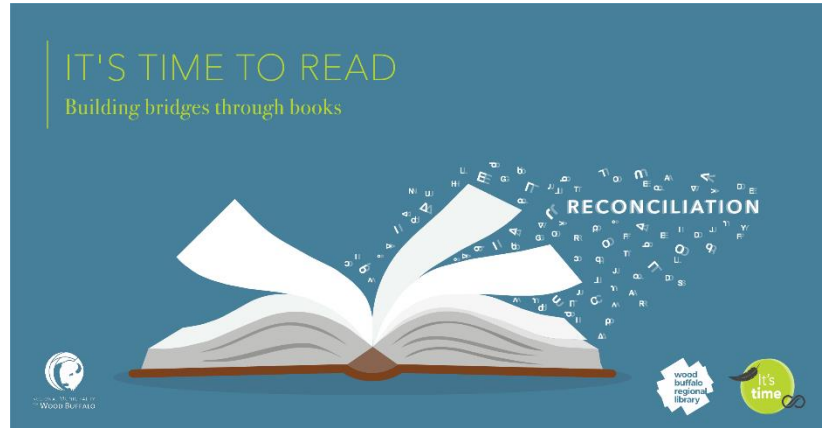
The project has achieved construction completion. No further work will take place in the winter but minor seasonal touch ups will be completed in the spring and summer of 2022.



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

A-Frame Road asphalt and ditching is to commence in the spring. The lift station base is being worked on inside the excavation. The mud slab has been poured and preparation for the concrete base slab is ongoing. The forcemain drilling will resume in the coming weeks. Forcemain dewatering efforts have been ongoing. About 75% of the pipe is currently laid in the ground. Rebar framework of the base slab and forcemain installation is upcoming. Estimated completion date is September 30, 2023.

The *It's Time to Read* book club returns in April to read its second book, *The Strangers* by Katherena Vermette. Step into the dynamic world of the Stranger family, the strength of their bond, the shared pain in their past, and the light that beckons from the horizon. This is a searing exploration of race, class, inherited trauma, and the matrilineal bonds that – despite everything – refuse to be broken. While the characters face hard, almost impossible journeys, *The Strangers* also features a glimpse into resilience and survival, where readers can find compassion and empathy.



Please note, this book is not for young readers and may be triggering and unsuitable for some. It contains disturbing content, including physical violence, drug and alcohol use and addiction, thoughts of suicide, child apprehension, solitary incarceration, as well as adult language.

The Strangers can be found wherever you get your books, as well as through the Library and on the community bookshelf. Join the book club at <https://participate.rmwb.ca/it-s-time-to-read>.



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.

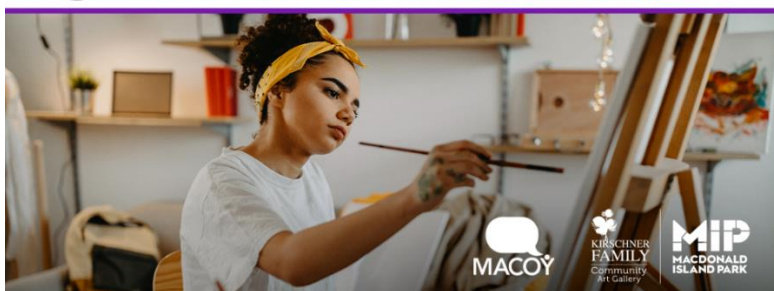
For more information on winter safety and emergency planning check out the [AEMA website](#) and the [RMWB site](#)





Paint Your World

Showcase what culture means to you



Have your artwork featured at the Kirschner Family Community Art Gallery

The Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth's (MACOY) Arts and Culture committee is partnering with MacDonald Island Park to host the Paint Your World art exhibit at the Kirschner Family Community Art Gallery in May of 2022.

Local artists of all skill levels are encouraged to submit artwork showcasing what culture means to them for a chance to be featured at the art gallery. The deadline to submit artwork is April 1, 2022.

Two-dimensional art is welcome in any technique including charcoal, pencil, crayon, pastel, collage, watercolour, acrylic, oil, printmaking, textile, mixed media, and more.

A selection panel will review all submissions and choose pieces for the Paint your World exhibit. Artists will also have the opportunity to sell their art, however, all transactions will be between buyer and artist and not facilitated by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, MACOY or Regional Recreation Corporation.

For more details, including how to submit artwork, visit rmwb.ca/MACOY.

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 the final **monthly weekend sessions** on the following dates:

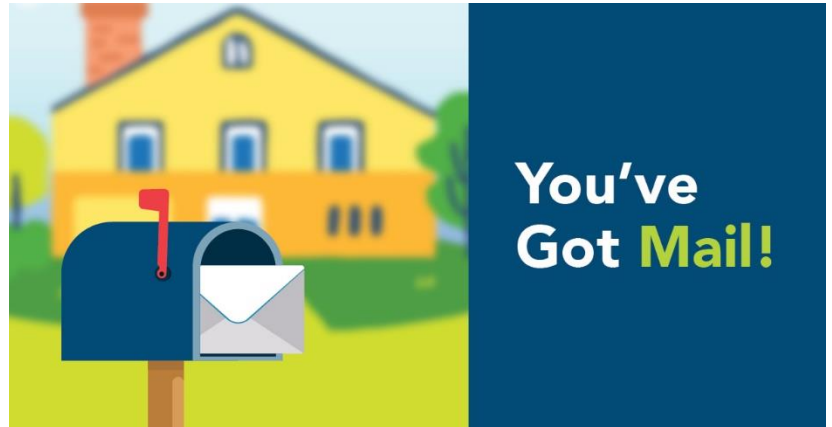
- March 12 and 13
 - **Theme:** Education and Humanities
 - **Registration deadline:** March 11 at 10 p.m.

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**.

Made-in-Alberta Child Care Deal

Did you know?

Licensed family dayhomes will get a new affordability grant. With this funding in place, all parents of children zero to Kindergarten age can expect to save between \$300 and \$350 off the regular, pre-subsidy fee per child per month. The grant will come straight to the dayhome agency, so families do not need to apply to benefit from reduced fees.

Childcare subsidy has also been expanded to include family incomes up to \$180,000/year.

For information about opening a licensed dayhome, please contact Child Development Dayhomes at 780-715-1166 or visit www.childdev.com/fortmcmurray.



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**

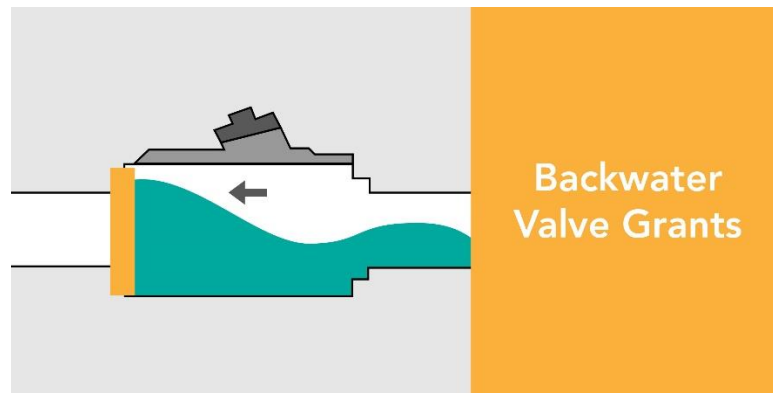
Public, Industry, Indigenous and Rural representatives needed for RMWB boards and committees

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



Backwater valve grants are available to homeowners across the region

Municipal grants continue to be available to homeowners across the region who have installed backwater valves in their homes since May 1, 2020. This applies to homeowners who live in both flood affected areas and non-flood affected areas.

What the grant covers

The grants reimburse a portion of the costs for the purchase and installation of a backwater valve. Homes located in Zone 1 are eligible for up to \$1,500 and homes located in Zone 2 (flood hazard areas) are eligible for up to \$3,000.

Find out what zone your home is in at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve.

Eligibility

To qualify for a backwater valve grant, the following criteria must be met:

- The home is a single-family dwelling or a separately serviced side-by-side duplex dwelling.
- The dwelling was built prior to 2000. (Starting in 2000, municipal bylaws require new homes to include a backwater valve.)
- The property is serviced directly from the municipal sewer system.
- A grant has not been previously provided for the same location.
- The applicant is the owner of the home or has permission from the owner(s).
- The property is in good standing with the Municipality, including up-to-date utility payments and property taxes.

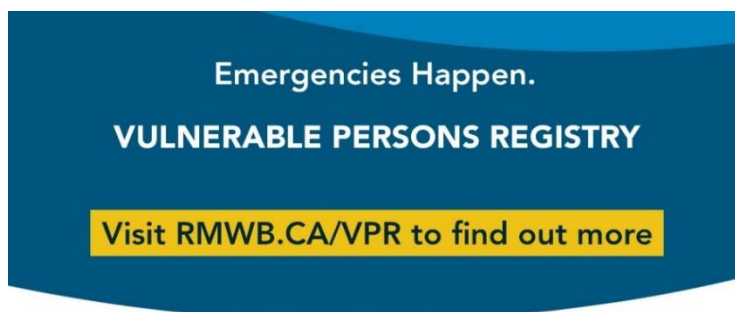
How to apply

All eligible homeowners can apply for a backwater valve grant at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve.

Whether your valve has already been installed, or you are planning to have it installed soon, it's important to review the application process to ensure all steps are completed correctly.

Learn more about the Backwater Valve Grant Program at rmwb.ca/backwatervalve or by calling Pulse at 1-800-973-9663.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a free, voluntary and confidential service provided to residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

The VPR was developed to assist vulnerable persons in the Region during emergency evacuations and fire dispatched 9-1-1 calls. The program is available to residents who experience any of the following:

- Mobility issues
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmental or cognitive impairments
- Challenges related to mental health
- Residents who require electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as life support, oxygen, dialysis, etc.
- Short term assistance (due to illness or recovery from surgery)

If you know someone who could benefit from the VPR program, visit rmwb.ca/vpr for more information.

Alertable

The RMWB is using Alertable for emergency community notifications.

Sign up to the Alertable app to receive emergency alerts for your community to stay aware and plan ahead with day-to-day community notices for: facilities, roads, parks, schools and various municipal services, pandemics, fires, floods, severe weather, other hazards and more.

For more information on how to sign up, visit [Emergency Alerts - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo \(rmwb.ca\)](http://rmwb.ca/emergency-alerts)



Participate: February 16 - March 9

Public Art Bench Program

Public art seated in the heart of your community

Residents of **Saprae Creek Estates** are invited to join the conversation about the **Public Art Bench Program**.

Be part of this pilot project to create a **custom-designed park bench that reflects the character of your community**. Your ideas will be shared with a local artist to inspire them when creating a public art bench for Saprae Creek Estates.

Participate by telling us about your community through stories, photos, artwork, songs, poems and more. Visit **Participate Wood Buffalo** to learn more about this project and **share your ideas until March 9**.

Participate online:



Participate through PULSE:

- 780-743-7000
- 1-800-973-9663

Call a PULSE Customer Service Agent and they will input your feedback into **Participate Wood Buffalo**, our online engagement platform.

Contact us to share ideas or ask questions:

participate@rmwb.ca

rmwb.ca/publicartbench

winterfest Events

CAMP YOGI , ANZAC ALBERTA **Check Out List of Events for WINTERFEST** **March 11 - 13**

Friday

11

Night Under the Stars 5 to 9 pm

Roaring bonfire, Sled dog rides under the northern lights, sliding hill, hot dogs, hot coco , music & bar

Saturday

12

Winterfest Mad Miles 24hour Ultra
9:00am - 10:00 am March 13th

Saturday Morning safety meeting & then the bell will ring to start lap 1. Every hour on the hour after that another mad mile .

Free AFD pancake Breakfast 9 to 10:30 am

Join the Anzac Fire Department for some coffee and pancakes- face painting-ballon animals

Black Powder shot gun start for races 11:00 am

Meet on the lake and watch the 10 dog Oil Sands Sled Dog Races Start.

Running Thunder Dancers and drummers
12:30 to 1:30

A First Nation's performance that symbolizes healing and unity as well as shares some traditional teachings of the drum and the meaning of the dances and finishes off with a mini round dance celebration

ALL Day Family FUN Saturday 10 - 4

All day Concession Sliding hill, Snow Crafts with prizes, Hot Coco, Cotton Candy, Snow Cones, Sled Dog Rides, Face Painting, Petting Zoo, Ice Fishing & all day fire

For detailed information:

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ ANZAC
RECERATION AND SOCAIL SOCLETY**

winterfest

Events

CAMP YOGI , ANZAC ALBERTA

**Check Out List of Events for WINTERFEST
March 11-13 2022**

**Saturday
12**

Crib Tournament 2 - 3

Under heated tent
Prizes for First, Second, Third place

Comedy, Charcuterie & Wine 101 6 to 11 pm

Adult Ticketed Event
See poster for additional information

**Sunday
13**

Dog Sled races continue 10 am

Meet on the lake and watch the Oil Sands Sled Dog Races .

Kids Bingo 11:00 - 12:30 pm

Inside Camp Yogi Building
Children under 6 require parental assistance

AFCC Adult BINGO 1 pm

Come play for Prizes & afternoon of competition

ALL Day Family FUN Sunday 10-2

All day Concession Sliding hill, Snow Crafts with prizes, Hot
Coco, Cotton Candy, Snow Cones, all day fire

For detailed information:

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ ANZAC
RECREATION AND SOCIAL SOCIETY**



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 April newsletter submissions:

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