

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



MARCH 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.



Saprae Creek Estates

Pedestrian Trail & Beautification

Engagement Opportunity - March 1 - 20

The Municipality is looking to develop a new pedestrian trail and enhance beautification in Saprae Creek. Share your feedback about proposed trail alignment, shelter for the mailbox area, and beautification opportunities.

Participate online from March 1 - 20 or attend an in-person public engagement session on Thursday, March 9.

Engagement Session Details

- **When:** Thursday, March 9, 2023
- **Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Vista Ridge (1 Spruce Valley Drive, Saprae Creek Estates)

The session on March 9 is also part of the Neighbourhood Engagement Series.

Important Considerations

The trail and beautification project is in the early stages. Your feedback will be used as a guide to help understand your community's wants and needs before we move forward with detailed designs and construction.

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





Fees are increasing for some municipal services starting April 1.

In December, RMWB Council approved an increase to several user rates including:

- Utilities
- Transit
- Ice rentals

The increases will help offset the cost to deliver these services and reduce the subsidy from the Municipal tax base.

Rural transit cash fares for adults and children are increasing by 20%, effective April 1. Fares for adults (13 – 64) are increasing to \$12.00 from \$10.00. Fares for children (5 – 12) are increasing to \$6.00 from \$5.00.

The updated utility rates for municipal water, wastewater, and certain solid waste services are 10% to 15% higher than current rates. The changes vary depending on the size of the property's water meter and between rural, urban, and commercial services.

To view the updated rates and learn more about user fees and charges, visit rmwb.ca/userfees.

Celebrate *Call of the Wild*, the Sapræe Creek Estates Public Art Bench



Meet the artist Amy Keller-Rempp and participate in an art activity as we celebrate the completion and formal presentation of *Call of the Wild*, the Sapræe Creek Estates Public Art Bench.

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Vista Ridge Park community hall

The event will feature:

- A formal showcasing of the art bench to the community at the skate park
- A participatory art activity with Amy Keller-Rempp
- Door prizes and surprises
- Light refreshments

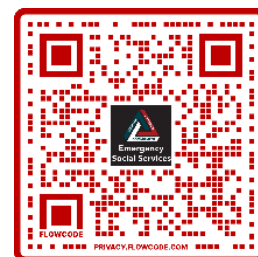
Emergency Social Services (ESS)

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



Celebrate Winter!

Feb. 24 - March 5

rmwb.ca/winterplay



Event Hours:

Feb. 24 – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Feb. 25 to March 4 - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

March 5 – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Free activities for family and friends to enjoy

All activities are first come, first serve except for leisure ice skating. The ice rinks located on the Snye can be booked for leisure skating Feb. 27 through March 5 following Shootout on the Snye. Borealis Pond is open throughout the event for leisure ice skating at any time.

Activities Include:

- Shootout on the Snye
- Dog sled rides
- Dene game demos
- Horse drawn wagon rides
- Ice sculptures
- Fireworks
 - Feb. 24 at 7:45 p.m.
 - March 4 at 7:45 p.m.

Find rink booking details at rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY

Attend the fireworks as a V.I.P. on March 4

Enter to win a skate under the fireworks on Saturday, March 4 at 7:45 p.m. Complete the online entry form for a chance to have an ice surface reserved from 6-8 p.m. during the fireworks.

Complete the online entry form at rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY

Participants will be selected through a random draw and notified by phone.

For questions, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or rmwb.ca/pulse.



1 From L to R: Councillor Dogar, Councillor Stroud, Mayor Bowman, Councillor Ball, Councillor Banjoko, Councillor Bussieres

Mayor and Councillors wear pink to spread a message of kindness:

Members of Council wore pink shirts to stand up against bullying in recognition of Pink Shirt Day on February 22, 2023.

Pink Shirt Day is an annual anti-bullying event.

In his remarks, Mayor Bowman encouraged others to wear pink to address bullying against children, youth, and adults by being active bystanders, and speaking up and advocating for others.

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](https://rmwb.ca/emergency-preparedness)



Rural residents, we want to hear from you! The Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) is all about guidelines for revitalizing downtown Fort McMurray. It creates a vision and recommendations on things like bike lanes, parks, or ways to become a shopping destination for you to enjoy.

The plan should reflect current needs in the region – that’s where you come in! We need to hear if what you see in the draft ARP is the potential you envision for our region’s downtown. Engagement is open between Feb. 21 - Mar. 26, 2023. Take the quick poll or survey to let us know what you think! Get started by visiting rmwb.ca/arp.

Please note: if you require assistance submitting a survey over the phone, please contact a Pulse customer service agent for support. Call 780-743-7000 or toll-free 1-800-973-9663.

Do your part to prevent wildfires!

March 1 is the start of wildfire season.

- Be prepared for spring fire hazards. 🔥
- Properly put out all campfires
- Check any winter burn sites.

Despite the snow on the ground, fire hazards still exist 🌲.

Let's all do our part to keep communities safe.



For more wildfire information go to:

Wildfire.Alberta.ca



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 | |  @RMWOODBUFFALO |
| ALL EMERGENCIES | 911 |  @RMWOODBUFFALO | |

To submit information to the newsletter please email:

feather.bourque-jenner@rmwb.ca

Deadline for APRIL newsletter submissions:

March 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 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| 26 WinterPLAY | 27 WinterPLAY | 28 WinterPLAY | 1 WinterPLAY | 2 WinterPLAY | 3 WinterPLAY  | 4 WinterPLAY |
| 5 WinterPLAY | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Municipal Engagement 6:30 -8:30pm  | 10  | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY  | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Newsletter Deadline  | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Call of the Wild Bench Celebration Vista Ridge 6pm  | |