

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



May 2021

Councillor Sheila Lalonde's Update

Councillor Sheila Lalonde – Sapræ Creek/ Draper May 2021

Hi everyone, I hope you are all doing well. As I write this, the river still hasn't broken, and unfortunately, winter hasn't really left yet either.

I wanted to give a shout out to the Grade 6 students at Good Shepherd school who are learning about municipal government and took the time to write me. I enjoyed reading your letters and thought the depth of your questions and concerns impressive.



I had an update from Wes Holodnuik from Wilson Industries regarding the upcoming construction season. He said that water and sewer lines are installed. There are 23 driveways that have deficiencies to be fixed. They will finish the ditching on Weiss Drive, and the top lift will be laid on all the roads. Wes has also said that the safety plan has been updated and submitted.

I had mentioned last month that I was attending the Chamber of Commerce luncheon during which Premier Kenny was speaking. The update is that he spoke mostly about grant funding for childcare, and that there are 295 spaces in the RMWB. It was mentioned \$9.7M for childcare including overnight care facilities, \$16.5M to the McMurray Métis Cultural Centre, \$3.5M for flood mitigation, \$29M for Hangingstone and Highway 63. He said that \$75M was made available for DRP funding, and that \$43M has been paid out. He also said that the school boards received funding as well. He spoke about developing small module nuclear reactors and mentioned a task force for the A2A rail line and the northern corridor.

At my Energy and Infrastructure meeting, Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) funding, and the new funding model was discussed. I can tell you that we aren't the only municipality upset about this. There are a lot of municipalities that can't afford the 10% of costs and are concerned about the possibility of bankruptcy. The committee is in talks with the government and we'll see how this will turn out. The other topic that was brought up at the meeting was the electrical distribution charges and the rising costs of the bills for our residents. The AUMA administration will be looking into what options are available and will bring it back to the Committee.

I also attended a Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) meeting on the Police Act review and what issues/concerns should be specifically focused on. A lot of the northern communities raised concerns about the lack of experience our officers have since they seem to come straight from depot and are still very new at their jobs. Councillor Stroud brought up the reporting of our missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and that there seems to be a delay on media releases regarding these missing women. Perhaps the outcomes wouldn't be so tragic if the news release was more timely.

We had a meeting yesterday before our Council meeting with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Minister Shandro, Minister McIver, MLA's Tany Yao and Laila Goodridge. We raised our concerns regarding the COVID-19 numbers and vaccine eligibility. The Province had said that the uptake wasn't high for the vaccination clinics, and we did tell them that most of our population is too young to qualify. For those who do qualify and are wanting the vaccine, I learned that the appointment times are approximately 2 weeks out because the vaccine isn't actually in Alberta, so this way they can distribute where the appointments are. The Ministers did say that as quickly as the vaccines arrive, they are distributed to the residents.

Our Council meeting last night was a long one. The proposed Land Use Bylaw has been sent back to Administration for more engagement and rewording of some sections. It won't come before council again until after the fall election, and residents will have the ability to speak at the public hearing at that time.

Until next month, 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](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

For municipal information related to COVID-19, visit rmwb.ca/COVID19.



Municipal Face Covering Bylaw remains in effect Province-wide face covering requirement also in effect

As cases of COVID-19 in the region continue to be above 50, the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw remains in effect. Face coverings are required in public transit, all indoor public places, all places of worship, all indoor workplaces, in K-12 schools when required and when you might come within 2 metres of people from outside your household.

When you are finished using your disposable mask, please remember to place the mask in the garbage. Masks do not belong in the recycling bin or on the ground.

The Government of Alberta's province-wide face covering requirement also continues to be in effect. When the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw is also in effect, the provincial requirement supersedes the Municipal Bylaw on most matters. For more information on the provincial requirement, visit alberta.ca/masks.

To learn more about the Municipal Face Covering Bylaw and check the status, visit rmwb.ca/facecovering or call Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663

State of Local Emergency in effect



WASH HANDS, COVER FACE, GIVE SPACE

On April 26, a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) was declared to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the region, protect the local health care system and keep our communities safe. We're all in this together, and we need your help.

When it comes to COVID-19 public health guidelines, don't pick and choose. Wash your hands often, wear a face covering, practice physical distancing, avoid all indoor gatherings, follow outdoor gathering restrictions and stay home when you are sick.

Get vaccinated when you are eligible

Alberta's Vaccine Program is well underway and 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.

Recently, Alberta Health Services **reduced the age eligibility for vaccines to 30 or older for the Wood Buffalo region**. You can book an appointment for your free shot at a pharmacy or the health clinic at MacDonald Island Park. Walk-in appointments are also available at MacDonald Island.

To learn more about the vaccine program or to book your appointment, visit alberta.ca/vaccine.

What is a State of Local Emergency?

Under the Emergency Management Act, municipalities can declare a SOLE during events that require a prompt coordination of action to protect the safety, health and welfare of people. The SOLE provides the municipality with access to additional resources and options to take immediate action to address the current COVID-19 situation in the region.

At the time of publication of this newsletter, no additional public health measures have been established, outside of measures already [put in place](#) by the Government of Alberta.

COVID-19 remains a fluid situation and information can change quickly and often. AHS remains the trusted authority and primary information source for updates on COVID-19. Factual, up-to-date information will continue to be available at rmwb.ca/covid19 and alberta.ca/covid19.

Engineering/Construction Updates:

As part of the Rural Water and Sewer Servicing project, H.Wilson Industries will be returning to your community. You will see crews start to mobilize as soon as May 17. As we gear up for the warm weather, you can expect to see construction zones being setup throughout the community with construction equipment being dropped off onsite.

This year we will be completing final commissioning on the water and sanitary main service and finishing the road works. As a result, this will be another busy construction season for your community. Please account for delays in your commute and plan for extra time to get to your destination when entering and exiting construction zones. Lane and road closures will be needed to complete this work. At the completion of this project, Saprae Creek will have an upgraded water distribution system, a new sanitary sewer system and a new road surface in some areas. We plan to complete all project work by August 30, 2021.

Garbage Pick-Up

Residents should continue to put their garbage out as per their regular schedule. Municipal contractors will coordinate the pick-up and return of garbage cans to residents. Residents are encouraged to mark their garbage cans with their address, to make return easier.

Laydown Yards or Stockpiles

This project requires 3 laydown/stockpile yards for construction activities. The laydown/stockpile yards will be located On Spruce Valley Drive, Weiss Dr and Freestone Way. In the RMWB, stockpiles are used to store dirt whereas laydown yards are used to store tools, equipment, vehicles, dirt and other materials. Once the project work has been completed, both stockpiles and laydown yards are rehabilitated back to their original state.

All construction timelines are subject to change due to weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances. If you have any concerns during construction, please contact the RMWB Pulse Line at 780-743-7000 or www.rmwb.ca/pulse.

RURAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE (RWSS)

INFORMATION SESSION FOR SAPRAE CREEK



Join us on May 10, 2021 for an information session about the Rural Water and Sewage Servicing program.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the program and get your questions answered by subject matter experts.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Guests are not obligated to stay for the entire session. Please feel free to log in at any time. Presentations will begin at 6:35 pm and 7:35 pm.

Please join us via Microsoft Teams link found at rmwb.ca/rwss

If you have not received your RWSS booklet please email Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca to arrange from delivery.

Get Prepared Saprae Creek Estates!



Make a plan | Have a kit | Know your route | Sign up for alerts

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 2-8!

To help you get prepared – and stay prepared – for future emergencies, we’re providing helpful tips and resources specific to your community.

Simply scan the QR code above with your phone’s camera app and get instantly connected to the preparedness tips and resources that matter to you.

Learn more about Emergency Preparedness Week at rmwb.ca/getprepared.



Register for the 2021 Community Cleanup to make Wood Buffalo a cleaner place for everyone!

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 launches May 4 and runs through to October 28, giving us all the opportunity to pitch in and beautify our region.

The RMWB is once again able to provide residents with bags, gloves, and picker sticks to assist in your cleanup efforts. To make this year’s process safer and easier, we’re encouraging groups of 10 or fewer to register through rmwb.ca/cleanup. Before completing the registration form, please take a moment to view the provided map and select the area you’d like to cleanup.

After completing the form, you’ll receive a confirmation email with details on how to pick up your items.

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

When your cleanup is finished, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663. They will be able to arrange to pick up the materials.

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

Thank you for doing your part to keep our region clean!

Artists and event organizers are invited to register for Alberta Culture Days



rmwb.ca/culturedays



The Wood Buffalo Alberta Culture Days planning committee is seeking individuals and organizations to help organize and host fun, family-friendly events that feature the Region's diverse culture.

Deadline: Submissions are due by **12 p.m. on June 30, 2021.**

What is Alberta Culture Days?

Alberta Culture Days is an opportunity to discover, experience and celebrate arts and culture through local events and activities, in person and online across the province.

Alberta Culture Days in Wood Buffalo include a series of **free** events for the **entire month of September** with opportunities to participate in Alberta's largest celebration of arts, heritage, diversity and community spirit.

Who can register?

Anyone can participate in Alberta Culture Days in Wood Buffalo. This includes individual artists, groups/organizations wanting to host an event and venue operators who want to offer their space.

Event organizers hail from the full spectrum of cultural creators ranging from grassroots community volunteers and independent artists to major arts, culture and heritage institutions.

To learn more, and to register for Alberta Culture Days, visit rmwb.ca/culturedays. For inquiries, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll free at 1-800-973-9336.

*Make it count.
Yeltsı dırı yuttágh.
Ôma ekwa akihtah.*



Census 2021 launches throughout RMWB

On April 1, 2021, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo officially launched their Census 2021 campaign, urging all citizens to make it count. The 2021 Municipal Census will count all residents living in the Urban Service Area, Hamlets, and Project Accommodations. The municipal census will not count people living on reserve lands as this is done through the federal Census of Population.

The information collected is important for planning services such as schools, parks, utilities, and emergency services that support our families and communities. Further, the census provides vital information to industry, community groups, businesses, and the social profit sector.

In respect of COVID-19 guidelines, residents will be strongly encouraged to complete the Census online or by phone. In situations where this is not possible, in-person enumeration will be physically distanced.

Online & Phone Options:

Enumerators will hand deliver your PIN letter to you in early April.

- Online: Visit rmwb.ca/census on or after April 1. Use your designated PIN to complete a brief questionnaire. Residents can also scan the QR code on their letter to complete the census on their mobile device.
- Phone: Through the PULSE line **(780-743-7000)** & **1-800-973-9663 (toll free)** staff can connect you with an enumerator. The enumerator is able to work with you over the phone to complete the census on your behalf or schedule a follow-up call. You can also reach the Census 2021 team at census.2021@rmwb.ca.

Local Option:

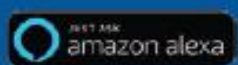
The RMWB is working with local members of your community to serve as socially distant enumerators. They will be reaching out to members of the community to complete the Census with you on your behalf. Please reach out to your local Municipal Contact Office.

Complete your census and you could win. Visit rmwb.ca/census for prizes and details or ask your local enumerator.



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.



Want to be a candidate in the
2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB 2021
Elections

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 rwmw.ca/elections

Annual Policing Priorities 2021-2022 Virtual Town Hall




The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) is partnering with Wood Buffalo RCMP to host a region-wide virtual town hall on Thursday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss policing priorities in the region. The RCMP will launch this year's priorities by addressing findings from the 2020-2021 Wood Buffalo Policing Priorities Survey completed by residents of the region, how this informed policing priorities and what the priorities mean to Wood Buffalo residents. To learn how you can join this event, please visit rwmw.ca/rcmp or call Pulse toll-free at 1 (800) 973-9663.

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.rwmw.ca/pulse



Submit your design to be featured on street banners!



Do you want to see your design on a street banner?

rmwb.ca/banner Deadline: May 25, 2021

The 2021 Street Banner Program invites residents to submit an artistic design that explores the rhythms of Wood Buffalo. Banners displayed in rural locations will include designs from residents in the rural communities. Submissions are due by **4 p.m. on May 25, 2021**.

Design Theme

Explore the **rhythms of Wood Buffalo!**

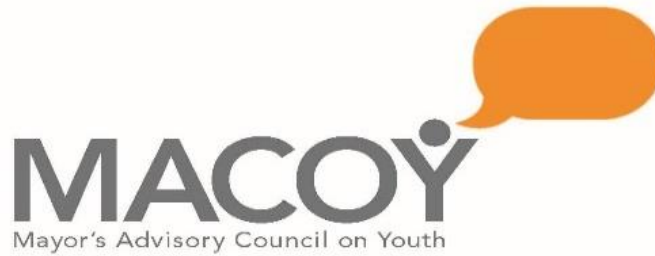
Wood Buffalo is a place of innovation, diversity, spirit and strength. The changing of seasons, the rivers that flow and the boundless skies connect us all to nature and land. A diverse community, with global connections and traditional celebrations, strengthens our spirit and contributes to a vibrant and dynamic background for arts, culture and music.

This year's theme supports Wood Buffalo Economic Development's new Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo place brand. For more information, visit Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo's [website](#).

How to submit

Artwork for this program must be submitted on a specific type of paper. To ensure resident safety, pick up of paper and drop off of artwork are to be coordinated by contacting PULSE toll-free at 1-800-973-9663 or by email at pulse@rmwb.ca.

For more information on the 2021 Street Banner Program, please visit rmwb.ca/banner.



Calling all youth!

**Participate in the MACOY Needs Assessment Survey and University Speaker Series.
(Mayors' Advisory Council On Youth)**

The **Regional Planning Committee** is seeking input from Junior and Senior High School students to get an accurate look at the current needs of the youth in the RMWB. Please visit rmwb.ca/macoy and fill out the brief survey to share your feedback. The final day to complete the survey is Saturday, May 15.

The **Engagement and Outreach Committee** wants to help you decide on your future. Youth will be interviewing current university students in a variety of subjects to learn about the transition from High School to University, things to know in the application process and what to expect with University life.

Date	Time	Subject
Saturday, May 8	2:00 p.m.	Engineering
Saturday, May 8	2:45 p.m.	Science/Medicine
Sunday, May 9	2:00 p.m.	Business
Sunday, May 9	2:45 p.m.	Humanities

For more information on how to participate, please visit rmwb.ca/macoy.

Summer outdoor recreation spaces – play safe, stay safe!



Spring has sprung and it's time to enjoy the sunshine! Municipal staff are busy preparing outdoor recreation spaces for community members to enjoy all summer long.

To ensure outdoor recreation spaces can be enjoyed safely, please follow all posted signage and do not use amenities that are temporarily closed. Doing so creates a safety risk and can damage field and court conditions, causing delays in opening.

Play safe and stay safe by following all public health measures

Community members using outdoor recreation spaces are reminded to exercise caution and use these amenities responsibly to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Anyone using these spaces must follow all public health measures, guidelines and park rules, including:

- Keeping two metres of physical distance from members of different households
- Not playing team sports or group activities where 2 metres of physical distance cannot be maintained at all times
- Staying home if you're feeling unwell
- Not sharing equipment and other items with others from outside your household
- Carrying and using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol

To learn more, visit rmwb.ca/parks.

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:

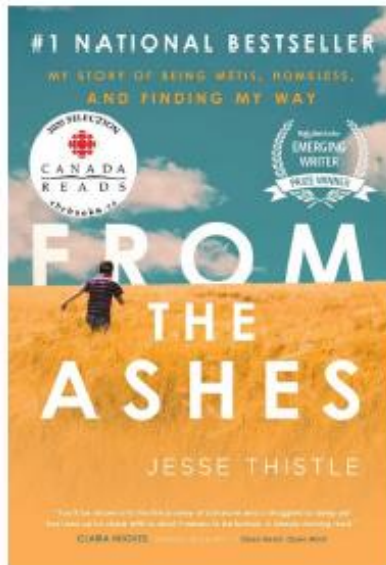
- Mobility issues
- Visual or hearing impairments
- Developmental or cognitive impairments
- Challenges related to mental health
- Individuals who require electricity for life-sustaining equipment (life support, oxygen or dialysis)

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.

IT'S TIME TO TALK

Indigenous Speaker Series



JESSE THISTLE MAY 27 @ 7 P.M.

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is proud to present the first of its Indigenous Speaker Series; a free virtual event, featuring an interactive discussion with Jesse Thistle.

To register for the It's Time to Talk: Indigenous Speaker Series, please email participate@rmwb.ca.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS ACTIVIST | BESTSELLING AUTHOR, FROM THE ASHES | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MÉTIS STUDIES

Jesse Thistle is a Métis-Cree Ph.D. Candidate and Assistant Professor at York University. Currently, he is working on theories of the intergenerational and historical trauma of the Métis people. His work involves reflections on his own previous struggles with addiction and homelessness and has been recognized as having a wide impact on both the scholarly community and the greater public. In 2019, Jesse published his autobiographical and acclaimed book "From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless and Finding My Way," which went on to be a #1 bestseller as well as nominated for Canada Reads.



VISIT RMWB.CA/TRC TO LEARN MORE

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!



Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games Rescheduled to 2023



WOOD BUFFALO
2023
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

The Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) announces January 29 to February 4, 2023, as the rescheduled dates for the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games.

In a planned and proactive response to the global COVID-19 pandemic and following a comprehensive risk analysis, the AWGIC postponed the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games previously set to take place March 2022. Following the postponement announcement, the AWGIC worked in collaboration with the Wood Buffalo Arctic Winter Games Host Society and participating contingents to secure new dates for the host community.

Artist call-out winners

We are excited to announce the winners of our cultural medallion and pin, and torch wrap design contest:

- Trevor Snook, Torch Wrap
- Kim Coppard, Cultural Medallion
- Sonia Burke-Smith, Cultural Pin

The winning designs will be unveiled at a later date. To learn more about the winning artists, visit our website at awg2022.org.





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 June newsletter submissions:
 May 25, 2021

MAY 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	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Municipal Office Closed	Newsletter Deadline				
30	31					