

# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



**FEBRUARY 2024**

# Construction Communication 2023



## How did construction communication measure up in 2023?


The What We Heard Report is now online. This report outlines what was done for the engagement, common themes that came from your feedback, and a summary of survey responses.

Learn more about the participation we saw from rural communities, what participants had to say about the rural newsletter, and more.

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback.

**Find the report at [rmwb.ca/participation](http://rmwb.ca/participation).**


## For any questions, please contact Pulse!



**PULSE**

780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663  
[rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse)

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



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO

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](http://www.rmwb.ca/pulse)

## Be prepared for extreme cold and winter storms

In winter, weather conditions in Wood Buffalo can change quickly and become dangerous. With temperatures changing do your part to keep safe and be prepared.

- **Avoid driving during blizzards or freezing rain** - wait several hours after the storm ends before going anywhere.
- **Keep the gas tank topped up** - When driving in bad weather, plan and make sure you have enough fuel. Keep the fuel tank at least half full.
- **Have a vehicle emergency kit** – include food that won't spoil, water – in plastic bottles, a blanket, extra clothes, shoes, first aid kit – with seatbelt cutter, small shovel, candle in a deep can and matches, flashlight, whistle, and road maps.



**Extreme cold** – When temperatures or the wind chill index reaches -40

- Stay indoors when possible. If you have to travel by car, know your route ahead of time and make sure you have a well-stocked emergency kit.
- Dress in warm, windproof layers. Watch for signs of frostbite, which can occur in less than 10 minutes in extreme cold.
- When working outside, do not overexert yourself. Sweating can lead to hypothermia.
- Make sure your pets have warm shelter during a cold snap.

For more information on what to do in severe weather visit our website or use the QR code.



## Fort Chipewyan Winter Road open as of Dec. 20

The Fort Chipewyan Winter Road opened to light vehicles on Dec. 20. Maximum weight limits will be increased as soon as it is safe to do so. All changes to the weight limit will be formally announced. Vehicles heavier than the posted weight limit using the winter road will be subject to serious fines and penalties.

High-clearance 4x4 vehicles are highly recommended to anyone making the drive.

### **Work continues on La Loche Winter Trail**

As of Dec. 20, crews were working to prepare the La Loche Winter Trail and it will open when the route is safe. You can find status updates at [rmwb.ca/winterroads](http://rmwb.ca/winterroads).

### **Don't miss a winter road update**

Further winter road updates will be provided as they become available. Check the following sources for the latest information:

- Sign up for email updates at [subscribe.rmwb.ca](http://subscribe.rmwb.ca)
- Winter Road Hotline (recorded message) - 866-743-6111
- Winter roads webpage – [rmwb.ca/winterroads](http://rmwb.ca/winterroads)
- RMWB Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Pulse – 780-743-7000, toll free 1-800-973-9663 or online at [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse)

### **Slow down! Winter road safety tips**

Before travelling on the winter road, please review the Winter Road Safety Tips. Drivers are reminded to:

- Prepare for emergencies ahead of time. There are no regular services like road patrol, gas stations or reliable cell phone coverage.
- Stay on the right-hand side of the road, especially on hills.
- Reduce speed to 30 km/h when passing equipment in the sandhills.
- Stay on the designated route. Travelling off road is extremely dangerous as there may be thin ice in areas surrounding the road.
- Always inform someone of your travel plans before leaving.
- Make the drive using high clearance 4x4 vehicles (recommended)

# 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.

**PLEASE AVOID pushing your snow into the road or ditches.**

Bylaw Services thanks residents for their compliance as this ensures a safe Wood Buffalo. For any questions regarding snow removal visit [rmwb.ca/snow](http://rmwb.ca/snow) or contact PULSE at 780-743-7000. For more information, please review the [Community Standards Bylaw No. 21/010](#).

# SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES SEWER PROGRAM

## Ready to connect?

Once your connection to the RWSS system is fully established, you'll no longer require the pick up of wastewater!

When your contractor provides you with notice that your connection is complete, contact Pulse at **780-743-7000** to stop the truck supplied services to your home.

## We can help!



While construction is paused over the winter months, we can help you move your RWSS application along!

Connect with us through Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll free at 1-800-973-9663 or at [rmwb.ca/pulse](https://rmwb.ca/pulse), and a project contact will follow up to answer your questions and assist with your application.

## Need more information?

Check out [rmwb.ca/rwss](https://rmwb.ca/rwss)!

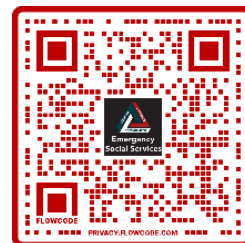


## Emergency Social Services (ESS)

ESS provides individuals or families with supports when they are displaced due to an emergency. Registration centres or other evacuation sites are set up to register evacuees and provide immediate basic needs. This support is available to provide a safe place for 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, scan the QR code:

## VPR

Emergencies happen. If you are a vulnerable person living in the region, you may be at greater risk during an emergency.



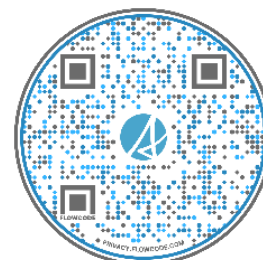
**Vulnerable  
Persons  
Registry**

The Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) is a 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 first responders about individuals on the VPR. Click [here](#) to find out more about the VPR.

## MAERS

The MyAlberta Emergency Registration System is available to all residents of Alberta as a tool to assist during an evacuation or emergency. Albertans can register themselves and their family members in advance of an emergency using their MyAlberta Digital ID. Click [here](#) or scan below to pre-register today.



## Embrace the magic of winter at WinterPLAY!



Mark your calendars - taking place from February 23 to March 3 at Snye Park in downtown Fort McMurray, this edition of WinterPLAY is going to be bigger than ever before! Not only are we bringing back your favourite activities, like Shootout on the Snye, horse drawn carriage rides, dog sleds, fireworks and more, WinterPLAY 2024 is also bringing Barbegazi to our region for the first time.

Barbegazi is a fun, family-friendly winter festival that includes unique activities for all skill levels such as human curling, foam ball sling shot, fat bike races and more. You don't want to miss this unique experience!

Details about this year's activities, schedule and more will be shared by mid-February. Stay tuned to [rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY](http://rmwb.ca/WinterPLAY) for updates.



# Sapare Creek Residents Society Annual General Meeting



As we approach our Annual General Meeting (AGM), we extend a warm invitation for you to join us in shaping the future of our Saprae Creek Residents Society.

Your presence at the AGM is not just a formality; it is an opportunity to actively engage in the decision-making process, share your insights, and contribute to the growth and development of our community.

The AGM provides a platform to reflect on our achievements, discuss future endeavors, and elect new leaders who will steer us towards our collective goals.

Join us in fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration within our community. Your voice matters, and together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community that we are all proud to be a part of.

We look forward to your participation at the AGM. Your involvement is key to the success of the Saprae Creek Residents Society, and we value your dedication to our shared vision.

7:00pm @ the Fire Hall  
Thursday February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



**GET INVOLVED!**

# Walking Safety Tips



**Walk Facing Traffic:** If there is no sidewalk and you must walk on the side of the road, choose the side where you are facing oncoming traffic. This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and take evasive action if necessary.

**Cross Safely:** Look both ways before crossing any street. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you.

**Walk Single File:** Unless you are on a sidewalk separate from the road, you should walk single file. This is especially important on a road with lots of curves. While it can be enjoyable to walk down the road two or three abreast chatting merrily, drivers don't expect it.

**Stay aware of bikes and runners:** Share the road and path with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind with a bike bell or a "passing on the left/right." Listen for them.

**Be Visible:** Wear bright colors when walking in daytime. When walking at night wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or reflective vest to be visible.

**Hang Up and Eyes Up:** Chatting or texting while walking is as dangerous as doing that while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, passing joggers and bikers or tripping hazards. Potential criminals can also see you as a distracted easy target.

**When walking your pet:** keep your pet on the side away from traffic so that they don't accidentally dart into the roadway.



# Be *BearSmart* at home

- Never leave food out for wildlife.
- Always keep your garbage in a garage or in a bear-resistant container until it can be removed from your property.
- Remove bird feeders from your yard between April and October. Clean up spilled bird seed regularly.
- Store pet food indoors and bring in pet dishes overnight.
- Thoroughly clean barbecues after each use and store them in a garage.
- Cover compost piles with soil or lime or use an indoor compost.
- Ensure that all fruit and berries are removed from trees and shrubs as early as possible.
- Talk to your neighbours about being BearSmart at home.
- If there's a bear in your community, call the nearest Fish and Wildlife office at 310-0000 or, after business hours, the Report a Poacher line at 1-800-642-3800.



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Photo Credit: Mike Ewald (bear image)  
Travel Alberta (border image)

**Government  
of Alberta** ■








## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)</b>	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>		<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	
<b>RCMP</b>	780-788-4000	 @WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION   @RMWOODBUFFALO   @RMWOODBUFFALO	
<b>FISH &amp; WILDLIFE</b>	780-743-7200		
<b>HEALTH LINK</b>	811		
<b>ALL EMERGENCIES</b>	911		

To submit information to the newsletter please email:  
[ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca](mailto:ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for March Newsletter submissions:  
 FEBRUARY 23, 2024

# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Roller Derby Try it night Mac Island 7:00-8:00 PM	2 <b>Adam Bugden Vista Ridge 6-9pm</b> 	3 Community Paint Night Unifor Building 5:00-8:00 PM
4 Kids Cake Decorating Check facebook to register	5	6	7	8 <b>SAPRAE CREEK RESIDENT SOCIETY AGM</b>  <b>7:00PM Firehall</b>	9 Milk and Cookies Children's Gala Mac Island  <b>Max Noseworthy Vista Ridge 6-9 PM</b> 	10
11 Pawsitively Sweet Treat Day SPCA All Day	12	13	14 Valentine's Dinner for a Cause Suncor Energy Centre 6:30 - 9:30 PM	15	16 CMHA Charity Jam and Silent Auction Suncor Energy Center  <b>The Bennetts Vista Ridge 6-9 PM</b> 	17
18	19 <b>Municipal Offices Closed</b>  	20	21	22	23 WinterPLAY Begins Snye Point Park <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>Matthew Parlee Vista Ridge 6-9 PM</b> 	24 Diner En Rouge - Under the Aurora 6:00 - 11:55 PM  WinterPLAY
25 Shootout on the Snye All Day  WinterPLAY	26 WinterPLAY	27 Fort McMurray Career Fair Mac Island 1:00-4:00 PM  WinterPLAY	28 Pink Shirt Day Workshop Unifor Building 10:00-2:00 PM  WinterPLAY	29 WinterPLAY	