

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



JANUARY 2024

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.

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
- Winter Road Hotline (recorded message) - 866-743-6111
- Winter roads webpage – rmwb.ca/winterroads
- RMWB Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Pulse – 780-743-7000, toll free 1-800-973-9663 or online at 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)

60+ IMPACT AWARDS

CELEBRATING OLDER ADULTS' & ELDERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO (RMWB)

The RMWB is a region filled with people, young and old, who are making a difference every day. Because of them, our community is a vibrant, inclusive, and beautiful place to call home.

A large portion of these impact-makers are the Elders and older adults in our region. Do you know one? Nominate them for the 2024 60+ Impact Awards!

To nominate, please provide the following information:

- name and age of the nominee
- two letters of endorsement for the nominee
- a brief write-up explaining why you feel the nominee is deserving of the recognition

Each nominee must be currently living in the RMWB.

To nominate a deserving individual, please contact a member of our selection committee:

- **Curtis Phillips** - cjphillips@shaw.ca
- **Heidi Major** - Heidi.Major@rmwb.ca
- **Carolyn Evancio** - Carolyn.Evancio@ahs.ca



The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2024

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 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, and a project contact will follow up to answer your questions and assist with your application.

Need more information?



Check out rmwb.ca/rwss!

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.



ISBN: 978 0 7785 9276 1 (Printed Version)
978 0 7785 9277 8 (Online Version)

Pub No. I/496
Revised February 2011

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

**Government
of Alberta** ■







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		

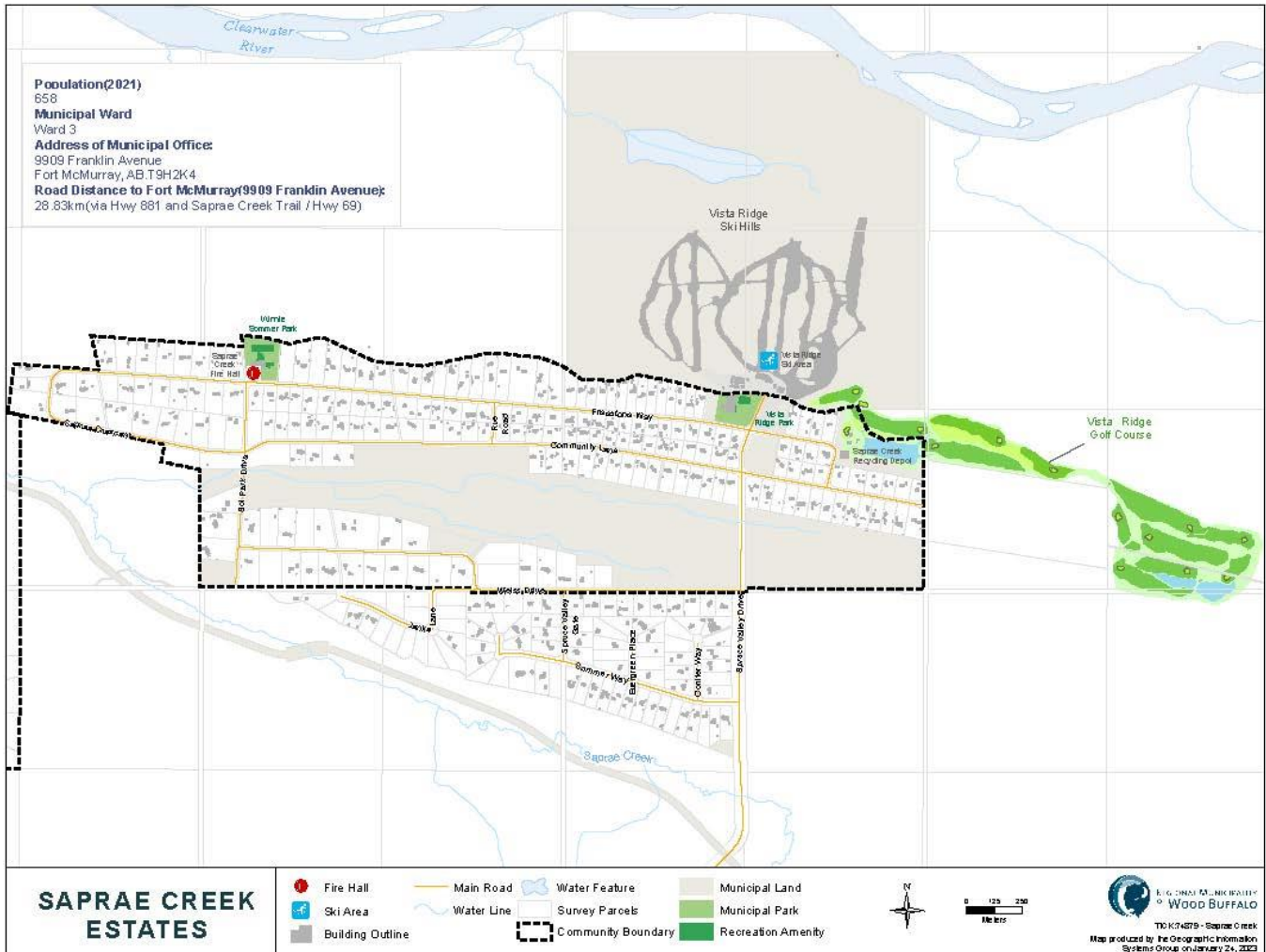
To submit information to the newsletter please email:
ruralnewsletters@rmwb.ca

Deadline for February Newsletter submissions:
 January 25, 2024

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day Municipal Office Closed</p> 	2	<p>3</p> <p>Playful Paws 8:00am-6:00pm Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre</p>	4	5		6
7	8	9	<p>10</p> <p>Playful Paws 8:00am-6:00pm Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre</p> <p>BGC- Go Rec It! 6:30pm - 8:00pm BGC Fort McMurray</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour 7:30pm-10:00pm Keyano College</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour 7:30pm-10:00pm Keyano College</p> 	13	
14	15	16	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>Always... Patsy Cline 7:30pm Keyano Theatre & Arts Centre</p> 	20	
21	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>Cost of Living Brunch & Learn 10:00am-12:00pm Shell Place at MacDonald Island</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Fé Art Exhibition 12:00pm-8:00pm MacDonald Island Park</p>	
28	29	30	31				

Community Map



What would you like to see on the community map?

Please email Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca