

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



January 2026



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

COMMUNITY NOTICE

How rural winter maintenance works in your community

Winter maintenance in rural communities is done by municipal contractors, and includes:

- Snow plowing and snow removal.
- Sanding/salting asphalt roadways whenever needed to create a safe driving surface.

Snow plowing in your community:

- Primary (high-traffic) roads are plowed within 24 hours of snowfall.
- School routes will be plowed within 24 hours for easier school pick-up and drop-off.
- Secondary roads are plowed within 48 hours.
- Gravel roads are plowed within 72 hours.
- Contractors will try to remove windrows (snowbanks) at residential and commercial driveways where possible.

Snow removal in your community:

- Contractors start snow removal when snowbanks are too high and block safe sightlines at intersections.

Help your community with winter maintenance:

- Remove garbage and recycling bins from the roadside to leave room for plowing.
- Do not shovel/push snow onto the road or into ditches, as this creates flooding issues in the spring.

More details are available at rmwb.ca/snowplow

Questions? Please contact Pulse at rmwb.ca/pulse, or by phone at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 (toll-free).

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada T9H 2K4 rmwb.ca



Rural Water & Sewer Service

Hiring a certified contractor

A certified contractor must be selected from the [Alberta Municipal Affairs Private Sewage System Installer Certification List](#).

The following local contractors have been certified by Alberta Municipal Affairs as of July 2024:

Contractor	Contact information
B Mac Underground Services Ltd.	780-742-9848
Best Choice Plumbing, Heating and Wastewater Solutions	780-799-6267
Call First Plumbing & Heating	780-880-4726
Consun Contracting Ltd.	780-743-3163
H Wilson Industries (2010) Ltd.	780-743-1881
NC Transport & Equipment	780-713-1169
Parker Drainage and Waterproofing	780-799-0723
Qalipu Enterprises	780-598-4933
Rob Ryan Construction Inc.	780-799-6434
SENA Constructors Inc.	780-747-9664
Sureway Construction Management Ltd.	780-743-4788
Wellingdale Group Inc.	780-607-1431
Wood Buffalo Plumbing & Heating Ltd.	780-974-0521

Please note, this list is for informational purposes only. The RMWB is not recommending or endorsing these businesses. Any contract you enter with a certified contractor is strictly at your own risk.

Help shape your community - join an RMWB board or committee!

Wood Buffalo needs your energy and perspective for important projects and initiatives across the region!

Get involved, gain valuable experience and network with like-minded residents by applying to join a Council-appointed board or committee.

There are more than 70 vacancies among nearly 20 Municipal boards and committees. Vacancies will be posted in early September. Apply for an open position at rmwb.ca/boards, or at your local municipal office.

What are the benefits of serving on an RMWB board or committee?

Joining a board or committee is a great opportunity for professional growth – members work alongside other community leaders and help advise Mayor and Councillors on important matters that impact your community.

Are meetings accessible for rural and Indigenous residents?

Distance doesn't have to be an obstacle – you can attend most board and committee meetings remotely by video call. Rural board and committee members will also be reimbursed mileage expenses for driving to attend meetings in person.

Which board and committee positions are currently open to apply for?

- Advisory Committee on Aging
- Assessment Review Board
- Combative Sports Commission
- Communities in Bloom
- Community Identification Committee
- Community Standards Appeal Committee
- Development Advisory Committee
- Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee
- Fort McMurray Airport Authority
- Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee
- Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity & Equity
- Regional Recreation Corporation Board
- Public Art Committee
- Regional Library Board
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
- Vehicle for Hire Committee
- Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

For questions or to get help applying for a vacancy, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or toll-free at 1-800-973-9663.

WHERE ARE SUPPORTS NEEDED?

Your feedback is shaping a 10-year strategy to strengthen safety and social well-being, identifying community priorities in supports for seniors and Elders, programs for youth and children, transportation, and cultural services.

Stay involved and informed

- Participate online at rmwb.ca/socialwellbeing
- Complete a paper survey or quick poll at your local municipal office
- Chat at an upcoming rural community open house



Feedback will help show where supports are strong, where gaps exist, and how to improve access and connection.

rmwb.ca/socialwellbeing



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Skate closer to home: Build a backyard rink this winter!

With winter around the corner, it's time to get ready for skating season.



The Community Backyard Rink program makes it easy for you to create temporary ice rinks on municipal property in your neighbourhood, helping families embrace winter safely.

Get started

Getting your community backyard rink started is simple. Begin by reading through the online guide at rmwb.ca/CommunityRinks. This guide includes information and tips on the application process and building and maintaining your rink.

Approved applicants will be provided with insurance coverage under the Municipality's insurance policy.

Any unauthorized structures are subject to fines and removal.

Apply online

Applications are open all season, but rinks should be constructed by Dec. 31. Apply online through our E-Permitting portal at rmwb.ca/CommunityRinks.

For questions, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

YOUR AMBULANCE EXPERIENCE MATTERS

From paramedics at the
scene to the hospital doors
— **tell us about your care.**

rmwb.ca/EMScare



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Stay up to date on services, news, and projects in your community!

You may have noticed a refreshed look for **rmwb.ca** last month.



The new website provides a more reliable and user-friendly way to keep informed and connected.

Key changes include an improved mobile-friendly design and enhanced accessibility.

We've also streamlined the subscription process.

News, alerts, updates and more

Stay ahead of what's happening around your neighbourhood: get timely news delivered straight to your email inbox by subscribing to municipal updates.

Pick and choose the categories you're interested in:

- Municipal News (News Releases)
- Emergency Alerts
- Winter Maintenance Zones
- Construction: Fort McMurray - North of the Bridge
- Construction: Fort McMurray - South of the Bridge
- Construction: Rural Communities - North of Fort McMurray
- Construction: Rural Communities - South of Fort McMurray
- Fort Chipewyan Winter Road
- La Loche Winter Trail
- Legislated Public Notices
- River Breakup Community Updates

Subscribe for updates at **rmwb.ca/subscribe**.

If you're having trouble finding municipal information on our website, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or rmwb.ca/pulse.

Rural Water Sewer Service

Why connect?

Say goodbye to water deliveries and septic pick-ups! Once connected, deliveries and pick-ups will no longer be required at your property.

Flexible payment plan: **\$105 at 0% interest** spread out over 25 years through your bi-monthly utility bill.

Applications can be picked up and submitted at your local municipal office.

The cost will significantly increase after the connection window closes (end of construction season).

The Municipality will no longer coordinate or subsidize water delivery and septic pick-ups.

Eligibility

Ownership-You must be registered on Title

Tax-Account-your account must be in good standing

Utility Account- your account must be in good standing.

Historical Indigenous Residential Land Ownership Policy:

Approved by Council on October 8, 2024

May be eligible for the transfer of land from the RMWB to an Indigenous person having historical and continuing connection to a parcel of land

If a resident has resided on and used a parcel of land long-term, they may be eligible.

Getting Started!

1. Choose your certified contractor
2. Complete your application form.
3. Submit your application fee.

Have questions?

Visit rmwb.ca/rwss or connect with us through **Pulse** at 780-743-7000.



Remember to have your bins out by 7:30 a.m. on your collection day

Stay on track with ease —check the [garbage and recycling calendar](https://rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar) for all collection dates visit rmwb.ca/collectioncalendar.



What you need to know

- ✓ **Set your bins out on time** – Place them at the curb by **7:30 a.m.** on collection day.
- ✓ **Remove them the same day** – Bins **must not** be left on the street overnight.

Winter bin placement tips

Make sure your bins are placed in a clear, accessible spot. Bins blocked by snow, ice, or other obstacles may not be collected.

- ❄ Place bins **in front** of snowbanks, never on top or behind.
- ❄ Keep **one-foot** in-between bins and keep them **3 feet** from vehicles.
- ❄ Ensure bins are **firmly closed**.

Thank you for helping keep the community clean and running smoothly!



WOOD BUFFALO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

What is it?

- A voluntary program that offers a safe, respectful way to promote healing after harm has occurred.
- Allows offenders to take responsibility for their actions and allows the community to see its role in contributing to reconciliation.
- Provides an opportunity for everyone involved to have a voice and determine actions and outcomes to ensure accountability.

Learn more:

Restorative Justice Contact Information:

- Phone: 780-788-4253
- Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250
- Email: restorative.justice@rmwb.ca

Get involved.

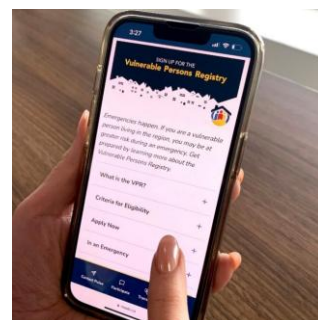
We need committed volunteers to help! Please contact us.



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

Apply to be added to the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) - a free, voluntary and confidential service for residents living at home who would be at greater risk during emergencies.

To sign up or learn more visit –
rmwb.ca/vpr



Community Policing - presentations available

The Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit has a great list of presentations they can bring to communities when requested.

Available presentations

- A Career in the RCMP – Gr 7-Adult
- ATV Safety – Gr 10-Adult
- Being a Good Citizen – ECDP-Gr 6
- Being a Mountie - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bicycle Safety - ECDP-Gr 6
- Bullying (includes Cyberbullying) – ECDP-Gr 9
- Consent – Gr 7-Adult
- Crime Scene Investigations – ECDP-Adult
- Drug Awareness
 - For Teens (cannabis, alcohol, vaping and opioid awareness) - Gr 7-12
 - For Adults (includes clandestine drug labs, methamphetamines, opioids)
- Fraud & Identity Theft - Adult
- Halloween Safety – ECDP-Gr 6
- History of the Force – Gr 4-Adult
- Online Safety (includes Cyberbullying) – ECDP-Gr 6
- Online Safety (include Cyberbullying, Social Media & the Law) – Gr 7-Adult
- Personal Safety – ECDP-Adult
- Police & Canadian Law (for New Canadians) – Gr 10-Adult
- Property Crime Prevention – Adult
- Restorative Justice – Gr 9-Adult
- Senior Safety – Adult
- Sexting – Gr 7-Adult
- Traffic
 - Impaired Driving (Alcohol & Drugs) – Gr 9-Adult
 - Distracted Driving – Gr 9-Adult
 - Winter Driving – Gr 9-Adult
- Unhealthy Relationships/Dating Violence – Gr 7-Adult
- Youth Criminal Justice Act – Gr 7-Adult



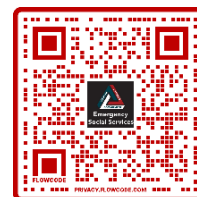
Want a presentation? Contact us if you'd like a presentation for your group, class or community at communitypolicing@rmwb.ca or call 780-788-4040 and ask for the Community Policing Coordinator.

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 below:

VPR

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



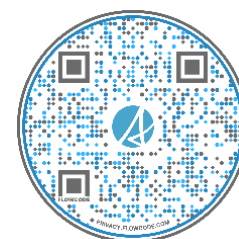
**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

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.



NOTICE TO RURAL RESIDENTS

Water and septic service reminders

To allow water and septic delivery trucks access and to provide continuous service for all residents, please follow to the requirements below:

- 1) **Basement water tanks or water tanks that are not visible:** All customers must have their volume posted in a visible place so water delivery contractor can see proper date and amount of water required (displayed in litres).
- 2) **Hanging branches and wires on driveways:** Make sure that delivery vehicles have a minimum 15 feet of clearance. All low hanging branches must be trimmed to prevent damage to trucks, and low hanging wires are to be raised.
- 3) **Provide clear access:** All vehicles/obstacles must be removed on driveways during the delivery schedule and the ensure the water delivery vehicle is able to drive within **15.24 meters** of the delivery point for water.
- 4) **Ensure pets are contained:** For the safety of contractors and pets, all dogs are to be tied up or inside your home, for service provider to access your property.
- 5) **Keep access points clear of snow and ice:** During winter months, keep driveways and pathways to water and septic hook ups, clear of snow and ice and thaw receivers and caps for hose access.
- 6) **Maintain cam-lock/hoses:** The winterization and maintenance of the cam-lock fitting and hoses is the responsibility of the home-owner. All cam-locks and hoses are to be drained and water to be removed to prevent freezing and breakage of cam-lock.
- 7) **Safety of septic tanks:** All septic tanks will 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 add a proper hose with the required cam-lock and extend down driveway to location of delivery.

For more information:

refer to the Water Utilities Management Bylaw (Bylaw No. 07/035) Part X

If you have questions or require any additional information, call the Pulse Line at 780-743-7000

Step up in an emergency

Be the Helping Hand When It Matters Most - Volunteer with the Emergency Social Services team

Join a team that helps residents during an emergency or disaster.

- Build your knowledge, confidence, and experience.
- No experience required. Training will be provided.



RMWB.ca/ESSVolunteer

For more information call:

- [780-743-7000](tel:780-743-7000)
- Toll Free [1-800-973-9663](tel:1-800-973-9663)

What we do:

Emergency Social Services helps people during large emergencies or incidents in the Municipality.

Who we are:

Volunteers, community partners, and municipal employees who work together under the Emergency Management Branch of Regional Emergency Services.





Wood Buffalo Victim Services provides victims of crime and trauma with support, information and referrals based on their needs. The intent is to ease the crisis and help them return to stability.

Why should victims of crime and trauma contact us?

Our support workers are empathetic listeners. They will give you information to help you make decisions that are best for you and your circumstances. Part of our role is to make sure you are treated fairly. You have rights under the *Alberta Victims of Crime Act*.

Please call or email to speak to a support worker. We can arrange to meet in your community.

Wood Buffalo Victim Services

Phone: 780-788-4250

Toll Free: 1-888-788-4250

Email: victim.services@rmwb.ca

For any questions, please contact Pulse!



780-743-7000 • 1-800-973-9663
rmwb.ca/pulse

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



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



Individual \$10

Tiger (under 6) \$5

Family \$30

Open Daily
9am-6pm

Check in at Guest Services

**VISTA
RIDGE**

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.



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:

Info.rr@rmwb.ca

Deadline for **February** Newsletter submissions:

January 23, 2025

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2 	3 Oil Barons vs Devon Xtreme 7:00pm Centerfire Arena
4 Pride Coffee Social & Craft Circle Redpoll Centre 2 – 4pm	5 Girls Inc. Registration for Winter Programs Online 9:00am	6	7	8	9 Huskies Volleyball vs Lakeland College 	10
11 QTBIPOC Coffee Social 2 – 4pm CMHA	12 Adult Art WBRL 5:30 – 7:30pm	13 Shayleen Gladu Author visit 9 – 3pm Elsie Fabian School	14 Marketing made Simple 10:00am FuseSocial	15 GOLDEN GIRLS The Laughs Continue 7:30pm Keyano Theater	16 Oil Barons vs Olds Grizzlies 7pm 	17 Miciowin Farmer's Market 11am – 3pm Stonebridge Hotel
18 Tubbing at Vista Ridge 8:15am – 1pm	19 Oil Barons vs Whitecourt Wolverines 7:00pm Centerfire Arena	20	21 Oil Barons vs Whitecourt Wolverines 7:00pm Centerfire Arena	22	23 Newsletter submission deadline 	24 Family Literacy Day WBRL 10am – 3pm Miciowin Farmer's Market 11am – 3pm Stonebridge Hotel
25	26 Adult Art WBRL 5:30 – 7:30pm	27	28	29	30 Huskies Basketball vs NAIT 6pm Syncrude Sports & Wellness 	31 Miciowin Farmer's Market 11am – 3pm Stonebridge Hotel