

# DRAPER ROAD NEWS



# July 2021

## Councillor Shelia Lalonde's Update



As I write this column today, the long weekend has just ended, and the weather is starting to look nice and summery. I hope that everyone had a great Victoria Day weekend and that your plans went well. As for me, my grandkids were my helpers while we planted my garden. I will have an interesting vegetable garden this year as some of the combinations that were planted together may be fighting for the same space and nutrients. I know that in one of my flowerpots I have corn and pumpkin planted together, and I don't think the pot is large enough for one plant, let alone two! In another pot, they planted flowers and peas together. If the peas climb up and the flowers stay small, it could look very pretty. They did have fun getting dirty, and I enjoyed the help.

I was looking back at my notes for this past month and it really was a slow month for meetings and extracurricular events. I have reminders for upcoming items like the Big Bin event which runs from May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>. The bin will be in Saprae Creek at Vista Ridge from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

The municipal and federal censuses need to be completed. There are two this time and it is important to complete both. The results help to determine the funding and grants that are provided to the region.

On a Covid-19 note, it looks like the Province will be re-opening in stages again with the inoculation numbers being the driving force along with the reduction in the number of hospitalization. Stage 1, which starts on June 1<sup>st</sup>, will see an increase in the numbers for outdoor social gatherings and the opening of outdoor dining for our local restaurants. More information can be found on the Government of Alberta website at the following link:

[www.Alberta.ca/COVID19](http://www.Alberta.ca/COVID19)

The Wood Buffalo 2023 Arctic Winter Games Host Society is looking for a few board members. More information can be found on the RMWB's website at the following link:

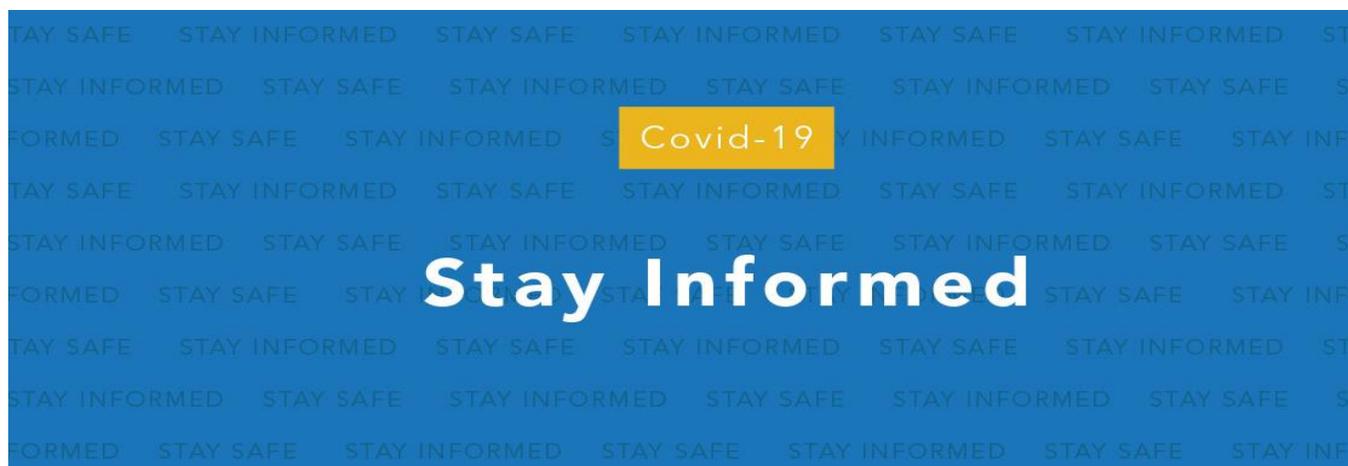
<https://www.rmwb.ca/en/mayor-council-and-administration/boards-and-committees.aspx>

At the May 11, 2021 Council meeting, the Tax Rate Bylaw was passed. The rural residential mill rate has increased by 4%. For Saprae Creek and Draper residents, this will mean an increase in our tax bill. Our property assessments increased due to sales of property in our areas. The provincial education tax has increased by 18% and the Senior housing tax decreased slightly. I know that I'm not going to be too happy when the bill comes, but as a municipality, we still have to get our tax ratio down to that 5:1. Right now, we're about 7:1 from 18:1 in 2016.

Another thing that I think we as residents need to keep an eye on is the Keyera South Cheecham Sulphur Handling Facility. This facility will process elemental sulphur from the sites and make fertilizer pellets for market. This facility will be increasing truck traffic on Highways 63 and 881 and will also be shipping by rail from Cheecham. I don't know if there would be an increase in activity at the rail yard, but it is something we should be aware of.

I have a few upcoming committee meetings in the beginning of June. There is a tentatively scheduled meeting for the Emergency Advisory Committee, and I have an AUMA Energy and Infrastructure meeting on the June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Other than that, I don't have much to say this 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](https://rmwb.ca/COVID19).

### **Alberta's Vaccine Program**

Alberta's Vaccine Program is well underway. Currently, any Albertan **12 years of age or older** is eligible to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are now being offered in stages. As of June 21, 2021, Albertans who received their first vaccine in March, April or May are now eligible to book their second dose appointments.

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.

To learn more about the vaccine program or to book your appointment, visit [alberta.ca/vaccine](https://alberta.ca/vaccine) or call 811.

### **Alberta's Open for Summer Plan**

Alberta enters Stage 3 of the Province's [Open for Summer Plan](https://alberta.ca/openforsummer) on July 1, 2021.

The plan aims to ease COVID-19 restrictions in three stages as vaccination targets are reached and hospitalizations decline.

Stage 3, the final stage in the plan, will see the easing of most province-wide restrictions. For more information, visit [alberta.ca/openforsummer](https://alberta.ca/openforsummer).



## Municipal Face Covering Bylaw no longer in effect

On June 22, 2021, Council voted to repeal the Municipal Face Covering [Bylaw \(No. 20/024\)](#), meaning this bylaw is no longer in effect. However, **masks are still required on public transit** and in taxis or rideshare cars.

## Alberta's Open for Summer Plan

As of July 1, 2021, the province is in Stage 3 of the Government of Alberta's [Open for Summer Plan](#) and most COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines have now been eased. This includes the general indoor provincial mask mandate. However, masking is still required in specific settings, as determined by the Government of Alberta. This includes acute and continuing care settings, as well as on public transit and in taxis or rideshare cars.

For more information about Alberta's Open for Summer Plan at [alberta.ca/openforsummer](https://alberta.ca/openforsummer).

## Visiting other communities

While the RMWB Face Covering Bylaw is no longer in effect and the province-wide mask mandate eased, there may be First Nations and some municipalities in Alberta and Canada that have additional masking protocols in place. Should you travel to another community, please plan ahead and review each area's COVID-19 mandates.

For more information, visit [rmwb.ca/facecovering](https://rmwb.ca/facecovering) or call Pulse.

## Engineering Updates

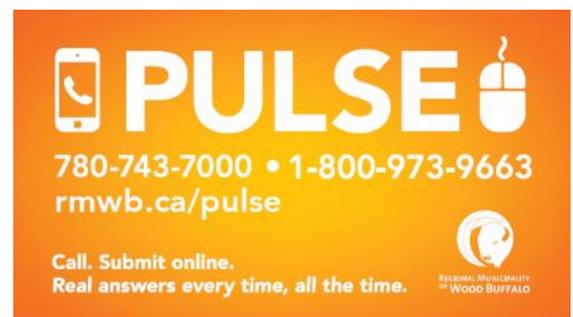
Draper Road construction is scheduled to start June 2021. The first lift of asphalt is anticipated to be completed by October 2021, and the second lift of asphalt should be completed by July 2022.

## Construction Work Hours

The Municipality would like to remind all residents that construction season has started. As per Bylaw No. 21/010, Part 4, regarding noise control, construction is permitted between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday or a statutory holiday. If you experience any noise discomfort outside of these hours, please contact PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 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.rmwb.ca/pulse](http://www.rmwb.ca/pulse)



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 [rwmb.ca/elections](http://rwmb.ca/elections)

Want to be a candidate in the  
2021 Municipal Election?

RMWB **2021**  
Elections

## Municipal Census 2021 extended to July 31

*Make it count.*



The Municipal Census 2021 has been extended until July 31, 2021 to provide residents more time to complete. There are numerous ways on how to participate:

- Online at [rwmb.ca/census](http://rwmb.ca/census)
- Over the phone through the PULSE line 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663
- In person with a socially-distanced enumerator

Don't know your Census PIN?

Each dwelling has a unique PIN, you can obtain yours by emailing [census.2021@rwmb.ca](mailto:census.2021@rwmb.ca) or contacting PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.

For more information about Census 2021 visit [rwmb.ca/census](http://rwmb.ca/census).

# 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](http://rmwb.ca/VPR) or call Pulse.

## Residents with Private Cisterns and Septage Systems

The RMWB would like to remind residents that maintenance of private water and sanitary systems are the responsibility of the homeowner. Alberta Health Services (AHS) recommends that systems be tested twice a year and cisterns cleaned and disinfected once per year.

### Septage tank maintenance

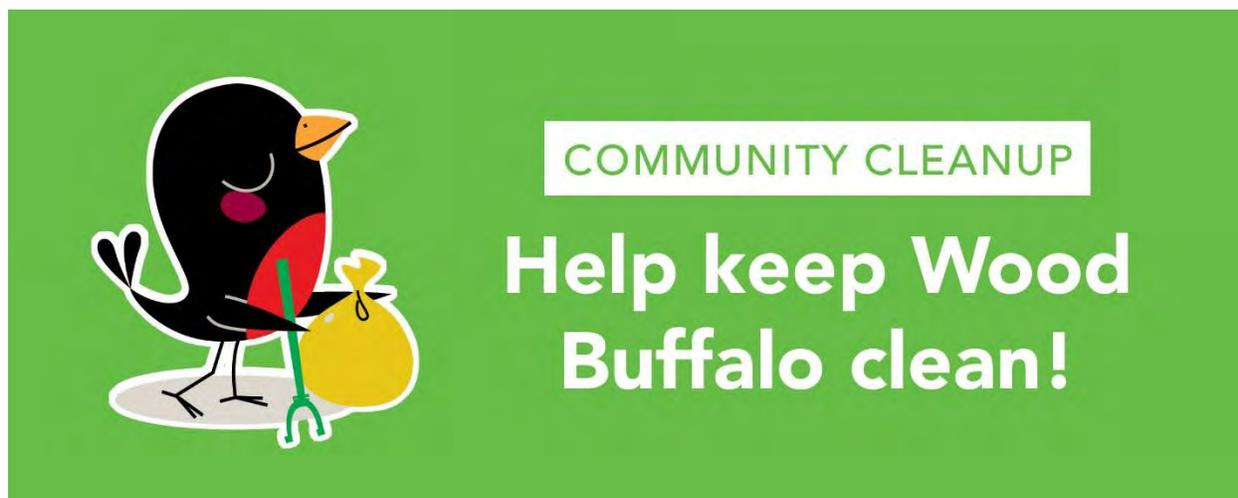
Septage tanks also require proper inspection and maintenance. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

- Have your septic tank checked annually for buildup that can reduce your tank's efficiency. You may need to have your tank pumped by a professional sewage hauler every couple of years to ensure proper operation.
- Do not enter your septic tank. During the treatment process, sewage gives off dangerous gases. Always hire a professional for tank maintenance tasks.
- Do not allow livestock, vehicles, or any type of pathway to cross over your disposal field at any time. This practice helps prevent pipe breakage, soil compaction and excessive freezing due to compaction during the winter months.
- Keep your treatment system area well-maintained. Trim grasses and other vegetation short.
- Always consult your operations manual provided by the septage tank installer for specific maintenance guidance.

### Water quality

All water supplied to residents comes from the water treatment plant and has been tested to ensure it meets quality standards and is safe to drink. The Municipality follows rigorous safety and quality regulations, including regularly submitting samples to an AHS laboratory.

Should residents note a concern with their drinking water, please follow the steps AHS recommends such as testing the water, ensuring maintenance has been completed, and conducting visual inspections to rule out abnormalities. Should these steps not result in resolution, please contact PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663.



## Help create a litter-free Wood Buffalo. Register for the 2021 Community Cleanup today!

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 is running through October 28, giving us all the opportunity to pitch in and beautify our region.

The RMWB can provide residents with bags, gloves, and picker sticks to assist in your cleanup efforts. Outdoor social gathering limits must be followed. Mandatory physically distancing must be maintained at all times between members of different households. Register by visiting [rmwb.ca/cleanup](https://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.

[Check out our Community Cleanup map before choosing your potential area.](#)

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 schedule a pickup of collected cleanup 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!

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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](http://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!

A wildfire is burning in a forest, with smoke rising. A yellow banner is overlaid in the center with a fire shield icon, the text "TAKE THE PLEDGE TO REDUCE WILDFIRES", and a QR code. The Alberta logo is in the bottom right corner.

**TAKE THE PLEDGE TO REDUCE WILDFIRES**

Protect our forests,  
take the wildfire pledge,  
win a helicopter tour

Commit to reducing human-  
caused wildfires today



## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

PULSE (MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD)	1-800-973-9663 780-743-7000	PULSE@RMWB.CA	RMWB.CA/PULSE
<b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>		<b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>	
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](mailto:koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca)

Deadline for August Newsletter submissions:  
 July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

# JULY 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	30 	31