

# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



# November 2021



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 provincial 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).

### **State of Public Health Emergency**

In September, the Government of Alberta declared a State of Public Health Emergency and introduced a number of new restrictions to reduce transmission of COVID-19. At this time, the State of Public Health Emergency remains in effect.

Find full details on all province-wide restrictions at [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://alberta.ca/COVID19).

### **Vaccine Program**

All Albertans 12 and older can get their first and second doses now. Third doses are also now available to:

- Albertans 75+
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) individuals 65+
- Immunocompromised Albertans 12 and older
- Residents of seniors' supportive living
- Travellers to jurisdictions that don't recognize Covishield/AstraZeneca or mixed series doses

Learn more about Alberta's Vaccine Program at [alberta.ca/vaccine](https://alberta.ca/vaccine) or by calling 811.

### **Updated Vaccine Records**

The Government of Alberta has added secure QR codes to COVID-19 vaccination records. You can now print or save your QR code proof of vaccination at [alberta.ca/COVIDRecords](https://alberta.ca/COVIDRecords). No account is required. You can also visit any participating Alberta registry agent to get a free copy.

As of Nov. 15, the vaccine record with the QR code will be the only valid proof of vaccination to access businesses and organizations participating in the Restrictions Exemption Program.

For more information, visit [alberta.ca/vaccine](https://alberta.ca/vaccine).

## Design benches for the Region and help create a connection between rural communities and Fort McMurray



### PUBLIC ART BENCH PROGRAM

[rmwb.ca/callforcreatives](http://rmwb.ca/callforcreatives)



Public Art Wood Buffalo **invites you** to submit an expression of interest for the Public Art Bench Program. The successful applicants will liaise with rural communities to create **custom designed park benches**. Park bench designs selected will be **replicated** so that a matching bench will be located in Fort McMurray and the other installed in the rural community of inspiration.

In its inaugural year, benches will be inspired by two communities, **Saprae Creek and Anzac**, and will be installed in the following sites:

- **Site 1** – Vista Ridge Park located in the hamlet of Saprae Creek Estates
- **Site 2** – Anzac Community Garden and Park
- **Site 3** – Kiyām Community Park will be the site for the matching sister benches

The program is a **pilot project** that is anticipated to be repeated in each community over the next five years and is **aimed at** strengthening a visual connection between Wood Buffalo's rural communities and its urban core of Fort McMurray.

Visit [rmwb.ca/callforcreatives](http://rmwb.ca/callforcreatives) to learn more about the program!



Curbside Yard Waste Collection has now ended for the season.

If you still have yard waste you need to dispose of, the public drop off area at the Municipal landfill continues to accept yard waste at no charge year-round, seven days a week from 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

**What is yard waste?**

Yard waste material includes grass clippings, leaves, flowers, weeds, plants and small twigs and sticks.

**What is not yard waste?**

Kitchen food scraps, pet waste and non-organic garden waste like broken plant pots are not considered yard waste. To learn more about properly disposing of these materials, visit [rmwb.ca/sorting](http://rmwb.ca/sorting).

**Are Pumpkins yard waste?**

Pumpkins are not considered yard waste and should not be placed out for curbside yard waste collection.

With Halloween now over, the Municipality has set up Pumpkin Drop Off sites in the Urban Service Area to help you dispose of your pumpkins.

From Oct. 31 and Nov. 6, you can drop off your pumpkins to any of the following locations:

- Sobeys (Thickwood) – 210 Thickwood Blvd
- Independent (Timberlea) – 251 Powder Dr.
- MacDonald Island (Downtown) - 1 MacDonald Dr.

Learn more at [rmwb.ca/pumpkins](http://rmwb.ca/pumpkins).

## Let's talk about preserving heritage and assessing cultural spaces in Wood Buffalo

Have you heard? The municipality wants to hear your thoughts about preserving heritage resources and assessing spaces for cultural activities in Wood Buffalo! You may be wondering, *“What is a Heritage Resources Management Plan or a Cultural Infrastructure Needs Assessment, anyways? Why is it important for me to get involved?”* These valuable community-based projects will help the municipality identify what's important to you! Learn more about each project below before you get involved.

### Heritage Resources Management Plan

Did you know heritage resources don't need to be 100 years old to be identified as such? Anything of significance to the community that is 35 years or older could be classified as a heritage resource or site, which is why the municipality is working on a sustainable plan to acknowledge, preserve, and commemorate what's important to you.



HERITAGE  
RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

*What is a heritage plan? What heritage resources or heritage sites are here? How should we preserve them?* Through a participatory engagement, residents of Wood Buffalo are invited to join the process of developing a plan to showcase and safeguard heritage resources in the region.

The success of this plan relies on hearing from you! Share your important stories about heritage in the region by joining a virtual discussion, submit responses to a short survey, or reach out to set up a one-on-one meeting with the team. Get involved by visiting [participate.rmwb.ca/HRMP](https://participate.rmwb.ca/HRMP)!

### Cultural Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Cultural infrastructure offers spaces to participate in cultural activities. These types of facilities include art galleries, art studios, dance studios, green space and parks, community halls, libraries, museums and theatres or performing arts centres. While the municipality recognizes that arts and culture are major contributors to reconciliation and quality of life, it is important to hear directly from residents on any gaps in existing spaces and resources currently available. Get involved today to help us identify needs within the region knowing that your input will be included in a final assessment used to guide future endeavours.



LET'S  
TALK  
Cultural  
Infrastructure

Submit your responses to a short survey, join a workshop, or contact us for a one-on-one discussion by visiting [participate.rmwb.ca/CINA](https://participate.rmwb.ca/CINA)!



**Santa is preparing his annual visit to Wood Buffalo!**

The 2021 Santa Claus Parade is happening as a drive-thru event at MacDonald Island Park on Dec. 4 and 5. You must book a time slot in advance to attend the parade, with registration opening Nov. 26. Please reserve your spot early. The parade is highly anticipated each year as everyone loves to catch a glimpse of visitors from the North Pole!

We know the bustle of holiday lights and sounds can be overwhelming for some. Each day there is a sensory half hour alternative available with minimal stimulation so all can enjoy Santa’s visit to Wood Buffalo!

**2021 Santa Claus Parade dates, Mark your calendar!**

- Saturday, December 4, 5-9 p. m. (4:30-5 p.m. Sensory)
- Sunday, December 5, 4:30-8 p. m. (4-4:30 p. m. Sensory)

**Register a Float!**

Are you a business owner, part of a community group, or do you work for a social profit? Highlight your holiday spirit and community spirit by entering a float in the Santa Claus Parade!

**Float registration deadline: November 19.**

Pre-registration is required to attend the parade to ensure a smooth flow of traffic and the safety of everyone. More booking times have been made available for this year’s parade but don’t wait to reserve your spot. Registration opens Nov. 26 and will close once event capacity is reached.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



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.



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!

FORT McMURRAY  
WOOD BUFFALO  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
& TOURISM

## HOUSEHOLD SPENDING SURVEY

SHARE YOUR  
INSIGHTS



Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism (FMWBEDT) is launching a regional survey to better understand household spending in the areas of retail, food and beverage, personal services, and entertainment. Survey findings will be combined with additional market research to inform the direction of FMWBEDT's Retail and Commercial Plan, focused on supporting existing local businesses with retention and expansion, and attracting new private investment.

Enter the Link below to complete the survey.

[Household Spending & Consumer Demand Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com)





## 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 December newsletter submissions:

November 25, 2021

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)



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

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



# 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 Newsletter Deadline	26 	27
28	29	30				