

# SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



# January 2021

## Councillor Update

Happy New Year to All!

Wow! I can't believe that it's already 2021. I honestly don't know where the time goes, although this last year has to have been one of the longest years in my lifetime. I hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone, and that our lives will return to as close to normal as quickly as possible.



I don't have much to say for this past month. Normally, December is a busy month with lots of socializing and community activities. This Christmas season, most of the charitable events that I normally participate in were cancelled or revamped to be able to meet the Covid-19 restrictions. On a brighter note, the RMWB reverse parade was well attended and had to be carried over for a second evening. The bright lights at Abraham's Landing received good reviews, although I didn't get to see either of these events.

The Saprae Creek Christmas parade was awesome, and kudos to the participants who decorated their side-by-sides and vehicles. I enjoyed watching and appreciated all the hard work that went into organizing it. My grandkids thought it was quite funny that Buddy the Elf was riding in the fire truck, since he's from the North Pole.

Council is back in session on January 12<sup>th</sup> and we have a virtual meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Tracy Allard on the January 14<sup>th</sup>. The Oil Sands Community Alliance has a new Executive Director, and we have an introductory meeting with him on the January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Nistawayou Association Friendship Centre will be hosting a virtual residential school survivors' commemoration on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. They will be speaking to survivors of the residential school system as well as some Elders who will be sharing their experiences.

I don't have much to share that you all don't already know.

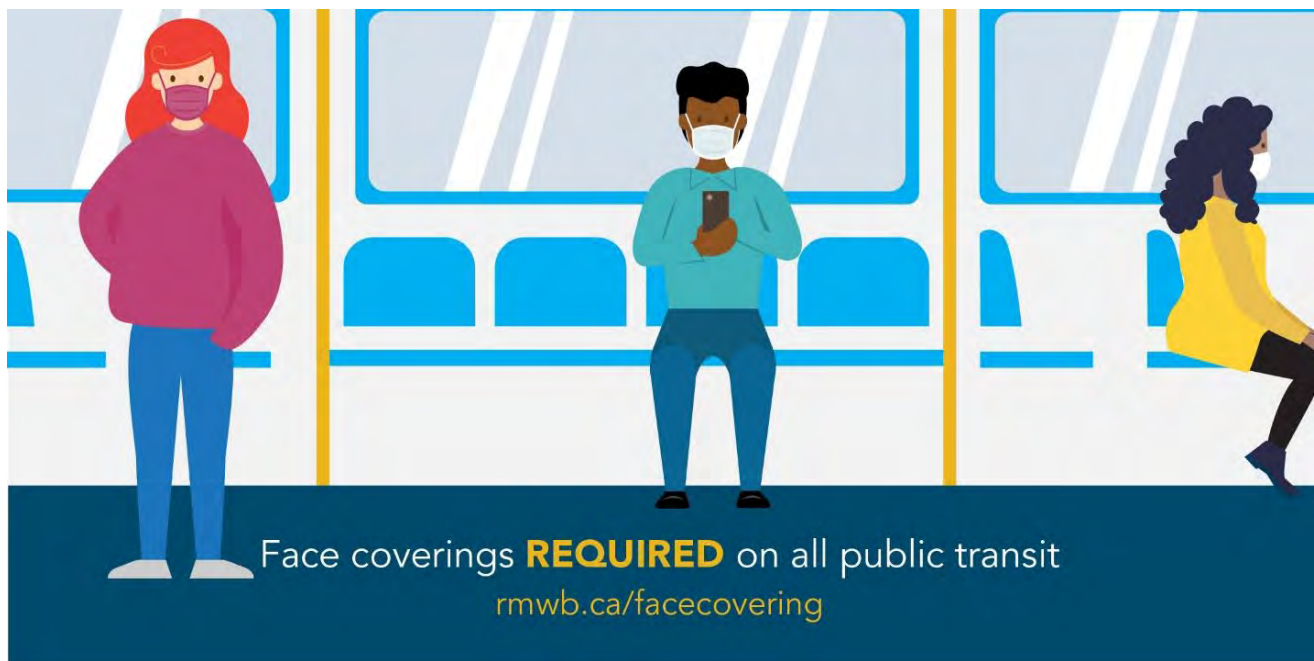
Until next time  
Sheila



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).



**FACE COVERING BYLAW**

RMWB Council passed the Face Covering Bylaw. This means face coverings are now required on all public transit in the region. For indoor public spaces, face coverings are mandatory if there are 50 or more active cases of COVID-19 in the region. To learn more about the Face Covering Bylaw, visit [www.rmwb.ca/facecovering](https://www.rmwb.ca/facecovering).

## Engineering/Construction Updates



### RURAL WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CONNECTIONS

Municipal water and sewer service connections are now available through the Rural Water and Sewer Service Program for many homes in the following communities:

- Sprae Creek Estates
- Conklin
- Janvier

Lot owners are responsible for connecting to municipal water and sewer lines. You could be eligible for municipal funding to support the cost, if you act within five years of when connections are available.

**1. Go to our website:** [rmwb.ca/rwss](http://rmwb.ca/rwss)

- Review the Homeowner's information package

**2. Start the application process:**

Download and complete these Forms\*:

- Application Form
- Funding Agreement
- Assignment of Payment Form
- Worksheet for the Preparation of Quotation

**3. Email the completed application and forms** to [rwss.applications@rmwb.ca](mailto:rwss.applications@rmwb.ca)

**4. Pay the application fee:**

Go to: [pay.rmwb.ca/RuralWater](http://pay.rmwb.ca/RuralWater)

**5. Hire a Certified Contractor\*\*** to do the work

**6. Pay connection fee:** Paid in lump sum, or in installments.

**For details on any of these steps or about the timing of connections for other communities, please visit our website: [rmwb.ca/rwss](http://rmwb.ca/rwss)**

**For help completing forms, call PULSE at 780-743-7000 or 1-800-973-9663 or email [pulse@rmwb.ca](mailto:pulse@rmwb.ca)**

\*Forms are at our website [rmwb.ca/rwss](http://rmwb.ca/rwss).

\*\*From the Alberta Municipal Affairs' Private Sewage System Installer Certification List

## Bylaw Services: Driveway snow removal reminder

Snow removal is an inevitable part of winter in our region, the proper cleaning and clearing of snow ensures public safety on roadways, sidewalks and driveways. Collaborative efforts from government and residents make proper snow removal possible.

For residents, Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079 governs snow removal in our region; this ensures safety precautions are met as well as consistency of efforts. Bylaw Services reminds residents of some important sections of the bylaw in regards to snow removal of driveways;

- Residents are responsible for snow and ice removal on their driveways and the sidewalks abutting their homes (Section 13.26 & 13.27).
- Residents are not permitted to place snow and/ or ice from private property onto the highways or other public places of the Municipality (Section 13.30), **this includes ditches** (Alberta Traffic Safety Act, “highway” definition).
- Snow and ice are to be removed within 48 hours of the time when it was formed or deposited (Section 13.26 & 13.27).

Bylaw Services thanks residents for their compliance as this ensures a safe Wood Buffalo. For any questions regarding snow removal, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000





## Travelling to Fort McMurray this winter?

Watch out for on-street parking restrictions!

Winter Maintenance Zones season begins Oct. 15! This means there may be on-street parking restrictions in effect while snow is being removed from residential streets in Fort McMurray.

Make sure to follow posted signage and electronic signage in the neighbourhood you park your vehicle. On street parking restrictions occur on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. if winter maintenance is needed.

Help us clear a path through winter and plan ahead for on-street parking restrictions at [rmwb.ca/snowplow](http://rmwb.ca/snowplow).

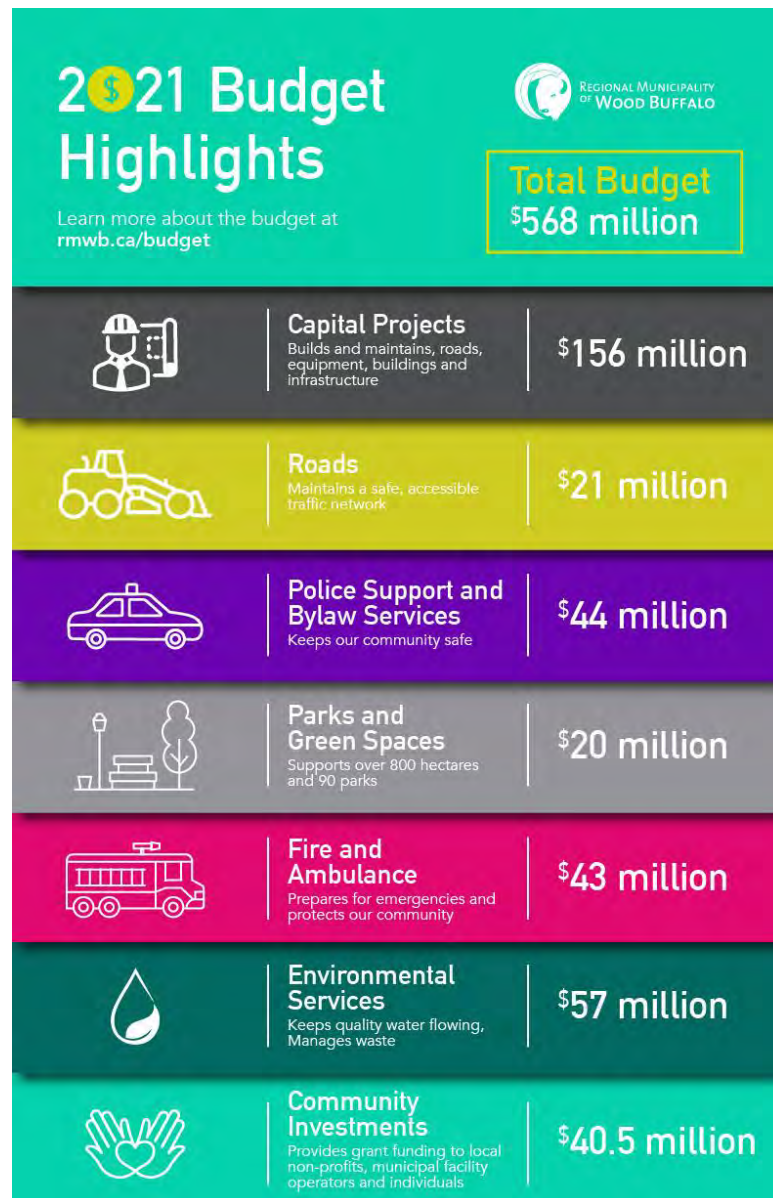
### How do Winter Maintenance Zones work?

Every neighbourhood has been divided into five Winter Maintenance Zones, one for each weekday. Each Winter Maintenance Zone is further broken down into four subzones 1, 2, 3 and 4. On the day that each Zone is active, some of the Subzones within the larger active Zone will be serviced and others will be relaxed. Residents will be able to park in relaxed Subzones without being ticketed or towed. Relaxed Subzones will be communicated on neighbourhood electronic signage, WMZ email Alerts, social media and [rmwb.ca](http://rmwb.ca).

Residents can find the neighbourhood Zones and Subzones on street signage and online at [rmwb.ca/snowplow](http://rmwb.ca/snowplow).

If you have any questions about Winter Maintenance Zones, connect with Pulse at 780-743-7000, toll-free at 1-800-973-9663 or online at [rmwb.ca/pulse](http://rmwb.ca/pulse).

# RMWB Council approves Budget 2021



On Dec. 3, RMWB Council approved a \$568 million 2021 Municipal Budget, which is a \$13 million reduction from the amended 2020 Budget. The budget allocated \$423 million for operations and \$144 million to be transferred to reserve for capital purposes.

In addition to the highlights above, Budget 2021 includes \$15 million for rural water and sewer services and \$44 million for flood mitigation design and construction. The budget is aligned with the [2018-2021 RMWB Strategic Plan](#), with continued focus on building safe and inclusive communities, improving services and infrastructure, regional economic development and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Additional budget highlights and information is available at [rmwb.ca/budget](http://rmwb.ca/budget)



## User rates for some municipal services changing in the new year

Certain rates for landfill services and utilities, such as water and wastewater have been updated. The new rates take effect Jan.1, with the updated rates for utilities beginning Feb. 1. All other user fees, rates and charges for municipal services are staying the same.

The updated rates are between 7% to 15% higher than the current rates, with the changes varying depending on the size of the property's water meter and between rural, urban and commercial services. A complete list of all the user rates for municipal services is available at [rmwb.ca/userfees](http://rmwb.ca/userfees).

### Why are rates changing?

At the Dec. 8 Council meeting, Council approved an updated Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw, which included updates to rates for utilities and solid waste services. This is only the third adjustment to utility rates in the past 11 years.

The current rates are below the operational cost to provide these services, with a subsidy from the municipal tax base supporting part of the costs. The adjustments maintain rates below provincial averages, while helping reduce the subsidy.

Annual rate adjustments are needed to help ensure the sustainability of municipal services and avoid a large one-time rate hike. These changes are aligned with Council's commitment to establish a direct cost recovery model for utilities, which is common practice amongst municipalities.

To learn more about user fees, rates and charges, visit [rmwb.ca/userfees](http://rmwb.ca/userfees)







We received the submissions so far!

The Creek Chronicles  
Saprae Star  
Saprae Creek Connection

We will continue to take submissions until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021  
This is a contest for all residents to participate in.

Submit your suggestions to  
[Joanne.clark@rmwb.ca](mailto:Joanne.clark@rmwb.ca) or [Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca](mailto:Koralee.samaroden@rmwb.ca)



Do you like to take pictures? Do you like to draw?

We are looking for pictures and/or images of Saprae Creek to  
use in the Community Newsletter

Submit your digital pictures or artwork to  
[joanne.clark@rmwb.ca](mailto:joanne.clark@rmwb.ca)

**WHO WE ARE:**

The McMurray Sno-Drifters is a non-profit organization that was formed in the early 1980's. As a club, we provide a safe winter recreational sport for individuals and families within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. In partnership with local Search & Rescue, we also help our members to be informed about regulations and safe sledding practices.



**OUR TRAIL SYSTEM:**

Through the efforts of volunteers and sponsors, we provide Fort McMurray and surrounding communities with approximately 300kms of award-winning trails. Our trails are located in the following areas: **Thickwood trail** is on tower road in timberlea, **Anzac trail** can be accessed through our garage on highway 881 or Anzac and **Stony Mountain trail** is located approximately 30km south of town at the stony mountain staging area.

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

**Cost: \$90.00**

To ride our trails, an ASA Membership trail pass is required. Memberships are readily available at the following locations:

- 4G Motorsports
- NAPA
- Bumper to Bumper
- Syncrude Club 63 Social Club.

**Trail passes are from the Alberta Snowmobiling Association (ASA) and are recognized on all ASA trails across Alberta.**

**What does the pass get me?**

As a pass holder, you are now apart of the Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club. You now have access to approx. 300km of a well-maintained groomed trail system (thickwood/saprae/anzac/stony mountain) along with over 5000km of groomed trail in Alberta.

**How do I benefit?**

We are a community! We have volunteers that love to spend their time outdoors and helping us out. Our volunteers-built 8 fire pit shacks along our trail system and continually stock wood for other members enjoyment throughout the season.

**McMurray Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Association**  
**mcmurray.snodrifters@hotmail.com**  
**780-792-7603**  
**www.snodrifters.ca**



#100, 130 Prospect Drive  
Fort McMurray, AB T9K 2Z5

T 780.743.4691  
F 780.791.5560

[www.waypointswb.ca](http://www.waypointswb.ca)



## Family Violence Prevention Month: Getting to know the Waypoints Outreach Team

Family violence can affect anyone. It does not discriminate against age, race, religion or economic status. It can come in many forms, including physical or sexual abuse, stalking or being kept from seeing others. Family violence is an abuse of power in a family or other trusting relationship where people rely on each other. When someone experiences family violence, their well-being, security and survival are threatened.

Each November, communities across Alberta gather to raise awareness and take a stand against family violence. By raising awareness all year around, the Outreach Program hopes to bring family violence out of the darkness of the home to support survivors and create healthy individuals, relationships and homes.

The Outreach team provides services in the urban and rural communities of the RMWB. We travel to Anzac, Conklin, Fort McKay, Fort McMurray, Janvier and Fort Chipewyan. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have been working virtually with clients via zoom as well as over the phone support. The Outreach team provides support, advocacy, safety planning, information, and referrals to people affected by family violence, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and trauma. The Outreach team recognizes the impact of intergenerational trauma and strives to help individuals break this cycle through prevention and awareness measures. We are here to help families establish healthy homes and move through the process of healing. All our services are free of charge and open to all residents of the region.

Our Outreach Counsellors provide 1 on 1 counselling to individuals who have been impacted by trauma. A traumatic experience can be different for everyone. It can happen if someone experiences something scary, threatening, dangerous or upsetting. It can impact and negatively change a person's body, mind, relationships, beliefs, identity, and general living. Our counsellors provide emotional support and assistance to positively navigate through personal difficulties for those affected by historical trauma and to prevent further harm.

Our Support Workers facilitate a variety of presentations and workshops related to domestic-family violence and relationship conflicts. We also run a 12-week psychoeducational program called Creating Your Own Direction Circle which can be completed in a group or individual setting via Zoom. Over all themes of this program are thought awareness, emotional regulation, boundaries, healthy/unhealthy relationships, and self-compassion.

If you or someone you know may need help managing symptoms that can be associated with trauma, or are looking for information or resources to better assist you in your healing journey, feel free to reach out to one of our Outreach Team members!

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse or an unhealthy relationship, please call or 24/7 Family Violence Crisis Line at 780-743-1190

*Working toward a community free of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
abuse and homelessness.*

## VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY (VPR)

The VPR is a free, voluntary and confidential service that helps improve the safety of residents living at home who may be at greater risk during an emergency.

The program provides key information to local emergency responders to efficiently identify and assist vulnerable individuals during an emergency.

The VPR is available to residents in the region who:

- Experience severe difficulty with mobility, vision or hearing
- Have developmental/intellectual, cognitive or mental health challenges
- Require electricity for life-sustaining equipment such as life support, oxygen, dialysis etc.



To register, go to [rmwb.ca/VPR](http://rmwb.ca/VPR) or call Pulse.

## 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.

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)



## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION







|                                   |                                |   |               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| PULSE<br>(MUNICIPAL SWITCH BOARD) | 1-800-973-9663<br>780-743-7000 | PULSE@RMWB.CA   | RMWB.CA/PULSE |
| <b>COMMUNITY CONTACTS:</b>        |                                | <b>SOCIAL MEDIA:</b>  |               |
| RCMP                              | 780-788-4000                   | <br>@WOODBUFFALORURALCOMMUNITYCONNECTION<br><br><br>@RMWOODBUFFALO<br><br><br>@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 February newsletter submissions:  
 January 25, 2021

# JANUARY 2021

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS CALENDAR

| SUN | MON  | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI   | SAT |
|-----|--|------|-----|-------|---|-----|
|     |  |      |     |       | 1<br>    | 2   |
| 3   | 4<br> | 5    | 6   | 7     | 8<br>    | 9   |
| 10  | 11   | 12   | 13  | 14    | 15<br> | 16  |
| 17  | 18   | 19   | 20  | 21    | 22<br> | 23  |
| 24  | 25<br>Newsletters<br>submissions<br>due  | 26   | 27  | 28    | 29<br> | 30  |
| 31  |  |      |     |       |   |     |