



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

A message from Councillor Jennifer Vardy

WARD 1



Dear Wood Buffalo,

This month was a strong reminder of both the resilience of our region and the importance of leadership at every level. From community events to emergency response situations, I've been focused on showing up, staying engaged, and advocating where it matters most.

As always, this update is about keeping you informed on what I've been doing and what's happening in our region.

Community Connections

This month, I had the opportunity to attend and support a number of great events across our region:

- ATC Career Fair
- Volunteered at the Spring Trade Show alongside Councillor Kyle
- Robb Nash Mental Health Event with students from across the region
- Decorated cookies in support of the Northern Lights Health Foundation campaign

Council's Excellence Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients. These awards recognize individuals who go above and beyond to make Wood Buffalo a better place.

- **Citizen of the Year: Michael Jesso**
- **Everyday Heroes: Sandy MacDonald and Sam Langford**
- **Indigenous Advocate: Elder Alice Martin**
- **Youth Award: Nirva Mehta**

Boards & Committees

- Community Investment Program Advisory Committee (CIPAC)
- Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development Board
- Homelessness Initiative Committee

EVENTS

The Mac Calendar is your one-stop shop for discovering local events

www.maccalendar.ca

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The FuseSocial Wood Buffalo Volunteer Center has a list of upcoming opportunities

www.woodbuffalovolunteers.ca

CONTACT RMWB

If you have questions or concerns, contact PULSE online or by phone

780 743 7000

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CONTACT ME

From kudos to concerns and everything in between, I am here to listen

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Highway Closures & Emergency Response

The weekend of April 24 brought an unprecedented snowstorm that resulted in closures on both Highways 63 and 881, multiple accidents, and hundreds of people stranded, some for over 20 hours. **First, I want to thank our CAO and Public Works teams.** Once approval was received, they acted quickly by deploying additional plows and coordinating buses to get stranded residents home safely. **It's important to understand that both highways fall under provincial jurisdiction.** This meant the municipality could not act immediately without provincial approval. **I also want to acknowledge Mayor Bowman for his leadership during this situation.** The public doesn't always see the behind-the-scenes advocacy, but his long hours and sustained pressure were critical to enabling the municipality to step in and respond. Situations like this highlight both the challenges we face and the importance of strong intergovernmental relationships.

River Break-Up & Safety

- Follow trusted and official sources for updates
- Avoid relying on unverified social media groups
- Stay away from riverbanks during this time

I had the opportunity to visit the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre this week, and **I want to reassure residents that we are well-prepared and in good hands.**

with gratitude,
Jennifer 

Disclaimer: This newsletter is provided by me in my capacity as a Councillor and is not an official communication of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
For any official information, please visit the RMWB website.

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