

SAPRAE CREEK NEWS



September 2025



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

WOOD BUFFALO SENIOR SOCIAL

SEPTEMBER
23RD

FORT MCKAY
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

12-3 PM

Come join us for an afternoon filled with good
company and food! There will be a free dinner, bingo,
and music!

Transportation available!

RSVP by September 15th

To register:

Conklin/Fort McMurray/Fort McKay: 780-559-2235

Anzac: 780-334-2298

Janvier: 780-559-2230



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.



Visiting Fort McMurray? RMWB Transit has introduced significant changes

On August 22, a new and improved Transit system replaced all routes with high-frequency core routes, neighbourhood routes and Transit On Demand. If you're visiting Fort McMurray and planning to use RMWB Transit, plan ahead and review the new routes and schedules.

There are no changes to **rural transit** or **fares**.

Highlights:

- 2 high-frequency core routes with longer hours & shorter wait times.
- 7 neighbourhood routes during high-ridership times.
- Book a ride when neighbourhood routes aren't available using RMWB Transit On Demand.
- Main Street Terminal is closed and two new stops have been added on Franklin Avenue.

Plan ahead:

- Check the new routes & schedules at rmwb.ca/transit.
- Learn more about Transit On Demand at rmwb.ca/OnDemand.
- School route information is available at rmwb.ca/SchoolTransit.

Save time at the polls and register to vote before Aug. 15

Register online in advance of the municipal election on Oct. 20 at voterlink.ab.ca

Save time at the polls and register to vote in advance of the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 20.

All voters in Alberta need to be registered to vote in the upcoming municipal elections. Residents should check if they are already registered – or still need to register – at Election Alberta’s Voterlink website at voterlink.ab.ca.

Those who are not already registered when it is time to vote will need to complete the full registration process at the polls.

Register to vote before Aug. 15

All voters wishing to register online in advance must do so before Aug. 15, which is when the RMWB must send voter data to the Province. If you are an eligible voter and you do not register online before Aug. 15, you will still be able to vote after you fill out the registration forms at the polls.

Register of voters now required by Province

In line with recent changes from the Province, the Local Authorities Elections Act now requires municipalities to create a permanent register of local voters.

This means that to vote in the upcoming general election on Oct. 20, you must be listed on the Register of Electors and show valid ID at the voting station. Election officials will use the register and your ID to confirm your eligibility to vote.

Do you have questions about the RMWB election on Oct. 20? Find more information at rmwb.ca/election or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000.

Save time in October.
Register to vote today.

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

Start preparing for the RMWB election on Oct. 20

Advance voting for the municipal and school trustee elections will start in less than 60 days in the RMWB.

Preparations are well underway at the Municipality and it's time for you and all residents to start preparing as well.

Find everything you need to know about the municipal and school trustee elections – including voting options, job opportunities, reasons why you should vote, and a list of candidates – at rmwb.ca/election.

Key Election Dates

Noon, Sept. 22 – Nomination deadline for candidates

Sept. 23 – Deadline for candidates to submit candidate profile information

Oct. 3 – 17 – Advance voting days for Ward 1

Oct. 15 and 16 – Advance voting days for Wards 2, 3 and 4

Oct. 20 – Election Day

Learn about your choices in this election with candidate profiles

The RMWB will be featuring candidate profiles for Mayor and Councillor on its election webpage in late September to help voters inform themselves on their choices. While candidates will have the opportunity to add profile information to the RMWB website, it is optional and many candidates have their own websites and social media accounts.

Changes to election laws mean hand-counted ballots, slower results

Every municipality in Alberta – including the RMWB – will be hand-counting ballots for the Oct. 20 election instead of using vote tabulators. This is because of changes to election laws made by the Government of Alberta.

Previously, unofficial election results could be known by election night through the use of vote tabulators. Tabulators have been used for decades in Alberta. Using hand-counting, it's expected that the 2025 election count will take at least three days to complete.

Still have questions about the 2025 municipal election? Contact Pulse with your questions at rmwb.ca/pulse or 780-743-7000.



RMWB 2025 Elections

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR COUNCIL IN 2025?

You can learn more about what's involved in becoming an elected official, ask questions and connect with election staff who are here to support you through the process

RURAL RESIDENTS CAN:

- Book a virtual or phone conversation by emailing elections@rmwb.ca or calling **780-743-7001**
- Stop by your local municipal office for info and materials

Learn more about running for Council at rmwb.ca/candidate



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

FireSmart rebate program helping homeowners pay for upgrades



The **FireSmart Home Rebate Program** is available for all communities in the region.

Residents will be eligible to receive rebates until program funds have been exhausted, limited to one rebate per address and one rebate per homeowner.

Eligible home upgrades:

- Roof replacement - up to \$2,000 (e.g., repairing old/damaged asphalt shingles)
- Roof upgrade - up to \$2,000 (e.g., replacing wood shake shingles with asphalt shingles)
- Deck upgrade - up to \$1,000 (e.g., replacing wood decking with a fire-resistant material)
- Window upgrade - up to \$1,000 (e.g., replacing single-pane windows with multi-pane windows)
- Fence/gate upgrade - up to \$1,000 (e.g., replacing wooden fences or gates that attach to the home with a fire-resistant material)
- Siding upgrade - up to \$4,000 (e.g., replacing vinyl siding with stucco)
- New home construction - eligible for a siding or decking upgrade rebate



How to receive a rebate:

STEP 1 - Get a free Home Assessment

Ask for a free FireSmart Home Assessment at **rmwb.ca/FireSmart** or by calling Pulse. Details on how to apply for a rebate will be provided during the assessment.

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.





Be BearSmart

DO~~N~~'T FEED BEARS

These items have odours that could attract a bear to your property. Keep your yard clean and store what you can in the house or garage.

- garbage ■ birdseed ■ pet food ■ compost
- fruit-bearing trees and shrubs ■ jerry cans
- motor oil ■ anti-freeze ■ rubber ■ vinyl
- insect repellents ■ air fresheners
- scented candles ■ BBQs ■ cooking oil
- food odours coming from open windows
- food and drinks ■ pop cans and other empties
- rabbits, chickens, other small domestic animals
- grain and livestock feed

Doing this can help prevent problems with other kinds of wildlife, too.

www.bearsmart.alberta.ca

If the presence of a bear is a safety concern, contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office at 310-0000 or, if after regular business hours, call Report a Poacher at 1-800-642-3800.

Alberta

BearSmart

Alberta
Government



Individual \$10

Tiger (under 6) \$5

Family \$30

Open Daily

9am-6pm

Check in at Guest Services

**VISTA
RIDGE**

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

For more details, visit rmwb.ca/garbage or contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663, or rmwb.ca/pulse.

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.

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.

WATER AND SEWER PROGRAM

The 2025 summer construction season is underway - apply now!

Take the first step: Choose your contractor and start the conversation.

Choose a certified contractor from the Alberta Municipal Affairs Private Sewage System Installer Certification List below. Ask the contractor for a quote to connect your home and discuss what this work will entail.

Contractor	Contact information
B Mac Underground Services Ltd.	780-742-9848
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
Qualipu 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

Then connect with us:


Reach out to Pulse and an RWSS team member will follow up to answer your questions and assist with your application. All program details are available at rmwb.ca/rwss.

Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Connection Updates as of July 2025

Saprae Creek Estates - 227 homes have connected; 238 applications received of 268 eligible properties.

What will my utility bill look like once I connect to piped sewer services?

Below is an example of what your bi-monthly utility bill will look like once your home is connected to piped sewer services.



**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO**

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 2K4

UTILITY BILL REPRINT

DOE, JOHN

SAPRAE CREEK ESTATES

SRV ADDR: 062-LONG BRIDGE LANE

ACCOUNT#

BILLING PERIOD: 2024/04/30
TO: 2024/06/30
BILLING DATE: 2024/06/30
PENALTY DATE: 2024/07/39

INV #: 5000001

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CODE	READING	CONSUMPTION	AMOUNT
2024/06/30	GARBAGE COLL SAPRAE C	A			66.72
2024/06/30	RURAL WATER AND SEWER	A			65.00
2024/06/30	SEWER CONSUMPTION	A	3311	70	17.64
2024/06/30	FIXED CHARGE SEWER	A			28.86
2024/06/30	WATER CONSUMPTION	A	3311	70	29.96
2024/06/30	FIXED CHARGE WATER	A			56.28
AMOUNT DUE					264.46

Please Note: All charges/payments shown are up to and including the 'Billing To Period' date of this invoice.

Your bill explained

- 1 Includes curbside collection, waste disposal, recycling fees.
- 2 RWSS Program Bi-Monthly Connection Fee
- 3 \$0.63/m3 variable rate - based on the same water consumption, at a reduced rate
- 4 Fixed rate for sewer (\$14.43 per month) x 2 months
- 5 \$1.07 /m3 variable rate - based on water consumption on water meter.
- 6 Fixed rate for water (\$28.14 per month) x 2 months

These are 2024 rates from the Council approved Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw.

This Bylaw is updated annually and its customary to see increases to utility rates as part of the updates.

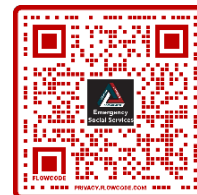
Bring your creative vision to life in the region

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.



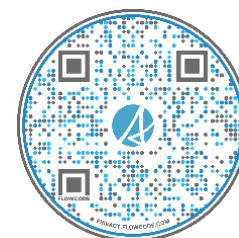
**Vulnerable
Persons
Registry**

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:

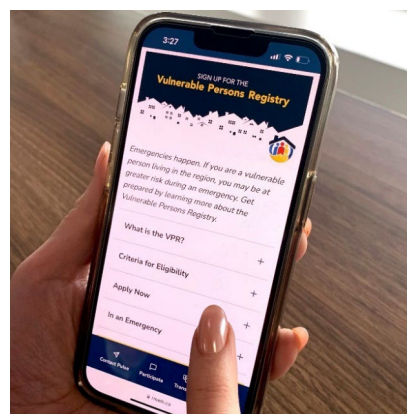
refer to the Water Utilities Management Bylaw (Bylaw No. 07/035) Part X

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



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

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



risk.

at

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

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 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.



large



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	
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 the October Newsletter submissions:

September 25th, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	¹ RIBFEST Centerfire Place 11-7	² Youth Craft Night Nistawoyou 5-8 PM	³ Youth Craft Night Nistawoyou 5-8 PM	⁴ Beading Workshop Nistawoyou 1-4 PM	⁵ First Responders Golf Tournament Miskanaw 2 PM 	⁶ RES Pancake Breakfast Fire Hall 1 9-12 PM
⁷ Magic in the Meadow Fairytale Wellness & HorsemanSHIP 1-4 PM	⁸ Youth Craft Night Nistawoyou 5-8 PM	⁹ FASD Awareness BBQ Kiyam Park 11-3 PM	¹⁰ Oil Sands Expo Suncor Community Leisure Centre 10-4 PM	¹¹ Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service Fire Hall 5 10:30-12 PM	¹² ATC Cultural Festival J Howard Pew Memorial Park 	¹³ ATC Cultural Festival J Howard Pew Memorial Park
¹⁴ ATC Cultural Festival J Howard Pew Memorial Park	¹⁵	¹⁶ Elders & Seniors 55+ Tea & Bannock GYS 1-3 PM	¹⁷ 2025 Meet your Council Candidates Landmark Cinemas 6:30-9 PM	¹⁸ Bannock Workshop Nistawoyou 6-8 PM	¹⁹ Harvest Festival Heritage Village 	²⁰ Harvest Festival Heritage Village
²¹ Harvest Festival Heritage Village	²²	²³ Shanneyganock Rivers Casino 8 PM	²⁴	²⁵	²⁶ Fall 2025 Trade Show & Market Shell Place 	²⁷ Fall 2025 Trade Show & Market Shell Place
²⁸ Fall 2025 Trade Show & Market Shell Place	²⁹	³⁰				