



The Insider, June 29

Find out what's new at the RMWB on June 29, 2026

Happy (early) Canada Day from The Insider!

No matter how you choose to spend this special day – whether it's enjoying the colourful and vibrant parade with friends and family or taking a quiet moment to reflect on Canada's rich diversity and culture – make sure to celebrate in a way that fills your cup.

Embrace the spirit of this nation and honour the unique stories that make Canada truly special.

Wishing everyone a happy Canada Day!

Find out what events are happening at rmwb.ca/CanadaDay.

Wrapping up June is Recreation & Parks Month

Welcome to the final week of June is Recreation & Parks Month!

As we wrap up **June is Recreation & Parks Month**, let's take a moment to reflect on all the incredible ways recreation and parks matter to Wood Buffalo. Here are just a few more ways you can continue to recreate and stay connected in our community:

- Take a self guided tour and check out the [Heritage Plaque and Public Art Map](#).
- Visit a [community garden](#).
- Take a step back in time and download the [On This Spot app](#).

For the final **Recreation in Action: Staff Spotlight**, we're featuring **Crystal Carwardine** and **Janis Borgen**.

You know them as our incredible horticultural technicians in Parks, but outside of work, they are just as passionate about gardening in their leisure time!

"I love connecting with all Mother Nature has to offer and plants just make me extra happy!

Gardening is so rewarding with all its colours, textures and beauty. I never get tired of it and I'm grateful I get to do my passion for my occupation!"

"There's something about being covered in soil, drenched in sweat and ending the day with tired, aching muscles that fills my soul with gratitude and joy. I love the creativity, strategy, patience and care that gardening requires, and worry on whether a crop will survive and thrive!

It's not just hobby for me, it's a passion that teaches patience, resilience and appreciation."

CAO visits Northside Twin Arena construction site

Last week, CAO Andrew Boutilier visited the Northside Twin Arena construction site to see the progress being made on one of the RMWB's ongoing capital projects.

The Project Management Office continues to oversee this project, coordinating the many moving pieces required to deliver a complex project of this scale. The Northside Twin Arena is currently anticipated to open in January 2027 and will provide additional space for hockey, ringette, lacrosse, ball hockey, skating programs, tournaments and community events.

A thank you to the Project Management Office, project partners and everyone working behind the scenes and on site to keep this important project moving forward safely!

Check out the CAO's video update below.

Gregoire Skate Park rolls into summer with grand opening celebration

Just in time for summer break, the new Gregoire Skate Park is officially open and already buzzing with energy.

Last week's grand opening brought out a great crowd, including hundreds of students from Greely Road Elementary School, along with their teachers, school board trustees, Mayor and Council, municipal staff, and community members.

After the ribbon was cut, the park came to life with colourful chalk art created by students, plus plenty of fun activities that showed off both their creativity and excitement for the new space.

Check out some more great [photos](#) from the event.

A big thank you to the all the teams who helped bring this project to life – from planning and design through to construction, communications, and event coordination. Your behind-the-scenes work helped create a vibrant new space the community can be proud of!

What's new with People Changes?

Check out some of the moves and new hires we spotted in People Changes over the last week!

Matthew Collins

Members of the Fort McMurray Fire Department Honour Guard recently joined other fire department members to pay tribute to Battalion Chief **Matthew Collins**, who retired on June 17. During his 29 years of dedicated service to the department as a firefighter and a leader, he positively impacted many, including as a champion for firefighter health and wellness programs.

We'd like to thank him for his service and hope he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

Simplifying the People Changes process

We've streamlined the People Changes process!

- When you submit a post to People Changes, it will be posted **automatically**. No more waiting for approvals!
- We have created [templated messaging](#) for you in the updated guidelines to simplify the message writing process.

You can continue to use the [People Changes portal](#) on My RMWB. It will remain beside the Announcements tab on the intranet homepage.

Staff snapshots: Where we are & what we're up to

Surprise celebration sends long-time RMWB employee into retirement in style

There were plenty of smiles (and a few happy tears) at Doug Barnes Cabin last week, as staff from across the organization came together to surprise **Peggy Baldwin** and celebrate her retirement.

Colleagues past and present gathered to share stories, laughter, and well wishes, recognizing the many years Peggy dedicated to the RMWB.

The celebration also leaned into a fun "dress like you're retired" theme, with staff showing up in Hawaiian shirts, flowering prints, hair in rollers, and more - adding plenty of personality (and laughs) to an already memorable event.

Wishing you all the best in this next chapter, Peggy!

Asset Management team shares insights at IAMA conference

Michael Bell and **Kushmeela (Eesha) Lochee** were proud to present on the RMWB's asset management journey, the hurdles faced and the path forward at the recent Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta (IAMA) conference. Their presentation, titled "Putting People & Vision First" covered:

- An overview of RMWB's asset register
- Where the program started
- What's being done differently
- The hurdles along the way
- Where the program stands today

"Good asset management goes beyond infrastructure, it takes collaboration, strategic thinking, and commitment across the organization, along with strong leadership and long-term thinking.

Thank you to IAMA for the opportunity to share our experience and connect with asset management professionals across Alberta."

Taking P&D on the road

Last week, members of the Development Planning team headed out to Anzac and Gregoire Lake Estates to connect directly with the communities they support.

During the visit, the team explored existing local land-use patterns, infrastructure, and environmental conditions, while gaining a deeper understanding of day-to-day realities in these rural areas. Getting out into the field helps bring context to the work, strengthening how the team approaches service levels and development conditions.

These hands-on visits are an important part of building informed, practical solutions that reflect the unique needs of rural communities - while also giving staff a chance to see the impact of their work firsthand.

Contact us

For questions and concerns, contact TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

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