

The Insider, Dec. 8

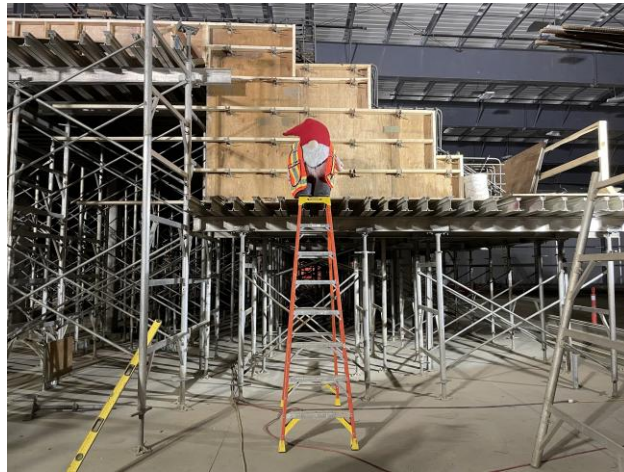
Find out what's new at the RMWB on Dec. 8, 2025.

Where WAS Gnoman??

Gnoman went on an adventure in **Fort McKay** last week, exploring the Community Centre, Fire Hall, and .

Congratulations to **Sabrina Rybak**, Facilities Services. She correctly guessed Gnoman's location and was randomly drawn to win a branded candle!

Where is Gnoman?



Send your guess to TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

We'll announce the winner and share the next photo of our gnome on the roam in the Dec. 8 edition of The Insider!

2025 Years of Service & Retirement Recognition Dinner celebrated Nov. 27

Last month, we celebrated milestone employees and retirees at the 2025 Years of Service & Retirement Recognition Dinner at the Fort McMurray Golf Club.

Deputy Mayor Don Scott, ICAO Jody Butz, and leaders joined together to recognize employees with 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service.

It was also an opportunity to celebrate the employees who retired from the Municipality in 2025.

Congratulations to all who have reached these milestone years of service!

Retirees

Curtis Wolff, retired from Corporate Services with 43 years of service

Augustus Connolly, retired from Environmental Services with 36 years of service

Jeffrey Hamm, retired from Regional Emergency Services with 27 years of service

Desmond Flett, retired from Environmental Services with 19 years of service

Cynthia Nippard, retired from Regional Emergency Services with 18 years of service

Rick Pearcey, retired from Public Works with 18 years of service

Tom Davis, retired from Environmental Services with 18 years of service

Theresa Bast, retired from Corporate Services with 17 years of service

Shonia Van Kalkeren, retired from Public Works with 17 years of service

Christine Tucker, retired from Corporate Services with 13 years of service

Nelson Gomez, retired from Regional Emergency Services with 13 years of service

Brian Mews, retired from Environmental Services with 12 years of service

Dale McGinnis, retired from Public Works with 10 years of service

Richard Unitas, retired from Public Works with 10 years of service

Darlene Gardner, retired from Regional Emergency Services with 5 years of service

James Douglas, retired from Environmental Services with 5 years of service

Robert Eison, retired from Environmental Services with 5 years of service

35 years of service

Margaret Villebrun, Indigenous and Rural Relations

30 years of service

Terra Brenneis, Community Services

25 years of service

Koralee Samaroden, Community Services

Kurtis Gudmundson, Regional Emergency Services

Lori Campbell, Community Services

Ryan Pitchers, Regional Emergency Service

20 years of service

Bobbi-Jo Howard, Community Services

Helena John, Office of the Chief of Staff

Jason Pitcher, Environmental Services

Ken Normandeau, Environmental Services

Lyndon Payne, Project Management and Facility Services

Mark Howdle, Regional Emergency Services

Nathan Cseke, Regional Emergency Services

Paula Fudge, Planning and Development Services

Philip Santelices, Environmental Services

Richard Whitten, Regional Emergency Services

Sara Watson, Community Services

Tara Mullett, Corporate Services

Tyler Carnochan, Regional Emergency Services

15 years of service

Afzal Sabir, Environmental Services

Alec Courtoreille, Indigenous and Rural Relations

Amanda Benoit, Corporate Services

Anne Nowakowski, Human Resources

Anthony Hoffman, Regional Emergency Services

Ashley Kembel, Regional Emergency Services

Ashley Marges, Public Works

Asmir Bekric, Environmental Services

Chad O'Neil, Public Works

Christine Arnold, Corporate Services

Christopher Casila, Corporate Services

Cindy Wyper, Corporate Services

Craig Danforth, Regional Emergency Services

Craig Head, Environmental Services

Crystal Clark, Office of the Chief of Staff

Daniel Waymouth, Regional Emergency Services

Darrell Piche, Indigenous and Rural Relations

Deanna Cameron, Environmental Services

Debra Wier, Environmental Services

Devin Biegel, Regional Emergency Services

Dorothy Marcel, Indigenous and Rural Relations

Dwight Grant, Environmental Services

Florence Atim, Corporate Services

Floyd Gibot, Indigenous and Rural Relations

Gary Delaney, Environmental Services

Gerald Power, Environmental Services

Hayley Rowsell, Planning and Development Services

Jennifer O'Donnell, Regional Emergency Services

Jesse Emberley, Public Works

Jodie Paterson, Community Services

John Neville, Public Works

John Skinner, Corporate Services

Jose George, Public Works

Joseph Jamieson, Regional Emergency Services

Keith Smith, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Keitha McKay, Project Management and Facilities Services

Kenneth Porter, Project Management and Facilities Services

Kushmeela Lochee, Corporate Services

Laura Flaven, Environmental Services

Lindsey Apsouris, Environmental Services

Lindsey O'Donnell, Community Services

Lindsey Pearson, Public Works

Louise MacLeod, Community Services

Mark Parsons, Public Works

Megan Hull, Community Services

Megan Langpap, Office of the Chief of Staff

Melanie Head, Community Services

Michael Burgess, Regional Emergency Services

Nathan Gilchrist, Regional Emergency Services

Pauline Noble, Community Services

Robin Boland, Public Works

Shaida Elliott, Corporate Services

Shane Payne, Public Works

Shelly Downton, Environmental Services

Siziwe Mpofu, Corporate Services

Skyler Parsons, Public Works

Stacy Bryan, Corporate Services

Stephen Gregory, Environmental Services

Susan Parke, Public Works

Tanya Balducci, Regional Emergency Services

Tara Michaud, Community Services

Tim Newhook, Public Works

Vincent Allaire, Public Works

RMWB staff honoured in 2025 Top 50 under 50

What do firefighter **Edward Grainger**, IRR advisor **Erica Augustine**, and Municipal Rural Relations coordinator **Wendy Desjarlais** have in common?

They were all named in Your McMurray Magazine's 2025 Top 50 Under 50 and YMM Builders!

"For more than a decade, Your McMurray Magazine has proudly celebrated the exceptional individuals who help shape Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo into the vibrant, resilient region we call home. The Class of 2025 continues that legacy, showcasing a dynamic group of community champions who bring passion, innovation, and heart to everything they do."

"Each year, YMM Builders are selected for the enduring impact they've made and the legacy they continue to shape. Through leadership, service, culture, and community spirit, these individuals have helped influence the development of our region in meaningful and lasting ways."

Congratulations to Edward, Erica, Wendy, and all other honourees featured in Your McMurray Magazine!

Cheers for Peers: Meet the winners!

Dustin Tiemstra

Dustin Tiemstra, Firefighter EMT, Regional Emergency Services shared appreciation for fellow firefighter **Brandon Breitkreuz**.

Here's what Dustin had to say about Brandon:

Every day, Brandon comes to work with a smile on his face, ready to serve the community. He's always looking on the bright side and has a knack for finding the silver lining on even the toughest of days. Brandon makes coming to shift something to look forward to, and for that, I give Cheers to my Peer!

Bonus: He's also a HUGE Barons fan.

Wendy Desjarlais

Wendy Desjarlais, coordinator, Rural Relations received kudos from **Stephanie Burtenshaw**, rural office clerk, Rural Relations.

Here's what Stephanie had to say about Wendy:

I'm a casual employee at the Anzac Rural Office and every shift can bring new and unexpected situations. I'm incredibly grateful for our wonderful team members I can rely on for questions.

Wendy Desjarlais, at the Conklin office, is a lifeline and a wealth of knowledge. She is always willing to answers questions or help with procedures. This makes a huge and positive difference in providing the best RMWB experience for everyone.

Theresa Buller

Theresa Buller, coordinator, Community Partnerships and Initiatives, received kudos from **Isela Contreras-Dogbe**, manager, Development Planning.

(She also included **Karen Puga**, coordinator, Community Partnerships and Initiatives - better luck next time!)

Here's what Isela had to say:

I want to nominate Theresa Buller and Karen Puga for running an excellent artist session last month. It was fun, well organized and created space for staff to relax and do different things.

Bonus cheers: Shout-out to the Parks team!

Parks staff went above and beyond to support Council's Holiday Luncheon for Seniors and Elders by creating over 500 individual festive arrangements for guests to take home.

Each piece was thoughtfully handcrafted, featuring unique vases, beautiful greenery, and a cheerful red bow. These stunning arrangements doubled as centerpieces, adding a warm festive touch to the event.

The care and creativity that went into these gifts did not go unnoticed—every guest was delighted to take home a beautiful reminder of the celebration.

Kudos to Parks and everyone who lent a hand in making this special event even more memorable!

Wait, what's Cheers for Peers again!?

Let's celebrate the amazing people we work with! Submit a photo or a short message of appreciation for a colleague who makes a difference (BIG or small) and you'll both be entered to win tickets to an upcoming Oil Barons game.

Share your cheers, spread some positivity, and let's celebrate our incredible team spirit!

How it works

1. Share a photo or message of appreciation for a fellow RMWB staff member by emailing TheInsider@rmwb.ca.
2. Both you and the colleague you're recognizing will be entered into a draw for four Oil Barons tickets.
3. Before each stretch of [Oil Barons home games](#), we'll announce the date of the next *Cheers for Peers* draw. Make sure to get your submissions in before the deadline!

4. Winners will be featured in the following edition of The Insider - as well as some of the photos and words of gratitude shared that week.
5. If your entry isn't drawn, don't worry! It will carry over to the next draw. Keep those cheers coming!

The next Cheers for Peers draw is **Monday, Dec. 15** for the Jan. 3 and 4 Fort McMurray Oil Barons home games.

Submit a photo or kind message celebrating a colleague by Monday at noon. We'll draw two names that afternoon.

Meet Archibus, your new space planning tool

Facilities Space Planning has been working to enhance the efficiency of planning and executing office moves. With support from IT, we have implemented a new tool that automates the entire workflow—from submitting requests and securing approvals to coordinating all tasks associated with a move.

Effective immediately, all move requests—whether for a single employee or a group—must be submitted through the Space Planning tool, available on the intranet under the **Quick Links** section called Move request.


The tool is user-friendly and will guide you step by step while providing updates as your request progresses. To support this transition, we have also prepared a [simple cheat sheet](#) to help you get started.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to streamline and improve this process.


Win 30 days of underground parking in support of the United Way!


Looking for the perfect parking spot this winter? Here's your chance!


For just a **\$20 donation** to the **United Way**, your name will be entered into a special draw to win **30 days of underground parking in Mayor Bowman's parking stall**.


 **Entry Requirement:** Donate \$20 to the United Way

 **Draw Date:** Dec. 12

 **Parking Valid:** Dec. 15, 2025 – Jan. 15, 2026

 **Eligibility:** For staff located in Jubilee Centre

 **Donations:** Cash donations accepted in-person

 **Contact:** [Elyse Franks](#), Senior Executive Liaison, Office of the Mayor, for more details or to enter

*Support a great cause and enjoy the convenience of underground parking this holiday season.
Don't miss out—enter today!*

Join us at the Holiday Breakfast on Dec. 11

On Thursday, Dec. 11, drop by the Jubilee Centre lobby between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. to mingle with your colleagues to celebrate the holiday season!

You can expect food and beverage stations, raffles, music, and lots of fun.

Transit buses will be available at many municipal buildings in Fort McMurray. Stay tuned for schedule details closer to the event.

Celebrate 10 years of Stuff-A-Bus with a donation to Santas

Anonymous

RMWB Transit is partnering with Santas Anonymous, a student-led program at Father Mercredi High School, go gather toys and donations for local children and families.

This year, the Santas Anonymous team is collecting toys for ages 2 to 12.

Staff are encouraged to participate by dropping off new, unwrapped toys, gift cards to local businesses or monetary contributions at participating locations before pick-up day on Dec. 12.

RMWB drop-off locations:

- Jubilee Centre, 1st floor kitchen
- Jubilee Centre, 5th floor front desk

On Dec. 12, students from Santas Anonymous, the RMWB Transit team, Rogers Media (Country 93.3 and Rock 97.9) and some festive visitors will make their rounds to collect all the donations.

For more drop-off locations, visit rmwb.ca/StuffABus.

Cold weather can't stop us: Santa Claus Parade pivots to deliver holiday cheer to the RMWB!

The weather was not on our side this weekend, but that didn't stop the Recreation team from pivoting to a new - and safer - approach given Saturday's dangerously cold temperatures.

With the safety of volunteers, contractors, participants, spectators and RMWB staff the top priority, the Recreation team shifted the parade to a drive-through format.

With floats staged along Clearwater Drive, families and holiday fans got to enjoy the festive displays from the comfort and warmth of their vehicles.

A huge shoutout to the team members from Recreation, Parks, Indigenous and Rural Relations and Bylaw Services who came together to pull off a magical night for Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo.

Contact us

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

For previous editions of The Insider, visit the archive on rmwb.ca/staff.