

## NAME THE BOAT CONTEST



The Wood Buffalo RCMP Detachment has launched its newest contest for the youth of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. From March 1-April 15, 2015, local youth are encouraged to take part in the 'Name the Boat' contest.

In 2014, the Wood Buffalo Detachment added a new Jet Boat to their fleet of enforcement vehicles. The addition of the boat has enhanced the RCMP's ability to search for missing people, enforce boating

regulations, and given members the opportunity to educate the general public on boat safety. Throughout the spring and summer months, the boat can be seen conducting patrols and responding to calls for assistance on the various waterways throughout the region.

The RCMP are challenging youth to come up with a creative name and provide a rationale for their selection, the winning name will then be displayed on the hull of the boat.

The lucky winner of the contest will receive an exclusive boat ride-along for themselves and a friend, along with a cool RCMP prize pack.

To pick up an entry form simply attend the RCMP Detachment in Timberlea or any local school administration office. All entries must be submitted by the deadline of April 15, 2015. For further contest details contact Melanie, Community Policing Coordinator, at 780-788-4245.

### THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Wood Buffalo Detachment  
Fort McMurray, AB

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO



Royal Canadian Mounted Police



# MONTY THE SAFETY BEAR HAS COME OUT OF HIBERNATION

On March 13th, Monty the Safety Bear finally came out of his winter hibernation and he was eager to get back into the community and visit some of his favorite hotspots. For his first stop, Monty and his Community Policing friends decided to visit MacDonald Island Park to participate in some fun activities.

During the visit, Monty and the team checked-in on the children in the play area where he played on the jungle gym and handed out stickers and pencils to the youth. Monty then took to the rock climbing walls while interacting with other avid rock-climbers. In addition to taking on the challenge of conquering the climbing wall, Monty also tested out his skills on the ice skating rink.

This was Monty's first day out and needless to say his welcome back from hibernation was a huge hit; residents can expect to see Monty and his Community Policing entourage at many other locations and community events in the upcoming months!



March 8th was International Women's Day, a unique day to promote gender equality all over the world. This day has been observed since the early 1900's

## CELEBRATING WOMEN

and is a particularly special day for the women of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first female troop.

The first female troop – Troop 17 – trail blazed the way for current Canadian women who want to be police officers with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Since then, women in the RCMP have also achieved many "firsts",

including first female Emergency Response Team member, first female Explosive Device Unit member, and first female Commissioner. These firsts are quickly dwindling down as women prove that they are amazing police officers in every specialization.

International Women's Day celebrates achievements of women pioneers like all the firsts in the RCMP and promotes 'A Career Nowhere Near Ordinary'!

## COMMITTED AUXILIARY CONSTABLE

On March 17th, the Wood Buffalo RCMP recognized Auxiliary Constable Damon McGillivray for his 10 years of service to the Province of Alberta and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "K" Division Auxiliary Constable program.

Damon joined the RCMP Auxiliary program in 2004 with the Red Deer Detachment and transferred to the Wood Buffalo Detachment when he moved to Fort McMurray.

"As an Auxiliary Constable, I am just glad to be out there, to be an extra set of hands, ears and eyes" says Damon. His devotion to the program has even included police training scenario enactment, which has given him an even better understanding of police work.

The Wood Buffalo RCMP would like to thank Damon for his continued service to the Force. Auxiliary Constables are a great

asset to maintaining a safe community and the RCMP is forever grateful to them for their dedication.

The RCMP Auxiliary Constable program allows regular citizens to volunteer and assist the RCMP's uniformed members through crime prevention duties, community policing, and routine patrols. If you are interested in finding out more about the Auxiliary Constable program, please contact Cst. Mylène



Michon at 780-788-4244. Applications for the program can be obtained at the front counter of the Timberlea RCMP Detachment.





# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

April 1st marked the beginning of the RCMP's new fiscal year and the Annual Performance Planning for the upcoming 12 months has come to an end. Over the last few months Open Town Hall meetings were held in the communities within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to gain perspective from citizens on local policing issues. A telephone and web-based survey was completed by residents of Wood Buffalo to assess public perceptions of community safety, police and Bylaw Services. In addition, engagement sessions

were held for all members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment, including RCMP, Bylaw Services and Municipal Support Staff, who provided feedback on policing priorities and the Internal and External challenges faced in their everyday duties.

Thanks to partnered efforts and community input, the following priorities have been put in place for the 2015-2016 fiscal year:

### Objective # 1: Contribute to Safe Roads

Impaired driving, school zones, intersection/pedestrian safety, seatbelt, speeding, parking, and education

### Objective # 2: Community Safety

Stakeholder partnerships, visibility, youth involvement, prolific offender

checks, OHV education and usage, sidewalk snow removal, and animal control

### Objective # 3: Drugs

Number of enforcement actions taken from intelligence, number of debriefing reports submitted, number of trafficking charges, and education

### Objective # 4: Reduce property crime

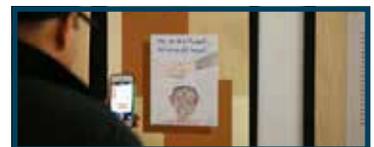
Graffiti, theft of OHV/snowmobiles, and education

Although very worthwhile objectives, which will garner focus and resources from the Wood Buffalo staff, the RCMP and Bylaw Services as a whole will continue providing services in all aspects of policing in the communities with the RMWB.

## A RACE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

On March 21st the Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo hosted the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Gala. Over the past few months, the youth of Wood Buffalo were given the opportunity to tackle racism through art in the annual interschool competition; the Gala was held to showcase the beautiful artwork created by the students in their fight against racism.

Cst. Mylène Michon along with Mayor Melissa Blake and other distinguished guests were invited to attend the gala to present awards to the creators of the amazing pieces. The interest in the fight against racism could be felt in the packed art room at MacDonald Island Park's Art Gallery. It was a beautiful, well attended event that demonstrated the commitment of our local youth towards an important social problem. Anyone can make a difference!



## FRANÇAIS S'IL-VOUS-PLAÎT!

On March 20th, journée internationale de la Francophonie (International Francophone Day) took place with a "La joie de vivre brings us together" theme as part of the 2015 "Rendez-vous de la Francophonie".

Cst. Mylène Michon attended the local celebrations at École Boreal which included Mayor

Melissa Blake and MP Mike Allen who spoke about their French heritage in Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. One student spoke about the pride of being francophone while another student confidently raised the Franco-Albertan flag. There were many other smaller flags waved joyfully and everyone piped up to sing the French Canadian

anthem. Celebrations continued the next day with a typical Acadian activity, la cabane à sucre!





## 'SPORTING' THE RED SERGE AT SPORTING EVENTS

MacDonald Island Park has been a busy place over the past few weeks hosting some elite sporting events and members of the Wood Buffalo Detachment were honored to be invited to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies.

March 19-22, the Island hosted the Grand Slam of Curling Syncrude Elite 10 championship that saw teams from across the country participate in the beloved Canadian sport. On March 29th, the Canadian Ringette

Championships kicked off their week-long tournament with games taking place at 5 different locations across the Wood Buffalo region and over 35 teams competing for National titles.

These exciting sporting events were well received by residents and visitors who came to our beautiful region and as always, the Wood Buffalo RCMP were happy to participate in events that help showcase the great things The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has to offer!



## Q&A ABOUT PARKING IN THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO

### How long can I park my vehicle on a roadway?

Vehicles are allowed to park, provided that all other parking regulations are being followed, for 48 hours on a roadway that does not have a posted time limit. In some areas of the Urban Service Area there are posted time limits which need to be followed.

### Why can't I park on the sidewalk which crosses my driveway?

Parking on a sidewalk makes it difficult for pedestrians and individuals with mobility issues to pass safely. They would need to go out on the roadway which can be dangerous.

### Why are there disabled person parking stalls and how are they identified?

All businesses are required to provide disabled parking stalls on their property; the

amount of stalls provided depends on the number of stalls in total. These parking stalls allow easy access for individuals who have mobility issues. They are identified as parking spaces for the disabled through the use of appropriate signage which is posted at the front of the stall.



### How far away should I park from a crosswalk, a stop sign, or a yield sign and what is the reason for this?

The Bylaw states that you should not park within 10 meters of a crosswalk, a stop sign, or a yield sign. Parking too close to a crosswalk, a stop sign, or a yield sign will reduce visibility for pedestrians who are trying to see oncoming traffic. As well, motorists will not be able to see pedestrians or vehicles that are approaching.

### How far away should I park from a fire hydrant and what is the reason for this?

You should not park within 5 meters on either side of a fire hydrant. Fire trucks need enough space to easily access a fire hydrant in case of a fire.



### How far away should I park from a driveway and what is the reason for this?

You should not park within 1.5 meters of a driveway. Parking too close to a driveway does not allow for the safe entry or exit of vehicles from this location. When a vehicle is parked too close it also restricts visibility.

*If you would like to learn more about parking within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo or if you have a question, please call Bylaw Services at 780.788.4200.*





# MONTY ATTENDS WINTERPLAY

On March 22nd, Monty the Safety Bear took to the frozen water of the Snye for the closing ceremony of this year's WinterPLAY festival. Cst. Ashley Quallie, of the Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit, attended the festivities with Monty to cheer him on as he participated in the Mascot Hockey Game. While Monty struggled to fit into his team jersey (too many donuts maybe?), the game was a great way for the public to enjoy

some fun hockey. The exciting game between the two teams of mascots came to an end with Monty's team being declared the winner; with a final score of 8-5!

After the game, Monty posed for photos with some hockey fans while residents of Wood Buffalo were able to watch a fire dancing show as well as WinterPLAY's closing fireworks display. Overall, it was a great end to an eventful weekend and a great way to celebrate winter.



# THROWING ROCKS

On Saturday March 28th, Cst. Mylene Michon of the Wood Buffalo RCMP Community Policing Unit along with Monty the Safety Bear attended the annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Curl for Kids Sake. The fundraiser was held at MacDonald Island Park and sponsored by Canadian Tire.

Monty the Bear spent his time interacting with his fellow mascot friends and attendees of the event. Monty was a good sport during the

event and even grabbed a broom and took to the ice to help support this worthy cause, although his throws were not as graceful as some of the expert curlers, the crowd enjoyed his enthusiasm.

The Curl for Kids Sake event was a huge success again this year but the real winner was Big Brothers Big Sisters. As always, the Community Policing Unit was proud to help support this worthwhile organization that supports youth in the community.



# 3-DAY

On March 3rd, at 3:33 PM, Wood Buffalo Mayor, Melissa Blake, proclaimed the day as '3-Day'. On this day people were asked to wear purple to support the initiative and encouraged to do three things to make the community an even better place. These things didn't have to be big; they could be as simple as holding a door open for someone, buying a coffee for a colleague or going the extra mile for a resident.

To mark the day, employees from KAOS 91.1 radio station stopped by the Wood Buffalo Detachment with some coffee and donuts, to say thank you to our officers for the work they do for the residents of Wood Buffalo and keeping everyone safe. (Thanks KAOS 91.1!!)

Even though March 3rd is the official day, organizers of the day are hoping the concept will continue and make the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo an even better place to live, work and play.



# WHAT'S THE RUSH?

The focus for April, as per the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan, is on Speed and throughout the month the Wood Buffalo RCMP, along with their law enforcement partners, will be out enforcing and educating motorists on the importance of abiding by the posted limits. With the improving weather and road conditions, the number of speeding infractions often increases. Motorists need to remember that getting to their destination safely, rests largely with driver attitude, and with obeying the posted speed limits. The simple concept of reducing your speed, even by a few km/hr increases the safety of all users of the roadway.

**Remember, when driving even a few km/hr over the posted speed limit, it:**

- reduces your ability to navigate safely around curves and potential road hazards,
- increases the distance required for the vehicle to stop in an emergency situation,
- increases the chances of losing control of the vehicle,
- reduces the effectiveness of safety devices both inside and outside of the vehicle,
- increases the probability of death or injury in the event of a collision.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What are the demerits for speeding?

Speeding / exceeding limit by more than 50

km/hr (mandatory court appearance) - 6 points

Speeding / exceeding limit by more than 30 km/hr but not more than 50 km/h - 4 points

Speeding / exceeding limit by more than 15 km/hr but not more than 30 km/h - 3 points

Speeding / exceeding limit by up to 15 km/hr - 2 points

Anyone who accumulates 15 or more demerit points in a two-year period will have their license automatically suspended for one month.

### What are the rules of driving through a construction zone? Why should a driver slow down for construction zones when there is no work being done?

Motorists must always observe the posted speed limit. When workers are present, the fines for speeding in these areas are doubled. Even if it seems that there is no activity in a construction zone, there may be other less obvious hazards such as loose gravel chips and uneven pavement, which can be dangerous and lead to loss of control or cause damage to vehicles traveling at high speeds.

### What are the rules of driving past emergency vehicles?

Motorists must slow to 60 km/hr or less when passing emergency vehicles or tow trucks stopped with their emergency lights activated. Fines for speeding in these areas will be doubled. If there are two or more traffic lanes in the same direction as the emergency vehicle or



tow truck, passing vehicles need only slow down in the lane immediately beside the stopped emergency vehicle. Vehicles traveling in other lanes, including oncoming

lanes, may maintain their speed but should proceed with caution.

Speed limits save lives everyday; maybe today it could be yours!

