

# WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY POLICING

MAY 2015, Volume #6 Issue #05

## WALK TO STOP ANIMAL ABUSE

On April 19, Cpl. Jesse Jones attended the 4th annual Walk to Stop Animal Abuse hosted by the Fort McMurray SPCA. The event was held at the Gazebo in Thickwood and was an opportunity for two and four legged community members to come together to raise awareness and help stop animal abuse.

The event started with speeches from local dignitaries and community leaders. The speeches ranged in themes from stricter animal abuse laws, giving greater penalties to offenders, and the importance of community groups like the SPCA.

Cpl. Jones took a different approach in his speech; he told the crowd that animal abuse isn't something that happens far away, but something that occurs in every corner of this region. Highlighting tragic

stories of abuse that has happened in the RMWB, Cpl. Jones also reinforced the idea that community members should raise awareness by talking about the horrendous acts of violence to animals that occur in this region. Cpl. Jones encouraged the crowd to report abuse, stand up for animals, and to never forget the cowardly acts that people have done to animals right here at home.

After the speeches a large pack of local dogs took their owners for a walk through the trails in Thickwood to spread the message there is no room for animal abuse in today's society, and that change is possible.

If you suspect an animal is being abused or neglected please call the RCMP at 780-788-4000.



## THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Wood Buffalo Detachment  
Fort McMurray, AB

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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Royal Canadian  
Mounted Police



# WELCOME CST. NAPOLEON

**On April 16th, the Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit welcomed its newest member to the team; Constable Annie-Claude Napoleon.**

Originally from Montreal, Quebec, Cst. Napoleon moved to Fort McMurray in December 2013 after graduating from the RCMP Training Academy in Regina. Prior to joining the Community Policing Unit, she served as a General Duty Police Officer responding to calls for service with the Wood Buffalo Detachment.

During her time in General Duty policing, Cst. Napoleon was still involved in Community Policing initiatives and assisted the unit whenever possible, she participated in many internet awareness presentations and attended special events such as the Black History month banquet. Cst. Napoleon is looking forward to her new role in the Community Policing Unit and the opportunity to interact with community members and educate the youth in a positive manor.



**Maria Higuerey, a student from Holy Trinity High School, received her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award in Edmonton on April 10th. The Award which is all about self-improvement**

**and confidence boosting was presented to her by none other than the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, His Honour, Col. (Ret'd) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell.**

## LOCAL TEEN EARNS SILVER

In full cadet uniform, Maria proudly received her Silver Award which meant she had completed the minimum six month commitment to physical fitness, community service, skill development, and an adventurous journey. A total of 24 youth from across the province received the Award, who all together contributed more than 1,445 volunteer hours to their communities and were physically active for over

2,300 hours. Cst. Mylène Michon, who is the Duke of Edinburgh representative for the Wood Buffalo Detachment was honored to attend the awards ceremony and support Maria in her endeavors.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Duke of Edinburgh program or learn how to get involved, please contact Cst. Michon at 780-788-4244.

## YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO!

**On April 24th, Holy Trinity High School's Teens for Change team hosted their 4th annual cake auction with a "Games" theme. The event was held to assist the group in completing their goal of sponsoring a village in Ecuador.**

A total of 93 cakes were donated by students, their parents, and community members. Prior to the event, each class raised money and sent one person to

bid on cakes with some cakes raising over \$200.00! Cst. Mylène Michon created her own masterpiece to bring, a Nintendo Mushroom cake, and won a bid on an equally amazing Snakes and Ladders cake. Overall the event brought in over \$8000.00 and got the Teens for Change group even closer to their goal of social justice. Their commitment has shown that helping others can be very "sweet"!





## FORT MCMURRAY HOSTS THE WESTERN CANADA CUP

The first puck was dropped on Saturday, April 25th, to officially commence the 2015 Western Canada Cup which was held in Fort McMurray from April 25-May 3. Junior Hockey League champions from across the Prairie Provinces travelled to Fort McMurray to compete in a five-team tournament hosted by the Fort McMurray Oil Barons for the Western Canada Cup title.

Members of the Wood Buffalo RCMP joined the teams for the official opening ceremony on April 25th, by carrying each Province's flag as they lead the respective teams onto the ice. Also in

attendance was Mayor Melissa Blake who welcomed the visitors and invited them to take in all the beauty that the Wood Buffalo region has to offer.



## THE PARTY IS ON!

The Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) program is back again this year! This one-day injury awareness and prevention program geared towards grade nine students features reality-based learning where students learn that every action has a consequence. The program highlights that choices young people make can have adverse effects on their lives and those of others.

Each day starts with a mock vehicle collision scene that is serious in nature and usually involves at least one fatality. Students are permitted to get up-close and see for themselves what poor decision making can result in. They also have a front-row seat for when emergency services personnel arrive and have to sort through the wreckage in order to save lives and often proceed with criminal investigations. After the mock collision, the students get to hear from various speakers including a

Victim Services Advocate and an RCMP member who talk about the process of notifying the next of kin. Also included is a first-hand account of what a real victim, who was involved in a collision, went through and the pain they still endure years after the incident. The afternoon sessions involve outings to the hospital and morgue, as well as more hands-on activities such as challenges with fatal vision goggles.

The great success of this program can be attributed to great community partners who come together to make the program a success, the many volunteers and corporate support. This year the Wood Buffalo PARTY Program is well underway, and as in previous years this important message will reach many young minds that may someday be faced with difficult decisions. Think ahead, be informed, and make wise choices!!



## BYLAW SERVICES WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU



**Bylaw Services is seeking input regarding a Community Standards Bylaw for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Many Municipalities across Canada have Community Standards Bylaws which cover a diverse range of topics such as: property standards, noise and public behaviour.**

The purpose of developing a Community Standards Bylaw is to create a clear and concise set of expectations for visitors, residents and property owners in the region. The new bylaw will update and consolidate some current bylaws and make them easier to understand, follow and enforce.

Bylaw Services is looking for your input to ensure

that the bylaw meets the needs of all residents and neighbourhoods. In April, sessions were held in a number of areas in Fort McMurray. In May, sessions will be held in Conklin, Janvier, Anzac, Fort Chipewyan, and Sapræ Creek. These sessions are designed to let people know how they can provide input into the creation of the Community Standards Bylaw by completing a survey. If you were unable to attend one of the Public Engagement Sessions, you can still provide input; the survey will be online until the end of May at the following web address: [www.rmwb.ca/communitystandards](http://www.rmwb.ca/communitystandards). Please take a few moments to fill out the survey.

## VICTIM SERVICES HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENTS

**In recognition of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, Fort McMurray Victim Services hosted two special events. In collaboration with the Justin Slade Youth Foundation and the Family Violence and Bully Council, Victim Services was proud to host Josh Shipp "The Teen Whisperer" for his first appearance in Wood Buffalo. Hailing from California, Josh Shipp is a TV personality, author and the most acclaimed youth speaker in the world.**

*On April 23rd, Josh presented to local high school students from Holy Trinity, Composite and Westwood High Schools. After the presentations, students had an opportunity to meet Josh and get his autograph. Josh kept everyone engaged with his laugh-out loud humor, heartfelt inspiration and he was very well received by the students. An evening session was also provided to parents, this session was held at the Family Christian Centre. As Josh states during his presentation, "Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story".*

*Victim Service volunteers were honoured and recognized*



*on April 24th at a Red Carpet Gala held at Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts. Special guest performer and keynote speaker Cary Trivanovich entertained the crowd with his side splitting act. His keynote address commended the advocates for their contributions to the community and the positive impact they have made in victims lives. Other special guests included RCMP members and the Chartrand Family, the recipients of the Victim Services 2015 Essence of Courage Award. These events were sponsored in part by Department of Justice Canada.*





## BREAKFAST IS SERVED

**In her short time in the Community Policing Unit, Cst. Annie-Claude Napoleon has already made a huge impact on the students and staff at Dr. Clark Public School. In her first week in the unit, Cst. Napoleon visited with Dr. Clark School to learn more about their breakfast program and find out how she could get involved.**

As unfortunate as it may be, some children, even in our community, go to school hungry every morning

and studies have shown that hunger leaves children unable to focus which prevents them from learning. Cst. Napoleon felt strong about this growing problem and wanted to help in any way possible so she has been attending the school to assist in handing out breakfasts to the students to ensure they have a healthy start to their day. Cst. Napoleon is also using that time to build positive relationships with the students and show that RCMP officers can be strong role models in any form.

## POSITIVE YOUTH INTERACTIONS

**On April 17, students from St. Anne's after school care program were excited to get a visit from Cst. Annie-Claude Napoleon of the Wood Buffalo Community Policing Unit. Cst. Napoleon attended the school where she had a great time playing dodge ball with the youth. After the game, students were given the chance to ask questions and see the inside of her police car. At the end of the visit, Cst. Napoleon handed out stickers and pencils to the students and encouraged them all to do their best in school. The youth**

**really enjoyed their time with Cst. Napoleon and she even received a thank you card from them before she left.**

Cst. Napoleon also visited the children at the Starting Place Preschool where she spoke with children about her role as an RCMP officer and what she does to keep them and the rest of the community safe. Cst. Napoleon spent some time answering questions posed by the small children and gave them the opportunity to see inside her police car, many of the excited children even got to turn on the lights and sirens.



## INSPIRATION EN FRANCAIS

**Holy Trinity High School held a francophone day on April 24th where they enjoyed games "Minute to Win It" style and had motivational speeches by Olympic champion, Bruny Surin, and local RCMP Constable, Mylène Michon.**

It is with keeping francophone pride in mind that Holy Trinity planned their francophone day as an all-day event. Mr. Surin spoke about his idol, American runner Carl Lewis, and how his goal was to beat Lewis' race times; Mr. Surin accomplished

this goal and then some. He won Gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, won two Gold medals at the IAAF World Indoor Championships, and was highly decorated in Gold, Silver, and Bronze at different World Championships. Bruny Surin told the teens to aim high and believe in their goals, even when other people don't.

Cst. Michon spoke to the youth about how patience and dedication are involved in becoming a police officer, and that they too, need to persevere to achieve their dreams.



# CST. MICHON TALKS BIKE SAFETY

On April 29, Cst. Mylene Michon visited with a local Brownies group to talk to them about Bike Safety. Cst. Michon highlighted some of the rules and laws that everyone must adhere to in order to stay safe on the roads and trails in our community. She also talked to the children about how a bike helmet needs to be properly fitted to maximize injury protection in the event of an impact. The young girls thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were excited to show off their skills to Cst. Michon as she cheered them on.

Here are a few reminders on how you can remain safe while on your bike:

- Anyone under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet in Alberta

- Ensure that helmets are worn properly and are the right size
- Obey all signs and signals
- Walk your bike across the street
- Wear bright clothing and reflective gear so you are easier to see
- Make sure your bike is the right size for you and in good working condition
- Always watch for pedestrians and vehicles
- If a helmet has been impacted or cracked, even if you can't see the damage, replace it



- As a parent be a role model and wear a helmet yourself

Biking is an excellent summer activity but we need to remember that it does come with risks; riders should always protect themselves to ensure a safe and enjoyable ride.



## 100 DAYS OUT

April 29th marked the official '100 Days Out' for the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games and to celebrate this momentous occasion, a community event was held at MacDonald Island Park. The event was well attended by members of the community including Cst. Annie-Claude Napoleon and Monty the Safety Bear. Monty and his community mascot friends spent their time playing some of the fun sports that will be featured during the Summer Games; they also participated in a 3 on 3 mascot tug-of-war competition which resulted in Monty, Bylaw Bob and the Summer Games mascot, Mistiko, claiming victory. Cst. Napoleon and Monty spent the remainder of the evening interacting with attendees and posing for photos with the enthusiastic sport fans.

The 2015 Western Canada Summer Games is being held from August 7-16, during this time the Wood Buffalo region will play host to more than 2,300 athletes, 10,000 spectators, 3,000 volunteers and 300 officials who will participate in 10 days of high-level athletics in 18 different sports at venues located throughout the Municipality. The Games will feature athletes from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The 2015 Western Canada Summer Games is continuing to recruit volunteers to help participate in various aspects of the games. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved or to register, visit <http://2015woodbuffalo.com/inner.php>.

