

WOOD BUFFALO COMMUNITY POLICING

MARCH 2015, Volume #6 Issue #03

LUV-A-POOOZA

On February 6th, the Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society hosted their annual Valentines Gala, Luv-A-Polooza, at the Sawridge Inn and Conference Center. The event was attended by nearly 300 people, in addition to Wood Buffalo Detachment Constables Ashley Quallie, Jordan Oatman, and Arminder Grewal, who attended the event in Red Serge. The RCMP members assisted the organizers by escorting patrons to their tables, posing for photos, and helping hand out roses and chocolate cigars.

The Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society was established in 1982 and provides services for individuals affected by family violence. Staff and volunteers assist in rebuilding lives by implementing crisis intervention and a range of support services.

Overall, it was a beautiful evening out with a delicious dinner and great entertainment, all for a worthy cause!



THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Wood Buffalo Detachment
Fort McMurray, AB

In This Issue

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Luv-A-Polooza | 5 Leadership Week at Father Beauregard |
| 2 Police Dog Diago Visits the Library | 5 JSYF Conference |
| 2 Anniversary of the Canadian Flag | 5 RCMP vs. Reptile |
| 2 RCMP History Lesson | 6 Things You May Not Know About the Roads and Transportation Bylaw |
| 3 Seatbelt Awareness | 6 Father Mercredi Gets a Lesson in Police Robotics |
| 3 RCMP Judge Science | |
| 4 Protect Yourself | |
| 4 The Anti-Graffiti Symposium | |



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO



Royal Canadian
Mounted Police



POLICE DOG DIAGO VISITS THE LIBRARY

February 23-27 was Animal Week at the Fort McMurray Public Library which featured some special furry guests including Wood Buffalo Detachment's police dog, Diago.



Diago and his handler Cst. Phil Peters were invited to attend the library and speak with the children who were in attendance. Cst. Peters educated the youth on what his and Diago's roles are as members of the RCMP. Cst. Peters also explained the training that Diago undergoes in order to become a successful police



dog and the hard work that is required to maintain his skills.

The children were excited to see Diago and how he interacts with his handler. At the end, Cst. Peters answered all the children's questions and one lucky boy even got his picture taken with Diago.



On February 15th, 2015, Canada celebrated the fifty year anniversary of one of its most recognizable national symbols - the red and white maple leaf flag. Cst. Mylène Michon attended an assembly held at Thickwood Heights Public School on February 18th to help celebrate this historic event.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADIAN FLAG

The national flag of Canada was inaugurated on February 15th, 1965. This date has been officially called "National Flag of Canada Day" and is celebrated annually. The very first flag flown over the Peace Tower was never given away and is now a part of the House of Commons heritage collection. Nowadays, the flag is proudly flown over federal, provincial, and municipal buildings as well as private homes. Our flag is a symbol of our pride for our country, proudly shown by Canadian athletes who

drape themselves in its colors during international events.

Thickwood Heights Public School celebrated the event by talking about the history of the flag and singing in its honor. Students were pleased to have another national symbol at their assembly, a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Cst. Michon quizzed the students on a little bit of history, including how long the RCMP had been present in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

RCMP HISTORY LESSON

The Wood Buffalo Detachment celebrated 100 years of policing in the Wood Buffalo region in 2013 and continues to educate the youth on our vast history today. On February 10th, Cst. Ashley Quallie and Cst. Mylene Michon attended Heritage Park to speak to a Grade 5 class from Ecole Dickensfield about the role of the police in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

over the last 100 years. Cst. Quallie interacted with the youth while presenting facts about the origin of the RCMP's name as well as the uniform. The students were eager to participate and asked the RCMP members lots of questions about their uniforms and the tools the two officers had - it was apparent from all of the questions that the students enjoyed their history lesson.



SEATBELT AWARENESS



During the month of March the Traffic Safety focus, as per the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan, is on occupant restraints. The proper use of occupant restraints significantly decreases the severity of injuries sustained as a result of motor vehicle collisions. Research and collision investigations indicate that seatbelts increase the chances of survival in a collision by 50 percent.

When a vehicle stops suddenly in a collision, any

unrestrained persons or objects continue traveling at the same speed until they hit something. This can include any object in the vehicle, part of the vehicle or another occupant. The proper use of seatbelts, and other occupant restraints such as child car seats, is often accredited with the prevention of death or injury in the event of a collision. The awareness efforts on this important safety message is an ongoing initiative, however during the month of March, motorists can

expect to see even more enforcement and education surrounding the proper use of seatbelts.

The use of a seatbelt should be an automatic reflex when getting into any motor vehicle, for drivers and passengers alike and the Wood Buffalo RCMP are reminding motorists to keep the following in mind:

- In Alberta the law requires that all occupants travelling in a motor vehicle use a seatbelt or child safety seat that is properly worn and adjusted.
- Properly used seatbelts can reduce serious injury and fatalities.
- The fine for not using a seatbelt or child safety seat is \$115.
- Drivers are responsible to ensure that all passengers under the age of 16 are properly secured using either a child safety seat or seatbelt. Drivers may be fined for each unrestrained passenger under the age of 16.

- Airbags are a supplemental protection and only function properly if the occupant is restrained in a proper position by a seatbelt. Airbags deploy at an explosive speed and can cause injury if the occupant is not properly positioned.
- Vehicles are designed with an engineered life space or passenger compartment that can withstand the force of most impacts. Seatbelts keep occupants from being ejected through the windshield or thrown around the passenger compartment.
- In a collision, unrestrained occupants increase the risk for everyone in the vehicle. An unrestrained occupant may hit something or someone inside the vehicle; or they may be ejected from the vehicle onto the road, guardrail or into another vehicle.

For more information on Occupant Restraints, you can visit www.saferoads.com.

RCMP JUDGE SCIENCE FAIR

The Fort McMurray Christian School held its annual Science Fair on February 19th and Cst. Mylene Michon was honored to be invited to attend as a guest judge.

Students from elementary and junior high were able to choose between an Experiment, Innovation, and Study project. They proudly displayed their projects and were eager to have community judges visit them so they could explain their work and answer the questions posed by

the judges. Students went all out with their creativity, from constructing a hover craft, building elevators, studying the techniques used in television advertisements, and so much more.

Cst. Michon was happy to see the kids' enthusiasm about their hard work and thoroughly enjoyed the ability to interact with the youth while allowing the young people time to interact personally with a RCMP officer.



PROTECT YOURSELF

The Wood Buffalo RCMP and our law enforcement partners continuously try to decrease crime and protect our community however we can't do it alone. As a resident of Wood Buffalo, or any community, there are several actions you can take to ensure your safety and prevent a crime from happening. Below are a few suggestions that should be considered.

Home

- When you are not home ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Even when you are home, it is best practice to lock your doors and windows.
- Install motion sensor lights.
- Install lights on a timer to come on at different times throughout the day.
- When out of town have someone shovel your driveway or mow your lawn.
- Cut back shrubs and trees allowing your house to be more visible and decrease the places someone can hide.



- Store expensive items, such as iPads, laptops and jewelry out of plain sight.

Vehicle

- Keep doors locked and windows up.
- When in the vehicle, ensure the doors are locked.
- Do not keep valuables in the vehicle.
- Ensure that the doors are locked. Too often we rely on the lock button on our key fobs. After you have pressed the lock button, pull the door handle to confirm the door is actually locked.
- Never keep keys or an extra set of keys in the vehicle.
- Do not leave vehicle running with doors unlocked while you "quickly" run in somewhere.

Personal

- Let others know where you are going to be.
- Carry a cell phone with you.
- Avoid dark areas at night.
- Where reflective clothing when



walking at night.

- Pay attention to traffic and your surroundings when walking/running. Avoid wearing ear buds/head phones as it is important to hear what you may not be able to see.

Transit

- Ride with a friend!
- If you feel in danger at a bus stop, get inside a bus to be in view of the security cameras.
- Keep in mind the bus driver can call police through his dispatcher.
- If you are carrying small personal electronics, conceal them under your clothing or in your backpack. Such items are favorite targets for would-be thieves.
- Hold your purse or bag in front of you, close to your body.
- Do not leave personal items or bags unattended.

Let's all do our part to keep ourselves, our neighbors and our community safe!



ANTI-GRAFFITI SYMPOSIUM

On February 18th, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo hosted TAGS – the anti-graffiti symposium.

This symposium held a community session in efforts to educate residents and community organizations affected by graffiti vandalism. Attendees were able to learn from Canadian experts

about what other municipalities are doing to combat graffiti and how our community members can work together to take ownership of our neighborhoods. The main focus was that graffiti is indeed a crime, and that very few graffiti taggers become career artists. Those affected by graffiti are called upon to report the

incident quickly.

The best way to deal with graffiti is quick and repeated removal. Once the graffiti is reported, the Municipality provides a graffiti removal kit or supply gift cards for painting supplies. To obtain these, please email graffiti@woodbuffalo.ab.ca

More tips on how to prevent graffiti can be found at www.woodbuffalo.ab.ca/graffiti



LEADERSHIP WEEK AT FATHER BEAUREGARD



Father Beauregard School is all about leadership and the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People”. During the month of February, the school held a leadership week where local leaders were invited to attend and speak with students about the value of leadership. Wood Buffalo Detachment’s own, Cst. Mylène Michon, was invited and asked to share her personal experience in

becoming a leader.

Cst. Michon spoke to the students about the challenges of becoming a police officer, along with the necessity of staying healthy and fit. The needs to prioritize and make goals to succeed were also discussed. Students spoke about being role models and how they were already doing their part in making their community a better place.

JYSF CONFERENCE

On February 5th, the Justin Slade Youth Foundation held its annual Grade 8 Youth Empowerment Conference at the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Center. Community partners from across the region were on hand for sessions such as arts and culture, nutrition and healthy eating, mental health and healthy relationships, drug awareness, along with a variety of other topics.

Cst. Ashley Quallie and Cst. Mylene Michon attended and provided the students with career development sessions about the RCMP. Students were able to learn what the prerequisites are for joining the RCMP as well as what the application process is like. At the end of the presentation, the Grade 8’s watched a short video on life as a cadet at depot, and given the opportunity to ask the RCMP members questions.



Cst. Michael Jaszczyszyn also attended the all-day conference and educated the youth on drug awareness, the harmful effects of using drugs and

the legal ramifications involved.

Overall the day was a great way for Grade 8’s to leave with information to feel empowered in their lives!

RCMP VS. REPTILE



On February 10th, Cst. Ashley Quallie and Cst. Mylene Michon visited a Grade 5 class at École St. Paul. The purpose of the visit was to speak with youth about the history of the RCMP in Wood Buffalo. The Grade 5 class loved hearing about the work of a police officer and posed many questions for the members.

During the visit, the students took the time to introduce the RCMP members to their class friend, Razor. Although Cst. Quallie was a little skeptical of Razor at first, Cst. Michon was excited to interact with the reptile and even offered Razor to go on a ride-along once the weather gets warmer!



THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION BYLAW

The Roads and Transportation Bylaw is a comprehensive bylaw which covers a wide variety of topics. Some of the topics addressed in this bylaw include: operation of vehicles, pedestrians, parking, and truck routes. Many residents are aware of some parts of this bylaw, but there are some things that many may not know.

Did you know that you are not permitted to advertise on highways? You are not permitted to display, offer, or sell any goods on highways. This includes advertising that a vehicle is for sale. If a vehicle for sale is parked on private property it is fine but signage must be taken down when vehicle is going on any roadway.

Were you aware that placing any advertising, legend or sign of any kind upon any highway or street furniture is not permitted? Street furniture includes curbs, sidewalks, poles, traffic signs, waste receptacles, bus benches, bus enclosures, trees, plants, grass, hydrants, fences, utilities, utility services or any other property belonging to the Municipality capable of being marked, defaced or damaged.

Another thing you may not be aware of is that no person is permitted to track upon a highway. What is tracking? Tracking is causing any dirt, soil, mud, gravel, sand, clay, lime, fertilizer, manure, substance or material of any nature or kind whatsoever to fall from any vehicle, appurtenances, or tires onto any highway.

These are a few topics from the Roads and Transportation Bylaw. If you want to learn more about this bylaw or any other bylaw, please visit www.rmwb.ca/bylaws. If you have any questions, please call Bylaw Services at 780.788.4200.



FATHER MERCREDI GETS A LESSON IN POLICE ROBOTICS

The Wood Buffalo Detachment is fortunate to have its very own Collision Reconstructionist, Cpl. Mark Podesky, on hand to help determine the cause of a collision after it takes place. Part of the equipment used to assist Cpl. Podesky in his investigations is a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) drone, equipped with a camera to take aerial photos.

This past month, Cpl. Podesky visited the Father Patrick Mercredi High School's

Robotics class to demonstrate how robots can be used in policing. Cpl. Podesky brought his UAV drone to the school and the students braved the cold weather to see it fly and take photographs. The students were fascinated and loved seeing that the material they are learning in school can be used in a career as a police officer.

Robotics equipment is also used in other areas of the RCMP including the Explosives Units; this technology is a great asset to the Force!





**A CAREER NOWHERE
NEAR ORDINARY**
**UNE CARRIÈRE
HORS DE L'ORDINAIRE**

> CAREER PRESENTATION

Friday, March 13 at 6:00 PM

Wood Buffalo Detachment/Cormier Comm. Room
105 Paquette Drive

> EXPOSÉ SUR LES CARRIÈRES

Le vendredi 13 mars à 18 h

Détachement de Wood Buffalo/Salle Cormier
105 Paquette Drive

> ENTRANCE EXAMS

Saturday, March 14 at 9:30 AM

Wood Buffalo Detachment/Cormier Comm. Room
105 Paquette Drive

> EXAMENS D'ADMISSION

Le samedi 14 mars à 9 h 30

Détachement de Wood Buffalo/Salle Cormier
105 Paquette Drive

ATTENDANCE AT A CAREER PRESENTATION IS NOW THE MANDATORY FIRST STEP IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS. /
ASSISTER À UNE SÉANCE D'INFORMATION SUR LES CARRIÈRES EST MAINTENANT LA PREMIÈRE ÉTAPE OBLIGATOIRE
DU PROCESSUS DE RECRUTEMENT.

PRE-REGISTRATION / INSCRIPTION : 1-877-RCMP-GRC (1-877-726-7472)

