



# The Insider, Aug. 24

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Aug. 24, 2026.

## Blooming success: Celebrating the team behind our neighbourhood planters

A huge THANK YOU to horticulture technicians **Janis Borgen** and **Crystal Cawardine** for designing, planning and implementing this year's neighbourhood planters with the help of our incredibly hard-working **Horticulture** and **Parks** support teams.

We appreciate the care and maintenance that goes into these beautiful creations and in making the region brighter.

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*Janis and I really went for it with the Therapeutic Gardening theme. Adding edible plants to ornamental crops not only bring visual interest, but it also supports biodiversity and keeps things fun and interesting in the gardens! We are always experimenting with new things to show ourselves and others that we can grow crops that were maybe questionable in our northern climate.*

*My favourite plant this year is the rainbow Swiss chard with its vibrant colours. I also loved using parsley and assorted kale varieties for their unique texture and extended growing life into the fall.*

*- Crystal Cawardine*

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This year's incredible displays took inspiration from the Community in Bloom program and have taken therapeutic gardening to the next level, combining plants that support wellness with creativity and connection.

## **Congratulations and farewell to Deputy Fire Chief Rob Van Hecke**

Regional Emergency Services Leadership joined many other colleagues and co-workers to wish **Deputy Fire Chief Rob Van Hecke** a fond farewell on Friday, Aug. 21 at Fire Hall 1.

The Deputy Chief served with the Regional Emergency Services for 24 years and is moving to St. Albert in September to take over as the new fire chief of the St. Albert Fire Department.

We wish Rob all the best on his new adventure!

## **That's a wrap for Camp Xtreme**

Last week, Regional Emergency Services wrapped up its final **Camp Xtreme** cohort of the year.

We'd like to thank all staff who were involved in this extremely successful program, especially those from the RES Training Branch who worked directly with the three groups of young people who took part in the program throughout August.

This annual program offers an important opportunity for students to challenge themselves, gain confidence and decide if a career in public safety is for them.

## **Reminder: G.E. Bussieres scholarship applications due by Aug. 31**

Is your dependent in post-secondary? Check to see if they're eligible for the G.E. Bussieres scholarship!

Applicants must:

- Be a dependent of a permanent employee.

- Must have a minimum grade of 70% in the most recent year of completed full-time education.
- Be a full-time student.

To apply and for more information, visit the [Scholarships intranet page](#) on My RMWB.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact [learn@rmwb.ca](mailto:learn@rmwb.ca).

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*Apply by Aug. 31, 2026.*

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## Still time to register for the Kairos Blanket Exercise!

Join us at Helen Pacholko Park (201 Signal Road, Thickwood) on **Tuesday, August 25, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** for the KAIROS Blanket Exercise.

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive, experiential learning opportunity that guides participants through the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and the lasting impacts of colonization. Developed by KAIROS and adapted for the Treaty 8 region, the exercise encourages reflection, understanding and meaningful dialogue.

This experience is open to all RMWB staff who are interested in learning more about the history and impacts of colonization in Canada.

Register via [Learn](#).

**Please note:** The Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning experience that involves participation, reflection, and discussion.

### About the Kairos Blanket Exercise

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is a powerful teaching and learning tool designed to deepen understanding of the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization on Indigenous Peoples in Canada and around the world.

Using blankets to represent the land, the exercise guides participants through key historical events and experiences, including pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. This immersive experience helps participants develop a deeper understanding of these events and their ongoing impacts on Indigenous Peoples.

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

### **Connecting with rural communities through engagement**

Last week, staff from Transit, Public Works, and Regional Emergency Services joined Public Engagement and Indigenous and Rural Relations in Fort McKay and Janvier to connect with residents and gather feedback on municipal projects and programs that matter most to their communities.

Community members were invited to join a meal, meet with staff, ask questions, and share their perspectives on a variety of initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who helped support these engagement sessions!

### **Contact us**

For questions and concerns, contact [TheInsider@rmwb.ca](mailto:TheInsider@rmwb.ca).

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