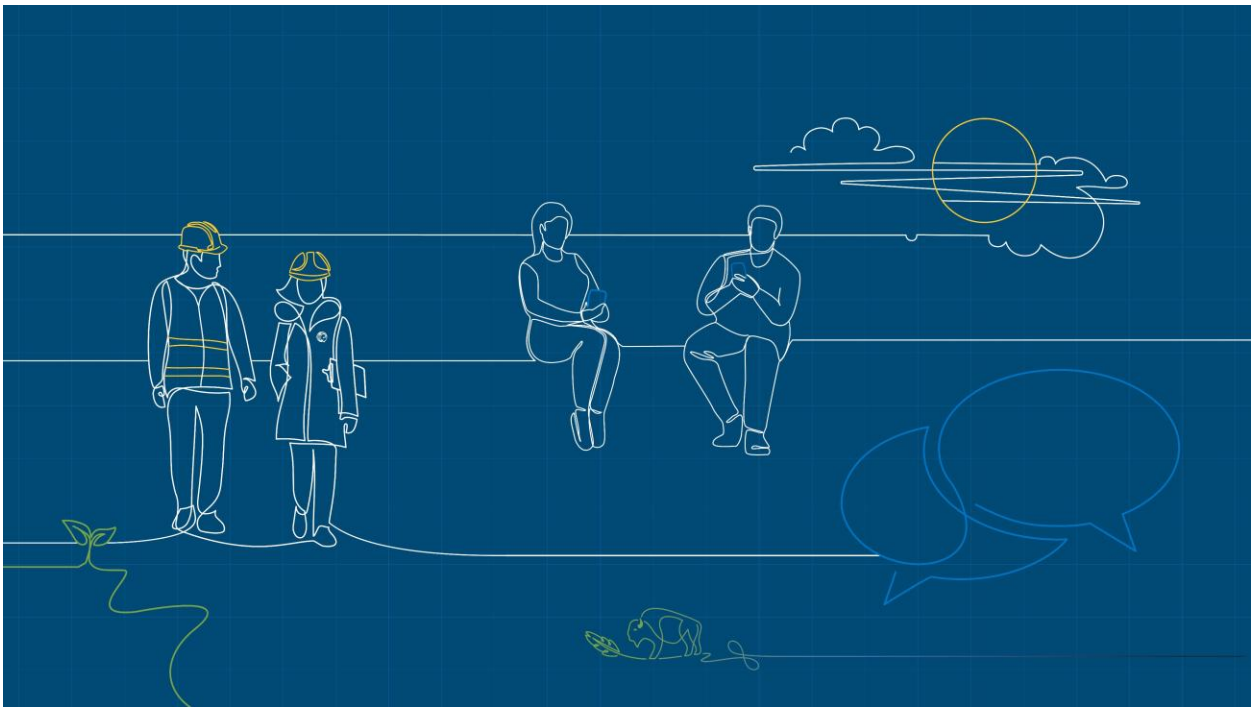


The Insider, Oct. 26

Find out what's new at the RMWB on Oct. 26, 2026.

Take your shot: The Spirit Hat Trick begins

Three ways to enter. One great monthly prize.

As another Oil Barons season gets underway, we're celebrating the teamwork, community spirit and friendly competition that make both hockey and the RMWB special.

Introducing the **Spirit Hat Trick**, a new monthly contest that gives staff three chances to enter a draw for a **pair of Oil Barons home game tickets**.

Choose one (or all three!) ways to enter each month:

🏒 **Show Your Colours**

Submit a photo of yourself wearing your favourite sports jersey or team swag.

🏒 **Give an Assist**

Recognize a colleague who demonstrates teamwork, leadership, or support.

🏒 **Take Your Shot**

Test your hockey knowledge by answering a simple trivia question.

Whether you're cheering from the stands, recognizing a teammate, or showing off your hockey spirit, every entry gives you a chance to win.

October's hockey trivia: What is the term for scoring three goals in one game?

A) Power Play

B) Shutout

C) Hat Trick

D) Faceoff

Ready to score? Submit your photo, staff recognition, or trivia answer to TheInsider@rmwb.ca.

More than a new store: Teamwork helps bring Walmart to Parsons Creek

When the doors opened at the new Walmart Supercentre in Parsons Creek last week, residents saw a new place to shop, pick up groceries and access more services close to home.

They did not see the years of work behind the scenes to help make it happen.

The Walmart project is an example of what can happen when RMWB departments, developers and businesses work together toward a common goal.

If you build it, they will come.....but it must meet all municipal requirements first

The groundwork began in 2022 when the Municipality issued a *Request for Expressions of Interest* for a roughly 54-acre municipal parcel in Parsons Creek. Following the process and with Council approval, the land was sold for commercial development.

Moving forward, the municipal Planning and Development team played an important role in helping transform the larger site into a development-ready commercial area.

That work involved much more than issuing a permit.

Staff from branches including Subdivision, Development Planning, Technical Engineering, Land Administration and Safety Codes worked through the many stages required for a development of this size. They collaborated with the developer, Walmart, and municipal partners to review

plans, subdivide the property and establish development requirements to make sure the necessary infrastructure and servicing were considered.

A development years in the making

By early 2024, plans for the site were taking shape and Walmart was officially identified as a major part of the development.

The Municipality's work looked beyond the Walmart property itself. Planning for the surrounding commercial parcels was also important, ensuring the entire area could develop as an integrated site and support future businesses.

Staff worked with Public Works and other RMWB teams to help address roads, landscaping and underground infrastructure. Existing services that had been in place for years needed to be checked and connected as development moved forward. Transportation and access considerations were also part of preparing the area for increased activity.

"Planning and Development also worked closely with the provincial government, particularly Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Transportation, to make sure the surrounding infrastructure and roads were ready to support increased traffic as development in Parsons Creek continues to grow," says ***Shailesh Makwana****, Supervisor, Subdivisions.*

With a project of this scale, it was a constant process with plans that change and issues which inevitably arise. Staff worked with the developer and Walmart to find practical solutions while ensuring both municipal and safety standards continued to be met.

The goal wasn't to skip steps. It was to make the process clear and efficient, reducing red tape wherever possible, while ensuring all requirements were addressed.

This approach continued right through the final stages, when teams inspected the development to ensure it met its permit conditions and completed the processes required to support occupancy. The final step was providing the special event permit for the Grand Opening!

Opportunity starts here

The result is about more than one building.

The Walmart Supercentre in Fort McMurray is one of the first to showcase the chain's new store concept, bringing a fresh design to the region while serving as an anchor for future commercial development in Parsons Creek.

*“There is already lots of interest for further development not only in Parsons Creek, but also Quarry Ridge, where Home Depot is being built,” says **Brynn Armstrong**, Manager, Land Administration. “This is an exciting time and a promising sign for continued commercial growth.”*

For the people who helped move the Walmart project forward, driving past the finished building offers something tangible: the opportunity to see years of planning, technical work and problem-solving come to life.

It also offers a glimpse of what's possible.

Major developments don't happen overnight. They require many people working behind the scenes, often for years before residents see a shovel in the ground. This was a team effort from start to finish, with different groups contributing along the way. Legal supported the earlier stages of the work, while RES Fire Prevention, Transit and Bylaw became involved as the project moved closer to completion.

As new businesses consider investing in Wood Buffalo, the experience in Parsons Creek demonstrates how the Municipality can help move good ideas from plans on a page to developments that serve residents and support the region's growth.

Collaboration takes flight

A successful Special Council Meeting in Fort Chipewyan doesn't happen without a lot of planning behind the scenes.

From booking flights and transporting equipment to providing technical and meeting support, employees across several departments played an important role in making the meeting possible. Their behind-the-scenes efforts helped bring Council and community members together in Fort Chipewyan.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the meeting a success!

RMWB news you can use!

Orange you glad we take pumpkins?

Your pumpkin looks good now, but after Halloween, don’t let it become a spooky mess!

Drop off your pumpkins for free from November 1 to 10 at:

- FreshCo, Downtown
- Sobeys, Thickwood
- Independent, Timberlea

Team up with your neighbours and build a community rink!

As winter approaches, help spread the word about the Community Backyard Rink program.

Residents can apply to create temporary outdoor skating rinks on municipal property, making it easier for families and neighbours to enjoy skating closer to home.

Before building, residents must review the program requirements, apply through the Municipality's E-Permitting portal and receive approval. You can help by sharing the program with friends, family and neighbours who may be interested.

Learn more at rmwb.ca/CommunityRinks.

The holidays are creeping up...mark your calendar for Kids Holiday Party magic!

Make magical holiday memories with your little ones at the **WBRS Kids Holiday Party**!

Date: Sunday, Nov. 22

Location: MacDonald Island Park

Choose from three time slots:

- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- 3 to 5 p.m.

Enjoy a festive holiday brunch, activities, crafts and fun for children under 12. Get tickets!

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

Asset Management branch celebrates second win in a row

The Asset Management branch is celebrating its second award, **Leadership of the Year in Asset Management**, in two consecutive years from PEMAC (Plant Engineering and Maintenance Association of Canada), presented at PEMAC's annual MainTrain 2026 conference. This follows the **Asset Management of the Year** award that the team won in 2025.

This year, PEMAC presented nine awards across two categories, Excellence in Practice and Member Recognition. The awards honour professionals and teams whose work has moved the profession forward and inspired others in the field.

Being named among this year's recipients places RMWB alongside some of the leading asset management organizations in Canada. This year's leadership award went to **Justin Canning**, manager, Asset Management.

In accepting the award, Justin shared these words:

I'm truly honoured to receive this award tonight. I've never cared much for titles or recognition. For me, leadership has always been about people. They are the why. This award really isn't about me. It represents the incredible people I've been blessed to work with, learn from, and lead.

I've had some great leaders and mentors influence me over the years, including some of you in this room. One thing I've learned is that when you invest in your people, they will deliver the value. Give them opportunities, trust them, challenge them, and help them grow.

There's a quote from Mother Teresa that has always stuck with me: "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." Because at the end of the day, whether at work or at home, people are always the why.

Thank you to PEMAC, to everyone I've had the privilege of working alongside, and a special thank you to the person who nominated me. Thank you for believing in me and for taking the time to put my name forward. It means more than you know.

So, if I could leave you with a few thoughts tonight: remain humble, stay curious, ask questions, take risks, embrace failure, and never stop learning.

Congratulations to Justin and the entire Asset Management team on this well-deserved recognition!

Training together, safer together

When it comes to safety, teamwork makes all the difference.

Employees from Wastewater Treatment, Underground Services, Water Treatment and Maintenance recently came together for Confined Space Rescue training, held in the Wastewater Treatment Plant maintenance bay on Oct. 6 and 9.

The hands-on sessions provided valuable opportunities to strengthen rescue skills, share knowledge and build connections across teams. By working together and learning from one another, participants helped strengthen emergency preparedness and support a culture of safety throughout the organization.