

REDWOOD RAMBLER

REDWOOD MEADOWS, AUGUST 2026



Redwood Bike Parade, July 1st, 2026

COUNCIL

July saw the river high and turbulent. This lasted for several days and as a result we lost a large number of trees and land bordering the river. It has changed the total look of what was familiar terrain and washed away the regular walking paths that skirted the river. Observing the difference can be challenging and disorienting as so much was washed away. After the river calmed down a local resident came to Townsite requesting permission to create a new pathway. Dave Royall and his son carved out new pathways and marked them with blue tape so you can follow. Thank you for doing this as this area is an integral part of the community. Now we have a new swimming area with a wide rocky area that is now a community recreational spot. Logs have been placed for sitting, and a variety of depths can be found.

210 trees have been planted along the berm and park areas. During the hot weather that we have experienced the staff have been kept busy with watering duties. Notice the variety of larch, ash, aspen and the linden trees along the park edge. Fencing has been structured around the lindens to curb the deer appetites.

Each year the Tsuut'ina nation host an annual rodeo and powwow. It is attended by indigenous groups from areas far and wide. Sam Jackson had an unplanned honor to be part of the Grand Entry. Head Chief Ellery Starlight invited him spontaneously to be recognized as part of this ceremony. The dress, the dancers, the drummers are a spectacle to behold. It is an interesting scene to observe the costumes that are made by the bands, many hours spend perfecting the design and the story contained. Each color is indicative with nature and blended with beads, ribbons, moccasins and face painting. We would encourage all residents to attend this event that is presented once a year, usually the last weekend in July. Too late this year but be ready for 2027.

Council met once this month but are in the process of reviewing bylaws, following progress on the firehall storage construction and the police facility. We are still awaiting word on the treatment facility, which appears to be at a standstill currently.

Spruce Budworms appeared in early July but numbers were minimal. Infestation is minor and no plans to schedule spraying in 2027. This will continue to be monitored. Spruce Beetle abatement traps and pods have been placed to act as a deterrent and monitor the amount of activity.

Please join us in welcoming Rob Russell, our new accounting person to work with Eric Rogers to familiarize himself with the current accounting system and become involved with the Sylogist installation process that replaces the existing Great Plains software that is being phased out. Welcome Rob, a local resident! Enjoy the freedom of no commute and the ability to run home for lunch!

Bears are out. Know how to use your bear spray and carry it with you and make sure your kids know what to do if they encounter a bear! Keep your dogs on leash and controlled if you know a bear is in the area.



RMES

July was a busy and productive month for Redwood Meadows Emergency Services! With warm weather, increased outdoor activity, and ongoing provincial fire advisories, RMES has been extremely busy with calls and training, as well as our Fall 2026 Recruitment drive for new members. We were out and about in the community last month doing the Canada Day bike parade, barbecue lunch fundraiser and Firefit fun, as well as the Ostomy Camp Water fight, Bragg Creek Days parade and our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. #RebuildRMES fundraising continues – be sure to sign up for one of the local charity golf tournaments!

Operational Highlights

- **Wildfire Preparedness** — Crews have been conducting equipment checks, hose testing, and interface response drills to ensure readiness as Alberta's wildfire season continues. RMES reminds residents to maintain defensible space around homes and follow FireSmart guidelines.
- **Medical Response Readiness** — Call volumes remain steady, with RMES responding to motor vehicle incidents, outdoor injuries, and routine medical emergencies. RMES encourages residents to stay hydrated and watch for signs of heat stress during hot days.
- **Training & Skills Development** — Your professional volunteers do weekly Tuesday training sessions focused on rapid response coordination, fire suppression, patient stabilization, and multiagency communication.

Seasonal Safety Reminders

As we move through the final stretch of summer, we encourage residents to keep safety top of mind:

- **Wildfire Awareness** — Follow all fire bans and advisories, dispose of smoking materials responsibly, and report smoke or fire immediately.
- **Water & Outdoor Safety** — Use caution around rivers and lakes, wear life jackets, and supervise children closely.
- **Emergency Preparedness** — Ensure your household emergency kit is stocked with water, medications, flashlights, and communication essentials.

Fall and back to school will be upon us before we know it. Enjoy every last minute of the summer, safely.

Until next month!



A River Runs Through It

(Author's note: The following article is an updated edit on the original in 2022)

Besides the great people that live in this community and surrounding area, one of the best things about living here is the proximity we have to a river that flows by peacefully (usually; more to come on this...) on the west side of our community.

The Elbow River. A watercourse 120 kms in length that finds its beginnings at Elbow Lake high in the Rockies, then meanders through the foothills of Kananaskis County, past the communities of Bragg Creek and Redwood Meadows, out of the forest and into the parkland, before entering the southwest of Calgary, hanging out in the Glenmore Reservoir for a bit, and meeting up with the Bow River downtown at historic Fort Calgary. And then 2800 kms and three prairie provinces later, these waters drain into Hudson Bay.

This river is an integral part of our community. Going for a walk along its banks to give the pups some exercise or clear your head. Cooling off with a swim or a float in the summer. Supplying our townsite with drinking water. Casting a fishing line. Gliding across on skis or skates in the winter. This list goes on. Possibly my favorite aspect of the river is just watching it change over the course of the year and appreciating the eternal seasonal cycle.

It also resonates an omnipresence, possibly felt more by those that have experienced it's fickle nature over the years.

The Elbow River is the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Tsuut'ina, and Stoney Nakoda Nations. The name comes from the English translation of the Blackfoot word 'moki-nist- sis.' In fact, all the Nations had a word for 'Elbow' in their respective languages for many areas where rivers make sharp bends. This specific 'Elbow' is where the river takes a sharp bend north just before the confluence with the Bow River. An important traditional camping ground. But not permanent and for good reason...

Fort Calgary was the first permanent structure built at this spot with the arrival of the Northwest Mounted Police in 1875. A bit further upstream, a Catholic Mission was built shortly after. This was the origin of Calgary. The Canadian Pacific Railroad arrived in 1883 and built a wooden trestle bridge over the river and deliver more citizens. Calgary was incorporated as such in 1884, a bustling town of 500. The Elbow River was not very welcoming. In October 1883, high, ice choked water washed out the only pedestrian bridge, also jamming up against the CPR trestle bridge and nearly destroying this as well.

Calgarian perseverance had a new pedestrian and wagon bridge built by the next spring: It only lasted until June when high waters again washed it out and this time the trestle bridge wasn't spared either.

According to historian Harry Sanders, Calgary's worst flood was in 1897 when surging spring Elbow River waters met a swollen Bow River and many bridges and homes were washed away, causing a quarter million dollars in damage and devastating the city of 4000 inhabitants by this year. Five years later in 1902, the second worst flood struck. The Alberta Tribune comparing the turbulent waters with 'the Niagara at the Whirlpool is not much madder.' The river was angry many more times. 1915 three bridges and more homes washed away. 1929 saw another big one. In 1932, Calgary was saved from catastrophic damage by the newly constructed Glenmore Reservoir. Finished in 1931 the reservoir was completely filled by flood waters in in spring of 1932. A year earlier would have spelt big trouble. A year later the reservoir would already have been filled and not able to handle the volume of water. Lucky!

A few more high-water events occurred, but things settled until 2004 when another impactful flood event transpired.

2013 was the big one that is still fresh in many of our minds. It changed many people's lives in this area.

Fast forward to 2026 and our river went a little mad once again. Though not near the extent of 2013, some of our favorite paths or swimming holes are gone. Trees are down and things look messy. It'll take the mind a little time to get used to it, but there are new areas along the river to explore. And no doubt community members will be out establishing paths again.

Flood mitigation work, such as the berm in Bragg Creek and the Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir completed last year, seemed to have done their job.

The Elbow River is a big part of our community and like many things we have to take the bad with the good sometimes. Ebb and flow.

REDWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

Community Garden Update

July has been a great month in the Community Garden, and we're finally enjoying the results of all the spring planting!

Our lettuce has been a huge success, providing harvests since mid-June. The kale has also been growing incredibly well and should keep producing well into the fall.

One of our biggest wins this year is the kohlrabi. After starting it indoors and protecting it with hoops and insect netting, we're finally seeing some beautiful bulbs forming. The pea trellis is also looking great, especially our new **Dwarf Grey Sugar** peas with their stunning pink flowers that are just as edible as they are pretty.

The greenhouse has been keeping us busy with pruning, staking, and hand-pollinating tomatoes and cucumbers using small paintbrushes since there aren't any bees inside. While our direct-seeded cucumbers didn't appreciate the cool nights, the greenhouse transplants are doing much better.

Not everything has worked out as planned. One of our VegTrugs behind the shed isn't getting enough sun, and our basil didn't survive this season, so we've replanted it with radishes. Thankfully, the rest of the herb garden is thriving. Feel free to help yourself to a few sprigs whenever you need fresh herbs for a recipe.

If you're out for a walk, stop by and see how everything is growing!

Garden Favourite Salad Dressing

The perfect way to use up all that fresh lettuce!

Ingredients

- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar (or white wine vinegar)
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 small garlic clove, finely grated
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- 1 tsp fresh thyme leaves
- 1 tsp lemon zest (optional, but delicious!)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Whisk everything together and toss with fresh garden lettuce, kale, herbs, or peas.

Interested in Gardening?

Our Community Garden is a shared space where volunteers work together to grow fresh vegetables for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just getting started, we'd love to have you join us.

To learn more or get involved, email communitygarden@rmca.ca.



INTERESTING LOCAL FACTS



Foxtail

Harmful

This wild grass is very dangerous to dogs as the spears can penetrate and irritate an animal's skin, eyes, ears and internal organs. It can stick as barbs on the skin. It is invasive and will overcome native species. Tiny hairlike barbs if ingested can be lodged in the throat or mouth and causing internal pain and irritation requiring invasive veterinary care. City of Calgary has requested all residents with Foxtail on their property to be removed or be fined.

EASTLINK DONATION



Left to Right---Bill Ardley, Gord Tate, Patrick Mullin, Sam Jackson

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 is entrenched in everybody's mind in Redwood Meadows. A flash of light was seen at the back of a building, noticed by one of the maintenance staff. By the time a call was dispatched the building was in full flame mode. A few minutes elapsed until the firefighters arrived to see their training and storage building engulfed in flames. Fortunately, there was no wind to fuel the flames. Equipment, vehicles and building gone!

Eastlink had their equipment housed in that building. As a result, the community lost connectivity to TV and Internet. Word went out to Eastlink immediately. One of several staff sent here to restore service embarked from a plane and together with another staff member from Edmonton drove from Wetaskiwin to assess the situation. That was Thursday AM, with a blast of Arctic air dropping temperatures to the minus teens during the day and into the minus 20's at night. Combined with wind chills made it feel closer to minus 32. Everyone took shelter but not Eastlink, who was focused on how to get services back up and running quickly but most importantly safely!

The team developed a game plan to expedite service restoration. The company's site in Bragg Creek became the hub and a bypass connection was established to connect service to Redwood. To tie into this fiber line, a tunnel had to be created in frozen ground from the east side of the highway to the west to find the conduit. They had to adjust lines that normally run North on Redwood to South and then install additional cable lines from the rear of the townsite maintenance building to the hubs established by the roadway next to the mailbox on Manyhorses Drive south.

Try to imagine wrapping yourself in layers of winter gear - covering all exposed skin as much as possible, wearing thick gloves and mitts and then having to place yourself in a frozen trench to connect cables. Anyone driving by could catch a glimpse of crew members deep in the trench with only eyes exposed.

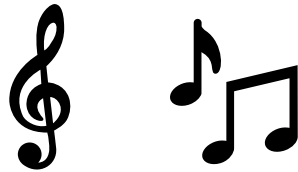
Director of Operations, Patrick Mullin was one of those employees working in the trenches and cold to restore our service. *"This was a huge and challenging undertaking in extreme circumstances. Our crew on the ground in Redwood Meadows worked in close contact with our engineering and operations colleagues on the East Coast who provided technical and system redesign support. I'm really proud to be part of a team who care so deeply about the communities and people we serve,"* he expressed.

Thanks to many residents who dropped off treats and drinks along with words of encouragement to the crew working from early mornings to late evenings in biting cold, but managed to restore service by Saturday afternoon to most of the Redwood residents. This is dedication and commitment.

Patrick recently returned to Redwood to not only share his team's story but also to present a generous donation cheque of \$25,000 on behalf of Eastlink for the RMES rebuild.

Thank you Eastlink.

EDITOR NOTES



An alert to all you talented musical or other artists. A free event is being planned for entertainment on October 25th at Redwood House. Donations received during or after the event will go to the Redwood Meadows Emergency Services in the fund-raising effort. If you are interested in participating or know of any talented folk please let me know at spegg@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca. Currently I have 2 musicians, a gymnast and discussion with a group willing to join in.



Each month a few copies of the Rambler are available at the mailbox bulletin boards bins for distribution. Anyone submitting article please remember the cutoff is August 20th. Please try to keep submissions to a page.

Please let me know if you like this publication or not as I have received limited feedback to date. If it is not of interest I would like to know.

Sharon Pegg

spegg@redwoodmeadows.ab.ca

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR AUGUST

August 18th	Council Meeting
August 30th	Alberta Day BBQ 2-6 PM
August 31st – September 1st	Casino Volunteers needed

Golf Fundraiser

Attention Residents of Redwood Meadows,

In conjunction with both the Redwood Meadows Fire Fighters Association and the Fundraising Committee, we are hosting our fall fundraiser event to help raise the necessary money to target the purchase of a new pumper truck to replace the unit lost in the fire on December 17th. The event will be a golf tournament held on September 24th at the Redwood Meadows Golf Course. Many of our residents' work in Calgary and the surrounding area and we are hoping that some of the companies that you work for can step up and enter a team. We are also looking for individuals to participate as well. Please review the attached information and sign up sheet. If you don't golf, please consider participating as a sponsor or donating a silent auction item. The field is limited so please respond quickly to ensure your space. Thank you for your ongoing support while we work toward rebuilding our Redwood Meadows Emergency Services.

[Click HERE for more details](#)

**Townsite of Redwood Meadows
& Redwood Meadows Firefighters Association
are hosting the**

Rebuild RMES Golf Tournament Fundraiser

We're working to rebuild the Redwood Meadows Emergency Services, who provide First Responder service to Rockyview County, Kananaskis Country, Redwood Meadows and mutual aid to the Tsuut'ina Nation. We need your support.

September 24, 2026
Redwood Meadows Golf Club
Texas Scramble - 10 am Shotgun Start

For More Information contact:
CAO, Gord Tate at 403-949-3563
1 Manyhorses Drive, Redwood Meadows, AB, T3Z-1A4

Townsite of Redwood Meadows Administration Society is planning to raise an estimated 1.5 million this year on fund-raising campaigns. As this initiative will be carried out using volunteers and existing Townsite resources, we do not anticipate any additional costs to the Townsite to raise this money. The money raised will be used to offset the insurance coverage shortfall to replace the loss of the fire truck pumper and equipment.