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The Municipal Agriculture Connection

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Partners in
Rural
Conservation
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2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The primary role of a Councillor is to represent their Division and the people who live in it, providing a bridge between the community and the Council.

Every four years, a municipal election is held in the M.D. of Wainwright. Residents elect seven Councillors, one per Division, to a four year term. The Council then appoints the Reeve. Training for new and returning Councillors is outlined in the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), as well as the duties they are expected to fulfil and the parameters within which they may work. Councillors must participate in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality, participate in Council meetings, Council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies they are appointed to. In the M.D of Wainwright there is a wide variety of boards and committees the Councillors are involved in, including but not limited to: Library Boards, Fire Area Boards, Ag Service Board, Battle River Alliance, Rural Recreation Area Boards, Finance/Policy/Advisory/Intermunicipal Collaboration Committees and many more. Election Day is fast approaching and residents are encouraged to get to know the candidates in their Division.

Vote October 18, 2021

Voting stations will be open from 10:00am—8:00pm on election day. For voting locations please check the M.D. website, Facebook page, or inquire with the M.D. office at 780-842-4454.

PEST SURVEYS

September saw the completion of surveys for Wheat Midge and Clubroot of canola.

Surveying for wheat midge involves collecting multiple soil samples from five different fields in the M.D. which produced a wheat crop this past growing season, that is adjacent or kitty corner to a field which had wheat on it the previous year. Samples are sent to a lab for analysis, and these results are used as a forecast tool for next years wheat midge population.

Surveying for clubroot involves examining several root samples in multiple locations throughout fields which produced canola this past growing season. One to two fields per Township are visited. If evidence of clubroot (such as formed galls on roots) is found, samples are collected and sent to a lab for verification. If results come back as positive for clubroot, the landowner of that field will receive a notice informing them of the presence of clubroot and require that canola not be grown at that location for three years as per the *Province of Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*. The policy on clubroot can be found on the M.D. website.

NOTICE TO RATEPAYERS

The Municipal Tax Deadline is
Tuesday November 30, 2021

Taxes may be paid in person by cash, cheque, or debit at the Administration Office located at 717—14th Ave Wainwright. Office hours are 8:30am—12pm, 1pm—4:30pm. Payments may also be made online via online banking and interact, or by credit card at www.paysimply.ca

Payments sent by mail must be post marked no later than November 30, 2021

A penalty of 6% will be added to all outstanding taxes effective Wednesday December 1, 2021

Post dated cheques are accepted, the drop off box is located in the office main entrance

It is encouraged to make payments early

Call 780-842-4454 with any questions regarding tax payment.



Purple Loosestrife in the M.D.



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a Prohibited Noxious weed native to Europe and Asia. It was first introduced to North America in the 1800's for beekeeping, as an ornamental, and in discarded soil on ballast ships. To date this invader is now found in every Canadian Province. Purple Loosestrife is extremely competitive and has a massive reproductive capacity. A single plant can produce over a million seeds in a season, which may remain viable in the soil for

many years. Seed spread is naturally caused via wind, water, birds and wildlife, as well as by human activities such as by contaminated equipment or soil, on clothing or footwear, or in seed mixtures. This plant is typically found near or along shorelines and can form dense monocultures (photo A), outcompeting native species. These infestations quickly take over wetlands, wildlife disappears as habitat for nesting waterfowl and water-living mammals decreases and cover for predators increases. The proper functioning of wetlands is also degraded as infestations disrupt water flow. In our area, Purple Loosestrife may be confused with fire weed. A key distinction between the two is that Purple Loosestrife has a square stem and the flowers differ as can be seen in the photos below (photo B—Fire Weed bloom and C—Purple Loosestrife bloom). If in doubt, contact the Ag Fieldman or Assistant Ag Fieldman. Control of Purple Loosestrife can be tricky. Mechanical measures such as tilling, digging or pulling (except with juvenile plants) that disturb the soil can bring more seeds to the surface, and if any part of the root system is left in or on the soil it can start a new plant. Tactics such as grazing, mowing, cutting, flooding or burning have not proven effective for long term control. There are some biocontrol options that show promise and are being used in Canada. Fortunately, spraying is an effective option. That being said, in Alberta it is not legal to apply pesticides within 30m of a water body without first obtaining a special use approval.

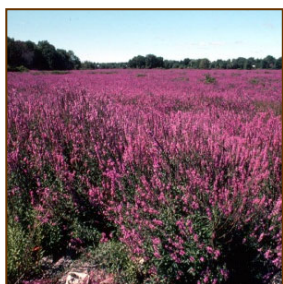


Photo A



Photo B



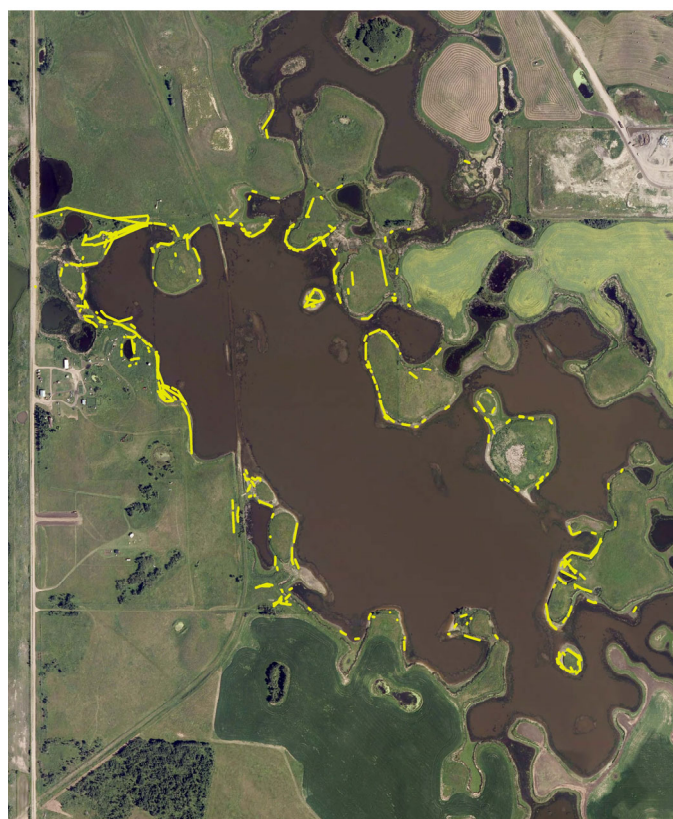
Photo C



Photo D

Current Project

In 2019 a serious infestation of Purple Loosestrife was discovered bordering a water body in the district. With the cooperation of landowners, the M.D. and Alberta Environment & Parks partnered to secure a four year Special Use Agreement in order to implement a spray program (photo D—spraying with the Ranger). 2021 marks the second year of control and has shown a significant improvement at the site. Areas that were sprayed in 2020 showed very limited reemergence, however a challenge with this specific water body is that water levels have dropped remarkably over the past year and continue to drop. This constantly exposes new shoreline, providing an opportunity for new plants to emerge. ASB staff have surveyed and sprayed at this location three times this season in hopes of catching as many emerging plants as possible and preventing established plants from going to seed. The image at right is an aerial view of the affected waterbody, with the yellow representing the spray locations on the first pass in 2021. In addition, surveys downstream of where this particular water body drains have been conducted in order to monitor for any new plants. Though this project will be ongoing for many years, it is promising to see the progress that has been made with this program in its first two years.



SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting rural entrepreneurs and businesses in the M.D. of Wainwright

Prairie Wind Leather Works

North of Irma you will find a special workshop where two talented women let their creativity run wild. Erin Carnegie and Charity Armitage are friends, ranchers, farm wives, mothers, and hardworking entrepreneurs. In other words they are multitasking extraordinaires.

It all started in 2018 with Erin making cowls for famers and ranchers to ward off the winter cold. These were a huge success and started them down the path to what is now Prairie Wind Leather Works. They have evolved and broadened their scope along the way, channeling their deep rooted western culture into everything they create. The path from cowls to leather was an unexpected but natural progression. It began when Erin, with no specialty tools or previous experience decided to make a simple leather cuff to track her numbers during team penning. People saw what she created and wanted one of their own. From there things began to snowball. Basic tools were purchased, and as skills developed and people started taking notice, the workshop began to expand. They have come a long way from those early days, having recently upgraded from hand stitching every piece, to acquiring a leather sewing machine. The next upgrade they have their eye on is a laser to allow them to do very fine details, such as quotes. Currently the most popular products they have been working on are their custom 'Hey Dude' loafers and Directors chairs.

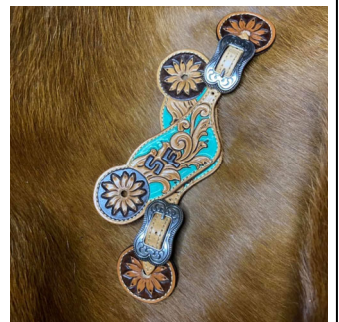
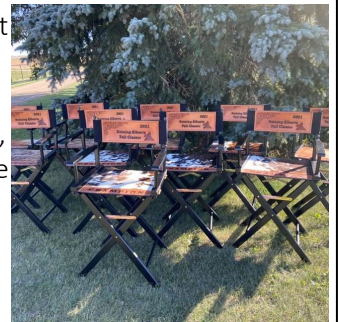
What has surprised these amazingly humble women most is the recognition they are beginning to receive for their work. They were deservedly invited to be vendors at the Mane Event in Red Deer and have been approached for larger custom orders for year end prizes with different organizations. Their reach is starting to grow with repeat customer's out of the U.S. and a belt even going so far as the Netherlands.

Family is at the heart of the venture. The studio has evolved into a place of gathering, where Erin and Charity's sons enjoy spending time and trying their own hand at the craft their mothers have become so adept at. Even the naming of the business became a family affair when Erin and Charity put it out to those closest to them to come up with potential names. Once they had narrowed it down to a few options, it went to a family vote to settle on Prairie Wind. Erin and Charity agree that the biggest challenge they face is time. They both lead busy lives before you factor in a rapidly evolving and growing business. They dream of the day they are able to build a larger workshop and focus full time on their creative endeavors.

Erin and Charity are passionate about their work, and love the entirety of the process that goes in to creating something truly unique and custom. From the initial design phase, the hours spent at the tooling and dying benches, to handing over a beautiful finished product to a happy customer. The hours of labor are all worthwhile for the duo when they receive positive feedback from clients. Customer service is a fundamental, above and beyond is just the way it's done for these self taught artists.

Check them out online at www.prairiewindleatherworks.com or on Facebook and on Instagram @prairie_wind_leather_works

Belts, spur straps, manifests, calving books, wallets, bags, knife sheaths, dog collars, rope cans, custom shoes, and halters are but a few items in their repertoire. Original commissioned projects are a favorite, as these women up to the challenge of trying new things - they have even been asked to create a custom chicken carrying bag!



Left: Charity Right: Erin

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

The rush of harvest is over, but there is still time to attend to some of the behind the scene tasks that will set you up for success for the next growing season.

1. Weed Scouting: fall is an excellent time to make note of weed populations in the field as well as along field edges. This will give you an idea of where and what to expect the following growing season. Identifying the species you will be dealing with will aid in establishing a control plan and herbicide selection.
2. Equipment Maintenance: when harvest is over, there is no better time to clean, repair and properly store your equipment. Machinery represents a massive investment, proper care ensures it stays running smoothly and will be ready to go to work for you next season.
3. Planning Ahead: have you been sitting on ideas big or small for your operation? The long winter months are a perfect time to utilize online resources and advisors to help you make an actionable plan to bring them to reality. The earlier and more effectively you plan, the more successful your strategies and final outcomes will be.



DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM FOR ALBERTA CATTLE PRODUCERS

Alberta's initial AgriRecovery payment through the 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance (CALFA) initiative is now open for applications.

The initiative will help cover feed and water access costs for breeding female livestock in the province.

According to the Government of Alberta, those who are approved, and have signed up for direct deposit will have seen payments toward the end of September.

A secondary payment of up to \$106 per head will be taken on a feed-need approach, supplemented by receipts. Farmers and ranchers can stay up-to-date by following AFSC, and Alberta Beef Producers at www.afsc.ca and www.albertabeef.org



THE JOGGER AND THE FARMER

John, a jogger, is running down a country road and is startled when a horse yells at him, 'Hey-come over here buddy.' John is stunned but still runs over to the fence where the horse is standing and asks, 'Were you talking to me?' The horse replies, 'Sure was, man I've got a problem. I won the Kentucky Derby a few years ago and this farmer bought me and now all I do is pull a plough and I'm sick of it. Why don't you run up to the house and offer him \$10,000 to buy me. I'll make you some money because I can still run.' John thought to himself, 'Wow, a talking horse.' Dollar signs started appearing in his head. So he runs to the house and the old rancher is sitting on the porch. John tells the farmer, 'Hey man I'll give you \$10,000 for that old broken down nag you've got in the field.' The farmer replies, 'Son you can't believe anything that horse says. He's never even been to Kentucky.'

FALL PEST PREVENTION

Fall is a favorite time of year for many. The beautiful colors, cozy clothes, and (if you're into it) pumpkin spiced everything. The change in season also represents a time of year when small critters are searching for a safe haven from the looming cold weather. Mice, squirrels, rats, racoons, spiders and other pests may look to your home, outbuildings, or yard as that place. Some simple things can be done to help reduce the likelihood of this happening:

- Remove any sources of food, water or shelter.
- Store items in safe and enclosed containers.
- Dispose of garbage regularly with a tightly closed lid.
- Reduce clutter or areas where pests can hide.
- Inspect the exterior of buildings for cracks or holes. Seal and close off any to eliminate outside entry.
- Perform routine cleaning and surveying from the roof to the basement floor.

Some pests are merely a minor nuisance, while others can have a much more dramatic effect on health and living conditions. It is important to identify and deal with pests before they become infestations with potentially greater risks and higher degree of difficulty to control.

KEEPING IN THE LOOP



Regularly visiting the M.D. of Wainwright webpage or Facebook page is a fantastic way to keep up with announcements, notices, and upcoming programs/events. The webpage is also an excellent resource for all things Municipal, from information about development, to parks and attractions.