

THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

October 2022 Volume 16, Issue 5

NOTICE TO RATEPAYERS

The Municipal Tax Deadline is Wednesday November 30, 2022.

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, 2022.

A penalty of 6% will be added to all outstanding taxes effective Thursday December 1, 2022

Post dated cheques are accepted, 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.

MUNICIPAL BURSARY RECIPIENTS

We are pleased to announce and congratulate the first recipients of the newly created Municipal bursaries! Jade Eggen was selected to receive the ASB Bursary and Jennifer Klemchuk was selected to receive the Education Bursary! We wish them and all the applicants the best in their post secondary endeavors.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright must pass a balanced budget each year.

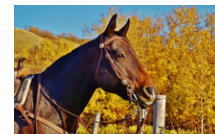
The M.D. has a shared Director of Emergency Management agency with Wainwright, Irma, Edgerton, and Chauvin. This program allows us to operate as a partnership in the case of an emergency.

The M.D. is a funding partner to the Town of Wainwright Economic Development Board.

JOIN THE M.D. OF WAINWRIGHT AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)

Applications for a farm member are now open for the Municipal ASB! The individual appointed will join a board consisting of three farm members and two Municipal Councillors. Applicants must be a resident and/or ratepayer of the M.D. of Wainwright, be familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, and be willing to sit for a four-year term. Farm members are provided remuneration and expenses for attending committee meetings and events. Expected time commitment is four to six meetings per year, two conferences, with the possibility of attending other ag related events/tours. Those interested are asked to submit a letter and/or resume, including reasons why they are interested, by October 12th, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. to Assistant Fieldman Shelby at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca or applications can be dropped off at the M.D. Administration building at 717 14th Ave Wainwright. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the M.D. office at 780-842-4454.

Farm member Mel Erickson has just completed his term and had this to say about his experience: "There is no downside to becoming a farm member of the M.D. of Wainwright ASB. I have heard the question many times, 'what is the purpose of an ASB rep?' As part of the ASB, members provide valuable input to our field staff regarding weeds, pests, and programming and act as a resource for the M.D. Councillors making policy decisions that can have a great impact on the food producer. I received valuable insight on how bureaucracy and red tape can hinder common sense decisions, but also how other areas in the province can benefit, or suffer, from policies made for the benefit of our area. There are many issues affecting different farm sectors and ASB meetings encourage and promote friendly discussions about solving issues for the good of all. We are fortunate in our M.D. to have friendly, informed staff and Council. Thank you for the opportunity to serve."



CLEAN FARMS 2022 UNWANTED PESTICIDES & OLD LIVESTOCK/EQUINE MEDICATION COLLECTION

Safely dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications at no charge between 9am and 4pm at the below locations in the M.D. of Wainwright:

EDGERTON (Tuesday October 4th) Nutrien Ag Solutions
Junction Hwy 14 and Hwy 894 N (780-755-3734)

WAINWRIGHT (Wednesday, October 5th) Parrish and Heimbecker
Intersection of Hwy 14 & Hwy 41, 2 mile S Hwy 41 (780-842-3306)

IRMA (Thursday, October 6th) Nutrien Ag Solutions
5113, 48 Avenue (780-754-4040)



INDUSTRIAL HEMP

There is a rapidly growing sector in the agriculture industry that many have not heard of - industrial hemp. This immensely versatile crop has been driving massive growth in several industries, and is projected to continue to grow at a rapid pace. In 2019, the industrial hemp market was valued at \$4.46 billion US globally. By 2027, it's projected to grow nearly ten-fold to \$43.75 billion US.



Long gone are the days when hemp's use was limited to paper, rope and clothing. Hemp can be utilized from root to seed in thousands of different applications in everything from bioplastics, building materials, textiles, biofuels, health products, feed and more. This renewable resource is now a viable and sustainable alternative to many traditional materials that are known to have serious environmental and/or health impacts. For example, an acre of hemp can produce as much paper as four to ten acres of trees, and hemp grows to maturity in four months, whereas trees require 20 years or more to reach maturity. Looking at concrete, one of the most carbon-intensive products in the world, hempcrete, a mixture of hemp hurd, lime, and other natural materials, is a viable alternative with a comparably miniscule carbon footprint.



Hemp is an excellent way to diversify a traditional crop rotation. It is robust and fast growing, making it competitive with weeds. It does not require a lot of water or chemicals, and roots reach deep into the soil to hold it together and prevent erosion. The roots also loosen up the soil, making it more welcoming to the next crop. While a hemp crop is planted, it naturally aerates the soil and adds helpful deposits of carbon dioxide into the soil. Of course there is a learning curve when first growing a new crop, but hemp growers have found that hemp can offer a great return on investment.



Alberta currently produces 40% of Canada's hemp and is uniquely poised to take advantage of this growing sector, especially the northern part of the province where we boast longer daylight hours in the summer, meaning that our region can grow up to the 30% higher yields than regions in the southern part of the province. Another benefit of our location is that a huge amount of hemp research has been conducted nearby, in conditions comparable to our own, at InnoTech in Vegreville. Dr. Jan Slaski has been at the helm of hemp research for over two decades and is an expert in agronomy, hemp, and cannabis. Jan has spent countless hours on crop development and optimization, selecting and breeding hemp varieties that would perform well in Alberta's soil conditions and climate.



This all sounds great, so what has been the hold back for producers in our area? Equipment? Knowledge? The market? These concerns are being answered by Alberta based companies whose model is to contract acreage from producers. Producers seed, spray and walk away. They will take care of the rest from harvest to hauling and be there to advise you on crop agronomy all the way. Today the hemp market is much more stable and there are processing facilities online or in the works in our own backyard. There is a new facility in Bruderheim, and another set to open in 2024 in Vegreville. These facilities will have massive processing capabilities and create a lot of economic opportunity for Albertans.



It is hard to imagine that a single plant could fulfil most human needs, and yet, hemp can do just that. It is a truly amazing plant, with huge benefits for our environment and economy.

Watch for information about an upcoming workshop in November on everything industrial hemp - hear first hand from researchers, agronomists, experienced growers and the companies that want to work with YOU!



Are Hemp and Marijuana the same?

Yes and no. Are Chihuahuas and Great Danes the same? They are both dogs, but the two will not typically be confused. Cannabis is the Latin genus name for plants that include hemp and marijuana.

Just as there are massive differences between Chihuahuas and Great Danes, there are great differences between hemp and marijuana. These differences are due in part to the efforts of breeders emphasizing different traits that they desire in either the Cannabis plant or the dog.

Hemp

- Grows up to 20ft tall.
- Long sturdy stalks, skinny leaves
- Adapts to a variety of climates
- 0.3% THC (non psychoactive)
- Used for over 20,000 purposes

Marijuana

- Grows up to 5ft tall
- Short and bushy, broad leaves
- Grows in a specific climate
- 5-35% THC (psychoactive)
- Used medicinally/recreationally



SPOTLIGHT Zajic Corn Maze

There are an infinite number of ways in which to enjoy an autumn day. For people of all ages a must do activity this time of year is to get lost in the Zajic Corn Maze. For nearly a decade Ryan, Kathy, Hannah, Livia and Riley Zajic have been dedicated to giving back to the community by testing visitors sense of adventure and sense of direction, all in the name of charity.

It all began in 2013, when Ryan decided to plant a couple acres of corn next to the family home to make a simple maze for his daughters to play in. He recalled the fun he had (and the trouble he got into) running through the corn in the garden as a child. As fall came around the girls did not find the corn *quite* as thrilling as their dad had hoped, so he found himself welcoming friends and neighbors over to make use of the plot. This more appreciative audience inspired them to bring it back for a second year. From there, this fun family side project quickly grew into something much bigger.



Top: Hannah and Jackie. Bottom: Livia, Riley and Kathy

2016 saw the corn maze 'going public' with the creation of the Zajic Corn Maze Facebook page and the shift to accepting food bank and handivan donations for admittance. 230 people tried their hand that year, with numbers blooming year to year after that. 2019 was a record setter, when over 5,000 guests made their way to the maze. This was also a record year for donations with over 6,000lbs of food collected for the Wainwright food bank and \$13,500 raised for the Wainwright Handivan Society. Kathy and Ryan say this is one of their favorite parts of doing the corn maze, the generosity and support of the community. These impressive accomplishments also come with a whole lot of work. Though they love doing the corn maze, they are a busy farming family and were realizing the demands on their time were becoming greater than they could sustain. So, they put out a call for help and the community answered in a big way. Since 2019 visitors to the corn maze are greeted by a different volunteer group every day that it is open. 4-H clubs, churches, dance academies, service clubs and businesses take a turn manning the gate, accepting donations, and putting on BBQ's for different charities. Other generous contributors are Rightway Sanitation who provide the onsite outhouses, Richardson Pioneer Vermilion who donates the corn seed, the Edgerton Ag Society who provides picnic tables, Daines and Daubney who provide photo ops, Tracey Christensen who paints faces, and Thom's Mini Doughnuts. Thom never misses a day at the maze, and generously donates all profits to the handivan. The Zajic's are quick to point to these many volunteers who truly make it all possible.

The corn maze is open to the public Saturday's and Sunday's through the month of September but Kathy and Ryan say they are open to and happy to accommodate other ideas and uses. Several classes have had the opportunity to visit the maze during the week, it has been a popular spot for birthday parties, and the Edgerton Fire Department has even used it for a communication exercise after it was closed for the season. Each year after it is all said and done, the corn maze is swathed and baled for cattle feed. Looking to the future, the Zajic's plan to continue running the corn maze for as long as the community continues to support it.

The maze is different every year and was particularly challenging this season as Ryan created it with a circular theme. The curving lines were a test to many, with several guests losing their bearings in the maze. They would proudly emerge, thinking they had found their way through, only to discover they had gotten turned around and were back at the entrance! In the past the average time to escape the maze was 45 minutes and this year it was an hour. If you are up to the challenge, be sure to make your way to the Zajic Corn Maze in 2023 to give back to your community while having a whole lot of fun getting a little lost!





PRAIRIE STAPLES Fairybells - *Disporum trachycarpum*

A sure sign of fall in Alberta is the reddening of the fruit of fairybells. Though the delicate white flowers of this member of the lily family do not draw much attention to themselves through the summer, it is hard to miss the nearly neon colored berries nestled close to the ground in the understory of the forest in autumn. It is these fruits that inspired the latin name for fairybells. *Disporum* derives from the the Greek *dis*, meaning double, and *sporo*, meaning seed, referring to the fact that the berries typically come in a set of two. *trachycarpum* is derived from the Greek *trachys*, meaning rough, and *karpos*, meaning fruit, in reference to the velvet like texture of the berry surface. The traditional name given to fairybells by native tribes was 'dog feet' plants, perhaps because the soft, fleshy fruit is reminiscent of the pads of a dogs foot. These berries are edible. Some say they are mealy and not very flavorful, while other reports compare them to apricots.

PODCAST FAN?

Welcome to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's new podcast series that explores the freshest ideas in agriculture and food. Each episode explores a single topic in depth digging deep into new practices, innovative ideas, and their impacts on the industry. Learn about Canada's agricultural sector from the people making the breakthroughs and knocking down the barriers. Farmers and foodies, scientists and leaders, and anyone with an eye on the future of the sector this podcast is for you.



An old M.D. of Wainwright farmer's sheep dog goes missing and he's inconsolable.

Phyllis, his wife says, 'George, why don't you put an advert in the paper?'

He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing.

'What did you put in the paper?' Phyllis asks.

'Here boy.' George replies.

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP) COMING TO A CLOSE

The five year CAP program will be drawing to a close at the end of March 2023. Existing programs available to primary producers, farmers, and ranchers will remain open to applications as long as funds are available or until the closing date. These include an efficient grain handling program, farm technology program, and water program. Visit cap.alberta.ca to learn what funding opportunities may apply to your operation and take advantage while funds last. If you require an Environmental Farm Plan to apply, contact Shelby at the M.D. office at 780-842-4454 to get set up.



UPCOMING: During the week of July 22, 2022, the FPT Ministers of Agriculture reached an agreement in principle on the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) at their annual conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This new five-year agreement set to begin April 2023 will inject \$500 million in new funds, representing a 25% increase in the cost-shared portion of the partnership. Watch for more information being shared as it becomes available.

TURKEY FARMERS OF CANADA

Annual Canadian turkey industry statistics from 2020:

- There were 521 turkey farmers, producing 157.8million kg's of turkey. This equated to a farmgate value of \$367 million
- There were 7 commercial turkey hatcheries and 17 federally inspected turkey processing plants.

Annual consumption statistics from 2020:

- Canadians consumed 143.8 million kg (Mkg) of turkey in the year 2020.
- Per capita turkey consumption was 3.8 kg.
- At Thanksgiving, 2.5 million whole turkeys were purchased by Canadians, equal to 36% of all whole turkeys that were sold over the year.
- At Christmas, 2.9 million whole turkeys were purchased by Canadians, equal to 41% of all whole turkeys that were sold over the year.