

THE MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The M.D. of Wainwright has partnered for some recycling services in some village transfer stations and the Wainwright Landfill.

The M.D. sells ownership maps that are updated on a quarterly basis.

The M.D. must follow the New West Partnership Trade Agreement. This is an agreement signed by the province of Alberta that requires public bodies to advertise projects of certain thresholds so anyone can bid.

MUNICIPAL WEED INSPECTORS

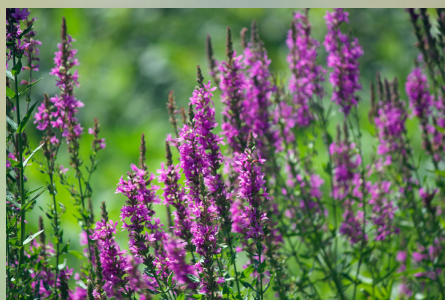
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Pictured above is Purple Loosestrife, a high priority Prohibited Noxious species.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 23 - 25: Wainwright Stampede. Enjoy three days of CPRA Rodeo performances, CPCA Chuckwagon races, midway, parade, pancake breakfasts and dances! Learn more at wainwrightstampede.com

June 30 - July 2: Edgerton Sports Days and Bullarama.

Enjoy a wide variety of activities (including professional bull riding!) for folks of every age at the 100th annual Sports Days in Edgerton! Learn more at edgertonagsociety.com

August 2 - 7: Irma Summerspiel and Irma Days (August 5-7). Head to irma.ca to learn about the plethora of activities for the whole family at Irma Days. Ball, golf, curling, a rancher's rodeo, kids zone, and more will entertain you all weekend long.



SAVE THE DATE FOR RURAL ROUTES 2023

The Rural Routes Supper will be returning on Friday August 11th at the Elks Hall in Wainwright. Enjoy a roast beef supper and skilled Mentalist Jeff Newman on us. Full details and registration information will be released in early July. Please watch your mailbox, our Facebook page and website.

This event is offered to M.D. ratepayers ONLY, free of charge. Registration is required and limited seats are available.

SPRING RAT INSPECTIONS

Inspections of premises within Range 1 of the M.D. of Wainwright have been completed with no positive locations identified.

No matter where you are within the M.D., if you suspect you have a rat or have questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Fieldman Shelby Oracheski at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca or 780-842-4454. Staff can assist in identification, will install camera's for monitoring purposes and undertake any control work if necessary.



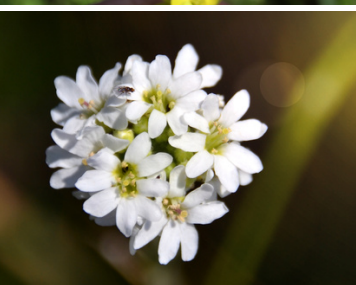
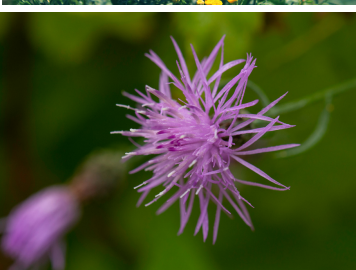
The photo above was captured this spring at a location where the homeowner was suspicious of rat activity. By utilizing camera's for remote monitoring, staff were able to identify the rodents as mice and clear the property.

UPCOMING CROP PEST MONITORING

Monitoring for diamondback moths is currently underway using pheromone traps. Bertha Armyworm and Swede Midge trapping will begin in canola fields in early June at three locations across the M.D.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



There are several reasons the M.D. undertakes a vegetation management program, some of which include:

Control of Invasive Species: the M.D. is legally bound to abide by the *Alberta Weed Control Act* which mandates that prohibited noxious and noxious weeds are controlled in right of ways (ROW's).

Protection of Private Property and Agricultural Lands: roadways are a common pathway of spread for invasive species. Controlling weeds in ROW's decreases the risk of these species spreading into adjacent private land, such as crops and pastures.

Public Safety: overgrown vegetation reduces site lines on roadways.

The Vegetation Management Program is coordinated in an integrated manner. Spraying and mowing are some of the tools used to achieve control of encroaching brush and invasive species. Weed control is completed proactively, which is more cost effective and provides long term results.

Spray Program: brush spraying is completed on a two year rotation, where all M.D. ROW's are spot sprayed once every two years for brush under 2m in height. Trees over 2m in height may be mulched by the Public Works Department. Weed control is completed on a three year rotation, where roadsides are blanket sprayed for prohibited noxious, noxious and general weeds once every three years. Spot spraying for regulated weeds is still completed annually in the areas that do not receive a blanket treatment. M.D. staff hold current pesticide applicator licenses through the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, which is the highest level of certification through the Alberta Government for the management and application of pesticides. Staff continue to use selective herbicides according to label directions to ensure the health and safety of residents.

Landowners can request assistance in identifying and dealing with regulated weeds. A weed inspector can visit your property and if an invasive weed is identified staff can assist with control (excluding Canada and sow thistle) at a cost of \$25.00 an hour plus the cost of chemical. M.D. staff can also work with you if you choose to administer control yourself.

Municipal Mowing Program: Over nine hundred miles of Municipal roadside is mowed annually through this program. Mowing is completed by contractors and will begin on or after July 15th starting on the west end of the M.D. working eastward.

Municipal No Spray/Haying Program: this program is available to landowners who wish to control brush under 2m in height, weed species identified in the *Weed Control Act*, and/or delaying spraying in order to hay the ditches adjacent to land they own. An agreement (due May 1st annually) is required to participate in this program. The agreement is available on the M.D. website or can be picked up at the Administration Office. Please note that the M.D. does not spray adjacent to maintained yard sites and maintained tame shelterbelts, and an agreement is not required for these areas.

Municipal Roadside Seeding Program: the Agricultural Service Department works in conjunction with the Public Works Department on the remediation of newly constructed Municipal ROW's and borrow pits. Landowners have the choice of what grass seed mixture they want their owned land reseeded to.

Be on the lookout for these invasive species all found within the M.D. of Wainwright. Photos from top to bottom: Scentless Chamomile, Nodding Thistle, Common Tansy, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Hoary Alyssum, and Toadflax. If you suspect you have any of these species on your property, please feel free to reach out to any of our local weed inspectors and we will be happy to assist you.

EFP VERSION 4.0
HAS LAUNCHED

There's no time like the present to complete your Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). The new version of the free, online workbook has launched and is available to producers! Head to albertaeefp.com to learn more and get started today.



SPOTLIGHT Highlighting rural business and entrepreneurs in the M.D. of Wainwright

There's no denying garden fresh produce can't be beat; and knowing that it is locally grown with care is the absolute icing on the cake. If you don't have the time or space to grow for yourself yourself, Craigavon Farms is the place to go looking!



For many urbanites, the idea of leaving the hustle and bustle of city life and embracing a rural lifestyle can seem like an unattainable dream. But for the Mattson family, that dream became a reality when they were able to relocate back to the Wainwright area from Calgary three years ago. Both Danielle (formerly Rajotte) and husband Kyle grew up rurally and knew they wanted to raise their family in the countryside, so when the opportunity to relocate presented itself they leapt at the chance to get back to their roots and embrace a new lifestyle. The land on which they now reside has special meaning as it has long been in Danielle's family and previously housed a hog operation. The couple was able to incorporate Kyle's farm family legacy into their operation as well. Craigavon is the name of his original family homestead in Saskatchewan.



The idea of a market garden business has been in Danielle's mind for some time now. Even during their time in Calgary, Danielle was selling plant starts and would have begun selling produce if not for the space limitations in their urban home. It is not a surprise then that the Mattson's wasted no time developing a garden upon their rural relocation with the intent of going into business. The current garden space occupies a half acre and they have focused on creating an intensive and high density system. They began with using no till under irrigation they built themselves and strive to use organic methods. Currently they have four separate spaces to work with: one houses vegetables, another is dedicated to flowers, a third is home to squashes and pumpkins, and the final one (still in development) will be dedicated to perennials such as berries. They plan to continually expand the garden space as well as the varieties of produce and flowers they grow. When asked what they are growing this year, the list is simply too long to include! Danielle is often experimenting with uncommon varieties (such as black tomatoes) and has a soft spot for heirlooms. For peppers this year they are working with 19 varieties, while tomatoes take the lead with 31 different varieties.

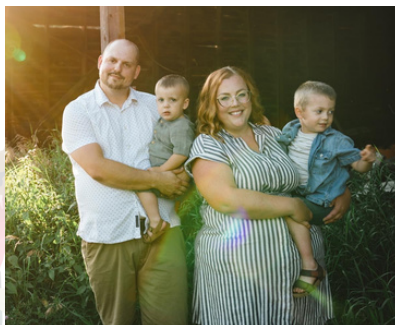


Danielle didn't grow up a gardener but found it to be an addicting and therapeutic hobby once she got started. She truly loves the time spent getting her hands dirty nurturing her massive array of plants and couldn't be more happy with the 180 degree turn she has seen in her lifestyle despite the massive amount of hard work that goes into her day to day. Outside of gardening itself, Danielle's favorite part of this journey has been seeing her two children jumping to be a part of the action in the garden and how they love to help at every opportunity.

The Mattson's have big plans for the future of Craigavon Farms. The ultimate goal is to eventually move from a farm stand to a farm store and provide an agro-tourism type experience for guests. Danielle dreams of the day when her garden is expanded to its full 2 acre potential and of hosting various events at the farm. She envisions evenings welcoming guests to u-cut flower nights and a sprawling pumpkin patch for families to pick out the perfect jack o lantern. Having lived in an urban environment, she understands the disconnect people often have with where their food comes from, so she hopes to bridge that gap by providing people with a true rural farm experience when they visit Craigavon.

You can expect high quality when you make a purchase from the Mattson family, whether that be spring plant starts, cut flowers, or fresh seasonal produce. There are multiple ways in which to access the commodities they produce, starting of course with making a visit to their self serve farm stand (payment may be made in cash or by e-transfer), cut flowers are often available for purchase at Front Porch Mercantile in Wainwright and in the future will be available by a subscription service, and Craigavon Farms is also a regular booth at the local Farmers Market in Wainwright. Another option they are currently offering is a home delivery service for both produce and flowers (minimum orders are required) for both Wainwright and Edgerton. Keep an eye on their social media and website for hours and where to make purchases. Follow the family's journey as they delve deeper into the market garden business and see what new and exciting things are in the works!

Location: 1.5 miles North of Highway 14 on Highway 894 North



The Mattson's are now raising chicks. You can expect to see colorful farm fresh eggs in the near future.





PRAIRIE STAPLES Wild Mint *Mentha arvensis*

One has but to follow their nose when in search of wild mint! This aromatic perennial often inhabits the moist margins of sloughs and marshy areas, spreading via creeping rhizomes. It is easily identified by its square, hairy stem and dense whorls of tiny white, pale pink, or lavender bell-shaped flowers nearly hidden by opposite leaves.

One of the few native mint species, wild mint has glands containing essential oils, and the leaves are used as flavorings in sauces, jellies, and beverages. The genus name *Mentha* comes from Mintho, mistress of Pluto, ruler of Hades. His jealous queen, Persephone, upon learning of Mintho, trampled her, transforming her into a lowly plant forever to be walked upon. Pluto made this horrible fate more tolerable by willing that the more the plant was trampled, the sweeter it would smell.

Wild mint was also a commonly utilized species by first nations peoples in a wide variety of ways from seasoning pemmican and meat to a remedy for stomach aches.



LOCAL RECREATION AREAS

There are several recreation areas in the M.D. of Wainwright. Aside from Riverdale and Arm Lake, the M.D. also manages small campgrounds at Ambler's Lake, Fabyan, Ribstone, and Salt Lake. Also within our Municipal borders is Dillberry Lake Provincial Park. Head over to mdwainwright.ca under the 'Parks & Attractions' tab to learn about each of these parks!



PODCAST FAN?

Hosted by Shaun Haney from Real Agriculture and presented by InVigor Hybrid Canola from BASF, this podcast series features a number of different guest and experts to discuss what tools they can offer to growers to have a successful season.



Clean + Drain + Dry all boats and equipment to help reduce the spread of invasive plants and organisms to Alberta waters.

Boats, other watercraft and associated equipment are often vectors in introducing invasive species into the province's lakes, streams and wetlands. Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra or quagga mussels and even aquatic plants, can be spread from one waterbody to another via boats, other watercraft or associated equipment that has not been properly cleaned, drained and dried between uses.



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially when it comes to aggressive invasive species. We can all do our part to ensure our water bodies can remain in prime condition for generations to come.

Why did the pig dump her boyfriend?
Because he was a real BOAR.

What do you call a cow with no legs?
Ground beef.

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A Bulldozer.

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?
Because they lactose.

Big Marble is the largest greenhouse in Alberta. It can house over 300,000 cucumber plants, 60,000 tomato vines, and operates with 17,400 grow lights. (Big Marble)

Alberta has been a centre of research in the beef industry for decades. In 1955, Roy Berg, '50 BSc(Ag), challenged the belief that purebred cattle were superior to crossbreeds. This controversial idea is now a norm in the cattle industry. (University of Alberta)

Another example of innovation within Alberta's agriculture industry is Livestock Water Recycling. It is the world's leading provider of manure treatment technology. They work with farms worldwide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, separate nutrients for fertilizer application, and recycle water. (Trade Commissioner of Canada)

Farmers in Alberta have adopted many practices that reduce their environmental and ecological impacts. An example is minimum-till farming, as more than half of farming in Alberta is performed using no-till practices. (AOTP)