

The Municipal Connection



UPCOMING EVENTS

Renewable Energy Developments: What Landowners Need to Know

Wednesday April 10th, Edgerton Ag Hall, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Free to attend, please register ahead of time.

Equine Education 2.0

Saturday April 20th, Wainwright C-Plex, 9:15am - 3:45pm
\$30 to attend. Registration required - only 100 seats available, reserve your spot today!
Enjoy two hands on, interactive clinics and a lunch lecture. Clinic 1 focuses on equine anatomy, while Clinic 2 focuses on emergency management and preparedness. All guests will attend both clinics and the lunch lecture.

Full details for both events and registration information are available on the M.D. Facebook page and website, or by contacting Shelby at 780-842-4454 or email at soracheski@mdwainwright.ca

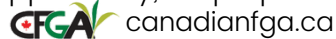
ON-FARM CLIMATE ACTION FUND (OFCAF) REOPENED

OFCAF provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on their farm operations. The \$200-million fund is part of the Government of Canada's Agricultural Climate Solutions initiative. Specifically, the BMP areas supported by OFCAF are:

1. Nitrogen Management
2. Cover Cropping
3. Rotational Grazing Practices

Several organizations are administering the fund in Alberta, including the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association - CFGA (Rotational Grazing), and Results Driven Agriculture Research - RDAR (all three BMP's). Both organizations will be open for a round of application intakes from April 1 to 30.

This program was extremely popular in 2023 and funds were fully committed quickly. Producers are encouraged to visit the websites for both administering bodies and determine which organization is the best fit for them. Do not miss out on this funding opportunity, be prepared to apply as early as possible for your best chance to be accepted.



M.D. OPEN HOUSE

Ratepayers of the M.D. of Wainwright are invited to an Open House on Tuesday, April 16th at the Municipal Admin Building (717 14th Ave Wainwright) from 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

Council and staff will be in attendance and refreshments will be available. The Financial Statement and future plans will be available.

We hope to see you there!



A PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY The Battle River

The headwaters of the Battle River is Battle Lake in west-central Alberta, east of Winfield. The river meanders through Alberta eastward into Saskatchewan, where it discharges into the North Saskatchewan River at Battleford.

The Battle River itself is a modest, prairie-fed (as opposed to glacier-fed) river that lies within a valley that seems much too big for it. That's because its path was carved out long ago when glacial meltwaters from prehistoric Lake Edmonton gushed southward, carving a large valley into the earth.



The Battle River has a long and important history in the Province. It has First Nations significance in terms of territorial mapping and historical events. In earlier times, the Battle River hunting grounds were contested between the Cree Nation (primarily in central and northern Alberta) and the Blackfoot Nation (primarily in southern Alberta). The Battle River also played an important role as settlers moved west to claim homesteads in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Settlers relied on the Battle River and its tributaries as a water source, a transportation corridor, and for agriculture. The Battle River was also an important source of water for early railroads.

Learn more on the Battle River Watershed Alliance website!

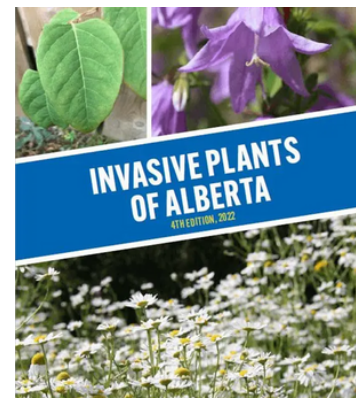
LOOKING IN YOUR GARDEN

As we look forward to the season ahead, many of us are already dreaming of our gardens! Something critically important to become aware of are Regulated Weeds. These are plant species that have been deemed a concern for agricultural, economic, environmental, ecological and/or human/animal health reasons. These fall in to two categories, Noxious (which must be Controlled) and Prohibited Noxious (which must be Destroyed) under the Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulations. Many of these species are indeed escaped ornamentals. And though beautiful, they carry a lot of risk and have unintended consequences in the landscape.

An excellent resource to learn about these species is the Alberta Invasive Species Council - AISC (abinvasives.ca). One of their campaigns, 'Grow Me Instead' has many tips for gardeners, some of which include:

- Be suspicious of exotic plants, bulbs, and seeds promoted as "fast spreaders," "vigorous self-seeders," and/or "drought-resistant." Invasive plants often have the very characteristics we seek the most.
- Before choosing a plant to grow, check reliable sources of information such as AISC's invasive species fact sheets.
- Don't purchase a plant unless it is properly labeled, and you know exactly what it is. Unfortunately, private plant sales and swaps often involve invasive species.
- Don't use wildflower mixes, as they often have invasive species seeds in them.
- When selecting birdseed, always make sure the seed mix clearly lists the ingredients, as many contain invasive plants. Or, consider creating your own seed mixes to be sure of the seed ingredients.

The updated Invasive Plants of Alberta pocket guide can be picked up for free at the M.D. Admin building.



BE PLANTWISE



NO SPRAY AGREEMENTS DUE

If a landowner within the M.D. of Wainwright does not want the Municipal right-of-way's adjacent to property they own sprayed as part of the regular vegetation management program, they must complete a No Spray Agreement on an annual basis. Agreements are due no later than May 1st, and will be honored for a period of one year only. There are responsibilities that must be met by a landowner should they enter into an agreement, all of which are outlined on the application. The application can be picked up at the administration office, or downloaded from the M.D. website.

ELECTRONICS/PAINT & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUNDUP

Bring your old computers, TV's, small appliances, paint, used tires, and household hazardous waste to the Wainwright Regional Landfill (1201 4th ave south) on Saturday, May 4th from 10:00am - 2:00pm for safe and FREE disposal.

NO COMMERCIAL WASTE/ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

For more information, contact Carol at 780-842-4051.





SPOTLIGHT Kate & Co. Cleaning Inc.

Though the thought of cleaning house may fill some with joy, many consider these onerous chores to be as fun as a root canal. But what if you could skip right over the burdensome tasks, walk in your own front door, and be greeted by a spotless space? Enter owner and operator of Kate & Co Cleaning, Kate Foisy. With a focus on providing friendly, reliable, and customized services, Kate and her team go above and beyond to meet the unique needs of each client. From simple to complex projects, this local company is dedicated to making a difference in people's lives.



One of the biggest challenges this local cleaning company faces is dealing with the hard water and iron issues prevalent in the area. As anyone who has battled this issue knows, keeping ahead of the stubborn staining and buildup can feel like a losing battle. With experience under their belts, these hard to clean spaces don't stand a chance.

With this month marking the one year in business milestone for Kate & Co Cleaning, it is a perfect time to reflect on the unexpected origin story of this venture. Originally hailing from Ontario, among other things Kate used to clean offices with her mother who also operates her own cleaning company. Upon relocating to the Wainwright area, Kate became an employee for the first time in her life. Having always been self employed, she soon realized the challenges of juggling full time work, parenting, and staying on top of the never ending household tasks. All she wanted when she would come home from a day of work was to spend time with her family, but found it challenging to find a cleaning service that would travel to her rural community. With this realization, it was her mother who encouraged her to start her own venture, to give the gift of time back to clients. Tentatively, as she was certain the demand did not exist, she hung her shingle out with the surety she would soon prove her mother wrong. To her own surprise and delight, it turned out that mother knows best and she swiftly found herself at the heart of a growing business operating five days a week.

What does a cleaning service look like? The answer is... whatever you need it to look like! Kate meets with new clients to discuss their expectations, needs and wants before developing a plan to achieve her clients goals. Jobs may be as simple as cleaning a single room, to weekly or bi weekly maintenance throughout high traffic areas of the home, to intensive deep cleans after move outs or before move ins. These have become Kate's favorite type of job, creating a shining blank slate ready for someone to make their own. A close second for her, are bathrooms. She loves the challenge of tackling these tough spaces and the satisfaction of a job well done. Inspired by lessons learned from experience, peers in the industry, and clients, Kate and her team are committed to continuously evolving and adapting based on client needs. She is working on increased flexibility in hours to accommodate clients busy or variable schedules, such as in the case of shift workers.



Before & After
The battle against hard water build up

Aside from herself, Kate currently employs one full time and one part time staff member. Looking forward, Kate hopes to enlist more people in our rural communities to join her team. She is a firm believer in providing opportunities in areas where there are fewer options for employment. Not only is this a chance for someone who is, say, a stay at home mother, to engage in part time flexible work; but also allows services to be offered at a lower cost by tapping into a wider network of local, rurally based staff. This is how Kate intends to grow her business and expand the companies service area, increasing the accessibility of high end and affordable services to a wider client base. Kate & Co Cleaning is active on social media and plans to launch a website in the near future as well.

Kate and Co Cleaning is more than just a service provider; they are partners in helping families lead happier, healthier lives. By supporting them, you're not only getting impeccable cleaning services but also contributing to a business that truly cares about making a positive impact on the community it serves. If you want to skip the spring cleaning in favor of spending time with family, friends, or enjoying the warming weather, this is the service you've been looking for.



PRAIRIE STAPLES *Prairie Crocus* *Anemone patens*

The prairie crocus, also known as the Pasque flower, is a beautiful and resilient wildflower that symbolizes the arrival of spring in North America. As one of the first flowers to bloom after a long winter, the prairie crocus offers a vibrant splash of color across the prairies and meadows. A member of the Crowfoot or Buttercup Family, this hardy perennial can be found in various habitats, including dry grasslands, open woods, and even rocky slopes. Its distinctive purple petals and yellow center make it easily recognizable amidst the transitioning landscape.



The poisonous properties of the prairie crocus were used to advantage by First Nations Peoples. A poultice made from the plant was used as a counter-irritant to treat rheumatism or other muscular pains. Prairie crocus was also used to stop nosebleeds and draw out infection in cuts and boils. First Peoples knew the plant was dangerous if taken internally.

The prairie crocus is called 'the ears of the earth', because it seems to spring through the snow to listen for the approach of summer. According to legend, the Great Spirit gave the brave plant a furry coat to protect it on chilly spring nights.



A NOTE TO WATER LICENSE HOLDERS: The Alberta government is asking Albertans with water licences issued before November 2021 to move them into the online system by the end of 2024. This will help the province understand how much water is available during a severe drought. Alberta's Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) is a secure and confidential online platform. Licence holders can submit reports, apply for renewals or amendments, receive email reminders, and track their status. Visit alberta.ca/water-act-forms to learn more.



"Off The Husk" with Zach Johnson, The Millennial Farmer; Becky Johnson, Mrs. Millennial Farmer; and Randy Nessman, The Master Pipe Layer; Join us as we explore the business of food, fiber, and fuel. Hear from farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs and agriculture/farming professionals from across the country. What ensues is a politically incorrect podcast filled with genuinely improvised, authentic conversation, laughter and some newfound agriculture knowledge. Grab a cold beer and enjoy our moderately educational but extremely entertaining podcast "OFF THE HUSK"



My grandfather worked in a blacksmith shop when he was a boy, and he used to tell me, when I was a little boy myself, how he had toughened himself up so he could stand the rigors of blacksmithing.

One story was how he had developed his arm and shoulder muscles.

He said he would stand outside behind the house and, with a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extend his arms straight out to the side and hold them there as long as he could.

After a while he tried 10-pound potato sacks, then 50-pound potato sacks and finally he got to where he could lift a 100-pound potato sack in each hand and hold his arms straight out for more than a full minute.

Next, he started putting potatoes in the sacks.

FACTS ABOUT ALBERTA

- Established in 1885, Banff was Canada's first national park.
- The water melting from the glaciers of the Columbia Icefield flows into three oceans: the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic.
- The first car trip between Edmonton and Calgary was made in 1906 by H.G White. The journey took two days and reached speeds over 30 mph.
- The Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium in Edmonton was built in 1960, making it Canada's first planetarium.
- John Carter Callaghan of the University of Alberta performed Canada's first open heart surgery in 1956.
- Cowley Ridge, the first commercial wind farm in Canada, was established near Pincher Creek in 1993.
- Lake Louise is Canada's highest population at 1650 meters above sea level.
- How sweet it is...University of Alberta chemistry professor Raymond Lemieux was the first to synthesize sucrose in 1953.

