

MUNICIPAL CONNECTION

Roadside Mowing

The roadside mowing program commenced on July 8th. Only designated M.D. roads will be mowed, as the focus is on school bus routes, hard surfaced roads, and heavily-used municipal roads. This program is administered by the Agricultural Services Department and completed by contractors.

Municipal Calendar Contest

Help us celebrate diversity within the M.D. of Wainwright by participating in our annual calendar contest! Winning photos will be displayed in a twelve-month calendar. All municipal ratepayers are eligible to enter, with a deadline for submission of August 15th. Visit mdwainwright.ca for full contest details.

Rural Routes

The Rural Routes supper takes place Friday August 8th at the Elks Hall in Wainwright. Registration is required to attend as there are limited seats available. If you have registered and your plans have changed please let us know ahead of the event to accommodate those on the wait list. Doors open at 5:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tax Notices

Please note that tax notices were mailed out on June 26th. See the back of your notice for information on payment options and deadlines. Contact the M.D. office at 780-842-4454 for any inquiries.

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

An EFP is a simple self assessment tool in the form of an online workbook that is free and confidential. EFPs are valid for 10 years and are a requirement for most Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership funding. Visit albertaeefp.com to learn more and sign up today!



Municipal Bursaries

The M.D of Wainwright offers two bursaries to rural students! The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Bursary is for students enrolled in an agricultural or environmental science program. The Education Bursary is for students enrolled in any program at an accredited post-secondary institution. The application deadline for all bursaries is September 1st. Visit mdwainwright.ca or stop in at the admin office for full details and applications!

CD3 Waterless Boat Cleaning Unit

A CD3 waterless boat cleaning unit was setup at the Clear Lake boat launch in partnership with the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) from July 11th - July 28th. These easy to use, self-serve, waterless cleaning systems reduce the spread of invasive species that could be detrimental to valuable local water bodies.



Willow Rust - A Local Threat

In June 2021, a Laurel Leaf Willow near Slave Lake was found to be infected with Willow Rust (*Melampsora epitea*). This finding marked the first known occurrence of this pathogen in Canada. In 2022, a second location was confirmed in the Province - in the M.D. of Wainwright. This fungus has now been found all over Alberta and cases are on the rise, including within our local tree population. Willow Rust is a rust fungus that primarily affects Laurel Leaf Willow, a highly common shelterbelt species. The fungus is very apparent early in the season by its bright yellow-orange spores on catkins, leaves and stems. The photos on the left were taken on June 13th of this year close to Wainwright. Infection leads to premature leaf drop and potential stem cankers. A canker is visible in the middle photo on the left from the previous years infection, appearing as a blackening on the stem. Of great concern is the rate of decline or mortality that follows infection, with many trees dying in as little as 1-2 years.

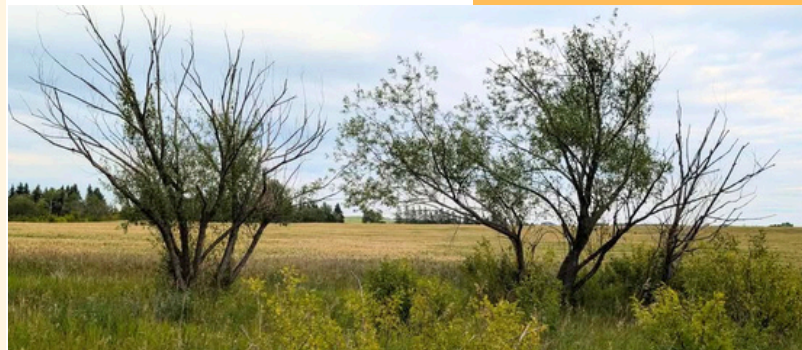
At this time in the season, the rust itself is no longer visible. Signs that have been observed in locally affected trees that indicate infection are standing dead limbs through the tree, excessive formation of water sprouts or suckers, and lesions on branches, all pictured to the right and below from the same location on July 28th. Unfortunately, not much is known about this impactful pathogen at this time. Experts suggest close monitoring of willow trees and pruning out any infected leaves, stems, and branches. As of now, pruning is the only control method to prevent further spread of this pathogen. Willow species have long been a staple of prairie

shelterbelts, and this pathogen certainly has the potential to be detrimental to the local landscape.

https://www.mdwainwright.ca/pdfs/development/ApproachInstallation_D2.pdf

APPROACH INSTALLATION

An approach agreement with the municipality is required before commencing any new approach construction.



Municipal Weed Inspectors

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Spotlight Species at Risk

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*

The loggerhead shrike is a medium-sized songbird (slightly smaller than a robin) that is grey and white, with a distinctive black 'mask' through its eyes. The 'mask' acts to reduce glare, allowing the shrike to better spot prey in bright sunlight. While it may resemble an ordinary songbird, the loggerhead shrike is the only truly predatory songbird in North America. Its diet includes insects and small vertebrates such as mice, voles, juvenile ground squirrels and other birds.

Unlike raptors, shrikes do not have powerful talons to subdue live prey. Instead, they use their environment in a resourceful way by impaling prey on sharp twigs, thorns or barbed wire. Shrikes have a strong hooked bill, which it uses to tear its impaled prey into bite-sized pieces. Their predatory habits have earned shrikes the nickname 'butcher bird'.

Recent research has also highlighted the shrikes remarkable memory and hunting strategy. These birds are known to cache excess food by impaling it for later consumption, sometimes returning days later. This behaviour not only helps them survive during times of scarcity but also demonstrates an impressive level of planning and adaptability for a songbird.

Over the past 40 years, the loggerhead shrike's range has become smaller and shifted southward as a result of habitat alteration and loss. In Alberta, the rate of decline has slowed and the population appears to have stabilized. A province wide survey of this species takes place every 5 years. In accordance with the last survey conducted in 2024, results showed the highest number of shrikes since the survey was initiated in the 1980's.

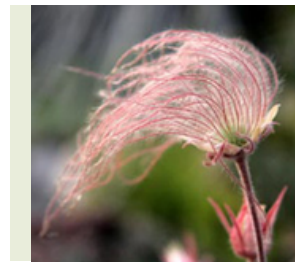
Loggerhead shrikes typically arrive in southern Alberta during the first week of May where they raise a single brood of 4-6 young during the summer months. By the end of August, they begin their southward migration. Loggerhead shrikes require a combination of open, grazed areas adjacent to nesting and perching sites, and dense ungrazed vegetation that provides habitat for potential prey. For nesting, shrikes prefer thorny buffaloberry, willow and caragana. They will sometimes return to the same shrub year after year. Loggerhead shrikes are designated as a species of Special Concern in Alberta and Threatened nationally. Habitat loss and fragmentation continue to be the greatest threats to the species across its range. Intensive agricultural practices have converted native grassland with shrubs and shelterbelts to cultivated fields, resulting in the loss of suitable breeding and wintering habitat in many areas of North America. Shrikes are commonly found along human-created roadsides and fencerows, areas that leave them more susceptible to predation due to exposure compared to natural habitats. The loggerhead shrike is protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. Under the Alberta Wildlife Act, it is illegal to kill the loggerhead shrike or disturb it or its nest at any time of the year in the province.

Landowners and stewards of the land play a vital role in the survival of the loggerhead shrike. By conserving or restoring native prairie ecosystems and maintaining shelterbelts and thorny shrubs, you can help provide the habitat this unique bird needs to thrive. With continued monitoring, habitat stewardship, and community awareness, there's hope that the 'butcher bird' will remain a memorable and vital part of Alberta's prairie landscape for generations to come.



Prairie Staples Prairie Smoke *Geum triflorum*

Prairie Smoke also known as Three Flower Avenas is a distinctive prairie wildflower with irresistible pink feathery seed heads. Each flowering stem holds three nodding pink bell-shaped flowers. The basal leaves are fern-like and deeply serrated with hairy margins. Plants spread slowly by rhizome to form large clumps. Prairie Smoke thrives in well-drained soil, in full sun to partial shade. Historically, the plant was used as a natural remedy to treat colds and wounds.



Property Assessment

Re-inspections of properties for assessment purposes will take place from June 1st - October 1st, 2025 in Twp 46-Rge 6, Twp 47-Rge7, and Twp 45-Rge 8 (includes Fabyan and Peterson Estates). Inspections will then commence of properties where needed (i.e. development permits, follow-up inspections, etc.) throughout the M.D. of Wainwright and will be completed by the end of December 2025. Inspections will be completed by Wainwright Assessment Group Ltd. Assessors will be on site and show I.D. when occupants are present and leave notes in doors and proceed to do exterior inspections when no one is at the property.

2025 Municipal Election - Voter Registration

Election Day: October 20th, 2025

Register to Vote By: September 1st, 2025



Under new provincial legislation, all eligible voters must be listed on a **Permanent Electors Register**, maintained by each municipality, in order to vote in Alberta municipal elections.

To ensure a smooth and efficient voting experience, **residents are strongly encouraged to register in advance**. If you are not registered by **September 1st, 2025**, you will be required to complete registration at the voting station before receiving a ballot.

Register to vote by phone, email, or online.

Register Online: visit voterlink.ab.ca to confirm your information or register to vote.

Register By Phone: 780-427-7191

Toll Free: 310-0000 then dial 780-427-7191

Register By Email: info@elections.ab.ca

Podcast



Tune into the War Against Weeds podcast, to listen to weed scientists break down what it takes for farmers to fight the war against weeds.

Prohibited Noxious Weeds

Across:

6. Wetland invader with tall spikes of purple flowers

7. Yellow flowered ornamental pond plant turned invasive

8. Invader with feathery leaves and pink flowers

Down:

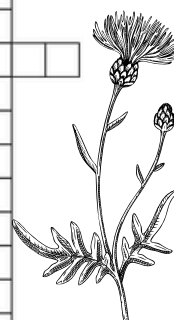
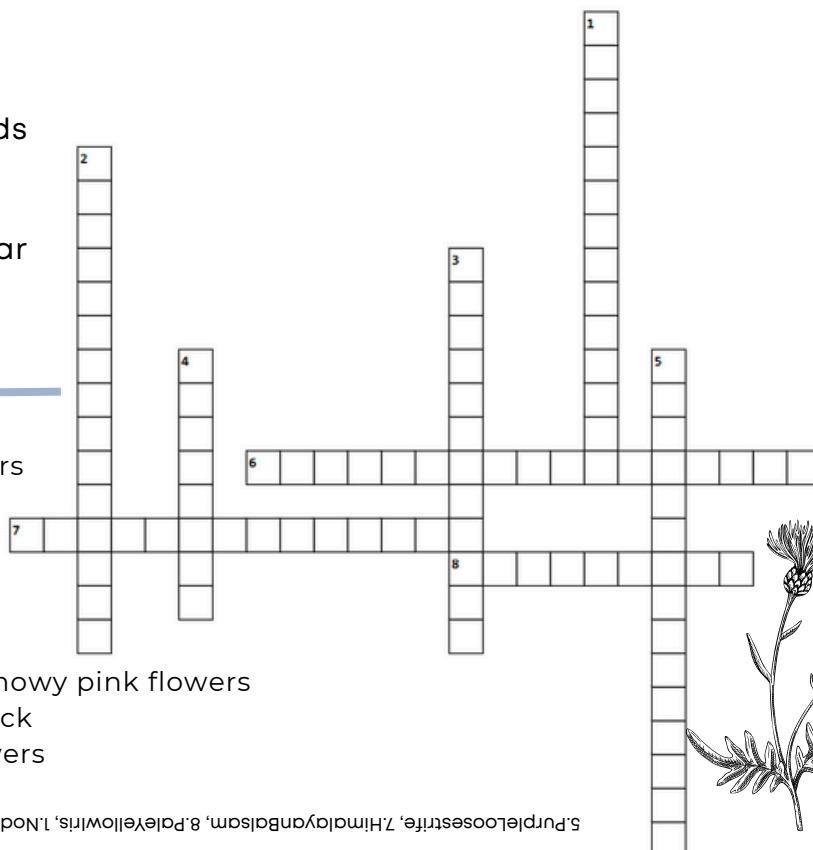
1. Spiny plant with nodding flower

2. Riparian invader with explosive seedpods and showy pink flowers

3. Blooms with tiny white petals harmful to livestock

4. Dandelion look alike with orange or yellow flowers

5. Named for its dark markings on its bracts



5. Purple Loosestrife, 7. Himalayan Balsam, 8. Pale Yellow Iris, 1. Nodding Yellow Iris, 2. Spotted Knotweed, 3. Salt Cedar, 4. Hoary Alyssum, 6. Hawkweed