

# DISTRICT DIALOGUE



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## REEVE'S MESSAGE

Ernie Newman, Reeve

After a long and tough fall where producers were not sure if they would complete the harvest, the crop was brought in. Some of the highest yields we have seen were recorded on cereal grains and canola in this Municipality, a very welcome sight after three years of dismal crops.

Even though the public works department at the M.D. had a late start on a lot of the road projects because of the wet conditions, most of them were completed successfully before winter. Along with revisiting and updating our policies, Council has been working on our short term and long term planning for capital and operational projects in the future under our ICSP.

With Councillor Barry Dewitz stepping down in Ward #4 due to work commitments, we will be holding a by-election on Jan 6, 2012 with two nominees coming forward to fill the vacancy in Ward #4. Advance poll will be December 22, 2011 between 8:30am-12:00 pm at the Fairview Legion Hall. Voting on election day Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will also be held at the Fairview Legion Hall from 10:00am to 8:00 pm. All M.D. residents are eligible to vote in the by-election.

Staff will be sending another survey out in December and we hope that everyone will participate and return the questionnaires by January 30, 2012. Your input is valued so that we can continue to serve our ratepayers for the betterment of our municipality.

On behalf of Councillors Ray Skrepnek, Terri Wyness, Roy Bjorklund and myself, as well as staff at the M.D of Fairview #136 - Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

WINTER 2011  
Issue 4



This Newsletter is published quarterly. If you have any information or events that you would like to advertise in the Newsletter please contact Vivian at 780-835-4903

Visit our website at  
[www.mdfairview.com](http://www.mdfairview.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS FOR THE HAMLET LIGHT UP:

**BLUESKY WINNERS: 1<sup>ST</sup>-CECIL & KERRIE TROWBRIDGE  
2<sup>ND</sup>-FRANK & DEB KAUFHOFEN  
3<sup>RD</sup>-GLENN & CINDIE MEHLEN**

**WHITELAW WINNERS: 1<sup>ST</sup>-GEORGE & DARLENE KURIGA  
2<sup>ND</sup>-WINNONA & DWAYNE BLAKE  
3<sup>RD</sup>-AMANDA & GARRY MORRISON JR.**



## AG NEWS

Submitted by Fred Sawchuk, Ag Fieldman, M.D. of Fairview #136.

Let's talk about wheat midge as it is becoming a larger problem in Alberta. The wheat midge is found in most areas around the world wherever wheat is grown. In recent years, significant damage to wheat crops has been reported in Alberta and other neighboring provinces including some states. All wheat varieties are currently susceptible to wheat midge, but some are more seriously affected than others. Research and breeding for wheat midge resistant varieties is underway at the Cereals Research Centre in Winnipeg and the Crop Development Centre in Saskatchewan. Some sampling was done this past fall in our M.D. and the results were negative, so far. There were only 4 fields sampled out of many wheat fields that were grown, so it does not mean they don't exist. **Producers inexperienced with wheat midge infestations often mistake the symptoms of damage and report that frost or drought was responsible for reduced wheat yields or grain quality.** Here are some frequently asked questions and also, more information can be found on the internet by typing in "wheat midge".

### **What are these little orange mosquitoes- like bugs in my wheat?**

These small bugs that are about half the size of a mosquito and bright orange are probably wheat midge. They will lay eggs in the wheat head and the larvae will then feed on the wheat kernels. Lauxanids are commonly confused with wheat midge, but the Lauxanid is a little bigger and not as orange.

### **What kind of damage can the wheat midge do to my crop?**

The wheat midge larvae can decrease the yield of your crop. One midge per 4-5 wheat heads can decrease yield around 15 percent. They can also reduce the grade of your wheat. If there is more than one midge per 8-10 wheat heads there is a risk of a reduced grade. The Canadian Grain

Commission limits midge damage in No. 1 CWRS wheat to 2% and 8% in No.2. In durum the tolerances are similar.

### **When should I be scouting for wheat midge?**

Adults appear in late June and early July. Scouting of your wheat field should be done regularly between heading and flowering. Scout in the evenings, from about 8 - 10 pm, when the temperature is around 15 degrees Celsius and there is no or very light winds. Also, scout four or five places in the field for a more accurate count.

### **What are the thresholds for wheat midge?**

One adult midge per four or five wheat heads is usually enough to warrant control measures.

### **What can I use to control wheat midge?**

Cygon™, Lagon™, Lorsban 4E™, Nufos™ and Pyrinex™ are all registered for use on wheat midge in wheat. Check the label for any other restrictions regarding the chemicals. For example Cygon™ and Lagon™ do not control the eggs, just the adults. Also, watch the stage of the crop, as certain chemicals have to be applied at specific times for good control. Check the label for application timing.

### **Considerations for Control**

Late evening or early morning are the best times to control the adults, as the females are most active in cool night-time temperatures (but above 15 degrees Celsius or 59 degrees Fahrenheit) and when the wind is less than 10 km/hr (6 mph). Also, good coverage is critical for control if your chemical controls eggs as well, so make sure your water volumes are adequate. Optimal control happens when 70% of the crop is in the heading to flower stage. If 30-60% of the crop is flowering then it needs to be sprayed immediately to have good control on the wheat midge. If 80% of the crop is flowering then control is not recommended as the window has passed and the midge damage has already started. Spraying therefore should be done early to protect the main stem and first tiller, as this is where most of the yield potential of the crop is.

## FINANCE NEWS

Submitted by Sandra Fox, Director of Corporate Services and Finance

Well, here we are at the end of the year again. It has been a busy year with a number of projects having been completed. We are currently working on our project costing calculations for audit purposes and are happy to report that a few projects came in at a cost lower than expected. That has allowed your Council the opportunity to initiate a few additional projects throughout the year.

In keeping with the regular accounting cycle, we are now in full swing making plans and budgets for 2012. As part of our short and long term planning process, Council is once again requesting input from you, our ratepayers. A questionnaire has been compiled and mailed to all rural mailboxes. If you have not received one, please contact our office and we will be very happy to make sure you get one. As a follow up of the questionnaire sent out two years, this current questionnaire is as much an evaluation of how well Council has addressed previous concerns as it is a tool to assist in future decision making. Please take the time to complete and return your questionnaire. Your input is appreciated and you also have the chance to win a prize!

Also at this time of year our assessment services contractor, KCL Consulting Inc. is in the area completing property inspections. Just a reminder that 2012 tax preparation is based on assessment data compiled on the condition and use of property at Dec 31, 2011. If there have been any changes to your property in the past year, either by way of demolition or new development, please make sure our office is aware of it so we can pass any information on to the assessors. It is much less complicated to attain fair and accurate assessments now then to have to go through the process of appeal later. By Provincial legislation, property assessments based on conditions at Dec. 31 must be completed by Feb 28 of the following year so now is the time to address any changes.

As 2011 winds down and we all prepare for 2012, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and All the Best in 2012. May we all remember to count the blessings in our lives and be grateful for the fantastic area we live in.

*For Emergency purposes  
have your land location  
information by your  
telephone*

## **GRAIN & LIVESTOCK FARMERS**

With the completion of a successful 2011 harvest and much of the product stores in grain bags and bale wrap, let the North Peace Regional Landfill help you dispose of the waste plastic when you empty out the bags or feed hay.

Please fold the plastic (much like you would fold a tarp) into manageable bundles or roll it up (like a cinnamon bun) and tie it with polypropylene twine or rope.

Contamination restrictions require that there be less than 5% by weight for organics, soils or moisture. Also, there can be; NO metal, NO wood, NO cardboard or paper and NO other plastics.

Bring the bundles or rolls of waste plastic into the Regional Landfill where it will be sent out to a recycling facility. One 300ft bag can be remanufactured into 10,000 garbage bags. At the present time there will be a \$45/tonne disposal fee however we are working with the recycler so that fee can be reduced or eliminated in the future. We are located on Highway 732 - 7 Kilometers north of Fairview. If you have any questions please call: 780-836-2576.

### **NORTH PEACE REGIONAL LANDFILL HOLIDAY HOURS**

**CLOSED Dec. 23-Dec 26, 2011**

**REGULAR HOURS TUESDAY DEC 27 TO  
FRIDAY DEC 30, 2011.**

**CLOSED Saturday Dec 31 – Monday  
January 2, 2012.**

**Open Regular hours Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012**

## Year End Reflections from the CAO-

The year 2011 has been a busy, fast paced one for the M.D. of Fairview. We often have had our work crews stretched to the limit but have always been pleasantly surprised by the amount of projects ultimately completed.

A lot of our project emphasis has been placed on water and drainage projects. The truck filling station at the Whitelaw Springs has had upgrades installed and is functional. The community access code and pin # necessary to operate the system is posted on site. There is no charge for the water at this time. The truck loading facility, in the hamlet of Whitelaw, will be operational in February 2012. Since this facility is hooked into the water treatment plant it will only dispense treated water. No decision has been made, at this time, as to the cubic meter cost to users.

We would urge our residents to forward their community projects funding requests to us by January 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 so we can include them in our 2012 Budget. We are trying hard to get away from the "piece meal request" process where we are "nickel and dimed to death" throughout 2012. That scenario is hard on responsible financial planning!

My staff and I have enjoyed working with the area residents this year and we trust that the cordial relationship will continue in 2012.

May the Christmas season bring happiness to each one of you.

**Ben**



**Remember Dog Licenses are up for renewal in the New Year. Renew BEFORE February 1<sup>st</sup> and the price will be only \$10.00 per dog. February the price will be \$20.00 per dog.**

**THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
FAIRVIEW #136  
will be closed from December 26, 2011  
to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Regular office hours  
will resume Jan 2, 2012.**

