

# The Municipal Agricultural Connection

**LABOR DAY!!**  
**Monday Sept 5th**



Yellow Toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*



**Partners in  
Rural  
Conservation**  
[www.mdwainwright.ca](http://www.mdwainwright.ca)



## TOADFLAX CRAZY!!



Tis' the season for Toadflax! You probably have been seeing the "butter and eggs" weed showing up on roadsides, in pastures and along the edge of cultivated fields in the last 2 weeks; now is the time that Toadflax is running rampant (and that is not an exaggeration!). Hot days quickly "blast" the flower off Toadflax; one day you see it flowering, the next it has gone to seed!



*Toadflax growing up through fresh asphalt! This picture represents how hardy & tough Toadflax is to survive in ALL conditions. (submitted by A. Hodge)*

### NOTICE

#### M. D. OF WAINWRIGHT NO. 61

In accordance with Land Use Bylaw No. 1318, the Municipal District of Wainwright (M.D.) requires anyone wishing to conduct any development within the M.D to contact Jim Klassen, Municipal Development Officer.

Application for Development Permits can be picked up at the MD Administration Office or they can be downloaded from [www.mdwainwright.ca](http://www.mdwainwright.ca).

Permits cost \$30.00.

- an excavation or stockpile and/or creation or
- a building or an addition to or replacement or repair of a building and the construction or placing of any of them in, on, over or under land, or
- a change of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the use of the land or building, or
- a change in the intensity of use of land or a building or an act done in relation to land or a building that results in or is likely to result in a change in the intensity of use of the land or building.

For more information on permits, contact Jim @780-842-4454

Toadflax, which looks like snapdragon plants, has long been at battle with area farmers and ranchers, attempting to "take over" acres. (This long lived perennial can stick around in the same spot for 20-40+ years!) It is one of those weeds

forming dense patches that "pretends" to behave in a "well defined clumps"; until disturbed and THEN spreads



*A patch of toadflax like this one can easily be controlled with herbicide.*



*Pasture land with severe Toadflax situation; spot spraying is almost not an option for this example, consider blanket spraying to ensure all plants are treated.*

out and "escapes" into surrounding land. Toadflax multiplies predominantly by root (like a Canada Thistle plant, if you cut/ pull/ cultivate a plant, it will send up 2 new shoots for every cut). Roots can be 8-10 feet long—which is a

good tip if you are spraying herbicide to also spray a buffer zone around area to catch the roots of the plant, (since that's exactly where it will try to regenerate from causing more havoc). Toadflax does contain some toxic compounds but is usually avoided by grazing livestock (only causing it to increase more in your pasture!) This weed, even though at times can be a frustrating pest since it can be described as being ELLUSIVE, does have benefits to controlling it. Being responsible land owners, farmers and acreage owners need to actively keep this weed from gaining a foothold in our municipality. To report sightings along M.D. road allowances, please call 780-842-4454, and a municipal ASB spray truck will be dispatched.

**Be kind when following a swather or combine on the road this harvest season; slow down and give them lots of room when passing on a highway or gravel road. Little extra time and respect helps farmers get the job done— moving a 36' swather header is not an easy task. We all want our farmers to stay safe on the road, give them a wave of appreciation for the job they do!**



# Wainwright Agricultural Bench Show

On August 10, 2011 the M.D. participated in the annual Ag-Bench Show; showcasing noxious weeds (Toadflax, Scentless Chamomile, Tansy, Spurge, Baby's Breath) and also a few locally found Prohibited Noxious weeds (Nodding Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, Yellow Clematis and the newest prize found in the M.D. - Hoary Alyssum).



This Baby's Breath root brought much attention to the booth! Gypsophila plants are able to grow roots 4 meters or 14 feet deep!

(Nodding Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, Yellow Clematis and the newest prize found in the M.D. - Hoary Alyssum). Aimee Wonsik, Asst. Ag-Fieldman enjoyed talking with all the people that stopped by, both rural and urban, and had wonderful conversations on weed control options. Many farmers commented on the different weeds displayed, with stories to tell of "back in the day..."

Special thank-you to Lorraine Rutledge for inviting the M.D. to display these weeds; a wonderful opportunity for public awareness and education.

# Weed Watch—Stork's Bill



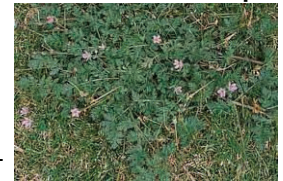
Sharper weed control measures are required for this plant.



It is a serious competitor in some agricultural

Stork's Bill (Erodium cicutarium) is one of the most difficult weeds to eradicate once it gets established. If left uncontrolled it forms a dense mat over pastures, gardens, driveways and yardsites. Stork's Bill is named by the way the seed head looks like a big, long crane beak (from the look of this seed you can tell it is in the geranium family). Seeds can stay dormant in the soil for up to 3 years, so controlling the plant before it goes to seed is recommended.

It is difficult to clean out of small seeded crops. This plant is spread by contaminated grain, feed, straw, manure and machinery. Early spring herbicide application is the best window of opportunity to control; later in the season the plant's tap-root provides additional energy aiding survival, plus the waxy coating of the leaf surface resists chemical absorption.



Aimee Wonsik and Pastor Dan "ham it up" for the camera, with some big smiles!

On Tuesday, August 23, Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman for the M.D. of Wainwright, presented Pastor Dan \$165.00 cash that was donated from rural ratepayers at the Rural Routes supper held August 5, 2011. This money will be going directly to the Wainwright Food Bank.

Pastor Dan explained that the cash money would be used for purchases of perishable food for the families that use the food bank, such as milk, butter and eggs. He mentioned that the \$165.00 would go a long way for the next few weeks for these items and is greatly appreciated.

Aimee asked about what Local Gardeners can do to help out the Food Bank, being that harvest is coming on with gardens nearing the end of the growing season. Pastor Dan said, "Garden goods such as potatoes (even with the dirt still on them), is great!" Anything from the garden that is natural and not processed. Potatoes, carrots, un-shelled peas are all really good. Anything that is not "home" canned, jars or cooked, because of health concerns, can be used by the



Wainwright Food Bank

## Food Bank.

Pastor Dan also mentioned that items that they are always in need of are dry/store bought goods such as breakfast cereal, cans of fruit & vegetables, children lunch items (such as granola bars, fruit cups, and fun treat packs), pancake mix & syrup, "side-kicks" rice/pasta and "good ol'brown beans" are items that are always accepted.

If you have dry goods you would like to share with the Wainwright Food Bank, you can drop it off at any of the local churches; or Wainwright Value Drug-mart, Wainwright Nofrills Grocery or Wainwright Co-op Grocery. If you are wanting to support the Food Bank with garden vegetables or have more questions, please give Pastor Dan a call at 780-842-3033.

Have an interesting topic you want discussed in the Newsletter? An idea for a municipal meeting? Let me know! Suggestions to Asst. Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Wonsik, [asb@mdwainwright.ca](mailto:asb@mdwainwright.ca) or 780-842-4454

Start watering your trees "in", so they are prepared ...

# BE SAFE DURING HARVEST

Harvest is hectic. Racing daylight and rain clouds can be seriously stressful. Time means money when yields are at risk. As a result, harvest is the peak season for agriculture-related injuries and fatalities. When you're in a rush, it's tempting to bypass simple safety procedures that might slow you down. But taking the extra time can be a lifesaver. So ease up. Take responsibility for your own safety. Get trained for each new task before you get started. Be alert for hazards and figure out how to manage them – remove any unnecessary risks ahead of time, and learn to manage the risks that can't be removed. Know the job. Know the hazards. Know the drill.

## Cover Your ...

**Know the job. Combines and balers can be extremely dangerous. Knowledge is your best defence. Prepare for the harvest season by getting properly trained for each task you will perform. Get the equipment ready. The majority of severe farm tragedies involve machinery. Make sure yours is in good working condition. Be sure pre-season maintenance and repairs are handled several weeks before harvest. Also make sure you are in good condition. You take pride in your ability to work long and hard. You're happy to burn the midnight oil in pursuit of a goal – in this case, a successful harvest. The reality is that fatigue, drowsiness and illness contribute to field mishaps. To ensure you'll be around to see the last of the grain go into the bin, get plenty of sleep. Take regular**



**breaks. Wear comfortable, close-fitting clothing and sturdy, protective shoes. When you do field work, always let someone know where you are and check in regularly.**

## Little Person Alert

**Keep children safely away from farm machinery, including grain transportation equipment. Tragedies occur far too easily when children end up**

**in the path of equipment from which the operator's view is restricted.**

## Big, Mean Harvesting Machines

**Know the hazards. Harvesting equipment is designed to cut, pull and separate things, and it does so very effectively. Unfortunately, it won't discriminate between you and the crop. Get caught in its clutches and you could be tangled, wrapped, pulled, run over, cut up or worse. Learn about the dangers ahead of time so you can avoid them while you're in the field. When you're working, slow down and think about the potential hazards of each new task**



**before you begin.**

## How Quick are You?

**At 1000 RPM, a PTO shaft will entangle at four metres per second. An average measured reaction time on an adult male is about .2 seconds. So by the time you react to the pull of the PTO, it has already pulled you or your clothing almost a metre. Guards anyone?**

## Avoid Harvesting Hazards

**Know the drill. Knowing how to identify hazards is only the first step. Once you identify them, you have to learn to manage them safely or avoid them altogether. Stop and think about possible hazards while you're operating the equipment. Be alert. Ask questions. Here are a few serious harvesting hazards to avoid.**

**Avoid entanglement. Every combine or baler gets a plugged intake area**

**occasionally. This area is also known as a pull-in point, and it can grab you in an instant. To avoid en-**

**tanglement: Operate the equipment with care and attention.**

**\*Ensure all protective guards and shields are securely in place. \*Clear plugged equipment only after the power is turned off and the key is in your pocket. \*Don't overestimate your ability to react – entanglement injuries happen very quickly. \*Decrease the incidence of plugged machines through regular maintenance, late-season weed control, and by operating during optimal conditions. In wet field conditions, wait a few hours or an extra day, if possible, to reduce plugging. \*If you must harvest in marginal conditions, expect crops to plug the equipment and allow extra time to unplug it. \*Don't slip up. Most people recognize the entanglement hazard. Few realize that many more injuries are related to slips and falls around farm machines. During an average workday, you might have to mount and dismount from the combine dozens of times. The top of an average combine is 12 to 14 feet high. The operator's platform is usually 6 to 8 feet high. Falls from these heights can cause serious injuries. If you are fatigued or careless, the likelihood of a **fall dramatically increases.****

**\*Keep platforms free of tools or other objects. \*Clean ladders, steps and platforms regularly. \*Wear well-fitting, comfortable shoes with non slip soles. \*Use the grab bars when mounting or dismounting. \*Find a stable position from which to refuel or perform maintenance. \*Use three points of contact when getting in or out of machinery – one hand/two feet or two hands/ one foot. \*Don't underestimate the impact of fatigue, stress, drugs, alcohol, or age on your stability.**



**Harvest is a productive time. The pressure is exhilarating, but it also creates serious stress. To prevent injury and reap the benefits of the harvest you're working so hard at, take responsibility for your own safety.**

*...for the upcoming winter, reduce winter desiccation!*



# CLUBROOT!! of CANOLA

*Patches of prematurely ripening canola, symptom of Clubroot*  
[Photo courtesy of Parkland County Agricultural Services, Alberta]

## Clubroot of Canola is Knocking at the Municipal Boundaries of the M.D. of Wainwright!

At the start of August 2011 a suspicious canola field was found in the County of Vermilion (near Vermilion), that had Clubroot symptoms. After further investigation, the suspicion turned out to be Clubroot positive (Western Producer August 18, 2011). M.D. of Wainwright will continue to conduct random Clubroot inspections in the fall of 2011. A Clubroot infected field near Vermilion, Alberta suggests a continued eastern movement of the disease. Growers in Alberta or western Saskatchewan are encouraged to examine strange disease patterns to see if clubroot has arrived on their farms. Clubroot-infected plants can look similar to plants



under heat stress or in-

fectured with blackleg or sclerotinia. For that reason, proper diagnosis of clubroot should always include digging up plants to check for gall formation on roots.

- Start at field entrance. Pull up 10 random plants, remove the soil and examine roots for evidence of galls. (If the plants “pull off” of their root, use a shovel to uncover the root mass.)



- Walk 10 paces into the crop and pull another 10 plants.
- Turn 90 degrees and walk another 10 paces. Sample this way in a zig-zag pattern until 100 plants have been sampled. Record the percentage of infected plants.
- When sampling, do not be se-

lective in choosing plants. Do not look for sick plants. Make sure the plants sampled are random.

When unsure if a field has clubroot infection, then it is appropriate to sample affected plants to first identify the disease. Then use the above technique to quantify the level of infection. (The photo at the bottom of this article shows developed galls.)

Yield losses due to clubroot are about half of the percentage of infected stems. For example, if 10% to 20% of plants are infected, yield loss will likely be around 5% to 10%. Clubroot is EASILY spread through dirt transfer—tires, machinery, equipment, etc.



**No control products are registered for clubroot in canola. The recommendation is to rotate out of canola for four years in slightly infested fields and seven years in severely infested fields (The M.D. of Wainwright has an active municipal Clubroot Policy, to view [www.mdwainwright.ca](http://www.mdwainwright.ca)). Control volunteer canola and susceptible weeds (mustard family, dock and hoary cress) in the rotational crops. Consider clubroot-resistant hybrids, for potential risk areas.**