

This year Canadians will celebrate Co-op Week from October 11th – 16th and this year's theme is *Rebounding with Co-operative Values*.

Last year a national survey of Canadian adults conducted for Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada provided some interesting insights from respondents as follows.

- 47% of Canadians are familiar with co-operatives and interestingly almost half of respondents think Canada would be better off with more co-ops.
- 30% of Canadians are members of a co-operative – that's about 9 million Canadian adults.
- A slightly greater number of co-op members are located in rural areas versus urban (34% to 29% respectively).
- Generally speaking many see co-ops, with their guiding principles, as a solution to uncertainty.

Co-operative values are informed by the following seven guiding principles.

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Co-operation among co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

West Wetaskiwin REA is proud to be a successful co-operative Rural Electrification Association; a member-owned, not-for-profit utility that is democratically controlled by our members. We believe in the values of the co-op principles; values that originated with farmers in the 1940s that co-operatively brought electricity to rural Alberta. These values are demonstrated today in our governance which reflects the best interests of the REA, our members and our community – in other words, the co-operative way.

Hay Bale Cautions

At this time of year it is important to follow safe moving and stacking guidelines for hay bales.

- Do not load or unload under or near overhead powerlines.
- **Hay bales should not be stacked under or near powerlines, poles and guy-wires.**
- When stacking bales, be sure they are on even ground so there is no risk a stack loses integrity and bales could roll into power poles or guy-wires. Stacked round bales should be piled tightly, chocked (with borders posted) and you should watch and replace damaged bales at the base.
- Remember hay bales are movable objects so ensure loads are properly restrained, travel speed is safe and avoid rough terrain that could cause bales to become unstable.



For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

West Wetaskiwin Annual General Meeting, September 15, 2020

Chairman Dean Knull acknowledged guests Al Nagel, CEO of the Alberta Federation of REAs, Dan Astner, Chairman and Bill Klassen, General Manager – Battle River Power Coop and Dawn Logie, Stakeholder Relations Manager FortisAlberta.

The Chairman's Report synopsis is as follows:

Members were encouraged to keep their contact information both with the REA and the company that provides your electricity up to date as that information is used to connect with you for important notices.

The end result of the urban/rural annexation was a loss of 6 sites to Fortis. The Board feels compensation, as established by the Alberta Utilities Commission, was inadequate but unfortunately there is no recourse.

The 2019 update on the REA and the Board activities is as follows:

- 7 regular board meetings and 7 special meetings
- 2 formal meetings with FortisAlberta
- Directors of the Board and Secretary met in person and over the phone multiple times with members (including FortisAlberta as required) to discuss various operational issues. Additionally there were phone meetings with Battle River Power Coop re billing matters.

For 2019, the REA –

- added 5 new services and one subdivision
- lost 6 to annexation
- issued 6 replacement contracts with 0 dismantles
- microgeneration sites remained the same
- has a membership/site count of 937



Vegetation Management: We are in ongoing discussions with FortisAlberta re the pilot spraying project to determine assessment criteria that we can both agree denotes success, as our interpretation of the project findings and results differs from theirs.

Convenience Requests: When planning for growth or redevelopment members are encouraged to include potential costs for electrical infrastructure relocation as that cost must be allocated to the member who has determined the initial site map is not convenient and needs to be changed.

Members were reminded the deadline for scholarship applications is August 1 annually and Tayah Fiveland, the 2019 winner, was acknowledged.

From a positioning standpoint, REA brochures are at the county office, distributed at county events and the REA had a booth at the County Open House and partnered with 4 other REAs on a radio campaign during Co-op Week 2019.

Michelle Miller, CPA, CA presented the audited financials and the opinion of MNP that the results of the REA's operations, changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year were in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Marilyn Backman, Strategem Plus Consulting, facilitated the election of Directors. There were 5 nominees for 3 available positions with the end result being the return of incumbents Ron Holmlund and Mike Wollin and a new Director, Dave Watt joining the Board.

Regulated
Rate
Option



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For September 2020, the RRO is priced at \$0.07830 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For October 2020, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.06696.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on West Wetaskiwin REA's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com