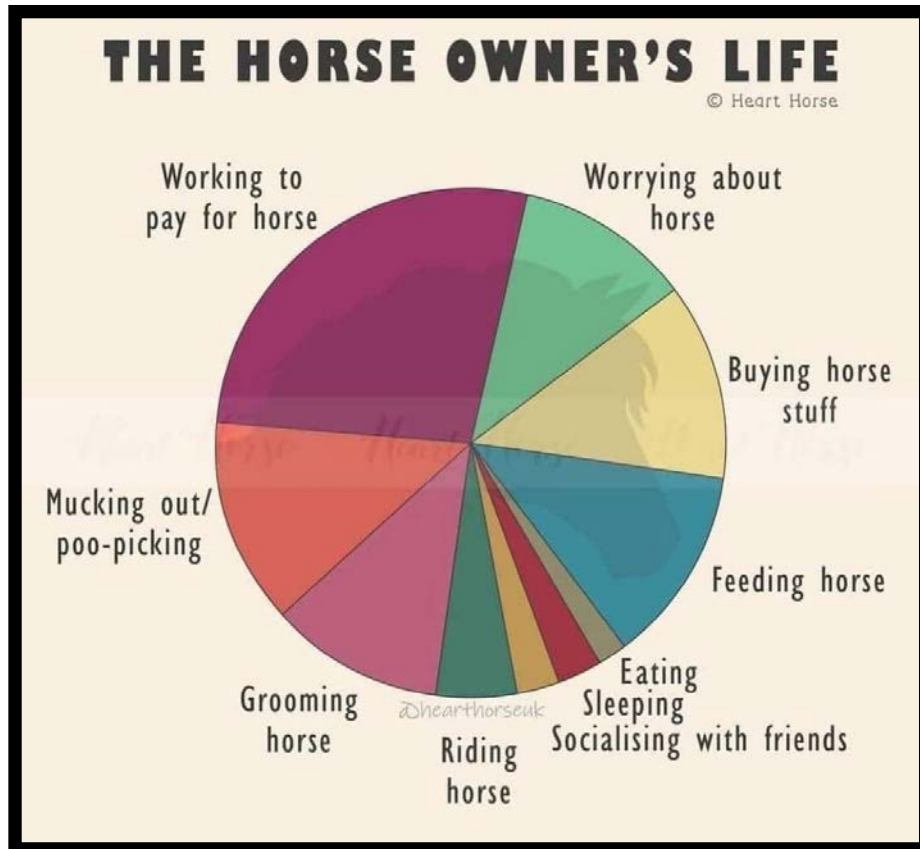


RANCH AT A GLANCE AUGUST 2022



Janet Annesley and John Ware
Operations
Ranch Club
Barn Manager
History
Home on the Ranch
Spruce Bud Worm

Did you know that all the waterers in the pastures are turned off? Lori and Erin haul water from the ponds to each pasture. They even haul water for the saloon flowers and the community garden! See Home on the Ranch photo below. Thank you Lori, Erin and Ranch Club!

JANET ANNESLEY (38 Horseshoe Bend)
instrumental in John Ware Recognition

Janet and Erik were welcomed and featured as new residents of the ranch in a previous newsletter.



Hats off to ever-observant Gary Bennett who noticed this recognition in the Western Wheel and sent it to Nancy.

John Ware made Parks Canada 'Person of National Historical Significance' in June

Words below by Janet Annesley

On June 6, Erik and I were honoured to attend the Parks Canada ceremony and help announce local legend John Ware as Person of National Historical Significance. I nominated Mr. Ware after watching *John Ware Reclaimed by Cheryl Foggo* as part of the Calgary International Film Festival and having a specific interest in Mr. Ware given the hardships and racism we know he endured and, seemingly, overcame to carve out a successful life in this area. Like many, I learned the legend of John Ware growing up but Ms. Foggo's documentary uses the lens of racism in his story, which opened my eyes to Mr. Ware's story being about far more than historical horses and farming, and much more about the forces of neighbourly love and prejudiced hate in communities -- forces we still struggle with strongly today.

The positive reception to John Ware's story across the country and with new generations of Albertans makes me incredibly happy. Global TV, CBC, the Calgary Herald, Western Wheel and several multicultural media outlets all featured the story.

CBC's national coverage is here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/john-ware-national-historic-significance-1.6479102>

In the depths of the pandemic, nominating John Ware was my small way of fighting against the darkness we all feel in the seemingly endless acts of racist violence, threats and even casual dehumanization of people on the TV news and social media (and sadly, most recently in the Sundre Rodeo parade).

Michelle Obama famously said, "When they go low, we go high." Going "high" doesn't mean forgetting the wrong or the pain of racism (or ageism or sexism). To me, celebrating John Ware is celebrating that we need our neighbours, all of them. Diversity isn't new to Canada, Alberta or Square Butte. It's part of who we are and we have a long history of coming together to hold each other up, and holding

up John Ware as a person who all Canadians should know is simply what I had the knowledge and chance to do.

For those interested, *John Ware Reclaimed* by Cheryl Foggo can be streamed for free via the National Film Board of Canada's web site: <https://www.nfb.ca/film/john-ware-reclaimed/>

Parks Canada's historical plaque for John Ware is on display at the Bar U.



**Filmmaker Cheryl Foggo and family
pictured with plaque tribute to John
Ware as a Person of National Historic
Significance**

OPERATIONS - Grant Kelba

Operations has seen a lot of activity around the ranch this July.

Given all the rain in late June and into July, we have been pressed to keep up with all the mowing that is required. And then our riding mower decided to bust a hub, which has put us even further behind.

We are working with the trades to complete the remediation of the saloon and are now working on the inside to complete this project.

We also had the next block of townhomes painted and the crew did a great job sprucing those up. There is some remediation of the ground around them caused by the man lift, but we are taking care of that in due course here.

The replacement of the eavestroughs on three of the four townhome blocks has been pushed back into mid August now. It was originally scheduled for late July.

We are working with our contractors and assisting them as much as we can to advance projects, but it seems everywhere there are shortages of labour and/or materials. Or at least is a good default excuse anyway.

Grant Kelba
[403 681 7831](tel:4036817831)

RANCH CLUB - Kym Penner

How can it be August? There is a quote that states “August is like the Sunday of Summer”. In so many ways on the Ranch this is a true statement. We often get our first frost by the end of August, and we see less people around the Ranch after the month of August as people start preparing for September back to school and work.

The Ranch Club had their first meeting since the June AGM on July 15th, and we welcomed a new member of the Board, Keith Almborg. Maureen Heffring, Louis Delesalle, Hazel Sangster and Kym Penner remained from last year's board. We have started the process of sourcing our winter hay this year as well as planning a few more activities. We will be hosting a “Fun Friday” at the barn on Friday August 19th. Come join us for burgers and drinks and just celebrate on a Friday. We also are planning a second roping afternoon for early September. This time the cowboys will bring out some horses, provide some demonstrations and the dummies (calf dummies ;)) will be outside the arena for those who want to practice. There was some talk about a “friendly” competition if there are a few of you out there who think your skills are up to the challenge! Date to be announced mid-August.

As some of you are aware the Ranch Horses that we arranged to have through August are no longer on property. The owner decided it was just not a great fit for one of the horses. However, this has not stopped our summer program at all! Lori Collins is on the hunt for a horse that would be a good fit. In the meantime, she offered up one of her horses for lessons and trail rides and owners Gary Bennett, Melodie Creegan and Kym Penner have helped to fill in the gaps. We have had a great summer so far of seeing lessons done and different people and groups out riding. Thank you so much to those owners and their amazing horses! Some of the best riding is in the Fall, so if

you are interested in taking a lesson or going on a ride there is lots of time to contact Lori at the Barn and set something up.

The Ranch Club has noticed many a dog owner walking in the pond pasture often together enjoying the area and even using some of the obstacle course for the dogs. WE LOVE THAT!!!! There is now a Tunnel that can be found in the shed by the Arena that you can take out and use with your dog, as well as some electric fence posts that can be used as a weaving obstacle for dogs. An often talked about idea is having a dog/horse event and we are in the process of picking a date and doing some planning.... So PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE. Please use the Cowboy Challenge area for dog play and be aware of your surroundings particularly horses and riders. It is important to have control of your dog at all times.

Happy August everyone!

BARN MANAGER - Lori Cloakey-Collins



How is the Summer almost over? What a great Summer it has been so far. I have enjoyed riding with so many of you this month. For some of you it has been your first riding experience and for others the first ride in Many years. One of my passions is seeing people smile and enjoy our equine friends, they really can bring “magic” to our lives, and I love to see people find that Magic! If you would like to arrange a Trail ride or a lesson, please shoot me an email or better yet, come visit me at the Barn and we can schedule a date!

In the month of July, we created a bit of a “ladies” night. A few ladies were interested in taking a group lesson so I decided all ladies should be invited to come out and enjoy Wednesday evenings together. The Riding lessons for 5 of us start generally between 5:30 and 7 depending on the heat, but all ladies are welcome to come down, watch, grab a drink and stay after for

conversation and a few giggles – when you see the activity at the Barn come on down!

Gelding and Mare herds have made their way upfront to the Ravine and Condo pasture. I have spent time putting up electric fencing to keep them in a concentrated area, this will ensure we have grass going into fall up in the forward pastures as there is still LOTS of riding to do.

Speaking of pastures, it is my understanding that some of you find joy in pulling weeds. Well do I have a job for you! Our pastures and some of our roadsides do have some Noxious weeds that I pull out on my daily rounds but there are just so many! If you are out and about enjoying the beautiful land maybe, you could pick up a handful or 2. I have included some pictures and descriptions below.

Foxtails have a hardened, woody tip and long barbs pointing away from the tip.



Foxtail is a fibrous-rooted, densely tufted grass that grows from 12–39 inches tall.

Why are foxtails dangerous for dogs and cats?

When pets are outside, they can encounter the seed-heads and the barbs cause them to become irreversibly lodged and will penetrate just about anywhere.



By Kate Jewell [CC BY-SA 2.0], via Wikimedia Commons

Buttercups are an invasive species of weed that can not only smother out grass species but can also damage the skin and digestive tract of horses. The flowers are the most toxic part of the plant, but both the flowers and leaves are safe once the plant has been cut and dried (e.g. in hay).

Although the plant is bitter and not usually eaten, contact can cause skin problems (e.g. blistering) and if it is eaten then the horse can get mouth ulcers, colic, diarrhoea, or (more rarely) neurological signs resulting in death. This means that controlling the weed is important, even though this can be difficult to do.

More detail

Buttercups (*Ranunculus spp.*) flower in late spring and early summer (May-June in the Northern Hemisphere) and produce a pretty yellow flower. It is common to see photographs of horses and other animals grazing or playing in a field of buttercups, and it makes a lovely colour contrast for calendars to have a dark coloured horse cantering through a yellow field of flowers. However, even many horsey people do not realise that buttercups can cause health problems for horses, with the flowers being the most toxic part of the plant.

Alsike clover

Trifolium hybridum



No crescent "V"
Finely serrated, sharp teethed
Hairless



White to pink flowers



12 - 24 in
(30.5 - 61 cm)

T. hybridum has smooth green leaves with a tapering point. It has a semi-erect, sparsely branched, grooved stem and is hairy in its upper regions. The flowers are white or pale pink which turn brown at maturity.

Toxic components

If consumed, *T. hybridum* can cause acute and/or chronic poisoning in horses. Chronic poisoning (known as 'Big liver syndrome') is an irreversible liver disease often accompanied by neurological symptoms. Acute poisoning occurs in the form of **photosensitivity**. There is also a potential for **nitrate poisoning**.





Edit



A Little About Delphiniums

Delphinium is also called Larkspur, Lark's Heel, Lark's Claw, Knight's Spur & Staggerweed. This is an annual, biennial & a perennial and the size depends on the species. Leaves are lobed, toothed and pointed, flowers are purple, blue, red, yellow or white with five petals and grow in spurs.

How Dangerous Is It?

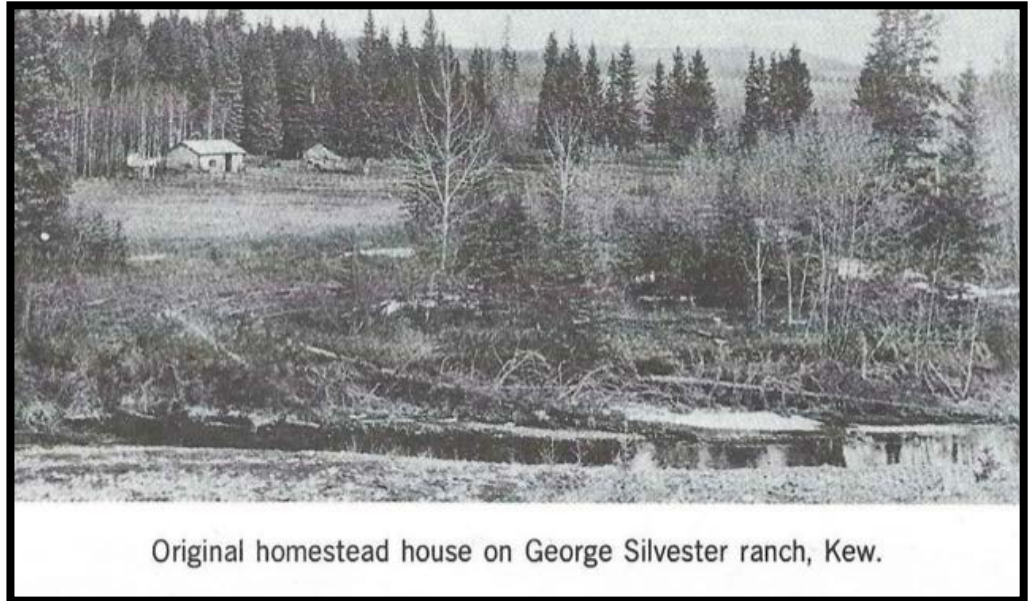
Another plant that is unpalatable to horse (they don't tend to eat flowers anyway). However an incredibly high toxicity level makes them one horse owners should always be on the lookout for. Contains dangerous alkaloids which can be fatal.

All parts of this plant are toxic and *can be fatal* to equines.

Have a wonderful August and I hope to see you at the Barn!!



Interesting History Lesson from Gary Bennett



GEORGE AND JENNY SILVESTER

This is an e mail from Marie Nylund who is one of our Directors. I took these photos yesterday of the remains of George Silvester's original home along side Threepoint Creek at the Ballachey place. This building may have been built in 1907 as that is the year that George filed on the quarter section.

George was married in 1912 and I often wonder if he built the 2nd home (the one we lived in) around that time (or earlier) to provide a better home for his wife and since he would have experienced flooding on the flat near the creek.

It is interesting how the landscape has changed around this old structure as over the years the beavers-built dams and floods took out the dams along with the topsoil drastically changing the flat where this

old log home and the barns and corrals were located. The remains of one old barn sits pretty much in what is the creek bed now. The other old log barn washed down the creek in 2013. There was a 3rd log barn burnt down in the 1950s or early 60s. In the photo you can see how the creek has gotten closer to the house .

From our 1900 – Guide in Millarville Historical Society

GEORGE SILVESTER 1884 – 1960

George was born at Ellenhall, Staffordshire, England the third son of John and Elizabeth Silvester. In 1903 he came to Canada and worked for a time in Manitoba. Upon coming to Alberta in 1907 he filed on NW32-20-4-w5 and went to work for John Quirk.

He stayed on when Pat Burns bought Quirk's ranch and on July 1, 1912, married Jenny Adams of the Kew district.

Jennie was born October 21, 1890, in Port Hope, Ontario. Her father Thomas Adams and older brother Bill came to Alberta in 1899 to the Kew district. Her mother, oldest brother Tom, brother Frank (just FYI Jennie was the next in birth order), Herb, James's sister Ida and baby brother Sydney (who was born in February of 1900) came to Alberta in mid 1900. The boys went to the Kew place and the girls and baby Syd stayed in a rooming house in Okotoks until the house at Kew was built and habitable.

She grew up on the farm loving horses and became an accomplished horsewoman. She also had a passion for training dogs to work cattle and almost always had a dog by her side.

She was almost 24 when she married George Silvester and she moved from the center of a cluster of family homesteads and a large extended family to his ranch that bordered what would become the Forestry.

November 6, 1922, Jennie disappeared from her family and home.

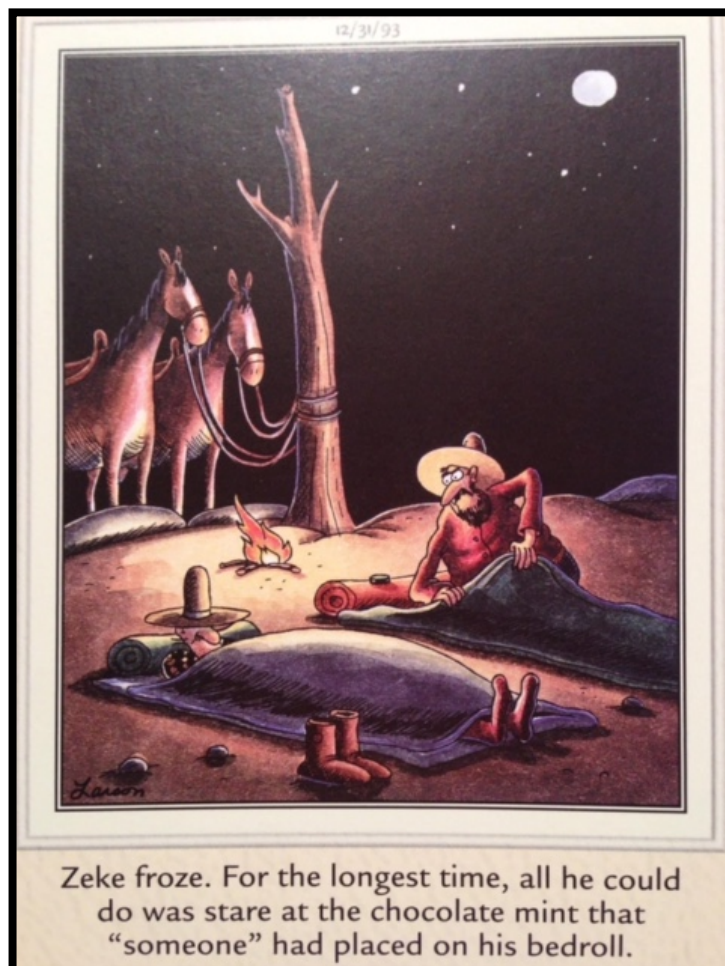
George went on to be one of the original members of the North Fork Cattle Association and was President for many years. He also served as councillor of the MD Stockland, Turner Valley and Sheep River and Foothills from 1922 to 1950.

It should be noted that Jenny was found and reported in one of our articles by Gwen Blatz and friends.

When Victor Bermejo of the Priddis district died in 1947, George bought out the estate of 400 acres of land. SW14-22-4-w5 – north half 14-22-4-w5 and lease on three quarters of 32-20-4-w5. In 1950 he sold his Kew ranch to John Ballachey and made his home at Priddis.

He died in May 1960 and was buried in the Okotoks cemetery. For a while his nephew, John Silvester owned the land and then sold to J. Witaker.

THANKS to Hazel and Gary Bennett



Zeke froze. For the longest time, all he could do was stare at the chocolate mint that "someone" had placed on his bedroll.

HOME ON THE RANCH
Photos by Lori Young



LORI C. HAULING WATER FROM THE PONDS



You may have seen helicopter insecticide spraying for these pests in Foothills County

Spruce Budworm

Spruce forests in western Foothills County are currently experiencing an outbreak of Spruce Budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*, aka Eastern Spruce Budworm). Spruce budworm are native pests that feed on spruce and fir tree species. Spruce budworms are always present in our forests; however, they can reach epidemic levels and cause significant damage. These outbreaks occur in cycles every 20 to 40 years and are nature's way of recycling nutrients and opening the forest canopy to new growth in over-mature spruce and fir forests. Budworm numbers can increase to epidemic levels due to favourable environmental conditions such as consecutive warm, dry springs and summers as well as an increase in the number and age of spruce trees and reduction in their natural enemies. Outbreaks can last many years and are ended by food depletion, increase in natural enemies and diseases, or environmental conditions such as a late frost. Unlike other forest pests, such as the Mountain Pine Beetle, Spruce Budworms are not significantly affected by very low temperatures during the winter months.

Life cycle

Spruce budworm is a member of the insect Order lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) and as such follows a typical moth lifecycle from egg to caterpillar to pupae to adult. Eggs are laid in small groups in late July and August. The early instars are very small and do not cause significant damage. These small larvae overwinter and emerge in May. Budworms in the 4th to 6th instar caterpillar phases are responsible for the majority of feeding and damage. In July, the larvae

begin to pupate (change to moths) and will emerge as adults in late July or early August and begin laying eggs.

Damage

Spruce budworms feed on mainly new growth, damaging the crown and ends of branches. They will also feed on spruce flowers and cones. Healthy spruce trees are able to withstand multiple years of defoliation from feeding. Tree growth will be slowed by the second year and trees can begin to die after 5 to 7 years of severe defoliation.



Severe defoliation, larvae are feeding on the entire crown and lower branches



Photo courtesy Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

Control

Widespread control of Spruce budworm is extremely difficult and expensive. Large scale spraying campaigns in eastern Canada have required multiple years of treatment across tens of thousands of hectares to stop outbreaks. Treatment programs may also prolong the infestation by reducing the number of natural enemies and preserving foliage for future budworm generations. One of the main factors in the collapse of budworm populations is the lack of food as larvae run out of sufficient forage to complete their life cycle. The reduction in numbers of budworm larvae will also cause a reduction in predators as the birds and insects that feed on larvae will move on to new food sources. Foothills County recommends focusing control strategies on a small number of trees that hold significant aesthetic or sentimental value. Any control done, at a landowner or even municipal level, will not reduce the duration of the outbreak but can protect foliage and save trees if the outbreak reaches a level that threatens tree survival.

Frequently asked questions

Are my trees at risk of dying?

Currently the outbreak has not been ongoing long enough to cause significant mortality in healthy spruce trees. Over-mature trees are the most at risk of dying, followed by young saplings.





If I do want to spray, what chemical should I use?

Btk (*Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki*) is a biological insecticide that is registered for the control of Spruce budworm on shade trees. The naturally occurring bacterium produce toxins that are only harmful to insects in the order lepidoptera (moths and butterflies). While this option could be used, we do not advise the widespread use of Btk as it will also kill native moths and butterflies. Other domestic use products, such as pyrethrin's and insecticidal soaps, should not be used

because they pose a serious risk to the environment and may damage the trees being treated. We strongly discourage the use of any broad-spectrum synthetic insecticides due to the high risk they pose to human and ecological health.

If you do proceed with treatment, the application should be timed during the 4th instar phase, when the caterpillars turn brown and are visibly feeding. Larval growth will be dependent on environmental conditions, but budworm larvae will typically reach this stage in mid to late June. Any spraying done after this date will be ineffective as the larvae need to be actively feeding to ingest the pesticide.

Always read and follow the pesticide label directions.

Please note: **Any pesticide applications must be contained to your property only.** Any applications or drifting of sprays onto neighbouring properties without written consent is a violation of the pesticide label, provincial, federal and civil laws. Before applying any pesticide, you should be aware and follow all guidelines and set back distances listed on the label or within Alberta regulations. Although some pest control products pose little danger to humans and mammals, they can have severe impacts on aquatic ecosystems and native insect populations.

All contractors applying any pesticide product must hold a valid Alberta Pesticide Service Registration. Please ensure any contractor applying pesticides on your property are properly licensed and insured.

If you wish to report pesticide misuse or drift please contact the Alberta Energy & Environmental Response Line **1 800 222-6514** **Energy and Environmental Response Line | Alberta.ca.**

Where can I purchase Btk products?

Domestic grade Btk products can be found at most home and garden retailers. We recommend pre-ordering if you are planning on doing a large application.

What is Foothills County doing?

Currently we are working with our neighbouring municipalities and provincial authorities to monitor the outbreak and provide advice to our residents.

Other than spraying, what can I do?

The best defense to any tree pest or disease is to encourage resilience in your trees and forests. In caring for your managed trees, watering (test water for salts before watering) and mulching can help the trees to recover from defoliation. Spaying water with high pressure hoses can be used to dislodge larvae from trees and reduce their feeding and damage. General forest health practices, such as selective harvest of over-mature trees, thinning of the forest canopy and promoting a diversity of species, will help your forests cope not just with Spruce budworm but the many other pests and diseases that have evolved with our forests.

For more information, please contact Foothills County
Agricultural Services **403-652-2423**

Resources

Spruce budworm in Alberta - [Spruce Budworm in Alberta](#)

Natural Resources Canada fact sheet - [Spruce budworm \(factsheet\) \(nrcan.gc.ca\)](#)

Rocky View County Spruce budworm information page - [Rocky View County Spruce Budworm | Rocky View County](#)



Take advantage of the newsletter for Buy and Sell. Let's support each other in our community.

There has been a request for the return of Guess Who? It stopped because no was contributing a photo after these 3 brave souls. Phone your Moms..Dig through basement boxes...Time to cowgirl/cowboy up and send me Guess Who photos. Please email Nancy at

nancyandrossbarrett@gmail.com

I will be so disappointed if I don't receive any photos.😞😞😞



Jim Setters and Gordie Howe

Practicing the scowl that would quiet Nancy's Junior High School students many years later



Steve Bansky AKA Rufus' Dad

A homecoming to Bragg about

Join us on August 20 for a commemoration ceremony honouring the family that Bragg Creek named after. Hear the Bragg family tell their story and history, participate in the ceremony and enjoy refreshments. If Bragg is in your business name consider coming out to meet the Bragg family!

Saturday August 20, 2022

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

White Avenue + Park Place Greenspace

2:00 - Welcome and Introductions

2:30 - Bragg family reads their story

2:45 - Dedication + ceremony

3:15 - Closing remarks + refreshments

