



DOUG GRIFFITHS TO SPEAK AT THE 2011 AGM



CAREA members will see a special guest step up to the podium during this year's annual general meeting on March 30 ~ rural Albertan, family man and MLA, Doug Griffiths, will be speaking on his book, *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, which he co-authored with Kelly Clemmer.

Concern over the state of rural communities prompted Doug into action at age 29. Since then he has represented his constituency in the Legislature for three consecutive terms.

Before becoming an MLA, Doug received an honours degree in philosophy and a degree in education, both from the University of Alberta.

During the three years prior to his election, he taught at Byemoor School, where he was nominated every year for an award in teaching – once for the Edwin Parr Award and twice for the Pan Canadian Student Choice Award.

Doug and his family currently live in Hardisty, a small community in east-central Alberta that was part of the CBC series, *The Week the Women Went*. His wife, Sue, and their two sons, Austin and Brady, love the community, the country and rural Alberta life.

In addition to his duties as father and MLA, Doug also has a passionate interest in promoting the well-being of Canada's prairie communities. He has visited most of the communities in this province and began presenting to groups his take on community sustainability and success: *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*.

NOTICE - 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION

Annual General Meeting ~ Wednesday March 30 Royal Canadian Legion Innisfail Branch, 5108 - 49 Avenue

4:30 to 5:30 pm ~ Registration and Book Signing
5:30 to 6:30 pm ~ Roast Beef Dinner
6:30 to 7:30 pm ~ Guest Speaker - Doug Griffiths
7:30 pm ~ Business Meeting

Member Information Session ~ Tuesday, April 5 Centennial Hall in Darwell, 8 km north of Hwy #16 on Hwy #765

5:00 to 6:00 pm ~ Registration
6:00 to 7:00 pm ~ Roast Beef Dinner
7:00 pm ~ Business Meeting

Election of members to the Board of Directors will take place at the Annual General Meeting in Innisfail. There are four directors whose terms are up for re-election and there are seven nominees who are running for these positions. Please see nominee biographies in this newsletter.

While we encourage all of our members to attend the Annual General Meeting, although we do understand that the distance may be prohibitive for some. To ensure that all members have the opportunity to receive information about their REA, we will be hosting a Member Information Session in Darwell. Please note that if you wish to vote on REA matters and participate in the election of directors, you will have to attend the Annual General Meeting in Innisfail. The Darwell meeting is for information purposes only.

Dinner tickets are available for \$8.00 each, and must be reserved in advance by calling our office at toll free 1-888-211-4011 or 403-227-7538. Please contact our office by March 23 to reserve your tickets.

Our Vision: To be Alberta's leading energy services provider.

Our Mission: To deliver efficient energy services.

Mailing Address: Box 6199, 5803 - 42 Street, Innisfail, AB T4G 1S8

Innisfail Area Office
Phone: 403-227-7535
Toll Free: 1-877-527-4011
Fax: 403-227-7540

Email: general@carea.ca
Website: www.carea.ca
Meter Reads:
reads@carea.ca

Main Office
Phone: 403-227-4011
Toll Free: 1-888-211-4011
Fax: 403-227-1007

Onoway Area Office
Phone: 780-967-3340
Toll Free: 1-888-627-4011
Fax: 780-967-3018

A DEDICATED MEMBER

When Casey Denboer bought his farm 46 years ago, he not only bought into the agricultural way of life, he also bought into the co-operative way of life.

Casey, whose farm sits just outside Penhold, has raised pigs and cows on his farm, but now has horses. He also grows a small amount of hay and grain.

Although the lights were already on when Casey bought his farm, Casey took being part of an REA very seriously and has attended every annual general meeting since he bought his farm.

“You can ask questions and can put in your complaints,” he said. “Absolutely it’s important that people go – if you belong to something, you should be involved. It’s the one place you can have your say.”

Casey compared belonging to an organization with the government – “the biggest complainers don’t vote,” he said.

“It’s the same thing with an REA – I’m a member, and if there’s voting to be done, I go and vote.”

Casey slipped on the ice and broke his hip earlier in the year, but said even if he has to be carried to the Innisfail Legion, he will be there for this year’s annual general meeting as well.

CAREA NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Each month CAREA representatives require access to demand type meters. These are meters that CAREA needs to read and reset each month. If you are unsure whether or not you have a demand meter, please check you bill, which will say **DEMAND METER- DO NO READ** across the dials.

CAREA would appreciate it if demand meter customers could keep access to these meters cleared of snow during the winter months. On several occasions our staff have got stuck trying to access the meters.

At some sites, CAREA has been informed that irrigation pumps are removed for the winter. In this case, CAREA does not have to read the meter, therefore snow removal is not necessary.

For further clarification on this issue, please call Alf at 403-391-1645 or Ray at 403-588-8114 in the Innisfail area, or Walt at 780-699-8831 in the Onoway area.



SPRING FORWARD ... In 2011, Daylight Savings Time begins for most of Canada at 2:00 am on March 13 and last until 2:00 am on Sunday November 6.

HELPING TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY TRADITION

With the future of their family’s beef operation in mind, Linda and Doug Henderson recommended CAREA service to their daughter, Christa Henderson, and became the first winners in CAREA’s referral card draw.

Doug and Linda raise purebred Angus cattle on their farm, Henderson Cattle Company, and they also manage purebred cattle sales across Canada.

Raising Angus cattle has been a family tradition since 1903, when Doug’s family settled on the land.

The Hendersons have been managing cattle sales on their own since 1985.

In total, the family owns 320 acres just outside Lacombe; another 320 acres near Tees and also rents about 320 acres near Tees.



Christa’s sons, Andrew, 11, and Peyton, 8, are seventh generation Angus breeders and Christa wanted to ensure their rural roots stayed intact.

“I wanted to raise my boys in the country, not in town,” she said, adding they already have a few head of cattle.

With that notion in mind, Doug and Linda subdivided four acres off their land near Lacombe for Christa and her family. And they recommended she use CAREA as her power supplier.

“We’ve always had good luck with the REA,” Doug said. “We’ve never had any problems.”

When Doug and Linda first built their home, Doug said it was another REA member that recommended the association.

“And then we got the card in our bill for the referral program,” said Linda. “It was a surprise to win.”

Doug and Linda have been awarded \$500 for their efforts in recommending CAREA to someone else.

As per the referral program, when a current member recommends CAREA to another, and that person ends up becoming a member as well, the referrer has his or her name entered into a draw for \$500, which is drawn every December.

For more information on the program, you can call the CAREA office at 403-227-4011.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS



JOE BOWHAY ~ Joe and his wife Wanda, live on their farm in the Elkton area, west of Didsbury. Joe was raised on his parent's dairy farm. Following high school, he was drawn to the city and ironically worked for Calgary Power (Trans Alta Utilities) for seven years. A career change found him at the Calgary Fire Department, where he would stay for almost 32 years. Upon retirement, Joe felt he still wanted to contribute to the community and looked for opportunities to do so. He discovered that Foothills Natural Gas Co-op was looking for directors. In 2007, he was elected to the gas board and found the experience so rewarding that he decided to seek a seat on the CAREA board, as well. Having completed one term, Joe is looking forward to a second term of representing you on the CAREA Board.



KEN HECK ~ Ken, his wife Lynn and their infant daughter Stacey, moved from Norman Wells, NWT, to the Eagle Hill district west of Olds in 1972 and purchased the farm where they continue to reside today. In 1974, son Shane was born to complete the family. Ken farmed and worked as a power engineer in the oil industry for 31 years. During his time in the oil industry, he was enrolled in many safety, team building and computer courses as the industry moved from the manual operations to the age of the computer. By 2006, Ken retired from the oil industry but continues to farm. Since moving to the Eagle Hill district he has served on the boards of the Eagle Hill Co-op, Eagle Hill Curling Club and the St. Stephen's Parish Council. Presently, he is serving as a board member of the Westview Co-op, president of the Eagle Hill Curling Club, and is also the Eagle Hill community representative with the Sundre Petroleum Operators Group. Ken believes his board experience and years of community service would be an asset to the CAREA board of directors.



WILLIAM A. (BILL) KINLEY ~ Bill and his wife, Florence Ann, built their retirement home on 80 acres northwest of Bentley, after moving back to Alberta from Vancouver Island. Following a year of recovery from major surgery, Bill joined Tracker Sales and Rentals and has worked his way up to vice president of marketing. While living on Vancouver Island, Bill was division manager of hardware, marine sporting goods, and house wares for Shop-Rite Department Stores. In 1986, he opened his own insurance company, North Island Insurance Ltd., and then a South Island Insurance Services branch. Bill continued to operate these offices until health required his retirement in 1998. Bill's community service work included 25 years with the Lions International, 14 years on the Port McNeill Hospital Board, and was elected as an alderman in Port McNeill in 1986 and re-elected in 1988 and appointed deputy mayor. In 1988, Bill was elected to the Board of the Association of Vancouver Island Municipalities. Over the next 10 years, Bill achieved the position of chairman of the Regional District of Mount Waddington and the president of the Association of Vancouver Island Municipalities.



FRED LYCZEWSKI ~ Fred has resided on the same farm located three miles east of Beiseker, all his life. Fred and his wife Nelda, have been married for 49 years and have 2 grown children, Darryl and Dorothy. Fred has been involved with REA's for over 20 years as a director and was vice chairman of the Beiseker REA prior to amalgamation with the Central Alberta REA in 1997. Fred is presently on the scholarship and audit committees with CAREA. Fred is presently chairman of the Rockyview Gas Co-op, secretary-treasurer of the Beiseker Medical Building Co-Op Ltd., and on the finance committee for the St. Mary's Church. Fred is also past chairman of the Beiseker Seniors and is a willing volunteer for the community and church. Now that he has retired from farming, Fred and his wife enjoy traveling and meeting new people.



ALLAN NIMMO ~ Allan and his wife, Georgina, live in the Oklahoma district west of Innisfail. Allan was born, raised and educated in Central Alberta. Allan worked in the oil industry for a number of years, owned and operated a retail store, as well as a Real Estate Brokerage in Innisfail for over 30 years. Allan, along with his wife and sons, owned and operated a cow/calf operation for 20 years. Allan also holds an Alberta Third Class Power Engineering Certificate, and has held an Alberta Real Estate Associate and/or Broker Certificate since 1976. Allan's community involvement is extensive and includes the following: Charter member and long term director and past president of the Innisfail Kinsmen Club, director and past president of Realty World Alberta Brokers Council and a multi-year director of the Red Deer and District Real Estate Board. Allan recently semi-retired and is looking for an interesting and worthwhile challenge where his past experiences will be an asset.



WANDA OKAMURA ~ Wanda and her husband Dave, live in the Reed Ranch community, east of Olds, where they have built a new home on their quarter section of the Budd family farm. Wanda completed most of her schooling in the local area, with post secondary education at the University of Lethbridge, later completing an MBA in Financial Services from Dalhousie University. Wanda joined RBC in 1974 and retired last December with over 33 years of service in the banking industry. Her various postings in Alberta, New Brunswick and Manitoba provided valuable experiences and developed skills in operations, human resource management, project management and general business, which continue to add value to daily life. Wanda, having been raised in a mixed farm environment, very much enjoys this return to rural life and wishes to be involved in some way in the sustainability of the lifestyle. Being part of a team that supports the rural community would be a rewarding experience.



JIM TOWLE ~ Jim and his wife, Phyllis, operate a family farm in the Innisfail area, with their daughter Jenny and her husband. They milk 160 Holsteins daily and farm 1,200 acres for feed and cash crops. Their daughter, Jackie, and son, Brad, live in Red Deer. Jim and Phyllis currently have 9 grandchildren. Jim graduated in Lacombe and grew up in the area. He worked in the electrical industry for Calgary Power/TransAlta for 28 years as a power lineman, providing service to the Innisfail area. Jim became a director with Central Alberta REA in 1998 and is currently chairman. Because of past work experience, Jim brings a solid understanding of the power industry to the board. Jim has always felt that REA's are an important part of the rural power distribution history of Alberta. Jim was an instructor and commanding officer with the Army Cadets in Innisfail for several years. He also served on the Innisfail Agriculture Society Board of Directors and was the chairman for two years; he served on the UFA advisory committee and was a director with Innisfail Municipal Seed Plant. Jim is currently a director with Alberta Milk.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING RATES CHANGES

Final Distribution Access Service Rate Changes Effective on Current Billing

Standard Service

Rate 370	5kVa	7.5 kVa	10 kVa	15 kVa	25kVa	>25kVa
Monthly	49.53	61.48	70.89	90.40	126.78	3.56 per kVa

Demand services are billed at a minimum of 65% of transformer capacity or 25kVa – whichever is greater.

Idle Rate

Rate 372	The monthly billing charge is based on the transformer size.					
Operating	43.22	3kVa to 15 kVa Transformer				
	49.53	25 kVa Transformer				
	See note below*	>25 kVa Transformer				

* Demand services are billed at 50% of minimum monthly demand rounded to the nearest actual Transformer size.

Grain Drying Service (Available for use during September through January only.) **

Rate 470	5kVa	7.5 kVa	10 kVa	15 kVa	25kVa	>25kVa
Monthly	40.52	47.77	52.89	63.52	82.72	1.87 per kVa

Irrigation Rate **

Rate 570	5kVa	7.5 kVa	10 kVa	15 kVa	25kVa	>25kVa
Monthly	49.53	61.48	70.89	90.40	126.78	3.56 per kVa

** Demand services are billed at a minimum of 50% of transformer capacity or 25kVa – whichever is greater.

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF THIS QUESTION: WHAT TYPE OF ELECTRICAL SERVICES CAN CAREA SERVE?

LET'S TRY AND MAKE THE ANSWER CLEAR.

Because we share a service boundary with Fortis Alberta, we currently have an agreement between us that identifies the services that qualify as CAREA or Fortis services. Essentially, there are two guidelines that we use to distinguish who would qualify to be a member of CAREA:

- 1) any consumer that has an interest in land and uses or rents this land with the intent to generate revenue from agricultural activity, must be an REA member.
- 2) any parcel of land that is over 10 acres with a residence (or within two years plans to build and occupy), must also be an REA member.

As members of our co-op, it is very important for you to be aware of the membership criteria and to ensure that CAREA will provide service to as many electrical consumers within our service area as possible.

With your help, CAREA could be providing power to oilfield or telecom companies, RV parks or any other types of consumers that meet the membership criteria listed above. As the landowner, you can stipulate to the leasee, on your land, who will be serving the electricity to the site. For every new consumer we add to the CAREA system, we effectively reduce the cost to each member. By actively pursuing more electrical services for CAREA, you are essentially reducing your own power bill!

With your help we can keep focused on our vision to be rural Alberta's leading energy services provider.

SAFETY ALERT

CAREA would like to remind its members that it is dangerous to leave a vehicle if it is near or on top of a downed power line. If the vehicle is energized by the downed line, leaving the vehicle prior to de-energization could lead to electrocution, causing serious injury or death.

In cases such as a vehicle colliding with a power pole, this is important to remember.

LINE LOSS RATE REDUCTION

CAREA has received notification that the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) has approved a reduction in the line loss rates, effective Jan. 1, 2011.

This decision results in a decrease to the CAREA membership of 2.23 percent. The Line Loss/UFE rate we charged was 11 percent. Your bill will now reflect a decrease to 8.77 percent.

This savings has been passed on to CAREA members on their monthly utility billing.

It is very important to note that your distribution system provider will always be CAREA regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than CAREA will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by CAREA. For a list of energy retailers visit www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca.