

TRANSMISSION RATE

Effective on your service to April 15, 2011 billing, your transmission rate is increasing. The Fortis AUC-approved farm rate for the second quarter of 2011 is 2.0405 cents/kWh. Included in the calculation of this rate is a 2011 Balancing Pool Allocation Rider (BPAR), which is a credit, and a Transmission Adjustment Rider (TAR), which is an additional charge. The TAR will be adjusted each quarter throughout the 2011 year.

Your REA Farm rate for transmission for the first quarter of 2011 was 1.9688 cents/kWh. The second quarter rate for 2011 is 2.0405 cents/kWh, which is a 3.64 per cent increase in the transmission rate from the first quarter of 2011.

PRAIRIE PERFECT ORCHARDS - CAREA MEMBER

In the heart of Canada's bread basket, Pete and Jan Wasylyshyn are doing something no other Alberta farmer has tried – growing cherries and honeyberries. The Wasylyshyn's own Prairie Perfect Orchards, a u-pick farm just southwest of Innisfail. When the University of Saskatchewan began developing prairie-hardy cherries and honeyberry shrubs, Pete said he and Jan thought of it as a challenge and decided not to pass it up.

The couple bought their current home in 2004, which sits on just under seven acres and had been subdivided from a larger farm. "We immediately started developing the orchards," Pete explained. "And we opened up to the public for the first time in 2008." Pete said the crop has increased every year over the last three years and they also introduced their first crop of apples to the public in 2010.

Prairie Perfect Orchards not only sells fresh fruit during the season, but also processed products, such as jams, jellies, sauces and frozen pies, during the off season. The u-pick also has a patio cafe and small gift shop on site for visitors to relax, get a bite to eat and do a bit of shopping. "It has been a very social gathering spot for our customers," said Jan.

The u-pick caters to groups looking to tour the orchards, as well as individual or groups of pickers. "We're never in a rush," said Pete. "We always find time to explain and visit with our patrons." So far, business has been going very well, Pete continued. "Even coming into the 2011 season, we are still the only u-pick cherry and honeyberry orchard in Alberta," he said. "And there are only a few other apple orchards in the province."

Prairie Perfect Orchards is home to six varieties of cherries, ranging in sugar content from low to high; five varieties of honeyberries and 12 varieties of apples. "How fascinating it is to grow something so new to the public," Pete said, smiling. "The public has been wowed by our information and how we developed this operation." The prairie-hardy cherries are similar in taste to BC cherries, said Pete, "and you can do so many things with them!"

He added they are always discovering new things to make with the honeyberries as well, such as honeyberry lemon tarts. The u-pick, which doesn't use any chemical application on its fruit, will open again around mid-June for the season.



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

Our Mission: To deliver efficient energy services.

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19TH CAREA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

About 180 members and guests of the Central Alberta REA came out to the association's annual general meeting on March 30. Members were able to exercise their right to vote in new board directors and everyone was able to hear how the business has been running for the last year and enjoy dinner and friendly conversation.



Jim Towle, Board Chair



Doug Griffiths

Doug Griffiths, the MLA for Battle River/Wainwright and a contender to be the next premier of Alberta, was the guest speaker for CAREA's AGM. For his role in the AGM, Griffiths brought greetings from the province and also gave a presentation on his book, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community. According to Griffiths, residents can kill their community if they: don't have quality water, don't attract businesses, ignore their youth, deceive themselves about their real needs or values, shop elsewhere, don't paint, don't co-operate, live in the past, ignore their seniors, reject everything new, ignore outsiders, become complacent and don't take responsibility. "You are the only people that can change your community," he told the audience.

After his presentation and bringing greetings from the province, Griffiths also congratulated the association on its hard work over the last year and its contributions to helping the rural areas in Alberta grow and prosper.

The business portion of the meeting began around 7:30 p.m., and included presentations to scholarship winners, staff milestones and retiring directors from the board. Board chairman Jim Towle then gave the board report, the association's auditor gave the financial statements and members were then able to vote on a new board.

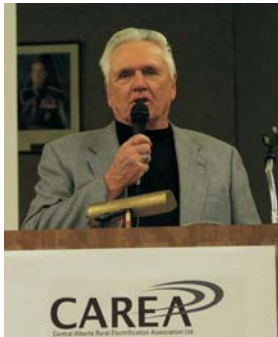


Doug Griffiths signing books and meeting members.

The new board consists of: Ed Beniuk; Doug Drozd; Glen Fox; Fred Lyczewski (re-elected at the 2011 AGM); Willie Moran; Allan Nimmo (elected at the 2011 AGM); Wanda Okamura (elected at the 2011 AGM); Murray Ormberg; Jim Towle (re-elected at the 2011 AGM); Brian Turnbull; and Dave Wigmore.



Door prizes on display in Innisfail.



Long time director Claude Newsham retires from the Board.



New products offered by CAREA on display for members consideration.



Retiring director Joe Bowhay and his wife Wanda.



2010 Scholarship winner Andrew Went expressing his thanks.

CAREA THANKS THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT

The Central Alberta REA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of those who donated prizes for the association's silent auction during the recent annual general meeting on March 30. The prizes were well received and generated a lot of interest from attending members.

Alberta One Call ~ Edmonton
 Allan Keffen Chartered Accountant ~ Innisfail
 BDO Canada LLP ~ Red Deer
 Bill Donahue and Associates ~ Edmonton
 Brisco Wood Preservers ~ Brisco, B.C.
 Central Alberta Co-op ~ Innisfail
 Central Alberta Printing Inc. ~ Innisfail
 Complete Financial Solutions ~ Red Deer
 Cordick Enterprises ~ Red Deer
 D & M Concrete ~ Lacombe
 ECS Safety Services Ltd. ~ Brooks
 George T. Ingham and Sons Jewellers ~ Innisfail
 Grizzly Trenching Inc. ~ Stony Plain
 HD Supply Utilities ~ Calgary
 Imagewear by Mark's Work Warehouse ~ Red Deer

Ing & McKee Insurance Ltd. ~ Red Deer
 Innisfail Flowers & Gifts ~ Innisfail
 McLennan Ross LLP ~ Edmonton
 Moloney Electric Inc. ~ Spruce Grove
 NAPA Auto Parts ~ Innisfail
 Palliser Chevrolet ~ Innisfail
 Pamela S. MacNaughton Professional Corp. ~ Red Deer
 RBC Dominion Securities ~ Red Deer
 Safety Codes Council ~ Edmonton
 Servus Credit Union Ltd. ~ Innisfail
 Strategem Plus Consulting ~ Sherwood Park
 The Phone Experts ~ Red Deer
 Town of Onoway
 Valard Construction LP ~ Edmonton
 Weidner Motors Ltd. ~ Lacombe

AUC APPLICATION UPDATE

The Central Alberta REA filed evidence to support its service area clarification with the Alberta Utilities Commission, as per the commission's request. The association has now received numerous information requests from the AUC. Over the next while, management will be compiling the information and providing it to the commission.

At CAREA's recent annual general meeting, the issue of members attending the AUC hearing was brought up from the floor. The speaker suggested the association might consider hiring buses to transport people to the meeting. Management and the board of directors will be taking this suggestion into consideration and will certainly let members know if this becomes a reality. At this point, officials within the association are not sure whether or not there will be an oral hearing.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

There is a lot of work that goes into making sure electricity can travel safely down the line and into your home every day. Part of this operation includes vegetation management, such as tree trimming or removal, spraying and mowing.

CAREA's vegetation management works on a four-year cycle: year one – mechanical consenting; year two – mechanical work; year three – spray consenting; year four – spraying; and then there is a one-year break before the cycle starts again.

The spraying, mowing and consenting jobs are contracted out to an external company, but it takes work on the part of CAREA, the external company and CAREA members to make sure the process moves along efficiently.

"To make this work as efficiently as possible, we need members to sign their consent forms," said Rick Maclise, manager of the CAREA standards department. "The more trips out our consenters have to make, the more it costs each and every member."

At the end of the day, it's CAREA's job to save its members money. If the process can be more efficient, that will save money – both on CAREA's bottom line and in your pockets.

CAMP APPLICATIONS

Hurry! You only have a few weeks left!

Each year, CAREA sponsors two youths – one male and one female from its membership – to spend a week at the Goldeye Centre, near Nordegg, and take part in the Alberta Community and Co-operative Association's youth leadership camps. ***The deadline for CAREA-sponsored applications is May 16.***

If you're between 11 and 18 years old and are interested in this opportunity, visit www.acca.coop/YouthBrochure.pdf for the application form, or contact the CAREA office at 403-227-4011 or toll free at 1-888-211-4011.

COME JOIN US AND GOLF FOR CHARITY

Despite recent weather conditions, golfing season is just around the corner.

Once again, the CAREA Cares committee is hosting a golf tournament in honour of a worthwhile charity, and members and suppliers are invited to take part. For the next three years, the CAREA Cares committee will be raising money for Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

For just \$75 a golfer or \$270 for a foursome, golfers can help to pair a child with an adult mentor and have a hand in changing two lives for the better.

This year's tournament will be held at the Bowden Hi-Way Golf Course on Wednesday, July 27. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and tee off will be at 10 a.m.

There will be prizes, friendly competition and a steak lunch, to just to name a few perks.

For more information on this event or to register, please contact Marie Grono at 403-227-7538 or by e-mail at m.grono@carea.ca.

NEW PRODUCTS DRAW WINNER

Terrance McDonald dropped his name in the hat during CAREA's annual general meeting on March 30 for a chance to win \$50 off his utility bill. Subsequently, his name was drawn recently as the winner!

Terrance, who hails from Sangudo, expressed interest in finding out more information about CAREA's new GenerLink system and the form he, along with other members interested in any new products, filled out were also put into the draw.

Congratulations Terrance!

REFERRAL PROGRAM REMINDER

For every new customer we add to the CAREA system, we effectively reduce the cost to each member. This is why our referral program is so important – by referring CAREA services to your friends, family members or neighbours, you have a hand in lowering your own electricity bill.

The process is easy: First, introduce yourself to the prospective member. Next, explain your satisfaction with CAREA and ask for his or her contact information (a name a phone number) and tell them a CAREA representative will call to explain the advantages of becoming a member. And then you call us at 1-888-211-4011, provide the contact information you gathered, as well as your own, and a CAREA employee will contact the prospective member. When he or she officially becomes a member, your name will be entered into a draw for \$500, drawn every December.

Your participation in this program is very important to us – word of mouth is the best advertising we could ask for.

CENTRAL ALBERTA REA NEW PRODUCTS OFFER

CAREA is offering new products to its membership.

Yard light: This 70W light is installed and maintained by CAREA, and there is no upfront cost to you. The light is mounted on a transformer pole, and a CAREA representative will change the bulb for you.

GenerLink: This is an interconnection device that enables you to connect your portable generator directly into your home's wiring system. It will be installed and maintained by CAREA.

Portable generators by Generac: These generators, which come in a 5,000W or 7,500W option, have a compact design, a large fuel tank and an easy-to-read gauge, covered outlets that provide protection from the elements, a hardened steel tube cradle and heavy-duty, never-fat tires. Each option CAREA has available will run on gasoline.



GenerLink



Yard light



Generator

Below is the pricing information for each product.

Yard light

Current monthly fee: \$7.89

GenerLink

Option 1: \$200 deposit, with 36 monthly payments of \$34.09 **and** a current monthly fee of \$9.79

Option 2: \$400 deposit, with 36 monthly payments of \$28.26 **and** a current monthly fee of \$9.79

Option 3: Pay for the system outright at a cost of \$1,045 **and** a current monthly fee of \$9.79

Portable generators by Generac:

Option 1: 5,000W unit - outright purchase will cost \$938 **or** 36 monthly installments of \$27.34

Option 2: 7,500W unit - outright purchase will cost \$1,372 **or** 36 monthly installments of \$40.01

For more information, please call your local area office.

Innisfail: 403-227-7535 or
1-877-527-4011

Onoway: 780-967-3340 or
1-888-627-4011

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.