

# The Innisfree Informer

December  
2020

## Innisfree Mayor's Message in a Minute

December will be like none that we have ever seen before. I see that some decorations and lights are up already, and I hope to get mine up soon, also. Congratulations you early birds. I envision December to be filled with baking and phone calls to family and friends. We will be especially happy to hear from those far and near. Remember to share the best wishes generously.

Also, we ask drivers to be slowing down to the 30 km speed limit at the school and watch out for the students as they hurry to and from school. The older children will not be there to look out for their younger brothers and sisters this December.

Check updates as they are posted on the Village web site, [www.innisfree.ca](http://www.innisfree.ca) and Facebook page, Village of Innisfree.

Waiting is hard, but please wait! A few more days and weeks of social distancing and home settling, (that is what I call it) and we should see the numbers of cases dropping. But if we all are careful, we will be laughing at the time we isolated and joined for coffee or tea with friends over the phone or facetimes with family. Have you heard the new songs being written about the isolation and the "bubbles" created in our lives? Bubbles makes me think about bubble baths and how much fun it was when I was much younger.

You may feel lonely, but you are not alone. Reach out to others when you need to. Seek happiness and wait for the safe gatherings of family and friends again. Then we can truly celebrate our family and friendships.

Respectfully, Debbie McMann, Village of Innisfree Mayor

## The Village of Innisfree Library (VIL) GIVING TREE

We are accepting items for our donation tree. Items will be donated to both the Interval Home in Lloydminster and the Be Brave ranch in Sherwood Park.

Items can be dropped off at the library until December 18th at 3:00 pm.

For a full list of items needed please visit:

<https://littlewarriors.ca/you-can-help/items-supplies-needed/>

Wish list items include:

- Clothing, Socks/slippers and Winter Gear in all sizes
- Non-Perishable food items
- Office Supplies
- Laundry Soap/Fabric Softener
- Craft supplies, poster board
- Lysol/Disinfectant Wipes
- and so much more



little  
warriors



## 'Twas the night before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!  
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,  
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,  
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle. But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!



## November 2020 Village of Innisfree Regular Council Meeting Highlights

Mayor and Council met on November 17, 2020 for their Regular Council meeting. Council discussed numerous items, which included:

### Delegations:

Mayor and Council were presented two (2) delegations at the November 17, 2020 Regular Council meeting. The first delegation was by Cpl. Dunsmore, from the Vermilion RCMP Detachment, and presented the 3rd Quarter Report and Statistics for Innisfree and the surrounding area. The second delegation was by Mr. Grant Bergman, and presented a written request regarding 2021 Minimum Tax. Mayor and Council received both delegations as information.

### Bylaws:

- Bylaw 660-20 – Bylaw Enforcement Officer (Received Second and Third Reading)
- Bylaw 661-20 – Subdivision & Development Appeal Board Bylaw (Second and Third Reading)
- Mayor and Council appointed the Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Subdivision & Development Appeal Board Clerk and Member of Council.

### New Business:

- Appointment of Bylaw Enforcement Officer: Mayor and Council passed a motion appointing the Chief Administrative Officer as the Bylaw Enforcement Officer for the Village of Innisfree in accordance with Bylaw 660-20.
- Appointment of SDAB Clerk & Council Member: Mayor and Council passed a motion appointing the Chief Administrative Officer as the Clerk as well as appointed Deputy Mayor Cannan as the Council Member for the Subdivision & Development Appeal Board in accordance with Bylaw 661-20.
- CARES Grant – Invigorate Innisfree – Economic Development Strategy: Mayor and Council reviewed Ms. Amanda Davis (Management Consultant) letter dated April 12, 2020. After much discussion, Mayor and Council passed a resolution to return the grant funds to the province and to terminate the agreement with Ms. Amanda Davis in this regard.
- Village of Innisfree Library – 2020 Municipal Contribution: Mayor and Council approved the Village of Innisfree Library Board 2020 Municipal Contribution in the amount of \$3,500.00.
- Other items discussed: 2021 Go East of Edmonton Advertising Renewal, Innisfree Library Board – 2021 Budget, Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway Association – 2021 Municipal Contribution, 2020 Staff Honorariums, Quote Dated September 17, 2020 – Vehicle Decals (Public Works Truck/Equipment) and Alberta Police Interim Advisory Board (APIAB) – Quarterly Report

*The meeting was then adjourned.*

## SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD

### REQUEST FOR MEMBERS OF PUBLIC AT LARGE

The Village of Innisfree requires two (2) members of public at large for the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board. This quasi-judicial body, appointed by Council, makes impartial and unbiased decisions on challenges of subdivision or development authority decisions and stop work orders. Deliberations are based on the municipal planning documents such as the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plans, provincial statute and information presented by hearing participants.

Subdivision and Development Appeal Board hearings are scheduled as required. Board members are appointed for a one (1) year term with an option to be reappointed for a second term.

Village residents with an interest or experience in planning or development activities are invited to submit a resume including a statement on your interest and abilities in serving in this capacity.

Mandatory training is required upon appointment.

*Please mail, fax or email submissions,  
by December 31, 2020 to:*

**Subdivision and Development Appeal Board**  
**Attn: Brooke Magosse**  
**Box 69, 5116 50 Avenue**  
**Innisfree, AB T0B 2G0**  
**F: 780-592-3729**  
**E: [cao@innisfree.ca](mailto:cao@innisfree.ca)**

## Christmas Eve Service

The United Church is  
having a virtual  
Christmas Eve Service.

If you would like to join  
us please contact Joan at:  
[joany149@yahoo.ca](mailto:joany149@yahoo.ca)  
for the link

Happy Birthday!

Dec 11: Mike Fundytus  
Dec 12: LilyAnn Logan  
Dec 15: Olivia Nott  
Dec 19: Kelly Anderson  
Dec 19: Madison Isley  
Dec 19: Deanna Jackson  
Dec 19: Norah Melnyk  
Dec 19: Boe Myshaniuk  
Dec 23: Blair Newton  
Dec 24: Marilyn Newton  
Dec 28: Justin Cannan  
Dec 29: Camille Kassian  
Jan 1: Stella Nott

stars  
CAN'T  
shine  
= WITHOUT =  
Darkness





## Innisfree-Minburn 4-H Beef Club Report

*Submitted by Rylan Jackson, Club Reporter*

On November 10 we had our meeting in Minburn. Besides our normal agenda we also had Tawyna Copland a 4H parent, and a local vet of Prairie Rose Vet Services talk to the club about lead toxicity and the negative effects that it can have on cattle. It gave us good knowledge on one of the many reasons why it's important to dispose of and recycle old batteries, especially around our farms.

A big thank you to Harder's of Branded Western Wear for the use of their farm facilities to do our weigh in for our projects on Sunday, November 8th. We had good weather this year for the day. Our members have steer, heifer, and cow calf projects this year.

Another thank you goes out to all the surrounding communities who helped us in one of the biggest tire and electronic recycling collections yet! Your contributions really helped us out, and we appreciate that very much. We collected over 2,000 tires this year!

Our next meeting will be on December 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm in Innisfree.



## Innisfree & District Agricultural Society News

The Innisfree & District Agricultural Society has been busy planning their December activities.

The Curling Club has started putting in the ice.

The Ice for the Arena has been on our minds and traditionally the ice is ready for the Christmas holidays. With so much cancelled this year we hope to be able to open the arena for public skating and skating lessons, but that too must be with small groups and social distancing.

We are looking for help at the arena this year.

We also generally hold our annual meeting in December, but with the new rules we are uncertain what we are going to do. Please check out our Facebook page – Innisfree & District Agricultural Society.

Be safe and look out for breaking news from the Innisfree & District Agricultural Society.

## Innisfree Preschool & Kindergarten

### CHRISTMAS CASH RAFFLE

First Prize \$1500 Second prize \$500



Draw date: December 17, 2020 at Innisfree Rec Center

Call Elise @ 780-603-1080, tickets also available at the Innisfree ATB

Only 600 tickets printed! Raffle license #563968

# IRIS

## 2 Day Frame Show!

Iris is bringing in a huge selection of frames - discounts available!

**Dec 10 & 11, 2020**

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Call 780-632-3474

for more information

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

**IRIS - Vegreville**

#604, 4934 - 50th Avenue

Vegreville, AB

780-632-3474



### Ice maker/Caretaker

The Innisfree and District Agricultural Society is looking to hire an Icemaker/Caretaker for the Innisfree Skating Rink.

For more information please call Carmen @780-853-0046

The CHUDOVYI Ukrainian Dancers

## Malanka Raffle!

1st prize: \$750 Cash  
2nd prize: \$300 liquor cooler  
3rd prize: \$200 Ukrainian themed basket featuring something for everyone

\$10 Ticket  
500 tickets printed

Raffle license #563968

**DRAW DATE: JANUARY 23, 2021**





INNISFREE  
FISH & HUNTING

**CANCELLED**  
**INFORMER**

DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 P.M.

INNISFREE REC CENTRE

Complimentary Hot Dogs, Pop & Coffee

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**



Do you have a tried and true recipe  
you want to share?

Send it our way to be featured in the Informer!  
Email: [innisfreeinformer@gmail.com](mailto:innisfreeinformer@gmail.com)



Please note that masks are now mandatory when in the  
following places. *Thank you for your consideration.*

**Village of Innisfree Town Office/ATB**  
**Innisfree Post Office**  
**Village of Innisfree Library**



# CHRISTMAS

**ANTLERS:** According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl. We should've known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat jolly old man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.



**How much does it cost to fly Santa's sleigh?** About eight bucks, nine during bad weather.  
**What do reindeer say before telling a joke?** This one will sleigh you!  
**What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa when she looked up in the sky?** Looks like rein, deer!  
**Which of Santa's reindeer has cleanest antlers?** Comet.  
**How much does it cost Santa to park his sleigh and reindeer?** Nothing, it's on the house.

For the first time in ages, Rudolph the red nosed reindeer faced some stiff competition from Ernie the energy saving reindeer

OUTDOOR CORNER is sponsored by:  
**PARANYCH CONSULTING 403-506-4667**

Submissions for the Outdoor Corner are welcome.  
 Hunting, fishing and outdoor stories, facts or jokes!  
 Email: [innisfreeinformer@gmail.com](mailto:innisfreeinformer@gmail.com)

Thank you to Krystin Cannan for this recipe:

## POPCORN BALLS

- 12 Cups Popcorn
- 1 Cup Sugar
- 1/2 Cup White Corn Syrup or Other Syrup
- 1/3 Cup Water
- 1/4 Cup Butter
- 3/4 Tsp. Salt
- 1 Tsp. Vanilla

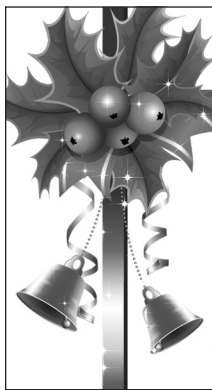
Mix sugar, corn syrup, water, butter and salt in saucepan until well blended.

Place over low heat, stir gently until mixture boils, continue boiling without stirring until it forms a brittle ball in cold water.

Remove from heat. Add vanilla, stir only enough to mix. Pour the syrup over the popcorn stirring rapidly to make certain all kernels are covered.

Cut up jube jubes and place in the mixture.

Moisten the hands with water and shape into balls.



*Merry Christmas  
 Happy New Year*

*from Betty and Harvey*

**LEXANN LOGISTICS**

780-592-2100 / 780-581-4012



**Is someone special celebrating in January?**

Send in your

**JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries!**

Please send birthday or anniversary names and dates by December 28 to wish your loved ones a special day!

Email to: [innisfreeinformer@gmail.com](mailto:innisfreeinformer@gmail.com)

## EVENTS CALENDAR

*Here's What's Happening!*

Dec 4: Christmas Tree Light Up

Dec 15: Village Council Meeting: Virtually.

See our web page and Facebook page for more information

Dec 25: Merry Christmas to all!

Jan 1: Happy New Year!

Please send your event info (name, date, location) by Dec 28 to be included in the January Calendar of Events

Thank you to Sharon Gowan for this recipe:

## IMPOSSIBLE TURKEY & STUFFING PIE

A "Natural" for after the holidays

- 2 cups cut-up cooked turkey or chicken
- 1/2 tsp seasoning salt
- 1 cup prepared turkey stuffing
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup cooked green beans
- 1 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup Bisquick baking mix

Heat oven to 400°  
**GREASE 9" pie plate**  
 Arrange turkey in plate, sprinkle with seasoned salt. Separate stuffing into small pieces; arrange on turkey. Top with onions and peas. BEAT remaining ingredients until smooth. Pour into pie plate. BAKE until knife inserted in center comes out clean, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool 5 minutes, Serve with hot turkey gravy.



## Library News

We want to assure our patrons that we are still open our regular hours with the newly announced Covid restrictions. Please note that masks are now mandatory while you are in the library. We thank you for your consideration.

It is with regret that we have to cancel our annual Holiday in the Hallway Celebrations. We will miss seeing the community come out to support local non-profits, but hope that next year we will be able to continue as normal!

We have our next Early Literacy packages ready for pick up! Novembers theme was 'Fun with Magnets' and Decembers is 'Jingle Bells'. These take-home craft packages are meant to replace our in-person programming, and are filled with fun things to do with your little ones at home. There are a limited number of bags available, so don't wait to stop by and grab yours.

We are still having our Donation Tree this year, with the recipients for 2020 being the Little Warriors Be Brave Ranch and the Interval Home. We are accepting donations until December 18 at 3pm.

We will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from Thursday, December 24 to Tuesday, January 5th.

Phone: 780-592-2122

Email: [librarian@innisfreelibrary.ca](mailto:librarian@innisfreelibrary.ca)

Thank you, Marilyn Newton, Library Manager

**Santa Fact: The weight of Santa's sleigh loaded with one Beanie Baby for every kid on earth: 333,333 tons!**



Kids helpline # 1-800-668-6868  
Mental Health Helpline # 1-877-303-2642



**Mannville – Minburn – Innisfree  
Family & Community Support Services  
Yellowhead Community Support Society**

**M-M-I Family Resource Network**

Please continue to watch our Facebook page for updates. Mannville-Minburn-Innisfree Family & Community Support Services

@FCSSmannvilleminburninnisfree

Website: <https://mmifcss.wixsite.com/mmifcss>

For more information about programs and services,

**780-763-3005** Email: [mmifcss@mannville.com](mailto:mmifcss@mannville.com)

**Family Resource Network**

FRN delivers high quality prevention & early intervention services & supports for families with children 0-18 years old. Variety of programs & services.

For Program Information call or text Alicia @ 780-581-4149 & check our Facebook Page MMI Family Resource Network

**Community Counselling Services: Good Life Collective**

**Free service** Funded by Government of Alberta Social Services for COVID-19 Support. Book your session today! Contact

[jamie@goodlifecollective.ca](mailto:jamie@goodlifecollective.ca)

1-306-240-8308. Check out the website for information on Jaime

Knight <https://www.goodlifecollective.ca>

**Friendly Phone Visiting Program**

FCSS Staff provide social connections through phone calls. If you have not received a call and would like to join this program, please call us to be added to our call out list. What can you expect? a friendly voice, a listening ear, information sharing & referral to other services. We look forward to connecting with you.

**S.M.I.L.E. Program**

[Seniors Maintaining Independent Living Experiences]

This program is designed for adults/seniors to stay active & live independently in their communities. An inviting, friendly atmosphere to socialize, participate in activities, lunch & connect with others! Time: 10 am -12:30 pm

**Mannville community:** each Thursdays, location changes weekly. **Innisfree community:** 3rd Tuesday @ Millennium Bldg. @ 4-H Room.

**EVERYONE WELCOME** Please call or stop by the office for more information & to register.

Mannville: DEC 3 & 10 Innisfree: DEC 8

**Meals on Wheels Program** A delicious hot noon meal is served right to your kitchen table Monday to Friday by friendly volunteers. Rate \$10 per meal. Call if interested in signing up for the program

**FOOT PRINT Walking Project: INDOORS @ Mannville Rec. Centre Hall** Register @ FCSS Fee: \$ 5 Oct. to April

**NEWCOMER WELCOME:** Packages are available. Let us know if you are new to the area! Stop by and pick one up! We look forward to welcoming you!

**MANNVILLE COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTRE:** Memberships available at M-M-I F.C.S.S. office \$250 yearly (Mar.to Feb) OR \$80 per 3 months intervals: [Dec. Jan. Feb] [March April May] [June July Aug] [Sept Oct Nov]. AHS Covid guidelines apply MEMBERSHIP required to do their part.

**December Break: Closed Dec 24 to Jan 4**

M-M-I F.C.S.S. wishes to acknowledge your participation and support throughout this past year! We look forward to meeting our communities needs through continued programs and services in 2021! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**Innisfree School**

**November Students' Union Report**

*Submitted by Tristan Neil*

For Halloween Students union members decorated the Elementary hallway and it looked spook-tacular. The Students had their usual costume parade through the gym and the prizes were McDonald's cards and they were given out to the kids that had the best costumes. We decided to do a thing when one class dresses up the most gets a thing called the Snurtlegator. It is a teddy bear that is a snake, a turtle, and an alligator.

Our spirit day on November 5th was to wear your school Spirit colours, blue and yellow. The class that dressed up the most was the Grade 10/11 class and the Grade 1/2/3 class with 100% participation. The grade 1/2/3 class earned the Snurtlegator. The class was happy they got it. We noted a good participation overall.

The following day was our Remembrance Day Service on Nov 6th. Each classroom went onto a google meet and they would stand up and listen to oh Canada and god save the queen. Then Mrs. Barber assigned each classroom to watch a video on YouTube about the soldiers. Then Remembrance Day posters from 2019 were given out and they received their prizes. We then had a week off for Remembrance Day and teacher days.

School picture retakes were Nov 19th. On November 26 we are planning jersey day. We are also beginning to plan our Christmas activities. Some activities will be a food drive, and also have the students dress up in Christmassy things for the last week of school before Christmas break.

*Innisfree fire Dept  
Coat drive  
New or gently used winter clothing*



**Nov 18 - Dec 16**

-Donations can be dropped off at Innisfree Fire Hall or at the Village Office

-Donations will be taken to the Hope Mission donation drop off in Edmonton

-If anyone is in need of winter clothing in the Innisfree Area please contact [780-787-0568](tel:780-787-0568) and arrangements will be made prior to delivery in Edmonton

-The Innisfree Fire Department will be going around town picking up donations on December 16th around 7 pm. Due to covid please leave all donations curbside and the fire department will gladly pick them up.

Please call [780-787-0568](tel:780-787-0568) with any questions





# Village of Innisfree Christmas Tree Light Up

To kickstart the Christmas spirit in Innisfree the Village will be lighting up the big tree beside the Village office at 5PM on December 4, 2020.

Drive by viewing only please.

## Merry Christmas!



### WORD SEARCH: Christmas!

I	K	M	M	D	N	O	D	G	Y	M	A	S	B
J	O	S	A	A	C	L	E	I	T	A	E	N	H
A	C	A	A	E	T	N	D	M	I	N	Y	O	D
C	T	M	E	R	S	M	C	A	V	E	N	W	E
K	F	T	F	B	S	E	O	N	I	G	S	F	C
F	R	S	A	R	E	R	C	G	T	I	A	L	O
R	I	I	M	E	N	R	R	E	A	F	N	A	R
O	E	R	I	G	A	Y	A	R	N	T	T	K	A
S	N	H	L	N	C	C	C	Y	E	S	A	E	T
T	D	C	Y	I	Y	S	K	A	I	N	C	Y	I
E	S	R	N	G	D	E	E	A	A	C	L	G	O
R	G	G	K	O	N	T	R	E	E	L	A	N	N
F	J	E	N	I	A	S	S	S	O	O	U	L	S
A	N	G	E	L	C	F	M	J	N	A	S	A	I

CANDY CANES  
TREE  
JOLLY  
JACK FROST  
GINGERBREAD  
SNOWFLAKE

CRACKERS  
MANGER  
CHRISTMAS  
MERRY  
FRIENDS

DECORATIONS  
NATIVITY  
SANTA CLAUS  
GIFTS  
FAMILY  
ANGEL

Hey Kids! Are you an artist, writer, inventor, or all around creative kid? The Informer wants to hear from you! Email your submissions for a chance to be featured each month!

[innisfreeinformer@gmail.com](mailto:innisfreeinformer@gmail.com)



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Tamara Kitt **780-646-3797**  
[sipology.com/tamaralupul](http://sipology.com/tamaralupul)  
Follow me on Facebook & Instagram  
@sipologysister

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-Corporate Tax -Commissioner for Oaths  
Phone: **780-995-5235**  
Email: [jo@jlanovaz.com](mailto:jo@jlanovaz.com)

**Library Hours**  
Wednesday  
1:00pm - 7:00pm  
Thursday  
12:00pm - 6:00pm  
Friday  
10:00am - 3:00pm

**Village of Innisfree Library**  
**780-592-2122**



# Farm Wife Diaries... To Answer or Not to Answer by Deb Barber

When our home land line phone rings Farmer Hubby is always dismayed when I don't leap to my feet to rush to answer it. Truth be told hardly anyone ever calls the landline and I'm usually 90% certain that it is going to be one of those annoying Telemarketer calls.

Our phone has the capability to "block" up to 40 calls, which seemed sufficient at the time of purchase, now I am thinking I needed one that had the capacity to block upwards of 400 calls.

I ran a Google search on how to stop these annoying calls but the results were less than encouraging as the first few ideas involved calling specific numbers to have our number put on a 'Do Not Call' list, I tried that many years ago and I believe I received more calls after adding my name to the lists than before.

They also suggested that I purchase a device that I could connect to my phone that would require a 'real' person to press a specific number in order to have their call put through. I guess as a last minute resolution to the problem I may have no choice but to go this direction. However, it irks me that I currently pay over \$45.00 a month for my lovely land line and thinking that I need to spend additional funds to have my calls monitored has me a little irritated.

I find it most alarming when the phone rings in the dark hours of the night and in those moments, I do spring to my feet and rush to the phone with visions of something awful

having occurred to a family member and someone is calling with the worst news possible. Luckily, I always pause and check the display before answering and to date it has always been a Telemarketer type call.

Some get very aggravating when they go in spurts of calling hour after hour and they seem to usually time the calls to happen just when we are sitting down to eat. Farmer Hubby has yet to clue in that no one calls via the land line anymore and he is persistent that I should be leaping up to check the caller's ID.

What is particularly maddening is that my when my Aunt Albertha calls the phone announces her name as Alberta, so any call that claims to be Alberta calling has Farmer Hubby sure that I am ignoring her. Countless times I've tried to explain to him if it is truly her calling, I can always call her back!

The mantra in our home has become, "if the call is important they will leave a message" and with that in mind I no longer leap for any ringing tones so if you do call here and wish to speak to one of us be prepared to leave a message and I promise we will get back to you!

We've also discovered that we have some interesting calls coming from overseas from Russia and Mordovia and since we have no relationships with people in those countries I have also had to learn how to block these calls on our cell phones. Luckily it appears there is no limit to this and no additional fees charged for blocking

them!

Farmer Hubby excels at making sure my life is never boring! In fact, just recently we had to make an unexpected trip to the city as he required emergency surgery for a detached retina. It all started back during harvest time when he had some 'issues' with his one eye, but being a farmer it had to be put on hold until it was more convenient to have it addressed. Then of course having a beautiful fall meant he needed to get the oil changed in all the vehicles and tractors leaving his 'eye' until it became an emergency situation.

He is doing well. I'm not doing quite as great since I have to try to keep one step ahead of him attempting to keep the snow all shovelled until he has recovered sufficiently to be allowed to do that. I'm sure he is the only stubborn and pigheaded farmer out there (insert wink) as he swears that a 'little' bit of snow shovelling certainly can't do any harm. The shovelling of snow may not injure him, but I cannot guarantee what may occur if he pushes his wife past her level of tolerance!



If you enjoy a weekly dose of Farm Wife humour please check out my blog at <https://farmwifediary.blog>



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Thank you to the Village of Innisfree and the Minburn Agricultural Society for their help and support of the Innisfree Informer.  
Thank you to the community for their encouragement, kind words, submissions and offers to help with this project!

December 28, 2020 is the January Informer deadline for submissions.

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