

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE COUNTY

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3

PM#41398593

DECEMBER 2010

Meet Your New Reeve

My name is Wayne Nixon and I live 13 miles northeast of Stettler. With the exception of some time away for school, I have lived and worked all of my life within the County of Stettler.

My wife Loree and I have lived on our present farm since 1979. We have raised 7 children here and now have 6 grandchildren that frequently alleviate our empty nest syndrome. For several years we operated a dairy farm and for the last fifteen years I have worked for the wood shop, where we built truck box liners, tool boxes, garden sheds, cabinets etc. Loree worked several years for Home Care out of Bashaw and Stettler.

Our son Kent and his wife Tana and son Josh live in Stettler. Kent also has three children; Brittany, Ian and Logan who live at Okotoks. Kent has a pipefitting business and Tana operates the Mortgage Centre. Cal and his wife Shylla and their children Hunter and Dawson live on a farm east of us. Cal works for Petrobank and during the summer, he, Shylla and myself put about 1600 acres of hay (hopefully twice). Our third son Cam is a power lineman and for DNR out of Stettler. He and his partner Jenn have a new baby boy Ty. Our daughter, Kara works in Stettler. Jennifer lives and works in Edmonton and Jessica lives in Regina.

I attended grades 1 - 11 at Byemoor School, grade 12 at LTCHS in Red Deer. I graduated from Olds Agricultural College and also attended RDJC in Red Deer and the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Even after learning many reasons to the contrary, I still chose to be a farmer...go figure!

While living at various places throughout the county including Byemoor and Endiang, Gadsby and Donalda I played fastball, curled and played slow pitch as the years went on. Now I am sorry to say it's crossword puzzles and limited curling. As a fan of country music, it was a huge pleasure for me to be associated with the Stettler Country Music Jamboree. We spent two months each year preparing for our show and over the years I have made many lasting friendships. For the last several years of the show I was privileged to be the master of ceremonies.

I have really enjoyed my first term as councillor and I look forward to working together with our new council.



ELECTION RESULTS IN 4 NEW COUNCILLORS; NEW REEVE FOR THE COUNTY OF STETTLER

On October 18th, 2010, County residents cast their vote for the individuals they believe will best represent their communities around the County of Stettler Council table. The turnout was above average for our municipality, with just over 1355 voters which is about 39% of the eligible voting population. Many of the votes were close, in particular, the race for councillor of Ward 1 ending in a tie. After three recounts and a tie-breaking procedure, the County of Stettler council members for the next 3 years were announced. The results of the election are as follows:

Ward 1 – Byemoor-Endiang

Les Stulberg - 118
Lawrence Wilkie - 119

Ward 2 – Big Valley

Dave Grover - 83
Terry Schiffner - 85

Ward 3 – Botha-Gadsby

Greggory Jackson - 159
Kevin Baird - 41

Ward 4 - Stettler

Blake Chapman - 112
Walt Saar - 53
Chad Wilson - 78

Ward 5 – Erskine South-Warden

Earl Marshall - 66
James Nibourg - 143
Danny Riggins - 30

Ward 6 – Erskine-Buffalo Lake

Joe Gendre - 134
Guy Neitz - 128

Ward 7 – Donalda-Red Willow

Wayne Nixon
(Acclaimed September 20th, 2010)



Following the Election, recommendations for the next election in 2013 were recorded. Among those recommendations were ensuring a wider variety of advance poll options and voting options for those who are away from the community for longer periods of time.

At their Organizational Meeting on October 25, 2010 the County of Stettler's council officially took office. Lawrence Wilkie, Terry Schiffner, Greggory Jackson and James Nibourg will join incumbents Joe Gendre, Wayne Nixon and Blake Chapman around the council table until October of 2013. They all took their Oath of Office on October 25th thus commencing their duties as County Councillors.

Each new council holds an organizational meeting before regular duties begin in order to appoint a Reeve, Deputy Reeve and approve various polices and committee appointments. The Council's first order of business was to choose a Reeve. The Councillor from Donalda Red-Willow, Wayne Nixon, will take over the Reeve duties for the coming year. The Deputy Reeve position will now be a rotating position every 6 months, with the Deputy Reeve schedule as follows:

October 2010 – April 30, 2011: Joe Gendre
May 1, 2011 – October 2011: Blake Chapman
October 2011 – April 30, 2012: Greggory Jackson
May 1, 2012 – October 2012: James Nibourg
October 2012 – April 30, 2013: Terry Schiffner
May 1, 2013 – October 2013: Lawrence Wilkie

Council also approved the date for Council Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of Every Month at 10:00 am at the County of Stettler Administration Building.

County of Stettler No. 6

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TIM FOX, CAO



JOE GENDRE

Deputy Reeve

Erskine-Buffalo Lake

I reside on the family farm Northwest of Erskine. I attended Erskine School, and went on to graduate from William E. Hay Composite. My secondary education

came from a strong work ethic that came from my parents, good neighbours, seminars and a lot of reading.

For 25 years, I had a small dairy and served both as a Delegate and Board of Director for Alpha Milk. I semi-retired to grain farming in 2003, was asked by my neighbours to serve on County Council, and have committed myself to serving our community.

On June 29, 2008, I married my wife Circun, and became an instant parent of three, Mary, David and Amanda. On August 29, 2009, we welcomed a fourth child, Isabella, into our busy fold. The ages of the children encompasses a fifteen year span – diapers to zits. Parenthood is great!

In my spare time (what little there is), I enjoy reading, gardening, growing orchids, volleyball, kayaking, and traveling. Traveling is one of my passions; the places are fascinating, but it is the people that I meet along the way that I find most intriguing.

Once again, I would like to thank the residents of the Erskine/Buffalo Lake ward, the County staff and my fellow councillors for your valued partnership. As your elected councillor, I will continue to be readily available, exercise due diligence, bring your concerns to Council and build our community together. Your calls, emails and visits are always welcomed!



GREGGORY JACKSON

Botha-Gadsby

I am your representative for division # 3 Botha/Gadsby area on county council. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on County Council. I have great respect for my fellow councillors and all the employees that work for the County of Stettler, their time, effort and dedication is admirable.

My wife Heather and I, and our three young children, Hannah, Grady and Will reside on the Jackson homestead at Gadsby where we operate a cattle ranch. I consider myself very fortunate to have grown up and to raise my own children on the same farm. Along with farming and County Council I sit as Vice President on the Beaver Rural Electrification Association.

My family and I enjoy camping, fishing, hiking, tubing and wakeboarding in the summer months and in the winter we like to go skating outside on the pond. I attended Gadsby School and Wm. E. Hay Composite High School in Stettler. Last year I enrolled in the Olds College and continue to pursue my certificate in Agriculture Finance.

I would like to thank the residents of the Botha /Gadsby area for entrusting me with the responsibilities of councillor and look forward to working alongside them to the betterment of our region and the County.



TERRY SCHIFFNER

Big Valley

I have lived in the County of Stettler all my life where my wife Patty and I operate a backgrounding feedlot and a cow-calf operation. We have four children and six grandchildren. I grew up participating in 4-H and

as our kids grew up and also joined, I became a leader for many years.

I currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Clearview Cow-Calf Co-op and am a past director for the Stettler Agriculture Society. Since my election I have been appointed to serve on the following committees.

- Agricultural Service Board
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Bio Gas Project
- County of Stettler Disaster Services
- Joint Town and County Fire Commission
- Parkland Regional Library Board
- Stettler Regional Library Board
- Starland - Stettler Regional Water Services Commission
- Town and County of Stettler Inter-municipal Development Plan
- Town of Stettler & Summer Village of Rochon Sands Annexation
- Stettler Community Advisory Board (alternate)



JAMES NIBOURG

Erskine South

– Warden

Hello, fellow county residents and anyone who is interested in the County of Stettler. I am starting my first term on Council and so far it has been very interesting. We have

a very capable group of gentlemen to lead us into the next few years. My interest in politics comes from a strong sense of community. I feel there are three kinds of people, people that watch things happen, people that make things happen, and people that stand around and ask what the heck just happened. I want to be that person that makes things happen. I feel the best way to do that is from a council chair, so here I am.

My lovely wife Lori-Anne is a Registered Nurse working in Stettler, we have four awesome and very busy children. Justina is 16 years old working hard on students union at W.E. Hay High School, politics run in the family. Andrew is 14 years old and is in grade 9 at Erskine School, refs and plays hockey. Alicia is 13 years old and is in grade 8 also at Erskine, loves her horses and rabbits. Our youngest, Isaac is ten years old and is in grade 5 at Erskine School loves hockey, Lego and is a Leafs Fan.

I was born and raised in the Erskine area. I learned to get along with others as I was the youngest of eight, lots of discussing, okay arguing along the way. We did learn respect and that strong sense of volunteering, a community is what you make it. After graduating from high school in Stettler I moved away to follow work in small towns all around Alberta always comparing them to the Stettler area. Twelve years ago we moved back home, now we live just south of Erskine raise sheep, chickens and our kids. I have now owned and operated East Central Auto Recyclers for the last seven years. My many experiences with different volunteer groups and businesses have given me the tools and talents {I hope} to meet the challenges of being your county voice at the table for the next few years.



BLAKE CHAPMAN

Stettler

Hi, my name is Blake Chapman and I am the County Councillor for the Stettler Ward. I represent a lot of very good people in my Ward and it is a job I take very seriously. For more than fifty years, I have lived in the Stettler

Ward and I am proud to say that most of my life has been that of Farmer/Steward of the land. When I was a little boy, my grandfather told me I would be a success if I left my land in better shape than when I received it. This has always been my life goal. My wife Donna is a registered nurse, a great cook, a wonderful companion and a good person. I have three children of which I am extremely proud; Silas, Kyle, and my favorite daughter Darien.

Along with my son Silas, we maintain a herd of five hundred and fifty Angus cows and hold an annual bull sale. If you know of anyone looking for Angus bulls, please send them our way. I used to enjoy whitewater kayaking in my spare time, but there seems to be very little spare time anymore so livestock and grass are my passion with the odd game of golf thrown in for variety.

With my background in Holistic Management, I hope to bring a dynamic to Council that balances the environmental, social and financial aspects of our community. It is a privilege to serve my community and county as the Councillor of the Stettler Ward.



LAWRENCE WILKIE

Byemoor-Endiang

I was raised on a ranch Southeast of Big Valley and received my education at the Big Valley School. I married Mary Kobi in 1968 and together we purchased a farm in the Byemoor area in 1970. To supplement my

farming income during this time I worked at various jobs including pipeline work, well operator, drove truck, and road construction. I was a County Councillor for two terms in the 1980s. Afterwards, I bought two chemical trucks and hauled chemical for ten years before selling them. I have since been an account manager for Brenntag Canada for the past 13 years from which I will be retiring from in April 2011.

I have three daughters. My oldest child Leah is married to Mike Meyer. Leah is a Registered Nurse at the Hanna Hospital, and she and Mike ranch North of Craigmyle. They have two children, Sarah and Chace. My middle daughter Lori is in her final year of education through the University of Alberta and is married to Sean Zitaruk. They live in Stettler with their two children, Ally and Ty. My youngest daughter Candace works as a Project Coordinator for a Big Valley company and is married to Ashten Waugh. Candace and Ashten have one son, Cody and they live on an acreage in the Linda Hall area. During my upbringing, I was very active with the Big Valley 4-H Beef Club and many various sports in the area. I have also been involved with different clubs and organizations in the community and coached my daughters in soccer, baseball, and curling.

- My current council appointments include:
- Municipal Planning
 - Bio-Gas Project
 - Country of Stettler Disaster Services Committee
 - County of Stettler Recreation Board
 - Starland-Stettler Regional Water Commission
 - Vice-Chairman of Stettler and District Ambulance Association
 - Town and County of Stettler Inter-Municipal Development Plan
 - Town of Stettler and Village of Rochon Sands Annexation
 - Alternate on County of Stettler Assessment and Review Board
 - Alternate on County of Stettler Housing Authority
 - Alternate on Joint Town and County Fire Commission
 - Agriculture Service
 - Canada Badlands Ltd.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

TIM FOX, CAO

DECEMBER 2010

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council Tables Land Use Bylaw after Public Hearing

Bylaw 1443-10, Revised Land Use Bylaw, was tabled after a public hearing was attended by several concerned County residents. Many concerns were raised over building restrictions, permitting rules and definitions of certain kinds of land use activities. Council has directed staff to take another look at the land use bylaw amendments in consideration of the concerns raised at the public meeting. The Land Use Bylaw will return to the discussion table after the election.

County approves the additions to Road Specification Policies

The Road Specification Policy is in place to allow the County of Stettler to set the design and construction specifications for municipal roads owned and/or maintained by the County of Stettler. Council approved the addition of drawings and specifications that show the locations where utilities, if needed, are to be installed.

Council Defeats Bylaws 1440-10 and 1441-10

Bylaws 1440-10 and 1441-10 were defeated by council in a recorded vote. Both of these bylaws were in place to allow the creation of a Direct Control District 5 and to rezone a parcel of land north of Stettler on Highway 56 to DCD5. The applicant, East Central Auto Recyclers, had proposed to locate an auto recycling facility on the property.

Council Supports Starland County's Resolution to AAMDC regarding the Growing Forward Grant Program

Starland County will be presenting a resolution at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Fall Conference to amend the list of eligible projects within the Growing Forward Water Program to include rural water distribution system tie-ins.

The AAMDC is a powerful group, whose membership includes all of the provinces rural municipalities. This resolution, if passed by AAMDC at the fall conference, will allow this powerful group of municipalities to lobby the provincial government to change its grant funding program.

Including the rural water distribution system tie-ins fits with the granting programs objectives to encourage producers develop Long Term Water Management Plans and fund some of the solutions identified. Rural Water Distribution Systems have the capability to provide farms with safe, reliable and secure source of drinking water for years to come.

Victims of Residence Fires Receive Amendment on Tax Bill

Two residents in the County of Stettler who lost their homes to fires in 2010, had the taxes assessed on their residence cancelled from the time if the fire until December of 2010. Both residents were required to pay the taxes on their residences up until the date of the fire. The total amount cancelled for both residences was \$448.91.

New Vehicle for Deputy Chief Command Vehicle

Council approved the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Regional Deputy Chief. The current 2000 Dodge Durango will be replaced with a 2011 Suburban 2500 LT. The new vehicle will cost \$51,375.00 plus GST.

Rochon Sands Estates Residents Request Hard Surfacing

Residents from the Lake Community of Rochon Sands Estates appeared before council to propose cost sharing with the County on the hard surfacing of ~1.2 miles into the subdivision. After hearing the proposal, council directed administration to research the costs of the hard surfacing project and include these numbers for deliberation during the 2011 budget proceedings.

OCTOBER 13, 2010 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council Approves Parkland Regional Library's 2011-2013 Budget

The County of Stettler No. 6 supports the Parkland Library system through contributions to their budget. The contributions are based on a per capita rate, and this funding is used the benefit the regional library system which all of our local libraries are a member of. In 2011, the County of Stettler will contribute \$36,355.52 – which is an increase of just over \$1000 from the 2010 contribution. The budget also outlines small incremental increases in the per capita rate for the next 3 years.

County Puts Hamlet Lots Up For Sale

Several lots in the hamlets of Byemoor, Endiang and Erskine will be put up for public sale in late October/early November. The lots will be tendered out and council will award the tenders at their November meeting.

Rural Truck Fill Station approved for Gadsby

Council gave the go ahead to the Gadsby Truck Fill Station, which is a component of the County

of Stettler Rural Water Servicing Strategy. This truck fill will be able to service the potable water needs of county residents in the eastern portion of the County, as well as enhance the water supply for emergency services in this location. The facility will have a capacity of 5000 gallons and designed for easy access should it be needed for emergency situations.

The estimated cost for the project is \$130,000 but the final cost won't be known until we have a detailed design in place and tender the project out. This process is slated to begin early in 2011.

Initial Stages of Campground Expansion passed by Council

Amendments to the Land Use Bylaw have resulted in the rezoning of 106 acres of SE 15-40-21 W4M to Recreational Facility District for the purpose of expanding Ol' Macdonald's campground facility.

NOVEMBER 8, 2010 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Council Approves Application for Water/Wastewater Grant for Erskine Water Reservoir

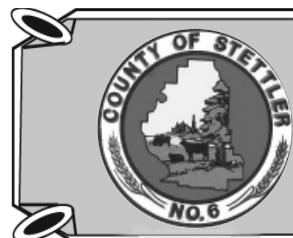
Council is eagerly submitting an application for funding through the Alberta Water/Wastewater Partnership for 75/25 funding to develop the Water Reservoir and Truck Fill.

Agricultural Procedure 200.10 - Vegetation Control

A County of Stettler No. 6 Policy and Procedure Manual's Agricultural Procedure 200.10 - Vegetation Control has been given final approval. This procedure is meant to establish criteria for the control of legislatively identified priority alien invasive species, hazardous plant growth and brush in the County by having the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board use an integrated approach in an endeavour to control target weeds on roadsides and fields, hazardous plant growth and vision obscuring brush on roadsides. Effective use of this procedure will produce clear sight lines to signs and intersections, facilitate snow removal and road drainage, and minimize wildlife damage.

Hamlets of Byemoor, Endiang and Erskine Lot Tenders

Lots in the Hamlets of Byemoor, Endiang and Erskine were advertised for tender. Council has removed the Hamlet of Erskine - 3026AF, Block 11, Lot 14 from the lot tender list until the Land Use Bylaw and Rural Water Strategy has been completed. However, the Hamlet of Byemoor - 4684CL, Block 4, Lot 20 and Hamlet of Byemoor - 4684CL, Block 4, Lot 19 will be offered to the successful bidders.



Council Dates:

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 ~ 10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 12, 2011 ~ 10 a.m.

MPC Dates:

Wednesday, December 22, 2010 ~ 1 p.m.
Wednesday, January 26, 2011 ~ 1 p.m.

2010 Gravel Program

The 2010 Gravel program has been underway since the beginning of the year with 210 miles completed to date with 123 miles remaining. We have also completed Road Rejuvenation in areas of the County; the shoulders of the roads are pulled in, re-worked, packed and re-graveled.



We Need Your Help!

There has been a substantial inventory of Road Construction signs, survey stakes and flashing lights damaged at our road construction sites this past year. This is a concern:

- Survey stakes have been removed or driven over. When this happens, we have no other alternative than to call the surveyor back to replace stakes – costing thousands of needless dollars!!
- Road construction signs are approximately \$80 - 120 per sign to replace and flashing lights are approximately \$50 to replace; this is an additional and needless expense to our budget and unfortunately eventually our ratepayers.
- These signs and lights are erected as a precautionary warning to drivers and the removal of these warnings could result in an unfortunate disaster.
- Removing or defacing these signs or lights are a criminal offence!!

Please report any suspicious activity to the local RCMP or the County of Stettler's Protective Services for further investigation.

Snowplow Services

Winter is just around the corner and with that comes snow! If you wish to have your laneway plowed, please come into the County Administration Building, sign a Hold Harmless Agreement and you will be put on our list for the 2010/2011 winter season! These agreements must be signed by the Property Owner and we request that renters, if requiring this snow removal service, have the Property Owner sign an agreement for them. These agreements only have to be completed once, so if you were in last year and completed one you do not have to re-sign this year.



Fast Facts - Snow Plow Safety

- ✓ Blading snow off the road creates a "mini blizzard" next to and behind the snowplow, especially in windy conditions. This is referred to as the SNOW ZONE.
- ✓ It can be difficult to see snow removal equipment within the Snow Zone. Watch for the bright yellow colour of the snowplow and flashing amber and red lights - called wig wag lights – on the upper rear corners of the snowplow truck.
- ✓ When you encounter a snowplow on the roadway, your visibility may be limited. Slow down and drive with caution.
- ✓ Snowplows must travel slower than regular traffic when pushing snow. Maintain a safe distance, be patient and give the snow plow operator room to do his/her job. Snowplows pull over about every 10 km to allow motorists to pass, so take your time, wait and be safe.
- ✓ Snowplows stop at all railway crossings to ensure it is safe to cross and that the plow blade will clear the track.
- ✓ Snowplow operators are often out in treacherous conditions to make the roadways as safe as possible for you - NOT to get in your way.
- ✓ Our dedicated, hard-working operators will do their best to keep the roads clear and safe. It is UP TO YOU to be cautious and drive safely in the Snow Zone.
- ✓ Every winter, snowplows are hit by motorists that don't see them, or see them too late. The vast majority of these accidents are rear collision incidents where motorists have not driven with caution in the snow zone.

RURAL WATER SERVICING

Rural Water Servicing - South East Phase Byemoor and Endiang

As work on South East Phase of the Rural Water Servicing Project continues to move forward, I'd like to update you as to the status of the project.

Many of you may have noticed that construction of the line is not moving forward as fast as we had first anticipated. Without a doubt, the unexpected amount of moisture that came this summer has set us back in our projected completion date by quite a bit. Couple that with a whole host of other challenging circumstances, and it is looking like the new completion date for the entire project will be early summer 2011.

Having said that, portions of the line are currently being pressure tested. This means that as the lines become completed, we can and will commission the line and turn the water on when everything has been tested and approved. For South Endiang and South Byemoor, this could happen before the end of the year. The other two sections, North Endiang and North Byemoor, will commence as soon as weather is permitting.

Rural Water Servicing - Central Phase Stettler East, Botha and Gadsby

As many of you may have noticed, progress on the Central-East Phase of the Rural Water Servicing Project has halted.

After receiving the Water Service Agreements and mapping out the location of the waterlines, it came to our attention that partnering with the Gadsby Water Co-op and using some of their existing lines would reflect a significant cost savings for the project. We entered into negotiations with the Gadsby Water Co-op and are still in the process of coming to an agreement. After the terms of partnership are agreed to, we will move forward with tendering the project. We are now anticipating a tendering to happen in spring of 2011 and construction to begin shortly after that.

We have approved the construction of a truck fill and water reservoir in Gadsby. This truck fill will have a 5000 gallon capacity and will be built in 2011.

If you have questions regarding the alignment, construction and/or payment, please contact the County Office by phone at 403-742-4441 or email at info@stettlercounty.ca

County of Stettler Truck Fill Stations

The County of Stettler operates two different kinds of truck fill stations throughout the County.

Trunk Fills located at Scollard, Nevis and Walker (East of Byemoor on Hwy 589) are coin operated. Accepting Quarters and Loonies, users will get 1 cubic meter (m³) for \$1.00. These fill stations are supplied by wells, and such, the water is not suitable for drinking. The truck fills are in place mainly to provide agriculture and commercial operations with a supply of water. The County of Stettler has recently begun constructing truck fill stations along its Rural Water Servicing Pipeline. Two are currently constructed and dispensing treated water in the Endiang hamlet site and the Byemoor hamlet site. These truck fills are fed by a pipeline of treated water and can be used for drinking and filling cisterns. The cost of the potable water is \$3 per cubic meter.



The county has a code system in place for these potable water



truck fills. Codes can be obtained by filling out a form with the County. A deposit is only required for people wishing to use the water for agriculture or commercial uses. Personal users of the truck fill will not be required to pay a deposit. Once you obtain a code, you can use the same code to access both the Byemoor and Endiang truck fill stations.

Users will be issued an invoice once a month for their consumption (\$3.00/m³) if their consumption is \$3.00 or more. If users do not use \$3.00 worth of water they will not receive an invoice until they meet or exceed that value. All accounts will be finalized on December's invoice regardless of the amount.

The New Weed Act - 2010

In June of 2010, the Provincial Government introduced a new Weed Act which was to guide us to control emerging and existing serious weeds problems. Sadly, there was not a great deal of promotion by the Province regarding the serious new weed species that they had identified, so it was left on the weed inspectors' shoulders to help raise awareness about these emerging problems. While we did our best to get the word out, ratepayers of our municipality and neighboring ones were surprised by the alien invasive species which were put on the new list. The need to control these species which up until May of 2010 were considered harmless or even valuable in some cases caused surprise, and even anger in a few cases, but for the most part these threats to our livelihood and environment were addressed.

For those of you who dealt with your newly named noxious and even prohibited noxious weeds, we thank you. Your grandchildren also will thank you for your efforts in keeping our environment clean, natural, pristine, and free of alien invasive species. Just think that if something similar to this would have been done 400 years ago, dandelion, Canada thistle and other alien invasive species would be non-existent in North America today. For those who did not control those species, keep in mind that there might have been a little leeway in 2010, but in 2011, the full effect of the

Act will be taken into consideration. The Act allows for serious penalties for not controlling alien invasive species, up to and including large fines and losing control of your land for the period of time it takes to control serious weed issues. So, rather than risking these penalties, it would be a good idea to take steps to control and get rid of any of the weeds on the noxious and prohibited noxious list, and eliminate any prohibited noxious alien invasive species that might be on your land.

The complete listing of prohibited noxious and noxious plants is listed below. Those with one star (*) are known to be found in the County, and those with two stars (***) are commonly found. One additional species, absinth wormwood, is not yet locally named as noxious, but has been treated as such for the purposes of our weed inspection. Special efforts will be taken in the future to assist producers to control absinth.

Again the County is very grateful for those ratepayers and neighbors who control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. We are always available to identify and recommend control measures for these alien invasive species. Detailed information, pictures and control measures are available upon request.

Prohibited noxious weeds:

- ✓ Autumn olive
- ✓ **Himalayan

- ✓ balsam
- ✓ Common barberry
- ✓ Red bartsia
- ✓ Common buckthorn
- ✓ Sulphur cinquefoil
- ✓ Common crupina
- ✓ Dyer's woad
- ✓ Eurasian water milfoil
- ✓ Flowering rush
- ✓ Garlic mustard
- ✓ Jointed goatgrass
- ✓ *Meadow hawkweed
- ✓ Mouse-ear hawkweed
- ✓ Orange hawkweed
- ✓ Hoary alyssum
- ✓ Giant hogweed
- ✓ Pale yellow iris
- ✓ Bighead knapweed
- ✓ Black knapweed
- ✓ Brown knapweed
- ✓ Diffuse knapweed.
- ✓ Hybrid knapweed
- ✓ Meadow knapweed
- ✓ Russian knapweed
- ✓ Spotted knapweed
- ✓ Squarrose knapweed
- ✓ Tyrol knapweed
- ✓ Giant knotweed
- ✓ Hybrid Japanese knotweed
- ✓ Japanese knotweed
- ✓ Purple loosestrife
- ✓ Medusahead
- ✓ Yellow nutsedge
- ✓ Puncturevine
- ✓ Tansy ragwort
- ✓ Saltcedar.
- ✓ Saltlover.
- ✓ Common St John's-wort
- ✓ Yellow starthistle
- ✓ Chinese yellow tamarisk
- ✓ Smallflower tamarisk
- ✓ Marsh thistle
- ✓ Nodding thistle
- ✓ Plumeless thistle

Noxious weeds

- ✓ **Common baby's-breath.
- ✓ **Creeping bellflower
- ✓ Field bindweed
- ✓ Blueweed
- ✓ Downy brome
- ✓ Great burdock
- ✓ Lesser burdock
- ✓ **Woolly burdock
- ✓ Tall buttercup

- ✓ **Scentless chamomile
- ✓ *Yellow clematis
- ✓ **White cockle
- ✓ **Oxeye daisy
- ✓ *Dame's rocket
- ✓ Black henbane
- ✓ Globe-podded hoary cress
- ✓ Heart-podded hoary cress
- ✓ Lens-podded hoary cress
- ✓ Hound's-tongue.
- ✓ *Common mullein
- ✓ Broad-leaved pepper-grass
- ✓ *Field scabious
- ✓ **Perennial sow thistle
- ✓ **Leafy spurge
- ✓ **Common tansy.
- ✓ **Canada thistle
- ✓ *Dalmatian toadflax
- ✓ **Yellow toadflax

Again, the County is very grateful for those ratepayers and neighbors who control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. As you can see, we have very few prohibited noxious weeds here in the County, and even fewer that are common. If you have any of these plants on your property, or even any dead remainders of plants of this species, it is recommended that they are bagged and sent to a landfill, making sure the operator is aware of what is in the bags so that they are burned or deeply buried. Even at this time of year, if you have evidence (pictures or preserved plant samples) of prohibited or noxious weeds that were found in the County, please bring them to our attention for our control. We are always available to identify and recommend future control measures for these alien invasive species when the next growing season arrives.

Detailed information, pictures and control measures are available upon request.



Field Scabious

Photo Source "Garden Plants by Post"



Red Bartsia

Photo Source "wildliferanger.com"



Dame's Rocket

Photo Source "Bird x Biord 2008/0 Avian data"

Right Tree – Right Place – Right Reason

For a successful agroforestry planting, there's nothing more important than planning ahead. Planting trees is a great way to help the environment, protect soil and water, provide habitat for wildlife – planting a shelterbelt can also help producers increase crop yield, save energy, protect livestock and add to the beauty and value of property.

“Shelterbelt planting makes sense for so many reasons,” says Laura Poppy, Agroforestry Specialist, Agroforestry Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. “However, no one tree is perfect for all locations and purposes. Planning ahead will help determine the right tree for the right place on a farm.”

When considering planting shelterbelt trees, it's important to first know what function the shelterbelt will serve – which is part of advance planning. Knowing function will help determine what species to plant and how to design the shelterbelt.

“Selecting the right tree to use in the shelterbelt is likely the most important and most challenging part of the planning process,” says Poppy. “Choosing a species suited to the soil and moisture conditions will not only cut down on the amount of maintenance required, but the tree growth, survival and life span will be improved.”

Be sure to select the right location for a shelterbelt, consider such things as water table, drainage, prevailing winds, utility lines, roads, buildings and agricultural practices. Autumn, especially

during harvest, is a great time to take a good look at the land with shelterbelt planting in mind.

“Once you've decided to establish a shelterbelt, take the necessary time to prepare the site before you plant the seedlings,” says Poppy. “Killing grass and weeds before planting is one of the most important steps. Clearing out the competition for light, water and nutrients will help those new seedlings thrive. The fastest growing tree is one that is planted and maintained properly.”

Most farms have areas of marginally tillable land, hard-to-farm corners and areas in need of protection. All of these areas will benefit from tree planting. A properly designed shelterbelt will more than pay for itself in energy savings and increased crop yields, while providing for protection of soil, water, air and wildlife.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Prairie Shelterbelt Program provides technical support and hardy tree and shrub seedlings at no charge to eligible rural landowners in Western Canada. The service is administered by the Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Agroforestry Development Centre (formerly PFRA Shelterbelt Centre) out of Indian Head, SK.

Contact:
 Agroforestry Development Centre
 1-866-766-2284
 agroforestry@agr.gc.ca

GIVING THE GIFT OF GREENERY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The most common Christmas gift plant by far is the poinsettia. This large, colourful, long-lasting plant seems to increase in popularity every year. The usual colours for this plant are red, pink and white; however, a new creamy yellow variety called lemon drop may find its way into Alberta stores this Christmas.



Other Christmas gift plants include the Jerusalem cherry, a compact plant with red fruit. The fruit is slightly smaller than a quarter and stays attractive on the plant for about a month. Similar to the cherry is the Christmas pepper. It also has attractive red and sometimes white or purple fruit. Of course, when you think Christmas you also think of the Christmas cactus, an easy-to-grow house plant and also a fairly nice



gift plant. The cactus is in the stores now and ready to bloom. Choose one that has some small buds that will develop later, or most of the bloom will be finished by Christmas.



Two other lesser known gift plants come to mind that you might consider, Norfolk Island pine is a pine-like plant native to New Zealand and the Norfolk Islands. It can be grown as a year-round house plant. After many years it will become as large as six feet high or more. Under outdoor (non-freezing) conditions, it is a tree. As a gift plant the Norfolk Island pine can be the Christmas tree that is decorated each year. It is very attractive and not nearly as great a fire hazard as the true pines, fir and spruce usually purchased as Christmas trees.



You may want to give a bonsai plant as a Christmas gift. I have seen a good number of bonsai plants in stores, some already trained, and for a smaller price you can buy a newly started plant. The "bonsai" plant is a plant grown in the Japanese style. It is usually wired and trained to grow in a particular fashion to depict a small version of a large fully grown tree or scene. Should you be giving a bonsai plant

as a gift it would be a good idea to give a small informational pamphlet or book on the growing of these plants to help the new owner.



Other winter month plants include: African violets, azaleas, Reiger begonias, powder puff bromeliads, cyclamens, kalanchoe, hibiscus, dwarf orange trees, chrysanthemum, bougainvillea, amaryllis, and anthuriums.

To ensure getting a plant of your choice, shopping early, buy the plant and care for it yourself prior to giving it as a gift. Select plants that are clean and healthy and at the start of their blooming period. Keep in mind that all gift plants are subject to freezing and at this time of the year must be protected. Ask the sales person to place the plant in plastic and always transport it in a warm car. Should you be moving the plant, place it in a garbage bag and twist-tie the bag shut. Place this bag and plant into a second garbage bag and blow this bag up with some air to act as insulation. Twist tie the second bag to keep the air in and your plant insulated from the cold.

Ward is a staff member of the Department of Horticulture Science, University of Saskatchewan. This column is provided as an extension service by the Division of Extension and Community Relations and the Department of Horticulture Science, University of Saskatchewan

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

JOHAN VAN DER BANK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Bylaw Review

by Johan van der Bank,
Director of Planning &
Development

As you may know a public hearing of By-law No. 1443-10 was held on September 7th to consider the proposed new Land Use Bylaw. After the public hearing County Council decided to table the bylaw until after the October elections. Now that only three of the Councillors who were present at the public hearing are back on the new Council, the public hearing has to be rescheduled, because the Municipal Government Act provides that only those Councillors who attended a public hearing on a bylaw may vote on that bylaw, and we do not have a quorum. But more importantly, the four new Councillors deserve a chance to become familiar with the proposed new Land Use Bylaw and perhaps bring some of their own new ideas forward for consideration.

This means that, sometime in the first few months of 2011 we will re-advertise the bylaw and we will have to resend a notice to every landowner and adjacent landowner to the properties that are proposed to

be rezoned. This also means that ratepayers have more time to review the proposed new Land Use Bylaw. If you have had previous experience working with the Land Use Bylaw and know of things that should be

revised or improved, or if you have any input to provide generally, please contact the Planning and Development Department at the County, at 403.742.4441 before August 31, 2010.



County of Stettler No. 6 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Jacinta Donovan, Development Officer
Cara McKenzie, Development Officer
Johan van der Bank, RPP, MCIP,
Director of Planning and Development

With a three-person team of Development Officers the department provides a range of planning and development services to County Administration, Council, the Development and Subdivision Authorities, developers, contractors and ratepayers, including the following:

- Land use and development policies
- Inter-municipal development and area structure planning
- Development project planning
- Administration of the land use bylaw
- Zoning and subdivision advice
- Safety Codes Act implementation and enforcement

Major Projects

Over the past two years the County's Planning and Development department have successfully worked on several major projects for Council. These include:

- The Town of Stettler and County of Stettler No. 6 Inter-municipal Development Plan (December 2009)
- The Buffalo Lake Inter-municipal Development Plan (September 2010)
- The County of Stettler Municipal Development Plan (September 2009)
- The County of Stettler Land Use Bylaw (pending)
- Planning and Subdivision Guidelines for the County of Stettler
- An overhaul of policies relative to approaches, road construction standards and development agreements/engineering design guidelines for multi-lot subdivisions
- A policy for the implementation and enforcement of the Safety Codes Act

- Policies relative to rural addressing and community and road naming
- Area structure plans for Pheasantback Estates, Buffalo Sands and Eastgate industrial area
- Commercial and Industrial Design Guidelines for the Town of Stettler and County of Stettler gateway areas

The department is in the process of updating its web page information on the County's website to make it more appropriate and accessible for developers and ratepayers.

For 2011 and 2012 the department will be looking to complete the new Land Use Bylaw and, in conjunction with adjacent municipalities, prepare a major area structure plan for the south shore growth node at Buffalo Lake, a major area structure plan for the growth nodes east of the Town of Stettler and an area redevelopment plan for the hamlet of Erskine.

Development Permits and Subdivisions

Tables 1 and 2 respectively compare the number of development permits and subdivision applications processed in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Table 1: Development Permits Processed

2007	2008	2009	2010*
175	131	112	101

* to the end of September

Table 2: Subdivision Applications Processed

2007	2008	2009	2010*
55	44	26	21

* applications received up to October 25th

Although the recent numbers are lower than in previous years, they do not reflect a dramatic downturn in the economic activity in our area. The significantly lower number of subdivisions in 2009 and 2010 may have been due to the less optimistic economic outlook that started in 2008, but it may also have been a result of the moratorium that Council placed on the subdivision of second parcels out of a quarter section in August 2008, which was lifted in August 2009.

Safety Codes Council Permits

The County continues to administer the Safety Codes Act on behalf of Municipal Affairs. Despite the provincial, national and international economic outlook not being as favourable and progressive as in recent years, the following comparison shows that, at least in terms of the volume of development activity, all is not quite doom and gloom in the County of Stettler No. 6. Table 3 shows the number of permits that the County issued on behalf of the Safety Codes Council (SCC) in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Table 3

SCC Permits	2007	2008	2009	2010**
Building	120	91	72	65
Electrical	190	170	112	84
Plumbing & Gas*	264	169	159	113

* includes private sewage disposal permits

** permit applications processed at the end of September

The number of building permits issued in 2009 was at 79% of those issued in 2008, electrical permits at 66%, and plumbing and gas permits at 94%. The total construction value of building permits issued in 2009 was \$12,881,047.40, which is 99% of the \$12,995,872.00 construction value for 2008. At the end of September 2010 the total construction value of building permits issued was \$7,668,197.00, which is 60% of the year-end total for 2009.

Ten Most Asked Questions About The Proposed New Land Use Bylaw

by Johan van der Bank – Director of Planning and Development

Following the public hearing of the proposed new Land Use Bylaw on September 7th and based on the discussion that took place at that hearing, it became clear that there are many misunderstandings about the intent of the County with the proposed new Land Use Bylaw, and with the content of the bylaw itself. The following ten questions and answers address the most significant of these issues.

1. Why does the County have to adopt a new land use bylaw?

The Municipal Government Act (provincial government) requires that every municipality in the province must have a land use bylaw.

2. Why are there so many regulations in the new land use bylaw?

The Municipal Government Act lists a number of aspects that every land use bylaw must address as a minimum. It also provides that a land use bylaw may address other matters if deemed necessary by a municipality. The County of Stettler No. 6 has included a number of regulations, for example dealing with aspects such as landscaping, communication towers, recreational vehicle parks and campgrounds, development setbacks and others, in order to create a regulatory framework that covers a wide range of development possibilities. The County must be ready to deal with a wide range of developments from high density subdivisions at the lake and urban type developments adjacent to the Town of Stettler to farming activities and acreages. If we do not have these regulations in place when development is being proposed, then we have to make those up as we go along.

This is the worst scenario for any developer, because they prefer to know ahead of time what is expected of them so that they can properly plan their proposed development to know what the cost of it may be. It is also not a good position to be in as the Development Authority, because when you make things up as you go along, you tend to be inconsistent and not treat every developer the same. In the process you open yourself up to appeals and accusations of favouring some people against others. Having these regulations also gives some protection to landowners when development is being proposed adjacent to them.

3. Do the many regulations apply to all development?

The bylaw clearly states to what kind of development the regulations apply. For example, the landscaping requirements do not apply to detached dwelling units or agricultural activities. The regulations are primarily aimed at commercial and industrial development. In addition, the Development Authority can relax or vary some of the regulations if they think it is appropriate in the context of a specific development application.

4. Will there be changes to Municipal Reserve and Environmental Reserve parcels when they are rezoned to the new Public Services District?

Municipal Reserve and Environmental Reserve parcels will not change from what they are today. The Municipal Government Act states that a reserve parcel can only be used for the purposes of a public park, a school, recreation purposes or be left in its natural state. If a municipality wants to use a reserve parcel for any other purpose it must first advertise a public hearing and adopt a bylaw.



For example the County cannot allow a cemetery on a reserve parcel without first advertising the intent and holding a public hearing.

5. Is a development permit required for farming activities?

The new bylaw states, as has been the intent always, that any and all types of primary farming activities are 'deemed approved' activities and do not require a development permit or a farming permit. Certain developments that are part of primary farming activity, such as a dugout, a shelter belt or grain bins on a permanent foundation, do require a development permit if they do not comply with the setback requirements in the bylaw. If they do comply with the setback requirements, a development permit is not required but a 'Farm Permit' must be obtained. This is not a new requirement and has been part of the County's land use bylaw since 1987. A farm permit cannot be denied. There is no fee to obtain a farm permit. You can call the County and obtain a farm permit over the phone. The purpose of a farm permit is to ensure that structures and dugouts comply with the setback requirements and helps the County with fire protection.

6. Does the new bylaw protect agriculture?

The Municipal Government Act requires that a land use bylaw must consider the protection of agriculture. The new bylaw has a statement in every land use district that attempts to make people aware that the land use district may be adjacent to the Agricultural District and that agriculture takes precedence over all other developments and uses, and that people must plan their properties to minimize the impact of agriculture on them. The bylaw also has provisions for new multi-lot subdivisions to maintain certain setbacks and/or buffers from adjacent agricultural activities.

7. Why are some properties in the County Residence Agricultural District being rezoned to the Agricultural District?

Over the past 23 years the County has not been consistent in when it requires a new acreage to be rezoned and when not. Today we have many acreages, some across the road from each other, both being the first parcels out of a quarter section, and one is zoned 'Agriculture' and the other is zoned 'Country Residence Agriculture'. On

one there are no restrictions on farming and the keeping of livestock, while the other one is severely restricted. When the County adopted a new municipal development plan in September 2009 it provided for the first parcel taken out of a quarter section to remain in the Agricultural District. Therefore, in order to treat every first parcel out of a quarter section the same, we are going back into history and offering those 'first parcel out' acreages that are in the County Residence Agricultural District an opportunity to go back to the Agricultural District.

8. Does the new land use bylaw restrict agriculture in the County?

No it does not. The new Agricultural District has many more uses than before in an attempt to allow farmers to continue farming and also to diversify into other activities so that they can generate an income and continue to make a living off the farm.

9. Does the new land use bylaw direct all commercial and industrial development to the Town of Stettler?

No it does not. The new bylaw provides opportunities for a variety of commercial and in-

dustrial development to occur in the Agricultural District and in specialized commercial and industrial districts. In order to develop in one of these districts the land must first be rezoned. If the land is within the referral area of the Inter-municipal development Plan with the Town of Stettler, then the Town must review the application. If the application is consistent with the Plan, there is no reason why the development could not occur in the County. Outside of the IDP boundary, the IDP does not have an impact on where commercial and industrial development occurs in the County.

10. Does the new land use bylaw prohibit recreational vehicles at Buffalo Lake?

The new bylaw provides that all subdivisions at the lake are allowed to have Recreational Vehicles, except Buffalo View Estates. This is not a change from before. It is proposed that Council puts a moratorium on the issuance of any new development permits for Recreational Vehicles in Scenic Sands, Abbey Road and Buffalo Lake Meadows until next summer when the County can discuss with these community associations how they want to deal with Recreational Vehicles.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

JOHN BISHOP, DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

SAFE HOLIDAY TRAVEL - GETTING FROM HERE TO THERE

There are many reasons why you look forward to the holiday season – good food, good friends and good cheer. It's also the time to gather with family and friends from near and far. If you will be travelling to be with friends or loved ones, remember to take extra care and caution on Alberta's roads this festive season.

"Despite generally good winter driving conditions so far this year, you still need to be prepared for slippery roads, heavy snowfall, drifting snow, freezing rain and poor visibility," says Jeanette Espie, executive director of Alberta

Transportation's Office of Traffic Safety. "These hazards are an inevitable part of travel in Alberta during this season."

Have your vehicle tuned and winterized, the tires changed and the emergency road kit checked before you make a long trip. Before heading out, check the weather and road conditions so that you are better prepared for the journey ahead or to adjust your travel plans. It is important to let someone know your travel route and schedule. After completing these tasks, you can fully focus on being alert and remembering what to

watch for and do in the event that you encounter hazardous situations.

Once you are on your way, if winter driving conditions prevail, here are a few tips and safety reminders:

- Travel at a safe speed, which will probably be slower than the posted speed limit. Be aware that driving too slow for the road conditions can also be hazardous to you and other road users.
- Pull over or stop in a nearby town or rest area if weather conditions are so bad that you do not feel you can drive safely. If you're on a

highway, pull the vehicle over as far as possible on the right shoulder and use your four-way flashers and any other reflective devices you may have.

- Increase your following distance to give yourself more time and space to react to the unexpected.
- Pay extra attention and use utmost caution at exit ramps and on bridge decks. These spots can become exceptionally icy during and after a snowfall.
- Keep visible. Always drive with your lights on.
- Avoid sudden moves.

Indicate your intention to turn early as vehicles, particularly larger trucks, require more stopping distance on slippery roads.

- Be alert and scan the road. Look for the flashing lights of stalled vehicles on the roadside and the flashing amber and red lights of snow plows.
- Don't pass when roads are icy.
- Avoid overtaking large vehicles and snow plows unless absolutely necessary. The loose snow behind a plow or semi-trailer makes visibility poor and passing

dangerous.

- Allow more time for all driving maneuvers - from stopping, changing lanes, passing a vehicle or crossing an intersection.
- Don't drive when you're tired or if you're getting tense.
- Obey all warnings and road closure information.

"Using good driving skills and practices are the keys to safe travel," reinforces Espie. "And even though the festive season is meant to be enjoyed with family and friends, remember, there is no place you need to be worth risking your safety and the well being of others."

Packing it in – Tips for buckling down gifts and kids

- Place all gifts and loose objects in the vehicle's trunk. Loose objects can fly through the air and injure someone in the vehicle in the event of a sudden turn or stop.
- Place a child in the centre of the back seat, if possible, as it is the safest place.
- Avoid feeding or allowing children to drink while the vehicle is moving. A sudden turn or stop can cause a child to choke.
- Try to keep children's winter clothing to a minimum in the vehicle, as it is more difficult to securely buckle them in their safety seat. Excess clothing causes the internal harness of the safety seat to be too loose for it to effectively protect the child.
- Keep children warm by placing blankets on top of the internal harness of the safety seat.

- Make the journey more comfortable by warming up the vehicle, and therefore the metal buckles of the safety seat, before leaving home.

For more information about traffic safety, please contact the Office of Traffic Safety at (780) 422-8839 or visit www.saferoads.com.



WHEN IT COMES TO DRINKING AND DRIVING, THERE ARE SMARTER CHOICES

Alberta Transportation's Office of Traffic Safety, the police and checkstop want you and your friends to enjoy yourselves. More importantly, we want you, and the others who share the road with you, to be safe and free of persons who drink and drive.

"No one wants their celebrations to end in tragedy," says Jeanette Espie, Executive Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "Even though most people know that drinking and driving can be deadly, there are still many who think it's okay to drink and drive. People just don't seem to realize that driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a serious offence that can

have tragic consequences."

Some of the consequences impaired drivers can expect to face are:

- heavy fines;
- a criminal record;
- an automatic minimum three-month administrative driver's licence suspension. Once convicted, an additional licence suspension for a minimum of one year.
- significantly higher automotive insurance costs; and
- possible jail terms.

And that's if they are lucky enough to avoid a motor vehicle collision causing injury or death. Last year alone, 87 people died in alcohol related

collision in Alberta.

Alberta Transportation is asking Albertans to take charge this holiday season. The smartest thing people can do is plan ahead. It is up to all of us to support positive and reliable alternatives to drinking and driving. Smart choices like designating a driver or using alternate modes of transportation will prevent tragedy and further promote safety on our streets.

Albertans are asked to stop and THINK rather than getting behind the wheel if they are going to be drinking. Don't be a risk to yourself or others on the road. Make a smart choice and don't drink and drive.

FIRE SAFETY DURING THE WINTER HOLIDAYS



The Facts

- The winter holiday season is a time of high fire risk.
- During this holiday season the incidence of fires and fire losses involving candles, home heating equipment, clothes dryers, and electrical sources increase significantly when compared with their incidence during the rest of the year.

Safety Tips

Christmas Trees

- Ensure your artificial tree is "Fire Resistant".
- Ensure your live tree is fresh and moist at all times. Cut the base of the stem at an angle and keep the tree well watered. Drooping needles indicate a dry, highly flammable tree.
- Set up live and artificial trees away from fireplaces, heaters, and other heat sources and ensure they are not blocking an exit.

Lighting

- Indoors or outdoors, use only lights that have been tested and labelled by a recognized testing agency such as the ULC.
- Inspect holiday lights yearly for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections and throw out damaged sets.
- If using extension cords, make sure they are rated for

the intended use and in good condition.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Decorations

- Choose non-flammable decorations whenever possible.
- Keep decorations, curtains, clothing and spray from aerosol cans away from open flames or heat sources, such as lights, candles, heaters and fireplaces.
- Never use candles to decorate your Christmas tree.
- Mount candles on metal or glass candleholders, or place them in non-combustible containers.

Holiday entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Do not leave your cooking unattended.
- Provide smokers with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. Douse butts completely in water before

discarding.

- After a party, check under upholstery and cushions for smouldering cigarettes or butts.
- Keep matches and lighters up high and out sight and reach of children.
- Test your smoke alarms and explain your fire escape plan to your guests.
- Do not smoke in bed, when tired or under the influence of alcohol or medication. Smoking is the most common cause of fire deaths.

General

- Have your chimney and furnace cleaned and professionally inspected prior to each winter season.
- Keep heating appliances

at least one metre (three feet) away from combustibles.

- Electrical and heating systems can fail and become fire hazards. Ensure they are regularly checked by a professional, especially prior to the holiday season when fireplaces, heaters, appliances and other electrical equipment are in maximum use.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and a well rehearsed fire escape plan in case a fire does break out in your home.
- Have a multi purpose fire extinguisher in your home with a minimum rating of 3A, 10BC.
- Protect your home this holiday season by covering your decorations with fire retardant spray.



For more information, please contact the Alberta Emergency Management Agency at (780) 422- 9000 (dial 310-000 for

toll-free access outside of Edmonton) or visit www.aema.alberta.ca Last updated/ reviewed June 15, 2009 1

RECREATION

PHIL HOLTON, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

County of Stettler Community Service Awards

The annual community service awards are handed out each January to deserving community members located within the County of Stettler. The contributions of each volunteer are vital for the survival of our communities.

The Stettler Dodge Community Service Award is presented to the County's most deserving volunteers every year. The award is for dedication and selflessness of one or a couple of residents who continually go above and beyond for their community members.

The ATCO Electric Culture, Arts and Heritage Award is presented annually to a resident(s) who demonstrate a commitment to bringing culture, arts and heritage to our small rural communities.

Each Agricultural Society also has the opportunity to present awards to volunteers in each of their respective areas.

- Ron Donald Memorial Award (Donalda)
- Big Valley Agricultural Society Community Service Award
- Sullivan Lake West Agricultural Society Community Service Award
- Stettler District Agricultural Society
- Erskine Social Recreation Society

The 2011 County of Stettler Awards will be held in Erskine on January 14, 2010. Tickets are available at the County of Stettler Office. Contact Phil Holton (403)742-4441 email: pholton@stettlercounty.ca or your Recreation Board Member for more information and tickets.



Waste Transfer Station Hours Winter Hours In Effect

REGIONAL LANDFILL	Year Round	Monday to Friday	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
		Saturdays	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
		CLOSED ALL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS	
STETTLER TRANSFER STATION	Year Round	Thursday to Monday	10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
		CLOSED ALL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS	
The following Transfer Stations will close on all Statutory Holidays falling on a regular day of Operation but will be open the day preceding the Statutory Holiday.			
BOTHA TRANSFER STATION	Year Round	Tuesdays	1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
		Saturdays	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
BIG VALLEY TRANSFER STATION	Summer	Tuesdays	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
		Saturdays	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
	Winter	Tuesdays	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
		Saturdays	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
BYEMOOR TRANSFER STATION	Summer	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
		Saturdays	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
	Winter	Saturdays only	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
DONALDA TRANSFER STATION	Summer	Wednesdays	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
		Saturdays	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
	Winter	Saturdays only	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
ERSKINE TRANSFER STATION	Year Round	Wednesdays	1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
		Saturdays	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
GADSBY TRANSFER STATION	Summer	Wednesdays	1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
		Saturdays	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
	Winter	Saturdays only	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
ROCHON SANDS TRANSFER STATION	Year Round	Walk-in	
WHITE SANDS TRANSFER STATION	Year Round	Walk-in	

Winter Hours: October 1 to April 30 annually
Summer Hours: May 1 to September 30 annually

Big Valley Christmas Party

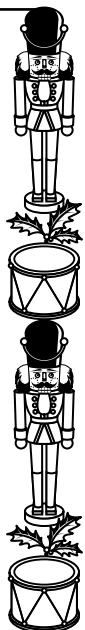
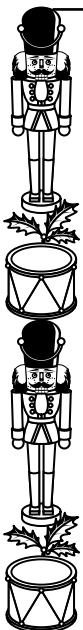
December 18, 2010

12:00 noon

Register kids under the age of 10 for gifts by calling 403-876-2420

Everyone is welcome to come and visit with Santa!

Entertainment provided.



All of the staff at the County of Stettler wish you and your families the safest and best holiday season possible. It has been our pleasure to serve you in 2010 and we look forward to continuing to provide you, our residents, with the most responsible, effective and productive governance into 2011.



Message from Council

Happy Holidays to the County of Stettler.

Following our election in October we find ourselves going into the next few years with a mostly new council. While we are looking forward to the challenges that are coming our way, it is important to take a moment and recognize the contributions of the past members of council for their years of public service. We are looking forward to the challenge in leading the County of Stettler into a period of prosperity and growth by progressive and innovative actions.

This past summer has been a challenge for many of us involved in the County of Stettler, especially our transportation department; however, the bad roads will more than be offset by the blessings of much needed rainfall. The new council is eager to delve into all aspects of municipal governance and we are all committed to as much transparency as possible amongst the ratepayers, the council and administration. Together, we are dedicated to listening to our ratepayers and opening the lines of communications in hopes that we can better serve the County of Stettler.

The holidays are a great time to reflect on what has happened in the past years and to be hopeful for the future that the past experiences will shape. This holiday season we will be looking forward to the new year, a year when the County of Stettler continues to foster the strength, vitality and sustainability of our communities.

I truly hope that each and every resident in the County of Stettler takes this time to spend time with their families, friends and loved ones. Our communities are made up of strong, vibrant families and our wish for each one of them is that the joy and magic of the holiday season visits all of their homes. Merry Christmas Everyone!



COUNTY OF STETTLER OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 20 – 22: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	Dec. 23 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Dec. 24 – 27 – Office Closed	Dec. 28-30 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Dec. 31 – 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	Jan. 1-3 – Office Closed
Jan. 4 – Resume Regular Business Hours 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	