

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE COUNTY

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

PM#41398593

AUGUST 2010



2010 Municipal Election

Election Day - Monday, October 18, 2010



Voting

Every Voting Station will be open promptly at 10:00 a.m. and will be kept open continuously until 8:00 p.m.

Who Can Vote?

A person is eligible to vote in the 2010 Municipal Election if that person:

- (a) is at least 18 years old,
- (b) is a Canadian citizen, and
- (c) has resided in Alberta for the 6 consecutive months immediately preceding election day and the person's place of residence is located in the area on election day.

Note: The County of Stettler No. 6 does not compile a voter's list.

Rules of Residence

- (a) a person may have only one place of residence
- (b) the residence of a person is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent, the person intends to return;
- (c) a person does not lose the person's residence by leaving the person's home for a temporary purpose;
- (d) subject to clause
- (e) a student who
 - i. attends an educational institution within or outside Alberta,
 - ii. temporarily rents accommodation for the purpose of attending an educational institution, and
 - iii. has family members who are resident in Alberta and with whom the student ordinarily resides when not attending an educational institution is deemed to reside with those family members;
- (f) if a person leaves the area with the intention of making the person's residence elsewhere, the person loses the person's residence within the area.

Running for Municipal Office

Who Can Run for Office?

- At least 18 years of age on nomination day
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of the County of Stettler for 6 consecutive months preceding nomination day.
- You must also be a resident of the electoral division or ward in which you attend to run for the same six month period

Who is Ineligible?

- The Auditor of the County of Stettler
- Employees of the County of Stettler – unless they have been granted a leave of absence
- If your property taxes are more than \$50 in arrears or you are in default, for more than 90 days, or any other debt in excess of \$500 to the County of Stettler
- If you have been convicted of an offense under the Local Authorities Elections Act within the last 10 years.
- If you are a judge, Member of Parliament, senator or MLA, you must resign that position before you take office as a member of council

Filing Your Nomination

1. You must submit a prescribed Nomination Form
2. Your form must be signed by 5 people eligible to vote in the election. They must be eligible to vote in your jurisdiction on the date of signing the nomination paper. The people signing your nomination must be a resident in your electoral division or the ward in which you are running. Each signature must also be accompanied by the person's name and address (street address or legal land description).
3. The completed form is to be filed with the Returning Officer between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. (noon) on September 20, 2010 at the County of Stettler Administration Building. Nominations submitted by fax or email will not be accepted.

Candidate Information Booklets and Forms are available at the Front Counter of the County Administration Building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday until September 20.

If you have any other questions regarding running for office or voting, please contact:

Returning Officer
Yvette Cassidy
403-742-4441
ycassidy@stettlercounty.ca

Deputy Returning Officer
Shawna Benson
403-742-4441
sbenson@stettlercounty.ca

2010 Municipal Election Important Dates

Nomination Day

Monday September 20, 2010

*Candidate Information Packages and Nomination Forms are available at the County Office

Nomination Papers to be filed between 10 a.m. and 12 noon
County of Stettler Administration Building
6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler AB

*Watch for official notice of Nomination Day in The Stettler Independent

Advance Vote

*Note: Advance Vote is open to anyone – its an additional time to vote to try and make it more convenient for voters

Thursday October 14, 2010

Voting Station
Open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Meeting Room
County of Stettler Administration Building
6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler AB

Election Day

Monday, October 18, 2010

Voting Stations
Open 10 a.m to 8 p.m.

Voting Stations located throughout the County.

2010 Voting Stations

Ward 1
Byemoor-Endiang
Location
Byemoor Community Hall

Ward 2*
Big Valley
Location
Big Valley Jubilee Hall
or
Linda Hall

Ward 3*
Botha-Gadsby
Location
Gadsby Community Hall
or
Botha Community Hall

Ward 4
Erskine-South Warden
Location
Erskine I.O.O.F Hall
or
County of Stettler Administration Building

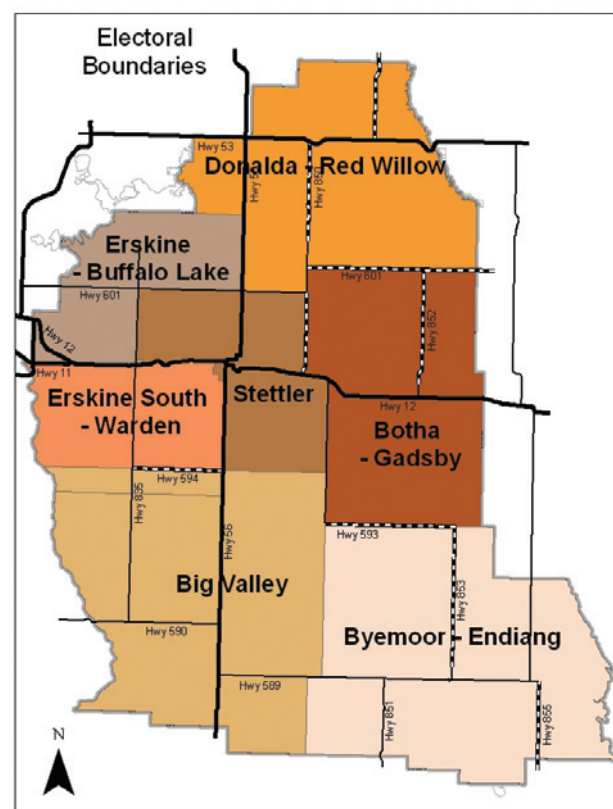
Ward 5
Stettler
Location
County of Stettler Administration Building

Ward 6
Erskine – Buffalo Lake
Location
Erskine I.O.O.F Hall

Ward 7*
Donalda – Red Willow
Location
Donalda Community Hall
or
Red Willow Community Hall

*For wards with more than one voting station, voters can choose to vote at the station that most convenient for them on Election Day.

**Elections will only be held in Wards where more than candidate has been nominated



County of Stettler No. 6

6602 - 44 Ave., Box 1270, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0

Phone: 403-742-4441 Fax: 403-742-1277

Office Hours: Monday ~ Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Receptionist: Vicki Meyer
Website: www.stettlercounty.ca

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT 41398593
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6
BOX 1270
STETTLER, AB T0C 2L0



2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2009 Financial Statements

As of 2009, municipal financial statements are to be prepared using the net financial assets (debt) model as well as report on tangible capital assets. By using this new approach, we now have a more complete picture of the financial condition of the County of Stettler No. 6. Financial statements provide information on a municipality's financial position in terms of its assets and liabilities, its net debt, its accumulated surplus or deficit, and its tangible capital assets and other non-financial assets. They also provide a meaningful summary of the sources, allocation and consumption of municipal economic resources, how the activities of the period have affected the municipality's net debt, how municipal activities were financed, and how cash requirements were met. Each indicator gives the readers of the financial statements information about the status of the municipality's finances.

If you require a full set of financial statements, please contact the administration office at 403-742-4441.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2009	2008 (restated)
Financial Assets		
Cash and short-term investments	9,223,208	8,337,937
Taxes receivable	455,733	203,565
Trade and other receivables	4,924,790	2,678,912
Loan receivable	1,347,054	1,430,834
Long-term investments	9,426	8,745
	<hr/> 15,960,211	<hr/> 12,659,993
Liabilities		
Temporary loans	3,000,000	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,282,673	3,267,804
Deposit liabilities	118,478	144,377
Employee benefit obligations	162,938	112,887
Deferred revenue	109,566	88,130
Future gravel reclamation liability	867,726	708,632
Long-term debt	1,373,785	1,469,176
	<hr/> 7,915,166	<hr/> 5,791,006
Net Financial Assets (Debt)	<hr/> 8,045,045	<hr/> 6,868,987
Non-Financial Assets		
Inventory of materials and supplies	4,974,593	4,728,167
Tangible capital assets	72,488,033	66,340,706
Prepaid expenses	159,246	189,929
	<hr/> 77,621,872	<hr/> 71,258,802
Accumulated Surplus	<hr/> 85,666,917	<hr/> 78,127,789

2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUGUST 2010

www.stettlercounty.ca

Page 3

2009 Financial Statements

Banks that accept online or telebanking payments:

- RBC
- TD Canada Trust
- Bank of Montreal
- Alberta Treasury Branch
- Credit Union's
- CIBC
- Scotiabank

If your bank is not listed, please check with your bank and then contact the County office to get it set up. We accept utility payments and taxes under our account. Please ensure that you are paying your taxes with your roll number or owner number and utilities with your customer number. Also please ensure that you are making the payment to the County of Stettler No. 6 as there are times that they are paid to the incorrect vendor.

Consolidated Statement of Operations

	2009	2008 (restated)
Revenues		
Net municipal property taxes	14,243,528	12,247,201
Sales and user fees	1,281,580	722,741
Government transfers	928,009	676,676
Investment income	119,411	325,391
Penalties and costs on taxes	72,568	14,868
Rentals	120,624	217,651
Licenses, permits and fines	122,955	184,236
Other	12,357	11,170
Total revenue	16,901,032	14,399,934
Expenses		
Legislative	301,259	295,473
Administration	1,711,510	1,535,373
Protective Services	826,343	934,853
Roads, streets, walks, lighting	6,974,822	7,374,521
Waste and wastewater	505,024	238,325
Waste management	203,424	140,778
Family and community support	191,540	203,866
Ag services	454,560	434,054
Subdivision land and development	474,243	454,918
Recreation, parks and culture	634,405	610,757
Other	136,747	149,082
Amortization of tangible capital assets	3,176,798	2,873,415
(Gain) Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(55,263)	(98,263)
Total Expenses	15,535,412	15,147,152
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	1,365,620	(747,218)
Other - government transfers for capital	6,173,508	6,204,785
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	7,539,128	5,457,567
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	78,127,789	72,670,222
Accumulated surplus, end of year	85,666,917	78,127,789

2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2009 Financial Statements

COUNTY RESERVES				
Operating Reserves	2008 Balance	Increases	Decreases	2009 Balance
General	\$3,095,881.49	\$700,000.00		\$3,795,881.49
General - Legal	\$200,000.00			\$200,000.00
Public trust	\$110,083.85	\$2,348.14		\$112,431.99
Recreation	\$47,062.36			\$47,062.36
Recreation - Special Projects	\$403,934.85	\$175,000.00	\$188,512.40	\$390,422.45
Disaster project	\$175,000.00			\$175,000.00
Road Plan Registration	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00
Planning and Development	\$110,000.00			\$110,000.00
Digital Services	\$125,000.00			\$125,000.00
Agricultural Services		\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
F.C.S.S.	\$17,110.27			\$17,110.27
Bridges	\$200,000.00			\$200,000.00
	\$4,584,072.82	\$902,348.14	\$188,512.40	\$5,297,908.56
Capital Reserves	2008 Balance	Increases	Decreases	2009 Balance
Administration	\$365,228.44		\$53,000.00	\$312,228.44
Water/Sewer Projects	\$2,129,375.22	\$670,808.88		\$2,800,184.10
Fire	\$250,000.00	\$385,000.00		\$635,000.00
Public Works	\$2,262,817.37			\$2,262,817.37
	\$5,007,421.03	\$1,055,808.88	\$53,000.00	\$6,010,229.91
Grand Totals	\$9,591,493.85	\$1,958,157.02	\$241,512.40	\$11,308,138.47



2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUGUST 2010

www.stettlercounty.ca

Page 5

2009 Financial Statements

Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets

	Land	Land Improvements	Buildings	Engineered Structures	Machinery & equipment	Vehicles	2009	2008 (restated)
Cost								
Balance - beginning of year	697,222	76,021	1,576,612	116,766,790	9,878,813	4,649,258	133,644,716	124,870,854
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	10,000	770	0	7,277,686	2,075,027	38,871	9,402,354	9,173,652
Disposal of tangible capital assets	0	0	(18,311)	(106,809)	(262,003)	(40,940)	(428,063)	(399,790)
Balance - end of year	707,222	76,791	1,558,301	123,937,667	11,691,837	4,647,189	142,619,007	133,644,716
Accumulated Amortization								
Balance - beginning of year	0	39,930	560,912	60,933,620	3,993,999	1,775,549	67,304,010	64,737,412
Annual amortization	0	2,922	31,158	1,869,607	998,053	275,058	3,176,798	2,873,415
Accumulated amortization on disposals	0	0	0	(102,002)	(207,892)	(39,940)	(349,834)	(306,817)
Balance - end of year	0	42,852	592,070	62,701,225	4,784,160	2,010,667	70,130,974	67,304,010
Net book value of tangible capital assets	707,222	33,939	966,231	61,236,442	6,907,677	2,636,522	72,488,033	66,340,706
2008 net book value of tangible capital assets	697,222	36,091	1,015,700	55,833,170	5,884,814	2,873,709	66,340,706	

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Disclosure of salaries and benefits for elected municipal officials, the chief administrative officer and designated officers as required by provincial regulation is as follows:							
					2009	2008	
		# of	Benefits		Total	Total	
Div/Ward	Elected Official	Persons	Salary (1)	Allowances (2&3)			
Byemoor-Endiang	Stulberg, Leslie	1	\$37,822	\$3,145	\$40,967	\$37,579	
Big Valley	Grover, Dave	1	\$37,809	\$3,145	\$40,954	\$42,819	
Erskine South-Warden	Marshall, Earl	1	\$38,783	\$3,145	\$41,928	\$37,043	
Stettler	Chapman, Blake	1	\$31,010	\$2,883	\$33,893	\$28,404	
Botha-Gadsby	Carey, Vic	1	\$32,741	\$-	\$32,741	\$46,814	
Erskine - Buffalo Lake	Gendre, Joe	1	\$32,244	\$3,145	\$35,389	\$36,536	
Donalda - Red Willow	Nixon, Wayne	1	\$32,632	\$3,145	\$35,777	\$37,565	
	Chief Administrative Officer Fox, Tim	1	\$148,452	\$20,198	\$168,650	\$147,282	
	Other designated Officers		\$65,815	\$8,585	\$74,400	\$84,679	
(1) Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, overtime, lump sum payments, gross honoraria and any other direct cash remuneration.							
(2) Employer's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, accidental disability and dismemberment insurance, long term disability plans, professional memberships and tuition.							
(3) Benefits and allowances figures also include the Employer's share of the costs of additional taxable benefits including special leave with pay, financial planning services, retirement planning services, concessionary loans, travel allowances, car allowances and club memberships.							

Your Councillor Contacts

Tim Fox
CAO
Ph: 403-742-4441
Fax: 403-742-1277
email:
tfox@stettlercounty.ca

Yvette Cassidy
Assistant CAO
Ph: 403-742-4441
Fax: 403-742-1277
email:
ycassidy@stettlercounty.ca

Vic Carey
Botha-Gadsby
Ph: 403-574-2349
Fax: 403-742-2344
email:
vcarey@stettlercounty.ca

Blake Chapman
Stettler
Ph: 403-742-3829
email:
bchapman@stettlercounty.ca

Joe Gendre
Erskine-Buffalo Lake
Ph: 403-742-5141
Fax: 403-742-5147
email:
jgendre@stettlercounty.ca

Dave Grover
Big Valley
Ph: 403-742-0563
Fax: 403-742-0563
email:
dgrover@stettlercounty.ca

Earl Marshall
Erskine South - Warden
Ph: 403-742-4856
Fax: 403-742-0352
email:
emarshall@stettlercounty.ca

Wayne Nixon
Donalda-Red Willow
Ph: 403-742-4784
email:
wnixon@stettlercounty.ca

Les Stulberg
Byemoor-Endiang
Ph: 403-579-2403
Fax: 403-579-2205
email:
lstulberg@stettlercounty.ca



Back Row: Joe Gendre, Les Stulberg (Deputy Reeve), Earl Marshall (Reeve), Wayne Nixon, Blake Chapman Front Row: Tim Fox - CAO, Vic Carey, Dave Grover

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 14, 2010

Council Increases Compensation for Roadside Clean-Up Program

Currently, the County of Stettler has a road side clean-up program that encourages community and youth groups located within the County of Stettler boundaries to apply to the County of Stettler to clean up rural road right-of-ways throughout the County. The new compensation scale indicates that the County will pay the applicant \$55 per km, with \$75 per km being paid to roads that located within 10 miles of a town/village or 2 miles of a landfill.

The County will provide the fluorescent-coloured vests, garbage bags and the appropriate safety training material to each group. Each group will be awarded a maximum of 10 kilometres, and they will be awarded based on council identified priority areas for clean-up.

Council updates policy on Stockpile Rent

The current policy outlines a flat rental fee for any stockpile located on private land. This policy was over 10 years old and needed to be more in line with today's current trends in land compensation.

The new policy outlines a formula for determining rent that considers the actual area of the stockpile, an adverse effect fee and the current rates being paid by the oil and gas industry in determining the final rental price. This price will be determined and agreed upon by both the County and the Landowner in the form of a signed agreement.

County of Stettler to support East Central Alberta Heritage Society in Securing Provincial Funding

Council has discussed at length to benefits to having the rail re-constructed to Donalda and have agreed to support the East Central Alberta Heritage Society in their quest to secure provincial funding for the project.

In a show of support for the East Central Heritage Society's rail line extension to Donalda; The County of Stettler has approved a work-in-kind donation of 40 hours of brushing, 35 hours of grading and 224 hours of packing, excluding the cost of labour and fuel. This is a significant equipment donation and shows the County's commitment to ensuring that economic development project like this continue to happen in our area.

Stettler Fire Hall Expansion Gets Partial Funding

Budgeted for in the 2010 budget, the Stettler Fire Hall Expansion was tendered out and came back significantly over-budget. Due to the restrictions in the County's fiscal capital budget, funding the full amount of the overage was impossible. However, in order to ensure the project moves ahead, County Council has decided to fund the project up to \$175,400.00. This amount will cover the County's half of the construction of the addition, as well as the purchase of a breathing air compressor. The money will come from a previously budgeted amount of \$23,650 for the breather compressor, \$100,000 committed from the MSI grant funding and \$75,000 from the County's general operating reserves. The Town of Stettler is also funding this project as partners in the Stettler Regional Fire Commission.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 12, 2010

County Awards Three Year Gravel Supply Contract

The County awarded a 3 year gravel supply contract to Hand Hills Holdings Inc. There were 4 bidders, and although some of the bids were lower, the distance that gravel had to be hauled to reach the County of Stettler was greater from these two lower bids. After calculating the estimated hauling costs, it was determined that Hand Hills Holdings would be the most cost effective choice. The contract calls for 165,000 tonnes of gravel, crushed to the County's specifications over the next three years. This amount of gravel will work toward the County having 10 years of gravel in reserve in order to meet our 25 year Gravel Plan. The total cost of the 3 year supply of gravel will be \$1,320,000.

County Extend Resource Road Hard-Surfacing

The County of Stettler received a Building Canada Grant in 2009 for the paving and hard-surfacing of the resource road that would provide a trucking route around Stettler. This grant was funded 1/3 by the federal government, 1/3 by the provincial government and 1/3 by the County of Stettler. The project was approved for 3.11 million dollars, but came in under budget, with the entire Resource Road only costing about \$2,362,310.41. Rather than relinquish the remaining portion, the County asked and were approved for extending the scope of the project to include the improving of adjacent roads to the resource road.

The remainder of the funds will now go towards improving Range Road 19-5. The entire road will be chip sealed and intersections will be paved with asphalt. This should create a more streamlined traffic flow through the west side of the Town. Total cost of the extension to the project will be \$660,691.50.

Community Investment Readiness Strategic Plan Endorsed by Council

Sponsored by CAEP (Central Alberta Economic Partnership), the County of Stettler has been participating in a Community Investment Readiness project for about 2 years. This project was designed to help communities become more prepared to accept economic investment into their area.

Making a Strategic Plan was phase three of the project. After meeting with a small group of councillors and administration, the Strategic Plan was drafted and is now endorsed by the County of Stettler Council. Highlights of the report include a desire to complete an Area Structure Plan for the Erskine/Highway

12 area west of Stettler; create a portfolio that showcases the County of Stettler to potential visitors and investors and to work co-operatively on a Regional Economic Development Strategy. Now that the plan has been endorsed the document will move into finishing stages and be available for download on the website shortly.

1st Reading – Bylaw 1440-10 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 704: Establish Direct Control District No. 6 and 1st Reading – Bylaw 1441-10 – Rezone 10 acres on NW-9-39-19-W4M to Direct Control District No. 6.

These two bylaws are relating to the same development application. East Central Auto Recyclers has applied to open a facility on 10 acres, north of Stettler, adjacent to Highway 56. The nature of the business requires strict control over the land use and aesthetic appeal of the entrance into the Town of Stettler. These bylaws outline the creation of a District with strict guiding principles for development and the second bylaw calls for that same portion to be re-zoned. Both bylaws were discussed simultaneously and the establishment of the Direct Control District was passed unanimously. The Rezoning application was given first reading, but must now be discussed with the Town of Stettler pursuant to the Inter-Municipal Development Plan.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 9, 2010

Council Approves Cemetery Assistance Grant for Tail Creek Metis Cemetery

The Tail Creek Metis Cemetery has asked for a funding boost to help with the rising costs of maintenance of the community cemetery. The County has created a fund with which it uses to help rural cemeteries stay afloat with small financial grants to help with the operations and maintenance. These funding boosts are necessary for the smaller cemeteries because of the increase in costs to maintain them and the diminishing number of volunteers available and/or willing to contribute the upkeep.

County Approves Purchase of Pumper-Tanker for Byemoor Station

Council has approved the purchase of a 3000 gallon commercial pumper tanker for the station in Byemoor. This pumper-tanker will allow for the area to maintain a semi-protected rating in regards to insurance and will also provide for additional water supply for larger emergencies and multi station responses. The truck tender was opened on June 8th, and the winning bid came in under budget at \$331,847US.

Council Discusses Alternative Options for the Rural Water Servicing Strategy

County council continues to debate the best strategies for servicing all of the rural residents with potable water. Options reviewed today include installing a truck fill station in Erskine and a truck fill station near Gadsby as well as extending a line North of Stettler. There is on-going discussion about storage, fire-fighting capacity and safety when it comes to supplying water to more rural places.

Bylaw 1442-10 Assessment Review Boards

Council has passed a bylaw outlining the new assessment complaint system set forth by the Alberta Government. The new structure will ensure a one-level complaint process with three Boards hearing specific matters. This bylaw also gives administration the authority to participate in joint Assessment Review Boards together with other municipalities in the need ever arises.



Council Dates:

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 ~ 10 a.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 ~ 10 a.m.

MPC Dates:

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 ~ 1 p.m.

More New Weeds....

In the last edition of County Connections, we discussed a few plants that have been named to the noxious and prohibited noxious list of the new Weed Act. With the proclamation of this Act, the complete list is available to all, and some common garden plants have been newly named as a noxious weeds, or upgraded in their status on the list. In addition, a number of subspecies not named to the Act are being treated as noxious in the County, due to their weedy nature and similarity to those on the list. In the last edition of the County newsletter, Himalayan Balsam, Creeping Bellflower, Yellow Clematis, and Absinth Wormwood were featured, and it is heartening to note the concern ratepayers have expressed over these weeds. In this edition, a few more weeds will be featured.

Baby's Breath

This escaped ornamental plant has long been used in flower arrangements. It has become a severe problem in southeast part of the province, infesting over entire pastures, preventing everything else from growing. It is a prolific seed producer, and once established, can take over areas quite quickly. This two foot tall, white-flowered, widely branched plant establishes very easily in low fertility areas.



Baby's Breath has been noted in many parts of the County, but is generally in low numbers, so if we take steps to control escaped plants now we can prevent it from becoming a serious County-wide issue. It is recommended that even if you have had it under control in your garden for many years, you should remove it so that it does not become a problem in the future.

Dame's Rocket



This tall, shallow rooted perennial has long been a favorite in flowerbeds where some midseason background color was required. It is a prolific seed producer, with the potential for more than 20,000 seeds from a single plant. Once escaped, its purple, canola-like flower head is easily noticeable in ditches, hayfields and waste areas. It, too, can take over areas and make pastures

non-productive. Hand picking, pulling from flower beds, or chemicals are recommended control from this newly-named noxious weed.

Burdock family of plants

Several members of the Burdock family have been named to the noxious weed list. Long an annoyance in pastures and waste areas, these plants have been named to the noxious list largely as a result of the damage its seed heads can wreak on cattle. The spines of the pod are said to have been the inspiration for Velcro, and have tiny hooks which implant themselves to fur. They can blind an animal if they become attached near its eye. This biennial plant can easily reach over eight feet tall in its second year, so control is recommended in the first year when it is just a flat rosette of leaves.



Hawkweed family

Another whole family of weeds that have been named to the weed list is the hawkweed family, but as this group is of an even more serious nature, and is rare in the province, they have been named to the top category, the prohibited noxious list. A huge problem in BC, this grouping of plants has been known to take over entire pastures, and have been seen at an amazing density of over 300 plants per square



meter. While it is extremely rare in the County, any plant should be considered suspicious if it has hairy, spoon-shaped leaves at the base of the plant, with a single or small group of yellow or sometimes orange flowers on top of a leafless stem up to 20 inches in height, and it exudes milky juice if cut.

In addition to all these new weeds, some well-known plants continue to cause us problems, and we do our best to keep them and their close relatives from becoming issues. So, any plant that has the same weedy nature as one on the list should also be controlled. Contact the County for more information if you would like assistance keeping the following plants in check:

- Perennial snapdragons, or any plant that has the same appearance and aggressive growth habit as the two-toned yellow-flowered Yellow Toadflax
- Small Shasta Daisy-like flowers that spread into lawns and fields should be considered to be the same plant as the noxious Ox-eye Daisy
- All chamomile plants tend to be aggressive seed producers and should be controlled like Scentless Chamomile
- All tansy plants have the same toxicity and should be kept out of flowerbeds, regardless of how decorative the leaves or seed heads appear to be.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

JOHAN VAN DER BANK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE BYLAW REVIEW ... THE COUNTY NEEDS YOUR INPUT

by Johan van der Bank, Director of Planning & Development

As you may know the LUB is more than 20 years old, and the County is currently reviewing this document. This review is based on the directions that County residents provided to County Council in 2008/09 with the Municipal Development Plan review process. County Council has been working on the revised Land Use Bylaw since January 2010 and in June Council released a draft Land Use Bylaw for public consultation. At the end of June a letter was mailed to all landowners whose properties are proposed to be rezoned. These include properties of which a portion had been rezoned previously to provide for an acreage subdivision, but the acreage has never been subdivided. Since the first acreage taken out of a quarter section does not require rezoning out of the Agricultural District, these landowners can still apply for a first parcel subdivision under the Municipal Development Plan policy framework. The list of properties to be rezoned also includes the rezoning of first acreages previously taken out of a quarter section back to the Agricultural District pursuant to the Municipal Development Plan policy framework. It also includes the rezoning of properties back to the Agricultural District where existing land use districts are being eliminated in the revised Land Use Bylaw, such as the Intensive Agricultural District and the Agricultural and Associated Uses District. The letter asked whether the landowner agrees or disagrees with the proposed rezoning of their land. Most landowners indicated that they agree. A few landowners disagreed and the County has made the necessary changes to accommodate those requests, prior to considering first reading of the bylaw.

The proposed revised Land Use Bylaw and the proposed rezonings will be considered by County Council for first reading on August 11, 2010. Formal notices of the proposed rezoning will then be mailed to every affected landowner, including adjacent landowners. A public hearing will be scheduled for September 8, 2010 at 1 p.m.

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.

BUFFALO LAKE INTER-MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Johan van der Bank – Director of Planning and Development

The Counties of Camrose, Lacombe and Stettler and the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and White Sands have a steering committee overseeing the revisions to the Buffalo Lake Inter-municipal Development Plan. After public consultation in the spring of 2009, the Steering Committee in June of 2010 released their final draft plan to the five municipal Councils to consider. The draft overall development concept:

- (a) Provides that multi-lot subdivision will be allowed only within defined growth nodes that are identified around the lake;
- (b) Places a maximum number of units that can be developed within the plan area (2,995 units in the County of Stettler No. 6);
- (c) Encourages a conservation design approach for multi-lot developments;
- (d) Requires developers to provide public access to the lake or make financial contributions to the expansion of existing access points;
- (e) Recognizes the Buffalo Lake Integrated Shoreline Management Plan that was developed by Alberta SRD and takes some direction from that plan in identifying growth nodes and access points away from sensitive riparian habitats.

First reading of the revised plan was given by each Council in July, and a joint public hearing is scheduled for Saturday August 14, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Erskine School. Every landowner in and adjacent to the plan area received a letter at the beginning of July to advise them of the bylaw reading process. Since many people may not be at their normal mailing address in Calgary or Edmonton, the County hand-delivered the same notice to all the lake communities.

CLEAN-UP OF THE BUFFALO LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVES

by Johan van der Bank, Director of Planning & Development

As you are aware the Municipal and Environmental Reserves in the Buffalo Lake area are County property and are there for the enjoyment of residents of the lake communities and the general public. The County has noted that there are several items of personal property within its reserves that appear to be lost, abandoned or unclaimed, while others are blatant encroachments of private structures and yards onto public property. Since these items are all illegal (if you do not have a license agreement with the County to occupy County property) and are sometimes an eyesore or may present a public safety concern, the Council of the County of Stettler No. 6 has directed Administration, pursuant to Section 610 of the Municipal Government Act, to remove the aforementioned items from the Municipal and Environmental Reserves in the Buffalo Lake communities. This action started on **Monday, July 5th, 2010 and will be ongoing.**

The County hired a land surveyor to stake out every property corner and deflection point along the Environmental reserve boundary with a survey marker post that is painted bright orange and marked "ALBERTA SURVEY MARKER POST, DO NOT REMOVE". This project was completed in July. The surveyor also identified all those properties where encroachments of any sort onto the Environmental Reserve exist. These include things such as a property fence that was incorrectly placed, a deck, a private sewage disposal pump-out, a fire pit, a gazebo, a shed, a retaining wall, etc.

The County will now determine how to deal with every encroachment. Where it is an insignificant matter such as a property fence that was slightly placed into the Environmental Reserve, the County will find a way to address the situation in a manner that is the least disruptive to the landowner. Where it is a shed or other moveable structure that is illegally placed on the Environmental Reserve, the County will work with the landowner to have these structures moved off of the Environmental Reserve. Where the encroachment is more serious, such as a deck or retaining wall having been built onto the Environmental Reserve, the County will consider available options to have the situation corrected.

If you currently have a valid license agreement with the County to occupy Municipal or Environmental Reserves, you may continue with the occupancy under that agreement until it expires. Please note that the County will not entertain any new requests for license agreements to occupy Municipal or Environmental Reserves or requests to extend existing agreements.

If you have any personal property items on Municipal or Environmental Reserves, please remove them before you return to your home at the end of the summer. Any items remaining within Municipal Reserve or Environmental Reserve lands will be removed by the County and will become the property of the County, pursuant to Section 610 of the Municipal Government Act (see copy below).

Lost or unclaimed property

610 (1) Lost or unclaimed property coming into the possession of a municipality must be retained for at least 30 days from the date it comes into possession of the municipality unless it is unsafe, unsanitary or perishable, in which case it may be disposed of at any time.

(2) If property is not claimed within 30 days, it becomes the property of the municipality and the municipality may dispose of the property by public auction or as the council directs.

(3) The purchaser of lost or unclaimed property is the absolute owner of it.

(4) A prior owner of lost or unclaimed property is entitled to the proceeds of the sale less all expenses incurred by the municipality if the prior owner makes a claim to the municipality within 90 days after the date of the sale.

(5) If the sale proceeds are not claimed within 90 days from the date of sale, the rights of any prior owner to the sale proceeds are extinguished and the sale proceeds belong to the municipality.

PLANNING HUMOR

We thought you might appreciate a few cracks at the expense of the County's Planning and Development Department. But don't take it too serious

A judge, a bishop, and a Planner were having a discussion. All three were rather vain, and their talk soon turned to the question of which of them was the greatest.

"Well," said the judge, "my position is one of dignity and power. When I walk into the courtroom, the bailiff says 'All rise!' and all the people stand to pay me honour."

"That's very nice," said the bishop. "People stand in your honour, but when people have an audience with me, they kneel, kiss my ring, and they address me as 'Your Eminence.'"

The Planner snorted and said, "I think I got you both beat; when I walk into any room where a public hearing or a workshop is being held, the people look down, put their hands over their eyes, and say 'Oh, my God!'"

Planners' fees ... A man goes to a Planning Consultant for help.

Man: "What's your least expensive fee?"

Planning Consultant: "80 dollars for three questions."

Man: "That's pretty expensive, innit?"

Planning Consultant: "Yep. So what's your third question?"

And with that, we wish you a great summer and a very successful harvest.

From Jacinta, Ben and Johan at the

County's Planning and Development Department

**For further information, please contact the
County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.**

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

JOHAN VAN DER BANK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

FAQ Regarding Development at Buffalo Lake

Do I need a permit to park my recreational vehicles on my lot at Buffalo Lake for an extended period?

Yes, if the RV will remain on the lot for more than a two week period, and provided an RV is a permitted or discretionary use in your land use district, you are required to obtain a development permit. The fee is \$100.00, permit applications can be obtained at the County office or on our website @ www.stettlercounty.ca.

What procedures do I need to follow to construct a cottage/dwelling at the lake?

The first step is to apply for a Development Permit. Development permit applications can be obtained at the County office or on our website @ www.stettlercounty.ca.

Important Notes

1. Signatures of all registered landowners are required prior to processing any application.
2. If the registered landowner is a company, verification of signing authority must accompany the application.
3. The application is not complete until the development officer has deemed it so.
4. The application must be accompanied by a recent land title (30 days). The County can obtain a copy of the land title at a cost of \$10 to the applicant.
5. To ensure the validity of the development permit, construction must commence within one year and be completed within two years. An application for an extension must be submitted to the County of Stettler if the construction period exceeds the allotted time.
6. Please note that a site inspection must be completed prior to the issuance of all development permits. Site inspections are performed the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Please submit your application no later than the Friday prior to the scheduled site inspection date in order to be included with the impending site visits.
7. In consideration of any permit issued in respect to this application, the Applicant shall indemnify and

hold harmless the County of Stettler No. 6, its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs whatsoever that may arise, directly or indirectly from anything done or omitted to be done in the construction, maintenance, alteration or operation of the works authorized.

8. Applications for discretionary use development permits and for variances are submitted for review and consideration at the regular Municipal Planning Commission meetings which are scheduled the fourth Wednesday of each month. A staff report will be brought before the Municipal Planning Commission at the earliest opportunity following the submission of a complete application by the applicant.

Public Notice

The following will be the manner in which notice will be given for the issuance of Development Permits:

- **PERMITTED USES:** Issued Development Permits will be advertised in The Stettler Independent
- **DISCRETIONARY USES:** Upon the issuance by the Municipal Planning Commission of a notice of decision to approve an application the details of the application will be advertised in The Stettler Independent

Municipal Planning Commission decisions are subject to an appeal period of 14 days.

The applicant may appeal a decision of the Development Authority within 14 days of the issuance of a permitted use development permit or a notice of decision by the Municipal Planning Commission.

Appeals must be submitted to:
Secretary, Development Appeal Board
County of Stettler No. 6
Box 1270
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0

When the development permit has been issued you can then proceed to apply for the building permit.

The County of Stettler has engaged the exclusive services of IJD Inspections Ltd. to perform inspections in all disciplines eg. Building, Electrical, Gas, Plumbing, Private Sewage. Building permit applications can be obtained at the County office or on our website @ www.stettlercounty.ca

Building permit application must include:

- Two complete sets of construction drawings which includes a cross section, elevations, floor plan and foundation
- A copy of the site plan showing the size, shape and position of the proposed building on the lot.
- Copy of your approved Development Permit

Applicable Building Permit Fees as per schedule:

Residential/Dwelling Units – all level excluding basements	\$0.40/ft ²
Basement Development	\$0.15/ft ² (or a minimum charge of \$95.00)
Ancillary Buildings (* definition below)	\$4.00 per \$1,000.00 of construction value with minimum charge of \$95.00
*Ancillary Building means an attached or detached garage or a storage building that is normally and incidentally ancillary and directly related to the residential use of a property; it excludes a shop used for any purpose other than residential storage or parking.	
Deck	\$0.15/ft ²
Manufactured Home/RTM Home/Modular Home	
Without a basement	\$115.00
With a basement	\$0.20 ft ² with a minimum charge of \$125.00
Moved-on Home on a Basement (not manufactured)	\$300.00
Fireplace – if not included in new construction (each)	\$ 95.00
Demolition – flat rate	\$ 110.00
Minimum Fee - All Types of Building	\$50.00 (unless stated otherwise)

Please Note:
A penalty fee equal to double the usual fee will apply when construction of a building or installation of private sewage systems, gas, electrical or plumbing lines and/or fixtures is started without the benefit of a Safety Codes Permit.

RURAL ADDRESSING

by Johan van der Bank, Director of Planning & Development

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER WAS INCORRECT

The County Council first adopted the Rural Addressing Bylaw in 2007 and recently updated it. The Bylaw makes it mandatory for every landowner to post the rural address that the County assigns to the approach to every residence or business, subject to fines. The Bylaw provides that up to December 31, 2009 the County will install a rural address sign for everybody free of charge. Starting January 1, 2010 the landowner or developer must pay for the sign with any application for subdivision, development permit or approach approval that creates a new dwelling or business. The County will order and install the signs. The cost for the landowner or developer includes only the sign and posts and is as follows:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a. Rural Address Sign 75 X 45 cm: | \$65.00 |
| b. Shared Rural Address Sign 20 x 20 cm: | \$35.00 |
| c. Subdivision Rural Address Map Sign: | \$360.00 |
| d. Subdivision Rural Address Sign 20 x 20 cm: | \$35.00 |
| e. Street Number Sign 40 x 15 cm: | \$35.00 |

All efforts were made to ensure that everyone has a rural addressing sign, but some people may have been missed. If you do not have a sign, please contact the Planning and Development Department at 403.742.4441.

SITE INSPECTIONS AND YOU!

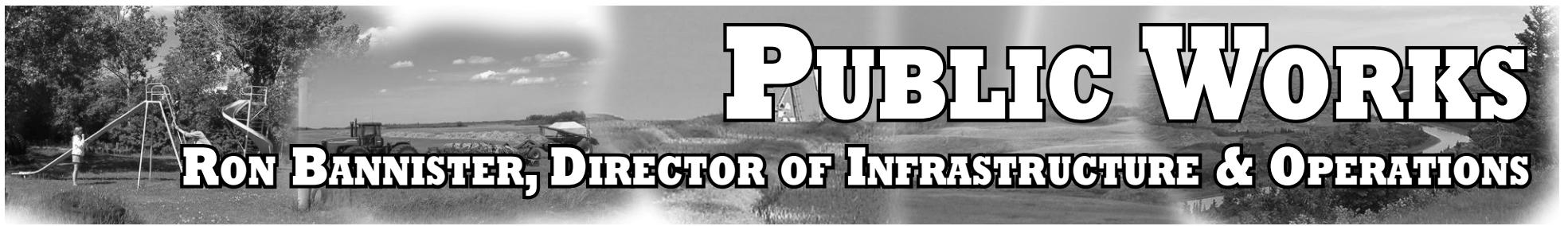
By Benjamin Ansaldo, Development Officer and GIS Coordinator

Many County residents have at some point or another discovered that they needed a development permit in order to expand their homes, or add a garage, or even to begin a new business. And, as is so often the case, people want to get going on this project as soon as possible. While there are many circumstances in which the issuance of a development permit is almost automatic (e.g. building a first residence on a residential property) there is still one very important step that the County must perform before issuing a development permit.

We need to inspect the site to be certain that there will not be a future issue or potential issue with the proposed development. We need to evaluate the approaches, the slope of the land, and that it does not infringe on any wetlands, as well as any other concerns that we might have in regards to a specific application. In order to be as efficient as possible, Planning and Development has begun to have scheduled "Site Inspection" days twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. To ensure that your application gets a site inspection as soon as possible after you submit it, it would be prudent to submit your application by the Friday previous to these scheduled site inspection dates.

The upcoming Site Inspection Dates for 2010 are:
August 24, September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26,
November 9 and 23, December 14 and 28

As always we here in Planning and Development would encourage you to contact us at (403) 742-4441 with any questions or concerns you may have. Whether it be our Director, Johan van der Bank, or our Development Officers, Jacinta Donovan and Benjamin Ansaldo, we will be happy to answer any questions and help in any way we can with your questions and concerns.



FAQ about Road Quality in the County of Stettler

1. When is my road going to be graded and why are my roads in such poor shape this year?

We have had a very interesting year thus far with all of the badly needed moisture. It's too bad we couldn't order this moisture up in increments, as needed!!

Due to the high volume & accumulation of rain this spring the road conditions have deteriorated as roads were saturated and couldn't properly drain before another rainfall occurred. Repetitive rainfalls caused the roads to become very slick and muddy thus more potholes formed as a result, as the Grader Operators couldn't get out until the ground had somewhat dried up.

The County has reviewed the grading procedures and the patterns have changed in many beats. Grader Operators have been working together on the routes and have also committed their weekends to fix roads up when the weather has cooperated. The County also implemented an experienced Operator to supervise the grader schedules and assist with continuous training of Operators. The Supervisor has responded to Ratepayer phone calls, has been driving the County to get a full perspective on the road conditions and assisted with faster response time in completing Ratepayer requests. This way we can also identify requests in order of priority.

2. How do you determine the order in which the roads are maintained/graded/graveled?

The County has 10 grader divisions and each grader beat has been set up with a schedule to cover the roads in their divisions. These schedules are consistently revisited to evaluate the condition of the roads and to address such circumstances as heavy haul roads, or infrequently used "back roads." Each grader division can take up to 10 or 12 working days to cover their entire area. Often operators are able to work in other divisions when they cannot work their assigned beat due to rain.

3. When is my road going to be graveled?

The County of Stettler No. 6 adopted a (3) three year gravelling program that was implemented in 2008 in order to make sure that your road gets graveled every third year. The specific information regarding which roads will be graveled when is available at the County Office.

4. When is my road going to be rebuilt?

The County of Stettler No. 6 has adopted a long term road construction program that can be viewed at the County office.

5. The lack of gravel is making my road slick. What is the county doing to address this?

We are applying more gravel to the roads than was originally budgeted for in order to alleviate this problem. This solution will also assist the Grader Operators as they will have more gravel to work with when they are smoothing the road.

6. When I call into the County Office my complaint never gets dealt with.

The County has just recently implemented a complaint system to track such complaints and their status. When you call in now, you should ask for an issue number. That will ensure that your complaint and/or comment is dealt with; and should you not be satisfied with the answer, we can track where the issues in feedback are occurring.

7. Why are the rejuvenated roads so soft when it rains?

With the unprecedented rainfall this year, many of our rejuvenated roads were put to the test. We have found that the base of the road is not as hard or packed as they should have been to withstand all this moisture. After a review, the County has implemented a program where larger gravel is milled (rote-tilled) into the base of the road, then the roadway receives its applications of gravel. We are having some successes with this procedure and look forward to implementing it on future roadways. For the rejuvenated roadways currently completed, the County is assessing the amount of gravel applied and will be looking at future applications to harden the base.

8. Why doesn't the County absorb the cost of calcium application on County roads?

The County does absorb some of the cost of Calcium in the application and the supply of Gravel. The Cost of absorbing all this cost completely would mean a considerable increase in the budget where it could conceivably mean an increase of one (1) mill on the property taxes.

If you wish to express your concerns or comments, please call the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441 and our new tracking system will ensure that you get the answers to your questions and concerns!

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Unit 324

1982 Mack Truck RD612S
Serial Number: 2M2P127Y8CC002235



Unit 337

1990 Peterbilt Model 357 - Tandem
Serial Number: 1XPAL20X4LD298407



Unit 403

1996 Ford Explorer
224,228 Km
Serial Number: 1FMDU34X5TZB38238



Enquires on these items can be made to:

Ron Bannister

Director of Infrastructure & Operations

Phone #: (403) 742-4441

Email: rbannister@stettlercounty.ca

OR

Kerry George

Shop Foreman

Phone #: (403) 742-4441

Email: kgeorge@stettlercounty.ca

DISASTER SERVICES

JOHN BISHOP, DIRECTOR OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES

AUGUST 2010

www.stettlercounty.ca

Page 11

DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAMS

As a result of the recent heavy rainfalls, many residents and landowners have suffered losses due to flooding or water problems caused by water leakage into basements. Many of these losses are not normally covered by insurance however, financial compensation maybe available at a later date through a disaster recovery program if certain criteria are met. The damage suffered by local residents in the 2005 rainfall season saw many residents receive compensation after a DRP was announced.

The following is an excerpt from the AEMA website and more information is available by going to WWW.AEMA.CA and clicking on the Programs and Services menu.

Disaster recovery programs provide financial assistance for municipalities and their citizens who incur uninsurable loss and damage as a result of a disastrous event. These programs are an effective way of assisting municipalities by ensuring that the costs of disasters are shared by all Albertans, and whenever possible, by all Canadians through cost sharing arrangements with the federal government.

A state of local emergency does not have to be declared in order to receive financial assistance under a disaster recovery program.

The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) is administered by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). AEMA is part of Alberta Municipal Affairs. Alberta Regulation 51/94 of the Alberta Emergency Management Act allows the province to provide disaster recovery assistance to residents, small business, agriculture operations, and provincial and municipal governments if the event meets the criteria as outlined in the regulation.

- *The event is considered extraordinary.*
- *Insurance is not reasonably or readily available.*
- *There is evidence that the event is wide spread.*

Rainfall

If the rainfall has been at least at a one in 25 year level in urban areas or a one in 50 year level in rural areas, it is considered extraordinary.

Streamflow

If the flooding is caused by a waterway, and the stream flow exceeds a one in 100 year level, it is considered extraordinary.

It is also important that persons suffering losses due to water damage to proceed with cleanup immediately. Their clean up should not be dependent on the possible application by the municipality and the possible approval by the government of a relief program. This will lessen the impact of any health issues relating to mold etc. All damages should be recorded (photos, videos, drawings etc) prior to repair and all invoices/bills/expenses should be kept and documented in the event a program is approved for your municipality.



USE PRECAUTIONS WHEN CLEANING FLOODED HOMES

(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2042.asp>)

Heavy rainfall across southern Alberta last week has resulted in basement flooding in residences and has prompted a caution from Alberta Health Services to use proper techniques for clean up.

“The water that seeps into your basement may be contaminated and, obviously, the sewer that backs up into homes is not safe,” said Dr. Vivien Suttorp, Medical Officer of Health. “I also want to caution people about allowing their children to play in the water that has built up on residential streets and in fields. This water may also be contaminated.”

Tips for safe cleanup of flooded areas:

Food: All food in contact with flood water should be discarded. Only metal cans that are undamaged can be used after they are washed in a detergent or chlorine solution.

Flooring: Soaked carpets should be removed and professionally cleaned or discarded. Flooring underneath should be dried out as soon as possible, and then cleaned and sanitized before replacing flooring. Sheet flooring should be cleaned and sanitized as soon as possible if in good condition, or removed if it is in poor shape or difficult to dry quickly.

Walls: As soon as possible, drywall or paneling should be removed up to 1 to 2 feet above the flood-line. All insulation should be removed and discarded and the cavity should be dried as quickly as possible. **Appliances:** Large appliances that have been partially submerged (washing machines, dryers, freezers, etc.) should be serviced or professionally cleaned if there is any concern about internal contamination.

Furnaces and Hot Water Heaters: If these have been partially submerged, they should be professionally serviced and cleaned.

Electricity: When working in flooded areas, ensure breakers are off and appliances are unplugged.

For cleaning the areas mentioned, a warm water/mild detergent should be used and then areas should be sanitized with a one to 10 bleach/water solution. It is important to dry all areas out as soon as possible to prevent mould and mildew problems.



RECREATION

PHIL HOLTON, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUND

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 Recreation Special Project Fund.

It has been a very successful program and has been well received by our County communities. To date, the RSPF has granted just over \$850,000 to over 30 different community projects in all corners of the County since its inception in 2006.

Applications for grants under the Recreational Special Project Funding program are available to community groups, associations and non-profit societies to receive funding for community enhancements, constructions and/or upgrades. The deadline for submissions is October 31st, 2010.

Application forms and guidelines may be picked up at the County Office by contacting Phil Holton at 403-742-4441 or pholton@stettlercounty.ca. All questions regarding the RSPF can be directed to Phil Holton, Director of Recreation.

Stetter Home Education Association

Stettler Home Education Association, provides opportunities that relate to the education of children and support of families. This is a supportive group for parents of children 0 – 19 years of age who are currently homeschooling or thinking of doing so.

Information Night Thursday August 26, 7:00 pm at
Goodsense Healthcare, 4804 50 Street (Main Street)

For more information contact:

Candace Gish @ 403-742-2875 or email: candace.gish@gmail.com;

Cindy Mailer @ 403-876-2132 or email: cjmlailer@gmail.com

Jennifer Higgins @403-742-5191 or email: snigjih@xplomet.com

Operations Assistance Funding Changes

Operational Assistance Funding is provided to recreation programs and facilities within the County of Stettler to assist with the operational costs. This program allocates funds based on the recommendation of the Rural Recreation Board according to facility type, program participation and fund availability.

There have been some changes to the OAG recently that all eligible recipients should be aware of. Here are the updated criteria for the allocation of the Operational Assistance Grant:

1. Funding will only be used to support the operation of public recreation facilities and parks and activities related to recreational programming and operations
2. All qualifying expenses must be incurred in the year it is allocated (January 1st to December 31st)
3. Qualifying Operational Expenses Include: training costs, consultant fees, volunteer development, rent, utilities, insurance, computer and software maintenance contracts, property taxes, technology support and training, membership fees for regional organizations, computer hardware and software, copiers, fax machines, furniture, telephones, program supplies, specialized equipment, hand-held/hand-operated tools, paint, carpet, cleaning supplies, roof repairs, HVAC repairs, window replacement and other lifecycle maintenance of a facility.
4. Prior to December 31st, all organizations that receive funding will submit a written report to the Rural Recreation Board declaring what the funding was used for.

For questions regarding how this may affect your community, please contact Phil Holton, Director of Recreation at 403-742-4441 or pholton@stettlercounty.ca

Keeping Your Head Above Water



Most drownings occur way out at sea, right? Wrong! Fact is, 9 out of 10 drownings occur in inland waters, most within a few feet of safety, and most involve boats less than 6 metres in length.

If there is one thing and one thing only you learn and put into practice after reading this safety information it's **wear your lifejacket or PFD!**

Sadly, most of the victims who have drowned or died from hypothermia in a boating incident owned a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) but they weren't wearing it when they unexpectedly ended up in the water. And contrary to what many boaters think, it's very hard to put a lifejacket on in the water.

It's the Law

The law requires boats to be equipped with a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD of an appropriate size for each person on board.

Choosing a Personal Flotation Device

When it comes to choosing a PFD, the Canadian Coast Guard strongly recommends bright colours for better visibility. PFDs are now available in many bright colours and activity-appropriate styles. Just check the label to ensure that the PFD is approved by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Choose a PFD that is comfortable and allows free movement, including walking and sitting. Try it on and do up all zippers and belts. Pull up on the

collar to ensure it does not ride up and interfere with movement or breathing.

Inspect your PFD or lifejacket frequently. Ensure seams are intact, and that snaps, belts or zippers work. If you happen to choose an inflatable type PFD be aware that certain restrictions and criteria apply.

Facts about Drowning

- Most drownings occur 10 feet or less from safety.
- Most drownings result from three major contributing factors:
 1. Inability to swim
 2. Effects of cold water (hypothermia)
 3. Alcohol
 - Drowning occurs rapidly and soundlessly, averaging 20 seconds in small children and less than a minute in adults.
 - To the untrained bystander, a drowning person may appear to be waving, clowning around or splashing.

The three best ways to prevent drowning while boating:

1. Learn to swim
2. Always wear your lifejacket
3. Don't consume alcohol

Note: Information on this page is based on Boat Smart from the Start – A Family Guide to Safe and Responsible Boating, produced by Blaicher Marketing International Inc. in partnership with Reader's Digest.

Booze and Boats Don't Mix



A boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above .08 is 10 times more likely to be killed in a boating incident than a boater with a blood alcohol concentration of zero.

The Facts about Alcohol and Boating

Many people who would never drive their cars after drinking alcohol don't think twice about combining boating and alcohol. The truth is, it's a lethal combination. The effect of alcohol varies from person to person; however, the impairment process starts with the first drink. Research indicates that boating stressors such as sun, wind, noise, glare, vibration

and motion can heighten the effects of alcohol on your balance, vision, judgement and coordination. In a boating incident, alcohol slows reaction and reflexive response time, it can cause an inner ear disturbance, making it impossible to distinguish up from down when suddenly immersed in cool water, and it can accelerate the onset of hypothermia.

Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada. Upon conviction a person is liable for the following: first offence – a minimum fine of \$600; second offence – imprisonment for not less than 14 days; third and each subsequent offence – imprisonment for not less than 90 days. The

maximum sentence for these offences may vary depending on provincial statutes.

Be Responsible

- ✓ Wait until you are off the water before consuming alcohol.
- ✓ Don't allow a person who has consumed alcohol to operate a boat.
- ✓ Provide non-alcoholic beverages for boat operators and passengers. Non-alcoholic drinks ensure everyone is alert in case of emergency.
- ✓ Wear lifejackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs).
- ✓ Remember, alcohol is a factor in half of all boating fatalities.