

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2011



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GOOD YEAR P.12



Would You Remember?



Would you remember all your loved ones' medications, allergies, and past medical history if all of a sudden you needed an ambulance?

Starting May 1, 2011, County Residents can help their loved ones in an emergency situation by participating in the Capsule of Life Program.

The Capsule of Life Program involves filling out an information sheet at home, placing it in the specially marked medication vial and placing it in a prominent location inside your fridge. Then, place a small sticker on the outside of your front door to let EMS workers and crew know the owner of the home is a participant in the program. If you or a loved one is ever in a medical emergency, this information is vital and could save their lives.

Participants can pick up capsule of life information as part of the new, free program sponsored by the Stettler and District Ambulance and Savage Value Drugs at the front desk of the County of Stettler Administration Building.

We encourage all residents to take part. For further information please contact the County Office at 403-742-4441 or the ambulance station at 403-742-7469

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COMMUNITY PEACE OFFICERS

Ever wonder what those guys driving around in the marked County Patrol Vehicles are doing? Here is some insight into what its like to be "on the job" with Community Peace officers in the County of Stettler.

County Connections
Spring 2011; Volume 1 Issue 1

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Strategic Plan ACCOUNTABILITY

TIM FOX, Chief Administrative Officer

I am so excited to introduce the County of Stettler Ratepayers to our new communication format. The County Connections newsletter got an overhaul and the results are eye-catching. We can

now bring you useful information and more reader-friendly format.

In this issue you will find our Report on Operations for the past year 2010 and a glimpse into 2011. These measures are all part of our plan for the future. We are continually planning and measuring our success. Often times, these plans become very weighty dust collectors on shelves, but our Council and Administration was determined to not let that happen to our plans. Early this year, we reviewed our 2010 Strategic Plan and the Integrated Sustainability Plan (ISCP) adopted in 2007 as part of the Federal Government Mandated ISCP. Here is how our performance is measuring up.

2007 ICSP

What is an interesting outcome from this exercise is that it validates the planning process, as many of the priorities outlined in 2007, have been carried through to today and the priorities remain the same even as the actions and strategies are completed. Highlights were the following:

1. Completed Road Asset Inventory
2. Long term capital replacement policy
3. Increased capital and operational reserves
Completed a Strategic Transportation Plan (Road Construction and Gravel)
4. Secured as Gravel Source. Administration was asked to secure 25 years plus of gravel reserves for the County and I am pleased to report this has been done
5. The County has moved forward to research and evaluate new road building technologies. With both successes and failures under our belt with soil-cement and chip-seal, we are moving forward with more research into road building materials. We have also modified the gravel crushing specifications.
6. We have been very successful in our lobby efforts and it shows in our successful grant applications: Stettler bypass road – hard surfacing (3M), water reservoirs and treatment plants in Endiang and Byemoor (2.3M), Regional water line from Craigmyle to Endiang/Byemoor (5M), Fenn Resource Road paving – (3.5M), County Rural Water servicing project (9M), Stettler Airport apron upgrade (.650M), Red Willow Waste Water Lagoon (1.2M), SMRWSC regional line – (60M)
7. Considerable effort has gone into Planning and Development with a new Municipal Development Plan, a new Land Use Bylaw, Inter-municipal Development Plan with the Town of Stettler, Inter-municipal Development Plan for Buffalo Lake with the Counties of Camrose, Lacombe and the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and White Sands, approval to proceed with a Concept Plan for the Hamlet of Erskine.
8. We have created a new utilities department to look after the Counties needs and provide contract service to a number of Villages and the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission.
9. We were able to provide recreation funding to the Town of Stettler (\$268,000 annual operating funds and various capital project funds), Special Recreation funding for the County Recreation Board of which includes the Summer Village of Rochon Sands the Villages of Botha Gadsby Donalda and Big Valley (\$175,000 annually since 2005)
10. Rural Addressing for residents in the County has been completed
11. We have been able to set up and administrate the service of Emergency Management for the County of Stettler No. 6, the Town of Stettler, Summer Villages and the Villages in the County.
12. We have endeavored to provide Regional fire services for the County of Stettler No. 6, the Town of Stettler, Summer Villages and the Villages in the County.

13. We are pursuing long term opportunities to extend the life of the Regional Landfill (site development changes and new technologies such as Paralysis)
14. Increased County activities to promote and educate County activities to the public and ratepayers (Open House, Stettler Tradeshow, public meetings for the MDP review and the Rural Water Strategy)

2010 Strategic Plan

Goal : to increase the supply of potable water to residents within the County in a cost-efficient manner

We awarded the tender to Phase one Endiang and Byemoor area and Construction to be completed midsummer 2011. Phase two (Stettler east) and Phase three (various options around Stettler) will be going to detailed design and tender late spring 2011

Goal: To maintain the cost of municipal service at a level acceptable to ratepayers

We have developed a system to monitor complaints from our ratepayers and we are able to track and assign complaints to be dealt with. We encourage our ratepayers to call in to the office if they have an issue that needs to be addressed because the last thing we want to happen is to wait too long and the issue has gotten worse. We can act on it immediately or it may even as a simple explanation on what is happening or will be happening. We do not mind the call no matter how small or big the issue is.

Every year Municipal affairs completes financial indicator graphs that compares a group of 19 rural municipalities of the same assessment, population and kms of roads. These indicators are intended to serve as a tool that may assist council and administration with operational decisions. The comparative measures are useful in assessing past performance and for budget planning. I am pleased to say that we have scored very high in our performance and the results are available on the Web site.

Goal: To maintain safe and reliable roads

We have developed a number of separate planning initiatives for our infrastructure. We have worked hard to set in place ensure adequate and proper maintenance of the roads through our gravel program, road construction program and tools to assist equipment operators in their grading and snow plowing. Our operators take great

pride in their work and continue to provide valuable input to improve.

Goal: To maintain an adequate supply of good quality gravel

We have been able to secure up to 25 years of reserves for gravelling and we continue to look for longer term opportunities. We have partnered with neighboring municipalities to secure and share gravel reserves that benefit both municipalities. We will have the complete master plan for gravel completed in 2011

Goal: Future cost of solid waste management

We are working with the Stettler Waste Management Authority to ensure long term use of the existing land fill. Recycling, new technologies and working on cell development at the land fill site is our priorities. We have completed a comprehensive study to identify various waste materials that are going into the landfill and we have been working very closely with Prairie Bio Gas to pilot a new technology that converts waste material into (oil and Gas) that will in turn convert this energy into electricity to be sold back to the electrical grid.

Ratepayer Communications

One of the things we strive for most is to communicate with our ratepayers and residents in hopes of improving and becoming more efficient at delivering programs and services. in 2011 we are going to be implementing a series of multi-media projects that will assist with our traditional forms of communications.

Videos are a key component to this project, and we are successful producing videos in house that share news and happenings around the County with folks via our website and othe social media tools such as facebook and twitter. It is important for us to maintain a constant and open line of communication with ratepayers so if you do have any questions ,concerns or comments please engage us in any of the following ways:

Telephone: 403-742-4441

Email: info@stettlercounty.ca

Website: www.stettlercounty.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StettlerCounty

Twitter: www.twitter.com/StettlerCounty

Youtube: www.youtube.com/Stettlercounty

BUDGET 2011

The 2011 budget puts emphasis on infrastructure and community support while continuing to showcase the County of Stettler's commitment to fiscal responsibility and accountability.

The budget for 2011 is conservative and tight, reflecting the fact that 2010 was a tough year on our local economy. As a result of the slowdown in our resource industries, tax revenue projections are down over last years'. Tim Fox commenting on the \$28,098,219 of revenue projected for the 2011 budget: "We were caught off guard by an unexpected and significant reduction to linear, machinery and equipment tax revenue in 2010 and have been proactive in predicting a realistic tax revenue number for the 2011 budget." Tim Fox also touched on the tax rate by saying "We cannot predict what the County's tax rate will be for 2011. We are currently collecting all of the assessment information and will use those numbers to determine how much tax revenue will be generated at the 2010 tax rate. If the revenue is sufficient, there will be no increase in taxes. If there are more dollars needed, council will have to consider a tax rate increase. It is too early to tell which way the tax rate will go." The County's anticipated revenue of just over \$28 million will be derived from taxes (46.4%) and other revenue coming from provincial and federal grant programs, sales and service and transfers from reserves.

Expenditures were calculated and researched diligently to ensure that the county residents are getting as much out of their tax dollar as possible. Transportation Services takes the lion's share of the budget with just over \$11.5 million dollars allocated to road construction, road maintenance and gravelling. "Our ratepayers have spoke to us loud and clear about how important the roads in the County are to them. Due to the extreme weather conditions of 2010, our gravelling program was not completed, but council managed to work in the unfinished miles from 2010 into our 2011 budget.

That means that at the close of 2011, our gravelling program will be caught up. That is a significant win for the county ratepayers," Tim Fox said of the transportation services budget numbers. The total budget for expenditures in 2011 will be very close to revenues at \$28,096,875. This budget will leave the county with a surplus just over \$1300. "That is a very tight budget." concludes CAO, Tim Fox, "but we are up for the challenge. We feel that the budget allows us to meet the needs of our ratepayers, trim some of our excess and focus on being more efficient and accurate."

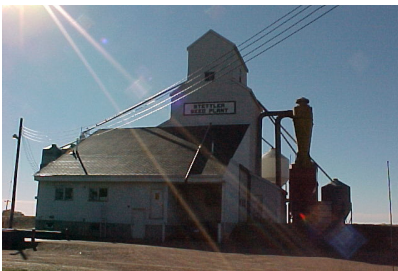
The CAO doesn't sugar coat the budget. "It was a tough one. We had to make some significant cuts to some programs, increase our revenue by charging fees where before there were none and tighten our belts when it came to project implementation and execution. All of this had to happen in addition to setting aside reserves for future projects and emergencies." One program that saw significant changes was the Recreation Special Project Funding. The fund previously allocated \$175,000 to recreation projects throughout the County. Council saw the need for a recreation reserve to be set up. In 2011, the RSPF will allocate \$100,000 to projects in the county and the remainder \$75,000 will be put into to reserve.

The Budget includes capital purchases, totaling \$1.587 million included new equipment purchases for the Public Works Department (2 new graders and a sander/plow truck), Agricultural Services (mower) and the Regional Fire Services (Donalda pumper-tanker).

The budget reflects the County's commitment to being fiscally responsible, fair and accountable in all aspects of county operations and strives to provide the best value for the tax dollar possible for all of its ratepayers.

Family and Community Support Services Funding for 2011 Approved

The County of Stettler No. 6 and the Town of Stettler both contribute to the FCSS program in Stettler, in addition to the funding awarded to the community association through Alberta Children's Services. The funding allocated in 2011 from the County's budget will be \$138,492 from Alberta Children's Services and \$34,623 from the County of Stettler. The total funding for Stettler FCSS from the County of Stettler will equal \$173,115.00.



Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant Board Visits Council

Representatives from the Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant visited council in January, outlining the situation they are in regarding funding and operations. The seed cleaning plant is struggling, financially, and have implemented a 5 year business plan. They are looking for some funding that would take them through their five year plan period in the form of a loan from the County of Stettler. Council has agreed to entertain the idea, and have requested to see their Business Plan before discussing the matter

further.

Local Improvement Tax Plan for Rochon Sands Estates

Rochon Sands Estates Paving Project Plan was approved at the February Council Meeting. Letters have been sent to landowners giving them an opportunity to petition against the project. Council approved a 50/50 funding arrangement with the option for lot owners to debenture the cost out over 10 years or pay the entire amount up front. The cost per lot is estimated at \$2906.67, but if debentured, the annual payment would be \$347.81.

Purchase of Two Motor Graders and Truck Scale

The purchase of two 140M Motor Graders with snow removal equipment from Finning was approved. The total purchase price was \$719,902.00 which is less than the budgeted about of \$740,000. The new units will replace units C67 and C69. These are smaller pieces of equipment that will allow for better access to more areas in subdivisions,



hamlets and laneways. Council also approved the purchase of one used Truck

Scale from Flagstaff County. It will be moved, installed and an automated system installed for the price of \$59,350.00. This scale will allow us to be more accurate in the amounts of gravel we are stockpiling and distributing onto the roads.

Hamlet of Erskine Concept Plan

Council approved the hiring of Sandalack and Associates from Calgary to complete the Erskine Concept Plan. The concept plan will contain direction for future growth and development in the hamlet, and will be an intensive process that will include input from the public on their desires for the community. Expected completion date is early summer. There will also be a moratorium on development permits issued in the hamlet of Erskine until the conclusion of this project.

Prairie BioGas – Waste to Energy System

Council will be taking the necessary steps to submit the Environmental Application to the Alberta Government. They have also committed \$55,000 in applicable funding to make sure the application is complete. Alberta Municipal Affairs has amended the Regional Partnership Initiatives Grant allocation to include this project so the Town of Stettler will be contributing the remainder of their portion, which equals \$25,307.00

Building Roads

An overview

by Construction Foreman, Randy Grams

Every year, the County of Stettler strives to complete 10 miles of New Road Construction each year, but how exactly do they go about building the roads?

Landowner Relations

Before any construction can even begin, the County of Stettler must meet with all adjacent landowners. These conversations are usually about borrow pits, back sloping, crop loss and fencing. Road Construction takes up a lot of room while the roads are being built, and the County needs permission to use land outside of their right of ways. They use borrow pits in adjacent fields for extra dirt to build up the road base, but are also aware of the crop loss that can happen when they are using particular areas. Backsloping discussions also happen as the County needs to go outside the existing right of way to backslope the road at a proper angle. Landowners' fences may also be removed during the construction process, and fencing agreements must also be in place before we can begin work on the road.



Preparations

After all of the agreements are in place with adjacent landowners, the County begins its construction process with safety actions. The existing pipelines and utilities are all marked and test holes for borrow pits are all started. Test pits are necessary for the Construction Crew to determine the kind of dirt the roads will be built out of. About 2-3 weeks before equipment arrives, the crew will remove fence line, install temporary fence, survey the grade line and base line elevations and lay out temporary phone cable.

Construction

The equipment moves in after all the prep work is completed. They start by first stripping off the top soil. The top soil goes into a separate pile than the subsoil. The crew then takes the soil from the borrow pits and begins work on the base of the road. Once the base has been constructed, the back sloping and construction of ditches occurs. The final step in the construction process involves the application of gravel.

Site Clean-up

Once the borrow pits are no longer needed for construction, buggy and dozer operators re-landscape the borrow pits and the County tires to restore the pits back to their natural shape. The top soil and sub soil that was collected at the beginning of the construction process is now placed back onto the borrow pit areas so the land can again be productive. The crew will also harrow and pick the rocks in that location.

Safety and Security

We build roads to the best standards possible, and are always improving the way we build roads, whether it is with materials, process or both. We strive to keep our road networks safe and reliable for all our ratepayers. While we are adhering to high standards of safety and quality, we are disappointed at times with the lack of respect shown to our work site by people passing by.

Trespassers are coming into the road construction sites after working hours and destroying our surveying stakes, signage and in some cases, vandalizing equipment. Perhaps the most disturbing is stealing the signage that we put out on the roads for everyone's safety, including the speed limit reduction signs, warning signs,



flashing lights and Road Closed Signs. When this happens our work zone becomes a very dangerous place for our employees and the public, not to mention the cost of replacing the signs and stakes and repairing the vandalism. If anyone sees any suspicious activity at the road construction sites it would be appreciated if it was reported to the County of Stettler constables at 403-741-6133 or contact the police.

Without the cooperation and understanding of landowners adjacent to the proposed road construction it would be impossible for us to rebuild the road, any questions about the road construction before and during are welcome as I like to keep the landowners informed as to what's going on and why. Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Road Construction

The questions we use to determine the need for New Road Construction:



What the height of the existing Road Grade?

What is the existing Road Width?

How safe are the sight lines?

Is the existing Drainage working?

Is the road bad for drifting snow?

Are there existing soft areas?

Are the shoulders sharp?

Is there existing backslopes?

What is the amount of traffic?

What size is the traffic?

Is the road a bus route?

Is the road used by oil traffic?

Are there wet spots lying close to road?

Does the road tie into existing road construction?

After these questions are answered, the decision process continues with budget and equipment considerations.

Seasonal Road Bans

All Township Roads: 75%
 All Range Roads: 75%

Exceptions:

Range Rd 20-3	100%
paved portion	
Range Rd 19-3	100%
paved portion from Hwy 12 North to Agricore	
Township Rd 38-4	90%
East 2 miles from Hwy 56 to RR 19-4	
Range Rd 19-4	90%
South 2 miles from Hwy 12 to TWP RD 38-4	
Township Rd 38-2	90%
East 2 miles from Hwy 835 to RGE RD 20-5	
Range Rd 20-5	90%
North 1 mile from TWP RD 38-2	
Township Rd 41-0	90%
East 1 mile from Hwy 56 to RGE RD 19-3	
Township Rd 38-4	100%
East from Hwy 835 to Hwy 56 is permanently banned to vehicles in excess of 450 kg.	



ROAD BAN



NEW PERMANENT ROAD BANS

The County of Stettler has implemented a permanent Road Ban on Range Road 21-2 that leads to Ol' Macdonalds Resort. The Road ban is in effect from Provincial Highway 601 north to Twp. Rd. 40-2 and then west to the Entrance of the Resort. The Road Ban is at 75% on a permanent basis.

This ban does not apply to recreational vehicles, holiday trailers or motor homes.

The County does have numerous other permanent Bans that have been in place longer. check the website for up-to-date information on the Road Bans

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

the County of Stettler offers a

Roadside Clean-Up Program to any community organization or youth group with the boundaries of the County of Stettler.

The County will assign each group a maximum of 16 kilometers of roadway to clean-up and they will be compensated for their efforts at a rate of \$55.00 per kilometer of regular roadway and \$75 per kilometer if the roadway is located within 16 km of the Town of Stettler or with 3.2 kilometers of the landfill.

Clean-up has to occur in both ditches of the specified roads. The County will supply the Garbage Bags and Safety Vests.

Interested Community Groups can contact Darlene Croker at 403-742-4441 or visit www.stettlercounty.ca for more information.





Dust Control

The County of Stettler offers Dust Control Services to all of our ratepayers as a fee for service. This allows us to provide ratepayers with dust control in front of their homes and properties. The service is meant to reduce the amount of dust that creeps into their yards and farms and reduces their quality of air and living.

We do offer two different kinds of dust control. One is using a chalk-like powder called calcium chloride. This product actually retains moisture for a prolonged period of time, thus reducing the amount of dust created by disturbing it. It works far more effectively than water because water only lays on top of the dust and then evaporates. Once the water has evaporated, the effectiveness of the water on dust is non-existent.

The other product we use is oil. We lay the oil down in 200 m patches and it effectively creates a hard-surfaced road for a short length of road in front of your house. The reduction of dust is much greater with the oil treatment, but it is far more expensive and requires much more maintenance to keep it safe for the travellers on that road.

We typically like to apply the treatments to the road in the Spring to get to all the yards and farms before the dust gets to bad. Dust Control can last the entire year if applied properly and the weather conditions are ideal.

Applications for Farmstead Dust Control will be received at the County Office during regular office hours
ENDING TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

Applications must be made in person and must be accompanied by the fee:

\$9,545.24 plus GST per 200 meters for oil
\$1,336.55 plus GST per 200 meters for calcium.

For further information please contact Dennis Nelson or Ron Bannister at (403) 742-4441
in the Public Works Department.

2010 Financial Statements

2010 was another busy year at the County of Stettler. The finance department for the County is busy throughout the year working on four different sets of books. They include the County, Stettler Waste Management Authority, Stettler District Ambulance and the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission. With these different sets of

books also come a lot of different responsibilities and reporting requirements. The County of Stettler were involved in several large projects in 2010 including road construction projects, Phase one of the Rural Water Servicing Strategy, The Donalda Fire Hall, and the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission. Some of these

projects go over multiple years and require us to do additional work of tracking the progress and completing reporting requirements.

In 2010, the County of Stettler also completed all the reporting and tracking of the Tangible Capital Assets within the County of Stettler. The Government of

Salary 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:

Div/Ward	Elected Official	# of Persons	Salary (1)	Benefits (2&3) Allowances	2010 Total	2009 Total
Byemoor-Endiang	Stulberg, Leslie	1	\$33,445	\$2,917	\$36,362	\$40,967
Byemoor-Endiang	Wilkie, Lawrence	1	\$6,689	\$555	\$7,244	\$-
Big Valley	Grover, Dave	1	\$26,092	\$2,917	\$29,009	\$40,954
Big Valley	Schiffner, Terry	1	\$6,223	\$555	\$6,778	\$-
Erskine South-Warden	Marshall, Earl	1	\$28,674	\$2,917	\$31,591	\$41,928
Erskine South-Warden	Nibourg, James	1	\$6,145	\$555	\$6,700	\$-
Stettler	Chapman, Blake	1	\$26,595	\$3,195	\$29,790	\$33,893
Botha-Gadsby	Carey, Vic	1	\$21,771	\$-	\$21,771	\$32,741
Botha-Gadsby	Jackson, Gregory	1	\$6,589	\$555	\$7,144	\$-
Erskine - Buffalo Lake	Gendre, Joe	1	\$32,729	\$3,195	\$35,924	\$35,389
Donalda - Red Willow	Nixon, Wayne	1	\$34,566	\$3,195	\$37,761	\$35,778
Chief Administrative Officer	Fox, Tim	1	\$160,256	\$25,688	\$185,944	\$168,650
Other designated Officers			\$42,626	\$10,731	\$53,357	\$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.

Alberta required all municipalities to have accurate records of all the assets that exist in the county and have them recorded on our financial statements. Then the Assets will be depreciated over their useful life, if applicable. Prior to this the requirement was that you could write the assets off in the year of purchase and not necessarily have them set up on your financial statements. The amount of work that the Finance

and Technology Department put into this project was intense, but the amount of information that County now has in regards to their assets is quite extensive.

With this information we are now working towards to the completion of our ten year capital plan that will allow us to plan for sustaining our asset, like roads.

You may notice that the financial

statements look a bit different. These changes were also updated requirement from the Government of Alberta and are now more informative. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our Financial Department at 403-742-4441.

County Reserves

	2009 Balance	Increases	Decreases	2010 Balance
General	\$3,795,881.49			\$3,795,881.49
General - Legal	\$200,000.00			\$200,000.00
Public trust	\$112,431.99	\$8,224.38	\$20,000.00	\$100,656.37
Recreation	\$47,062.36	\$8,550.44	\$2,500.00	\$53,112.80
Recreation - Special Projects	\$390,422.45	\$175,000.00	\$161,474.47	\$403,947.98
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	\$2,500.00		\$27,500.00
Doctor Recruitment	\$-	\$38,000.00		\$38,000.00
Rural Development Fund	\$-	\$6,100.00		\$6,100.00
F.C.S.S.	\$17,110.27			\$17,110.27
Bridges	\$200,000.00	\$50,000.00		\$250,000.00
	\$5,297,908.56	\$288,374.82	\$183,974.47	\$5,402,308.91
Capital Reserves	2009 Balance	Increases	Decreases	2010 Balance
Administration	\$312,228.44			\$312,228.44
Water/Sewer Projects	\$2,941,184.10	\$163,500.00	\$141,000.00	\$2,963,684.10
Fire	\$635,000.00		\$29,580.00	\$605,420.00
Public Works	\$2,121,817.37	\$791,000.00		\$2,912,817.37
	\$6,010,229.91	\$954,500.00	\$170,580.00	\$6,794,149.91
Grand Totals	\$11,308,138.47	\$1,242,874.82	\$354,554.47	\$12,196,458.82

Consolidated Statement of Operations

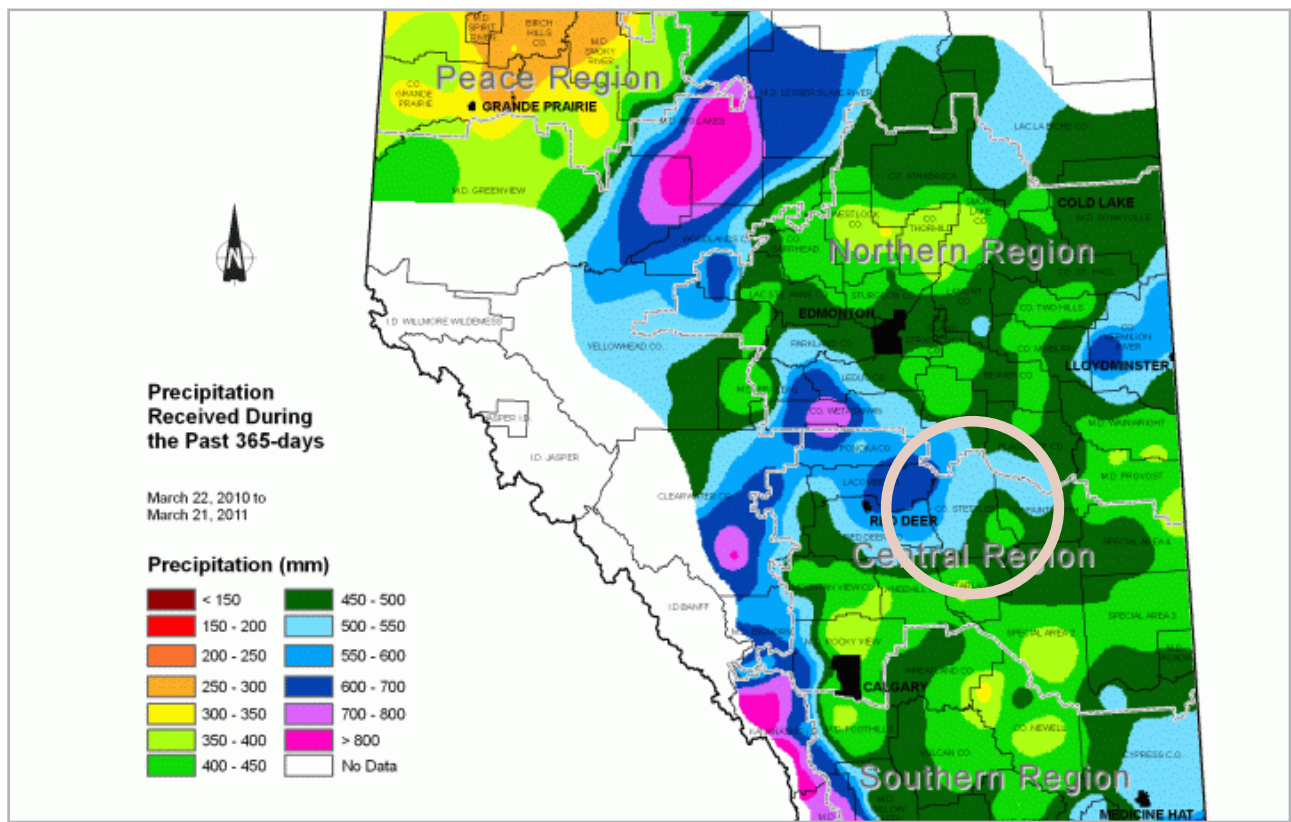
For the Year Ending December 31, 2010

	2010	2009
Revenues		
Net Municipal Property Taxes	13,442,414	14,243,528
Sales and User Fees	1,339,987	1,281,580
Government Transfers	826,534	928,009
Investment Income	146,687	119,411
Penalties and Costs on Taxes	85,912	72,568
Rentals	116,582	120,624
Licenses, permits and fines	132,722	122,955
Other	4,091	12,357
Recovery of amortization to capital projects	351,892	
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	799	59,672
Total Revenue	<u>16,447,620</u>	<u>16,960,704</u>
Expenses		
Legislative	325,184	301,259
Administration	1,874,113	1,762,333
Protective services	864,810	920,247
Roads, streets, walks, lighting	10,251,894	9,842,989
Water and wastewater	1,082,958	586,967
Waste management	177,344	203,424
Family and community support	191,229	191,540
Ag Services	525,226	505,708
Subdivision land and development	467,571	504,965
Recreation, parks and culture	622,468	634,405
Other	98,063	141,247
Total Expenses	<u>16,480,860</u>	<u>15,595,084</u>
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses before Other	-33,240	1,365,620
Other		
Government transfers for capital	<u>6,600,044</u>	<u>6,173,508</u>
Excess (shortfall) of revenues over expenses	6,566,804	7,539,128
Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of Year	85,666,917	78,127,789
Accumulated Surplus - End of Year	92,233,721	85,666,917

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Assets (Debt)

For the Year Ending December 31, 2010

	2010	2009
Financial Assets		
Cash and Temporary Investments	12,215,631	9,223,208
Taxes Receivable	391,554	455,733
Trade and Other Receivables	4,122,768	4,924,790
Loan Receivable	1,258,001	1,347,054
Long Term Investments	9,055	9,426
	<u>17,997,009</u>	<u>15,960,211</u>
Liabilities		
Temporary Loans	3,000,000	3,000,000
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	2,411,186	2,282,673
Deposit Liabilities	56,175	118,478
Employee Benefit Obligations	168,968	162,938
Deferred Revenue	210,323	109,566
Future Gravel Reclamation Liability	968,370	867,726
Long-Term Debt	1,271,987	1,373,785
	<u>8,087,009</u>	<u>7,915,166</u>
Net Financial Assets (Debt)	<u>9,910,000</u>	<u>8,045,045</u>
Non-Financial Assets		
Inventory of Materials and Supplies	4,686,642	4,974,593
Tangible Capital Assets	77,493,561	72,488,033
Prepaid Expenses	143,518	159,246
	<u>82,323,721</u>	<u>77,621,872</u>
Accumulated Surplus	92,233,721	85,666,917



Map Courtesy of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

WATER EVERYWHERE

This past year has been one of the wettest on record. From the early Summer rainfall in 2010, to the Fall precipitation that delayed harvest of 2010 to the current Spring snowfall, the County of Stettler has seen an above average accumulation of moisture. As you can see from the above map, we are in an area that has received an above average amount of precipitation over the last 365 days.

We know that this will be an exceptionally wet spring, and are working diligently to prepare for the abundance of runoff that we will be experiencing. We are in need of your help to keep the anticipated runoff from doing any damage to our transportation network. The ditches will be the natural drainage path for most of the water, and we ask that if you see excessive water build-up in the ditches, or water that is not flowing that you please call our Office.

It is not only the amount of water that can cause back-up, but natural occurrences like beaver dams, dead vegetation and dirt that can block our culverts and run-off paths.

With your help, we can ensure that this Spring, all the moisture and water does not destroy our roads and/or your yards and homes.

Vegetation Control

Quinton Beaumont
Director of Agricultural Services



The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board will be conducting Roadside Vegetation Control along County roadside ditches beginning June 1, 2011 for the control of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds, as required by the Provincial Weed Control Act. We also control brush in the right of ways to improve visibility, ease of snow removal, road drainage, moving of large machinery for seeding and harvest, the safety of the public (falling trees in the winter), as well as improving the aesthetic of the roadways.

VEGETATION CONTROL PLAN

Our Vegetation Plan for 2011 is to cover, but not necessarily, spray every road from Township Road 37-0 South to the Border. We will still drive the Northern two thirds of the County looking for Prohibited Noxious Weeds and on a complaint basis, but will concentrate our program in the South third this year.

All roadside vegetation control will be done following the Industrial Vegetation Management of Alberta (IVMAA) standards and practices. Under Alberta Legislation, an “open body of Water” includes rivers, streams, lakes, and public irrigation ditches. It does not include roadside ditches, sloughs, or ponds less than 4 hectares (10 acres) in area, or 0.4 hectares (1 acre) on public land providing they are completely surrounded by private land with no drainage off the land, it also

does not include man-made water hazards on golf courses with no outflow beyond the golf course boundary.

The Environmental Code of Practice limits the herbicides that can be used, application method, the distance to the open body of water and other conditions specific to the site of application. By IVMAA standards we can and will spray brush up to and including a height of 2.5 meters (8 feet) on road right of ways, and 4 meters (13 feet) on lease road right of ways. A county right of way is either 66 feet or 99 feet from “fence to fence” - or 33 feet or 49.5 feet from the center of the road out towards the fence.

Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed must complete an Herbicide Spray Exemption form. This form must be completed at the County office prior to May 15, 2011. Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed are responsible for control of noxious, prohibited noxious weeds and brush on roadsides adjacent to their properties, the County of Stettler reserves the right to control all Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds after July 15 if the problem has not been dealt with. No phone requests for spray exemptions will be accepted. These forms MUST be renewed each year.

Be Prepared: Localized Flooding

Floods are the most frequent natural hazards in Canada, and the most costly in terms of property damage. They can occur at anytime of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall or the rapid melting of a thick snow pack. There are steps you can take to ensure that your family and property is safe and dry.

PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

There are a number of things you should check inside and outside your home to prepare:

- do your windows have a build up of snow against them? You should remove as much as possible with a shovel then remove the rest by hand.
- Check the ground outside of the house for low spots in the ground, or large cracks along the ground next to the house. Water will gather at that point and seep down the foundation.
- Check along the walls for any moisture, you will want to check all exterior walls.
- If your house is equipped with a sump pump, you should take the lid off of your pump holding tank and see if there is water in the tank and to see if the pump actually works. Also check your discharge hose, make sure that it is not plugged.
- Install the drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure water moves away from the building.
- Do not store important documents in the basement.
- If a flood is forecast turn off the basement furnaces and safe-guard your electrical panel.
- If flooding is imminent, move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to higher ground, remove toxic substances from basement

CLEAN-UP

It may sound extreme when we say a flood can destroy your home's foundation but it is actually very common even in moderate floods. It happens when your basement is completely or nearly full of water. When you drain the basement too quickly the pressure outside the walls will be greater than the inside of the walls. That pressure can make your basement walls crack or even collapse. Instead, slowly pump out just two or three feet of water each day. You may want to call a professional to pump the water out and fix your basement's drainage and waterproofing system.

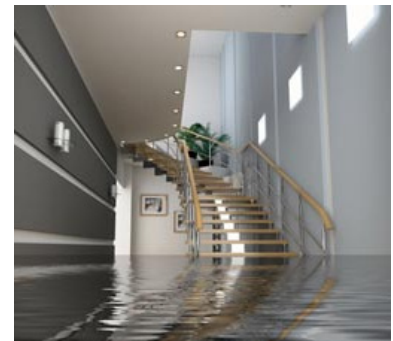
Document Flood Cleanup

But before you start any major flood cleanup call your insurance company. If your insurance covers the damage, you will work with an adjuster to estimate to the costs of repairs. Make sure you list the damage and take photos or videotape as you clean. You will need complete records for insurance claims, applications for disaster assistance, and income tax deductions.

Protect Yourself

Flood water not only destroys nearly everything in its path but also it is often full of infectious organisms such as E. Coli, Salmonella, and Shigella; Hepatitis A Virus; and agents of typhoid, paratyphoid and tetanus. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, muscle aches and fever. Most cases are caused by ingesting contaminated food or water.

Tetanus, however, is an infectious disease that affects the nervous system. Tetanus can be acquired from contaminated soil or water entering your body through broken areas of the skin such as cuts



or abrasions. Symptoms may appear weeks after exposure and may begin with a headache but later develop into difficulty swallowing or opening your jaw.



Stagnant flood water also brings mosquitoes and the diseases they carry such as encephalitis and the West Nile Virus. Wear long sleeved shirts and pants and insect-repellant to avoid mosquito

bites. Protect yourself from the infectious diseases in flood waters by washing your hands with soap and water that has been disinfected or boiled. To disinfect water, use a half cup of liquid household bleach to each gallon of water and let it sit for at least 30 minutes. That is what the Department of Health recommends especially if you are dealing with sewage-contaminated floodwaters.

Clean and Disinfect EVERYTHING

Now that you know the hazards of the flood water itself, you understand how important it is to disinfect anything the flood water touches. Even the mud can be contaminated with the infectious diseases we talked about earlier. Shovel as much mud out as possible and then use a garden sprayer or hose to wash mud from hard surfaces. Scrub surfaces with hot water and a heavy duty cleaner then disinfect to kill the germs. After you disinfect then rinse in clean water.

Flood Cleanup In the Kitchen

Immerse glass, porcelain, china, plastic and enamel dinnerware for 10 minutes in the bleach solution. Disinfect silverware, metal utensils and pots and pans in boiling water for 10 minutes. In this case, don't use chlorine bleach because it reacts with many metals and causes them to darken.

Salvaging the Furniture and other Household Items

Take furniture, rugs, bedding and clothing outside to dry as soon as possible to avoid harboring mold and mildew. Upholstered furniture can be cleaned but

only by a professional. Mattresses, toys and stuffed animals contaminated with floodwater should be thrown away.

Saving the Flooring: Carpet, Vinyl and Wood

If you have wood subflooring, the vinyl, tile floor and carpeting must be removed so the subfloor can completely dry. The problem is: it may take months for the wooden subfloor to dry thoroughly. Open windows and doors to expose the boards to as much air as possible.

You can save your carpet and rugs if you get them cleaned and dried quickly. If that icky sewage-contaminated floodwater saturated the rugs it is just better to throw them out then to try to salvage them. To clean, drape carpets and rugs outdoors and hose them down. Work in the disinfecting carpet cleaner with a broom and rinse with your bleach/water solution. Completely dry the carpet and the subfloor before replacing the carpet. Plan to replace the underlay padding because it is nearly impossible to clean.



Dry out wooden floors gradually. If you try to dry the floors too quickly you could end up with a warped, cracked or split floor. Some restoration companies accelerate drying time by forcing air through the fluted underside of hardwood floorboards. You may also want to remove the floorboards or a board every few feet to reduce the risk of buckling caused by swelling.

Ceilings and Walls

Wallboard acts like a sponge when it's wet so you are going to have to remove wallboard, plaster and

Flood Clean-Up cont.

paneling to at least the flood level. If it was only soaked by clean rainwater you may want to consider cutting a 4- to 12-inch-high section from the bottom and top of walls. This creates a chimney effect of air flow for faster drying. This will help dry out the studs and sills.

The three kinds of insulation must be treated differently. Styrofoam might only need to be hosed off. While fiberglass batt should be thrown away if muddy but may be reused if it is clean and dried thoroughly. Loose or blown-in cellulose should be replaced whether muddy or not. Cellulose holds water for a long time and can lose its antifungal and fire retardant abilities.

Avoid the Shock: Protocol for Electrical System, Appliances, and Electronics

Shut off the electrical system. It must be repaired and inspected by an electrician before it can be turned back on.

Do not run electronics or appliances before they are properly cleaned. Professionally clean electronics, TVs and radios, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners.

Meet the Community Peace Officers

The County of Stettler Protective Services consists of two members, John Bishop and Todd Wright. Both of these members are Community Peace Officers (Level 1) and they are governed by the Alberta Solicitor General Public Security Division. John has been with the County of Stettler Protective Services since May 2005 and currently serves as the Director of Protective Services.



JOHN BISHOP

John's past experience in policing consisted of a 31 year career in the R.C.M.P. He came to Stettler in September, 1984 and rather than advance his career, he chose to remain in the area and retired here in January of 2005. Through his 21 years of service in Stettler he came to know the area and the people very well and is familiar with their needs and concerns.

TODD WRIGHT

Todd has been with Protective Services since April, 2010 but has lived in Stettler since 2007 after moving from Drumheller with his wife and family. Todd has 21 years of past experience with the Canadian Armed Forces , Correctional Services and the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch. Todd brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in commercial vehicle enforcement and dangerous goods. Todd is heavily involved in community sports through coaching and all of his children are actively involved in numerous sports.



What Do Community Peace Officers Do?

Much of the public see us everyday wearing a uniform, driving around in a marked patrol vehicle without having any idea of what we really do on a daily basis other than “ just drive around”. We have 2 marked patrol units as well as one ATV quad which is also equipped with a light bar and Peace Officer Markings. We are primarily responsible for ensuring that our roads and infrastructure are not damaged by overweight commercial vehicle traffic or other activities that would cause damage however, have other duties as well. We are responsible for the entire County of Stettler which consists of approximately 1,647 square miles, 2,777 kms of County road as well as enforcement authorities on Provincial Highways 601, 835, 855, 850 , 851, 853 , 589 and 590. We also have jurisdiction on Highway 12 within the boundaries of Erskine and Nevis.

We hold appointments as Community Peace Officers (Level 1) which gives us authority under the following acts:

Traffic Safety Act and Regulations

These acts cover all moving (speeding, stop signs etc resulting in demerit points) and non-moving violations (equipment/ documentation etc)with respect to all drivers and vehicles. This includes all commercial vehicle enforcement with respect to weights, equipment, cargo securement, documentation and

the transportation of dangerous goods. All rig moves and other heavy hauls are constantly monitored to ensure that damage is not being caused to our roadways which would result in additional repair costs. Other oilfield traffic and all commercial vehicles, including farm vehicles, are routinely checked to ensure there is compliance with the various laws and regulations. The ATV quad is primarily used in and around the lake area to ensure compliance with the proper use of ATV's as this is a constant problem.

The Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act

This act deals with sections relating to littering or disposing of litter/waste on private or public lands or highways.

The Fuel Tax Act

Enforcement of the regulations relating to the authorized use of marked fuel.

The Gaming and Liquor Act

Enforcement of sections relating to consuming/possession of liquor in a vehicle or public place.

In addition to the above authorities, we can assist other enforcement agencies (R.C.M.P., Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, Sherriffs) in any area outside of our normal jurisdiction if participating in a joint forces operation such as a seat belt check or other organized

enforcement activity. We are not authorized to investigate Criminal Code matters such as thefts, wilful damages etc.

In addition to our enforcement duties, we are also responsible for Emergency Management. A Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency was established to cover all of the municipalities within the Town and County of Stettler. John serves as the Director and Todd serves as one of the Deputy Directors with Phil Holton serving as the second. They are responsible for maintaining the regional emergency response plan for all municipalities and are constantly involved in training and participating with industry partners in emergency exercises. Todd has also assumed additional duties with respect to Occupational Health and Safety training, inspections and investigation with respect to the County of Stettler.

So as you can see, we are involved in many duties and are kept busy other than just “driving around waving at farmers”. We work 7 days a week and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. If you wish to contact either John or Todd:
Office: 403 742-4441
Cell: 403-741-6133
jbishop@stettlercounty.ca
twright@stettlercounty.ca

Road Program 2011



In a traditional act of solidarity, all councillors put their signature on the 2011 Road Program Maps in Council at their March Meeting.

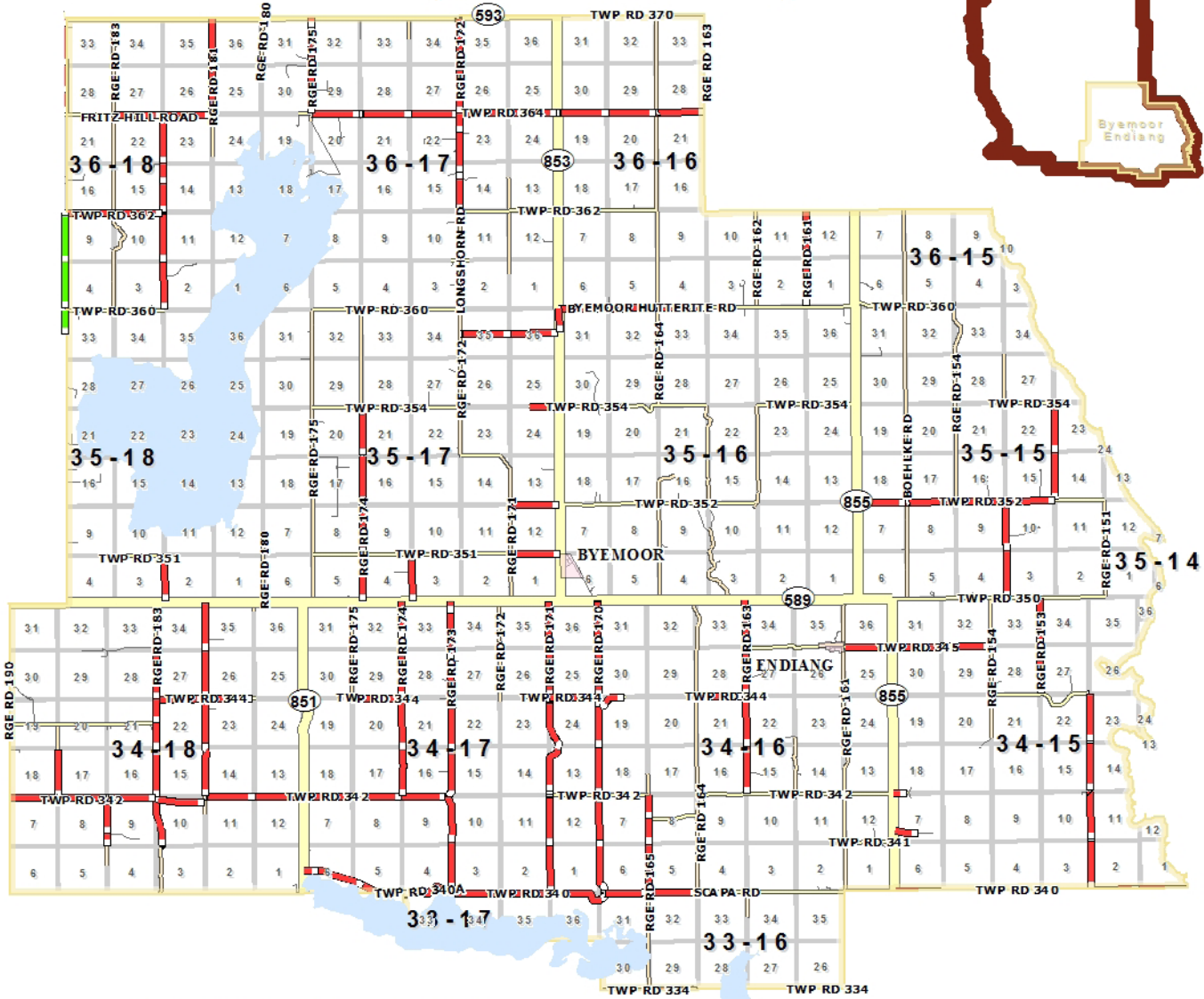
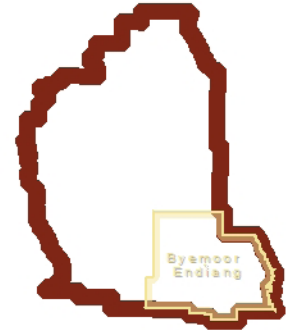


The map outlines a very aggressive gravelling program that not only will complete over 440 miles of new gravelling, but pick up the 91 miles of road that was unfinished due to last year's weather conditions. A total of 533 miles of gravel is a lot of miles to complete in one year, but the County of Stettler is very confident that with a combination of in-house crews, contractors and relatively good weather, this is easily achievable.

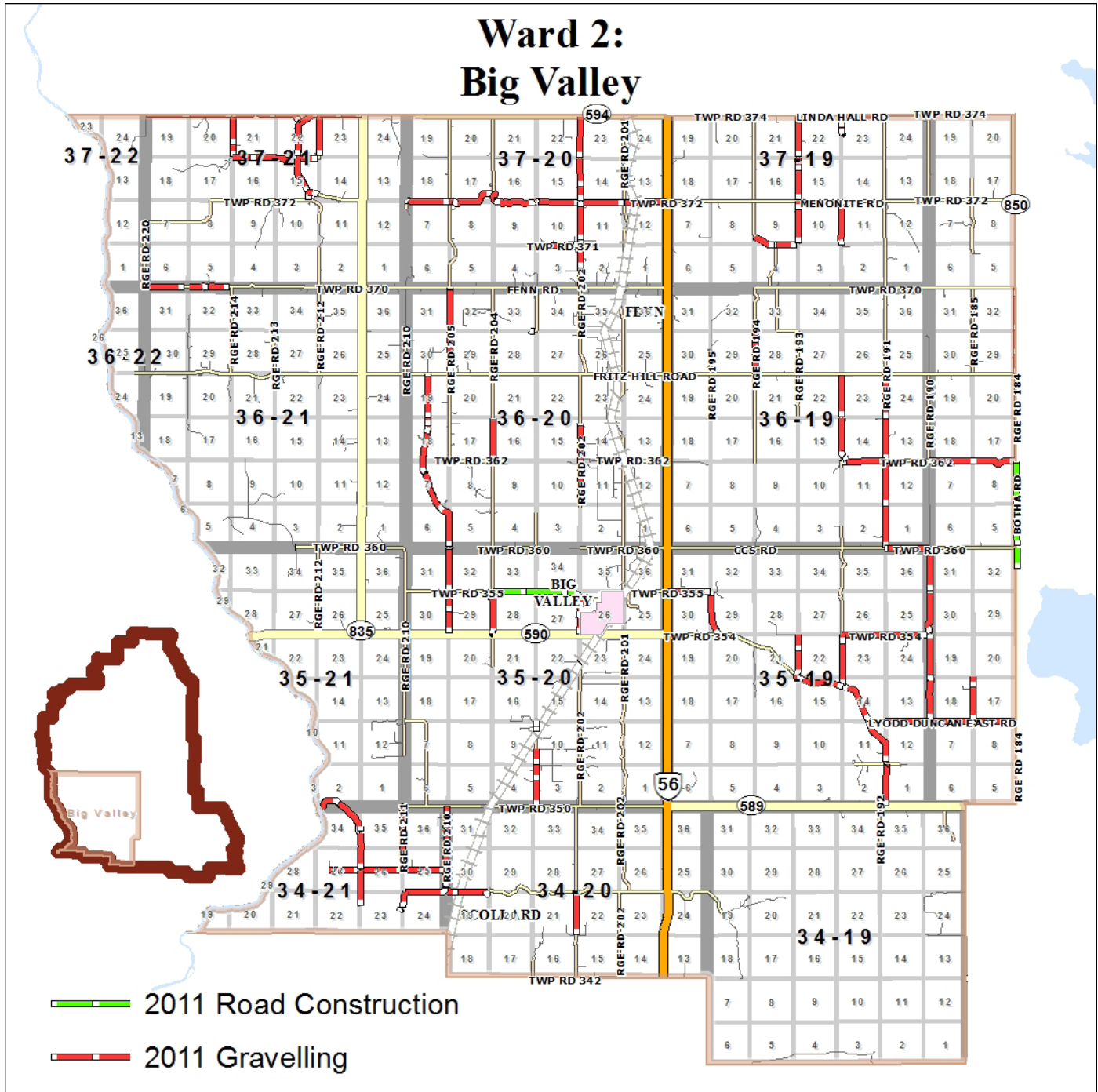
The 10 miles of new construction are scheduled to begin as soon as the roads dry up. Areas receiving new road construction include Stettler North, near Pheasantback, South Botha/Byemoor area, Shooting Lake Road, Blue Church Road and new Bridge Alignment near Gadsby.

Until the conditions dry up, we will be concentrating our efforts on measuring and stockpiling gravel so that we are prepared for a very busy gravel and construction season. The following maps outline the plans we have for the Roads in 2011. While these maps are just plans, keep in mind that as conditions change, priorities emerge and the season progresses, change can be made to this program. We can assure you, we will keep our ratepayers informed as to the changes as they happen.

Ward 1: Byemoor - Endiang



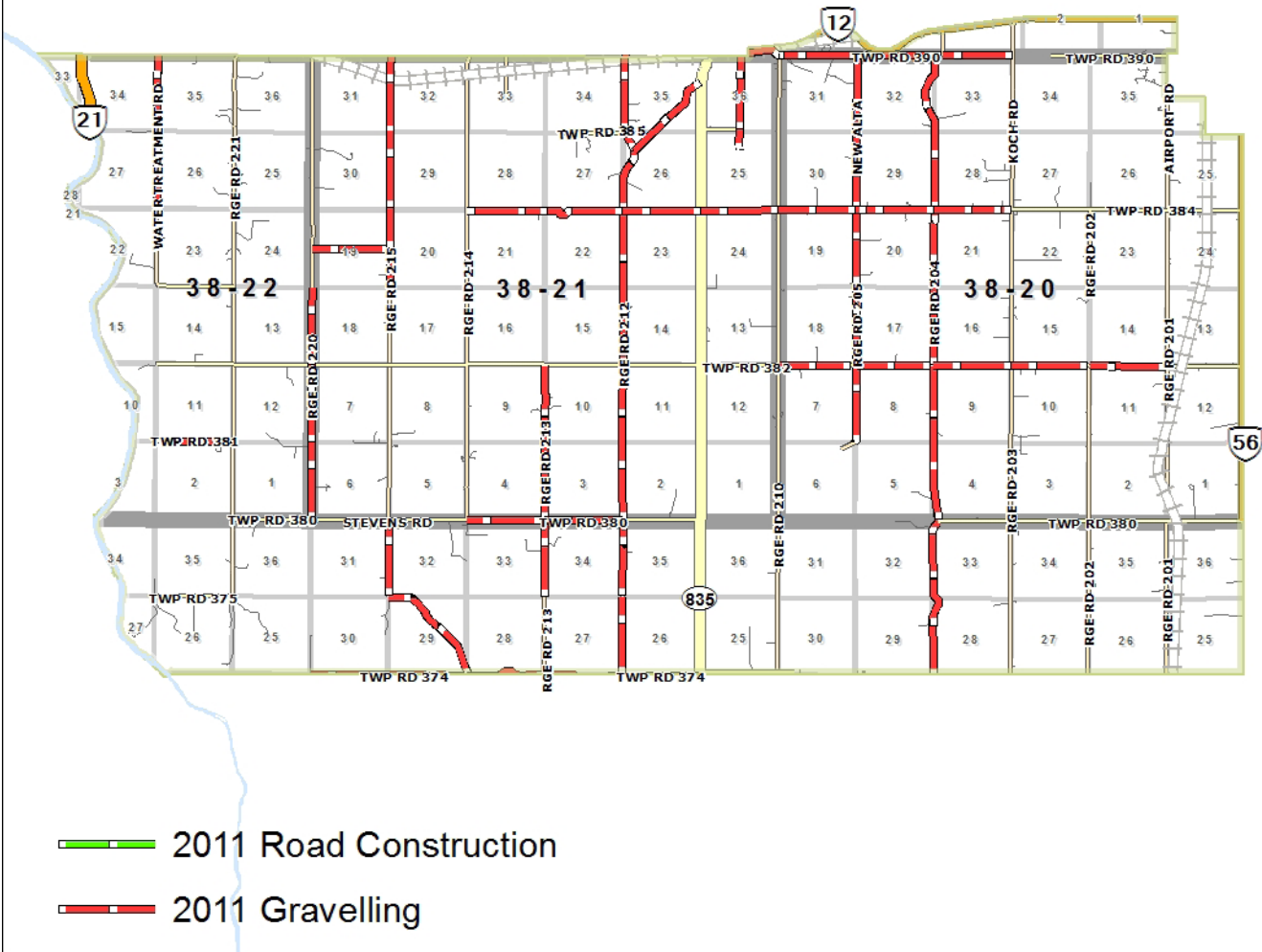
- 2011 Road Construction
- 2011 Graveling



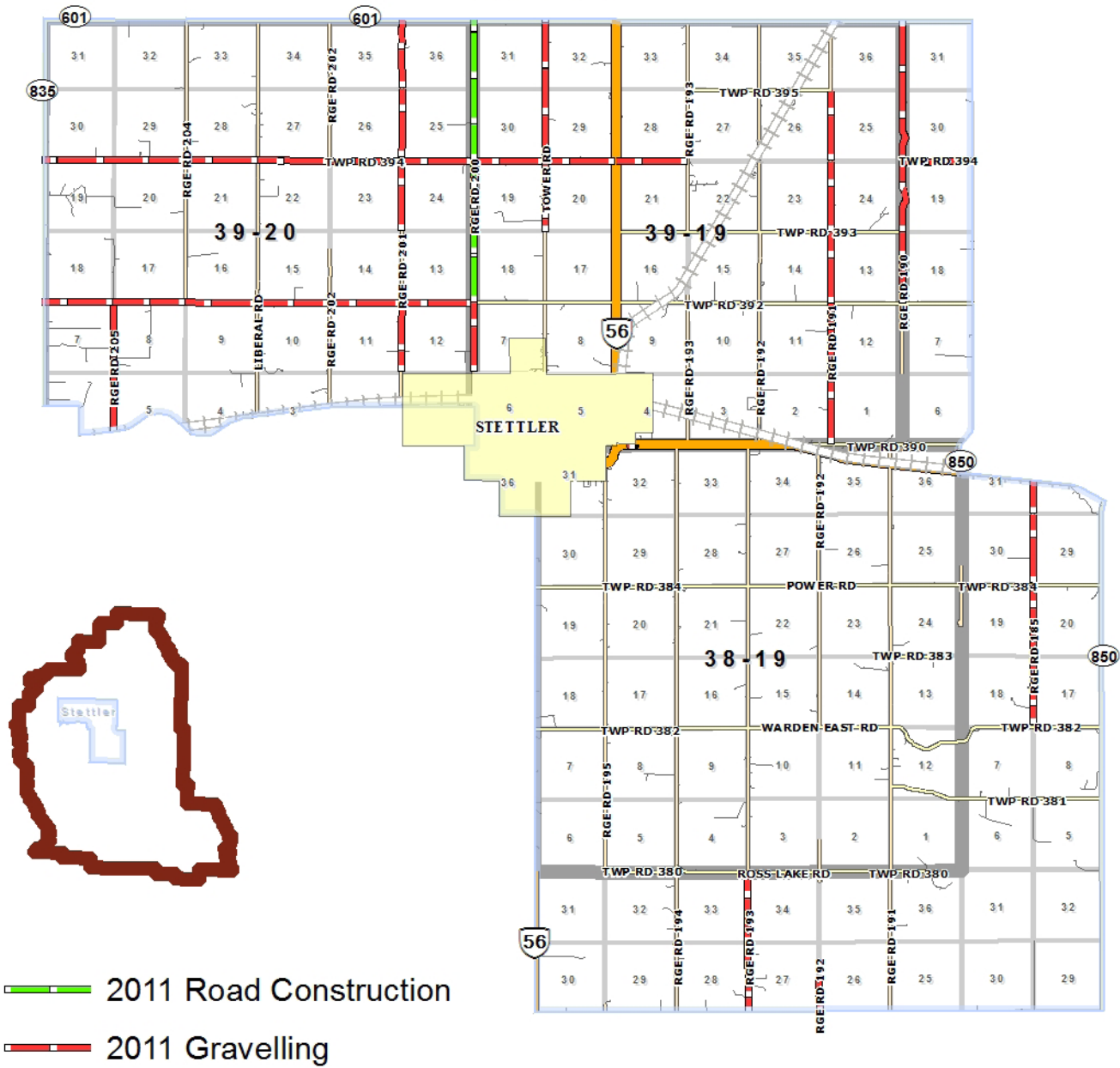
Ward 3: Botha - Gadsby



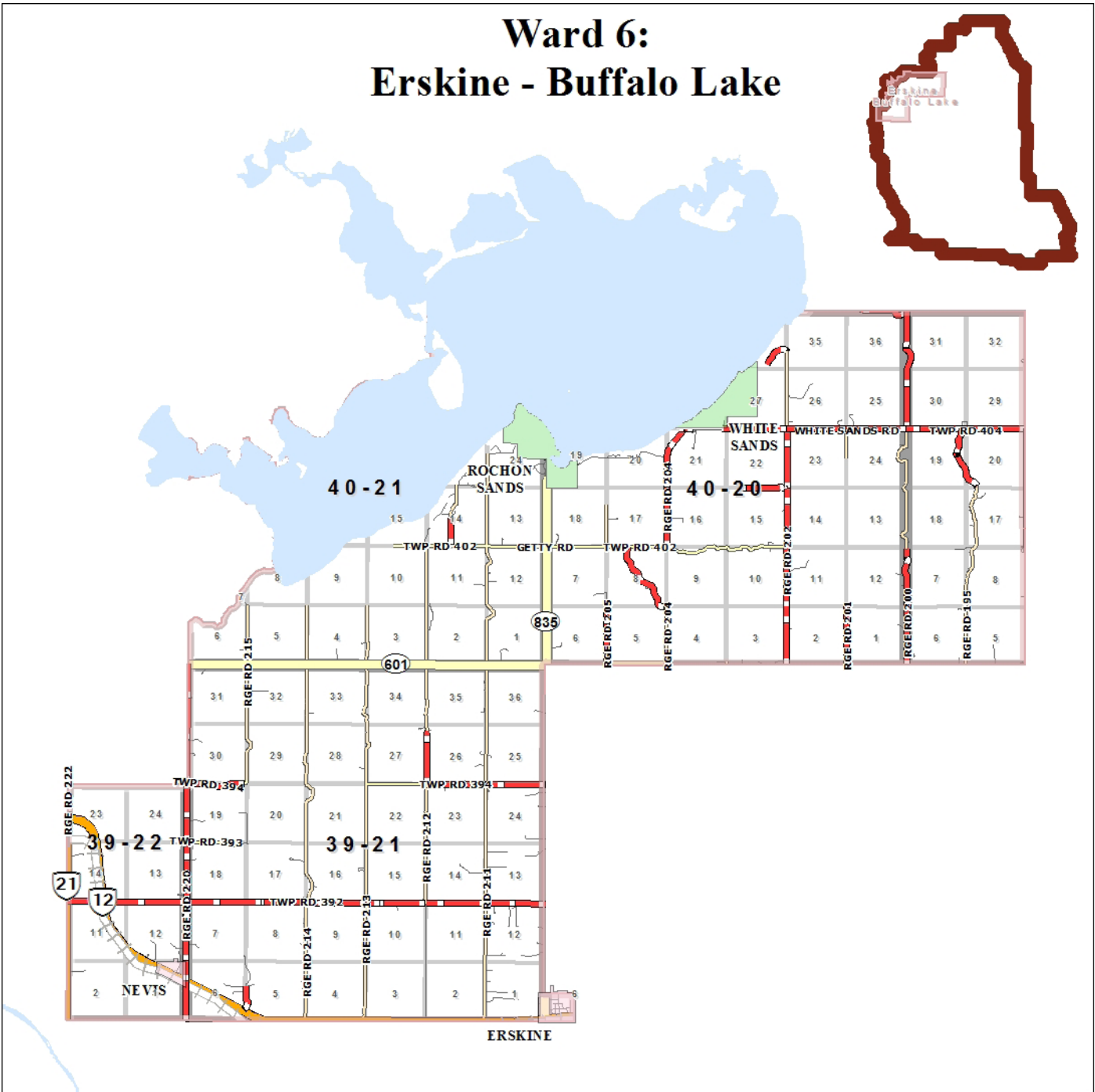
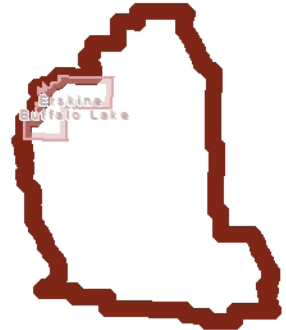
Ward 4: Erskine South - Warden



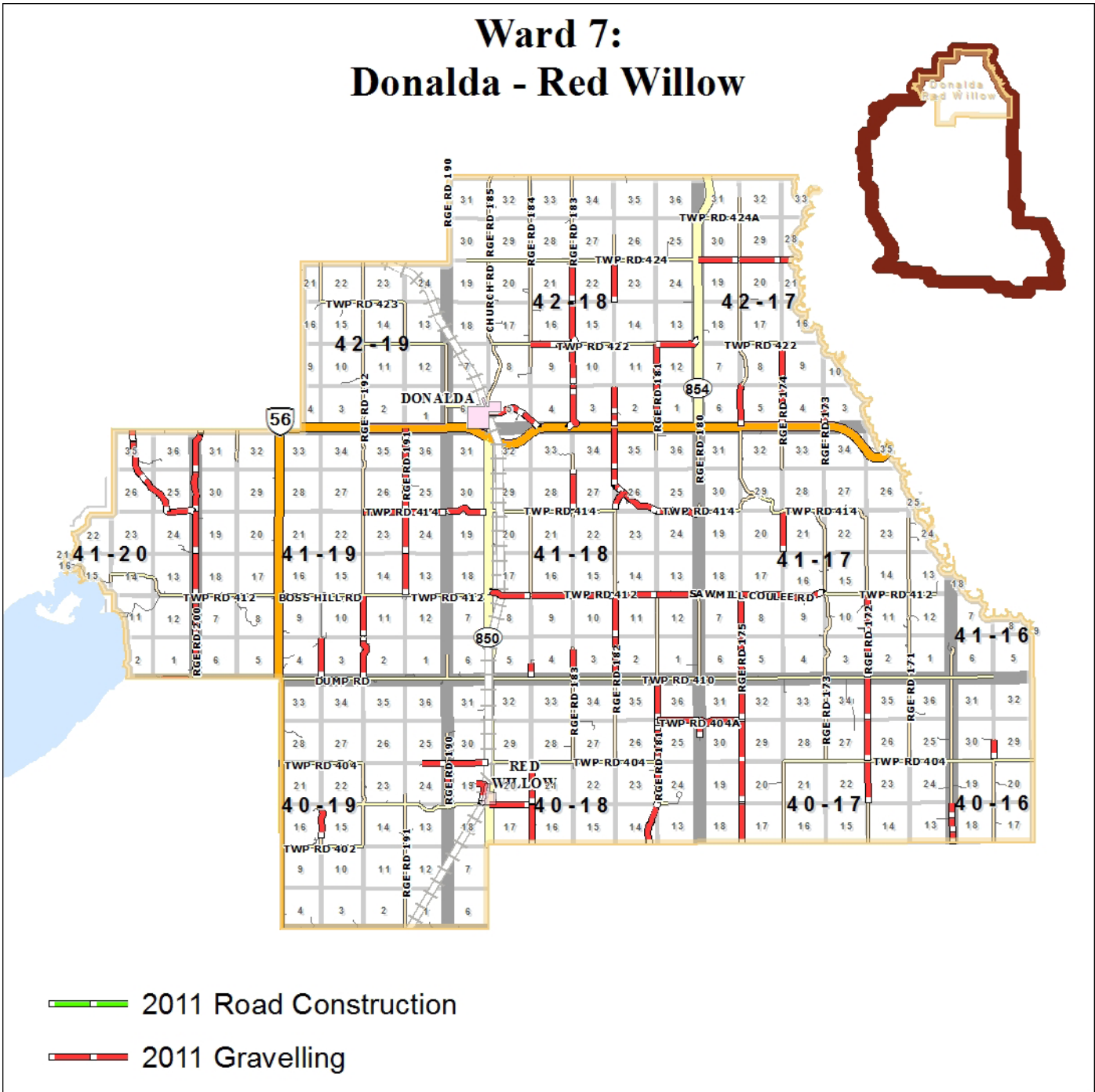
Ward 5: Stettler



Ward 6: Erskine - Buffalo Lake



Ward 7: Donalda - Red Willow



INTERVIEW

with **Garth Ennis**

Director of Environmental Services

on

County of Stettler Rural Water Servicing Strategy



CC: When will the residents of the SE Phase get water?

GE: Water is being turned on as Phases are completed. The South-Endiang Phase was completed just before Christmas and the South Byemoor Phase is being completed very shortly. Both of our construction crews have moved on onto Endiang North and Byemoor North - with a completion date tentatively set for late summer (provided the weather cooperates!).

CC: What about the Central Phase residents?

GE: I know that residents in the Central Phase from Stettler East to the border signed their Water Service Agreements quite some time ago. In the meantime we had the opportunity to partner with the Botha-Gadsby Water Co-op to reduce the amount of pipe we have to out into the ground and reduce our costs. Those negotiations with the Co-op are nearing completion now and we plan to tender than project this spring.

CC: Is it too late for people in the Central Phase to sign-up?

GE: Of course not. Actually, since a lot of time has passed since we last asked we will be giving the residents out that way another chance to sign-up for the water connection at the original price of \$10,000. After we tender the project out, the hook-up fee will increase.

CC: When will the central phase be completed?

GE: We are hoping to tender this spring, construct through the summer and fall and hopefully be completed before March of 2012. Of course, as with the SE Phase, the weather could drastically affect this time line.



John Kaplan puts on a
“An EYE-POPPING show!”

- Provost News, AB



Spellbinding multi-media show transports you to a world of wonder and mystery! Your entire family will be gasping in astonishment and rolling in the aisles with laughter... a dazzling experience you'll be talking about long after the final curtain!

Join us for this fundraiser at and for the Botha Community Hall, **May 7th**
@ 7:00pm.

Tickets available in advance from Q14, Pages in Time, or any Botha Community Center Member: Adult - \$8.00, Youth - \$5.00, Family (2A, 3Y) - \$25.00 or at the door: Adult - \$10.00, Youth - \$7.50. For more information contact Donna Morris: 403-742-1038



Gophers

Got You Baffled?

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board has your back

2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate Available As Of April 5

2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate for the control severe damage (30% crop loss) from Richardson Ground Squirrels is now available from to County of Stettler ratepayers from your Agricultural Service Board.

Full Case (24 bottles)	\$168.00
Half Case (12 bottles)	\$ 84.00
Quarter Case (6 bottles)	\$42.00

Please note:

2% LSC will be sold in minimum quantities of 6 bottles per purchase, and a maximum of 2 cases may be purchased at one time. For the month of April, 2% LSC will be sold on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings (8:30 – 12:00). For the months of May and June, 2% LSC will be sold on Tuesday mornings (8:30 – 12:00).

For any questions or concerns please call Quinton Beaumont at the Stettler County Office at 403-742-4441.