

Spring / Summer 2013

Stettler County Connection

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ELECTION 2013

Election Day is October 21, 2013.

We will be providing you with extensive Election Information and Coverage in the upcoming issues of The Connection, but until then, here are a few reminders:

- The term is been extended – councillor will now sit on council for four years (it was previously three) once elected.
- Voter Identification will now be required to vote. You will have to bring one piece of photo ID and proof of your residence. Since we are a rural municipality, you should bring something in that has both your name and legal land description on it, like a tax notice or utility bill!
- If you are going to be away in October, the County of Stettler will now be offering Mail-In ballots. You can apply to vote by mail at the County Office anytime between now and Election Day.
- If you are going to be away for Election Day, you can take advantage of the Advance Vote. These will be open on Tuesday October 15th and Friday October 18 at the County of Stettler Office.
- If you want to run for office – there are information packages available at our office and you can pick on up anytime!



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COUNTY CONNECTIONS

INTRO

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." Henry Ford (1863-1947), American founder of the Ford Motor Company

Change is not easy. It's entirely too easy to do what we've always done. We aren't lazy, I am not suggesting that anyone who resists change is lazy – but rather – comfortable. We fear the unknown consequences of our decisions. When I am having trouble with the concept of change – I always think about a younger version of myself and the reckless abandon through which I lived the first 10 years of life. I was fearless. Jumping from the barn loft, driving my bike down a big hill for my first solo ride (it ended badly and I have a scar on my nose to prove it!) and I never worried about what was around the corner. I never stopped to ask myself "what if". As I grew older, I began to see that change just for the sake of change is never the answer. But, change for the sake of making something better; change for the opportunity to learn and grow is never a wasted effort.

Age and experience have taught us all that change can be good. It's difficult and it certainly has its complications, and sometimes it doesn't work out. But also we know it can be refreshing, renewing and a way start over.

Our little magazine has grown so much since our first days as a 4-sided newsprint publication. We have grown to include our community, our employees and our residents throughout our pages and this issue marks another achievement; a new, fresh look.

We want Connection to be focused on the residents in our Communities, and delivering to you the information, services and stories that shape who we are and how we are working to create a quality of living that is envied across the province.

On behalf of the entire County of Stettler, I hope that you enjoy our new magazine – and that you find something inside these pages to satisfy your cravings for information about this great community we live in. We are always open to story ideas, contributions and feedback, so don't hesitate to let us know what you think!

Sincerely,



Stettler County Connection

Spring/Summer 2013

Volume 3 Issue 1

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Printed by

Kathy's Printing Service

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Availability: Current Issues of County Connection can be obtained from the County of Stettler Administration Building while supplies last.

Subscription: County Connections is delivered free of charge to taxpayers, with exception to those who do not live in the Province of Alberta or have unsubscribed from our mailing list. If you wish to receive future copies, please make the request to the Managing Editor at sbenson@stettlercounty.ca. You may also view the current and back issues of the County Connection on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca





“The Council and Administration of the County of Stettler remain committed to operating our business as efficiently as possible and we are willing to work within the restraints of the Provincial Budget.”

Wayne Nixon
Donalda-Red Willow

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REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

After a long winter, I'm sure I'm not the only one looking forward to spring. The snow fall, particularly in the south and east parts of the County, will make moisture conditions favorable and agriculturally we will look forward to another good year.

Following the Provincial Budget presented in March, the County of Stettler Council and Administration have had to reevaluate our own budget and make some changes in the philosophy of our operations.

One of the budget cuts that will affect us immediately is the cut to bridge funding. We have about 119 bridges in the County and most of them were built in the 50's and 60's with a fifty year life expectancy. This means that most of these bridges should have already been replaced.

In the past, we have replaced bridge structures with culverts or low level crossings, but depending on the stream there may be many factors to consider. If the stream is fish bearing then the Federal government is involved, if the stream has water in it year around there are other government agencies involved. This makes the process of bridge replacement complicated and costly. The estimated cost of replacing bridges in the County of Stettler is about \$34 million.

In the past few years we have had to close one bridge and presently we have a bridge that is restricted to the extent that it will be unusable for agricultural or oilfield operations. The latter is on a main road and will have to be repaired or replaced.

Although we have a bridge reserve set aside there will still be a huge shortfall over the next few years and there will be no funding for bridges by the provincial government for at least the next three years.

Balancing the provincial budget at the expense of infrastructure will only work for the short term. The bridges and other infrastructure such as hospitals and schools that were put on hold during the Klein years now have to be replaced at today's dollars. Relating this to our own businesses as farmers and business owners we sometimes have to spend money to make money or save money down the road. In my opinion a middle of the road compromise would be more favorable.

The Council and Administration of the County of Stettler remain committed to operating our business as efficiently as possible and we are willing to work within the restraints of the Provincial Budget. We have many projects going forward this spring including road construction and repair, graveling, completion of some paving projects, Erskine water project, two Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission projects (Big Valley and Donalda), Hamlet storm water drainage projects, some Buffalo Lake projects, as well as the day to day operations. It should be a busy and rewarding year.

On behalf of Council I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable and busy spring and summer.

W. Nixon

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WARD FOCUS

It has been 2.5 years since I became County Councillor. It has been a great experience to work together with the other 6 Councillors for the betterment of the County.

County Council have gone to the iPhones and iPads the last few years. This has cut down on paper use and makes us all available to one another and staff at all times we may be needed. This has been a real learning experience with this new technology, but I find it very rewarding and efficient.

I am very pleased to see the waterline completed in the area, giving our residents access to water. The line was completed in the summer of 2011, and we are going back to clean-up this

summer. We are very fortunate to have this service, as many areas much closer to Stettler don't have access to potable water.

Over the past few years, the County has been putting more gravel on the roads, so that they hold up better in wet conditions. It seems to be working, as the roads are in better and better shape every year. The extra gravel on the roads gives our operators more material to work with as they are grading and keeps the roads from washing out in rainy weather. We have also reduced the size of the grader beats, making it easier for our operators to get around to every road faster. We had to add one grader to our fleet to accomplish



“Over the past few years, the County has been putting more gravel on the roads, so that they hold up better in wet conditions.”

Lawrence Wilkie
Councillor: Ward 1
Byemoor-Endiang

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WARD FOCUS

this, but we can now concentrate on maintaining the roads to a higher standard. It will also allow us to get to your laneways faster after big snowfalls in the winter.

Instead of building new roads, we have been working hard to improve the existing roads. This means repairing bad spots, improving sightlines and re-sloping the ditches in some cases. Recently, a motion had been made to close the Byemoor School and the School Board came to our community to talk with parents and community members about the future of the school. I strongly believe that the school is a very important part of our community. It is a place for our future generation to learn, grow and play and I don't think that students should have to

ride the bus or drive long distances to get an education. I will be working together with the other councillors and the School Board to find a solution that allows our community to keep our school.

My ratepayers are very important to me and I always try to make a point to return their calls and try to satisfy their request. I think that we live in a great community, and I will always work hard to ensure that the people who live here get all the benefits of living in the County of Stettler.

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1. Get the right kind of helmet
2. Make sure the helmet fits your child's head
3. Check that the helmet fits correctly

GOT WHEELS? GET A HELMET!

The Stettler Traffic Safety Committee is a non-profit organization that promotes traffic safety in our community. The Stettler District Ambulance Association is working in collaboration with the Stettler Traffic Safety Committee to bring a new program to our community. "Got Wheels? Get a Helmet!" will be rolling out this spring and summer. The program's objective is to raise awareness about the importance of children wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle, a scooter, a skateboard and wearing in-line skates.

Head injuries are the number one cause of serious injury and death to children on wheels. It is important to stay safe so kids can stay active. Our goal is to create an awareness of helmet safety to our children by handing out helmets to those out in the community that do not have a helmet. We have the support of EMS, Fire and R.C.M.P. who will canvas the community, hand out helmets and properly fit them on children who are found to be on wheels without a helmet.

You may see the R.C.M.P., Fire Department or EMS stopping children and providing positive ticketing for children who are wearing a helmet. A free sub from subway or a free swim admission or a free ice cream from Dairy Queen will be handed out as a recognition of wearing a helmet on wheels.

Stettler District Ambulance and the Stettler Traffic Safety Committee would like to thank all the sponsors in the community that will make the "Got Wheels? Get a Helmet!" program a success.





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DUST CONTROL

The County of Stettler offers Dust Control Services to all our residents for a small fee. This allows us to provide you with dust control in front of your homes and properties. The service is meant to reduce the amount of dust that creeps into your yards and farms, thus reducing the quality of air and your enjoyment of the country!

We offer Dust Control using a 32% liquid brine called calcium chloride. This product actually retains moisture for a prolonged period of time, thus reducing the amount of dust created by disturbing the road. It works far more effective than water because water only lays on the top of the dust and then evaporates. Once the water has evaporated, the effectiveness of the water on dust is non-existent.

We typically like to apply the treatments to the road in the Spring to get to all the yards and farms before the dusts gets too terribly bad. This year, spring has taken a long time to

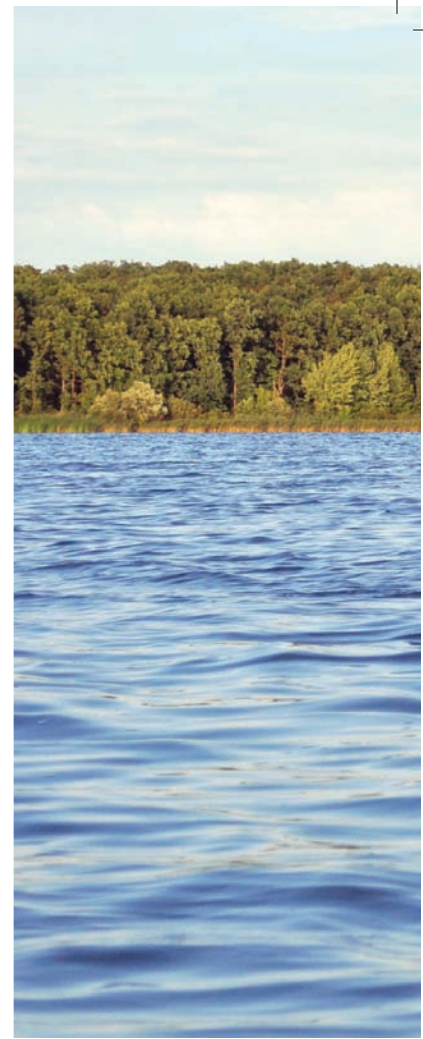
come, so we are extending the deadline for applications into May to account for the snow still on the ground.

Applications for Farmstead Dust Control will be received at the County Office during regular office hours **ending Friday, May 17, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.**

Applications must be made in person and must be accompanied by the fee: \$1,336.55 plus GST per 200 meters for calcium.

For further information please contact Dennis Nelson, Director of Public Works.

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THREATENING OUR LAKE

Quagga and Zebra Mussels threaten our Lakes and Ponds

Quagga and Zebra Mussels are a very invasive species which is spreading across North America at an alarming rate.

This is serious. If zebra mussels become established in Buffalo Lake then the lake as we know it will be history. They are dangerous and scary because they reproduce so fast and have no natural predators. Areas that are currently infested with these mussels know that they are virtually impossible to eradicate once established.

Quagga and Zebra Mussels are native to the Middle East, but brought to Canada in the hulls of large cargo ships in the 1980's. The original infestations were around the Great Lakes, but have slowly been moving out from that area ever since. This year, they are threatening our lakes here in Alberta.

Zebra Mussels are very small in size, with a distinct striped pattern on its shell. They can attach themselves to any hard surface – and can live out of the water for up to 30 days. They will arrive on watercraft that have been previously been used elsewhere in contaminated lakes and rivers.

Zebra Mussels are filter feeders and can filter through one litre of water per day, removing algae and other key microscopic components of the food chain resulting in loss of food supply for fish. Large quantities of mussels can cause massive fish die-offs, resulting in oxygen depletion and blue-green algae blooms which are toxic to humans and wildlife. Mussels can clog pumps and pipe systems of water treatment plants, power plants and irrigation systems. In the United States, billions of dollars are spent on damage to infrastructure.

From an economic standpoint, this species will affect your property value. Real estate experience has shown that property values will plummet by 30% if water bodies are colonized.

The Province of Alberta, along with the County of Stettler, are very concerned about the risk these mussels pose to our recreational waters. The highest risk for transport and contamination is recreational boat users, who travel from lake to lake with their boats.



How can you help stop the spread of Zebra and Quagga Mussels?

It's Simple:



That's it! That's all we have to do! Three simple, quick to do, easy steps, this is what will keep our pristine waters.

Clean: remove all plants, animals, and mud. Thoroughly wash everything, including crevices and other hidden areas.

Drain: Thoroughly drain your boat BEFORE leaving the area, including wells, ballasts, and engine cooling water.

Dry: Allow time for your boat to completely dry before launching into other waters

The average recreational boater in Alberta is willing to travel up to 20 hours to find great water for recreational uses! If you use Stettler as a starting point traveling 100 km/hour you will hit numerous lakes from Thunder bay Ontario, Victoria BC, to the south west border of Utah. This south western border is only an hour and a half from Lake Mead, one of the most heavily infested lakes in North America. If we all take the precautions necessary, we can save our lake from having to deal with invasive species.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

BALANCING THE COUNTY OF STETTTLER BUDGET

The County passed the budget for 2013 in December of 2012

The budget process involves each department submitting their individual budgets to the Finance Office. Then, each department supervisor, together with the CAO and Finance Manager, review and adjust the budget so that it balances. This is where some cuts are made. After that, the budget is presented to Council – where they may make cuts or additions to the budget. Staff and Managers then review the budget again and present to Council for final approval. The final approval also carries with it a recommendation for the tax rate. The entire process for 2013 was a seven month process and just recently, we went back to our budget and began reviewing and making changes again. You may ask why we would go back to a budget after we approved it and there are a couple of reasons why. The first reason was due to the Provincial Government announcement of funding changes to local governments. The Provincial government cut the STEP grant which assisted the County in wage costs for the hiring of summer employees. This required us to look at the employees that we are hiring and ensure that the expenditure that was budgeted for is strictly watched to ensure cost overruns don't exist.

“There was a further cut by the province to bridge funding which greatly affected our current budget, as well as future budgets.”

There was a further cut by the Province to bridge funding which greatly affected our current budget, as well as future budgets. Over the years the Government of Alberta was responsible for funding bridge repairs and replacements with the County only funding parts of it. All provincial funding for bridges has now been eliminated and the County is responsible for the full cost of replacing bridges. We do have some savings that Council was putting away for bridge repair – but those savings are nowhere near enough to do all the bridge repairs that need to be done. We needed to change the budget to set aside more money for bridges, now and into the future.

The Provincial budget also cut the farm fuel benefit. Just like many farmers, we were surprised by this cut and will have increased fuel costs for the year.

The second reason we revised the budget is because over the past few months, new projects and new priorities have emerged, and the money for those projects needed to be set out. There are additional requests for funds from the Town of Stettler for the Stettler Recreation Centre and from the Seed Cleaning Plant. These expenditures were unplanned and required us to go back to the budget to reflect these changes.



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So how will we pay for these changes?

Great question! We wondered this too and administration went back to all departments to look at what could be changed within their budget. Some departments went into their budget and made some significant cuts by changing existing programs and cutting or postponing other projects to another time. Council has made it very clear that they do not want to increase taxes and all departments were successful in cutting their budgets to balance our budget without tax increases.

So with that being said these are the reasons we go back into the budget. We find having an accurate budget helps us control costs and keep us accountable to you, our ratepayers. Much like your own family budgets, we never stop monitoring where our money is being spent and how it compares to the budget. As we enter into Spring, Council is looking towards next year and planning for the 2014 budget.



DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS

Please remember that you do not need a development permit from the County for any agricultural operation as long as any structures such as hay sheds, granaries, livestock shelters and barns meet the 125 feet setback from the centerline of the County road. Shelterbelts must be set back 75 feet from the centerline of the road. If you wished to vary from these setbacks for any agricultural operation, you would require a development permit. You may need a license/permit from the Natural Resources Conservation Board if your agricultural operation includes a confined feeding operation (please call the NRCB at 1-403-340-5241). If development is proposed along a provincial highway a Roadside Development Permit issued by Alberta Transportation is required. Please contact Alberta Transportation at 403-854-5550 or visit their website at www.transportation.alberta.ca.

For more information regarding development please contact the County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.

WATERLINES IN THE COUNTY

Updates

Waterline clean-up

The Utilities Department will be very busy this summer completing the cleanup of some of the water lines that were installed two years ago. The reason that it takes so long to complete the project is that Contractors have two years warranty on the line and don't want to do anything until the completion date gets close so they don't have to keep going back and forth. We will be starting in the Byemoor/Endiang area and then moving to the Botha-Gadsby area.

The waterline around Botha and Gadsby was just installed last summer/fall and just recently started delivering water. There is a lot of clean up that needs to be done and this will start as soon as the ground dries up. This process may take up to two years, because of the extensive amount of work and the availability of the contractors.

Big Valley

The waterlines that are going to Big Valley is not a County of Stettler water line. This is a Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) line and the County of Stettler is contracted by SMRWSC to look after the installation and operations of the water line. The installation of this water line is taking longer than was originally planned due to ground conditions and weather. This project will be completed this spring. Once the line is in – The County of Stettler will be looking to connect people along the SMRWSC line if they are interested in receiving water.

Donalda Line

The waterline going north to Donalda is also a SMRWSC line, and no the County of Stettler. This line is being built the same as the Big Valley line. The waterline construction will begin this summer. Once it is complete, residents along this line will also have the opportunity to hook-up to water if they are interested.

Erskine Water

The water supply line has now been installed for the Erskine Water reservoir and truck fill. The water supply line was attached to the Town of Stettler water line that transfers water from the Water Treatment Plant to the Town. We will be starting to build the water reservoir and truck fill and plans are to have this completed in 2014. Along with the reservoir and truck fill station, which will be located just east of Volker's, there will be turning lanes added to Highway 12 to help keep the traffic flowing on Highway 12.

ZERO TOLERANCE

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FOR **STARTING** DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT THE **BENEFIT** OF A **DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

Over the past few years the County's Municipal Planning Commission reviewed several situations where people had built houses and ancillary buildings, without first obtaining a development permit, on roads that are not recognized as roads that the County maintains (gravel, grading and plowing). These roads are considered undeveloped because they do not meet the minimum specifications of a developed County road. If someone wanted to develop on these roads, they would be required through the development permitting process to upgrade or construct the road to County standards, at no cost to the County ratepayers, so that emergency vehicles, school buses and the general public can safely access the new homesteads. Usually the people who developed these homesteads without a development permit sooner or later expect the County to "provide some gravel", "blade the road", or to construct new roads to their developments, at the cost of the County ratepayers. The result of this often ends in huge costs to the people who developed the homestead and sometimes also to the County ratepayers if the County had to oppose the matter in court.

In an attempt to avoid similar situations in the future, the Municipal Planning Committee at their August 2012 meeting resolved that the Development Officers of the County will strictly enforce the Land Use Bylaw, specifically the provision that requires anyone who intends to undertake a non-agricultural development in the County to first obtain a development permit. Sometimes a person applies for a development permit and then starts construction before the development permit is issued. This is not any different than starting construction without the benefit of a development permit. Recently the Development Authority made specific applicants aware of this situation, and from now on the instruction is clear to impose the appropriate penalties.

The County's Fee Bylaw states a penalty of \$1,000 for residential development and \$2,000 for commercial development that is started without the benefit of a development permit under the Land Use Bylaw.

Ratepayers, the general public, contractors and developers are hereby made aware that starting November 1, 2012 the Development Authority for the County of Stettler No. 6 will have a zero tolerance approach to persons who start construction beyond grade level without the benefit of a development permit. On this date the relevant penalties required pursuant to the County's Fee Schedule for this contravention will be strictly imposed on any one who fails to obtain a development permit prior to construction start. This information will be made available as widely as possible and no excuses will be accepted from November 1, 2012.

Starting November 1, 2012 the Development Authority for the County of Stettler No. 6 will have a zero tolerance approach to persons who start construction beyond grade level without the benefit of a development permit.

It does not matter if you think that your proposed development is small or not significant, please take the time and trouble to call the County's Planning and Development Office before you start construction. Better yet, call us when you start planning your development in order to ensure that you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in good time. The County does not want to penalize anyone. Instead we want to work with

people to help them obtain the development approvals they require in order to comply with municipal, provincial and federal regulations. We want you to view us as your agent, contact, information desk, or call us what you like, in all your planning and development endeavours.

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

ROADSIDE WEED & BRUSH CONTROL

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting Roadside Vegetation Control along County roadside ditches beginning June 1, 2013, as per our Vegetation Management Policy, spraying on roadsides is done under the authority of Alberta's Weed Control Act. Stettler County is required to control the weeds in the roadside just like any other landowner is on privately owned land. As well, in the public interest of safety, brush control is performed to increase the sightlines on roadways and intersections. With this, costs of maintaining these open roadways are reduced where brush and trees are managed properly as it makes snow removal easier and allows roads to dry out quicker after precipitation falls. We will concentrate our vegetation control program in the middle third of the County (Township Road 37-0 North to Township 40-0)

All spraying is carried out by licensed pesticide applicators following the Industrial Vegetation Management of Alberta (IVMAA) standards and practices. Roadsides adjacent to

farmsteads, gardens, and other sensitive vegetation will be omitted unless weed populations warrant spraying.

Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed are to complete the Herbicide Spray Exemption form. This form must be completed at the County office prior to May 15, 2013. 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. If the weed problem is not controlled by July 15, 2012 the County of Stettler will void any agreement made with landowner and use any control method deemed necessary to control any weeds. No phone requests for spray exemptions will be accepted. These forms

are to be renewed each year. For more information on the specific weed control products we will be using, or any other questions about this or any other Agricultural Service Board program, you may contact the Director of Agricultural Services Quinton Beaumont 403-742-4441.

“The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting Roadside Vegetation Control along County roadside ditches beginning June 1, 2013.”

Wetaskiwin
County
No. 10

Ponoka
County

Camrose
County
No. 22

Flagstaff
County

15

COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6

0 2.5 5 Kilometers
0 4 Miles

Transportation
 Highway
 Secondary Highway

Township System
 Township
 Section
 Quarter Section
 LSD

Urban Areas
 Town
 Village
 Hamlet
 Summer Village
 Provincial Park

Hydrography
 River
 Lake

Date: 21/03/2013

**HWY 601 TO
TWP RD 400**

**FENN RD
TO HWY 593**

Lacombe
County

Paintearth
County
No. 18

Stettler
County
No. 6

Red Deer
County

Kneehill
County

Starland
County

Special Area
No. 2

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BEWARE OF WILDLIFE ON ALBERTA ROADS

The sudden appearance of a wild animal in the middle of the road is a driver's nightmare. Alberta has an abundance of wildlife and many are active during the winter months.

Roads attract wildlife because they provide a route of easy travel and roadside forage. Salted winter roads can also attract wildlife. Many species tend to be more active at dawn or dusk, when driving visibility is poor and traffic volume is high.

To reduce collisions with wildlife:

- Scan the road and ditches ahead for animals, especially when traveling at dawn or dusk
- Slow down in a curve, when reaching the crest of a hill or in wildlife populated areas
- Watch for the shining eyes or silhouette of an animal at night and use high beams
- Improve visibility by keeping the vehicle's windshield and headlights clean
- Keep in mind that lights from oncoming traffic at night can make it difficult to see an animal on the road
- Slow down if an animal is on or near the road and be prepared to stop, as their behaviour is unpredictable - an animal that has crossed the road can turn back in the vehicle's path
- Look for more than one animal - some travel in groups
- Brake firmly if an animal is in the vehicle's path, and do not swerve to avoid it
- Honk in a series of short bursts to chase animals away
- Leave a lot of room when driving around an animal on or near the road - a frightened animal may run in any direction
- Do not throw food or food wrappers out of vehicles as this attracts animals
- Watch for wildlife warning signs, use extra caution and slow down in areas where animal crossing signs are posted

The Alberta government and the County of Stettler help reduce the number of collisions with wildlife by installing fences, warning signs, roadside reflectors, and by maintaining vegetation control along highways. In addition, bushes and trees are cut back to allow motorists to see animals on either side of the road.

If you do hit an animal while traveling on the roads, you should contact the maintenance team so that they can clear the scene and restore the roads safety. If you are on a Provincial highway, contact the regional Alberta Transportation Office and if you are on a County of Stettler Road, please report the collision to our emergency on-call number at 403-741-6133.

Report all collisions to your insurance company and the local police service. Contact the nearest Sustainable Resource Development office in cases where an animal is injured or poses a threat to public safety. Remember that collisions with wildlife can result in extensive damage to a vehicle and serious injury to its occupants.

FLUSHING TIPS FOR YOUR WATER SYSTEM

It's a good idea to flush out your water system twice a year to ensure any untreated water that may have built up in your pipes or faucets over winter is removed, preventing possible contamination. A flushing may also prolong the life of your pipes and faucets.

Spring is a perfect time! Here are some tips for different parts of your water system:

Hot Water Faucets:

Turn on all hot water faucets and allow them to run for 15 minutes; unless your hot water tank is larger than 80 gallons, then run for 30 minutes. Water heaters should be flushed every year depending on the particular model. This helps to control the buildup of mineral deposits. Your water heater will operate more efficiently and this will usually extend the life of the heater.

Cold Water Faucets:

Turn on the tap and run the water until it feels cold; keep running for at least a minute or two. Different faucets can require different flushing procedures.

Dishwasher:

After you've flushed your hot water faucets, run one cycle with an empty dishwasher. Bonus: your dishwasher will be cleaner, too!

Refrigerators:

Flush your refrigerator's water dispenser with at least four liters (1 gallon) of clean water.

Water Filters:

Under sink and all water filters should be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Buffalo Sands Development:

If you live in Buffalo Sands, at Buffalo Lake, the County has a Watermain Flushing Program that will maintain the quality of the water. Flushing operations are ongoing during the summer to remove iron deposits and maintain colorless water. If customers notice their water discoloured we suggest running the cold water tap (preferably a laundry tub or bath tub tap with no screen) for approximately 5 - 10 minutes to clear any discoloration.

If after a main flushing event the water is still discoloured, please call the Utilities Foreman at (403) 740-9572.



RECYCLING BINS

The recycling occurring in the County of Stettler is continually increasing, which helps save our non-renewable resources, save our landfill and reduce toxic leeching into our air, soil and water.

The County started a pilot project, placing recycling bins at three Transfer Stations. The Waste Management Authority is also working to get these bins at other transfer stations as well – but they are expensive to have! They are currently available at the following locations:

- Stettler Transfer Station**
- Erskine Transfer Station**
- Botha Transfer Station**

What is accepted?

All household plastics (all numbers) are accepted, including clam-shell fruit containers.

All paper & cardboard (corrugated and cereal-box type) is accepted except waxed cardboard (milk cartons). Milk cartons are accepted for refund at the Bottle Depot.

All Glass and Aluminum Cans (remove ends of cans)

What is NOT accepted?

Ceramics, China, Light Bulbs, Mirrors, Paper Towels, Styrofoam, Tupperware & Waxed Cardboard.

How can you help?

Please flatten all cardboard. It only takes a second. Our recycle bins fill quickly if boxes are not flattened. We pay a fee for each full bin that is emptied. Your tax dollar goes further if we all flatten our cardboard. It is the biggest filler of our recycle bins.

Household Batteries and Cell Phones

There is now a reliable place to recycle household batteries and cell phones. Recently, Stettler Waste management Authority has placed recycling boxes around town and at certain transfer stations for everyone to use!

You can drop off any household batteries, as long as the ends are taped. The taped ends help prevent sparking during transport. Cellphones can be dropped in the same box as the batteries, with or without their batteries.

Here are the locations of the recycling boxes:

- Transfer Stations:** Stettler, Botha and Erskine
- Stores:** Stettler Sobeys, Sean's No Frills, Stettler Home Hardware, Stettler Library
- Schools:** Wm. E. Hay Comp., Christ-King Catholic School, Stettler Outreach School

If you would like to see more recycling in your area, please contact your County Council. If you have recycling questions or your business would like its own **free** battery/cell phone recycling box, please contact Grace Fix, Volunteer Recycling Representative for the Stettler Waste Management Authority at 403-742-6104 or gagafix@gmail.com



20

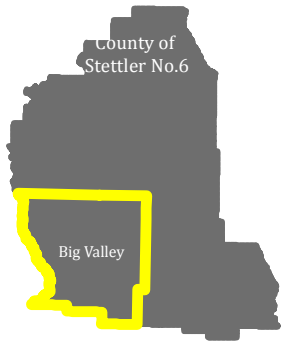


2013 GRAVEL PROGRAM

The 2013 Gravel Program will commence shortly around the County of Stettler.

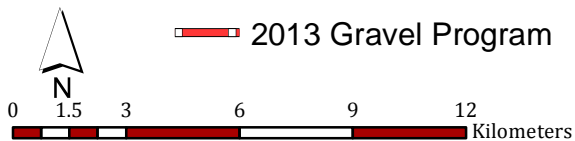
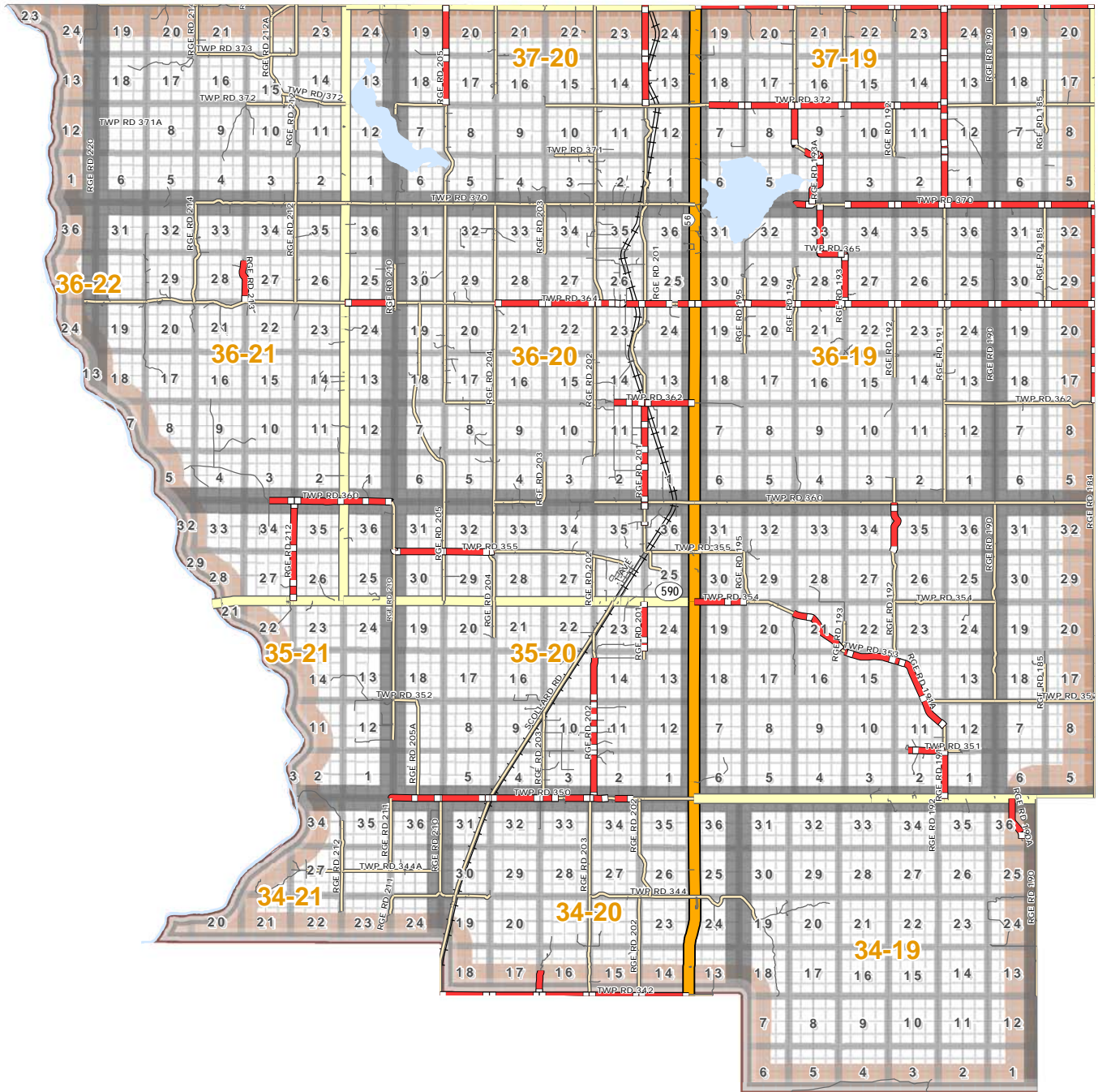
There are approximately 352 miles scheduled for the 2013 program, in addition to our regular annual road maintenance as the need arises. The County used in excess of 32,000 tonnes of gravel for road maintenance in 2012, to spot repair potholes or partially gravel roads that weren't scheduled to be graveled on the 2012 program but required immediate attention.

The following miles are tentatively scheduled for 2013, as these maps are merely a plan and the roads that receive gravel are subject to change. If you have any questions about the program or your roads, please contact Public Works by calling (403) 742-4441.



WARD 2: BIG VALLEY

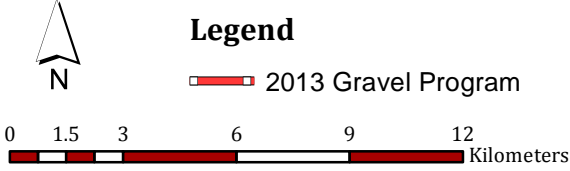
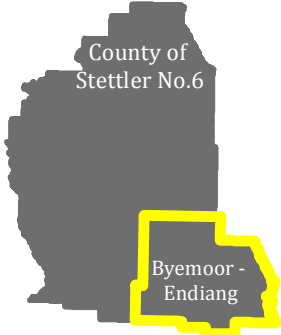
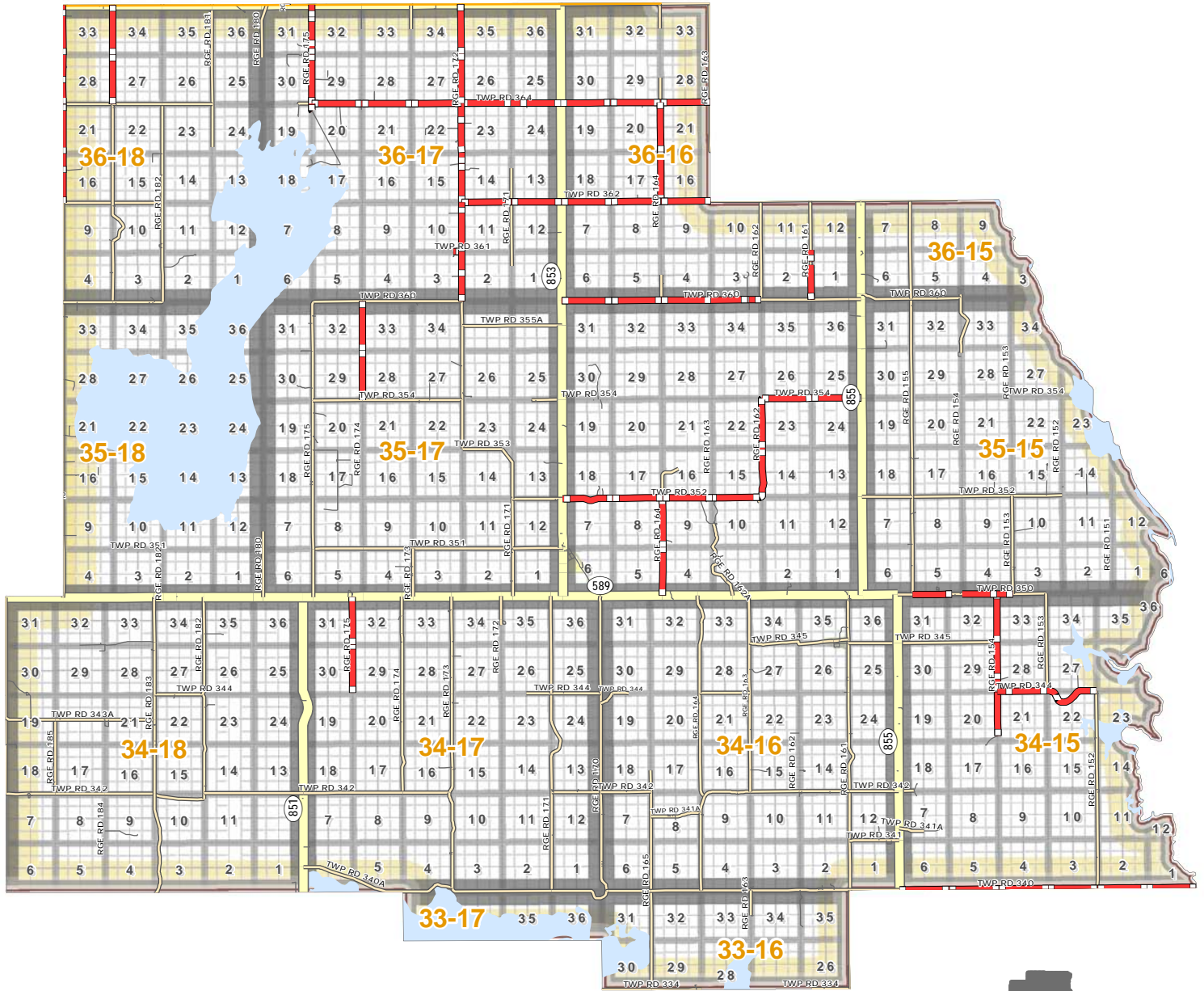
21



1:200,000

22

WARD 1: BYEMOOR-ENDIANG



1:200,000



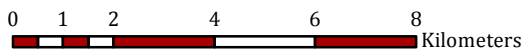
WARD 5: STETTTLER

23



Legend

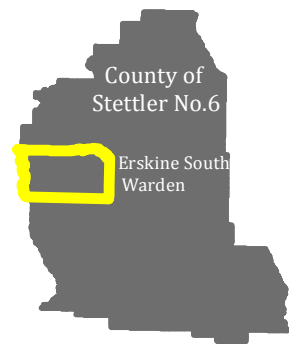
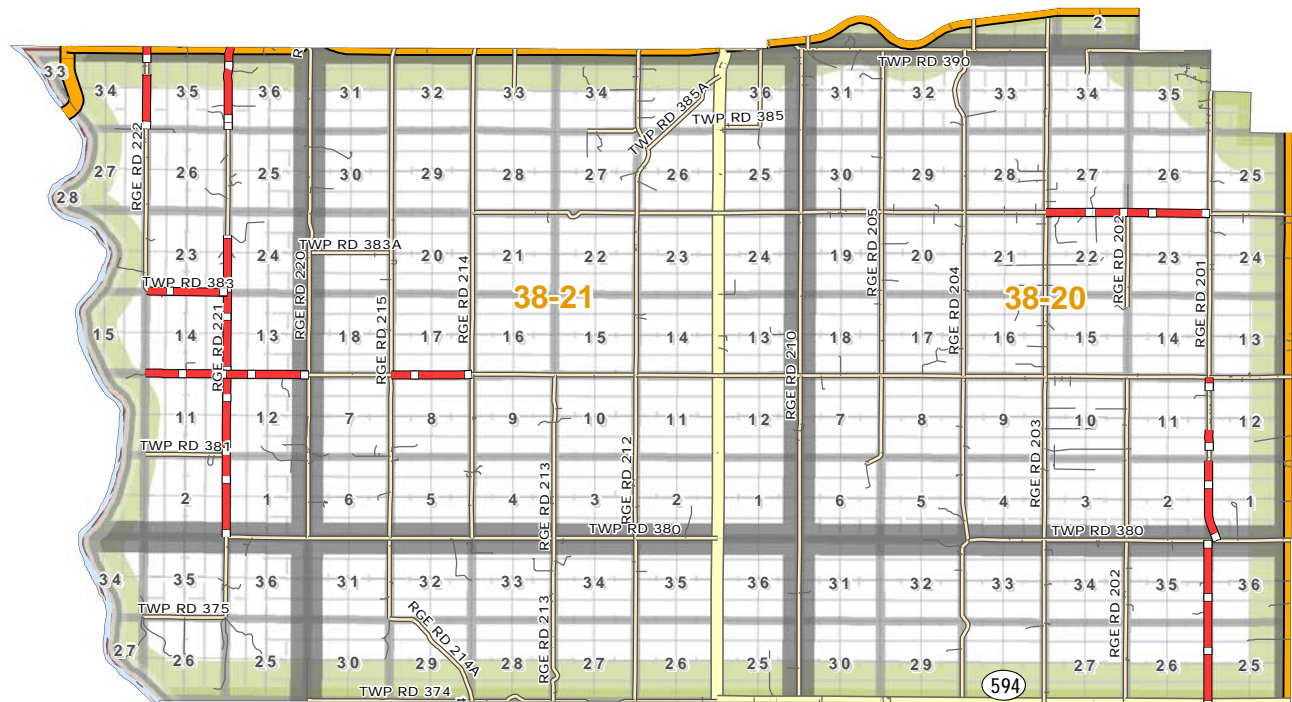
 2013 Gravel Program




1:150,000

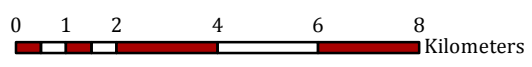
24

WARD 4: ERSKINE SOUTH WARDEN



Legend

 2013 Gravel Program

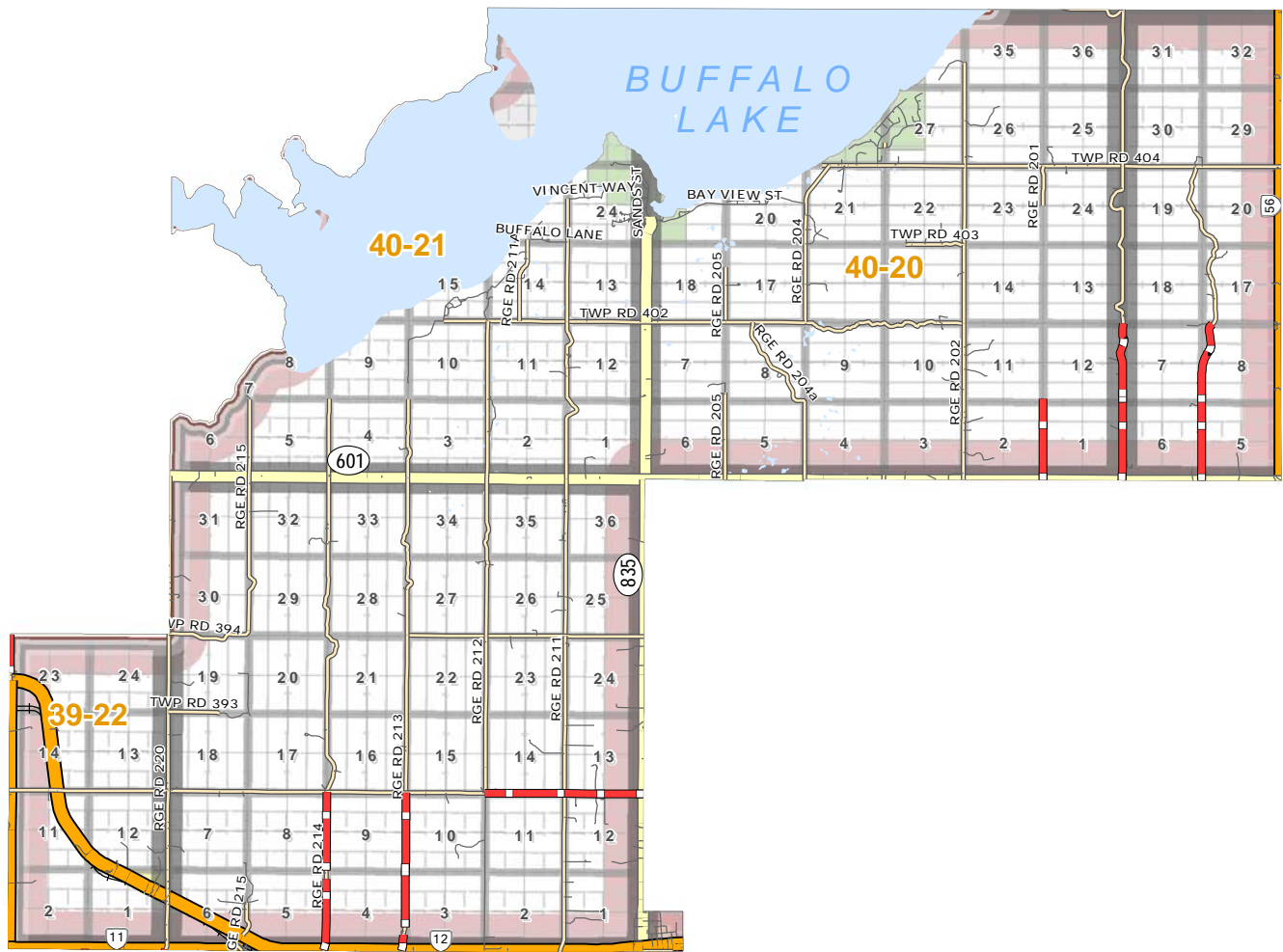


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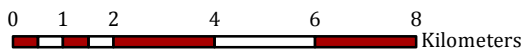
WARD 6: ERSKINE BUFFALO LAKE

25



Legend

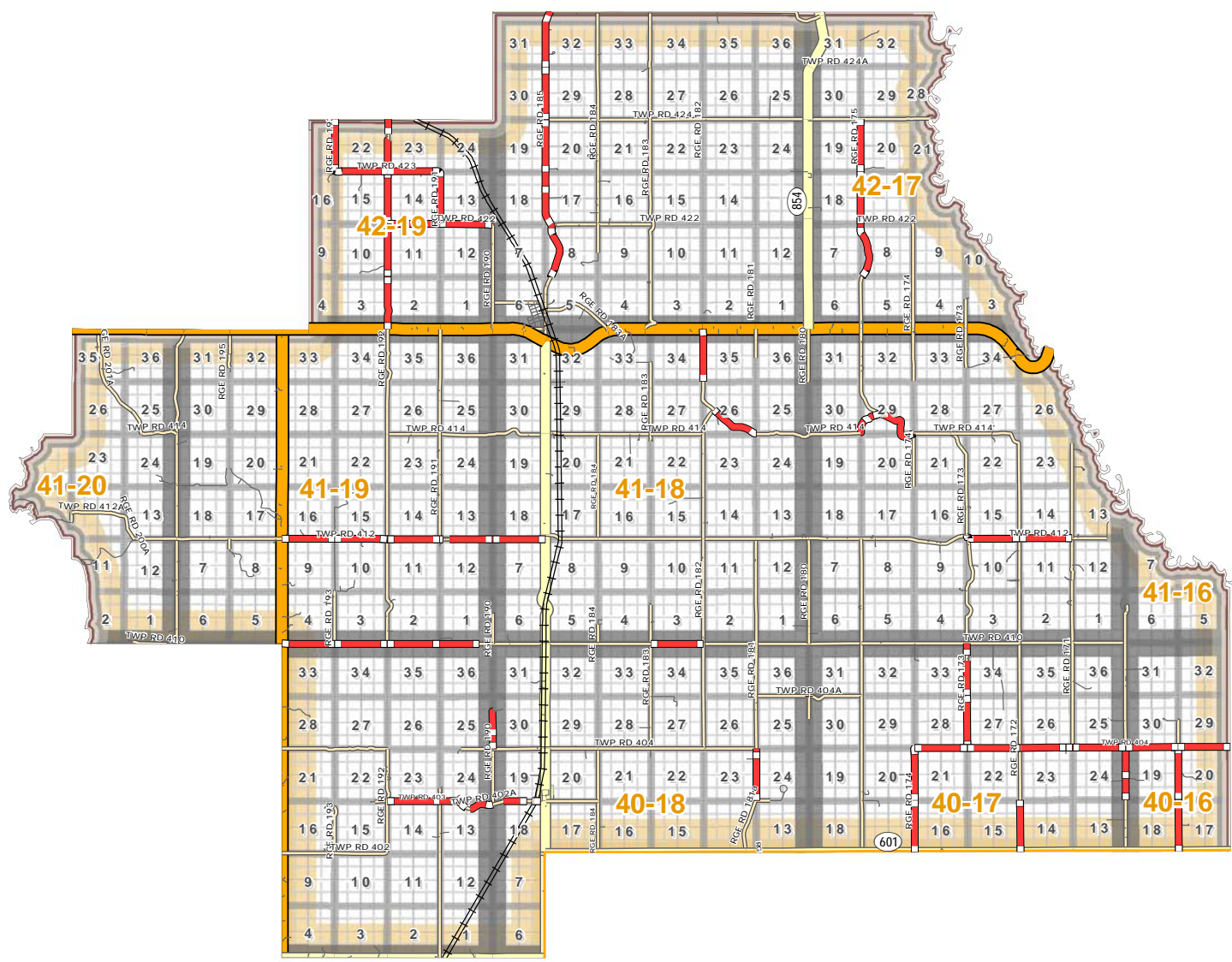
 2013 Gravel Program



1:150,000

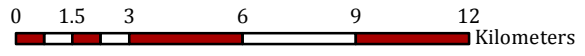
26

WARD 7: DONALDA RED WILLOW

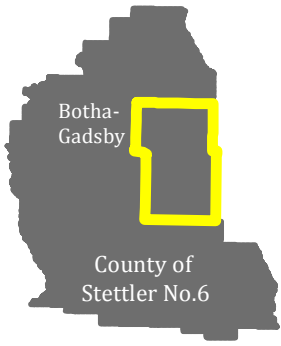


Legend

 2013 Gravel Program



1:200,000



WARD 3: BOTHA-GADSBY

27



Legend

 2013 Gravel Program



1:175,000



SCHOOL VISIT

In April, Council was lucky enough to host the Grade 6 class from the Erskine School. They came to the office for a tour of the facilities and an opportunity to learn about everything the County of Stettler takes care of on a day to day basis.

They came to us as reporters, writing a news story about the County, so they also sat in on a live council meeting, where they took notes on the discussion. Finally, council invited the Grade 6 students for lunch, where they were able to ask the

Councillors questions. They had great questions, great insight into the community of Erskine, and best of all ... I think we recruited some future County Employees!

Thank You Mrs. Spiller for bringing your classroom to our office! If your children are in grade 6, and you'd like to arrange a visit to the County Office – we are always more than excited to have them, just contact Shawna Benson at 403-742-4441 to make arrangements!

HOUSING AUTHORITY

The County of Stettler in cooperation with 7 other municipalities including the Town of Stettler operates the three lodges in Stettler as well as Community Housing and rent supplement programs in several communities.

The lodges, Heart Haven, Paragon Place and Willow Creek have a total of 193 units for independent seniors. We do the cooking, cleaning, yard and building maintenance and offer many activities along with the security of 24 hour staffing.

Our Lodges include very affordable bachelor suites as well as one bedroom suites.

We also offer temporary “respite” accommodations when care givers are not available. We presently have 5 vacancies in the lodges.

In Community Housing, we operate the Big Valley Villas for seniors, and 14 low income housing units in Stettler. We also have Affordable Housing duplexes in Donalda, Big Valley and Stettler as well as Rosedale Apartments and 3 units in Parkland Place. We provide direct rent supplements to over 50 families and 7 landlords.

For more information regarding lodges call Kathy at 403.742.6195 or for Community Housing contact Judy Hunt at 403.740.9224.

We appreciate the County of Stettler's support in keeping these programs affordable for the seniors in our communities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



What would you like to see the Ag Society bring to Stettler?

“Our mission at the Ag Society is to create an environment where members of the community can gather to learn new skills or just enjoy the facility in the discipline of their preference. Where people feel free to express their opinions and concerns, and a place to socialize and have fun.”

The Ag Society currently has 36 riding memberships and the facility is used for roping, barrel racing rollerblading, horse jumping & ranch club throughout the winter months.

In February the Ag Society provided horse drawn sleigh rides, chili and hot chocolate on family day weekend.

Additionally we have held Reiki clinics, horticultural clinics & trick training clinics.

We are open to some new events the community would like to see the Ag Society present.

In past years we have brought “the Musical Ride “and the Lipizzaner Show”.

If you have some ideas please call Jodie or Darla @ 403 742 6288 or email the Ag Society at agsoc1@telusplanet.net

Fathers' Day Pancake Breakfast

Pilot Knob School is having its 8th Annual Fathers' Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 16th from 9 am - 1 pm at the school 6 miles north of Stettler on Hwy 56 and ½ mile W on #601.

- Pancakes and French Toast
- Scrambled Eggs
- Coffee, Tea and Orange Juice
- Sausages and Ham
- Fruit salad

The 100 year old school house is open for viewing. Donations will be accepted in lieu of a set price. Club memberships are available.

Come out to see the school and visit with friends and folks in the community.



Summer Village of Rochon Sands – Coming Events

May 18, 2013: Spring Fling and Membership Drive

June, 2013: Seniors Strawberry Tea and Bingo

August 2013: Buffalo Days

Check our Community Bulletin Board and upcoming advertising for more details! See you at the Lake!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Botha Mother's Day Breakfast

May 12, 2013

9am - 12 pm

Botha Community Hall

Botha Father's Day Breakfast

June 16th, 2013

9am - 12 pm

Botha Community Hall



Botha Community Center Soccer Program

May - June

Seeking Board Members

Botha Community Center

We are looking for community-minded people that would like to assist us with planning events and upgrading the Community Hall and Arena for Community functions. If you are interested please call Ryan at 403-742-2559 or Lorraine at 403-742-3937.

Upcoming Events – Stettler Ag Society

May 18th & 19 - Mounted Shooters (Outdoor Arena)

May 20 & 21 - Beef 4-H Show & Sale

June 7-9 – 4-H Silver Stars

June 10-12 - Crazy Days Midway

August 9-12 Stettler Barrel Series Jackpot

August 23, 24 & 25- High School Rodeo

August 30, 31 Sept 1 & 2 - Steel Wheel Stampede



Public Mail Agreement #41398593
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
County of Stettler No. 6
Box 1270
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0