

THE MAGAZINE FOR COUNTY OF STETTLER RESIDENTS
PM: 41398593

COUNTY CONNECTIONS

FALL/WINTER 2012



**PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
WINNERS** p. 24

**ROAD
CONSTRUCTION
UPDATE**

**WINTER
MAINTENANCE
PROGRAM**

**CLUBROOT
PREVENTION**

Development Setbacks: Agricultural Operations

Please remember that you do not need a development permit for an agricultural operation as long as any structures such as hay sheds, granaries, livestock shelters and barns meet the 125 feet setback from the center line of the County road. Shelterbelts must be set back 75 feet from the center line of the road. If you wished to vary from these setbacks for any agricultural operation, you would require a development permit. 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.

Household Battery Recycling

You can now recycle your household batteries (AA, etc.) at:

- the Stettler Transfer Station
- Erskine Transfer Station
- Botha Transfer Station
- Stettler Home Hardware
- Sean's No Frills
- Stettler Sobeys

Terminals must be taped with masking tape or electrical tape to prevent sparking and fire during transport to Toxco, the leading North American battery recycler, in Trail, BC.

Avoid throwing your used batteries in the garbage. Their chemicals pollute our soils and our water. Recycle them today at one of the above locations.

(Organized and funded by the Stettler Waste Management Authority.)



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PREVENTING CLUBROOT

Since confirming cases of Clubroot in the County of Stettler, it has become paramount that we work together to stop the spread of Clubroot in Canola and Mustard Seed crops.



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The contest was highly successful and the winner's photographs are displayed for all to enjoy!

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County Connections
Fall/Winter 2012; Volume 2 Issue 3

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Message from the Reeve

Wayne Nixon, Donalda-Red Willow



The summer has once more gone quickly and harvest has started earlier than most years with yields down slightly but prices for grain and livestock at very good levels. Optimism is high and inflation is relatively low. It should be a good fall for everyone.

As with most business people nowadays, and farmers are no exception, the cab of a pickup or a farm implement doubles as an office (See the photo above). From the cab of a haybine or tractor one can make or receive calls or emails and the only price to pay for distracted driving is a crooked windrow or a missed section of swath. With GPS and auto steer, doing business from a remote location is even easier.

In the past few years County Councillors have been introduced to technology that has made the sharing of information much quicker and much more efficient. With our iPads and iPhones administration can contact any one of us or all of us immediately if the need arises. From fire bans to road closures to emergency situations, council can be reached whether they are at home or on the job. Suggestions and comments can be shared and considered amongst councillors, administration and staff.

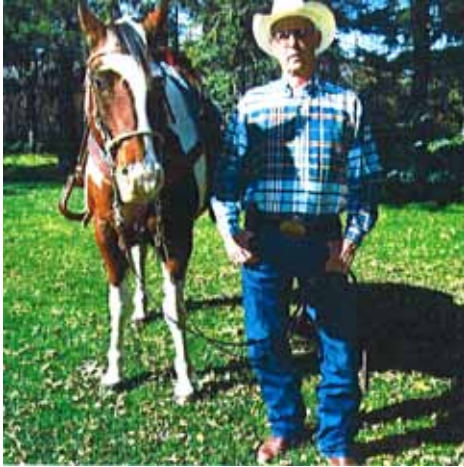
From my perspective as someone who has not grown up with this type of technology, it was a

slow learning curve but now having a few years to adjust, I appreciate the efficiencies. Other municipalities have since followed our example and are pleased with the results.

I would like to acknowledge the foresight of our administration and staff in their effort to make the County of Stettler more efficient in all areas. Not only have they advocated for new technology in communications, they have also urged for timely use of electricity to reduce costs, the use of detailed records to insure graveling is done at the optimum cost, and the use of detailed records to balance buying and selling of capital items. Our administration and staff also administrate the Shirley McClellan Water Services Commission, the Stettler Waste Management Authority, and the Stettler and District Ambulance Authority, with operating budgets of \$ 1.5 million, \$1.4 million, and \$2 million respectively. The County of Stettler also administrate the Buffalo Lake Inter- Municipal Development Plan.

The County of Stettler in itself is a \$35,000,000 company with several departments including Public Works, Planning and Development, Environmental Services, Agricultural Service Board, and Protective Services. There is a full time of staff of 58 with a part time staff of 17.

From the preceding numbers and statements it is only too evident that there is a huge responsibility in the administration of the County as well as the other entities. I would like to thank and commend the administration and staff of the County of Stettler for their diligence and cheerfulness with which they carry out their duties. Thank you all!



Terry Schiffner

Councillor: Ward 2 - Big Valley

It has been two years since I agreed to put my name in for a possible position as a County Councillor - What a learning curve! I have found out the true meaning of the words communication, confidentiality and commitment - that's for sure!

I have been very fortunate to work with and learn from the other six councillors. They are all team players who constantly strive for continuous improvement to our County.

Since my election, I am proud to say that I have been involved in the fire hall purchase and upgrades to it and the purchase of a new pumper fire truck for Big Valley. Now, there is a space for meetings and room for fire fighting training sessions. The County also contributing to the new Fire Chief Command Vehicle with the Town of Stettler. The Big Valley Fire Department has 10 volunteer fire fighters including Lori Gordon, the Platoon Chief here in Big Valley. Seven of these members have gone through the five-six year training to receive their non-probationary status, referred to by the firefighters as "yellow lids". This is quite the accomplishment for our little rural fire department and they all should be so proud!

The County has been so successful in securing provincial funding for large scale projects, and my ward definitely benefits from those projects. It was thanks to this knowledge and expertise in applying for government funding that the Village of Big Valley and surrounding area can look forward to having a clean, safe and reliable water source for many years into the future.

Due to an aggressive gravelling program implemented over the last two years by administration and council, most of our roads are now in good condition. The County was also able to secure more Resource Road funding to finish the paving of the Fenn Road. This will take a lot of traffic off of our other gravel roads, thus extending their life. The Big Valley Ward has been a pleasure to serve and I look forward to seeing what next year will bring!



RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

Application Deadline: October 31st, 2012



The R.S.P.F. was established in 2006 in order to set aside funds to help with the construction/ enhancement of recreational facilities and assist with programs in order to serve the needs of the County’s rural population, outside of the Town of Stettler with the exception of properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society, and to ensure that this fund is renewed annually through taxation to be established by the Council.

Last year, the RSPF handed out \$100,000 to projects that enhance the quality of life and recreation in our communities.

Rochon Sands Hall	Replace Carpet, Recover Chairs	\$8,252.00
Byemoor Community Club	Power Supply Upgrade	\$11,433.00
Donalda Ag. Society	Various Projects	\$22,000.00
Sullivan Lake West Ag. Society	Fire Alarm Upgrade/Door	\$2,500.00
Byemoor Curling Club	Install New Air-Cooled Condenser	\$9,570.00
Erskine I.O.O.F Hall	Hall Renovations	\$10,645.00
Stettler Ag. Society	New Chutes, Pens, Panels, Gates	\$23,600.00
Total		\$100,000.00

The applications are available at the front office of the County of Stettler or on the website at www.stettlercounty.ca. If you have any questions regarding the application, please don’t hesitate to contact Phil Holton, Director of Recreation, at 403-742-4441.



Zero Tolerance **Starting a Development without a 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 that a ratepayer may be issued 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

The Development Authority will have a Zero Tolerance approach to persons who start construction beyond grade level without the benefit of a development permit.

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 after November 1, 2012.

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.

What Can You Do To Prevent CLUBROOT?

Clubroot, a devastating disease of canola and related plants, has recently been found in a few fields in a small area of the County. This soil-borne disease can have a serious impact on yield, so the Agricultural Service Board is working with the affected landowners, industry, and others to minimize the impact on all County ratepayers. But what can you do to stop its spread? There are a number of precautions all landowners can take to minimize the impact of this new concern:

1. Scout your Fields and Gardens

Clubroot is a condition that affects the roots of plants in the brassica family. Canola, cabbage, cauliflower, turnip and mustard are all in that brassica family of plants and are affected by clubroot. It upsets the growth of a canola or mustard plant, starving the plant of needed nutrients, so that seeds do not fill out and instead large unusual root swellings are produced. When it impacts garden vegetables such as cabbage or cauliflower, the usual heads do not form. But low level infestations do not always show up as reduced yields right way. When farmers or gardeners have a chance, particularly when the growing season is over, they should pull up plants and check for these large lumps forming on otherwise normal roots. Any suspicious plants should be brought in to the County for further inspection.



2. Follow proper rotations

While it is true that clubroot spores can stay in the soil for decades, avoiding putting host plants into the same soil year after year can reduce the production of those spores. For canola producers it means

seeding canola only once every four or five years; for gardeners it means moving the cabbage patch yearly. Using varieties that are resistant to clubroot will also reduce the population of the pest in the soil.

3. Clean your equipment

The most likely spread of clubroot from place to place is by soil. So now that we have it in the County, it would be good farming practice for producers and custom operators to knock off any dirt from

seeding or other farm equipment. Producers who have been found to have clubroot positive fields have been instructed in how to disinfect their equipment after working on affected fields. Landscapers who contract to cultivate gardens should also follow soil removal precautions.

4. Ensure others are aware

There can be a lot of traffic in fields throughout the year. Oil industry, recreational vehicles and hunters regularly cross or otherwise disturb soil. Ensuring no one accesses your field without permission, and having equipment cleaned before entering a quarter, field or garden will help to minimize the spread of clubroot. The Ag Service Board can assist you with ways to minimize access. In addition, there will be meetings dealing with clubroot in the near future. Making sure people know that clubroot is everyone's issue and encouraging people to attend these information sessions will help to reduce the spread of this serious condition.

So, while the discovery of clubroot in the County is not good news, some basic information and precautions will help us all minimize the impact of this disease for all of us.



GADSBY TRUCK FILL

The new Gadsby Bulk Water Station is now operational. Water is available for \$3.00 per cubic meter and can be purchased using the coin operation of the station or by signing up for monthly billings through the County of Stettler Office.

Fed by the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission line, the truck fill contains two water tanks, each capable of holding 5000 US gallons of water. This capacity enables the building to serve the Village of Gadsby if their pump house or the Botha - Gadsby Co-op line ever failed.

During construction, a new 6" water line was added to connect a new fire hydrant next to the Village Office. Additionally, the building was equipped with a hookup specifically for the Stettler Regional Fire De-

partment to draft water out of the truck fill directly into their pumper tankers. This makes fire fighting far more effective, both inside the village and in the surrounding area.

With an office, meeting room, storage area and yard space all on a single fenced compound, this facility also reduces road maintenance costs. By allowing grader operators in the area to store supplies and work on their equipment closer to their grader beats, it saves fuel and time driving to the County shop in Stettler for routine maintenance.

TOUGHER PENALTIES for Drinking and Driving



With the holiday season fast approaching, it is a good idea to know your limits when it comes to enjoying a few holiday beverages. Effective July 1st and September 1st of this year, tougher penalties have been introduced to curb the incidents of drinking and driving. Although the laws themselves have not changed, the penalties have become a lot more severe and may have consequences that could affect not only your privilege to drive but may very well affect your employment as well. These new penalties deal with vehicle seizures and it doesn't matter whether it is your personal vehicle, company vehicle big or small.....if it has wheels, it will be subject to a mandatory seizure. It may be difficult to explain to your company why their semi or very sophisticated piece of equipment has been seized for a minimum of three days because you chose to drink and drive or not knowing your limit.

These new penalties are not meant to prevent you from enjoying an evening out or from having a drink with dinner. These new administrative penalties are meant to encourage people who choose to drink and drive to know their limit and be aware of the consequences of getting behind the wheel after having consumed alcohol. Unfortunately your body is able to absorb alcohol much more rapidly that it

can eliminate alcohol. Therefore going out partying and thinking that a few hours of sleep will make you sober is wrong.

The following are excerpts from the Alberta Transportation website that may help answer some of your questions regarding the new administrative penalties and how they may affect you. Also, please check out www.knowthelimits.ca as a reference and click on the AGLC icon to give you a rough guideline as to what your limits might be should you choose to drink and drive.

Administrative Penalties for Graduated Drivers Licence (GDL) Holders

Q. Am I allowed to have any blood alcohol content?

A. NO. All new drivers who hold a Graduated Drivers Licence (GDL) will continue to be subject to zero tolerance for blood alcohol.

Q. What happens on a 1st or subsequent offence?

A. If a GDL driver is stopped with ANY blood alcohol level at all, they will now face an immediate 30-day suspension and 7-day vehicle seizure. Each 30-day suspension will require an additional 1 year in the Graduated Licence Program.

Q. What if I refuse to provide a breath sample?

A. Any refusal for a breath sample will result in a criminal charge, just as it always has. The penalties for drivers over .08 will apply.

Q. What is the purpose of these tougher penalties?

A. Impaired drivers are causing death on our roads. From 2006 to 2010, 569 people were killed and 8,530 people were injured in alcohol-related collisions in Alberta. It is important we act to prevent these injuries and deaths to keep all Albertans safe on our roads.

Q. Can I appeal?

A. At the roadside, you can request a second breath test from a second device. You can appeal your licence suspension and your vehicle seizure through the Alberta Transportation Safety Board

Administrative Penalties for drivers with blood alcohol .05 - .08

Q. What happens on a 1st offence?

A. Immediate 3-day licence suspension and 3-day vehicle seizure.

Q. What happens on a 2nd offence?

A. vehicle seizure, "Planning Ahead" course.

Q. What happens on a 3rd or subsequent offence?

A. Immediate 30-day licence suspension, 7-day vehicle seizure, "Impact" course.

Q. What if I refuse to provide a breath sample?

A. Any refusal for a breath sample will result in a criminal charge, just as it always has. The penalties for drivers over .08 will apply.

Q. Will I be charged with a criminal offence?

A. Drivers between .05 and .08 are not subject to criminal prosecution. Administrative penalties for drivers in this range will serve as an early intervention.

Q. What is the purpose of these tougher penalties?

A. Impaired drivers are causing death on our roads. From 2006 to 2010, 569 people were killed and 8,530 people were injured in alcohol-related collisions in Alberta.

There is also solid scientific evidence that driving with a blood alcohol level of .05 significantly increases the risk of being involved in a collision. It is important we act to prevent these injuries and deaths to keep all Albertans safe on our roads.

Q. Can I have a drink with dinner?

Everyone must exercise personal responsibility when drinking. If you feel your ability to drive is affected, you should not drive. The intent is not to penalize those who choose an alcoholic drink at dinner*. The penalties are aimed at drivers who have consumed alcohol and it is affecting their driving. No one should drive a vehicle if they personally feel their ability is impaired, regardless of how much they have consumed.

Q. Can I appeal?

A. At the roadside, you can request a second breath test from a second device. You can appeal your licence suspension and your vehicle seizure - if longer than 3 days - through the Alberta Transportation Safety Board

Administrative Penalties for drivers with blood alcohol over .08

Q. What happens on a 1st offence?

A. Immediate licence suspension which is sustained until criminal charge is resolved AND a 3-day vehicle seizure

Q. What happens on a 2nd or subsequent offence?

A. Immediate licence suspension which is sustained until criminal charge is resolved AND a 7-day vehicle seizure. Addictions assessment may follow.

Q. Will I have to use ignition interlock if I'm convicted?

A. Yes, there is mandatory ignition interlock after criminal conviction: 1 year for 1st offence; 3 years for 2nd offence; 5 years for 3rd offence.

Q. Will I be charged with a criminal offence?

A. YES. All drivers who are over .08 will continue to face criminal charges.

Q. What happens if I refuse to provide a breath sample?

A. Any refusal for a breath sample will result in a criminal charge, just as it always has. The penalties for drivers over .08 will apply.

Q. What is the purpose of these tougher penalties?

A. Impaired drivers are causing death on Alberta's roads. From 2006 to 2010, 569 people were killed and 8,530 people were injured in alcohol-related collisions in Alberta.

It is important we act to prevent these injuries and deaths to keep all Albertans safe on our roads.

Q. Can I appeal?

A. You can appeal your licence suspension and your vehicle seizure if longer than 3 days through the Alberta Transportation Safety Board. At this level, you are also facing criminal charges that you can challenge through a criminal trial.

SNOW!

A report on the County's Winter Snowplow Plan By Brad Newton



It saddens me to even mention that nasty word but unfortunately it will be here shortly, whether we like it or not, and with that thought comes the preparation for it.

In addition to snowplowing County roads, the County provides the services of laneway plowing to more than 600 residences. The goal of snowplowing is to remove snow and ice from the hard surfaced road areas as quickly as possible and to remove snow from the gravel surfaced road areas and laneways after accumulations reach approximately 15 cm or more. Time frames will

vary depending on the severity and duration of the storm.

Here is the Order of Priority according to Public Works Policy 500.14

1. Hard Surfaced Roads:

- Hamlets and Subdivisions
- Main access roadways to subdivisions
- Snowplowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes backtracking or excessive travel. This may have an effect on the actual priority of plowing.

2. Gravel Roads:

- Plowing will commence in alternating locations and plowed in a grid pattern of east and south, and then west and north based on school bus routes.
- Snowplowing will be undertaken in a manner that minimizes motor grader backtracking or excessive travel.
- Winging snow from shoulders and other plowing will have secondary priority.

3. Lanes:

- Residential lanes will be done in conjunction with snow plowing, however, when the County is unable to keep up with County roads, residential lanes will be cleared at a later date.
- A “Hold Harmless” Agreement must be signed **each year** by the owner of the property in order for a private laneway to be plowed.
- A “Flag” must be obtained from the County of Stettler No. 6 Office and displayed where visible to the Grader Operator in order for a private laneway to be plowed.
- Snowplowing of laneways on private property that provide access to a permanent residence will be plowed, only if the laneway is deemed suitable for plowing by the Director of Public Works.

Please keep in mind the following reminders that will ensure that we all remain safe during the upcoming winter months.

The County of Stettler No. 6 will provide snowplowing of laneways on private property that provide access to permanent residence, only if the laneway is suitable for plowing.

The County of Stettler No. 6 will not provide grading services or snowplowing services of driveways on private property situated in Hamlets or for multi-lot subdivisions.

The County of Stettler No. 6 reserves the right to control snow removal and placement on their roads and in their right of ways.

When excess snow is moved across gravel roads and piled in right of ways, safety for both road users and County of Stettler No. 6 equipment operators is compromised. It also negatively impacts the quality of the roads and quantity of gravel remaining on the County roads.



BUFFALO LAKE SOUTH SHORE GROWTH NODE STATUTORY PLAN

by Johan van der Bank, Director of Planning and Development

Landowners in the Buffalo Lake area would be interested to know of a planning process that was started by the County of Stettler No. 6, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and the Summer Village of White Sands to establish a statutory plan for future development within the South Shore Growth Node, as shown on the attached map. This plan is a requirement of the Buffalo Lake Inter-municipal Development Plan that was adopted by five municipalities in 2010, and will address aspects such as the natural environment, water supply and sewage disposal, public access to the lake, land uses and density distribution, and major roads.

The plan preparation process commenced with a workshop by the planning committee on February 16, 2012 at the County of Stettler Administration Building. A public workshop followed on June 23 where several major stakeholders provided input to the plan. On July 14 a public open house was hosted in the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, providing the planning committee with further food for thought.

The Planning Committee consists of Mayor Wayne Millar, Mayor Lorne Thurston, Reeve Wayne Nixon, Councillor Joe Gendre, the administrative staff of the three municipalities and Associated Engineering.

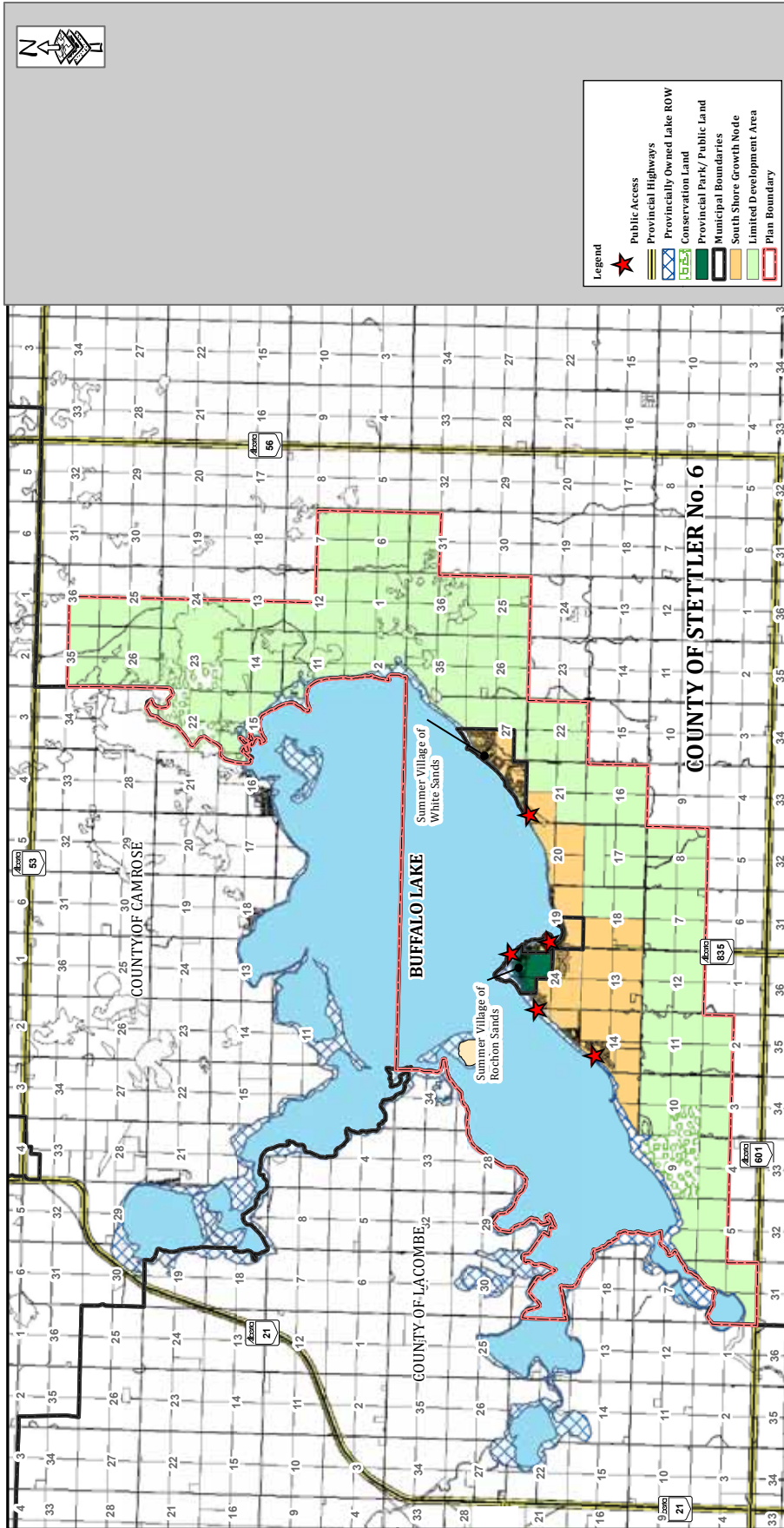
Now the goal is to produce a draft plan to the committee who will review it for final changes, and to present a plan to the three municipal Councils for first reading in November. It is anticipated that a public hearing will be scheduled for early in 2013, which leaves sufficient time to ask the major stakeholders and the public to review the plan and provide comments.

Outstanding issues to address include maximum density, density distribution, lake access, and water and sanitary sewer servicing. The latter aspects must be scrutinized for the level of service required or expected by the three municipalities, which determines the cost of delivering these services, and route options must be explored. It is also important to devise strategies of how these services will be financed.

Please contact the County of Stettler Planning and Development Department at 403.742.4441 should you have any questions or comments regarding this process or to submit your comments and suggestions for this plan.



SOUTHSHORE GROWTH NODE PLAN



County of Stettler No.6

BUDGET?

The never-ending process of budgeting for the County of Stettler

Do you ever wonder what goes into making the County's budget? Sometimes it's hard to fathom how an organization that operates so many departments and miles of road is able to come up with one budget that reflects the needs of the entire County so I'd like to give you a little insight into how we budget each hand every year.

A lot of effort goes into producing the budget, and it is based on past performance, experience and knowledge of all our Departments. We typically begin working on the budget in June for the next year.

All departments work with budget and actual values from the prior and current year. Departments will also use council direction and economic indicators in creating their budget and choosing the things that need to be addressed. Once they complete their budget it comes to the senior management to compile and compare to past budgets. Departments will meet with management throughout this process to discuss budget changes. Typically this goes on for what feels like forever, but usually we are ready to present the budget to the councillors and ratepayers in November. Once the budget is presented we will look for council to approve the budget for the next year in December. If the budget is not passed at the December meeting we are required to have an interim budget in place so we can continue to operate. This is a requirement set by the Municipal Government Act.



Budgeting does not end there. In early spring we get the school requisition amounts that we are to collect on behalf of the province. These numbers are part of the mill rate that is set so once we have these numbers we need to go back to the approved budget and make revisions so the budget is accurate. During the revised budget process we also pass the Tax Bylaw which determines what your property taxes will be! Once the Tax Bylaw is passed, the revised budget will also get passed so the County will then have a complete

budget for the year. The revised budget and Tax Bylaw are both approved in May. Departments do not get many days free from budgeting, and we start the process all over again, planning for the year to come.

Over the past couple of years the budget has been a full year process and it is constantly being monitored to ensure our expenditures are in line with the budget. Well I hope that has enlightened most of you and has answered some of the basic questions that you may have. If you have any questions about the budget process, please contact Christa Cornelssen, Director of Finance, who would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can reach Christa at 403-742-4441.

ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Mowing Update

The County of Stettler No. 6 has conducted a very effective mowing program for the 2012 season. We completed the first cut on the whole County in mid August and have started the second cut. By the end of the season, County ditches will be cut twice.



Gravelling Update

The Public Works Crew is very happy with the progress of the 2012 Gravel Program to-date.

In 2012 there was 437.5 miles scheduled for the program as follows:

West of Highway 56 North Contract	– 95 miles	(completed)
West of Highway 56 South Contract	– 48.5 miles	(completed)
County trucks	– 294 miles	(60 miles left to complete)
		for a total of 437.5 miles in 2012

The Crew is very hopeful that given favourable weather, the 2012 Gravel Program will be completed by September 30, 2012. Once the 2012 program is completed, crews will stockpile gravel at select sites in the County in order to prepare for another 297 miles in the 2013 program. Contract trucks will also complete another 92.5 miles for a total of 389.5 miles.

In addition to the regular Gravel Program, County crews have spot patched holes & soft spots in more than 400 areas of road, using in excess of 29,000 tonnes of gravel.



Partnering in Water

With water being so incredibly important, the County of Stettler has put a great amount of emphasis on delivering potable water across the County. To keep costs down with such ambitious projects, the County has developed strategic partnerships with neighbouring counties, municipalities inside the County and the provincial government.

The first such partnership that we were able to form was with Starland County. Together, we applied for funding under the Water for Life Strategy and constructed the Stettler - Starland Regional Water Line. This brought water from Craigmyle to the hamlets of Byemoor and Endiang. With funding from the Province under the Water and Waste Water program, we were able to construct a regional water line and reservoirs in both Endiang and Byemoor.



From this regional line, the County of Stettler was able to begin with Phase 1 of the Rural Water project in the South East part of the County (around Byemoor and Endiang). This phase is now complete and serves 45 customers, with the capacity to provide water to other residents as funding becomes available.

The Shirley McClellan Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) is another such partnership that the County of Stettler manages. SMRWSC received funding from the Water for Life Strategy to install a potable regional water line from Stettler to Consort, enabling several municipalities along the way to have access to safe and reliable water. We were able to tie into this line for Phase 2 (Central East) of the Rural Water project. A partnership was also formed with the Gadsby Water Coop to service some parts of this phase. Except for cleanup, this project is essential complete and will service 23 residents and includes a truck fill in Gadsby (see page 9 for details).









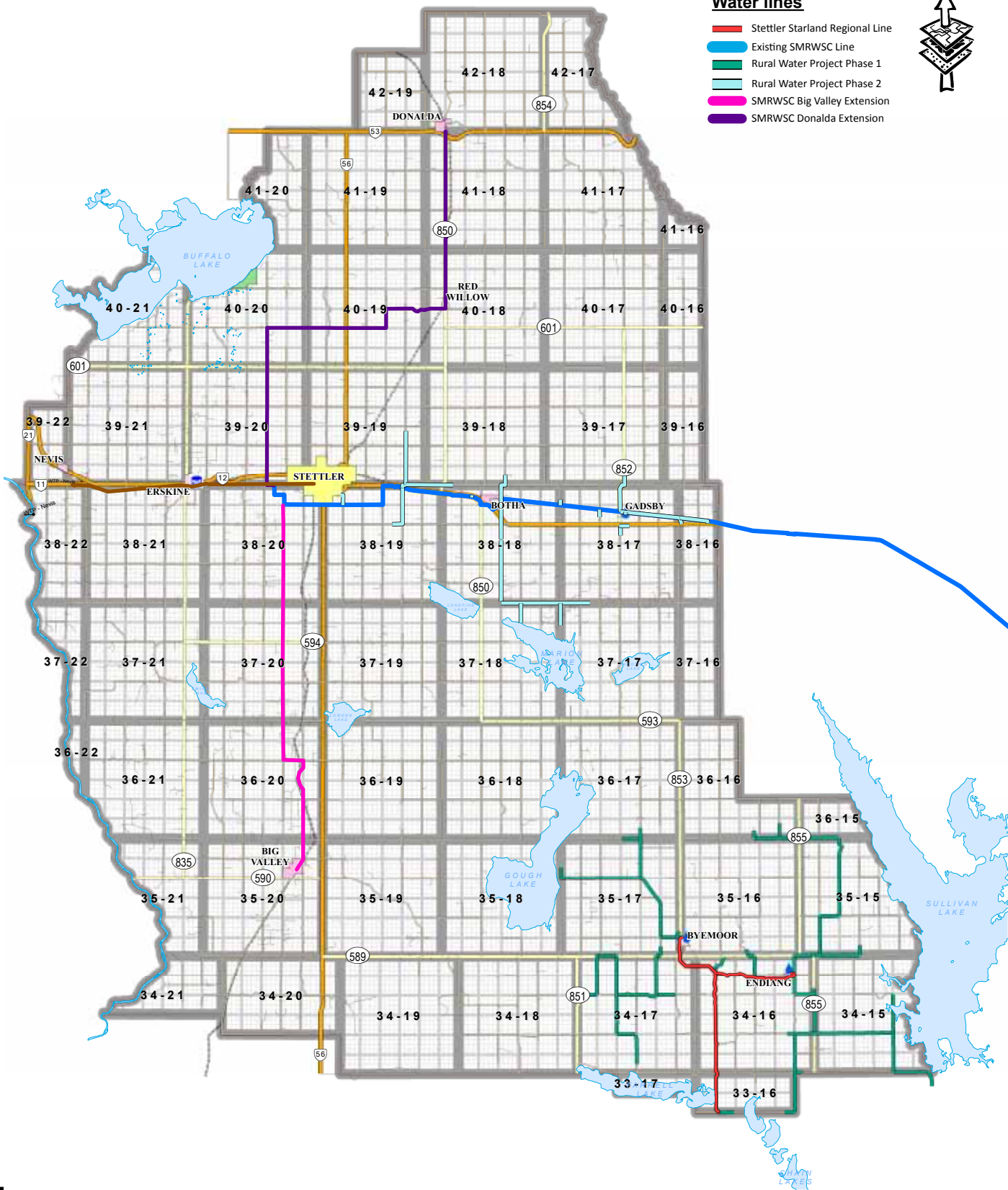
The SMRWSC was fortunate this year to receive further funding from the Water for Life Strategy funding pool to install a Regional Line from Stettler to the Village of Big Valley at a cost of \$6,317,068 and to install a regional line from Stettler to the Village of Donalda at a cost of \$8,748,947.

The lines are extremely beneficial to the County of Stettler No. 6 as they provide a strong backbone for further completion of the County's rural water master distribution plan as future funding becomes available. These projects are also very beneficial for the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and White Sands as the regional line will now be within 4 to 8 miles of each village. Of course it goes unsaid that it is extremely beneficial to the Villages of Big Valley and Donalda and under the business plan of the SMRWSC water will now be that much closer to the County of Camrose and the Villages of Rosalind and Bawlf.

-  Reservoir Truck Fill
-  Truck Fill

Water lines

-  Stettler Starland Regional Line
-  Existing SMRWSC Line
-  Rural Water Project Phase 1
-  Rural Water Project Phase 2
-  SMRWSC Big Valley Extension
-  SMRWSC Donalda Extension



Stettler Regional Fire Department



To
Serve

To
Protect

Your
Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ordinary People - Extraordinary Service

To apply call : 403-742-8305

What's the deal with Fire Permits?

What is a Fire Permit?

A fire permit is a legal document that authorizes a person to burn debris at a time specified on the permit. By obtaining a fire permit, you have indicated your intention to burn and are responsible for conducting a safe burn.

Why do we have to get Fire Permits?

Fire permits are handed out to inform the public of when, how, and what to burn. It provides them with the information needed to responsibly burn in the County of Stettler. Under the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, you may be held responsible for fire suppression costs or any penalties that occur as a result of burning without a permit, or failing to comply with the conditions stated on your permit. A lot of people do not inform themselves or listen to local media or read the Independent concerning fire bans. The requirement of a permit for all fires in the County informs all those interested in burning aware of a fire ban when permits are not issued during a ban. From the fire department perspective, permits enables us to be aware of where people are burning in the County and what they are burning. It helps us to respond with the right measures. Fire permits and their regulations are intended to keep people, property and environment safe.

How do I get a Fire Permit?

You can get a fire permit at the County of Stettler Office. We can issue them in person or via fax machine. You will need to bring with you the land location where you intend to burn and a listing of the type of material you are burning. Fire permits are valid for two weeks, and your burning must be completed within that time frame. If it is not complete, you will have to come back to the office and get a new one.

Does a Fire Permit Cost Anything?

Fire permits are issued free of charge to all County Ratepayers.

What do we do after we get the Permit?

Once you have a copy of your signed fire permit, you will be required to phone the fire department message line when you begin burning, and then again when you have completed your burn. This allows the fire department to respond accordingly if your fire should get out of control.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The County of Stettler changed their view on road construction in 2012. Rather than rebuild a full mile of road, we are now paying special attention to soft spots and sight lines and fixing only these portions of road. This way we can hope to conquer more areas during the season.

As a result the following areas have been completed in the 2012 season:

RC32 – East & West intersections at S 28-34-16-W4M

Township Road 34-4 and Range Road 16-3; Township Road 34-4 and Range Road 16-4. These 2 intersections had poor sight lines.



RC36 – West of NW 20-30-17-W4M and SW 29-40-17-W4M

This area had sight line and drainage issues



RC37 – Blue Church 2012 extension at 26 & 27-35-20-W4M near Big Valley

Township Road 35-5. This road had sight line issues and steep shoulders



The Public Works team has had fairly favourable weather conditions this season and a great crew to work with. We will continue to work as long as we can to complete a few more projects this season:

RC29 – Intersection

SE 2-38-20-W4M, Range Road 20-1

RC30 – Patch

West of SW 21-38-17-W4M and NW 16-38-17-W4M

RC34 – Patch

South of SW 13-39-21-W4M

RC35 – Peters patch

West of NW 36-39-20-W4M, Range Road 20-1



Winners Announced in the Photography Contest

The County of Stettler is thrilled to announce Phaedra Bittner as the Grand Prize Winner of the County of Stettler Photography Contest. Her photograph, depicting a combine working into the setting sun won over our judges in the contest and she is the excited and proud new owner of a new iPad.

Her photo was up against the 11 other winners from each of our four seasonal phases. Each phase had three winners, two who were chosen by a panel of judges and one was decided by online vote on the popular social media site, Facebook. Each of these phase winners received \$100 Heart of Alberta dollars, to be spent locally, and their pictures were entered in the Grand Prize Competition for a chance at an iPad.

“The contest was so much fun. Over the course of the year, we had over 300 photos entered and there were some stunning photographs taken by those who live here,” says Director of Communication, Shawna Benson. “I was so impressed with the caliber of photographs. We have some seriously talented photographers in our midst.”

Reeve Nixon was on hand earlier today to present Ms. Bittner with her prize and he was equally impressed with her photograph. “It really showcases the hard work and importance of agriculture that we as County of Stettler residents pride ourselves on,” says Reeve Nixon. “I’d like to really thank all those that entered the contest, the photographs that were submitted were a real joy to look at.”

Below are the other 11 photographs that each won a prize during the seasonal phases. These photographs, along with the winning one will be displayed at the County Office and in a Calendar available to ratepayers in October. For information on how to get your County Calendar, please contact the Office at 403-742-4441.



Chad Mailer



Lorna Davies



Phaedra Bittner



Rebecca Bauman



Phaedra Bittner



Lorna Davies



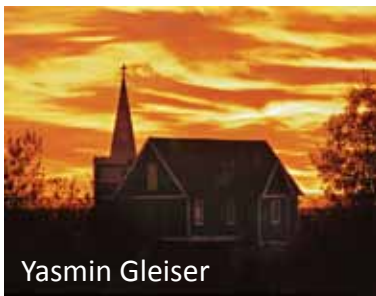
Heather Keith



Chad Mailer



Brenda Meyer



Yasmin Gleiser



Teri Mappin



Health Watch

INFLUENZA - AKA THE FLU



Seasonal influenza is the annual influenza that affects people in Canada during the winter, between November and April. Influenza, commonly called the flu, is a respiratory disease that affects the nose, throat and lungs. It is caused by a virus that is easily passed from person to person. There are various strains of the influenza virus that circulates throughout the world each year which also changes slightly from year to year.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

1. Get a flu shot

A flu shot helps protect people from the flu. The best time to get a flu shot is from October to mid-November. It takes about 2 weeks for the flu shot to protect you.

Did you know?

- The flu shot does not give people the flu.
- Some people have reactions to the flu shot. For example, their arm gets sore.

- The flu shot does not protect people from colds.

Who should get flu shots?

Everyone over six months of age should get a flu shot every year, especially:

- People living in group settings such as continuing care and designated assisted living;
- Adults and children with serious health problems, and the people who live with them;
- Seniors (people 65 or over);
- Health care workers;
- Children 6–23 months, and their families;
- Aboriginal peoples;
- Individuals who are severely over weight; and
- Healthy adults 50–64 years old.

Where to get flu shots?

- At public health centres — Call to make an appointment. Also watch for flu clinics in the fall.
- At many doctors' offices — Call to make an appointment.
- At some workplaces and pharmacies.

2. Clean your hands

The flu virus can live on your hands for 5 minutes. It can live on doorknobs for 1–2 days! Help protect yourself and other people by cleaning your hands often. Teach young children to wash their hands too.

When to clean your hands and what to use

- Before you eat or serve food
- Before you brush your teeth
- After you are near a person with the flu
- After you cough, sneeze or blow your nose
- Use regular hand soap and water or,
- Use hand cleanser or sanitizer that has alcohol in it.

3. Cover your cough

- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Don't cough into your hand.
- If you use a tissue when you cough or sneeze, throw the tissue in the garbage.
- Clean your hands afterwards.

4. Stay home if you are sick

Stay home and rest if you are sick, and don't get close to other people. Stay away from crowds.



5. Other things to do

- Exercise – It helps your body fight flu viruses. Try to walk for 30 minutes most days.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Don't smoke.
- Eat 5–10 servings of fruit and vegetables every day.

- Older adults can take a multivitamin. Stay away from crowds when flu season hits your area.
- If someone in your home gets the flu, protect other family members.
- Keep the sick person's personal things away from other people. Clean areas around the sick person often. You can use dish soap and water.
- Have family members stay at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from the sick person.

6. Plan ahead

Be prepared. What will you need if you or someone in your family gets the flu?

- Thermometer;
- Medicine for a fever, throat lozenges;
- Tissues.

Check the expiry dates on your medicine. Don't use medicine after its expiry date. Date example: Exp AU 09

Do you take care of another person? Who can take care of that person if you get the flu?

7. Call your doctor

Call your doctor if you have a new cough and fever. Tell them if you have been to a place that has the virus or if you have been in close contact with someone who has been sick with the flu.



Growing Garbage

A snapshot of pressures on our landfill

The Stettler Waste Management Authority (SWMA), the intermunicipal body that governs the transfer stations and the landfill, is faced with the challenge of projecting the landfill's life expectancy and costs associated with ensuring adequate capacity to serve the area in the future. Currently the SWMA is working with a consultant considering adding 20 meters to the height of existing cells comparing it against the cost and benefits of beginning a new cell.

There are now a number of environmental conditions associated with a new cell:

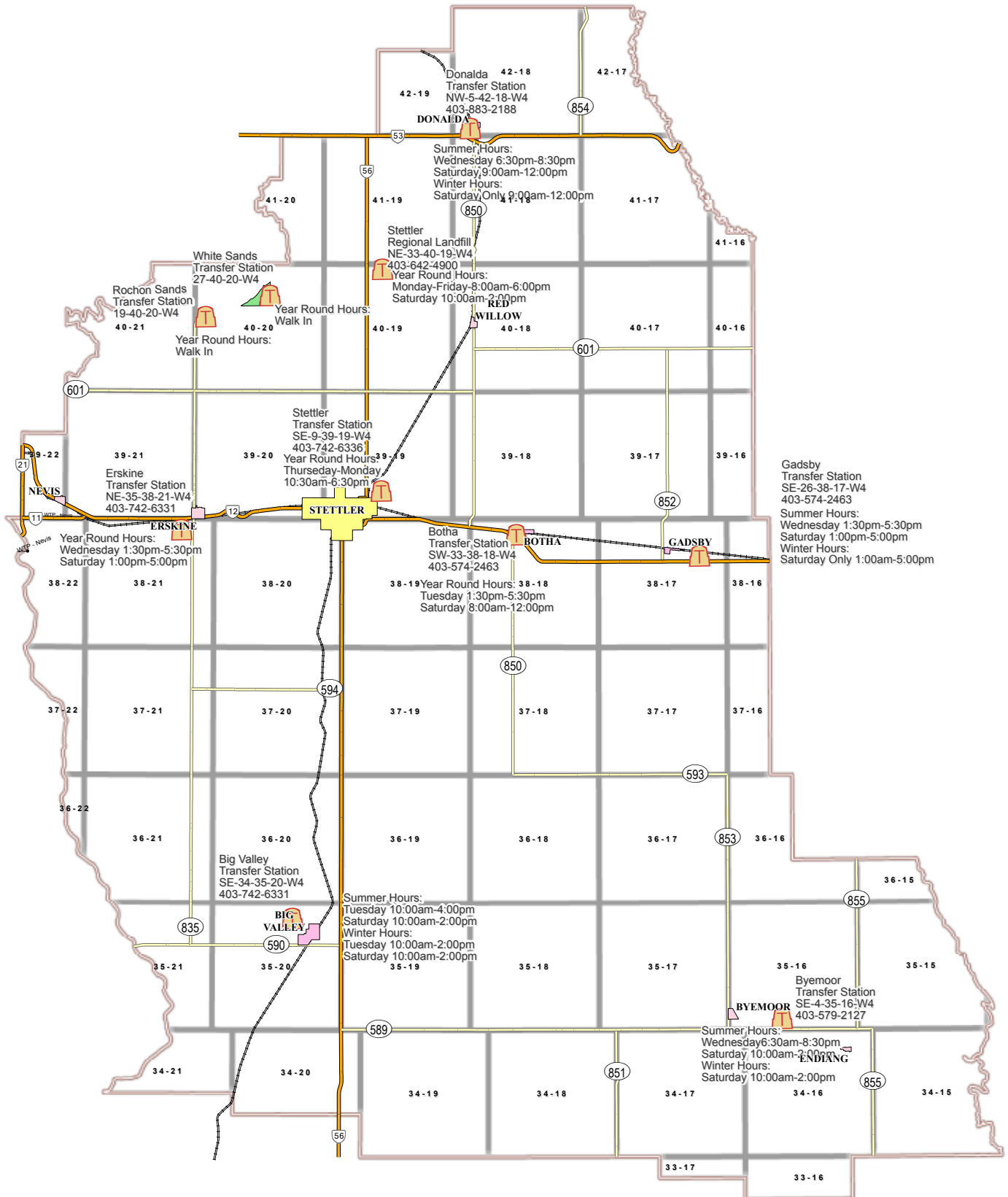
- New cell construction will require leachate collection and monitoring system, vertical expansion of the existing cells will not
- New cell construction will require monitoring and testing over and above the current program
- Leachate collection will include pumping, hauling and offsite disposal of leachate
- New cell construction will require more extensive design, including revisiting existing site reports

Both options will require public consultation and Alberta Environment approval. New cell construction under the current design will result in approximately 15 years of landfill capacity. Expansion of current cells to full vertical capacity will result in approximately 23 years of additional landfill capacity.

The cost associated with both options will be presented later this year to the Board for direction and approval. It could cost the Authority over two million dollars to establish a new cell with higher ongoing operating costs. Adding an additional 20 metres in height and 3:1 slopes would result in higher ongoing operating costs in the form of monitoring and additional heavy equipment for placement of cover.



We are all going to be faced with higher and higher costs to dispose of our municipal solid waste, which concerns all the municipalities in the area. Although the eventual expansion of the landfill is inevitable the Board has identified the requirement to ramp up recycling efforts and reduce our environmental footprint which would increase the life of our existing capacity. The County of Stettler is working with a company from Saskatchewan to reduce our municipal solid waste by converting it into energy. This project is in the preliminary stages of seeking government approval and drafting a business plan. This may provide the opportunity to reduce up to 7 - 10 tonnes of municipal waste entering the landfill daily which works out to about a 30 to 40% decrease.





Upcoming Events

The Stettler Public Library is pleased to have author Fran Kimmel launch her book "The Shore Girl" on Wednesday, October 3 at 7 pm. Rebee Shore just wants to be a normal girl and have a place to call home. But her childhood is a disaster. Fran will be reading from her new novel and answer questions about her writing. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and Fran will be pleased to sign your copy.

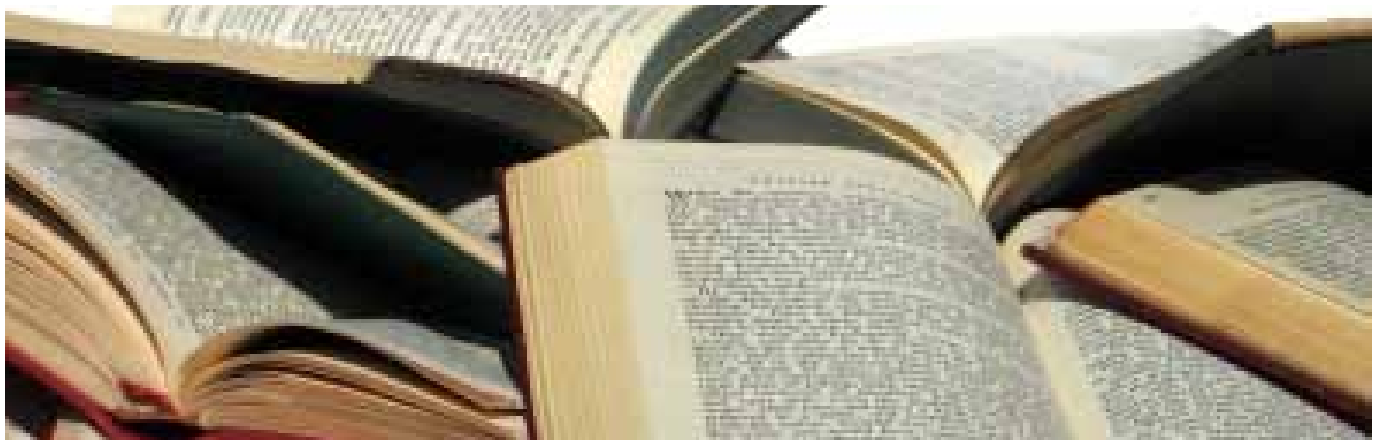
Read and Rhyme Play Time is back in time for fall. This program is designed for interaction between children and their big people with lots of songs, rhymes and playtime. Read and Rhyme runs every Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 am.

Copies of the next books for the Brain Candy Book Club, Reader's Circle and Spine Crackers are available at the Stettler Public Library. Brain Candy meets on Tuesday, October 2 at 7:30 pm when the book "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova will be the topic of discussion and "Playing with the Ashes" by Elizabeth George will be the target of Reader's Circle on Thursday, October 4 at 7:30 pm. The teen book club Spine Crackers will be discussing Roald Dahl's "Skin and other stories" on Tuesday, October 9 at 6:00 pm.

Starting October 9 the Stettler Public Library is pleased to be presenting a new club: Chicks with Sticks. This is a club that requires two knitting needles and some yarn. Bring your project or come and learn to knit. We will have knowledgeable knitters on hand to help and the company will be fantastic! Chicks with Sticks will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, meaning October 9 and 23. Those who crochet are welcome to join as well and there will be help for you as well.

The Stettler Public Library will be closed on Monday, October 1 for professional development and on Monday, October 8 for Thanksgiving.

For updated information about the Stettler Public Library's programs check our website at <http://spl.prl.ab.ca> or our Facebook page--Stettler Bibliotheque.





DID YOU BYO BAG?

(DID YOU BRING YOUR OWN BAG?)

A promotion by the *Heartland Beautification Committee* to reduce the number of single-use plastic bags consumed in the Stettler and County of Stettler area.

WHY REDUCE PLASTIC BAG USAGE?

Stettler and the County of Stettler consume over 1 million single-use plastic bags every year.

Single-use plastic bags are often used for just 2 or 3 minutes (store to car, car to house), a considerable waste of non-renewable resources for such a brief purpose.

Plastic bags blow around our area and are unsightly.

Plastic bags clog our street drains.

Plastic bags contaminate our lakes, rivers and our crops.

Animals eat or get entangled in plastic bags.

Plastic bags are a major part of Stettler's landfill. It could cost \$10 million to build a new landfill.

Plastic bags take on average 400 years to breakdown but don't decompose. They just become ever smaller pieces that still contain toxins.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

BRING YOUR OWN BAG, EVERY TIME YOU SHOP.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG, FOR EVERY STORE.

DECLINE A PLASTIC BAG, IF YOU FORGOT YOURS.

KEEP YOUR RE-USABLE BAGS IN YOUR CAR.

SHOPPING? THINK WALLET AND RE-USABLE BAGS.

Sponsored by the
Heartland Beautification Committee.
No one can do everything. Everyone can do something.



TAXES DUE!

OCTOBER 31ST, 2012

There are many different ways that you can pay your property taxes and accounts receivable in the County of Stettler. We accept payments by cash, cheque, Visa, Mastercard, debit card, online banking or at most major financial institutions. If you are paying your taxes or accounts receivable online please ensure that you are paying them to the County of Stettler No. 6. For accounts receivable, use your customer number and for taxes use either your roll number or owner number. This will assist us with applying the payment to the appropriate balance. If you cannot find our name in the list of payees on your online banking please contact the County office and we will be happy to assist you. If you are paying bills online the following financial institutes accept County of Stettler payments:



If your financial institute does not have the County listed for accepting payment, please contact our office and we will work to get them added.

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