

Winter 2013

# Stettler County Connection

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## Meet

County  
Council

pg 7-13

PM: 41 398593



# STETTLER ECO CENTRE

## Now Open

At the entrance to the Stettler Transfer Station, you will find the new Stettler Eco Centre, now fully operational and accepting paint, household batteries, fluorescent bulbs/tubes, small electronics, cell phones, laser toner, inkjet cartridges and most hazardous household waste. It's open 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Since there is now year-round Toxic Waste Disposal, the County will no longer hold Toxic Round-Up.

All Cleaners  
Acetone  
Spray Paint  
Aerosol Cans  
All-Purpose Cleaners  
Ammonia  
Wasp Spray  
Auto Body Filler  
Ballasts  
Barbeque Starters  
Batteries  
Bleach  
Butane  
Car Batteries  
Contact Cement  
Disinfectants  
Drain Cleaners  
Fabric Softeners  
Fluorescent Bulbs  
Fungicides  
Gasoline  
Weed Killers

Glue  
Hair Colouring/Hairspray  
InkJet Printer Cartridges  
Kerosene  
Laser Toners  
Laundry Soap/Stain Remover  
Lighter Fluid  
Lye  
Mildew Removers  
Muriatic Acid  
Nail Polish Remover  
Oven Cleaners  
Paint Thinners  
Paint  
Rubbing Alcohol  
Rug and Upholstery Cleaners  
Rust Removers  
Septic Tank Cleaner  
Turpentine, Varnish, Lacquers  
Pool and Hot Tub Chemicals  
Toilet Cleaners  
Windshield Washer Fluid



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# COUNTY CONNECTION

## INTRO

Another December means another year gone by. 2013 was certainly an eventful year here at the County – beginning with the crazy amounts of spring snow we saw in March and April, followed by some pretty huge projects over the summer including the construction at Buffalo View Estates, waterlines to both Big Valley and Donalda, testing out new dust control measures on roads and topped off with an election in October! Whew!

With Christmas and the New Year fast approaching, it is the perfect time to not only take a look back at the accomplishments you have made over the past year – but the perfect opportunity to look forward – and plan out your future.

I was always told the future is only as bright as you make it. And although it's a bit early to be making New Year's resolutions, I'd like to challenge all of you to make commitments for the upcoming year that will bring joy, happiness and brightness to yourself and the people you love the most.

As for me, this is probably the last time you'll be reading my editorial for a while. When I look into my future, I see a lot of diapers, late nights and bottles! My husband and I are expecting twins in the first part of 2014 – so I will be off work for a year – learning how to juggle! We have hired a new Director of Communications, so if you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact Niki, who will be happy to help you out while I am off. Wish me luck!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our readers a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year. I hope you take the time to spend your holiday season with your family and friends... and don't do anything I wouldn't do!

Merry Christmas County of Stettler!

Sincerely,



## Stettler County Connection

Winter 2013

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*Lorraine Hankins, Director of Recreation, County of Stettler, presenting Jessie Brinson with the 2013 Botha Youth Service Award. This award is presented yearly by Botha and Endmoor, to deserving youth who have demonstrated a desire to be the future of their communities.*

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

As a community, we rely on our volunteers to make sure the events, facilities and fundraisers operate without a hitch. They are an important part of our community fabric and are essential to the vibrancy of each and every one of our communities. The County of Stettler holds an event every year to recognize these people in our communities who go above and beyond.

The communities of Donalda, Big Valley, Endmoor, Stettler, Botha and Red Willow all honour volunteers through their Community Service Award. If you know of someone in these communities who is deserving of these awards you can contact your Recreation Board Member or Lorraine Hankins at our office – and we can get the ball rolling.

Endmoor and Botha also give out awards to deserving youth who have demonstrated a desire to be the future of their communities.

There are two major awards the Recreation Board gives out each year. One is the Stettler Dodge Community Service Award for exemplary service to one's community. The other is the ATCO Electric Arts, Culture and Heritage Award given to a group, couple or individual who has shown great leadership and

passion for the introduction and continuation of Arts, Culture and Heritage knowledge and education within their community. You can nominate a deserving individual for these two major awards by writing a recommendation letter and dropping it off at the County of Stettler Office before the end of 2013.

The 2014 Community Service Awards will be hosted by the Stettler Agricultural Society on February 21, 2014. The ceremony and supper will be held in the Heritage Room, with entertainment provided. The event starts at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$13.00 each and are available by contacting our office at 403-742-4441 or stopping by!

We encourage you to support your community volunteers in any way you can, nominate a deserving individual, attend the awards ceremony or contact the Recreation Director to talk about how you can recognize the volunteers in your community today.

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## COUNTY LIFE

### Calendar Contest

We have some beautiful places in the County of Stettler, and some of them were captured this year by the participants in our annual Photo Contest! During the months of September and October, our office collected photos from citizens depicting life and scenery within our amazing county and we received just over 90 photographs this year. Participants could submit up to five photographs each and they made our job extremely tough!

We had three judges come in one early morning and they poured over every photograph, choosing 12 of the photos that moved them the most. The criteria for judging was not necessarily all technical, the photo had to be seasonal in nature, be appealing to the eye, represent country living and the judges had to like the overall feeling of the photo.

From the 12 finalists, they chose a Grand Prize Winner! For the first time since we began the photo contest, our winning photograph is a winter scene, shot by Lorna Davies (and is depicted above).

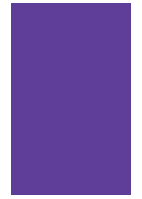
In addition to that photograph, 11 others will be featured in our 2014 calendar.

Photographs featured in the calendar were taken by:

Jacinta Donovan  
Dan Kober  
Karen Armstrong  
Brenda Meyer  
Winnie Bissett  
Josh Hall  
Autumn Bittner  
Theresa Tanner



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# PHOTO CONTEST

## Honourable Mentions

There were so many great photos, that we had to give an Honourable Mention to four photographs that were also in the running for one of the 12 finalist spots. These photos are featured on a page within the calendar, and one Honourable Mention is the cover photograph for the entire calendar. The four Honourable Mentions were photographed by:

Chad Mailer  
Catherine Wishart  
Sandy Clark  
Lori Giles

## Pick Up A Calendar

Calendars will be available at the County of Stettler Administration Office beginning December 6, and are free of charge for whoever would like to enjoy the beauty of our County all year long. You can also request a calendar be mailed to you by emailing [info@stettlercounty.ca](mailto:info@stettlercounty.ca) or calling 403-742-4441. We would be more than happy to send you one!

Keep your eyes open for great photo opportunities in 2014 as we will be opening up our contest again in the New Year!

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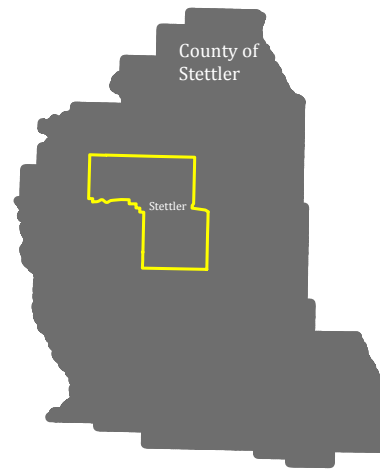


## WHERE DO I TAKE IT? A-Z RECYCLING

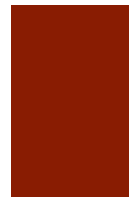
Questions about where to recycle your carpet, baby bottle liners, large appliances, ashes? Stettler County website has your answer in just a few simple clicks! Our new, A-Z Recycling guide, allows you to type in exactly what you're trying to dispose of, and then gives you the answers.

Go to [www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca), then click on, WHERE DO I TAKE IT? A-Z Recycling List under our "Quick Links" list. Then simply type in your search word, like 'aerosol', and it will give you a

list of different types of aerosol containers, and where you can dispose of them. It's simple, responsible, and good for our environment. Give it a try.



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# ERNIE GENDRE STETTLER

Hi, my name is Ernie Gendre. I have lived in the County of Stettler all my life. I was raised on a mixed farm north west of Erskine. I attended school in Erskine and subsequently finished at William E. Hay.

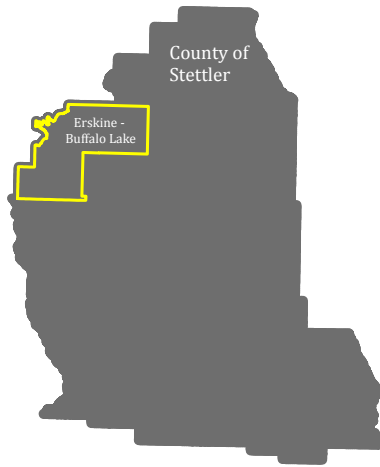
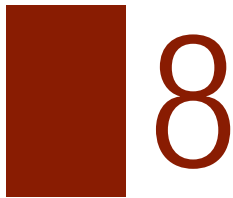
After graduating, I worked in oilfield on drilling rigs and then road construction. I married my wife Nancy in 1980 and together we raised two children.

We farmed from 1983 to 1989, I then had the opportunity to change careers to the construction side, doing lease building and clean-ups then water and sewer and various tasks related to the industry to which we are still active in to a lesser degree today.

My goals as councillor for Ward 4-Stettler, are to represent the people and their needs, and to continue to have a good community. Any concerns or input from the public is greatly appreciated.

## Committees

- BioGas Project
- Collaboration Grant Committee
- County Assessment Review Board
- Disaster Services Committee
- County Office/Shop
- Fire Department Advisory Committee
- Regional Collaboration
- Stettler Waste Management



## Committees

BioGas Project  
Buffalo Lake Development Steering Committee  
and South Shore Planning  
Buffalo Lake Management Team  
County Assessment Review Board  
Erskine Water Supply  
Family & Community Support Services  
Red Deer River Municipal Users Group

# JOE GENDRE ERSKINE-BUFFALO LAKE

I married Circun in June of 2008 and became an instant parent with 3 children, Mary, David and Amanda. Isabella joined us two years later.

We have a small farm north west of Erskine. I co-ordinate and enjoy competitive volleyball, kayaking, gardening, orchids and travel. The kids love their competitive dancing and Circun loves.

My nine years on council has given me many exposures: I am the voice of Q93.3 *Talk of the Town* for Erskine and other commitments include: member of Stettler Family and Community Support Services, past member of Stettler Waste Management Authority, Chair of Agriculture Services Board, Chair of Agriculture Services Board, current member of Buffalo Lake Management Team, Erskine Cemetery Board, Nevis Community Hall Association, and Knights of Columbus Tent Rentals. I have also worked numerous Casinos for the Erskine Rec Board, Nevis Hall and the Stettler Public Library.

I really want to move our community forward through implementation of the Erskine Concept Plan that the past council adopted unanimously. After consultation with Erskine residents, and after dollars and time taken to create this plan, we need to address concepts and get them implemented, such as to develop the new residential lots, begin surface water management and install a walking path along highway 835 in order to maintain legal status for the highway crosswalk. The realization of a water reservoir large enough to provide enhanced fire protection for Erskine and surrounding area with fire hydrants and a tank fill for fire trucks, agricultural and domestic needs is essential.

We need to bring to the forefront, a recreational vehicle dump and fill station. It is imperative to get resident's cooperation to allow services and access for these improvements to take place for the betterment of the community. A budget and timeline will need to be established with the cooperation of council and administration.



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## Committees

BioGas Project  
Collaboration Grant  
Disaster Services  
County Housing Authority  
County Office/Shop  
Physician Recruitment & Retention  
Recreation  
Regional Collaboration  
Stettler/Starland Regional Water Services  
Ambulance Association  
Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant No. 1

# DAVE GROVER BIG VALLEY

I was born and raised in this great County of ours. My ancestors on both sides pioneered and homesteaded the area and my grandchildren are the 6th generation of the Walker/Grover/Nelson families to enjoy doing so. I am very proud of my heritage and my wife Lorraine and I chose to return to the County to raise and educate our family of four children - Brad, Jolene, Bobbi-Jo and Jamie, and it was certainly the best decision we ever made!

We consider ourselves very fortunate to continue to raise cattle, live, work and play in the County of Stettler with our family which has now grown to include 11 wonderful grandchildren! We have enjoyed this rural life and I appreciate the opportunity to ensure future generations may also continue to be proud to live and work here.

I have had the privilege of serving nine years as County Councillor for Ward 2 in the past, sitting on numerous Boards and Committees and I am very pleased to return to the County Table to continue giving back to the communi-

ties that have provided my families with a good life, and again be the voice for my friends and neighbors in the Big Valley/Linda Hall area.

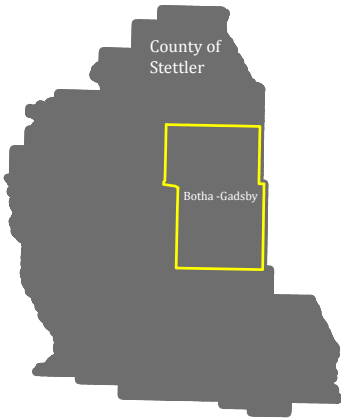
I currently sit on the Ambulance, Sr. Housing, Recreation, Agriculture Service, Seed Cleaning Plant Boards & Municipal Planning Commission.

I feel that we have a wide variety of opinions and personalities on our present Council which should make for a very productive and forward-thinking Council!

I feel rested and rejuvenated and look forward to working together for the next four years. I also feel we are all passionate about the County of Stettler remaining a place where future generations are as proud to live, work, play and be from as we are!



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# GREGGORY JACKSON BOTH-A-GADSBY

My name is Gregory Jackson. I have 3 amazing kids – Hannah, Grady and Will. I am proud that all three have learned a considerable amount about municipal government during my first term as a councillor. I have lived in the Botha/Gadsby area my whole life. I currently live on my family’s homestead quarter and work in Stettler for Metalex Metal Buildings. In the summer months my family and I enjoy camping, hiking, tubing and wakeboarding.

During my last term as councillor I sat as a Central Zone Representative on the Provincial AAMDC Standing Issues Committee on Infrastructure, Transportation and Municipal Affairs, Vice Chairman of the County of Stettler Ag Service Board, President of the Battle River Research Group, Co-Chair of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee and Chairman of the Stettler Regional Fire Authority. I also sat as a board member on the Recreation Board, Stettler Health Services Foundation and the County of Stettler Housing Authority.

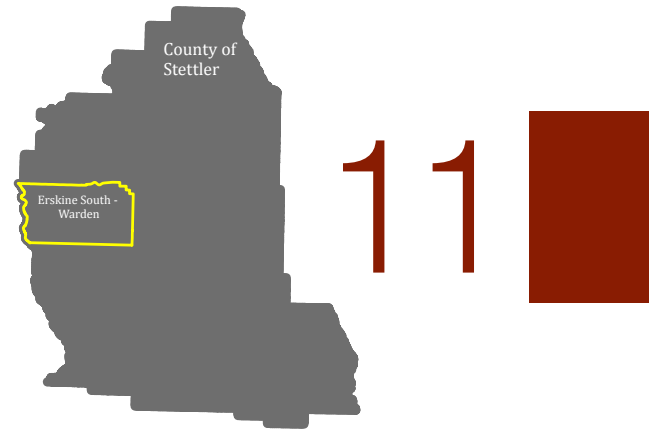
Through distance learning I completed and obtained a certificate with distinction in Ag Finance from Olds College.

I plan to continue my active participation on many community boards and to work hard representing the County of Stettler in a respectable manner.

I would like to thank the residents of the Botha /Gadsby area for entrusting me with the responsibilities of Councillor . I am proud of my contributions in representing the County of Stettler for the past 3 years and look forward to representing the County for the next 4 years.

## Committees

- Battle River Research Group
- BioGas Project
- County Office/Shop
- Disaster Services
- Physician Recruitment & Retention
- Ambulance Association
- Stettler Health Services Association
- Stettler Hospital
- Fire Department Advisory



## Committees

BioGas Project  
County Assessment Review Board  
Disaster Services  
County Housing Authority  
Erskine Water Supply  
Stettler Hospital  
Stettler Waste Management

# JAMES NIBOURG ERSKINE SOUTH-WARDEN

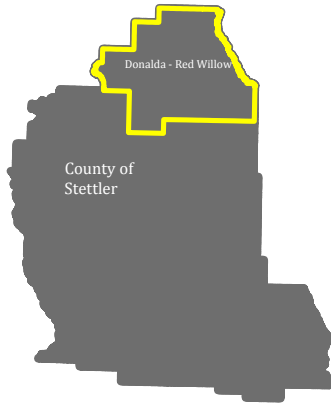
Well here we go again! I would like to thank everyone in my Ward for the confidence you gave me by being acclaimed. I hope to live up to your expectations. I have enjoyed the last three years serving the ratepayers of Ward 5 Erskine South-Warden. I have learned many things along the way but most of all, that we live in the best County of Alberta. (I actually already knew that, it was just confirmed by my time on council.) We still have our problems but nothing we cannot handle if we work together. I do look forward to meeting those challenges along with my fellow Councillors, if we work as a team there is no challenge we cannot overcome. Every member of a team should bring a different talent. I feel we have that diverse talent to win.

My lovely wife Lori-Anne is a Registered Nurse working in Stettler. We have four awesome and very busy children. Justina is 19 years old, working full time plus for a local farm family, she is looking forward to the next great adventure life may bring. Andrew is 17 years old and is in grade 12 at Wm. E. Hay High School. He referees and plays hockey and has an almost full time job at a local farm store. Alicia is 16 years old and is in grade 11, also at Wm. E. Hay

High School. She loves her horses and most things academic. Our youngest, Isaac is 13 years old and is in grade 8 at Erskine School. He loves hockey, he also referees and plays. He is a Leafs fan, go figure...like father like son.

I was born and raised in the Erskine area. I learned to get along with others as I was the youngest of eight, and there was lots of discussion and okay arguing along the way. We did learn respect is important and that strong sense of volunteering is great because a community is what you make it. After graduating from high school in Stettler I moved away to follow work in small towns all around Alberta, always comparing them to the Stettler area. Fifteen years ago we moved back home. Now we live just south of Erskine, raising purebred sheep, chickens and our kids. I have now owned and operated East Central Auto Recyclers for the last ten years. My many experiences with different volunteer groups and businesses have given me the tools and talents {I hope} to meet the challenges of being your County voice at the table for the next four years. Please do not hesitate to contact me and let me know what you are thinking. I truly look forward to serving you.

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## WAYNE NIXON - REEVE DONALDA-RED WILLOW

I live in the Donalda/Red Willow area of the County and have lived here for almost 33 years. We operated a dairy farm for several years and following that had a few beef cattle supplemented by my job at the Wood Shop. In 2007 at the urging of some of my neighbours, I let my name stand for a candidate in the County of Stettler municipal election and I became a County Councillor. I must say that I have enjoyed these past six years and look forward to the next four.

When I am not attending meetings or functions relating to County business I work with my son Cal who farms in the area. I find it is a lot easier to farm when I don't have to pay the fuel bills or the repair bills.

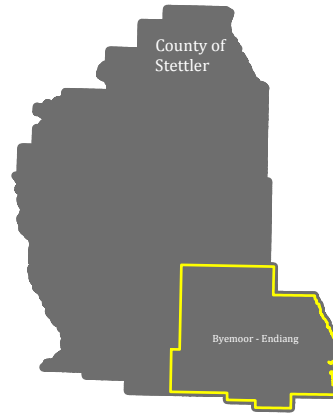
Our sons Kent and Cam also live close by and our daughter Kara lives in Red Deer so we see our family often and can also spoil our grandchildren.

I have made many friends during my two terms of office, both locally and in other municipalities across Alberta. I have had the opportunity to visit places in Alberta and also in other provinces through my duties as County Councillor and I am grateful for this.

My goal for the next four years is to work with my fellow councillors to ensure that the County of Stettler remains a prosperous and progressive County.

### Committees

BioGas Project  
Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts  
Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services



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# LES STULBERG BYEMOOR-ENDIANG

I am pleased to be the councillor representing Ward 1 Byemoor – Endiang at the council table.

I have been a life-long resident of the Endiang–Byemoor area and have enjoyed my extensive involvement in the community. Becoming a councillor seems like a natural progression to better serving my community.

My wife Rosemary and I raised two sons, Travis and Tyler, in the same community I was raised. Rosemary has been a school bus driver for the Clearview School Division for 23 years.

We operated a multi-generation family farm for many years, including a successful purebred business. Today, we have downsized the operation which affords me the time to devote to my councillor position. Although farming has been my life I have also worked in finance, sales management and the media, learning valuable skills along the way.

I look forward to working with my fellow councillors, administration and staff as a team to make the county a better place to live, work and play.

In my spare time I enjoy photography, reading, travel, writing, community projects and spending time with friends and family.

I am proud to say I live in the County of Stettler and am looking forward to the next four exciting years.

## Committees

BioGas Project  
County Assessment Review Board  
Parkland Regional & Stettler Library Board  
Recreation  
Starland/Stettler Regional Water  
Family & Community Support Services  
Stettler Town and Country Museum



# CLUBROOT IN THE COUNTY

## History

We have been inspecting for clubroot since 2008, in 2012 we found our first three fields and one garden positive for clubroot. Prior to 2012, our standard inspection was two fields per township or roughly 120 fields, from 2012 on, we have been inspecting in the range of 150-170 fields to better understand the infestation level. Our purpose for this inspection is to reduce the spread of this disease, and inform those who have it, to improve their management practices.

## What is it?

Clubroot is a soil-borne disease identified by the formation of club-shaped galls on the roots of affected plants. There are also some above ground symptoms such as yellowing, stunting, wilting or premature senescence (maturing), and reduced seed production. Crops that have finished flowering may have symptoms that from a distance resemble sclerotinia stem rot or possibly fusarium wilt.

Clubroot affects canola yield and quality similar to that of other diseases affecting water and nutrient uptake. Its impact depends on soil conditions and the growth stage of the

crop when infection occurs. Research indicates infestations approaching 100% led to 50% yield losses, while 10-20% infestations led to 5-10% yield losses, however early infection of seedlings tends to result in greater yield losses. Spore germination in clubroot, infection and disease development are favored by warm soils, high soil moisture and low soil pH.

## Enforcement

Clubroot was added as a declared pest to the Agricultural Pests Act in 2007. Alberta Agriculture and Food is responsible for this Act however, enforcement is the responsibility of the local municipality. Agricultural fieldmen as well as appointed pest inspectors have the power to enter land at a reasonable hour, without permission to inspect for pests and collect samples. The County of Stettler inspects at least two fields of Canola in every township, these fields are randomly selected.

The owner or occupant of land has the responsibility of taking measures to prevent the establishment of any pest on land, property and livestock and to control or destroy all pests in the land or property.



## Clubroot Procedure

When a field has clubroot, the following management procedure is put into effect:

1. When land is verified positive for clubroot the landowner will be notified in writing with a written legal notice in accordance with the Province of Alberta Agricultural Pests Act.
2. The notice will prohibit the growing and cultivation of canola, mustard or any other crop susceptible to clubroot infection for a period of five years.
3. The owner/occupants of the land on which a notice has been issued will be required to follow the Best Management Guidelines set out by Alberta Agriculture and Food in the Clubroot Management Plan to reduce the spread of the disease through the movement of soil and equipment. They are also responsible to ensure that any other persons/equipment entering onto the infected land follow the above Guidelines.
4. After the five (5) year restriction of any crucifer crop has expired, canola, or mustard crops may be grown on the land, but must be a clubroot resistant variety as stated in the Best Management Plan set out by the Province and furthermore, proof of purchase must be provided to the Agricultural Fieldman or designate for approval before seeding the crop.
5. The Agricultural Fieldman has the right to destroy any crops planting in contravention of the guidelines.

There is no cure for clubroot; prevention is the best management strategy. The best way to not spread the disease is to not enter fields with equipment, the less equipment you have coming into contact with the pathogen the less risk of contamination, also the less equipment you put into the field the less time you will need to spend cleaning it. Leave vehicles in grassed approach or on roadsides, and opt to walk into the field instead of drive, you will still need to clean your boots but not your truck.

It is important to clean all equipment, clean dirt from equipment, including tires, when moving between fields. Also from boots and tools, if at all possible do not drive in the field. This is important because they may have come into contact with soil or plant material infected with the resting spores of clubroot, as the disease is most likely to spread via contaminated soil and infected canola plant parts. It is prudent to practice good sanitation to restrict the movement of clubroot; this will also reduce the spread of other diseases and weeds.

A long rotation between canola crops, including clubroot resistant varieties, 1 in 4 years, is the single most important preventative strategy. Fields that have clubroot problems have a history of short, often 1 in 2 year, canola rotations. It is also good to avoid hay or straw purchases from regions where clubroot is known to occur or if infestation is suspected. Straw and hay could be carrying soil and the pathogen.



# PLOWING PRACTICES

Are you wondering how and why the roads get cleared in the order they do? Here's how it works:

The airport is done first.

- Priority 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.
- 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.
- 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.

County policy states you must make an annual application to have your laneway plowed, due to our insurance provider requirements.

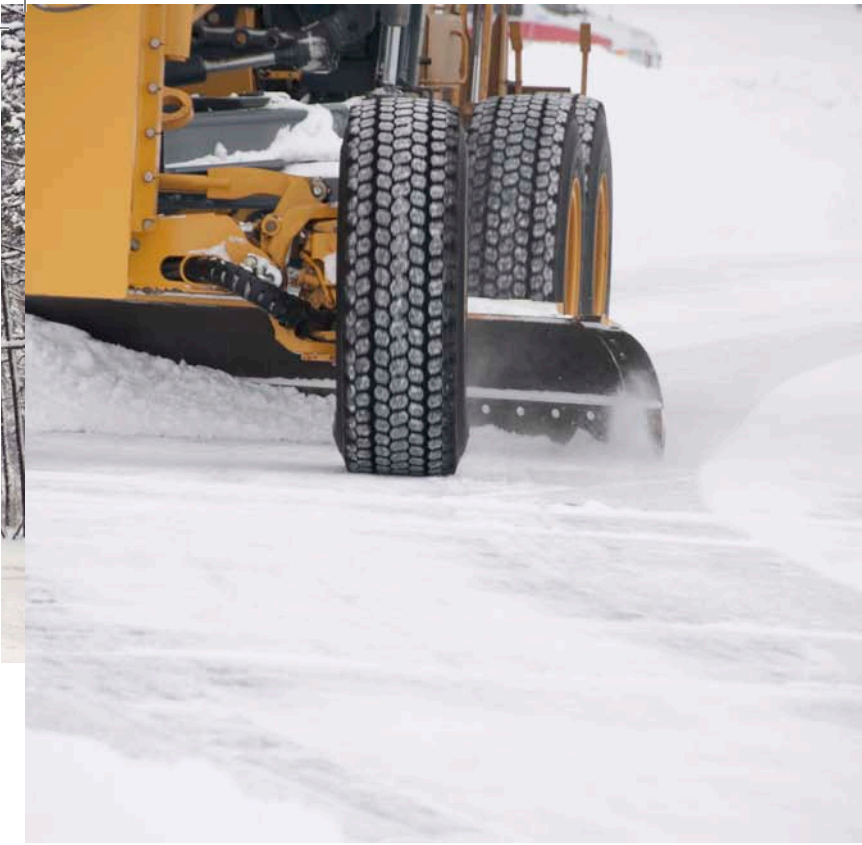
- Land and property may change hands.
- Some of the previous agreements were 10-12 years old.
- Hold Harmless needs to be signed by Landowner AND Renter.

Obstructions may change; eg. new trees, rock gardens, new structures such as lawn furniture, etc. and everything blends in the white snow.

## Site Inspections: What are they for?

- Site is free of debris and/or obstructions.
- Width available for grader to move around as necessary
- Are there power lines in the way of the grader?
- Pathway to be graded is marked
- Clearance for grader to turn around as required

Depending on the availability of Operators to inspect and approve clearance of laneways; flags may take extra time. (If we have extra snow or other priority projects that come up, it will take longer for an Operator to be available.)



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Under normal conditions it would take approximately 3-5 days to clear the roads and laneways. Efficiency may also be determined by the weight of the snow (as to how many passes the grader needs to make) and the quantity of snow (inches/feet). We normally don't plow until after snowfall, as visibility poses a safety issue for the Operator and traffic.

### Hamlets & Multi-Lot Subdivisions

Plow trucks clear hamlets. It takes approximately 3 days to clear snow in hamlets.

### Nuts and Bolts

- Stettler County has 11 regular grader beats (ranging from 104 miles to 159 miles of road), in addition to laneways.
- County has 3 spare graders that are utilized for heavy snowfalls, when additional Operators are available.
- Three plow trucks



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# WINTER DRIVING

## Serious Business

Winter driving in Alberta can be treacherous. Be prepared. If you do a lot of winter driving in isolated regions, consider having a citizens band radio.

- 9-1-1 is a free call to police and ambulance on your cell phone.
- **Heed the warnings** from local weather offices of Environment Canada of impending blizzards, heavy snow, freezing rain or drizzle, cold waves and winds, and black ice.
- **Tune up your car.** Winter weather presents the greatest challenge to your car and its engine. Prepare for winter by getting a complete checkup in the fall. Your tune-up should include battery, belts, hoses, radiator, coolant/antifreeze, oil, lights, breaks, exhaust system, heater/defroster, wipers, ignition system and tires.
- Traction is the key to good movement, turning and stopping on wet surfaces.
- **Check the tires and tire pressure** at least once a month when the tires are cold.
- Make sure wipers are in good condition and fill up on windshield washer fluid. Blades that streak should be replaced. Make sure there is enough windshield wiper fluid in the resevoire and that it is rated in the -40°C temperature range. Carry an extra jug in the vehicle.



## SURVIVAL KIT

The Canadian Automobile Association recommends that you keep the following items in the trunk of your car:

- Shovel
- Sand or cat litter
- Traction mats
- Tow chain
- Compass
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Warning light or road flares
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Emergency food pack
- Booster cables
- Ice scraper and brush
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Matches and a "survival" candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink or use as an emergency light)
- Fuel-line antifreeze

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## RECYCLED ROAD

### Shredded Tires

County construction crews completed a road construction project in partnership with Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA).

The project utilized shredded tires as a lightweight fill through a dry lake bottom on Range Road 18-4. The tire shred material was supplied at no cost to the county and ARMA contributed the cost of the truck haul to site and geotextile materials used.

### How It Works

The tire shred is intended to reduce gravel use in such areas to stabilize the grade in low load bearing areas such as sloughs and dry lakes. It also should provide some insulation value and reduce frost action on the road.

The shred was placed in four 150 m long sections, with the remaining portions of the road constructed using native fill materials. The project areas are being monitored for performance and hopes are it will reduce maintenance costs over time and provide a better travelling surface.



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# ERSKINE TRUCK FILL

## Progress Report

We are building a facility in Erskine that will function as a truck fill station, water reservoir and RV dump. Construction will start in the spring of 2014 with completion of the project later in the fall of the same year.

The County has already built the turning lanes coming off of Highway 12 and have paved the new road way leading to the site, immediately east of the hamlet. This project has been in the works for over a year, as we have been working to secure the land and finalize the building design and property layout for both the facility and the roads. We hope to tender the entire project early in 2014.

We feel very strongly that with Buffalo Lake just north of Erskine that a RV dump would be a useful addition to the facility. With the facility in place, we plan on adding a fire hydrant beside the new building to help with fire control.



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# WATER IN THE COUNTY

## BIG VALLEY

### Progress Report

The Big Valley Waterline is almost complete. Water started to flow on Oct 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. with the water tower being brought online shortly after that.

There are just a few things left to do, including communication provisions from Stettler to Big Valley, erecting a radio tower for permanent communications in Big Valley, cleanup around the metering station and on the water line route, and applying gravel at the metering station. In the spring, the pumps in the metering station at Big Valley will be in service. When the pumps are on line this will give equal pressure throughout the Village of Big Valley, regardless of what the water level is at in the water tower. This means a more reliable source of water for all village residents.

### Getting Water

If you are still thinking you may want to hook to the water line along the Big Valley route, you should contact our office as soon as possible, as construction is already nearing completion.

We will try our best to get you water as long as you are within one mile of the waterline.



# DONALDA

## Progress

The Donalda Waterline Project started construction in August of this year and is progressing along. Just about 78% of the water line is installed at this time. The areas that remain are short distances in and around the Village of Donalda, a few tie-ins on Highway 850 south of Donalda to Red Willow, all the waterline throughout Red Willow, all the waterline along Township Road 40-2 within the undeveloped road allowance, and a wet land area on Range Road 20-2.

On the Stettler end of the waterline, we still need to complete the tie-in at the transfer station and all the pumps and controls need to be installed and tested. Cleanup is ongoing as we move along the line. After construction is complete, we will have to flush all the lines and pressure test each section before they will be fully operational.

## Timeline

As far as a timeline goes, the contract called for 145 days from the start date, but the contractors are falling a bit behind due to weather and the fact that some of the supplies are not

going to be delivered in time. Pumps for the Stettler Transfer Station are still on order and five weeks away, so it is unlikely that the project will be completed by the end of the year, as first estimated. We are hoping that if everything goes according to our adjusted timeline, the waterline will be operational by the summer of 2014.

## Getting Water

At this time, Council has agreed to allow anyone whose residence is within one mile of the proposed line, including the hamlet of Red Willow and the subdivision of Willow Glen, can be hooked up to the waterline.

If you are considering hooking up to the waterline, please call our office and we will make sure that you get all the paperwork in place for you to receive water.

If you are outside of the one mile radius around the line, unfortunately, you will have to wait until council can leverage some more funds and/or procure provincial and federal grants in order to complete the rural distribution system.



## WINTER HOURS TRANSFER STATIONS

Transfer Stations are now operating on **Winter Hours**:

**Botha:**

Tuesdays 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - Noon

**Big Valley:**

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Byemoor:**

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Donalda:**

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Erskine:**

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Gadsby:**

Saturdays 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Stettler:**

Thursday-Monday 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

“

*For self-employed farm owners, it is important to give careful thought to insurance options for disability and liability. Those who don't are taking a huge financial risk.*

”

**- Carol Bouck**

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# FARMERS

# DISABILITY LIABILITY

It only takes a second – a slip on the ice, a moment of distraction around moving machinery or unpredictable livestock and suddenly you, or one of your valued employees is injured and unable to work. It might be weeks or months before you or your employee is mobile again. Do you have a plan?

“For self-employed farm owners, it is important to give careful thought to insurance options for disability and liability,” says Carol Bouck of Drayden Insurance Ltd. “Those who don't are taking a huge financial risk.”

Bouck suggests farmers consider the following questions:

- Do I have an emergency fund?
- Can I continue to pay the wages of the employee who's injured and hire a replacement?
- Can I afford to hire a lawyer if I am sued by a third party for injuries sustained?

A good business risk management plan considers the costs associated with incidents involving disability and liability. Fortunately, insurance is available to help farmers mitigate these risks. There are several options for farmers looking to protect their business and provide income in the unfortunate case of illness or injury.

Workers' compensation is available on a voluntary basis for farm owners and their workers on Alberta farms through the Workers Compensation Board (WCB). It is available as year-round or temporary coverage depending on the need and provides no-fault protection from the expense of a court case for both parties.

Commercial insurance from private insurance companies

offer various types of protection based on a variety of factors specific to each farm operator:

- Disability insurance provides benefits to the injured individual upon satisfactory acceptance of the nature and circumstances of the claim. This insurance is often purchased as part of an employee benefits package.
- Liability insurance provides the farm owner with protection from claims of liability for the occurrence of bodily injury or property damage to a third party. This does not include coverage for employees.
- Employer's liability insurance provides coverage for an employee injured on the job. In order for coverage to respond, the injured employee must sue the employer for their injuries. The coverage is usually quite limited so an employer could end up responsible for any court ordered payment in excess of the insured coverage.

Bouck advises farm owners to check with both their life insurance and farm property insurance providers to ensure that they have the appropriate coverage. She adds, “Those who hire seasonal or full-time workers should ensure coverage is in place for these valued employees.”

Risk management is an important part of any business plan. Having the right insurance in place could save your business and the livelihood of valued employees who could otherwise be without a source of income due to injuries sustained on your farm.



## COUNTRY ROADS WIDENING

Historically, the majority of Primary Road rights-of-way (ROW) within the County of Stettler were 20 meters (66 feet) wide. However, recent construction projects undertaken by the County have demonstrated that 20 meter wide ROW is no longer sufficient to meet the County's current minimum road specifications.

Although it may not seem likely that the actual road surface will be widened or upgraded in the immediate future, the County of Stettler has a responsibility to ratepayers to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to meet their future needs. As a result, it is the County's long-term objective to widen all developed Primary Road allowances as well as those undeveloped road allowances that have been identified for new Primary Road construction to 30 meters (99 feet).

In order to facilitate future road widening and ensure that Primary Roads comply with the current road specifications, at the least possible cost to County ratepayers, the County will determine if road dedication is required when either the Subdivision Authority approves a subdivision application or the Development Authority approves a development permit application.

The authority to require road widening and/or upgrading as a

condition of subdivision or development approval is provided under Section 661, Section 662, Section 650 and/or Section 651 of the Municipal Government Act.

If it is determined that road dedication will be required, the registration of a road plan for future road widening at no cost to the County shall be a condition of subdivision or development permit approval. The road plan shall incorporate all portion(s) of the road allowance frontage onto the quarter section or other parcel of land that is less than 30 metres wide.

Typically an existing road allowance of 20.117 m (66 feet) would need to be widened to 30.0 m. The width would be shared between the parcels on each side of the road. Therefore the registration of a 4.941 m (16.212 feet) wide road plan would be required along the boundary where the subject parcel fronts onto the subject road.

In some cases, the Director of Planning and Development in consultation with the Director of Engineering and the Chief Administrative Officer may recommend to the Municipal Planning Commission (as the Subdivision Authority and the Development Authority) that road widening should not be required due to site specific or other reasons. The Municipal Planning Commission may choose to either accept the staff



recommendation or deny it in order to follow the provisions in the County's policy instead.

Over time, as subdivisions and development permit applications are approved, the requirement for road widening and/or upgrading for each application will result in the road dedication/widening to the required 30 meter specification. Where land for road widening has not been acquired along the entire length or on both sides of a specific road allowance at the time of actual road construction or upgrading, the developer (potentially the County) may be required to purchase the remaining land required to complete the project.

Anyone who has questions about this or any other policy is invited to contact the Planning and Development Department at any time during regular office hours at 403-742-4441.

## 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 1-340-5241). 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 <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca>.

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

# AVOIDING MACHINERY MISFORTUNE

## Be Alert!

Machinery has many tricks up its sleeve.

You can be cut, crushed, pulled in, wrapped, struck or run over by farm machinery.

Start by asking an experienced operator to go over the safe operation and safety points for the machine you will be using. Benefit from the experience of others.

## Get the Training

## Read the Manual

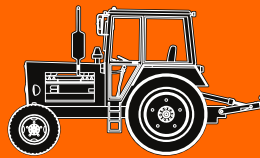
Knowing how the machinery works will help you assess the hazards, apply controls and manage your risk. This is a good thing. Hey, you might even learn about a feature no one else knows about.

## Keep your Distance

If a machine's parts cannot be shielded, stand back. PTOs, belts, chains, pulleys & sprockets come with guards.

Keep handrails and steps clean to avoid slipping. Those metal stairs are very unforgiving when it comes to body-to-stair contact.

## Firm Footing



## LOOK UP!

**STAY "7 METRES SAFE"**  
always ask yourself **WHERE'S THE LINE?**  
POWER LINE SAFETY

Remember, the height of the power lines hasn't decreased. Farm machinery is bigger, faster and stronger than ever before. Stay "7 metres safe".

## GRAVITY NEVER STOPS

Avoid steep slopes and sharp turns when driving tractors and farm machinery. Tractors have a higher center of gravity so they tip easier than your car or truck.

Now is not the time for baggy jeans, loose clothes, hoodie strings, jewelry and loose hair can be caught in machinery. Wear non-slip steel-toed boots. "Work wear" has come a long way in terms of design and function. It is comfortable AND stylish!



## WEAR THE GEAR

## Don't Jump

Climb down off machinery in a controlled manner. A piece of clothing or jewelry could be easily caught.



## Fill your Pockets

Clogged intake?  
Need to hookup a new implement?  
Turn off the machinery and put the key in your pocket.



# GET THE TRAINING. KNOW THE JOB. KNOW THE DRILL.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Stettler Public Library

### Holiday Hours

The library will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12 for their staff Christmas Party.

December 24: Closed at 2 p.m.

December 25-29: Closed

December 31: Closed at 2 p.m.

January 1, 2014: Closed

Regular hours resume January 2, 2014

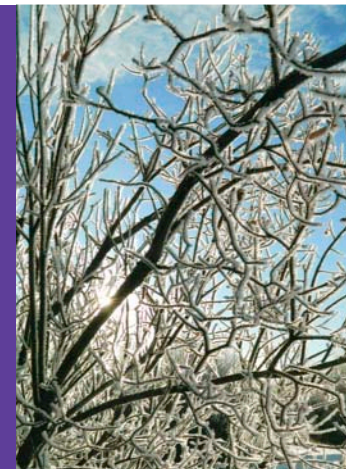
### Events

- Tuesday, December 17 @ 5 p.m. - Spine Crackers Teen Book Club discusses *The Book Thief*.
- Thursday, December 19 @ 7 p.m. - Chicks With Sticks - Last minute knitting or craft projects to finish up for Christmas? Come work on them at the library so they're ready in time!
- Tuesday, December 17 @ 6 p.m. - Just Joking, Join Jennifer to learn jokes and have fun.
- Tuesdays 5-6 p.m. - Math and Science tutoring for all ages
- Wednesdays/Fridays 11-11:45 - Read & Rhyme Play Time for ages 0-5 upstairs at Stettler Rec Centre. (Except Dec. 25, 27 or Jan.1)  
Wednesdays @ Botha School 1 p.m. - Read & Rhyme for ages 0-5

## Stettler Variety Showcase [www.StettlerShowcase.com](http://www.StettlerShowcase.com)

Sunday, January 19, 2014 - *When That I Was* - An award winning one-man play co-written by Edward Atienza and John Mortimer. The show sees actor Christopher Hunt perform over 25 characters, moving seamlessly between Jack Rice, Will Shakespeare and even Queen Elizabeth among many others. Although set in Elizabethan England, *When That I Was* has much to say about the present. It speaks of aging, of homelessness, and the role the arts can play in community, providing comfort, joy and pleasure in dark times. For all ages.

Tickets available at Pfeiffer House of Music 403-742-3777. For more information contact [info@stettlershowcase.com](mailto:info@stettlershowcase.com) or call Leo at 403-742-2809.



## Blood Donor Clinics

Roll up your sleeves and give the gift of life this season! Canadian Blood Services will be holding Blood Donor Clinics on Monday, December 16, 2013, and Monday, January 13, 2014. Drop by the Stettler Community Hall between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Walk-ins are always welcome. Visit their website at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) or call 1-888-2Donate (236-6283).

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Pancake and Music Jam - Donalda

Sunday, January 12 the Donalda Coulee Friendship Club will resume the "Pancake and Music Jam" at the Drop-in Centre on Main St. & Alberta Ave.  
Pancakes at 11:00 a.m. Jam session to follow.

## Big Valley Centennial Celebrations

Mark your calendars! Centennial Celebrations will be held August 2-4, 2014!

## Speed Limits

Keep your eyes peeled for Speed Limit Changes within the Town of Stettler. You can find the proposed changes plan on their website [www.stettler.net](http://www.stettler.net)

## Join the Stettler Library Board

Make a difference in your community. County of Stettler Member at Large Position available. Contact the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441 for more details.

## Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede

Wanted! A posse of Rodeo Volunteers to help with Stettler's Annual Rodeo, September long weekend. Help is needed with grounds set-up, take-down, security, admission, parking and much more.

If you are interested in being on the Rodeo Committee, or helping out anytime before or after the rodeo weekend, please contact Lorraine Hankins or Phil Holton at the County of Stettler 403-742-4441.



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