

Spring 2014

Stettler County **Connection**

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ROADSIDE FUNDRAISER

Community & Youth Groups

The County of Stettler has a roadside clean-up program that encourages community and youth groups located within the County of Stettler boundaries to apply to the County of Stettler to clean-up rural road right-of-ways throughout the County.

The County of Stettler will pay the applicant \$55 per kilometer of roadway right-of-way cleaned on both sides and \$75 per kilometer of roadway right-of-way cleaned on both sides for roads that are located within 10 miles of a town/village or two miles of a landfill site.

- Participants must be at least nine years of age to participate.
- Filled garbage bags are placed along the outer edge of the roadway shoulder and will be picked up and disposed of by County employees.
- The County will supply training materials, fluorescent-colored safety vests, work gloves and garbage bags.
- Each group will be awarded a maximum of 10 miles/16 km

To learn more about the roadside clean-up program and how your group can participate, contact County of Stettler Public Works at (403) 742-4441.



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COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

“Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new.”
Og Mandino (1923-1996) American author

This was good advice for me. I've asked a lot of questions the past few months, and I have definitely been a 'student' of this new position I have here at the County of Stettler. As a result, I have learned so much about this great county of ours.

At first I was hesitant to ask ALL of my questions, with the fear of sounding uninformed, too eager, or 'in over my head', but the more I asked, the more I learned, the more I wanted to know, and the more alive I felt.

It reminded me of the feelings I had back in college, when everything was new and exciting, and there was nothing you would say 'no' to, because you wanted to drink it all in.

As I sit here this morning reading over this magazine, I am surprised once again, by how many 'new' things I am learning, and what a great county we live in. It has so many advantages and offerings for its residents.

Entering into spring, I am excited. I'm excited for the days of melting, puddles and promise. I'm excited for the spring chicks, lambs, calves, foals and kids. I'm excited to watch my kids' faces as they learn something new.

I have a new job, a new boss, and the County has a fairly new Council. I'm not alone. Everyone's asking questions, and we're all learning something new. It seems fitting for spring. I hope as you read through this month's issue, you will share some of my excitement and maybe even learn something new from our magazine.

Sincerely,

Niki Thorsteinsson



Stettler County Connection

Spring 2014

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“ We have talked about having some Town Hall meetings throughout the County and this is something that I would like to see. I am sure that there are issues or questions that ratepayers would like to bring forward. If anyone has suggestions or questions they would like to have addressed, please feel free to contact me or any of my colleagues.”

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REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

As I am writing this article I am looking out my kitchen window at a fresh snowfall of eight or nine inches and I am enjoying the view, especially knowing that I don't have to go outside if I don't want to.

This morning I have been driving in the north east part of the county and even though not all roads have been plowed there are vehicle tracks out of almost every yard. Everyone, nowadays it seems, has business or work that keeps them on the road nearly every day and the need to keep county roads clear is far greater than the past. The first part of the winter has been very demanding on our snowplow operators and on our snowplowing budget. The last month has certainly given us a reprieve on both accounts but, seeing as we live in Alberta, who knows what the next several weeks will bring.

This past year has been very frustrating personally because of the repeated Requests for Information through the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act by the Wildrose Party and others. Because the County of Stettler strives to be as transparent as possible in all our proceedings, I requested by word, email and letter that we, the County of Stettler, could and should be approached personally for any information that was needed. These requests were never acknowledged.

From my perspective as Reeve of the County of Stettler I could see the pressure that was put on Administration, Staff, and Council and the resulting financial and emotional drain.

I must say thank you to Mr. Strankman, our MLA, who attended our February Council Meeting with a wish to move forward in a positive manner. This is also our wish.

Since the Municipal election we have three new Councillors, Dave Grover, Ernie Gendre, and Les Stulburg. Dave and Les have been on council before and this is Ernie's first time in Municipal politics. We have lots of projects on the go and we will certainly have others to add as the year progresses.

We have talked about having some Town Hall meetings throughout the County and this is something that I would like to see. I am sure that there are issues or questions that ratepayers would like to bring forward. If anyone has suggestions or questions they would like to have addressed, please feel free to contact me or any of my colleagues.

I would like to wish everyone in the County of Stettler a prosperous and rewarding year with just the right amount of rain and sunshine.

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Stettler Dodge
Community Service Award



ATCO Electric Arts,
Culture & Heritage Award



Linda Hall Youth Award

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

On Friday, February 21, 2014 County of Stettler No. 6 hosted the 2014 Community Service Awards dinner. The communities of Donalda, Big Valley, Endmoor, Stettler, Botha and Red Willow all honour volunteers through these annual awards.

As a community, we rely so much on our volunteers to make sure events, facilities and fundraisers are pulled off without a hitch. So many exciting programs and opportunities would not be available without these people. Our annual event recognizes them, our neighbors, who go above and beyond, making Stettler County a great place to live, work and play.

Reeve Wayne Nixon for the County of Stettler says, "Congratulations to all of the very worthy winners, and we thank them for the many volunteer hours put into their respective communities. Special congratulations to Joan Hannel, recipient of the Stettler Dodge Community Service Award for her work in the Linda Hall and larger community as well, and to Robert Erickson who received the ATCO Electric Arts, Culture and Heritage Award for his many hours of work on the Underwood Flying Machine."

Thank you to all of our award winners!



**Endmoor Cultural and Recreation Society
Youth Award**



**Stettler Agricultural
Society Community
Service Award**



**Donalda & District
Agricultural Society
Award**

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2014 AWARD WINNERS

Stettler Dodge Community Service Award : Joan Hennel
(pictured with Darren Benson of Stettler Dodge and Jo Hennel)

ATCO Electric Arts, Culture and Heritage Award: Robert Erickson
(presented by Mark Higgins of ATCO Electric on the left, and Ken Hoekstra from the Village of Botha)

Big Valley Agricultural Society Community Service Award: Larry Meyer

Donalda and District Agricultural Society Award: Byron Norman
(presented by Beth Fulton, with David Guba of Scotiabank)

Stettler Agricultural Society Community Service Award: Darla Rairdan
(presented by Laurel Pole on behalf of the Stettler Ag Society and Dwayne Grover from Battle River Credit Union)

Endmoor Cultural and Recreation Society Youth Award: Erika and Allison Yates (L-R)
(presented by Anita Mappin)

Linda Hall Youth Community Service Award: Adam Johnston
(presented by Ila Lunevich, sponsored by ATB Financial)

Sullivan Lake West Agricultural Society Community Service Award: Russ and Linda Kobi

Botha Community Centre Lifetime Achievement Award: Phyllis Erickson

COMMUNITY



LANDFILL...TRANSFER SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours are in effect from Easter until Thanksgiving

Botha: (year round)

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

Big Valley:

Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Byemoor:

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Donalda:

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

Erskine: (year round)

Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Gadsby:

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

Regional Landfill: (year round)

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rochon Sands and White Sands: (year round)

Walk-in

Stettler: (year round)

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

Recycling is available at all locations, except Rochon Sands.



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Agricultural Services \$500 Bursary

The County of Stettler has an Agricultural Service Board Bursary for \$500, available to students enrolled successfully into a post-secondary institution.

To qualify:

- The applicant must be enrolled into a post-secondary institution.
- The applicant can receive the award only once
- The applicant must be an active member of a Stettler district 4H Club

Deadline to submit your application is May 15, 2014.

For more information, or to apply contact Quinton Beaumont, Director of Agricultural Services, at 403-742-4441.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Quagga & Zebra Muscles Threatening our Lakes and Ponds

The Province of Alberta and the County of Stettler are very concerned about the risk of these muscles being introduced to our recreational waters. The highest risk for transport and contamination is recreational boat users, who travel from lake to lake.

In three simple steps we can keep OUR waters pristine:

Clean: remove all plants, animals and mud. Thoroughly wash everything.

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

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

Weeds you may be harbouring in your Farm Yard

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Himalayan Balsam
Prohibited Noxious Weed



Bighead Knapweed
Prohibited Noxious Weed



Dame's Rocket
Noxious Weed

WEEDUCATE YOURSELF

2013 was a good year for weed control in the County, but we hope 2014 will be even better. In 2013 we continued to wrap up some of our long standing weed issues, and increase awareness towards others.

Scentless chamomile, common tansy, leafy spurge, and toadflax problems appear to be on the decline, while we see an increased presence in white cockle, Canada thistle, and ox-eye daisy. There is an increased awareness to our locally named noxious weed, absinthe wormwood, but there is also a need for greater effort in control.

In addition, our weed inspection staff, when they get a chance to inspect yards and gardens, are still finding new noxious and even prohibited noxious weed infestations. So what needs to be done in 2014? Here are a few things to consider to help make the County as weed-free as possible.

1. Pick up your free copy of the "Alberta Invasive Plant Identification Guide" and do a yard tour a few times this year.

Farmsteads in the County have been established for a long time, now. More and more farms have reached the Century status of being around more than one hundred years. With that in mind, it is possible these long-term farmsteads have weeds that were once considered beneficial in some way but which are now on the provincial noxious, or even prohibited noxious list.

Weed inspectors are often surprised when they drive into a farm yard to see purple flashes of dame's rocket in flower, or bright patches of yellow toadflax, both noxious weeds, or even towering plants of Himalayan balsam, a plant in the worst category of prohibited noxious.

Weeds that may be taking over your Fields

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Absinthe Wormwood
Noxious Weed



Yellow Toadflax
Noxious Weed



Scentless Chamomile
Noxious Weed

The most common misconception among the weeds



Ox-eye Daisy
Noxious Weed - looks like a Shasta Daisy
but if it SPREADS, it's the weed, Oxeye Daisy

Our weed inspectors endeavor to visit every farm yard at least once per year to look for these alien invasive species, but we may not be there at the right time of year to see these plants. They might be hidden in some way, so we need to rely on our ratepayers to continue the fight to eliminate these plants.

2. Familiarize yourself with our newest noxious weed. In 2012 the County took the bold step of elevating a local weed, absinthe wormwood, to the status of a noxious weed within its borders. Since then, we have been educating the public and encouraging control of this County-wide problem. This year we plan to get even more serious about absinthe, so if you don't know what it is, pop onto our website or drop by for more information.

3. Do a field inventory of noxious weeds, and create a weed management plan for each area. Most people who work the land know what they have for

noxious weeds, and know how to control them, but with busy lives they may not get to working on the issues in a timely fashion. So before things get too busy, write down what you have for weed issues, then write down solutions with recommended time lines for them. If you are unsure what type of control would work for your weed problems, drop by the County or talk to your crop inputs supplier to find out your options.

So, there are three ways we can help you to get ready to control problem weeds in 2014: get a weed book, get the absinthe information, and get a weed control plan together. The County can help you with all three of those ways, so feel free to stop by and we can give you a hand, or call us 403-742-4441.



PLANNING PROJECTS 2014

The following projects are budgeted to be undertaken by the Planning and Development department in 2014:

- A stormwater management plan for the Red Willow Creek basin, jointly with the Town of Stettler, to determine stormwater run-off rates and stormwater detention requirements within the Intermunicipal Development Plan area. This project will be undertaken by a consultant and managed by the Director of Engineering.
- A joint servicing study with the Town of Stettler to determine water supply and sanitary sewer servicing standards within the Intermunicipal Development Plan area. This project will be undertaken by a consultant. In 2015, the results of this study will provide input to an in-house review of the Stettler Intermunicipal Development Plan that was adopted in 2009. These projects will culminate in the preparation of a new Southeast Stettler Major Area Structure Plan in 2016/2017.
- Land acquisition and construction of a public walkway along the east side of Highway 835 in

Erskine. This project was first identified in the Erskine Concept Plan which was adopted in 2012 and was approved by Council for the 2014 budget. Consultation with the affected landowners has started and will continue into spring.

- The first phase of residential lot development on County-owned land in the east part of the Hamlet of Erskine. This project is part of the implementation of the Erskine Concept Plan which was adopted in 2012 and was approved by Council for the 2014 budget.
- Revising the Rural Addressing Bylaw to change the way in which multi-lot subdivisions and hamlets are numbered. This project will involve community consultation to determine street names that must be officially approved by Council resolution. There can be no duplication of street names in the various subdivisions and hamlets in the County.



Buffalo Lake Projects

The following in-house projects, being follow-up studies from the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan that was adopted in 2013, will be started in 2014 and will require intermunicipal cooperation with the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and White Sands:

- The correction of significant encroachments onto municipal reserve at the Old Bolin subdivision, through the sale of reserve land where this is deemed feasible and desirable by an intermunicipal committee. Less significant encroachments shall have to be removed. Existing license agreements will not be renewed in 2015. This project was incorporated as a policy in the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan in 2013 and will involve close consultation with the affected landowners. The revenue from land sales must be deposited into a municipal reserve fund that is set aside specifically for the improvement of reserves and recreation facilities at Buffalo Lake.

- A shoreline management plan. This year the main focus is to determine the scope of the project, working closely with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and the lake communities. Further studies and consultations will occur in 2015. Ultimately the project will address matters such as the improvement of public lake access points and the regulation of seasonal docks/boat lifts/piers.
- Discussions with Alberta Transportation regarding an intersection improvement program for Highway 835.

If you have an interest in any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Development department at 403-742-4441.



HIDDEN HALLS OF STETTLER COUNTY

Stettler County covers 4,000 square acres/1647 square miles and includes the Wards of: Donalda/ Red Willow, Erskine/ Buffalo Lake, Botha/ Gadsby, Stettler, Erskine South/ Warden, Big Valley and Byemoor/ Endiang. Scattered throughout the county are hidden gems, overflowing with history, spirit and community pride. Some of them you might pass on your way home from work. Others, you may have never heard of - but if you're looking for that 'special place' to hold your 'special occasion', you might just want to take a drive in the country, and find the perfect venue waiting for you.

The halls available for weddings/occasions that have capacity of more than 100 people are:

Botha Community Hall	403-742-2559
Linda Hall	403-742-3919
Stettler Community Hall	403-742-4411

Gadsby Community Hall	403-574-2340
Westwoods Agrilot	403-574-3761
Rochon Sands Hall	403-742-4717
Nevis Community Hall	403-742-6552
Red Willow Community Hall	403-742-3826
Byemoor Community Hall	403-579-2460
Big Valley Jubilee Hall	403-876-2613
Donalda Community Hall	403-883-2330
Erskine IOOF Hall	403-742-5240
Endiang Community Hall	403-579-2288

Other smaller halls, full of country charm are:

Fenn Hall	403-876-2556
Union Hall	403-742-0929
Pilot Knob Hall	403-742-4243
Big Valley Legion Hall	403-876-2097



DON'T FORGET TO FLUSH

It's a good idea to flush out your water system at the beginning of the summer and twice a year to ensure any untreated water that may have built up in your pipes or faucets over winter is removed, preventing possible contamination. A flushing may also prolong the life of your pipes and faucets. We've compiled some tips for different parts of your water system:

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

Cold water faucets: Turn on the tap and run the water until it feels cold; keep running for at least a minute or two.

Different faucets can require different flushing procedures.

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

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

Water filters: Under sink and all water filters should be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturers specifications.

Buffalo Sands Development Water main flushing program aims to maintain the quality of the water. Flushing operations are ongoing during the summer to remove iron deposits and maintain colorless water.

If customers notice their water discoloured we suggest running the cold water tap (preferably a laundry tub or bath tub tap with no screen) for approximately 5 - 10 minutes to clear any discoloration.

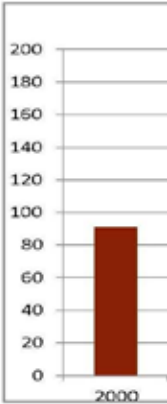
If after a main flushing event, the water is still discoloured, please call the Utilities Foreman at 403-740-9572.

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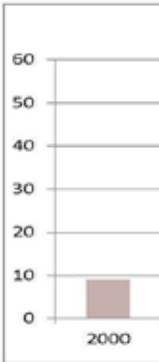
The tables and charts represent the number of development permits and subdivision applications processed by the County of Stettler No. 6 Planning and Development department for the past 14 years from 2000 to 2013.

It also shows the annual estimated value of the development permits. From these charts it is easy to see the cyclical nature of development and subdivision activity, how these cycles more or less correspond with each other and with the cycles of economic activity in the province and the country.

Development Permits	
Year	2000
No. of DP	91
Value	n/a



Subdivisions	
Year	2000
No. of SUB	9



2014 SITE INSPECTIONS

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

We need to inspect the site to be certain that there will not be a future issue or potential issue with the proposed development. We need to evaluate the roads leading to the land, the approaches, the slope of the land, and that it does not infringe on any wetlands, as well as any other concerns that we might have in regards to a specific application. In order to be as efficient as possible, the County's Planning and Development department has "Site Inspection" days twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (moved if Remembrance Day falls on a Tuesday).

To ensure your application gets a site inspection as soon as possible after you submit it, and is not delayed

too much pending the site inspection, it would be prudent to submit your application by the Friday previous to these scheduled site inspection dates.

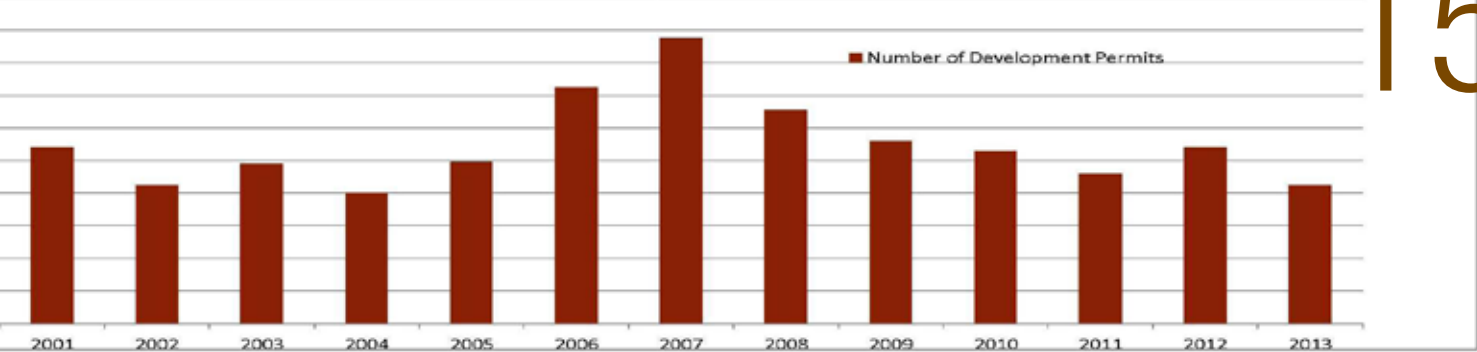
The upcoming Site Inspection dates for the remainder of 2014 are:

- March 25
- April 8 and 22
- May 13 and 27
- June 10 and 24
- July 8 and 22
- August 12 and 26
- September 9 and 23
- October 7 and 21
- November 10 and 25
- December 9 and 23

We encourage you to contact either Cara McKenzie, Jacinta Donovan or Johan van der Bank at (403) 742-4441 with any questions or concerns you may have. We will be happy to answer your questions and provide whatever assistance we can with your development permit or subdivision.

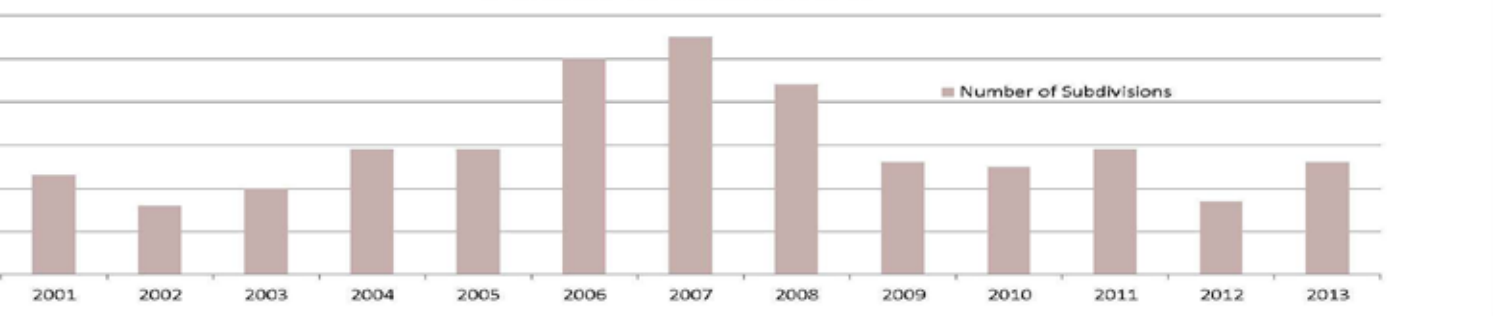
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average
108	85	98	80	99	145	175	131	112	106	92	108	85	108
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$18,281,600	\$18,995,335	\$14,049,130	\$10,905,570	\$9,327,700	\$16,070,333	\$14,226,615	\$12,123,000	\$14,247,410

Number of Development Permits



2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Average
23	16	20	29	29	50	55	44	26	25	29	17	26	28

Number of Subdivisions



ZERO TOLERANCE

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR STARTING DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

The Municipal Planning Commission at their August 2012 meeting resolved that the Development Officers of the County will strictly enforce the Land Use Bylaw. This means that anyone who intends to undertake a non-agricultural development in the County is required to first obtain a development permit from the County. The County's Fee Bylaw states a penalty of \$1,000 for residential developments and \$2,000 for commercial developments that are started without the benefit of a development permit.

Ratepayers, the general public, contractors and developers are hereby made aware that as of November 1, 2012 the Development Authority for the County of Stettler No. 6 has adopted a zero tolerance approach to persons who start construction without the benefit of a development permit. All relevant penalties required pursuant to the County's Fee Schedule and other actions under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) for such a contravention will be strictly imposed on anyone who fails to obtain a development permit prior to construction start. This information has been made widely available and no exceptions will be made.

Please contact the Planning and Development department when you start planning your development in order to ensure you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in good time. This could also avoid any unforeseen expenses that you may incur if your idea for your development does not comply with the County's policies and bylaws (e.g. yard setbacks, road upgrades, etc.), so that you can make the necessary adjustments before you start digging or laying down concrete.

The County does not want to penalize anyone. Rather, we want to work with ratepayers to ensure the proper development approvals are issued in order to comply with municipal, provincial and federal regulations. For further information, please contact the County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.



AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is a non-profit initiative that teaches grade four students the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. CAP began in 1985 and since that time more than 570,000 students have participated in the program. This year there are already over 20,000 students signed up for CAP.

The County of Stettler is a member and supporter of CAP. CAP is provided free of charge to grade four classes across Alberta. This is possible thanks to membership support.

As a CAP member, the County of Stettler helps the organization achieve its objectives through financial support, distributing information about the program and promoting program involvement. CAP members are also a great source of program volunteers.

CAP volunteers go directly into classrooms to discuss farming and agriculture with grade four students. The volunteers all have unique presentations because each volunteer focuses on their own specialty. In the end however, they share a common message – that agriculture plays a very important role in our daily lives and in Alberta's economy.

Presentations are one hour long and include storytelling, hands-on props and fun activities. CAP provides training, resources, ideas and guidance to all volunteers. Each classroom that registers receives a package including activities booklets and a teacher kit with follow-up learning resources. The activity booklets are directed at the grade four curriculum and include fun facts and games. Presentations are delivered between February and June.

Typically it will take new volunteers about five hours to deliver their first CAP presentation, this includes training, preparation and the one hour in the classroom. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit the CAP website at www.classroomagriculture.com for more information.

CAP is dedicated to preserving and promoting agriculture. The future of this industry relies on connecting youth to agriculture and helping children understand the opportunities in, and importance of agriculture.




























This initiative is supported by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.


COUNTY CLASSROOM

Plan to attend


The County is planning a number of workshops for the spring. Please contact us if you are interested in any of the following topics:

- **Tree Talks**
These popular events are planned again for the spring. Any ratepayer who has a question about what is going on with a tree or a plant can bring it in and there is a good chance they will go away with a solution to it. You can even stick around and see what other local people bring in, just in case you might have had a similar problem at some point in time. Watch the paper and website for details.
- **Pruning Workshop**
This popular workshop is being planned again for 2014. You will learn why you prune a tree to maximize its health, beauty and productivity. Knowing which branches to cut, when to cut specific species, how to make a cut and what equipment to use will all be covered. Call us to get your name on the list for this hands-on event.
- **Drainage Workshop**
We are planning a joint workshop on land drainage with Camrose County and Alberta Environment.
- **Riparian Workshop**
Learn how to maintain and enhance your riparian areas at this local workshop. Riparian areas are natural areas where water meets the land. Proper management of these areas support water filtration, wildlife habitat, and environmental enhancement. Anyone who has these areas or is interested in their management should consider attending this workshop.
- **Water Well Workshop**
If you missed these popular workshops from a year or so back, we will be looking at one more session to help rural residents maintain and increase the longevity of their water wells. Knowing how your well has been constructed and is currently operating would be beneficial to anyone who relies on wells for their water supplies.
- **Pasture Management Workshop**
Get the most long-term productivity out of each acre of pasture by attending this workshop which will go over all aspects of forage enhancements, from fertility to weed control, rejuvenation to maintenance. Anyone who has pastures, large and small should consider coming to this meeting.
- **Pest/Disease Update**
What's in store for our crops in 2014? The best specialists will be bringing the most current information to a workshop this spring, where we will hear the latest information regarding cropping, pests, and disease prevention. Anyone growing crops or supplying inputs for crop growth should make plans to attend.

<p>Reservoir and Truck Fills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Reservoir Truck Fill  Truck Fill <p>Water lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  SSWSC *  DONALDA LINE  COUNTYLINES  BIG VALLEY LINE  FEED LINES  SHIRLEY McCLELLAN LINE 	<p>Residence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Residence  Multi-Family <p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Railway  Highway  Secondary  Highway County  Road  Other 	<p>Hydrography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  River  Lake <p>Urban Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Town  Village  Hamlet  Summer Village Provincial Park 	<p>Parcels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Ratepayers <p>Township System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Township  Section  Quarter Section  LSD
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*Starland Stettler Regional Water Services Commission *





WATER IN THE COUNTY

As many of you may have noticed, work is being done in the County right-of-way from the Water Transfer Station, a mile and a half west of the County Yard. The line runs north across Highway 12 up to Range Road 20-2, two miles past Highway 601 to Township Road 40-2, east across Highway 56 to Range Road 19-3 then north to Township Road 40-3 to Highway 850, and then north to Donalda. This is the newest water supply line in the County and is the water supply line to Donalda.

This waterline is a Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC) waterline. This waterline is a great asset to the County and gives us an opportunity to supply water to some of the County ratepayers that are close to the waterline and further. The County manages the SMRWSC line from Stettler out to Consort, from the Transfer Station to Big Valley and from the Transfer Station to Donalda.

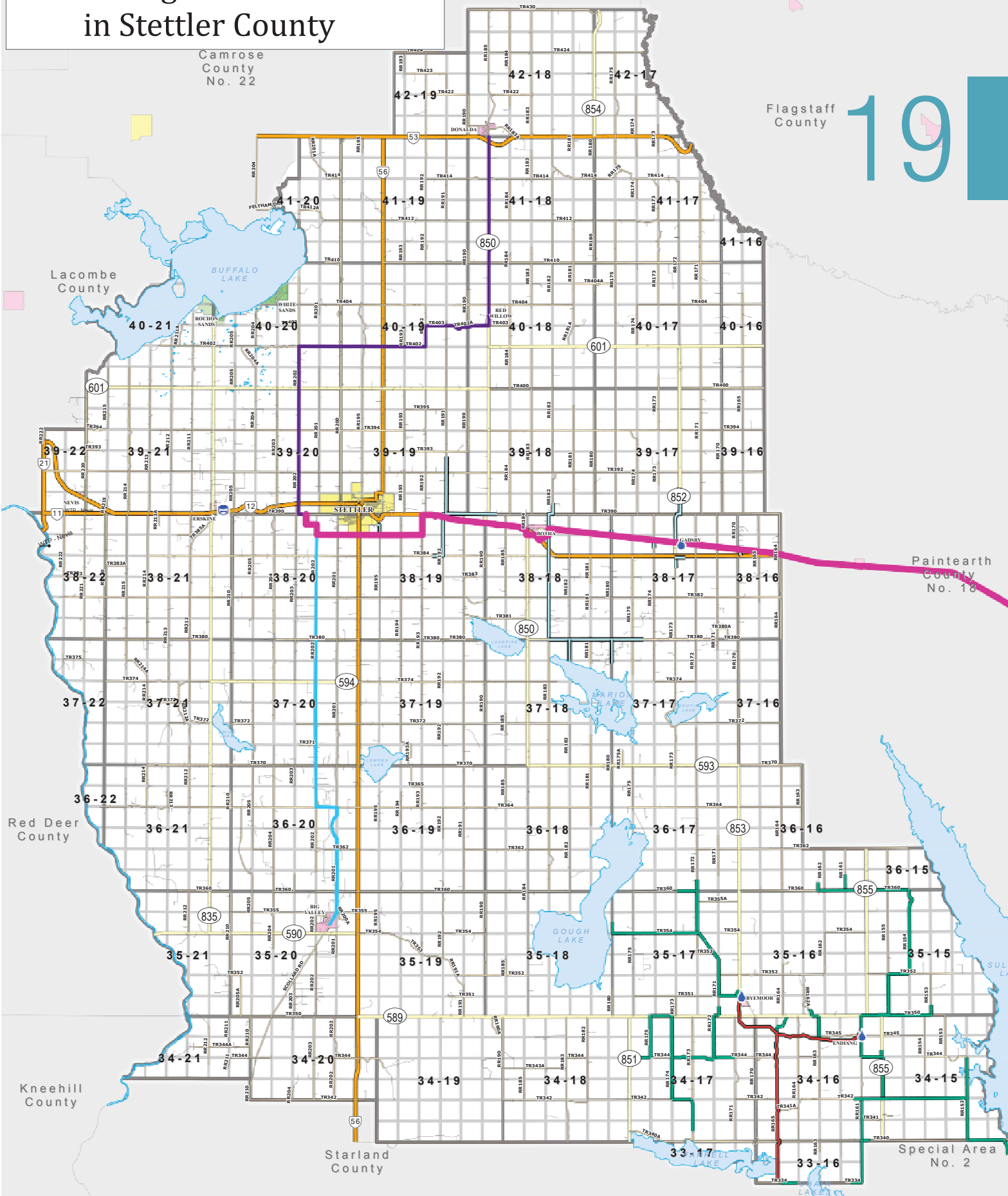
With these feed lines running through the County we will be able to supply water to Big Valley, Donalda, Gadsby, Gadsby Co-op, Willowglen Estates, the Central Phase and to a number of County ratepayers that currently have to haul water, or have poor water. None of these lines are yet complete. They are currently running from 75% to 90% complete, with clean-up being the biggest part left to be completed.

Existing Water Lines in Stettler County

Camrose County No. 22

Flagstaff County

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ROAD SIDE MOWING/ DUST BUSTERS

2014 Roadside Mowing

The County of Stettler No. 6 Public Works Department will manage the vegetation along all County roads subject to the following:

1. The County of Stettler No. 6 reserves the right to manage the vegetation along the road slopes.
2. Residents will be permitted to hay the remainder of the Road Allowance under the following conditions:
 - a) Haying must be completed by August 1 of the year the hay was cut. Bales are to be removed within 48 hours of baling.
 - b) Residents must notify the County of Stettler No. 6 Public Works Department of their intention by June 15th in writing annually, to cut the hay before commencing.

2014 Dust Control

Applications for Farmstead Dust Control will be accepted at the County Office during regular office hours ending **Friday, April 25, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.**

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

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

For further information please contact Dennis Nelson, Director of Public Works at (403) 742-4441.



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BUFFALO VIEW ESTATES

Progress Report

Construction work at Buffalo View Estates has finally come to a stop until spring conditions allow work to continue.

Over the winter, we have brought in a contractor that completed the underwater work required to construct a forebay in the center pond area. The forebay will act as a settling pond for any stormwater collected from the subdivision area, collecting pollutants from going into the lake. Work on the forebay will be completed in the spring and will include a pathway, a small retaining wall, some wetland plantings and installation of a pond aeration system.

The channel that connects the pond to the lake has also been re-constructed and fully armored as required by regulatory officials. The backwater areas behind the old channel berms have been landscaped and are ready to be seeded to grass. In addition, wetland planting will also be incorporated along a shelf below the rock armor immediately below the water surface.

Efforts to complete landscaping throughout the subdivision were stalled by an early winter. This landscaping work will continue as soon as conditions allow.

The gravel pathways will be stabilized and sealed this summer as well, to provide a better walking/biking surface.

Fencing work will commence in late February where possible, and will be completed in the spring. Fencing will be placed along pathways that lead between lots, and also surrounding the sewer tank in the parking lot.



BUFFALO LAKE DEVELOPMENT PERMITS RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Using a Recreational Vehicle as a Dwelling Unit

The County of Stettler No. 6 Land Use Bylaw provides that any landowner in any land use district may use one or more Recreational Vehicle(s) for living accommodation for a period that does not exceed 14 days, without having to obtain a development permit. If a Recreational Vehicle will be used as a dwelling unit (i.e. it will be placed on a lot and/or occupied for living accommodation for a period that exceeds 14 days), a development permit must be obtained and can only be issued if "Recreational Vehicle for use as a dwelling unit" is listed as a use in the land use district in which the parcel is located, the parcel is not yet developed with a detached dwelling or another type of dwelling unit, and the Recreational Vehicle is connected to a certified sewage disposal system.

In Buffalo Sands some lots are reserved for detached dwelling development only, while the rest of the lots in the community could be developed either with a detached dwelling or an RV. The landowner must obtain a development permit for either, and both a detached dwelling and an RV must be connected to a certified sewage disposal system.

In Rochon Sands Estates all lots may be developed either with a detached dwelling or an RV, and the landowner

must obtain a development permit for either, and both a detached dwelling and an RV must be connected to a certified sewage disposal system.

In Buffalo Lake Meadows and Buffalo View Estates all landowners with undeveloped lots may apply for a discretionary use development permit to use a Recreational Vehicle as a dwelling unit. In Buffalo Lake Meadows the development permit may be issued for a period of five years and in Buffalo View Estates the development permit will be valid for two years. In Buffalo Lake Meadows and Buffalo View Estates a landowner may re-apply for a permit each time the permit expires.

In the community of Scenic Sands only those landowners of lots that already have a development permit to use a Recreational Vehicle as a dwelling unit may continue to do so until December 31, 2016. These permits may not be renewed or re-applied for at their expiration. Once the five year period expires, these landowners will have to remove the RV's from their properties or must apply for a development permit to construct a detached dwelling on the parcel, and may then be issued a development permit to continue to stay in the RV while the house is being constructed. Typically the construction of the house must be completed within 24 months. No other lots in Scenic Sands may use an RV for a dwelling unit unless it is for the period that they are legally constructing a house (typically 24 months). The communities of Abbey Road and the Old

Bolin subdivision are fully built-out. As a result, in these communities, an RV may be used for living accommodation for a period that does not exceed 14 consecutive days (for example family visiting for a week or long weekend). It is not necessary to obtain a development permit for this use.

In the spring of 2014, the Planning and Development department will undertake a survey to determine if there are any RV's placed for longer than 14 consecutive days without the benefit of a development permit. Please note that this includes the "storage" of an RV on an undeveloped lot, even if the RV is not occupied for more than 14 consecutive days.

If in the past you have obtained a gas permit, plumbing permit or electrical permit under the Safety Codes Act for an RV at the lake but you never actually obtained a development permit, you should expect a letter from the County sometime after spring that will explain the process of obtaining a development permit and the consequences of not doing so.

The County of Stettler No. 6 and the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and White Sands will be working together in 2014 to align their regulations for RV's as much as practically possible. For further information, please contact the County's Planning & Development Department at 403-742-4441.

SETBACKS

Reminder

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.



SHELTERBELTS

Trees continue to be an important part of environmental enhancement in the County, despite the end of the Federal shelterbelt program. The County has partnered with Marketland out of Bowden Nurseries to provide trees for 2014 shelterbelt plantings. If you are reading this before March 28th, you will still be able to take advantage of this user-pay program, but hurry in, as supplies are limited.

In case you are still wondering why shelterbelts are necessary, here are some facts and figures from across Canada on the benefits of planting farm shelterbelts:

- In a University of Manitoba publication, they estimate an increase in crop yields of up to 45% due to greater snow trapping, crop protection, and wind reduction.
- An Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) study indicates a reduction in farm building heating and cooling costs by as much as 25-35%.

- That same study from OMAFRA indicates a similar impact in livestock performance, due to reductions in impacts due to snow, wind and cold. The exact impact in improvement is hard to quantify due to the complexity of all the factors, but is usually significant in most years.
- Properly placed shelterbelts are shown in this same study to significantly improve snow deposition, reducing time and costs due to snowplowing.

These facts and figures are augmented by the increase in property value as a result of well-placed mature farmstead trees and shelterbelts. For information on planning tree plantings, contact the County office. And do stop by if you need to get some more shelterbelt trees, but **do so before March 28th this year.**



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Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed are to come in and complete the Herbicide Spray Exemption form prior to May 15, 2014.

WEED & BRUSH CONTROL

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting Roadside Vegetation Control along County roadside ditches beginning May 19, 2014, as per our Vegetation Management Policy, spraying on roadsides is done under the authority of Alberta's Weed Control Act.

Stettler County is required to control the weeds in the roadside just like any other landowner is on privately owned land. As well, in the public interest of safety, brush control is performed to increase the sightlines on roadways and intersections. With this, costs of maintaining these open roadways are reduced where brush and trees are managed properly as it makes snow removal easier and allows roads to dry out quicker after precipitation falls. We will concentrate our vegetation control program in the northern third of the County (Township Road 400 (or highway 601) to the Camrose County Border).

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

vegetation will be omitted unless weed populations warrant spraying.

Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed are to complete the Herbicide Spray Exemption form. This form must be completed at the County office **prior to May 15, 2014.**

Ratepayers who do not wish to have roadsides adjacent to their property sprayed are responsible for control of noxious, prohibited noxious weeds and brush on roadsides adjacent to their properties. If the weed problem is not controlled by July 15, 2014, the County of Stettler will void any agreement made with landowner and use any control method deemed necessary to control any weeds.

No phone requests for spray exemptions will be accepted. These forms are to be renewed each year. For more information on the specific weed control products we will be using, or any other questions about this or any other Agricultural Service Board program, you may contact the Director of Agricultural Services Quinton Beaumont 403-742-4441.



BE PREPARED EMERGENCY PLANNING

How many of us are truly prepared for when Emergency or Disaster strikes? I for one, am not and upon examining my 'why nots' here's what I came up with:

- a) I really don't think it's going to happen to me (classic 'not in my backyard').
- b) If something did happen...I'd make due.
- c) My neighbors are super organized...see where I'm going here?
- d) What does a person really need...I probably can find it.

So after examining these reasons, I was able to see the error in my ways:

- a) No one thinks it's going to happen to them. Did the campers in Kananaskis think they'd be cut off from the world for a week or two by floods, when they went on a simple weekend get-away? I don't think so.
- b) Make do? A grass fire is headed at your farm at an alarming speed, and you have livestock and pets...do you want to 'make do' right now?
- c) A good strategy for handling disaster is not to 'rely on your neighbor' - in Slave Lake for example, they were all in trouble at the same time.
- d) Have you ever come home to no power, thus no well/water. You may only dehydrated a 'little' but don't you wish you'd had a jug of SOMETHING to flush those toilets with on day two! Sure, you got by, but things could have smelled a whole lot rosier. And what if it had been a summer heat wave - how would you provide water to the livestock?

And finally, the number one big reason most of us have never bothered to prepare for a disaster...drumroll...what could possibly happen in Central Alberta. Dissecting this thought, you might realize, that a 'Disaster' or an 'Emergency' could be so many different things. And depending on how you're prepared - a simple little 'Emergency' can turn into a 'Disaster' rather quickly. So here's a list of what could constitute an 'emergency' in our neck of the woods. Surprisingly, it's rather long: Grass Fire, Fire, Snowstorm, Electrical Failure, Tornados, Intense Cold/Extreme Heat, Hail, Flood, Earth Quake.

Who knew Stettler County could be so dangerous?

Apparently it could happen to me, or you. So if you haven't yet, join me this spring in actually joining the 'pre-planners', and 'prepared' people of Stettler County. Everyone who submits their emergency provision list or idea for their emergency kit online at www.stettlercounty.ca will be entered for a draw for one fuzzy, warm, County blanket...it will help keep you warm until help arrives!

Come on Stettler County - let's get prepared!

Always Be Prepared Contest

*Join us, from now until April 30, 2014,
in making YOUR personal Emergency
Preparedness Plan and
Provision Pack.*

*Submit your ideas for a good plan, or
what you put in your kit, at
www.stettlercounty.ca.*

*Everyone who joins our conversation
will be entered in a draw to win a
County of Stettler Blanket to add
to their kit!
Always Be Prepared!*

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Make a Plan

Do you know where to turn off the gas and electricity in your house? How about your water? Does everyone in your house know? Wouldn't it be easy to draw a map and a list of these tasks and post it where everyone could find it?

How are you going to provide for, or move your livestock? Go ahead, make a phone call, make some plans for them.

If a fire were headed your way, not unlike what happened in Slave Lake, how would you evacuate your family - your farm, your animals.

Where's your family's SAFE place. Again, make a map, practice a drill with your kids. Where should they go in the event of a tornado or a severe storm? Practice it. What if you're outside, far from the house. Where would they run for safety. Again, practice it, plan it, post a sign!

They say those who survive the best, have a tried, tested and true ACTION PLAN. Write one down so you don't have to rethink everything, you can just jump to action. The Canadian Red Cross has lots of tips. Check out their website at www.redcross.ca.

Emergency Provisions

Here's the basics, to survive a good Alberta Snowstorm

- One liter of water per person per day
- Canned Food
- Crackers, Cereal, Pasta
- Peanut Butter, Tea, Coffee, Sugar, Juice, Instant Soup
- Dried Fruit and Vegetables

* Extras: Generator, Extension Cords, Extra Gas or Diesel

Make A Kit

Here are the very basics:

- Flashlight (wind-up, or extra batteries required!)
- Portable radio (it's good to know what's going on)
- First Aid Kit
- Pocket Knife
- Extra set of Car Keys
- ID (copies of it), Insurance papers(copies)
- Spare Clothes for everyone
- Warm Blankets
- Bottled Water
- Non-parishable Food

Did you know?

In the event that you 'evacuate' your home, you should leave a note on your table for first responders, so they can account for your whereabouts?

Save a Tree

Sign up for e-versions of County Connection magazine by contacting Niki at nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca or by calling 403-742-4441. It's also available on our new website at www.stettlercounty.ca.



A SCHOOL NEAR YOU

Our January Council meeting was livened up by a student visit from the Christ King Catholic School. Several students buddied up with our Councillor's at the Council Table, and had a bird's eye view of Council proceedings. The students were able to observe Council in session, and then ask their Councillors some questions! Afterwards, students had a tour of the facilities and learned about different departments and jobs at the County of Stettler.

To top off the morning, Council invited the students to join them for a pizza lunch, where the students were divided into teams for a lively rendition of 'Pin the Councillor to the Ward', an activity aimed to help the students identify the new Council, along with the Wards in Stettler County.

Thank you Christ King Catholic School for bringing your classroom to our office! If your children are in grade six, or studying municipal government, and you would like to arrange a visit call the County Office and ask for Niki at (403) 742-4441. We'd love to have you!

RECREATION BOARD FUNDING

The Recreation Special Project funding was established in 2006 in order to set aside funds to help with the construction or 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.

Any community groups, associations, or non-profit societies located outside of the Town of Stettler but inside the County of Stettler and properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society are eligible to apply for funding providing they have been in existence for at least two years by the October 31st deadline.

Application forms are available at the County of Stettler office and the submission deadline is October 31st annually. The successful applicants that were awarded R.S.P.F. monies for 2013/2014 are as follows:

Donalda Parent Council-New Playground	\$21,000.00
Linda Hall-Community Hall Renovations	\$ 8,840.95
Byemoor Community Club-Community Hall Washroom Renovations	\$ 8,400.00
Sullivan Lake West Ag Society-Shale for Baseball Diamonds	\$ 3,480.00
Erskine Curling Club-Roof Renovation	\$10,000.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Big Valley Events

June 7, 2014

Las Vegas Theme dinner, dance, silent and live auction fundraiser for the Big Valley Historical Society's new Tool Museum project. It is to be held at the Big Valley Arena and features music by Cat Country Cougar Hunters. Tickets are \$100.00 and include a stainless steel suitcase full of high quality poker chips, cards and dice. This set normally retails for \$100.00 and is yours to keep. Phone Lois at 403-741-5522 for more information or to purchase tickets.

July 19 & 20, 2014

Come to Big Valley for the annual live Steam and Vintage Car Show. See steam model equipment running on steam, and vintage cars on display. No admission fee.

Big Valley Centennial Celebrations

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

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is a viral disease causing vomiting, diarrhea, and high death loss in pigs, affecting indoor and outdoor hog operations, including wild boar. This disease cannot be transmitted to humans, nor is it a food safety risk. PED is a virus that causes extreme diarrhea in nursing piglets. This disease does not affect mature pigs (sows, and boars) but they can be carriers for future litters.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, first identified in the United States in May of 2013, has now spread to 25 states including Montana and has also been found in Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

For more information about this deadly disease, go to www.stettlercounty.ca or www.albertapork.com.



Finances

The approved 2014 Budget is available on our new website @ www.stettlercounty.ca. In addition 2013 County Financial Statements will be available in March or April - stay tuned to our website at www.stettlercounty.ca

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Red Willow Ag Society Mother's Day Fundraiser

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, May 11, 2014
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
First 50 Moms receive Carnations!

County Representative Needed

The Buffalo Lake Management Team is seeking a County representative for their committee. If you have an interest in Buffalo Lake, contact Pud Stevenson @ ontarget@explornet.com.



Thank you

The Stettler Community Hamper Society would like to sincerely thank everyone for their donations to this year's Christmas Hamper Campaign. It is because of such support that our society is able to provide a more joyful holiday season to those less fortunate in our community.

Botha Community Breakfast

Mother's Day Breakfast @ Botha Community Hall on Sunday, May 11, 2014 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Hash Brown Casserole, Sausage, Eggs, Pancakes & Fruit

Outdoor Soccer Program will commence in early May at the Botha School.

Linda Hall Spring Dance Saturday, April 12, 2014

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.
Beef on a Bun 6:00 p.m.
Dance: 7:00 p.m.

There will be a silent auction with proceeds going to the restoration of the Estonian Log House at the museum and to the renovations at the Linda Hall.

Cost: \$10.00/person or \$25.00/family



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