

Summer 2014

# Stettler County Connection

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# HIDDEN GEMS OF STETTLER COUNTY

## PHEASANTBACK Golf Club & RV Estates

The Pheasant is BACK!

New Ownership, New Management, New Attitude.

Pheasantback's Clubhouse is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Come enjoy a meal before or after a round - or just come to enjoy the scenery. Their menu will continue to grow so keep going back to check out what they have to offer.

Friday and Saturday nights they will have a buffet style supper as well as a breakfast buffet on Sunday mornings until 11:00 AM.

For any inquiries or tee times, give Pheasantback a call at 1-403-742-GOLF (4653) or visit their website at [pheasantbackgolfclub.com](http://pheasantbackgolfclub.com).

They're just a short DRIVE away - and we're happy to have them back, entertaining in Stettler County.



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# INTRO

And we're off!

It seems to me we wait and wait and wait for the snow to melt, winter to subside and the buds to come out - and then we scramble. There's always so much work to do at the farm, in the yard, and around the County once the snow melts. Because we all realize our summer has a definite beginning and an absolute end, when spring hits it always feels like everyone goes into fast-forward and overdrive.

Public Works is never sure if they'll be pushing gravel or snow from one day to the next. Ice melts and culverts are quickly being thawed by a busy Public Works department, anxious to avoid any flooding and damage to our great network of roads.

Planning and Development is hopping - our building season is a short one and folks wishing to build have serious deadlines.

Agricultural Services is on high alert - combing the County for noxious weeds, helping farmers with beaver damn and pest issues, plus mowing, spraying, planting and praying for a good growing season.

Promises of summer are beginning to appear, and with that we ask you to make a promise as well - to slow down, play safe and enjoy all the small moments of this sometimes too-short season. Drive carefully on our County roads, watch out for crews working hard to get all the summer jobs done...while its still summer. Be careful on our lakes, rivers and streams, and also on your ATVs. We've just completed some Safety Courses here at the County, and pride ourselves on a fairly incident free safety record. Slow Down - Play Safe Stettler County.

Sincerely,

Niki Thorsteinsson

# Stettler County Connection

**Summer 2014**

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“

*Apart from our regular road maintenance and road-side mowing, we have some new road construction planned, some gravel pits opened, some gravel pits reclaimed, about 450 miles of graveling, plus some paving and dust proofing projects.*

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## REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Maybe it's the farmer in me but I am optimistic about the upcoming season.

We don't always seed into moisture like we have this spring and judging by the sloughs and puddles we are farming around, the water table seems relatively high. Anyway here's hoping for another good crop.

At the County of Stettler we are also optimistic about the ambitious projects we have planned this year. Apart from our regular road maintenance and road-side mowing, we have some new road construction planned, some gravel pits opened, some gravel pits reclaimed, about 450 miles of graveling, plus some paving and dust proofing projects.

We have ongoing projects at Buffalo Lake involving the marina and other work at the various lake subdivisions. There will also be some rural water connections made this summer.

Due to the decision by the Provincial Government not to fund the Bridge Grant Program, the County has had to take funds out of reserves to rebuild

the bridge north of Donalda and the bridge north west of Gadsby.

County forces will be replacing a structure near Big Valley this summer. The Bridge Grant Program is still a line item in the Provincial budget but, it has not been funded for the last budget and will likely not be funded for the next year or so. This certainly puts a strain on our County of Stettler budget as many of our bridges are 50-plus years old.

The Agricultural Service Board will also have a busy season with their roadside spraying and the next phase of Absinthe Wormwood control. They will be checking for Diamondback Moths, Bertha Army Worms, and other pests as well as doing comprehensive field sampling for Clubroot.

As you can see we, at the County, have a busy season planned so if you see our staff out and about give them a wave to let them know they are appreciated.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

W. Nixon

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Presenting

# Emerson Drive

## STEEL WHEEL STAMPEDE

Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31st are the official dates of the 2014 Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede, but in true Stettler fashion activities will be hosted in and around town all weekend long.

A change in format has two rodeo performances scheduled. The first performance will be Saturday, August 30 at 5:00 p.m. and the second and final performance begins Sunday, August 31 at 3:00 p.m.

Here are a few more activities planned for the weekend:

**Friday, August 29th:**

Alberta Treasury Branch BBQ

**Saturday, August 30th:**

|           |                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 9-11 a.m. | Main Street Pancake Breakfast |
| 11 a.m.   | Steel Wheel Stampede Parade   |
| TBA       | Rib Cook-off                  |
|           | Vendor Market                 |
| 5 p.m.    | Rodeo Performance             |
| 9:30 p.m. | Emerson Drive                 |

**Sunday, August 31st:**

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 9 - 11 a.m. | Town & County Pancake Breakfast |
| 9 a.m.      | Slack                           |
|             | Cowboy Church                   |
|             | Vendor Market                   |
| 3 p.m.      | Rodeo Performance               |

The Stettler Steel Wheel committee was excited to announce the entertainment for the 6th Annual Steel Wheel Stampede. Playing Stettler for the first time is Canadian Country Music Band...Emerson Drive.

Tickets for the Saturday evening performance went on sale at Q93.3 FM Radio Station, Stettler Board of Trade and the Stettler Ag Society on May 23 for \$40 each. After June 30, ticket prices increase to \$60 per ticket. Tickets purchased prior to June 30 will give purchasers a chance to win a meet and greet with the band.

Once again, the Steel Wheel Committee is challenging local businesses to a Steel Wheel Stampede Spirit Challenge. Recognize this important community event by dressing up yourself and your business from August 26-September 2, 2014.

Accept the challenge - we are.

Other events to watch for at the Stettler Ag Society this summer are:

[RCMP Musical Ride](#) - July 22 with the Keister Family Fiddlers as the opening act

[The Country Music Legends](#) - October 24, 2014

[Stettler Junior Rodeo Series](#) is being put on by Christine Ross with barrels, pole goat tying, breakaway and team roping for kids ages 6-14. This was a popular event last year and this year the dates are July 8, 15, 22 and August 19 and 26. For more info you can call Christine at 403-740-5059.

The Ag Society will have a new website within the next month or you can follow them on facebook at Stettler District Agriculture Society or call 403-742-6288 for upcoming events.

It is a hopping place with activities for all ages to enjoy.



# VOLUNTEERS-SPONSORS

As the days to the Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede get closer, so does the need for volunteers and sponsors for the big event. In a small, close community like ours, it seems like everyone chips in. We would like to thank and recognize all of our County volunteers, who continually raise their hands to put together great events including the Stettler rodeo, in addition to all of our village and hamlet events that are happening throughout the year.

If you haven't already volunteered, I know the Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede is always looking for help. You can call the County and we'll get you to the right committee.

As well, we would like to recognize two very important sponsors who were missed in our last publication, who step up year after year to sponsor the County of Stettler No. 6 Community Service Awards. Awards recognize our County residents who never tire of 'raising their hands' to help.

Thank you to the Royal Bank, who sponsored our 2014 Big Valley Agricultural Society Community Service

Award. The winner of this award for 2014 was Larry Meyer.

In addition, we missed recognizing TD Canada Trust, and representative Scott McKenzie who represented the bank in awarding Russ and Linda Kobi with the Sullivan Lake West Agricultural Society Community Service Award.

It is because of sponsors like these, and volunteers like you, that our County is such a fantastic place to live, work and play.

***Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.***

***Elizabeth Andrew***

Our annual County of Stettler Community Service Awards sponsors are: Alberta Treasury Branch; ATCO Electric; Battle River Credit Union; Royal Bank of Canada; Scotiabank; Stettler Dodge; and TD Canada Trust.

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## LIVESTOCK AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Who cares about the environment?

Recycling our garbage, planting trees and cleaning up rivers and roads are all great examples of people showing they care for our environment. What about farmers? Farmers have always depended on Mother Nature. Farmers are the original environmentalists. Their land, animals and businesses depend upon it.

### Plants, Animals and the Environment

All farmers depend on the environment for success. Plants need good quality soil, nutrients and the right mix of sun, rain and temperatures to grow. Plants absorb air pollutants and gases like carbon dioxide through their leaves and roots converting them into oxygen and fresh air. Animals depend on the plants for food and provide manure to fertilize the next crop and the cycle continues. It's called the nutrient cycle. What about people? We depend on plants and animals for food and plants for fresh air too!

### The Scoop on Poop

Manure is the original fertilizer. Manure helps build up soil with organic matter which helps hold water and nutrients. Manure provides some of the nutrients which plants and many helpful soil organisms need to grow.

The main nutrients in manure are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Plants need N to be green and healthy, P for healthy roots, and K for protection from wilting, disease, cold and dryness. The next time you see a bag of fertilizer in the store, check for three numbers (e.g. 5-10-15). Those numbers stand for the amount of N-P and K in that fertilizer. Farmers can send manure samples to be tested in a laboratory to find out exactly what nutrients are in it.

For more information visit Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. [www.agriculture.ab.ca/aopa](http://www.agriculture.ab.ca/aopa)  
[www.agriculture.ab.ca/manure](http://www.agriculture.ab.ca/manure).



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## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

# QUAGGA MUSSELS AND ZEBRA MUSSELS

### Quagga and Zebra Mussels concerns on the rise.

Quagga and zebra mussels are a great concern, threatening Alberta lakes and rivers. We support a variety of fish populations in our lakes and rivers. These systems are being threatened by the introduction of aquatic invasive species. These invaders come from outside Alberta or are transferred between water bodies within Alberta. In 2013, there were three inspection stations in the southern part of Alberta, and last summer eight boats were stopped that contained zebra and/or quagga mussels on them. They are getting closer all the time. We need to be diligent on how well we are cleaning our boat if we want to keep Alberta's lakes pristine. Agricultural Services is doing some monitoring at Buffalo Lake on behalf of the province.

This year, the Aquatic Invasive Species Program will have four inspection locations and a handful of provincial parks will be checking boats as well.

### We need your help.

It's up to you to help us out. Wash your boats and motors. This fall when you start pulling out your docks, we would like you to call us first and arrange for us to be there when you do. This would assist us as we can take samples off of your docks looking for invasive species in our waters.

Remember our slogan.... CLEAN DRAIN DRY.

That's all it takes to keep us looking great and enjoying our waters pest free.

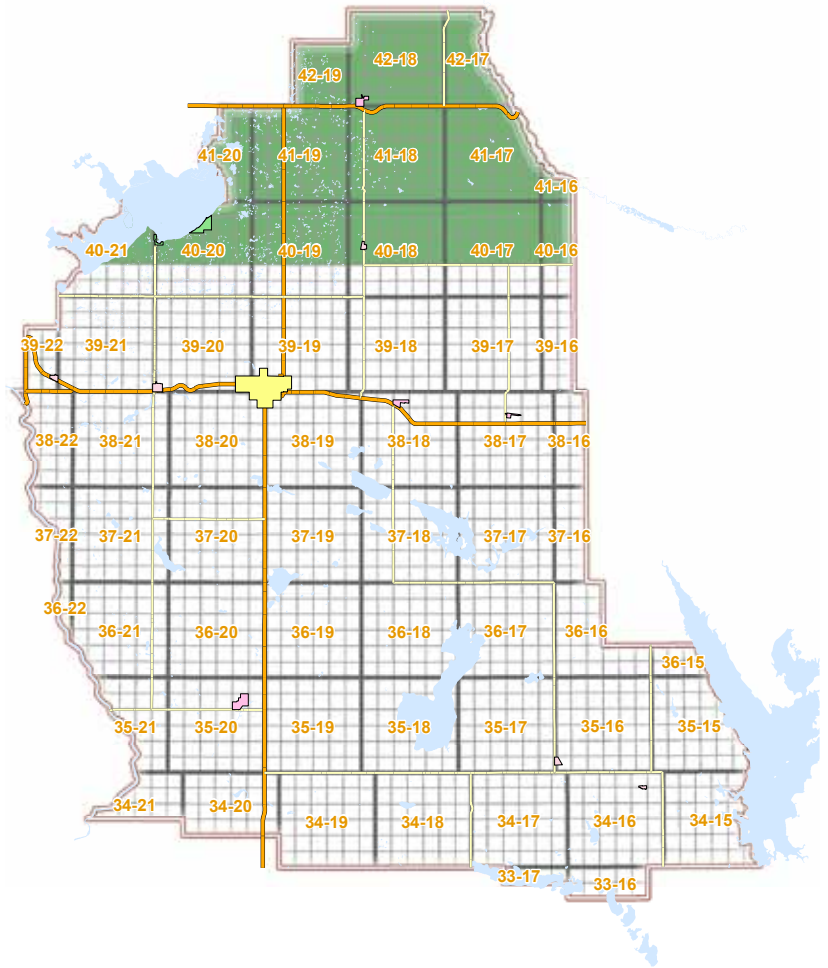
If you have any concerns, questions, or advice please call the Agricultural Services Board at 403-742-4441.

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Each year, we spray a third of the County of Stettler's ditches.

In 2014, we will be spraying the north portion of the County. This covers all the roads north of Highway 601 to the County Border. In this area, we go from the west border of the County to the east border.

In 2013, it was the middle portion of the County that was sprayed, and next year, it will be the south portion.



## WEED CONTROL

Weeds and other vegetation like to make their home along roadsides. There are a number of reasons to control this roadside vegetation: motorist safety and line of sight, proper drainage of precipitation, road surface erosion, ease of snow removal, and preventing the spread of invasive species onto adjacent properties.

It is essential that vegetation does not block traffic signs or roadside markers. Because vegetation can obstruct driver vision at intersections or block the line of sight around curves, it must be treated and controlled - and roadside herbicides play a vital role.

It is especially important that traffic signs can be seen in poor conditions to ensure motorist safety. Excessive vegetation also can damage roadbeds by creating erosion, potholes, and flooding due to improper road drainage off the surface and other hazards.

Broadleaf Control

On our roadside, we are using a product called Clearview. Specifically in the County this is generally to control:

- Absinthe Wormwood
- Scentless Chamomile
- Sweet Clover
- Canada Thistle
- Goats Beard
- Common Tansy
- Woody Species

Also on our roadside, we are using Garlon XRT. This is used for woody species such as:

- Poplar trees
- Willow
- Buck brush
- Wolfberry

For hard to control plants like Yellow Toadflax, we use Tordon 22K for spot applications only, meaning we only spray a very small area.

## Are the herbicides safe? The short answer is: absolutely safe.

*The herbicides used today are by far the safest we have ever used; both on agricultural lands and on the roadside. All products that are on the market, whether it is used on agricultural lands, oil well sites, acreages, or in your back yard inside town limits, have been put through rigorous tests, and have to meet the requirements of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). This is a standard that is followed across the country, so the products that are used in Ontario are held to the same requirements that are used here in Alberta.*

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*At the County, we also follow Alberta Environment and the Industrial Vegetation Management Association (IVMA) standards. This requires us to adhere to rules such as where we can and cannot apply herbicides.*

### How safe is “safe”?

*The measure for a chemical’s toxicity is how much of it is required to kill 50% of a population of lab rats.*

*We use Clearview, Garlon XRT, Tordon 22K, and Milestone. Compared to these chemicals:*

- *Caffeine is 26 times more harmful*
- *Nicotine is 21 times more harmful*
- *Asprin is 5 times more harmful*
- *Vitamin A is twice as harmful*
- *Table Salt is 1.6 times more harmful*

*Clearview is what is being used on the roadside for weed spraying, Garlon XRT for woody species, Tordon 22K is what is used on the ‘hard to control weeds’ like Yellow Toadflax (very little across the County), and Milestone is what we use when doing control work on the shores of Red Deer and Battle Rivers.*

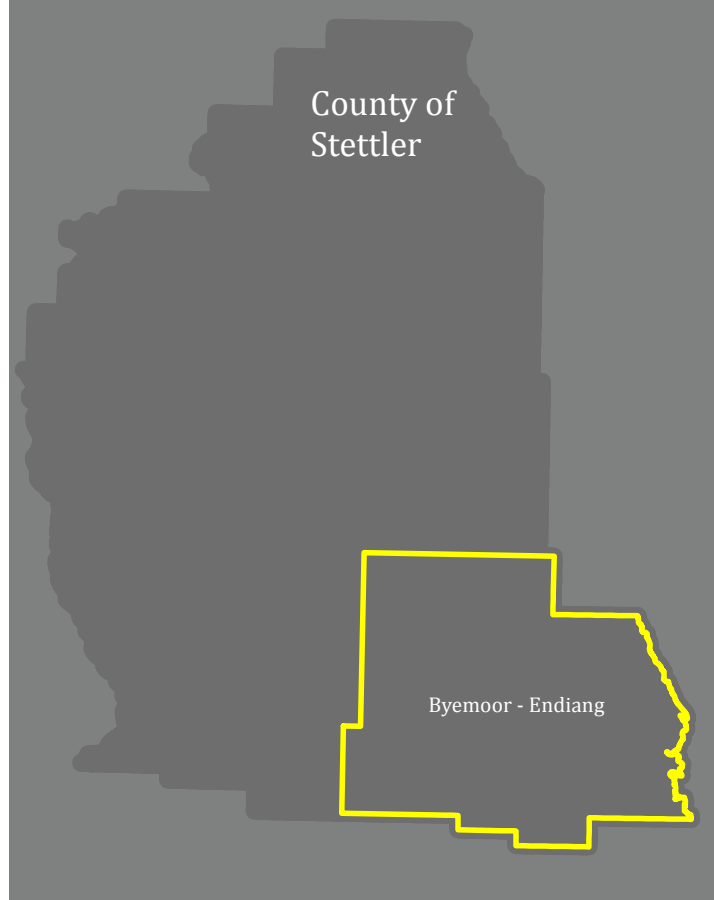
We follow Alberta Environment and the Industrial Vegetation Management Association (IVMA) standards. This requires us to adhere to rules such as where we can and cannot apply herbicides.

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.

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.

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 a few 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 so feel free to stop by and we can give you a hand, or call us 403-742-4441.



## WARD FOCUS

I am pleased to be back working for the people in the Byemoor – Endiang Ward as their representative at County Council. It's my goal to work with my fellow councillors and administration team to make the County of Stettler a wonderful place to live, work and play and at the end of the day if I can contribute to the betterment of this County, even in a small way, I will be satisfied.

When we stand back and view the big picture globally we can consider ourselves as Canadians, Albertans and residents of the County of Stettler so incredibly fortunate for all we have. Many in the world would give anything to have a fraction of what we have. We may complain about a pothole in a road – in some countries they would be happy to even have a road. It is like the fellow who was complaining his shoes were old, until he saw a guy with no feet. So we should never lose sight of perspectives, for “the more we have, the more we want” is just human nature. That being said, if there is room for improvement and if a tweak here or there can make life better, it is worth investigating — as long as we can fit the wishes within the budget constraints we have to work with.

The Byemoor – Endiang Ward is unique and vast,

one of the largest in the County. Its location is the most distant from the County Administrative seat in Stettler as well. It borders with three other municipalities — County of Paintearth, Special Areas No. 2 and Starland County. It is unique that within the ward itself there are at least seven different telephone exchanges, which defines its vastness.

The hamlets of Byemoor and Endiang are located in the ward, as the name suggests. For the history buffs, the ward also includes the former hamlets of Leo and Hackett and the early locales of Hartshorn and Wolf Hill and extends to within a half-mile of Scapa.

There are challenges and rewards to living a distance away from major centres. The challenges are obvious, but the rewards are a sense of community and the spirit to work together for the common good of all. It is a quiet and safe environment where you know your neighbors and life is good.

I am very pleased with a recent motion that was passed at County Council which will make the County more user-friendly when it comes to people moving into our County and building their homes. They will no longer have to pay to upgrade a road or



Councillor Les Stulberg with his wife Rosemary.

erect signage if they build on an existing County road that is serving other residences already.

I feel this is a more welcoming approach and says, "Come on in — we are open for business!"

I believe it is important for the actions of County Council to encourage growth — of both population and economic development that has the potential of job growth so our young people do not all have to leave the community. There should be good opportunities for them to live in our County and raise their families here, now and in the years to come.

The County has strived to improve all communities within its borders and the installation of sewer and water in the hamlets of Byemoor and Endiang and the rural water distribution and recreation funding are just examples of the commitment the County has exercised to make these communities more sustainable.

Roads are always a high priority in any rural area and I am pleased to see a maintenance plan that strives to improve the crown on roads and cut the high shoulders down to allow for better drainage. Securing good quality gravel and applying it in enough

quantity will ensure better road quality and safety. Thanks to our administration and department staff and the grader operators for their valued contributions to the road program that we use on a daily basis.

I hope in the coming years we can continue to work together to make improvements to the roads to make them safer and easier to travel as people carry out their various forms of livelihood within our County.

I am proud to have lived in the County of Stettler my entire life and my wife Rosemary and I are celebrating 35 years of married life in this community. It has, and always will have, a special place in our hearts.

My ward of Byemoor – Endiang, and the County of Stettler as a whole, are important to me and I am always available to ratepayers to hear your views, be they beefs or bouquets, and look forward to the journey of this term. I am confident our County has the council-administration-staff team to make this great County even better. No doubt there will be challenges, but the rewards always out-weigh the challenges.



# OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND THE COUNTY

With the summer months approaching, everyone will be eager to get their off highway vehicles (OHV) out to enjoy. The use of OHV's is permitted on County roadways but are subject to certain conditions.

Although golf carts are sometimes the preferred mode of transportation in recreation areas, they are considered a prohibited vehicle and cannot be operated on roadways under any circumstances. The most common excuses for non-compliance is 'we've been doing this for years,' or 'it's OK...we're at the lake'. Unfortunately, these are just that...excuses. Operating your OHV contrary to the General Traffic Bylaw can result in prosecution with a specified penalty of \$100.00. The following section is listed in our Bylaw:

16. Anyone may operate an off-highway vehicle on a highway that is maintained by the County, subject however to the following conditions:

- (1) Operators of off-highway vehicles on County highways shall travel on the extreme right-hand side of the road or in the ditch, in the same direction as the motoring public and shall travel single file at all times.
- (2) The maximum speed at which off-highway vehicles are permitted to travel on County highways is 30 kilometers per hour.
- (3) Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the provisions of the Off-Highway Vehicle Act and

the Traffic Safety Act and its regulations shall apply to the operation of off-highway vehicles on County highways.

- (4) Operators of off-highway vehicles within all residential areas in the County shall use the highways of the County within the said residential areas only to leave and return to the residential area by the shortest route possible to their residence.
- (5) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle on any schoolyard or any posted recreation grounds within the County.
- (6) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle unless the said operator is wearing a safety helmet securely attached on his or her head.
- (7) No person shall ride as a passenger on an off-highway vehicle unless the said person is wearing a safety helmet securely attached on his or her head.
- (8) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle on any County highway where signs prohibit.
- (9) No person shall operate an off-highway vehicle within the territorial limits of any Hamlet within the County at a speed in excess of 15 kilometers per hour.
- (10) No person shall allow an off-highway vehicle to be left running and unattended.
- (11) Persons operating properly registered and insured off-highway vehicles are exempt from Subsections (1) and (2) while engaged in controlling the movement of livestock along a road which is subject to the direction, control, and management of the County.



# GRAVEL PROGRAM

## THE PLAN AHEAD

After that long winter it is finally starting to warm up. We love the longer, warmer days and the opportunity to get outside more. With the change in season, Public Works starts the 2014 gravel program.

The County of Stettler has approximately 1,470 miles of road that are graveled on a rotational basis. In 2013 the County and contractors graveled 390 miles of road, in addition to other maintenance requests on portions of roads. In 2014 the gravel program will entail 431 miles, in addition to maintenance requests on portions of roads.

Gravel is a major portion of the County's annual budget. The County estimates 374 tonnes of gravel per mile for each mile of road on the program.

The map on the following page indicates the proposed miles we will complete for 2014. Please note as crews work their way around the County completing the program, upon visual inspection, miles may be deleted and added.

Please check out the Gravel Program map on the following page. It outlines in red the proposed roads we will gravel this year.

# 2014 County of Stettler Gravel Program

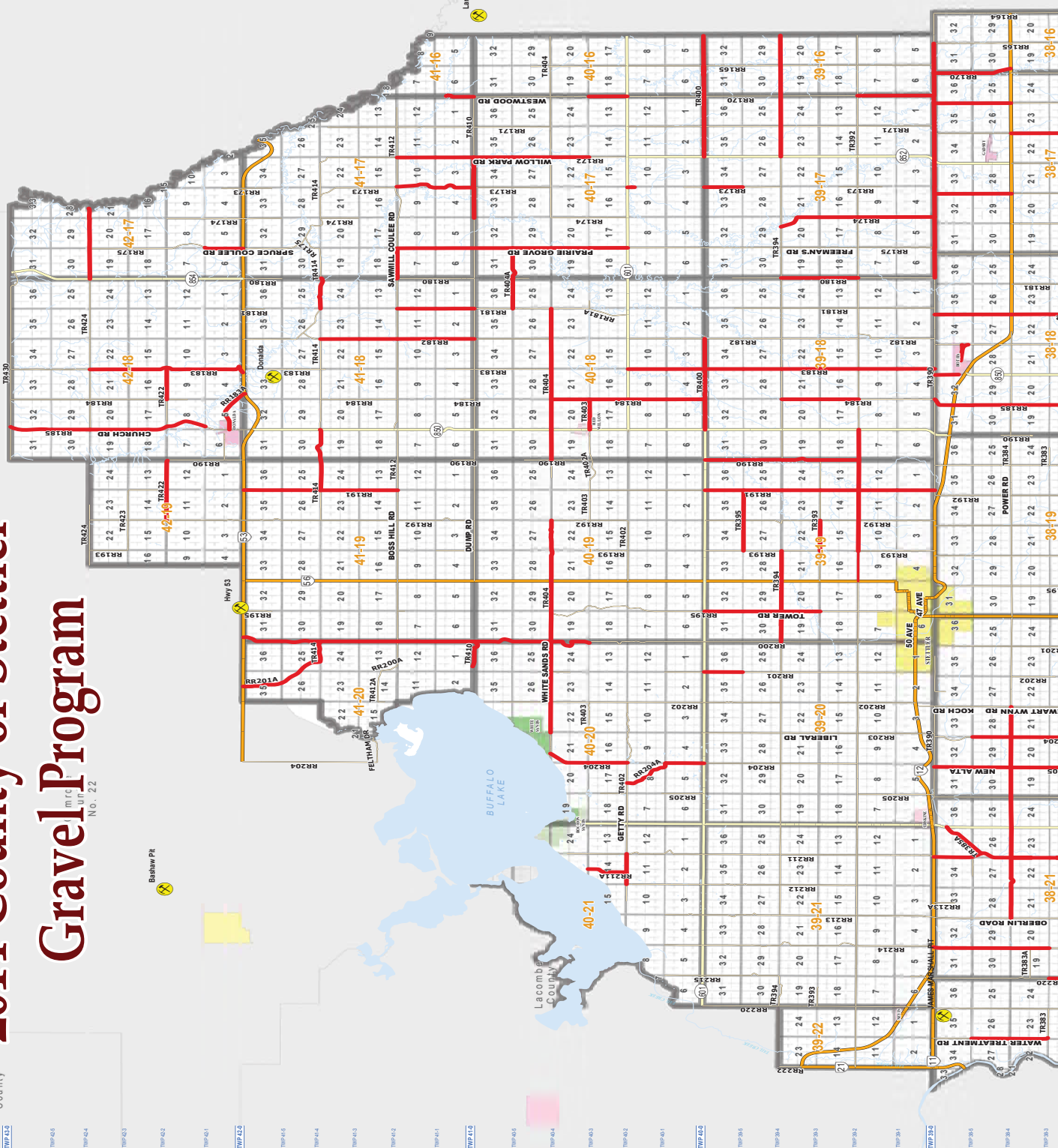
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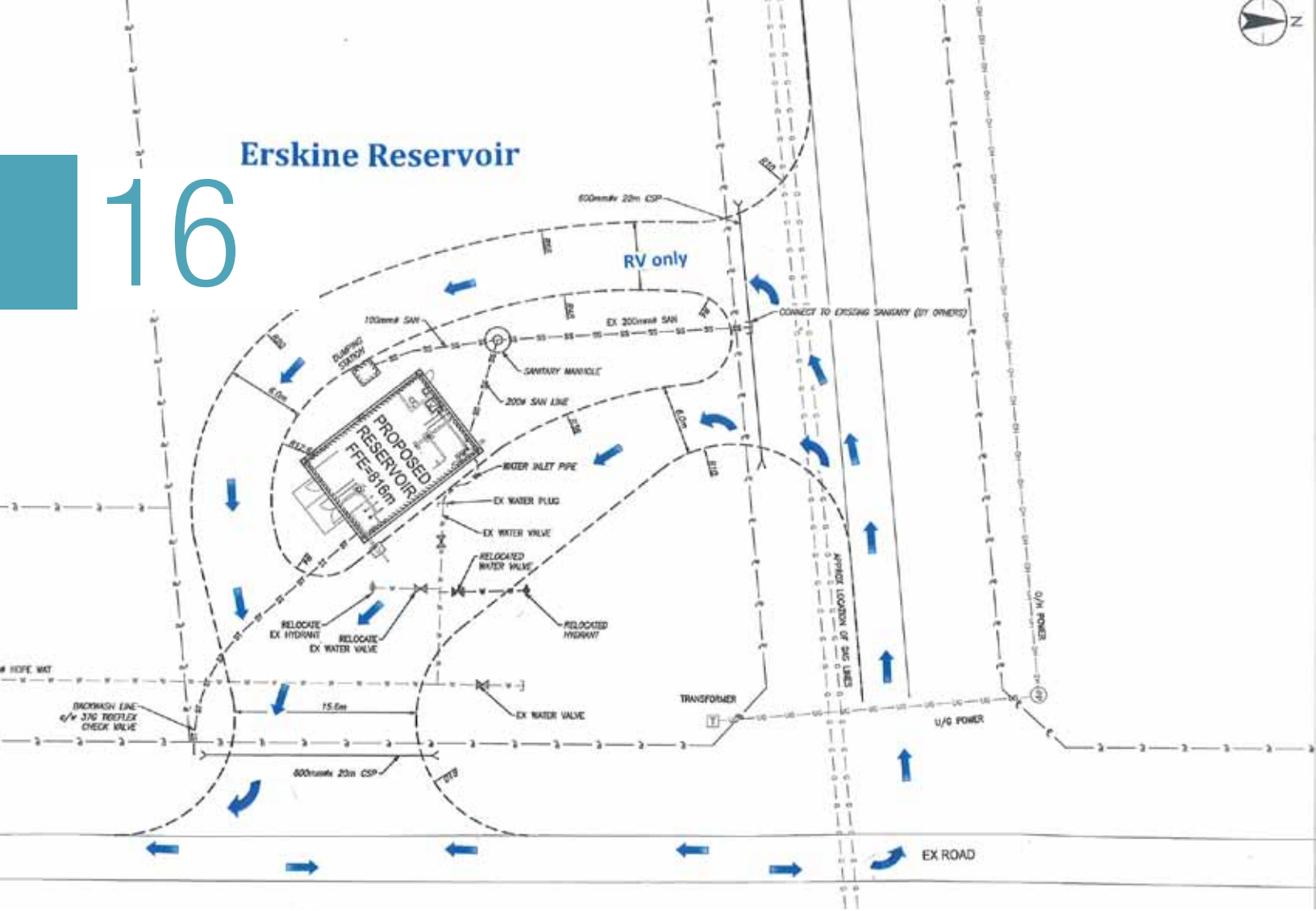






# 16

## Erskine Reservoir



# ERSKINE TRUCK FILL

We are happy to announce some recent developments in the Utilities Department for Erskine and Red Willow residents and visitors.

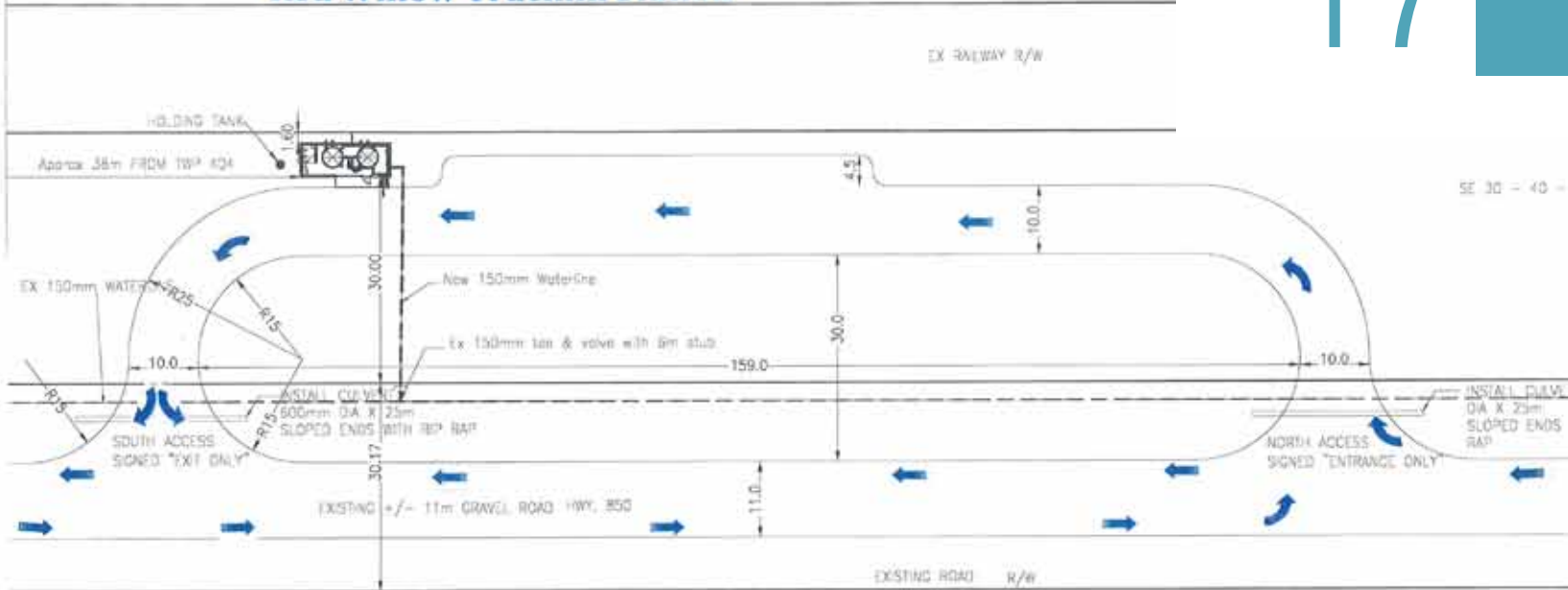
### Erskine

Erskine can watch for a new reservoir and RV dump station in the near future. This facility will be located on the east side of Erskine and can be accessed from Highway 12. Traffic will channel north from Highway 12 on the newly added access road to use this facility.

Careful planning was considered in order to keep the residential streets undisturbed from this traffic. The RV dump station will provide a major benefit to Buffalo Lake visiting RV's.



## Red Willow Truckfill Station



# RED WILLOW WATER

## Red Willow

Red Willow will be the home to the newest Truckfill Station in the County. Access will be gained here from Secondary Highway 850, making it very convenient for commercial traffic to use.

Construction of the Erskine Reservoir and Red Willow Truckfill Station will commence shortly and are scheduled to be completed by mid November 2014.

Please refer to the diagrams of the facilities and traffic flow for each location.

Watch for more information in subsequent editions of the County Connections newsletter as construction progresses.



# RENTALS AVAILABLE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Need some equipment, assistance? We rent.

The above equipment is available for rent from Agricultural Services, here at the County of Stettler No. 6.

- Field Sprayer - \$500 deposit. \$100 for a half day, \$175 for full day
- Private Land Spraying (Ratepayers) - \$60/hour plus chemical
- Private Land Spraying (Oilfiled) - \$110/hour plus chemical
- UTV Private Land Spraying (Ratepayers) - \$80/hour plus chemical
- UTV Private Land Spraying (Oilfiled) - \$140/hour plus chemical
- Cattle Scale - \$75 per half day or \$100 for the whole day
- Goodwin Water Pump and Pipe - \$300 damage deposit/\$300 per 24 pumping hours
- Mulch Applicator - No Fee
- Hand Sprayer - \$150 refundable deposit
- Skid Mount Sprayer - \$250 refundable deposit. \$75/half day or \$125 per full day



# TAX DEADLINES FOR STETTLER COUNTY

## Do you have your Tax Notice from the County?

The County of Stettler No. 6 Tax/Assessment Notices have been mailed out. If you have not received your notice, please contact our Tax Department at 403-742-4441.

## Tax Payment Deadline is October 31, 2014

### How can I make Payments?

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

If you are paying bills online the following financial institutes accept County of Stettler payments:

- Royal Bank of Canada
- TD Canada Trust
- Scotiabank
- Credit Union's
- CIBC
- Bank of Montreal
- ATB Financial

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



# WATERCRAFT SAFE OPERATION

## Personal Watercraft

Safe use of a personal watercraft (PWC) requires skill and experience. PWC operators must be at least 16 years old and have proof of competency and proof of age on board.

Before you let someone borrow your PWC, you must make sure that they know how to operate it safely and responsibly. Basic tips include:

- Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket (inflatable PFDs are not allowed) coloured red, orange or yellow to make it easy for others to see you.
- Wear thermal protection when operating in cold water (water less than 15°C).
- Read the owner's manual before setting out.
- Attach the engine shut-off line securely to your wrist or lifejacket.
- Respect speed limits and other vessel operation restrictions.
- Be cautious, courteous and respect your neighbors. Many people dislike the noise a PWC makes when it is operated for long periods of time at high speed in one place, especially when it is used to jump waves.
- Be aware of the impact your PWC can have on the environment. Avoid high speeds near shore.
- Stay alert! At high speeds, it's hard to see swimmers, waterskiers, divers and other PWCs in time to avoid them.

- Do not operate your PWC after dark or when visibility is poor.
  - Make sure your PWC is properly licensed and marked.
  - Do not start your PWC if you smell gasoline or fumes in the engine compartment. Have a qualified technician check it.
  - Replace the engine cover or seat before starting.
- To learn more about operating a PWC, check out the brochure *Safety Rules and Tips for Personal Watercraft (PWC) Use* at [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca).

## Alcohol and Boats

Red Cross statistics: Boating and Alcohol

- 37% of boaters in Canada admit to consuming alcohol every time they boat.
- 66% report they drink alcohol sometimes when boating.
- Alcohol is a factor in over 40% of recreational boating fatalities.

The Red Cross claims that up to 200 Canadians will drown this year as a result of boating-related incidents, and 25% of those will have alcohol in their blood. Many other incidents involving even serious injuries are not reported.



Drinking and boating (in just about anything that floats) carries the same penalties as drinking and driving a car. Your driver's licence can be suspended for one year up to a lifetime depending on whether it is a first, second or subsequent offence. The laws are enforced by local, provincial and federal police who carry alcohol-screening devices on the water.

You can be charged with Impaired Operation of a Vessel under the Criminal Code of Canada if your blood alcohol level exceeds .08 (80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 ml of blood). If you are convicted, a judge can suspend your boating privileges. Upon conviction, a person is liable of the following:

- 1st offence - a minimum fine of \$600
- 2nd offence - imprisonment for not less than 14 days
- 3rd & subsequent offence-sentence varies with province

In all provinces of Canada, operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol is illegal. In some provinces, no one on board can consume alcoholic beverages while the boat is being operated. The following sections of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act and Regulations apply:

## Consumption in Vehicles

84 - Except as otherwise provided for in this Act or in

a liquor licence, no person may consume liquor in a vehicle unless, when the liquor is being consumed, the vehicle is a temporary residence.

## Transportation of Liquor

87.1(1) Liquor may be transported under section 83 of the Act only in accordance with this section.

(2) Except as otherwise provided for in the Act or in a liquor licence, no person may:

(a) transport liquor unless the liquor is in a container that is capped, corked or otherwise closed, whether or not the container has been previously opened;

(b) transport liquor in a vehicle if the liquor is within easy access of an occupant of the vehicle.  
AR 173/96 s3;251/2001

Regular patrols will be made on surrounding waterways by the Stettler R.C.M.P. this coming season with zero tolerance towards violations relating to safe boating and consumption of alcohol.



## BACKYARD COMPOST

Sending organics to the landfill wastes organic material that could be turned into a new, usable and valuable product. We need to give back to the soils that produced the organics initially.

Landfill space should be reserved for items that cannot be re-used or recycled.

It is better for our environment. Organics in a landfill are so compacted that they decay without oxygen, thereby producing methane, a greenhouse gas that is 21 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Compost on your lawn or garden reduces your need to water and your need for chemical fertilizers.

Composting your organics has a big impact. About half of residential waste is made up of organics.

When Airdrie, Alberta began a pilot curbside compost program in 2013, they saw an impressive 38% reduction in garbage from the pilot areas, compared to the same period the year prior.

Three Simple Rules:

1. **ORGANICS:** Mix organic waste material into a pile or in a bin, alternating layers of kitchen waste and yard waste, if possible.

2. **MOISTURE:** Sprinkle with water so the material is moist, like a well-wrung sponge.

3. **AIR:** Every couple of weeks, turn/loosen the material or poke holes in it with a broom handle. This will speed up the compost process.

You can have compost in 2 -3 months but it is best after one growing season.

Garburators put food product into our waste system which:

- wastes a material that could be reused and prevents the organic material from returning to the soils from which it was taken
- requires electricity and a high amount of water to flush organic waste down into the sewer system, increasing water and electricity consumption
- can cause organic material to stick to the piping, especially when it has a high level of fat and oil which can potentially cause clogging in sewage lines
- adds to the amount of processing our water requires and makes it more difficult to meet water treatment requirements

Composting provides the highest percentage of diversion from residential landfill garbage - more than any other program, including recycling. Come on Stettler County - start a compost pile.



# BUFFALO VIEW ESTATES

## Progress Report

Now that spring is starting to come about, work will recommence starting mid-May.

The construction work on the storm pond / boat launch for areas above the water line will be completed and landscaping completion of the boulevards in Phase 1 will be the finishing focus.

Over the winter, fencing was placed to delineate internal walking paths and soon, a fence around the parking lot and around the sewer tanks will be completed.

Some repair areas have been identified that will be completed under warranty from the contractor – including manhole settlements and some other paving issues.

The storm pond and boat launch will continue to be closed until construction is completed.

# 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.



# SITE INSPECTIONS

## Development Permits

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

June 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.

# 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 wish 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.

# GET FIT WITH **FARM FIT**

Attention urbanites: Are you tired of the outrageous membership fees charged by your gym? Bored with the same old fitness routines? Fed up with the rude chatter of people using their cell phones on the treadmill and the lousy choice of music while you curl your biceps? Look no further! Farm Fit is the answer to all your fitness needs.

No matter what your fitness goals, our qualified instructors deliver fitness programs and classes that will help you be the best you can be. Whether you want to burn calories, tone up, boost your cardiovascular endurance or improve your game, at Farm Fit you're certain to find a fun way to get into shape.

And the best part? It is absolutely free! Yes you read that right - FREE! All you have to do is show up!

Choose from daily workouts like:

Water Bucket Slog

Bale Throw Down

Grain Bag Haul 'n' Toss

Straw Fork-a-Thon

Broken Fence Wild Sheep Steeplechase

Or sign up for a special fitness event such as:

Shovel and Fork Cross-Fit Weekend

A full-body workout combining weight training and

cardio! Three dirty sheep pens, a fork, a shovel, and an antique cast-iron stable cleaner are the tools you will use to work your way through a foot of matted hay, straw and manure to the cement floor. Fill your stable cleaner bucket, crank and then PUSH! Compete against yourself or bring friends and turn it into a team sport! (Spring and Fall, dates TBA)

## **Mixed Martial Arts Sheep Wrangle**

In this full contact sport you will use elements of judo, karate, Muay Thai, kickboxing and wrestling to subdue your opponent: 150 pounds of four-legged, fleecy ovine fury! Using only your hands, feet, and the power of superior reasoning, you will make your opponent submit to your will and pin her to the floor. Syringes, shears, drenchers, hoof trimmers all supplied. Signed medical consent form a must for this adrenalin-charged event! (Dates TBA)

## **Ride the Wagon**

Forget about the goofy moves of Tai Chi! Improve your balance and focus your mind by riding on a rickety wooden hay wagon while you and a partner strengthen core muscles stacking bales and grooving to the steady ka-chunk ka-chunk dub-step of a 1970's International Harvester hay baler. Sounds like an intense work out? It IS! But don't worry; equipment failures guarantee



frequent breaks. Neckerchief and hat essential, pure spring water supplied. (June – September, dates TBA)

### Hot Lofting

Love hot yoga but hate the smell of sweaty hippies? Need more cardio but hate aerobics? Farm Fit has the perfect solution: Hot lofting! It's hot outside, but it's REALLY hot in the loft! Let the heat loosen your muscles and tighten your focus, detoxify your body and calm your mind. Work up a sweat hauling and stacking bales in extreme heat as you rush to keep up with the elevator crew. The musique concrète hay elevator soundtrack is a Farm Fit original! (June-September, Dates TBA)

After your workout, unwind with a trip to the Farm Fit Spa! After a long sweaty day in the field, a full body treatment with our Field Dust and Chaff Exfoliation system will leave your skin glowing! Follow this with a water massage from our mineral-rich well. Let the high pressure hose from our hydrant massage and cool your tired muscles. Our spa wellness experts will show you how to cleanse your sinuses with the patented Farm Fit Water Cannon. Suck it up and blow! You'll never use a Neti Pot again!

Or if you need to relax, slow things down with our: **Mindful Gardening and Meditation Workshop**

Hear the birds, feel the hot sun on your back and the dirt under your fingernails as you exist in the moment. Learn to breathe through the pain as your hands are stung by nettles, and stay focused when ants and spiders crawl up your legs. Seated peacefully in Nature, the stresses of daily life will melt away as you mindfully pull up weeds. (Daily May - October)

#### Testimonials

"If you like to get dirty and sweaty during your fitness routines, then Farm Fit is for you! A week later my blisters were completely gone but I was still tanned, toned and buff. Farm Fit is awesome!" (Sarah M.)

"I've never felt trendier than when working out at Farm Fit. My hipster beard, plaid shirt, and trucker hat didn't even look ironic!" (Reg G.)

So what are you waiting for? Don't just get fit. Get Farm Fit! Call today!

This article reprinted with permission from Sheep Canada magazine. To subscribe to Sheep Canada magazine, visit their website at [sheepcanada.com](http://sheepcanada.com) or phone 1-888-241-5124. Alyson Champ is a farmer and artist (philosopher and playwright) living in St. Chrysostome, Québec. Her art can be seen on her website at [www.alysonchamp.com](http://www.alysonchamp.com).

## Save a Tree

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



## BRIDGES OF STETTLER COUNTY

**Full bridge maintenance** has been completed on BF2307 and this bridge has been opened once again for traffic at SW 5-40-17 near Red Willow.

Work was completed over the winter season in which the bridge was upgraded to current bridge standards.

There are 119 bridge files which include bridges and bridge-culverts that are maintained within the County of Stettler.

## CELEBRATE

**STEVEN LOCKHART** has spent a lot of his years in water. Steve recently received a 30 year plaque from the Alberta Water & Wastewater Association for 30 years of continuous membership.

During these 30 years Steve spent 5 ½ years with the Town of Stettler as a Water Treatment Plant Operator, 17 ½ years in Banff as a Utilities Operator and advancing to the position of Utilities Supervisor while there.

Steve is currently the Utilities Foreman for the County of Stettler; overseeing Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC), Starland-Stettler Regional Water Services Commission (SSRWSC) and the County of Stettler Distribution & Collection systems.

Thanks Steve for your hard work and congratulations on your remarkable excellence.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## Centennial & Homecoming Celebration



### August 1st

registration, beer gardens, dance and BBQ

### August 2nd

registration, parade, breakfast, lunch, BBQ supper, dance, beer gardens, fireworks and many other activities.

### August 3rd

church service, lunch, "The Party of the Century" supper and show featuring Lisa Hewitt and Last Resort (Eagles Tribute Band)

For more information please contact Marj at 403-876-2444 or Village Office at 403-876-2269

*Take a trip back in time...*

**Home of the:** • Railcar Museum • Train station museum • St. Edmunds Blue Church  
• McAlister Museum • Roundhouse & Elevator Interpretive Centers • Creation Science Museum  
**Amenities include:** • Full service campground • Unique shopping and dining experiences  
**For more information Contact the village office (403) 876-2269**

**For details visit our website: [www.villageofbigvalley.ca](http://www.villageofbigvalley.ca)**

**RCMP Musical Ride** is coming to the Stettler Agricultural Society (SAS) this summer! Join us in witnessing this world famous entertainment at the SAS grounds on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. Entertainment with the Keister Family Fiddlers will begin at 7 p.m. with the musical ride following at approximately 7:30 p.m. This event will be held at the grandstand at the outdoor arena. Concession will be available.

On Monday, July 21 you are invited to come and meet the horses and visit with the officers. They will be stalled in the barns on the South side of the arena.



## NOTICE FROM FINANCE

Unless requested, County of Stettler No. 6 will no longer be mailing out receipts, with the exception of Tax receipts which will continue to be issued.

## CRAZY DAYS

Coming to Stettler July 11-12, 2014.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Boom Town Music Festival - Get Your Tickets

Coming Sept. 5 & 6 at OL'MACDONALDS RESORT. Visit [www.boomtownmusic.ca](http://www.boomtownmusic.ca) for more information or call 403-742-6603. Authentic music, intimate setting. Camping available.

## 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@xplornet.com](mailto:ontarget@xplornet.com).



## Stettler 'Side By Side' Shoot Out

Engines are being tuned, paint is being polished and Stettler Airport will play host once again to the annual 'Side By Side' Shoot out on Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20. This is an 1/8 mile shoot out. Concession on site. Bleacher seating. Camping available.

## County of Stettler Housing Authority-Stettler Seniors Lodge *Where the living is easy.*

For more info call Kathy 403-742-6195.

## July 1 - Canada Day

Visit **Donalda** for Canada Day Celebrations and a parade!

If you're at the lake, **Rochon Sands** has Canada celebrations planned as well.

## Stettler Library

On March 13, 2014, we reopened the new and improved library, welcoming an expanded children's and programming area, new offices and circulation desks, a window-facing computer area, and a relaxing leisure area, equipped with chairs, a TV, and a soon to be arriving fireplace. We are very thankful for all the support that we have received during this transition, and we are especially grateful for the County of Stettler's contribution and all that they have done to make these renovations possible.

The Summer Reading Club is open to kids between the ages of 5-7 (Tiny Tinkers) and 8-11 (Engineers). We also have exciting teen events planned for each week, as well as family friendly activities that are open to all ages. For more information about this year's summer program, "Like" us on Facebook, found under "Stettler Summer Reading Program".



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