

# Stettler County Connection

## YOU ASKED

## WE ANSWERED

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**Rent**  
Ag  
Services  
Equipment  
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# RATEPAYER REQUEST? CONTACT US!

## Citizen Request Tracker

Everyday, our entire organization works to ensure that our community is the very best place to live, work and play. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our service and communication with you, our citizens.

**We rely on you**, our ratepayers, to report to us any concerns or problems within our communities so that we can address them the best we can. Previously, the only way to report your concerns and share your ideas was to pick up the phone and call 403.742.4441, or to stop in for a visit. Until now.

The County of Stettler is proud to launch our new **RATEPAYER REQUEST LINE**, now available online. If you have a concern, want to report a problem or just want to share an idea, you can do that from the comfort of your own home and also from the convenience of your mobile devices.

Just head to [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) and click on the "Submit a Request" button. You will be taken to a page where you can choose the category of the concern and/or request and fill out the form. Once you submit the request – it gets sent to councillors, department heads and employees all who will have a hand in fixing the problem. If you would like to receive feedback and follow the request through our system, you can sign-up as

a member of our site and track your requests as they work their way through our organization. If you choose to sign up as a member, there are many other great benefits:

**Notify Me:** You can subscribe to Notify Me, and pick and choose the things you'd like to be notified about. It can be anything from news items, new Council agenda packages, road bans and emergency alerts. You can manage your notifications yourself, by turning on and off the things you'd like to be notified of.

**Let's Talk:** You can also join our online idea center called "Let's Talk", where you can submit your ideas and concerns on our current projects, as well as propose new ideas. It's a great way to be involved in the planning and future of your community.

**Personalization:** The profile you create allows you to set up a unique starting point for the tasks and transactions that you want to complete in your time on this website. Use your account to gather the information that you most care about from across the website into one central location, giving you greater control over how you connect with your community.

If you need help setting up any of these tools, please don't hesitate to call Shawna Benson at 403-742-4441 and she'll be happy to assist you with any questions you have about the website.



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*Let's Celebrate*



*Join us for our 60th Anniversary Celebration*

**Thursday  
June 18, 2015  
11 am - 4 pm**

Displays, presentations and activities that will remind you of days gone past and inspire you to envision our future.

Lunch will be served.



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STETTNER COMMUNITY

# COUNTY CONNECTION

## INTRO

Public Engagement. It's a fairly new buzz phrase. Something we are all hearing more and more, especially in these times of transparent governments, freedom of information, elections and campaigning. Public Engagement.

What we're really trying to say is talk to us. Have a conversation with us. Let us know what's on your mind. You know how they say, 'if you don't ask, you'll never know the answer.' The flip side of that coin is that if you ask the wrong person, your information may not be that accurate.

In March we held a week-long series of Town Hall-style meetings in rural areas across our County. The turn-out was good, considering our busy lives and all that families have to juggle. We enjoyed hearing what people in Stettler County had to say. We learned about issues we did not know about. We gathered ideas. We shared information.

Sixty years ago when we first became the County of Stettler No. 6, people had more conversations. More time was spent visiting or gathering with neighbors. We weren't flying down the road so fast we couldn't stop and chat. There was no need to encourage Public Engagement. But here we are in 2015, a different era. While everyone is busier, it should also be easier to be heard. You don't have to wait to talk to someone or attend a Town Hall meeting. Stop by, pick up the phone, or if you can't, visit our website and click on 'Let's Talk'. We want to know what's on your mind. That's why we're asking.

Sincerely,

Niki Thorsteinsson



## Stettler County Connection

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# REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Recently the County of Stettler held a series of Town Hall meetings with 20 to 45 ratepayers attending the various meetings. There were a variety of topics discussed and some very constructive comments and suggestions made by the ratepayers. Meetings were held at Byemoor, Red Willow, Big Valley, Erskine, Stettler and Linda Hall.

The topic that received a lot of discussion was the proposal by Council to build a new Public Works Shop. The discussion surrounding a new facility has been taking place for several years but has been exacerbated by safety issues and issues surrounding having a shop in a residential part of town. It is the position of Council that spending any amount of money on the existing shop or building a new shop on the existing property would not be a prudent use of taxpayers dollars because it would have no resale value in the future. The decision to move forward in the process to build a new shop has not been made without a good deal of discussion and debate.

As members of Council, we have to consider not only the present operations of the County of Stettler, but future years as well. A question was asked at one of the Town Hall meetings as to how we could justify giving out contracts that were longer than our term of office. Administration and Council are always looking at ways we can save money in the longer term, secure a supply of gravel for years to come and plan projects to ensure the County of Stettler remains viable and

sustainable.

We are now beginning to prepare budgets for three years with the intent of going to five years. Of course a five year budget is not going to be as accurate as we move along, but it will certainly be a valuable planning tool for the County.

Another comment was made that a new facility might mean that none of the present Councillors would survive the next municipal election. We as Councillors, would not be doing our duty if we qualified every decision with that condition. There is always lots of lively debate around major issues and decisions are certainly not always unanimous.

On behalf of Council I would like to thank those Ratepayers who attended our Town Hall meetings and I would like to invite our residents to attend our regular council meetings to gain a perspective into how our decisions are made and how the information provided to us helps make informed decisions.

Have a safe and healthy spring and summer and remember to attend the 60th anniversary celebration of the County of Stettler on Thursday, June 18 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# 4



*Laurel Pole, Lyle Smith, Dwayne Grover*



*Botha United Church Women represented by Gladys Nattestad, Eileen Bullard, Pauline Scheerschmidt and Ismay Seyer*



*Lee Dechaine, Emma Nixon*



*Ila Lunevich, Christopher Raab, Kyla Johnston, John Fletcher*

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The County of Stettler Community Service Awards is an annual event now in its 38th year, which recognizes outstanding volunteers in agriculture, recreation and culture within the County of Stettler. The awards are hosted on a rotational basis around the County with this years' awards being held at the Westwoods Agrelot. The host community chooses the date, which is usually between January and March and works closely with the Director of Recreation to host this annual event. As a community, we rely on our volunteers to make sure the events, facilities and fundraisers operate efficiently and seamlessly. These volunteers are essential to the vibrancy of our communities. The County of Stettler is very thankful for all of our dedicated and committed volunteers who give back countless hours to their communities.

### Sponsors

The County of Stettler Regional Recreation Board would like to recognize all of our valuable sponsors who contributed to the County of Stettler No. 6 Community Service Awards:

- **ATB Financial**
- **Royal Bank of Canada**
- **TD Canada Trust**
- **Vision Credit Union**
- **ATCO Electric**
- **Stettler Dodge**
- **Westwood Agricultural Society**



Beth Fulton, Judy Dinsmore, Bruce Gartside, Mark Higgons



Kelly Hicks, Carolin Schofer, John Schofer, Jack Hayden



Julie Jones, Scott McKenzie  
(absent: Gordon & Roxy Gallagher)



Julie Hebbs, Becky Clement



Walter & Alana Stefanik, Marjorie Mann, Dan Webster

## Winners

### ATCO ELECTRIC ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AWARD

Sponsored by ATCO Electric

JUDY DINSMORE

### STETTLER DODGE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by Stettler Dodge

JOHN AND CAROLIN SCHOFER

### SULLIVAN LAKE WEST AG SOCIETY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by TD Canada Trust

(Absent) GORDON AND ROXY GALLAGHER

### DONALDA & DISTRICT AG SOCIETY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by Donalda Ag Society

BECKY CLEMENT

### BIG VALLEY AG SOCIETY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by Royal Bank

WALTER AND ALANA STEFANK

### STETTLER & DISTRICT AG SOCIETY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by Vision Credit Union

LYLE SMITH

### BOTHA COMMUNITY CENTRE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sponsored by Botha Community Centre

BOTHA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

### BOTHA COMMUNITY CENTRE YOUTH AWARD

Sponsored by Botha Community Centre

EMMA NIXON

### LINDA HALL YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by A.T.B. Financial

KYLA JOHNSTON



# IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO ASK ASK YOUR PARAMEDIC/EMT

**Our Mission: To provide a patient focused emergency medical service of quality and safety.**

## Who needs to ask questions?

You do.

- Everyone has questions about their health.
- You are not alone.
- Ask questions to understand your treatment plan with EMS.

## What if I ask and I still do not understand?

- Say, "This is new to me. Please explain again."
- Don't be embarrassed if you still do not understand
- Ask more questions

## Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. A friend, family member or someone you can trust can:

- To provide emotional support

- Remind you what to say
- Take notes and get information
- Help you understand your health condition and health concerns

## Please tell us how we did.

Please fill out our Client Satisfaction Survey on the ambulance section on the County of Stettler No. 6 website: [www.stettlercounty.ca/135/Stettler-District-Ambulance](http://www.stettlercounty.ca/135/Stettler-District-Ambulance). We encourage feedback from clients and family members in regards to letting us know about the quality of service you received from our Paramedics and EMT-A's. We hope to have this survey available soon on the Stettler District Ambulance Association website in late spring.

Random face to face client satisfaction surveys are also conducted by interviewing clients and/or family members about their experience with the ambulance service.



*Air seeder contacting a power line*

## FARM SAFETY TIPS

Today's farm equipment is bigger than ever which can mean big problems when you're working around power lines. Contact with a power line can result in damaged equipment, severe injuries or even death, but is 100 per cent preventable. Stay safe with these tips:

### **Check the height of your equipment.**

If you're buying it new, confirm the height, update your GPS with any changes and consider your route to ensure you can cross safely under power lines. Exercise caution if equipment is higher than 4.1 metres.

**Stay seven metres away from power lines.** Keep this in mind when operating grain

augers or air seeders, or when lifting truck boxes or back hoes.

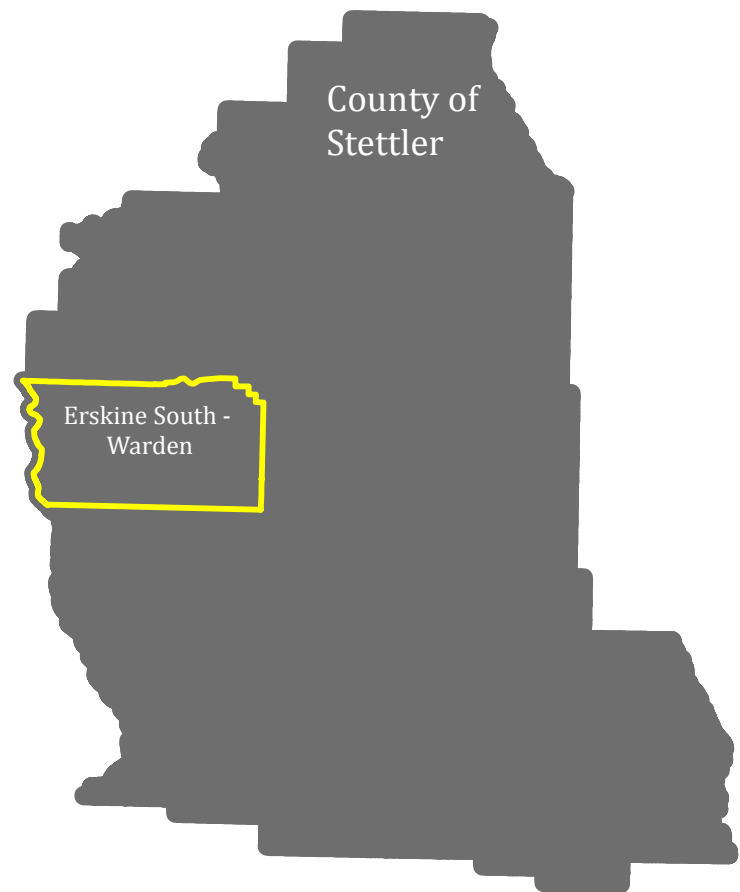
**Stack and store wisely.** Whether it's a grain bin or bale storage, stack and store it seven metres away from power lines.

### **Plan before moving tall equipment.**

Map your route and locate any overhead power lines. If you don't know whether it's safe to cross under or work near a power line, **call ATCO Electric for help: 1-855-277-1670.**

For more information on working near power lines safely, visit [atcoelectric.com](http://atcoelectric.com).





## WARD FOCUS

### Erskine South - Warden

Well Spring is in the air, sorta. This last blast of winter reminds us that we can not control everything. We did have a very nice winter, mild is nice.

Spring lambs are abound at our house. Very interesting and fun to watch how they enjoy the weather. The Stettler Trade Show is always a sign of spring, again the County attended with a booth.

We as Council are just winding up our Ratepayer Town Hall Meetings, great feed back for us to consider as we move forward. Roads seem to be one of the major concerns, again that makes sense. We use the roads pretty much every day. Roads are one of the

items in the County that we utilize on a regular basis. We are asking for more out of our roads everyday and this brings challenges to our Public Works Department. We are working on new ways to get the most out of the roads we currently have.

Innovation is a key part of delivering better, more cost efficient services. The County, believe it or not, does try every chance we get to provide cost efficient services.

We will be celebrating the County's 60th anniversary this June. We have lots to celebrate. This is the best Country, Province, and County in the world to live. I for one am proud to call this place my home. I have been on Council for four plus years now. I have learned so much. Mostly what I have learned



is that I have lots to learn. I am still enjoying serving as a Councillor and it has been one of the most challenging experiences I have ever had.

The political atmosphere in Alberta, as I write, is in very interesting times. As much as they change they stay the same. The players change, but the issues remain the same. It does not matter the issues, they all boil down to people; when we forget that, we forget really why we were elected.

I do believe we are in the people business, every day we interact with people. How we deal with people is a lot of how we deal with issues. I would like to think I keep the people

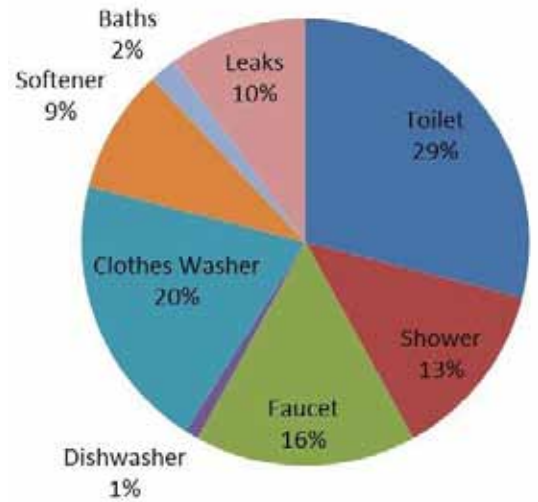
important, which keeps the issues important. Any time you would like to talk about an issue that is important to you, give me a shout, text, email, twitter, phone or join me for a coffee at our local coffee shop. Let me know, I will make time. I can always find time between shearing sheep, towing junk or coaching.

Remember: "You can easily judge the character of someone by how they treat those who can do nothing for them."

James Nibourg  
Stettler County Councillor  
Erskine-South Warden

403-741-9493

## Indoor Water Use



# WATER LOSS DON'T BE A DRIP

### Water Loss

|                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Shower</b>   | Old Showerhead                          | 12-15 litres per minute                          |
|                 | Efficient Showerhead                    | 7 litres per minute                              |
| <b>Toilet</b>   | Single Flush                            | 12 litres  |
|                 | Dual Half Flush                         | 3 litres   |
|                 | Dual Full Flush                         | 6 litres   |
| <b>Bath</b>     | Half full                               | 80 litres average                                |
|                 | Full                                    | 140 litres average                               |
| <b>Bathroom</b> | Brushing teeth/shaving with tap running | 5 litres per minute                              |
|                 | Brushing teeth/shaving with tap off     | 1 litre per minute                               |
|                 | Hand basin                              | 5 litres   |
| <b>Kitchen</b>  | Washing dishes by hand (one meal)       | 18 litres  |
|                 | Old dishwasher                          | 60 litres  |
|                 | Modern dishware                         | 18 litres  |
|                 | Garbage disposal                        | 10 litres  |
| <b>Laundry</b>  | Modern front loader                     | 60 litres  |
|                 | Top loader                              | 150 litres                                       |
|                 | Twin tub                                | 70 litres  |
| <b>Garden</b>   | Sprinkler                               | 1000 litres per hour                             |
|                 | Washing car with a hose                 | 200 litres per 12 minutes                        |
|                 | Hosing driveway                         | 75 litres per 5 minutes                          |
|                 | Average size swimming pool              | 20,000 to 40,000 litres                          |
| <b>Leaks</b>    | Dripping tap                            | 30 to 150 litres per day                         |
|                 | Leaking                                 | 300 litres per day from a 1.5mm (1/16 inch) hole |
|                 | Leaking toilet                          | 10 to 260 litres per day                         |



# KEEPING YOUR HEAD ABOVE WATER

Most drownings occur way out at sea, right? Wrong. Fact is, 9 out of 10 drownings occur in inland waters, most within a few feet of safety, and most involve boats less than 6 metres in length.

If there is one thing and one thing only you learn and put into practice after reading this safety information it's **wear your lifejacket or PFD**.

Sadly, most of the victims who have drowned or died from hypothermia in a boating incident owned a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) but they weren't wearing it when they unexpectedly ended up in the water. And contrary to what many boaters think, it's very hard to put a lifejacket on in the water.

## It's the Law

The law requires boats to be equipped with a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD of an appropriate size for each person on board.

## Choosing a Personal Flotation Device

When it comes to choosing a PFD, the Canadian Coast Guard strongly recommends bright colours for better visibility. PFDs are now available in many bright colours and activity-appropriate styles. Just check the label to ensure that the PFD is approved by the Canadian Coast Guard.

Choose a PFD that is comfortable and allows free movement, including walking and sitting. Try it on and do up all zippers and belts. Pull up on the collar

to ensure it does not ride up and interfere with movement or breathing.

Inspect your PFD or lifejacket frequently. Ensure seams are intact, and that snaps, belts or zippers work. If you happen to choose an inflatable type PFD be aware that certain restrictions and criteria apply.

## Facts about Drowning

- Most drownings occur 10 feet or less from safety.
- Most drownings result from three major contributing factors:
  1. Inability to swim
  2. Effects of cold water (hypothermia)
  3. Alcohol
- Drowning occurs rapidly and soundlessly, averaging 20 seconds in small children and less than a minute in adults.
- To the untrained bystander, a drowning person may appear to be waving, clowning around or splashing.
- The three best ways to prevent drowning while boating:
  1. Learn to swim
  2. Always wear your lifejacket
  3. Don't consume alcohol

Note: Information on this page is based on Boat Smart from the Start – A Family Guide to Safe and Responsible Boating, produced by Blaicher Marketing International Inc.



# BE THE FEATHER IN OUR CAP



## Canadian Badlands Pheasant Festival Stettler 2015 October 15-18, 2015

Come share the experience with volunteers, hunters and organizers. Help us show our feathers.

**The 2015 Pheasant Festival committee needs help from County of Stettler residents.**

### Donate use of land for the 4 days

- Pasture land with light cover is ideal
- Livestock will need to be removed from the land for the duration of the Festival
- Crop land with cover and a couple swaths left standing is useful

### Lend a Hand

Stettler area residents are needed as volunteers for the following:

- **Pheasant Release** - place birds at hunt locations before hunt times open (perfect position for those on their way to work!)
- **Marshal** - enforce rules of festival and confirm participants have no issues (mornings & afternoons)
- **Pheasant Catch** - help catch and crate pheasants. It's easier than you think and great fun (evenings)
- **Banquet Host** - help out in a variety of capacities from set up and tear down to selling raffle tickets (Friday- October 16)
- **Stettler Ambassador or Volunteer** - take on duties throughout the festival

For more information or to lend a hand, contact the Stettler Board of Trade office at 403.742.3181 or email us at [info@stettlerboardoftrade.com](mailto:info@stettlerboardoftrade.com).



## SPAY OR NEUTER

Here's why.

Each year, thousands of unwanted kittens and puppies are born in Alberta. Although some may find new homes, many have to be euthanized. Unfortunately, many are simply abandoned by their owners, which is a criminal offence. Many will die of disease, poison, or attacks by other animals. The only solution is for pet owners to spay or neuter their pets. It was brought up at the County Town Hall Meetings, that our County and rural farms and acreages are often the dumping grounds for these unwanted pets. If you would like to join the conversation and help with a solution, please visit our website at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) and click on 'Let's Talk', or call 403.742.4441.



## QUENCH YOUR WALLET

How Rain Barrels Help

During an average summer, watering your trees, gardens and lawn can account for up to 40% of your home's water usage. During summer months one rain barrel can help homeowners save up to 1000 gallons of water, depending on size of barrel and proper utilization.

*No one can do everything. Everyone can do something.*

Sponsored by the Heartland Beautification Committee.

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## What has been around for the past 60 years, but is hard to improve on?

PIE!

Who makes the best PIE in the County of Stettler?  
We'd like to know.

Enter our 'BEST PIE IN THE COUNTY CONTEST' on our website at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) or stop by our office to pick up an entry form.

Enter as many categories as you like, and as many times as you wish. Each entry will require two pies to be delivered to the County office on Thursday, June 18 by 10:00 a.m. One pie will be used for judging. The Judging Panel will consist of one resident from each ward in our County. The second pie will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder. Proceeds will go to the local charity of the Winner's Choice.

Can you take the TITLE? Best County PIE.

# 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## Please Join Us!

The County of Stettler was created by the merge of a handful of small rural districts between 1912 and 1918, forming the Municipal District of Stettler No. 336 in 1943. Later our current municipal boundaries were established, and in 1955 the County of Stettler No. 6 was born.

It is with excitement and pride we find ourselves today in 2015 planning a celebration to mark this occasion of our 60th Anniversary. We are planning to reflect on all that we have accomplished over the past 60 years, and celebrate the growth of a vibrant community. EVERYONE WELCOME.

**Please join us for our 60th Anniversary Event  
A Community Open House Celebration  
Thursday, June 18, 2015  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Lunch will be served.**

Councillor Alumni, Cake Cutting Ceremony, Free Lunch, Wagon Rides, County Partner Displays including STARS, FIRE, AMBULANCE, RCMP, a Grader Simulator, Petting Zoo, Sand Pit for Kids, Old/New Equipment Display and much more. Come share some memories with us on June 18th.



# COUNTY SPONSORS ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

## Roadside Fundraising

### An Opportunity for Community Groups and Youth Groups

The County of Stettler has a roadside clean-up program that encourages community groups 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.



# YOU ASKED. WE ANSWERED. TOWN HALL MEETINGS Q & A

We recently completed a week-long series of Town Hall meetings from March 23-28 in community halls throughout our County. Council invited the public to engage with them through community-led agendas, to tell them what was on their minds. Our goal, to keep you informed. Each night, the community was asked to make the agenda.

Below are some of the most asked questions, along with answers. If you were unable to make it to our Town Hall meetings, we invite you to have your questions answered by either calling the County at 403-742-4441, or engaging with us online. Visit our website at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) and click on 'Let's Talk'. Fill out the form, and we will take it from there.

## SHOP/OFFICE COMPLEX

### What will the new County Shop/Office cost?

We haven't reached the bid stage yet. We have finished an internal staff level assessment. We have considered what our Municipal government might like in 10, 15 and 40 years from now. We sent out an Expression of Interest and received over 20 applications from across Canada. Council narrowed the list down, and short-listed five potential contractors. Council met with, and interviewed the five potential contractors the first week in April. Council will now narrow the interested parties down to three and receive cost

estimates for management and design of the project. Council will make this decision on who to work with based on their interviews and cost estimates.

### What are you building?

We are going to build smart, build with the future in mind, and get the best deal for our dollars. If it makes monetary sense to build in stages, then we will build in stages. If we can save money now, by building the complex together, then that is something we will consider.

### Do we have a number in mind?

Obviously, we are hoping with the current economy and obvious interest in this project, that we will be receiving some competitive quotes. We are aware that average shop construction costs run \$200/SF, and office construction is around \$250-\$300/SF.

### Why do we need to build anything?

Our current shop is 46 years old. It has some serious deficiencies. In addition to putting \$600,000 into the shop to fix immediate needs, our shop assessment determined a minimum of another \$1.5 million in required repairs and upgrades over the next five years.

### Why don't you just upgrade the shop?

In addition to the \$1.5 million in 'known' deficiencies we need to correct, there will also



be 'unknowns' that we find along the way. Furthermore, our County 'Yard' is now in the middle of Stettler. Our neighbor to the west is Points West Living, a retirement home. While our County operations often are required to begin very early in the morning, we are now worried about how we are affecting our neighbors. We also have Town noise bylaws to respect. Bringing our large equipment into and out of a busy suburban neighborhood is not only less than ideal, it is also dangerous. Stettler Sports Park is right across the street.

### **But the office isn't that old, why are you considering an upgrade?**

Our office is 26 years old. While it still has lots of life left in it, we have outgrown the space. Since it was planned and built in the 90's, the County has taken on several additional administration duties. We now manage and support the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission. We manage Stettler Waste Management Authority with transfer stations across the County. We also administer Stettler District Ambulance. We do not manage these additional duties for free. We are paid administration fees to manage these businesses, and take pride in our many efficiencies. We have more staff to support these extra duties.

Additionally, we are more computerized, digital and are proud to be leading edge in the determination of becoming paperless. With technology, comes staff to manage it. We are only considering building a Complex to continue our efficiencies if the numbers make sense. Furthermore, if we all move, we are then able to put our current site up for sale. All of these things will be considered.

### **What will you do with the old site?**

If the decision is made that financially, the best choice is to build a County Complex in one stage, then our current 17 acre site in town which has been appraised at \$3.5 million, would be put up for sale. If it is not financially viable to build the Complex in one stage, then a shop would be built with office phases planned for future additions, and administration would stay put in our current building. This would mean we could not sell the current County site, and we would be operating two County sites for the time being. The decision to move everyone out of town at the same time would be an economic decision, our primary focus is a shop.

### **Will you have to reclaim the land at the old site?**

The responsibility to reclaim our current site is something we have, not a result of us building or not building. It is required, and we will complete our due diligence, and thoughtfully reclaim the lands accordingly to environmental assessments, once completed.

### **How much did you pay for the new site?**

We paid approximately \$4,000/acre for our 77 acre parcel.

### **Do you need that much land?**

It was sold to us as a 77 acre parcel for a good price. We investigated several sites, and this was the best location, for the best price. After covering all the County's needs, we will consider future development or ideas for development of the remaining lands.



## Q & A CONTINUED...

### **Where will the money come from? With our current economy, should we be building?**

Construction is always best done when interest rates are low. We will consider borrowing costs after we receive estimates. If we are building a County Complex we also have the asset of our current site. The County has other land assets which we are considering selling. We have reserves, some earmarked for new construction and shop upgrades. Once project costs are determined, we will be able to consider all of these options.

### **How much do you have in reserves?**

We have \$14 million in reserves, some earmarked for other projects.

### **How long of a term can you get on a low interest loan for the County?**

Rates are at 2.7% for 30 years.

### ***Following the conclusion of our Town Hall meetings, Council made the motion to proceed with the shop.***

## OTHER ISSUES BROUGHT FORWARD

### **Who is in charge of recycling?**

We are struggling with the delivery of providing recycling for our area. Unfortunately, there are limited options to provide recycling in our current marketplace. Stettler Waste Management Authority's priority, as set out in their Strategic Plan is to Increase Diversion from our Landfills by fostering and encouraging Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. SWMA members are working hard to come up with alternative plans to support positive recycling programs for our future.

### **Stray Cats**

The cost to spay a cat is around \$200. An epidemic of dropping cats in the County is a result of this high cost. Has the County considered this problem, and why don't we have or sponsor spay/neuter clinics in the County of Stettler?

Council will discuss this issue, and consider all costs and options of this request.

### **Explain what the loss of bridge funding means to the County?**

Since we lost bridge funding through the Provincial Government, we are on our own. We do have aging bridges. If we lost all of our bridges tomorrow, it would cost \$36 million to us to replace them.

### **Why aren't road bans put on when it is wet (like summer 2014)?**

Road bans are put in place when the frost is coming out of the ground. We monitor road conditions very closely and carefully. If needed, road bans are implemented. Farmers and transporters rely on the ability to move and transport their livestock and goods to make a living. We have to consider everything and everyone.

### **Do we have any pull with Alberta Transportation? We need to be able to move our grain when they call our grain. Road bans make it impossible.**

Council will lobby Alberta Transportation on grain farmers' behalf.

### **Why is there dirt in our gravel?**

We have gravel coming from four different pits. We are using a modified specification 420 to eliminate finds (dirt) on the bottom end. We always try to get a proper mix of gravel before we spread. However, there is always some sluffing on the gravel piles,

## Why is it important to engage with us?

In December 2014 we visited Erskine to hear what was on our ratepayers minds. It was at this public meeting we were informed of an issue with Engine Retarder brakes being used along Highway 12 affecting peaceful life in Erskine.

We did not know this was an issue for Erskine residents before this meeting.

We were able to lobby Alberta Transportation on Erskine's behalf, and are proud to report very large signs have now been installed at either end of Erskine prohibiting the use of Engine Retarder brakes. Let your voice be heard. We're listening.

# 19

## Q & A CONTINUED...

and sometimes we get a bad scoop. We have been stockpiling all winter so we have a good reserve in place to meet our needs. We have an independent tester. All of the gravel going onto our roads meets the specifications. Gravel coming out of the Handhills pit is harder, but it is also more expensive. If you have a problem with gravel, please contact our office at 403-742-4441.

### Do you winter gravel?

We have tried winter graveling, but we tend to lose some of the gravel in the snowplowing. There are pros and cons to doing this. If conditions warranted it, we would.

### Are you putting a crown on the roads?

We endeavor to keep a 3% crown on all of our roads. Slowly, through maintenance, lips develop on the edges of the road. These need to be brought in to maintain a crown. To reestablish a crown you have to rebuild it. This cannot be done with gravel. Years ago, gravel was a little skinny and our roads suffered. These days our vehicles are bigger, heavier and moving faster. There is more traffic. Our school buses are empty and everyone is driving. There is more wear and tear on our roads. We are always aiming for the perfect road (with a 3%-5% crown). Our focus will be to take the lips off the edges and repair the crowns. This will take time.

### Why is there no gravel on my road?

Please remember, the faster you travel on our roads, the more gravel you are flipping off of it. Our gravel budget is \$2.5 million for 2015. Roads and road maintenance make up 68% of the County budget. They are a priority. We currently are operating a comprehensive three year gravel program. Please refer to our website for a map of which roads will get coverage in 2015. As always, problem areas,

high traffic areas and ratepayer concerns will be addressed. If you have a problem, or feel you have been missed in our program, please contact us at 403-742-4441, or on our website at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca).

### How can I get water to my farm?

The County has a policy to offer water to residences within one mile of our line. There is a \$10,000 hook up fee which can be paid in installments. If there are pockets of demand, and you have five or six neighbors in an area wanting water from the line, please contact us and cost estimates for construction can be looked at. We will always do our best to reach you.

### Why do I pay so much for my acreage taxes?

For acreages the land is assessed at market land values which is determined by sales that have taken place up to June 30 of the previous year. Property sales can vary in the County, running between \$300,000.00 to \$750,000.00 depending how close the parcel is to Stettler. The taxes for acreages use the residential mill rate and is based on assessment of what was on the property as of December 31, 2014. All buildings are assessed on acreages.

Farm property (farmland) is assessed based on the productivity of the land where the province has set the formula or farmland rates and this type of land receives a separate mill rate. Where the residence is located receives a three acre site that is assessed at market land values and the balance of the quarter is assessed at farmland rates. The residence and the three acre site receive the residential mill rate. Farm residences can receive an exemption on the residences provided that they have the land base which is made up of their total farmland assessment.

## Q & A CONTINUED...

Exemption on the first residence can receive up to a maximum of \$61,540 exemption and additional residences can receive \$30,770 exemption provided they have the land base. Attached garages are assessed on farm units.

### Why don't we have a bylaw for cutting down trees?

This is something Council had not considered before. After a bit of research, our Director of Agricultural Services has found the issue of deforestation does fall under the Agricultural Services Board Soil Conservation Act. We are researching this idea further, and it will be brought up through our Agricultural Services Board.

### Do you patch gravel?

Yes. We do spot gravel where it does not hold.

### Why don't you spray the ditch after you brush it?

We do have a spraying program attached to our brushing program. If you don't spray it after you brush it will come up thicker. We have addressed the problem of these jobs not being completed together in a timely manner. You should see a noticeable difference in this program.

### What is the PAWC program?

PAWC stands for Priority Area Weed Control. Currently we are in year two of enforcing weed control of Absinthe Wormwood, a noxious weed, in the following five Townships: 35-17; 36-21; 38:17; Rochon Sands Estates and 41-17. If your land falls within these Townships you will have received a letter from us. If you are interested in learning more about the PAWC program, please call Agricultural Services at 403.742.4441.

### Why are you using carbide blades on the graders? Are carbide tips or standard/straight blades better?

We respect our grader operators ability to choose the best tool for the job. Just like any craftsman,

he will have his favorite tool for doing the job. We respect their decisions.

### When can we have sewage in Red Willow?

A number of years ago we constructed a lagoon. We had plans for a collection system, but the cost per household was very high. It was too costly for residents to bear and it is tough to get grants for water and sewer. This is still in our long-term plan, dependant on funding. Presently sewer and water grants have been significantly cut back.

### Could we charge more for others to dump in Red Willow lagoon and use these funds to offset and help fund sewer service?

Council will look into this option.

### Can we get fire hydrants in Red Willow?

This would require a water reservoir and at this time it is not in the future plans.

### What is Council doing to foster rural County Sustainability?

This is a province-wide problem. We have to encourage our kids to come back to their roots. We have to advocate for better internet service, that is a big deal to the youth, almost as big as the gravel. Before we attract people, we need to attract industry to our area.

***We would like to thank everyone who came out to our week of Town Hall meetings. We heard new issues to address and good ideas to follow up on. Please continue to let your voices be heard. We are listening. Use our Ratepayer Request line at 403-742-4441, or submit your questions or concerns through our website at [www.StettlerCounty.ca](http://www.StettlerCounty.ca) and click on 'Submit a Request'.***

# The Road Map

## The Process of Building



### Health and Safety Concerns

There were some unsafe aspects identified about the County shop that needed to be addressed to meet building and fire codes



### Operational Needs Assessment

The County of Stettler conducted a study to determine what the needs of the entire County operations would be in the future



### Shop Safety and Operations Review

An external review outlined all of the changes that the Shop would need to make to bring it up to safe working standards



### Land Purchase

During the Operations Review, it was determined that the County would purchase land now, for future builds



### Shop Assessment Re-evaluated

It becomes clear that a Shop renovation would be too costly for the return on investment. A new Shop is being planned.



### Public Consultations

Council engages the public in discussions around building a new Shop and/or Office through County Connection and Town Hall Meetings. Council identified the need to go ahead with the Shop.



### Selection Process

Council is in the process of choosing a company to design and build a new Shop



### Building the Shop

A new Shop will be constructed on the land purchased south of the Town of Stettler



# SUMMER HOURS LANDFILL/TRANSFER STATIONS

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.



## ZERO TOLERANCE

Please contact our 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. Anyone who intends to undertake a non-agricultural development in the County of Stettler No. 6 is required to first obtain a development permit from the County. This could also help you 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. 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.

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.

## SETBACKS

Remember, 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.



## HAYING THE DITCH

### 2015 Vegetation Program

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.

## 4H BURSARY

### 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, 2015.**

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



# ROADSIDE WEED & BRUSH CONTROL

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting Roadside Vegetation Control along County roadside ditches beginning May 18, 2015. 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 sight lines 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 Southern third of the County (Township 370, or Fenn Road, and south to the Special Areas Border).

All spraying is carried out by licensed pesticide applicators following the Professional Vegetation Management of Alberta (PVMAA) 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 required to complete the Herbicide Spray Exemption form. This form must be completed at the County office prior to May 15, 2015.

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 13, 2015 the County of Stettler will void any agreement made with the 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 at 403.742.4441.



Noise Cannon



Side by Side Spray Truck

## RENT = MONEY WELL SPENT

Over the past year, there have been some changes to the equipment line up in the county yard.

The Agricultural Service Board has added a rental charge to some of our equipment. Here is a list of rental equipment in our pool that has a charge. Please keep in mind you should phone in ahead of time to check three things:

1. equipment availability
2. current fee
3. rental period

### RENTAL EQUIPMENT

#### 1. Spraying

- |    |                                       |   |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| a. | Weed Inspector                        | \$25.00/hour + chemical                     |
| b. | Private Land Spraying (Ratepayers)    | *\$60.00/hour + chemical                    |
|    | Private Land Spraying (Oilfield)      | *\$110.00/hour + chemical                   |
| c. | UTV Private Land Spraying (Ratepayer) | *\$80.00/hour + chemical                    |
|    | UTV Private Land Spraying (Oilfield)  | *\$140.00/hour + Chemical                   |
| d. | Weed Picking Labourer                 | \$25.00/hour                                |
| e. | Lot Mowing                            | \$80.00/hour + mileage from the County yard |
- \* Reduce private land spraying fees by 25% (labour only), for the first calendar year, for ratepayers that are controlling Absinthe Wormwood as identified in the Absinthe Wormwood Priority Area Weed Control (PAWC) program

#### 2. Trees

- |    |                |                                   |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | Tree Planter   | \$25.00/site visit                |
| b. | Commercial Use | \$500.00 deposit and \$100.00/day |
| c. | Freight        | free of charge (ASB pays freight) |

#### 3. Agriculture Use Only

- |    |                    |                  |
|----|--------------------|------------------|
| a. | Backpack Sprayers  | \$150.00 deposit |
| b. | Skid Mount Sprayer | \$250.00 deposit |
|    | - Half Day         | \$75.00          |
|    | - Full Day         | \$125.00         |



Field Sprayer



Hay Probe

- c. Field Sprayer
  - Half Day \$500.00 deposit
  - Full Day \$100.00
  - Late Charges: \$175.00
- d. Godwin Pump, Hose and Hose Trailer
  - Late Charges: \$50/day after 3rd day
  - \$300.00 deposit
  - \$200.00 or \$25/hour (according to hour meter) whichever is greater
- e. Forage Probe
  - Late Charges: \$200/day after 2nd day
  - \$50.00 deposit
  - Late Charges: \$50.00/day after 2nd day

**4. Traps**

- a. Skunk
  - \$75.00 deposit
  - Late Charges: \$50/week after 2nd week
- b. Magpie
  - \$75.00 deposit
  - Late Charges: \$50/week after 2nd week

**5. Cattle Scale**

- a. Half Day (4 hours or less on site) \$75.00
- b. Full Day (more than 4 hours on site) \$100.00

**6. Other**

- a. Age Verification Program - entering information \$50.00
- b. Tag Reader Program \$10.00/3 days
- Late Charges: \$100/day after 3rd day

**7. Noise Cannons**

\$200.00 deposit  
 \$20.00/week  
 Ratepayer provides their own propane tank and propane

This equipment is kept available to the public as long as necessary to get the job(s) done (as long as weather permits of course). For more information or if you have any questions, please call the Agricultural Services Department at 403.742.4441.



*And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.  
Gilbert K. Chesterton*

## COUNTY FUN RODEOS & PARADES

Take in the action and marvel at the BIG SHOWS our SMALL TOWNS are famous for hosting each year.

**Big Valley Bust Out Rodeo** May 8, 9, and 10 at the Big Valley Agriplex  
**Rodeo Performances** Friday @ 7:00 p.m.; Saturday @ 7:00 p.m.; Sunday @ 2:00 p.m.

**Donalda Ranch Rodeo** June 1 (indoors) at 1:00 p.m. Donalda Ag Society

**Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede** June 12, 13, 14

New this year: Midway; Stampede Market with Home-Based Vendors at the Curling Rink; Art Walk on Main Street; Quilt Show at the Parish Hall, Catholic Church; Entertainment by the Chevelles.

**Rodeo Performances** at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Downtown Pancake Breakfast on Saturday June 13 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Stettler Steel Wheel Parade at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13

Town & County Pancake Breakfast Sunday, June 14 at 8:00 a.m.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## DONALDA EVENTS

*Campground Opens May 15 - October 31st*

*Drive In Movie in the Coulees - May 22*

*Barrel Racing Clinic - May 29-31 at both the indoor and outdoor arenas*

*Donalda Ranch Rodeo - June 6th at the indoor arena starting at 1:00 p.m. Steak Supper to follow.*

*July 1 - Parade and Celebrations*

## Father's Day Breakfast, June 21

Pilot Knob is hosting a Fathers' Day Breakfast on June 21st from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

French toast, pancakes, fruit cups, coffee, tea!

Pay by donation.



## Red Willow Mother's Day Breakfast, May 10

Red Willow Hall 8:30 a.m. - 11:00a.m. and the cost is \$7 per person or \$20 per family.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Don't Rush. Enjoy the season.  
Play Safe, Farm Safe, Drive Safe this Spring.



Botha Community Centre Mothers' Day Breakfast  
May 10th, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the Botha Community Hall.

## How Rain Barrels Help

During an average summer, watering your trees, gardens and lawn can account for up to 40% of your home's water usage. During summer months, one rain barrel can help homeowners save up to 1000 gallons of water, depending on size of barrel and proper utilization. *No one can do everything. Everyone can do something. Sponsored by the Heartland Beautification Committee*

Let's Celebrate!

Join us for our 60th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, June 18, 2015

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Displays, presentations and activities that will remind you of days gone past and inspire you to envision our future.

Lunch will be served.



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