

Stettler County Connection

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TAX DEADLINE 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 Friday, October 30, 2015

Notice of changes on how to make payment

- **Effective immediately, the County of Stettler will no longer be keeping credit card numbers on file.** With increased activity in credit card fraud, we are compelled to change this process.
- If you would like to phone in a payment to be processed on your credit card, it will be processed immediately.
- **Also, from Monday, October 26th through to and including Friday, October 30th, we will not be accepting credit card payments by phone.** You will be required to come into the County office with your credit card to have it processed.

There are many different ways that you can pay your property taxes and accounts receivable at 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 bills online, the following financial institutes accept County of Stettler payments:

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

If your financial institution is not listed, please contact our County office at 403-742-4441.



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STETTINER
COUNTIES

COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

Connections. The past few months we have been busy making connections. First at our Town Hall meetings, then at the Stettler Trade Show, and most recently at the County's 60th Anniversary Celebration. This is what our magazine is all about, making 'County Connections'.

We regularly connect with ratepayers in the County at our public meetings, in the office when doing business, and on our website. Sometimes it is just at the side of the road or through a wave to our grader operators. Other times we get a call or a ratepayer request. I've even received the odd handwritten note, though rare these days.

All of these connections are important and help us understand what our citizens have on their mind. We rely on this feedback and input to help guide us. It keeps us efficient, and it keeps us on our toes.

Regularly, I enjoy reading and responding to what subscribers have to share on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. I always respond when there is a request for information or question posted to any of our accounts. If I don't know the answer - I find the answer. If I don't respond, it is only because an actual 'question' has not been posed but I do always find pleasure in reading what citizens share.

Whether we are connecting, or re-connecting with you, it is always our pleasure. Keep connecting with us, we are happy to hear what you have to say.

Sincerely,



Stettler County Connection

Summer 2015

Volume 5 Issue 3

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Printed by

Kathy's Printing Service

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Availability: Current Issues of County Connection can be obtained from the County of Stettler Administration Building while supplies last.

Subscription: County Connections is delivered free of charge to taxpayers, with exception to those who do not live in the Province of Alberta or have unsubscribed from our mailing list. If you wish to receive future copies, please make the request to the Managing Editor at nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca. You may also view the current and back issues of the County Connection on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca





REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Thank you to everyone who attended our 60th Celebrations in June. We had a lot to reflect on and be proud of.

Earlier in the spring, during one of the Town Hall Meetings a ratepayer approached me asking that I let people know the facts about Council decisions and any business or developments that may be controversial. He felt that as Reeve, it was my duty to let people know the reasons for decisions of Council. Although all decisions are made at a public meeting, very few ratepayers actually attend and media reporting is not able to cover all the debating that occurs, particularly decisions involving public funds.

I suspect this ratepayer may have been referring to Council's decision to move forward with a new County Public Works Shop but the subject that I wish to address in this issue of County Connections is the accusations against us for the of misuse of public funds and violation of the Alberta Elections Act (the latter of which we have been vindicated).

The people making these accusations were all from outside the County of Stettler and have no idea of how we do our business, nor do they seem to have any idea of how municipal government works. We were accused of doing business with a political party by attending Premier's Dinners or MLA functions.

When the County was first asked for information under FOIP legislation (Freedom of Information Protection and Protection of Privacy) we offered

access to County records by phone, by email, by mail, and by Registered Mail, none of which were even acknowledged. Later, costs for providing this information through FOIP requests were estimated to have cost the County upwards of \$40,000, a high expense for the County to absorb in an inquiry which in my opinion was frivolous. We traded comments in the media until we decided as a County we could not win any dispute that way.

Imagine our surprise when three or four days before the most recent Alberta Provincial Election - 2015, we were approached by Edmonton media who regurgitated these accusations from the past issues which had been reported on and were now 4, 5, and 10 years old. We chose not to respond except to email them the letter from Elections Alberta saying there was no substance to the allegations of wrong-doing.

The 'story' was released the Saturday morning before the Provincial Election and contained recycled 'evidence' from a year and a half ago accusing the County of Stettler of misuse of public funds and tying the County to one of the candidates. Coincidence? I think not.

Politicians can choose to campaign in whichever fashion their consciences may allow, but I saw no reason to once more attempt to disparage the name of the County of Stettler.

What I want to say is that we, as Councillors and Administration of the County of Stettler, advocate for our ratepayers and residents of all rural Alberta.

Continued...



REEVE'S RAMBLINGS CONTINUED...

We deal with the Government of Alberta on almost a daily basis, mostly on a bureaucratic level.

Over the years we have established a good relationship with the Government of Alberta on both bureaucratic and at Legislative levels and I certainly do not apologize for that. At conventions we meet with bureaucrats, Deputy Ministers and sometimes even Ministers. We bring the concerns forward that affect our ratepayers as well as most residents of rural Alberta. We have met with Ministers to discuss highways and roads, hospitals and ambulance service, education and tourism, grain transportation and Water for Life, all sorts of agricultural issues and everything that Municipal Governments deal with.

In all those meetings I have yet to hear any person infer either directly or indirectly, that if we support their political party we will be looked upon favorably.

In dealing with the Government of Alberta, the municipalities and our municipal organization, the AAMDC (the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties) are much more successful than any Opposition Party could ever hope to be

because we have established our relationships based on respect. We approach problems with possible solutions in mind and we have no need for character assassinations or political posturing. Through the resolution process, issues that affect rural Alberta are debated at length and those that pass are presented to the Government of Alberta, again with respect, and are dealt with and the results are reported back to the membership.

The accusations of wrong-doing over the past couple of years has had adverse effects on our organization from Council to Administration to staff and I take it as a personal attack on the integrity of me and my colleagues when our intention is to promote the County of Stettler and rural Alberta.

Again I do not apologize for the relationship we have established with the Government of Alberta on whatever level we may deal with, and we will continue to strive to maintain that relationship with the present and future governments.



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THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!

The County's 60th Anniversary Celebrations were very well attended on Thursday, June 18. It is estimated over 600 plates of food were served with the help of Atco Electric at the grill with us.

Greetings were brought by many of our neighboring counties, towns and villages. Ethel Williams, wife of the late Lloyd Williams who was the Secretary/Treasurer of the first Council in 1955, shared some stories with everyone. We were thrilled so many Council Alumni were able to come and share their stories as well.

Thank you to all who displayed community displays at our event including: RCMP; Fire; Ambulance; Commercial Vehicle Branch, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Alberta Emergency Energy Regulators, Métis Nations, Stettler Board of Trade, Finning, Cervus Equipment, Bills Farm Supplies, Future Ag, and the Pheasant Festival.

Sincere gratitude to Cervus Equipment/John Deere who provided us with shuttle ATVs,

and to the Town who let us use land for parking and our wagon rides.

Thank you to the many community members who baked pie for the Best Pie in the County contest and to volunteer auctioneer Scott Douglas. The Best Pie 'title' went to Loree Nixon, wife of our Reeve Wayne Nixon. As contest winner, she chose the Stettler Town & Country Museum to receive the \$670.00 raised at the Pie Auction.

Thank you to Bill Long and his team of horses for the wagon rides, Jill Brodie for her working dog demonstrations, and Colleen Coulthard for bringing her pony. Many others contributed to our special day by providing photos, stories and memorabilia for our historical display including the Stettler Town & Country Museum. We would like to thank everyone who took part in or helped make our 60th celebration so special, and everyone who continues to make Stettler County a great place to live, work and play.

COMMUNITY



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

The E.O.C.

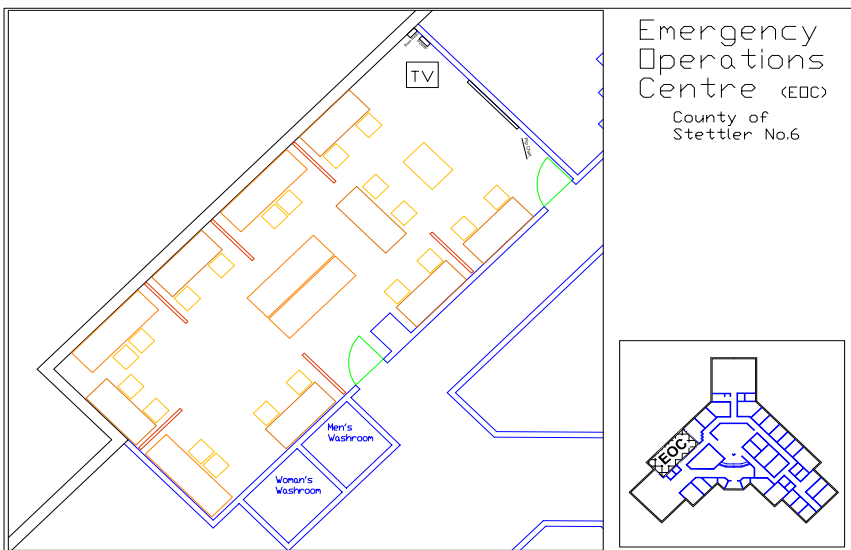
Two members from the County of Stettler Protective Services department serve as the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Deputy Director of Emergency Management (DDEM). They are responsible for the Stettler Regional Emergency Management Agency which supports the Town of Stettler and all municipalities and Summer Villages within the geographical boundary of the County of Stettler No. 6.

In the event of a local state of emergency being declared by one of the municipalities, the County of Stettler Administration building

would be converted into the E.O.C. to manage the event.

E.O.C. staff are trained in emergency management and from this Emergency Centre, they would assist all agencies at the site to provide resources and whatever else is required to manage the event. Additionally, the E.O.C. would be keeping elected officials informed so they are able to make appropriate decisions.

The Emergency Operations Centre is equipped with a backup emergency generator capable of providing power to the entire administration building in the event of a power outage. As well,



all the stations shown in the photos above have their own internet access and dedicated phone lines.

Along the walls you will notice 'situation boards' around the boardroom. These boards would be used during the event to record pertinent information and communications to assist all persons in the E.O.C.

The big table in the centre of the room is referred to as the 'war table' which would have various maps and other documents on it. It is here that planning cycles (meetings) would be held by the E.O.C. staff to exchange information, assess

needs and set an action plan for the next time period.

If you have questions or would like more information about the E.O.C., please feel free to contact the Director of Emergency Management, John Bishop or Deputy Director Terry Best at 403-742-4441.



PROTECT OUR WATERS

Quagga and Zebra Mussels and Eurasian Watermillfoil

You may have noticed a few 'check-stops' this summer throughout Alberta and even in our County - but these check stops are not checking seatbelts.

Quagga and Zebra mussels and Eurasian Watermillfoil are threatening our lakes and rivers. Alberta waters are now at risk of becoming infested with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). And the highest risk of infecting our waters is traveling behind your truck on a trailer - it's YOUR BOAT.

AIS are spread primarily through the transportation of watercraft from infected waters, to unaffected areas. Infected lakes have been found in Manitoba (Lake Winnipeg), Utah, Southwest United States and Eastern North America, including Ontario. Boaters are strongly discouraged against transporting boats from these areas.

What is the problem with AIS?

Aquatic Invasive Species are a threat to our economy, especially agriculture, tourism and

recreation. They destroy natural lake ecosystems and fisheries. Managing an AIS problem could cost us millions of dollars each year.

How do we avoid the problem in Stettler County?

CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY your boat, and your equipment before leaving a site. Quagga and Zebra mussels can live out of water up to 30 days...don't assume they will be dead by the time you get back. They won't be, even if you take the long way home.

Learn to identify AIS. Alberta Parks staff are monitoring high priority water bodies in every region of the province but we have to help by being responsible and accountable. AIS Inspectors will provide education and boat inspections at boat launches. If you are unsure, be safe. Call 1-855-336-2628 (BOAT) to report anything suspicious or for more information or visit www.myalberta.com.





CANADIAN BADLANDS PHEASANT FESTIVAL 2015

October 15-18, 2015, Stettler, Alberta

Come share the experience with volunteers, hunters and organizers.

The 2015 Canadian Badlands Pheasant Festival Stettler will be held October 15-18. With 30 sites, 3000 Pheasants, and over 500 hunters they are looking forward to a great second year. The week will consist of morning and afternoon hunts as well as a variety of interactive learning sessions for the public to partake.

The 2015 Pheasant Festival committee is always looking for volunteers.

Lend a Hand

- **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 and 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, check out their Facebook page at [Canadian Badlands Pheasant Festival-Stettler](#) or call the Stettler Board of Trade at 403-742-3181.



WHAT IS IMPLIED CONSENT?

What is implied consent? What is expressed consent? How and when do I know which one is required?

Implied consent is inferred from the patient's actions and surrounding circumstances. For example, a patient presents voluntarily for an examination, investigation, minor or less invasive treatment/procedure.

Expressed Consent is direct, explicit agreement to undergo a specific Treatment/Procedure(s), given either verbally or in writing. Expressed Consent in written form is obtained for only a few treatment/procedures in EMS such as the Vital Heart Program. It is prudent to obtain verbal consent also when analgesics, narcotics or anesthetic agents will significantly affect the patient's level of consciousness during the Treatment/Procedure.

The clinical situation determines the approach required. When there is doubt it is preferable the consent be expressed, either verbally or in writing.

Who is responsible to obtain consent when the treatment proposed will be done by a

Health Practitioner other than a physician?

The responsibility for obtaining informed consent rests with the Health Practitioner who has the responsibility and accountability for the specific treatment or procedure being provided to a patient, assuming he/she is authorized by Alberta Health Services to deliver the treatment/procedure within his/her scope of practice.

How do you verify understanding of information?

During the consent process, the patient must be given the opportunity to ask questions and receive understandable answers. The type of questions a patient asks may demonstrate their understanding. The Most Responsible Health Practitioner can also verify understanding by asking the patient what their concerns are (if any), or have the patient repeat back his/her understanding of the procedure and ask if they require any further information. The Most Responsible Health Practitioner may allow, at the patient's request, the patient's spouse, or any relatives or friends that accompany the patient, to help the patient to understand or demonstrate an understanding of the information.



How can I determine if there is a language barrier between the patient and the Most Responsible Health Practitioner? If there is, how can I access an interpreter?

Practitioners will be sure that information is presented in the appropriate language wherever possible, in a simple and easy to understand way, and in a manner that is respectful of cultural beliefs and preferences. If the patient does not speak the same language, all practitioners across Alberta have access to over-the-phone interpretation services in 170 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Who is responsible to document the consent process?

The Most Responsible Health Practitioner obtaining consent shall ensure that the consent process has been followed and that the consent process and outcome are documented appropriately in the patient's health record.

Who is able to give consent for minors if the parents lack capacity (e.g. intoxication)?

Practitioners must obtain informed consent from parents or legal representatives prior to providing care for minors. Practitioners may provide care to minors in situations where the parents or legal representatives are not present in circumstances where the delay of emergency medical care could cause significant harm to the patient. In this situation, practitioners should attempt to contact a parent or legal representative as soon as appropriate.

What do I do if the Specific Decision-Maker refuses consent? Or if they are not acting in the best interest of the patient?

It is important for the Most Responsible Health Practitioner to explain the risks and consequences of the refusal to the Specific Decision-Maker. It is prudent to have a second Health Practitioner witness the explanation and to document the refusal on the patient's health record. If the Most Responsible Health Practitioner is concerned that the decision being made (i.e. refusal) is not in the best interests of the patient, the practitioner will call On Line Medical Consultation for direction.



RECREATIONAL VEHICLE USE AND PLACEMENT

Allowed Use and Placement of Recreational Vehicles

The County of Stettler No. 6 Land Use Bylaw provides that any landowner in any land use district may use one or more Recreational Vehicle(s) for living accommodation for a period that does not exceed 21 days, without having to obtain a development permit. If a Recreational Vehicle will be used as a dwelling unit (i.e. it will be placed on a lot and/or occupied for living accommodation for a period that exceeds 21 days), a development permit must be obtained and can only be issued if "Recreational Vehicle for use as a dwelling unit" is listed as a use in the land use district in which the parcel is located, the parcel is not yet developed with a detached dwelling or another type of dwelling unit, and the Recreational Vehicle is connected to a certified sewage disposal system.

In Buffalo Sands some lots are reserved for detached dwelling development only, while the rest of the lots in the community could be developed either with a detached dwelling or an RV. The landowner must obtain a development permit for either, and both a detached dwelling and an RV must be connected to the municipal communal water and sanitary sewer systems.

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

either, and both a detached dwelling and an RV must be connected to a certified sewage disposal system. Pursuant to the Buffalo Lake Inter-municipal Development Plan, on a lot situated within 800 meter of the provincially-owned water management right-of-way, only a self-contained holding tank is permitted as a sewage disposal system.

In Buffalo Lake Meadows and Buffalo View Estates all landowners with undeveloped lots may apply for a discretionary use development permit to use a Recreational Vehicle as a dwelling unit. In Buffalo Lake Meadows the development permit may be issued for a period of 5 years and in Buffalo View Estates the development permit will be valid for two years. In Buffalo Lake Meadows and Buffalo View Estates a landowner may re-apply for a permit each time the permit expires. In Buffalo Lake Meadows the RV must be connected to a certified sewage disposal system. Pursuant to the Buffalo Lake Inter-municipal Development Plan, on a lot situated within 800 meters of the provincially-owned water management right-of-way, only a self-contained holding tank is permitted as a sewage disposal system. In Buffalo View Estates the RV must be connected to the municipal communal water and sanitary sewer systems.



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

The communities of Abbey Road, Rochon Sands and Bolin are fully built-out, except for a few lots. As a result, in these communities, an RV may be used for living accommodation for a period that does not exceed 21 consecutive days (for example family visiting for a week or long weekend). It is not necessary to obtain a development permit for this use and the RV does not have to be connected to a certified sewage disposal system.

Section 73.2 of the County of Stettler Land Use Bylaw also states that in any Land Use District a Recreational Vehicle shall not be parked, placed or stored for private storage purposes unless the use or building generally deemed to be the principle use

or principle building is being actively undertaken or has been constructed on the parcel. This means that if your lot is vacant you cannot merely store your RV on it.

In the fall of 2014 and this spring the Planning and Development Department conducted a series of surveys including all of the lots within the County of Stettler subdivisions at Buffalo Lake. Any lot with an RV present for a period exceeding 21 days was sent a notification that a development permit is required or the RV must be removed. In the event that landowners do not comply with this notification, the County of Stettler may issue a Stop Order pursuant to Section 645 of the Municipal Government Act.

If in the past you have obtained a gas permit, plumbing permit or electrical permit under the Safety Codes Act for an RV at the lake but you never actually obtained a development permit, you should expect a letter from the County that will explain the process of obtaining a development permit. The County welcomes ratepayers who visit and stay for the summer and would like to assist you in obtaining the correct approvals if you stay in your RV. The permit fee is \$100 and as explained above, in most cases it remains valid for an extended period.

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

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Sign your Hold Harmless Agreement today. Here's why:

Our operators schedule time in September to get your laneway safety inspections completed in order to be able to come and plow your driveways. If everyone signed their agreement before September 18, then operators would only have to go out once or twice to inspect driveways on their routes. When agreements trickle in, it is less efficient for all departments.

ALSO, it is safest for us to check your laneway BEFORE the snow falls, so we can clearly see your laneway and any hazards that may present themselves.

September 18 is our deadline for having Hold Harmless Agreements signed - this allows operators the appropriate amount of time to finish inspections and be prepared for their winter routes.

If you wait until the first snowfall to come in and sign your agreement, you will also be waiting for our operators who are now busy plowing to finish their 'beat', and have time to come out and do more inspections. Be prepared - come in before the deadline.

DON'T GET CAUGHT IN THE COLD - THINK SNOW

In the County of Stettler, we have 2811 km of roads (1750 miles). We look after rural roads, not highways. Highways, (#11, #12, #56 and secondary highways #835 and #601 for example) are serviced by Alberta Transportation.

Snowplowing is undertaken in a manner that minimizes backtracking and excessive road travel. We start in alternating locations and plow in a grid pattern of east and south, or west and north. Winging snow back from the shoulders has second priority. Laneways are often plowed in conjunction with the gravel roads, however when we are unable to keep up with county roads, then residential laneways are cleared later. The County of Stettler No. 6 will not provide grading services or snowplowing services of driveways on private property situated in Hamlets or for multi lot subdivisions.

Laneways are only plowed after an application is made to the County, the laneway has been inspected for safety by the County and residents have signed a 'Hold Harmless' agreement. This must be done every summer.

One final note of concern with laneway plowing, is the safety of children. Operators are often plowing in less than ideal conditions, and in the dark. We need our residents to educate children/grandchildren/visitors to stay far back from the graders, as often it is very hard to see children, or they come out of a pile of snow that the grader may be heading for. Please keep close supervision of your children when laneway plowing is underway,



and educate everyone to stay far back from our equipment.

The job of snowplowing is extremely stressful, since our operators are working in the worst conditions and always feel the pressure of trying to get the job done as quickly as possible. We do have a substantial fleet. County roads require at least 2 passes. In addition, we are plowing 500-600 laneways.

We aim to have all our roads cleared in the 5-7 day range. Laneways can take longer so there are times when you might need to make alternate arrangements. We alternate our plowing 'starting point' so no one is always 'first' or 'last' to be plowed out. Which means, we have either half the people happy, or half of the people mad, depending on how you look at it. Complicating factors include blowing snow, drifts, and continuing snowfall.

For safety reasons, we follow these conditions as set out in Public Works procedure 500.14:

1. Grader Operators may operate when temperatures are -30 or colder, only if approved by the Director of Public Works.

2. The County of Stettler No. 6 shall have the right to refuse to snow plow, when in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, Chief Administrative Officer and/or Grader Operator it would be hazardous or difficult to do so.

3. Grader Operators may work extra hours in extreme conditions, however, when it is deemed unsafe due to being tired, their hours will be reduced.

Come in to the County and get your Hold Harmless Agreements signed early. You will need your blue sign address or your legal land location.



ROAD USE AGREEMENTS REVISITED

The County of Stettler has revamped the old Road Use Agreement (RUA) form into a more streamlined agreement and will be implementing this in the near future. Under the new policy, any contractor/operator who makes five or more trips into a single location within a 24 hour period is considered a 'major haul'. A trip is defined as either going to or coming from the same location. This pertains to both commercial and agricultural practices.

The RUA will now be issued for a time period of one year and can either be destination specific or be a blanket agreement to cover various routes within the County. Any deviations from the

original designated route can be changed with a simple call to Protective Services.

A pre inspection and post inspection will be completed to assure any road issues are noted both before and after the major haul. There is no fee to obtain a RUA and the purpose of the change is to more closely monitor major hauls to ensure they are being completed in safety and without damaging our infrastructure.

More information will be forthcoming however, if you have questions please contact Protective Services at 403-741-6133.

Four Reasons Why Spay/Neuter in your Barn Makes Cents

1. Your spayed female won't go into heat.

While cycles can vary, female felines usually go into heat four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. In an effort to advertise for mates, they'll yowl and urinate more frequently.

2. It is highly cost-effective.

The cost of your pet's spay/neuter surgery is less than the cost of having and caring for a litter. It also beats the cost of treatment when your unneutered tom escapes and gets into fights with the neighborhood stray!

3. Spaying and neutering your pet is good for the community.

Stray animals pose a real problem in many parts of the country. They can prey on wildlife, cause car accidents, damage the local fauna and frighten children. Spaying and neutering packs a powerful punch in reducing the number of animals.

4. Spaying and neutering helps fight pet overpopulation.

Every year, millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized or suffer as strays. These high numbers are the result of unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering.

BARN SENSE SPAY/NEUTER MAKES CENTS

Whether you've recently adopted a barn cat or kitten, or you're considering it, one of the most important health decisions you'll make is to spay or neuter.

Spaying—removing the ovaries and uterus of a female pet—is a veterinary procedure that requires minimal hospitalization and offers lifelong health benefits. Neutering—removing the testicles of your male dog or cat—will vastly improve your pet's behavior and keep him close to home.

Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life. Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast cancer, which is fatal in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Neutering provides major health benefits for your male. Besides preventing unwanted litters, neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer, if done before six months of age.

Caring for unwanted litters has a cost attached to it. Taking the time to spay or neuter your cats is humane, and can save you time and money on caring for unwanted litters.

Two main laws protect animals against abuse and neglect in our province: Alberta's Animal Protection Act and the Criminal Code of Canada.

The Animal Protection Act protects animals from distress due to neglect or abuse by their owner or caretaker. Peace officers from the Alberta SPCA, the Calgary Humane Society and the Edmonton Humane Society are appointed by the Solicitor General of Alberta and the Minister of Public Security to enforce the Animal Protection Act. Penalties can include restrictions on owning animals and fines of up to \$20,000.

The Criminal Code of Canada applies to wilful acts of cruelty or neglect, either by an animal's owner or by someone else. Cases covered by the Criminal Code are usually investigated by community police or the RCMP, often in consultation with the appropriate SPCA or humane society. Maximum penalties vary depending on the type of conviction under the Criminal Code.



(L-R) Gregory Jackson representing Metalex Metal Buildings Inc.; SWMA board member and Town Councillor Sean Nolls; Superfluity, Treasurer Rose Wesner and Board Member Grace Krautt; TransCanada Corporation, Associate Jolene Heck; Atco Electric, Representative Nancy Bauman; and Joe Gendre, SWMA Board Member and Councillor for the County of Stettler.

LIFE IS BETTER WHEN WE GIVE AND TAKE

The latest recycling initiative

The Stettler Waste Management Authority (SWMA) broke ground in June on a “Take it or Leave it” facility, thanks in part to four generous donors: Metalex Metal Buildings Inc. who are donating the labour to build the facility, and Superfluity, TransCanada Corporation, and ATCO Electric who all have made generous cash donations towards the project spear-headed by Grace Fix, the Recycling representative for the SWMA.

The ‘Take it or Leave it’ facility, to be located at the Stettler Transfer Site, will house unwanted but usable large household items that residents wish to drop off, which other residents may then take for free.

The purpose is to keep large usable items out of our landfill, keep items in use longer in order to save non-renewable resources that are consumed to make new items, as well as to enable residents to find usable items at no cost.

It is estimated the Stettler area discards about 1200 large furniture items per year into our landfill. About 300 of those items are believed to be re-usable.

“The Stettler Waste Management Authority, who identified their strategic priority to be increasing diversion from our Landfills by fostering and encouraging Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, has organized and partly funded this project, and will also be in charge of its day to day operations,” said Rene Doucette, manager for SWMA.

The Stettler Waste Management Authority, serving 12,000 residents, oversees the on-going development of an efficient and environmentally responsible solid waste management and disposal system, including recycling, for the County of Stettler, the Town of Stettler, and six villages within the County of Stettler: Big Valley, Botha, Donalds, Gadsby, Summer Village of Rochon Sands and the Summer Village of White Sands.



Picture the County in Black & White

2015 Photo Contest

Submit your Black & White photos for a chance to be published in our 2016 County Calendar - Grand Prize wins an **iPad!**

**Deadline
for entries:
Oct. 15
2015**

Contest Rules

Amateur Photographers only.
If you run a photography business, you are not eligible

Anyone can Enter!
There are no age or residency requirements but the photograph must be taken by the entrant

***NEW**
Maximum entries: 3 per person.
Due to a record number of entries in 2014, we have reduced max. entries to 3 per person.

Photos should be High Quality.
Set your camera to the HIGHEST RESOLUTION.
Landscape vs. portrait? Landscapes lend themselves best to our calendar format.

Photos MUST be taken in the County of Stettler.

Photographs taken in the Town of Stettler and Villages of Big Valley, Donaldal, Botha and Gadsby will be accepted but will not be considered for the grand prize. You must confirm where in the County the photo was taken in order to be eligible.



In honor of our 60th Anniversary, we will be Picturing the County in Black & White. Please submit your Black & White photos online. For full contest details and to upload your entries visit www.stettlercounty.ca!

2015 PHOTO CONTEST

In celebration of our 60th Anniversary Year, our Calendar Contest will be taking a step back in time.

The 2015 Contest 'Picture the County in Black & White' has now begun and we are inviting all amateur photographers to submit up to three photos in black and white. Deadline for submissions is Thursday, October 15, 2015.

A panel of judges will assemble at the end of October to pick the top 13 photos (12 months plus a cover) to be featured in our 2016 Black & White County Calendar. Of those 13 photos, one

will be chosen as the Grand Prize winner, and that photographer will be awarded an iPad. There will be prizes for the other 12 photographers as well.

Last year we received close to 300 entries, so we have reduced the number of photos each photographer can enter down to three, in hopes of making it a little easier on our judges to choose just 13 finalists.

For full contest details and to upload your entries please visit our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca.



CLEANFARMS ALBERTA

Each year, Canadian farmers return over \$4.5 million empty containers for recycling across the country. Clean pesticide containers are recycled into drainage tile and find a second life back on the farm. CleanFARMS partners with ag-retailers and municipalities to collect empty commercial pesticide and fertilizer containers from farmers across the country. Since the program began in 1989, more than 100 million empty containers have been collected. The program operates each growing season.

Containers 23 litres and smaller are collected through this program. Containers larger than 23 litres should be returned to the point of sale or to the manufacturer for disposal. Containers used for home and garden care with the words

'Domestic' on their label should be disposed of through an appropriate municipal program. The empty container recycling program plays an important role in protecting the environment by keeping recyclable materials out of landfills and preventing them from being burned.

Properly rinsing containers is extremely important to keep the collection sites clean and safe for people, animals and the environment.

CleanFARMS runs an obsolete pesticide and animal health medication return program in each province every three years. This year it will be in Southern Alberta (South of Red Deer). Location will be disclosed shortly, for more information visit www.cleanfarms.ca.

Attention Growers

Announcing changes to pesticide return programs—and they're as easy as 1-2-3.



NEW

1

Bulk Containers

RETURN TO RETAILER

Return all bulk pesticide containers to your crop inputs retailer. Do not return any bulk containers to municipal collection sites.



NEW

2

Obsolete Pesticides

HOLD ON FARM

Store all obsolete pesticides safely on-farm until called in for scheduled pick up at designated collection sites.



UNCHANGED

3

Small Pesticide Containers

RETURN TO MUNICIPALITY

Continue to return small pesticide containers (under 23L) to your local municipal collection site.



REMEMBER:

Triple rinsing containers is essential!

CleanFARMS®

These changes are now in effect and more detail can be found at cleanfarms.ca. Thank you Alberta growers for your cooperation and leadership in ag-waste stewardship.



Town Councillors and County Councillors signing the new Recreation Agreement.

THE COUNTY SUPPORTS RECREATION

On Wednesday, May 6, 2015 the County of Stettler Council and the Town of Stettler Council held a joint Special Council Meeting at the Stettler Recreation Centre to ratify a new Recreation Agreement.

In the spirit of good faith and collaboration the County and the Town entered into negotiations in an effort to come to a common understanding in regards to recreation funding of Town facilities. Under the guidance of a mediator in partnership with and supplied by Municipal Affairs, the recreation committee was able to reach an agreement on how recreation within the Town will be funded.

The new agreement is a living document and addresses both operating and capital funding for Town recreation and leisure activities, which can be applied for the next 20 years without the need for significant renegotiations. Mayor of the Town, Dick Richards said, "This agreement represents mutually fair and equitable funding for the provision of recreation and leisure services. It protects the value of affordable recreation within the regional community and our collective sustainability."

The County has agreed to contribute over \$500,000 per year which will fluctuate with yearly tax assessment. A portion of this is earmarked for capital expenses, the remainder will fund Town recreation operations deficit. County residents will see a Town Recreation Funding line appear on their 2015 tax notice. This contribution is to ensure County residents continue to receive equal access to Town facilities and will also help maintain Town Recreational facilities which County residents enjoy the use and benefits of.

Reeve for the County, Wayne Nixon said, "We are happy to have reached this agreement with the Town and look forward to continuing to build relationships and foster regional collaboration for the benefit of all of our residents."

In the past the Town and County have experienced many successes in joint ventures, and recognize opportunities exist for those who embrace joint projects with a cooperative and collaborative spirit to the benefit of the entire region.



Botha Arena

In addition to helping fund Town Recreation - the County also works jointly with the Town to operate the following:

- Library: 35% County/65% Town for requisitions - The Town and County support the Joint Library Board 50/50. Our library funding has almost doubled over the past 5 years. We supported current upgrades to the Library and parking lot under the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund Grant – as a 50% partner.
- Town and Country Museum: We are a 50% partner in the Museum.
- Airport: Share costs with the Town
- Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission (SMRWSC): Town supplies treated water with a 30 year contract to SMRWSC
- Stettler Waste Management Authority (SWMA): Joint among all municipalities, County Administration services are provided
- Stettler District Ambulance Association (SDAA): Joint among all municipalities, County Administration services provided
- Doctor Recruitment Committee: Joint committee, 50% share in costs
- Fire Services: 50% share in operational costs (Stettler) and significant share in Fire Hall Capital Projects.
- The County also owns and operates the Firehalls of: Donalds, Big Valley and Byemore
- Emergency Management Services: County provides and administers Emergency Management Services to the Town and all municipalities within our borders. The Town and municipalities contribute admin fees.



County Playground

DID YOU KNOW? RECREATION

Our rural communities are stretched across 1,647 square miles and they depend, thrive and revolve around County assets and community meeting places. We have ownership and a fiscal responsibility to maintain several County Recreational assets.

These assets include:

- 17 County Playgrounds: Buffalo Sands, Scenic Sands, Buffalo Lake Meadows, Big Valley Ag Society, Big Valley Elks Playground, Botha, Gadsby (Village and Ball Diamonds), Westwoods Hall, Nevis (Hall Grounds), Village of Donalda, Erskine, Byemoor, Endiang, Rochon Sands (Village and Beach), Rochon Sands Provincial Park, Linda Hall, Red Willow
- 16 County Halls: Red Willow, Linda Hall, Rochon Sands, Endiang, Byemoor, Erskine, Donalda, Nevis, Gadsby, Botha, Big Valley Jubilee and Legion Hall, Westwoods, Fenn, Union Hall, and Pilot Knob
- Skating Rinks in Big Valley and Byemoor
- Curling Rinks in Byemoor, Big Valley, Donalda and Erskine
- County Ag Societies in Big Valley, Donalda, Red Willow and Westwoods
- Buffalo View Estates Marina
- Kerbes Pond
- Boehlke's Pond
- Gadsby Ball Diamonds

We support these assets between three programs:

- 1) Operations Assistance Grant for the continued operation of the recreational facilities in the rural communities. (this fund includes facilities in the County, plus the Stettler Agricultural Society). Budget of \$150,000/year.
- 2) Recreation Board Special Project Funding (RSPF) - \$50,000/year is allocated to assist with renovations, upgrades to facilities with over \$2 million given out to date.

We also fund:

- County Museums in Big Valley and Donalda
- County Libraries in Big Valley & Donalda
- Cemetery Fund
- Performing Arts in School Program - Exposing rural youth to Arts & Cultural Activities
- Community Service Awards - Recognizing outstanding volunteerism in our communities
- Playground Inspections - The County does yearly inspections on all County Playgrounds to ensure safety
- Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede, we jointly host a yearly pancake breakfast with the Town
- 4H - We donate the use of our cattle scale for use at the annual 4H Show and Sale
- Sponsor of the Pheasant Festival promoting and encouraging eco tourism and economic development in Stettler County, since 2014



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

MUNICIPAL RESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE

As part of the direction of the Buffalo Lake South Shore Inter-municipal Development Plan, the County of Stettler and the Summer Village of White Sands, through public consultations and with input from the Summer Village of Rochon Sands and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, will be preparing a shoreline management plan for the south shore of Buffalo Lake. Results from this consultation will guide Council in developing a plan or policy for the use of the Buffalo Lake south shoreline.

This shoreline management plan, once established, is intended to provide a framework for the use and development of the County-owned land along the lake shoreline (e.g. the use of Municipal Reserve and Environmental Reserve, possible utilization of the provincially-owned water management right-of-way through Licenses of Occupation owned by the County management and other matters that may be identified through the public consultation process, including weed and vegetation management, a permitting system for the placement of boat lifts and dock storage during the winter etc.). Until the plan is developed, the following will apply in regards to the use of Environmental Reserve and/or Municipal Reserve (ER and/or MR):

- As the existing license agreements (in specific locations) between the County and landowners for restricted use of the ER/MR expire in November 2015, County Council has directed these agreements shall be honored until they expire. Therefore, all existing encroachments (e.g. buildings and structures) onto ER/MR that are covered by a license agreement are allowed to remain in place **until**
- **November 2015** when the license agreements expire and all existing encroachments must be removed. For landowners who need the lake frozen in order to remove encroachments off of the ER and MR, the County is willing to cooperate with them until the spring of 2016, however they must contact the County in this regard.
- It is not permitted to store private docks or boat lifts on ER or MR during any time of the year. Please note the County does not have jurisdiction on the provincially-owned water management right-of-way. We understand the provincial government is working with the Summer Village Association of Alberta to develop a template regulation for use by all summer villages (and other municipalities where applicable) for the placing of boat docks. Therefore it is worth taking notice that current practices regarding the placement of boat docks may change in the future. The County will endeavour to align the Buffalo Lake south shoreline management plan with the provincial template regulations when those become available.
- It is not permitted to trim or remove live trees and undergrowth within either Environmental Reserve or Municipal Reserve. It is not permitted to remove deadfall unless it obstructs a designated pathway that the County maintains. As stated above, under the existing license agreements between the County and landowners for restricted use of the ER/MR, only landowners who have



Buffalo Lake South Shore

entered into those agreements and whose agreements are still valid until November 2015 are allowed to continue to cut grass and weeds or pick weeds by hand. Once the Buffalo Lake south shoreline management plan is established, it may or may not allow for this to continue.

- It is not permitted to spray unwanted vegetation on ER or MR. For spraying weeds on your private property, there may be certain chemicals that are prohibited for spraying in proximity to the lake, so it would be best if you checked with the County's Agricultural Fieldmen before using chemicals to spray noxious weeds on your private property.
- When the County and landowners jointly develop the Buffalo Lake south shoreline management plan, the question of a fence and pathway on the ER will be one of many matters to resolve.
- Landowners of lakefront properties are allowed to pull on wheels or carry their boat lifts and docks from their properties across the Environmental Reserve into the lake in the spring and back onto their properties in the fall, as long as it is not necessary to lay down rails across the ER or damage vegetation.

In the fall of 2015 the County and the Summer Village of White Sands will start a public consultation process for the development of the shoreline management plan. This project relies on community consultation and input, because there would be no point in

developing a plan that the majority of landowners cannot support. Public consultation for the County will include landowners of all multi-lot subdivisions from Scenic Sands in the west to Buffalo View Estates in the east. The process kicks off with a survey questionnaire that will help the municipalities understand landowners' views and knowledge of the shoreline. Once a summary of all the issues identified through the survey questionnaire is available, an open house will be scheduled in the summer of 2016 to further discuss the issues, the range of possible outcomes and the most desirable outcomes that are mutually beneficial to the private landowners as the users of the shoreline and to the County and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development as the owners of the public lands.

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is currently working towards a template regulation for boat docks/lifts for all summer villages in Alberta. The process being initiated by the County and the Summer Village of White Sands is not an attempt to duplicate the AESRD process, but rather to work in conjunction with it. If the County/Summer Village of White Sands shoreline management plan is ready for adoption before AESRD has finalized their template regulation, the shoreline management plan could be adopted under current rules as stated in the Buffalo Lake Integrated Shoreline Management Plan, and if necessary amendments will be made to it when AESRD releases the new template regulations.

If you would like to discuss this process with the County, please call Johan van der Bank at (403) 742-4441 or email jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca.

Save a Tree

Sign up for e-versions of County Connection magazine by contacting nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca or by calling 403-742-4441.

It's also available on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.



RUMMAGE SALE

72nd Annual Kinette Club of Stettler/IODE Rummage Sale

Friday, September 25 from 9 AM - 8 PM

Saturday, September 26 from 9 AM - 2 PM

Stettler Curling Rink & Stettler Agriplex

Just another example of Re-use and Recycle, this Rummage Sale has been helping us clean out our cupboards and fill up our empty spaces for 72 years now. This project prevents a very large amount of items from going to the landfill. It allows for members of the community to purchase items they previously may not have been able to afford and it helps clubs raise money in order to give back to the community through a variety of different ways.

LEND A HAND:

DONATE GENTLY USED RUMMAGE:

Call Cheryl at 403-740-2898

There will be **NO TOWN PICK UP DAY**. They will be accepting rummage drop off at the Stettler Curling Rink from 5-8 PM August 10, 24 and September 14th.

Also drop off accepted Sept. 20 (10-5); Sept. 21 (9-9) Sept. 22 (1-9); Sept. 23 (9-4)

THEY CAN NOT ACCEPT:

Box TVs; Cribs; Car Seats or luggage that is not current (must have wheels and an upright handle.)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS FISH?
CATCH IT. KILL IT.**



PRUSSIAN CARP A.K.A WILD GOLDFISH

Prussian Carp is a harmful invasive species that is known to devastate aquatic ecosystems and pose severe threats to native fish.

**If you catch a Prussian Carp,
DON'T LET IT LOOSE. Please kill it
and take it home to eat or properly
dispose of the carcass (away from
any water bodies).**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:
1-855-336-BOAT (2628)



Notice of Special Council Meeting & Joint Public Hearing County of Stettler No. 6 Bylaw 1550-15 Friday, August 14, 2015 at 7:00 P.M., Erskine I.O.O.F. Hall

Pursuant to Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, the Councils of Camrose County, Lacombe County, Stettler County, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, and the Summer Village of White Sands give notice that they have given First Reading to amend the Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan (County of Stettler No. 6 Bylaw 1550-15).

The purpose of this amendment is to update administrative components of the plan, clarify issues around environmental reserve dedications and public access points, and update the review timelines.

Copies of the proposed By-law are available at the County Office during office hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or online at www.stettlercounty.ca

Public Hearing for the updated Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan County of Stettler No. 6 Bylaw 1550-15 will be held on Friday, August 14, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Erskine I.O.O.F. Community Hall at 10 Railway Avenue, Erskine, Alberta.

Anyone affected by this amendment may make written submissions on or before Thursday, August 13, 2015 to County of Stettler No. 6, Attention: Johan van der Bank, Director of Planning and Development, PO Box 1270, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0 or by email: jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca or make representation in person at the Public Hearing. The Joint Public Hearing will be a part of a Special Meeting of Council for County of Stettler No. 6.

Byemoor Fair

Don't miss the Annual Byemoor Fair

Saturday, August 15, 2015

The County will be participating in the Parade scheduled for 11:00 a.m.



Erskine Floats and Flicks

Erskine's annual day of family fun happens in the fall!

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015

The County will be participating in the annual parade.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

First student day for Clearview Public Schools.



Critters to Crud

Learn how to save your yard and garden! Bring your samples of insect pests or diseases from your yard and garden to the Stettler Public Library on Saturday, Aug. 15 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

OL' MacDonalds Music Festival - September 11-13, 2015

Tickets and Camping available by phone only at 403-742-6603

Line up includes Tim Hus, Danny Hooper, Duane Steele, Denver Daines and MORE.

Visit olmacdonaldsmusic.ca for more information.

2015 STETTLER AWARDS GALA

October 22 - Stettler Community Hall

If you know someone who should be acknowledged for outstanding service in the community please contact the Stettler Board of Trade at 403-742-3181.

Categories include:

Male & Female Citizen of the Year
Youth Citizen of the Year
Stettler Ambassador of the Year
Corporate Citizen of the Year
Business of the Year
Small Business of the Year
Customer Service

Business Service
Community Service
Marketing Award
Learning in the Workplace
Product & Innovation Award
Heritage Award



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