

Fall 2015

Stettler County Connection

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REMINDER

TAXES DUE FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2015

Tax Payment Deadline is Friday, October 30, 2015

Payment must be made at the County Office prior to 4:30 p.m., or the envelope must be postmarked October 30th by Canada Post to avoid late payment penalties.

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.
- We will accept credit card payments by phone until Friday, October 23. **Starting 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.

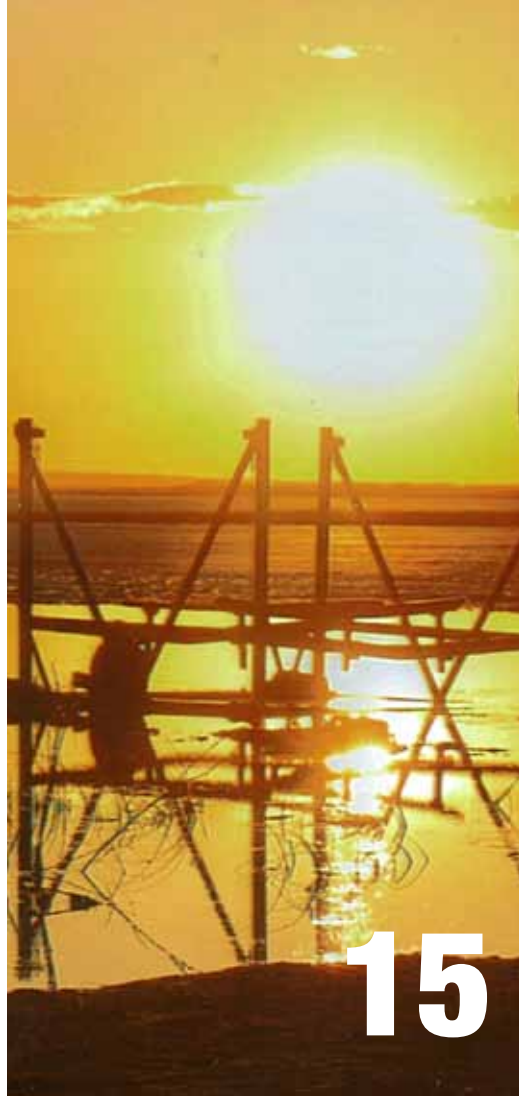
If you are paying bills online, the following financial institutes accept County of Stettler payments:

- 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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COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

Hunters have been stopping in wondering if we have a 'bird problem' anywhere that they could take care of. It is that time of year, when you look to the sky and take in the huge 'V' formation of the flocks of geese starting their migration. Happily, they don't seem to be in much of a hurry as I write this, and I could be wrong but I choose to believe this means winter isn't so close.

Why do geese fly in a 'V' formation? Presumably, it is to line up wing tips in order to catch the preceding bird's updraft.

We're just finishing up 'construction season' at the County. And just like the geese, I like to visualize our team as flying in a 'V' formation. One crew's work often depends on another, and carefully managed it flows along, providing an updraft of sorts on down the line. We managed to complete many large projects this summer. Some of them were waiting on others, and while this is sometimes joked about as 'inefficiency', in fact, most of the time, when a projects appears 'stalled' it is because of the exact opposite. We always try to get the most out of the dollars, the contractors and the crews as we can, and sometimes this means putting something on hold, or leaving it at a certain stage until we can line up some efficiencies.

As your read this you will just have flocked (I hope) to the polls to cast your vote in the 2015 federal election. And soon, some of our citizens will be flocking south for the winter. Wherever you gather, we wish you safe travels.

Sincerely,



Stettler County Connection

Fall 2015

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Editor-in-Chief

Tim Fox

Managing Editor

Niki Thorsteinsson

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Reeve Nixon thanking Jenna Witherow of Q93.3 for her fine coverage of County events during her time spent in Stettler.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

At the recent AUMA (Alberta Urban Municipalities Association) which I attended as a guest of the Town of Stettler, there were several question and answer sessions with the new NDP Cabinet Ministers and an address to the convention by Premier Notley. As an outsider looking in I guess I was looking for something that would relate to rural municipalities and frankly found little. The Ministers though, were enthusiastic and looking forward to their challenge.

Although I realize Premier Notley was speaking to an urban gathering as she spoke about focusing on other sectors of the economy rather than energy, she never once mentioned the second largest and largest renewable sector which is agriculture. The only mention of agriculture was she didn't want to be like the farmer who sold off his top soil to pay for groceries.

It is very difficult to have the majority appreciate or understand how important the agricultural industry is to our economy. In a recent issue of Alberta Farm Express, Brenda Schoepp points out, that nationally, agriculture employs directly more than 305,000 people as compared to 190,000 for gas and oil and the entire Agricultural Industry employs 2.2 million people as compared to under 400,000 for gas and oil. The GDP at 6.7% is larger than gas and oil and bigger than the auto industry. As for use of fossil fuel, farming uses 3% as compared to 30% for transportation and 17% for residential.

It has been a mandate of government for the past several years to revamp the Municipal Government Act and the new Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs plans to continue this course of action. This legislation has worked very well for many years

and the said desire to update the Act makes Rural Municipalities very nervous and that reason is suggestions that Linear Assessment may be redistributed to all Albertans. Linear assessment is the assessment for tax purposes on pipelines, power lines, etc. and is almost entirely located in rural areas. The taxes from these infrastructures make up a large portion of income for rural municipalities and the argument from our perspective is that all the activity from these industries takes place in our municipalities. From construction to production to maintenance all activity take place on our road network.

Suggestions have been made that linear assessment be redistributed on a population basis. If this were the case, cities such as Edmonton and Calgary might increase their tax income by about 6%, which of course would still be several million dollars, but to the County of Stettler this could mean a tax reduction of about 38% which would be a major blow to our finances. If we were to maintain services in such a scenario, there would be no alternative but raising other taxes.

I would urge the people of the County of Stettler and all Rural Municipalities to contact our Provincial Leaders and our MLA's and make sure they understand the implications to a change in the redistribution of Linear Assessment and the continuing struggle to keep Rural Alberta viable and sustainable.

Have a good harvest and be safe.

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COMMUNITY PRIDE

We've had a busy summer throughout the County, working on road, water, sewer and drainage projects in all different areas. A lot of these projects were inspired by what we heard at our Town Hall Meetings held in the spring.

We appreciate that we were able to hear first-hand what concerns and questions citizens had. We were surprised that in some areas concerns were much different than other areas. Each community/group we spoke with had their own sense of priorities. Each community or citizen we encountered had a strong and sometimes passionate opinion on what the County's priorities should be.

Staff and administration at the County then set out to evaluate, cost and recommend a priority to the projects. This included scheduling, hiring contractors in some cases and seasonal staff.

At time of press County crews were just putting final touches on the Byemoor Arena. Byemoor

has had a problem for awhile with the drainage in the area of the arena, and asked the County for assistance in fixing the drainage problem. Above (top) you will see the results.

Erskine's walking path was completed in the summer, and the Erskine Truck fill is now open (above left). Finishing touches are being made on the driveway at the Erskine Reservoir/Truck Fill and the Septic Dump Station is ready to go but will not be accessible until water and sewer is tied-in to the school.

Warden Road is in the process of being paved for two miles east of Highway 835. The Resource Road is getting paved as well. Carlisle Estates (Phase 1 and 2) is also getting paved. A dock was installed to assist with boat launching at Buffalo View Estates (above right).

If you have some time, take a drive in the County, and check out some of these projects. You asked - we listened. These are some of the results.



NOMINATE A DESERVING VOLUNTEER

The County of Stettler recognizes its dedicated and committed volunteers on an annual basis at the County of Stettler Community Service Awards. Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations have.

Volunteers come from all walks of life: they may be a teenager teaching skating skills at the local arena, an accountant doing the local community groups bookkeeping, or a retiree enjoying a new friendship as a volunteer reader at the community school. It is important to think about the many types of volunteers that are within your community when beginning the nomination process.

Many organizations within the County are probably already thinking about who we can nominate for next years' awards. Many people in each community like to go "unnoticed" as they might do tasks that are done in the evenings or

during the day when everyone is at work. The individual might take the neighbor to his medical appointments in surrounding cities or check in on him/her a couple of times a day to ensure that he/she is okay.

It is most beneficial to spend some time talking to community members to understand all of the volunteer efforts that are being put into the area on a daily basis. Every volunteer wants to know that he or she is making a difference and advancing the cause. The next County of Stettler Community Service Awards will be held on February 19, 2016 at the Donalda Hall. If you have someone you would like to nominate for an award, contact the Director of Recreation at 403-742-4441.

Who will you nominate?

RED WILLOW CREEK STUDY

Red Willow Creek Basin Study

The Town & County held a joint Open House on Wednesday, September 16 to present the findings of their study of the Red Willow Creek Basin. This study was recently completed and focuses on runoff, flows and flood hazard along the Red Willow Creek from Barnett Lake through Stettler and onto Meeting Creek and the Battle River.

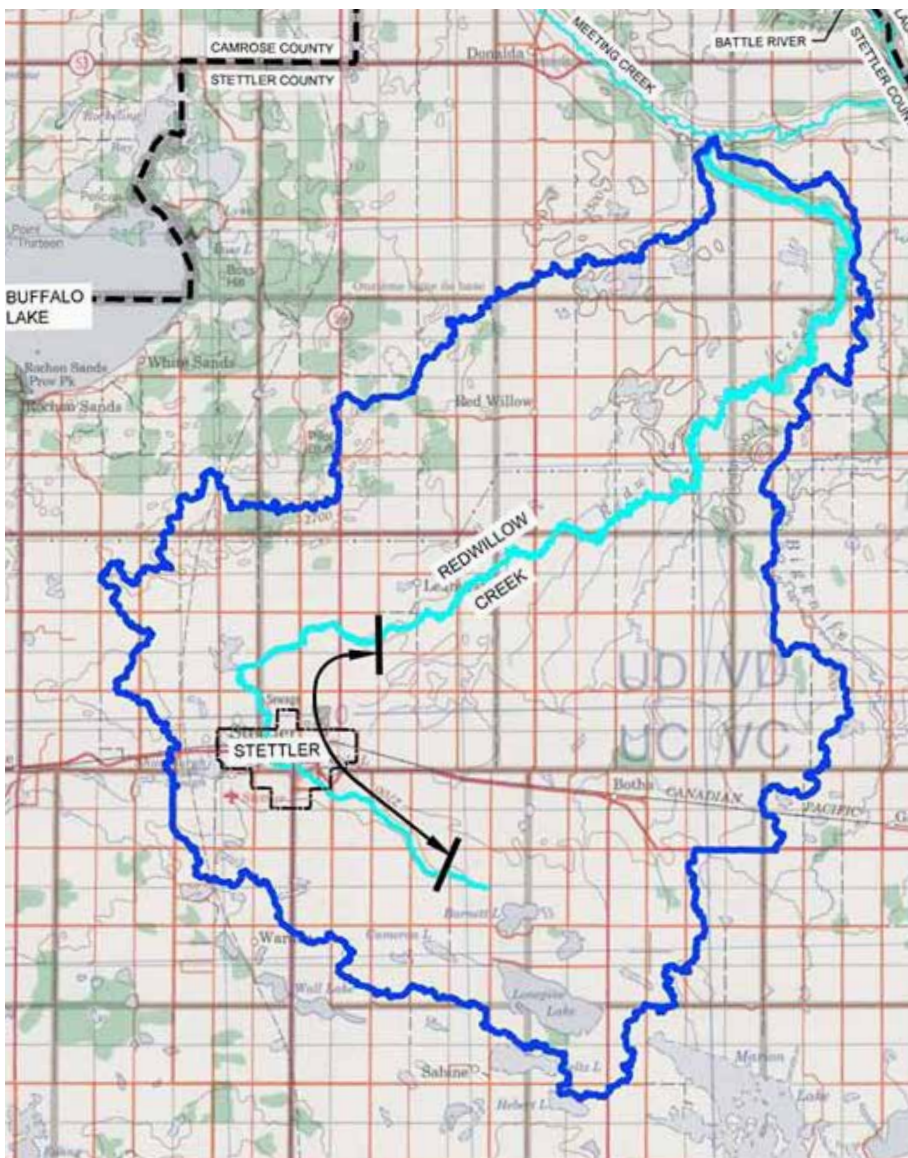
The study “Regional Master Drainage Plan for the Red Willow Creek Basin” was commissioned as a result of a successful grant application by both the Town of Stettler and the County through the “Regional Collaboration Program” early in 2014.

The County advertised a “Requests for Proposal” (RFP) for engineering consultants to complete the required work in July 2014 and the successful consultant, MPE Engineering Ltd., was approved at the August 13, 2014 Council meeting.

Below is some background describing the project purpose:

The Town of Stettler completed a Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) in September 2012 that identified the need to detain flows entering Red Willow Creek and establish additional storage within its limits. The current provincial regional analysis for Red Willow Creek provides for a downstream capacity of 2 l/s/ha. Both the Town and County have established policy requiring developers within Stettler and the lands surrounding Stettler contributing to Red Willow Creek to detain flows to 2 l/s/ha.

In completing the SWMP for the Town, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) and the Town identified the need for the County to be a partner in the overall



management of flows entering Red Willow Creek downstream of the Town, as the County has new developments pending that may be impacted by the current bottleneck within the Town and lands within the creek basin downstream or may impact existing Town drainage structures and lands downstream adjacent to the creek.”

The Primary purpose of this project was to identify the existing flow capacity, flood way and flood fringe of Red Willow Creek and establish applicable stormwater release rates for all contributing lands to assist in management of existing infrastructure and guide future development.

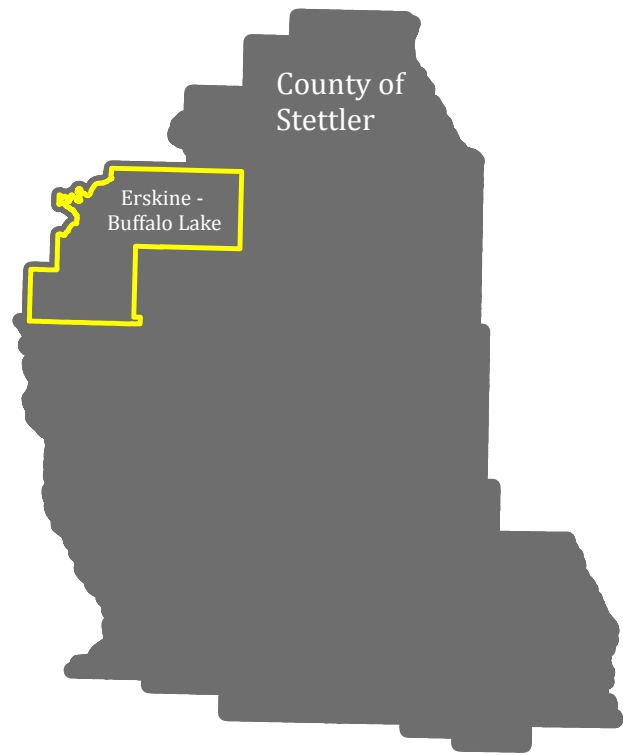
The secondary purpose of this project is to identify opportunities for projects to increase storage capacities and flow within the creek, to assist in long term planning for the Town and County.

The primary work on the study was completed in July 2015, and the expected timeframe for the “issued for use” report is December 2015.

Citizens affected or interested in the creek study came to our open house and were interested in identifying their properties on the maps and where they are located in relation to the floodway and flood fringe areas.

The next step will be production of the “issued for use” report and presentation to both Town and County Councils for acceptance.

Once accepted on a local basis, the Red Willow Creek Basin Study will be provided to Alberta Environment and Parks for review and acceptance as well.



WARD FOCUS

Erskine - Buffalo Lake

As I am writing, the moon is slowly hiding in the earth's shadow and an owl is giving us an aerobic dazzle. The moon, just like the harvest, is playing a game of hide and seek.

Patience and persistence are virtues in farming and on council. A long time resident of Erskine once told me of a previous councillor's vision that "children would be walking on sidewalks to school in 5 years". That was 35 years ago. The pathway is one of the recommendations that came out of the Erskine Concept Consultation Planning sessions to take pedestrians off the busy Highway 835. This pathway is now open. The avenues in Erskine are misaligned on either side of Highway 835 and the Department of Highways requires a continuous sidewalk in order to install a crosswalk. The County, with permission from the Department of Highways, will relocate the crosswalk further south aligning with Prospect Avenue West. Many thanks to the landowners for their cooperation and patience during construction. Once the water distribution and drainage issues are taken care of, we can

look into making this path part of a larger system as mapped out in the Erskine Concept Plan.

Speaking of water distribution, the County started an application for a grant to supply the school and curling rink with treated water. Timing was perfect with an engineered fire protection and water distribution plan on the shelf. We are now equal one third partners, with the federal and provincial governments, for a maximum combined water distribution project of \$4 million over the next two years. This came about so quickly that I am still picking up my jaw.

At this time, Council is still working on the cost of water connections. Phase one of our plan is to connect the school this fall. Sorry Erskine students, time off of school due to 'well failure' will become a thing of the past.

The Erskine water fill is now usable, but the service road around it will not be completed until the connection is made to the school. The opening of the RV dump and fill is expected to follow.



Something that our ratepayers should be made aware of, and maybe talk with your MLA, is that cities and towns are wanting a share of counties linear taxes. With a shift of greater population to the cities, this request has a sympathetic ear of the province. Linear taxes are the taxes of our pipelines, oil wells and power lines, and could result in a loss of up to 38% to the County of Stettler on a per capita bases. If we had to share our linear income, the City of Calgary, for example, could benefit by up to 6.4%. The County of Stettler is not a rich county as we have hamlets and residential districts without services such as communal water, sewer or paved roads. Calgary has a residential mill rate of 3.5409 and the County of Stettler has a higher residential mill rate of 3.6772. Changes in my opinion, sharing linear taxes with cities and towns would hardly be justifiable until our counties have the same level of services as our city counterparts.

I would like to voice my disappointment regarding 'road warriors' rutting up our backroads. Farmers depend on these low-use service roads to gain access to their lands. That half hour of mudding/joy riding costs County ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars to fix them back up to a

usable condition, not to mention cost and time to farmers while waiting for reconstruction. The next senseless waste is the shooting of signs that cost the County over \$50,000 per year in material and labour. If you see a mudding jacked-up truck testing his tires on our roads, or a shotgun blasting signs near you, call it in. It is your tax dollars you will be saving.

In all, I am pleased with our positive growths in our County and especially for the hamlet of Erskine. We have seen huge accomplishments over the last 11 years that I have sat on Council. I am especially excited for the installation of fire hydrants in Erskine as well as the preparation of new subdivision residential lots.

Take care everyone and enjoy our almost winter.

Joe Gendre
County of Stettler - Erskine/Bufalo Lake
jgendre@stettlercounty.ca



ANIMAL CONTROL DOG CONTROL BYLAW

During the September 9, 2015 Council meeting, Bylaw 1551-15 (Dog Control Bylaw) received third and final reading after some amendments and came into effect. This bylaw was under review to address concerns regarding vicious dogs and also to examine the specified penalties for various offences. After discussion by Council and hearing oral submissions from several rate payers, changes were made to address these concerns.

Several definitions within the bylaw were changed adding terms like “harass” (instead of just chase) and “kill” (instead of just injure). Other changes came in regards to the specified penalties for various offences. Some of the changes for the most common offences are the following with the old specified penalties shown in brackets:

It should be noted that the increase in these

specified penalties is not meant to be punitive in nature but rather to encourage and ensure pet owners are responsible pet owners. Note should be taken that “Owner” is defined as “a person who has the care, charge and custody of a dog” and is not restricted to the physical owner of the dog.

Another important change deals with vicious dogs or dogs who are deemed vicious by the bylaw. In these cases, the dog is impounded for a minimum of 7 days during which time an investigation is completed to determine whether the matter should be pursued under the Dog Control Bylaw or the Dangerous Dog Act. After the 7 day minimum impound, the owner can make application to have the dog released into their custody. If circumstance warrant the dog being returned, the owner must complete

Offences and Responsibility of Owner	First Offence	Second Offence	Third Offence
Dog runs at large	(\$80.00) \$250.00	(\$200.00) \$500.00	(\$300.00) \$750.00
Fail to confine dog in heat	(\$100.00) \$250.00	(\$200.00) \$500.00	(\$300.00) \$750.00
Dog barks/howls to disturb person	(\$100.00) \$250.00	(\$200.00) \$500.00	(\$300.00) \$750.00
Dog chases any person, animal, bicycle Or motor vehicle	(\$200.00) \$250.00	(\$400.00) \$500.00	(Court) Court
Providing false or misleading information	(\$200.00) \$300.00	(\$400.00) \$750.00	(Court) Court
Interfere with Bylaw Enforcement Officer	(\$200.00) \$500.00	(\$400.00) \$750.00	(Court) Court
Unlock a vehicle with an impounded dog	(\$200.00) \$500.00	(\$400.00) \$750.00	(Court) Court

Information in brackets represents our old fines.

a notice of undertaking stating that the dog will be housed, handled and treated as per the requirements of our existing bylaw relating to vicious dogs. Should the owner or dog commit a further offence after release, charges will be pursued under the vicious dog section of the bylaw which has much more severe consequences.

Dog owners should also be aware that under Sec. 25 of the Stray Animals Act (Alberta Provincial Statute), it states that “the owner or the person in actual possession of livestock or domestic fowl of any person authorized by either of them, may kill a dog in the act of pursuing, worrying or destroying that livestock or domestic fowl on land owned or occupied by the owner or person in actual possession of that livestock or domestic fowl.”

As mentioned, the purpose of these acts and bylaw is not to be punitive but to encourage those who choose to be pet owners, to be responsible pet owners and to be aware that there could be severe consequences for those who ignore their responsibilities.

A complete copy of our Dog Control Bylaw 1551-15 can be found on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca under bylaws. Copies of the Dangerous Dog Act and Stray Animals Act can be found at www.qp.alberta.ca or for more information regarding our bylaw or these Provincial Statutes, you can call Protective Services at 403-741-6133.



INTEGRATED QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 2015-2017

The Stettler District Ambulance Association Integrated Quality Management Program is responsible for ensuring that the level of emergency medical patient care and transportation provided by our practitioner's is done at a reliable and standard level.

Our mission statement is:

“To provide a patient focused emergency medical service of quality and safety.”

We achieve this by constantly evaluating our Integrated Quality Management Program by recognizing strengths and weaknesses in the system and respond as necessary. The Integrated Quality Management program helps establish a standard of care and identifies needs for training programs and education to ensure proper and professional care is provided. The program's ability to identify areas where our practitioners are high performing allows for acknowledgment and positive feedback.

The Integrated Quality Management Program consists of many different levels such as, allocation of resources, strategic planning, ethics culture, quality improvement, safety culture and risk management. We ensure to engage

our community, support partnerships, propose strategies, provide direction, take action, measure indicator results and share learning. Although we typically concentrate on current practice, we evaluate our past and look to the future.

The Stettler District Ambulance Association focuses on patient and family-centered care driven by our values in action:

Our values include the following:



- H - Honesty
- E - Education
- A - Accountability
- R - Respect
- T - Transparency

An effective Integrated Quality Improvement Program provides the public with confidence that their emergency medical service is serving them with an established standard of care of quality and safety.

An Integrated Quality Improvement Program involves a team of dedicated professionals who



Frank Gorjans was recognized for his quality improvement work and dedication to the service with supporting change and requirements of accreditation standards, leading us to a service of better quality and safety. Frank leads by example and was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the large responsibility with keeping us safe on the roads. He does a fantastic job with organizing and scheduling all repairs and maintenance issues with our fleet. Congratulations Frank.

ensure that medical care provided in the field by pre-hospital personnel is:

- Safe
- Client-Centered
- Accessible
- Efficient
- Appropriate
- Cost-Effective
- Population Focused
- Standardized

The organization's leaders will monitor the progress and achievement of the Integrated Quality Improvement Program by implementing a two year plan. The two year Quality Improvement Plan will achieve organization-wide improvements. The organization's leaders will identify opportunities for improvement and verify that the corresponding changes and improvements are implemented.

Staff and service providers are involved in interpreting the results, solving problems, and making improvements (Accreditation Canada Leadership Standard – 15.4).

The organizations leaders have identified five quality and safety areas of focus for improvement:

1. Driving Risks
2. Hand Hygiene Compliance
3. Human Resources
4. Medication Safe Practice
5. Staff Development



Have a say about the Buffalo Lake Shoreline Management Plan

Please take a few minutes to visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca and click on the scrolling photo entitled Buffalo Lake South Shoreline Management Plan Survey, prior to November 30.

Your voice should be heard.

ENJOY BUFFALO LAKE? FILL OUT OUR SURVEY

The County is undertaking public consultation and needs your input. A survey questionnaire has been sent by an email link to all landowners at Buffalo Lake and the survey is also open to any other person who wishes to have their say on how municipal and environmental reserves should be managed at the lake.

The survey will help the County, with you as the benefitting community and in conjunction with the Summer Village of White Sands and the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, to develop a shoreline management plan for the Environmental Reserves and Municipal Reserves located in your community and adjacent to the provincially-owned water management ROW.

Your feedback is not only important to the County, it is in fact essential to the successful development of a shoreline management plan, because the plan will only be meaningful if it addressed your interests, activities, concerns, needs and vision for the shoreline. You are the ones who live and recreate along this shoreline, therefore you should know best what is needed for this area in order

to enrich your and the general public's enjoyment thereof.

Having said this, the County and the Summer Villages as the governing municipal authorities, have certain responsibilities in terms of the Municipal Government Act that we will be looking to fulfill, such as ensuring that the general public has good access to the shoreline, that amenities are available where needed and are safe, that our reserves are well maintained and safe and are used in an appropriate manner. We want to comply with our responsibilities and with our property management practices in a manner that is compatible with your use and enjoyment of both the shoreline and your private property.

The plan area extends from Scenic Sands to Buffalo View Estates. It includes all County-owned municipal and environmental reserves within these communities. The plan area does not include the Summer Village of Rochon Sands or the Summer Village of White Sands, privately owned property or the Provincially-owned Water Management Right-of-Way (ROW). Notwithstanding this, the



outcome of this survey may provide direction that the County should approach the provincial government to obtain licences of occupation for portions of the ROW if this was deemed an appropriate manner of addressing some of the issues that may be identified, such as the placing and storage of boat lifts and docks.

It is intended that the survey will be completed by all lakefront lot owners as well as back lot owners, and by any other County residents or other people outside of the County who make use of the lake's south shoreline. A back lot is a property that is separated from the shoreline by other privately-owned properties. A lakefront lot is a property that is separated from the lake only by a County-owned Environmental Reserve.

For landowners who are in the process of acquiring a portion of the reserve lands to add to their property, please respond to the questions as if the portion of reserve land has already been added to your property.

The survey is anonymous.

Lastly, we may not have asked all the questions that you think should be asked. The questionnaire format provides limited space for additional comments. If the space provided is not sufficient, please send an email to jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca noting the relevant question number(s) and providing your additional comments.

The survey will remain open until November 30, 2015, but please complete it sooner if you can. The survey results will be compiled, analyzed and incorporated into draft policies over the winter of 2015/2016. A public workshop will be held in the summer of 2016 to discuss the survey results and draft policies. There is no point in trying to think much further than that for now, so the next steps and milestone dates will be determined at that time.

Please visit www.stettlercounty.ca/307/BufaloLake-South-Shoreline-Management-P to complete the survey. Thank you for your participation.



PASTURE MANAGEMENT DURING DROUGHT

Drought Management Decisions for Winter

Some questions that should be asked and honestly answered are:

Have I checked the long-range forecast for winter precipitation in my area?

What if there is not enough snow to start the pastures? Do I have a backup plan?

Have I made plans to adjust spring range and pasture management for future drought conditions?

Do I have enough feed to keep my livestock in good condition if there is no spring growth on pastures? (Ideally, you would store two years' worth of feed for the "just in case" times.)

Have I made plans to adjust spring range and pasture management for drought conditions?

Drought can seriously affect the condition and production of range and pasture over time. Decreased condition may not be noticeable in the year of a drought, however continued overstocking with the added stress of drought will seriously affect the health and production potential of the pasture.

SIGNS OF STRESS

Have I honestly determined the extent of the effect of drought and the resulting financial and mental stress on my family? What can I do to deal with it?

Although drought conditions are more apparent during summer months, many farmers and their families can continue to feel stressed, frustrated and no longer in control during the winter months. A certain amount of stress is considered a normal part of doing business and actually helps motivate you to get things accomplished. Too much stress on the other hand, will impair your work performance, your relationships and your health. It is important to recognize the symptoms of stress and to deal with the causes before long-term damage is done.

Farming is considered one of the top 10 high stress occupations in North America. So even without the problems associated with drought, there is a high level of stress involved in the job you and your family members do each day. Long hours, unpredictable weather, decreased commodity prices, increased input prices, loan payments and a never-ending list of jobs that needed to be done yesterday, all contribute to your level of stress.



While you may not be able to control the source of your stress, such as drought, you can manage its effect on your life. By recognizing the symptoms of stress and taking steps to manage or relieve the symptoms until the cause can be addressed, you will increase your job performance and decrease chance of physical illness.

If you or someone you know is feeling stressed, it is important to get help as soon as possible. Family and friends are great sources of support, as are family doctors who will discuss the problem and suggest options for treatment.

There are many crisis lines operating throughout the province that provide confidential and anonymous services to anyone looking for help dealing with the symptoms of stress.

Drought Management Decisions for Spring

Have I checked the current and long-term weather forecast for my area?

Is there adequate soil moisture to seed at this time?

Have I selected the most appropriate crops to seed for current moisture and market conditions?

Do I have alternate plans in place for feeding livestock if spring pasture production is poor?

Do I have adequate production insurance coverage?

Do I have alternate plans in place for feeding livestock if spring pasture production is poor?

When fall and winter moisture levels indicate that spring soil moisture may be depleted, it is a good idea to look at contingency plans for feed -- before spring arrives. Reacting to an emergency provides more stress and much less chance for success than activating a contingency plan. Your contingency plan may include any or all of the following.

- Have a one-year supply of feed for all livestock on hand.
- Use fall seeded annual crops for emergency pasture.
- Purchase feed for spring or know where you can get some if you need it, at: The Alberta Hay Listings or the Internet Hay Exchange on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Website, or check with neighbours to see if there is extra crop land that can be utilized as a feed source.
- Have pre-arranged trucking plans in place to bring feed in or to ship livestock out.

For more information, feel free to contact our Agricultural Services Department at 403-742-4441.

TECHNICAL LARGE ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESCUE



AWARENESS LEVEL
Dr. Rebecca Gimenez



NOVEMBER 4TH- 5TH, 2015, DRUMHELLER
Hall C, Badlands Community Facility
More Information: www.tlaer.org
To Register: <http://bit.ly/1TTbkfF>
COURSE IS CLASSROOM BASED, WITH DEMONSTRATIONS



photo: Dr. Rebecca Gimenez

SHOULD YOU COME?

- **Firefighters, Rescue Personnel, Police, EMT/Paramedics**
- **Veterinarians, Vet Techs, veterinary school students**
- **Animal control officers, Humane Society workers,**
- **Livestock inspectors, livestock haulers, ranchers**
- **Anyone who is interested in livestock rescue**

Course is NFPA approved and worth 12 CE credits from Alberta Veterinary Medical Association



Quinton Beaumont
(403) 742-4441



Dara Galon
(403) 772-3793



Kristen Hall
(403) 652-5111



NEW CONTRACTOR OLD MACDONALD KENNEL

The County of Stettler contracts out enforcement of our Dog Control Bylaw. Previously, Alberta Animal Services of Red Deer was our contractor but they terminated that contract as of August 1, 2015.

We have retained another contractor, Old MacDonald Kennel to enforce our Dog Control Bylaw and they will be making routine patrols on a regular basis throughout the County. They are located east of Ponoka and currently provide animal control services to the Town and County of Ponoka, Camrose County including the Village of Hay Lakes.

They have 3 animal control officers and are a privately run pound/shelter and boarding facility. They function as an animal rescue facility and strive to return the animals to their rightful owners.

Any animals not claimed undergo a thorough physical exam by a qualified veterinarian, are altered, micro-chipped and vaccinated before being placed up for adoption.

For more information about this facility, please go to www.oldmacdonaldkennel.ca.



STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

We're gearing up for the October 30th Monster Bash at the Stettler Public Library. This year Calf Skit is coming from Red Deer to perform "Treasure Island" and storyteller Ginger Mullen will be spinning creepy tales. There will be face painting, glitter tattoos, and crafts. Join us! \$10/child, \$25/family, adults free.

The library and the Jewel Theatre will be showing Toronto International Film Festival films through the fall and winter. Upcoming features (What We Did on Holiday, Brooklyn) will be shown at the Jewel on the first Monday of each month (October through March).

Keep an eye out through the fall for Finger Crocheting on November 14, International Gaming Day on November 21, Crafts 'til Christmas every Tuesday at 4 pm starting on November 24, Gingerbread House decorating on December 21, Science Saturday events, and Read & Rhyme special event Fridays.



**STETTLER'S
18th
ANNUAL**

**Festival
of
Lights**

All proceeds support your Stettler Health Care Centre
Open to the Public Tuesday to Thursday Noon to 5 p.m.
Open Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission by Donation.
Food Bank donations welcome also.

CHRISTMAS MARKET
Open Tuesday to Thursday 9 p.m.
Unique one-of-a-kind items such as
pottery, blown glass, quilts and quilted items,
cards, scarves, clay ornaments,
and jewelry made by local artisans

Stettler Community Hall
November 24 - 28, 2015

- SPECIAL EVENTS -
Tickets go on sale October 13 and can be purchased at Wish Kitchen & Gift
Bidding on Silent Auction items from Tuesday, Nov. 24 to Friday Nov. 27 at 1 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24
Sneak-a- Peek Gourmet Breakfast
*Served from 7-9 a.m. Come and Go
*Advance Tickets Only: \$15.00
Dessert First
*5-7 p.m.
*Advance Tickets only \$20.00
Mini Raffle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Sharing the Season Seniors' Tea
*2-4 p.m. *Admission \$5 * Tickets at the door
Christmas Spirits
*7-9 p.m. *Advance Tickets Only: \$25.00
Seasonal drinks, snacks and entertainment
Featuring the Jazz Guys
Silent Auction

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Sounds of the Season Concert
The Singing Nuns
*Wine & Cheese from 7-9 p.m.
*Advance Tickets Only: \$20.00

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Children's Wonderland & Gingerbread Event
Stettler Agriplex 1-5 p.m.
*Join us for cookies, pictures with Santa, sleigh rides
through town, face painting and crafting.
*Also come out and vote for your favorite gingerbread house.
*Deadline for entries is November 18. Entry forms can be picked
up at Bond-O Communications or Wish Kitchen.
*Bidding on Silent Auction items from Tuesday, Nov. 24 to Friday, Nov. 27 at 1 p.m.

Door Prizes • Tribute Tree

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
GALA NIGHT

Dance to live band:
Dirt Road Angels
Dine, Dance & Auction
*Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
*Advance Tickets Only: \$60.00

Stettler Health Services FOUNDATION

www.stettlerfestivaloflights.ca



CABINS AND RVS PREPARING FOR WINTER

Sadly it feels like we just put our boats in the water, and now we are taking them out again. Along with this reality, is the one that we must 'ready' ourselves for winter. For some, this will include preparing summer cabins, trailers and RVs for the long cold winter.

The water system must be drained properly. Residual water in the system will freeze during the winter and may cause the water pipes to burst in unheated RVs and trailers. Prolonged power failures could lower heat in cabins to freezing, so as a precaution the system should be drained as well.

Draining the System

Ideally, gravity does most of the work and the water in the lines all runs back to the water meter box or drains. Some water will remain in the water traps (u-shaped parts of the pipes).

- Close main valve in cabin or connections at hydrant or meter box
- Open all taps inside and outside to use up

the existing pressure in the line and assist in draining.

- Pour a liberal amount of plumbing approved anti-freeze into all of the drains (sink, bath, shower, washer) and toilet bowl as you finish the last flush. Also put some in the toilet tank.
- Disconnect all hoses from exterior taps.
- Drain flexible spray hoses in showers and sinks.
- Open diverter valve to shower head so water drains out.
- Drain water softeners, water filters, carbon filters UV light filters etc.
- Drain water heaters.

If you are uncertain if all fixtures are drained, an air compressor can be used to blow out the water from the system. Fittings can be purchased to convert the air hose to the water system.

When recharging the system all fixtures should be flushed for 10 minutes to cleanse the system before first use. Taking the time now to properly shut down your system will save you time and money later.



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.



ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a free, confidential, and voluntary self-assessment tool that allows agricultural producers to evaluate their current farm practices. On completion, each producer has an action plan to address areas of environmental risk.

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (AEFP) program began in 2003 and has been delivered by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) since 2013.

- Since 2009, just shy of 2,000,000 acres of Alberta agricultural land has been covered by an EFP
- Approximately 13,000 Alberta producers have contacted AEFP about the program (24% of registered Alberta farms)
- Over 8,000 producers have completed their EFP's and received letters of completion
- The Potato Growers of Alberta was the first agricultural industry group to require its members to complete an EFP
- Lakeland College was the first Alberta post-secondary institution to complete an EFP

Benefits

- Access to funds, e.g. Growing Forward 2 program
- Increased operational efficiency
- Reduced farm costs (inputs) resulting in increased profit
- Expanding markets: many major purchasers require producers to have an EFP
- Reduction of risk, leading to better production and leaving a healthy farm for the next generation

Resources

- Workbook that walks producers through a self-assessment of their farming practices
- Over 50 trained EFP technicians available—each producer is paired with an EFP technician to assist with the development and implementation of their plan
- Links to online technical information and videos that demonstrate ways to reduce potential environmental risks on farms

For more information on Alberta EFP or sustainable sourcing, including web links, visit www.albertaefp.com/sustainable-sourcing.



ALBERTA WEED ALERT

Jimsonweed

Jimsonweed (Deviil's Trumpet) is a very serious weed in cultivated land. All parts of this weed are poisonous. It is reported the plant has a narcotic effect that may result in death to livestock and humans if ingested. Less than .1% of body weight is considered a lethal dose.

Jimsonweed is classified as a Class 1 weed under the Federal Weed Seeds Order of the Federal Seeds Act. Jimsonweed is a prohibited noxious weed seed under the Seeds Act, and it must not be present in any seed imported into or sold in Canada. The Seeds Act prohibits the sale of seed containing prohibited noxious weed seeds.

It is important that producers handle this weed carefully to prevent further spread and potential health risks to livestock and humans. Proper handling information can be found below and on the Agriculture and Forestry website.

Jimsonweed has now been found in eleven rural municipalities, as of September 14. Counties include Barrhead, Camrose, Flagstaff, Leduc, Lacombe, Lac Ste Anne, Parkland, Ponoka, Westlock, Wetaskiwin and Wheatland. The majority of reports have been spotted in canola fields. While some wheat and barley fields have been reported as well.

Proper Handling

If Jimsonweed is found, producers should take the following steps:

- When hand pulling, wear gloves and long sleeves
- Double bag the plants for the landfill disposal. Do not take to transfer sites. Take to landfills for burial.
- Canola stubble should not be baled up for feed where plants have been found. These practices will increase risk for poisoning in livestock feed.
- Do not compost or burn, as this will release toxins in the air and may cause secondary poisoning.

Counties and producers are asked to work closely with AF to obtain as much information as possible on all reports of Jimsonweed in cropping situations. If Jimsonweed has been spotted, counties and producers are asked to call the Ag Info Centre at 310-FARM.

If Jimsonweed is spotted in your fields you are asked to provide the following information to the Agricultural Services Board to help track and monitor the situation:

- number of plants;
- type of crop found in;
- where it was purchased;
- seed lots, if available.

If you spot Jimsonweed, you are encouraged to call our office (403-742-4441), or the AG INFO CENTER (310-FARM)



ERSKINE RECEIVES SMALL COMMUNITIES GRANT

Clean, safe and reliable drinking water is one of the cornerstones of sustainable rural communities, and the hamlet of Erskine is moving closer towards achieving that status thanks to the Small Communities Grant.

In March of 2015, the County of Stettler Council applied to the Small Communities Fund, under the New Building Canada Granting Program, for funding to complete a water distribution system including providing desperately needed potable water to the Erskine School and the Erskine Curling Rink.

The County was successful in that application, and now have 3 years to complete the Water Distribution System.

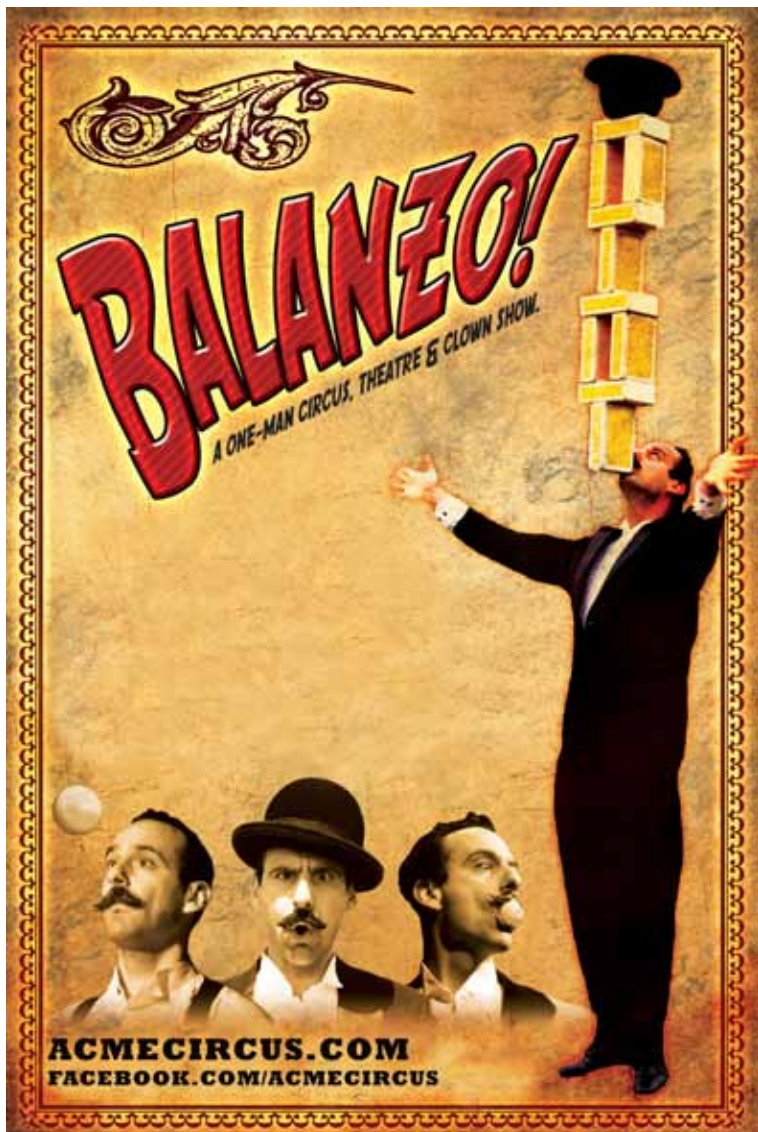
Phase 1 of the project includes installing the main waterline in Erskine, and providing connections to the Erskine School. This will be completed by 2016.

Phase 2 & 3 will include providing water hook-ups to the rest of Erskine, including residences and businesses. The urban style water distribution

system will not only provide options for drinking water to all residents, but will provide the hamlet with much needed fire protection, as well create growth potential in the hamlet. We are aware of the concerns some residents in Erskine have about the quality and quantity of the groundwater. This project will provide an option for safe, reliable drinking water if and when residents require it.

The County of Stettler was awarded \$4 million dollars through this grant program to complete all three phases of the project and reflect a partnership with all levels of government (1/3 Federal; 1/3 Provincial/ 1/3 County)

The purpose of the Small Communities Grant is to provide funds for small communities to deliver on basic needs of a community and to realize the potential within rural communities. The County of Stettler has always valued the contribution our hamlets and their residents make towards our success, and remain committed to working with the residents of the hamlet of Erskine to ensure they are consulted in the delivery of this grant.



PROUD TO PRESENT PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts for Schools program was established by the Regional Recreation Board to expose the school children to different cultures and ideas through the performing arts. Two acts are facilitated each year, one in the spring and one in the fall often coordinated with the Stettler Elementary School.

The next school performance that the County of Stettler is hosting is called 'The Great Balanzo.' Aytahn Ross is the last surviving member of the Royal Balanzos who were exiled from their kingdom hundreds of years ago. Since then they have survived by travelling the world as circus performers.

The Great Balanzo overcomes challenges by balancing and juggling almost everything that he can

get his hands on while frequenting enlisting the aid of his audience. We were very happy to have Aytahn Ross come to Stettler and perform for our rural schools along with the Stettler Elementary School on October 7th at the Performing Arts Centre.

In January, we are excited to announce the Alberta Opera will be presenting two performances of 'The Steadfast Tin Soldier'. Rural students will see the presentation at Erskine school, while the Stettler Elementary students will enjoy the show in their gymnasium.

The County of Stettler is proud to bring the Performing Arts to children in rural Alberta.

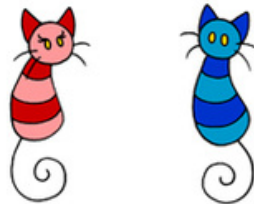
Save a Tree

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.



SPAY/NEUTER YOUR PETS



An unspayed female cat, her mate, and all of their offspring producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter can total :



COMMUNITY EVENTS



Stettler Town & Country Museum

- **Night of Terror at the Boo-seum**
October 23, 24, 29, 30 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Haunted 'Courthouse' - \$10/person ages 12+
Ghost Town - FREE - ages 11 and under
Scary Stories by Adult Learning Council
Concession - by Heartland Roller Derby
- **Light the Night**
'A drive-thru exhibition of Christmas lights and decorations'
Fridays and Saturdays in December
(Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19)
PLUS December 21, 22, 23 and 24th
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Donations appreciated

Big Valley Community

Big Valley United Church Fundraiser
Sunday, October 18, 2015
Turkey Supper
Jubilee Hall
4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Erskine Community

Erskine I.O.O.F. Fall Supper (Hall Fundraiser)
Saturday, October 24
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Linda Hall Fall Supper

Sunday, November 1 at Linda Hall
4:00-6:30 p.m.



Donalda Fall Supper

Saturday, November 7 at the Donalda Hall

Botha Community

Botha Craft Fair
Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Botha Community Hall

Byemoor Community Events

Byemoor Community Fall Roast Beef Supper

Saturday, October 24
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Byemoor Community Hall
Adults \$15 / Children 6-12 \$8 / Under 6 FREE

Byemoor Santa Claus Day & Craft Sale

Saturday, December 5
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 29
11 am to 5 pm

a Village Christmas

Hot Lunch 11-4 (hall)
provided by the Donalda library

Festival of Trees 12-4
at the Donalda Arts Gallery
Trees Available for Purchase

Santa's Shopping Centre 12-4
at the Drop In Centre
Everything is a \$1.00
Shopping Centre is intended for 14 & Under

Country Market 12 to 4
at the Community Hall
Tables are available to rent

Free Pictures with Santa 4pm
at the Hall Basement

Parade of Lights 5pm
All parade entries welcome - Main Street

Donalda
Main Street

Hosted by Donalda Community Promotions
For more information:
Call 403-883-2891



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