

Fall 2016

Stettler County Connection

IT'S PHOTO CONTEST TIME

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CAPITAL PROJECTS

MSI Grant Funding 2007-2016

pg 6-13

TAX

Deadline

October 31

2016



REMINDER TAX DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2016

The County of Stettler Tax Assessment Notices were mailed out in June. If you have not received your notice, please contact our Tax Department at 403-742-4441.

Tax payment deadline is Monday, October 31, 2016

Reminder:

- The County of Stettler no longer keeps credit card numbers on file.
- We will accept credit card payments over the phone UNTIL Friday, October 21. Between October 17 through to the October 31 deadline, we will NOT accept credit card payments over the phone, you will be required to come to the County office to have your credit card payment processed. Due to volume and line-ups we can not interrupt business at the counter to process credit card payments over the phone.
Thank you for your understanding.

There are several ways to pay your taxes and accounts receivable at the County of Stettler. We accept payments by cash, cheque, VISA, MASTERCARD, debit, online banking or at most financial institutions.

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

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

Questions? Contact the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441.



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COMMONS



COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

WAKE UP
and
SMELL THE
ROUTINE

Kids are back to school, harvest is in full swing and order has been restored to households across our County as routines are once again established and schedules are again followed as summer becomes a memory.

I love the lazy unscheduled stretch of summer I enjoy each year, but then crave the routine I will eventually come to despise. It's a constant conflict. This change of seasons however, provides me with a revolving to-do list which never becomes boring.

I for one believe we are lucky to have four distinct seasons to work our lives around. Here at the County it goes something like this:

Fall (clean-up and prep for winter) - stockpile; mow; brushcut; clubroot surveys; grade, prepare equipment for winter, finish projects.

Winter (maintenance & planning) - plow snow; plan projects; prepare budgets

Spring (clean-up & projects) - thaw culverts; grade roads; gravel; spray weeds; start new projects

Summer (new projects & full maintenance) - mow; spray more weeds; inspect fields for pests; build; fix; maintain Repeat.

As you head into fall we encourage you to add County of Stettler happenings to your routine.

- 1) Come to our budget presentations this winter. Have a voice.
- 2) Visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca - follow your Council's decisions and current County happenings.
- 3) Drop in to pay your 2016 taxes before the Oct. 31 deadline - and sign your 2016/2017 Hold Harmless agreements for laneway snowplowing.

Sincerely,

Stettler County Connection

Fall 2016
Volume 6 Issue 2

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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

I have been recently reading a book about holistic management and holistic decision making, the premise of which is that all aspects of a management decision have to be considered and consequences can have a far reaching effect. The author contends that any management decisions should be made keeping the 'whole' picture in mind. Even with a personal decision to buy a new car, for instance, we need to consider criteria such as, can we afford it, what will we have to give up to get it, is it fuel efficient, will it last for several years, and the list goes on and on.

For farmers looking at buying a new implement, because of the high cost of farm equipment, the need to consider all criteria is even more important. As we go up the list to big businesses, governments, and world organizations the 'whole' picture becomes much larger and some of the consequences tend to be overlooked. Such is the case, I believe, of many governments including our own, when it comes to the decisions surrounding 'green energy'.

Although on the surface going green seems to be a noble cause, it also has far reaching and detrimental effects on the people and the planet. Energy industry leader Gwyn Morgan has some interesting statistics pertaining mainly to the biofuel industry. Biofuel for example is a huge global industry with approximately 100 billion liters per year being produced. The International Institute for Sustainable Development concludes, as do other studies, that the fossil fuel used to produce corn ethanol creates essentially the same carbon emissions as the fuel they replace.

In Brazil, forests are clear cut and replaced with sugar cane for ethanol production with even a more dismal result environmentally, with studies showing that there is a 50% increase in carbon emissions than if conventional fuel was used. The use of cereal grains

and food products for the production of ethanol also drives the price up, which is fine for the producers but not so great for the world's poor. To put volumes in perspective, the cereal grain to fill the tank of an average size car, is enough to feed one person for a year.

Environmentally in the U.S., wetlands are being drained to produce corn for ethanol. In Brazil, a one million acres of tropical forest are being replaced with sugar cane for ethanol production. In Indonesia hundreds of thousands of acres of rainforest are being burned to grow Palm trees for oil destined for ethanol. Our planet depends on wetlands and forests to keep our environment balanced.

In my opinion governments, particularly our own, need to consider the whole global picture. Our country has a good record as far as emissions are concerned and contribute a very small percentage of the world's carbon emissions. Per capita we are the world leaders in wind and solar energy production. We need to concentrate on producing the most economic energy which is from fossil fuel. Private industry is much more efficient than government and with the proper incentives will come up with innovations and technologies to produce cleaner energy and keep the cost at a level that we can afford.

I encourage everyone, government members included, to research the science around climate change and carbon dioxide emissions and be very careful to accept the arguments of movie stars and politicians. I think you will find it not as scary as you might think.

Have a great fall.

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CANADA 150
1867-2017

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS - OCTOBER 31, 2016

IT'S PHOTO CONTEST TIME

2017 will bring a Canadian Celebration of epic proportions as our nation celebrates Canada's 150th Birthday. In celebration of this coming event, our annual Photo Contest will celebrate OUR CANADA in Stettler County. Start snapping your favorite photos that **scream CANADA** when you look at them. Include with your submission, a short explanation of why your photo belongs in our 150 Birthday-themed 2017 County Calendar.

GOOD LUCK.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, October 31, 2016.

Maximum 3 entries per person.

Theme: OUR CANADA - STETTLER COUNTY

You must include a brief explanation of why your photo says 'Canada' to you. Answer this question 'My Canada is

Upload your photos to www.StettlerCounty.ca.

One Grand Prize Winner will win an iPad.

Amateur Photographers only.

Anyone can enter (no age or residency requirements).

Photos need to be High Quality.

Photos **MUST** be taken in the County of Stettler. Photos taken in the Town and Villages of Big Valley, Donalda, Botha and Gadsby will be accepted but will not be considered for the grand prize. In order to be eligible you must confirm where in the County the photo was taken.

Farmer's Appreciation Harvest Supper

Join us to **CELEBRATE** a harvest well done, "Oktoberfest" style!
Come enjoy an authentic German meal and entertainment! Then wash it down with a beer tasting!

Saturday, October 22 Galahad Hall 6:30pm

Craft Beer
Tasting!

\$30/ticket
BRRG Members: 2nd ticket free
So bring your friends!

Everyone
Welcome!

Tickets available at:
587-983-4028
www.battleriverresearch.com/upcoming-events
Or stop by our office in Forestburg!

Battle River
Research Group



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RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

Recreational Special Project Funding was established in 2006 in order to set aside funds to help with the construction and/or enhancement of recreational facilities in order to serve the needs of the County's rural population outside of the Town of Stettler with the exception of properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society.

During the last 10 years, the County of Stettler has approved funding for 80 projects totalling \$1,343,134.83. Some of the projects have included new roofs, furnaces, flooring, windows, electrical and plumbing repairs for many halls and arenas along with the building of community playgrounds and baseball diamonds.

The maximum funding that is available this year is \$50,000.00. A new information booklet has been developed to accompany the application that provides more information on the program and the projects that are eligible under the guidelines. The information and application form are available at the front counter of the County of Stettler.

The deadline to apply is October 31, 2016.

COMMUNITY

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Approximately 5100 residents reside within our borders serving a trade area of over 10,000. We are divided into seven electoral divisions.

Our communities are scattered across 4,400 square kilometers connected by a network of 2,400 kilometers in County-maintained rural roads and bridges.

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH MSI FUNDING SINCE 2007

The support provided to the County of Stettler No. 6 by Municipal Affairs, through Municipal Sustainable Initiative (MSI) Funding had enabled us to facilitate growth; provide access; upgrade; rebuild and maintain reliable, safe roads for residents and business in Stettler County. Below find a list of projects the County has been able to undertake and complete thanks to MSI Funding, which was first made available to us in 2007.

Blue Church Road, Big Valley

- Safety
- Maintenance
- Upgrades to hills and dangerous bends
- Cost -\$592,197.00

Asdee Stockpile, Byemoor

Stock piling much-needed, high quality gravel from Handhills (Special Areas) to our Asdee Pit to supply our gravel program, upgrading and maintenance needs.

- Cost -\$962,085.00

Intersection at Township 35-2 & RR 15-4, Byemoor/Endiang

Intersection required maintenance and improvements in safety

- Cost -\$301,516.00



Asdee Stockpile



Intersection at Township 35-2 & RR 15-4





Hunting Lodge Road

MSI FUNDING CONTINUED...

Hunting Lodge Road, Byemoor/Endiang

RR 15-2 between Township Rd 34-0 & 34-2

- Upgraded to improve safety
- Cost -\$263,883.00

Buffalo View Estates Road

To facilitate and encourage economic development and tourism at Buffalo Lake.

- Cost -\$41,668.00

Erskine Truck Fill

To offer paved access to our area truck fill and septic station on our east-west corridor, with easy access to support Buffalo Lake tourism and to support local agriculture.

- Cost -\$160,117.00

CCS Road, Big Valley

Township Rd 36-0 between RR 20-1 & 20-2

Servicing a high traffic area which supports local industry

- Cost -\$257,001.00

Stormoen Gravel Pit, Fenn

- Cost -\$905,297.00

MSI CAPITAL GRANTS

Since 2007, the County of Stettler has received \$17,114,408 in MSI funding.

All of these major road construction projects, gravel purchases and special infrastructure projects were made possible through this grant funding.



Buffalo View Estates



Stormoen Gravel Pit



CCS Road



MSI FUNDING CONTINUED...

Additional MSI Contributions - Project Summary 2007-2016

• Airport Road –Providing access to new residences/subdivisions, facilitating growth of the community.	\$390,407
• RR 16-5 between Township Rd 39-4 & 40-0, Gadsby - Maintenance and upgrades.	\$237,264
• Botha/Byemoor Road –Providing upgrades, maintenance and improving safety.	\$218,204
• Bridge 13206 Alignment Road	\$61,100
• RR 18-2 between Township Rd 41-2 & 41-4, Donalda/Red Willow Upgrades and maintenance.	\$275,273
• RR 20-2 between Township Rd 38-4 & 38-5, SW of Stettler Providing access to new residences and providing access to the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission.	\$84,800
• RR 15-2 between Township Rd 34-0 & 34-3, Byemoor/Endiang Upgrades and maintenance.	\$181,696
• Larson’s Pit Road –Providing access to Larson’s Gravel Pit.	\$75,688
• RR 19-2 north of Hwy 601 –Access to acreage development.	\$14,245
• Pheasantback Road –Improving high traffic area.	\$501,789
• Township Rd 41-0 between RR 17-0 & 17-2, Donalda When we rebuilt the bridge we improved the road providing access to an industrial site.	\$410,400
• RR 18-1 between Township Rd 38-2 & 38-4, Botha –Maintenance, upgrades and safety.	\$249,078
• RR 20-4 between Township Rd 38-1 & 38-2, Erskine -Maintenance, upgrades & improved safety.	\$262,022
• Township Rd 38-8 between RR 21-0 & 21-2, Erskine -Maintenance, upgrades and improved safety.	\$327,293
• Erskine Reservoir	\$291,809
• Endiang Reservoir	\$149,255
• Byemoor Reservoir	\$149,255
• Red Willow Lagoon	\$330,907
• Resource Road, Paved Bypass for travel between Hwy 56 & Hwy 12	\$2,461,062

The Municipal Sustainable Initiative (MSI) Funding helps support local infrastructure priorities and build strong, safe and resilient communities. Municipal Affairs has allocated approximately \$7.6 billion to municipalities since the program was launched in 2007. Communities across Alberta have been able to build infrastructure and rehabilitate their roadways and bridges, water and wastewater systems.

MSI Funding totals to Stettler County since program began in 2007 until June 30, 2016

Road Construction	\$8,594,225
Gravel Purchases	\$2,771,272
Special Projects	\$921,226
Contract Road Maintenance including gravel & spreading	\$4,827,685
TOTAL	\$17,114,408

We acknowledge and thank Municipal Affairs and Municipal Sustainable Initiative Funding (MSI Funding) for supporting the County of Stettler in our commitment to connect our communities, develop infrastructure and improve our rural networks.



New Public Works Facility Site

NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

Council allocates more reserves and MSI grant funding in order to move forward with building a new Public Works Facility.

Council defeated Borrowing Bylaw 1564-16 after a Vote of the Electorate came back not in favor of authorizing the County to borrow \$5.2 million for the construction of a new Public Works Facility. At a special meeting on July 6, Council directed Administration to bring back financial options to fund the facility project another way.

“Council heard loud and clear at our Open Houses prior to the vote, that the public agrees we need a new facility. However, 54% of those who voted were not in favor of us borrowing \$5.2 million over 30 years to do so. We, as a Council have a duty to consider both the safety

of our employees who are working in the existing facility and the safety of the public who are living, working and playing beside and around this site. We have to move forward with the project and put the health and safety of our employees and the community first, and so we asked Administration to go back to the drawing board and come up with some options and alternative funding strategies in order to move forward,” said Reeve Nixon for the County of Stettler.

Administration presented the most viable financial option for Council to consider at the July 13 meeting. Council chose to allocate \$3 Million from County reserves, \$6 Million from MSI Grant funding over the next three years which has been confirmed from the Provincial Government for 2016, 2017, and 2018, and the County will reduce operational spending by \$521,000 over the next two years.



Model of the new Public Works Facility

Total Project Cost	\$9,521,000
Reserves:	<u>-\$3,000,000</u>
	\$6,521,000
MSI Funding 2016	-\$1,000,000
MSI Funding 2017	-\$2,500,000
MSI Funding 2018	<u>-\$2,500,000</u>
	*\$521,000

*Covered by reductions in operational spending over the next two years.

The County of Stettler recognizes the importance of reserves in terms of remaining fiscally responsible and ready for investment, and have kept the reserve balance in mind while making this new financial plan. The current reserve

balance is \$11 million, and after using \$3 million for the New Public Works Facility and \$1.2 Million for the Erskine Water Project, the balance of reserves will be \$6.9 million dollars at the end of 2018.


A complete timeline on this decision, as well as cost breakdowns and drawings of the new shop are available on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.

Local Contractor Awarded Site Preparation Contract

Immediately following Council's decision, Scott Builders, the general contractors for the project awarded the site preparation tender to local contractor North Star Trucking. Site work is now underway.

PAYING YOUR UTILITIES ONLINE

Payee: County of Stettler Utilities
Account #: Stated at the top of your invoice YOU MUST INCLUDE ALL NUMBERS, BUT DO NOT INCLUDE THE DECIMAL POINT (e.g. account # 560100.00 would be entered 56010000)



County of Stettler
 PO Box 1270
 6602 44 Avenue
 Stettler, AB T0C 2L0
 Canada

Phone: (403) 742-4441

Statement Date: February 9, 2016
 Billing Period: January 1, 2016 - January 31, 2016

Your account number 515090.00 ← **Account #**
 For service at: 524178


UTILITY INVOICE

PAYEE → County of Stettler Utilities

Enter your entire number WITHOUT the decimal (e.g. this account # would be entered as 51509000).

PAYING YOUR *ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE INVOICES ONLINE

Payee: County of Stettler Utilities
Account#: This will be your CUSTOMER ID. It used to be a 5 digit number, now it will appear as three letters + three numbers. (Numbered companies will still have a 5 digit numbered account).



County of Stettler
 PO Box 1270
 6602 44 Avenue
 Stettler, AB T0C 2L0
 Telephone: (403) 742-4441
 Fax: (403) 742-1277

DOE, JOHN & JANE
 PO BOX 123
 BIG VALLEY, AB T0J 0G0

INVOICE	COS-000578
Date	2016-05-21
Page	1
Customer ID	DOE013

↑
Account #

PAYEE → County of Stettler Utilities

*Accounts Receivable Invoices may come in the form of bills, Fire Department bills, debenture payments etc. Pay accounts receivable invoices as 'County of Stettler Utilities' - but use your customer ID number (three letters+three numbers) on the Invoice as your Account number.



INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION

SPREAD THE WORD

The influenza season is fast approaching. The Stettler District Ambulance Association would like to support efforts and education initiatives to spread the word about annual influenza immunizations.

What is influenza?

Influenza is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs (respiratory tract) that is caused by a virus. Influenza can happen any time of year, but most cases happen in the winter months.

How is influenza spread?

Influenza is spread through the air. The virus gets in the air when someone with the disease coughs, sneezes, or even talks. People who breathe in the virus can get sick. It can also be spread by touching objects that have been coughed or sneezed on by someone with the virus.

How serious is influenza?

Most people who get sick with influenza get better. But, influenza causes about 12,000 people to get admitted to the hospital and about 3,500 deaths in Canada each year.

Complications of influenza can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, and dehydration. Influenza can also make chronic medical problems (e.g., congestive heart failure, asthma, diabetes) worse.

There is a higher risk of getting complications from influenza for:

- babies
- pregnant women
- people 65 and older
- children 6 months up to 5 years
- people with chronic health problems

What are the symptoms of influenza?

The symptoms of influenza are:

- fever (temperature of 38.5°C or 101.3°F or higher) that starts suddenly
- cough
- headache
- muscle aches
- loss of appetite
- feeling tired

How can influenza be prevented?

Get the influenza vaccine. Influenza vaccine is a very effective way to protect people from getting sick with influenza. You need to get immunized every year because the influenza viruses change. A new vaccine is made each year to protect against the viruses most likely to cause illness in that year. The best time to get immunized is in October or November, but you can get immunized any time during influenza season.

- Wash your hands with soap and water or clean your hands with a hand sanitizer



that has alcohol in it.

- Cover your mouth and nose with your arm or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home and rest when you are sick.

Is the influenza vaccine safe?

Yes. In Canada, vaccines undergo laboratory and field-testing. They must pass a strict licensing procedure with the federal government before they can be used. Once a vaccine has been approved for use, every lot is tested for safety and quality. You can't get influenza disease from the influenza vaccine.

Who should get the influenza vaccine?

All Albertans 6 months and older should get the influenza vaccine. It's very important for people who have a higher risk for complications from influenza. It's also important to immunize anyone who might spread influenza to people at high risk of influenza-related complications like healthcare providers and other caregivers.

• GET IMMUNIZED

Good health isn't contagious. Influenza is. Chances are, you don't want influenza anymore than your loved ones do.

Getting your influenza immunization every season is the single most effective way to protect yourself from influenza. All Albertans six months of age and older should be immunized each season.

Protect yourself. Protect others. Get immunized. Why Chance It?

• COVER YOUR COUGH

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing.

If you don't have a tissue, always cough or sneeze into your arm, not into your hands.

Throw away tissues after wiping your nose or covering a cough, and wash your hands.

• CLEAN YOUR HANDS

Using soap and warm water, wash your hands thoroughly and often, including after coughing, sneezing, using tissues or the washroom, and before eating or preparing foods.

Alcohol-based hand rub or sanitizer can also be helpful if hands are not visibly soiled.

Make a point of keeping hands and fingers away from your eyes, nose and mouth.

• STAY HOME WHEN SICK

If you have symptoms of illness, including fever, cough, headache and extreme tiredness, stay home from work, school, daycare, or any social function.

Please also refrain from visiting family, friends or loved ones in hospitals, care facilities or seniors lodges until you have fully recovered from any illness.

Toxic Recycling collection is now available year round at the following County of Stettler transfer sites:

Big Valley

Botha

Byemoor

Donalda

Erskine

Stettler (Eco Centre)

Help us keep these toxic items out of our air, water and soils and out of our landfill:

BATTERIES & CELL PHONES



(BATTERY ENDS TAPED)

PAINT & SPRAY PAINT



FLUORESCENT TUBES/BULBS



(including ballasts)

TOXIC ITEMS WITH THESE SYMBOLS



For example: all aerosol cans, bleach, degreasers, drain cleaners, fungicides, glass cleaners, glues, insecticides, lighter fluid, spa chemicals, weed killers, wood preservatives, etc.

Please ask the local site operator for the correct bin to place these toxic items into.
Stettler Waste Management Authority



IBA PROGRAM IN STETTLER COUNTY

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Program is the most comprehensive, science-based international effort to maintain and improve the conservation of the world's birds and biodiversity. The program achieves this by protecting critical habitats and integrating conservation with sustaining people's livelihoods. BirdLife International, a global alliance of non-government, grassroots, and membership-based groups in 200 countries and territories dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats, initiated the program in the 1980's. Since then, over 12,000 IBAs have been identified worldwide, and 600 identified in Canada. This site-based approach to conservation is an important complement to other tools and policies intended to conserve bird and other wildlife populations. IBA sites may be a few acres or thousands of acres in size, but as a rule they are discrete areas that stand out from the surrounding landscape. IBA's may include public or private lands, or both, and they may be protected or unprotected. Currently in Canada, only 8% of IBAs are completely protected.

Criteria for IBA designation include: 1) birds threatened or endangered; 2) restricted range species that are not widely distributed; 3) birds that depend on a particular habitat type or biome; 4) birds made vulnerable due to high densities relative to their congregating behavior.

Alberta's 49 IBAs take in 31,000 square kilometers, and include three IBAs in the County of Stettler; principally, the Ewing and Erskine Lake IBA which are two disjointed bodies of water along Highway 835 south of Erskine (172 km²); and the Sullivan Lake (221 km²) and Chain Lakes IBAs (66 km²) at the County's southeast perimeter. All three have been carefully vetted and meet the criteria for IBA designation, and are critical moulting and staging wetlands for tens of thousands of duck annually.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

The 2016 Stettler Awards Gala will be held October 20 at the Stettler Community Hall. If you know of someone who should be acknowledged for their outstanding service in our community, please let Stettler Board of Trade know by completing a nomination form in their appropriate category! Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Please contact the Stettler Board of Trade office to discuss your nomination or sponsorship today by calling 403-742-3181.



2017 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

The 40th Annual County of Stettler Community Service Awards will be held in Big Valley early in 2017.

This annual event celebrates the outstanding contributions of our volunteers in agriculture, recreation and culture.

If you have anyone that you would like to nominate for the Stettler Dodge Community Service Award or the ATCO Electric Arts, Culture and Heritage Award, please submit your nomination to Lorraine Hankins – Director of Recreation at the County of Stettler No. 6 at anytime.

More information regarding tickets and location can be found on the County website www.stettlercounty.ca later this year.



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 1-403-340-5241). 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.



NEXT STEPS: ERSKINE WATER DISTRIBUTION

Phase 1 of the Erskine water servicing project is now complete which included installing the main waterline in Erskine and providing connections to the Erskine School and the Erskine Truck Fill station. Phase 2 of the project is moving right along, with waterlines now installed in the new subdivision lots just east of Erskine School.

Phase 2 will also see the continued service of providing water hook ups to the rest of Erskine residences and businesses. This project, made possible through the Small Communities Grant program (\$4 Million dollars split 1/3 Federal; 1/3 Provincial and 1/3 County) will provide homes and businesses in Erskine with the option of clean, safe, reliable drinking water.

Now that Phase 2 is well underway, the County of Stettler encourages residents to come in and sign up for water service. The application (seen on

the facing page) can be filled out at the County of Stettler, and the \$350 hook up fee must be paid at the same time. Council has approved a fee of \$350 to hook up to the County water supply within one year of the project completion. After this deadline connection fees for residences, landowners and businesses will jump to \$5,696, which is the actual cost of supplying this service. Landowners are responsible to install the waterline from the curb stop to their residence or business. The actual project completion date has not yet been determined, but residents will be informed of the deadline to connect for the \$350 service fee.

A reminder was sent out at the end of August urging anyone with concerns about the location of their curb stop, or water connection, to please contact Garth Ennis at the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441.



Erskine Water Application

Contact Information

Name of Landowner:		
Address:		Phone:
City	Prov.	Mobile:
Postal Code:		Email:
Additional Names on Title:		

Site Information

Lot:	Block:	Plan:
Street Address:		LINC:
Existing Use:		

Payment Information

(office use only)

Application Fee: \$350.00	Receipt No.
Received By:	Method of Payment:



COMFORTABLE CATTLE = EFFICIENT CATTLE

In the cattle industry, producers should always be trying to gain efficiency wherever possible. Costs always seem to be rising whether it's feed or machinery bills, but one way in which higher efficiency can be attained is with the use of proper shelter.

In order for cattle to thrive throughout the winter, they need three things: feed, water, and shelter. If shelter is not provided or is insufficient, feed efficiency will be reduced while mortality rates can increase. Shelter may be provided by natural vegetation in some cases, but in many situations this will not be sufficient. In most cases cereal straw is used where extra bedding is needed. Straw provides the dual function of protecting cattle from the ice and snow below, while also reducing the animal's surface area exposed to the wind.

Windbreaks are also essential where the landscape does not provide protection, since a light 15 km/h wind can make -10°C feel like -18°C . Cattle require more feed in colder conditions, while at the same time feed conversion is reduced.

It's estimated that for every 10°C below -20°C , an additional 6-7 lbs of hay or 3-4 lbs of grain are required for a 1300 lb cow. This additional energy allows the cattle to increase their metabolic rate, generating more body heat in the process without using up body reserves.

In order to get the best value from wind fences, it is important that they be constructed properly. Leaving a gap of about one foot at the base will help ensure snow doesn't build up on the leeward

UPCOMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

- **Cowbytes Workshop**
Co-hosted with AB Government, Battle River Research Group & County of Paintearth
Saturday, Oct. 26 10 AM-2:30 PM
Cost: \$20 (lunch included)
5221-46 St. Stettler, AB
To register or for more info contact Battle River Research at 780-582-7308 or email events@battleriverresearch.com
- **Ladies Livestock Clinic (Calving Clinic)**
Co-hosted with Starland County and Alberta Farm Animal Care
Rumsey, AB
2nd week of January 2017
County of Stettler 403-742-4441 (Ryan)
- **Low Stress Cattle (Workshop)**
Co-hosted with Starland County and Alberta Farm Animal Care
Big Valley, AB
August 2017
County of Stettler 403-742-4441 (Ryan)

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side. A solid wall also tends to build snow around itself when air flowing around it begins to tumble around. Leaving gaps of about 2-3 inches can help disrupt this effect, keeping air moving and snow away from bedding areas.

Portable windbreaks can be useful for distributing manure and compaction throughout a field. During calving season, moving bedding areas can also reduce the risk of diseases such as scours for newborn calves. When using portable fences however it is important that they are designed to avoid both freezing in place and tipping in extreme winds. Adding weights and raising them above the ground are ways to avoid these drawbacks.

Every cattle producer's situation is different, meaning every producer will try to meet their

animal's feed, water, and shelter needs differently. Providing shelter is an expense that might appear large at first, but considering feed prices, that cost should quickly be recouped in increased feed efficiency.

Nobody can control the cold weather, but by bedding and protecting animals properly every producer can keep their herd happier and healthier.



HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS-DUE 2016/17

Our Public Works Department is busy accepting Hold Harmless Agreements from those residents who wish to have their laneways plowed for the 2016-2017 Winter season. We encourage residents who wish to have their laneways plowed this winter season, to come in before the end of September to sign their 2016-2017 Hold Harmless Agreement. This must be done each year before our operators can plow your laneway.

Our operators schedule time in the month of September to inspect laneways for safety. After the month of September however, Hold Harmless Agreements continue to trickle in. The process becomes less efficient for everyone, and when that first big snowfall comes, if you're laneway hasn't been inspected, it won't be plowed.

Please help our Public Works keep their operations efficient by coming in EARLY to sign your agreement. The County of Stettler has 2811 km of roads (1750 miles). We maintain gravel roads. Alberta Transportation is responsible for all two digit and three digit highways.

Our operators plow in a manner that minimizes backtracking and excessive road travel. They start plowing in alternating locations and plow in a grid pattern of east and south, or west and north. County roads require at least two passes.

Laneways are often plowed in conjunction with the gravel road, however when conditions are such that we are unable to keep up with the

Laneways are only plowed by our operators after an application has been made to the County; the resident has signed a 'Hold Harmless' agreement AND the laneway has been inspected for safety by Public Works (a requirement by our insurance provider).

This must be done every summer/fall. This process can take 2-3 weeks. Do not wait until the first snowfall when our operators are too busy plowing to come and inspect your laneway.

county road network, residential laneways are cleared later.

The County does not provide grading services or snowplowing on private property situated in Hamlets, or for multi lot subdivisions.

The County aims to have all our roads cleared in the 5-7 day range. Laneways can take longer so there are times when you may wish to make alternate arrangements with a contractor of your own.

Please keep in mind safety and our snowplows this winter. Our operators are often plowing in less-than-ideal conditions, early in the morning before the kids are on the bus, or in the afternoon

as they are getting off. Please teach your children, grandchildren and guests to stay far away from our graders, and keep close supervision of your children when laneway plowing is underway. Do not allow them to be on or in the snow piles created by our graders while snowplowing is underway.

Come in today to get your Hold Harmless Agreements signed for the coming winter. Bring your Blue Sign address or your legal land location.

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Save a Tree

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

Light the Night - This December!

Stettler Town and Country Museum will be hosting 'Light the Night' this December.

To reserve a spot for your seasonal light display contact the Museum at 403-742-4534.

Watch for dates for this annual event!

STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library had a busy summer reading program this year—thanks to all who attended. The fall sees the Stettler Public Library's partnership with the Jewel Theatre continuing with the 2016-2017 TIFF Film Circuit.

Enjoy a great international film the first Monday of each month (September 2016-April 2017) at 7 PM at the Jewel Theatre. Tickets are \$10 each and available at the Jewel the night of each showing.

The movies for October, November, and December are *Love and Friendship*; *Spirit Unforgettable*; and *Our Little Sister*. Watch for updates about the second half of the season in November.

We also have some great regular programming happening including *Cookbook Club* on the 3rd Monday of each month, *Make and Create* every Tuesday, a bi-weekly *After School Program* every second Thursday and of course, *Read and Rhyme*

for ages 0-5. And did you know that the Stettler Public Library has *Free Tutoring* with a qualified educator on Tuesdays from 5 to 8 PM.

Put Friday, October 28 on your calendar for the third annual Monster Bash at the Stettler Public Library. Come dressed as the creepiest ghoul or the most beautiful princess and enjoy at a safe night of games, crafts, prizes and other wonderful activities from 4:30 to 7:30 PM.

Entry is \$10 per child, \$25 per family and the adults are free.

To learn more about our programs and events at the Stettler Public Library, visit our website at spl.prl.ab.ca, like us on Facebook and follow @stettlerlibrary on Twitter. You can also call us at 403-742-2292.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NIGHT OF TERROR AT THE BOO-SEUM

THURSDAY
(OCT. 27TH)
7PM - 9PM
STETTLER MUSEUM
(6502 44 AVE.)

FRIDAY
(OCT. 28TH)

7PM - 11PM

SATURDAY
(OCT. 29TH)

7PM - 11PM

Stettler Ag Society

Halloween Howl

Saturday, October 29, 2016

8:00 PM, Stettler Agriplex

Featuring Wheelhouse and Domino!

Tickets available at Stettler Ag Society or Wells Furniture

Annual General Meeting

Stettler District Agricultural Society's AGM

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

7:00 PM, Stettler Agriplex

Upstairs Meeting Room

Christmas Farmers Market

Stettler Agriplex/Pavilion

Tuesday, October 25 from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Big Valley Fall Supper

Sunday, October 16 at the Jubilee Hall.

Donalda Fall Supper

Saturday, October 29 at the Donalda Hall.

Linda Hall Fall Supper

Sunday, November 6, 2016

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Byemoor Fall Supper

The Byemoor Fall Roast

Beef Supper is on

Saturday, October 22 at the

Byemoor Community Hall

from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

Fall Supper

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Farmer's Appreciation Harvest Supper 'Oktoberfest-style'
Saturday, Oct. 22 at Galahad Hall
Tickets \$30: Sponsored by Battle River Reserach Group
Call 587-983-4028 for tickets



Botha Christmas Craft Fair
Saturday, November 5 from
10 AM - 3 PM.

RINSE YOUR RECYCLING - A friendly reminder from our recycling contractor to please RINSE your CANS and PLASTICS!

CANADIAN BADLANDS PHEASANT FESTIVAL STETTLE

October 13-16th, 2016



Canadian Badlands Pheasant Festival
STETTLE



HUNTING TRAINING LEARNING

Visit: www.stettlerboardoftrade.com/PheasantFestival

Call: (403)742-3181



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