

Winter 2016

Stettler County Connection

STORM PONDS

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!

We're about to ring in a new year - but it's not just any old new year - it happens to be Canada's 150th Birthday!

In anticipation of the upcoming celebrations which will be coming our way all year long, we dedicated our 2017 Calendar to honoring our country's birthday in a Stettler County way. This year, we asked all of our entrants to not just submit a photo from Stettler County but also to submit a statement about why their entry was truly 'their Canada'.

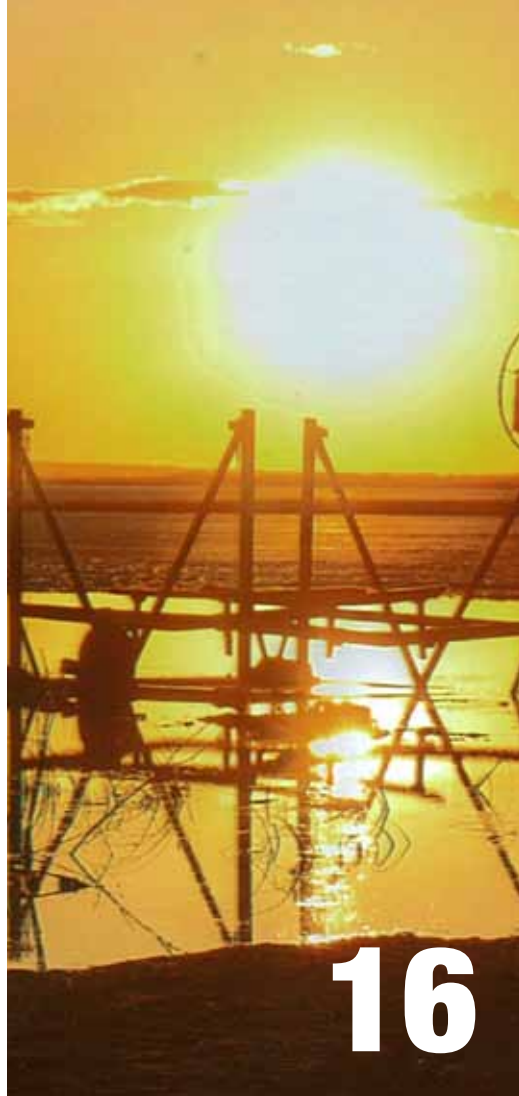
We received SO MANY beautiful photographs along with so many beautiful explanations about what Canada means to our citizens. We took these entries to five different judges to get five different perspectives - it was no easy task, but somehow they managed to narrow them down to just 16 finalists, which are now featured in our 2017 Calendar.

We believe the photos, along with their accompanying statements are a great representation of life here in Stettler County, and why we also believe there is no better place on earth to live than right here in the true north, strong and free.

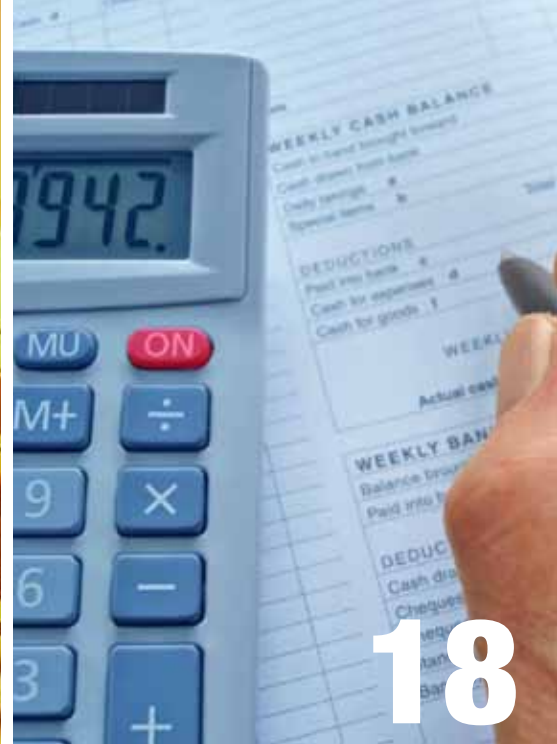
Please drop in to the County and pick up your copy of our 2017 Calendar. Share one with a friend, and if you happen to know any of our featured photographers (you'll find them on page 4), please say thank you to them for sharing their talents and words with us for this special celebration and year.



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STETTLER
COUNTY

COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

Do you hear what I hear?

Silence.

I heard silence at our annual presentation of our draft budget to the public. Complete silence.

Because no one was listening.

Each year, we hold a very open, very public presentation of our draft proposed budget. This presentation is a chance for the public to see and hear how the County will be spending tax dollars in the coming year and the public's chance to provide their input.

This year, we proposed a draft three-year budget - because going forward that is how the Municipal Government would like us to operate - by thinking three years ahead, and eventually five years ahead. The purpose of a three-year or five-year budget? It's to cut out the surprises - to be even more open, more honest, and more transparent.

But what I'm left wondering is - for who? Who are we being open and honest and transparent for?

We're entering into 2017. Canada's 150th birthday, 99 years since many of our ancestors fought in the First World War for our freedoms; 72 years since our loved ones fought in the Second World War for our freedoms. 2017. An election year at the County of Stettler, a freedom, a birthday.

Give YOUR Canada a gift this year. Exercise your rights. Don't be silent.

Sincerely,



Stettler County Connection

Winter 2016

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REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

For the second [or is it third] time this fall I'm looking out the window at a snow covered landscape. In the County of Stettler we were fortunate to have most of the harvest done but some of our neighboring municipalities were not so fortunate with up to 40% of crops left in the field.

Some farmers have stated they have harvested in four months this year: August, September, October and November. Who knows, maybe some were combining in December, and if not then probably May.

Our councillors and administration have just returned from our Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMDC) Fall Convention with the assurance that Linear Assessment and funding to municipalities will remain in some form. These statements from our Government are unfortunately fairly vague and makes us all uneasy and puts an enormous amount of pressure on budgeting, especially when Municipal Affairs wants municipalities to prepare five year budgets.

Perhaps it was the fact that crops were still unharvested or maybe that some rural towns and villages are fearful of losing their existence due to the fading out of coal-fired power plants, but the tone of the convention had changed from previous years.

In the Bear Pit Session where Government Ministers take questions from the floor, delegates were more demanding of clear answers than previously. Although media reported that delegates had 'jeered and booed' the Health Minister, that was not the case. There was a resounding "no" however, from the delegate body, when Minister of Health, Ms. Sarah Hoffman made a statement saying: "I know the direct costs on families and the health care system from the impacts of coal." If anyone takes the trouble to look up the statistics on breathing-related illnesses, emissions from coal-fired plants are far down the list from wildfires, road dust, construction, agriculture and residential fireplaces.

The delegates that questioned and offered comments to the government urged them to concentrate on making our relatively low cost coal-fired facilities

even more efficient and put more thought and research into a more inclusive climate plan. Although related to the Climate Plan, delegates to the AAMDC convention asked Government Ministers to scrap their proposed Carbon Tax, calling it a transfer of wealth tax and having no effect on climate whatsoever.

Stettler County met with Alberta Transportation to ask for repairs to Secondary Highway 855 and we were told that there is just not enough traffic to justify more than patching at this time. Our administration has a good relationship with Alberta Transportation however, and we will continue to advocate for the County ratepayers who use 855.

The County of Stettler also sponsored a resolution concerning weed control on highways at this year's convention. The resolution asked the Provincial Government to resume weed control by mowing or spraying alongside all provincial highways. This resolution passed but we were also informed by Alberta Transportation that they have plans to reinstate their mowing and spraying program. This is welcome news.

I would say that this year's convention was successful in letting our Provincial Government know that rural Alberta is serious about the economy and the government's "idealism over practicality" policy. More than once the fear of losing "the Alberta Advantage" was mentioned. The Reeve of one municipality addressed the Ministers saying, "that with the exception of Transportation Minister Brian Mason, every one of the delegates in the room had more experience as an elected official than any of the Ministers answering questions." I'm sure he was correct. My hope is that the members of Government take a sober look at the issues confronting them and do their research and due diligence and take all of Albertans' interests to heart. Best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

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Grand Prize Winner 'Aurora'
Jan Fooks

2017 'MY CANADA' PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



'Hot Chocolate'
Lynne Snodgrass



'Canadian Pacific between Erskine & Stettler'
Sara Munden



'Tree at Sunset'
Karen Armstrong



'Busy Beaver at Buffalo Lake'
Sara Munden



'My view from Stettler Airport'
Christel Shuckburgh



'Canada Day Cuties'
Shawna Benson



'Lightning'
Sandy Clark



'Sunset at Buffalo Lake'
Elaine Partsch



'Harvest Fog'
Jenn Dechaine

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'Quad Ride'
Jenn Dechaine



'Canadian Winter'
Theresa Tanner



'Pond Hockey'
Sandy Clark



'Canola Fields & Horse & Democrat'
Elaine Sydor



'Old Barn, Old Fence, Fall Leaves & Barbwire'
Mignione Vogel



'Homestead'
Kami Ritz

Tree Time and the County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board are teaming up in the new year to offer a shelterbelt planning workshop for you!

Check www.stettlercounty.ca for information and dates about this upcoming event.



PLAN YOUR PLANTING WITH AG SERVICES

It's Shelterbelt planning time with our Agricultural Services Department. You too, can have the shelterbelt you always wanted, and our Ag Services staff will help you plan it, and yes, maybe even plant it too. We have partnered with Tree Time for a second year and are pleased to offer County residents the opportunity to order their shelterbelts through us, realizing a discount as we capitalize on ordering bulk quantities. Each year as stewards of our land our Agricultural Services Department plants about 800 trees in the County of Stettler.

We are ready to take orders for the 2017 spring tree planting season. This year we will be taking orders earlier in order to ensure species are available and to receive the best pricing available. Place your order now, and we will ask you to come pay for your trees (before they arrive).

We are accepting orders now and will apply a late fee of 15% for all orders placed after March 15. We will not accept orders after April 28, 2017. As an added bonus this year, we will be hosting a shelterbelt workshop with Tree Time. Watch for the event posters, as attendees of this workshop will receive 10% off any tree orders. As an added note, we pay all of the freight on orders placed through us.

We are willing and able to assist in planning your new shelterbelt rows, and we offer a planting service if you order more than 200 trees for a new shelterbelt row. We also have a plastic mulch applicator free for your use, you just need to purchase the plastic mulch.

To get started at planning your shelterbelt order, please visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca and click on Agricultural Services.



The new Public Works Facility has 'Wet' ponds which are required by the Province of Alberta as set out in Stormwater Management Guidelines, to handle storm water runoff.

STORM PONDS PRETTY AND PRACTICAL

Why does the new County Public Works Facility have ponds-are you spending money unnecessarily?

As part of the regulatory approvals required for subdivision and site developments, designs are required to take into account changes to the storm water runoff in both quantity and quality. Storm ponds are commonly used as a method of detaining flow and improving water quality before release to the natural environment.

Generally, run-off from newly developed sites and subdivisions are required to be released at rates the same or slower than what was in place

pre-development. The addition of hard surfaced roads, graveled sites and buildings increase the rate at which water runs off the site and depending on the site use, contaminants may be present on the runoff that require removal.

The entire site is graded to drain into a storm pond (often with the exception of small landscaped buffers on the perimeter) which may be by design a "dry" or "wet" pond. The size of the ponds are generally designed to account for volumes associated with major storm events.

A dry pond, as we installed in Erskine East Subdivision, will generally detain runoff flow for a short period of time before controlled release



Erskine East Subdivision has a 'Dry' pond to detain flow from volumes related to major storm events. Dry ponds contain runoff for a short period of time before controlled release to natural overland drainage routes.

to the natural overland drainage routes. These "dry" ponds are often grassed and can act as park space as they do not maintain normal water levels.

A "wet" pond, as constructed at the new Public Works Facility site is designed to maintain a certain level of water full-time, and provides surge storage for major storm events before controlled release to the natural overland drainage routes.

Ponds are also designed to clean the runoff by introducing the runoff in one end and releasing from the other. The wet ponds are designed with cells that allow water levels to build up and overflow between cells. The contaminants will

settle in the upstream cells providing for improved water quality as the runoff water leaves the site. The "wet" ponds can also provide for natural habitat for wetland vegetation and associated species which also serve to assist in the cleaning process of the water as it travels through the pond system.

Stormwater Management Guidelines for the Province of Alberta can be found at <http://aep.alberta.ca/water/programs-and-services/municipal-wastewater-and-storm-water-management-program/documents/StormwaterManagementGuidelines-1999.pdf>



STRESS MANAGEMENT EMOTIONAL AFTERSHOCKS

You have experienced a traumatic or significant event, which may also be described as a critical incident (any incident that causes someone to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later). Even though the event may be over, you might experience (now or later) some strong emotional or physical reactions. It is very common, in fact quite normal, for people to experience emotional aftershocks when they have experienced a horrible event.

Sometimes the emotional aftershocks (or stress reactions) appear immediately after the traumatic event. Sometimes they appear in a few hours or a few days. And in some cases, weeks or months may pass before the stress reactions appear.

Keep in mind if you are not having a reaction, that's good. You have effective coping skills.

Signs and symptoms may last a few days, or weeks or even a few months and occasionally longer depending on the severity of the traumatic event. With understanding and support, the stress reactions usually pass more quickly. Occasionally the traumatic event is so painful that professional assistance from a counsellor may be necessary. This does not imply craziness or weakness. It simply indicates that the particular traumatic event was too powerful for the person to manage by themselves.

Here are some very common signs & symptoms of a stress reaction in a traumatized person. These are common reactions of normal people to abnormal events.

Physical*

Nausea
Stomach upset
Tremors, hands, lips
Diarrhea
Sweating
Chills
Muscle aches
Dizziness
Chest pain/SOB
Tachycardia
Rapid breathing
Hypertension
Headaches
Uncoordinated
Fatigue
Grinding teeth
etc...

Thinking

Slowed thinking
Difficulty with decisions
Difficult problem solving
Confusion
Disorientation
Difficulty calculating
Difficulty concentrating
Memory problems
Reliving event
Dreams/nightmares
Poor attention span
Suspiciousness
Blaming others
Intrusive images
etc...

Emotional

Anxiety
Fear
Guilt
Grief
Depression
Sadness
Feeling lost
Anger
Irritability
Feeling numb
Easily startled
Shocked
Denial
Emotional response
Apprehension
etc...

Behavioral

Withdrawal
Antisocial acts
Inability to rest
Intensified pacing
Change in speech
Change in appetite
Hyper alert
Increased alcohol use
Erratic movements
Change in usual communication
etc...

*Any of these symptoms may indicate the need for medical attention.

Try some of the following to help alleviate emotional pain associated with a traumatic/significant event:

FOR YOURSELF

- try to rest a bit more
- contact friends, reach out
- have someone stay with you at least a few hours or for a day or so
- reoccurring thoughts, dreams, or flashbacks are normal - don't try to fight them, they'll decrease over time and become less painful
- maintain a normal schedule
- give yourself permission to feel the loss, sad & rotten. Share your feelings
- eat well-balanced and regular meals (even when you don't feel like it)
- try to keep a reasonable level of activity
- fight against boredom
- physical activity is often helpful within the first 24/48 hours
- express your feelings as they arise
- talk to people who 'genuinely' care
- find a good counsellor if the feelings become prolonged or too intense

FOR FAMILY MEMBERS & FRIENDS

- listen carefully
- spend time with the traumatized person
- offer your assistance and a listening ear even if they have not asked for help
- reassure them that they are safe
- help them with everyday tasks like cleaning, cooking, caring for the family, minding children
- give them some private time
- don't tell them that they are "lucky it wasn't worse", traumatized people are not consoled by those statements. Instead, tell them that you are sorry such an event has occurred and you want to understand and assist them

If the symptoms described above are severe or if they last longer than six weeks, the traumatized person may need professional counselling.



WHERE CAN WE STORE IT?

Private Storage of Boat Lifts and Docks on Reserve Lands at Buffalo Lake

The Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan steering committee and Buffalo Lake landowners have been in consultation on the development of a shoreline management plan for more than a year. Pending the announcement of boating regulations coming from the Provincial Government, the shoreline management plan has been put on hold. Community consultation identified the storage of boat lifts and docks as a matter that required immediate attention. As a result, in September 2016 County Council passed two bylaws enabling ratepayers under specific circumstances to store private boat lifts and docks on reserve lands adjacent to Buffalo Lake. The approval of a development permit application to store boat lifts and docks is a function of the Municipal Planning Commission, and the following conditions must be met:

- 1) The storage is for boat lifts and docks only - no boat houses, sheds, boats or any other item or structure; and
- 2) The storage will be allowed only if a community association or an individual landowner can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Development Authority that they have no other feasible options available for the storage of boat lifts and docks; and
- 3) The storage of boat lifts and docks shall not impede or obstruct pedestrian access or thoroughfare on the Reserve Lands; and
- 4) The storage is allowed only for the time period from the Labour Day long weekend in September of each year to the Victoria Day long weekend in May of each year; and
- 5) The use of the Reserve Lands for storage purposes requires the prior issuance of a development permit upon application by a community association or an individual landowner, which shall require as a condition of approval that the applicant enter into and keep in good standing a license agreement with the County for an initial term not exceeding three years and including a clause to indemnify the County



of liability, a clause requiring written proof from the applicant of comprehensive third-party liability insurance coverage of the applicant and the County and a clause that the license agreement may not be assigned.

The following reserve lands were identified for the purpose of storage:

- Lot 70ER, Block 1, Plan 8222364 (Scenic Sands subdivision)
- Lot 8ER, Block 1, Plan 0223438 (Abbey Road subdivision)
- Lot 102ER, Block 2, Plan 0522242 (Buffalo Sands subdivision)
- Lot 10ER, Block 1, Plan 0521511 (Buffalo Lake Meadows subdivision)
- Lot 27ER, Block 6, Plan 1524494 (Rochon Sands subdivision)
- Lot 17ER, Block 8, Plan 1524957 (Bolin subdivision)
- Lot 29ER, Block 2, Plan 0620307 and Lot 64ER, Block 2, Plan 0720960 (Buffalo View Estates subdivision).

These lots are all Environmental Reserve parcels. The County will also consider entering into a license

of occupation with a community association to store boat lifts and docks on a Municipal Reserve parcel; for example the Buffalo Lake Meadows Owners' Association or Dock Owners' Association.

Please note that the bylaw accommodates only those people who can demonstrate they have no alternative options. Also, the intent is to neatly tuck the boat lifts and docks under the trees along the shoreline. These bylaws do not authorize or imply the removal of trees or other natural vegetation for the purpose of storing the boat lifts and docks.

The development permit will be for a discretionary use, which means it will be advertised and a notification sent to adjacent landowners, who may appeal the decision.

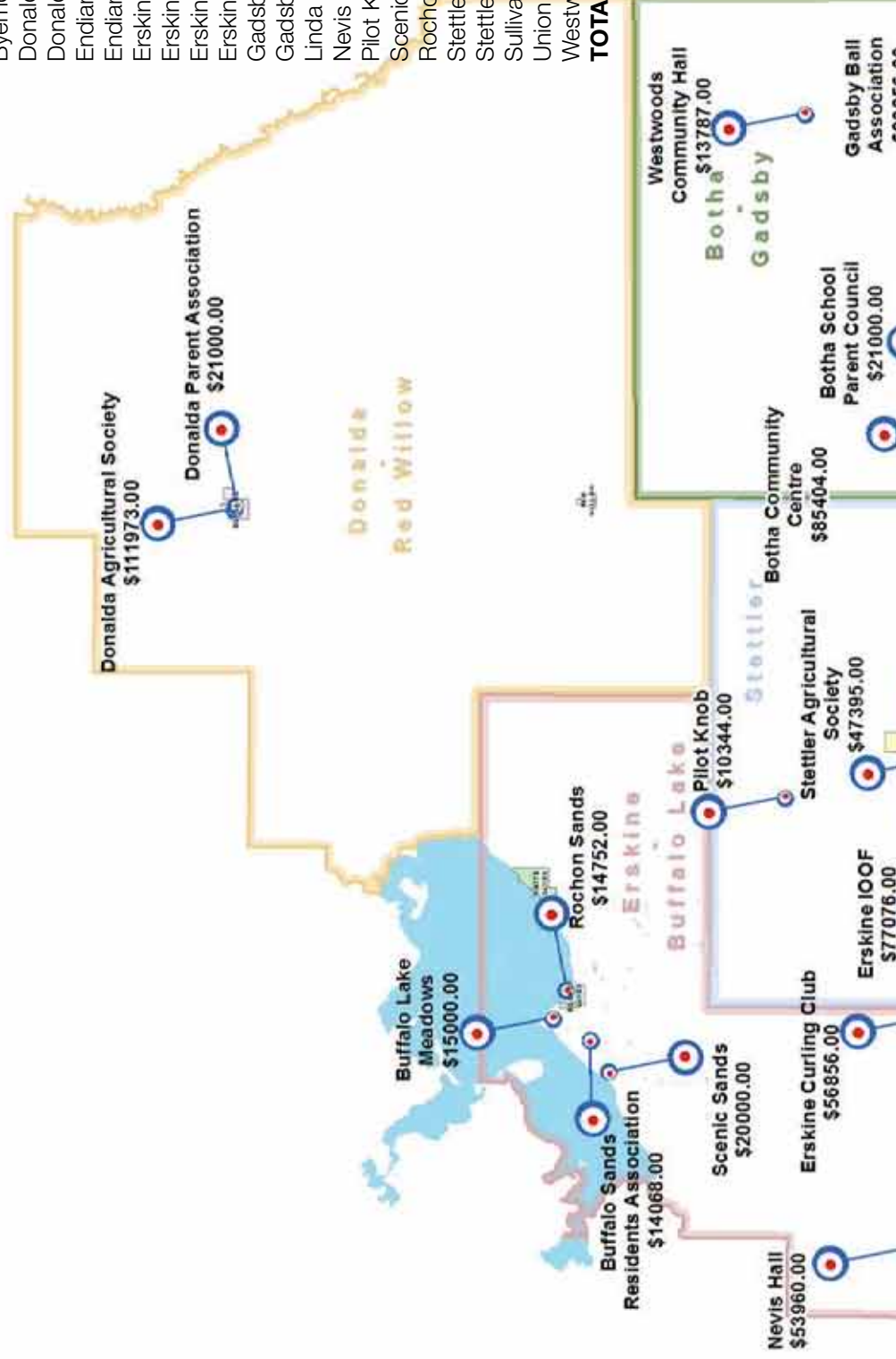
All community associations were provided with a template development permit application form and a license of occupation agreement. These are also available at the County office. Landowners may apply individually as well.

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

SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

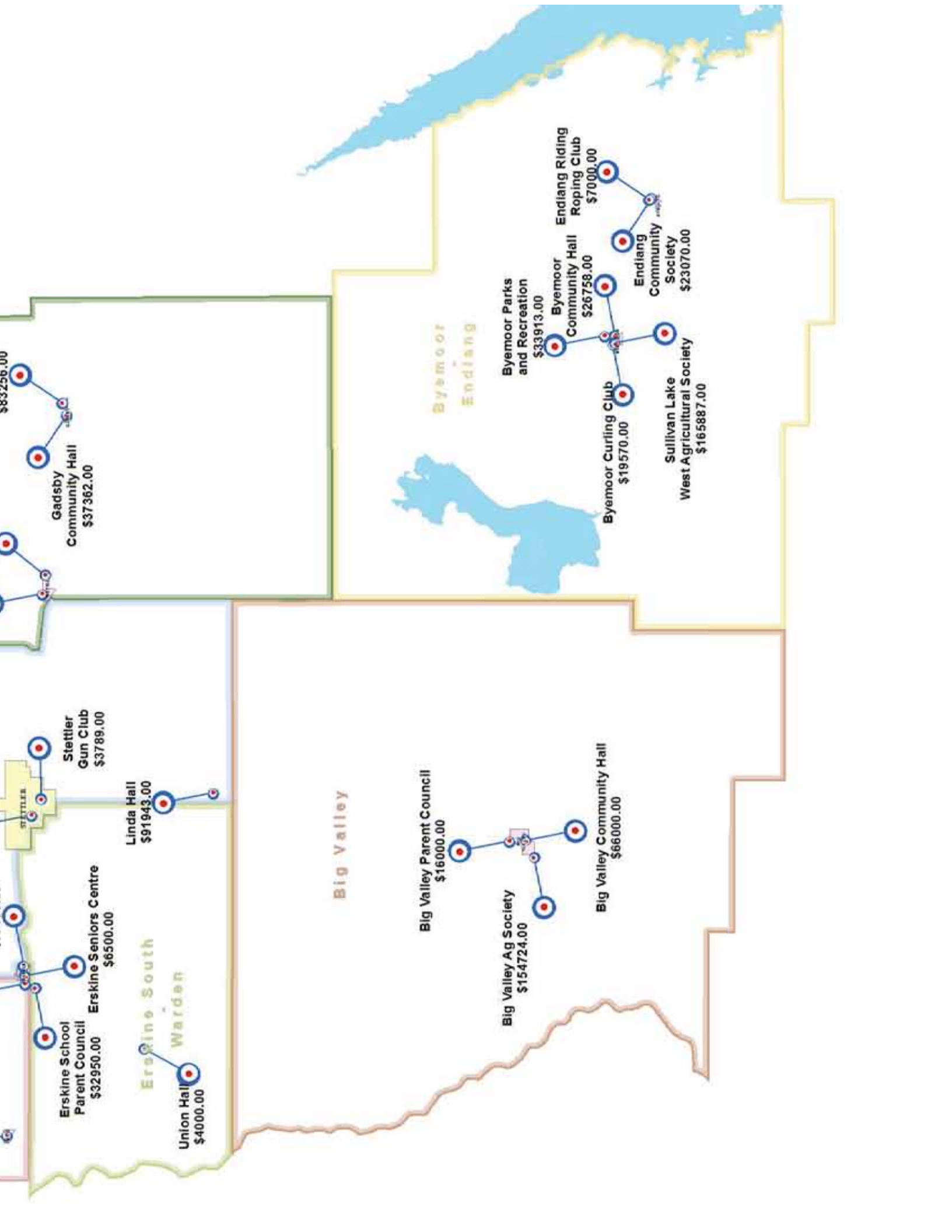
OUTLINE OF DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

County of Stettler Recreation Special Project Funding 2006-2016



Special Project Funding Distributed 2006-2016

Big Valley Parent Council	\$16,000
Big Valley Ag Society	\$154,724
Big Valley Community Hall	\$66,000
Botha Community Centre	\$85,404
Botha School Parent Council	\$21,000
Buffalo Lake Meadows	\$15,000
Buffalo Sands Residents Assoc.	\$14,068
Byemoor Community Hall	\$26,758
Byemoor Curling Club	\$19,570
Byemoor Parks & Recreation	\$33,913
Donalda Agricultural Society	\$111,973
Donalda Parent Association	\$21,000
Endiang Community Society	\$23,070
Endiang Riding & Roping Club	\$7,000
Erskine Curling Club	\$56,856
Erskine IOOF	\$77,076
Erskine School Parent Council	\$32,950
Erskine Senior's Centre	\$6,500
Gadsby Ball Association	\$83,256
Gadsby Community Hall	\$37,362
Linda Hall	\$91,943
Nevis Hall	\$53,960
Pilot Knob	\$10,344
Scenic Sands	\$20,000
Rochon Sands	\$14,752
Stettler Gun Club	\$3,789
Stettler Agricultural Society	\$47,395
Sullivan Lake West Ag Society	\$165,887
Union Hall	\$4,000
Westwoods Community Hall	\$13,787
TOTAL (2006-2016)	\$1,335,337





BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

What is Bovine Tuberculosis?

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a chronic disease of animals caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium bovis*, (*M.bovis*) which is closely related to the bacteria that cause human and avian tuberculosis. This disease can affect practically all mammals, causing a general state of illness, coughing and eventual death.

The name Tuberculosis comes from the nodules, called 'tubercles', which form in the lymph nodes of affected animals. Bovine TB is [a reportable disease in Canada](#) and has been subject to a mandatory national eradication program since 1923. While Canada is considered to be officially free of bovine TB today, isolated cases still occasionally occur. Alberta's last case was 2007, while British Columbia had one in 2011.

What are the signs of disease?

The bacteria associated with the disease may lie dormant in an infected animal for years without causing clinical signs or progressive disease symptoms. It can reactivate during periods of stress or in older animals. When disease becomes progressive, it generally results in enlarged lesions which may be found in a variety of tissues including lymph nodes of the head and

thorax, lung, spleen, and liver. In countries with eradication programs such as Canada, advanced disease is rare as most cases are detected at an early stage when infection typically consists of few or small lesions in the lungs or lymph nodes associated with the respiratory system.

Similarly, few infections in Canada progress to the point of presenting clinical signs. Nevertheless, when progressive disease does occur, the general signs are weakness, loss of appetite, weight-loss and fluctuating fever. When the lungs are extensively diseased, there can be an intermittent, hacking cough.

How is this disease spread?

Infected animals with progressive disease shed the bacteria in respiratory secretions and aerosols, feces, milk, and sometimes in urine, vaginal secretions, or semen. As a result, disease may be spread in a variety of ways, most commonly through the inhalation of micro-droplets in aerosols from already infected animals and from the ingestion of contaminated food and water.

Certain scenarios can create considerable risk of transmission and introduction of bovine TB into other herds. The movement of infected animals from one herd to another with subsequent



extended close contact can increase this risk. In addition, where infected wildlife are a reservoir of disease, there is the potential for ongoing transmission to livestock.

Can humans contract bovine tuberculosis from field-dressing and eating the meat of an infected wild animal?

Although bovine TB does not readily transfer to humans, anyone handling and consuming meat from an infected animal is at risk of contracting the disease. Anyone who hunts bison in the vicinity of Wood Buffalo National Park or elk and deer around Riding Mountain National Park should inform themselves concerning disease symptoms. It is recommended that hunters practice biosecurity measures, including wearing plastic gloves and staying upwind when handling potentially infected wildlife and washing hands, knives and clothes in warm soapy water after field dressing an animal. Ensure that meat is well cooked. Hunters that suspect their kill is infected should contact their provincial or federal agencies and seek medical advice if they suspect they may have been exposed.

What does CFIA do to control bovine tuberculosis in wild animal population?
Responsibility for controlling disease rests with

the agency that has legal jurisdiction over wildlife species. Animals within national parks are a Parks Canada Agency responsibility. Animals that are free roaming or on Provincial Crown land, are a provincial responsibility. Although the CFIA does not have a program specifically designed to control disease in wildlife populations it can provide information, advice, scientific and laboratory support to agencies which have jurisdiction over wild populations.

Where is it?

There is a herd from the south central portion of Alberta, known as Jenner, which is roughly 50 km north of Brooks that has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis.

What does it mean for me as a cattle producer?

If you are already following the “COOL” country of origin labeling, nothing. Keep your records and conduct good herd health management. Have a good biosecurity program to ensure herd health is not compromised.

* The above information is from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. For more information please visit www.inspection.gc.ca.



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2017-2019 DRAFT BUDGET

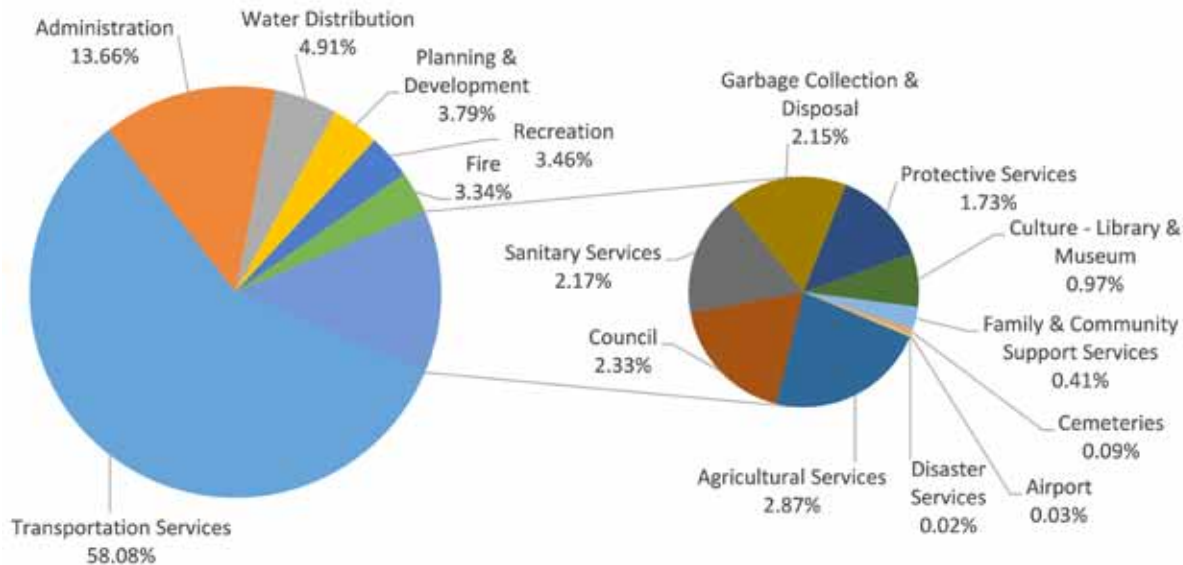
On Friday, December 2, Administration presented the proposed draft 2017-2019 Budget to County Council. This public budget presentation is held every year, and the public are encouraged to attend and to provide input. The draft 2017-2019 budget goes back to Council on December 14 at the Regular Council Meeting to provide their input.

This is the first year a three year budget was presented. The idea behind a three-year budget is that it provides our Council and our ratepayers with a greater understanding of future obligations and the financial commitments of our County.

- Administration has recommended the delay of almost all capital purchases in the 2017 and 2018 budget. The County is comfortable our equipment fleet is in excellent condition and age. Two new graders were added to the County fleet in 2015 and two more graders were added in 2016. With the good fortune of having back-to-back mild winters, an additional year of life has been added to all County graders. Graders are historically a large portion of our annual capital budget - over \$1.2 million a year.
- In 2017 the County will be finalizing capital investments/projects including Erskine East Subdivision and Erskine Water Servicing Project - providing much needed access to clean potable water in the hamlet.
- The 2017 budget presents no funding for Rural Water Hook-ups, however Council could consider and budget for Rural Water Hook-ups where connection fees cover the cost of any requests.
- This budget shows a 17% reduction in our gravel surfacing over 2016 where we laid 131,065 tonnes. This budget proposes laying 108,655 tonnes. With reduced industrial traffic due to the downturn in the economy we are finding we do not require the spread we did in 2016, and in fact are receiving the feedback of too much gravel on some of our roads. In 2015 we spread over 175,000 tonnes of gravel as part of a 'catch-up' to our gravel program and we are realizing our maintenance program is now holding these roads in steady and good repair.
- This budget proposes an increase to the part-time fire fighter salary budget. Stettler Regional Fire is down to a critical number of members and historically only retains 30% of their recruits. They hope an increase in remuneration will assist in retention goals.

TAX DOLLARS BY DEPARTMENT - DRAFT 2017-2019 BUDGET

19



- This budget proposes zero increase in taxes for three years although Council may want to consider keeping up with cost-of living.
- Going forward this budget proposes we continue to maintain our existing level of service and continue to capitalize on grant monies as they become available by preparing shelf-ready projects. The new Public Works Facility is funded by MSI Capital grant funding and partially out of County reserves.
- In 2016 Public Works introduced two types of dust control for residential sites: calcium and a light oil. We received positive feedback on the light oil applications and the way it controlled dust. These options for dust control will continue into the 2017 program. The County is also looking at shaping the road network in Byemoor and applying a blade mix oil surface.
- Erskine East Subdivision site & road structure completion: In 2017 County forces will put the final touches on ditches, top-soiling, landscaping and structural gravels for the roads and installation of a storm pond outlet. Paving, curb and gutter will be contracted and is planned for summer completion.
- Erskine Water Distribution: We expect the system to be operational by January 2017 with restoration work of disturbed areas to be completed in the spring and summer. Phase 2 completion is expected in June.
- Ag Services: Roadside weed control (2017 – North Third, 2018 – South Third, 2019 – Center Third). In 2017 Ag Services will provide:
 - Common Buckthorn survey
 - Increased ratepayer workshops and educational sessions
 - PAWC program (Priority Area Weed Control) expansion: add four townships and one subdivision

This budget proposes providing for a \$19,000 increase for brush spraying and brushing plus a \$5,000 increase for brushing assistance with mower

- Finance will begin the process of creating a 10-year capital plan. This will include a reserve policy to assist the County with identifying where capital and reserves need to be.

Watch the next issue of County Connection for explanations and outlines of the final 2017-2019 Budget.

Ladies Calving Clinic

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH 2017
BYEMOOR HALL**



FEATURING

Dr. Tamara Quashnick: Call the Midwife! Bovine Obstetrics

Stettler Vet: Vaccines & Livestock Medicine

Alberta Farm Animal Care: Programs & Winter Concerns

TO REGISTER CALL

Starland County: (403) 772-3793

Stettler County: (403) 742- 4441

Special Areas 2: (403) 854- 1114

OR REGISTER ONLINE

<https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/ladies-calving-clinic-tickets-29415142483>

2:30 Registration 3:00 Start, Supper 6:30 pm
Socializing & Networking Opportunity To Follow

Tickets: \$20





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.



STETTLER HISTORY BOOK VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

There's a new committee in town, and they are searching for interested volunteers to join them.

The Stettler History Book Committee has begun planning what will be required for their project.

All interested parties are invited to help make this project a success - whether you are a history buff, a walking history book, or just interested in being part of this valuable team, please contact stettlerhistorybook@gmail.com. They would love to have you join them.


There is no fee, and no registration required.

Some of the areas they will need volunteers in are: interviewing, transcription, layout, research and general operations.

***'The past causes
the present,
and so the future.'***

The Stettler History Book Committee has not yet begun collecting information, but are searching for people to begin steering them in the right direction.

All input is welcome, and any assistance or advice is greatly appreciated.



“Alone we can
do so little
Together we can
do so much”

JOIN!
Call 403-742-8305
Stettler Regional Fire Department



STETTLERCOUNTY.CA

MORE THAN JUST A WEBSITE

You cannot walk down the street without catching someone on their phone. At home, we are equally dependent on the internet for TV shows, movies and shopping. In this era, where we turn to the internet for just about everything, the County of Stettler offers you a solution to accessing your local government and making it an easy and convenient alternative to stopping by our office – and the best part is – it's open 24 hours a day – 7 days a week.

stettlercounty.ca offers many features aside from news that you may not have had a chance to explore yet.

Council Agendas, Minutes and Expense Reports

Council is always striving to be open and accountable, and in doing so you can access all

of their upcoming meeting agendas, past meeting minutes and even view the Councillor fee sheets.

Job and Tender Opportunities

When the County has opportunities for employment, contracts or other jobs, they advertise them on our website. Everything from seasonal employment, full time employment and contracts for installation of roads, utilities or landscaping.

Event Calendars

There are two calendars on our website homepage – the top one (purple) is for County organized events, and the other (green) is for community events. If you want to see what is going on around town, just check out these calendars! Also – if you

are part of a community group that would like to advertise your event on our community calendar – just submit a request through our website.

Ratepayer Request

Often times we have an issue, concern or request that we'd like to bring to the attention of the County. We know you're busy and can't always call or visit us – so you can submit these requests or concerns through our "Submit a Request" feature. It's located in a red box on the right hand side of the homepage.

Notify Me

Perhaps the most convenient tool we have is the "Notify Me" feature, also located in the red box on the right side of the homepage.

You can receive notifications on your choice of updates to our site, including all of the features listed above.

You could receive text or email updates when new minutes are posted online, job opportunities open up, tenders or bids are open, calendar events are added, news items or emergency alerts are issued by the County or province.

The notifications are customizable, so you only get notified of the items you sign up for that interest you. For example, if you have a property or an interest in Buffalo Lake - you can sign up for special Buffalo Lake alerts.

All you need is an email or cell phone with text service and you can set yourself up to be informed without ever visiting the site.



WEEDS: A PROBLEM IN HIGHWAY DITCHES

Agricultural Services Board and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMDC) unite to Fight.

Over the past 14 years, this county along with numerous other counties around our province have been lobbying the Provincial Government to gain control of weeds along the provincial highways. Again this year, both the Members of the Agricultural Services Board, and County Council have both pushed to send yet another resolution forward in an effort to get the province's attention on the growing roadside weed problem.

This year, with the support of neighboring counties, we are asking that the province “delivers a more effective maintenance program for vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along the primary and secondary highways in the province.”

We are also asking “The Government of Alberta deliver a more effective vegetation management plan on all primary and secondary highways to control noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and any unsafe vegetation on the full right of way. This plan should include but not be limited to a herbicide application in order to control all legislated weeds and mowing of the full right of way.”

UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

- **Ladies Livestock Clinic (Calving Clinic)**
Co-hosted with Starland County and Alberta Farm Animal Care
Byemoor, AB
January 10, 2017
County of Stettler 403-742-4441
- **Tree Time - Shelterbelt Planning workshop**
Date - TBA
County of Stettler 403-742-4441
- **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

Lastly, we are asking that “Alberta Transportation gives the option in all districts of the province to enter into Service Agreements with municipalities for weed control.” This resolution was agreed upon at the Fall AAMDC Conference by the majority of other counties and municipal districts. It will now be presented to the Government of Alberta to respond (and hopefully, react to) these requests.

For the past four years, the province has pulled back on the amount of money spent on the summer maintenance program. As a result, we are seeing more infestations of weeds along our roadways. We are only asking they reinstate the past weed control program of a 1 in 3-year

rotation, this would allow at least a start to the weed control problem. This resolution has already passed at the regional level Agricultural Services Board, and will now be presented at the provincial level at the January Provincial Agricultural Services Board Conference.

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.



GAME ON! STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the new year, Stettler Public Library (SPL) will be hosting a gaming and coding club every Tuesday night starting January 10 (please pre-register as gamers/coding programs have limited space).

Every Saturday there will be a bunch of activities to keep things lively throughout the dark winter months with STEAM Saturdays (science, technology, engineering, art, math).

Based on the success of the monthly adult cookbook club, SPL will have a monthly kids and teen cookbook club where kids will learn the science of cooking, and enjoy a great meal in the process. We will also hold new monthly tween and teen fine art classes where kids can learn about texture, acrylics, oil, water colour, sketching, and other art techniques.

The library gaming area has recently been upgraded which offers three gaming screens, a selection of games, and a PS4, Xbox 360, Wii, and Xbox One. There's also more reading and study space available in the quieter area of the

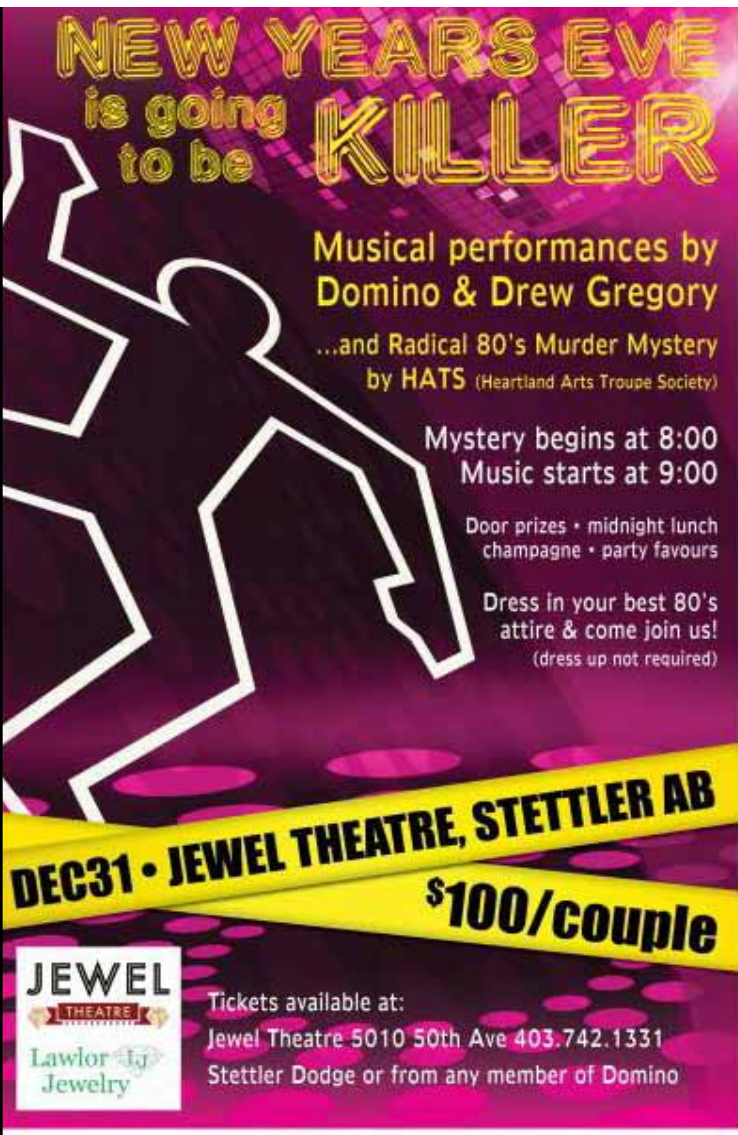
library. If you want help with high school subjects, after school one-on-one tutoring will be available.

The TIFF film circuit will continue into the new year on the first Monday evening of the month at the Jewel Theatre. We selected new and original films that you won't find in stores, the library, or on Netflix.

We have an ongoing monthly writer's group and monthly reader's clubs for teens and adults. Our fun-filled Read and Rhyme for kids up to 5 years old and their parents will continue every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. And of course we have computers, technology, and a wide selection of items available to all ... drop by if you're on a team or not! 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 or call us to register at 403-742-2292.

Stettler Public Library has no membership fees. Come in and pick up your library card today.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



NEW YEARS EVE
is going
to be **KILLER**

Musical performances by
Domino & Drew Gregory
...and Radical 80's Murder Mystery
by **HATS** (Heartland Arts Troupe Society)

Mystery begins at 8:00
Music starts at 9:00

Door prizes • midnight lunch
champagne • party favours

Dress in your best 80's
attire & come join us!
(dress up not required)

DEC31 • JEWEL THEATRE, STETTLER AB
\$100/couple

JEWEL
THEATRE

Tickets available at:
Jewel Theatre 5010 50th Ave 403.742.1331
Stettler Dodge or from any member of Domino

Lawlor
Jewelry

Botha New Year's Eve Dine & Dance

Botha Community Hall, December 31 2016, hosted by the Botha Old Tyme Dance Club.

Catered Banquet Meal at 6:30 PM. Live band music supplied by the "COUNTRY GEMS" from 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM.

Twelve door prizes will be given out at midnight.

Advance Admission is \$35 per adult and \$18 per child while in the company of a parent. At the door is \$40 and \$20 respectively.

This is a "Family Friendly Event" with NO Alcohol. All ages and dance skills are welcome.

Advance tickets purchase phone Doug at 403-741-9861.



Stettler Ag Society
Ranch Rodeo / Family Fun Day
Sunday, February 19, 2017

The Stettler Ag Society will be hosting their annual Family Fun Day and Ranch Rodeo Competition. Come down and enjoy sleigh rides, hot chocolate. This year, *Ag for Life* will be presenting a farm and Agricultural Safety demonstration.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

County of Stettler Transfer Sites Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve: Stettler Transfer Site and Landfill: 10 AM-2 PM
Botha - 8 AM-12 PM Christmas Eve
Gadsby-Closed Christmas Eve
All Sites Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day & January 1.



Stettler County was recognized by ADRA Canada for the donation to aid Fort McMurray residents in the wake of the wildfire disaster in 2016. Aid was distributed to assist evacuees in the Stettler area with the basics of life. Remaining funds were forwarded to Fort McMurray in the form of food for their local food bank.

Stettler Variety Showcase 2017 Concert Series

Sunday performances at the PAC
Jan 15, Feb 5, Mar 5, Mar 26 & Apr 9

Series of (5) concert tickets:
Adults \$90/Students \$45
Single Sunday Tickets:
Adults \$25/Students \$10
Tickets at Pfeiffer House of Music

For info call Linda (403)742-6615
gimbel@telusplanet.net
www.stettlershowcase.com

Inspiration
doesn't come from what you do.
It comes from the fact that you are willing to do it.



Join!
Call 403-742-8305
Stettler Regional Fire Department



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