

Spring 2018

Stettler County Connection

RV SITES CANADA

PUBLIC HEARING

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EDUCATIONAL BURSARY

APPLY FOR \$1000

pg 8

County

seeks repairs
for

Hwy 855

pg 12



DUST CONTROL

Applications for the 2018 Gravel Road Dust Reduction program will be received at the Public Works Facility located south of Stettler on Highway 56 at 19561 Township Road 38-4, during regular office hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, ending April 13, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Application forms are available on the County's website at www.stettlercounty.ca

Two products will be offered for 2018:

Calcium Chloride Brine (32%)

Asphalt Emulsion DL10 Special (or similar product)

For further information regarding product choice please contact Rick Green, Director of Engineering & Public Works at (403) 742-4441.

Once supply tenders are closed and program size for each product is calculated, applicants will be provided costs (with payment due prior to the commencement of any work).



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STETTNER
COMMUNITY



COUNTY CONNECTION



INTRO

“No winter last forever; no spring skips its turn.”
HAL BORLAND

These are words I seem to be reminding myself of each day as we struggle through February and the long stretches of cold weather and heavy snowfalls we have been experiencing. I for one have had my fill of pushing snow, cancelling plans because of weather, feeding in the cold, and chipping ice away from barn doors.

And just as I am anxious for spring to skip on in, I am reminded that muddy wet roads, frozen culverts, soft shoulders and dirty paw prints on the kitchen floor will be the next season making its appearance in Stettler County. With it comes the ‘spring forward’ time change on March 11 (clocks ahead), and some sleepless nights for all of the Stettler County ranchers.

Regardless, I still love spring. It’s like nature’s ‘we made it sign’ reminding us why we have so much to celebrate living where we do.

It’s hard to fathom our freedom is not an opportunity afforded to everyone, but never so apparent as we sit in our warm homes and enjoy watching the 2018 Winter Olympics happening so close to North Korea. My heart swells just a little bit bigger each time I see our athletes waving the flag.
Happy Spring everyone!

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications

Stettler County Connection

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Reeve Clarke handing out a 10 Year Service Award to Environmental Services employee Randy Chmelnyk.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

As I look at the calendar we are already finished the first month of 2018 and my third month as Reeve of the County of Stettler. The past few months have been very busy with the election, organizational meetings including the board members being set, training and the start of this term of Council.

Our Council and senior administration attended the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) fall convention in Edmonton and represented our county attending the majority of sessions and chosen presentations. We had a meeting with Alberta Transportation discussing project funding, existing projects and the condition of the secondary highways that are within the boundaries of the county. All residents that live and travel these roads need to voice their concerns and complaints to the Alberta Transportation offices and they will deal with the contractor who provides the maintenance to these roads. Council has been trained in the changes to the modernized Municipal Government Act, and Administration is reviewing these changes ensuring all are in place and dealt with.

Staff has the 2018 budget proposal in place and reviewed with council. With an interim budget in place we have had a council strength building session and have set the framework for this term's strategic plan which was reviewed and agreed to by staff. Steps now are being taken assigning responsibilities and timelines to this plan. Once complete the 2018 budget will be reviewed and required revisions will be made to meet the strategic plan and approve and finalize the 2018 budget. The meetings to finalize this budget will be open and county ratepayers will be invited to attend. Further to this, public engagements will be held where concerns can be addressed and input can be gathered on future years needs and spending requirements.

The revenue brought in to the County is a moving target as well and there is a steady decline in linear assessments (oil and gas) as wells and pipelines are being abandoned resulting in revenue losses to the landowner and county. Along with this, some oil and gas companies have gone into receivership and others have simply not paid their taxes to the sum of \$1,680,625.00. To add insult, the county had to pay out uncollected school taxes to the government.

The County of Stettler led the way to lobby the Alberta Government and in November 2017 it was announced municipalities could apply to have these school taxes refunded back. Our professional and dedicated staff in conjunction with our law firm have successfully recovered \$754,203.00 in outstanding taxes from the deficient companies, receivers and government in late 2017 and early this year. This will be an ongoing challenge and hats off to our staff on this change/revision in government policy and collection of these outstanding taxes. Further conversations on the 4 year strategic plan and 2018 budget will be discussed in future ramblings.

As I look at the thermometer and out my cold blustery February window it reinforces in me the endurance and toughness of our ancestors who settled these lands and left generations who are capable of weathering all storms making our county, province and country the best places to call home.

Stay safe and warm!

Larry Clarke

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Clarke".



Receiving congratulations from Wayne Nixon after being recognized for 30 years of public service in municipal government in 2016. Tim spent 13 years of his career serving Stettler County.



Touring Council members through the new shop in 2016.

COUNTY BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO CAO

Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Stettler No. 6, Tim Fox announced to Council and staff on January 30, his decision to step down as CAO.

“The decision to leave has been entirely of my own making,” he stated. “The time is simply right for me to, at least temporarily, set down my pen and computer and put on my boots and work on my next chapter.” Fox was a month short of his 13th anniversary with the County of Stettler.

Assistant CAO Yvette Cassidy said, “Tim is a soft-spoken, approachable leader who always looked for the win-win. He encouraged his employees to be their best and always looked for the solution

not the blame. He is a true visionary and served this County with passion, dedication and quiet authority for the past 13 years. His willingness to organize, participate, collaborate and lead made us all look good. He constantly worked fairly and faithfully on this County's behalf. I speak on behalf of staff and myself when I say he will be dearly missed.”

CAO says ‘time is as right as it could be to start a new chapter.’

Fox, a Saskatchewan native, is an avid curler, hunter and motorcycle

enthusiast. His accomplishments with the County are numerous. Some of the highlights include his establishment of Environmental Services and he was key member in the formation of the Shirley McClellan Regional Water Services Commission, which he managed since its inception.



Grand Opening of the Public Works Facility.



Delivering Christmas turkeys to staff at the annual potluck luncheon.



Sod turning ceremony for the White Sands Truck Fill Station.

Fox was instrumental in implementing Stettler Regional Fire Department, encompassing all areas and municipalities within the County of Stettler. He spearheaded 'Community Engagement' protocol with the citizens of Stettler County fostering an 'open-door' policy for ratepayers, government and employees, always supporting transparency as a key function in the success of this organization.

His leadership, in furthering inter-municipal cooperation by developing new policies for funding regional libraries, equitable recreation, developing waste handling innovations, supporting recycling, creating fire agreements, maintaining Advanced Life Support Ambulance Service, fostering public access and beach development at Buffalo Lake and Economic Development will be missed.

Reeve for the County of Stettler Larry Clarke said, "The Council of the County of Stettler respects

Mr. Fox's decision, and we thank him for his 13 years of service to this County. We wish Tim and his family all the best in his new chapter in life, and look forward to continuing to work with the excellent administration and staff going forward as they continue day-to-day operations and projects."



Wayne Nixon presenting Senator's Awards in 2017 to Yvette Cassidy and former CAO Tim Fox.

YVETTE CASSIDY APPOINTED ACTING CAO

At the February 14, 2018 Regular Council Meeting, Council appointed Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Yvette Cassidy as Acting CAO for the County of Stettler.

COUNCIL

Elected by citizens of the municipality every four years.

Generally speaking role is part time.

Focus is on the four year mandate: may have been elected on basis of a particular platform and to make changes.

Fulfills the "political" function: interaction with and responding to the community, interaction with other levels of government.

Council provides policy direction and makes the substantive decisions for the municipal corporation.

Provides specific directions to the CAO.

Ensures that the local government continues to meet the community's needs and that the administration is providing the public with the best service it can.

Develops/approves the budget for the local government.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Hired and appointed by the local government based on professional expertise and/or experience. The CAO is Council's only employee.

Role is typically full-time but may be part-time in summer villages or smaller municipalities.

Focus should be on the long-term (beyond the four year election mandate).

Fulfills the "administrative" function: implements the decisions of the council and manages the day-to-day operations.

Provides advice/recommendations to council, implements policy directions and decisions of the council.

Ensures that the council's decisions are carried out; provides specific directions to other staff members; in charge of all personnel.

Coordinates/oversees the day-to-day operations and administration of the local government; responsible for employee professional development and training.

Assists council by preparing budget documents.

2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate Available

Starting March 6, 2018, 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate for the control of severe damage (30% crop loss) from Richardson Ground Squirrels is now available to County of Stettler ratepayers from your Agricultural Service Board.

Full Case (24 bottles)	\$252.00
Half Case (12 bottles)	\$126.00
Quarter Case (6 bottles)	\$63.00

PRE-ORDERS WILL NOT BE TAKEN.

When picking up product, please come prepared with the following information:

- Mailing address
- Telephone number of purchaser
- Home quarter Legal Land Description
- Legal Land Description where product MAY be applied
- Type of field(s) to be treated (crop, forage, pasture, and rough acreage of each)
- Approximate acreage of infestation area of each field
- Approximate farm size

Sales begin March 6, and available to pick up Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

A minimum order of 6 bottles is required, along with a maximum of 2 cases (48 bottles) per purchase. For any questions or concerns, please call the Agricultural Services Board at the County of Stettler 403-742-4441.

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ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL

As legislated under the Alberta Weed Control Act, the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting roadside vegetation control for invasive species in the south third of the County, south of and including Fenn Road township road, to the Starland Border/Special Areas Border and west of Range Road 16-4 to the Red Deer River.

Adhering to Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta standards, we will carry out the program for these reasons:

- Ease snow removal in the winter.
- Reduce the risk of hitting wildlife by increasing the visibility and sightline.
- The roots of trees and shrubs and do damage to roads, by removing them, the road will last longer.

- After heavy rainfall, the road will dry faster with less vegetation in the ditch to hold moisture.
- Control and Destroy Prohibited and Noxious weeds.

If you would prefer to control weeds and brush, using methods that differ from the County's program, you are required to fill out a spray exemption form annually.

The deadline of acceptance of these forms is May 15, 2018 4:00 p.m. Our program already states there is to be not any vegetation control performed within 30 meters of your yard. For any questions regarding this program, or to fill out a Spray Exemption Form please call the Director of Agricultural Services Quinton Beaumont 403-742-4441.



Congratulations to Danae Chostner who was awarded the 2017 Agricultural Services Board Bursary. Assistant Director of Agricultural Services Ryan Hallet (left) and Director of Agricultural Services Quinton Beaumont (right) are making the presentation.

ENROLLED IN SECONDARY EDUCATION? **APPLY TODAY**

At the January Agricultural Services Board Meeting, the ASB increased the amount of their bursary from \$500 to \$1,000 and widened the scope to include any resident of Stettler County attending post secondary education.

The County of Stettler No. 6 2018 Agricultural Service Board Bursary will recognize high school graduates who are enrolled in post-secondary education and who have made a contribution to their community. The bursary will provide assistance to a student who demonstrates an interest and awareness about the importance of agriculture to the survival of rural communities.

A one thousand dollar (\$1000.00) bursary will be awarded in 2018.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must have successfully enrolled into a post-secondary institution in any year of studies.
2. The applicant will only receive the award once.

3. Applicant **MUST** be a resident of the County of Stettler No. 6.

4. The applicant must supply the Director of Agricultural Services with:

- a. Proof of enrollment in a college or university.
- b. Proof of High School Diploma or eligibility.
- c. Two personal references of no relation of the applicant.

Deadline

Applications must be received by the County of Stettler no later than April 15. Visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca/AgriculturalServices to download the application form and a list of submission requirements.

ALBERTA EFP BE SURE TO RENEW

Effective April 1, 2018, producers will need to have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) completion letter dated within the last 10 years to be considered current and eligible for cost-share funding with the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change programs of the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP). That means, for example, if you apply in September 1, 2018, your EFP will need to have been approved on or after September 1, 2008 to be considered for current funding.

Presently, Alberta was the only province without a renewal period. This change is occurring to make EFPs useful to sustainable sourcing programs across Canada.

What does this mean for producers?

If you want to apply for Growing Forward/CAP grants, you will need a current EFP.

If a sustainable sourcing program requires it (e.g. the potato sustainability initiative), you will need a current EFP.

If your completion letter is older than 10 years, you will need to do a new workbook and action plan.

If you cannot find your completion letter, you will need to start and complete a new EFP to be considered current, regardless of the completion date, unless your EFP is online.

Technicians cannot give out completion letters without doing a full review of a new EFP (both workbook and action plan).

Online Workbook

The online workbook will do many of the calculations for you, and carries data forward to other parts of the online workbook where needed.

Completing the online workbook will make future renewals easier. The data are stored online on a secure virtual private server accessible only to ARECA staff entrusted to deliver the EFP Program.

When the next version change comes, your data will be migrated to the newest version, making updates easier and simpler.

If available, you should use your original binder as a reference for your EFP renewal. Producers who have done this have indicated reproducing the paper version online takes only a few hours.

If you cannot renew online, then you will need to complete a new binder of the latest version.

How do I Renew?

For assistance, contact Ryan Hallet at the County of Stettler at 403-742-4441, or you can register to be assigned a technician by going to: <http://www.albertaefp.com/start-an-efp>.



RURAL ADDRESSING IN STETTLER COUNTY

Recap

In 2014 the County of Stettler No. 6 passed Bylaw 1532-14 requiring all residential and commercial properties within the County of Stettler display an address sign in order to assist emergency personnel in locating the correct property in the event of an emergency. The bylaw requires an urban style addressing system for some communities because the previous rural style addressing system created some confusion when it was applied to hamlets and multi-lot subdivisions.

Since the adoption of the bylaw, County staff have been working with Telus, Emergency Management Services and the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership to change over to the urban style address system. Please note, these changes will not affect your mailing address with Canada Post.

Due to the fact that just about every town, village and hamlet in Alberta has a Main Street and a Railway Avenue, it was required that some of the similarly named streets in Erskine, Byemoor, Nevis and Red Willow were renamed to ensure emergency services are able to locate the correct property. As a result, street names that appear in more than one community have been renamed by adding the Community name as a suffix to the street name (example: Main Street Erskine, Railway Avenue Byemoor, etc.). Please note the County of Stettler cannot control when or if Global Positioning System providers such as Google Maps, Garmin or Magellan update their systems to show the addresses in the County.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Planning and Development Department at 403-742-4441.

Update

County staff have installed new addressing signs and officially notified landowners of the changes in the following hamlets and multi-lot subdivisions: Red Willow, Anderson Subdivision, Buffalo Sands, Nevis, Heartland Business Park, Buffalo Lake Meadows, a portion of Rochon Sands Heights (the portion formerly known as Buffalo View Estates) Jewel Estates, and Trestle Estates.

Weather permitting, we will soon be working on changing addressing in Willowglen Estates, and continue working on the remaining hamlets and subdivisions as weather permits until the project is complete. Prior to any new signs installed, or addresses changed, homeowners will receive notification by mail. The County would like to express our staff have worked extensively with all stakeholders, including the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership and Emergency Services to ensure the addressing data file is accurate and up-to-date to ensure the continued safety of our citizens.

We continue to work with GPS data providers (Google Maps) to have them update their records using current data, so that their users will have the most accurate and up-to-date information as possible. Although we make every effort possible, the County cannot guarantee that the data we make available to them will be used by these providers.



TAKE IT OFF PROGRAM ICE HUT REGISTRATION

Lacombe County in partnership with Camrose County, Stettler County, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, and the Summer Village of White Sands has launched the “Take it Off Program” on Buffalo Lake. The *Take It Off Program* is a voluntary ice fishing hut registration program, implemented to reduce the number huts left on the lake after March 31.

Why is it important to register your ice hut?

Registering is completely voluntary, but it ensures each hut is accounted for at the end of the ice fishing season; this reduces the likelihood of ice huts falling through the ice in the spring and polluting the lake. Registering your hut not only helps to protect the environment, it ensures the safety of the animals who depend on that water source, as well as lake users throughout the year.

The registration process is quick, easy and free of charge. Once registered, an identification card will be mailed to each angler. Ice hut identification cards must be clearly displayed on the outside of each ice hut. Lacombe County asks for you to inform them about any changes to contact information by contacting the Lacombe County Office.

Registration is required to identify the owner of ice huts in the event of any issues related to ice hut property. Registration of huts not only protects the environment by ensuring all ice huts are removed from the end of the ice fishing season, but protects ice fishing huts from vandalism and theft.

For more information, visit www.lacombecounty.com, or call:

Jennifer Berry, Environmental Coordinator
Lacombe County at (403) 782-8959.



Drumheller-Stettler MLA Rick Strankman visited County Council on January 10, 2018 and expressed interest at being involved in our newly formed Rural Crime Prevention Committee, and offered to assist Stettler County in our efforts to have Highway 855 improved within our borders.

HIGHWAY 855: COUNTY CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE

The County of Stettler has received numerous complaints and has dire safety concerns on the condition of a portion of Highway 855 that lies within our borders. Highway 855, at nearly 400 km long, is the longest secondary highway in Alberta, running from Highway 63 in the north at Atmore to Highway 9 in the south near Hanna. The provincial government is responsible for the maintenance of all two and three-digit highways.

A six mile (10 km) portion within County of Stettler boundaries, immediately south of Highway 589, seemingly has fallen through the cracks of the Alberta Transportation system as Highway 855 is neither a gravel nor paved surface, but rather falls in-between with its Terra-cem surfacing. County Council has been lobbying for improvements to this section of highway for over five years now.

Beyond the County's six mile portion to the south is the Special Areas No. 2 boundary and

at one time the problematic condition of the portion of Highway 855 within Special Areas to Highway 9 was very similar to that in the County. In recent years however, Special Areas, through an agreement with the Province, has received funding to bring Highway 855 to a more superior and safer standard, leaving only Stettler County's portion in peril.

Highway 855 is a well-used transportation route in rural Alberta. It is used by the agricultural and oil and gas industries, daily commuters, several school bus routes, Canada Post delivery and public travel as well as by local municipalities for transportation of gravel reserves from the aggregate-rich Hand Hills area.

Approximately 18 miles south of the County boundary Highway 855 connects with Highway 9 (about six miles west of Hanna). Highway 9 is a busy provincial highway often

Maps of the section of highway in need of repair can be found on the following two pages.

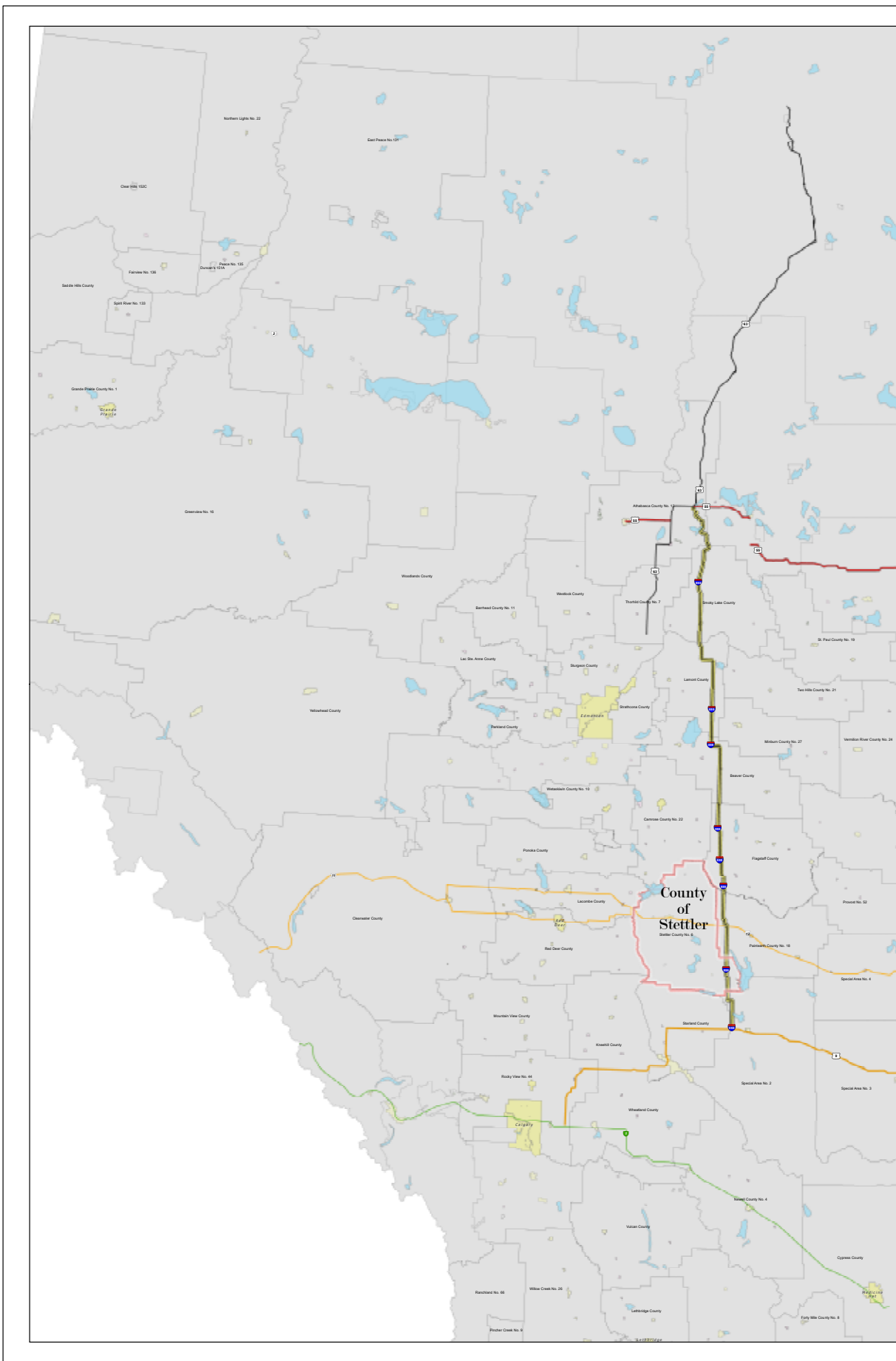
13

The condition of the portion of Highway 855 in question varies. At times the condition is extremely rough and full of dangerous potholes and soft shoulders. It has been patched numerous times, which gives some temporary relief, however the patching never lasts and continually needs to be re-patched and it constantly reverts back to a hazardous condition. It appears the only real solution is to properly re-do the six miles of Highway 855 in preparation for paving so it matches the remainder of the highway.

At present, the portion of Highway 855 within the County of Stettler borders is definitely 'the weakest link' and often catches travellers unaware when they hit it, which has the potential for very dangerous consequences. Many of those familiar with this section will avoid travelling it out of safety concerns, especially those with larger loads and gravel hauls.

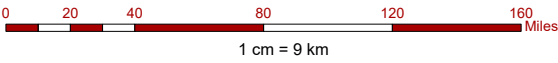
Fixing this highway would also benefit the Town of Hanna as a point of commerce, to permanently improve the highway. Potential shoppers often choose to drive further in the opposite direction to do business rather than travel the poor section of Highway 855. Hanna is already suffering with the imminent closure of its nearby coal-fired power plant.

The County of Stettler is dedicated to bringing light to this issue, and will continue to work hard to bring attention to this problem within our borders. A mere 10 km portion out of a total 400 km length is a relatively small part of the highway that needs upgrading. We believe it should be achievable to bring it to a much safer standard in a timely manner, to better serve rural Albertans.



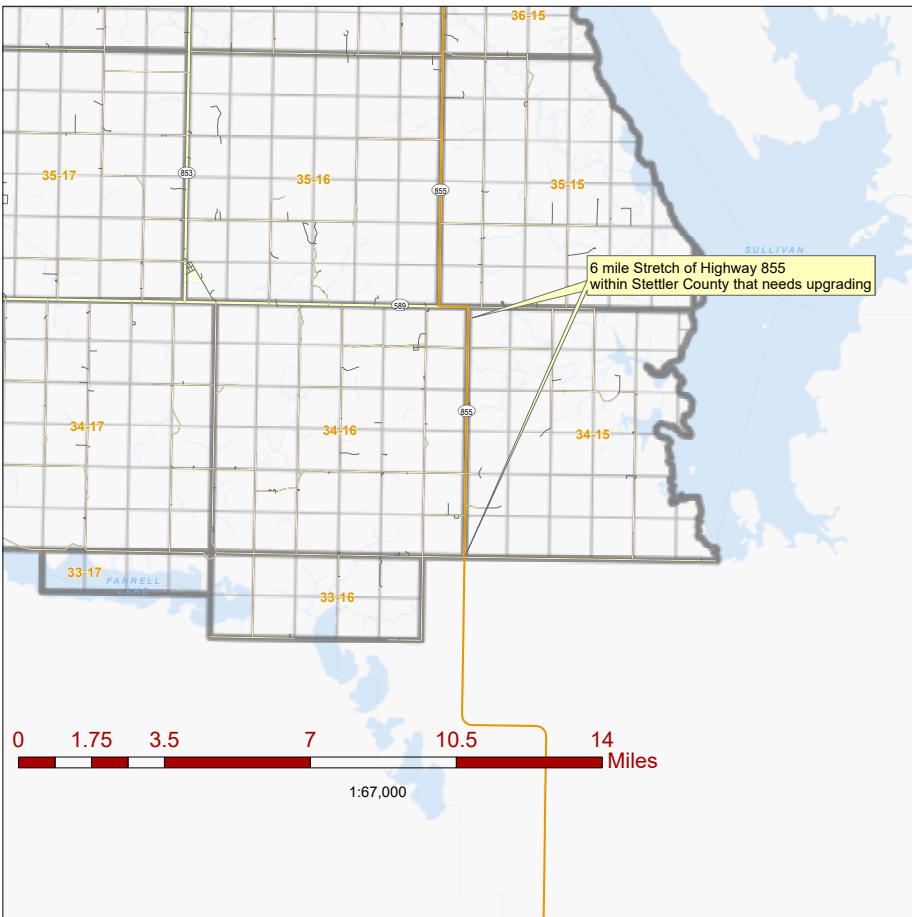
HIGHWAY 855

- Legend**
- Highway 9
 - Highway 63
 - Highway 55
 - Counties
 - Highway 855
 - Alberta Municipalities



- Residence**
 - Residence
 - Multi-Family
- Transportation**
 - Railway
 - Highway
 - Secondary Highway
 - County Road
 - Road
 - Other
- Parcels**
 - Ratepayers
 - County of Stettler
 - Crown
- Hydrography**
 - River
 - Lake
- Urban Areas**
 - Town
 - Village
 - Hamlet
 - Summer Village
 - Provincial Park
- Township System**
 - Township
 - Section
 - Quarter Section
 - LSD

Date: 1/23/2018



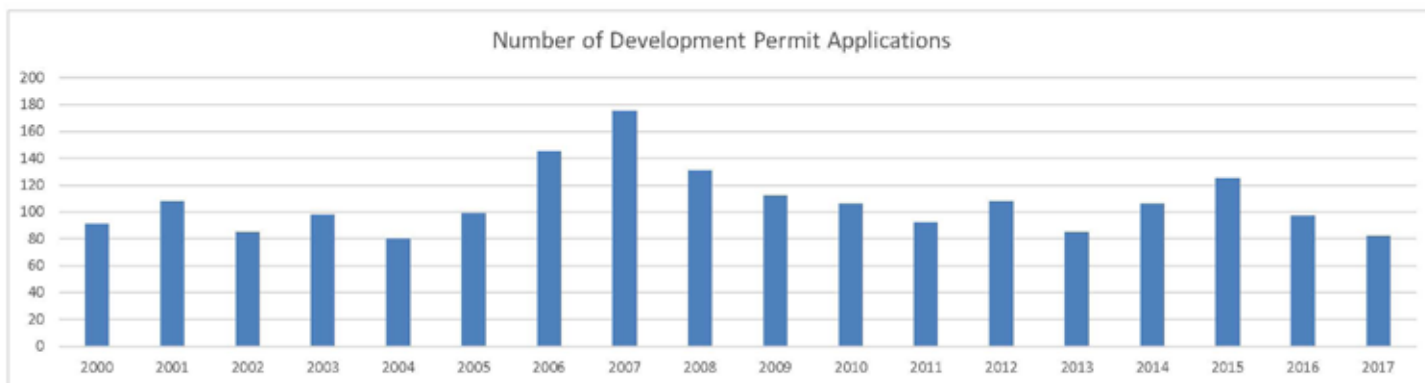
The portion of Highway 855 Stettler County is seeking improvement for, is highlighted on small map to the left.

The Alberta Government maintains all two and three-digit highways in our province.

On the far left, you can see the length of Highway 855 as it stretches nearly 400 km through Alberta.

Development Permits

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average
No. of DP	91	108	85	98	80	99	145	175	131	112	106	92	108	85	106	125	97	82	107
Value	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,281,600	\$18,995,335	\$14,049,130	\$10,905,570	\$9,327,700	\$16,070,333	\$14,226,615	\$12,123,000	\$13,531,000	\$18,585,850	\$22,266,055	\$10,476,700	\$14,903,241



SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY – COUNTY OF STETTLER No. 6 from 2000 to 2017

The tables and charts on the next two pages represent the number of development permits and subdivision applications processed by the County of Stettler No. 6 Planning and Development department for the past 18 years from 2000 to 2017. It also shows the annual estimated value of the development permits. These charts show the cyclical nature of development and subdivision activity, and how these cycles more or less correspond with each other and with the cycles of economic activity in the province and the country.

PLANNING PROJECTS 2018

The following projects are budgeted by County Council to be undertaken by the Planning and Development department in 2018:

- The joint servicing study with the Town of Stettler that was started in 2014 will be completed in 2018. The purpose of this study is to determine water supply and sanitary sewer servicing standards within the Intermunicipal Development Plan area. This project is being undertaken by a consultant. The results of this study will provide input to an in-house review of the Stettler Intermunicipal Development Plan in 2018/19. Both these projects will culminate in the preparation of a new Southeast Stettler Major Area Structure Plan in 2019/20.
- The Rural Addressing Bylaw was amended to provide for urban style house numbering in multi-lot subdivisions and hamlets. In 2018 new street name signs in hamlets and multi-lot subdivisions will continue to be installed, and houses will be assigned new numbers where required to comply with the bylaw. All affected residents will be notified of their new addresses in the regular mail. For complete information on this project, please refer to page 10.
- Continue work on preparing a shoreline management plan, working closely with lakeshore

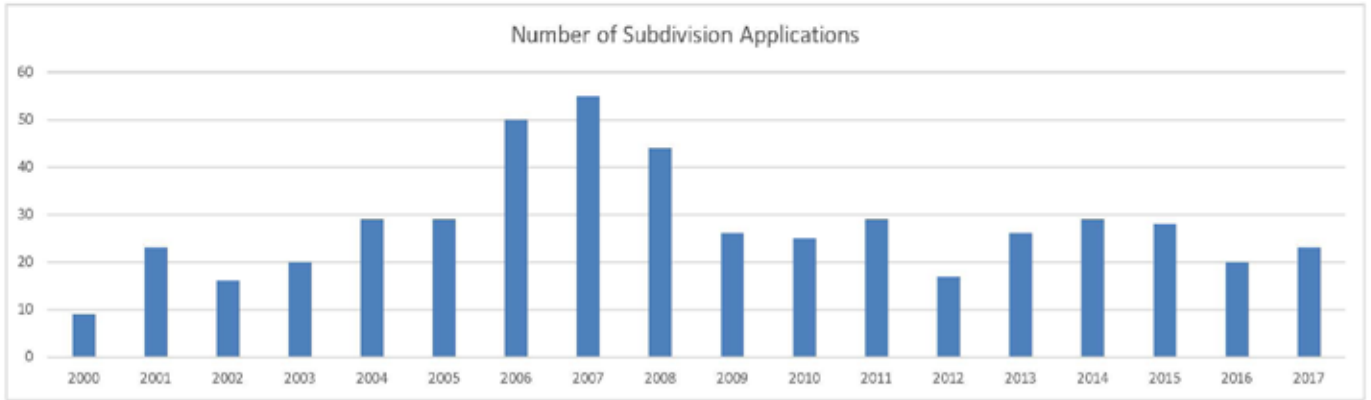
communities and Alberta Environment and Parks. One result of this project to date is that in 2016 Council adopted bylaws to provide for landowners to apply for a development permit to store boatlifts and docks on Environmental Reserve land during the winter, where no other options for storage is available. Ultimately, the shoreline management plan will address matters such as the improvement of public lake access points and the regulation of seasonal docks/boatlifts/piers.

- Preparation of Intermunicipal Development Plans with the Village of Big Valley, the Village of Donalda, the Village of Gadsby and six of the eight adjacent rural municipalities. These plans are a new requirement under the modernized Municipal Government Act.
- Undertake in-field assessment and prepare a rezoning bylaw to rezone the hamlet of Botha to the Hamlet Residential District under the County's land use bylaw.

If you have an interest in any of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning and Development department at 403-742-4441.

Subdivisions

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average
No. of SUB	9	23	16	20	29	29	50	55	44	26	25	29	17	26	29	28	20	23	28



SITE INSPECTIONS SCHEDULE FOR 2018

When you make an application for a development permit or a subdivision, the County’s development officers need to do a site inspection so we are able to make informed recommendations to the subdivision and development authorities and referral agencies.

A site inspection helps to confirm there are no potential issues with future development. We need to evaluate the roads leading to the land, the approaches, the slope of the land, and confirm it does not infringe on any wetlands, as well as any other concerns that we might have in regards to a specific application.

As a result, the processing of your application is not complete until we do an inspection. In order to be as efficient as possible, the County’s Planning and Development department has “Site Inspection” days scheduled on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

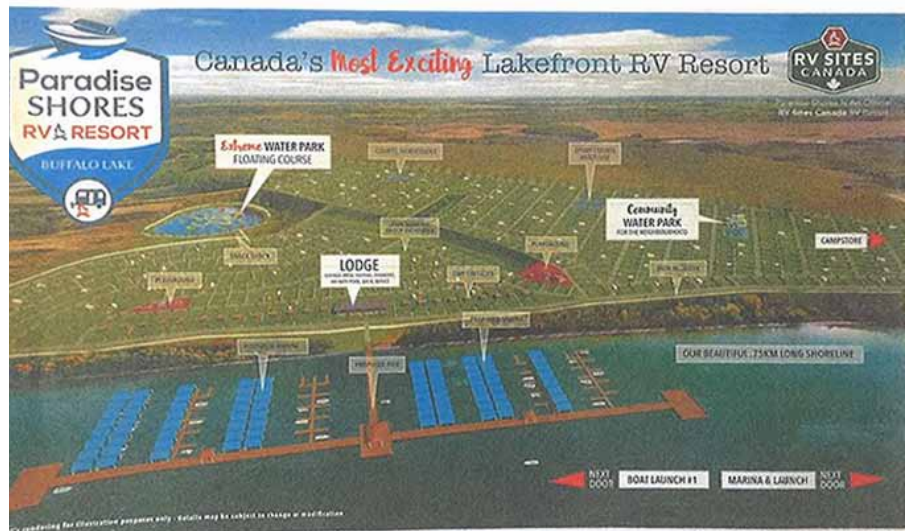
To ensure your application receives a site inspection as soon as possible after you submit it, and is not delayed too much pending the site inspection, it would be prudent to submit your application by the Friday previous to these scheduled site inspection dates.

Please note that sometimes we have to move the scheduled site inspection days around to meet other commitments or due to the weather. In order to provide you with the benefit of submitting your application in time for the next scheduled site inspection (which could reduce your waiting time), please review the schedule below:

The upcoming Site Inspection dates for the remainder of 2018 are:

- March 13 and 27
- April 10 and 24
- May 8 and 22
- June 12 and 26
- July 10 and 24
- August 14 and 28
- September 11 and 25
- October 9 and 23
- November 13 and 27
- December 11

We encourage you to contact Jacinta Donovan or Johan van der Bank at (403) 742-4441 with any questions or concerns you may have. We will be happy to answer your questions and provide whatever assistance we can with your development permit or subdivision.



RV SITES CANADA APPLIES FOR PERMIT

The County of Stettler No. 6 received an application for Paradise Shores RV Resort Area Structure Plan, rezoning and development permit for the NE-20-40-20 W4M on January 24, 2018, from RV Sites Canada.

Historically, the County would not advertise an application to the public that has not yet been seen by the County Council. However, under the circumstances, staff felt it was prudent to get this information out to the stakeholders as soon as possible and Council and Administration made the steps do so. Please note, the County could not initiate public consultation until we had an application.

It is not uncommon for a developer to advertise, and even pre-sell lots when they have some degree of certainty their development will be approved. In this case, the developer was advised that the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan (BLSSIDP) established in 2013 identifies the property for recreational residential development, and being a statutory plan adopted by bylaw, the County would not be in a position to refuse the application.

The County and the Summer Villages do have control over how the development is implemented, for example conditions that can be imposed on the development permit, etc.

The developer acknowledges this and has made pre-sale contracts subject to municipal approval.

Access along Bayview Street is an important item. Please note the developer initially preferred not to use Bayview Street for access. However, the County required the half mile of road dedication between the east end of Bayview Street by Buffalo View Estates to Range Road 20-4 near White Sands. This extension of Bayview Street is identified in the Buffalo Lake South Shore IDP as an important part of the road network to improve traffic flows generally and for emergency access, as Highway 835 is presently the only access/egress into and out of the area where hundreds of people live and recreate.

All three municipalities adopted the BLSSIDP in 2013 after public consultation. Therefore the reality of this road and its purpose has been public knowledge since then.



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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RV SITES CANADA PUBLIC HEARING-SATURDAY MARCH 17 AT 1:00 PM

The area structure plan and rezoning bylaws were brought to County Council on Wednesday, February 14. First Reading was given to the Bylaws, which is a formality to open it up for discussion. It does not indicate Council's approval or otherwise.

Council directed Administration to set the date for a Public Hearing for Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1:00 PM at the Stettler District Agricultural Society Pavilion, 4516-52 Street, Stettler, AB (West Entrance). Planning & Development will follow the formal advertising and notification process.

Your comments and input regarding this proposed development, must be provided to

jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca at your earliest convenience, but not later than Friday, March 16 at NOON, as stated in the statutory notification following first reading of the bylaw. The public is invited to attend the Public Hearing.

*Now the developer has an application in to the County, it is typical to allow the developer to start preparing the site by removing old structures etc. If they do, they do so at their own risk. Please be aware, you may see construction equipment on-site.



Stettler Regional Fire Department participating in a 2017 training exercise.

FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING NOW IN SESSION

Currently fire service response from Regional Fire Station 3 Donalda remains suspended. Stettler Regional Fire Station 1 will continue to maintain fire service in the Donalda Region responding from Stettler.

Volunteer fire fighter recruitment continues to be a challenge in all regions. County officials have been in contact with the Donalda Hutterite Colony who have agreed to support Regional Fire Station 3 by providing volunteer personnel.

Every fall Stettler Regional Fire Department runs a recruitment program to attract new personnel for all four regional fire stations. This year's new recruit program will start out with twelve new personnel in Station 1 Stettler, eight in Station 3 Donalda and 0 new personnel in both Station 2 Big Valley and Station 4 Byemoor.

We have begun the process of gearing up the new recruits with protective clothing and plotting out the training schedule for 2018. The new recruit training program began in February and will conclude in June 2018. We are still striving to meet the minimum 12 volunteer firefighter requirement to re-establish operations from Station 3 Donalda.

We continue to see limited interest from County of Stettler residents and wonder if people think they live too far away from the fire station to volunteer. If you live in the County of Stettler region within an 8-10 minute driving time of any fire station you could qualify to become a volunteer fire fighter and help out your community.

Fire prevention is the best form of fire protection for your family.

This year we have had some long stretches of cold weather which brings out those portable electric heating units. **If you use portable electric heating appliances never use an extension cord to operate it,** and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Always unplug small electrical appliances such as hair dryers, shavers, curling irons, clothes irons, and toasters when not in use. NO POWER = NO FIRE.

Check for recalls - you can check up on the latest product recalls at healthy Canadians.gc.ca.

QUICK FACTS:

Most fire deaths in Alberta happen in homes, at night when people are asleep. People who die



from fires often die from breathing the smoke and toxic gasses from the fire, not from being burned by flames.

If you are asleep and breath poisonous gases you may never be able to wake up in time to escape the fire danger.

IT'S THE LAW - Alberta Fire Code requires all homes in the province to have a working smoke alarm.

Pre-1977: One battery operated smoke alarm near the sleeping area.

Between 1977 and 1997: Must have at least one permanently wired smoke detector, if more than one, the alarms must be interconnected.

Homes constructed after 1997 must have hard wired interconnected smoke alarms on each floor.

- Test your smoke alarm battery once/month.
- Replace your smoke alarm battery each year.

- Smoke alarms don't last forever - replace every 10 years.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

QUICK FACTS:

More than 50 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning in Canada.

Sources of carbon monoxide - Incomplete burning of wood, propane, natural gas, heating oil, coal, kerosene and gasoline.

High level exposure 400 ppm for 3 hours is life threatening.

The Law - The Alberta Building Code 2006 requires CO alarms within 5 m of a bedroom. Carbon monoxide is virtually the same weight as air therefore the alarm protects you in high and low locations. Suggested location is a near as possible to sleeping areas.

- Replace your CO alarm every five years



ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

The County of Stettler has a roadside clean-up program that encourages community and youth groups located within the County of Stettler boundaries to apply to the County of Stettler to clean up rural road right-of-ways throughout the County.

The County of Stettler will pay the applicant \$55 per kilometer of roadway right-of-way cleaned on both sides and \$75 per kilometer of roadway right-of-way cleaned on both sides for roads that are located within 10 miles of a town/village or 2 miles of a landfill site.

- Participants must be at least 9 years of age to participate.

- Filled garbage bags are placed along the outer edge of the roadway shoulder and will be picked up and disposed of by County employees.
- The County will supply training materials, fluorescent-colored safety vests, work gloves and garbage bags.
- Each group will be awarded a maximum of 10 miles.

To learn more about the roadside clean-up program and how your group can participate, contact (403) 742-4441.



OPEN FARM DAYS TOUR & LONG TABLE DINNER 2018

Council for the County of Stettler confirmed their support and will continue to work with the Stettler Board of Trade in 2018 to again host an Open Farm Days tour and a Long Table Dinner event.

This year's event will have a new date of Saturday, July 21, 2018. Last year, the Open Farm Days tour kicked off with a pancake breakfast at the County Public Works Facility. After breakfast buses were loaded and we toured a grain farm, a dairy farm, a beef farm and a goat farm. Participants were treated to a wagon ride and lunch at the half-way point.

This year's plans are underway to create a tour with some new and equally interesting stops. The day will again kick off at the Public Works Facility with a pancake breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Guests are able to choose to attend either the Open Farm Days bus tour, or the farm to table dinner, or both.

For more information, or to volunteer for this exciting local event, please contact the Stettler Board of Trade at 403-742-3181. Tickets will be advertised and available this spring.



Environmental Services employee Reece Stefanik who recently completed the Water and Wastewater Technician program at NAIT, receiving a service award from County Councillor Cheri Neitz.

WATER AND WASTEWATER KEEPING IT SAFE

The County of Stettler currently operates and monitors six wastewater lagoon systems, 20 different water and wastewater facilities, over 30 pumps, over 300 km of pipeline along with hundreds of valves, instruments, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), and other devices that all make up the systems we operate.

All the operations must adhere to Alberta Environment Standards and Regulations, which are ever changing and becoming increasingly stringent. Due to the vast size and variations of our cumulative systems, a wide breadth of knowledge is necessary to operate the systems effectively and efficiently, all the while maintaining compliance with Alberta Environment.

The County of Stettler understands the benefits education serves to help develop and refine the skills of an operator, to become a more knowledgeable, productive employee, and enrolled Environmental

Services employee Reece Stefanik in the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Water and Wastewater Technician (WWWT) program.

The WWWT program offers a unique opportunity of providing a higher education while minimizing the impact of current operations as it was done exclusively through correspondence and after hours. The program offered 815 hours of instruction, and covered all aspects of the water and wastewater operations, from biological and chemical processes, to pumps, valves, instrumentation, and all manner of support systems and appurtenances.

The WWWT program demonstrated best practices for the operation and maintenance of equipment and infrastructure, and taught how to prevent issues from occurring, as well as dealing with any problems that may be encountered in the field.



Work continues on schedule for water installation to the new White Sands Truck Fill station which is scheduled for completion this spring.



Erskine's Truck Fill Station and RV Dump located south of Highway 56 on the east end of Erskine.



Water pipe ready for installation to White Sands.



A glimpse at the waterworks inside the Big Valley Truck Fill which County employees from our Environmental Services Department monitor and maintain.

In conjunction with the core of operating water and wastewater systems, the program also included a large safety component, which included developing and implementing emergency response plans, safe work practices, risk assessments and much more, which will provide invaluable information to increase safety in general.

The other aspect of the course was to stress the main goal of all water and wastewater operators, and that is to provide the public with safe drinking water in a cost-effective manner, as well as disposing of the waste in a way that eliminates the threat to public health, and the environment. In an industry where any simple mistake can lead to thousands of dollars, if not tens of thousand of dollars worth of damages, and non-compliance with Alberta Environment can lead to fines exceeding hundreds of thousands of dollars, knowledge is key in avoiding such occurrences.

The WWWT program creates a bedrock foundation allowing our employees to build upon skills through experience, and ensures we are better prepared to deal with current and future challenges.

The completion of the WWWT program has allowed County employee Reece Stefanik to attain a Water and Wastewater Technician certificate, along with the continuing education credits necessary for upgrading his water distribution certification.

The County of Stettler is dedicated to employee safety and education, and thanks Council for supporting initiatives supporting this mandate.



BOTHA COMMUNITY UPDATES IN THE WORKS

Since becoming a hamlet in the County of Stettler, County Administration and staff have been busy streamlining the integration of Botha business and activities into County processes.

Part of the process for enveloping Botha into the County, includes repealing, or cancelling Botha Bylaws. As Botha's existing bylaws are investigated, they are individually repealed for the purpose of omitting bylaws that are inoperative, obsolete, expired or otherwise ineffective. Legal counsel is assisting the County in determining which bylaws need to be repealed, stayed and enforced.

At the December 13, 2017 Regular Council Meeting, the following Botha Bylaws were repealed:

- 418-16 – Fee Bylaw – to standardize the fee charged for administration services
- 416-16 – Tax Penalty Bylaw – Botha's tax penalty is applied on January 1st, and the County's on February 1st. Moving everyone to the County's penalty bylaw standardized the application of penalties before 2018.

- 414-15 – Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw – Should there be an appeal under the Botha Land Use Bylaw, the repeal of this Bylaw now allows for an appeal to be heard by the appeal board established by the County, otherwise we would have to appoint one specifically for Botha appeals.

- 407-14 – Subdivision Authority – Repealing the authority given to Botha council, and allowing our authority bylaw to apply to Botha.

- 404-15 and 398-13 – Dog Control Bylaw – The Botha bylaw allowed for licensing of dogs and a different schedule of fines and penalties. Repealing this bylaw allowed enforcement to standardize the application of Dog Bylaw regulations and eliminated the need for us to issue dog licenses for the Botha.

As of December 13, 2017, Botha citizens now follow County of Stettler Bylaws for the Fee Bylaw; Tax Penalty Bylaw; Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw; Subdivision Authority; and Dog Control Bylaws. If you have any questions please contact the County at 403-742-4441.

Recycle

MATTRESSES



BOX SPRINGS - FOAM MATTRESSES - FOAM UNDERLAY

Stettler Waste Management Authority has partnered with Re-Matt Inc. of Calgary to recycle our mattresses.

Drop-off location: Stettler Transfer Site

Mattresses must be dry and free from mud/heavy dirt.

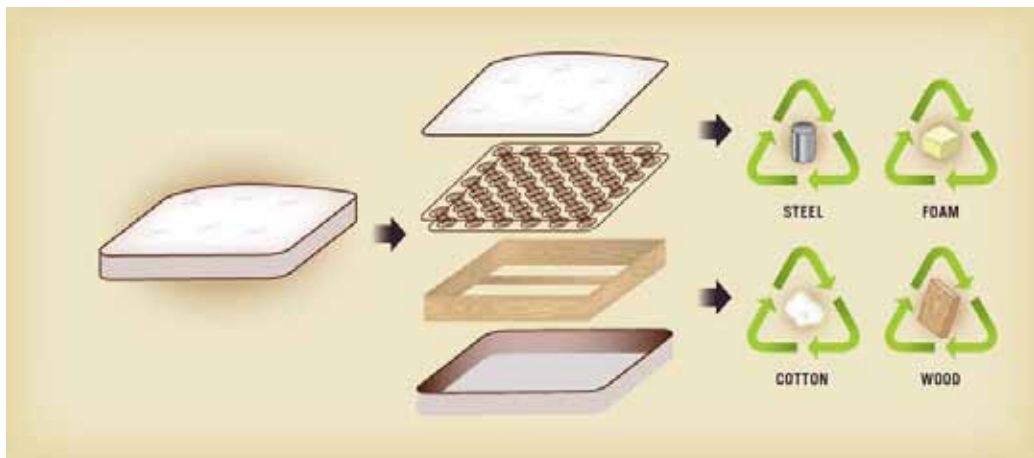
Mattresses are a huge and very inefficient filler of our landfill:

- they do not compress
- one mattress = 2 cubic metres of landfill space
- we currently landfill about 400 – 500 mattresses per year.
- once landfilled, recyclable mattress parts are lost forever

We accept:

Mattresses
Box springs
Foam mattresses
Electric beds
Foam underlay

Mattress re-use is difficult for sanitation reasons so recycling the parts is the best way to keep their materials in use.



What does Re-Matt do with the mattresses?

www.re-matt.com

Re-Matt dismantles the mattress or box spring into their raw materials (wood, foam, felt, metal, etc.) and about **95%** of the materials are reused. They send these raw materials to local Alberta manufacturers to be made into new products.

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.



SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING AWARDED

At the end of every October, the County of Stettler receives applications for Special Project Funding.

The purpose of this fund is to construct or enhance recreational facilities to serve the needs of our County's rural population, outside of the Town of Stettler with the exception of properties owned by the Stettler Agricultural Society, and to ensure this fund is renewed annually through taxation to be established by Council. Applications were received in 2017 totaling \$114,236.84.

At the December 2017 Council Meeting, Council approved the following projects for funding.

Applicant	Project	Recommendation
Botha Community Centre	Bathroom renovations	\$ 8,400.00
Donalda Agricultural Society	Willow Creek Canyon Road	\$ 3,000.00
Gadsby Community Centre	Bathroom renovations	\$ 6,760.00
Linda Hall	New well	\$ 4,800.00
Stettler and District Ag Society	Riding arena roof repairs	\$ 12,000.00
Big Valley Agricultural Society	Arena glass replacement	\$ 5,000.00
Big Valley Drop in Centre	Repair of flood damage	\$ 7,397.77
Erskine Social Recreation Society	Outdoor rink improvements	\$ 5,000.00

To be eligible to apply for Special Project Funding, your group, association or non-profit society must have been in existence at least two years as of the October 31 deadline and operate within the County of Stettler.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



All pens,
markers,
mechanical
pencils
and their lids

They may be small but we landfill thousands every year! We can change that!

Drop off locations:

Sean's No Frills, Town office, County office, Public Library, all Stettler schools, Byemoor School, Stettler Learning Centre, Superfluity



Endiang

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, May 13
9 a.m. - Noon
Endiang Community Hall



Byemoor Bull-a-rama

Friday, April 13
Endmoor Arena, Byemoor, AB
Bull Bustin' starts at 7 p.m.
Dance to follow



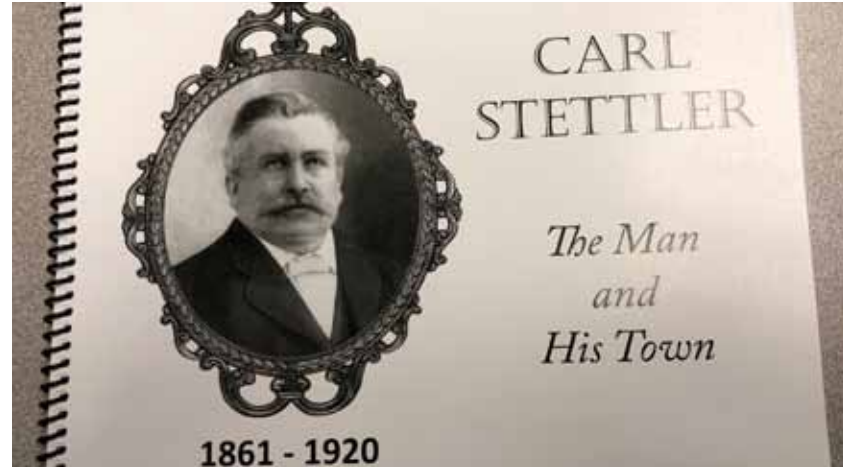
COMMUNITY EVENTS

Stettler Town and Country Museum

Pick up your copy of *CARL STETTLER, The Man and His Town* at Stettler Town & Country Museum. Written by Alfred Erichsen, all funds support our local museum. Call 403-742-4534 to buy your copy.

Botha Mother's Day Breakfast

The Botha Community Centre will be hosting a Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 13 at the Botha Hall from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.



Thank You from Stettler Community Hamper Society

The Stettler Community Hamper Society would like to sincerely thank everyone for their donations to the 2017 Christmas Hamper campaign.

It is because of such support that our society is able to provide a more joyful holiday season to those less fortunate in our community.



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