

Stettler County Connection



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THE RESULTS

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SNOW PLOWING

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BE PREPARED

Have you prepared a 72 Hour Emergency Kit?

Emergencies or disasters can happen to anyone at any time with little to no warning. In Alberta we could see major disasters involving blizzards, floods, tornados and wildfires just to name a few. In the event of an emergency or disaster individuals and families should be prepared to be self-sufficient for a **minimum of 72 hours**. Create your own emergency kit to help you and your family stay safe until first responders can reach you or snow plows can get your roads cleared. An emergency kit can be in all shapes and sizes. The basics of all emergency kits include the following:

- Three-day supply of water (4 L per person per day)
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply)
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, and cash
- Sanitation supplies
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Important family documents and contact numbers
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Chargers for electronic communication devices
- Insurance documents
- Emergency phone numbers list
- A change of clothes for each family member
- Portable propane heater

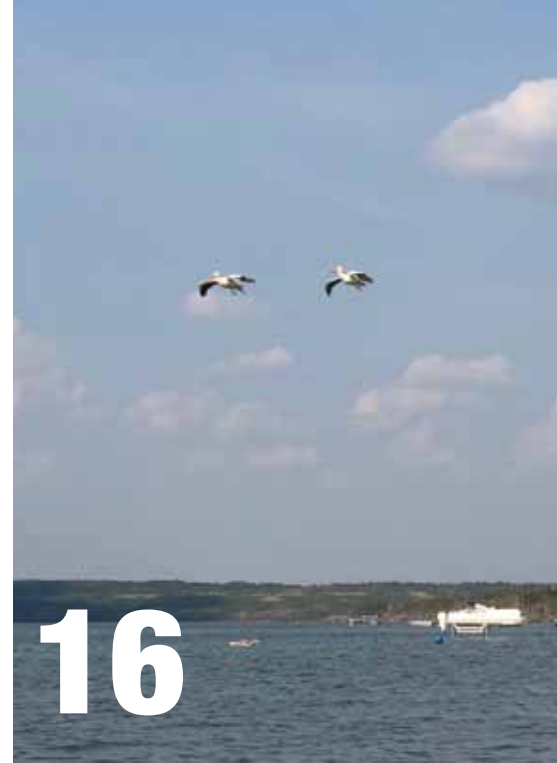
You can gather more information on creating a preparedness kit and other emergency management items by visiting www.aema.alberta.ca or by contacting Protective Services at 403-741-6133.



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COUNTY CONNECTION

INTRO

Collaboration. It's really just a fancy word for teamwork - but it is a word that gets batted around government hallways quite a bit.

The dictionary definition is:

1. the action of working with someone to produce or create something.

Here in these hallways, we collaborate with the Town of Stettler, the Villages, our hamlets and our neighboring municipalities. We also collaborate with different local organizations and special events, boards, committees and commissions. Recently, I was honored to have several councillors from the Town of Stettler come and judge our photo contest. I thought 'who better to give us an outside perspective to what 'At Work in Stettler County' really looks like. When I look at the photos chosen for this year's calendar, I feel success.

On a grander scale, when we - or others - apply for grants, we are measured on our history and ability to collaborate with others. It's a pretty big deal actually.

I've never finished a project where I collaborated with someone and said, 'I would have accomplished more, or done better without their input and perspective.' As we close off our year and look ahead to 2019, we at the County will continue to look for opportunities to work with our neighbors and partners, and we encourage you to do the same with yours. Teamwork divides the tasks, and multiplies the successes.

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications



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Editor-in-Chief

Yvette Cassidy

Managing Editor

Niki Thorsteinsson

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Reeve Clarke preparing for an interview with Global News, following the declaration of Agricultural Disaster in Stettler County.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

What another hard fall for our producers to get their crops off of what had been parched fields to extremely wet conditions, which if the crop was accessible could require drying of the grain and in some cases declining grades. Fall work looks complete with many of our livestock producers busy in weening and ensuring they have adequate feed and bedding supplies. In September, the County of Stettler declared an agricultural disaster for our area. This was to ensure our producers would be included in the programs created for others who were in the same position, with the latest announcement being the tax deferral program for livestock producers selling off parts of their herds due to limited feed supplies and restocking in 2019.

It has been a very busy year for County staff and Councillors, with the proposed development of Paradise Shores and the subsequent Subdivision & Development Appeal. This has been very time consuming and has possibilities of requiring much more staff time. The process has been followed, and the decisions of our SDAB will be respected. As always, normal business must proceed and staff has stepped up and completed all of these tasks in the normal timely manner expected.

In November, we completed a week of Remembrance Day ceremonies and should remember the gift given to each of us by these brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for us and our future generations to enjoy. With this being the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic in the Second World War, we must reflect and remember why we are here today.

Staff have been busy preparing budget estimates and Council has now spent over three days reviewing these numbers, and will spend more finalizing the 2019 budget in the coming month. Budgets will be compared to our Strategic Plan ensuring steps to meet the long-term goals are being completed.

There are so many new and ongoing projects and equipment purchases that are requested and only a certain amount of money to complete, so we requested feedback from ratepayers at our Spring 2018 Open

House sessions and we surveyed at budget time 'what is important' to our ratepayers. With continued declining tax revenue from oil and gas producers and questionable Alberta MSI grant funding amounts, we have to look at what and how services are supplied. In order to maintain or increase service levels we would have to increase taxes overall, apply tax levy's or introduce more of a user-pay system on certain non-essential services. Staff has the habit of giving ratepayers top service and in my year as Councillor and Reeve I have watched the progress of requests on the ratepayer request form, to attest that this level is achievable but may not be the easiest to plan or the most cost-effective. All Councillors along with ratepayers have ideas on what the best projects could be for them or their area, but we must look at what is best for the overall County and where assistance from grants may be available. Costs of road building, paving and recycling (to name a few) have escalated and all must be reviewed to ensure any project is money well spent.

As we look at the past, present and future we need to ensure we maintain our massive transportation system by maintaining what is in place, consider some road rebuilds and make sure we have adequate gravel supplies for today and into the future to ensure the safe transportation of our residents. We will be looking at possibilities in expanding water services to ensure residents have access to safe reliable water in our rural areas. We need to review all services that are offered to our residents to ensure they meet today's standards of required service and cost.

In closing I would like to thank the other Councillors, Yvette and staff for the hard work and diligence in meeting 2018 budgets and ensuring we meet future requirements in the strategic plan. As residents please attend and participate in public engagement opportunities, to ensure we are meeting the majority of ratepayers concerns. Please be safe and have a wonderful holiday season.

Larry Clarke, REEVE

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GRAND PRIZE PHOTO: Looking Forward
Karyn Tateson



Sunset Hay
Kami Ritz



Welding a Decorative Panel
Brenda Meyer

2018 PHOTO CONTEST 'THE RESULTS'

We are excited to share with you the results of our 2018 Photo Contest. The theme for this year's contest was 'At Work in Stettler County'.

We received so many beautiful photos depicting everyday life in rural Alberta and highlighting many of the activities that keep us on the move from day-to-day.

Each year we invite a panel of judges to sift through our entries, and this year we were thrilled to have members of Stettler Town Council come by the County office and volunteer some of their time and perspective. It was great to get an urban

spin on what 'At Work in Stettler County' looks like. The final images chosen for the 2018 Photo contest include a front cover, 12 months plus two runner-ups, all of which are now featured in the County of Stettler's 2019 Calendar.

Stop by and pick up your copy at the County Administration Building or at our Public Works Facility.



Ranch Cutting Work
Megan Wills



Bee Pollinating Apple Tree
Heather Derrick



Spraying
Junae Ventnor



Crop Duster
Kami Ritz



Fall Baling
Elaine Partsch



Grandson Helping Grandpa Stacking Bales
for Winter
Tana Nixon



Canola Harvest
Cathie Erichsen Arychuk



Quick Harvest Break for
Thanksgiving Dinner
Tana Nixon



Hauling the Bales Home
Jaxton Jones



Going Home
Karyn Tateson



Vaccinating Calves this Fall
Tammy Peterson



Farm Auction - Gadsby, AB
Dwayne Dunkle

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Collecting feedback for our budget survey at the spring 2018 Open House in Byemoor, AB.

WHAT DID YOU SAY? BUDGET

What did our community say?

The County of Stettler rolled out the 2018 Budget Survey at the Open House meetings this past spring. We had our budget survey available at our open houses and on the County website to allow everyone a chance to have their voice heard. We asked a series of questions that included ranking services, allowed suggestions of services, and suggestions of eliminating services if you had to balance the budget. We also asked for other concerns or comments that ratepayers may have. We kept the survey open for a number of weeks to allow for the opportunity to respond.

For the first question we asked citizens to discern the most essential to the least essential service we provide, and to rank the services in order of importance. Of the responses received, the number one ranked service provided was: Snow Plowing Rural Routes. A close second was: Graveling and Grading Roads. Respondents indicated the least essential service was: Snow Plowing Laneways followed by the second least essential: Recycling.

The second question we asked was: Are there other services you wish the County provided? This was an open-ended question and we had a lot of 'no responses' on this question. Some suggestions included increasing recycling

services offered, coyote extermination, water and septic services in Nevis, more services at Buffalo Lake, and to mow the ditches more frequently.

The third question asked was: If you had to cut the budget and delete services to make it balance, what would you cut?

We provided a list of services we currently offer. Of the respondents, 53% indicated they would cut Snow Plowing Laneways.

The final question was an open-ended question to share concerns or ideas regarding our 2019 budget. There was a wide array of suggestions including: increase rural crime watch; do a better job of listening to ratepayers; increase County involvement with secondary highways; if funding is an issue temporarily suspend a service before it is cut; change the newsletter to online only; changes to staffing; watch the funding going to recreation groups; increase business development; more pathways at the lake; increase roadside spraying; and improve emergency management at the lake.

Overall we found the results very interesting and the information was shared with departments and Council as we began our budget process for 2019-2021.



HOW DID WE RESPOND? BUDGET

2019 Budget Considerations

As we prepared to present a preliminary 2019 budget to Council, the following considerations were presented. Budget is still being deliberated and will be advertised and presented to the public before it is passed.

Snow Plowing Laneways

Snow plowing laneways has been a service the County has offered for some time now. The question that was raised after we read the results of our budget survey was: Is this a service that everyone has access to? The answer to that question is no.

County subdivisions and hamlet residents do not benefit or have the opportunity to sign up for laneway snow plowing. With that in mind, it was proposed an administration fee be considered for those wishing to participate in this program. The administration fee will offset the cost of administration time involved in processing

Hold Harmless Agreements, the safety checks that have to be undertaken each year on every driveway, and the cost of installing the annual flags. Beginning January 1, 2019, anyone signing up for Laneway Snow Plowing Service, will now pay a \$100 Administration Fee. Council passed this motion at the November 14 Regular Council Meeting.

We believe this service is still affordable and accessible to those who require it plus the Administration Fee will go a long way in offsetting some of the costs, not leaving the onus on our entire ratepayer population to fund a service that is not accessible to everyone in our County.

Increase Rural Crime Watch

This theme was actually presenting prior to our budget consultation process and was addressed earlier in 2018. We now have on staff, three full time Protective Services Officers and Council started a Rural Crime Watch Committee to collaborate and work with community

continued...

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Tax Penalty Reminder

February 1, 2019

An 8% penalty is applied on February 1, 2019 to all outstanding tax balances.

Taxes can be paid as follows:

- Interac
- Cash
- Cheque
- Online Banking or payment can be made at most financial institutes.

You may also sign up for the AutoPay Program and pay your taxes over 12 months, but your 2018 taxes must be paid in full. Payments are withdrawn from your bank account.

HOW DID WE RESPOND CONTINUED...

stakeholders and residents to find solutions to rural crime in our communities. Watch for a rural crime watch meeting in your area and please attend.

Recycling

Council is carefully reviewing the recycling costs and budget, keeping a close watch on expenses versus benefits.

Online Newsletter

We have considered an online-only newsletter, however the resounding message we received when we went out to the Spring Open House meetings, was that our community is not all 'on line', and the one place our citizens depend on getting County information from, is the County Connection magazine that comes in their mailbox. We will continue to monitor how people

receive their County information going forward, and adjust as required.

More Pathways at the Lake

Council just approved one new pathway in Scenic Sands, and has a proposal to consider more after this budget is approved, later in 2019.

As budgets are considered further, the one idea that remains constant among staff and Council, is that we have to continually measure the level of service people expect against our responsibility to maintain a fiscally responsible budget and find the best balance for our taxpayers.

Community Engagement

We take pride in being invested in our community in a number of ways:

- Station & Ambulance Tours
- Event Standby's
- Annual Grad Crash Demo
- Discovery Days at Stettler Hospital
- Capsule for Life Program
- Annual Charity Check Stop
- Education & Awareness Events

For more information about these events or a tour of our station please contact Linda Borg, Manager, at 403-742-1900.

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STETTLER DISTRICT AMBULANCE

Our Service

We are contracted by Alberta Health Services to provide emergency medical services in Alberta. This means that Stettler District Ambulance Association is funded by Alberta Health Services while operating under a service agreement.

Our service agreement states we must operate two ambulances 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The crews work a four days on and four days off core/flex rotation (10 hour days and 14 hour nights on call).

With this core/flex rotation schedule from Alberta Health Services we have a contractual chute time of eight minutes. A chute time is defined as "the time you are notified of the call to the time you are en route to the call in your ambulance." These are staffed with eight full-time staff and 15 casual staff. An ambulance crew consists of:

- two Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP's) or,
- one Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) and one Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)

With advances in modern technology, exciting medical protocols and procedures, and dedication to countless hours of skilled training, the emergency room on wheels will arrive at any scene of an emergency incident prepared to provide essential life-saving skills and treatment.

We are very proud to provide a high quality ambulance service to our community.

We would like to reinforce the importance of calling an ambulance if required. Our timely response can and will make a difference in patient care. Never hesitate to call an ambulance if needed, as our highly trained staff can start immediate treatment if required, prior to arriving at any hospital.

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Stettler Pheasant Festival Committee needs your help.

The Stettler Pheasant Festival just hosted their 5th annual festival and it was a **HIT**.

Unfortunately we're a small team and need more ideas and more hands to keep this popular and successful event going. The mission of the committee is to raise money to aid in conservation. We currently release an additional 300 hens to the roosters that have been released but our goal is to add on a habitat project.

The Stettler Pheasant Festival is a three day event boasting private half day hunts, learning opportunities and socials. Each year we see over 300 hunters come to the Stettler County to enjoy our beautiful countryside and take in some pheasant hunting. In 2018, hunters from across Western Canada and the United States participated in the festival. We've received many compliments on our community and praise and 'Thank you's' to the land owners and volunteers.

"This was the third year in a row that I attended the Pheasant Festival in Stettler. Each year it gets

better and better congratulations! Congratulations to you and your volunteers for putting together a first class event. I can't wait to register for next year!"

"My family and I make this an annual event as a way to get together at least one time throughout the year. We come from across Alberta to enjoy the festival."

"Always a great time!!!! Thank you to everyone involved who makes this festival happen every year and a huge thank you to the land owners. Without them it just wouldn't happen."

"Gordon and Dave came from Vernon BC, their first Stettler Pheasant Festival and are planning to come back next year."

For more information about volunteer positions or to attend our next meeting, contact the Stettler Regional Board of Trade: 403-742-3181 or email info@stettlerboardoftrade.com.



Pheasant Photography

Volunteers Needed

Our Committee needs your help to organize the Stettler Pheasant Festival!

We need help with:

- Advertising & Social Media
- Banquet Management
- Organizing the Culinary Event
- Sponsorship
- Barn Boss
- Land Management
- Organizing Volunteers

The Festival is held annually in October with concise monthly meetings.

Contact us for more information.



[/STETTLERPHEASANTFESTIVAL](#)



INFO@STETTLERBOARDOFTRADE.COM



403-742-3181

STETTLERPHEASANTFESTIVAL.COM



OUR HAMLETS & HOW WE'LL ADDRESS THEM

Municipal Addressing in the Hamlets of Erskine and Botha

Recently it became a topic of discussion to allow residents in Erskine and Botha to have their personalized house numbers affixed to their houses or landscape features instead of the standard blue sign on a steel post, when the County updates the addressing system in these two hamlets. The Rural Addressing Bylaw provides that the house number sign shall be a standard blue aluminum sign with white lettering and shall be installed on a steel post within a specified distance from the shoulder of the approach into the property. The purpose of the standard sign is to ensure all properties are similarly signed to maximize visibility of the sign for emergency responders.

When the municipal addressing bylaw was amended in 2017, a provision was included that authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to deem it appropriate to allow landowners, upon application, to affix their own sign (at their own cost). This provision was included based on

information that was received by word of mouth regarding the preference in Erskine.

In response to a discussion about this matter at a spring town hall meeting in Erskine, the County's Director of Communications ran a survey among Erskine and Botha landowners to determine the majority preference for the manner of displaying house number signs. All landowners in Erskine and Botha received an opportunity to either fill out the poll online, or phone in with their votes. Mailbox stuffers were sent out in Erskine and Botha as well as a poster at the post office.

The results were as follows:

- Erskine - 15 responses; 10 in favor of installing their own house numbers; 5 in favor of the blue signs being installed by the County.
- Botha - 9 responses; 2 in favor of installing their own house numbers; 7 in favor of the blue signs being installed by the County.



If the decision was made based solely on the poll results, Erskine landowners would replace their own house numbers and Botha landowners would have blue signs installed by the County.

The survey instructions stated that the results of the vote would determine the final decision however, from the low volume of responses received it appears that the survey results may be insufficient to accurately indicate what the majority of residents would want. From the lack of participation, it may be concluded that this is not a contentious issue for the majority of Botha or Erskine residents.

It should be kept in mind that the hamlets of Nevis, Red Willow, Byemoor and Endiang and the multi-lot acreage subdivisions which have already had new addressing signs installed, did not receive an opportunity to make this choice, and therefore have blue addressing signs on posts installed at the approach to their properties.

Based on the information presented at the August 2018 Council meeting, Council resolved that the signs in Erskine and Botha will be installed in accordance with the existing bylaw (blue signs on steel posts) as was done in the other four hamlets and in the multi-lot subdivisions. The provision in the bylaw allows individual residents to make an application to the County for an alternative sign display and/or location. Any approved alterations will be at the expense of the landowner.

The installation of addressing signs in the hamlets of Erskine and Botha is set to begin in the spring of 2019.



Councillor Les Stulberg waiting his turn at the mic during the RMA Conference, Minister Session. Councillor Stulberg asked the Minister of Energy why Alberta continues to accept 60% of BC's natural gas production, \$4.5 billion cubic feet/day, while our own producers continue to suffer. Our County continually receives requests for tax relief from our own producers, and their inability to pay their taxes filters down and affects our County's tax income and our ability to provide services to our citizens.



Councillor Wayne Nixon asking the Provincial Government how they plan to support Agriculture Plastics Recycling. The Minister of Agriculture responded with an announcement the Province is committing to a three-year pilot project and \$700,000 in funding to address Ag Plastic Recycling initiatives.

2018 FALL CONFERENCE RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA

Council puts their fingers on the pulse of rural Alberta.

Each spring and fall, your members of Council attend the Rural Municipality of Alberta (RMA) Conference for an opportunity to speak to our provincial ministers, attend sessions for information and development and for the chance to network and advocate for our citizens.

Our County is a member of the RMA, one of 69 rural counties and municipal districts. This association was renamed in the spring of 2018, and used to be known as the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

It is helpful to have an association dedicated to

advocacy for rural Albertans. They ensure that provincial and federal decision-makers, industry and other relevant stakeholders understand and incorporate rural Alberta's best interest in their policies. Their board members sit on numerous committees and task forces in order to build strong working relationships with key stakeholders. This increases small municipality's ability to influence legislation. Additionally, they manage RMA Insurance - a member-owned, non-profit organization to help us gain the safety and service we need as a municipality, as well as RMA Fuel which provides group buying power for counties and municipal districts across the province.

Topics at this year's fall conference included:

- Building Conflict Competent Municipalities



Councillor James Nibourg recognized Thursday, November 22 as National Housing Day and acknowledged how many Albertans cannot afford housing - and asked the Minister's Panel how the Alberta Government is aligning themselves with Canada's *Right To Housing* initiative, working to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. Minister Irfan Sabir of Community and Social Services responded they have injected \$1.2 billion in this area resulting in 1400 housing units being built and occupied with another 27 units still to come.



Premier Rachel Notley addressing the Rural Municipalities of Alberta members.

- Private Sewage Variance Transition and what this means for municipalities
- Politics and the Alberta Election
- Cyber Insurance
- Collaborating with Indigenous Communities on Economic Development

We heard from the Premier of Alberta, Rachel Notley, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Shaye Anderson and questions were taken by the NDP panel of ministers. Alberta's Opposition Party leaders also provided "Provincial Perspective" to attendees.

For more in-depth information on the news from this conference, please feel free to contact one of our members of Council through our office at 403-742-4441.



PARADISE SHORES - UPDATE

Subdivision Development Appeal Board Hearing rules maximum number of sites on NE 20-40-20 W4M will not exceed 168.

The Subdivision Development Appeal Board (SDAB) has reduced the density for Paradise Shores Development Permit 18001 from the originally approved 370 RV Units and/or Campground sites in Phase 1, to a maximum of 168 sites for the entire development on NE 20-40-20 W4M (the area described as Phase 1 and Phase 2 in the Area Structure Plan).

The SDAB heard eight appeals filed by appellants opposed to different aspects of the originally approved Paradise Shores Development Permit 18001, and one appeal filed by the Applicant in a preliminary hearing held on August 16, 2018 and in the merit hearing held on September 18 and 19, 2018. All of the appeals were 'allowed in part' in the ruling.

Some of the highlights from the SDAB decision include:

- Density reduction from 370 Recreational Vehicle stalls in Phase 1 to a maximum of 168 Recreational Vehicle stalls and/or Campground sites across the whole quarter section NE 20-40-20 W4M.
- New studies and plans are required, including an updated Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), geotechnical assessment of slopes, landscaping plan, and site plans.
- Amenities and the Recreational Facility – Outdoor Use must be completed within one year from the date of the approved site plan.
- Applicant is required to pay for construction of the surface of a 38 stall truck/trailer combination parking lot proximate to the White Sands boat launch.
- The Applicant must enter into a development agreement with the County of Stettler to construct roads required by the updated TIA, construct infrastructure required to provide access to the development, and construct a parking lot for the White Sands boat launch.



The Subdivision Development and Appeal Board Hearing for Paradise Shores Development Permit 18001.

The SDAB agreed with the Appellants that the density of the proposed development was not consistent with the applicable density policies of the applicable Intermunicipal Development Plans and determined the proposed Development is subject to the density provisions for lands within the 'Small Lot Area' at 1.97 dwelling units per acre prescribed in the Buffalo Lake South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan.

A complete copy of the decision is available on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.

Reeve for the County of Stettler Larry Clarke said, "We trust the process this decision has been made through, and we respect and support the ruling made by the Subdivision Development and Appeal Board. I believe the Board carried out its statutory duty."

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Stettler said, "We will now work through the process outlined by the SDAB, and we will work with the developer on meeting the conditions set out in this decision."

Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards are established by municipal councils under Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act (the "MGA") to hear appeals from decisions made by the municipality's subdivision and development authorities. SDAB decisions shape a community and affect the lives of residents, neighbors, businesses and developers.

By hearing appeals and making decisions, a SDAB fulfills a vital function in achieving the goal of orderly, beneficial and economic development and use of land set out in the MGA. A SDAB enhances local and regional land use, planning and development by providing the opportunity for an independent review of planning and development decisions.



BYLAW UPDATES

General Traffic Bylaw

School and Playground Zone hours were extended, to ensure the safety of our children using those facilities, and to standardize the effective times across our entire County. New School and Playground Zones are as follows:

- o School Zone: 8:00 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset – 7 days a week
- o Playground Zone: 8:30 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset – 7 days a week
- The speed at which Off Highway vehicles are allowed to travel on County Roads was raised to 50 km/hr.
- Provisions were added to the General Traffic Bylaw regarding the issuance and enforcement of Road Use Agreements, meant to protect

the County's Roads from excessive damage due to commercial activity. Fines were also attached to Road Use Agreement infractions.

- The speed limit in Botha was raised to 50 km/hr to match the rest of the hamlets within the County of Stettler.

Grazing Road Allowances

Due to extreme conditions in the County of Stettler in 2018, Council entertained several requests for grazing ditches and right-of-ways. There is now a policy in place that sets out guidelines for this practice.

- The policy states that landowners may only graze the roadways adjacent to their property or obtain permission from their neighbors to



Quinton Beaumont, Director of Agricultural Services presents Ania Bohn with the Central Region Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) Bursary. Ania is attending Olds College taking Agriculture Management.

graze on their frontage. The Road Allowance must be fenced, and livestock must be pulled off each and every night. Producers must monitor the area daily and sign an agreement with the County prior to grazing. Grazing Road Allowances will be considered on a request basis, and producers must request each year, if they wish to do so.

Snow Plowing Service Standards

- The Service Standards have been updated to include a new standard by which we measure snow on the ground. The trigger for sending out the snow removal teams will be 15 cm of compacted snow on the ground. Ideally, the roads will have a small amount of snow compacted into the gravel to avoid the loss of gravel while clearing snow later in the winter.

Snow Plowing Laneways

- There will now be a \$100 application fee for snow plowing laneways, effective January 1, 2019.

For more information or to read our policies in full, please visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca or contact Legislative Services at sbenson@stettlercounty.ca or by calling 403-742-4441.



Talking 'Cannabis' at the Botha Community Hall.

CANNABIS AND THE COUNTY OF STETTTLER

Cannabis Legalized across Canada October 17, 2018

The County of Stettler No. 6 was prepared for the legalization of cannabis which took place on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

On October 10, Council passed Bylaw 1598-18 - Cannabis Consumption Bylaw which addressed the Consumption of Cannabis in the County of Stettler. It states that Cannabis may only be consumed in private residences or on private property. Residents will not be allowed to smoke or vape cannabis on any public property within the County of Stettler, including all of the hamlets.

Penalties associated with offences to this bylaw are \$250 for a first offence; \$500 for a second offence within one year of the first; and \$750 for a third and any subsequent offence within a year of a prior offence.

The County of Stettler's Land Use Bylaw was also amended to provide for Cannabis Retail Sales. Municipalities cannot prohibit cannabis production and sales, however Council was

able to customize the locations and setback requirements of these facilities to suit our community.

A survey conducted by the County and responded to by over 600 participants showed the following results relative to the location of cannabis stores:

- 78% were either neutral or very concerned about the separation distance of cannabis stores to places where youth gather
- 69% wanted cannabis stores separated from places where youth gather by 200 metres or more
- 44% thought that hamlet commercial areas are an appropriate cannabis store location
- 58% were either neutral or not concerned at all about the location of cannabis production facilities

Taking the survey results into consideration, and the fact that the federal and provincial regulations for security and other measures required of the premises from where a person applies for a license to sell cannabis are of such a nature that private dwellings are likely not suitable, the proposed bylaw amendment provides for



Cannabis Retail Sales as a discretionary use only from commercial and industrial land use districts as follows:

- Commercial District (one property in the County)
- Hamlet Commercial District (several properties in the County)
- Hamlet Industrial District (no properties in the County)
- Highway Commercial District (one property in the County)
- Highway Mixed Use District (several properties in the County)
- Industrial District (several properties in the County)

The County of Stettler's Land Use Bylaw restricts Cannabis Retail Sales to between the hours of 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM only. Cannabis Retail Sales locations must be 400 meters from the property boundary of all schools (as defined in the School Act), training facilities and other educational premises to the occupied floor area of a Cannabis Retail Sales; 400 meters from a Day Care Facility, recreation facility, playground, community centre, church or public park.

These bylaws apply to the County of Stettler No. 6 and the hamlets herein including Botha,

Byemoor, Erskine, Endiang, Red Willow, Nevis and the communities along the south shore of Buffalo Lake outside of the Summer Villages.

The Town of Stettler, the Villages of Big Valley, Donalda, Gadsby and the Summer Villages of Rochon Sands and White Sands will have their own bylaws to address cannabis. In addition, Botha has its own Land Use Bylaw which is similar to the County of Stettler's and available on our website.

The County of Stettler's complete bylaws may be viewed on our website under 'Bylaws' at www.stettlercounty.ca.

For more information on the Cannabis Consumption Bylaw please contact Shawna Benson, Legislative Services Advisor at 403-742-4441, sbenson@stettlercounty.ca.

For more information on our Land Use Bylaw as it pertains to Cannabis Retail or Production Facility Locations, please contact Johan van der Bank at 403-742-4441, jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca.

WATER LOSS

How to find savings in utility bills.

Do you have a high water bill or a higher than usual bill. Here's some helpful information if you have high consumption. The added benefit of lower water use is wastewater production. Less wastewater means your septic tank won't require emptying as often. If you have a pump out, both your electricity bill and the wear on your pump will decrease, saving you money.

Shower	Old Showerhead Efficient Showerhead	12-15 litres per minute 7 litres per minute
Toilet	Single Flush Dual Half Flush Dual Full Flush	12 litres 3 litres 6 litres
Bath	Half full Full	80 litres average 140 litres average
Bathroom	Brushing teeth/shaving with tap running Brushing teeth/shaving with tap off Hand basin	5 litres per minute 1 litre per minute 5 litres
Kitchen	Washing dishes by hand (one meal) Old dishwasher Modern dishware Garbage disposal	18 litres 60 litres 18 litres 10 litres
Laundry	Modern front loader Top loader Twin tub	60 litres 150 litres 70 litres
Garden	Sprinkler Washing car with a hose Hosing driveway Average size swimming pool	1000 litres per hour 200 litres per 12 minutes 75 litres per 5 minutes 20,000 to 40,000 litres
Leaks	Dripping tap Leaking Leaking toilet	30 to 150 litres per day 300 litres per day from a 1.5mm (1/16 inch) hole 10 to 260 litres per day

Stettler Museum's
(6502 44Ave)

Light the Night

OPENING NIGHT NOVEMBER 30

Bake Sale Hay Rides

December Fridays & Saturdays
until Christmas
5-8 PM

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS

December 20-24
5-9 PM

Half a Kilometer of Lighted Displays



The County of Stettler participated in a Public Meeting to discuss intermunicipal development with Big Valley on November 27.

RELATIONSHIPS: BUILDING PLANS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

Intermunicipal Development Plans with Villages

The Modernized Municipal Government Act, which came into effect in April 2018, requires that each municipality must have an intermunicipal development plan (IDP) with all their municipal neighbors. The County of Stettler currently has IDPs with the Town of Stettler, the Summer Village of Rochon Sands, the Summer Village of White Sands, Lacombe County and Camrose County.

New IDPs have to be prepared with the Village of Gadsby, the Village of Big Valley, the Village of Donalda, Paintearth County, Special Areas No. 2 and Starland County. Exemptions are provided for municipal boundaries that consist of Crown-owned waterbodies, and therefore IDPs with Flagstaff County, Kneehill County and Red Deer County are not required. The existing IDPs with Lacombe County and Camrose County will need

to be amended to include the boundaries that are not included in the existing IDPs, and possibly to reflect the exemption.

The purpose of an IDP is to address future land use, development, transportation systems, environmental matters and the coordination of intermunicipal programs relating to physical, social and economic development within the plan area. The plan will include a procedure to resolve any conflict between the municipalities.

The IDPs with urban municipal neighbors must be completed by April 2020, and those with rural municipal neighbors by April 2021. The County and the Villages of Gadsby, Big Valley and Donalda are presently preparing IDPs. An open house to review the draft Big Valley IDP occurred November 27 at the Big Valley Community Hall. Open houses to review the IDPs with Donalda and Gadsby will be scheduled for January or

DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS

Please remember that you do not need a development permit from the County for any agricultural operation as long as any structures such as hay sheds, granaries, dugouts, livestock shelters and barns meet the 125 feet setback from the center line of the County road.

Shelterbelts must be set back 75 feet from the center line of the road. If you wished to vary from these setbacks for any agricultural operation, you would require a development permit.

You may need a license/permit from the Natural Resources Conservation Board if your agricultural operation includes a confined feeding operation (please call the NRCB at 1-340-5241).

If development is proposed along a provincial highway a Roadside Development Permit issued by Alberta Transportation is required. Please contact Alberta Transportation at 403-854-5550 or visit their website at <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca>.

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

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February 2019. Following the open houses, comments from the public will be incorporated as may be applicable. Final IDPs will then be presented to the Councils for first reading, followed by a public hearing.

Associated with the preparation of IDPs is the preparation of intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICFs). These documents will:

- 1) address the services that municipalities share with their rural and urban municipal neighbors,
- 2) review existing agreements related to the sharing of services, and
- 3) explore opportunities for additional services that could be shared.

The purpose of this exercise is to ensure municipalities collaborate and operate on a cost-effective basis to the greatest extent possible in

delivering services to ratepayers. The ICFs must be completed in the same period as the IDPs.

The County of Stettler has prepared a summary of the services shared with municipal neighbors and the agreements related to those shared services. It has started discussions on the preparation of ICFs with the Villages of Gadsby, Big Valley and Donalda. The preparation of ICFs and their adoption by bylaw will be a separate process from the adoption of the IDPs however, the public will be given opportunities to participate in the preparation of the ICFs.

Please address any inquiries to the County's Planning and Development department at (403) 742-4441 (press 2 for Planning & Development) or email jvanderbank@stettlercounty.ca.



Board Chair, Jane Skocdopole (standing) introduces Rhonda O'Neill (seated beside), the new manager for Stettler public Library.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Stettler Public Library

The winter months are a great time to connect with members of your community at the Stettler Public Library. We have something for everyone on tap this winter, from tastings to community information nights, cooking clubs, meditation nights, matinees and family movies, tech programming, tutoring, crochet, quilting, ukulele, book club, and more.

Find information about our events or download our monthly events brochures online at <https://spl.prl.ab.ca> or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StettlerPublicLibrary/>).

On January 29th, join us as Councillor Malcolm Fischer and retired judge Dave MacNaughton give a riveting talk about the infamous Robert Raymond Cook case. Be on the lookout for more fun events for all ages at the Stettler Public Library as we make our way into 2019.

Speaking of 2019, a Library resolution for the New Year is to increase our capacity to connect members of the community with the information, organizations and activities that support lifelong learning, fun and connection.

The Library's Plan of Service for 2018-2021, developed following consultations with the community, includes a goal to provide area residents with a central source for information about the wide variety of programs, services,

activities and clubs available in Stettler and Stettler County. To that end, we are building a community asset map. Take it for a test drive at <http://spl.prl.ab.ca/services/community-asset-map>, click on the map to open it up so that you can filter results to areas of interest (local organizations, activities youth, adults, or seniors, etc.). To submit information about your organization, use the form on the web page or email spl@prl.ab.ca.

We are also interested in hearing from people who would like to share their talents with others in the community. If you have a special interest or area of expertise that you think would make a good library program, we are interested in connecting with you.

We are also interested in hearing your thoughts on programming at the Stettler Public Library. Send an email to spl@prl.ab.ca or give us a call at 403-742-2292 (ask for Rhonda or Crystal).

Finally, if one of your resolutions for 2019 is to volunteer some time in a great environment, check our website for current volunteer opportunities and give us a shout.

Wishing all of you the very best over the holidays, from all of us at the Stettler Public Library, a very Merry Christmas.



LIVESTOCK TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

County advocates on behalf of producers.

After initially being left off the list, it has been announced by the Government of Canada that the County of Stettler is now one of the 2018 Prescribed Regions for the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision.

The Livestock Tax Deferral Provision allows farmers who sell part of their breeding herd due to drought or flooding, to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year when the income may be at least partially offset by the cost of reacquiring breeding animals, thus reducing the potential tax burden.

To defer income, the breeding herd must have been reduced by at least 15%.

A preliminary list released in early September did not include the County of Stettler among the prescribed regions. In mid-September, the County of Stettler declared an Agricultural Disaster and communications were made regarding the state of our County's agriculture industry to both the Federal and Provincial Governments. On October 31, the Government of Canada announced additional regions authorized for inclusion for livestock tax deferral, and the County of Stettler made the list.

"The decisions to include a region on their preliminary list is based on spring moisture and summer rain data. If you looked at our long-term moisture averages on paper, it would read that the County of Stettler was quite average. If you break it down to when we received moisture and how much we received at key times, it painted a different picture. If you stood on the ground in our fields, it was a bleak forecast for farmers and producers by mid-September," said Reeve Larry Clarke.

Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Stettler, Yvette Cassidy added, "Liaising with other levels of government and advocating on behalf of our community while promoting the welfare and interests of our municipality is a key duty of our Council. This is a perfect example of how they work for you."

Producers included in the 2018 Prescribed Regions for Livestock Tax Deferral Provision can request the tax deferral when filing their 2018 income tax returns.

For more information about the program, visit www.agr.gc.ca/eng, click on 'Drought Watch', then click on 'Livestock Tax Deferral Provision'.

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.



RECYCLING

Did you know...?

Aluminum

It takes the same energy to make 1 new aluminum can as it does to make 20 cans from recycled aluminum.



Cardboard

Recycling cardboard takes 75% of the energy needed to make new cardboard and requires no new trees.



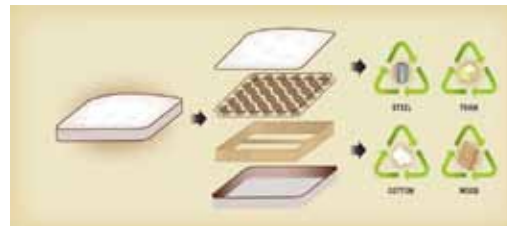
Fluorescent tubes

Mercury in fluorescent tubes and bulbs is captured safely in the Stettler Eco Centre's bulb-eater. Never break fluorescents.



Mattresses

One mattress takes up about 2 cubic meters of landfill space. Recycle yours at the Stettler Transfer Site.



What's better than recycling?

Not consuming in the first place. Reduce first, re-use second, recycle third, and landfill last.

Landfilling is not free!

The average Alberta landfill costs about \$100/tonne to operate each year. This does not include the costs to build and to close a landfill.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



2019 Jiffy Lube Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts

Haven't got a ticket to the 2019 Jiffy Lube Scotties Tournament of Hearts January 22-27? Why don't you volunteer?

The Jiffy Lube Committee is still seeking volunteers in ice making and maintenance, security, transportation and hospitality.

You can sign up for shifts or commit to the whole week, or pick something in between.

Go to www.stettlercurlingclub.ca or send an email to stettlercurlingclub@gmail.com.

Consider taking in the WELCOME banquet on January 22 - tickets are \$50 and available by calling 403-741-5923.

Stettler Christmas Hamper Society

Help families in need this Christmas!
Donation boxes for NEW toys are located throughout our community.
Monetary donations are accepted at the FCSS Office or at Gitzel & Company Chartered Professional Accounts Office (tax receipt provided).
For information call Kayla 403-742-4431.



County of Stettler 2019 Community Service Awards

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Linda Hall
Cocktails at 5:30 PM

Tickets will be available at the County of Stettler Administration Building, or contact lhankins@stettlercounty.ca.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Take it Off - Ice Hut Registration Program

Register your Ice Fishing Hut on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca/142/Agriculture. Registration is required to identify the owner of an ice hut in the event of a problem, or if the ice hut is not removed from the ice by the March 31 deadline or before ice break-up. Help us to protect the environment and ensure the safety of anglers and boaters.



County of Stettler's Performing Arts for Schools

On November 28, DuffleBag Theatre performed 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' to students of Erskine, Donalda and Byemoor Schools as part of the County of Stettler's Performing Arts for Schools program.

It was an interactive play with Santa and Mrs. Claus being chosen from the audience. Santa has lost his bag of toys and has to recall where he last had them.



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