

FALL 2019

Stettler County Connection



2019 CLUBROOT UPDATE

MOVE TO HIGH RISK

pg 20

TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE

OCTOBER 31

Inside Cover

Rural
Crime in
Stettler County
pg 24



2019 TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE - OCTOBER 31

County of Stettler No. 6 Tax Deadline is October 31, 2019.

To avoid a 10% penalty, payments must be received by 4:30 p.m. or postmarked October 31, 2019.

Tax Payments can be made:

- CASH
- CHEQUE
- INTERAC
- ONLINE BANKING (Please choose 'Tax')
- Autopay Program (Tipps) - Tax payments can be distributed over 12 months if you sign up for our Autopay Program. Your 2019 Taxes must be paid in full, at a zero balance, and then you may register to begin Autopay for January 1, 2020. When you are part of the Autopay Program, monthly tax installments are automatically withdrawn from your bank account at the beginning of each month.

Tax payments will continue to be collected at the County Administration Building at 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, AB.

For more information please contact our office at 403-742-4441.



08



14



20

03 REEVE'S RAMBLINGS
Taxation and revenue streams.

05 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Supporting recreation.

06 SNOW PLOW AGREEMENTS
Time to fill out your Hold Harmless.

07 GRAND REOPENING
Rejuvenation of Stettler Running Track.

08 GADSBY
Under a Viability Review Study.

09 ZERO TOLERANCE
Development permits required.

10 WEED OF THE MONTH
Yellow Toadflax.

11 RURAL WATER SERVICE
Do we have your number?

12 BYLAW & POLICY UPDATES
What are your thoughts? Aggregate Levy

14 MEMBERS AT LARGE
Are you interested in serving?

15 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
Fill out our survey!

16 AGGREGATE LEVY SURVEY
How should we allocate funds?

17 RATEPAYER REQUESTS
Reach us 24/7.

19 2020 BUDGET PROCESS
Please give us your thoughts!

STETTNER
COMMUNITY



INTRO

“To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves.”

-M.K Gandhi

One of our favorite events of the year took place in August - our VIP Farm Tours and our Farm to Fork Long Table Dinner which is a collaborative event we put together with the Stettler Board of Trade and our friends and neighbors at the Town of Stettler.

This year we took two bus loads of people on tour to a honey farm, a corn farm, a dairy farm and a herb farm (rhodiola). On this tour we had young, old, city and country, business people and farmers alike. And EVERYONE who got off those buses at the end of the day had learned more than a thing or two about Alberta Agriculture. Our farm hosts went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and to answer every question fired their way. It was a fantastic day and ONE DAY a year when we focus and share with anyone interested, some of the exciting things going on across our fields.

We headed right down to Main Street for the Long Table Dinner, where three chefs delighted us with their farm to fork creations, two local chefs impressed us with their version of ‘Chopped’ Stettler appetizers, and then a fantastic entertainer had us dancing and tapping our toes all evening.

Think about joining us in 2020 because we’ve already marked August 8, 2020 on our calendars.

Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications

Stettler County Connection

Fall 2019

Volume 9 Issue 3

Editor-in-Chief

Yvette Cassidy

Managing Editor

Niki Thorsteinsson

Printed by

Kathy’s Printing Service

All Rights reserved. Any reproduction of the contents without written authorization from the publisher is strictly prohibited. The publisher cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions found within this newsmagazine, or for loss of, or damage to, unsolicited material submitted by readers.

Availability: Current Issues of County Connection can be obtained from the County of Stettler Administration Building while supplies last.

Subscription: County Connections is delivered free of charge to taxpayers, with exception to those who do not live in the Province of Alberta or have unsubscribed from our mailing list. If you wish to receive future copies, please make the request to the Managing Editor at nthorsteinsson@stettlercounty.ca. You may also view the current and back issues of the County Connection on our website at www.stettlercounty.ca.





CAO Yvette Cassidy swearing in Larry Clarke as Reeve for the County of Stettler No. 6 at their annual Organizational Meeting held September 25, 2019.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

As I look out the window the yard still looks the green shades of summer with some of the trees slightly changing color vs the typical late September shades. This summer's moisture has produced some bumper crops but also devastating hail that damaged some of these crops, homes, personal properties and the Stettler County office, shop and equipment.

I know many of my articles have discussed finances with this being no exception as we are currently preparing 2020 budget. Our departments have been challenged by the weather this year as all have been completing outside tasks but have shown resiliency in meeting 2019 projects by constantly adjusting work schedules to utilize staff on projects weather allowed and completing the gravelling mowing, spraying and other projects.

In the past budget cycles, we were challenged declining revenue mainly due to reduced oil and gas activity and increase in unpaid taxes and costs associated in recovering these or a portion of these taxes. 2020 budget will be harder to balance with a continual challenge on this revenue stream as we are facing the challenges of the announcement of reducing taxation on shallow gas properties in 2019 resulting in a tax loss of \$766,455.00 in 2019. This will be offset this year by the municipalities recovering this loss through their school tax portion so will be a break-even, but shallow gas assessment reviews will result in approximately 35% reduction in future taxes in the range of \$800,000.00 to upcoming budgets.

The Keyera gas plant or Nevis Gas Plant will be shut down as I am writing this after a 63-year history as an employer and business partner to many business's and an ethical rate payer to the County of Stettler. They operated this large plant along with many smaller facilities and pipelines throughout our county. The decommissioning time frame to abandonment will take time but reduction in operating taxable charges will decline now. We are very concerned with the job losses associated with this and all the materials and services that the local vendor base supplied to this facility, but are also very concerned with the effects this could have on area sour gas producers and sweet gas producers who utilized the Nevis plant as a sales point for their gas and liquids, and what their options are now.

The Trident bankruptcy continues to reduce our taxation revenue by \$2 million per year, the shallow gas tax re-assessment will drop taxes by approximately \$800,000.00 and the shutdown of the Keyera Nevis gas plant will result in another \$400,000.00. We respect that reputable producers have to make rash business decisions to maintain their own financial viability but outcomes such as this certainly affect the financial future of our county.

Expenditure requests continue to rise as some ratepayers' expectations are not reduced based on our income and road improvement requests from better grades more gravel to paving, brush removal. Requests for facilities and event sponsorship have continued...



Reeve Clarke welcoming everyone to the Long Table Dinner which took place on August 10, 2019.

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS CONTINUED

escalated as operating costs for these continue to escalate. Payment of provincial grants (MSI) have not been as timely as normal which greatly effects our cash flow and payments to groups accustomed to receiving these payments. Viability studies with small villages continue and if the end result is these villages becoming county hamlets the taxes associated with these would be received by the County at County assessment rates, but all maintenance and capital costs will be handled by the County of Stettler.

We have been meeting with the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA), government departments, government officials and industry representatives throughout the above situations to discuss our concerns, debate or lobby decisions and discuss possible solutions and will continue to meet ensuring the County of Stettler is well represented in these discussions.

As we work through our 2020 budget and host public budget presentations please attend to participate as we will have tough decisions to make on both the revenue and expense columns to give the best level of service to all rate payers with the declining revenue streams. Administration has brainstormed and restructured to reduce staffing through attrition by 6 senior administration positions and 3 salaried operator positions. This has affected levels of service in response and scheduled times but they are doing their best to

maintain overall quality of service through these reductions based on restructuring procedures and processes, but have very limited capacity to handle further downloads from the governments or unrealistic requests from ratepayers. If these continue staffing levels will have to increase to meet the demand on labour.

We as the County of Stettler will continue to promote and assist development opportunities in this county but will protect the County of Stettler and residents through our professional planning and development group ensuring our bylaws and policies are met and that these developments are the best they can be.

In closing we are all so fortunate to live in one of the most safe and beautiful places in the world. Please treat County of Stettler staff as you would your neighbors as you deal with them as they are trying their best to deliver on decisions made by Council and they are your neighbors. Good luck and be safe in all projects that are to be completed this fall and watch the roads as they are busy with school buses, construction and agricultural units.

Larry Clarke, REEVE



RECREATION SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING

Supporting Recreation Facilities

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

The maximum funding that is available this year is \$50,000.00. A new funding eligibility criteria was added to the RSPF application in December 2018 in response to recent amendments to the Municipal Government Act, which require all municipalities to cooperate and work with neighboring municipalities. Starting this funding cycle, organizations must provide evidence of community support and collaboration. Do you offer your facility for free for some community or not profit events? Do you fundraise for other charitable causes? The information and application form are available on the website at www.stettlercounty.ca or at the front counter of

the County of Stettler Administration building. The deadline to apply is October 31.

43rd Annual Community Service Awards

The County of Stettler recognizes its dedicated and committed volunteers on an annual basis at the County of Stettler Community Service Awards. Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations with many people in each community going "unnoticed" as they might do tasks that are done in the evenings or during the day when everyone is at work.

It is most beneficial to spend some time talking to community members to understand all of the volunteer efforts that are being put into the area on a daily basis. Every volunteer wants to know that he or she is making a difference and advancing the cause.

The next County of Stettler Community Service Awards will be held in early 2020 at the Erskine IOOF Hall.

6



SNOW PLOW AGREEMENTS

Have you filled out your 2019-2020 Laneway Snow plow Hold Harmless Agreements?

For those County residents eligible to receive the laneway snow plowing service, our staff conduct driveway inspections every fall. The inspection is a requirement of our insurance company. If you have not yet signed your 2019-2020 hold harmless you need to do so before we can get you added to the list to inspect your driveway. Once the inspection is complete - if it passes safety requirements, you will be issued a new flag and added to the snow plow route map.

A \$100 application fee is collected when you fill our your Hold Harmless agreement. This fee is applied towards the administration of our laneway snow

plowing program, which is only available to farms and acreages, and not available in subdivisions or hamlets.

For more information or to read our policies in full, please visit our website at www.stettlercounty.ca or contact info@stettlercounty.ca or call 403-742-4441.

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.



GRAND REOPENING STETTLER COMMUNITY RECREATION TRACK

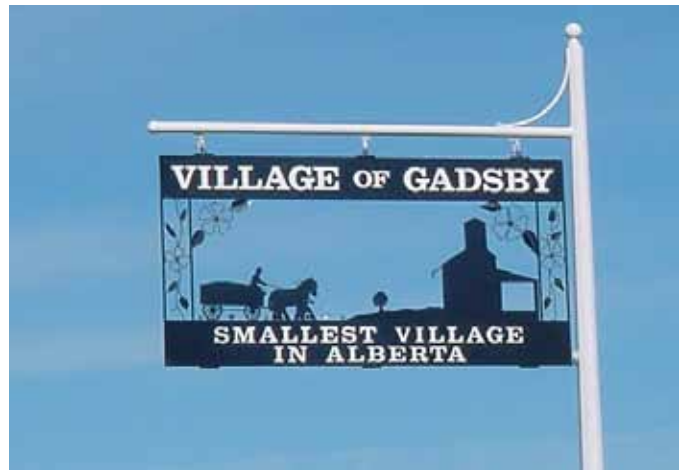
On September 20, 2019 the Shared-Use Recreational Facilities (SURF) Committee commemorated the grand reopening of the Stettler Community Recreation Track with a ceremony that spoke to the significant past and reinvigorated future of the facility. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the Town of Stettler, County of Stettler, and Clearview Public Schools. Students, stakeholders, and members of the public also gathered to partake in the event, with speakers including Battle River – Crowfoot Conservative Candidate Damien Kurek, Mayor Sean Nolls on behalf of the Town of Stettler, Councillor Ernie Gendre on behalf of the County of Stettler and Clearview Public Schools Superintendent Peter Barron.

Master of Ceremonies, Clearview Public Schools Board Chair Greg Hayden, acknowledged the efforts of the SURF Committee who instigated and oversaw the project. The track received a state-of-the-art, UV resistant rubberized surface, which is expected to prolong the life span of the track considerably. Town of Stettler Councillor and member of the SURF Committee, Malcolm Fischer, addressed the history of the track and its use during the 1991 Alberta Summer Games, stating “the centerpiece of our legacy is this beloved track.” County Councillor Ernie Gendre added that the renovated track is the result of “a community that is not afraid to collaborate.”

Hayden also commended the financial support of the partners and sponsors who aided in the project. Special mention was given to Diamond Partner Inter Pipeline, who provided a significant contribution to the project. Says Breanne Oliver, Manager of Communications, “Inter Pipeline supports programs and initiatives that leave a self-sustaining legacy in the community, which is why we are proud to partner with the Stettler SURF Committee. We are pleased to join the community in supporting the upgrade of the recreational track facilities in town, where our employees and their families will also play.”

The ceremony concluded by welcoming guest of honor, Ethel Williams, to cut the ceremonial ribbon. Williams has an acclaimed history as a track star, and has been an ongoing supporter of the Stettler Community Recreation Track. Students from participating schools surrounded Williams as she cut the ribbon and ended the event with a celebratory lap around the track.

On behalf of the SURF Committee, Fischer concluded, “Stettler stands proud to have yet again shown commitment to a proud past and legacy, and a serious commitment to the future. All citizens of the area should share in that pride.”



GADSBY VIABILITY REVIEW UPDATE

In January 2019, following a request from the village council, the Minister of Municipal Affairs decided to undertake a viability review for the Village of Gadsby.

In May 2019, following the resignation of the village council and changes to the village administration, the Minister decided to expedite the viability review committing to distribute a viability report to residents, conduct a vote of village electors on the question of dissolution, and hold a public meeting just prior to the vote.

At the same time, the Minister appointed an official administrator to ensure council decisions are made during the viability review, and if applicable, to conduct a by-election for village council on completion of the review. Subsequently, the official administrator contracted administration services for the village from the County of Stettler.

Ministry staff led the preparation of the Village of Gadsby Viability Report based on information collected from the village and the County of Stettler. The village and county councils and administrations and municipal officials representing four Alberta municipal associations then reviewed and provided feedback on the draft report prior to the publication and distribution of the finalized report to village residents.

Following distribution of the Village of Gadsby Viability Report, Ministry staff will host a public information session in the Gadsby Community Hall later this fall to:

- outline the process to date and present the viability report;
- provide residents, property owners, and community stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions; and
- explain the next steps including the vote for village electors on the question of dissolution of the village.

Vote of Village Electors

Historically, the Provincial Cabinet has decided the future of a municipality based on the outcome of a vote on the question of dissolution.

Village electors will vote to either remain as the Village of Gadsby or become part of the County of Stettler. If the majority vote is to dissolve and become part of the neighboring municipality, the Minister is required to recommend dissolution to cabinet. However, it is ultimately cabinet's decision whether to dissolve the municipality or not. If the majority vote is to remain a municipality and cabinet agrees, the Minister will issue directives and require progress reports for five years.

The vote will be held over two days later this fall.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call. Watch the message board in Gadsby and the Village of Gadsby website for these important upcoming dates, and up-to-date information.

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 foot 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.

9

ZERO TOLERANCE

Please contact our Planning and Development Department when you start planning your development in order to ensure you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in good time. Anyone who intends to undertake a non-agricultural development in the County of Stettler No. 6 is required to first obtain a development permit from the County. This could also help you avoid any unforeseen expenses you may incur if your idea for your development does not comply with the County's policies and bylaws (e.g. yard setbacks, road upgrades, etc.), so you may make the necessary adjustments before you start digging or laying down concrete.

The County does not want to penalize anyone. Rather, we want to work with ratepayers to ensure the proper development approvals are issued in order to comply with Municipal, Provincial and Federal regulations. The County's Fee Bylaw states a penalty of \$1,000 for residential developments and \$2,000 for commercial developments that are started without the benefit of a development permit.

The County of Stettler No. 6 has adopted a zero tolerance approach to persons who start construction without the benefit of a development permit. All relevant penalties required pursuant to the County's Fee Schedule and other actions under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) for such a contravention will be strictly imposed on anyone who fails to obtain a development permit prior to construction start. This information has been made widely available and no exceptions will be made.



WEED OF THE MONTH

YELLOW TOADFLAX

Is a Noxious and invasive, perennial weed. Toadflax invasion is favored by disturbance, invading degraded areas such as roadsides, abandoned lots and fields, gravel pits, clearings, and overgrazed rangeland. Yellow toadflax was first introduced to North America in the late 1600s as an ornamental plant; it was widely distributed by the mid 20th century.

You may know it as: common toadflax, butter and eggs, common linaria, eggs and bacon, wild snapdragon, flaxweed, impudent lawyer, and Jacob's ladder.

Flowers: Distinct snapdragon-like flowers that are pale cream to yellow depending on growing conditions, with a "bearded" golden to orange throat. They grow to about 2.5 cm. long. The flowers grow in dense terminal clusters and bloom between July and October, depending on growing conditions.

Leaves: Numerous pale green, narrow leaves pointed at both ends. Leaves are about 6-7 centimetres long and grow alternately on the stem but may appear to be opposite.

Height: 30 to 60 centimetres tall but depending on growing conditions may be shorter or taller.

Habitat: This plant prefers well-drained, coarse-textured soils that can range from sandy loams to heavy clay to coarse gravels. However it grows better when in moist, fertile soils. They grow in fields, along the side of roads, waste areas and they can even make their way into people's gardens.

Why is it a problem: Contains a glucoside that is mildly poisonous to cattle, but poisonings are rare as it is generally not eaten. The plant competes with native grasses and alters species diversity. Dense populations can reduce forage production for livestock and wildlife. The plant spreads rapidly from buds on creeping root systems, as well as by wind-borne seed.

Management: All toadflax species are difficult to control. The plants are most susceptible when they are young, before they have established a large root system or flowered.

Tillage: Toadflax can be controlled by frequent and thorough tillage. Tillage should be started after harvest and continued throughout the following summer, be sure not to let plants flower. Then seed to a competitive crop such as wheat or barley between summer fallow years.

Competition crop: A grass could check the spread of toadflax but it is doubtful if it will ever eradicate it. Seed heavier than usual, do not overgraze the grass. It must be allowed to compete with the weed. Using the area for hay is preferable to grazing. Mowing yearly to prevent seed production is advisable.

Chemical: Use herbicides registered on Toadflax to control it. The best time to spray is early in the season before flowering, or if you mow to prevent seed production spraying at this time is also helpful.



RURAL WATER SERVICES NEEDS YOUR NUMBER

Environmental Services utilizes new handheld meter readers to quickly diagnose water problems.

As we're heading into the winter season, we are asking all seasonal cabin or home owners to provide the County of Stettler with their contact information (phone numbers).

With our new hand held meter readers we can quickly diagnose leaks or water issues when we are reading meters, however often we do not

have up-to-date contact information to inform citizens of a problem once it is detected. Not having your phone number, can turn a small problem into a big and a costly problem.

Please contact 403-742-4441 x111 at the County of Stettler and make sure we have emergency contact information in the event we identify a leak or water problem at your property.



BYLAW & POLICY UPDATES

Land Use Bylaw

The Land Use Bylaw has been under review and gone through the Public Hearing process. It will come back to Council at their Regular Council Meeting on November 6 for consideration. All suggested updates and revisions to the Land Use Bylaw are highlighted and can be found on our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca

Fee Bylaw

Our Fee Bylaw is currently under review by all departments. The current fee bylaw is available on our website. Fees outlined under our fee bylaw include Planning & Development fees like permits, fines for not having development permits, subdivision fees, rural development fund contributions and more. Administration fees including maps, tax roll certificates, complaints to the assessment review board will be reviewed as well as Fire Service fees, inspections and permits. Under Schedule C of the Fee Bylaw, Public Works fees will be reviewed and include signs, approach applications, snow plowing, grading of private laneways, road inspections and more. Agricultural Services Board fees are addressed under Schedule D and include weed inspection, private land spraying, labour, and all available rental equipment like the cattle scale, traps, noise cannons, and sprayers (backpack, skid-mount and field sprayers). Watch our website for proposed updates to the Fee Bylaw and for your opportunity to respond by letter or in person at the Public Hearing.

Aggregate Levy

Council has been investigating a Community Aggregate Levy Payment (CAP) Bylaw in 2019. We are currently collecting public input on this topic. Please take a minute to complete our Aggregate Levy Survey so Council may consider your opinions. This survey can be found and completed online at www.StettlerCounty.ca, or you can fill it out on page 16 of this magazine, and return it to us. The deadline to submit is November 14.



**Stettler Museum's
(6502 44 Ave)**

*Light The
Night*

Opening Night December 6



MEMBER AT LARGE? AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

County of Stettler Citizen Survey

At the August Agricultural Services Board meeting, your Agricultural Services Board discussed the idea and the possibility of changing our current Agricultural Board model, to include members of the public or as we refer to them - Members at Large.

Members at Large are members elected by the Board, to represent the public in matters of that board. Currently, the County of Stettler has Members at Large on several boards and committees including Stettler Waste Management Authority, the Stettler Public Library Board and the Rural Crime Committee.

Currently, our seven Council members serve on the Agricultural Services Board, but there is an opportunity for our Council to change the make-up of that board, to reduce the number of councillors sitting on it, and to add members of the public.

On our website, you will find a link to provide your feedback on whether you believe Members at Large should be considered to represent on our Agricultural Services Board. If you do not have access to the internet, you may fill out the survey on page 15 and return it to the County of Stettler at Box 1270, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, AB T0C 2L0 or scan and email it to info@stettlercounty.ca. Deadline to submit your feedback is November 14.



We are looking for your input:
Agricultural Services Board
Box 1270, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0
Email: asb@stettlercounty.ca

Our Agricultural Services Board (ASB) addresses current and local issues affecting agricultural production and develops policies and implements programs for the benefit of farmers and the environment. Currently our ASB consists of our seven council members, who meet monthly and attend conferences associated with Agriculture.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: NOVEMBER 14

1. Do you think Members at Large (public members), should be sitting on the ASB?

Yes

No

2. Do you think Members At Large should have a background or education in agriculture?

Yes

No

3. Would you be interested in putting your name forward, if our ASB adds Members at Large?

Yes

No

Name:

Address:

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:



We are collecting feedback:

County of Stettler

Box 1270, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0

Email: info@stettlercounty.ca

In our last issue of County Connection Magazine - we explained how Council for the County of Stettler will be considering a Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy later this fall. The purpose of a CAP Levy is to demonstrate the value of sand and gravel operations to our local community and decrease public opposition to these types of developments in our County. The idea behind collecting a CAP Levy is that the County will collect this levy to generate funds in which it can allocate back into the community. Please take a minute to fill out this survey and return it - or visit our website and fill it out online. After a CAP Bylaw is passed, Council will consider this input while they establish a policy outlining how CAP funds are used.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: NOVEMBER 14

1. What would you like funds collected from the CAP Levy to be used for? Check all that apply.

- Road repairs and maintenance around Aggregate Facilities
- Road improvements around Aggregate Facilities
- More Dust Control around Aggregate Facilities
- Dust Control in high traffic areas
- Road Repairs and Maintenance
- Road Improvements
- Community Improvements (Ball Diamonds, Playgrounds etc.)
- Recreation Funding
- Rural Crime Initiatives
- Emergency Preparedness

Comments/Other:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Thank you - we value your input!



17

RATEPAYER REQUEST? CONTACT US!

Citizen Request Tracker

Everyday, our entire organization works to ensure that our community is the very best place to live, work and play. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our service and communication with you, our citizens.

We rely on you, our ratepayers, to report to us any concerns or problems within our communities so that we can address them the best we can. Previously, the only way to report your concerns and share your ideas was to pick up the phone and call 403.742.4441, or to stop in for a visit. Until now.

The County of Stettler is proud to provide the **RATEPAYER REQUEST LINE**, available online. If you have a concern, want to report a problem or just want to share an idea, you can do so from the comfort of your own home and also from the convenience of your mobile devices.

Just head to www.StettlerCounty.ca and click on the “Submit a Request” button. You will be taken to a page where you can choose the category of the concern and/or request and fill out the form. Once you submit the request – it gets sent to councillors, department heads and employees all who will have a hand in fixing the problem. If you would like to receive feedback and follow the request through our system, you can sign-up as a member of our site and track your requests as

they work their way through our organization.

If you choose to sign up as a member, there are many other great benefits:

Notify Me: You can subscribe to Notify Me, and pick and choose the things you’d like to be notified about. It can be anything from news items, new Council agenda packages, road bans and emergency alerts. You can manage your notifications yourself, by turning on and off the things you’d like to be notified of.

Let’s Talk: You can also join our online idea center called “Let’s Talk”, where you can submit your ideas and concerns on our current projects, as well as propose new ideas. It’s a great way to be involved in the planning and future of your community.

Personalization: The profile you create allows you to set up a unique starting point for the tasks and transactions that you want to complete in your time on this website. Use your account to gather the information that you most care about from across the website into one central location, giving you greater control over how you connect with your community.

If you need help setting up any of these tools, please don’t hesitate to call 403-742-4441 and we’ll be happy to assist you with any questions you have about the website.

THE 22ND ANNUAL
Festival of Lights

NOVEMBER 26 - NOVEMBER 30, 2019

Silent auction open to the public for bidding: Tuesday to Thursday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bidding Closes Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. Admission: Cash Donation

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Open during public hours as listed & during all Special Events. With Local handmade items including sweets, quilted items, home decor, furniture, paintings and much, much, more.

Special Events

TICKETS GO ON SALE: OCTOBER 1ST AT
WISH KITCHEN & GIFT

Tuesday, November 26

ATCO PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Served: 7-9 a.m. Advance tickets: Adults: \$15
Kids: \$10 (ages 5-10) (4 & under are free) (BF)

CHRISTMAS SPIRITS 7-9 P.M.

Advance tickets- \$35
Seasonal drinks, snacks and
Entertainment featuring The Jazz Guys

Wednesday, November 27

TIM HORTONS SENIORS' TEA

1:30- 3:30 p.m. Admission: \$5 at the door

ART & CHEER

7-9 p.m. Advance Tickets \$35
Create your own art project with
Stephanie Hadley

Thursday, November 28

**CANALTA A&W BURGERS & BEER
FAMILY NIGHT**

5-7 p.m. Advance tickets or at the door
Adults: \$15 Kids: \$10 (ages 5-10)
(4 & under are free) (BF)

Friday, November 29

HOLLY JOLLY LUNCH

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - \$15 a person
Join friends & co-workers for a
hot lunch, market & final bidding on
Silent Auction items (BF)

Friday, November 29

SANTA'S MINI WORKSHOP

Stettler Agiplex 1-5 p.m. \$3/person.
Selfies with Santa (Bring your camera & capture
your child's visit with the big guy.), sleigh rides,
Christmas crafts & activities.
Includes cookies & hot chocolate

Saturday, November 30

DINE, DANCE & AUCTION CHRISTMAS GALA

Advance tickets: \$65 (\$25 Tax receipt issued) (BF)

(\$5/ ticket discount if you buy 8+)

Cocktails: 5:30 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Silent & Live Auction

Live Entertainment by: Jamie Woodfin
followed by a DJ

*All Proceeds Support The
Stettler Health Care Centre*

www.stettlerhealthfoundation.com





THE 2020 BUDGET PROCESS

Surveys, Results, Presentations

In the spring of 2018, Finance and Communication departments worked together to create a budget survey to allow residents to provide input into the budget process. We received great comments and feedback from this process, and ratepayers listed and prioritized which services were most essential to them.

Council used this information when debating the 2019 budget. After much success we decided to do a budget survey again. The information we have gathered to date will be used for the upcoming budget.

There are many important steps taken before drafting and approving our County's budget.

In the spring of 2019 the budget was sent out to all departments to complete their portion of the budget. Our budget consists of operational expenses and capital expenditures. With recent changes to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) we are now required to complete a four year operational budget and a six year capital budget. The reason for the increased budgeting projection is to ensure Municipalities and Councils are looking

forward and considering and projecting additional capital and operational costs.

The unique part of presenting the budget like this is only the first year of the budget is required to be balanced. Additional years can remain projected budgets.

After each department submits their proposed budget in August, finance and senior administration work together through September and October to ensure the budget is ready to present to Council.

Here are our planned budget dates to present to Council and the public.

- **November 21-22** – Budget workshop with Council and departments
- **December 5** – Budget workshop with Council and CAO and Finance
- **December 17, 1:30 PM – Public Budget Presentation: PUBLIC WELCOME**
- **January 9** – Council considers passing the budget: PUBLIC WELCOME

Please watch our website at www.StettlerCounty.ca for more information about our budget coming this fall.

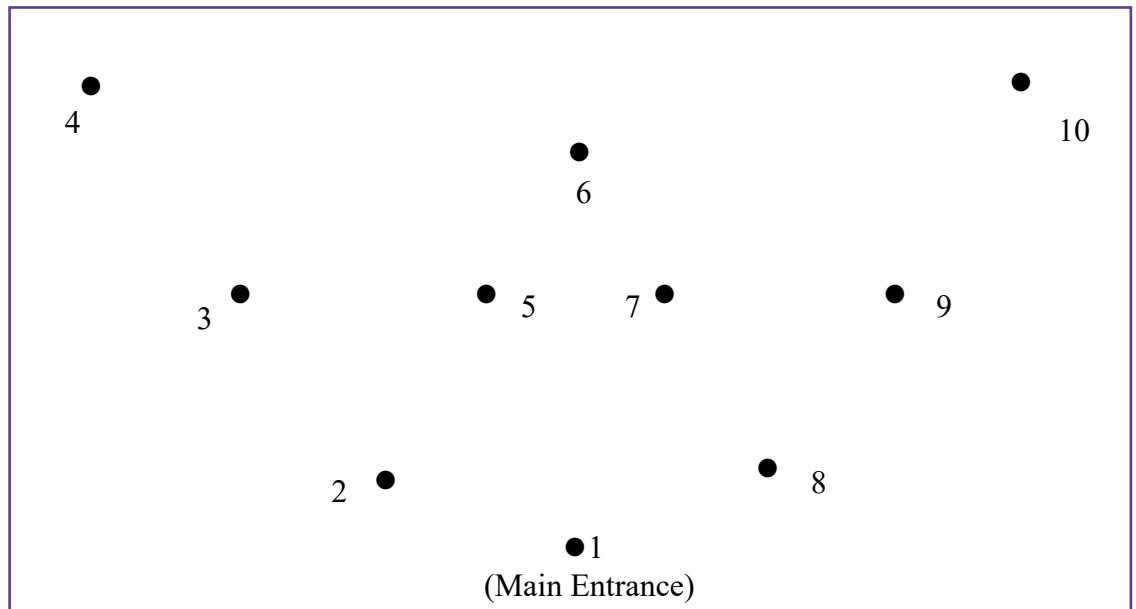


Figure 1. Canola survey pattern

CLUBROOT UPDATE 2019

Moving from medium to high risk.

As of 2018, 49 fields in Stettler County tested positive for clubroot. This means we moved from medium risk category to high risk in the County of Stettler No. 6. We joined 14 other municipalities in the high risk category.

As of last year, there were 41 municipalities positive for clubroot, if we have one more positive field detected within our borders, we will be in the top third for the highest number of positive fields in our province.

This means producers will need to be even more diligent when it comes to cleaning equipment between fields. Producers will need to watch rotations closer, not only between crop types, but also canola varieties, to best reduce the amount of volunteer plants from year to year. Consider where you are buying or borrowing equipment from, and give it all a good cleaning including disinfecting BEFORE it enters your fields.

Something else to keep in mind is the inclusion of 5 acre parcels at the gate of every field to be used as a “welcome mat” this is where your cleaning takes place coming onto, and leaving the field. Take time, every time, to knock off all excess topsoil here, wash equipment here, and disinfect in these areas. Many will think this will take away extra production, or profits, as we are taking acres out of productivity. However, if we don’t create spaces to clean equipment, we will decrease profits via reduced yields from hosts growing in the fields.

Here is the protocol we follow for testing, straight

from the province. Under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, we survey fields every year.

1. Clubroot sampling: Select an area about 20-30 m² in size around the main field entrance. Examine the roots of multiple (up to 100) plants within this area for the presence/absence of clubroot galls. If no clubroot symptoms are found, then no additional surveying for clubroot is required. If clubroot symptoms are found, please dig up and rate the roots of 10 plants at 10 additional locations evenly spaced (20-m) along a W-shaped transect (Figure 1) and rate for incidence and severity.
2. Using a pair of garden trimmers (secateurs), cut 10 canola stems at each of 10 locations along the W-shaped transect, just at the soil line and again 12 inches above the soil line. Place all the stem pieces from a single field into one large, sturdy paper bag (total of 100 stems for each field).
3. Label the bag with the following information OR fill out a survey data sheet and insert into bag (sample survey data sheet is shown on page 3):
 - a. Date
 - b. Name of surveyor
 - c. Contact info (email or phone #)
 - d. Municipality (County/MD/Special Area),
 - e. the location (LLD or GPS)
 - f. any relevant information regarding the cultivar or field history
4. Keep samples cool (in a cooler, or



Clubroot sample.

refrigerator) and arrange for immediate shipment, delivery or pickup of samples to the Crop Diversification Centre South in Brooks (store in a cooler or refrigerator until shipment)

Attn: Greg Daniels or Mike Harding
 Crop Diversification Centre South
 301 Horticultural Station Road East
 Brooks, AB T1R 1E6

(403-362-1338) office
 (403-376-0835) cell

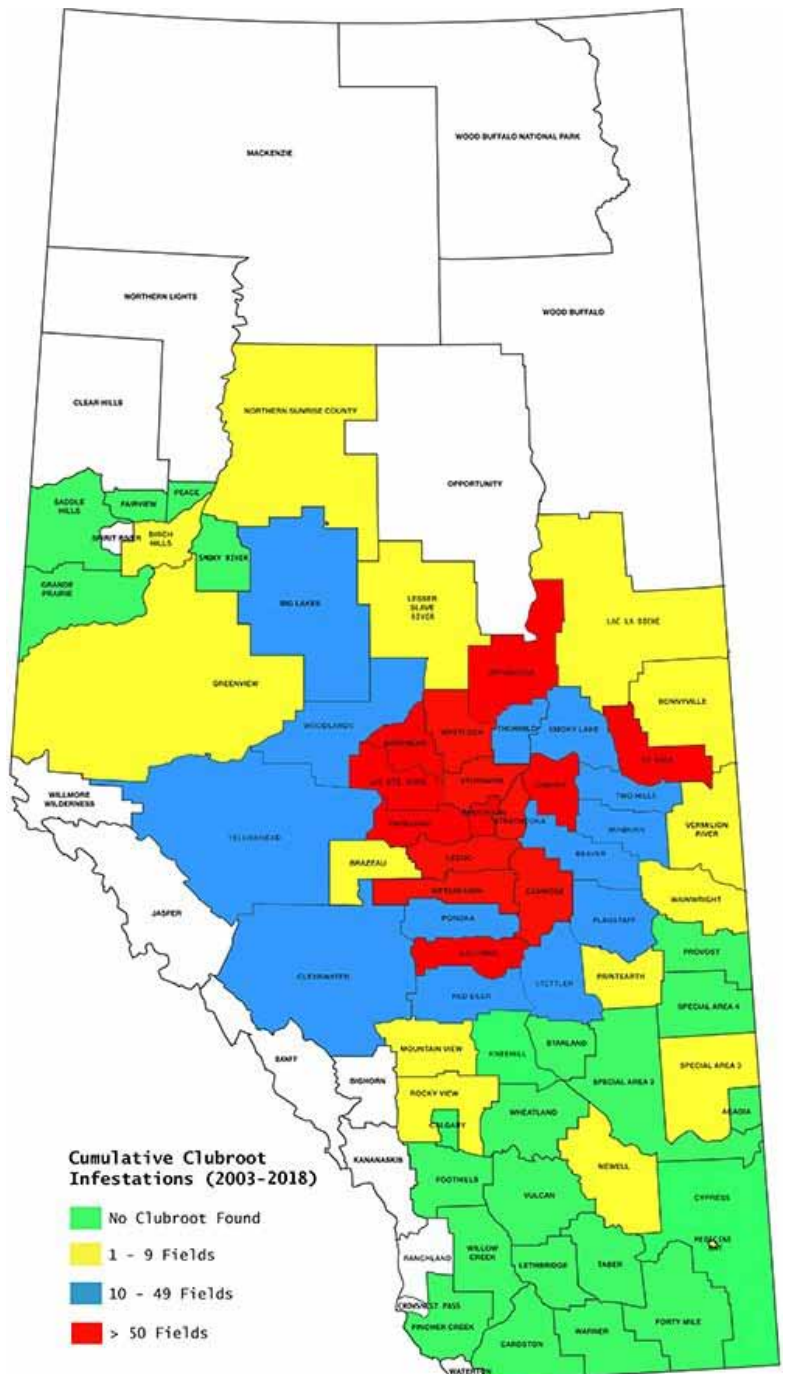
Special Considerations

1. Biosecurity

To prevent spread of unwanted pests, diseases or weeds (i.e. resting spores of the clubroot pathogen), appropriate sanitization protocols should be followed. For example, use of disposable boot covers, sterilization of tools and rubber boots with a 2% sodium hypochlorite solution; consult the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan for detailed information.

2. Survey timing

Surveying is often conducted after swathing, as it is easier to walk the fields; there is a greater possibility to see symptoms later in the season; farmers are also less likely to object to having stems cut. However, symptoms begin to deteriorate after swathing, so post-harvest surveys are only recommended when the fields can be surveyed within a few days of swathing. Fields that are not swathed, but straight-cut with a combine, are not suitable for the survey.





TAKE HOME NALOXONE KITS

Many of us are touched in some way by friends or family members who have experienced drug problems. Stettler District Ambulance Association would like to share important information with all of us. Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily reverse an opioid (such as fentanyl) overdose, so long as it is given right away and followed up by emergency medical care.

In other words: if you're having an overdose from opioid (such as fentanyl), naloxone can save your life.

You can get a Naloxone Kit to carry with you, when using drugs.

Fentanyl may be 100 times more toxic than morphine, heroin, or oxycodone. Even small amounts can result in overdose and it can be found in other drugs without you knowing.

If you're going to use:

- don't use fentanyl, or any other drug, while alone;
- start using in small amounts;
- do 'test shots' (or test doses);
- don't mix drugs;
- avoid speed balling;
- always carry a Naloxone Kit;
- call 911 if you or someone suspects a person is experiencing an overdose.

Call 911 immediately if an overdose is suspected. Canada's new Good Samaritan law can protect you.

Learn more at Canada.ca/Opioids

Together we can #StopOverdoses

If you need help or are concerned with someone else's substance use, call:

- Health Link at 811 or
- 1-866-332-2322 the Addiction Helpline (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Treatment options, information and resources on opioids are also available to patients, family, community agencies and health care professionals through an AHS Opioid Dependency Program as well as treatment clinics for opioid dependence.

SDAA will be supporting Alberta Health Services initiative of handing out naloxone kits (i.e. current and past opioid users) as well as family and friends. If you or anyone you know are in need, please feel free to approach our practitioners out in the community or swing by the ambulance station for a kit.

For further information you may contact Linda Borg 403-742-1900 or go to the following website for more information and locations.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/inf/page15586.aspx>.



PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SHALLOW GAS PRODUCERS

In July, the Government of Alberta announced an initiative to support shallow gas producers in our province.

They have requested municipalities to reduce taxes on shallow gas wells and pipelines by 35%. In 2019, the Alberta Government will cover the resulting loss in our revenues by compensating us through education tax requisitions.

The province took these steps knowing shallow gas producers are in a precarious financial situation as a result of prevailing market conditions, and the impact of high operating expenses, including property taxes. They are responding to the industry's request that property tax relief is urgently required to avoid:

- further company failures
- job losses
- impacts on communities
- abandonment of reclamation liabilities.

What does this mean to our County?

On September 25, Council made the motion and it was carried, and we will forgive 35% per cent of taxes on a list of qualifying shallow gas well producers which was supplied to us by the province. The province will cover this 35% loss in revenue this year, by reducing what we owe them for education taxes.

While property taxes are collected by municipalities, the assessment model used by municipalities to

set tax rates for linear properties such as wells and pipelines is determined by the province. The model has not been updated since 2005 and does not reflect the circumstances faced by many shallow gas producers with older, lower productivity assets. This situation has been made worse by lower commodity prices and other economic conditions and has the province taking this action.

The Shallow Gas Tax Relief Initiative (SGTRI) provides support to shallow gas producers to mitigate this outdated assessment model, which is expected to be updated for the 2020 tax year. This 2019 tax relief is interim relief. We can expect the new model to further impact our municipality in 2020.

Council will be attending the Fall 2019 Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) conference November 12-15 in Edmonton, and this is just one of the very important and pressing subjects they will be seeking clarification on and confirmation for.

Other advocacy items currently on our municipality's agenda include the future of 'policing costs' for municipalities, the future of Municipal Sustainable Initiative (MSI) funding for rural municipalities, and the requirement of our County to commit to Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks and Intermunicipal Development Plans with our neighboring municipalities, while the future of our revenue stream is so unknown.



PROACTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICES

With the rise of rural crime in the Province of Alberta one strategy that the County of Stettler has adopted is having a proactive Protective Services Department.

The County of Stettler has a Protective Services Department consisting of three Level One Community Peace Officers. These officers work around the clock for the residents of the County of Stettler including evenings and weekends. One of the functions of Protective Services is to conduct high visibility patrols in the community. The main goal of these high visibility patrols is to deter criminal activity. Our officers cannot be everywhere at once so if you are concerned about a particular area and would like additional patrols from Protective Services please contact us directly.

What's the difference between police and peace officers?

Peace Officers are appointed by the provincial government with province-wide authority to enforce provincial and municipal legislation. Some examples include the Petty Trespass Act, Traffic Safety Act, Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act.

The main difference is peace officers enforce provincial legislation, while police enforce the Criminal Code of Canada. This does not negate the fact that peace officers in the course of their duties can arrest/detain for breaches of the Criminal Code of Canada. Peace officers however do not respond to these types of incidents unless requested by the police of jurisdiction.

In the event of an emergency or crime in progress



it is essential to contact 911 to reach the police of jurisdiction.

Our peace officers also sit on the Rural Crime Prevention Committee, consisting of council members and members of the public. The committee meets frequently in order to debate new ideas or initiatives that can be implemented across the region to reduce rural crime.

An initiative from the committee was to create a WhatsApp group that can be subscribed to by contacting an administrator. This group was specifically created to address suspicious or criminal activity in an area. Another initiative from the committee was to create the “Coffee with a Cop” program. This gives residents a chance to

talk with a local officer in an informal setting asking any questions or addressing any concerns they may have.

If you would like more information on the roles and responsibilities of Protective Services, or have any other concerns please contact us at 403-741-6133.

FALL INTO READING AT STETTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Think fall and you think of all the best things, big sweaters, pumpkin spice and evenings spent curled up with a great book. The return of fall can also mean a return to learning for all age groups, from the very young to the young at heart. At the Stettler Public Library we are excited about the coming year and a return to programming for all ages, we do have something for everyone.

The library is pleased to partner with a number of local organizations to offer some exciting new program options. We are now working with our local chapter of Toastmasters to bring their fantastic public speaking program to you at the Stettler Recreation Centre. Work on your public speaking skills in a supportive environment where you will have fun. Pick up valuable leadership skills along the way.

We are looking for teens who would be interested in participating in a Youth Leadership program offered by our local Toastmasters at the library. This program will provide teens with skills in the art of communication and leadership that they will be able to use throughout the rest of their lives. For more information, or if you are interested in registering, contact the library at 403-742-2292. Looking for homework help? Drop by Mondays from 4-6 pm or Tuesdays from 5-8 pm to see our certified instructor in the library. From the library or home you can also try out Solaro, a new e-resource

that provides homework help and practice tests for the Alberta grades 3-12 curriculum. It is available in the e-Library portion of our website at <http://spl.prl.ab.ca>.

Also new this fall is a French language conversation circle, La Connexion. Held every 1st Thursday of the month, this program will help you practice and improve your skills with the French language in a friendly group environment. This fall we are also continuing our English Conversation Café in partnership with the Stettler Learning Centre. Learning facilitators will be on hand on Mondays from 10-11:30 am starting September 23 and Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm starting October 2. Come practice your English and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with us! Check out Pronunciator, our online language learning platform also available in the e-Library.

October 1 kicks off our first cooking class with Chef Sophear (Pete) Sok at the Wm E Hay Secondary Campus. Chef Pete will show us how to create delicious South East Asian dishes like grilled lemongrass beef skewers and a delicious Khmer Country Chicken Curry Stew along with side dishes and dessert, perfect for those cooler evenings. Watch for upcoming information on our November 5 cooking class, when we will be joined by Mairead Lockhat. This time we will set off to explore the delicious cuisine of India.



Councillor Nibourg participating in the Summer Reading Program at Stettler Public Library.

October also means Halloween and lots of spooky things. Get in the spirit with one of our last Historic Ghost Walks of the season. Learn more about historic Stettler's ghostly past and have a scream of a good time! The evening starts outside the Stettler Hotel, meanders through the streets of downtown Stettler and lands back at the hotel for snacks (and a tour of the hotel basement). Tickets are \$20, this Friends of the Stettler Public Library fundraiser has been a hit with members of the community and guests from out of town, don't miss it.

December brings two very special events, the International Potluck on December 5 and Wine Survivor on December 7. The International Potluck is a crowd favorite at the Stettler Public Library, there is no cost to attend, just bring a dish from your own family tradition. We'll share good food and get to know our neighbors in the community. There will be festive music to add to the fun and get you in the holiday spirit.

Speaking of spirits, make sure yours are bright this year. Join us for the 2nd Annual Wine Survivor elimination party on December 7 at 7:30 pm. The Friends of the Stettler Public Library are busy making their lists and checking them twice. Your \$20 entry fee and bottle of wine (min. \$15) gives you access to this event that is open to

members and invited guests only (not a member? Membership at the library is FREE).

We'll have great entertainment, fun activities, refreshments and more. You can win up to 60 bottles of wine to take you through the dinner party season, holidays and still have wine to gift others over the holidays! Stop by the library to pick up your ticket. Not in town on the 7th? Not an issue, you do not have to be present at the elimination party to win, talk to us for more information.

We have so much more programming for children and adults, stop by the library to pick up our latest brochure, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at spl.prl.ab.ca to find out what is on at SPL. Thanks to the generous support of County and Town Council, we are able to provide you with access to a wealth of information with your free library membership. Stop by the library to learn more about everything available to you through your membership with the Stettler Public Library, we are looking forward to meeting you.

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



Hail damage on some siding but replacing it all?
Offer your undamaged siding to others rather than losing it to our landfill forever.

Here are some options:

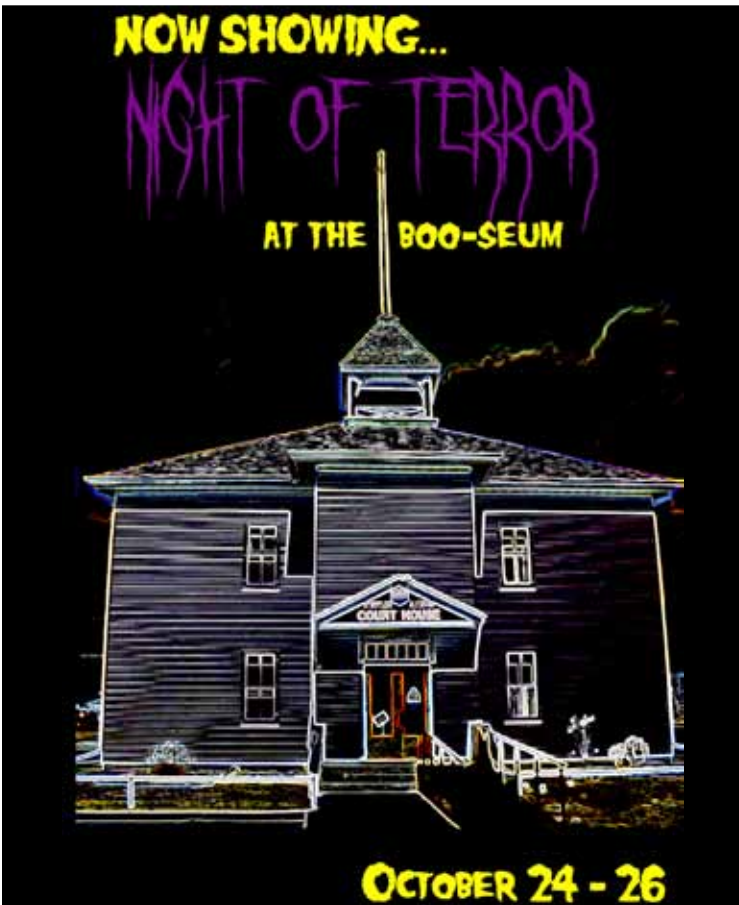
1) Post what you have to offer on Facebook:

Stettler Connection
Stettler Items Too Good to Toss Out
Stettler Buy and Sell
Your own Facebook page

2) Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Red Deer is happy to take our area's undamaged siding, both from individuals and from contractors. They are a non-profit group that enables affordable home ownership. A tax receipt will be issued, based on what they sell your items for. (i.e. a 12 foot length sells for \$3)
<http://habitatreddeer.ca/restore/donate/>

Organized by the Heartland Beautification Committee. Have other ideas for re-use of siding?
Tell us at: stettlerbeautification@gmail.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS



NIGHT OF TERROR at the BOO-SEUM

October 24-26, 2019

- Admission charged at the door
 - Small concession on site
- Contact Stettler Museum for more information at 403-742-4534.

YUMMMMM....

Linda Hall Fall Supper

Sunday, November 3

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Adults \$ 14.00

12 & Under \$6.00

Preschool Free

Byemoor Roast Beef Supper

Saturday, October 26

4:00-7:00 PM

Alberta beef with all the trimmings and homemade desserts.

Byemoor Community Hall

Erskine Fall Supper

Saturday, October 26

4:30-7:30 PM

Erskine I.O.O.F. Hall

0-4 FREE; 5-9 \$5.00; 10-14 \$10.00; 15 and up \$15.00

Red Willow Fall Supper

Friday, October 18

6:00-8:00 PM

Donalda Ag Society Annual Harvest Supper

October 26

5:00-7:00 PM

Roast Beef and the Works

Adults \$15 Children under 12 Free

LIGHT THE NIGHT - Stettler Town and Country Museum Lighted exhibit to view walking, by wagon ride or from your vehicle

- Dec. 6 - Opening Night - Bake Sale; Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
- Dec. 7 - Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
- Open Friday & Saturday evenings, plus 3 days before Christmas Day. Antique Tractor most evenings.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2019 Stettler Pheasant Festival

October 18-20, 2019

- Private Hunts
- Beginner Hunt / Learn to Pheasant Hunt (Friday)
- Smoker (Smoked Meat Social/Liquor Tasting) at Stettler Ag Society
- Dog Training (Saturday)
- Trap Shooting Competition (Saturday)
- Learn to Cook Pheasant (Saturday)
- Pheasant Festival Banquet with LIVE and SILENT Auctions (Saturday)

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED for these events! Please contact the Stettler Board of Trade at 403-742-3181 or visit www.stettlerpheasantfestival.com to register to participate in any of these unique local activities!



Byemoor Santa Claus Day Parade

Saturday, November 30

1:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Crafts, bake table, Pictures with Santa, Christmas trees and more.

To book a table call 403-579-2460
Byemoor Community Hall.

Donalda Village Christmas

December 1

Noon-5:00 PM



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