



Stettler County **CONNECTION**

WINTER 2023

PICTURE PERFECT

OUR
HAPPY AT
HOME 2023
PHOTO
CONTEST
WINNERS



**COUNTY IN YOUR
COMMUNITY
EVENTS**
INSIDE COVER

**120 YEARS OF
JOHN DEERE**
AUGUST 11-13, 2023

**WE WANT TO
TALK 'WATER'**
SURVEY ON PAGE 15



JOIN THE COUNTY
OF STETTLER FOR
**COUNTY IN YOUR
COMMUNITY EVENTS**



JOIN COUNCIL &
ADMINISTRATION TO
DISCUSS CURRENT
PROJECTS IN THE
COUNTY

WITH SPECIAL
GUESTS:
THE STETTLER RCMP
& STETTLER FCSS

WE'LL BE IN...

- BYEMOOR, MARCH 9
 - ERSKINE, MARCH 16
 - BIG VALLEY, APRIL 13
 - BUFFALO LAKE, MAY 26
- MORE TO FOLLOW

JOIN US FOR A MEAL!
FOR CATERING PURPOSES,
PLEASE RSVP VIA:

WWW.STETTLERCOUNTY.CA/GATHER
403-742-4441





ON THE COVER

“Outdoor Hockey Game”
View our Happy at Home
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Photo by: Marlaine Duncan

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WEED OF THE MONTH

Flowering Rush



EXPLORE AND CONNECT FOR FREE AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Yvette Cassidy

Councillors**Ward 1: Byemoor-Endiang**

Les Stulberg

Ward 2: Big Valley

Dave Grover

Ward 3: Botha-Gadsby

Larry Clarke

Ward 4: Erskine-South Warden

James Nibourg

Ward 5: Stettler

Ernie Gendre

Ward 6: Erskine-Buffalo Lake

Justin Stevens

Ward 7: Donalds-Red Willow

Paul McKay

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INTRO

"We've got a new look and the County is hitting the road in 2023"

Over the last few months, we've changed the look of our website and our magazine. Changes were initiated through your public input. We heard from you and we are dedicated to making our website and magazine more user-friendly for our residents. Our new look takes inspiration from the beauty of the wide-open spaces within our County. Whether it's the gold of a wheat field, the blue of the Albertan sky, or our beloved County of Stettler burgundy, our colors represent our County.

Councillors and Administration are dedicated to being accessible to our residents. This extends far beyond our new layout. We want to hear from you. Be on the lookout for public participation opportunities, including surveys, public hearings, and other public events.

We're excited to be planning some 'County in Your Community' events starting this spring. These events will occur at different Community Halls throughout the County and are open to all County landowners and ratepayers. These events offer opportunities to come and chat with your Council and Administration about current and upcoming projects and services or discuss other questions you might have. The 'County in Your Community' events include:

- March 9 – Byemoor Community Hall
- March 16 – Erskine IOOF Community Hall
- April 13 – Big Valley Jubilee Hall
- May 26 – Ol' MacDonald's Resort

More 'County in Your Community' events will be announced as 2023 continues. For more information, visit our website, follow us on social media, or contact your Councillors.

Please enjoy our first edition of County Connection 2023.



Niki Thorsteinsson
Director of Communications



REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

Larry Clarke - Reeve, County of Stettler

As I look out the window and the thermometer reads -5 C, this winter has given us a lot of blowing snow and cold periods that have been a challenge to equipment and personnel to keep our roads open and in winter driving conditions. We still have a few weeks to go and should be prepared for more as we do live in Alberta.

These past years have been challenging with the repeated reduction in tax collection due to unpaid/uncollectible taxes and assessment changes that lowered oilfield collectable taxes. Staff and Council worked through these challenges and reduced staff and cut many projects and activities. Additionally, we have actively lobbied the provincial government to make changes to the regulations and the Municipal Government Act (MGA), which would allow municipalities more backing in the collection of unpaid taxes for oilfield companies. This, along with legal actions against operating companies that have chosen not to pay taxes has greatly reduced the amount owing to our municipality. These actions take a lot of time and effort, but forces these individuals to be a good corporate citizens and pay their taxes. Machinery and Equipment and linear taxes also must pay the School Requisition, Policing, Recreation, Stettler Housing and Stettler Waste the same as any other ratepayer in the County of Stettler. These requisitions are collected by the County but then paid out to these other functions - regardless of if we have successfully managed to collect these taxes or not.

Recovery of these taxes is achievable until these

properties are placed to the orphan well fund or a company goes into receivership. We, as County of Stettler ratepayers were 'taken to the cleaners' by the executive of Trident Exploration who decided not to pay taxes, while continuing to purchase other low return properties while negotiating payment plans on overdue and present taxes with the County of Stettler. Trident ran the company into receivership while still receiving their compensation, bonuses and eventually payouts of contracts when the company went essentially broke. The receiver's solution in this matter was to shut the facilities in and release all employees and contractors, leaving local vendors and contract operators also in a deficit position-not being paid for work and services that had been supplied. Some unpaid operators acted in a professional and ethical manner and ensured wells and facilities were properly shut in and de-pressured; ensuring protection to the equipment, surrounding residents and the environment. We are very fortunate for this. Hats off for the loyalty and commitment these operators showed to our area and neighbours.

The County of Stettler was in negotiation on tax payment and tried to continue these with the receiver but soon discovered we, as a municipality, were not high up or on the receiver list. Upon consulting with lawyers, we went to court alongside Woodlands County to try and recover a total, or portion of the approximate \$7,000,000 outstanding overdue combined taxes owing to our two municipalities. This was recently overturned in court due to the wording

REEVE'S RAMBLINGS

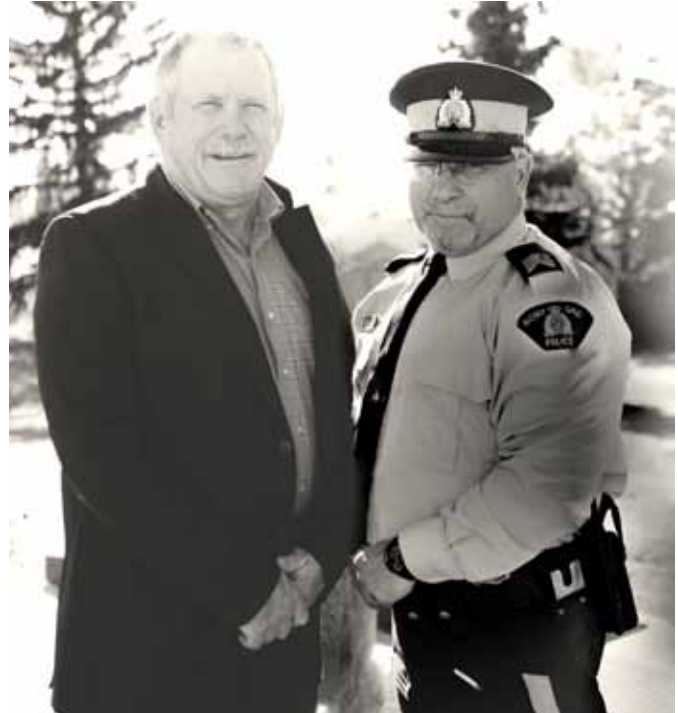
of regulations. At January's Council meeting we wrote off the taxes to Trident. We have sent the summary of the rulings to all our member RMA Municipalities and to the RMA, to use in the lobby to provincial government to correct these issues.

By writing off these unpaid taxes we can apply for a Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) re-payment and a Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) re-payment. The County of Stettler spearheaded and lobbied the provincial government into paying back these uncollected requisitions to effected municipalities in January of 2018. Our lobbying has resulted in millions of dollars of uncollected school requisitions being recovered by multiple rural municipalities, reflecting the depth of knowledge and drive of our County of Stettler administration and staff. The current estimated PERC payback on the Trident write off is \$470,914 plus the DIRC estimated repayment of \$14,330 which can be recovered by the County upon Ministerial approval. The other requisitions are non-recoverable and are part of the written off taxes.

The Trident receivership action cost the County in taxes and requisitions, legal fees, and other escalating results, as the Nevis Keyera gas plant was shut in at this time due to the plant not being able to run economically at the reduced gas throughput. This further reduces collectable taxes to the County and affected our area with the loss of employment and contract jobs at the plant. This move also jeopardized all sour production in the plants surrounding area as there was no processing and sales of the sour solution gas which could be a lasting legacy to our area. This along with contractors and vendors not being paid is totally unacceptable and through RMA and lobbying efforts we should make changes to the unfair legislation.

Our County operates annually on approximately \$9.8 million dollars and these proposed losses in revenue are very difficult to incorporate into our budget. We maintain 2,777 km of roads and 117 bridges with many of them built and maintained for the oil and gas industry. A loss such as this cannot be absorbed and with limited sources of income. The question must be asked then, whether services and programs will require cuts or elimination?

We fully support our oil and gas industry and our reputable majority of producers; however, these



Remembering our friend and Staff Sergeant Bruce Holliday, RCMP.

Photo by Amy Rae Photography.

incidents threaten the rural viability and existence of ourselves and many more municipalities in our province. We believe every company, industry and person in our province has benefited from oil and gas, and we believe the burden of responsibility for helping the industry in turn needs to be shared. Thanks again to CAO Cassidy and her dedicated staff for keeping County operations running through these issues and as always putting the future of the County of Stettler first.

This has been a very trying and emotional time for Council, staff and our community, processing the death of our RCMP Staff Sergeant and friend, Bruce Holliday. He was truly the definition of community policing and in the 1 ½ years he was here did so much for our community and our youth. Please have Bruce's family in your prayers as they navigate this journey forward. Be safe in all activities and travels and as stated before, please treat County of Stettler staff, and all our wonderful business frontline workers with respect, as you would your neighbors and friends.

Larry Clarke, REEVE

COUNCIL ADVOCACY

Highlights from the Fall Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Conference.



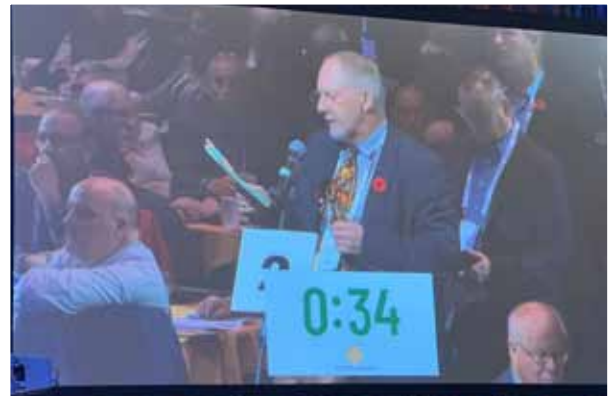
Council joined other RMA member municipalities in Edmonton to discuss joint issues and collaboration opportunities. They also had several opportunities to speak to representatives of our provincial government.



Reeve Clarke and Deputy Reeve Gendre at the Mayors' and Reeves' Meeting.



County Council members meeting with the new Minister of Municipal Affairs, Rebecca Schulz.



Councillor James Nibourg gets a minute at the mic to question the ministerial panel.



Councillor Justin Stevens questioning the panel.



Councillor Ernie Gendre receiving his 9 year pin for public service, as Councillor of Ward 5-Stettler.



SNOWPLOW SERVICE AND SAFETY

As we move into the second half of our winter season, we at the County of Stettler are preparing for everything else mother nature may throw at us. Although it has been a difficult year with blowing snow and drifts, we feel our operators have and will continue to do an outstanding job keeping our roads safe.

The order of service in which the plows follow is defined by our Snowplow Policy 2.28, set by County Council. Council often discusses, debates and revisits the 'level of service' deemed appropriate.

The Policy 2.28: Snow Plowing Service Standards states that:

- 1. All hard surfaced roads will be cleared first; including the Airport, Hamlets, Subdivisions and main access roadways to subdivisions; via our plow trucks.**
- 2. Next, the Graders plow our gravel roads, starting in alternating locations, plowing in a grid pattern. Winging snow back from the shoulders has a second priority. Snowplowing is undertaken in a manner that minimizes backtracking and excessive road travel. This may have an effect on the actual priority of plowing.**

- 3. Laneways are often plowed in conjunction with gravel roads. However when we are unable to keep up with County road plowing, then laneways are cleared at a later date.**
- 4. Farm access roads shall not be plowed unless deemed necessary by the Director of Operations or designate.**
- 5. Farm access roads will be opened only once upon request, at the grader operator's convenience and only once Order of Priority 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.**
- 6. Snowplowing to bins, haystacks, out-buildings or corrals is not allowed.**
- 7. Request for banks to be pushed back on oil and gas lease access only roads will be considered, only while the grader is able to complete the task. Once banks are too large for the grader to move them, requests will be denied. Requests will be completed at the grader operator's convenience and only once Order of Priority 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.**
- 8. No snowplowing service of driveways on private property situated in Hamlets or for multi lot subdivisions.**

The goal is to remove snow and ice from the hard surfaced road areas as efficiently and safely as possible and to remove snow from the gravel

surfaced road areas and laneways after compacted accumulations reach approximately 15 cm or more. Time frames will vary on the severity and duration of the storm.

For safety reasons we follow these conditions as set out in Policy:

2.28: Snow Plowing Service Standards

9. Grader operators may operate when temperatures are -30 or colder only if approved by the Director of Operations.

10. The County of Stettler No. 6 shall have the right to refuse to snow plow, when in the opinions of the Director of Operations, CAO and/or grader operator it would be hazardous or difficult to do so.

11. Grader operators may work extra hours in extreme conditions, however, when it is deemed unsafe, their hours will be reduced.

A question we often get at the County is 'Are the plows out today'? Please be assured all of our plow trucks and graders are out every day after a storm or heavy snow fall, until the roads are satisfactory. In these situations, our operators typically work 12 hour days.

The County of Stettler has a policy which prohibits the practice of pushing snow from driveways across the County roads. This practice puts all drivers at risk and creates problems for operators and can result in large ridges of snow being left on the roadway. Once these ridges start to melt and then refreeze it can throw a vehicle out of control, which in the past has been known to cause damage to vehicles as well as interfering with our normal grading practice. This can also negatively impact the quality of the roads and quantity of gravel remaining on the County roads.

The County Policy 2.20: Private Land Owner Snow Removal Guidelines states that:

12. The County of Stettler No. 6 reserves the right to control snow removal and placement on their roads and in their right of ways.

13. No one is permitted to operate snow removal equipment for the purpose of removing snow from County Roads unless previously authorized by the CAO or his/her designate.

14. When Private Landowners remove or relocate snow from their property, they are prohibited from pushing the snow onto or across any County road or right of way.

15. Failure to comply with the policy will result in the landowner assuming the liability for any and all damages

that were incurred as a result of the moved or piled snow.

16. Notices of non-compliance will be issued to first-time offenders by the Road Maintenance Supervisor. Repeat instances of non-compliance will be held responsible for damages as outlined in 3.

The bylaw allows for a fine to be levied; however, we would prefer not to issue fines, instead requesting for your cooperation in this matter. Please help us protect yourself, your neighbours, road users, County equipment and operators, and refrain from pushing your snow across the County roads.

When plowing laneways; the safety of our children, our pets and pedestrians is of the utmost importance. We know that kids love to play outside, it is an excellent form of recreation, exercise and fun. Let's keep in mind that our operators are often working in less than ideal conditions, in the dark and in the snow, and our drivers require children to stay far back from the equipment. If they are out playing in the snow, make sure they are wearing bright visible clothing. Discourage them from making tunnels and dens in the snow drifts alongside the driveway as our drivers always worry someone is hiding inside when they come by to make a pass with fresh snow. Everyone should always stay back at least 20 meters from equipment. Please take a minute to educate your children, grandchildren and guests about snowplow safety.

Our County equipment and operators are unable to assist with towing vehicles out of ditches. This is a liability issue for the County and we will not make any exceptions.

We take pride in our work and our County. We will be out after each and every storm, and we will work as quickly as possible to keep Stettler County moving. We are very proud of the team we have here at the County of Stettler and believe we will only improve with constructive changes and positive encouragement moving forward.

As we near an end to the snowy season, we will gradually shift our focus to brushing projects, bridge and culvert inspections, approaches and signage.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WHAT DO WE DO WITHOUT STRYCHNINE.

Many of our Ratepayers have asked, "How do we control the Richardson Ground Squirrel without the use of Strychnine"?



The Pest Management Regulatory Agency division of Health Canada made the decision to take 2% liquid Strychnine, for the purpose of controlling Richardson Ground Squirrels, off the market. It can no longer be sold, due to the environmental consequences associated with its use. Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act, all registered pesticides must be re-evaluated by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to ensure they continue to meet current health and environmental standards and continue to have value. The last date of sale by Municipalities was March 4, 2022, and the last day for permitted use is March 4, 2023. Please be aware that continued possession and/or use of the product after this date is a violation of the Pest Control Products Act.

Agricultural Services has found some options to consider as a replacement.

Ground Force

A multi-feed anticoagulant rodenticide in pellet form that controls several rodent species including voles, ground squirrels, rats, and house mice. Ground Force contains the active ingredient Chlorophacinone. Ground Force is easy to use and moisture resistant so it can be used in wet conditions or prior to snowfall without pre-baiting hand baiting or bait stations.

This product is available in a 10 kg pail (22 lb).

Rozol RTU (Ready-to-Use) – Field Rodent Bait

Rozol RTU is a general-use pesticide made using the multi-feed anticoagulant Chlorophacinone. It is a treated grain and can be used anytime ground squirrels are active. It may be used as spot baiting on the surface, in bait stations, hand or probe application below ground, or for machine application using a mechanical burrow builder.

Continued on page 9.

Continued...

Rozol RTU is easy-to-use, because there is no need to pre-treat, and its quick acceptance means fewer repeat applications, resulting in labour savings and a low applied cost per acre.

How To Use: Place bait stations (every 30 to 60 meters) in early spring, using 500 grams per bait station. Bait stations should be maintained with an uninterrupted supply for three weeks or until signs of feeding have stopped. Alternatively, use 7 to 14 grams per burrow, with re-baiting permitted after 48 hours. Baiting in the fall and summer will give best results. Rozol RTU is safe to use without the need for protective eyewear or a dust mask.

This product is available in a 9 kg pail or a 22.7 kg bag.

Ramik Green

Ramik Green is a multi-feed anticoagulant rodenticide. It is easily applied in pellet form that controls mice, rats, and ground squirrels. Ramik contains the active ingredient Diphacinone. Ramik is easy to use and can be applied in wet or dry conditions.

This product is available in a 10 kg pail.

Vitamin K1 is the antidote for Rozol, Ground Force, and Ramik.



Image of a County-built bait station for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrel.

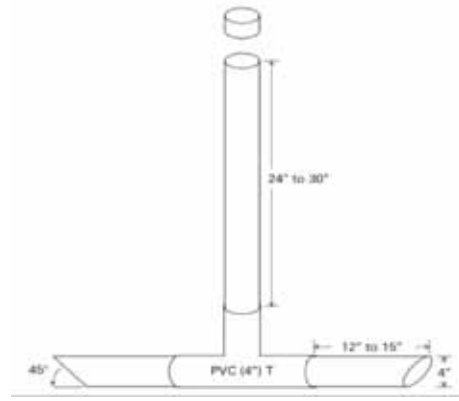


Image of the Alberta Agriculture "T style" bait station that requires a post to strap to.

Strychnine Alternatives Handling and Storage

Bait Stations

An alternative to hand baiting or spot baiting is using a bait station. Most farm retailers carry a wide variety of commercially manufactured bait stations that are affordable, durable, and work very well. If using the "T" shape style bait station, it should be placed and properly secured (use wire) to a fence post to prevent stock from rubbing it and knocking it over. Each station should contain about 500 g (1 lb) of bait. Bait stations should be checked daily to maintain an uninterrupted supply of bait for a few weeks or until feeding ceases. One bait station will expose rodents from 50 to 100 m away to the bait. A popular homemade bait station that works well is a 1.2 to 2 m length of PVC pipe, 10 to 15 cm in diameter. Like other bait stations, these stations should be well secured to the ground to prevent spillage. Another type of bait station is a self-standing station that can be placed in the middle of fields, note that these should still be staked down so wind and animals do not knock them over.

As always, other options to help control the Richardson Ground Squirrel are trapping, fumigation or shooting.

Other mechanical controls include cultivating fields to destroy burrows and mounds; leaving field margins tall to allow for predators, such as foxes to den; or to leave grass tall on fence lines for coyotes and weasels to hunt. Rotating crops, cleaning up spilled grain, and removing hiding places such as boards or garbage can be effective.

For further information or any questions, please contact the Manager of Agricultural Services.

DEVELOPMENT SETBACKS INFORMATION.

Setbacks serve many purposes including:

- Separating buildings to prevent the spread of fire.
- Providing a space for dust to settle along gravel roads.
- Preventing drifting snow from building up over roads.
- Making sure visibility is not blocked for travelling motorists and managing risk to motorists.
- Separating uses and activities that could have a negative impact on another use - like noise or odour.
- Preserving natural features and preventing pollution of creeks and water bodies.
- Avoiding hazard lands that may not be suitable for buildings like floodplains and steep slopes.
- Creating a desired appearance or look for development along public roads.

The County's Land Use Bylaw creates a variety of setbacks depending on the land use designation of the land and the setting. The most common are the setbacks from County roads.

All buildings and structures, including farm related buildings, must be setback 125 feet from the centerline of all County roads abutting the property. This includes granaries and dugouts.

Shelterbelts must be setback 75 feet from the centerline of all County roads abutting the property.

For more information regarding setbacks or development in the County of Stettler please contact the County's Development Officer at 403-742-4441.

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors also requires setbacks for properties along all provincial highways. The setback distance that applies can be obtained by contacting Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors staff at 403-854-5550 or their website www.transportation.alberta.ca.



Did you know...

Setbacks are minimum distances required between a structure or feature on a property and the closest property lines or between structures and features on the same property.



STARTING DEVELOPMENT BEFORE APPROVAL? APPROVAL FIRST, CONSTRUCTION SECOND.

Starting to clear land and build before obtaining development permit approval comes with significant risks. You may be faced with a financial penalty in the form of an additional fee or fine. You could also be required to undo all the work that has been done.

The County of Stettler requires development permit approval for most changes to property. This approval must be given in writing before construction of the development begins. Some forms of development, like agricultural buildings, do not require a development permit approval. These are listed in the Land Use Bylaw under the heading “Development Deemed Approved.”

The County’s Fee Bylaw includes penalties for developments that are started before a development permit application has been approved. Our policy is to apply these penalties based on a zero-tolerance approach. Our preference is to work with applicants as they plan their project.

Please contact the Planning & Development department when you start planning your development in order to ensure you obtain the required development permit and other approvals in a timely manner. This could also avoid any expenses that you may incur if your idea for your development does not comply with the County’s policies and bylaws (e.g. yard setbacks, road upgrades, etc.), so that you can make the necessary adjustments before you start digging or laying down concrete.

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

2023 COUNTY OF STETTLER VEGETATION CONTROL PLAN

As legislated under the Alberta Weed Control Act, the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board will be conducting roadside vegetation control for invasive species in the north third of the County (north of Township 400, to the County of Camrose border and west of Range Road 164 to Buffalo Lake and the Red Deer River).

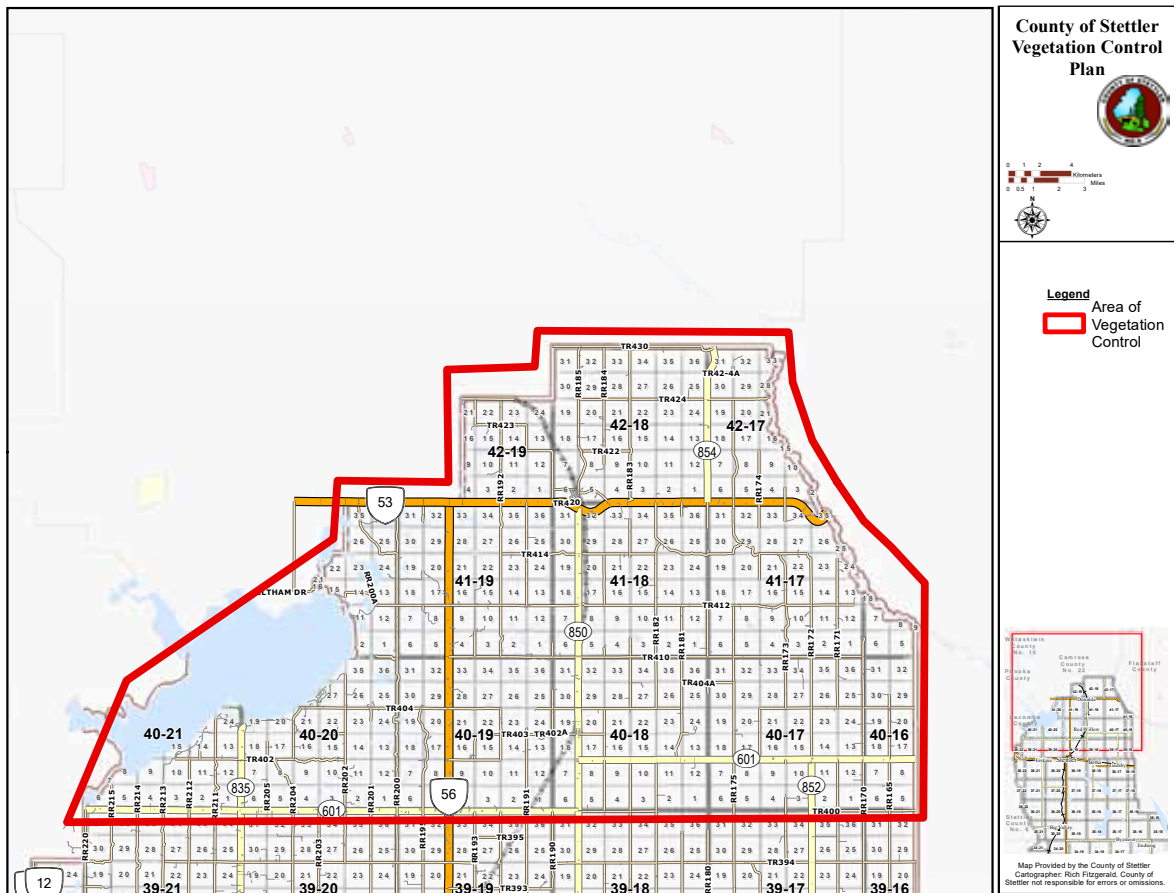
Adhering to Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta standards, we will carry out the program for these reasons:

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

- After heavy rainfall, the road will dry faster with less vegetation in the ditch to hold moisture.
- Control and destroy prohibited and noxious weeds.

If you would prefer to control weeds and brush, using methods that differ from the County's program, you are required to fill out a spray exemption form annually. The deadline of acceptance of these forms is May 5, 2023, 4:00 pm.

Our program states there is to be not any vegetation control performed within 30 meters of your yard. For any questions regarding this program, or to fill out a Spray Exemption Form please call the Manager of Agricultural Services at 403-742-4441.



Fill out a Spray Exemption Form before May 5 if you reside in the above highlighted area and prefer to control weeds and brush yourself.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

The County of Stettler recognizes community organizations should be supported in principle and with resources when it comes to assisting with the increasing costs of holding community events.

The Community Investment Program was introduced to manage these ongoing requests. Funding under this program is one-time and is not to be relied upon as a continuing source of income. Council fully expects community organizations to be self-sustaining and to develop working relationships with contributing partners.

Stettler County Council approved the following organizations funding for events:

• Stettler and District Music Festival	\$500.00
• Stettler Agricultural Society AB High School Rodeo Provincial Finals June 1-4	\$500.00
• Stettler Steel Wheel Stampede	\$2500.00
• Big Jack Classic-1st Annual Fishing Derby	\$2000.00
• Big Valley Kids Christmas	\$ 500.00
• Big Valley Minor Hockey	\$ 500.00
• Stettler High School Rodeo Club Stettler Jr and HS Rodeo Aug 24-27	\$ 500.00
• Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Spring Banquet	\$ 500.00

Our next application intake deadline for events is May 31.

- Applicants can only submit one application annually.
- Must benefit the community.
- Provide community involvement and support.
- Have long term viability.
- Program or event must be open to the public.
- County of Stettler will be recognized as a source of funding.

Application forms can be found on the County of Stettler website-stettlercounty.ca. If you have any other questions, please contact our Manager of Recreation at 403-742-4441 or by email at recreation@stettlercounty.ca.

WE WANT TO TALK WATER!

In order for the County of Stettler to provide accurate data for future grant applications, we are seeking your feedback on the subject of Rural Water. The County has rural waterlines, which many are connected to, but we know there is a need to provide more so everyone has access to clean, safe, potable water. We are seeking response from every property owner in our County, so your property(s) is marked as 'counted'.

If you have previously expressed a need or interest in connecting to rural water, we ask that you please do so again through this survey, to reaffirm your interest.

Future grant projects and funding are based on density and needs. It is important everyone is counted. Please talk to your neighbors and ensure their needs are documented as well.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

Please go to StettlerCounty.ca/water and fill out our short survey which outlines how you currently provide your home and operations with water, and what your interest may or may not be to connect to a rural waterline. If you are unable to complete the survey online, please fill out the survey on the next page and return it to the County of Stettler Administration Office. Please ensure you provide your address and contact information with accuracy at the end of the survey, so we can accurately map your response and interest.

Please complete our Rural Water Servicing Study by April 15, 2023. All entries received by that date will be entered into a draw. There are three prizes of \$50 in Stettler Heart of Alberta Dollars to be awarded.

Thank you in advance for your participation and assistance in accurately helping us record the rural water needs of our community.

Questions? Contact a County of Stettler Councillor:

Larry Clarke | Botha-Gadsby Ward

403-740-5482 • lclarke@stettlercounty.ca

Ernie Gendre | Stettler Ward

403-740-6032 • egendre@stettlercounty.ca

Dave Grover | Big Valley

403-740-2973 • dgrover@stettlercounty.ca

Paul McKay | Red Willow-Donalda Ward

403-323-0779 • pmckay@stettlercounty.ca

James Nibourg | Erskine South-Warden Ward

403-741-9493 • jnibourg@stettlercounty.ca

Justin Stevens | Erskine-Buffalo Lake Ward

403-323-0568 • jstevens@stettlercounty.ca

Les Stulberg | Byemoor-Endiang Ward

403-740-5003 • lstulberg@stettlercounty.ca

Fill out our survey online.



2023 County of Stettler Rural Water Servicing Survey

RURAL WATER SERVICING SURVEY

Please circle the applicable answer, fill out form and send to address below, or fill out our online survey on previous page.

Where does your water come from?

- a. Water well
- b. We are already connected to a rural water line
- c. Hauled from a truck fill
- d. Other, please specify: _____

Do you have a reliable water source for clean, safe, potable water? If YES, please skip ahead to question 4.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you haul water, what are you supplying with hauled water?

- a. Your household
- b. Livestock
- c. Other (include additional households, commercial operations, or community organizations):

The current fee to connect to a rural waterline is \$15,000. This connection fee can be paid up front, or the County can amortize payments over 15 years. There is also a monthly service fee and water rates vary depending on the source of the water, currently it is \$3.01/cubic meter as per the Water and Wastewater Bylaw. All of these rates are reviewed annually.

Given the above information, if a connection was available, would you connect to a rural waterline with your current or future development(s)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Do you have future development plans that you would also want to connect to a rural waterline?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Please provide your contact information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide your address(es) (in one of the following forms):

Blue Sign: _____

Land Location: _____

Lot Block Plan: _____

Return this survey to us by April 15, 2023

Mail to: County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270, Stettler, AB, T0C 2L0

or drop at: 6602 – 44 Avenue, Stettler (there is a mail slot for after hours)

or email to: info@stettlercounty.ca

or fax to: 403-742-1277

BYLAWS AND POLICY UPDATE



Road Dedications: Policy PD 4.4

Recently, Policy PD 4.4 was modified to offer more leeway for those applying for subdivisions. Previous versions of the policy required subdivision applications to obtain road plans, which often caused delays in the approval, now applicants are able to sign road acquisition agreements.



Additional Named Insured: Policy AF 6.23

During the December 2022 Council meeting, Council approved Policy AF 6.23. This policy outlines the procedure for non-profit organization to be added as an Additional Named Insured party under the County of Stettler umbrella. This allows parties to access lower insurance rates.



Ice Facility Flooding: Policy AF 6.27

In February 2023, Council approved the Ice Facility Flooding Policy, as a measure of support for recreation within the County of Stettler. This policy that offers to cover the cost of the initial flood of an ice facility within the County of Stettler.



Animal Control: Bylaw 1684-22

Animal Control Bylaw 1684-22 replaces the County's previous Dog Control Bylaw. This bylaw enables our Community Peace Officers and Bylaw Officers to respond to calls for service for any animal at large, whether it is on a road or in a neighbour's yard. This bylaw also introduces an obstruction charge for anyone that interferes with an Animal Control Officer in the execution of their duties. The intention of this bylaw is to allow intervention for repeated livestock at large complaints.



Fee Bylaw: 1690-23

Amendment to the Fee Bylaw was passed during the February 2023 Council meeting. This included a few changes to the Planning & Development section, including the removal of the \$25.00 fee for a temporary RV permit. Permits are still required for accurate population counts in the event of an emergency. Also, if a project is started before a development permit is received; where previously a \$1,000.00 fine would have been awarded, this new Fee Bylaw doubles the cost of a permit.

QUICK COUNTY CONNECTION
BYLAWS & POLICIES

Get more
info online





COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT.

QUICK LINK

Scan this QR code to send your entries.

Submitting an entry? Scan this code for the email address.



Do you know of an area in the County of Stettler where a historical event may have happened or a site that is unmarked that has significance?

We want to record all these stories and or points of interest from history before they are lost forever.

Each submission will be plotted in GIS and mapped with its location being marked. The map will be available for viewing on the County of Stettler website once it's complete.

Everyone who makes a submission between May 1 - September 30, 2023, will be entered into our prize draw!

Send your entry to: communitymapping@stettlercounty.ca or for more info call 403-742-4441.

Ambulance Advocacy

After much effort and assistance from our MLA, Nate Horner, we were able to successfully negotiate an equitable extension of contract between Alberta Health Services and Stettler District Ambulance (SDAA). We are able to continue funding professional, Advanced Life Support response to our region.

Reeve Clarke, CAO Cassidy and the Manager of SDAA Linda Borg are pictured at McDougall Centre, Calgary, where they attended a meeting to discuss contract issues with our Minister of Health, Jason Copping.





ARE YOU LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY? OR ARE YOU AN ORGANIZATION IN SEARCH OF VOLUNTEERS?

If so, check out the volunteer portal on the Stettler Connects website to load your profile.

<https://stettlerconnects.com/volunteer>

STETTLER INFORMATION & REFERRAL
1-403-742-1155



THE STETTLER WELLNESS NETWORK (SWN) IS A GATHERING AND COLLABORATION OF LIKE MINDED CITIZENS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN WORKING TO CREATE COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS.

Supporting Opportunities for Community Connections

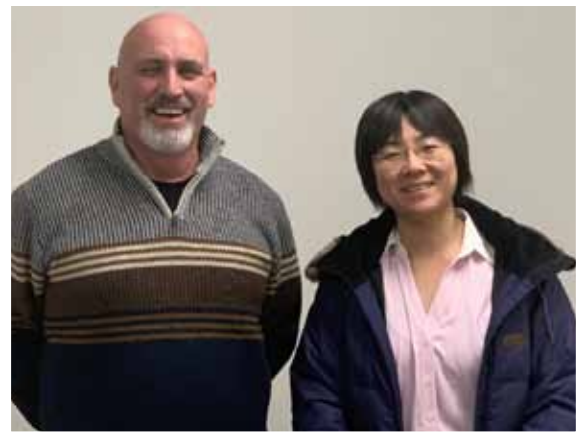
Find us on social media!

Search "Stettler Wellness Network"



Doctor Recruitment Advocacy

Council for the County of Stettler supports Doctor Recruitment efforts, with our focus being to bring doctors in to our community. The County provides a one time Funding Incentive to doctors who commit to serving our community. We have funded incentives for three doctors to join our community in 2022, including Dr. Lily Sun, pictured here with Byron Geddes from Stettler Regional Board of Trade. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Lily Sun to Stettler. Renovations on her new clinic, located in Stettler Mall, are underway.



DUST ABATEMENT PROGRAM.

Summer is on its way and so is lots of warm, dry weather. We know that many residents live alongside gravel roads, which can get dusty during the dry weather. The County of Stettler is happy to continue offering the Dust Abatement Program to residents.

Four products will be offered during the 2023 season, with the costs varying based on the product applied:

- Traditional Calcium Chloride treatment
- MG-30 Calcium Chloride Blend
- MG-250 Medium-Cured Asphalt Blend
- DL-10 Soft Asphalt Emulsion

We recommend anyone interested in the program contact our Operations department. The staff is ready to discuss the best options for your road, product cost, maintenance and other program details. We acknowledge there are no guarantees about the product viability or lifespan for individual applications. All dust abatement program applications must be in by April 30, 2023.



April 30 is the deadline to apply for a 2023 Dust Control Application. There are four products for your consideration this year.



Photo by Alma Keen.

STETTLER TOWN & COUNTRY MUSEUM: 120 YEARS OF JOHN DEERE.

This summer the Stettler Town & Country Museum, together with the Stettler Antique Tractor Club and the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, are hosting an event celebrating 120 years of John Deere farm equipment. On Friday, August 11 to Sunday, August 13, 2023, visit the Museum to see John Deere equipment and memorabilia from the last 120 years. This three day event will showcase many displays and demonstrations, featuring:

- Threshing on a 130-year-old machine.
- Baling, using a horse-powered stationary baler.
- An antique tractor pull.

If you have any John Deere equipment or implements that are 50+ years, and are interested in having them displayed, please contact Alf Erichsen at (403) 742-4688.



The Hub Senior's Centre, which meet at The Hub, at the Stettler Recreation Centre is encouraging new members to come out and give them a try!

This senior's gathering place is open to everyone age 50 and over and they are sure to entertain you with various events and activities.

Cards • Floor Curling • Pool Tables • Quilting • Shuffleboard

Activities commence every day, Monday-Friday, at 1:00 pm.

Seniors at The Hub are always open to new activities or types of card games, come out and bring your ideas!

The Stettler Dance Club hosts Old Time Dances at The Hub. Cowboy Church is held there two evenings a month. Bus trips are organized for various trips or special events including theatre excursions. They host an annual Christmas Dinner and many other activities.

The Hub Senior's Centre Committee is inviting everyone aged 50 and over to come and give them a try for some fun, friendship, coffee or tea and new adventures.

Questions?

Contact Gail at 403-302-8275.



Photo by Rob Brennen, taken in Ward 6, Erskine-Buffalo Lake.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE LANDS.

Environmental Reserve land, or ER land, is property that has been dedicated to the County of Stettler by property owners who have chosen to subdivide their land. ER land usually shows up in multi-lot country residential subdivisions, for example Scenic Sands, where there are natural features to be preserved or hazard lands that are not suitable for development. ER lands are intended to protect the natural environment, protect people and property from hazardous conditions (e.g. flooding, steep slopes) and provide public access to or along lakes and rivers.

The County of Stettler is the owner of all ER land within the County and manages these lands for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. In general, ER land is left in its natural condition as much as possible. Public trails and parks may be developed where conditions are suitable. Along lakeshores and

rivers, public pathways and stairs may be permitted to allow safe access to the water.

Private facilities and structures, such as sheds, fences, gardens, fire pits and decks, are occasionally found on ER land. In these situations, the landowner or owner of these items will be asked to remove them from the ER land. In some specific areas, and where prior consent has been obtained from the County, some seasonal items like removable docks are allowed to be stored on ER lands. This is subject to the expectation that little to no damage to the existing vegetation on the ER land will result.

For more information about ER lands please contact the Planning & Development Department.

WEED OF THE MONTH

Flowering Rush



Flowering Rush, originally from Eurasia, first came over to Canada and United States in the 1890's as an ornamental garden plant. This plant's scientific name is *Butomus Umbellatus* (pronounced Bew-tow-muss Um-bell-at-us), and is part of the Butomaceae family. Flowering Rush is easiest to identify when in flower, reaching about three feet in height. Each umbrella-shaped cluster has whitish pink petals, with green stems that resemble bulrushes. Flowering Rush closely resembles many native plants, especially common bulrush. Its extensive root system can break into new plants if disturbed, spreading quickly to new areas.

Flowering Rush is in the Red Deer River, west of our County at this point. We are actively surveying the waterways in our County looking for all types of invasive plants, including Flowering Rush.

Control methods for Flowering Rush, if found, are to hand cut the flowers and remove from the water. Once removed, the plant tops must be dried down to stop growth. The best time to do this work is before June. If heads are cut before June, there is more chance of removing the seeds before they are viable.

To identify Flowering Rush, the flowers grow in umbrella shaped clusters and each individual flower has three whitish pink petals and three similar but smaller sepals. Plants only produce flowers in very shallow water or on dry sites. Green stems are triangular in cross section. The leaf tips may be spirally twisted. Under water, the leaves are limp. An extensive root system that can break into new plants if disturbed.



Identification:

Flowering Rush can be confused with sedges when not in bloom but is usually a much larger plant.

Stems: Are erect and triangular near the base. Plants grow to 150 cm.

Leaves: Are green and sword-shaped originate from base of plant, and are triangular in cross-section, twisted toward the tip, and feel spongy when compressed.

Flowers: Are 2-2.5 cm wide with three slightly greenish sepals and three petals. Twenty to fifty (20-50) pink through white flowers are borne on umbrella shaped clusters. Anthers are red. There are nine stamens ranged in an inner whorl of three and outer whorl of six.

Prevention:

The easiest way to prevent this invasive plant is to simply not grow it in the first place. Flowering Rush can spread by seed or by root fragments, so care must be taken when removing it.

Control:

Mechanical:

Cutting below the water surface can suppress plants but will need to be repeated throughout the growing season. Hand digging is an option, but care must be taken when removing the plants that all parts of the root are removed, otherwise a new plant will grow from the fragment left behind. All plant material removed should be double bagged and placed in the landfill.



Chemical:

Diquat is a registered product for the control of Flowering Rush in lakes, ponds, irrigation canals, and slow-moving waters. Herbicide applications near bodies of water require specific applicator certification and permits from Alberta Environment and Parks. Contact the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board to speak to your Agricultural Fieldman about controlling this invasive plant.

What should I plant instead of Flowering Rush?



Japanese Water Iris



Rocky Mountain Iris

PICTURE PERFECT

County of Stettler Happy at Home photo 2023 contest winners.



Thank you to all who submitted entries to our 2022 County photo contest. All winners are featured in our 2023 County calendar. Copies are available at the County of Stettler Administration Office, 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler.



PHOTO CONTEST WINNER: Tana Nixon - January



Kristi McMullin - February



Tara Davis - March



Jane Skocdopole - April



Brenda Meyer - May



Tana Nixon - June



Tammy Laybourne - July



Robert Brennen - August



Phaedra Bittner - September



Miranda Zweifel - October



Melanie Bates - November



Marlaine Duncan - December

Honourable mentions:

1. Cheryl Cysouw
2. Christel Shuckburgh
3. Joseph Ventnor

1.



2.



3.



EXPLORE AND CONNECT FOR FREE AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Submitted by the Stettler
Public Library*

There are so many reasons to join the Stettler Public Library if you haven't already. Memberships are FREE and we do not fine members for overdue materials if they bring them back. Your free membership gives you access to library collections across Alberta as well as some pretty amazing e-resources. If you like e-books or e-audiobooks we have a few apps that you can download to your device and get started right away. If you have a Kobo, did you know that you can transfer books from the e-library onto your Kobo? We also offer some unique items for loan at the library including family fitness passes for the Stettler Recreation Centre, radon detector, smart-hub, projector, Chromebooks and a number of toys. For more information visit the library or call 403-742-2292 for more information.

The library also offers programs for all ages all year long. Visit our website at <https://spl.prl.ab.ca> or follow us on Facebook or Instagram to learn more! In February we were pleased to take part in the Family Day Winter Carnival on February 20 with community partners including the Town of Stettler, Stettler & District FCSS, Heartland Youth Centre and Family Resource Network. We were also very pleased to celebrate Freedom to Read Week from February 19-25. Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages all Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom. Read on for upcoming events.

March at the Library

This month we are offering a special session with Dave Denholm on learning the art of fly-tying. The

session will be held on Saturday, March 11 from 9 am-4 pm with a one-hour break for lunch (bring your own). Spaces are limited so call 403-742-2292 to sign up.

During the last week of March (March 27 - 31) we will have special activities for the children all week over the school break. Watch for more information about movies, crafts, creative adventures and of course a NERF war! It wouldn't be March break without one.

For adults, we have Crystal's craft club, games night, book club and our film circuit .

April at the Library

On Easter Monday, join us to make your own kites at 1 pm. School will be out and we encourage families to come together. If the weather cooperates we will take our kites outdoors and fly them! Please pre-register as spaces are limited.

In April, be sure to get your family together to enter our annual Peeps diorama contest. Using Peeps candy, create a scene illustrating your favourite book or movie of the past year, or do something uniquely you. Judging will happen during the Trade Show, so be sure to bring your entry to the library by April 14.

Stop by and visit us at the Stettler Trade Show between April 14 and 16. Learn more about what the library is up to, share your ideas with us and ride our VR roller coaster (or maybe we'll have another VR experience for you). Fill out our survey for a chance to win our fantastic prize basket. That is not the only prize to be had.



Reeve Larry Clarke participating in Family Story Time at Stettler Public Library.

Upstairs in the library, be sure to visit Stettler Friends of the Library Society semi-annual book sale. There will be so many great books for sale by donation.

Libraries in Stettler County

Did you know there are three public libraries located within the borders of Stettler County? Each library offers access to books from across the province including e-books and e-audiobooks. Each library also offers a unique set of programs and services to members of the community. All three libraries are FREE to join!

Once you sign up for a membership you can use your card at any public library in Alberta if you sign up for the melibraries.ca service. If you are not able to get to a library easily, apply for your membership card online via the Stettler Public Library website (<https://spl.prl.ab.ca>) or call 403-742-2292.

LIBRARIES IN STETTLER COUNTY



Stettler Public Library
6202 - 44 Avenue, Stettler, AB
ph: 403-742-2292
<https://spl.prl.ab.ca>



Big Valley Municipal Library
29-1 Avenue S., Big Valley, AB
ph: 403-876-2642
<https://bvlibrary.prl.ab.ca>



Donalda Public Library
5001 Main Street, Donalda, AB
ph: 403-430-2665
<https://donaldalibrary.prl.ab.ca>

CHANGES TO RECYCLING PROGRAM.

Council has confirmed changes to the County of Stettler recycling program during the January 2023 Council meeting.

The Stettler Waste Management Authority, of which we are a member and which manages all transfer sites and landfills, does not finance Cardboard or Household Recycling Programs at transfer stations.

The County of Stettler has independently been supporting this program at all transfer stations, however due to rising costs, the cardboard and household recycling bins were removed on February 2 from:

- Stettler Transfer Station

The County of Stettler continues to support recycling. Access to the cardboard and household recycling bins will be increased at both our Botha Transfer Site and Erskine Transfer Site. The Villages of Donalda and Big Valley have opted to partner with us and continue hosting recycling.



SAVE A TREE!



Get e-versions of County Connection Magazine by scanning our QR code. Email info@stettlercounty.ca to cancel your paper subscription.



COMMUNITY

County of Stettler Councillor Les Stulberg, Ward 1 - Byemoor-Endiang, participated in the Rural Municipality of Alberta's Uniquely Rural communications campaign highlighting agriculture in Stettler County.



"Agriculture is huge for rural communities. Not only for employment on the farms, but also for the spin off job opportunities. Agriculture creates so many jobs, whether it's machinery sales, feed preparation, transportation, auction sale, there's a huge variety. So anybody that has a passion for agriculture, but can't own a farm may want to choose an agriculture-related field."

Les' family has farmed in the Byemoor/Endiang area for 110 years.

As a result of the sometimes-distant relationship between urban Albertans and agriculture, there can be some misunderstanding of modern agriculture. Farmers like Les want to share their story about how food is grown on their farms, and the pride they place in their products. Canadians can be proud of the world class food produced right here that is produced in a sustainable and economic way. This both ensures the future of agriculture and feeds the world efficiently. Visit rmaalberta.com to watch Les' video as well as other highlights of this campaign.



Councillor Les Stulberg at the farm he grew up on, beside his mother, Carol Stulberg and his wife, Rosemary.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2023 Agricultural Services Board Bursary

Our Agricultural Services Board will recognize a high school graduate who is a resident of Stettler County; enrolled in Post Secondary (any year); and made a contribution to our community.

Submissions accepted at asb@stettlercounty.ca until April 15, or drop them off in person before 4:30 pm, Friday, April 14 at 6602-44 Avenue, Stettler AB.

1. Applicant must have successfully enrolled into a post-secondary institution in any year of studies.
2. The applicant will only receive the award once.
3. Applicant must be a resident of the County of Stettler No. 6.
4. The applicant must supply the Manager of Agricultural Services with:
 - a. Proof of enrollment in a college or university.
 - b. Proof of High School Diploma or eligibility.
 - c. Two personal references of no relation of the applicant.

Download an ASB Bursary application at StettlerCounty.ca or email info@stettlercounty.ca for a copy.



Work with Us!

Development Officer

The County of Stettler No. 6 is recruiting for a Development Officer to join our small and active Planning & Development team. Reporting to the Director of Planning & Development, the Development Officer works with applicants, the general public and County staff to process approvals under the County's Land Use Bylaw, statutory plans and policies.

Visit www.StettlerCounty.ca for the full details on this opportunity.

This job posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Screening of applications and invitations for interviews will begin March 13, 2023 and continue every two weeks thereafter.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Our Agricultural Services Department would like feedback on future seminars and education sessions. Please fill out the attached survey to help select the session topics. stettlercounty.ca/agworkshop



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