


# Heritage Conservation / Culture & Arts / Volunteerism

## *2019 Heritage Conservation/Culture/Arts/Volunteerism-related activities*



NEW in  
2018/2019

- Downtown property donated by owner to Town to create a Pioneer-themed park – **Downtown Park** designed and construction started in 2014, completed in 2016, with living wall installed on 4<sup>th</sup> wall in 2017. **Final design elements added** in 2018 (Jimmy's Hardware "fluorescent light" – now LED).
- Reworking of the **Historic Downtown Stettler Walking Tour guide completed**, done with museum and Stettler Board of Trade.
- Beautification Champion Award recipient chosen and will be awarded at CIB Judges Dinner
- **Stettler History Book** – [www.stettlerhistory.ca](http://www.stettlerhistory.ca)
- Stettler Town & Country Museum activities – **Light the Night**
- **Stettler Ghost Walks** – added and expanded
- Lots of Heritage-related groups conducting activities
- **Running Track project** – joint partnership to replace by running track at the school complex
- [Stettler Genealogy Club Facebook page](#)

## 2018 Evaluation Form

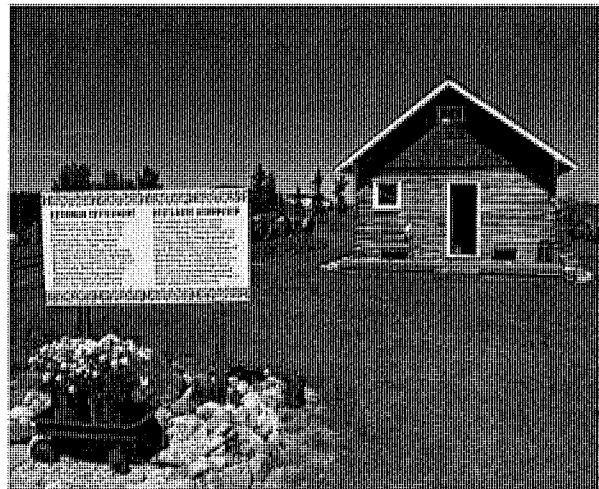
HERITAGE CONSERVATION		
<p>Heritage conservation includes efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage within the community. Preservation of natural heritage pertains to policies, plans and actions concerning all elements of biodiversity including flora and fauna ecosystems and associated geological structures and formations. Cultural conservation refers to the heritage that helps define the community including the legacy of tangible (built/hard assets) elements such as heritage buildings, monuments, memorials, cemeteries, artifacts, museums and intangible elements such as traditions, customs, festivals and celebrations. The participation of groups such as historical societies and conservation groups is considered.</p>		
	Max	Actual
<b>Municipal</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Strategic Plans</b> Policies, by-laws and their enforcement and effective programs	10	8
<b>Natural Heritage Management Plans</b> Management and preservation initiatives: including eco systems, eco parks, protection of sensitive habitats, species at risk, support for at risk pollinators, grasslands, naturalization, wetlands, urban agriculture/farming, and wildlife	15	12.75
<b>Natural Heritage Promotion</b> Management and promotion of natural heritage (through communications, information and support programs, economic development/tourism) including activities and programs (year-round) for education and use of natural heritage sites for and by the public	15	12.75
<b>Cultural Heritage Strategic Plans</b> Policies, by-laws and plans and preservation initiatives for heritage buildings, cemeteries, artefacts, museums, monuments, heritage trees and gardens, including their integration with streetscapes and landscape	15	13.75
<b>Cultural Heritage Activities</b> Initiatives throughout the year including festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.5
<b>Business &amp; Institutions</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Assets</b> Conservation, restoration and integration of natural heritage, including eco parks, conservation areas, heritage gardens, trees and landscapes.	15	13
<b>Cultural Heritage Assets</b> Conservation, restoration and reuse of heritage buildings and artefacts including their integration with the built/hard?, streetscapes and green landscapes	10	8.5
<b>Residential</b>		
<b>Cultural Heritage Initiatives</b> Conservation/restoration and reuse of heritage buildings, artefacts on residential lands	10	8.25
<b>Community Involvement</b>		
<b>Natural Heritage Public Participation</b> Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual natural heritage programs including developing policies and plans, site improvements and management, conservation and education initiatives	15	13
<b>Natural Heritage – Community Support</b> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including environmental groups) in community-initiated natural heritage activities and programs	15	13
<b>Cultural Heritage - Public Participation</b> Participation in community (including children/youth), neighbourhood or individual cultural heritage programs including year-round heritage community events/activities, festivals and celebrations along with preservation of traditions and customs	10	8.75
<b>Cultural Heritage - Community Support</b> Financial and/or in-kind or participation by the municipality, businesses and institutions (including historical societies) in community-initiated cultural heritage activities and programs.	10	8.75
<b>Heritage Conservation Total</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>129.00</b>

## 2018 Evaluation Form

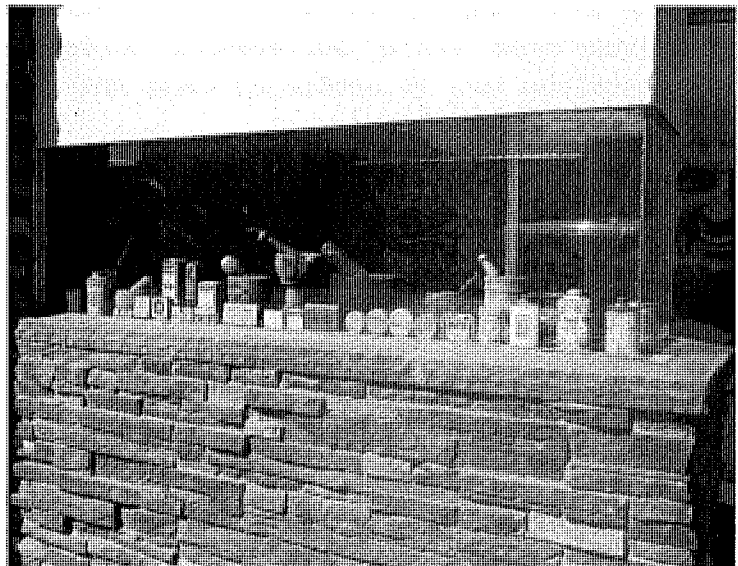
### HERITAGE CONSERVATION

#### Observations:

The cultural heritage of the community is very evident. The museum is excellent containing artifacts from all facets of life in old Stettler, from early settlers to its rich sporting history. There are other special organizations made up of volunteers to show pride in their history such as the Parrish & Heimbecker Elevator Society. This fantastic group have restored one of the last elevators in Western Canada making it a piece of living history, very impressive. The Rails to Tales business enterprise is also a success story in this area. The themed rail excursions in historic rail cars is also to be commended.



We were also impressed by the old clock on Main Street as well as the old medicine bottles displayed in the pharmacy window. These tie in very nicely with the downtown Carl Stettler Park.



## 2018 Evaluation Form

The Natural Heritage around Stettler Lake and Cold Lake appears to be well cared for. We especially liked the lack of grass cutting inside of the trail giving the area a very natural feel. The man-made island in the lake serves as an excellent for nest birds. This is evident by the number of wild fowl in the area.



The creation of nesting areas filled with flax straw in Cold Lake is a good idea and well executed. This area is recognized as a regional bird sanctuary.

### Recommendations:

The symbolic rail tracks on your centre street side walk are great we hope you find a way to continue tying the community together by building on your rail history. It might be possible to create a heritage trail in the Town tying together your historical and social history together. This could include the homes of your more notable past residents. Also consider putting this on the Town web site. The locations could also have QR codes which would allow many to learn more about the community.

The planting of heritage crops would give residents and visitors a good visual idea of what the original crops looked like, and along with some of the old machinery be an excellent tribute to your agricultural roots. Perhaps some of the heritage seed from the area could be acquired. We suggest having these sample crops in areas that can be observed and that the crops would be labeled from the time of planting to harvest. It might be worth having a sample crop or two near the Estonia settlement home at the museum.

When it comes to natural heritage the Stettler Lake area is a jewel. We would suggest not planting any trees between the trail and the lake but if some trees or shrubs were to volunteer we would leave it.

The bat and bee homes in the new orchard is very good this could be duplicated in other areas such as near the community gardens.



## Heritage Conservation / Culture and Arts / Volunteerism

### HBS & TOS Video – HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Much of Stettler's heritage conservation is done many, many volunteers on various groups around the community, whether through societies (e.g. P&H Elevator Conservation Society), the museum (as associated boards) or through community groups. As such, it proceeds slowly, as funds can be accessed.

#### *Heritage Conservation sub-committee*

In 2011/2012, the Heartland Beautification Committee created a **sub-committee focused on Heritage Conservation**-related activities. The committee has been working with Stettler Board of Trade and the museum to update the Historic Downtown Walking Tour (completed 2017/2018). Initially, it started by looking at options to improve the recognition and monument site of Stettler's founder, Carl Stettler, through relocation to a new Downtown Park, which was successfully completed in 2016.

NEW in  
2015/2016/2017

#### *Downtown Pioneer-themed Park*

In Spring 2013, a downtown property was donated to the town by the owner, with instructions that it be used for a pioneer-themed space. Members of the Heritage Conservation committee, along with a few other volunteers, formed a Downtown Park Committee to work on the project. The desire of the committee was to create a space that could be used year round, but that would **celebrate and highlight the history of Stettler**. After drafting early concepts, the committee received approval from Town council to remove two parking spaces to deepen the space and sought funding from the town and other sources to build the park. An architect was hired to create drawings for the park. The park concept consisted of a **false front wall/mural, featuring historically significant businesses**. The businesses include a hardware store, the train station and the Stettler Cigar Factory. The small stage increases the use of the site. The site is lit with overhead lights (designed to minimize light pollution) and features trees and planters, as well as picnic tables. **Railway themed sidewalks** were installed. The **Carl Stettler Monument** was added to the site to increase recognition. A picture of Carl Stettler, along with his name, were added to the backside of the

#### **You said it – We KINDA DID it!**

*"You might want to add signage and a QR code with the links to information about what's planned. It's a great way to engage people and perhaps even elicit sponsors"*

**The architect's drawings were featured on the front page of the TOS website, allowing everyone to see the concepts and learn about what was planned. This information was also be pushed out through social media.**



**Downtown Pioneer Park location –  
donated land**

monument, as the original face is oriented towards the pedestrian-focused park. Electrical was donated, and the Town put up the cost for the main mural work to be completed. When possible, original signs and historic materials were integrated into the design (sourced from the museum).

Several of the windows for **Jimmy's**

**Hardware** are originals from the original building. A train schedule covers the power box that can be used for concerts. Extra features are being added over time (e.g. LED neon to replicate the distinctive Jimmy's Hardware sign – completed 2018/2019). The 4<sup>th</sup> wall component of the project features a **living wall** on a lattice, and was installed in 2017.

NEW in 2014-2017

### [Downtown Park Video](#)



Downtown Park Installation





### You said it – We DID it!

*“...Encourage Downtown Park to recognize Founder and hold concerts ...”*

The Downtown Park has come a long way, with most features completed, including street and surface development, sidewalks, trees and electrical installed. Temporary planters are in place and the Carl Stettler monument has been relocated and upgraded. Historic murals (false fronts of historic structures) are largely complete.

NEW in  
2017/2018

### You said it – We are DID it! (and are still working on it)

*“Continue to explore the possibilities for murals throughout the community – a wonderful way to depict and promote the history and culture of the municipality and to also add diversity to the streetscape and landscape”*

The Downtown Park includes 3 false building fronts, based on notable landmarks or structures in the community (train station, cigar factory and hardware store). They feature a number of historic pictures and pieces from the museum. **A living wall will complete the park's 4<sup>th</sup> wall (2017)**

The P&H Elevator is planning a large mural for the wall of one of its equipment outbuildings.

## Historic (Downtown) Walking Tour

The Heritage Conservation sub-committee has worked for several years with the Board of Trade and the Museum to update the existing [Historic Downtown Walking tour - PREVIOUS VERSION](#). This was being done in conjunction with the Stettler Town & County Museum curator prior to her passing. It is hoped that in the near future, the markers will be replaced, likely in cooperation with businesses occupying an historic site. The guide was released in late 2018 (see cover below).

## Mural Contest

In the late winter of 2012, the HBC and Heritage Conservation sub-committee organized a **Mural Art Contest** to generate a number of local art selections to choose from to put on the back of three new information signs. Art was to be Stettler-themed and/or historic and could be on any medium. 11 pieces were submitted, from

### You said it – We DIDN'T do it!

*“Consider the implementation of a Heritage Bylaw to protect heritage and preserve significant heritage structures and also consider the introduction of incentives (such as interest free loans, grants, matching funds, tax incentives, etc.) to enable good upkeep and rehabilitation of identified buildings”*

**The responsibility for Heritage Building protection and recognition resides with the province and goes beyond that which the municipality is prepared to do.**

both youth and adult artists from the Stettler area. The **top three murals were chosen** and the top artists received cash prizes. The art was installed in the summer of 2013 that were installed in We st Stettler Park, the Cemetery and the Off-leash Dog Park. To date, no vandalism has been observed on any of the murals.



Mural Contest – Top 3

Town of Stettler

# DOWNTOWN HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

---



- ♥ Begin at the north end of Main Street (Town Office).
- ♥ Follow the map enclosed.
- ♥ Discover Stettler's historical downtown.
- ♥ Learn about trademark businesses that operated in Stettler, some even to the present day!



## Stettler Town & Country Museum



Stettler Town & Country Museum



View of museum from “Mount Stettler”

### You said it – We are **WORKING ON it!**

*A number of comments and suggestions were provided in the 2013/2014 CIB evaluations, relating to the museum, including succession planning for the curator, videos from the existing curator, etc.*

**All of the comments were shared with the museum and the concept of video interviews with the curator was introduced. We continue to work with them to develop this further. It is hoped that many of the suggestions will be implemented in time.**

**A new curator is in place, and did work with the former curator. The former curator (deceased 2015) vigorously resisted videos being recorded with her speaking and/or sharing her experiences.**



**Stettler Town and Country Museum**, the fifth largest in Alberta, details Stettler’s rich history. Artifacts have been donated by residents of Stettler and area. The museum has many buildings that are organized to represent historical displays and themes (e.g. authentic classrooms, businesses and shops, homes, etc.), as well as the original courthouse and CN rail station. Antique equipment (farming, road work, trains, etc.) are also featured. The museum has a working speeder (mini-train ride). The museum is run by a combination of staff and volunteers. In 2013, it celebrated its **40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. The curator had been present for many years, and an assistant curator (much younger) was hired in 2013 to transition into the position. Unfortunately, Wilda Gibbons passed away in May 2015, but work and activities continue on at the museum. In June 2017, a **memorial gazebo was built and dedicated to the memory of Wilda**. It is situated on the museum site and has a rose garden around it.

NEW in  
2017

Many volunteers work at the museum regularly or on specific renovation projects (e.g. scraping the Lakeland Church prior to repainting; scraping the CN building front, repainting the trim, etc.)

### *CN Rail Station – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2012*

2012 represented the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the **CN rail station**. The building was a 2<sup>nd</sup> class station (relating to size), built in 1911 to facilitate traffic between Edmonton and Drumheller. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was where agents lived. The downstairs is original and hasn’t been renovated (changed). The building was originally situated where the Alberta Prairie Rail Excursions sits and was moved to the Museum site in 1978. It is one of 4 stations that remain intact in Alberta.

In 2012, the south exterior was repainted to original CN colours. The roof and all windows were replaced in 2012. There is a painted rock display on the slope, which replicates the original station site.



#### *Digitization of the Exhibits*

#### **CN Railroad Building – South exposure**

Over the course of the past several years and continuing forward, **staff and volunteers have been cataloguing and conducting a complete inventory** of all items in the museum collection. This includes **creating an electronic record** of every item, as well as digitizing all photographs. Summer staff have been going through each building, taking a digital picture of each article, ensuring there is a catalogue number and all information is entered into a database. The information is being backed up.

#### *Summer Student Activities*

Summer students are involved in maintenance of the grounds and buildings, as well as participating in the collection digitization project. The museum typically has 2 or more summer students per year, depending on the funding program.

#### *Stettler Town & Country Museum Board & Activities*

The board membership is made up of a town representative, a county representative and a town member-at-large, as well as any number of interested resident volunteers (from town or county). The board's role is to oversee museum operations and budget, which is carried out by the museum manager.

#### *New Initiatives*

The Stettler Town & Country Museum hosted a **“Light The Night” event** in December 2014, which featured a series of light displays installed by a range of groups, businesses, etc. People drive through the museum to observe them. It now repeats annually, with even greater participation and uptake by the community. Similarly, **Night of Terror at the Boo-seum**, a haunted house event, was held over the Halloween period for several years.

*(See Stettler Town & Country Museum Map and Exhibit / Building Overview (See following pages))*

ONGOING



## Long-time Museum volunteer Wilda Gibbon honoured

Moush Sara John  
Independent staff

It was a sunny afternoon on Saturday, June 17, as friends and family of long time volunteer of Stettin Town and Country Museum, Wilda Gibbon gathered together to remember her through kind memories at the Museum.

With support and funds from

Gibbon family, a gazebo had been built on the Museum grounds, which was dedicated to her memory. Being raised on a farm, where now the latter day Stettin Church stands, Gibbon had many memories of growing up and shared her family stories of earlier years with the Museum staff and board members freely, giving them an insight into invaluable history.

"If Stettin needed a walking talking history book, Wilda was the person to talk to," Karen Wahlund, Museum manager said. "She was a teacher, nurse and friend for me. Wilda was a dedicated volunteer who hosted the presentations of the Museum, and its buildings. It was in a way, her home away from home."

According to Wahlund,

Gibbon would take each summer student under her wings and teach them the books, from gardening to any task. "Wilda's answer to fix most maintenance problems temporarily was to use duct tape, and so duct tape held the carpets together, was around windows and doors to keep the rain out and in many other places," said Wahlund, laughing.

When Gibbon passed away in May 2015, the Museum had the flag flying at half mast to honour her. "We would have something permanent, which could be dedicated to the amazing work she has done for the Museum and the community," Wahlund added. "So I thought of building the gazebo. I remembered Wilda talking about the handstand that

originally stood by the old fire hall, as a young girl the remembered listening to the band play in the evenings, and just sitting in it on a hot day, which got us thinking of it."

The gazebo was built by wood worker, Brad Coleman and has a small patch of garden going around the front where rose plants were planted by family.

continued on Page A5



From left, Norma Raindon, Stettin Town and Country Museum president, Al Campbell, Town of Stettin representative, Les Stiberg, County of Stettin representative, Murray Wahlund, Museum board member, and Karen Wahlund, Museum manager at the Wilda Gibbon Gazebo Dedication event on Saturday afternoon, June 17. Please see our story on page 5.

MOSHA SARA JOHN/STETTIN INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016



KAREN WAHLUND/STETTIN INDEPENDENT

Among the many organizations that participated in the Museum's 'Light the Night' fundraiser was the County of Stettin with its well-illuminated fire truck.

## Museum looks ahead to 2016 after 'Light the Night' success

MOSHA SARA JOHN  
Independent Reporter

Stettin Town and Country Museum ended 2015 on a new high as one of its highest annual fundraisers 'Light the Night' drew huge crowds from the community and neighbouring areas, over the night four-hour evenings in December.

"During the event the museum grounds are lit for the public to drive through or walk through by museum staff welcoming visitors with a pamphlet of the many sponsors and displays, a candy raffle and an Independent Activity Book for the kids," said Karen Wahlund, museum manager. "These were 45 sponsors in all, which included local businesses, organizations and community members, as volunteers assisted staff to create additional displays throughout the museum grounds and run a network of electrical devices."

According to Wahlund, Friday, Dec. 4 was the opening night with a horse ride, horse-drawn wagon rides, besides the lit exhibits, with the help of the high out-of-reach areas.

An 538 vehicles passed through the grounds, and the museum collected cash donations close to \$4,000, besides 13 filled bags along with cash for the Food Bank. It was easy to see why this event was such a "grand success."

"The museum hosts this event every year to become more involved with the community," said Wahlund. "In hopes of attracting outlying areas to Stettin."

With the fundraising throughout the year, the museum has been able to achieve some of its goals in 2015 and looks forward to completing more projects in the new year.

"The facility has improved its appearance and we look forward to completing our goal of making Stettin Town and Country Museum a safe, great looking facility to entertain the community and tourists while preserving and showcasing our history," said Wahlund. "The museum requires financial assistance not only for the repairs and maintenance but to continue to support its staff."

At the moment the museum is run with two part-time staff, a manager and

an associate curator.

Even with annual funds from the town and county, the museum falls short of its financial targets, which necessitates successful fundraisers.

"In 2016, we have been promised the generous funding of the town and county, which always projects an increment from the previous year, and enables us to continue making improvements where needed and progress with new events," said Wahlund.

For 2016, three summer staff will be financed in part by two programs - Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs, both of which are federal programs.

This year the summer temporary employment program will be reintroduced, which gives the museum the hope of receiving enough funding to recruit three summer staff.

All programs require students coming out of school and returning to school in the fall. "Our Work term is first part of May to mid-August, hence a post-secondary student is suitable," explained Wahlund. "We are always looking for interested students."

dependent

www.stettindependent.com

## Long-time Museum volunteer honoured

continued from Page A5

"Wilda's favourite flower was rose and at every event at the Museum, she would make sure that all the tables had rose bowls," Wahlund recalled. "Since Wilda loved music and entertainment, we hope we can use the gazebo to incorporate small entertainment groups throughout the season, and to provide a nice spot for the community to sit and enjoy."

Wahlund said that the Museum was grate-

ful to the Gibbon family - Wilda's daughter, Brenda, and two sons, Bill and Bob, Brad and Carson Coleman, Kathy Thomas, Dave McCourt and the Steel Wheel Stampede committee.

"Without their help and support this gazebo would not be a reality," Wahlund commented. "We would also like to thank the County of Stettin, Town of Stettin, and all the staff at the Museum and the Museum board members."

## Boo-seum featuring 'Rathmore Insane Asylum' raises more than \$5K

Mosha Sara John Independent staff

Stettin and area residents were in for a treat this year as they entered the "Insane Asylum" at Rathmore, part of the museum's halloween theme this year.

From Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 27-29, the old courthouse was turned into the asylum, and was witness to 528 scared and absolutely thrilled participants as they moved from one room to the other, screaming and holding their breath for what would come next.

"Under the direction of Lyndsay (Dayland), our museum curator, an awesome group of volunteers decided on this year's theme and worked upon it to make it look as real as possible," said Karen Wahlund, museum manager. "The courthouse was the building chosen for the event when we started discussions about it in 2015."

The court house had shut down to the public after Labour Day, with all the artifacts being stored away into safety.

"The first night was a short night, but it gave the volunteers a chance to change up their rooms if needed," Wahlund said. "The main group of 10 volunteers choose the room/area and then they are responsible in finding the right people for the roles, actors/actresses to act out."

There were approximately 30 volunteers in total

this year for the event, besides many more who took turns in filling in, according to Wahlund.

The Stettin Antique Tractor Club volunteered rides on a wagon pulled by an antique tractor, and there was a concession stand, which sold a wide variety of candies, hot chocolate and other refreshments to keep visitors' hunger at bay, as the museum grounds donned the Halloween spirit.

"Word of mouth about the Night of Terror at the Boo-seum has helped the event tremendously," said Wahlund. "Besides the help from local media and all those who have helped us in marketing our event this year."

There was a total of 528 people who were entertained, as the event raised more than \$5,000, all of which will be used for the maintenance and operation of the museum.

"This year the number of people who attended were much more compared to last year's 302," she added. "We can't thank the volunteers enough for the tremendous time, resources and effort they put into this event. Most of the props, or anything used for the event had been created or contributed by them."

Wahlund also wanted to thank the Share Bear Play School who provided the museum with a kids corral, so that the parents could enjoy the Friday night visiting the "asylum."

www.stettindependent.com

Stettin Independent

Wednesday, December 2, 2016 A13

## 'Light the Night' creates a Christmas wonderland for visitors

Mosha Sara John  
Independent staff

The Stettin Town and Country Museum was decorated with lights and had a festive look about it on Friday, Dec. 2 as it hosted its third annual 'Light the Night' with participating businesses from in and around town.

"This is one of our major fundraisers and I personally created

the event with the blessings of the Museum board," said Karen Wahlund, manager at the Stettin Museum. "Light the Night is an event that the community could participate in and have different kinds of activities to do."

As the two years went along, local businesses and community started participating in putting up lighted displays for a nominal fee to advertise and create awareness

of their services. In 2014 there were 14 businesses with 403 vehicles visiting the museum grounds to see the displays in 2015 that went up to 45 businesses with 640 vehicles visiting and this year there were 50 businesses with a good number of vehicles going through the displays, although they were late down from last year's visit.

"ATCO Electric kindly comes

in to put up and take down the lights on three of the towns and the farms," Wahlund added. "Some generous community volunteers light up areas for businesses with on-time and want to participate in the Christmas spirit and cheer."

Some of the volunteers who have been asked to help are the towns and Kathy Thomas, Kathy Raindon and Norma Raindon among others.

"The County of Stettin through and through the help of many volunteers, while Jim Long and Antique Tractor Club provide rides when the weather permits," explained Wahlund. "I am also thankful to Alan Wells who helps with the printing of the booklets, Karyn Strone who is fulfilling our photo album with some awesome shots and of course all our staff who put in countless hours."

Wahlund said the believe in this time of the year.

"I truly love the Christmas season and really do enjoy the busy week run-down," Wahlund added. "Although there's a lot of work



Stettin Adult Learning Council participates in 'Light the Night', which is one of the museum's major fundraisers.

one cold weather, I believe what we've done is a great job on the back lot of it and we want the event to improve from year to year," Wahlund said that her team hopes that they can bring in the number of vehicles from outside town, it would be a great achievement.

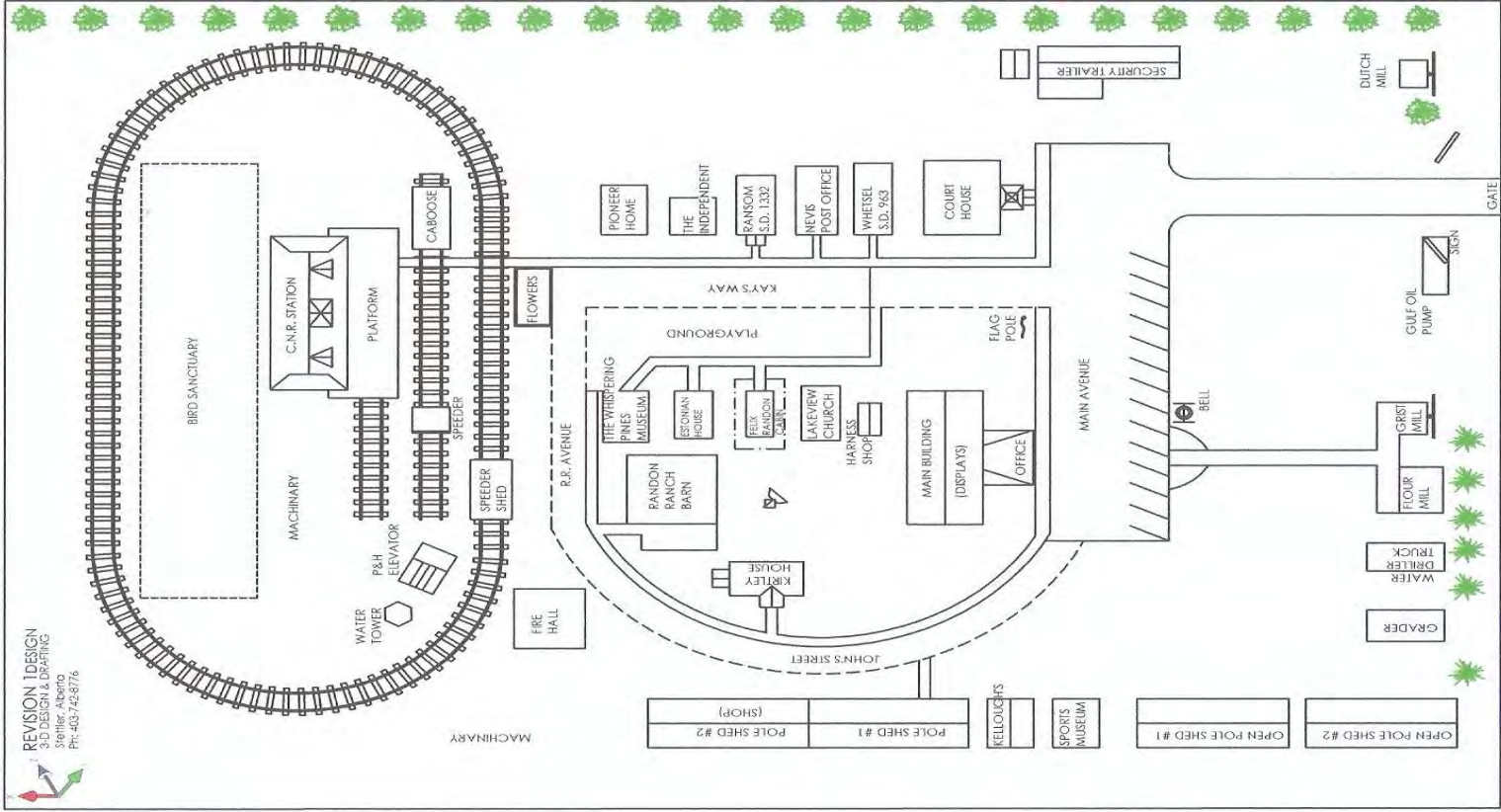
"Hopefully as another year rolls around, the event will keep increasing with participants and all those who are coming to see



One of the 30 light displays that decorated the Stettin Town and Country Museum grounds as part of their third annual 'Light the Night' event on Friday, Dec. 2.

MOSHA SARA JOHN/STETTIN INDEPENDENT





# STETTLER MUSEUM

## PIONEER VILLAGE

Established 1973

10 Acres – over 26 structures

### Entrance – Main Building:

- Why Stettler?
- Collections – Dolls, China, Apparel, Jewellery, Cameras, Musical instruments and many more
- Room Displays – Kitchen, Parlour and Bedroom
- Old time Picture Gallery

### Courthouse:

- ❖ 1906 built as a three-room school
- ❖ 1910 became Courthouse, Jail and RCMP detachment.
- ❖ 1940s School Division, Health Unit and Brands Offices.
- ❖ 1976 Moved to this location – Brands office still

### Today

- Collections – RCMP, Judge Billy Gray, War, Aboriginal, Rock and many more displays.
- Court room

### Whetsel School:

- ❖ 1905 built, located South of Erskine
- ❖ First School organized west of Red Deer River.

### Nevis Post Office:

- ❖ 1903 Content School #6 N.W.T.
- ❖ 1917 Nevis School #6
- ❖ 1929 – 1976 Nevis General Store, Barber Shop, Pool Hall and Post Office

### Today

- General Store, Post Office and Living quarters

### **Ransom School #1332:**

- 1906 – 1943 located 2 miles South + 1.5 miles west of its location now.

### **The Independent:**

- ❖ Willis family owned 1908 – 2001  
*Today*
  - Printing press technology from the past

### **Pioneer Home:**

- A pioneer home with French influence

### **CNR Train Station and Caboose:**

- ❖ Train Station operated 1911 – 1976
- ❖ 1 of 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Stations built  
*Today*
  - Displays original living areas, waiting areas...enriched with many other displays

### **Whispering Pines:**

- Mrs. Stauffer's collections of artefacts from Stettler Swiss-German pioneers

### **Estonian Log House:**

- ❖ 1930's built by George Tamberg
- ❖ Note the Dovetail corners

### **Felix Randon Bunkhouse:**

- ❖ 1932 Recreation Vehicle

### **Lakeview Church:**

- ❖ 1908 Overlooked Ewing Lake – South of Erskine

### **Harness Shop:**

- ❖ Andy Robinson operated this business – Stettler – behind today's Club Café

### **Randon Barn:**

- ❖ Replica of Randon Barn situated South of Stettler  
*Today*
  - Estonian artefacts and home setup
  - Cottage Industry
  - Carriages and Automobiles
  - Gulf Oil
  - Fraternity and Service Clubs

### **Fire Hall:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century local fire fighting history

### **Kirtley House:**

- ❖ 1910 built by Mr. Allen sold to Kirtley family
- ❖ Situated ½ mile West
- ❖ Restored by Savage family

### **Kellough:**

- ❖ Manufacturer of farm implements

### **Sports Museum:**

- Stettler's involvement with many types of sports

### **Flour Mill and Grist Mill**

### **Pole #2:**

- ❖ 1915 Case Steam Tractor
- ❖ Tractors, Pumps, Grinders etc.

### **Pole #1, Open Pole #1 & 2 - Machinery, Tractors and such**

### **Gulf Oil Pump, Elevator replica and More...**



## *70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dutch Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden*

In 2015, HBC applied to receive tulip bulbs to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian assistance with the liberation of Holland and the special circumstances surrounding the Dutch Royal Family. We received 700 bulbs (50:50 White:Red). These were planted by elementary student in special beds at the Stettler Town and Country Museum, next to the windmill on the site. Members of the Legion were present for the planting ceremony. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Liberation Day (celebrated in Holland), in Stettler, a bloom ceremony was held, with the same participants present. Additionally, local Dutch residents were present to discuss the events.

The beds are maintained by museum staff and volunteers.



Original bloom ceremony for Tulip Garden





# SES Grade 5 students see their tulips in bloom

MOUSH SARA JOHN  
WEEKENDER REPORTER

Even though the winds picked up pace and it was drizzling, SES Grade 5 students made their way to the museum on Thursday, May 5 to see the tulips they had planted last year in bloom.

The tulips were a part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Dutch-Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden.

Last Thursday was also the anniversary of Liberation Day in Netherlands, so quite the appropriate occasion for a tulip blooming ceremony.

"The Town of Stettler was one of more than 400 applicants across Canada to receive 700 tulip bulbs to commemorate the long-standing friendship between the Netherlands and Canada, which began during World War II," explained Grace Fix, vice-chair of Heartland Beautification Committee. "These bulbs were planted last fall at the Museum, in front of the Dutch windmill, and Mrs. Sandra Norman's

Grade 5 students from SES being the official planters, with assistance from local Legion members, local Dutch-Canadian residents, Museum staff, Town Council, and the Heartland Beautification Committee."

During the brief ceremony, Heartland Beautification Committee member Grace Fix and students recounted the history of the enduring friendship between Canada and the Netherlands so that it may live on in the younger generation.

"It is indeed an honour to have this Friendship Tulip Garden in our community, and to be part of this heartwarming national program made possible by the Canadian Garden Council, Vesey's Bulbs and Canada Post, the main sponsors of the Friendship Tulip Gardens," added Fix.

On May 5, 1945, Canadian forces played a major role in the liberation of the Netherlands for which the Dutch people were and continue to be ever so grateful.

As well, during the war,



Moush Sara John/Heartland reporter

SES Grade 5 students braved strong winds to reach the museum and were delighted to see their tulips in bloom. Also present in the picture are from left to right, town councillor Karen Sernecky, museum manager Karen Wahlund, museum curator Lyndsay Dayman (seated in grey), Legion representatives – Greg Ford, Beryl Currie and Susan Mitchell, members of the Dutch-Canadian community of Stettler – Gerard and Corrie Fryters, Heartland Beautification Committee chair Rob Spencer and member Grace Fix.



the Dutch Royal Family sought refuge in Ottawa. Princess Margriet was

born in Ottawa and was able to retain her right to the throne as a Dutch-

born citizen because Ottawa temporarily set up a wing of the Ottawa hospital as a Dutch Embassy, therefore, Dutch soil.

As a gift of gratitude, the Dutch sent 300,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa in 1945. Now, a gift-in perpetu-

ity, Canada receives 20,000 tulip bulbs every fall.

Last fall, for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands, 100,000 tulips bulbs were distributed amongst 140 communities across Canada.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

## Tulip planting ceremony at the Stettler Museum

MOUSH SARA JOHN  
INDEPENDENT REPORTER

George and Corrie Feytels, who emigrated from the Netherlands in their youth, joined other residents of the Stettler community at the tulip planting ceremony on Stettler Museum grounds on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Feytels have been active volunteers at the museum, including being involved with the maintenance of the windmill.

Supervising the event was Grace Fix, vice-chair of the Heartland Beautification Committee, who addressed all those present at the ceremony and proceeded to show Grade 5 students of Stettler Elementary School how the tulip bulbs should be planted.

Speaking about the program, called the 70th Anniversary Dutch Canadian Friendship Tulip Garden, Fix said, "This program was led by the Canadian Garden Council in collaboration

with the Canadian Tulip Festival, the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, and Canada Post."

"In 1945 all 100,000 tulip bulbs were planted in the national capital region," said Fix. "This 2015 gift will distribute gardens of 700 bulbs each to 140 communities nationwide all connected to a symbolic garden of 7,000 bulbs in Canada's capital."

Fix added that the tulips were donated by major Canadian importer of tulips from Holland, Vesey's Bulbs Ltd.

Stettler Elementary Grade 5 students, who were present at the ceremony with their teacher Sandra Norman were the official "planters" of the 700 tulips.

"They represent the future continued friendship between Canada and the Netherlands and will get a hands-on connection to the close Canadian-Dutch friendship in recent history," said Fix.

Also present at the ceremony were members of the Stettler Royal Canadian Legion, representing veterans who have fought in Canada's military campaign in Europe, Sandy Scotland, Larry Tuck, Ron Joyce, George Guy, Dave Easton, Beryl Currie, Karen Collins, and Rosalind LaRose.

Stettler Town and Country Museum curator Lyndsay Dayman and manager Karen Wahlund were also present, while the Town of Stettler was represented by councillor Karen Sernecky.

Of the 700 tulip bulbs that Stettler received, 350 were white and 350 were red.

Under the windmill, a block of 100 white bulbs were planted, between two blocks of 100 red bulbs each to represent the Canadian flag.

The remaining 400 bulbs were planted in a circle in front of the rest with alternating blocks of red and white to form the shape of a windmill.

**DEADLINE**  
**5 P.M.**

**You said it – We're (already) doing it (but we'll do more)!**

*"The planting of heritage crops would give residents and visitors a visual idea of what the original crops looked like, and along with some of the old machinery be an excellent tribute to your agricultural roots."*

*"It might be worth having a sample crop or two near the Estonia settlement home at the museum."*

**We agree. The area under the historic thrashing machine / harvester is seeded annually with a cereal grain, which would represent historic crops.**

**The museum often has several gardens planted, with crops common to the residences of the historic homes. This includes the Estonian settlement. But we'll pass this on to the Museum.**

**As a part of some of the historic demonstrations associated with the P&H Elevator, there is a historic harvest event using old equipment.**

# Five Bronze Blooms for Stettler in Communities in Bloom

STACEY LWALLIE  
INDEPENDENT REPORTER

Another year and another five blooms for Stettler in the Communities in Bloom international competition, though a new grading system means the town now has a better idea of how to improve.

The town also nabbed the "golden goose" of Outstanding Achievement awards, the Outstanding Achievement Award for the Communities in Bloom Foundation Youth Involvement, and an honourable mention in Pride, Partnerships and Promotion.

During judging earlier this year, judges Lorna McIlroy and Ted Zaradny warned Heartland Beautification Committee about the new grading system, and said some communities may see a drop in score — not because they had lagged behind, but because the way judges grade communities was also changing along with the system.

Previously, communities rated a five-bloom score when they reached a score of 820 out of 1,000. However, once communities regularly reached that five-bloom score, it was hard to see how they compared to other communities and how much room there was for improvement, said Rob Spencer, chair of the Heartland Beautification Committee.

Spencer said he was braced to see Stettler's score drop when he attended the annual convention this year held in Kamloops, B.C.

Instead, Stettler's score soared by 26 points, a "significant" rise, Spencer said.

"It's very easy to gain a point in one category and lose a point in another, and zero out," Spencer said. As a community's score



Wendy Scott/Heartland Reporter

Grade 4x, vice-chair, Heartland Beautification Committee, volunteer organization that ensures Stettler's participation in the project 'tulip planting ceremony', shows Grade 5 students of Stettler Elementary School how to plant tulips at the tulip planting ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 30.

inches higher and higher, there's less chance of a community achieving a major point increase, instead inching along in point-by-point increments.

As a community's percentage increases, so does the value of their blooms. First, a community achieves five blooms, and then those five blooms become bronze, then silver, and finally gold.

Only a couple of communities achieved the 50 per cent required to rate the coveted five gold blooms, including a community from Turkey, which sent a large contingent to the conference, Spencer noted.

This year, a series of projects helped the community rise in points. The ever-expanding community garden project, the new outdoor classroom space at the Stettler Schools Complex, and the skate park were but some of the major projects that

helped boost Stettler's standing this year.

It was the project behind the school that helped Stettler bring home the Youth Involvement award, one which every community longs to collect, Spencer said.

"We're all sort of grey hairs here," he said of the Communities in Bloom volunteers. "Youth involvement is the golden goose."

Both judges had previously judged the community in the past, a fact that is a double-edged sword, Spencer explained.

"They can see how far we've come since they were last here," he said. "At the same time, they also know if we're trying to present an old project in a new way."

Ontario's Zaradny hadn't been to Stettler since before the town office was built on the corner of 50 Street and Highway 56. McIlroy's come about every three years, Spencer said.

Conference like a family reunion.

Heading to the conference every year is like a giant family reunion, Spencer said. After a few years on the Communities in Bloom circuit, he's had a chance to get to know people and the communities they represent.

"I had a guy from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, come up to me and say 'I come here to steal people's ideas, and I hope they steal mine,'" Spencer recalled. "We trade ideas and look at what other communities are doing and say 'We can do that' or maybe it's something we can change a bit and do."

The conference runs over three days, and includes a symposium and awards banquet.

"You learn so much from each other," Spencer said. "Little things, big things, and massive things you can try."



# P&H Preservation Society dinner brings together communities far and wide

STACEY LAVALLE  
INDEPENDENT REPORTER

The Hub at the Stettler Recreation Centre was abuzz with conversation as more than a hundred people gathered for the P&H Elevator Preservation Society's annual Christmas dinner.

The Saturday, Jan. 9 event takes place in January due to the busy schedule of both organizers and guests during December, as schools, churches, and other organizations celebrate the holidays, society member Donna Langille explained.

"It's just too busy in December," she said. "We're thinking of changing the name and theme."

In fact, each table had cards set up asking guests to make recommendations for next year's January dinner, both in name and theme. The cards would be

collected at the end of the night and reviewed later by the society's board when thinking ahead for next year.

The event got off to a slightly late start, as more than the anticipated number of guests showed up. By the registration deadline less than a hundred people had registered, but on the night of, roughly 120 showed up.

"It's hard to tell how many people we'll have, this close to December," Langille said. "It changes every year."

After a quick rush to get more plates and cutlery, the buffet dinner — with chicken, ham, potatoes and salads — was opened to guests. The complimentary bar saw action, as did the sale of 50/50 tickets. A wide selection of door prizes were available for guests to win throughout the night.

Each year, the society

holds three major fundraisers, usually the Christmas dinner in January, a pancake breakfast at the end of May and fall supper at the end of August making up the rest. The money raised at these events goes toward the preservation of the P&H elevator in downtown Stettler as well as the development of programs and events at the building.

One of the salads, a wheat salad, was made from wheat thrashed at an event this past autumn at the elevator, Stan Eichhorn explained.

He noted the events the elevator society hold are popular, bringing in people from all across the province. That night in particular, people had come from as far away as Drumheller and Strome to come and enjoy the dinner.

Over the decades, the organization has saved the old Parrish and



Stacey Lavalle (left) reports.

With more people than anticipated showing up to enjoy the Christmas in January dinner on Saturday, Jan. 9, there were few empty seats to be had.

Heimbecker elevator from the ravages of weather and time. Purchased in 2004 from P&H, the elevator has since been cleaned, the coal shed restored, metal siding on the feed mill repaired, and a coffee shop opened. Walls have been

repaired and painted, roofs have been repaired, as have floors and other parts of the elevator and attached facility.

School tours bring children through every year, showing them how the elevator used to run and how

grain was weighed and shipped by rail.

Projects last year saw the installation of a fire alarm and security system and a mural painting on the Little Giant shed. Plans for 2016 include working on the feed shed addition.

A2 Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Stettler Independent

www.stettlerindependent.com

**BUY IT • SELL IT • FIND IT • IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

**Green Tip Of The Week**  
"Cig Butt recycling!"

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world and end up in our rivers, soils, and oceans. Did you know you can send cigarette butts for recycling at no cost via [www.recyclecigs.ca](http://www.recyclecigs.ca)? They are used in the production of plastic pellets!

**RECYCLE CIGARETTE BUTTS HERE**

**Stettler Independent**  
Subscription Today!  
403-742-2396  
We're now in our 100th year!  
Celebrating our 100th anniversary  
Special rates for  
Residential, Commercial, and Institutional

Melissa Sara Johnson  
Independent staff

More than 100 people — members of P&H Elevator Preservation Society and supporters — headed gaily winds and sub-zero temperatures to attend the 11th annual Christmas supper on Saturday evening, Jan. 7 at the Hub.

"We were expecting a few more people but the bad weather conditions and the flu doing its rounds have kept them indoors," said Stan Eichhorn, president of P&H Elevator Preservation Society. "But, even then the num-



Melissa Sara Johnson (left) reports.

Volunteer Kay Anderson, left, shares a lighter moment with Mary Anne Bull, also a volunteer at the snack shop as they attend the 11th annual P&H Christmas supper on Jan. 7 at the Hub.

bers have been great I think and we've been able to break even just about."

For 11 years, P&H has been hosting this annual get-together towards the first part of January.

"We've always held this after Christmas because during that time people are busy with family and are often away," Eichhorn explained. "January is the best time I believe as the frenzy of the holidays has ended and people are not so tired and stretched out."

As members socialized and caught up with one another, it was a fun and relaxed evening that gave way to a great supper, catered by Marie Bignell of Gadsby, along with her crew of helpers.

"This gives the members a chance to meet one another face to face and exchange holiday wishes," Eichhorn said.

With a huge spread of three different salads, veggies, turkey, ham and gravy, and a wide

spread of desserts, the crowd couldn't have asked for more.

There were three prizes that had been donated by various local businesses, organizations and individuals, along with a 30/50 jackpot of more than \$300 for the evening.

At the end of the evening, cowboy poet, B.I. Smith took to the stage and shared some of his most cherished memories in the form of verse and rhyme.

As the crowd laughed heartily, Smith kept going up he ran out of steam, narrating stories that had actually occurred to him as a humorous, poetic form.

P&H looks to add on to the feed shed.

The P&H Elevator facility will be receiving a new upgrade, an addition to the feed shed, which will create more space for the members to have their coffee stops.

"We're going to add on to the feed shed so that we can have

larger space for our coffee stop as well as other functions," Eichhorn said. "Most importantly, more washrooms, especially needed for our larger functions and as both, and these will be wheelchair accessible ones as well."

Eichhorn said that the new space will house the mechanical room for the new addition as well as heat the existing feed shed.

"This will enable us to use it year long rather than only four months as we were doing because of its heating facilities," Eichhorn explained. "We've been fundraising and we have got a few smaller grants, besides we will be doing some active fundraising this spring, hoping to start construction around May when the frost is out of the ground."

Eichhorn said that the new space would be available to the public for rent at a nominal price or by donation.

**You said it – We DIDN'T do it (YET)**

*"The bat and bee homes in the new orchard is very cool; this could be duplicated in other areas, such as near the community gardens."*

**We totally agree and we'll get to work adding those in the near future, as well as educational signage (since people are a bit leery of bats and bees – they just need to know better).**

**We've used Junior High kids to build the first models, and will bring them on-board for the next ones.**

**STETTLER WEEKLY FORECAST**  
Information provided by the weather network.com

Day	Forecast	High/Low
Wednesday January 11	4 to 8 Bunny	High: 8 Low: -1
Thursday January 12	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2
Friday January 13	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2
Saturday January 14	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2
Sunday January 15	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2
Monday January 16	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2
Tuesday January 17	5 to 11 Bunny	High: 11 Low: -2

**TakeTims**  
CATERING BY TIM BORTONS  
Stettler

**PERFECT FOR YOUR NEXT:**  
Corporate Meeting • Special Holiday • Office Party • Shower • Graduation

**Small Party Package**  
10-15 guests  
\$150 per person  
Includes: Appetizers, Main Course, Dessert, Beverages, Linens, and Seating

**Medium Party Package**  
16-25 guests  
\$200 per person  
Includes: Appetizers, Main Course, Dessert, Beverages, Linens, and Seating

**Large Party Package**  
26-50 guests  
\$250 per person  
Includes: Appetizers, Main Course, Dessert, Beverages, Linens, and Seating



## Parrish & Heimbecker (P&H) Elevator



P&H Elevator

A popular landmark in town, the Parrish and Heimbecker (P&H) elevator was built in the 1920's. The P&H Elevator Preservation Society is preserving the elevator. The elevator recently opened a popular little coffee shop, and the elevator is still in working order. The society and volunteers have been working to restore the tack room on the back and complete other renovations on the elevator. It is estimated that volunteers have put in close to **40,000+ hours** on the elevator. It is likely more, since they are shy. ☺

In 2013/2014, fundraising was done to re-side/repaint the elevator, which has now been completed. Repairs to the foundations are also complete. With restoration of the tack room, it is hoped that more visitors will tour and use the facility. **Additional enhancements are underway** at the P&H.

Stettler Independent – Nov 3, 2010



P&H Elevator – pre- and post-painting

THE STETTLER INDEPENDENT SPOTLIGHT

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

## P&H Elevator on the way up to restore part of local history

RICHARD FROESE  
Independent reporter

Stettler's historic Parrish and Heimbecker grain elevator continues to move on up with a long-planned upgrade to restore the iconic structure that has stood the test of time since the early 1920s.

"We want to restore the elevator to its original features and character," said Stan Eichhorn, president of the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, the gentleman who initiated the project to preserve the building that has long reminded people of the rural and agricultural way of life of this area.

To promote its next major step in the project and raise further funds, the society will host an open house Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for tours, pie and coffee and other refreshments and an opportunity to "buy a shingle" for 50 cents each, \$25 a bundle or \$80 a square (four bundles).

"To me, there is a lot of history here and this is one of the last icons of a bygone era," said Eichhorn, reminding that many of the rural skyscrapers have become obsolete falling victims to progress as technology has modernized many economic processes.

Raising funds to restore the rural reminder continues to keep the society busy, with some much needed support from the provincial government.

"We recently received a matching grant of \$26,000 from the Community



Stettler Movin' on up – Stettler's historic P&H elevator will be restored and renovated next year as a long-time dream of Stan Eichhorn, who serves as president of Stettler P&H Elevator Society.

"Down the road, in the next year or two, we want to repaint the exterior of the elevator to the original elevator red colour," said Eichhorn.

Raising funds to restore the rural reminder continues to keep the society busy, with some much needed support from the provincial government.

"We recently received a matching grant of \$26,000 from the Community

Facility Enhancement Program that will help us upgrade the roofs on the elevator and feed mill, install electricity in the feed shed and a new smoke detector and security system and further restore the feed shed in the elevator building," said Eichhorn.

"We're trying to raise our matching funds with a campaign to buy a shingle."

"For the society and volunteers, getting this grant is encouraging and it enhanced the outlook to restore this building."

"By knowing the past, we can help shape the future," said Eichhorn.

Built around 1920, the 100-foot-high wooden elevator with a capacity of 40,000 to 45,000 bushels of grain is one of the main structures along the railroad that greets visitors on Highway 12 near downtown.

Since 2006, when the society received a provincial historic resources grant of about \$8,000, sale of memberships, donations and other fundraising events have helped improve many of the buildings on site.

"Well over 5,000 to 6,000 hours of volunteer labour have been invested in the project," said Eichhorn.

Formerly a hub of agricultural activity, the elevator site could again become a centre of rural and farming history as he envisions it.

"I would like to develop a place where young generations can learn about what happened here

in Stettler to develop the town and rural area," said Eichhorn.

Closed on Jan. 3, 2003, the elevator was purchased by Eichhorn for \$1 from P&H in 2004.

The society is also seeking a roller mill, hammer mill, blender and other related equipment to complement the facility.

"At some time in history, this was used by about 90 per cent of farmers in the region for livestock feed preparation," said Eichhorn.

P&H was one of the very few grain companies to add a feed mill and offer livestock feed services.

"This is the last elevator-feedmill complex still standing in Alberta – so it's unique to Alberta," said Eichhorn.

As well, this facility had one of the few scales in the area, he noted.

"It's one of the last structures in town that sort of provided the commerce and the groundwork for the development of this community."

Along with the old creamery, grain elevator, egg-grading station, cattle stockyard by the railroad and other landmarks in town that have disappeared over the past few decades, P&H – in his opinion – is one of the pivotal points in the growth of the town.

Already the elevator is a place to be with the coffee shop open weekdays 9 to 11 a.m. and the rustic and refurbished feed shed available for small meetings and gatherings.

For more information, phone Eichhorn at 403-742-4703.

### Stettler Variety Showcase

2010 - 2011 Concert Series

Stettler Community Hall  
5101 - 46 Ave., Stettler, AB

Stettler Performing Arts Centre  
5409 - 50 Ave., Stettler, AB

Tickets available at  
Pfeiffer House of Music

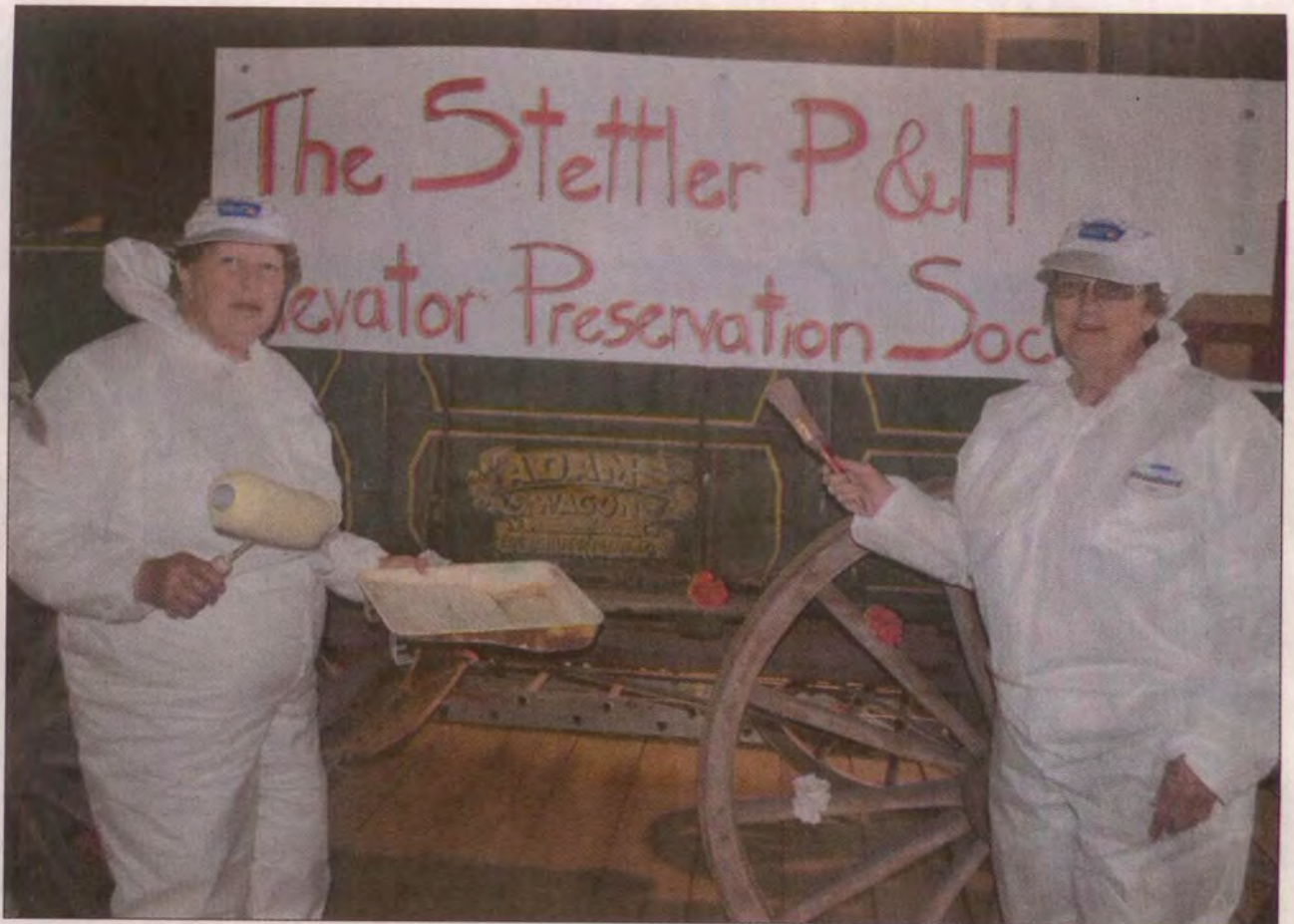
**WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE COMING!**  
*Invite a Friend!*

<p><b>Saturday, November 13, 2010</b> Dinner Concert Stettler Community Hall Dinner Opens 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m. <b>TREVOR PANCZAK</b> A Band "ROUGH STOCK"</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 5, 2010</b> <b>JAMES KEELAGHAN</b> Jazz, swing, blues, rockabilly Jazz trio featuring James Keelaghan, bassist and keyboardist For pricing, availability, tickets &amp; more info visit <a href="http://www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com">www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com</a></p>	<p><b>Sunday, January 23, 2011</b> Dinner Concert Stettler Community Hall Dinner Opens 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m. <b>SHILTON CASAVANT</b> The 4-piece band featuring Shilton Casavant, bassist and keyboardist For pricing, availability, tickets &amp; more info visit <a href="http://www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com">www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com</a></p> <p><b>Sunday, February 13, 2011</b> <b>SHILTON CASAVANT</b> The 4-piece band featuring Shilton Casavant, bassist and keyboardist For pricing, availability, tickets &amp; more info visit <a href="http://www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com">www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com</a></p>
--	--

**Sunday, March 13, 2011**  
**SOMER STRINGS**  
Violin, double bass, cello, guitar  
Guitar trio featuring a traditional  
violin, double bass, cello, guitar  
For pricing, availability, tickets & more  
info visit [www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com](http://www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com)

**Sunday, April 3, 2011**  
**JOHN LEE SANDERS**  
Rock, pop, country  
For pricing, availability, tickets & more  
info visit [www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com](http://www.pfeifferhouseofmusic.com)





RICHARD FROESE/Independent reporter

Dressed in white coveralls, seniors Evelyn Shursen (left) and Joyce Gordon are ready to paint the town, or at least the Stettler P&H Elevator. A fundraising barbecue is planned for next Thursday, Aug. 1.

# Community rally to boost fundraising efforts to paint Stettler's historic elevator

**RICHARD FROESE**  
Independent reporter

In an effort to paint the 93-year-old Stettler P&H Elevator, a rally is planned for next Thursday, Aug. 1, to promote the project.

A community barbecue is planned for noon that day and tours will be given through 3 p.m. to bring attention to the need to refurbish the towering and historic elevator.

Local dignitaries, including MLA Rick Strankman, plan to attend, organizers said.

Seniors such as Evelyn Shursen and Joyce Gordon are optimistic that, with strong community support, Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society will reach the goal of \$60,000 to recoat the building operated by Parrish and Heimbecker grain company.

About \$25,000 is already in the

bank in support of the project.

"We're going to make people aware of the need to raise money to help preserve this building," Shursen said.

During the day, the elevator site will be open as the society invites the community to support one of Alberta's oldest standing elevators and a time of fun and food.

"We rely on donations, small and large, and volunteers," Gordon said.

"We need to make this happen."

A former longtime school teacher, Shursen encourages all her students to get on board and support the project.

"I challenge all my former students to support the project," said Shursen, who taught at Stettler Junior High School for more than 30 years until she retired in 1995.

Built in 1920, the structure has become a towering icon for visitors, as

is stands beside the home station for Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions.

"It's a great opportunity to promote tourism and history," Shursen.

"Tourists see the value of preserving this with their support of funds and donations."

Gordon said this elevator is important to preserve to help tell of the story of Stettler and early life in Canada for younger generation.

"They need to know our history," Gordon said.

Shursen has deep roots and vivid memories of the Stettler elevator.

"The history of grain from the elevator was so prevalent in the early history of Stettler," Shursen said.

"My father and my grandfather brought grain to Stettler to be shipped out around the world and the grain was made into feed for cattle, chickens and pigs."





JOHN MacNEIL/Independent editor

Stettler's grain elevator grounds were decorated with antiques during Thursday's Paint the Elevator rally.

# Elevator facelift to begin 'within about two weeks'

*Continued from front page*

"We're going to insulate the outside of the wall, putting up studs and insulating out there, and then putting the cedar siding back on. But this (interior) will stay the same as you see it today. We won't touch the walls. We could have put Gyprock up, but then it would be like every other room or hall in town."

The preservation society hopes to promote the area as a meeting room that can accommodate 50 people for functions, Eichhorn said.

"It's all by donation. We don't charge."

Likewise, the society is seeking community donations for the Paint the Elevator campaign. The group gained financial and moral support Thursday, as visitors included Drumheller-Stettler MLA Rick Strankman, Stettler Mayor Dick Richards and County of Stettler Reeve Wayne Nixon.

"The weatherman was certainly with us today," Eichhorn said with a laugh. "Maybe he's from Stettler."

"It's a beautiful day. Just great."

"We were really hoping that we would get to the people in the town, especially working people that have a lunch hour. They could pop by, have a look at what we have, and if they can offer us a little donation, great."

While the turnout wasn't as great as the historical group had hoped for, Eichhorn said the latest contributions were still being tallied.

The society spread its message clearly with signs on the side of the elevator. "Help Paint the Elevator," read a slogan posted high above symbolic dollar signs painted on the tarnished surface.

"Not too many people have commented on the appearance of it, but we know it isn't great," Eichhorn said. "It's kind of shabby, as a matter of fact. So that's why we're so keen to get it painted."

"That's the main, big project that we have that will make a difference. People have been pretty generous, as far as (not) negatively commenting. But it'll sure be nice to get it done."

"We have contracted to have part of it painted this summer. We're putting new siding (and paint) on

the elevator, and we're leaving the siding on the annex, which is basically just a grain-storage area. It was built in later years, so the siding on that — with a few repairs — will be fine with this paint job."

The entire project can't be done with the amount of money raised so far, Eichhorn said, "because it's about \$165,000 to do the complete project."

The immediate work includes siding and painting the elevator, "but the annex and the top of the elevator won't be" done this year, he said.

"As a matter of fact, they might start within about two weeks. But we won't be able to do it all unless our fundraising goes pretty well."

In 2004, Eichhorn bought the elevator for \$1 from Parrish and Heimbecker grain company.

"We then set up a non-profit society in 2005," he said.

"Our membership has been growing since then. It's about eight or nine years that we've been working on the (elevator preservation)."

"It's really about a 20-year project. There's lots of work still to be done."

THE  
OF  
Get the  
to look a



WEL

Main Str

www.wellsfurn

FIN  
in the

CAMBO  
SIGH

Escorted Fro  
February 13 -



INCLUDES:  
17 Nights hotel accommodation  
Daily buffet breakfast plus add  
All transfers & sightseeing tour  
coach with English speaking g  
Tour Escort from Stettler Trave  
Economy intra Indo-China airfa

PRICING:  
\$3260.00 per person, land on  
double occupancy



Book a 'Vacation  
August 1 - Octo  
Samsonit

Tru



## near Nevis

Police reported Sunday that they found a missing Mirror man dead in his vehicle near Nevis.

Bashaw RCMP said William (Bill) Graham, 66, who went missing July 27 after he left the Alix dump, was found dead in his pickup truck.

"A full investigation is being conducted by the RCMP, (but) foul play is not suspected," RCMP Sgt. Patricia Neely said in a news release.

"RCMP would like to thank members of the public for their assistance in this matter."

Graham's case was the second missing person's report that Bashaw RCMP issued last week.

An 85-year-old Calgary woman who left the Bashaw Valley Lodge on foot last Tuesday was located safely a day later, RCMP reported.

"Bashaw RCMP have found Maria Abutal alive and well near Bashaw (on Wednesday)," RCMP Const. Charla Ethier said in a news release Friday.

"Police would like to thank the assistance of the general public and all other involved agencies who helped with the search for Abutal," one of the Calgary seniors residing at the lodge temporarily because of the southern Alberta flooding.



**JOHN MacNEIL/Independent editor**  
Riding high last Thursday during a community rally, Stan Eichhorn and Evelyn Shursen of the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society paint dollar signs on the side of the historic grain elevator. A community effort is underway to raise money to paint the 93-year-old structure.

# Grain elevator brushes with history

## Preservation society hosts open house in support of painting tower

**JOHN MacNEIL**  
Independent editor

The P&H needs some TLC. Stettler's historic grain elevator — out of operation for 10 years but still a town landmark — is banking on community support to refurbish the towering structure.

Dollars signs were painted on the faded siding last Thursday during a community rally to spur a paint job for the 93-year-old elevator.

Music, food, tours and striking

sunshine greeted visitors, who responded with donations to the Paint the Elevator campaign.

"I think anybody that I talked to here today, it was certainly positive and encouraging comments," Stan Eichhorn, the president of the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, said after hosting guests for three-plus hours.

"They feel that it's worthwhile hanging on to Stettler's last elevator."

"It's a bit more interesting, maybe, with this complex, because

we do have the feed mill and feed shed, which wasn't common on most elevators. We also have the coal shed, which is unique, because there's only three coal sheds left in Alberta on the original site — and we have one of them."

What's more, Stettler's grain elevator stands alongside the base for a provincial tourist hotspot, Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions.

The former feed shed has been converted into a meeting and dining room that was used

Thursday during the open house. People also mingled outside at the picnic tables, near the entertainment stage and antique vehicles, including three colourful International trucks.

"We would like to preserve the feed shed and keep the (wooden) décor as it is," said Eichhorn, sporting coveralls and sitting on a couch while placing his Zeb Walton-style hat beside him.

See 'Elevator' on Page A3



# P&H Elevator keepers aim to record Stettler's past

MOUSH SARA JOHN  
WEEKENDER REPORTER

Along Stettler's skyline is the brick-red grain elevator, a bold parallel to the city's resilience as well as its past.

It would have been lost, of course, but it hasn't because of the foresight of a few Stettler residents who formed the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society and have continued to uphold the town's waning structure.

Now Stan Eichhorn, president of the Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, along with friend Jack Schulze, both Stettler old timers want to take on an even bigger initiative, that of documenting and recording the communities and industries of Stettler prior to the 1900s up until now in a history book of the town.

"We have been thinking of it for about seven years,"

said Eichhorn. "When Jack did the Shur-Gain metal sign and it was put up, we sat and pondered and why there has been no history book on Stettler, like the other towns."

Eichhorn said the urgency has increased since then for a number of reasons.

"Although we have talked about it on occasion and every now and then, we've never really made a move, but since we have lost a few critical people like Rex Shudburgh, Wilda Gibbons, Gertie Savage, Everett Bullington, we feel we are losing history of the town and the area," explained Eichhorn. "So we would like to know if there is enough interest, you know when those people passed away a lot of history disappeared and it is sad."

Jack Schulze said "We would like to work on a history book on Stettler and community, which would

basically showcase the town's culture and heritage, and development through the years like the evolution of businesses and establishments."

According to Schulze, the endeavour is to get maiden names and married names as part of the index.

"When we tried to trace our family down in the States, it was very difficult to find out our mother's side of the family using her maiden name and that's one of the prime examples why it would be a good idea to have an index of maiden names and family names both," added Schulze. "Newer generations are moving out, settling elsewhere, so it's important that they know their roots and where they came from and this history book would help people remember and give them a basis of the town as it was."

continued on page 2



MOUSH SARA JOHN/STETTNER NEWS

Jack Schulze at the P&H reminisces about Stettler's past and why it is important to have a history book of the town.

## P&H Elevator keepers aim to record Stettler's past

continued from  
front page

Both Eichhorn and Schulze believe its important to get the history down before its lost. "By knowing the past, we can shape the future," said Eichhorn. "To me, this town is really founded on agriculture and originally

the main income sources were primarily stockyards, egg grading stations and grain."

But, Eichhorn said that most of them are all gone now except for the grain elevator.

"It's obviously an attrition of these things, can you imagine?" continued Eichhorn. "I think although oil came, agriculture is still important to the town's roots and who the people in Stettler are."

Retelling some of the structures and establishments that have disappeared over time, Eichhorn said. Just west of the Stettler town, right by the highway, there was a shoe mill and Stettler had its own brand of cigars, the Stettler Cigar Manufacturing Co. were makers of "Old-Law", which later went big and was manufactured on large scale in Vancouver.

The history book would focus on how the history of the area and by birth, about why did people come here and what was their drive, said Eichhorn.

Schulze said that he had attended a graveside service in Bosh in the recent past and one of the family members wanted to know some family details.

"All I had to do was look up the Bosh book and the information was there," said Schulze. "They had left the town long time back but it was their wish to be buried in the town of Bosh, so the history book is actually to record and it's timeless."

Eichhorn remembered some of the old memories from the past, how the old one-room schools were these community hubs, and everything that went on in the community, whether it was Christmas caroling, Sunday morning church services or box socials.

With the support of Stettler P&H Elevator Preservation Society, Eichhorn and Schulze would like to hold a meeting on Tuesday evening, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the P&H Elevator to discuss and see what the interest in the community is.

**Stettler Auction Mart (1990) Ltd.**

**LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT**

Tuesday, May 17  
TOTAL - 218 head

<b>SLAUGHTER CATTLE:</b>			
01-02 Cows:	95.00 to 108.00	03 Cows:	88.00 to 95.00
Bulls:	100.00 to 132.00	Feeder Bulls:	115.00 to 132.00
Feeder Cows:	105.00 to 112.00	Heifers:	105.00 to 125.00
<b>FEEDER CATTLE:</b>			
<b>Steers:</b>		<b>Heifers:</b>	
1000 plus lbs:	NONE	900 plus lbs:	NONE
900 to 1000 lbs:	NONE	800 to 900 lbs:	NONE
800 to 900 lbs:	112.00 to 120.00	700 to 800 lbs:	NONE
700 to 800 lbs:	102.00 to 105.00	600 to 700 lbs:	NONE
600 to 700 lbs:	NONE	500 to 600 lbs:	NONE
500 to 600 lbs:	NONE	400 to 500 lbs:	NONE
400 to 500 lbs:	NONE	300 to 400 lbs:	NONE
300 to 400 lbs:	NONE	200 to 300 lbs:	NONE
OFF TYPES:	NONE	OFF TYPES:	NONE

Pork  
800.00 to 1020.00



## Stettler History Book

The History Book of Stettler is a volunteer venture that is being undertaken by a group of local people interested in preserving the history of Stettler. Members of the group are gathering stories and family histories of the people of the community. It is hoped that they will be able to compile a fairly thorough record of Stettler, its history, and the people who made it the community that all know and love.

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 22

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

# The search for true history requires a lot of digging

Local historian pursues the truth of Carl Stettler

STACEY LALLIE  
WEEKENDER REPORTER

When in pursuit of accurate history, there are two things a historian must remember: keep an open mind, and "dig, dig, dig."

Alfred Erickson, who wrote a book detailing the history of the Lutheran churches in the Stettler area in 2014, is embarking on another historical adventure to discover the true history of the town's founder, Carl Stettler.

Over time, much of Stettler's history has become more myth and legend, Erickson said. Truth has been embellished, one tiny step at a time, until many of today's stories have travelled a bit distant from the truth.

The project began when the Stettler Town and Country Museum, with which Erickson is involved, did several historical talks at the local seniors' lodges and care homes. Carl Stettler was a topic that came up more than once, and Erickson wanted to learn more. The next logical step for him,

he said, was to turn it into a book.

The pursuit of history has always interested Erickson, even before his first book and the other history projects in which he's been involved.

"Part of it was my family," he said. "(They) were very involved in the Lutheran church. I had both the church and family records available to me for me to start."

From there, the path led him where it led him, and he followed, setting the mantra - "Dig, dig, dig" - in his mind.

He found that he enjoyed the search for information and the discovery of the past, turning it all into a historically accurate story. His search for historical information took him to archives in Edmonton and across Alberta, and while not every visit yielded results, more often than not it revealed another nugget of unknown truth that led Erickson to dig elsewhere.

When it comes to Carl Stettler, Erickson is on a big journey as he works



Stettler's inaugural council photo, taken shortly after the town of Stettler was incorporated on Nov. 22, 1906. Carl Stettler, top right, is pictured with councillors N.T. Burdick, top left, and bottom from left, G.R. Farmer, J.P. Grigg, N.B. McGillivray, W. Dunlop, and J.N. Tige.

to parse legend from truth. Many of the stories told by people today have drifted somewhat from the truth, though not due to malice but through the human nature to embellish.

"Unfortunately, local stories are often embellished," he said. "So often, you have to go out of the area to find other resources."

He said that a lot of people believe Carl Stettler was the town's first postmaster, but research indicates it was actually his daughter. The same about the first telephone relay in

town - his step-daughter was in charge of that, not he. The two girls worked together in the post office, since the phone relay was based there.

"A lot of people don't even realize Carl had family," Erickson said. "He did, and he loved them a great deal. He would be shocked to think people didn't think he had any family because of how much they meant to him."

Carl Stettler's true past, Erickson said that he doesn't diminish Carl Stettler's accomplishments, because even before the embellishments and inaccurate information, they were rather significant.

He founded Stettler, and he owned several of the key buildings in the business sector," Erickson said. "He had the largest hotel in town and owned the post office."

continued on page 3

## Stettler History Book producers still looking for volunteers

Carry on Weenem  
Independent staff

Stettler has never got to the point where they've got going on a book. And some of these people are on their second volume already. So I felt that they were really serious in not proceeding with something like that."

Carson Ellis is one of the people working on the book with Erickson among other volunteers.

"I've always been curious about the history of Stettler," Ellis said. "I like looking at the old buildings and trying to think of what they used to look like, or the businesses that used to be in them. I enjoy reading about old buildings and what was used to build them."

This interest in local history also inspired Ellis to start the four town history website and Facebook page.

The idea started with a few pictures that Ellis put on his own Facebook page a few years ago.

"I got a good response from the people, from the early days, but when the railroad came to Stettler and the town became a stop in the fall of 1905, Stettler became the major centre of the community in the early days, but when all was discovered in 1906 the story of Stettler began to change."

Ellis and his group hope to include all of this history in the book, from the early days up until modern times.

"One history could go from the beginning of the days of the Stettler up until about 1905 or 1906," said Erickson.

Anyone looking to get involved can find more information on the Stettler History Book Facebook page or call 403-740-4780.

the history of local businesses

"Family history will be one of the main functions of the book," Erickson explained. "We would like people who are interested in having their family history included in the book to come forward."

Stettler's rich history dates back to the late 19th century, before the town was founded, according to Erickson.

"There was a settlement just east of Stettler that came into existence just a few years prior to the founding of the town, but then when the railroad came to Stettler and the town became a stop in the fall of 1905, Stettler became the major centre of the community in the early days, but when all was discovered in 1906 the story of Stettler began to change."

Ellis and his group hope to include all of this history in the book, from the early days up until modern times.

"One history could go from the beginning of the days of the Stettler up until about 1905 or 1906," said Erickson.

Anyone looking to get involved can find more information on the Stettler History Book Facebook page or call 403-740-4780.

continued on page 3

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

Stettler history

## Marching time means recording history now

Stacey Lallie  
Weekender staff

Preserving Stettler's history has become a project near and dear to the hearts of a group of individuals who have been planning on a plan to create a history book chronicling the life and times of the community since its foundation in 1907.

The Stettler History Book Committee met at the old ATCO building on Monday, Nov. 7, to discuss the next steps in the project, which has been in the works for months - since September.

The book, though, has been seen and dear to the hearts of many in the past years, though, organizers said.

The people who attended the Monday meeting were all people who had been involved in various aspects since the committee's formation in September. A list had been made in the past to help the committee to ensure nothing was left out.

"If we miss this up, we will miss it to do it later," said Erickson, a member of the committee, added.

The purpose of time is of great concern to the members of the committee, as it's been 111 years since the founding of the community in 1905. All of the voices present in Stettler that day have fallen silent, but many of those remaining who know them are also be-

coming increasingly quiet.

Preserving that information now is vital, not just for the present, but for the community itself.

"We need to make sure that the information is saved," fellow member Ernie O'Hara said.

Part projects have ambitious tasks, the committee noted. In various levels of success, however, the projects have never reached the book stage, and some of the information gathered by past committee members has been lost.

The committee acknowledged it, too, many did not make it to the book stage, so one of the key factors established at the meeting was to ensure that the information gathered by past committee members has been lost.

"I don't want to go to the book stage and have to tell them that the information gathered by past committee members has been lost," O'Hara said.

As a contingency plan, the committee intends to do some general information gathering.

The committee also plans to do some general information gathering.

Every second, photographs, every recorded story, every anecdote recorded by the past committee members, the committee noted.

With Christmas just have fallen silent, but many of those remaining who know them are also be-



Ernie O'Hara gestures animatedly as he speaks about the importance of the Stettler history book project. He chaired a meeting at the old ATCO building on Monday, Nov. 7, intended to get the project rolling.

ride simple opportunities for locals to exchange stories about the community's past, which could then be passed on to the committee.

Each person who contributes, whether through old photographs or stories, is valuable, O'Hara said. People don't have to join

the committee to contribute, they just need to follow through with whatever commitment they promise, he said.

The intended history book will hopefully bring in many of the stories demonstrated in the Stettler Book of Memories, which O'Hara

brought with him to the meeting.

"They did an excellent job," he said of the book. "It has pictures on every page, sometimes more than one."

The idea of images and text is vital, the committee noted, to make the book readable. The photos don't have to have major historical impact and can be as simple as a wedding photo at a Stettler location, an snapshot of a group, or anything that reveals the spirit of the community.

The information in the book would range over a wide variety of topics, covering the political, business, and personal parts of the community, through building and streets, grand events, sports, schools, service clubs and churches - just to name a few preliminary ideas.

The goal presently is to work on the first 20 years of the community's life, from 1905 to 1925 - though a timeline from any time period is welcome.

Contributions can be made to email, in writing, and delivered to the P&T Elevator's mail box, or through an appointment set up for an interview with members of the committee.

The committee is also still seeking stories and photos of 700 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the old ATCO building.

For more information, please contact Erickson at 403-740-4780.

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

continued on page 3

## The search for true history...

continued from  
front page

keeping an open mind is important during the search because many people "can't imagine how things were like back then," he said. Knowing why people made the decisions and took the actions they did can be difficult when a person can't realize the pressures of the situation then.

"In 1908, Stettler literally burned down," Erickson said. The downtown business core - from about where the Jewel Theatre stands now, east past the Stettler Hotel and the Liquor Barn, and north past the railway tracks - were devastated by the fire, he said.

"It gutted the town's businesses," Erickson said. "But the settlers here were resilient and by that time next year, they had rebuilt it all."

While it will be some time before Erickson is finished the book on Stettler, it's a project he pursues diligently, going where the information and clues take him. He said he's privileged because the museum in Stettler has let him go through its archives to work on the book.

He's also involved, peripherally, with the P&T Elevator Society's history project, providing guidance and advice as they start their journey looking for the history of the elevator.

"I don't know if they know what they're in for,"

he said with a chuckle, but added that he was glad others were chasing after history, too.

Erickson said that others who want to go

into researching history, whether it's the history of a person, an area, a thing or a family tree, must be open-minded because the facts will often lead in a

direction different than the searcher anticipates.

"Be ready to go where the information takes you," he said. "And dig, dig, dig."

## K & K Auctions

presents an  
**Antique and Collectible Auction for the  
Estate of Dick Gerwing and guest consignors**

**Sunday, June 5 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Bashaw Community Centre, Bashaw, Alta.

Featuring: Rare paper money, including a 1935 \$25 bill and coins, One man's collection of old pocket watches, Regulator clock and gingerbread clocks, Cast Iron toys, Collection of coal oil lamps, D.U. collectibles, die cast cars and trucks and much more.

Check our website for complete listing and pictures.

[www.globalauctionguide.com](http://www.globalauctionguide.com)

For information on this auction phone Doug or Loraine

**780-679-4142**

## AG DIRECTORY

**FINANCIAL**

**Peter Boys CAFE  
Boys Financial Services**

Working to protect my client's health, wealth & lifestyles.  
4510A - 51 Street, Stettler  
Toll Free: 1-866-219-7366 Ph: 403-742-6450

**MACHINE SHOPS**

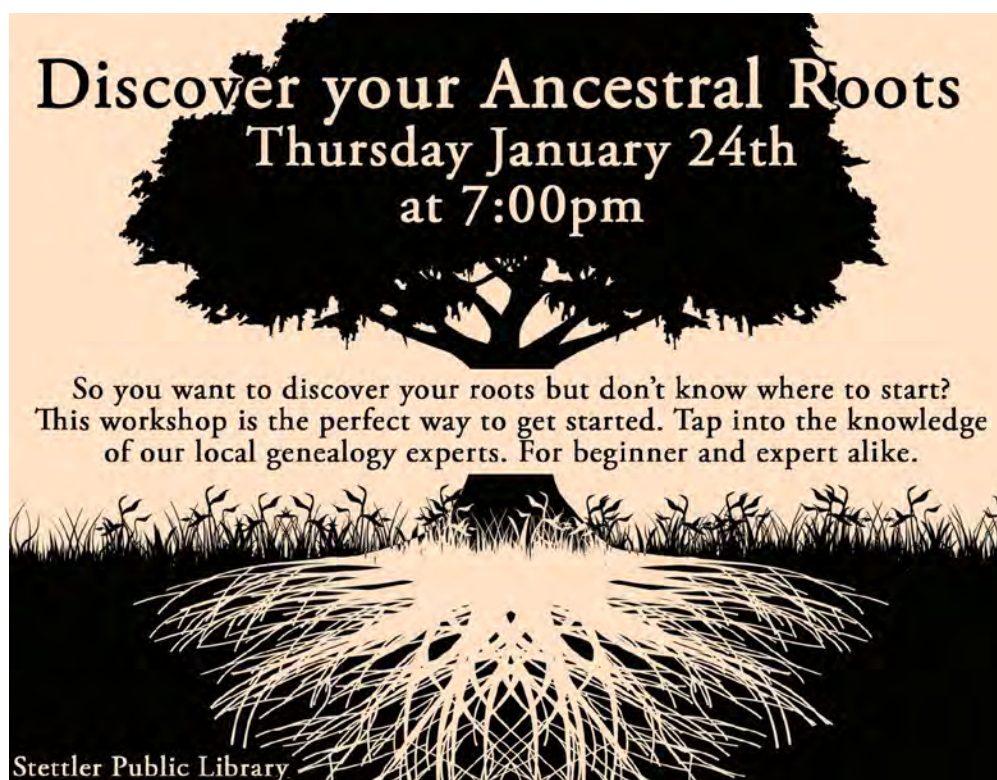
**CAFE**  
Fully equipped machine shop for all your agriculture needs.  
403-742-8822





### *Stettler Geneology Club*

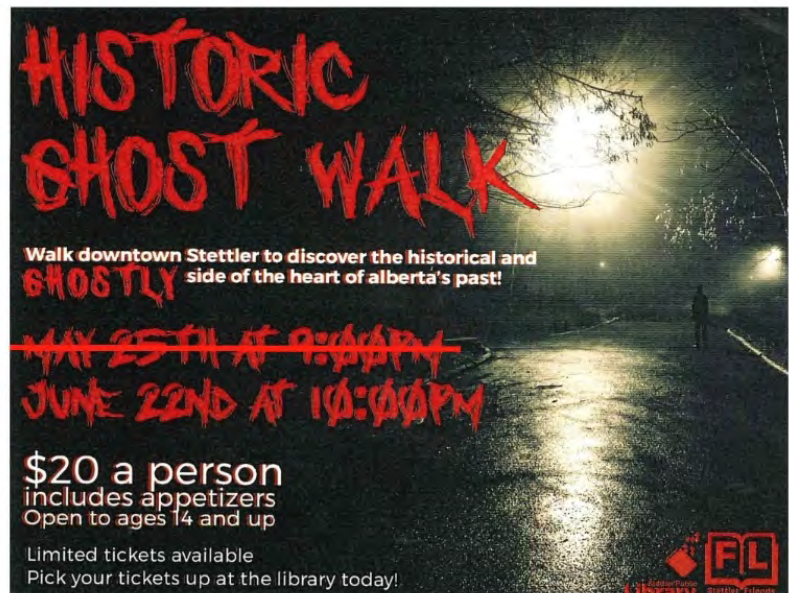
The **Stettler Geneology Club** meets monthly (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month, except for summer) in Stettler to work on helping each other delve into their family history. Meetings are now held at the library, which provides free access to Ancestry.ca. Meetings are either exchanges and help sessions, or speakers are brought in from the community and beyond.





## Stettler Ghost Walk

The interest in ghosts and history is combined with a series of **Historic Ghost Walks**. Initially organized by the Stettler Board of Trade, the walks have recently been taken over by the Friends of the Library group, and have exploded in interest. Walks are consistently sold out and tour guides are adding new elements to the walks each time. It combines the paranormal with historic buildings.



Interest in the Ghost Walks increased following an evening discussion session with the lawyer (Judge MacNaughton) of **Robert Raymond Cook**, the last man tried and hanged for murder in Alberta. There was a massive turnout for the evening. The evening was filmed and a DVD of the session sold afterwards.

## [Alberta Prairie Railway Excursions](#) (a.k.a. Alberta Prairie Steam Train)

**Alberta Prairie Steam Tours** operates a functional 1920's steam train, taking visitors on a tour to Big Valley. During some excursions a "mock robbery" takes place. Various themed rides are planned such as: "Adults only" steak dinners, a "Teddy Bear Picnic," and a "Family Special."

Every year over 15 000 people ride the train. APST is a very community-minded business,



offering free rides at Christmas time to raise funds and food for the Food Bank.

**Alberta Railway  
Excursions  
Station and P&H  
Elevator**





increase the historical connection to the community and region, as well as to beautify parking areas. Environmental Action sub-committee Walk/Bike Promotion activities have added walking/biking distance to Main Street signage near this site, to encourage walking to Main Street. In honour of Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017, **Rails and Tales 2017** partnered with East Central Alberta Heritage Society and Alberta Prairie Railway to celebrate the history of steam rail transport in Canada. Bringing together two operating Canadian heritage steam locomotives, Rails and Tales 2017 invited heritage and rail aficionados in Alberta, Canada, and around the world to this family-friendly event. Alberta Prairie Railway often hosts major events (National Girl Guides) and does a major **Polar Express** specialty train excursion in December, which includes **performances by local music and dance groups**.

www.stettlerindependent.com

Stettler Independent

www.stettlerindependent.com

Stettler Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 A5



Stettler's Alberta Prairie partners with Danceology on Polar Express

## Stettler's Alberta Prairie partners with Danceology on Polar Express

**Moush Sara John** independent staff

what was to come.

"This is just the first run of the 30-trip excursion that we will be making," said Bob Wells, general manager of Stettler's Alberta Prairie Railway.

Hot chocolate and cookies were served on board and soon the performers came out on the train and were able to bring Christmas to all the kids as they tapped into the music.

"Because of the number of passengers we encounter on each run, the performers have to be ready on their feet to ensure that the 'feel' of the train experience stays true to the script," Gillies said. "The sound track, script and the production must fit within the confines of Western Railways as well as many other growing bodies."

According to Gillies, it has been a big undertaking and a larger understanding for all of the crew to work together to bring this truly amazing experience to the passengers.

"I'm forever grateful to APST to allow us to be a part of it," Gillies continued. "The blessing to be able to bring the Christmas spirit to all those on board, give them an hour and a half of believing and forgetting their troubles. It is an awesome feeling."

With the weather conditions getting more star, Wells said that they are doing everything and adapting a bit to keep the crew as warm as possible, but so far the feedback has been excellent.

## Cantus Choir and audience

**Moush Sara John** independent staff

The Stettler Alliance Church was packed to capacity this Sunday evening, Dec. 4 as Cantus Choir and Jazz performed in an outdoor setting.

Under the expertise of Choir Director Gordon Moring, the Cantus Choir with 18 members performed about 14 numbers, some in conjunction with Jazz.

"We used to have ten annual performances before, one at springtime and one during Christmas," said Moring. "But now with many of the members being away during winter, we only have one performance."

With its show, live exposure, four hours and three times, the balance is just about right, and Moring, although he would love to have another ten annual performances, he is not sure if he can do it.

"We usually start with one song, then move on to some live music," Moring added. "All the new live music members, some not used to live music, with a strong sense of faith and revival present."

Choir of the Cantus Choir members, five persons who have been with the group for 15 years said, "Last night felt good singing, it brought a lot of us were lighting."



Royal Canadian Air Force CF-18 Hornet

## Rails and Tales to pull out all stops for Canada's 150th

**continued from Page A1**

"As a conductor, I put our trains together, conduct safety inspections, load and unload passengers and make sure the train gets safely to its destination," Graydon added. "At the Alberta Prairie Railway we are all customer relations specialists, ensuring our passengers have a great experience, their needs are met and any issues are dealt with quickly and professionally."

The event, which kicked off yesterday will be running till Monday, July 3.

"We are in charge of putting smiles on every passenger's face," Graydon commented. "Rails and Tales has been a great experience for me because I've met a lot of new people in the Stettler area and throughout the province, we have had help putting the project together by a dedicated core of volunteers supported by both local businesses and non-profit groups."

Needless to say, both Stettler and Big Valley are busy about the event. As the second engine was hauled into Stettler by road last Thursday, June 22 from Edmonton, area residents stopped by and photographed.

"It's been a great learning experience and I'd like to thank everyone involved for their support and hard work," Graydon said. "Special thanks to the staff at Alberta Prairie Railway who have gone above and beyond to make this happen."



Alberta Prairie staff and volunteers get ready to unload the engine, which arrived in Stettler by road from Edmonton on Thursday afternoon, June 22.

The Rotary Club of Stettler would like to

# Thank

the following sponsors:

ATB Financial • Boys Financial Services  
Cervus Equipment • Crop Production Services  
MNP • BCC • Royal Bank • Stettler GM  
Stettler Veterinary Clinic • TD Canada Trust  
and all those who purchased tables

There were four deserving students

Around 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1, there was a luncheon at Stettler's railway platform as the Alberta Prairie Railway loaded the last of its passengers on its Polar Express thermal journey to the North Pole.

This year, the Alberta Prairie Railway teamed with local dance practice, Danceology to create a world of wonder at the 'North Pole' for kids.

"We had our formal nightgowns way back in October towards the end, with four different dresses and an amazing group of children and adults who took part," said Sweet and Principal Dancer Rhonda Gillies. "Performers were given five times each work to come and learn the various dances and the script used within the Polar Express."

Gillies said that this was the first year that the Alberta Prairie Steam Train (APST) has run the "Polar Express" and it was their first opportunity to participate in such.

Both APST and myself made a very conscious decision to offer the parts to everyone in the community and not just those who have been with the train in December time before," Gillies added. "We had to keep a balance."

As the train took off, the atmosphere within was one of enchantment and anticipation as the kids wandered along with the accompanying adults.

**Suzanne**

## Wrap shopping



A train carriage gets prepped for the Rails and Tales event this week.

**Nikki Jacobsen**

## Ideal Dentures Inc.

Please call to book your appointment, dentures welcome. Our office calls available.

4828 50 St, New Town Stettler  
403-742-4005  
Email: nikki@idealdentures.com

**Your Smile is my Business**

## NO MORE BATTERIES!

# Rails and Tales to pull out all stops for Canada's 150th

Alberta Prairie Railway and East Central Alberta Heritage Society come together to provide once-in-a-lifetime experience

**Moush Sara John** independent staff

Two of Alberta's history keepers - Alberta Prairie Railway and East Central Alberta Heritage Society have come together to host Rails and Tales.

Looked upon as a once-in-a-lifetime experience, Alberta Railway has been an insight into the past, and "be transported to the days of their forefathers."

Rich Graydon, who is overseeing the event with a team of dedicated staff and volunteers, had a vision, which he has translated well.

"For Canada's 150th, I thought it would be nice to do something locally, and since the Railways

played such an important role in the area's development that we decided to use it as a focal point for the event," Graydon said. "That led to the idea of bringing in a second steam engine to help demonstrate how railways operated."

According to Graydon, much of Western Canada was developed around the Railways as they proceeded to open up new territory for settlement.

"Towns were planned based on the range that locomotives could travel before needing fuel

or water, and brought everything from produce to farm implements and mail to each community," Graydon narrated. "The train station in a community was a hub of activity as a result and over Canada's 150 years of history, the railways have served as the backbone of commerce and trade, without them we wouldn't have developed to where we are now. So what better way to celebrate than through a railway trip that takes you back to the days of our forefathers!"

Rails and Tales will be show-

casing Metis Heritage in Big Valley with a Metis camp complete with tent and tipi, there will be an operating display of steam and oil powered farm equipment north of the station in Big Valley.

"But to add to all this attraction are the two RCAF CF-18 that will do a flyby on Thursday at 7 p.m.," Graydon added. "There will be a Canada Day parade at 11 a.m. on July 1, and the Village of Big Valley along with local volunteer groups will also be putting on petting zoo, penny carnival, ukulele club and an art show."

Graydon's role at the Alberta Prairie Railway is to conduct and be a part of customer relations.

**continued on Page A5**



## East Central Alberta Heritage Society

The society works to raise funds to restore rail lines and other related historic artifacts/buildings in and around the Stettler area.

[East Central Alberta Heritage Society website](#)



Tree stake labels for Memorial Park trees

## Historical Elements / Monuments

In response to CIB evaluations, heritage and other trees in parks around town have been labelled with **plaque stakes** with common and species names to improve knowledge of the trees in the town.

Stettler has a **historical downtown walking tour** with a pamphlet guide that briefs the buildings and their history. This walking tour has been updated and expanded, in partnership with the museum and Board of Trade. Currently, they are working on redoing and replacing markers.

In 2012, a **collection of photographs of historical figures and landmarks** was installed in the Town of Stettler offices.

**Memorial Tree Park and Gazebo** – In 2008/2009 a memorial tree park was established adjacent to the Cemetery. Residents can purchase a memorial tree in memory of a relative for \$300. Trees are planted in a large communal landscaped bed and a name plaque is placed on the communal granite monument. A gazebo is on the site to offer visitors a sheltered spot for reflection. Trees are being maintained and expansion is being considered as the site fills up.



Town of Stettler - Historical collection of photographs



Memorial Tree Park – trees, plaque & gazebo

**Carl Stettler Park** – The monument of the founder of Stettler was located (hidden) in a small grassed park. The Heritage Conservation sub-committee re-evaluated the placement of this monument and its prominence in the community. In the summer of 2015, the monument was relocated to become part of the Downtown Park. The main face of the monument faces into the park. A picture of Carl was added to the reverse side (street side) of the monument, along with his name. (See *Downtown Park*)



Carl Stettler Park Monument – former location

Cemetery

NEW in  
2015/2016

**Memorial Park (including cenotaph)** – this park contains a number of our example heritage trees, as well as hosting the cenotaph (historically originally situated in the downtown core). This park was renovated, with all the shale and landscape fabric removed and replaced with bark mulch. Some of the large mugo pines were pruned to repair and prevent further breakage.

**Lake View Cemetery** – The cemetery is maintained by town staff, with some work provided by community volunteers. In 2011, Parks staff **redesigned and rebuilt the central hedge area** of the cemetery, to improve the look and to reduce the difficulty of maintenance. In 2012, staff undertook the re-leveling of numerous graves in the cemetery.

[Link to Cemetery Bylaws](#)



Lake View Cemetery – centre rotund update





Cemetery – headstone re-leveling

In 2012, the **Town of Stettler website** was updated to include individual listings and links to each headstone in the Lake View Cemetery, including **names, dates, plot numbers and locations within the cemetery**. The organization of the data on the headstones and associated information continues to be refined.

[Link to Lake View Cemetery Information page](#)

**Pioneer Park** – remembers the settlers of Stettler with commemorative monuments. The Thrashing machine in Pioneer Park received a new coat of paint by the Stettler Museum within the last few years. Grain is planted around it and waves in the wind with full heads of grain at harvest. The park also has a central bed with plaques and a bed full of **Stettler’s official flower, the peony**.



Pioneer Park & Thrashing Machine



#### Recognizing Stettler’s Official Flower: The Peony

The new Community Orchard includes approximately **480 peonies**, including 6 named varieties, to showcase and demonstrate this flower to the community.

## *Town of Stettler / Public Works*

As a part of Town of Stettler streetscape upgrades, a number of railroad design sidewalks have been installed in some areas. Parking lots and crosswalk planters have stone work and new light posts and standards have a black “wrought iron” look. Some elements of this will continue.

Main street business upgrades are encouraged and a number of businesses have upgraded their store fronts within the last few years. Businesses pay a portion of the frontage costs (sidewalks/streets).

## *Cultural Activities & the Arts*

### *Local Events*

**Canada Day Celebrations** – The Stettler Town & Country Museum offers free admission, games, face painting, and other activities on Canada Day. The Town of Stettler offers entertainment in the West Stettler Park, followed by a fireworks display.

**Canada Day Celebrations in  
West Stettler Park**



**Entertainment in the Park** – throughout the summer months (June – August), the Town of Stettler offers free entertainment in West Stettler Park each Wednesday evening. Featured are bands and performers of a range of musical styles. Anyone can come and bring a lawn chair to enjoy the show. From 2015-2017, Walk ‘n Roll Initiative members were present to encourage attendees to walk/bike to the concert. All those that walk or bike were entered into special draws.

[Link to Entertainment in the Park Schedule](#)

**Steel Wheel Stampede** – Stettler Board of Trade hosts the Stampede. There is a Parade and various events over the course of the event. The date of this Stampede has moved around in the last few years, ranging from June to September.

[Link to Steel Wheel Stampede](#)

As a part of the Steel Wheel Stampede Parade, in 2015, a new Stettler Parade Float was designed and built, featuring a range of things symbolizing Stettler.

**The Night before the Night Before** (Christmas) – This annual event features a wide range of activities taking place on the afternoon and evening of December 23<sup>rd</sup>. These include the





lighting of the Main Street Christmas tree by the Mayor and Citizen(s) of the Year, Main Street sleigh rides, business sales, hot chocolate/cider, as well as free rides (for food bank donation) on the Alberta Prairie Steam Train.

**Moonlight Madness** – is an evening of main street business sales and activities, typically held in the fall of each year.

**Festival of Lights** – The Festival of Lights is a popular week long tradition as a fundraiser for the Stettler Hospital. Businesses and people donate trees they have decorated to be auctioned off. Every night different themes are used for dinners. A senior's tea, cookies with Santa, and a wine and cheese night are just a few of the ideas used in the past. During its history, FOL has raised over \$1 million towards equipment for the hospital.

**Snowfest/Family Day Carnival** – Previously, Stettler Parks and Leisure had organized activities on Family Day in West Stettler Park. Starting in 2012, this event is organized indoors at the arena and is held in conjunction with numerous organizations.

**Art walk** – the annual art walk is held on Main Street featuring artists (range of media types, including music) from the local area. Depending on the weather, the artists are able to display their work proudly.

Crowd of people at Art Walk



Artist displays work



ONGOING

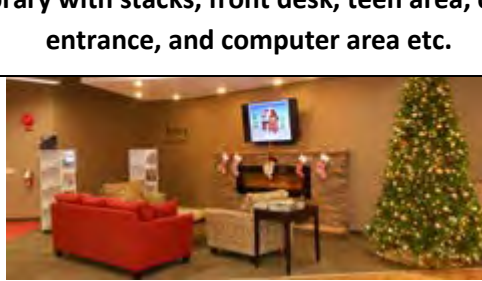
**Stettler Public Library** – runs many programs throughout the year, for infants through to seniors. Programs include topic-specific sessions, as well as regular, general sessions. Most programs are run by volunteers or youth volunteers/staff and programs are usually free to the public (sometimes a \$1 fee for food or drink is asked). The cumulative hours that the volunteers provide are enough to constitute at least one full time staff member. Volunteers are thanked at an informal tea and are given a coffee mug as a small thank you.

In late 2013 and early 2014, the library underwent a major renovation with the upgrade of the Stettler Recreation Centre. They received a \$250,000 federal grant to assist with this and saw their space increase significantly and were able to modernize many things. The library always has something going on. In 2015 and going forward, they added a Maker Space program, which is being expanded with all sorts of technical equipment and programs. The library has a Virtual Reality system, offers 3D printing, technology training/helps for seniors, free access to [www.Ancestry.ca](http://www.Ancestry.ca), etc.

NEW in  
2014/2015



Renovated library with stacks, front desk, teen area, children's area, entrance, and computer area etc.



[Stettler Public Library Website](#)

NEW in  
2014/2015

**The Hub** – along with renovations to the entrance of the Stettler Recreation Centre, as well as the Public Library, a large conference room area was redesigned into a Seniors Centre. It features dance/shuffleboard floor, concert stage, kitchen, etc. A wide range of activities are planned for the facility every week.



Seniors enjoying time in The Hub



### Community Events Listing

### Shuffleboard tournament

Snowfest/Family Day Carnival – Mid February (Family Day Sunday)  
Board of Trade Trade Show – Mid April  
Music Festival – Mid April  
Art Walk – Beginning of June  
Steel Wheel Stampede – June weekend (varies)  
Stampede Parade – Saturday of the Steel Wheel Stampede  
Relay for Life – Mid June  
Stettler Show n' Shine – early June



Recreational Fishing Day – Beginning of July  
 “Side by Side” Shootout – End of July  
 Entertainment in the Park – Every Wednesday from Mid-June until the End of August  
 Triathlon – Beginning of August  
 Variety Showcase – Sundays throughout the Fall  
 Business and Citizenship Awards – End of October  
 Festival of Lights – Mid November  
 Moonlight Madness – Mid November  
 The Night before the Night before – December 23

#### 4 THE WEEKENDER

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016



Stacey Lavalie/Weekender reporter  
 Corey Ripley stands behind a Harley Davidson motorcycle, one of several the local Harley Davidson group is drawing as part of a member draw.

## Main Street comes alive during Stampede weekend

STACEY LAVALIE  
 WEEKENDER REPORTER

Main Street was busy on Saturday, June 11, as multiple events took advantage of Steel Wheel Stampede parade crowds and visitors.

The Stettler Car Club's annual Show'n'Shine moved from its usual location at the Stettler Mall to the northernmost block of Main Street, where car aficionados set up their automobiles, ranging in age from the early 1900s to just decades old.

Stettler's Brian Weeks brought out his 1930 Ford Sports Coupe Model A, which has been restored to near original condition. He's had it for the past five years, and acquired it from a Red Deer woman whose husband had done most of the restoration work.

"It was in excellent shape," he said, but added the restoration, whether from scratch or from a partially completed restoration, is "all fun."

He brings his car to a show on a trailer, not because he's afraid to drive it, but because the vehicle can't manage highway speeds. At its fastest, the car can manage a speedy 45 miles per hour, and doesn't have signal lights.

"It's just not highway safe," he said.

About 20 different cars and trucks were on display under the cloudy sky.

Corey Ripley came up with a Harley Davidson booth where the group held its annual barbecue, serving up hot dogs and hamburgers. They were giving away a motorcycle as well as promoting their 15-year-old Stop Bully program, which Ripley said is "arguably the oldest anti-bullying program in Canada."

While there isn't a large Harley Davidson population in Stettler, the club is looking to recruit more members to start running the program locally.

#### Art Walk brightens Main

The annual Stettler Art Walk had artists from the local communities as well as central Alberta setting up their art — paintings, hand-made jewelry, pottery, painted ceramics and more.

The Art walk allows people to stroll up and down Main Street to take in the local art, meet artists, gather contacts and purchase art.

This year, the rain held off for most of the event, allowing artists to display their work in full glory, though at times the wind picked up or unexpectedly gusting, more than once sending a piece of art flying.



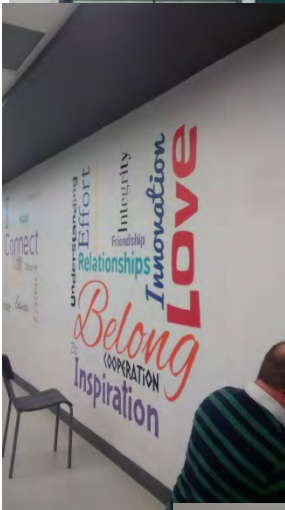
Stacey Lavalie/Weekender reporter  
 Brian Weeks stands with his 1930 Ford Sports Coupe Model A at the Stettler Show'n'Shine.



*Wm E Hay Stettler Secondary Campus – School Culture Enhancement Project*

In March 2016, a staff member and student decided that the walls of the school were bare and uninspiring to the students. Pulling together a group of students, parent volunteers and others in the community, they undertook to add colour and inspiring words and images to the school facility. Over the course of several months, a number of murals were added to different areas of the school, as well as several “Word Walls”, plus bulletin board borders and pillars were coloured. Students from across Junior and Senior High School classes assisted with tracing, painting words, borders and pillars, as well as designing and painting unique murals.

**Murals, Word Walls, colourful pillars and borders**





## Volunteer Programs

**Stettler Volunteer Centre** has been running for over 15 years. They have 4 key areas of service:

- 1) Match volunteers with volunteer opportunities
- 2) Provide resources to non-profit organizations or businesses that use volunteers
- 3) Advertise volunteer opportunities via website, Facebook, email, newsletters, fax and mail throughout the region
- 4) Provide educational opportunities - workshops and mentoring to non-profit organizations

The Volunteer Centre organizes a **Stettler Volunteer Fair** (similar to a job fair) in fall of each year to support the “organic” volunteer matching that already takes place.

**Volunteer Week** is held annually in April. Its purpose is to celebrate and encourage volunteerism in Canada. A local recognition event is held during the week. The Volunteer Centre partnered with Alberta Health Services Volunteer Resources Program to offer a joint appreciation event (called Shining Stars).

The schools have been teaching youth about the importance of volunteering and was a **requirement in Phys. Ed** for Stettler Middle School (Gr. 6-8) to each complete 10 hours of community or volunteer service, as a part of their Phys Ed marks. With the amalgamation of the Jr/Sr High into one campus, this requirement was lost. After requests by parents and staff, it was reinstated for Grades 7-12.

Since 2010, students from almost every grade in the three public schools have assisted in some way with projects related to the Community Gardens. They've helped to build strawberry planters, spread mulch on pathways and borders, planted fruit bushes, built & repaired fences, edged the borders, watered, weeded, etc. Students at the schools also clean their playgrounds regularly. High school students helped to remove



NEW in  
2014/2015

Town of  
**Stettler**

shale and landscape fabric over 6 weeks as a part of the Memorial Park revitalization.

Students are always willing to give time in classes to the Community Gardens.

Stettler Adult Learning Council runs a **Stettler Read and Write** program, offering English as a Second Language (ESL) training, an adult literacy program, pre-GED

and GED training. Stettler Adult Learning is now a partner with **Campus Alberta Central** (followed from Big Country Educational Consortium), which offers post-secondary education from Olds and Red Deer Colleges.

Heartland Beautification Committee has reached out to all public schools to create a **dialogue and feedback mechanism between youth and the committee** and various sub-committees. Student councils, student groups and clubs have responded by contributing ideas. In 2015 & 2016, Tidiness sub-committee members connected with students in a range of ways to engage them in tidiness/beautification activities. In early winter 2015, **HBC gave a presentation to Grade 7-9 students about Youth Involvement**, in part for education, in part as thanks and recognition for their efforts in the Middle School Revitalization Project.

The Volunteer Centre has created a pamphlet on volunteering, to help new volunteers know what to expect, so they can get the most out of their volunteer experiences.

The Heartland Youth Center had a Big Brothers and Big Sisters recruitment, and they have painted businesses' windows around town to promote the program. A lot of advertising on local businesses' signs was done in 2014 (e.g. No Frills, Sobeys, etc.) to promote the programs.

**Alberta Health Services (Stettler Hospital) Volunteer Resources Program** has 130 registered volunteers. The Stettler Hospital and Care Centre utilizes volunteers in approximately 20 different areas/programs, such as maintenance of hospital atrium and flower beds, patient support programs, etc.

In Stettler, the "**Silver Talent**" website ([www.silvertalent.ca](http://www.silvertalent.ca)) program connects people over 50 years old with various employers and volunteer organizations. Through this program, the

## Campus Alberta celebrates opening of Stettler location

LES STULBERG  
Independent reporter

It was a proud moment for the Stettler community when Campus Alberta Central opened its doors last week, providing the opportunity for post-secondary education, and more, in Stettler.

The new facility, located in the Stettler Oil and Gas building in northeast Stettler, was officially opened last Wednesday with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony involving officials from the campus and Town of Stettler.

"When you choose rural, you do not choose less — Stettler now has outstanding facilities and program potential," said Dr. Tom Thompson, president of Olds College.

"The quality of post-secondary education will be of the same high standard as at any college."

Dr. Thompson praised the Stettler mayor and

council for "having the foresight and progressiveness to support the campus — advanced education is an economic driver for the community."

He also gave credit to former education minister Doug Horner for setting the policy and to advanced technology for "creating vibrant learning communities in rural Alberta."

"The town believes in the importance of allowing youth to be educated at home," said Mayor Richards, commenting on the town's endorsement of the school.

Big Country Education Consortium, the forerunner, was transitioned into Campus Alberta Central by a unique joint venture of two colleges, Olds College and Red Deer College, to offer post-secondary learning to a large geographical area of east-central Alberta, based in Stettler.

Marg Leatham from the Department of Advanced Education in Edmonton and Jean Madill, executive-director for Campus Alberta Central, were on hand for the ceremony.

to attend.

Bonnie Ireland, program manager for Stettler Adult Learning, partners of the campus, was excited to announce three programs being offered in the fall — licensed practical nurse (LPN), health-care aid and office administration.

"There is a huge need for LPNs, the jobs are in high demand," Ireland said. "These courses have a June 30 deadline to enrol."

In addition, a pilot project will offer a general-education diploma and foundational-level math through distance learning.

The enhanced learning opportunity for rural Alberta was achieved by the co-operation and collaboration of Stettler Adult Learning, Town of Stettler, Stettler FCSS, Clearview School Division and industry partners, such as Stettler Oil and Gas.

The spacious campus facility has a computer lab, video conference room, medical training centre, exam room and



LES STULBERG/Independent reporter

Campus Alberta Central opened its doors in Stettler last week. Cutting the ribbon (from left) are Jean Madill, executive-director of Campus Alberta Central, Stettler Mayor Dick Richards, Olds College president Dr. Tom Thompson, Stettler councillor Malcolm Fischer, and Bonnie Ireland, program manager of Stettler Adult Learning.

available to rent, depending on availability.

Thompson said the campus location has it "embedded into industry, creating an investment-rich environment."

Several local industrial businesses have responded positively on how the campus will benefit them by providing the oppor-

leadership courses, first-aid training and other programs related to the trades.

Prior to the open house, focus groups met at the campus for a community consultation to outline their needs, offer suggestions and find ways to partner to train locally.

With costs of living

be offered at home for the greater Stettler community.

Staff at Campus Alberta Central said many people in the community don't realize the extent of what the campus offers. Most education needs can be matched up with a program, but if they can't be handled at the campus

NEW in  
2015/2016



volunteers can choose the level and amount of work or volunteering they wish to do. Dozens of businesses and events have received help from 100's of volunteers over the past 5 years.

### *Volunteer Appreciation / Recognition*

Stettler volunteers are recognized in various annual Volunteer Appreciation events, such as volunteer appreciation dinners, awards ceremonies, etc.

**Stettler “Shining Stars”** (volunteer appreciation) was started in 2011, recognizing 5 outstanding community volunteers, and is repeated annually.

[Stettler Board of Trade](#) organizes an annual **Business and Citizenship Awards** ceremony, recognizing nominated recipients (businesses) in a range of categories, including Male and Female Citizen of the Year, etc. Starting in fall 2013, the Heartland Beautification Committee's Environmental Action subcommittee recognize their **Recycling Excellence Award** (now Eco Excellence) recipients at this event, as well as at the annual Communities in Bloom Judges Dinner. Starting in 2015, only the Business recipient is recognized at the dinner. In 2017, it became a **sponsored award**, rather than duplicating the presentation.

### *HBC Beautification Champion*

Heartland Beautification Committee recognizes a **Beautification Champion** (a person or persons who go above and beyond in their beautification efforts, such as cleaning, tidying, public space maintenance, etc.) or promoting beautification as a whole within the community, during the Communities in Bloom Judges dinner. Award recipients are given a certificate.

**Recognizing Garbage Pickers** – there are many people that voluntarily pick up garbage ahead of TOS mowers, as well as around town as they walk. To allow mowers to spontaneously recognize these individuals, as they are reluctant to be recognized formally, thank you cards are given out by staff, along with donated free treat coupons from local restaurants.

### *Recreation Centre Upgrade*

In 2013, the **Stettler Recreation Centre underwent significant redesign and upgrades** to provide expanded library areas, a Seniors Centre (called The Hub), altered entryway and stairways, increased/expanded parking, etc. Funding of \$250,000 from the Federal Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) was received for the library upgrade. The facility improvements have been very well received by groups of all types.

[Link to New Design Drawings](#)

[Link to Open House Presentation Boards](#)

[Link to Video Walkthrough](#)



**Town and County Representatives  
sign recreation agreement**

In 2015, the Town of Stettler and the County of Stettler came to an **agreement** about shared funding for the running of the Recreation Centre facilities. Currently, there is a plan to **expand the recreation centre**, with the potential for a field house type addition.

NEW in  
2019

## Running Track Renovation Project

Multiple levels of government and various partnerships have come together to resurface the running track at the school complex, which was build decades ago for the Alberta Summer Games. It is expected that it will be completed by the end of Summer 2019.



Town councillor Malcolm Fischer dons his fun side on stage with Hoja, the entertaining act for the Volunteer Appreciation evening on Thursday, April 26 at the Stettler Community Hall.

# Stettler's local organizations come together to celebrate community volunteers

Moush Sara John and  
Casey van Wensem  
Independent staff

The Stettler Volunteer Centre, along with Stettler and District PCSS and AHS Volunteer Resources came together to host an eventful evening on Thursday, April 26 for community volunteers.

The acapella group, Hoja entertained guests and attendees after a supper provided by Brenda's Country Catering.

"The evening signified the successes that we have had as a community, due to our committed and dedicated volunteers," said Lorraine Hankins, executive director of Stettler Volunteer Centre. "We have to remember how valuable our volunteers are and how

many things would be left undone without them."

Hankins said that especially this year with Canada turning 150 years old, the nation is celebrating 150 years of volunteering across Canada and all the wonderful things that have been accomplished by volunteers.

"Volunteering is an essential part of feeling that you are a part of the community, and it is also about giving back, lending itself to making you feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction," Hankins added. "We encourage volunteering in our youth to ensure that they continue to contribute to their community and realize the important role that volunteers have in all areas of our lives."

According to Hankins, many organizations would not run with-

**"Volunteering is an essential part of feeling that you're a part of the community."**

out volunteers, and sports organizations would be few without the dedicated coaches, parents, and helpers that put the games together.

Hankins commented, "Volunteering also looks great on a resume, and gives you work experience that can be used later for paid employment."

Among some of the organizations in the community, who need volunteers and rely on them are Big Brothers Big Sisters through Heartland Youth Centre, Stettler Information and Referral Centre, Stettler Food Bank, along with many other not-for-profit organizations.

"There are long-term positions and short-term volunteer opportunities depending on what you are looking for," Hankins said. "If you would like to volunteer, it is as easy

A4 Thursday, May 4, 2017

Stettler Independent

www.stettlerindependent.com

## Stettler's local organizations come together to celebrate community volunteers

continued from front page

"The evening was a huge success and we would love to have all of our volunteers come out, but we don't have a big enough venue to hold everyone, that's how many we have," Hankins stated. "We are very fortunate as we celebrate volunteers all year long, with many organizations having their unique volunteer appreciation events at various times."

Acapella group Hoja enters the crowd

The entertainment for the evening was provided by Hoja, a three-piece acapella group from Calgary.

The group was well-versed at providing entertainment for events such as this one and spend much of their time putting on shows at schools, and also provide entertainment for community events.

Singer Jesse Prosser noted that the group had already performed at three other volunteer appreciation events throughout Volunteer Appreciation Week in the province.

The group even incorporated the song "Lean on Me" - a piece they don't normally perform - into their set as a way to honour volunteers.

Hoja has been around since 1998, with a number of different



Lorraine Hankins, right, executive director of Stettler Volunteer Centre seated with County Renee Wayne Nixon and his wife Loren, centre and Dymond county councillor Les Stulberg, left and his wife Rosemary.

band members helping to shape their sound.

"There have been over 35 singers in the group by now," commented singer Dave Yorkewich.

Currently comprised of Yorkewich and Prosser, as well

as Matt Deniche, who provided much of the bass and rhythm section for the evening, the three vocalists created a full musical experience that included harmonies, instrument sounds, percussion, and sound effects - all using only their voices.

