TOWN LIFE

Fall 2023

Congratulations to former CAO Greg Switenky on retirement and 19 years of service with the Town of Stettler!





LETTER FROM MAYOR NOLLS



Welcome to our shortest season - some people call it fall, but I generally refer to it as pre-winter. It has been yet another fantastic summer in Stettler and as we change seasons, we can look back at the awesome events we were able to enjoy.

This summer saw perhaps our best line up of Music in the Park ever, including a kick-off from the local and ever-awesome Jazz Guys. Stettler Sports Park was jam packed with events every weekend, attracting young athletes from near and far. Of course, I can't talk about summer without mentioning the Steel Wheel Stampede, and what looked to be one of our best parades. Canada Day was another highlight; our community partners never fail to put together a world-class day of events, and our Parks Department's fireworks display is the icing on the cake. Moving into September didn't slow down the action, as Culture Days provided a month's worth of immersive and engaging events. I was particularly blown away by the enthusiasm and involvement from our Filipino community; their Filipino Fiesta was a great opportunity to meet new people, try their delicious cuisine, and brush up on my dance moves.

As we move into the chillier seasons, things aren't slowing down in Stettler. Some of the events we can look forward to include the Stettler Museum's famous Booseum, Moonlight Madness, the Festival of Lights, and a plethora of holiday celebrations. Although we all have strong feelings about Canadian winter, I feel lucky knowing that our Parks Department will ensure we have ice to skate on and entertainment to enjoy, and that our Public Works Department will diligently keep our roads clear and safe. We have such an opportunity to make Stettler a destination for all seasons, and I'm looking forward to all of the amazing displays to come. I wish all of our amazing volunteers and incredible organizations the best of luck in this season's endeavors.

On a different note, we also saw the retirement of our former CAO Greg Switenky in September. Greg was with the Town of Stettler for 19 years and if I were to highlight all of his achievements with the Town, the list would be infinite. Instead, I'm just going to say that Greg has



helped make this town the most amazing place to live, even if we did not always see the work he did behind the scenes. We also had the opportunity to welcome our new CAO, Leann Graham, who has been with the Town since 2008. She is a truly accomplished person who will continue to make Stettler a truly awesome place. The future is bright with Leann at the helm, along with the staff we are lucky to have.

CONTENTS

- New Chief Administrative Officer
- RCMP
- Homesteaders Park
- East End Improvements
- Community Builders
- 06 Stettler Awards Gala
- New Rosedale Playground

- SRC 30 Year Anniversary
- **11** Stettler Regional Fire Department
- Snow Removal
- Online Services & App
- Christmas Events
- Community Events

BACK COVER Photo Contest



NEW CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Following the retirement of former CAO, Greg Switenky, Town of Stettler Council is pleased to welcome Leann Graham as Chief Administrative Officer.

Town Council formalized this decision at the May 16, 2023 Council Meeting and CAO Leann Graham has been serving in this role as of August 30, 2023. Mayor Sean Nolls had this to say;

"Leann has been a key member of this organization from the day she started. Throughout her career we have seen her continually strive to enhance her education and tackle new challenges, and her leadership skills have advanced year after year. She has the ability and willingness to bridge gaps and build relationships with her colleagues and community partners, and that is crucial for any true leader. Council looks forward to working with Leann for years to come and seeing the positive outcomes she brings to our community."

Leann Graham has been employed by the Town of Stettler for fifteen (15) years and previously held the role of Director of Planning & Development. Leann is certified in Applied Land Use and Planning, earned the National Advanced Certificate for Local Authority Administrators, and holds a professional designation as a Certified Local Government Manager.

"It has been a pleasure to develop my career and grow professionally at the Town of Stettler, and I will always appreciate the leadership, opportunities, and friendships that I have gained from working alongside former CAOs Greg Switenky and Rob Stoutenberg.

I am excited to bring my vision and ideas to the position of CAO and work with Council and staff to see this community succeed, because I truly believe that Stettler is one of a kind."

TOWN OF STETTLER

Leann Graham, CAO

Following Leann's departure from the Planning & Development Department, Angela Stormoen has been designated the role of Planning & Development Officer. Angela began working for both the Town's Planning & Development and Operational Services Departments in 2014. Nine years later, Angela brings an abundance of experience and expertise to the role. Having earned her Applied Land Use Planning Certificate, Angela enjoys tackling the ins and outs of both everyday planning logistics and large-scale development projects.

We congratulate Leann and Angela on their new roles and wish them both success!

RCMP

I'm Cam Russell, the newly promoted Detachment Commander of the Stettler RCMP. I have 24 years of experience in enforcement, beginning with the Leduc County Constabulary Service, and onto Regina in 2004 to complete RCMP training. Upon successfully completing training, I was posted to Three Hills Alberta. I was already familiar with small town rural living; however, being a Mountie in a small town brought even more clarity as to how important our role is in the communities we serve, and I truly believe that this is where the most difference can be made.

After specialized training, I was designated as a use of force instructor, which allowed for me to train our members on defense tactics, handcuffing, high risk traffic stops as well as Immediate Action and Rapid Deployment. I am also trained as a taser and firearms instructor. Although teaching and training was a new-found passion for me, I felt it more important that I stay on the road and in-uniform within the community. After 2 years in Fort Saskatchewan it became clear that life in the rural area was more suited for me as well as my family. Having been through the Stettler area many times on hunting and camping adventures, I was quick to apply when the opportunity came up for a promotion to Corporal in Stettler. Luckily I was successful, and my family and I moved to Stettler in June of 2012 where we stayed until November 2018. During those 6 years, in Stettler I continued to deliver tactical training courses both locally and travelling. I also became an RCMP boat operator and having grown up at a lake, boat patrols on Buffalo Lake became some of my best experiences. I was able to build many bridges with outside agencies and work joint force operations, all while mentoring the junior membership on their paths as RCMP members. In 2018 with the nature of the RCMP and movement, it became apparent that a move would be required in the near future. We then moved to Provost in November of 2018, where I served as Sergeant. Provost being an even smaller rural community solidified my appreciation for tight knit communities and I focused on teaching junior members the importance of being part of the community you serve and to not focus on the very small percentage of the population who are often negative. I encouraged members to coach sports, attend events while off duty, shop locally and wave at everyone. I initiated learning opportunities where members were able to go to a farm and ride in a combine, grain cart and other implements, as well as attend a day of branding at a cattle ranch.

Although we were content in our posting in Provost, when the Staff Sergeant position came open in Stettler, it was an opportunity to return to a community that we loved. My family and I moved back to Stettler, settling on a rural property near Buffalo Lake in September 2023. I am very excited to be back in the area and happy to still be wearing a uniform. I will endeavour to build on an already great relationship with the community, continue to teach and mentor our junior membership the best way I know how, and create an environment where the community trust and have confidence in the police that serve them.



HOMESTEADERS PARK

Donated and dedicated by Alfred & Jean Erichsen

Homesteaders Park is dedicated to the homesteaders who shared Carl Stettler's vision of a Swiss-German Community, homesteading an area south and east of the Town of Stettler in 1904-05.



A place for all to enjoy the history of the Town of Stettler

Visit Stettler's newest park, located east of the P&H Elevator and off of 47 Avenue. Homesteaders Park is a natural area, soon to be filled with plaques for visitors to learn more about local history. The park currently includes a parking lot along with a mowed pathway, allowing visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of our town and remember the homesteaders who helped make Stettler what it is today. Stay tuned for coming details on a grand opening ceremony!







EAST END IMPROVEMENTS

Along with the new Homesteaders Park on 47 Avenue, the east residential area is seeing two other major outdoor improvements which will allow residents to stay connected and enjoy more time outdoors in their neighborhood.

Town staff started construction on a new pathway connecting from 46 Street leading northeast along the train tracks all the way to the East End Playground (Viking Park) and further north to 49 Avenue. Next year, this walking path will see an extension made south to connect the Homesteaders Park as well.



Did You Know?

 The Town of Stettler has nearly 52 kms of walking paths to help residences stay connected and make it easy to walk or bike around town. These paths are made up of concrete sidewalks, asphalt pathways and a few shale pathways.

The East End Playground (Viking Park) will see the exciting addition of an outdoor skating rink being built as temperatures freeze. This outdoor skating rink will be located at the rear of the park where there is currently green space. Similar to the other outdoor rinks around Town, staff will flood the rink on a regular basis, weather dependant. This will be the seventh outdoor skating rink in Town, including the skating oval and the boarded outdoor rink behind the Recreation Centre.

Town Council and staff are excited to bring another rink closer to residents to allow easier access to outdoor winter activities!





COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Stettler as we know it is a vibrant, neighbourly, and generous town. But do you ever wonder how we became the community we are today? Through an ongoing recognition program, the Community Builders Committee aims to uncover the history of the groups and individuals that 'built' Stettler through their various efforts and innovations, with the belief that this history is too crucial to lose.

The 2023 monuments were unveiled in May, honouring the Backstrom Family as Pioneers in Major Construction and Roy & Charles Willis as Pioneers in Media. The accomplishments and contributions of these two families were celebrated in a small ceremony that included the honourees families and friends.

Willis Family

Charles Willis came to Stettler in 1908 and purchased the Stettler Independent, which remained in the family for 3 generations. Roy Willis took over the Independent in 1956 and worked for 68 years. Roy was the first chairman for Stettler's Town and County Fair and in 1955 he was the first recipient of Stettler's Citizen of the Year Award.



Do you know a Stettler resident, past or present, that has helped make our community what it is today? The Community Builders Committee is searching for candidates for two new monuments in 2024! All submissions are brought forward for review and kept for future consideration. Nominations can be submitted at the Town of Stettler website. The Community Builders webpage also offers further information on the program and extended biographies on past honourees. Visit https://www.stettler.net/the-town/communitybuilders or click 'The Town' on our homepage.

Backstrom Family

Homesteading near Stettler, the Backstrom family built a hardware store in 1905-1906, which operated as headquarters for their construction company. Sons John and Nels were a contractor and a framer and son-in-law Jacobson was a plasterer. The family is responsible for many of Stettler's buildings including the Lutheran Church (1906), the Courthouse (Stettler's first school) in 1908, and the Royal Hotel.





STETTLER AWARDS GALA

The Stettler Awards Gala acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of our community members; from the roles our businesses play in leadership and innovation to the dedication in volunteerism, our citizens make Stettler the great place it is. The efforts of all of the winners are truly exemplary!

The 2023 Business & Citizen Award Winners

Male Citizen of the Year Female Citizen of the Year New Business of the Year Business of the Year Business Leader of the Year Customer Service Award Community Impact Award Agricultural Impact Award

Wendy Staal Stettler Brewing Company Stettler Flowers (2023) Dig Pig Products Inc. Kal Tire Stettler Staff Stettler Connects

Dean Lovell

PatchouliMint Spa

This year's winners will be celebrated on Thursday, October 19 at The Hub with the Awards Gala featuring hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and of course, the ceremony! You can get your ticket to attend by reaching out to the Stettler Regional Board of Trade at 403-742-3181



NEW ROSEDALE PLAYGROUND

COMING FALL 2024

Stettler's north neighbourhood of Rosedale will be getting a significant community enhancement thanks to the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Stettler. The playground, located on the corner of 50A Avenue and 60 Street and often referred to as the Fas Gas Park, is scheduled to undergo a significant upgrade and revitalization which will be led by the two local service clubs. The playground was identified through the Town of Stettler Parks and Open Spaces Committee as the priority playground for the next major renovation, as it features several dated amenities.

Meetings were held with both the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs of Stettler to discuss the opportunity for them to lead the renovation of this playground, as both groups have done several community playground projects over the years. The Clubs graciously accepted the opportunity to work in partnership and bring a new, inclusive park to the Rosedale neighbourhood. "We are happy to re-engage the neighbourhood through this project," says Kirk Blake, Chair for the Rosedale Playground Project. "A playground is a very expensive project and requires years of fundraising, but we are eager to tackle this project and hopefully gain some new volunteers through the process."

Representatives from the Kin Clubs and Town wanted to ensure that the space was built around inclusion and as a result, the play structure has been designed based on the following four principles: (1) focus on design for access and mobility; (2) engaging all abilities; (3) incorporating diverse types of play; (4) inclusive for the whole community. While other playgrounds in town have elements of these principals, the new Rosedale playground will be the first to incorporate all four principles in all parts of the structure and surrounding play and landscaped areas.

Like many of the other playgrounds in Stettler, the new Rosedale playground was designed around a theme! With agriculture playing a significant role in Stettler and area, you will see this theme come through the play structure and incorporated through elements like a barn, a farmer's market, sunflowers, animals, and tractors. The playground revitalization is budgeted at approximately \$308,000. Funding sources will include \$120,000 from the Town of Stettler, a collection of government and corporate grants, local fundraising efforts from the Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs, as well as sponsorship and donation opportunities.



"It will cover the same footprint as the existing gravel play area, leaving the basketball court untouched. There will also be some paving required inside the park for easy access from the sidewalk to the play area" Kirk Blake, Chair for the Rosedale Playground Project The Kinsmen and Kinettes will be planning various fundraisers over the next several months leading into the playground installation. The Clubs will be looking to access 60+ volunteers to help with construction for the playground. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact a local Kin member.



STETTLER RECREATION CENTRE

Time flies when you're having fun, and with all the fun that is had the at Stettler Recreation Centre, it's hard to imagine that on May 1, 2024 we will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its original grand opening.





After a fire in the summer of 1992 took the former Stettler Arena, Stettler was left with just one arena at the Stettler Agriplex. Plans were put into place to establish a twin complex with the ultimate vision of a community multiplex. Final designs and architectural drawings for the SRC were completed in March of 1993 and after a year of negotiations with the insurance company for the former arena, the town received a \$2.82 million dollar settlement. Although the construction had already started in the spring that year, the insurance money would guarantee that the town could finish the second arena and some of the other detail work. In addition to other funding, a huge part of the funds raised would be credited to local fundraising efforts within the community.

During the 1992-93 skating season and a large portion of the 1993-94 season, local hockey teams and figure skaters would find regular ice time at the Stettler Agriplex and surrounding area arenas. This included the inaugural season of the Stettler Lightning Jr. B Hockey Club which started in the 1993-94 season with all practices and home games out of the Big Valley Arena. Although the Stettler Recreation Centre celebrated its grand opening on May 1, 1994 with a ceremony that included dignitaries such as Community Development Minister Gary Mar and Lacombe-Stettler MLA Judy Gordon, the building was opened earlier to allow teams and skaters in for the final stages of their 1993-94 hockey regular season as well as play offs and the annual figure skating carnival.

30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The building has been through a number of renovations and retrofits since opening in 1994. The original building included two sheets of ice, some community meeting space, office space for the Town of Stettler Recreation Department and the Stettler Public Library, which moved in that fall. The first major addition and renovation was concluded and opened with a ceremony on August 8, 2006. This expansion included the Aquatic Center, Fitness Centre, and new community meeting spaces upstairs. A second renovation was completed on April 5, 2014 and included a new front end and foyer area, new staircase, an expansion to the library, and the addition of a senior social centre now known as "The Hub." Other significant projects have taken place since then, including a new ice plant and new LED lighting and low emissivity ceilings in both arenas. Recent renovations were also completed this past summer with the installation of new dasher boards and score boards in both arenas.



Over its 30 years, the Stettler Recreation Centre has become the true hub of the community! It has hosted numerous provincial championships in both hockey and curling, many provincial AGM's, figure skating competitions, swim meets, and so much more. It is a rare space that offers something for everyone in the community from the one-year old taking their first splash in the pool to a local senior playing cards in The Hub. Our Recreation Centre is home to the artist in the Stettler Public Library and the first time class participant at the Fitness Centre. The SRC is now so much more than the original two ice surfaces that the building opened with in 1994.





Various celebration activities will be taking place throughout 2024, so stay tuned and follow the Stettler Recreation Centre on Facebook!



STETTLER REGIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT



Many residents in our community may sleep peacefully at night, never knowing the commitment made by volunteer firefighters.

It isn't just getting up in the middle of the night no matter what season or temperature; it is also the countless hours they spend on training, truck checks, equipment checks as well as physical strength and conditioning to be able to preform their tasks on behalf of the community. We appreciate the sacrifice they make, knowing that they are willing to give up time with their loved ones to be there and help someone else's loved ones .



RECRUITMENT

The Stettler Regional Fire Department will be looking for new recruits later in the 2023 calendar year. Watch for dates posted on their Facebook page in the near future.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart! A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

Picking the Tree

• Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in your stand, cut off 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3' away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.

Lighting the Tree

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing lab. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacture's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Did You Know?

- Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, they are more likely to be serious when they do occur.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes more than **one in five** fires.

Reminders For Plugging in Your Decorations This Year

- DON'T overload your extension cord.
 Each cord has a maximum capacity rating.
- DON'T daisy chain extension cords. It reduces the cords wattage and becomes a fire hazard.
- DON'T' cut off the grounding pin. It may cause a fire or electrical shock.





STOP FALSE ALARMS - KNOW THE NUMBER TO CALL

The Department responds to many alarm calls during the year with few being legitimate calls. Burned toast, hot showers, and smoking are some of the reasons we get from homeowners when we respond to a residence alarm call. Many alarm system owners don't know the correct phone number of their alarm system dispatch to cancel the Fire Department response. They are also unaware that the code they can enter to cancel a burglary alarm will not work in the case that their system is activated by a smoke or CO alarm. Municipalities may charge the homeowner a fee when the Fire Department responds to a false alarm for a second time at the same address within a calendar year.

SNOW REMOVAL

As we move into the winter months and snow starts to fall, it is important to remember winter bylaws and the responsibilities that owners and renters have within the Town of Stettler.

PREPARE



Thank you for keeping our community safe and pedestrian friendly!

ONLINE SERVICES & APP

Experience Town of Stettler services with the touch of a button! We are proud to offer residents digital options to stay engaged with your municipality.

eServices

Managing your accounts has never been easier! eServices allows users to pay utility bills, print past bills, access tax information, manage pet license, apply and pay for business licenses, and more. To access eServices, please visit the Town of Stettler homepage, www.stettler.net, and select eServices under 'Areas to Explore.'



eServices Sign in to manage all of your accounts.

Pet Search Q Locate the owner of a lost pet by tag. **Business Directory Q** Search for a business. Existing Business License Pay for an existing license. Property Search Q Find a property.

Apply for a Business License

A Sign in

Mobile App

Stay in the loop with the touch of a button! The Town of Stettler App is free to download and offers features such as the Community Events Calendar, Garbage & Recycling Tracking, Stettler Recreation Centre Registrations and more! Additionally, signing up for push notifications will ensure that you're up-to-date on short notice updates such as road closures and snow removal. Download the app today by scanning the QR Code or searching Town of Stettler in your app store.



Christmas Events

Moonlight Madness - November 24

Kick off Christmas on Main Street with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, a visit with Santa, and lots of shopping specials!

Festival of Lights - November 28 - December 2

Join in on the many events that the Stettler Health Services Foundation offers as they raise funds for two new panda warmers and two injection units for the Stettler Hospital. From the ATCO Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday morning, Art and Cheer

on Wednesday, a Holly Jolly Lunch on Friday, and an auction, dinner and dance at the Snowflake Gala on the Saturday night, this is an event with something for everyone!

Light the Night - December 1 - 2, 8 - 9, 15 - 16, 21 - 24

Head down to the Museum every Friday and Saturday evening in December leading up to Christmas to check out 1/2 km of lights set up by local businesses and volunteers.

Stettler Ag Society Christmas Market - December 8 & 9

Running from 4-7pm on Friday and 11am-3pm on Saturday, walk through 80 unique vendors who will help you get your Christmas shopping underway.

Gear Up Winter Dinner & Dance Fundraiser -December 16

Support a local not-for-profit this holiday season and enjoy a night out with entertainment, cocktails, and dancing!

Skate with Santa - December 23

Join in on the fun at the Stettler Rec Centre with games, prizes, hot chocolate and more! Put your skates on or come in your boots and enjoy a visit with Santa on the ice.

Night Before Night Before - December 23

An annual Stettler tradition which includes store sales, late night shopping, and entertainment for all to enjoy, it's the kick off to Christmas holidays for many.

Second Annual My Favourite Christmas Variety Show - December 23

Hosted by The Stettler Hospice Society and Felicity Weymer, this local fundraiser is your chance to check out the awesome talent that Stettler has to offer!





COMMUNITY EVENTS

October

Stettler Museum Pumpkin Chuckin', Bale Maze & More Stettler Public Library Spooktacular Book Sale Stettler Awards Gala The Immortals at the Stettler Agriplex Stettler Mall Market Night of Terror at the Boosuem Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Stettler Poker Night Fundraiser Stettler Public Library Monster Bash Stettler Ag Halloween Barrels and Breakaway Jackpot Halloween Howl

November

Stettler Showcase Presents: John Wort Hannam Show Stettler Mall Market Heartland Arts Troupe Presents: The Hallelujah Girls Hunt Mania at the Stettler Agriplex Stettler Public Library Paint Night Fundraiser The Wildlife Festival at the Stettler Agriplex

December

Stettler Mall Market Stettler Showcase Presents: Buzz Brass

January

Heartland Cattlemen's Classic at the Stettler Agriplex Stettler Showcase Presents: Charms

February

Stettler Home Show Family Day at the SRC HYC Bowl For Kids

March

Stettler Showcase Presents: The McDades

April

Stettler Showcase Presents: Jeffery Staker Trio Stettler Trade Show October 14, 21, 28 October 16 - 21 October 19 October 20 - 21 October 21 October 19 - 21 & 26 - 28 October 28 October 28 October 28 October 28

November 4 November 4, 18, 24 November 8 - 11 November 11 - 12 November 17 November 24 - 26

December 2, 16, 24 December 3

January 26 - 28 January 28

February 2 - 3 February 19 TBA

March 3

JOHN D

April 7 April 12 - 14

PHOTO CONTEST



Send in your photo to townoffice@stettler.net Deadline: March 1, 2024

Eligibility

The photo contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. There is no limit to how many entries a contestant can submit. All photos must be taken within the Town of Stettler. Photos will be judged on Facebook. Photographs must be submitted electronically in the highest quality available. Photos must be taken by the entrant, be original and unpublished. First, Second and Third Place win \$100 Heart of Alberta Dollars!

Consent

By submitting your photo you give consent that it can be used by the Town of Stettler and affiliate organizations for promotional and advertising purposes. The Town of Stettler and affiliate organizations will not sell the photos or use the photos to make a profit. Photo credit will be given to the photographer.