

Municipal Profile

RM of Stanley No. 215



Section 1: Purpose	2
Section 2: Location, History and Area Overview	2
History	2
Environment	2
Section 3: Population	3
Composition	3
Household Characteristics	4
Section 4: Economy	4
Section 5: Infrastructure and Services	5
Transportation	5
Services	5
Section 6: Heritage and Recreation	5
Heritage	5
Recreation	5
Section 7: Community Development	6

DRAFT

Section 1: Purpose

Understanding the social, economic, environmental and cultural characteristics is vital in the planning process to not only inform decision making, but also to serve as baseline data to track changes within a region. Projected trends can help municipal leaders anticipate future needs of the community so that they may be accounted for in the long term planning process. Furthermore, understanding the demands and constraints placed on municipal services can assist leaders to prioritize and plan effectively. It is important to recognize that an OCP is not a static document and is able to be amended to respond to unanticipated changes.

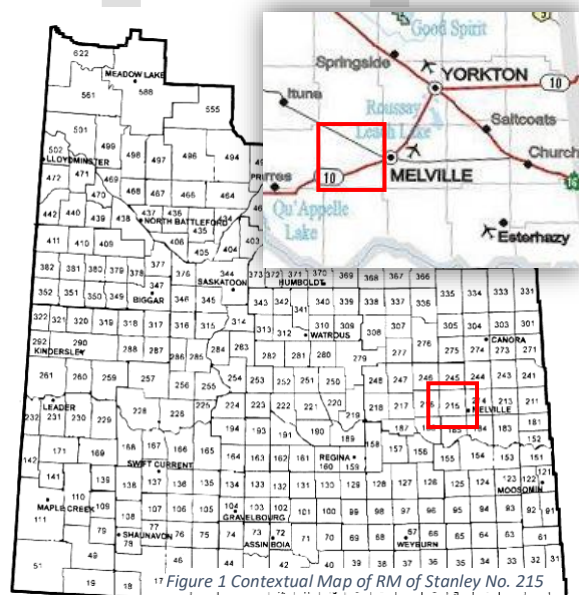
Section 2: Location, History and Area Overview

The Rural Municipality of Stanley No. 215 is located in east central Saskatchewan. The RM is situated approximately 20 km west of the city of Melville and approximately 60 km south west of the City of Yorkton (Figure 1). Together, Melville and Yorkton serve as the nearest urban centres. The municipality's urban population largely resides in the villages of Duff, Goodeve, and Fenwood, and the organized Hamlet of Westview. The RM is home to approximately 516 people (as of 2011) and covers a land area of 855.4 km².¹

The RM is located in Treaty 4 territory and includes land owned by several First Nations, including Okanesee and Starblanket.

History

The settlement of the region is strongly tied to the development of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1907-08, which brought many English, German, Ukrainian, and Polish settlers to the area. The village of Duff was named after A.E. Duff, Chief Passenger Agent for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway's Western Division. Goodeve and Fenwood were named as part of an alphabetical naming pattern along the railway, followed by Hubbard and Ituna further down the line. These centres continued to grow until the mid-20th century, when the population started to steadily decline and residents began going to Melville and Yorkton for services.²



Environment

The RM is part of the Aspen Parkland region, characterized by frequent Aspen groves and fescue grasslands. An extensive and variable system of wetlands and run-off networks flows through the region. The vast majority of the municipality belongs to the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Authority. Storm water management and drainage has been an issue over recent years of above average precipitation. In 2011, flooding issues became more prominent in the region; the numerous creeks and lakes throughout the area and heavy rainfall contributed to ground saturation of unpredicted levels. The municipalities in the area have been working with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency as well as the Watershed

¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca>

² A-Z Saskatchewan Communities Book

Authority to implement policies to ensure there are healthy water sources and that flood prevention and protection measures are in place.

The RM also includes several environmental conservation areas, including lands preserved by the Fish & Wildlife Development Fund, most notably the Thomas Battersby Wildlife Protected Area. Ducks Unlimited also preserves habitats throughout the municipality.

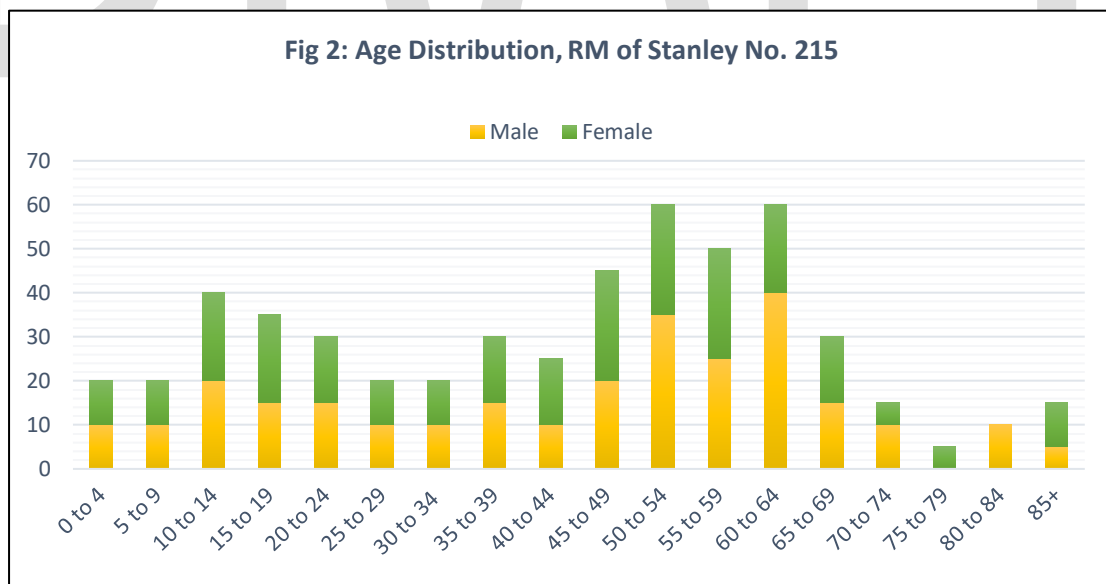
Section 3: Population³

Demographic changes are important to note to ensure planning decisions address the changing needs of their residents. Communities can and should use this information in the following policy realms: waste management, water resources, community services, business opportunities, economic development, industry and natural resource extraction, housing, education, health care, recreation, and bylaw enforcement.

Based on the 2011 Census, the population of the RM of Stanley is 516, a 1.4% increase over the 2006 population. The population density is 0.6 people per km². A low population density can become a challenge in many facets of planning, including servicing and social cohesion.

Composition

The median age in the RM is 48.6. Nearly half of the population is over the age of 50, indicating a large retirement community (Figure 2). It is likely that as the population of individuals over the age of 50 grows older, they will look to retire to larger urban centres that offer more services and convenience, making population decline over the next few decades likely. Attractive and affordable residential options could entice young families working in Melville or Yorkton to replace this population loss. Efforts should also



be made to service the population who age at home, including the 45 individuals over the age of 70.

Figure 2 Age and Gender Distribution, RM of Stanley No. 215. Source: Statistics Canada 2011

³ All demographic statistics retrieved from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca>

Household Characteristics

The RM is home to 215 private dwellings, nearly all of which are single detached houses. Mobile homes are also present in the region, though rare.

While the average family size is 2.9 people, 45 (9%) of individuals in private households live on their own. The RM is home to 130 married and 15 common law couples. Together with 10 lone parent households, they are raising a total of 160 children. Though the population is aging, the municipality must continue to provide opportunities for the young families making a living there.

Section 4: Economy

Agriculture is the main source of employment in the RM, made possible by the region's low population density, suitable farmland, and proximity to processing centres. A feed mill owned by Olymel is located in Goodeve and buys wheat, barley, peas, faba beans, and corn from local farmers. The RM is situated within Saskatchewan Crop District 5A, and has reported data for the following crops: wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, canola, peas, lentils, mustard, and canary seed.⁴ The Saskatchewan Soil Survey shows much of the soil in the RM to be designated as Class 2 or 3, which is desirable for agriculture (Figure 3)⁵. Any policy decision made should respect the predominance of agriculture as a way of life for Stanley residents, although diversification into different industries would help keep the region viable into the future. Geological mapping, for example, shows potential for more sand and gravel extraction in the southern parts of the RM. As of 2015, there were 24 gravel mining sites in operation, most of which are located on Crown lands or land owned by the RM.

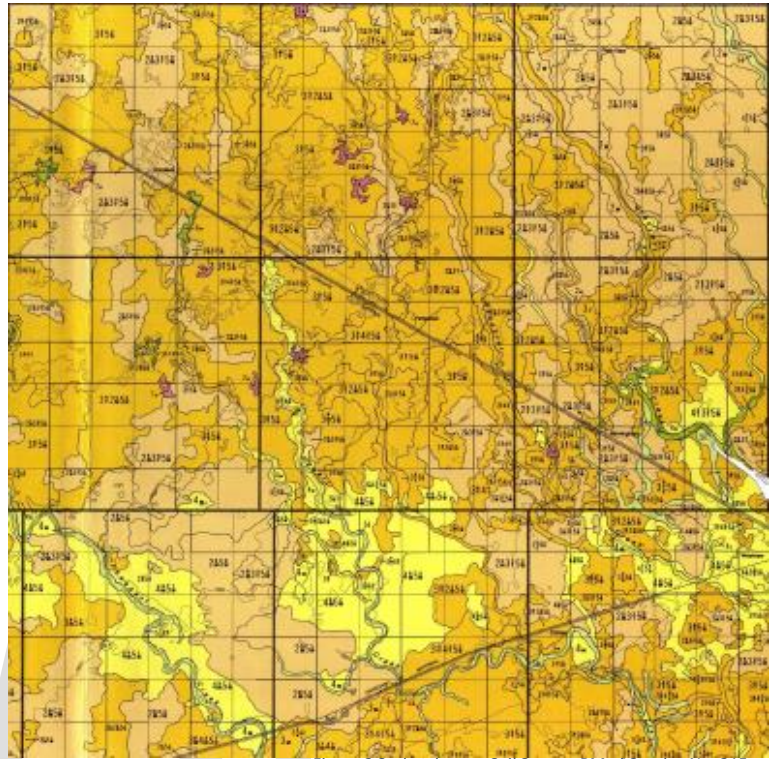


Figure 3 Saskatchewan Soil Survey, RM of Stanley No. 215

Classes	
Class 1	Soils in this class have no significant limitations to use for crops.
Class 2	Soils in this class have moderate limitations that restrict the range of crops or require moderate conservation practices.
Class 3	Soils in this class have moderately severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices
Class 4	Soils in this class have severe limitations that restrict the range of crops or require special conservation practices, or both.
Class 5	Soils in this class have very severe limitations that restrict their capability to producing perennial forage crops, but improvement practices are feasible.

⁴ Ministry of Agriculture Crop District Production Report, retrieved from <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/93048-2015%20Saskatchewan%20Crop%20District%20Crop%20Production.pdf>

⁵ Saskatchewan Soil Survey, 1991. Retrieved from <http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/publications/surveys/sk/sks209/index.html>

Section 5: Infrastructure and Services

Efforts should be taken to understand the flow of commuters in the region to identify major transportation corridors, and from that, where tax money would be most wisely allocated.

Transportation

Provincial highways 15 and 10 travel through the RM and intersect in Melville, serving as major transportation corridors for those who work in the city. Grid roads receiving various levels of maintenance connect the rest of the municipality, including Old Highway 10 which is under weight restrictions and requires some repair and reconstruction. Three major grid roads run north-south: grids 617, 618, and the Fenwood Grid. These roads are subject to the additional stress resulting from use as heavy-duty hauling routes, primarily for gravel.

Services

No utilities are provided by the municipality. In rural areas, farms and acreages are serviced by private well and septic systems. The Hamlet of Westview has a wastewater collection system subject to lagoon treatment, and provides solid waste disposal through contracted monthly pick up. The RM of Stanley is currently facing the issue of storm water management and the alternation of natural drainage patterns by landowners.

Health care is administered by the Sunrise Health Region, with the nearest hospital located in Melville. Additional health services are available in Ituna and Yorkton. Together, these urban centres offer the residents of the RM 24-hour emergency, outpatient, and long-term health care services.⁶

The nearest educational facilities are located in Melville, requiring bus service to collect students from the surrounding rural area.

Melville is the nearest centre providing fire protection and volunteer fire department services. Rural policing is carried out by the Melville RCMP Detachment.

Section 6: Heritage and Recreation

Heritage

There are two Ukrainian Catholic churches designated as historical sites within the RM: the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit in Plain View, and the Church of Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul in Fenwood (Figure 4).⁷ Several other country church, school, and cemetery sites are spread throughout the region and offer insight into the history of the RM.

Recreation

Snowmobiling is a popular pastime in the area and is facilitated by the Trans Canada Trail and other trails maintained by the local Showstoppers Snowmobile Club. The Hamlet of Westview also offers a community park and a recreation hall, while Fenwood has a community hall as well as a rink.

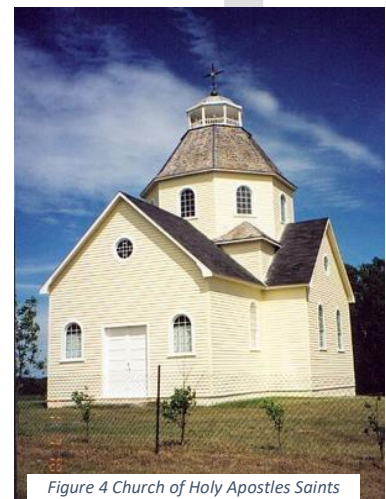


Figure 4 Church of Holy Apostles Saints Peter and Paul in Fenwood

⁶ <http://www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca>

⁷ <http://www.skeparchy.org>

The city of Melville offers several recreational amenities such as ball diamonds, batting cages, indoor and outdoor rinks, parks and playgrounds, camping, museums, a curling rink, a public library, and many other facilities available to the residents of the RM.⁸

Section 7: Community Development

The RM has identified a number of key development issues that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The need for clear and comprehensive regulations on subdivisions and acreage development;
- Managing growth and the regulation of property standards in the Hamlet of Westview;
- Regulation of property standards in the residential area of Birmingham ;
- Preserving farmland and managing surface water through network type solutions involving landowners;
- Diversifying agricultural operations; and
- Implementing a detailed Zoning Bylaw as a way to provide consistent development protocol and standards.

Adopting an Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw will help to root these goals in policy and ensure that they are pursued regardless of changes in administration and elected officials.

⁸ <http://melville.ca/p/recreation-facilities>