

Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

September 2011

Message from your Mayor and County Council

As the days grow ever shorter and chillier, and we return to regularly scheduled meetings following a much appreciated rest, our thoughts on Council begin to turn to the busy season ahead. Fall is typically busy for the County. Our business planning and budget cycle is in full stride, as we prepare for new and seasonal programming and services.

This year is no exception. I am pleased to share with our residents some of the highlights of the past three months, as well as opportunities to help shape upcoming initiatives.

Roadways improved

We removed and replaced approximately 5,000 square metres of street, curbs and sidewalks, and paved another 99,000 square metres of roads throughout Sherwood Park as part of the County's annual residential spot concrete and paving program.

Arterial paving took place on Baseline Road from Broadmoor Boulevard to Highway 21, excluding the Clover Bar Road intersection, as well as on Wye Road from Hawthorne Street to Clover Bar Road. The newly paved roads should last at least 15 years, with pothole and crack repair along the way.

The Baseline - Clover Bar Road intersection will include construction of dual left turn lanes to accommodate eastbound to northbound lefts, northbound to westbound lefts and westbound to southbound lefts. Improvements to the intersection will reduce congestion and improve safety for left-turning vehicles by introducing protected left-turn phases similar to Sherwood Drive and Baseline Road.



Upgrades were designed by Al-Terra Engineering. The general contractor, Earthwise Contracting Limited, is expected to complete this \$4 million project by mid-summer 2012.

Public engagement



Starting this month, we are seeking resident feedback on a number of important, long-term initiatives. Where these initiatives are of interest and/or potential impact to you, as members of the community, we encourage you to tell us what you think.

Transit Master Plan

In September and October, Strathcona County will be asking residents for their opinions on the draft Transit Master Plan recommendations. These draft recommendations are the result of previous resident feedback at open houses held throughout the County in spring 2010.

The draft Transit Master Plan suggests service levels and service design. We are looking for feedback on transit services such as local routes, intermunicipal service, park and ride, fares and specialized transit service for people with disabilities. Watch for opportunities to provide your input through upcoming open houses and our website. Comments will be received until October 28, 2011.



Council anticipates receiving a presentation on resident feedback in November for a decision related to implementing the Transit Master Plan recommendations in 2012.

Aquatic Strategy

The Aquatic Strategy is one of several initiatives identified in the Open Spaces and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS) to guide the long-term planning, design and development of aquatic amenities throughout the County.

For the past year, we have been asking residents what types of indoor and outdoor aquatic options we need in our community. Now for indoor aquatics, we are going directly to residents to find out where they would like a new pool or pool upgrade located, should Council approve the funding.

Tell us what you think about the five indoor aquatic options identified, as well as the outdoor spray deck and spray park options through online questionnaires, or by calling 780-416-7272. Questionnaire deadline is September 30.

If approved by Council, detailed designs for both indoor and outdoor aquatic options will be completed in 2012. Construction could begin in 2013 with potential operations in 2014 to 2015.

Branding

We are seeking resident opinion about what makes Strathcona County unique and special in a series of online discussions and a survey in support of a branding initiative. You can learn more about branding later in the newsletter. Let me just say that I have felt for a long time that the County could benefit from a distinctive brand that will help us stand apart within the Capital Region and beyond. I appreciate our residents' input and support as we move forward with this initiative.

These are just a small sampling of the services being delivered, and of new programming being planned in the near term. Residents may also be interested in participating in our budget process. You can find details of the process and opportunities to get involved in this issue of Strathcona County Living.

Enjoy the colours of fall, everyone! My door is always open and the coffee is always on.

Linda Dainchuk

Business Plan 2012 Strathcona County & Budget

Strathcona County's annual business plan and budget process determines both the level of services for the upcoming business cycle and the amount of municipal taxes required to provide programs that create a safe, thriving and quality community.

It is a year-round process, and at its base are the County's Vision and Strategic Plan, citizen input and Council direction.

Our Vision

Strathcona County is a safe, caring and autonomous community that treasures its unique blend of urban and rural lifestyles while balancing the natural environment with economic prosperity. Through strong, effective leadership, the County is a vibrant community of choice.

Strategic Plan

The foundation of what the community has told us is important to them for their future, what they want their community to be as expressed in our vision.

Business Plan

An organization's response as to what we can do to move towards achieving this vision

The Budget

A blueprint of what resources are required to deliver a sustainable quality of life to residents

Citizen input

While the business plan and budget are approved in December each year, public input into the budget process starts much earlier. In April 2011, public input opportunities included:

- Residential telephone survey
- Open houses and resident questionnaire
- Council Meeting – public input session

This resident feedback, together with findings from the annual Public Satisfaction Survey, provides the County with a holistic perspective to balance with individual or specific issues or needs that get raised. The statistically valid surveys lend insight into citizen expectations for the upcoming year and provide historical trends that factor into long-term planning and decision making.

Overall, the findings indicate residents are satisfied with service levels as they are. Most areas of service showed a five-year high on satisfaction.

Information and input this fall

Budget breakfast forum

New to the process, watch for details on a business plan and budget breakfast forum to be held this fall. This session will provide a more interactive setting to learn and provide your views.

Council budget meetings

In late November and early December, several Council budget meetings are held where residents can hear about the recommended 2012-2014 Business Plan and 2012 Budget:

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. November 15	Overview of recommended budget
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. November 25, 28, 30 December 2, (5 tentative)	Presentation of recommended business plan and budget for Council discussion, comment and consideration
3 p.m. December 13	Final discussion and approval of the 2012-2014 Business Plan and 2012 Budget
* Dates and times may change. Check www.strathcona.ca or call 780-464-8060.	

Council - preliminary direction

Many factors are considered when creating a municipal budget, capacity is always one of them. Capacity represents the resources – staff, time, money – required to deliver approved service levels. Service levels can be modified upwards, downwards or remain the same to align with the organization's capacity.

Council also looks at strategic positioning when considering the business plan and budget. Where does Strathcona County have a competitive advantage over other municipalities? What elements of our operations provide the best bang for our buck? What do we want to ensure we do extremely well?

At the May 31 budget meeting, administration presented Council with several different options to consider the County's capacity and to set preliminary budget direction. In preparing the 2012-2014 Business Plan and 2012 Budget, Council has directed administration to explore the following scenarios:

- investigate service modifications to effect a tax increase of less than 7.4 per cent
- review current franchise fees, comparing rates with other municipalities, to explore added revenue potential
- budget a dedicated one-per-cent infrastructure tax toward neighbourhood revitalization
- leverage \$4 million of budgeted reserve funding to borrow \$50 million for future infrastructure needs that would begin to address the capital funding gap (an estimate of the total additional investment needed to repair and prevent deterioration in existing municipal infrastructure such as roads and buildings)

Based on this direction, County administration has begun to prepare the budget, which will be presented to Council in November for an initial review. Any amendments determine the final budget, which is approved in December.

For more information, or to view the Business Plan and Budget video, visit www.strathcona.ca/budget.

Hunting in Strathcona County

Strathcona County's 2011 hunting season — September 1 to December 7

Hunting – a part of wildlife management

Wildlife is abundant in the rural areas of Strathcona County. An overabundance of animals may cause problems within urban and farming communities. Wildlife management is necessary for maintaining healthy and diverse wildlife populations.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton District, is responsible for wildlife management and enforcement of Alberta's Wildlife Act.

The rights of landowners

A large portion of the privately owned land in the County falls into the category of occupied land, as defined under the Wildlife Act. The following regulations apply to hunting on occupied land.

- A hunter needs permission from the landowner or occupant to hunt on a given property. It is entirely the decision of the landowner or occupant whether to allow hunting on the property.
 - The landowner is responsible to ensure that the hunter understands any conditions on which hunting is being permitted. For example, hunting may be allowed for one day, several days or longer. The landowner may specify the number of hunters allowed, or particular areas they are to avoid.

Where hunting is and is not permitted

The discharge of firearms in Strathcona County is controlled by the County's Firearms Control Bylaw 11-2007 and is enforced by the RCMP. Firearms may not be used for hunting in Sherwood Park or in rural hamlets.

The use of firearms is restricted within the Special Control Area. In this area, shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles, bows and arrows, and cross-bows may be used to hunt white-tailed deer during this year's Strathcona White-tailed Deer Hunt from October 25 to December 7, Monday to Friday only.

Recipients of the antlerless moose special licence for Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 248 must adhere to the regulations associated with the Strathcona White-tailed Deer Hunt when hunting in Strathcona County.

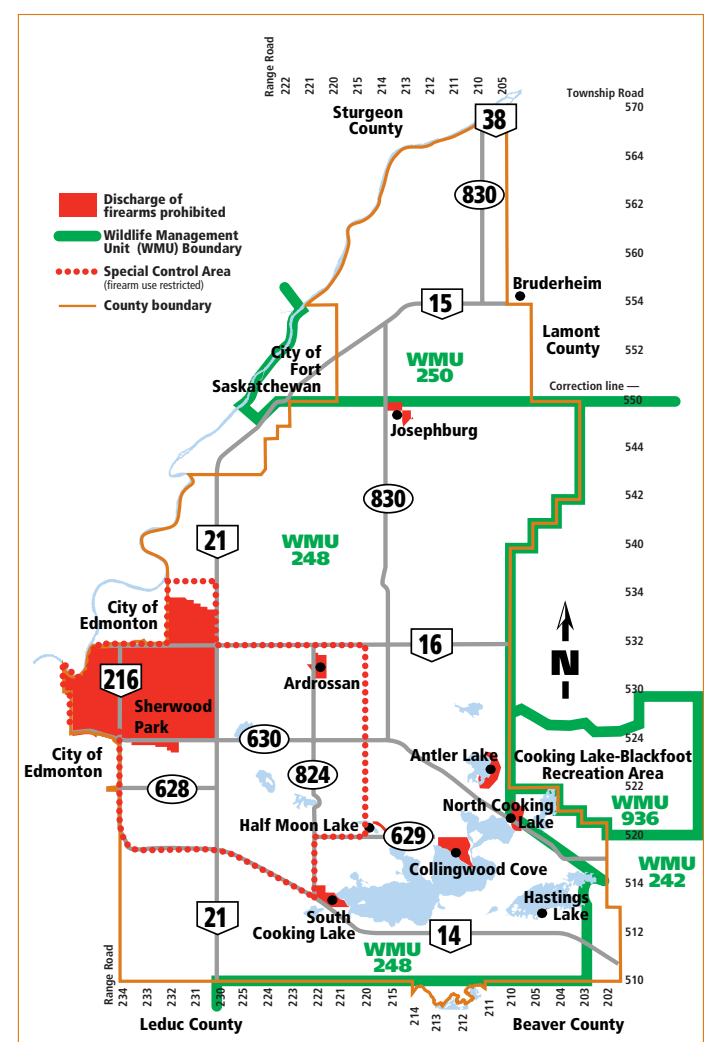
Outside of the Special Control Area, Sherwood Park and rural hamlets, Strathcona County does not have bylaws restricting the use of firearms. Provincial and federal regulations apply in these areas.

The County is divided into three different Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Different regulations apply to each.

Hunting game birds with a shotgun on road allowances is not allowed in the County. Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality and, because of this designation, all road allowances are considered County property. There is no hunting allowed on County property.

Further information

For information, contact numbers and maps of the rural hamlets, visit www.strathcona.ca/tas.



Department profile

Infrastructure and Planning Services Division

Making changes to serve you better

This past May, Strathcona County's Infrastructure and Planning Services (IPS) division announced to Council their intention to realign program delivery to serve residents better. New department structures were introduced in August, along with the lines of business in each area.

But what do these changes really mean to our community on a day-to-day basis?

"The Utilities department now has all the appropriate disciplines and functions under one area – engineering, construction and operations. All land use planning functions are together – from environmental land use planning to issuing development permits – and are located in the Planning and Development Services department. All transportation operations and traffic safety functions have been grouped in one area – traffic lights to potholes and overlays," says Peter Vana, Associate Commissioner, IPS division.

"These changes allow for better coordination and improved efficiency as functional areas, and the people within them are working side by side to provide these services."

A significant change is the new Capital Planning and Construction (CPC) department that replaces Engineering & Environmental Planning. It is comprised of two branches - Capital Construction and Transportation Planning.

"The new CPC department has been established to focus on the larger infrastructure projects, such as new roadways, bridges, and neighbourhood revitalization in the

County," says Vana. "This new department will coordinate planning improvements to the overall transportation network and new construction.

"There is also existing development in Sherwood Park and rural rehabilitation that needs to be done. Annual programs such as neighbourhood revitalization and overlays increase every year. The new realignment within IPS puts us in a better position to deal with the challenges of maintaining our existing infrastructure, while planning for future growth in our County," concludes Vana.

To view the new organizational structure and placement of programs, please go to: <http://www.strathcona.ca/departments/IPS-division-realignment.aspx>.

Some numbers have changed:

Noted below are some of the more common numbers that have changed since the reorganization:

Capital Planning and Construction (formerly Engineering and Environmental Planning)	780-464-8277
Traffic safety and operations	780-464-8223
Utilities engineering	780-416-6740
Park planning and design, conservation easements, wetland conservation	780-464-8117
Transportation planning	780-464-8277
Capital construction and design	780-410-6528
Oil and gas, energy exploration, seismic activities, well sites and pipelines	780-410-8540

What is Strathcona County?



A distinctive brand strengthens community identity and pride, and will allow Strathcona County to compete more effectively within the region for talent and investment. If you live and or work in Strathcona County, we want your opinion about what makes our County unique and special.

To learn more about Strathcona County's community branding initiative and how you can contribute, go to: www.whatistrathconacounty.com

How to get involved

Each Monday throughout September, we have been posting a new question on Facebook about some aspect of life in Strathcona County. Go to www.facebook.com/StrathconaCounty to participate.

October 3

- Share your opinions through an online survey at: www.whatistrathconacounty.com. Deadline for completing the survey is October 14.

The information collected will contribute to a County brand that differentiates us as a community. Your input will help define the public face Strathcona County uses in all communications and marketing, so it's vital the brand reflect the feelings and priorities common to our residents, business community and other stakeholders.

If you do not have Internet access, you are welcome to use the computers at Heartland Hall Contact Office, the Strathcona County Library, or call Communications at 780-410-6595 for a hard copy of the survey.

Centre in the Park

Strathcona County

Creating a heart for our community

Centre in the Park is a sustainable community development. It is designed to be a walkable, pedestrian-friendly area and parking is limited. Carpooling and transit is encouraged ... and good for the environment.

Strathcona County

www.strathcona.ca

Public Parking

Centre in the Park public parking includes street and outdoor surface lot parking, and paid underground parking at the Community Centre.

Street and outdoor parking lots – No charge

Street parking — Festival Way, Festival Lane, Festival Avenue

- 2-hour time limit on Festival Lane and Festival Avenue, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
- No time limit on Festival Way
- Library book drop parking on Festival Lane, 5-minute maximum

North parking lot

- 50 public stalls as signed, 2-hour time limit, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday
- Public may park in the staff parking areas in the north lot after 5 p.m. weekdays, and all day on weekends and holidays

East parking lot — next to County Hall

- 30-minute maximum, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Festival Place parking lot

- All day parking, no time limit (some restrictions during events)

Community Centre parkade

Public parking rates for underground parkade:

- \$2 per hour, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday (Parking Level P1)
- \$2 flat fee after 5 p.m. on weekdays, and on weekends and holidays (Parking Level P1 and P2)
- Six handicap parking stalls, no charge

Regular parkade hours of operation:

- 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday - Saturday
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday

Parking enforcement is in effect (Bylaw 9-2011).

Further information

Email: county_hall_parking@strathcona.ca

Phone: 780-464-8403

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays
(closed 12 noon to 1 p.m.)

Community Heritage Legacy

Fire and frost:

Overcoming extremes was part of everyday life

Accounts of local history keep us connected

Have you ever wondered what it was like for early settlers in Strathcona County?

Rod Gauf recalls challenges faced by his grandparents, Rudolph and Adella, from Josephsburg. The Gaufs are one of many families in Strathcona County whose roots go back a century or more.

On February 13, 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Gauf lost their two-storey house when it caught fire. Mrs. Gauf had been using either gasoline or kerosene to do laundry when the fuel, originally thought to be a cost-effective way of cleaning clothes, ignited. With her hands severely burnt, she managed to grab one thing as she ran out of the house – a canary in its cage.

The drive and perseverance shown by the Gauf family is impressive. Though the homestead was destroyed, they rebuilt and continued to take part in community life. Every summer, First Nations people—walking from as far as Saskatchewan—journeyed for up to two months return along the historic Victoria Trail, which ran near the Gauf homestead. On the annual spiritual pilgrimage to Lac Ste. Anne, travellers stopped to visit. Some even taught Adella how to make bannock and speak Cree, a language she became fluent in over time.

Life in the 1940s presented different challenges for Bruce McLean. The depression and onset of the Second World War meant there were very few children in Ardrossan close to Bruce's age for him to travel with to and from Baker School. For the first three years, he travelled to school by himself. To ensure that Bruce could make the six-mile return journey during the summer, his father, one of the first Ardrossan-to-Edmonton commuters, rigged a small bicycle with two-by-four blocks so his son could reach the pedals.

In the winter, Bruce relied on the family horse to get to and from school. Riding a horse to school was not uncommon. The school had a small barn where the horses were fed and sheltered during the day. Bruce recounted one early morning journey when it was so cold he started to cry. Thankfully, the horse "had enough sense" to turn in to the Parker family's farmyard along route to school. The boy was removed from the horse, brought into the house and defrosted before being sent back on his way. Though late for school, he did make it safely.

Staff members working on the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative are gathering stories from local residents about skills, traditions and Strathcona County's history overall. These accounts shed light on a time when living in the County was often tough but in spite of



In a shared classroom setting for Grades 1 to 8, younger Baker School students had the benefit of learning their own lessons and those of the students in grades ahead of them! Baker School, 1947

Photo courtesy of Strathcona County Museum & Archives

hardships, families stayed, laid roots and worked together to build the County as we know it today. By preserving our local history and heritage, Strathcona County aims to promote a shared sense of the past that will inform and inspire our future as a community.

If you have any stories, traditions or skills you would like to share, please contact the Community Heritage Legacy office at 780-416-6762 or info@strathcona.ca. For details about the program or to learn more about the County's past, you can visit www.strathcona.ca/history.

Do you have materials to share or donate?

The Strathcona County Museum and Archives is interested in materials like these:

- Records from an individual or family — may involve letters, papers, photographs, scrapbooks, financial records and diaries.
- Examples of archival records from a group or organization include administrative files, correspondence, and minutes from meetings.

COMMUNITY
Heritage
LEGACY

Focusing on Family

Teens - are you plugged in?

Today it's easy for teens to be plugged into all the communication and gaming technology out there: Facebook, texting, cell phones, online gaming. But do you know what's happening for teens right here in Strathcona County? Drop by the Community Centre Agora on Saturday, October 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to check out some of the services available to teens in the community. There will be a DJ, free snacks like popcorn, ice cream, candy and prizes. Call 780-410-8600 or visit www.strathcona.ca/youth for more information.

Have you heard of Youth Council?

The Strathcona County Youth Council is made up of teens in Grades 7-12. Members work together to make sure that youth are giving input on different aspects that affect teen life and plan projects to benefit youth in the community. This year, the Youth Council celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a logo contest, BBQ party, and a legacy project. They also recognized outstanding adults with the annual High Five Awards. The council is currently recruiting new members. Call Erin at 780-464-4044 to find out meeting dates and locations or visit www.strathcona.ca/youth for more information.

Looking for something new to do with your preschooler?

Is your *Good Night Moon* book worn thin? Do you need a break from the Backyardigans? Add some variety to your playtime by checking out the Parent Link's free lending resources that help support your parenting needs. Visit Parent Link at the Children and Youth Community Centre (#3 Spruce Avenue, Sherwood Park) or call 780-416-6730 for more information about these resources:

Tales in a Tote

- Each tote contains various books, songs, finger plays and further learning tools and resources to explore themes to assist with healthy growth and development.

Developmental Kits

- Developmental Kits were created to assist you, the parent/caregiver, to explore new ideas to support your child's development. Each kit consists of activities and written information specific to your child's developmental age focusing on six areas of development.

L.I.P.s In ZIPS

- Borrow one of Parent Link's Language Inspiring Prop resource bags. Each zip bag contains an item that you can use with your child and a postcard with suggestions on how to use the props to promote the growth and development of your child's speech and language skills.

Bear Packing Adventures in Literacy

- Sign out a backpack and go on an adventure! Each backpack contains a stuffed animal and a blank notebook for you to create your own adventures with your child.

Baby and Me

Remember the pre-baby days when you had parenting all figured out? Your baby would be sleep-trained the first week and you would be sipping tea and chatting with friends while your adorably-dressed baby cooed softly in your arms. If you're wondering why parenthood didn't quite work out that way, you're not alone. Plan to join other parents/caregivers of babies from newborn to 12 months, to participate in infant-focused play experiences. Join Parent Link at the Children and Youth Community Centre (#3 Spruce Avenue, Sherwood Park) on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Call Danielle at 780-416-6730 for a schedule of special guests.

TOOLS For Dads

Today's dads are involved more than ever in parenting their children. Come share and hear the parenting experiences of other dads/male caregivers of children from newborn to six years old. This six-week session, which includes outings into the community, runs Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon from October 15 to November 19 at the Children and Youth Community Centre (#3 Spruce Avenue, Sherwood Park). Call 780-416-6730 to register for this free program.

Strathcona County

2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 3W7
780-464-8111
www.strathcona.ca
info@strathcona.ca
Twitter: @StrathcoCounty
Facebook: [facebook.com/strathcona.county](https://www.facebook.com/strathcona.county)
YouTube: [youtube.com/strathconacounty](https://www.youtube.com/strathconacounty)
ENewsletters: strathcona.ca/enews

Strathcona
County