



Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

December 2008

Christmas Greetings from Council

At this special time of year, we want to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, organizations and community members for making Strathcona County such a special place to live.

We wish you and your family a safe and merry Christmas; and health, happiness and prosperity in 2009.

Strathcona County Council

Back row, from left: Glen Lawrence, Jason Gariepy, Peter Wlodarczak, Alan Dunn, Vic Bidzinski
Front, from left: Roxanne Carr, Cathy Olesen, Jacquie Fenske, Linda Osinchuk



Now serving Strathcona County

Now one easy-to-remember phone number is available to Strathcona County residents to connect to social, health and government services in the community.

Through this 24/7 service, certified information and referral specialists answer 211 calls, assess the needs of each caller, and link them to the best available information and services.

Why 211 works

- Single access point – reducing confusion and frustration
- Targeted help – connection to the best suited assistance
- A personal touch – lets people talk to people
- Around the clock access – 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Confidential – offering a non-judgmental environment
- Free – accessible at no cost to callers

Just dial 2-1-1.

Further information

Information and Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County
Phone: 780-464-4242
Email: info@ivcstrathcona.org
www.211edmonton.info

NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVAL!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

4 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

BROADMOOR LAKE PARK

"KERFLUFFLE"
by Firefly Theatre and Circus

An evening of Circus -Vaudeville, an assortment of death-defying and laughter inducing entertainment for one and all!

Presented by **Sobeys**

Shows at Festival Place 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. Tickets \$4/each or 4 for \$12, Under 2 years are FREE

Get your tickets at the Recreation Admin. Office, Millennium Place or the Glen Allan Recreation Complex.



• Pictures taken at public events may be used for promotional purposes.
• Some activities are weather dependant.

FAMILY FIREWORKS
Broadmoor Lake at 8 p.m.
Presented by **SHERWOOD PARK MALL**

FAMILY FUN
Enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor activities for ALL ages!

- skating under the Big Top
- gymnastics fun at SALTO gym
- sleigh rides and campfire fun
- snowshoeing
- hockey skills with the Crusaders
- indoor/outdoor skating
- fire dancers and more!

* Make sure you bring a helmet for on-ice activities!

FREE PARK 'N RIDE
Sherwood Park Transit Centre to Broadmoor Lake Park starts at 4 p.m. and runs every half hour.
Broadmoor Lake Park to Sherwood Park Transit Centre starts at 4:15 p.m.
Departs in front of Festival Place and runs every half hour. Last shuttle is at 9:45 p.m.

FESTIVAL FUN PACKS!
Includes a ticket to Kerfluffle, a hot dog & drink ticket and a glow bracelet all wrapped up in a festive package. \$5 each or 4 for \$15

JANUARY 1ST
The FUN Continues!

- Skating, campfire program and hot chocolate at Broadmoor Lake Park from 1 - 4 p.m.
- Strathcona Wilderness Centre from 1 - 4 p.m. Warm up around the campfire. Enjoy hot chocolate, bannock, snowshoeing, skiing and games for the whole family!

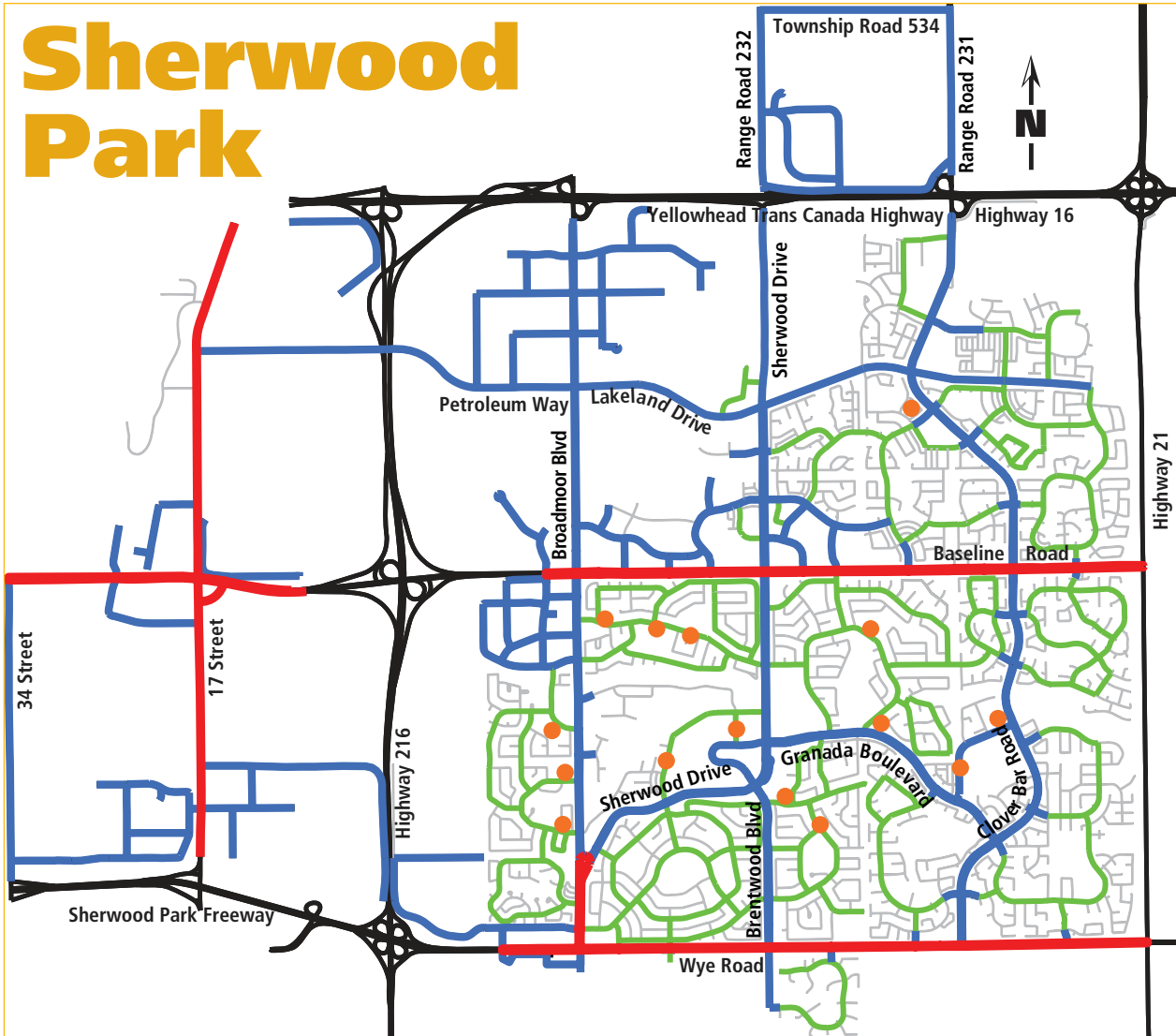
MORE INFORMATION
www.strathcona.ab.ca/recreation

Strathcona County
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURE
www.strathcona.ab.ca

SNOW CLEARING

STRATHCONA COUNTY... *keeping our community connected.*

Sherwood Park



Strathcona County's winter maintenance crews are ready for changing road conditions...

Call to let us know about conditions that need attention – for example, icy roads, snow removal, downed traffic signs or traffic lights that aren't working. If you phone after hours, you will be forwarded to one of our on-call staff.

Sherwood Park

Snow plows in action

Street snow clearing begins when snow accumulates between two and seven centimetres, depending on the priority ranking of the road. Check the chart on the left for details.

Streets with higher speed limits and heavier traffic have the highest priority — these roads are plowed first.

Street sanding

Streets are sanded according to the priority shown — those with the highest volume first. Special attention is given to hills, curves and intersections. The streets are inspected constantly to determine where traction sand is needed.

Trail clearing

The trails in Sherwood Park are cleared after the Priority 2 streets and school drop-off zones.

Sanding icy sidewalks

Many neighbourhoods in Sherwood Park have sand boxes placed near mailboxes. Feel free to use this sand. For a complete list of locations, go to www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas.

Parking and snow clearing

Parking in Sherwood Park is restricted while streets are cleared. Watch for large portable signs at the entrance to your neighbourhood, or placard signs on the street. The parking ban goes into effect 24 hours after the signs are up, and remains until the signs are removed.

Sherwood Park priorities for 2008-09

Strathcona County has increased snow clearing services on Priority 3 and 4 roads

	Description	Roads are plowed...
Priority 1	Major thoroughfares	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 2 to 5 cm of snow
Priority 2	Arterial roads	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
Priority 3	School drop-off zones	Within 72 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow (Transit stop zones are cleared after school drop-off zones)
Priority 3	Collector roads, including public transit routes	Snow is windrowed and removed within 8 days following 15 to 21 cm of snow accumulation
Priority 4	Residential streets not included in the above categories	Snow windrowing and removal initiated when there is 10 cm of compacted snow If there is 7 cm of compacted snow on the streets as of February 1 of any year, snow removal will be completed within 12 days (with the exception of snow piles in cul-de-sacs that will be removed as resources become available)
Highways	The Province of Alberta's contractors maintain all highways Alberta Highway Services 1-888-255-5554	



Know your road signs

No parking, snow clearing

For road maintenance information, call

780-417-7100

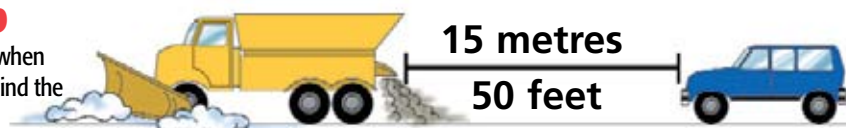
24-hour number

Further information:

www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas

Safe winter driving tip

Reduce your speed on ice or snow especially when approaching intersections. Stay 15 metres behind the car or truck in front of you.



DON'T FORGET...

...to remove all obstructions from your driveway curb area

This includes mats, grates and any other materials at the driveway curb. These must be removed, since they can interfere with snow clearing equipment. Please also remove portable basketball nets from the edge of your driveway.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas

Community Mediation— helping people find solutions

Trained volunteers help resolve a range of conflicts

Fractured relationships can heal when the people talk to each other and—most importantly—listen.

The veteran mediators of Strathcona County Community Mediation (SCCM) have seen this kind of reconciliation occur over and over again.

Neighbours, family members—even volunteer boards—may disagree for a multitude of reasons. And while every one of these disputes is unique, the mediator’s task is the same—to help the parties craft mutually agreeable solutions.

“Typically people are in conflict because communication has broken down,” says Charlene Carrington, a volunteer mediator with SCCM. “We get people talking, and after they talk, they listen. And when they listen, that’s when you see a shift.”

Like many of the society’s members, Charlene has been involved with the not-for-profit organization since its inception in 1995. She also sits on the board.

“When we bring people to the table, their communication has largely stopped,” says Trevor Dymchuk, a past-president of the society and another long-time mediator. “We create an environment where they feel comfortable discussing things they normally would not.”

Conflicts are varied

Strathcona County Community Mediation has been quelling conflict between citizens for 13 years.

It provides its services at no cost, and 20 trained mediators are available to deal with a host of issues. These range from neighbours facing off about barking dogs, loud music and property boundaries, to parents and teens arguing about curfews and dating, to disputes involving sports teams.

Coordinator Barb Rix says SCCM takes referrals from a number of agencies, such as Strathcona County Enforcement Services, which deals with municipal bylaws; the RCMP; Victim Services; Family and Community Services; Children’s Services; and the Youth Justice Committee. While it works closely with these agencies, SCCM operates independently.

The 80 to 100 referrals it receives each year are important because quarrelling people don’t always seek mediation on their own. Still, SCCM welcomes requests for assistance from the general public.

SCCM doesn’t deal with divorce or other issues best suited for civil court. It does, however, help direct people to the appropriate authority to deal with their case.

Volunteer mediators have special skills

Because most of us avoid conflict, it may seem curious that a group of Strathcona County residents don’t just volunteer their time to help people dispel tiffs, they enjoy it.

The mediators have no trouble relaying their reasons for choosing to perform this kind of volunteer work.

“My first mediation, I saw a light bulb go off above a man’s head,” says Barb. “I remember this look came in his eyes, and his body language changed.”

Trevor has also seen those moments.

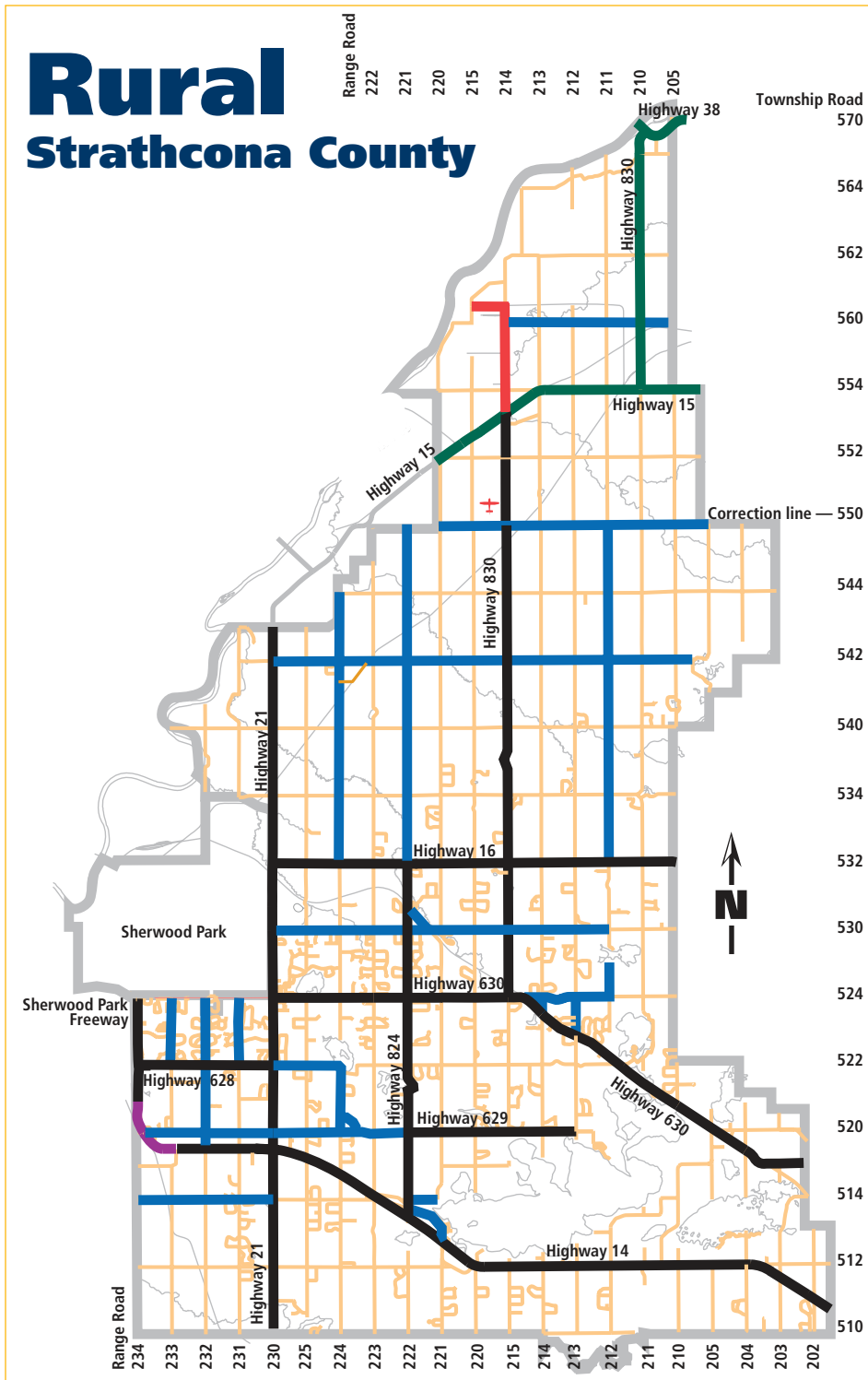
“Suddenly, they’re talking to each other, rather than through us.”

Barb, who is passionate about assisting parents and their teens to resolve conflict, says she’s been party to amazing moments.

continued on page 4...



Mending fences: Strathcona County Community Mediation team members Charlene Carrington (left), Barb Rix and Trevor Dymchuk help community members and others resolve disputes.



Rural priorities Roads are plowed

Priority 1 Major Industrial roadway/ Strathcona Airport (Josephburg)	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 2 to 5 cm of snow
Priority 2 Thoroughfares	Within 12 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
Priority 3 All remaining roads, including country residential roads	Within 3 days following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow
Highways	The Province of Alberta’s contractors maintain all highways Alberta Highway Services 1-888-255-5554
	Carillion Canada 1-800-390-2242
	Transportation Systems Management 780-466-5084

Rural Strathcona County

Clearing your driveway

For the safety of the travelling public, please do not deposit snow on or across the road when clearing your driveway (Bylaw 33-94 – Deposit of Snow, Ice and Debris on Roads).

Snow plows on the road

Road snow clearing begins when snow accumulates between five and seven centimetres, depending on the priority ranking of the road as per the chart above.

Road sanding

High traffic volume roads are sanded first. Special attention is given to hills, curves and intersections. Roads are inspected regularly to determine where traction sand is needed.

Is your mail box secure?

Are the bolts tight? If not, the snow from the plow may be enough to dislodge the mailbox from the post. Take a look to make sure it is well fastened.

Who makes our community great?

Strathcona County is home to many people who go above and beyond to make it a great place to live. Recognize someone you know for an achievement or contribution to the community. **Nominate someone for a Pride of Strathcona Award.**

Award categories

Community life

Recognizes residents for outstanding achievements or contributions that have improved the quality of life for others. These may include: community service, citizenship, acts of heroism or bravery, volunteering and athletic endeavours aside from achievement in competition.

Professional achievement

Recognizes residents for outstanding achievements or contributions in a professional capacity.

Arts and culture

Recognizes residents for outstanding achievement or contribution in literary, visual, performing, film and video arts; and also in the area of culture.

Athletics

Recognizes County athletes for outstanding achievement, placing first, second or third at a national or international competition that took place in 2008.

Who is eligible?

- Any current or former resident of Strathcona County is eligible to receive an award. Nominations may be made for individuals, groups or teams.
- Former residents are eligible if they are nominated for achievements or contributions that took place at the time they lived in the County, and they have lived in the County within the last three years.
- Groups or teams must be based in Strathcona County, and the majority of members must live in the County.
- Individuals who live in Strathcona County and participate in groups or teams not based in the County are eligible to receive awards.

Nomination deadline: Saturday, January 31, 2009

Awards details and the nomination form are available at www.strathcona.ab.ca.

Or call 780-464-8022 for a nomination brochure, or pick up a copy at County facilities.



Get with the **GREEN ROUTINE!**

Changes to summer organics collection

The results of a comprehensive review of the new waste services implemented in June were presented to County Council earlier this fall.

After reviewing the report and recommendations, Council approved some changes that will take effect next summer.

Residents in Sherwood Park and the hamlets of Antler Lake, Ardrossan, Collingwood Cove, Half Moon Lake, Hastings Lake, Josephburg and North and South Cooking Lake will receive weekly collection of organics from mid-June to mid-September.

The increased cost for this service is equivalent to \$1.45 per affected household per month (\$17.40 per year). The exact fee for waste collection in 2009 will be determined as part of the budget process in December.

To gather feedback on the Green Routine, Strathcona County conducted a telephone survey of residents chosen at random, and invited all interested members of the community to provide their comments.

Overall, the majority of residents are satisfied with the new waste services and are adapting well to the new routine. There is strong support for the environmental benefits of the services which is one of the reasons why the program has been so successful in reducing waste sent to landfill.



Pride of
STRATHCONA



AWARDS

Community Mediation continued from page 4

“It’s powerful to see a mother hear her 15-year-old daughter for the first time. You know then that you have helped changed their life.”

Charlene says mediators gain personally from helping others in this fashion. “It’s a positive experience for me because with mediation you get to see a result,” she says.

“The rewards are substantial,” says Trevor. “Sometimes you have the opportunity to heal long-term conflicts.”

Mediations typically involve one or two sessions of one to two hours each. But SCCM doesn’t limit the number of mediations, and it performs six-week follow-ups. All referrals and mediations are confidential.

Mediators do not try to cure the problem that’s brought the parties to the table, and they certainly don’t have any authority to impose a solution. The mediator’s job is to guide people in conflict to develop a solution that will work for them.

“We’re not going to tell you what to do,” says Barb. “We’re going to help you decide for yourselves what’s going to work for you.”

“We’re non-judgmental,” adds Charlene. “There is a process but it belongs to the parties. It’s up to us to make them comfortable and give them a safe place to talk.”

Not only is SCCM always looking to help people in conflict, the organization is also interested in attracting more mediators and board members to its ranks.

You don’t have to want to become a mediator to participate. In fact, the board has three members who aren’t mediators and it’s looking for other citizens who can help out in a variety of ways.

But they do have something in common because this board knows how to get along.

“We’re a pretty cohesive group,” says Barb.

Contact information:

Phone: 780-464-8445

Website: www.sccm.ca

rix@strathcona.ab.ca

Location: 276, 2755 Broadmoor Boulevard, Sherwood Park

Alarm systems require registration

Alarm systems in homes, businesses or other buildings must be registered by

December 31, 2008.

Starting January 1, 2009 there is a \$30 fee.

contact Enforcement Services at 780-449-0170



Victim Services

Strathcona County RCMP Detachment

Victim Services Unit

Invites you to Volunteer as an Advocate

Work Directly with Victims of Crime and Trauma

Call Shelly or Ellory

780-449-0153

Strathcona County

2001 Sherwood Drive
Sherwood Park, Alberta
780-464-8111
www.strathcona.ab.ca
info@strathcona.ab.ca

Strathcona
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