



Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed March 2007

Strathcona in the Capital Region

There has been much discussion lately about how the municipalities in Alberta's Capital Region are working together and planning for the future.

To help our community understand the issues, Mayor Olesen comments on regional matters. She also answers some frequently asked questions.

Frequently asked questions

I'm confused by what I'm reading about disagreement among the municipalities in the region. Can you explain?

Mayor Olesen: Council's view is that on the whole, the region is working extremely well. It's true, things can always be improved, and the growth we are facing brings challenges as well as much opportunity.

What the County will do—and encourage all others, including Edmonton to do—is continue to work together in a spirit of respect for the good of the region.

How do Strathcona County residents affect Edmonton?

Mayor Olesen: We have never seen evidence to show that on balance regional residents are having a negative effect on Edmonton.

From all indications, the opposite is true—the population in the region is a benefit, not a hindrance. On the economic side alone, Edmonton's businesses benefit tremendously from the money that all of us in the region spend in shopping, restaurants or cultural and sporting events.

Likewise, we see it as a benefit when others from the region visit Strathcona County, conduct business or participate in community activities.

With 23 very different independent municipalities in the region, is cooperation possible?

Mayor Olesen: Having different communities in one strong region gives you the best of both worlds. Residents can choose to live in the type of community that best suits their lifestyle, whether urban or rural, large or small. At the same time, we also have the amenities that the larger region has to offer.

What's important, I think, is that we remember our communities have much more in common than we do in differences.

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From County Council: To our community



Mayor Cathy Olesen

In recent weeks, there have been articles in local newspapers on the issue of relationships among the municipalities in our region and how we can cooperatively manage the industrial growth and development currently underway.

Strathcona agrees with and supports some of the points raised in these articles, particularly by the Mayor of the City of Edmonton. However, other points require clarification or cause concern.

First of all, let me state with absolute certainty, that Strathcona County Council and your Mayor wholeheartedly support a more cooperative approach to regional planning. We already have a strong foundation for this with the work done by the Alberta Capital Regional Alliance (ACRA) and the Alberta Industrial Heartland initiative. Both organizations have websites that detail the good work that has been done to date around planning for the growth and development we are now experiencing.

It is fair that the cost of regional projects should be shared among the municipalities that benefit. An example is Anthony Henday Drive. Strathcona County, along with other municipalities, supported the allocation of our share of provincial funding to complete a major roadway that we all recognized was a regional priority.

Strathcona County delivers many services through voluntary partnerships with other municipalities. (See list at right.) We are always open to new ideas that will enable us to improve our service or save money while meeting the needs of our residents.

Special mention needs to be made of the integrated emergency response system throughout all our neighbouring municipalities. Strathcona County has 18 mutual aid agreements for emergency services, reflecting the understanding that a major incident anywhere in our region impacts all of us.

I focus in particular on our emergency response systems because of recent remarks

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Smart partnerships

Strathcona County has a long record of success in working with neighbouring municipalities to deliver services to our community.

These are some of the voluntary, cooperative agreements in place between Strathcona County and its neighbours.

- water purchased from EPCOR
- wastewater treatment at a regional facility used by the municipalities
- waste sent to the City of Edmonton's Co-Composter for six months of the year
- 18 mutual aid agreements with municipalities and industry for emergency services
- economic development and tourism initiatives
- transfer agreements among transit systems
- shared responsibility for development of the river valley
- the Capital Region Intersection Safety Partnership
- joint purchasing of high-volume products including fuel
- 9-1-1 call answering for 41 municipalities and emergency dispatch for 17
- the Beaver Hills Initiative

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Frequently Asked Questions

We are all trying to provide services to our residents in a way that adds to the quality of life they enjoy. Respect and a willingness to listen are also essential.

Was Strathcona County prepared for the heavy industry announced for our area?

Mayor Olesen: Heavy industry has been a part of Strathcona County since 1948, so our municipality has extensive experience and knowledge.

The upgraders and associated development occurring now in north Strathcona were anticipated some time ago. About eight years ago, the County formed the Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association along with the City of Fort Saskatchewan and the Counties of Lamont and Sturgeon. All four partners developed their own area structure plans, consulting with each other.

We're now continuing to ensure the area is sustainable for the long-term by planning for roads and other infrastructure, environmental monitoring and protection, and resolving concerns of residents.

How much development is occurring in the Heartland?

Mayor Olesen: Approximately \$20 billion in investment has been announced for the Heartland, with \$11 billion of this within Strathcona County.

To address the challenges you have mentioned, is there a plan?

Mayor Olesen: There are actually a number of plans. There is a regional transportation plan. The Alberta Capital Region Alliance, in which Strathcona County has been active, has a business plan that looks at how the region can more effectively coordinate growth and share costs of projects where the benefit extends to a number of municipalities. Other plans are in place through the Alberta Industrial Heartland Association.

What is the County's position on sharing tax revenues from industry with other communities?

Mayor Olesen: The real question, Council believes, is how to make sure that every municipality has the resources it needs in order to provide services for its residents.

Our municipality works hard to forecast needs and allocate resources carefully. To take away these resources and hand them to another municipality would create winners and losers, and lead to conflict without doing anything to improve the situation.

It is widely recognized there is a gap between emerging needs and available resources in growing municipalities.

In Canada, municipalities collect only about seven per cent of all taxes paid. Strathcona would like to work with other municipalities to make our collective case to senior levels of government for a greater share of the 93 per cent.

As a County resident, what can I do?

Mayor Olesen: All of us on Council would like to know what residents think about what's going on in the region. We are willing to answer your questions, discuss the issues, and would like to know what the community is thinking. Continue to watch local papers and the County website for information as events occur.

Strathcona in the Capital Region

made by Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel in which he suggested that we are not adequately prepared for a potential disaster. Along with my fellow Strathcona County Council members, I want to assure you that you live in a very safe community—and that all members of our region are working hard to keep it that way.

Strathcona will continue to work cooperatively with neighbouring municipalities on those opportunities and responsibilities that affect us all. However, to move forward, there needs to be mutual respect and a willingness to listen on the part of all concerned.

Some recent remarks made by the Mayor of Edmonton have not been helpful in fostering such a climate of mutual cooperation. In fact, many of his comments have been inconsistent or confusing. Others, quite frankly, have been disrespectful.

For example, it is perplexing that in the February 9 edition of a local newspaper, Mayor Mandel is quoted as saying the following: "The City of Edmonton will grow and our boundaries will grow as we see necessary. We're not going to have any fixed boundaries."

This statement contradicts many of Mayor Mandel's past comments in which

he has said annexation is not proposed for those municipalities adjacent to the City of Edmonton.

In the same article, Mayor Mandel appeared to dismiss the important work of the Alberta Industrial Heartland Association. His exact words were, "...other than having coffee together, nothing comes out of it."

In fact, the efforts of this group over the past eight years have attracted substantial investment to the area. We continue to collaborate on infrastructure needs, measures to protect the environment and initiatives to address concerns of residents in the area.

With respect to the Capital Region, I remain an optimist. I believe all municipalities will come together. Yes, there will be some bumps along the way. But in the long run, I know we will do what's best for our residents.

In closing, Strathcona County Council members and I, as your Mayor, want to assure you that the high quality of life we all enjoy will continue and not in any way be compromised.

In the spirit of community living,



Cathy Olesen, Mayor
on behalf of Strathcona County Council



Clockwise from left: Brent Jewell, Peter Wlodarczak, Alan Dunn, Glen Lawrence, Ken Lesniak, Linda Osinchuk, Cathy Olesen, Jacquie Fenske

Contact information

| Name | Position | Telephone | E-mail |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Cathy Olesen | Mayor | 464-8000 | olesen@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Brent Jewell | Councillor, Ward 1 | 464-8005 | jewellb@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Ken Lesniak | Councillor, Ward 2 | 464-8002 | lesniak@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Linda Osinchuk | Councillor, Ward 3 | 464-8149 | osinchuk@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Peter Wlodarczak | Councillor, Ward 4 | 464-8146 | wlodarczak@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Jacquie Fenske | Councillor, Ward 5 | 464-8147 | fenske@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Alan Dunn | Councillor, Ward 6 | 464-8206 | dunn@strathcona.ab.ca |
| Glen Lawrence | Councillor, Ward 7 | 464-8003 | lawrencg@strathcona.ab.ca |

Questions or concerns about regional matters?

Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca or contact the Mayor or your Councillor.

Respecting Property Boundaries

Proposed Unauthorized Use of County Property Bylaw

Most Strathcona County residents respect property boundaries. However, there are some property owners who use public property for their private use and purposes.

A new proposed bylaw to address encroachments and unauthorized use of County property will be brought forward to County Council in late April.

The proposed bylaw will regulate the use of all County property to ensure safe and enjoyable public use, and help protect natural areas and ecosystems.

What is unauthorized use?

Unauthorized use occurs when an individual constructs, stores, landscapes, erects, places or removes anything on, in, under or over County property without written approval of the County. The actions may be deliberate or inadvertent.

Examples of unauthorized use

- fences, decks, fire pits and storage sheds built on parks, reserves or road rights-of-way
- docks constructed on stormwater management facilities
- planting, mowing or pruning, or creating pathways on County property without permission
- dumping leaves, grass, debris or fill on County land
- cutting of trees and vegetation from County property



Why unauthorized use is a concern

Unauthorized use or encroachments can:

- create public safety issues
- limit public use and access
- prevent necessary maintenance and hamper County operations
- damage the natural environment

There is a cost to remove encroachments and repair damage. The proposed bylaw helps to ensure the cost does not become a cost to taxpayers.

Approach to enforcement

The County will notify and work with contravening property owners, on a case-by-case basis, to explain the encroachment or unauthorized use and detail what is required to correct it.

The proposed bylaw includes the use of penalties if individuals do not comply voluntarily.

Further information 464-8144

Review the proposed Unauthorized Use of County Property Bylaw at www.strathcona.ab.ca or at: County Hall, Planning and Development Services 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park
E-mail: info@strathcona.ab.ca

See yourself working with us: summer employment



Make a great team better.

Strathcona County is seeking qualified staff to fill a number of positions over the summer, including:

- equipment operators, labourers
- parks and playground maintenance
- recreation program leaders
- landscaping, mowing
- engineering and technical assistants

Strathcona County offers competitive rates of pay, ranging from \$13 to \$20 per hour.

For many summer employees, the best part is being able to work close to home, and contribute to their own community.

Check out this summer's job opportunities at Strathcona County!

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Did you know?

Strathcona County is home to 14 community halls and four seniors' centres. These are operated by local community associations, and make excellent facilities for a family reunions, weddings and similar functions. Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca.

From the Permanent Art Collection



Frosty Day, Clark's Farm, by William McKibbin.

The watercolour, painted in 1989, depicts the Clark family farm located around the area that presently bears the community name Clarkdale.

Frosty Day was added to Strathcona County's Permanent Art Collection in 1989, three years after the creation of the Collection by County Council in 1987. The artwork can be seen on the 2nd floor Concourse of County Hall.

Visit the Virtual Gallery

The Strathcona County website is your one stop if you are interested in public art, or an artist considering submitting their work for the Permanent Art Collection.

You can view all 130 works in the collection, and find out where they are on display.

Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca. Look for Art under Quick links.

so quick with a click!

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Visit the Strathcona County website to find out about:

- job opportunities
- recreation schedules and programs
- frequently requested bylaws
- Council agendas and minutes
- the Community Events calendar
- recycling and waste collection

Arts and Culture

during the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games

The Western Canada Games (WCSG) Culture Committee has developed an exciting and entertaining program for August 3 - 11, 2007. To become involved in the arts, culture and heritage activities during the Games, contact the WCSG office at 702-2007.



History corner: Wop May

One of Canada's most celebrated aviators, Wop May, has a connection to Strathcona County. From 1928 to 1931, he used the Cooking Lake seaplane base for many flights to and from northern Alberta and the North West Territories for Commercial Airways.

As a WWI fighter pilot, bush pilot, community leader and humanitarian, Wop May led an extraordinary life. You can learn more about Wop May's adventures from his son, Denny May, at a presentation March 27, 2007 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Strathcona County Library. There is no charge to attend. Please call 449-5801 to register.

This event is presented by Strathcona County Library and Strathcona County's Heritage Legacy Project.



This aircraft, a Bellanca CH-300 Pacemaker (CF-AKI), was a favourite of Wop May's.

The Strathcona County Heritage Legacy Project is tracing the community's history through stories and recollections. If you have a story of the County's history you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. Call Lori Clapp at 416-6762.

Safety first: County begins work on traffic safety plan

Traffic Safety Committee tables 14 recommendations

What can be done to improve safety on Strathcona County's roads and streets?



On the recommendation of a Committee made up of interested community members, Strathcona County Council has directed administration to develop a strategic plan aimed at improving traffic

safety in the municipality.

Council established the Traffic Safety Committee in June 2005 to provide information and advice on traffic safety issues, and address concerns and perceptions about unsafe roads and unsafe behaviour on the part of some road users within the County.

The Committee's final report, presented in October 2006, includes 14 recommendations based on today's needs and those that may arise 15 to 20 years into the future

Part of this vision is for Strathcona County to become a leader in traffic safety education, advocacy, enforcement and engineering practices.

The complete report is available on the County's website at www.strathcona.ab.ca.

Thanks to the volunteers

The volunteer members on the Traffic Safety Committee spent many evenings at County Hall reviewing reports, listening to presentations and debating recommendations.

- Ron Campbell, Ward 1
- Hank Penner, Ward 2
- Joann Lloyd, Ward 3
- Ryan Osterburg, Ward 4
- Sparky Huculiak, Ward 5
- Doug Parsons, Ward 6
- Bonnie Riddell, Ward 7
- Corporal Ben Wilkowski, RCMP Traffic Unit

Making your address visible

Every day Strathcona County's ambulance service, firefighters and RCMP respond to emergency calls where every minute counts.

When you call, these emergency responders need to be able to find your house without delay.

Strathcona County's Addressing Bylaw requires that addresses be posted clearly in front of each residence.

The letters and numbers on the sign must be at least 75 mm high (approximately three inches). The sign must be in an obvious place next to the driveway at the property line, or on the mail box or paper delivery box. It is not necessary to post your name, only your address.



Did you know?

- Of all residential property tax paid in Strathcona County, about 60 per cent supports municipal services. Most of the remainder goes to the Province to fund education, with a small portion supporting library services and seniors' management services.
- In 2007, 68 cents of every municipal property tax dollar will support roads, transit, fire protection, ambulance and police services.

Introducing Strathcona County Living

Keeping residents informed is important to Strathcona County.

Our diverse municipality offers many different programs and services, and we're continually working to improve them. The year ahead is a busy one with a host of events including the much-anticipated 2007 Western Canada Summer Games.

To help keep the community better informed, Strathcona County is introducing *Strathcona County Living*. Six editions will be distributed over the course of 2007.

Your feedback is welcome

What information would you like about County programs and services? Do you have questions for Strathcona County? Let us know, and your comments will help us ensure future newsletters include information that is both useful and interesting.

Comments can be sent to info@strathcona.ab.ca or 464-8023

Key County contacts

www.strathcona.ab.ca

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Emergency, Fire, Ambulance, Police | 911 |
| Information, | |
| all departments and services | 464-8111 |
| Planning and Development | 464-8080 |
| Recreation, Parks and Culture | 464-2211 |
| Road, streets and drainage | 417-7100 |
| Water and sewer | 467-7785 |
| Transit | 464-RIDE (7433) |

New residents

Water, sewer and solid waste collection services are provided by Strathcona County. Rural residents must sign up to receive waste collection services.

Call our Customer Billing department at 464-8273 or 464-8272 to set up an account. Our friendly staff are available at County Hall Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

A newly built home requires a water meter to be installed. We will schedule an appointment when you call to set up an account.

Moving?

Contact Customer Billing at 464-8273 or 464-8272 at least 5 days prior to your move to cancel services.

Access to your meter

A remote for reading your water meter is attached to the outside of your home. This small black remote is usually located next to the electrical or gas meter. A clear pathway to this remote is essential. Please maintain this path by clearing snow and removing any items such as hoses and toys.

Updateline reminder

Curious about industry activity?

Information updates supplied by Northeast Region CAER & Strathcona Industrial Association.



UPDATEline

1-866-653-9959