



Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

March 2009

From your County Council

2009 future outlook

We are looking forward to 2009 with cautious optimism. Global economic changes are impacting every region of the world, including Strathcona County. However, we do see opportunity with this market slowdown. There are positive effects on the cost for materials for projects.

Strathcona County's Economic Development and Tourism reviews the outlook for the economic forecast of our community. Here we share some facts based on the 2009 Future Outlook.

Heavy industrial — Heartland

The uncertain economic times have had an effect on some of the major upgrader projects announced in the last two years.

Some good news, Shell Canada Scotford is continuing a 100,000 barrel-per-day expansion of its upgrader. Both Air Liquide and Air Products have plans for expansion projects in 2009.

Residential housing market still active

Last year the average house price for Sherwood Park was \$423,000. A total of 914 houses sold through the MLS listing service. This compares to 794 in 2007 and 861 in 2006. There has been a drop in the number of new single family development permits in the last few years. In 2008, 129 permits were issued. This compares to 455 in 2007, 599 in 2006 and 601 in 2005.

One of the baseline indicators for economic development is the total value of development permits issued from year to year. In 2008, we had our second best year ever with \$428,476,261. This compares to \$841,056,688 in 2007 and \$380,736,000 in 2006.

2009 good year for retail development

Two major retail centres and two redevelopment projects are underway. Wye Road Crossing is slated to open up during the summer months with eight new retail stores and two

banking services. The Summerwood Commercial Development, located along Clover Bar Road and Lakeland Drive, is expected to open this fall and include a grocery store, drug store and two banking services.

Sherwood Centre at Wye Road and Sherwood Drive is also being redeveloped in 2009 with new stores and services. Village Market is also redeveloping with some stores expanding. Other new retail is filling in along Baseline Road and in the Strathmoor Industrial area.

Plans for two new hotels in Sherwood Park have also been cited.

It is good to see these developments proceeding. It translates to great choice for residents, and jobs and economic diversity in our community. We invite you to visit www.strathconacounty.com to read the full Economic Development and Tourism 2009 Future Outlook.

Capital Region Board update

The Capital Region Board's mandate is to prepare and submit to the Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs a proposed Capital Region Growth Plan by March 31, 2009. In its process to meet this deadline, the board is expected to vote on the Capital Region Growth Plan on March 19. Details of the plan will be available after that date. If you wish to learn more about the plan, please visit the Capital Region Board website at www.capitalregionboard.ab.ca.

Open spaces and recreation facilities

In this edition, we share a number of park and recreation facility projects that are slated to get underway this year. County Council is pleased to recognize this significant investment in our community is made possible through the Government of Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiatives grant program. The dollars allow us to revitalize and make full use of our existing open space and recreation facility assets.



A new choice:
your utility bill delivered by email

Why switch?

- It's better for the environment. There's less paper to handle, less incoming mail to open, review and file.
- You will receive all the same information now found on your printed bill. eBills will be sent on the same schedule as printed bills.

Strathcona County's eBill is a new way of delivering utility bills — not a method of payment. You can continue to use the payment method of your choice.

For details and to register, visit
www.strathcona.ab.ca

New local transit pass for qualifying seniors

A new bus pass is now available to qualifying seniors for free travel on Strathcona County Transit within Sherwood Park during off-peak travel times — weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and after 6 p.m., plus weekends and holidays.

To apply for this pass, seniors must provide proof of age (65+), residency and have an annual household income of less than \$50,000. Monthly passes, valid March 2009 to February 2010, will be provided to seniors who qualify.

To complete an application, call Family and Community Services at 780-464-4044 to make an appointment. Details are available at www.strathcona.ab.ca.



Members of the public are welcome to attend Council Meetings held in County Hall Council Chambers at 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park. Council meetings start at 3 p.m. and often include a Council Open House at 5:30 p.m. and Public Hearings at 7 p.m. Check the County website for agendas and any changes to times.

Left to right: Councillors Glen Lawrence (Ward 7), Vic Bidzinski (Ward 1), Peter Wlodarczak (Ward 4), Jacquie Fenske (Ward 5), Mayor Cathy Olesen, Councillors Linda Osinchuk (Ward 3), Alan Dunn (Ward 6), Jason Garipey (Ward 8), Roxanne Carr (Ward 2)

Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities

investing in a healthy, active
and green community

Open Spaces and Recreation Facility Strategy

New vision

Invest in people of all ages through opportunities for improved health and wellness

- revitalize existing parks, open spaces and recreation facilities before investing in new facilities
- create an integrated system of indoor and outdoor places and facilities to meet multiple recreation needs, across multiple locations
- reduce the ecological footprint of development
- create opportunities for community partnerships and stewardship



Revitalization –

the focus for 2009-2011 projects

In our community, more than 80 per cent of Strathcona County residents enjoy local parks, sports fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, arenas, curling rinks, recreation centres, golf courses, swimming pools, culture facilities and wilderness facilities each year.

These are places to be active, make new friends, strengthen family ties and learn about the experiences of others. Recognizing open spaces and recreation facilities promote health, well-being and community connectedness, Strathcona County has revitalized its commitment to ensure these places remain a vibrant part of our community.

The Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy, approved in 2008, identifies parks, natural areas and recreation facility projects that will be considered for development over the next 15 years in Strathcona County.

Within the County's 2009 - 2011 Business Plan and 2009 Budget, several indoor and outdoor projects have been approved from the strategy as priorities that will begin this year.

Approximately \$40 million is allocated for major indoor facility revitalization on four projects to be completed over the next two to three years.

Also, \$2.7 million is earmarked for outdoor revitalization projects such as trail work for a more walkable community, community outdoor gathering places such as parks and outdoor rinks, and more green and inviting streetscapes.

The majority of the funding for both indoor and outdoor projects is provided through the Government of Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant program, which assists municipalities in catching up on growth-related challenges and enhancing long-term sustainability.

Planning projects

In addition to the construction projects, listed on page 3, plans and strategies will also be completed for these initiatives as identified in the Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy.

2009

- Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan
- Emerald Hills Wellness Centre planning
- Festival Place planning, design and cost analysis
- Park Master Plans (tentatively for Brentwood, Westboro, Heritage Hills, South Cooking Lake)
- Investigate and cost estimate — outdoor artificial turf
- Sportsfield Strategy

2010

- Community Hall Revitalization Program
- Snowmobile Corridor Study

Opportunities to be involved along the way

As planning for specific projects proceeds, various levels of consultation will occur with invested partners, community organizations and residents. For certain projects, community input will be gathered to contribute to project design, and be considered in balance with project budgets and the approved Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy direction.

Further information

Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy
780-464-8117
revitalize@strathcona.ab.ca
www.strathcona.ab.ca/revitalize

wellness and health



ice



aquatics



dry surface



culture



special purpose



walkable communities



gathering places



streetscapes



Projects set to begin in 2009

Project descriptions are preliminary. Some components may change as detailed plans are completed.

investing in a healthy, active and green community

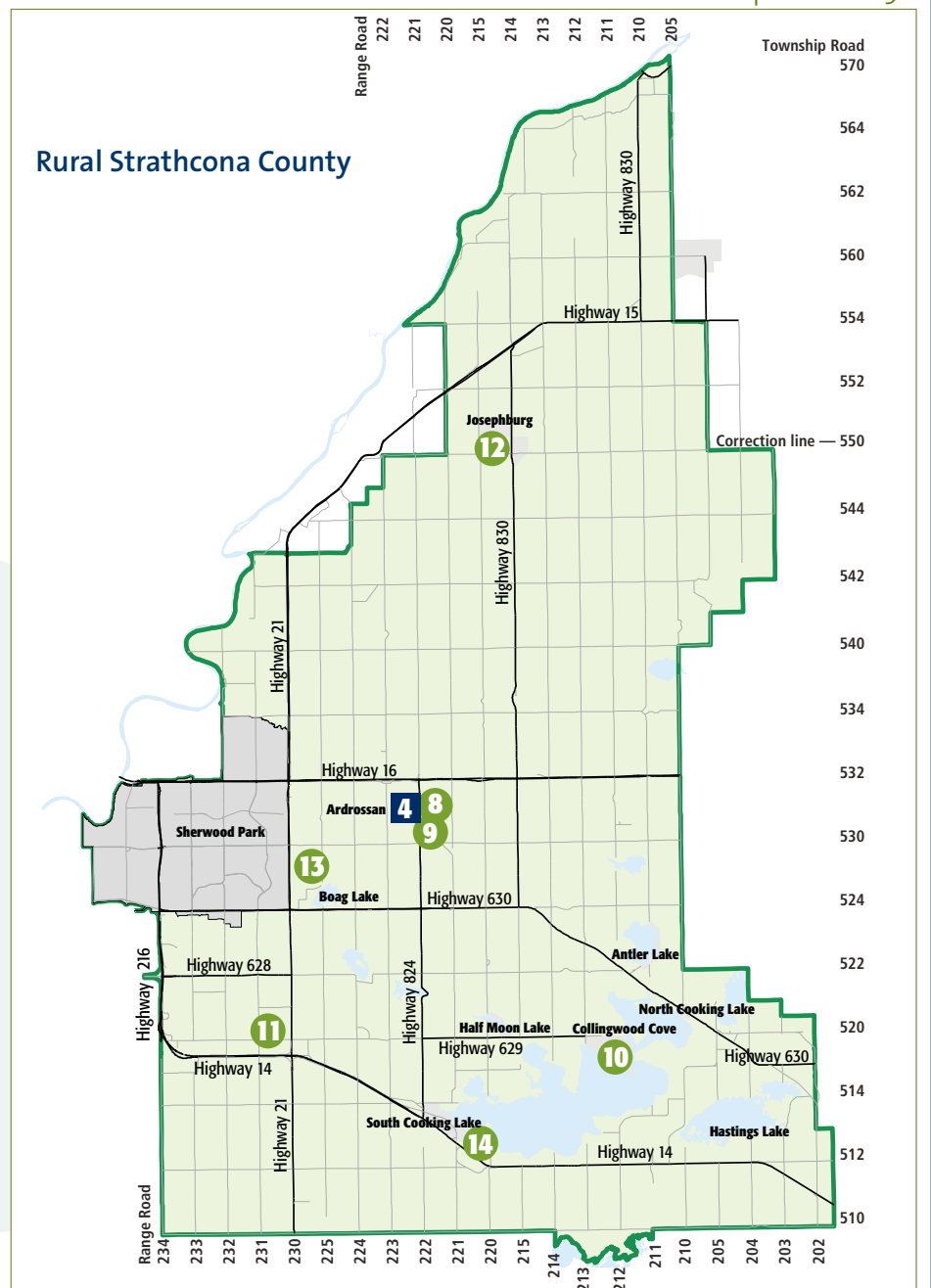
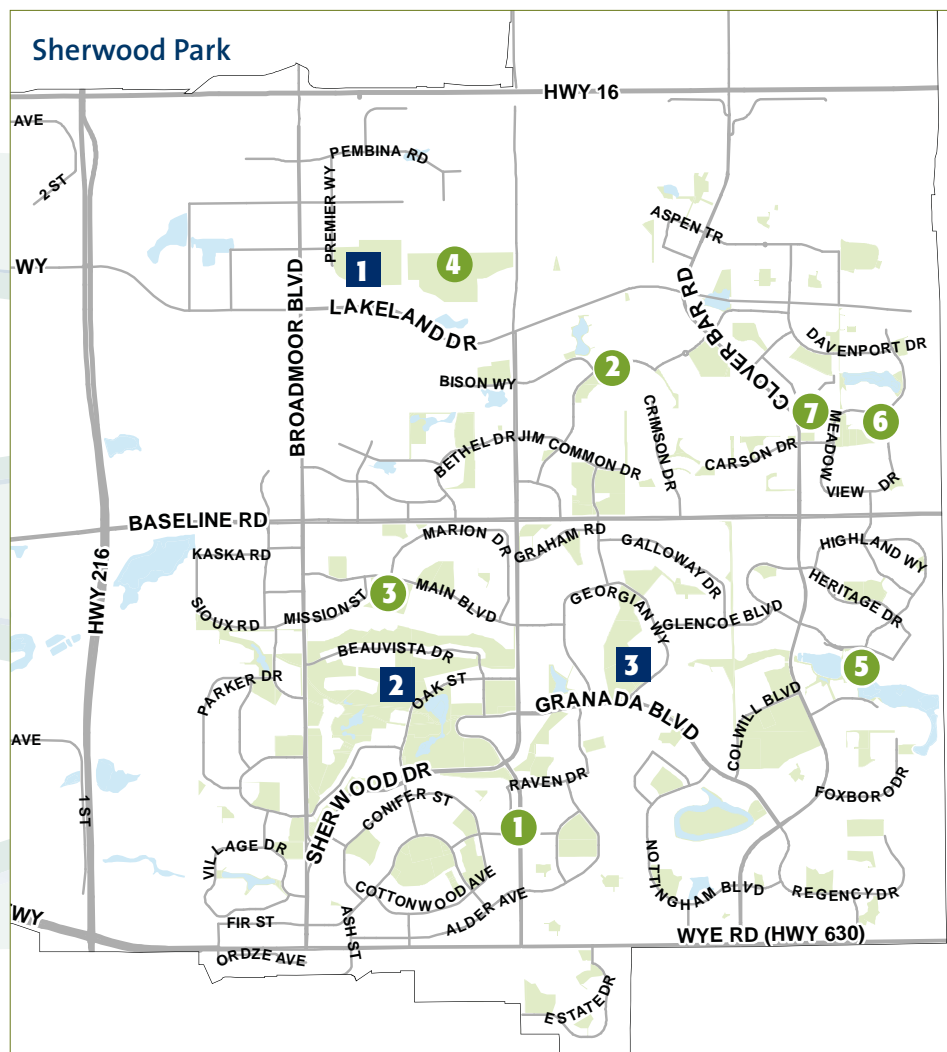
Indoor facilities

- 1 Millennium Place revitalization**
 Expand Leisure ice by extending building walls in the north arena. This will create space to increase full-size ice for minor ice users. Wellness space will also be modified to accommodate increased use. A second level will be added to the Edu-tainment Centre as multi-purpose space for preschool and wellness programming and community use.
 Completion
 Ice expansion spring 2010
 Health & wellness space 2011
 Edu-tainment Centre expansion spring 2011
- 2 Broadmoor Arena and Clubhouse reinvestment**
 Renovate and expand arena, modify the refrigeration system, dressing room and boards as required. Renovations will also accommodate off-season dry surface sports in the arena. The clubhouse will be renovated to provide more flexible community meeting space through the addition of a second level that overlooks the course.
 Completion
 Arena fall 2010
 Clubhouse spring 2011
- 3 Glen Allan Recreation Complex redevelopment**
 Expand the wellness space and improve second level access
 Completion fall 2011
- 4 Ardrossan Recreation Complex reinvestment**
 Build new arena to replace the existing aging infrastructure. The complex may also include opportunities for leisure skating and wellness. The vision for the complex to become an inviting place to gather and be active, and will be further defined through the Ardrossan Community Recreation Master Plan.
 Completion fall 2011

Outdoor spaces

- 1 Brentwood Boulevard Streetscape**
 Plant trees, shrubs and perennials south of Sherwood Drive on Brentwood Boulevard, add paving stone bed border
 Completion 2009
- 2 Clover Bar Ranch Park**
 Redevelopment playground, add a small neighbourhood water play feature, upgrade park furniture, baseball backstop, plant trees
 Completion 2009
- 3 Clover Bar School Sportsfields**
 Refurbish turf, re-align fields and sports fixtures, extend parking
 Completion 2009
- 4 Centennial Park (regional park)**
 Build viewing decks, interpretive signage and trails around wetlands, add park furniture
 Completion 2009
- 5 Heritage Hills Wetland**
 Build up existing gravel trails to improve access during wet periods, enhance interpretive signage
 Completion 2009

- 6 McGhan Park**
 Construct outdoor ice rink with boards, lights, add trees, park furniture
 Completion 2009
- 7 Trails connecting Clarkdale Meadows, Lakeland Ridge**
 Build and upgrade east-west asphalt trails to link Crimson Drive to Clover Bar Road, and to the Heritage Parkway Trail System
 Completion 2009
- 8 Ardrossan Outdoor Rink**
 Upgrade and possibly relocate the rink to best align with the recreation complex redevelopment. Rink improvements will include installing a concrete pad for four-season use for activities such as dry surface hockey in the summer and skating in the winter on an improved ice surface.
 Completion 2009
- 9 Ardrossan Community Trails**
 Build new asphalt trail to connect north of Main Street into the school/park site, trails also constructed to the two schools, pave the existing gravel trail in the Ardrossan Heights Subdivision with asphalt
 Completion 2009
- 10 Collingwood Cove Trail Link**
 Build a new trail along the shoreline, add interpretive and safety signage and viewing/rest area
 Completion 2009
- 11 Dog Off-Leash Park - Highway 21**
 Improve trail using mulch on the informal trails and packed gravel in the interior open areas, add new park furniture and signage
 Completion 2009
- 12 Josephburg Community Ground Improvements**
 Refresh grounds with upgraded park furniture and community signage, replace asphalt walkway between the recreation centre and ball fields, replace bleachers
 Completion 2009
- 13 J.R. Trail to Boag Lake Trail Extension**
 Enhance existing trail from Baseline Road south to Boag Lake with a mulch surface, build a new trail around portions of Boag Lake on the east side to connect to Wye Road, add signage and park furniture
 Completion 2009
- 14 South Cooking Lake Park**
 Refresh the park redesigning the shoreline area for viewing and lake enjoyment, replace or refurbish furniture, improve gravel trail, add public art, add interpretive and community signage, assess boat launch and parking lot needs
 Completion 2009



Business Plan 2010 Strathcona County & Budget

Provide your input

Balancing community needs and wants against the dollars the County raises through taxes, grants and other sources is always the challenge in preparing the Business Plan and Budget.

Your input helps County Council set service priorities and tax direction each year.

Complete a questionnaire March 16 to 27

- at www.strathcona.ab.ca

Questionnaires are also available at:

- Main reception desk, County Hall
2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park
 - Heartland Hall Contact Office
55305 Range Road 214
 - Strathcona County Library
Sherwood Park Mall
- Or call 780-464-8230 to have a questionnaire mailed to you.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input on the municipal budget for 2010.

Further information

Call 780-464-8230
Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca
Email budget2010@strathcona.ab.ca

Express checkout

Strathcona County Library has recently installed two self-serve checkout stations. Express checkouts have become very popular with library users who enjoy the speed, ease of use and privacy they offer.

To get the library collection ready for express checkout, all materials required Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging. With over a million items going out and coming back to the library over the course of a year, this technology makes sense.

The self-serve feature gives users the privacy to handle their own transactions and check their accounts. Also, customers can find and pick up their own items on the "holds" shelf located near the express checkouts.

While the main checkout desks will always be staffed, the express checkouts allow staff to spend more time helping patrons find materials.

The new Strathcona County Library, now under construction in the Community Centre in Centre in the Park, will have more express checkouts situated conveniently on both floors of this 60,000-square-foot library when it opens next year in November.



Got LARGE items?



Do you have a large item that is no longer useable?

Large item pickup is May 4 to 8

Leave up to two large items at the end of your driveway on your regular waste collection day and they will be hauled away for you.

Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca/utilities or call 780-449-5514 for more details.

Rural Living Days



An open house for acreage owners and rural residents

Saturday, March 28
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ardrossan Recreation Complex
80 - 1 Avenue, Ardrossan

Further information

Strathcona County
Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

Hosted by the Agricultural Service Board of Strathcona County

History corner

Did you know?

In the 1890s, the Canadian Pacific Railway did a fair bit to attract people to settle in the Ardrossan, Wye, Uncas and Salisbury districts. For example, the CPR sent pioneer Tom Pearce to the United States where he put up posters promoting Strathcona's excellent farm land. As a result, many Americans, discouraged by the poor weather in the mid-west states, were inspired to resettle here.

For more local history, check out:

- a book titled *Strathcona County, A Brief History*, which is available for \$10 at Strathcona County Museum and Archives. Call 780-467-8189 for museum hours.
- www.strathcona.ab.ca/history for more on Community Heritage Legacy and the County's past

Events

Proud sponsor of Canadian Birkebeiner



Strathcona County was pleased to be a Gold Sponsor of the 2009 Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival held in February. The event is held at one of Canada's largest cross-country ski trail systems in the Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife Provincial Recreation Area.

Strathcona Wilderness Centre site for 100-Hour Astronomy Marathon

To celebrate the International Year of Astronomy in 2009, a 100-Hour Astronomy



Marathon will take place at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre. The free event invites the public to experience the night skies in the heart of Strathcona County's

Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve and is the only event of its kind in North America.

The marathon event is exactly that. Activities will be ongoing day and night between midnight April 2 to 11:59 p.m. on April 5.

Participants will have the opportunity to view the stars and planets above Strathcona County, and also the skies through other astronomy centres around the world.

The International Year of Astronomy aims to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science. More information is available at cosmicjourney.net, a local company dedicated to astronomy education programs.

Trade Fair and Sale

Visit Strathcona County at the Trade Fair and Sale, April 17-19, Millennium Place.



Lighten your load to protect our roads

ROAD BANS

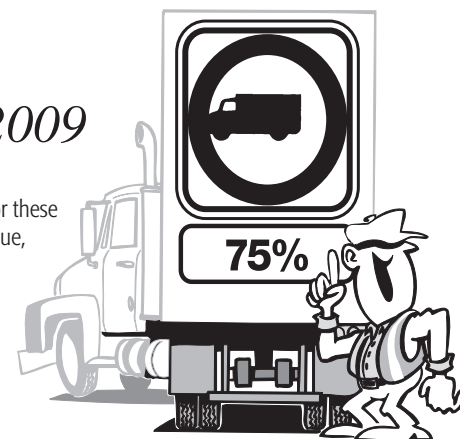
Now in effect! March 9 to June 1, 2009

Load restrictions now apply to the majority of roads throughout Strathcona County. Road Use Agreements may be issued to accommodate non-divisible loads. Applications for these agreements are available at Transportation and Agriculture Services, 370 Streambank Avenue, Sherwood Park.

Further information:

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100 (24-hour number)

Enforcement Services
780-449-0170 (24-hour number)



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Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 3W7
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