



Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

November 2008

At the Council table

With winter approaching, this edition of Strathcona County Living contains some seasonal reminders, a list of events planned for the holiday season, and news about municipal programs and services.

To begin, here are a few priorities for Council.

Capital Region Board (CRB)

Strathcona County continues to participate actively as one of the 25 municipalities that make up this regional body. CRB members are currently working to develop a regional land use plan, scheduled to be complete in March 2009. Other key areas for the Board are regional transit, affordable housing and the sharing of geographic information systems (GIS).

Ambulance

You may know that the Province has decided to transfer the responsibility for ambulance service from municipalities to the provincial health ministry.

Probably no service is more highly valued here in Strathcona County than fire and ambulance delivered by Strathcona County Emergency Services (SCES). Ours is an "integrated" service. This means our personnel are cross-trained in both fire fighting and emergency medical response.

As negotiations progress toward transfer of responsibility to the province, our aim will be to have Strathcona County Emergency Services continue to deliver the service through a contract arrangement.

2009 budget

For Council, this is the time of year when our attention turns to next year's budget. The process actually begins in spring when we gather community input, review all our services, and provide direction to guide administration in developing a business plan and budget.

In November and early December, all this comes together as Council reviews the draft budget and makes our final decisions.

It sounds simple enough: we want to maintain the services our community needs and wants, while keeping the tax increase to a minimum. We want to manage the County's finances in a way that meets the needs of today while maintaining a sound financial position going into the future.

Among the items we expect will receive much attention during the upcoming discussions are the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy, which calls for significant investment in recreation facilities over the next few years. As well, decisions will be required about how to best deliver a range of vital services including transit, snow clearing, road and street maintenance, recreation, emergency services and much more.

Budget meetings open to the public are scheduled for November 18, 27 and 28; and December 1, 2, 5 and 9.

For details, we encourage you to visit www.strathcona.ab.ca or watch the local newspaper.

Ready, Set, Snow!

Enhanced snow clearing services

On October 7, Council approved these changes to the policy on snow clearing in Sherwood Park to increase our capacity to clear roads sooner:

Collector roadways (Priority 3 roads)

Now plowed within eight days following 15-21 centimetres of snow accumulation. Previous standard was 20-30 centimetres.

Residential streets (Priority 4 roads)

Now plowed when there is 10 centimetres of compacted snow. Previous standard was 12-15 centimetres. Snow will be windrowed and cleared as conditions require.

Also, if there is seven centimetres or more of compacted snow on residential streets on or after February 1, these roads may be cleared to prevent deep rutting.

Snow tips to help us serve you better

Clearing your driveway and sidewalks

For the safe travel of residents, please do not deposit snow on or across the road.

(Bylaw 33-94 Deposit of Snow, Ice and Debris on Roads)

Remove obstructions from driveway curbs

Rubber mats, grates and other materials at the driveway curb must be removed, since they can interfere with snow clearing equipment.

(Also see Green winter Routine, page 3.)

Is your mailbox secure?

Snow from plows may dislodge the mailbox from the post if bolts are not tight.

Sanding icy sidewalks

Feel free to use sand from boxes placed near mailboxes. Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas for sandbox locations.

Road sanding and snow plowing

Take care around equipment. Streets and roads with higher speed limits and heavier traffic volumes are sanded and plowed first.

Ready for changing road conditions

Let us know about conditions that need attention (icy roads, downed traffic signs or lights). After-hour calls are forwarded to on-call staff.

Road maintenance information
780-417-7100
(24 hours)

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



David Suzuki, keynote speaker at the successful 2008 Canadian Urban Forest Conference hosted by Strathcona County and Tree Canada in September at Millennium Place, is welcomed by members of Council.

Proposed Agriculture Resource Centre & Equine Study

Building on our rural roots:

Agriculture is an important part of Strathcona County's past, present and future.

To build on this strong rural tradition, a new idea has been proposed: an agriculture resource and demonstration centre that would create opportunities for agricultural producers, and showcase agriculture to all residents.

This idea is being explored by Strathcona County in partnership with leaders in our local agricultural community.

At the same time, a study is looking at needs related to equine activities in the County. Over the next few weeks, residents are invited to comment on the proposal.

What is proposed?

- The Agriculture Resource Centre would help to promote and display activities related to livestock, crops and sciences, community gardens and value-added activities.
- The equine study is looking at needs for a variety of equestrian programs, including horse shows and competitions.

Your input is invited

To develop a business case for the Agriculture Resource Centre and conduct the equine study, Strathcona County has hired Drive Solutions, a local consulting firm specializing in agriculture.

This project began with extensive research to explore existing agricultural opportunities locally and in our region.

Over the next few weeks, interested members of the community are invited to provide their ideas and opinions.

All information gathered will be used to develop a business case for review by County Council, likely early in 2009.

How you can participate

We'd like to know what an Agriculture Resource Centre could or should provide to County residents

Complete a questionnaire

- Online at: www.strathcona.ab.ca.
- Pick up at: the Heartland Hall Contact Office, the Strathcona County Library and Bookmobile.
- Call: 780-984-6169 to have a questionnaire mailed to you.

Attend an open house

You'll have an opportunity to review the preliminary plan for the proposed Agriculture Resource Centre and the initial findings from the equine study.

Written and verbal comments will be invited.

Thursday, November 13, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Josephburg Community Hall
57 - 54569 Range Road 215

Monday, November 24, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Ardrossan Memorial Hall
60 First Avenue, Ardrossan

Tuesday, November 25, 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.
County Hall (Conference Centre #1)
2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park

Further information

Lance Johnson

Drive Solutions

780-984-6169

Email: info@drivesolutions.ca

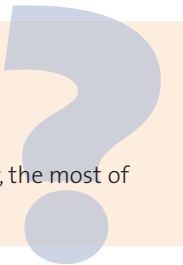
Find out more about this project at

www.greenhectaresonline.com

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Did you know?

- Strathcona County has 896 farms
- There are 7,500 horses in the County, the most of any one area in Alberta



Centre in the Park honoured at Minister of Municipal Affairs' Awards of Excellence



The Honourable Ray Danyluk, Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs, presents Mayor Cathy Olesen (left) and Greg Christenson of Christenson Developments (right) with the Outstanding Achievement Award recognizing the Centre in the Park Public-Private Partnership.

Strathcona County's Centre in the Park Public-Private Partnership with Christenson Developments received the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Minister of Municipal Affairs' Awards of Excellence in October.

The award recognizes Centre in the Park as a project that embodies the benefits of cooperation between public and private organizations in creating a sustainable, mixed-use heart of the community that meets the expressed needs of the community and stakeholders.

This project was Strathcona County's first experience in creating a public-private sector partnership for a development project. The County challenged and adapted traditional process to both build a strong partnership with Christenson Developments and implement sustainability principles into planning and development.

Visit www.strathcona.ab.ca for information on Centre in the Park.

County scores big at APWA Roadeo

The Strathcona County Road Warriors have triumphed once again at the annual Alberta Public Works Association (APWA) Equipment Roadeo, earning second place.

Special congratulations to Willard Marsh (rubber tire backhoe) and Bruce Paterson (motor grader), who placed first in their respective events.

The APWA Equipment Roadeo is a large equipment skills competition, designed to showcase operator talent from different municipalities throughout the province.



Strathcona's Road Warriors Back row, from left: Chad Forrest, Larry Burnett, Tim Fitzgerald. Front row, from left: Bruce Paterson, Kevin Henry, James Martyniuk, Willard Marsh.

Community Peace Officers: Part of the team



Strathcona's Community Peace Officers work closely with the RCMP.



Community Peace Officers enforce the *Traffic Safety Act* and the *Gaming and Liquor Act*.

Each day, the Strathcona County RCMP detachment receives a wide variety of calls. These range from people in life-threatening situations, to less urgent matters like parking or noise.

The response to a number of these calls is provided by Community Peace Officers, specially trained personnel who work under the direction of the RCMP.

All Community Peace Officers in Alberta are trained and certified by the Province. In addition to enforcing municipal bylaws, Community Peace Officers have the authority to enforce certain provincial statutes, among them the *Traffic Safety Act* and the *Gaming and Liquor Act*. Peace Officers may also issue tickets.

For Strathcona County, Community Peace Officers are an important resource. In turn, this allows RCMP Officers to focus on the most urgent matters including serious criminal offences.

It's understandable that many members of the public might refer to Community Peace Officers as 'bylaw officers.' A major part of their work deals with matters such as dog control, reports of unsightly properties or parking complaints.

Community Peace Officers' training includes mediation, skills that are often put to good use in resolving neighbourhood disputes.

Strathcona County currently has 14 Community Peace Officers. Three are assigned full-time to traffic enforcement.

In rural Strathcona County, the RCMP has established a team consisting of an RCMP Officer and Community Peace Officer to handle ATV and snowmobile concerns year-round. Their role includes education as well as enforcement, both for landowners and ATV and snowmobile users.

Other Community Peace Officers with expertise in transportation conduct safety inspections of commercial vehicles in the County and enforce regulations when road bans are in effect.



Enforcement Services and the RCMP work together on ATV and snowmobile use in rural Strathcona.

The Enforcement Services Unit

Strathcona County's Enforcement Services unit is:

- 14 Community Peace Officers; three of these officers assigned to work full time on traffic, including secondary highways
- 4.5 (equivalent) positions provide guard duty at the RCMP detachment
- one supervisor and three support staff

Who do I call, and who responds?

780-467-7741, the RCMP Complaint Line

If you need to reach the RCMP but it is not an emergency, use this line. It is answered 24/7.

Response is dispatched according to the urgency or potential danger of the situation. For example, a call about an out-of-control house party at 2 a.m. will receive immediate attention, whereas a report of graffiti will not likely be followed up until the next day.

780-449-0170, Enforcement Services

This is the number to call with questions or complaints about bylaws; for example, dog control and licences, noise and parking. This line is answered from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday. After these hours and on the weekend, calls are routed to the RCMP dispatch. Matters that are not urgent will be handled later by a Community Peace Officer or RCMP as time and priority permits.

9-1-1, for emergencies only, when there is an immediate threat to public safety, life or property and you need fire fighters, ambulance or police.



WINTER



Get with the **GREEN ROUTINE!**

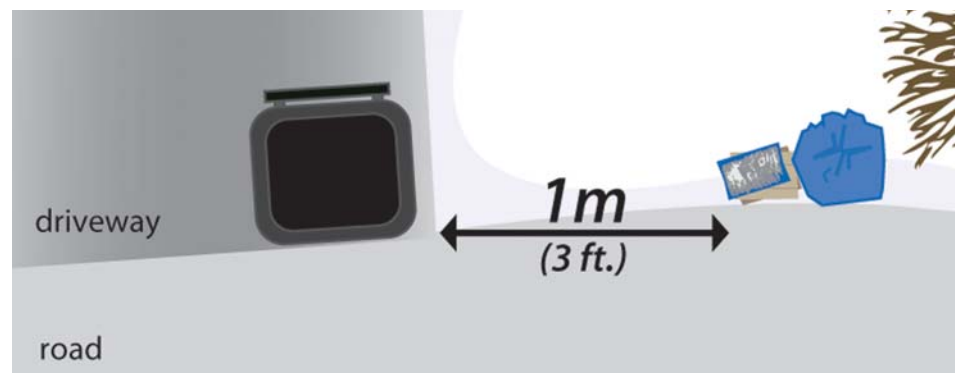
Changes to cart placement on collection day during the winter

Once the snow falls and is here to stay, please place your waste or organic roll-out cart at the end of your driveway. Carts cannot be on the road, sidewalk or in the gutter because snow removal vehicles cannot manoeuvre around them.

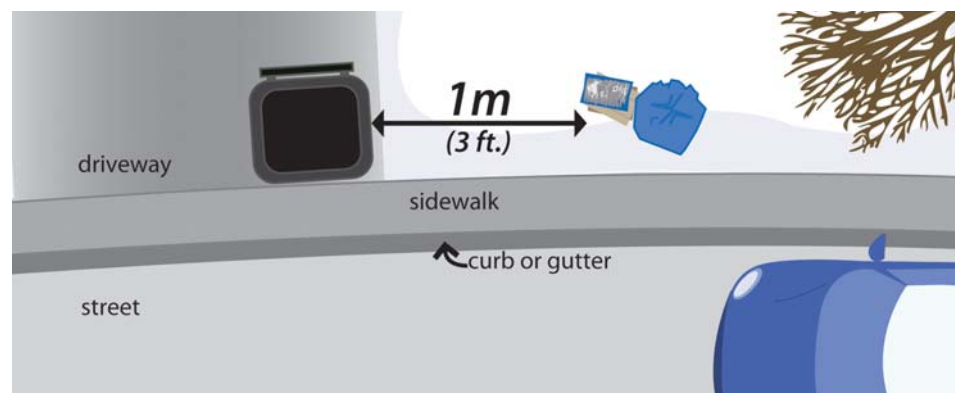
Pull don't push

In the winter time pull, your organics or waste cart – don't push it. The bottom of the cart will act as a grader if you push it and snow will build up making it difficult to move. Pulling the cart won't cause snow to build up while moving the cart.

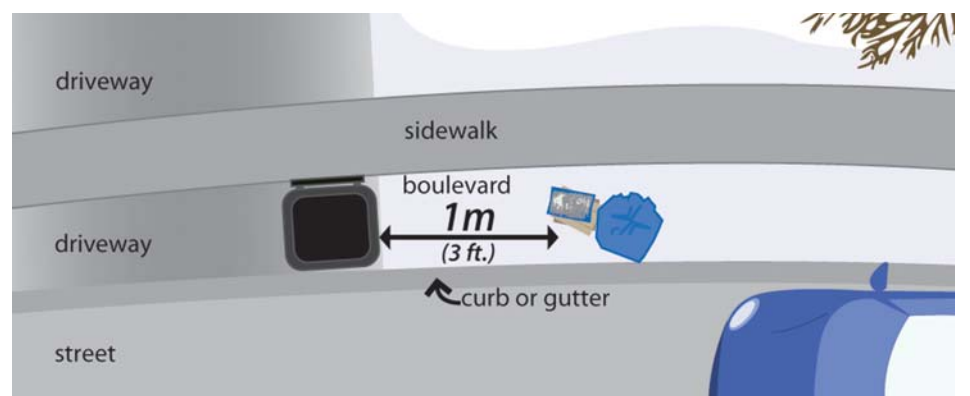
Cart placement with no curb



Cart placement with sidewalk



Cart placement with boulevard and sidewalk



Give your organics cart a winter lining

Line the bottom and sides of your green organics cart with newspaper. This will reduce the possibility of organics freezing to the bottom or sides of your cart when the temperatures drop.

Blustery bag days

While you are encouraged to use your reusable, weighted bag to collect paper products, on very windy days, your empty bag may blow away. On those windy days, another option is to use a reusable container such as your old garbage can to set recyclable papers out in on your collection day.

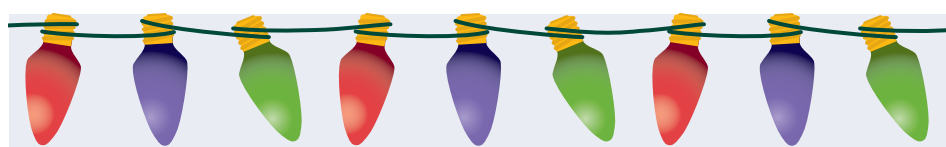
Be sure to place the paper recyclable sticker on the container to help identify it for the recycling collectors. A sticker was delivered with your reusable bag. Extra stickers can be picked up free of charge at:

- County Hall (2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park)
- Millennium Place (2000 Pembina Drive, Sherwood Park)
- Heartland Hall Contact Office (55305 Range Road 214)
- Strathcona Public Services Yard (370 Streambank Avenue, Sherwood Park).

Further information

780-449-5514

www.strathcona.ab.ca/utilities



Upcoming events

Winter Recreation Guide

Delivered to your door the week of November 24

- Registration starts December 4; December 11 for swimming programs

Christmas in the Heartland

Saturday, November 29

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Josephburg Agricultural Society Christmas Market, Moyer Recreation Centre
- Elk Island Art Club Show and Sale, Josephburg Seniors Centre
- Partridge Hill Christmas Market, Partridge Hill Community Hall
- Nativity Display, Bethany Lutheran Church (also on Sunday, 12 noon - 3 p.m.)
- Christmas trees for sale, Alberta Orchards

4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

- Light Up Heartland Hall. , Lights on at 5 p.m.

Celebration of Lights

Sunday, November 30, 3 - 5 p.m., Festival Place

- Enjoy crafts, cookie decorating, caroling and visits with Santa

CP Christmas Train

Friday, December 12, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



Moyer Recreation Centre, Josephburg

- See the magical CP Christmas Train arrive at 5 p.m., enjoy a band, choirs, hot chocolate, a bonfire and hay rides. A free community event. Be sure to bring a Food Bank item.

New Year's Eve Festival

Wednesday, December 31, 4 - 8 p.m., Broadmoor Lake Park

- Features a circus theme with "Kerfluffle." Enjoy skating, gymnastics fun, sleigh rides, snow mini-golf, campfire games and more.
- Family Fireworks at 8 p.m. – early enough for the littlest one in your family to enjoy!

Donations to the Food Bank are encouraged at the Celebration of Lights, New Year's Eve Festival and the CP Christmas Train.

Further information: www.strathcona.ab.ca

Energy exploration

Looking for information or assistance on oil and gas development?

Strathcona County provides resources for residents.

Approachable and knowledgeable...

call Lori Mills at the Energy Exploration Liaison Office

780-416-6739

www.strathcona.ab.ca/energyexploration



Contact information for Council

Cathy Olesen	Mayor	780-464-8000 olesen@strathcona.ab.ca
Vic Bidzinski	Councillor, Ward 1	780-464-8005 bidzinski@strathcona.ab.ca
Roxanne Carr	Councillor, Ward 2	780-464-8002 carr@strathcona.ab.ca
Linda Osinchuk	Councillor, Ward 3	780-464-8149 osinchuk@strathcona.ab.ca
Peter Wlodarczak	Councillor, Ward 4	780-464-8146 wlodarczak@strathcona.ab.ca
Jacque Fenske	Councillor, Ward 5	780-464-8147 fenske@strathcona.ab.ca
Alan Dunn	Councillor, Ward 6	780-464-8206 dunn@strathcona.ab.ca
Glen Lawrence	Councillor, Ward 7	780-464-8003 lawrencg@strathcona.ab.ca
Jason Gariepy	Councillor, Ward 8	780-464-8158 gariepy@strathcona.ab.ca

History corner

Snippets and a snapshot - Ministik

Did you know?

- Ministik Lake, the highest point in the Beaver Hills, is the location of a federal bird sanctuary that was established in 1911. Ministik Lake is located along Strathcona County's southern boundary.
- The name Ministik, which means "lake of many islands" in Cree, was once spelled ending with a "c." That is until a certain man introduced the phonetic alphabet to the Cree language. The man was Reverend James Evans, Director of Western Missions for the Methodist Church of Canada. He helped transition the oral language of the Cree to a written language. One might presume he did this so the Cree language or at least specific Cree names, words and phrases could be appreciated by English-speaking settlers. Spelling Ministik with a "k" shows Rev. Evans' Greek training. According to historian George Milner of the Strathcona County Museum & Archives, Rev. Evans lent his study of the Greek language to phoneticize the Cree language. And as "k" is the letter used in the Greek for this hard sounding consonant, he gave this spelling to the name Ministik.
- The Ministik Lake district, that borders the south shore of Cooking Lake, was once home to a summer resort called White Sand Beach, where several cottages were built in 1910-11. Many people came to North Cooking Lake by train on the CNR line from Edmonton, destined for White Sands. To get there, they then boarded a large motorized passenger boat called The Daisy Girl. The vessel belonged to Mr. Firth, and also Mr. Hull, a long-time editor of the Edmonton Bulletin.

Ministik School celebrates 100 years.

- The Ministik School District, which received its charter in April 1908, opened in April 1909. The first written record of the old school is from 1910, when 14 pupils were enrolled from May through December. Students did not attend school through the coldest winter months; the weather was deemed too extreme for the youngest children to endure. Children attending the school in 1910 ranged in age from six to 14, and the distance they travelled to school ranged from two to six miles. The teacher, Mrs.

Irene Verge, travelled eight miles on horseback from her home farm near North Cooking Lake.



Strathcona County Museum & Archives

This photo of school children in the 1930s was taken near the front steps of the first Ministik school.

Sources:

- <http://southcookinglake.com/history.htm>
- *A Fond Look Back from the New Millennium - South Cooking Lake*
- Stories from George Milner of the Strathcona County Museum & Archives



Further information: www.strathcona.ab.ca/history

Strathcona County

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

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