



Strathcona County

Living

Keeping you informed

December 2011

Message from your Mayor and County Council



From left to right: Councillor Linton Delaine, Councillor Vic Bidzinski, Councillor Peter Wlodarczak, Mayor Linda Osinchuk, Councillor Jason Gariepy, Councillor Jacquie Fenske, Councillor Brian Botterill, Councillor Roxanne Carr and Councillor Bonnie Riddell

The Christmas season is upon us, and we look forward to a short period of rest and celebration with family and friends in the coming weeks. Following is a brief update of some of the initiatives that have occupied our time over the past three months.

Heartland Transmission Line

The Alberta Utilities Commission's (AUC) November 1 decision to locate overhead transmission lines in the EAST Transportation Utilities Corridor was very disappointing for your Mayor and Council. Indeed, it is disappointing for everyone who worked hard to achieve a more positive result for Albertans and this community.

Based on legal advice received, Strathcona County Council has asked their legal counsel to prepare an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to review and vary its decision 2011-436; and for a stay of that decision pending resolution of the application. We will

continue to represent residents, business and industry moving forward to an amazing future.

We take personal pride and comfort in the fact that we did everything in our power to ensure the community's interests were well represented. We presented all the information we had relevant to environmental and health concerns. We also recognize and commend the tremendous work of community members who took a stand and got involved in a long and complex process. Unfortunately, Strathcona County did not have the final decision on this project — that was in the hands of the AUC.

One AUC stipulation is that monopoles be placed alongside our community (from Highway 14 to Baseline Road). While these structures are a very marginal improvement over the lattice towers — both aesthetically and in terms of smaller space occupied — we still believe that burying transmission lines underground is a viable and preferred option for addressing health impacts and concerns.

We will continue to engage our local MLAs and the province in an open dialogue on this topic, the hospital project and a new court house.

Organizational Review — In Pursuit of Excellence

This past September, Strathcona County Council approved an organization-wide review of County operations, process and structure. The goal of this review is to ensure the County is delivering municipal services in the most responsive, efficient and cost-effective manner possible.

Russell Farmer and Associates Consulting Ltd. was selected as part of a competitive process to help Strathcona County improve its service delivery, adopt new leading practices, and enhance organizational effectiveness.

As a taxpayer-funded organization, we are

committed to delivering excellent customer service and quality municipal services that enhance residents' quality of life. The review will highlight areas where we already excel, and also identify areas where we can do an even better job for you, our residents.

The final report will be in hand by the end of February 2012; we hope to make the findings and recommendations of that report public in early spring of 2012.

Branding

In the last issue of Strathcona County Living, we invited residents to tell us what makes Strathcona County unique and special. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in that research, and also to congratulate the five individuals selected in our draws to receive dinner out at a local restaurant.

Identifying a unifying thread or common attitude across our diverse community is a challenge, but essential if we are to develop a brand that works. Your involvement ensures we have the widest possible input to that process.

The new brand, to be unveiled within the first few months of 2012, will define the public face Strathcona County presents to the rest of the world. It will provide us an anchor from which to attract investment and talent, and promote tourism and lifestyle. This important initiative allows us to accentuate all good things in our community, and highlight our pride and spirit.

On behalf of Strathcona County Council, our sincere wishes to you and yours for a joyous, family-filled Christmas season, and a successful, productive New Year. May you experience community, peace and hope in the days ahead.

Mayor Linda

Creating community partnerships

This past September, Strathcona County Council unanimously voted to adopt a new municipal policy to create a systematic approach for building community-based recreation infrastructure. The new approach is implemented through the Community Partnership Projects (CPP) process.

To maximize use of the County's limited resources, the CPP process has been put into place to assist with responses to infrastructure requests, evaluating them against projects already identified in the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS), approved Park Master Plans, and 'other' related strategies.

When a group wants to increase the number of amenities, add specialized amenities, or enhance existing infrastructure, a partnership may be necessary as it allows the County to enhance service levels beyond what the municipality can do alone.

Greater detail on the Community Partnerships program, as well as application forms for large or small projects will soon be available on the County website, under the Planning and Development Services Department pages.

The OSRFS is the primary strategy used by Strathcona County in the re-development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. The strategy is an investment in people, overall quality of life, a healthier environment and a sustainable community. Community Partnership Projects will adhere to environmental practices in addition to promoting social responsibility, community connectedness and overall well-being.

Strathcona County SNOW CLEARING



Gearing up for winter's fury

As we brace ourselves for another long, Alberta winter, residents of Strathcona County can rest easy knowing that crews are ready for whatever hits us.

Recent policy revisions strive to improve efficiencies and ensure the balance of resources in both the urban and rural areas; through the addition of Centre in the Park as an urban priority 1, introduction of a priority 4 in the rural area, and reconciliation of urban road priorities.

“Winter maintenance activities lean heavily on the old adage ‘when the going gets tough, the tough get going,’” says Ian Gray, director, Transportation and Agriculture Services. “Our snow clearing operators face shift work and long hours of intense concentration, but it takes an entire team to keep our roads clear.”

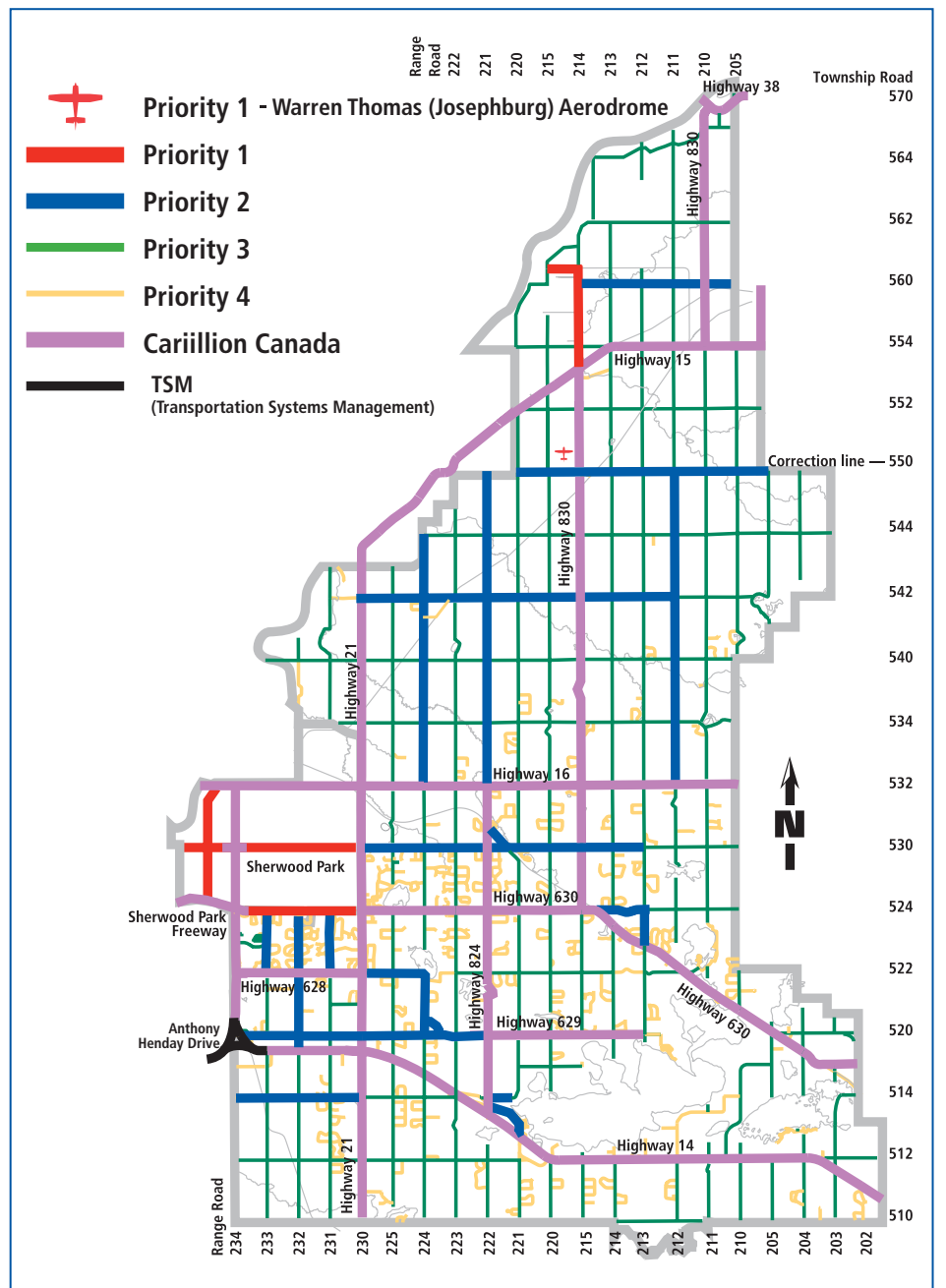
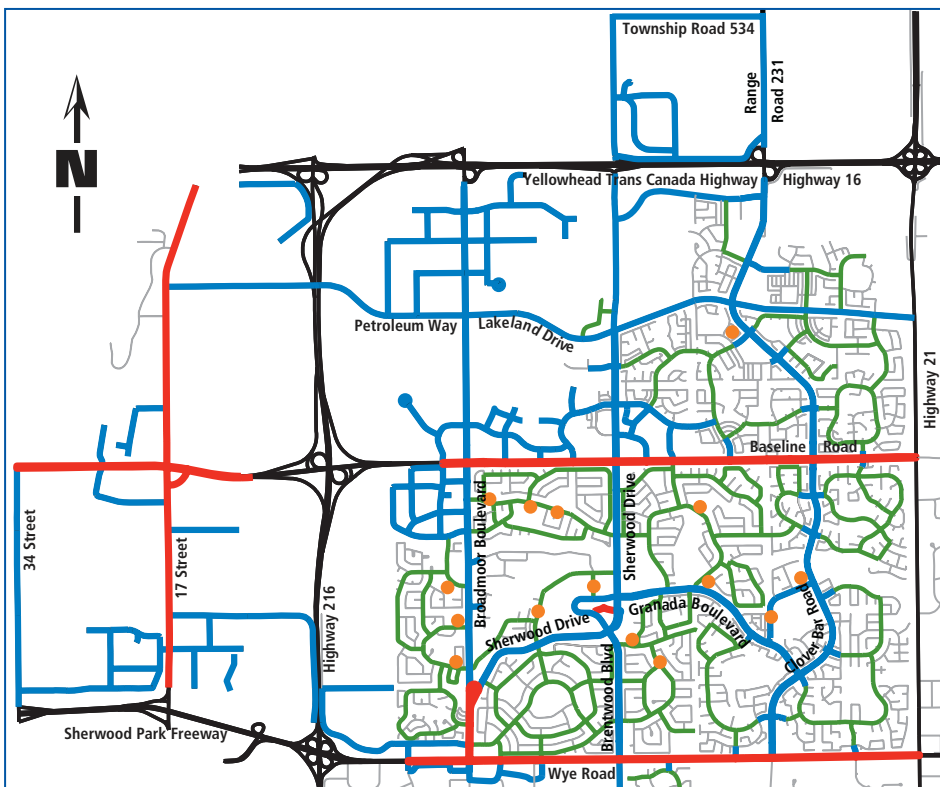
From receptionists to supervisors, approximately 70 staff are actively engaged in keeping Strathcona roads open and safe for the travelling public. The County’s website, www.strathcona.ca/tas, is updated on a regular basis so residents know when clearing will take place in their neighbourhood.

In the event of a priority 4 snow clearing, it’s important to note:

- No-parking signs will be posted at the entrance to neighbourhoods when snow clearing is about to start in the area. Once the signs are up, residents must remove their vehicles from the street. If any vehicle

must be towed, it will be moved to the nearest cleared road.

- Rubber mats, grates and other materials at the edge of driveways must be removed, since they can interfere with snow clearing equipment. As well, snow must not be shovelled onto streets.
- Parents are asked to remind children to stay off the windrowed (piled) snow for their safety.
- Snow within cul-de-sacs will be piled temporarily and removed as quickly as possible.
- When snow is being cleared on a waste-collection day, roll-out carts are to be placed at the end of the driveway, and not on the road or sidewalk.



Sherwood Park priorities

	Descriptions	Snow is cleared
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	Collector roads, public transit routes	Within 8 days snow is windrowed and removed following an accumulation of 15 to 21 cm of snow
Priority 4	Residential streets (not included in the above categories)	Within 12 days when there is 10 cm of compacted snow — windrowing and removal of snow in cul-de-sacs Within 12 days if there is 7 cm of compacted snow on the streets as of January 1 of any year — windrowing and removal of snow piles in cul-de-sacs (After March 1, snow may be windrowed and left to melt.)
Highways	Government of Alberta contractors maintain all highways. Call Carillion Canada at 1-800-390-2242.	

Rural snow clearing priorities

	Descriptions	Snow is cleared...
Priority 1	Major industrial roadway, aerodrome	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 grid roads	Within 72 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow, after the completion of the most recent Priority 2 clearing
Priority 4	Country residential and hamlet roads	Within 48 hours following an accumulation of 5 to 7 cm of snow, after the completion of the most recent Priority 3 clearing
Highways	Government of Alberta contractors maintain all highways. Call Carillion Canada at 1-800-390-2242.	

Department profile

Family and Community Services

Help. This simple four-letter word is weighted with need and varying levels of urgency. The human need for assistance is a universal experience that is not limited to any one culture, income bracket, age, family or situation.

Strathcona County's Family and Community Services Department is in the business of helping people. Fifty-two permanent employees make it their priority to help build a safe, healthy and vibrant community that encourages the well-being of children, youth, individuals and families. Additional part-time staff work in the Home Support program, providing over 3,600 visits, or 9,000 hours of service each month.

Programs and services are carefully designed to address the wide-range of emotional, social and health needs of Strathcona County residents. For example, in-home supports are available to residents who are experiencing health-related difficulties. Counselling is available for a variety of issues, and parent education and support is offered throughout the year.

For more information, please contact us:

- Phone 780-464-4044
- Email: familyandcommunity@strathcona.ca
- Web: www.strathcona.ca/fcs

Office hours:

Monday to Thursday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Here is a small sampling of the help that Strathcona County Family and Community Services can offer. Contact us to find out more.



I was at a loss when going through my divorce. The Divorce Support Group helped me deal with the stress of the separation, as well providing support and counselling for my two young children.

The Parent-Link program's playgroups helped us meet families who also had young children. We didn't feel alone and we were able to learn a lot from other parents who were dealing with sleepless nights!



It's becoming more difficult for me to leave the house. Thanks to the Friendly Visitor Program, I have a new friend who comes by to visit. I love the company and I've even taught her my secret cookie recipe.

I didn't know who to trust with my secret. I didn't want to hide the bruises anymore. My counsellor listened and didn't judge me. She helped me realize I have choices and where to find more help.



I wanted to volunteer and help in my community, but I didn't have a lot of time. Shovelling snow for seniors in need through Snow Busters is a perfect fit for me.



Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP)

We're almost there!

Development of the ITMP for Strathcona County began in 2010. It will establish a vision and direction that will guide decision making related to the County's transportation needs over the next 30+ years.

The plan's purpose is to examine transportation issues that affect all residents, directly and indirectly. It will consider various types of transportation such as: vehicle, transit, cargo, shipping, bicycle and walking.

The project will conclude by the spring of 2012 when the plan is presented to County Council. Before that presentation, a draft of the plan will be shared with urban and rural stakeholders via information sessions and will also be available online. During this time we encourage residents to ask questions so they fully understand what the plan is all about and where we are headed.

Watch for details online as to how and when the plan will be shared or send an email to capitalplanning&construction@strathcona.ca to receive updates. More information about the project is also available at www.strathcona.ca/itmp.

Red light cameras explained

According to the statistics, as many as one half of fatal collisions in the Capital Region occur at intersections. To curb this trend, many municipalities have installed automatic red light and speed detection cameras at high-risk intersections to either deter or catch drivers who run red lights and speed through intersections.

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Pride of Strathcona Awards

– Nominate someone deserving today

Awards categories

Recognizing outstanding contributions and achievements in ...

Community Service - improving the quality of life for others (volunteerism, good citizenship, acts of heroism or bravery, humanitarian efforts, environmental protection)

Arts, Culture and Heritage - literary, visual, performing, film or video arts; preserving and sharing local culture and history

Professional Achievement - a professional capacity that has reflected positively on Strathcona County

Youth - individual youth (21 years or younger) who have brought recognition to Strathcona County or improved our quality of life

Seniors - individual seniors (65 years and better) who have brought recognition to Strathcona County or improved our quality of life

Sports and Recreation

Athletic Achievement - in competition for first-, second- or third- place standing at a national or international competition that

has taken place within 13 months of the nomination deadline

Development - of individuals who have made a positive difference to recreation and sports as a leader, mentor or volunteer, fostering healthy life skills and good sportsmanship

Nomination forms and details are available at www.strathcona.ca/pride, or by calling 780-410-6595.

Deadline for nominations: January 31, 2012.

The awards night will be held June 11, 2012 and everyone is welcome.



Linda Osinchuk presents the Pride of Strathcona - 2011 Mayor's Award to Muriel Abdurahman (centre) in recognition of her many outstanding contributions to our community.



Great accomplishments, in a great community, deserve great applause. Do you know someone who has reached a significant achievement, or who keeps giving back to the community? Nominate them for a Pride of Strathcona Award.

"It's the people who make a community what it is, and we are pleased to pay tribute to the many Strathconians whose achievements and contributions bring pride and strength to our home." says Mayor Linda Osinchuk. "I encourage everyone to nominate the people who have made a positive difference for others or who have excelled in their talents and interests and inspire us."

The 2012 Pride of Strathcona Awards introduces new categories dedicated to recognizing youth, seniors, sports and recreation development, and contributions to heritage.

Community Heritage Legacy

Baby, it's cold outside: enduring and enjoying winter

Accounts of local history keep us connected

Growing up in Strathcona County in the 1940s and 1950s, Bob and Mavis Kreamer witnessed their share of cold, long winters. Born and raised in a 28- by 30-foot, three-room farmhouse on Range Road 225, Bob recalls how cold a winter's morning could be. The Kreamer's house, like other homes of the time, lacked insulation. Once the family went to sleep and the fire went out, the interior of the house was often as cold as the exterior. Waking up in the morning from under the stack of coats he had been covered in, Bob would often hear his father in the living room, stoking the fire in the big wood stove to defrost the pail of water that had frozen overnight.

As winter set in and Christmas drew near it was time for Bob's parents to slaughter the 20 to 30 turkeys they raised over the year. Today they would be considered organic and free range, at the time the birds were an additional source of income to buy family Christmas presents. Using a team of horses, Bob's father took the turkeys into Edmonton over the High Level Bridge and sold them to customers he met selling wood in

the city. As it was often too cold to stay still, Mr. Kreamer walked alongside his horses to keep warm.

Growing up near Fort Saskatchewan, Bob's wife, Mavis, was not deterred by the winter's chill. The wintry weather provided her with an opportunity to do something she loved — skating. Often skating until her feet felt numb, the chilblains she suffered never stopped her from whirling around the ice!

Stories collected from residents such as the Kreamers highlight what winter life was like for early community members and shed some light on the resilience they demonstrated.

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.



With his family home heated by a wood stove, it was one of Bob Kreamer's chores to ensure there was a ready supply of wood to keep the fire going. Bob's dog, Toby, loved to join him when he would collect the logs.

Raising the profile of local history and heritage - that is what Community Heritage Legacy is about.

There are many ways to preserve, recognize, share and bring attention to our local history and heritage. We can:

- admire old buildings and natural places
- experience remnant artifacts of the past
- teach traditional knowledge and skills
- research valuable archival records
- share stories and reminiscences

Join us to explore how we can capture Strathcona County's history to bring it alive for our community today.

Strathcona County's Community Heritage Legacy Initiative aims to capture and convey aspects of local history and heritage, and calls on the community to get involved. With a greater appreciation of the County's past, residents will have a greater sense of identity, place and community. To these aims, the County is working alongside other champions of history and heritage in the community, including the Strathcona County Museum and Archives, Strathcona County Library and others.

Community Heritage Legacy involves accounts of local history — memories and stories, along with customs, traditions, knowledge and skills. These, in turn, relate to historic buildings and sites, and also natural heritage. The idea behind the initiative is to encourage, support, showcase and connect individual efforts across the County to recognize and celebrate our history and heritage.

For more information about the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative, go to www.strathcona.ca/history, or call 780-416-6762.



Coming soon

Support for parents

Connections Cafe - third Tuesday every month, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Presented by KEYS, at F.R. Haythorne Junior High, 300 Colwill Boulevard, Sherwood Park.

Because parents need time to chat and chill too... a one-of-a-kind chance to share and receive tips and tricks for raising teens and tweens with other parents. Snacks will be provided. KEYS (Keys to Empowering Youth Success) offers preventive mental health services that promote and enhance well-being among parents, staff and junior high school students at one large junior high school in Sherwood Park. www.strathcona.ca/fcs

Christmas events

Santa's Breakfast – December 10, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$11 and can be purchased at event venue, Millennium Place.

Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast including scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, mini-muffins, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and juice. Sit on Santa's knee and receive a gift. There will be free admission to Shell Edutainment Centre from 9 a.m. - 12 noon, and fun entertainment and Christmas prize draws.

Santa Skate – December 18

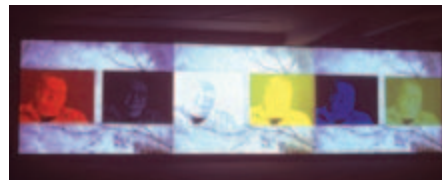
Enjoy a skate with Santa at Glen Allan Recreation Complex, Sunday, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Go to www.strathcona.ca/recreation for more information on events being planned for 2012 in Strathcona County.

gallery@501 presents winter exhibitions

Gallery@501 invites you to experience a trio of interesting exhibits this winter; go to www.strathcona.ca/artgallery for more information.

November 7 – December 22, 2011



Sitting Bull and the Moose Jaw Sioux

This four-channel video installation traces the history of Lakota and Sioux settlements in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Artist: Dana Claxton

January 9 – February 26, 2012



Arrows and Bullets comb my Hair

Drawings and collages create a dialogue acknowledging the complexity of language, symbolism and appropriated imagery in contemporary visual literacy. Artists: Blair Brennan, Patrick Reed and Richard Boulet

March 5 – April 29, 2012



Vessels

This exhibit examines the history of pottery as functional ware (vessels, flasks, transmissions and bottles), as craft and/or as sculpture and its function within contemporary art. Artists: Brenda Danbrook, Martin Tagseth, Carmela Laganse and Clint Neufeld.

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Red light cameras explained

Automatic red light and speed detection cameras are one of the tools used by Strathcona County's Enforcement Services department to improve driving behaviour. Public awareness of red-light cameras reduces aggressive driving behaviour at the targeted intersections. Studies have shown that collision rates can decrease as much as 24 per cent following camera installation. The benefits of improved driving habits even spread into intersections without cameras.

Based on the large number questions being received from the public, Strathcona County recently posted more information about the operation and location of these tools, as well as answers to commonly asked questions on its website. Go to www.strathcona.ca/trafficsafety to learn more.



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)
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