

Ward 6

UPDATE

...From your Councillor continued from page 1

The aggressive development of our own utility function will eliminate one more excuse for absorption by our neighbour.

Self-sufficiency is an impossible goal in the modern global village. Still we should attempt to strive for an economic base that matches as closely as possible our population – where possible, folks should be able to work in the community where they live.

A target of one full-time employment position per household would show that Strathcona County is more than a dormitory suburb of Edmonton.

Finally, it seems that a heterogeneous community is more interesting to live in. This means a variety of housing options ranging from working farms through rural residences to high density urban development. It means a variety of people living here – young and old of many different cultural and economic backgrounds.

What are your thoughts? What does it take to make the kind of community you would like to live in?



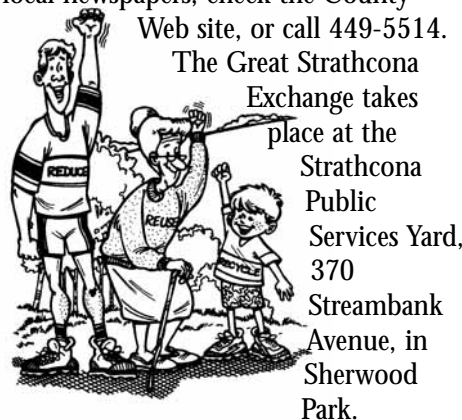
Coming June 18 – The Great Strathcona Exchange!

One of the County's most popular recycling events is coming up on Saturday, June 18.

It's the Great Strathcona Exchange – an opportunity for residents to recycle furniture, appliances and other large items that can be used by someone else. People who don't have anything to bring are welcome to come and browse, and take home any items they can use.

New this year will be an **e-cycling bin** for recycling (please note, this is recycling, not exchange) of computers and other electronic devices.

For times and other details, watch local newspapers, check the County Web site, or call 449-5514.



Highway 21 twinning

The Province seems to enjoy keeping us in the dark about the scope and timing of their plans for Highway 21. We understand that the twinning project has been delayed a number of times because of budget constraints. It may turn out to be wrong again, but for what it is worth, here is the schedule as far as we know.

Summer 2005

- Highway 16 bridge widening. As no other work may proceed without this step, the commencement of construction will be a fair indicator that the work will truly proceed.

2005

- Construction of service roads parallel to Highway. 21

2006

- Construction of diamond flyover structures at Baseline Road and Wye Road

2007-2008

- Twinning to Highway 14

Proposed curfew bylaw

Peter Wlodarczak, Councillor of Ward 4 and former RCMP officer, is proposing the implementation of a curfew for youths of 17 years of age or younger.

The details are a long way from being worked out; however, the proposal has already generated a great deal of emotion, with few taking the middle ground. Those in favour cite vandalism, petty crime and the welfare of children as reasons for considering a curfew. Those opposed are primarily concerned with civil rights.

My view is that this idea is definitely worth a look, if it can be made effective and enforceable. What is your opinion?

Slow down for roadside cleanup crews

The Spring Roadside Cleanup Program will take place in May across Strathcona County.

Watch out for the volunteers!

If you see the sign Roadside Cleanup Ahead, please slow down and drive with care!

Further information: 417-7100





Municipal Development Plan Review work continues

Over the past few months, Strathcona County has invited the public to provide input to the new Municipal Development Plan.

Thank you to the many residents who attended open houses and provided comments on questionnaires or via the County Web site. We appreciate the time and effort you have given to the MDP, which is so important to the future of our community.

Information on the Municipal Development Plan review will continue to be posted on the County Web site. Staff are preparing a summary of all information received, and expect to have it posted on the Web site in early summer.

Open houses in June

Wednesday, June 1, there will be an open house on Country Residential Development. It takes place at the Ardrossan Recreation Complex from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Monday, June 20, we will hold an open house for the public to review a draft plan for the 3,040 acres west of Highway 21, and north of Township Road 534.

For more details, call 464-8222.

Colchester Girls' Academy

On April 7, 2005, an open house was held at Colchester Elementary School promoting the Girls' Academy proposed for that school.

Unfortunately this excellent program for girls at the junior high school level failed to attract sufficient interest and registrations to be viable. Transportation was apparently an issue, as was the attraction of Sherwood Park with its bustle and facilities.

I would have thought that a well-equipped country school far from the shopping malls, traffic and temptations of the urban service area would have been very attractive to parents. It seems that such was not the case. The Girls' Academy may be tried again next year, but not likely at Colchester.

Planning Handbook

Are you interested in municipal planning? Do you wonder about the planning processes the County follows?

The *Planning Handbook* was developed by Strathcona County staff to help explain planning to non-planners. The handbook provides an overview of planning processes, along with useful charts and definitions.

You can find the handbook at www.strathcona.ab.ca, or call 464-8080 with any questions.

Budget 2006

The County has held a number of public workshops in order to get some input into the 2006 budget.

The total turnout for these has been less than half a dozen residents. Where is everyone? It is tempting to believe that we are doing such a fine job that you do not believe it necessary to intervene—tempting but not realistic.

This is your money we are about to spend, folks. You may wish to consider taking an interest in this...

Federation of Community Leagues

While on the campaign trail last year, it struck me that many issues were common to the entire Ward.

While smaller organizations such as community leagues exist, there is no overarching group to bring forward these issues. A Federation of Community Leagues (and homeowners' associations, agricultural societies and ad hoc residents' groups) could fulfill this function.

Some of the issues of interest are: development: trails and footpaths; roads: upgrading, speeds, safety; weed control; recreation; tree planting, and more.

At the time of writing, a meeting of several interested people had been planned. Please get in touch with me if you have ideas or comments about this Federation.

Road construction projects

Here is a summary of road construction projects scheduled for this summer in Ward 6. This work is currently scheduled for August.

Country residential roads

- Lina Country Estates
- Best Estates
- Brecken Woods

Class 1 road - hot mix surface rehabilitation

- Township Road 530 (Baseline Road), Range Road 230 (Highway 21) to Range Road 224

Grid roads - cold mix surface rehabilitation*

- Range Road 225, Township Road 520 to 522
- Range Road 233, Township Road 520 to Highway 628
- Range Road 225, Township Road 530 (Baseline Road) to Boag Lake

* If you are planning to haul heavy materials in August, please note that legal weight restrictions (road bans) of 75 per cent will apply on roads that receive a cold mix surface. These restrictions will remain in place for six weeks in order for the surface to cure. We appreciate residents' cooperation in observing these weight restrictions.



Growth and development

Cluster development changes

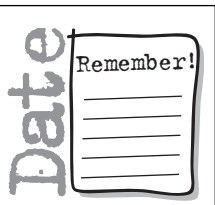
On March 29, 2005, Council passed Bylaw 16-2005, a text amendment to the Municipal Development Plan to, in essence, put cluster country residential development on hold. The Sanitary Services for Rural Strathcona study that is being carried out in 2005, and Council's adoption of a new Municipal Development Plan, which is anticipated in early 2006, will determine the density level for the cluster country residential concept.

I believe that this was a positive step that will help to protect the rural lifestyle valued in Ward 6, while retaining the advantages of cluster lot sizes to preserve natural environmental features.

Planning and Development Services are to be commended for recognizing an ongoing difficulty with the cluster concept, and promptly bringing forward creative changes that will continue to realize the advantages without exacerbating the density problem.

Subdivision Authority

On May 2, 2005 Council approved a motion to reinstate the Subdivision Authority as a subcommittee of Council rather than an administrative body. I firmly believe Council has a duty to follow the entire development process through from conceptual scheme to subdivision to ensure that land use decisions are in fact made with a view to the broader good rather than simply the regulations.



Events

Colchester Community League

General meetings: 1st Wednesday of even-numbered months. All are welcome.

Wye Community League

Meets once a month. Call 449-6848 or 464-8206 for times and venues.

June 5

WCL Community BBQ, 4 p.m.
Contact Liz, 449-6848.

June 12

Wye String Ensemble, 2 p.m.
Admission by donation.
Contact Liz, 449-6848.

Looking for information about Strathcona County?

Here's some of what you'll find on the County Web site at www.strathcona.ab.ca.

- frequently requested bylaws
- Council agendas and minutes
- fire permit application
- jobs with the County
- schedules for recreation facilities

www.strathcona.ab.ca

so quick with a click!

Residential developments proposed for Ward 6

Ball

Council has approved redistricting of 10 acres to Country Residential to allow the "first parcel out" from an existing farm property on Wye Road, south of Boag Lake.

Balmoral

Landrex developments has received subdivision approval for 42 Estate Residential lots. This will be the next phase of development in Balmoral Heights on Range Road 233.

Crimson Leaf

11107844 Alberta Ltd. has applied for approval of an Area Structure Plan and redistricting on a quarter section on Range Road 225 south of Township Road 522. Density, servicing and preservation of environmental features are key issues to be resolved before Council can consider this project.

Daly Drive

A redistricting application has been submitted for an existing parcel of about 18 acres, north of Wyecliff on Range Road 225, in order to subdivide for additional residential lots. A conceptual scheme has been prepared and was presented at a public meeting on April 26, 2005. A public hearing before Council on the redistricting bylaw and the conceptual scheme is scheduled for May 24, 2005 at 7 p.m.

Meadow Hawk

Resland submitted an application for an Area Structure Plan in support of a proposal cluster residential development on Range Road 231, south of Wye Road. This development is on hold pending completion of the Sanitary Services for Rural Strathcona Study and the Municipal Development Plan.

Uplands

Dracon has been considering a cluster residential development in the vicinity of Big Island Lake on Range Road 225. This development is also on hold pending completion of the Sanitary Services for Rural Strathcona Study and the Municipal Development Plan.

Wideman

A redistricting application has been submitted for an existing parcel of about 14 acres, north of Greenwood Estates on Range Road 225, in order to subdivide for additional residential lots. The conceptual scheme that has been prepared was presented at a public meeting on March 31, 2005.

