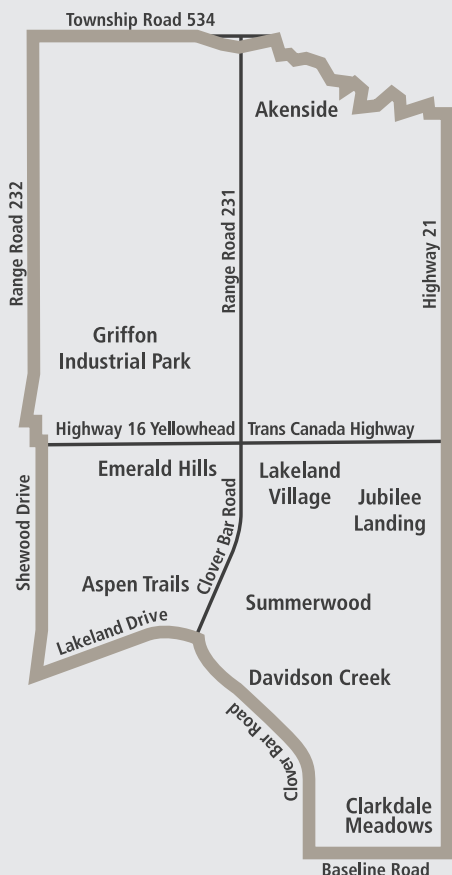


# Ward 4



## Distribution of this newsletter

This newsletter is intended for residents of Ward 4, as shown on the map above. To economize, it is being distributed according to delivery zones of Canada Post, which do not coincide with ward boundaries. As a result, a limited number of households in Ward 2 may receive a copy. If so, please enjoy the information and note that the councillor for Ward 2 is Roxanne Carr, 780-464-8002

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**Strathcona**  
County

[www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca)

# Ward 4

October 2011

# update

## From your Councillor



A warm hello to all Ward 4 residents. I do hope you had a good and restful summer and were able to get away on a holiday. If you are like me, my holiday started and ended so fast I do not know where it went. I also do not know where summer went, it went like a flash. It is hard to believe that in less than two months it will be Christmas.

The Council break was very short this summer -- we had Council meetings extended into July and we are now back in the thick of it. As you have all experienced, Baseline and Wye Roads have been repaved and it is certainly a pleasure to drive on these roads. As I commented in my last newsletter, "rubberized asphalt" was the problem and that product will not be used again. Let us hope that the coming winter is kind to our roads.

Budget time has also come again. As always, the budget is complex and difficult. Perhaps of all the things we do as a Council it is the budget that affects every land/homeowner

in the County. I know there is a significant demand for Capital Projects and we will have to scrutinize them all very closely.

We know we cannot build everything everyone wants. In a perfect world, of course, we would build everything for everyone but that is not realistic.

We have to get control of our expenses and look for efficiencies to reduce cost and, in turn, reduce the tax increase that comes every year. In setting a budget we have to approach it with realistic expectations. Road repairs, utility repairs, snow removal, police, fire and a myriad of other services are required daily and it is extremely difficult to pare down such expenses.

I know that all Councillors struggle mightily with the budget and this year will be no different. All that I can assure you is that I will do my best to ensure we find the appropriate balance.

I hope that the rest of the year and the coming New Year find you in good health and all my wishes for the best.

Take care and may God Bless Strathcona County.

Matthew 5:1-10



# Ward 4 update

## County Fighting Back Against Bronze Leaf Disease

### Residents can save their trees

from disease. Bronze Leaf Disease is making its way around Strathcona County and infesting Swedish Columnar Aspen, Tower Poplar and Poplar hybrid clones. This disease is spread through spores that develop on over-wintered leaves. The spores spread during the spring, infecting leaves on the same tree and trees nearby. Symptoms typically appear in late summer (early-mid-August) or early fall (September).

Bronze Leaf disease will turn leaves orange-brown to reddish-brown, starting from the edges of the leaf, moving inward towards the base of the leaf. Leaf veins and petiole remain a bright green colour. All leaves on a branch may be affected.

Discolouration deepens to a bronzy, reddish-brown colour as the season progresses.

Infested leaves will often remain attached to the tree over the course of the winter (they do not fall off).

Branches may die back as the disease progresses systemically. Leaves may have a pebbly surface texture (like the surface of a curling ring); reflecting the development of spore-producing structures (perithecia).

“The extremely damp and warm conditions experienced over the summer have lead to increased spore production,” says Sheila Flint, Strathcona County's horticulture and forestry specialist. “It's important to inspect your trees, especially now and do it quickly before the leaves are gone. If the leaves of your aspen /

poplar remain on the tree throughout the winter months, it may be an indication that your tree has Bronze Leaf diseases.

### What you can do

Prune affected areas of the tree. Cut off leaves and branches, place in a sealed garbage bag and dispose of the debris in your black waste cart or take to the landfill. The sealed plastic bag will help prevent spores from spreading the disease.

### Avoid the following:

- Bringing infected brush to the Streambank Avenue Recycling Centre
- Placing infected material in your backyard composter
- Burning or placing this material in your green cart
- Chipping or using this material as mulch

Strathcona County forestry crews are well aware of the presence of the disease and are surveying all County-owned poplar/aspen trees for the disease. We are doing our best to remove/prune all infested branches/trees as we find them. Bronze Leaf disease can eventually kill infested trees within three to four years. More information can be found at [www.strathcona.ca/treecare](http://www.strathcona.ca/treecare) under pests and diseases.

## Snow on Roads

I have heard much anecdotal information about what our winter is going to be like. The most common refrain is that it will be a long, cold winter. Last year of course was terrible for snow and we can live in hope that we do not have such a year again. Council has once again reviewed the snow removal policy and fine tuned it.

We have 4 priorities when it comes to clearing roads and they are as follows:

- Priority 1 - Major arterial roads and transit drop zones
- Priority 2 - Minor arterial roads school drop off zones
- Priority 3 - Collector roads and public transit routes
- Priority 4 - Residential roadways

The full policy is available on the Strathcona County website. Go to the home page, click on departments and then on Legislative and Legal Services. About half way down on the left you will see Municipal Policy handbook. Click on that link, followed by Services Policies, then go to Capital Planning and Construction; half way down that list you will see the Winter Maintenance Policy. If you read it, I do hope it provides some insight for you.

It costs \$1.5 Million to complete one Priority 4 snowfall. After March, if a Priority 4 removal is done, it could be windrowed, and left to melt.

Just a reminder to remove obstructions from your curb.



Rubber mats, grates and any other materials at the driveway curb must be removed for the winter. They interfere with snow clearing equipment and are likely to be damaged. Please also remove portable basketball nets from the edge of your driveway. For further information, call 780-417-7100 (24-hour number).

## Super Walmart

Just recently I received a query from a resident residing in Emerald Hills/ Aspen Trails area. I do thank the resident very much for his comments. He became aware a Super Walmart was opening just west of the hospital site. His query was in regards to future traffic concerns. In his e-mail to me, he indicated that I had never told the Ward 4 residents in that area about the opening of this store. He was right, I did not and that is an oversight I do apologize for. The opening of that store was the worst kept secret and I assumed everyone knew and clearly they did not.

I know that Walmart has good prices and a lot of people will shop there to take advantage of those bargains. The other side of the coin is that considerable traffic comes with a Super Walmart, and that could impact the immediate neighbourhood. In

## Strathcona County Community Hospital

For those of you who drive by the hospital site and have a look, the construction on the hospital has picked up quite a bit and they are moving ahead far quicker than they were. Our latest update had the following on the status of the hospital:

Roofing - 85% complete  
Exterior Brick and Siding - 85% complete  
Windows - 40% installed  
Building Envelope - 65% complete  
Materials on Site - 80%

The construction target is to have the building completely enclosed by the end of October, with a target of mid November to start underground and mechanical work.

Though it has been a long time coming, the good news is that they are moving forward swiftly and we can all look forward to its opening.

addition, the whole north side of Emerald Drive from Clover Bar Road to Sherwood Drive will be commercial buildings so even more traffic can be anticipated. I have travelled that road many times over the past year and I do know traffic issues will arise. To that end, I have spoken to our Transportation & Agriculture Services (TAS) Department and they also acknowledge they are aware of the potential traffic issues that could arise, particularly on opening day. I do expect the traffic to settle down after the opening; however, and given that the store is on an arterial road with two exits, I know that Emerald Drive can handle that volume. I will remain vigilant and stay in touch with TAS to address problems that might arise.

## RCMP and Emergency Services Semi Annual Statistical Report

You may find the RCMP and Emergency Services' semi annual reports of some interest. These departments provide a broad range of statistics; some of which may surprise you.

If you wish to have a look at these reports, go to Strathcona County's home page ([www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca)), click Local Government on the masthead, and then on Mayor and Councillors. On the upper right hand side you will see a box that says Council Meetings. Click on that box, then click on Agenda Reports and Minutes and go to the October 11<sup>th</sup> date. Open that meeting date, and on the third and fourth items from the top you will see the Emergency Services and RCMP Reports. I hope you find these reports interesting.

### Development Activities in the County

Development activity in the County has slowed down a bit compared to 2010. Given the state of our economy I was a bit surprised, but here are the third quarter statistics, January to September for 2011, as compared to 2010.

	2010	2011
Customers Served:	50,152	52,629
Total Construction Value	305,023,095	197,613,344
Total No. of Dwelling Units	550	328

The large drop in construction value can be attributed to completion of the construction of petro chemical projects.

### Graffiti

Graffiti is an age old issue that affects pretty well most communities the world over and Strathcona County is no different. Nothing is really sacred to people who do graffiti, and targeted at times are utility cabinets, for power, phone and cable. Just this year, the County has partnered with Fortis Alberta on a jointly funded pilot project to cover four utility cabinets with an anti graffiti photo wrap. There is one such utility cabinet on Davenport Drive by the outdoor basketball court. I am hopeful that the project will be successful and we can expand it in the future.



## Residential Construction

As Councillors we attend many meetings, held by divergent groups and at times we hear some very interesting information. A while ago we attended a meeting put on by the Canadian Home Builders Association – Edmonton Chapter.

At the meeting they provided some interesting statistics on Home Building in the Capital Region and the impact it has on economic prosperity. We see houses being built all the time and think nothing of it. The numbers below are quite amazing and are based on the 2010 construction season.

9,959 Housing Starts  
27,200 Jobs  
\$ 1.6 Billion in Wages  
\$ 3.6 Billion in Construction Value  
\$ 417 Million in municipals revenue from levies, fees charges and property taxes  
\$ 318 Million in one time Income Tax revenue  
\$ 114 Million in one time Canada Pension Plan Premiums  
\$ 207 Million in one time GST Revenues  
\$ 687 Million in one time Federal and Provincial government revenues

## Broadmoor Arena Open

The completion of the arena was the final stage of Broadmoor's revitalization project as the new Clubhouse and banquet area for the Broadmoor Golf Course opened this summer.

Improvements to the arena include new dressing rooms, the addition of a concrete pad, new Zamboni and ice plant room, modifying the refrigeration system and rink boards, and a redesigned lobby. Renovations will also accommodate off-season dry surface use in the arena.

Go to <http://www.thebroadmoor.ca/> for more information.

## Millennium Place is opening in phases



Construction is nearing completion in some parts of the building, and is gearing up in other parts. The Leisure Ice was the first new area to open on October 14. The ice is now twice the size of the original with an outdoor pond theme. Soon this will be an exciting area for skaters to drop-in anytime from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to practice their skills or have a leisurely skate.

The new gymnasium is getting close to being finished near the end of November. The new gym is double the size of the existing gym and will have a section with a climbing structure and play activities. The remainder of the gym features core sports likes basketball, badminton, floor hockey, volleyball and more. A much-anticipated addition to the facility also includes an adjoining activity room that will serve as a social gathering place for teens. This room is set to open early in November.

The east entrance and upper wellness area will reopen by the end of October making it easier to access the facility. The target date for the Edu-tainment Centre is to open late January 2012 with the addition of three new activity rooms for a total of five!

The next phase of construction focuses on wellness. The existing gym will close when the new one opens to begin work on improving wellness spaces. A second floor will be added inside the existing gym to create more space and is scheduled to open Spring 2012. More information on all of the County's recreational facilities can be found under the Recreation, Parks and Culture page on the Strathcona County website.

Go to: [http://www.strathcona.ca/departments/Recreation\\_Parks\\_and\\_Culture/](http://www.strathcona.ca/departments/Recreation_Parks_and_Culture/)



## The horizon is changing in Ardrossan Recreation Complex

Construction at the Ardrossan Recreation Complex is moving along with the new areas set to open late Spring 2012. Once complete, it will offer a new arena, a wellness centre with an indoor track, multi-purpose rooms and an indoor playground.

More information on these projects, including the latest construction photos, can be found online at [www.strathcona.ca/revitalize](http://www.strathcona.ca/revitalize).