



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

Ward 4 March 2011 update

From your Councillor



Councillor Peter Wlodarczak

Hello Ward 4 residents.

I would first like to thank you for allowing me to represent Ward 4 once again. I am honoured and humbled by your support and I wish to assure you all that I will apply myself diligently and completely to my duties. Notwithstanding my overall responsibility to the affairs of the County, I see a significant responsibility in serving you the residents on matters of importance and concern to you each.

This has been a bit of a brutal year for snow. I do not ever recall us doing two residential street clearings back to back. I know from my own street that all the residential roads got pretty bad; unless you had a four-wheel drive unit, it was pretty tough getting out. I wanted to express my great thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding during those difficult

times — it is much appreciated. Council will be reviewing our Snow Removal policy once again, to fine tune it and ensure that we do the best job possible.

A number of residents have commented to me on the state of our roads, i.e. potholes. They commented that Wye Road and Baseline Road are particularly bad, as I am sure you have encountered first hand. Our Transportation Department is acutely aware of the problem and has been filling the potholes and will continue to do so.

One of the problems on Baseline Road is the “rubberized asphalt” that was laid down about 10 years ago. This product was used as a pilot project by many communities, as a way to get rid of all the old tires that were stockpiled. It was found that the driving surface was much quieter when it was laid down; however, as time passed and it got used, it was also discovered that it does not stand up, especially at intersections where there is braking. Owing to the problems encountered, we have not used that product for a number of years.

Given the condition of Baseline Road, we have been informed that there will be a significant overlay program this summer along the west bound lane. If you see a pothole that has been missed, please feel free to report it to the Transportation Department at 780-417-7100.

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Ward 4 update

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Some questions have also been posed to me about possible flooding issues when the snow melts this year. Our Transportation Department is confident the matter is in hand. Removing snow from the streets helps immensely by reducing the volume, and it also prevents catch basins (drains) from freezing. The recent freeze/thaws experienced also helps and Transportation will be closely monitoring all drainage courses during the thaw. Again, if you see a frozen drain, or standing water during the thaw, report the problem immediately to Transportation at the number heretofore mentioned.

I certainly hope that for the balance of the winter we do not get too much snow. I know this snow season has been very hard on the staff responsible for clearing the snow. They worked many, many long and hard hours and did in my mind, an outstanding job. Let us also hope that by the time you receive this newsletter, the weather has warmed up and we are well on our way to spring and looking forward to enjoying the outdoors again.

Please be assured of my continuing and committed service to you; should you need anything, please do not hesitate to call or write. May God bless Strathcona County.

Romans 8:37-39



Community garden

A new community garden is starting in Sherwood Park this year and all are welcome to participate. The garden will be located at Good News Church at 2 Primrose Boulevard (corner of Primrose and Clover Bar Road).

Raised plots will be available to community members. One plot will be dedicated to raising food for the Strathcona County Food Bank. At present, there is a small group formed for the organizing stage. All are welcome who want to come help, plan and dream, and make the garden happen. People of all skill levels are invited to participate.

Interested in being part of this planning group? Want to get a plot to garden this summer? Need more information? Contact Suzanne Stevens at 780-416-5539.



Proposed high voltage transmission lines

The hearings for the routing of this line have now been set for April of this year. Strathcona County will intervene in this hearing, and our legal counsel and others have been working behind the scenes diligently for a number of months to prepare for this hearing.

If you will recall, quite some time ago, Council passed a motion asking that power lines coming through densely populated areas or near schools or institutions be buried, regardless of where the line was situated. At the February 22, 2011 Council meeting, we passed another motion to further

support the original motion. After receiving further advice, the new motion - in addition to recommending the line be buried - adds to our position to have the power line moved to the alternate route on the west side of Edmonton. Given the population densities, west compared to east, there are far fewer people impacted on the west side than on our side; that among others things, is the compelling argument our representative will make to the Board.

If you wish to learn more about the power line situation, please go to the County website at www.strathcona.ca. Click on Departments, then on Utilities and you will find the links there. I expect you will also read about this matter in the newspapers as the hearing progresses.



Highway 21 update

I have been in touch with the engineer responsible for building the twinned portion of Highway 21, and he has informed me Alberta Infrastructure is in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct the noise study. He anticipates the study will be complete by the summer, and has committed to keeping me updated. I will definitely get back to all of you and, in particular, commit to sending a letter to those residents affected by their proximity to the highway once the study is done.

Other road updates of which I'm aware include:

- The intersection at Clover Bar Road and Baseline Road is to be improved by adding additional left turn lanes to reduce traffic backups and improve safety; construction is planned to start in June and be completed in October 2011.
- A scheduled overlay is planned for Baseline Road between Brower Road and Highway 21 which is anticipated to be complete in September 2011.
- Signal and network upgrades are planned for the County including network upgrades for the Clover Bar Road corridor, new lights for Emerald Drive, and sign and signal upgrades for all flashing amber crosswalks.

Hospital update

If you have driven by the hospital site, you will see the steel going up. During the cabinet tour recently held here, I had an opportunity to question the Minister of Health, Gene Zwozdesky, on the status of the hospital construction, who indicated that the current time line still holds true. The plan is still to have phase one include the mechanical portion to service both phases. As soon as phase one is completed, they will start phase two. Phase one of the hospital is still scheduled to open in early 2013.

Subdivision perimeter fences

By subdivision perimeter fences, I mean the fences around sub divisions that back onto arterial roads, such as Baseline Road and Clover Bar Road. Every subdivision in Sherwood Park has a perimeter fence, which was built by the developer prior to homes being built. The problem with these fences is that they are all wooden and subject to wear and tear. As you drive around and look at these fences, you will note many in need of painting and/or repair.

I dealt extensively with such a fence in Ward 4 this past year with no resolution in sight. In dealing with this issue, there were a number of people who thought the fence belonged to the County and that it was our responsibility. Some also thought that if the fence faced a public location, the County would have to maintain it.

In reality, these fences are built on the property of the home owner and it is the home owner's responsibility to maintain them. Given the state of the fences, it is clear that work is required – in Ward 4 as well as all the other Wards – as the state of these fences detracts from the aesthetics of the overall community.

In an attempt to come to some form of conclusion on this matter, I am working with Administration to determine what steps can be taken. The matter is still under investigation by Administration and I will let you know the outcome in my next newsletter.



Development activities in the County

We are all aware of the downturn in the economy in the past while, so I thought you might like to see the 2010 compared to 2009 Planning and Development Statistics:

	2009	2010
Customers Served	61,488	63,218
Total Construction Value	338,487,209	436,086,132
Total No. of Dwelling Units	617	925

As you can see the figures are positive. In the news recently there have been comments about a recovery starting in 2011. Let us hope that the figures above are a foreshadowing of that recovery.

Alberta Health Services — quick facts

Some time ago, Alberta Health Services (AHS) forwarded us a quick facts sheet. Some of the numbers are amazing, and show the volumes our health system faces. I am just putting in some numbers I thought you might find of interest:

These figures are taken from AHS 2010 Annual Report. If you wish to see the whole report with even more figures, go to www.albertahealthservices.ca and query annual report and you will get it. Hope you enjoy the figures.

Staff	82,500
Physicians	7,400
Volunteers	15,000
Population Served	3.7 Million
Acute Care Hospitals	98
Stand Alone Psychiatric Facilities	5
Emergency Visits	1.95 Million
Urgent Care Visits	174,200
Hospital Discharges	362,300
Births	50,700
Lab Procedures	59.1 Million

Trails strategy — your input required

Strathcona County has begun to develop a new Trails Strategy to guide long-term trail planning, design, construction, and operations and maintenance over the next 15 years.

Trails are one of the most heavily used recreation amenities in Strathcona County. They often top the list when residents are asked to identify areas for further outdoor recreation development. The trail system contributes greatly to healthy, active living and social connection in our community.

The Trails Strategy will:

- address the needs of all types of users across both urban and rural areas
- assess a range of trail uses: walk, jog, bicycle, cross-country ski, off-highway vehicle use (ATV,

- snowmobile), equine and others
 - provide guidelines on how best to manage trail user conflicts
 - identify new and emerging trends in trail development and activities
 - set priorities for trail enhancements
 - examine trail links to parks, natural areas and facilities, as well as look at stronger trail connections to commercial and institutional areas
- Further input from trail users, stakeholder groups and the general public is important to the strategy's development. In late Spring, residents and user groups will have opportunities to provide feedback on the draft strategy, through a phone survey, discussion group sessions and public open houses.



Recreation amenity — Clarkdale outdoor rink

For those living in Clarkdale Meadows and in the Meadowview Drive area, you will note that a rink has been partly constructed. I am disappointed with the timing of the construction of this project, which is still not finished.

In previous newsletters, I had suggested the rink would be built in 2009, but it was started late in 2010. I have spoken to our Administration on this, and they have assured me that it will be finished - landscaping and all — by this spring/summer. I will monitor this project to ensure it is finished.

McGhan Park - boarded skating rink

The outdoor skating rink at McGhan Park is open for skaters! The snow bank rink is also available for the younger skating crowd. The rink lights are scheduled for installation in early spring along with landscape remediation.



RCMP statistical comparison 2006 to 2010

At the February 22 Council meeting, the RCMP and Enforcement Services presented their year end report. It is fairly detailed and would be hard to include here, but I think you might find it interesting reading. Go to the Strathcona County Web Site, click on Departments, then Legislative and Legal Services, then Agendas Reports and Minutes, then click on February 22 and you will see a number of reports, including the RCMP report.

Human & Coyote Interactions in Strathcona County



Wednesday, April 20, 2011

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wye Community Hall
151 - 22559 Wye Road
(Bailey's Subdivision)

During this workshop, we will cover:

- coyote behaviour
- people and coyote encounters
- coyote deterrence and prevention
- how to respond to coyote activity

Guest speakers from:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

University of Alberta - Urban Coyote Project

Further information

780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/tas