

Ward 6

UPDATE

November 2007

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Councillor, Ward 6

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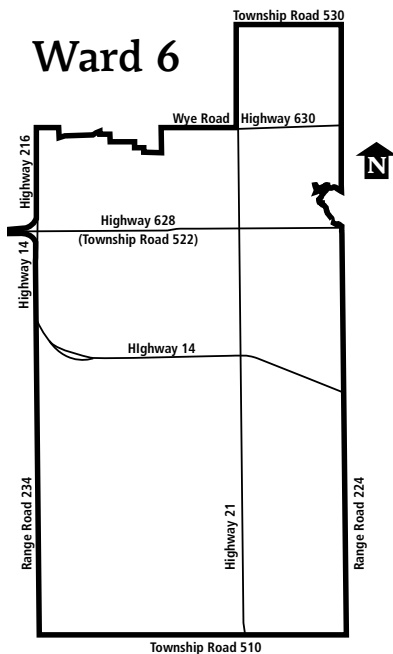
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Strathcona
County

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Ward 6



Distribution of this newsletter

This newsletter is intended for residents of Ward 6, as shown on the map above. To economize, it is being distributed according to delivery zones established by Canada Post, which do not coincide with ward boundaries.

A limited number of households in Wards 5 and 7 may receive a copy as a result. If so, please enjoy the information and make note of the councillor for your area.

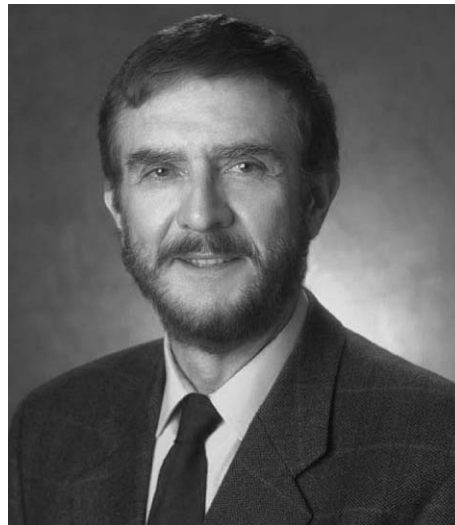
Ward 5, Councillor Jacquie Fenske, 464-8147

Ward 7, Councillor Glen Lawrence, 464-8003



This newsletter is also available at
www.strathcona.ab.ca.

from your councillor



Councillor Alan Dunn

Election 2007

The municipal elections are over for another three years and we have a new Council. While the turnout for the vote was disappointing, I am happy with the solid mandate that I received from the residents of Ward 6 and intend to live up to your confidence.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the election, especially to the candidates and their teams. There is lot of work that goes into an election, but competition is necessary to keep the system honest.

We now have eight wards and a mayor for a council of nine. All but two incumbents were returned. Vic Bidzinski now represents Ward 1. Vic has been warming the bench for a couple of terms, but has extensive previous council experience.

Roxanne Carr in Ward 2 comes to us from the Economic Development department of a neighbouring county.

Jason Gariepy, our youngest councillor (ever!) represents our newest

ward, Ward 8. His last gig was in communications for the Province of Alberta.

All three bring solid experience and qualifications to the job, which will be much appreciated over the next three years.

Comments from ward residents

As expected, I got an earful at the doors during the campaign. Here are some of your concerns:

Growth and development must be controlled and put to the service of the residents. As a municipality, we are still growing too fast and as result seeing our lifestyle compromised.

Council must implement fully the new Municipal Development Plan and create a new Land Use Bylaw both to protect us from uncontrolled growth and streamline the often cumbersome and illogical regulations that baffle development applicants.

In spite of the hard work done by the County, the road infrastructure is being overwhelmed by the rate of growth. There are too many vehicles driven too fast on roads never designed for such pressure.

Council must put the highest priority on both improving the rural road network and tightening traffic enforcement. Roads are the single most important service provided by the County in Ward 6 – some would say the only service.

These must be both convenient and safe. At present they are neither. Much of the problem resides with the Province and it will be up to us to continue to

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Councillor's message, continued from page 1

apply pressure to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation to both fund and implement much needed improvements to Highways 21, 628 and 630, as well as to provide more generous funding for County-controlled roads.

Budget 2008: difficult choices ahead

Boom-driven inflation is driving up costs relentlessly. We are going broke getting rich. I believe that Strathcona does a good job of financial stewardship; however, Council must take a hard look at how we spend your money and the money we borrow on your behalf. We cannot all have everything we want when we want it.

The 2008 budget is showing signs of being one of the most difficult I have encountered. Increasing demands for services, recreation and transportation are coming at a time when costs have never been higher. Growth is the culprit, at least in part.

Increases in population are almost always accompanied by a palpable deterioration in the standard of living as more and more people compete for dwindling resources. The result of this cost/demand spiral is reduced services or increased taxation.

In Ward 6, there are more and more folks on fixed income who may be unable to maintain their homes in the face of higher taxes.

My position, which I believe reflects the opinion of most ward residents, is that tax increases should be the minimum required to maintain essential services. There should be no increases to support further luxuries; unless it can be proven that they are self-funding over the long haul.

We already have a number of costly projects in progress to which we are fully committed. Until they are completed, in use and paid off, let that be the end of further spending. Similarly, I oppose any increase in tax-supported debt. We should concentrate on paying off the debt we have rather than borrowing more.

Proposed powerline

As I have discussed in previous newsletters, the Alberta Electrical System Operator is promoting a 500-kV power transmission line that could be routed through parts of Ward 6. This monstrosity offers no benefits to residents.

I shall continue to oppose this project and believe I have support from both Council and administration for this position. There have been no further developments in this for several months and while I am sure everyone is anxiously waiting for the other shoe to drop, the best strategy seems to "wait and see."

I shall organise an information meeting for residents once there is some new information to share.

New hospital a step closer

Our new hospital is another issue I heard about at the doors. Here the news is good and I had the honour of attending the official groundbreaking for this project late in October.

This facility will open for business in 2009. The number of beds has increased from 72 to 108. This will be a world-class facility with the latest technology and will include a Health Services Centre specialising in Child and Adolescent Services.

The next three years

Thanks to all the folks who took the time to fill me in on their concerns. I have amassed a large body of information and a long to-do list, which will take me a while to get through at this busy time of the year, though you are always welcome to call if you need answers sooner.

We have come a long way during the past three years in moving Council in the direction of more responsible decision making.

There is, however, much still left to improve. We need a proper business case for all of our decisions. We need to make decisions beyond the first level to consider indirect impacts upon the community and their impact on taxation.

Above all, we need a concrete vision of what kind of a community we want, a vision that goes beyond platitudes and guesswork. Nudging the municipality in this direction will occupy much of my time during the next three years.

winterIZE

Tips and reminders for residents to help Strathcona County serve you this winter



Rural mailboxes

To prevent plows or other heavy roadway equipment from damaging mailboxes, ensure your mailbox is positioned with the:

- * supporting post at least one metre (39 inches) back from the edge of the roadway
- * bottom of the mailbox at 1.1 metre (43 inches) up from the ground

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
417-7100 (24-hour number)
E-mail: info@strathcona.ab.ca

Strathcona
County

TRANSPORTATION AND
AGRICULTURE SERVICES

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Work continues on plan for Capital Region Strathcona supports cooperation, accountability and cost-sharing

In June of this year, Premier Stelmach announced that all 25 municipalities in the Capital Region were being asked to participate in developing a long-term plan to manage the growth occurring within our region.

The project, known as the Capital Region Integrated Growth Management Plan, is focusing on several key areas and how they can be best managed in future. These include core infrastructure (utilities, roads, etc.); social infrastructure (housing, policing, social services, etc.); and a plan for how the municipalities can make decisions together.

Strathcona County welcomes the opportunity to be part of this process. Our region is already very successful in many respects, but the growth we are experiencing presents challenges as well.

The general directions our Council supports are these.

- We would like to see even greater intermunicipal cooperation.
- We believe communities should retain their autonomy. Local councils should remain accountable for making sure their taxpayers receive best value.
- We are willing to share in the costs of projects that benefit our residents and where it could be demonstrated one municipality would otherwise bear an unfair share of costs.

Work is continuing on draft reports that will help to form the final report in January. The work now underway will have a bearing on the future for all of us in the region. I would welcome your comments or questions as it proceeds.

Post your address: a matter of safety

Is your address visible in front of your residence? Could ambulance or fire crews locate your home without delay?

Make sure your address is posted clearly in an obvious place next to the driveway at the property line, or on your mailbox or paper delivery box.

Update on energy exploration

Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc. is in the process of implementing their Line 4 project from Sherwood Park through Strathcona County's southern border. For information, call 780-420-5252 or the Liaison Office.

Enbridge Pipelines (Athabasca) Inc and ACCESS Pipeline have worked with Strathcona County to coordinate pipeline construction at creek crossings and to increase riparian reclamation. This initiative will reduce disturbance of these watercourses and assist in maintaining bank stabilization, reduce erosion and maintain wildlife corridors.

The project is in conjunction with the *Strathcona County Protocol for Seismic Surveying, Drilling, Construction and Operation of Oil and Gas Facilities.*

Aquire Energy has done a well re-entry

south of Twp. 520 and west of Range Road 233. Contact the Liaison Office for information.

JayCor Resources Inc. has also re-entered a well north of Twp 520 and west of RR 231. Pipeline plans to tie this project to existing infrastructure are underway. JayCor can be reached at (780) 466-0404.

This information is provided by Strathcona County's Liaison Office, which can be reached at 416-6739.

Proposed energy projects are posted on the County's website as information becomes available. The site also lists contacts and other notices of interest to landowners adjacent to proposed projects.



Go to www.strathcona.ab.ca and follow the quick link *Energy exploration* in the yellow section at the left.

Regional park site

Work and public consultation continue in regard to the future of the regional park site at the southwest corner of Hwy. 21 and Hwy. 628 (the Whitemud Extension).

A public meeting was held on September 20 to discuss planning activities related to the County's only dog off-leash park adjacent to the Waterton/Silver Birch communities.

Research findings were shared with participants, including the results of the community use survey, an observation study, plans for environmental remediation of the site, the Draft Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy,

a biophysical assessment of the site and possible changes to roadway access.

The next step will be a site design based on the research and information that addresses the planning information. The proposed plan will be shared with the community in 2008 to determine whether it meets the need.

Any changes to the park will be identified in future budget processes for Council's consideration along with other proposed projects (roadways, emergency services, social housing, etc.).



Information about the planning process is available at www.strathcona.ab.ca.

Transportation matters

Highway 628

An increasing number of motorists are using Highway 628 (extension of the Whitemud Freeway), and with it comes increasing difficulty in getting access to this busy roadway from Range Roads 231, 232 and 233. What many people would like to see are signals at these intersections.

Our Engineering and Environmental Planning staff have raised this with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation

(AIT), which is responsible for Highway 628.

The initial feedback from AIT is that lights are not scheduled for these intersections in the short term. The County will continue to raise the matter in hopes of adjusting the time frame; however, at this point it is not clear when signals might be expected. More information will be provided to the residents as and when it becomes available.

Growth & Development City of Edmonton appeal of MDP

South Wye Area: The new MDP was amended on June 12, 2007 to support Urban Villages in the South Wye Development area. The amendment also included a revision to the Urban Service Boundary of Sherwood Park to include a lot within Campbelltown Heights that is now included in the South Wye Area Structure Plan.

South Wye ASP was adopted June 12, 2007. The ASP lays out a framework for the development of a mixed used sustainable urban village. The developer is now in the detail engineering phase prior to commencing construction. The first phase of the development is set to occur east of the existing Shell gas station and our understanding is that it will include a building supply store and other commercial uses.

The new **Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School** opened this fall just south of Wye Road on Range Road 231. An open house was hosted at the school on October 27, 2007.

The first phase of the **Sherwood Golf and Country Club Estates development**, on Range Road 233, is almost completed. It is anticipated that new home construction will begin early in the year or later in the spring.

Wastewater service in country residential subdivisions

Strathcona County has been working on the design of a STEP system (Septic Tank Effluent Pump System) to deal with the wastewater from country residential subdivisions. The first designs are for Bailey's Subdivision, Wyecliff, and Lakeview Estates.

A number of items still need to be completed before the project can proceed. These include the proposed Local Improvement Bylaw for the pipe installation, the inclusion of a storage, pumping, and control component, together with all the associated costs.

As the project proceeds, it is currently expected that Bailey's will likely be the first Country Residential subdivision where the system will be installed.

December hearing to be held in Sherwood Park

Strathcona County's new Municipal Development Plan Bylaw 1-2007 came into effect on May 29, 2007. The plan provides a broad framework for the growth and development of the County for 20-plus years. The Municipal Development Plan represents the overall vision of the community and relied heavily on community consultation undertaken over the last three years during its preparation.

On June 28, 2007, the City of Edmonton gave notice that it was appealing Strathcona County's Municipal Plan (MDP) Bylaw 1-2007.

Subsequently Edmonton requested that its appeal be adjourned to await direction from the Government of Alberta in relation to regional planning.

The appeal process is overseen by the Municipal Government Board, an independent and impartial body set up to make decisions on certain appeals and disputes stemming from the Municipal Government Act.

On October 18, 2007, the Municipal Government Board (MGB) conducted a hearing.

The Board did not support Edmonton's application to delay their appeal of the County's MDP, and determined that the hearing on specific aspects of the appeal should proceed.

Landowners who are affected by the appeal may attend the Municipal Government Board hearing in December.

Hearing dates and location

December 6 and 7	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
December 12	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
December 13	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The hearing will take place at Strathcona County Hall, 2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park.



Copies of the documents filed by the City of Edmonton can be viewed at Strathcona County Hall, or at www.strathcona.ab.ca.

Further information: 464-8080

Why recycle?

Each tonne (2,200 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water.

There are five recycling stations in Strathcona County.

Rural recycling stations

- Ardrossan Recycling Station: Ardrossan Recreation Complex
- Josephburg Recycling Station: Moyer Recreation Centre
- South Cooking Lake Recycling Station: South Cooking Lake Fire Hall

Urban recycling stations

- Baseline Road Recycling Station: 624 Bethel Drive, Sherwood Park
- Streambank Avenue: 420 Streambank Avenue, Sherwood Park (collects grass clippings, leaves, yard waste, brush and tree branches only)

What can I recycle at the stations?

- Corrugated cardboard (flattened)
- Newspaper
- Glass (lids removed)
- Metal food and beverage cans (rinsed)
- Mixed paper
 - Cereal and tissue boxes
 - Envelopes
 - Magazines
 - Writing paper
 - Paper egg cartons
 - Rinsed and flattened milk cartons
- Plastic milk jugs (capless, cleaned and crushed)
- Plastic bottles (with a twist-off cap and neck)
- Passenger car tires, rims removed (collected at the Baseline Road Recycling Station only)



Further information: 449-5514 or www.strathcona.ab.ca/utilities