

Ward 4

Township Road 534



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.

Peter Wlodarczak Councillor, Ward 4

Office Phone: 780-464-8146

Fax: 780-464-8114

E-mail: wlodarczak@strathcona.ab.ca



Strathcona County

www.strathcona.ab.ca

Ward 4 April 2009 update

From your councillor



Councillor Peter Wlodarczak

Hello Ward 4 residents

As I write this, we are stuck in the deep freeze days of March. I hope that when you get this newsletter, the days are a lot warmer and more hospitable.

Capital Region Board

During the past few months, my time has been somewhat consumed by my participation on the Capital Region Board. I serve as an alternate on the Board. I am, though, full-time on the Housing and Transit Committees.

Mayor Olesen sits on the Land Use and Governance Committees. In the last couple of months our meetings have ramped up as we were completing the final reports. I also attend all Board meetings to stay up-to-date on all issues.

As I write this, the Transit Plan,

the Housing Plan and the Geographic Information Plan have all been approved. The Land Use Plan is still outstanding and proving difficult to tie down. By the time you get this newsletter, that will have been completed as well.

There is a tremendous amount of information in those plans and they are all posted on the Capital Region Board website at www.capitalregionboard.ab.ca.

Traffic safety

Included in this newsletter is a guest column from Dawn Green, the County's new Traffic Safety Officer. This is a new position within the County and one I worked hard to create. Dawn will be the focal point for traffic safety initiatives in the County. (Page 2)

Budget and taxes

During the budget process, Council approved a tax dollar increase of 7.37 per cent. Though I am not at liberty to say as I write this, by the time you read this newsletter, you may have found out that the tax dollar increase will be decreased, which I am sure you will appreciate.

One good thing for the County out of the whole recessionary impacts we are facing is that we anticipate our capital projects will come in at a cost less than what we were anticipating. Right now County staff are preparing tenders and requests for proposals for a large variety of work to be undertaken.

We remain optimistic there will be some good savings in the end. The

continued on page 2

Ward 4 update

From your Councillor, continued from page 1
Community Centre presently being built is on budget and on time. I know the community is looking very much forward to a new home for the library.

Winter street maintenance

You are probably wondering why the County did not plow residential streets (designated as P4 under our policy) this year. The explanation I received was that the unusual weather earlier this year—the thaw and rain—combined to create a unique situation: ice that actually bonded to the road.

If we scraped the streets clean, there was the distinct possibility this could have caused major damage to the roadways as well as the equipment.

Traffic calming

During the budget process, Council approved funds for consultation regarding possible traffic calming on Clarkdale Drive and the east side of Meadowview Drive.

Vehicles and motorists' lack of respect for the rules of the road have long been an issue on those two streets. When the newspaper reported this funding, some residents assumed that roundabouts would be installed right away at those locations. That is not correct.

The monies have been set aside to do resident surveys and meetings to determine exactly what type of traffic calming may be installed. You should hear more about this later this year from our new Traffic Safety Officer. Please be assured you will be consulted before anything is done.

County crews constantly monitored the streets and where needed, bladed the roads. The dilemma was whether to clear the snow and create damage, or leave it to melt and maintain the surface as best we could.

Living on a hill myself, I well understand the frustration many of you faced. I was pleased to see, though, that the collector roads were cleared promptly in the subdivisions this year and we only had to struggle out a short way to reach a clear road.

I remain committed to working for you. Please do not hesitate to call at any time and may God Bless you and Strathcona County.

1 Corinthians 13 1-13



Traffic safety in Strathcona County

—Dawn Green, Traffic Safety Liaison Officer
Did you know that Strathcona County has a Traffic Safety Strategic Plan? The County is always striving to improve road safety.

In July 2008 Council approved the plan to provide long-term guidance to promote traffic safety. I was hired to coordinate the implementation of the plan over the next 10 years. I will work with transportation engineers, traffic enforcement officers and citizens to work toward providing the safest roads possible.

If you have comments or questions, I would like to hear from you. You can reach me at 780-416-6726 or via email at greend@strathcona.ab.ca.

Green Routine

During the winter, other than with some difficulty dragging the carts through snow, no real issues have surfaced. From June 15 to September 15, there will be weekly collection of the organics cart.

Since the program has started, we have diverted tons and tons from the landfill so from that perspective, the program is a great success.

One resident passed on to me a thought about the use of carts. He commented that people speak about the carts being too large and there being no need to put it out regularly. He and a neighbour sometimes team up and put the waste into one cart and that saves time and effort during collection.

I have done that with my neighbours on the odd occasion. It seemed to work for me and if you are concerned about the carts not being full I leave it to you to consider sharing the cart from time to time.

Development activities in the County

In my last newsletter, I reported on the third-quarter development activity in the County and observed that it had slowed down.

I now have the final figures, and activity has certainly slowed. In 2007, the total construction value in Strathcona County was \$841 million. In 2008 it was \$428 million. Housing starts in 2007 were 1,393 and in 2008, 334. I will let you know what 2009 brings in my next newsletter.

Proposed high-voltage transmission lines

Residents in Clarkdale Meadows will possibly have seen a flyer in the mail from a group named RETA (Responsible Electricity Transmission for Albertans).

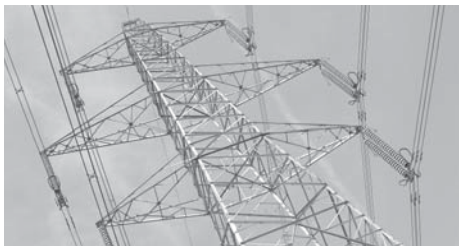
This is a dedicated group of citizens who are spearheading a fight over the placement of a 550Kv powerline in Strathcona County. This line is being designed to serve the Industrial Heartland as well as Fort McMurray.

RETA's flyer, delivered by mail, indicated a possible route for this power line was Highway 21. Though you can never say never, the information I have indicates there are only four routes being considered. Two are west of Edmonton. The other two are east of Edmonton.

The westerly route, on our side, is through the Transportation Utility Corridor that parallels Highway 216 west of Sherwood Park. The other route is about one mile east of Range Road 222, the Ardrossan Road. Any other options are unlikely owing to density of population and cost.

To further my supposition, at a meeting I attended in Festival Place on March 5, MLA Dave Quest stated, "The powerline will not be built on Highway 21." In early March, I received a copy of a publication from Alta Link and EPCOR who would actually be involved in the construction of the line. That map clearly indicates that only the two easterly routes I have described are being contemplated.

The possible construction of these lines is a significant community concern. The citizens' group is well organized and has considerable information on their website. Should you wish to either have a look, or get involved, here is their web address: www.reta.ca.



Highway 21 update from the residents' group

Many of the residents living near Highway 21 are still concerned about the noise that will result when the highway is twinned and open. As the result of a residents' meeting, it was decided to form a group to deal with the noise issue.

David Keyes is taking the lead in the organization of this group and he is supported by a small core of volunteers. David resides in Ward 8. He just recently provided an update to the residents and I wish to provide it to you for your information.

As the lead of the executive group "highway21.ca," I want to provide a brief update on our initiative. We reviewed the engineering report that was completed by Patching Associates Acoustical Engineering Ltd. and found some fundamental omissions. The omissions were that no sound levels were collected, and no topographical data used. These points are obviously critical if the intent of the study was to project future sound levels, as you cannot determine an accurate baseline without these. What data the firm had was placed into a software program that then makes the "projections" based on certain criteria. The missing inputs are the current sound level readings and the topographical information.

These omissions were not intentional on behalf of the contracted engineering firm, but were due to a two-week time frame that was imposed by the Province. The highway21.ca

group in no way holds the engineering firm responsible for the missing information as they worked with what they were given.

With the support of the Strathcona County and Councillors Gariepy, Dunn and Wlodarczak, the "highway21.ca" residents' group has received the necessary funding to complete a comprehensive sound level analysis from Secondary 522 to Highway 16. We have contracted the services of ACI Acoustical Consulting. Dr. Faulkner will be heading up the project. Interestingly, Dr Faulkner's company, ACI Acoustical, was first approached by the Province to conduct the original study. ACI Acoustical declined the project due to the time constraints and was of the opinion there simply was not enough time to compile accurate data and the requested report.

With the funds provided we have also begun the process of setting up a web page that will help the residents stay informed of our progress. "highway21.ca" will be functional in mid-April. The site will have related links and information as well as tips on letter writing to our elected officials, which will be critical as the process advances.

Those who travel Highway 21 know and understand that it needs to be twinned. For the safety of all who use this route and for those whose properties are directly impacted, it needs to be done responsibly.

Update on the hospital

I really have no news on the County's hospital. County Council was advised that all capital projects for health in Alberta are on hold and are under review by the Minister of Health Services. Until he completes that review, we will not know whether or not the planned hospital will go ahead.

Council raises this issue with the Provincial Government representatives

and like us, they do not know what the results will be. I have no doubt the economy has something to do with this review and we will just have to wait the outcome. I suspect we might hear something before you receive this newsletter. Remember, no news is good news, and I would think the budget presentation in early April will clarify the issue for us.

Public members contribute to boards and committees



The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board: Back row, from left: Councillor Roxanne Carr; public members Janine Gilmour, Robert Paul, Paul Barlott; Jamie Sarasin, Administration. Front, from left: Councillor Peter Wlodarczak, Rick Kowalik, SDAB Chair; Maureen Shaw, Administration Missing: Councillor Alan Dunn

Each year, a number of residents offer their time, experience and knowledge as members of boards and committees appointed by Council.

We value the input of these citizens. Whether advisory, decision-making, or quasi-judicial, these committees help shape our community.

The Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) is one of these bodies. It is established under the Municipal Government Act to hear appeals on both subdivision and

development decisions made by the Subdivision Authority or Development Authority of Strathcona County.

Members of the public are appointed to this quasi-judicial board for two-year terms. Our public members bring a wide range of experience to the Board including building and development, planning and law.

Inquiries are always welcome from members of the public who are interested in serving on boards and committees. Call 780-464-8140.

Recreation amenities in Ward 4



Starting in July you will see some construction activity in the northeast portion of McGhan Park. As part of the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy, it was identified that a permanent outdoor rink would be built at the park.

It will be placed near the location where the snowbank rink is located now. This will be a boarded and lighted

rink that can be used in the summer as well for soccer play. During the winter, the facility will be lighted until 9 p.m.

Another trail segment is being built to enhance access to Clover Bar Road and beyond. This segment will be located in the grassy area on the north side of Meadowview Crescent. It is the strip of land between Clarkdale Meadows and Davidson Creek. This new linkage will connect the existing gravel trail located at the southwest side of the Clarkdale Meadows Lake to Meadowview Drive.

Plans going ahead for Silver Birch Lodge

Quite some time ago I provided an update on seniors' housing at Silver Birch Lodge. As you know, Silver Birch and Clover Bar Lodges are County-owned properties that provide accommodation and food services to people of low and modest incomes.

The lodges are operated under an entity called Pioneer Housing Foundation. Three councillors manage this board, and I am one of them. About two and a half years ago, the board recognized that there was a significant need for additional rental accommodation for the seniors we serve. Much work has been done since then.

The design work for a new 60-unit independent living apartment complex has been completed. In addition, the design work is also completed on a significant expansion of Silver Birch Lodge that will bring it up to date and provide some much needed facilities. The new complex will also house the Pioneer Housing Foundation offices.

We are looking at a cost in the range of \$24-\$28 million. No costs have been finalized and we will be going to tender soon. Our initial costs were based on prices from last year and we remain optimistic that prices will go down.

In addition to the funding we have set aside ourselves, we have secured a \$4 million grant from the Provincial Housing Funds. We are looking at the shovels going in the ground early summer with a target date of late 2010 for completion.

In addition to this project, we are also in partnership with the Robin Hood Association and have provided them land on which to build a seniors' complex. In looking at the plans, I am very excited about this project and it will be a great enhancement not only to the Foundation but to the community.