

# 1 Ward

## Ward 1: The backbone of our community

June 2008

### from your County Councillor Vic Bidzinski



Councillor Vic Bidzinski

As this is my first official newsletter, I would like to thank all those residents who have been very helpful by supplying their opinions, information and other relevant data, which have helped me to formulate my decisions on specific issues. While I may not be able to represent everyone's exact views, I believe I have been successful in forwarding the views of a majority of the residents of Ward 1 in those decisions.

I would also like to thank those residents who have brought forward their concerns and problems on specific issues during the past months. I have been able to solve or help correlate a solution on a number of these issues and am still working on a number of others.

If your specific concern has not been addressed to date, please do not worry as I am still addressing a substantial number of issues. It seems to take longer to come to a conclusion when you are dealing in government than in private enterprise but I guess that is reality today.

I am greatly concerned about an issue which will affect all our residents especially those adjoining the Transportation and Utility Corridor (the green belt behind Village on the Lake, Brentwood and Woodbridge Farms). There is talk that a 500-KV transmission line may be slated to use that corridor. On June 18, the Alberta Electric System Operator is holding an open house in Sherwood Park to provide information and hear feedback from the community.

We as residents of the area should

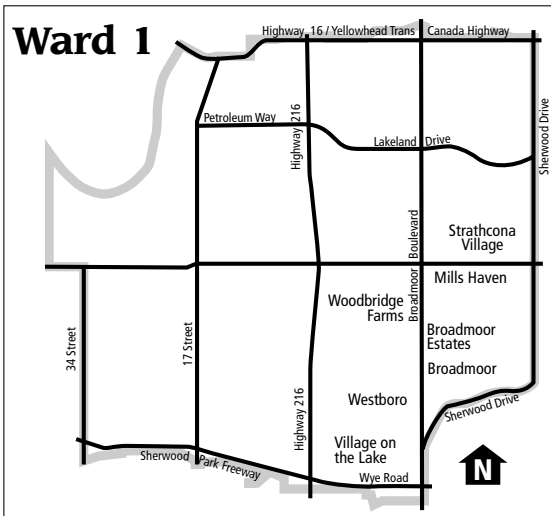
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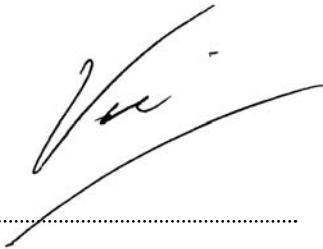
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be concerned about the possibility of a major transmission line running beside our residential areas. To that end I have asked some of our residents to be part of a committee set up by the Alberta Electrical System Operator to review the options open to them concerning this line.

There are a number of projects regarding overlay of our streets slated to be completed this year (e.g. Broadmoor Boulevard from Baseline Road to Sioux Road, plus the Athabasca overlay to name a few). If there are projects or concerns regarding streets, curbs, sidewalks, etc. you feel should be looked after, please do not hesitate to give me a call and I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Council have started the process towards developing and eventually approving our 2009 budget for the municipality. I am of course looking for input for that budget and can assure my residents I will be working towards ensuring that you get the best bang for your buck. I am looking towards approval of a budget that will truly reflect the views of our residents both in monetary as well as needed services.

Thank you again for your confidence and I will work for you to the best of my ability during my tenure as your representative.



## Utility emergency?

**Call 780-467-7785**

If you have sewage backup, or another serious water problem, help is at hand.

The number is 780-467-7785, and if the problem is urgent, the County will respond 24 hours a day.

## Property tax rebate for seniors



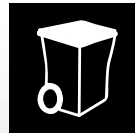
For the first time, Strathcona County seniors on low incomes will receive a rebate of \$100 on their municipal property tax.

To qualify for the rebate, seniors must be 65 or older, own residential

property in Strathcona County, live in Strathcona County and be eligible for the Alberta Seniors' Benefit Program.

There is no need for seniors to apply; the rebates will be processed automatically through a program administered by the Province. The cheques are expected to be mailed in mid-summer.

Council was pleased to approve the rebate as a way of showing our support for people in our community who need assistance. Any questions about the program can be directed to 780-464-8196.



## Get with the GREEN ROUTINE!

### New waste collection system starts in June

On June 16, Strathcona County will introduce improvements to our weekly waste collection system.

By recycling and composting more, we estimate we can divert up to 89 per cent of material from landfill. This is a significant amount, especially as transportation costs continue to rise.

As of the end of this year, the Clover Bar Landfill will no longer accept residential waste collected by Strathcona County. Anything we can do now to begin reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill will be beneficial in the future.

Residents' cooperation is key as we introduce the new system. Containers (glass, metal and plastic) and Styrofoam will be picked up for recycling, as will paper products and cardboard.

By now, or very soon, every household will receive two roll-out carts. The green one is used to

collect organics (kitchen wastes, grass clippings, etc.). These materials make up an estimated 52 per cent of the waste that now goes to landfill. The black cart is for waste.

You'll find a booklet giving full information about the new services delivered with your carts. To help everyone understand the new system, you can also find information on our website, meet our "Street Team" at community events, and call our special phone line, the Green Line, 780-449-5514.

Along with the new collection services, we're also making a change many residents have requested—a fixed day for collection rather than changing after every holiday. Under the new schedule, if your collection day is Wednesday, it will always be Wednesday.

# Improving traffic flow on Wye Road

If you frequently travel on Wye Road, you may have noticed congestion at intersections, particularly during peak traffic periods. This pattern is typical: as roads become busier, intersections are where congestion first becomes apparent.

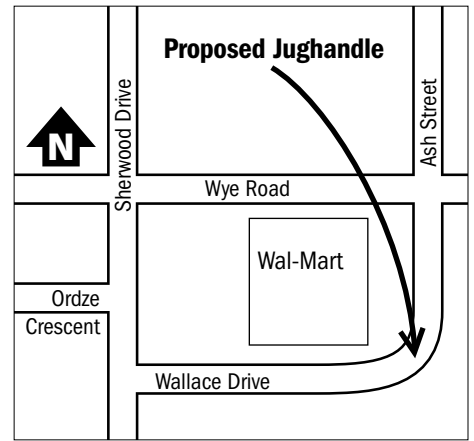
County transportation engineers have been analyzing the situation on Wye Road and recommend measures to ease existing traffic congestion and accommodate the projected traffic growth. The approved stage of the work will start this summer between Ash and Hawthorne Streets.

To improve the intersection of Wye Road and Sherwood Drive, the proposed solution is for what traffic engineers refer to as a “jughandle” intersection.

The benefit of the jughandle is that it provides an additional alternative to

turn left, going southbound off Wye Road heading west, and allows for more efficient movement of traffic at the intersection itself. Timing of the left-hand turn lane will be analyzed. All options are being considered.

Placement of a jughandle at Wye Road and Sherwood Drive will require construction of a new roadway south from Ash Street, looping behind the Wal-Mart, and connecting to Sherwood Drive at the Wallace Drive intersection.



# Centre in the Park/Community Centre

It's an unusual scene at County Hall—a giant crane towering over a huge excavation where the County Hall Annex building and parking lot used to be.

If you haven't been by lately, you may be surprised at the changes, as construction gets underway on the Community Centre.

The Community Centre, scheduled to open in late 2010, is being planned as a centre for culture, services and civic activity in our community.

It will feature a new Strathcona County Library on two levels, a flexible open space called an agora, and meeting rooms for use by community organizations. Art will be displayed throughout the Community Centre, and the indoor areas will be linked to the nearby Volunteer Plaza and Prairie Walk.

For information on parking in and around County Hall during construction, please visit [www.strathcona.ab.ca/Countyhallparking](http://www.strathcona.ab.ca/Countyhallparking).

# Hospital construction to begin soon

One of the most-anticipated facilities for our community will soon be under construction—the Strathcona County Hospital. The hospital will provide a one-stop approach to health care delivery, with both acute care and health promotion services at this one location.

The hospital site is west of Clover Bar Road north of Emerald Drive.

Strathcona's hospital is being planned with 72 acute care beds. Capital Health is already looking to the future needs of the community, planning the facility with the capacity to add another 36 beds in future. Residents will have access to a 24/7 emergency department, obstetrics, surgery, laboratory, pharmacy and rehabilitation services and radiology services.

The hospital site also includes a 20-bed residential facility operated by Children and Adolescent Services Association (CASA) for children and adolescents with mental health problems.

Construction has started on the CASA facility, with work on the hospital to begin in late summer or early fall.

# FIRE OPS 101

"Boy, this weighs a lot!"

Councillor Bidzinski, along with other Council members, had the opportunity to learn first-hand about emergency response at a recent one-day workshop at the Fire Emergency Training Centre at Vermilion. The event was made possible with the help of County fire fighters who volunteered their time and expertise.



# Traffic safety

## Traffic Safety Plan being developed



All Councillors, especially the urban Councillors, receive many complaints from residents about unsafe driving practices and especially speed.

Council has heard this message loud and clear and strives at all times to deal with individual problems as they arise.

This year, Council has authorized administration to take further steps to deal with this. At present, a Traffic Safety Plan is being developed for the County.

This plan will be designed to consider the 4 Es: Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation.

In addition, Council has directed that a person who will be identified as the Traffic Safety Coordinator be retained to implement the plan. This person will coordinate all County action in the area of traffic safety and provide a focal point to ensure plans and actions are coordinated.

This is the first step in many that will be made to enhance traffic safety on the roads.

Summer is approaching and with summer comes more activity. Like me, I am sure you can recount many situations where people speed, disregard stop signs and drive in an otherwise unsafe manner.

Responsibility lies with all of us. Let us make this driving season a safe one. If you see a violation, do not be afraid to record the licence number and report it to the police. They will respond.

Remember, safe and courteous driving begins with each one of us individually.

# History

More people are taking an interest in the history of our community. Here is an overview of one of the most ambitious projects in our community—the Heritage Mile along Broadmoor Boulevard in Sherwood Park.

## Heritage Mile Recognition Project

- The first homes were constructed in Strathcona County’s Hamlet of Sherwood Park in 1955 and therefore the urban community has few sites of historic interest. With a current population exceeding 50,000, all four of the community’s structures of historic interest are fortuitously located on a one-mile strip of one street. The strip runs from Broadmoor Boulevard’s traffic circle to Main Boulevard. It has been dubbed “Heritage Mile” in tribute to Strathcona County’s rural heritage. A project was developed in the mid-1990s to give public recognition to the collective heritage value of the sites on Heritage Mile including Monument Park.
- Lord Strathcona Monument was completed in 2000 under the theme How Strathcona County got its name.
- Monument Park now has six monuments – Lord Strathcona, Great Sentinel Owl, The Political Pole, Horse of Selene, Boisvert Statue and Elzinga Profile.
- A brochure on the Heritage Mile was completed in 2000 with delivery of copies to every household in Strathcona County.
- Site cairns were completed during 2000 with ceremonies at Smeltzer House, Ottewell Centre, Salisbury United Church, Smyth Farm and Monument Park.
- Heritage Mile Guide Book was published in 2001 after extensive research and composition.
- The Lendrum Sisters sculpture and plaza honouring the fourth Heritage



Lendrum sisters statue on Broadmoor Boulevard

Mile pioneer family was unveiled in 2002.

- Legacy Median Trees were commenced in 2003 with the planting of 44 elm trees down the median of Heritage Mile; 50 more trees were planted in 2004.
- Rotary Centennial Plaza commemorating Alberta’s 100th, Sherwood Park’s 50th and other anniversaries was dedicated in 2005.
- Mile in Miniature, a portable display of exact models of Heritage Mile structures was completed for circulation in 2006.
- Salute to Volunteers sculpture, rising 18 feet from Centennial Plaza, was unveiled in 2007.

The Heritage Mile Recognition Project to date has been an outstanding success in enhancing the awareness and appreciation of the general public and, in particular, the residents of Sherwood Park and Strathcona County in their community heritage.

A special thank you to Mr. John Ashton who has spearheaded this project and is the driving force behind it.

# Strathcona County

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