

# Ward 1: The backbone of our community

October 2009

# 1 Ward

## from your County Councillor Vic Bidzinski

WOW! What a start to our fall weather. In all my years living in Strathcona County I have never experienced a better September. We of course deserve it as our summer has not been the greatest.

I want to cover a number of items in this introduction.

### Capital Region Board

The first is the Capital Region Board being put in place by our Region but instigated by our Provincial Government. The first problem I have with this Board is everyone trying to insist this is not another level of government when in fact it is using our tax dollars (whether directly or indirectly) to run its operations and pay extra remuneration to the elected municipal officials who are attempting to put the process together.

My second concern is the apparent ability of this Board once it is formulated to substantially tax (whether directly or by requisition) our residents for services that may not benefit them. These services will be determined directly by Edmonton as they have a veto on all voting matters.



This process could get very interesting and possibly controversial in the next couple of months.

### Taxes

The next item I would like to comment on is of course my favourite and I believe yours—our TAXES. While the Municipal Government Act does restrict a municipality's ability to raise funds for services, I still believe we have some options. I believe we can find, as I have reiterated since I was elected to represent you, efficiencies in our departments and programs that could alleviate substantially any possible increase if one is needed at all.

continued on page 2



**Strathcona**  
County

www.strathcona.ab.ca

## Vic Bidzinski Councillor, Ward 1

Office phone: 780-464-8005

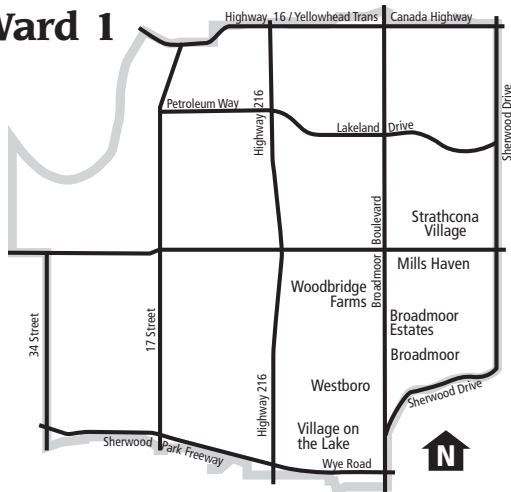
Office fax: 780-464-8114

Residence phone: 780-464-3973

E-mail: bidzinski@strathcona.ab.ca

**FSC logo**

## Ward 1



## What's inside?

- Update on Main Boulevard . . . . . 2
- Power to the people . . . . . 2
- Opening of Florian Playground . . . . . 2
- Getting with the Green Routine . . . . . 3
- Library launches Capital Campaign . . . . . 3
- New and proposed projects in Ward 1 . . . . . 4
- Environmental Sustainability Framework. . . . . 4

**From your County Councillor**  
(continued from page 1)

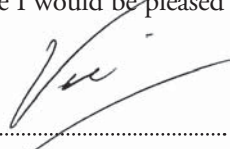
With an election in 2010, I expect our tax increase barring any unforeseen circumstances to be the lowest of this three-year term. We will wait and see.

**Proposed powerline**

I have included an article on the proposed 550 KV powerline in this newsletter. We are earnestly watching any developments on this issue but are amazed at the lack of transparency shown by the players involved.

We do know, however, that the preferred and alternate routes for this line are at present scheduled to be announced by mid-November. We then await a formal application to the AUC (Alberta Utilities Commission) so a hearing can be convened on these routes. Our Council is of course committed to work on your behalf as an intervener at any hearing called by the AUC.

My thanks must go to all of you who work so hard as volunteers, ensuring Strathcona County remains the community of choice in this region. We appreciate your efforts and if you have need of my assistance I would be pleased to help.



**Update on Main Boulevard**

The Main Boulevard Rehabilitation project is now complete. The project started with open houses in 2005 followed by four years of staged construction.

The project introduced two roundabouts, several curb extensions, wider pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and reconstructed asphalt roadway with delineated parking lanes. The project also improved parking at all three schools on Main Boulevard.

Residents' patience and understanding with the construction process is greatly appreciated and helped construction progress smoothly.

**Power to the people  
Power alternatives, not route alternatives**

Why not natural gas generation of power? In the debate about where powerlines should go, the question of whether we need to run those lines isn't being asked. Instead we should be asking about alternatives to powerlines.

The decision of AESO (the Alberta Electric System Operator) to connect the Heartland to Edmonton has pitted local residents against each other. Strathcona County will apply for intervener status to defend our position requiring lines in Strathcona County to be buried. However, the issue of whether there is even a requirement to run those lines has been silenced in the routing debate.

All Albertans should be enraged that these lines, at a huge expense, are being forced on us when better alternatives are available to power the Heartland. Natural gas generation can meet the need as the Heartland grows, and waste heat can be used to warm greenhouses.

The footprint of these generation stations can be accommodated on as little as 20 acres. The ROCA3 plant in the Netherlands is one such example. It provides 220 MV of electricity and 200

MV of heat plus CO<sub>2</sub> to greenhouses up to 15 miles away. There are numerous examples of such opportunities.

The Municipal Development Plan adopted by Strathcona County provides potential zoning opportunities for these synergies.

AESO's decision in a 2008 report is based on 2007 information when there were more than 13 upgraders proposed. Alberta's Industrial Heartland has undergone a paradigm shift in the past two years. A monopoly (or duopoly) in generation has driven industries from the Heartland and Alberta.

Spending money on unnecessary projects such as the Heartland powerline when opportunities for natural gas turbines and district heating systems can be encouraged is not only short sighted, but also an insult to Albertans!



**Opening of Florian Playground**



From left: Councillor Linda Osinchuk, Ward 3; Councillor Vic Bidzinski, Ward 1; Councillor Jason Gariepy, Ward 8; and Councillor Peter Wlodarczak, Ward 4

## New and proposed projects in Ward 1

**Buckingham Business Park:** A new mixed use employment centre that includes a variety of commercial, business, office, and low intensity light industrial park is being proposed for the lands between Costco and Lakeland Drive east of Broadmoor Boulevard. A significant feature of the business park will be the preservation and enhancement of the existing wetland that is currently visible from Broadmoor Boulevard.

**Laurin Industrial:** If you look north of the Sherwood Park Freeway east of 17 Street, you will see new roads and buildings going up as part of the Laurin Industrial Park. This medium industrial subdivision will provide opportunities for additional employment and support for area industries.

**Synergy Wellness Centre:** Development has commenced on the Synergy Wellness Centre at 501 Bethel Drive. The proposed 75,000 square-foot facility is expected to include a number of medical, health and wellness-related services.

**Pioneer Housing Foundation – Silver Birch Lodge expansion:** Development has started on the expansion of Silver Birch Lodge complex for seniors at 910 Bison Way, near the RCMP station. The project includes a new four-storey, 60-suite apartment building, common amenity spaces connecting with the existing Silver Birch Lodge and new offices for the Pioneer Housing Foundation.

**Robin Hood Association—Aspen Village:** Development has commenced on the Aspen Village Residential Housing complex for the Robin Hood Association at 922 Bison Way. The project will include 12 independent living units, 16 assisted living units and common amenity spaces.

## Environmental Sustainability Framework

Consideration for the environment has long been part of the way the County plans and delivers services in the community. We've now taken another major step with Council's approval of the Environmental Sustainability Framework, a strategic foundation that sets priorities and guides planning and programs toward improving our environment.

The framework sets out 10 recommendations to be explored within short-, medium- and long-term time frames. These range from creating an integrated transportation master plan to address efficient multi-modal travel, to developing a water conservation plan related to County practices, to providing engagement, learning and training opportunities to increase staff and resident involvement in the Environmental Sustainability Framework.

The Environmental Sustainability Framework ensures environmental impacts will routinely be considered in all applicable decisions, and as part of the annual business planning and budgeting process. The Framework is primarily intended for use by County staff and Council, though its direction and tools can be helpful to business and community sectors.

The Environmental Sustainability Framework establishes guiding statements that describe success relating to five themes: land, air emissions, energy, water and material use. To measure Strathcona County's progress in these areas, specific goals and indicators have been established to evaluate and achieve greater environmental sustainability for our community.

Within the Environmental Sustainability Framework, a Decision Support Tool has been developed. Working through a series of questions relating to environmental sustainability principles, this tool can help study an initiative, identify information gaps, and ultimately strengthen decision-making on environmental matters.

The Environmental Sustainability Framework acknowledges the effectiveness of existing documents such as Strathcona County's Strategic Plan and the Municipal Development Plan, and recommends the County build on the sustainable momentum created by both.

### Further information

Corporate Planning and  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
780-464-8089

---

## *READ IN Week at Madonna School*



Mr. Ed Mayville, Principal, and Councillor Vic Bidzinski enjoy a moment with students from Madonna School.

## Getting with the Green Routine!

Did you know that we have diverted 16,930 metric tonnes of waste from going to the landfill since June 2008? So how much space does 16,930 tonnes of waste save in the landfill? 59,000 cubic yards or 1,593,000 cubic feet!

Here are some other benefits from recycling materials through the Green Routine instead of making new products:

- **Energy saved** = The amount of energy saved could provide enough electricity for 7,878 homes in Strathcona County for one year. Total savings are 94,532,860 kWh, and the average single family household in North America uses approximately 12,000 kWh per year.
- **Oil saved** = 55,607 barrels
- **Carbon dioxide emission reductions** = 41,278 tonnes (At 6 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes/year for the average car, that is the equivalent of taking 6,880 vehicles off the road in a year.)
- **Water saved from recycling paper** = 162,842,190 litres. This is equivalent to filling the Millennium Place pools 86 times.
- **Trees saved** = 95,443 mature trees (roughly 135 acres of forest).



Get with the **GREEN ROUTINE!**

### Enviroservice events

So far this year, over 1,770 residents have dropped off items at the Enviroservice events. Items include household hazardous waste, oil, batteries, appliances and other materials that should be kept out of the landfill. These items are sent for recycling or proper disposal.

From May to 14 to August 6 we have kept 22 tonnes of paint, 14 tonnes of household hazardous waste and 2,700L of used motor oil from going to the landfill.

## Celebrating our heritage



Earlier this fall, plaques were unveiled at Smeltzer House commemorating the Heritage Mile. This area along Broadmoor Boulevard features statues and plaques commemorating historical highlights of our community. Councillor Bidzinski, right, joins John Ashton, Project Co-ordinator of the Heritage Mile Society, and his wife Ann.

## Library launches Capital Campaign

Strathcona County Library is planning for its exciting move to the new Community Centre late in 2010. The time has come to invite support from the community.

At a recent news conference, Strathcona County Library Board and the Library's Capital Campaign Cabinet announced the community campaign has almost reached half of its goal of \$1.5 million. This will assist purchasing the furnishings, equipment and collections for the new library.

Capital Campaign Co-Chairs Doug Fulford and Flossie Bodell, and Library Board Chair Muriel Abdurahman announced that with almost \$700,000 secured for these expenses, they are asking our residents for donations towards the new public library.

Everyone is hoping for the same enthusiastic support from our community that was shown back in the 1970s, when residents first petitioned for a public library in Strathcona County. The campaign slogan, *Creating the Next Chapter... Together* has been created to inspire the community.

The new library in the Community

Centre will have double its current space, with a total of 64,000 square feet on two floors. Designed to be "the community's living room," there will be room for every user from quiet study spaces to dynamic and interactive children's areas, from a welcoming place for teens to hang out, to lots of cozy nooks for anyone to curl up with a good book.

The new library will feature an Internet café, wireless access throughout the facility, lots of group meeting rooms that can be booked for group study, more rooms for programs and public meetings, a Career Centre, indoor parking for the new Bookmobile (the library on wheels), and lots of flexible spaces to meet the changing needs of our growing community.

Increased space also means more books, DVDs, CDs, kits, and magazines for all age groups. The doors are scheduled to open on November 1, 2010.

To donate to the Capital Campaign fund for Strathcona County Library, check out the website at [www.sclibrary.ab.ca](http://www.sclibrary.ab.ca). You can also pick up a pledge form at the library. Income tax receipts are issued for donations.