



Strathcona County

LIVING



Keeping you informed

June 2017

What happens when life doesn't go as planned?

Social Framework Policy offers a new approach

The world has changed dramatically over the past 10 years, and as our social and economic challenges increase in complexity, something different is required from all of us. Traditional, siloed mandates of government have served us to a point, but if we can shift our behaviours with each other and those we serve, perhaps we can improve outcomes and have a collective impact.

We started a conversation with our community to find out. Nearly 8,000 people who live and work in Strathcona County spoke up. Through surveys and conversations, we listened to personal stories of resiliency.

These conversations allowed for a better understanding of our community's social priorities and experiences, and led to the development of a renewed Social Framework.

A bold, new social direction

On May 23, 2017, Strathcona County Council approved a Social Framework Policy that intentionally shifts how the community collectively works on social priorities in Strathcona County.

The framework's unique approach reflects the ingenuity of the multiple agencies, organizations, government and citizens who co-created it.

"On behalf of Council, I want to acknowledge that this approach is the first of its kind to set forth community-wide outcomes for Strathcona County to achieve, as a whole," says Mayor Roxanne Carr. "This is much more than a municipal policy document. This is a trail-blazing road map, authored and actioned by our community, which sets the direction on how we can best align efforts to meet the varying social needs of those who live and work in Strathcona County."

Four community outcomes

The Social Framework is based on extensive community consultation, and focuses on four community outcomes: i) affordability ii) access to programs and services iii) safety and iv) connectedness and inclusion.



Engaging community leaders

The Social Framework was formed under the guidance and input of a steering committee, represented by an unprecedented mix of senior level representatives from business, emergency services, faith community, Government of Alberta, County departments, health, housing, social serving organizations, Strathcona County Library, school boards, local committees and clubs. These community partners are helping to imagine better ways of thinking and working together to achieve deeper, more durable, sustained impact.

Our new approach

While a traditional service model supports social change, these service silos can sometimes frustrate the user or result in inefficient levels of support. By zooming out to the systems level, we can better identify areas for greater, system-wide, collective impact. This requires a shift in the way we think, behave, and convene; a backbone support to guide the new vision; networks that invite participation; and timely strategic cycles to learn from. Together, we can create a supported, safe and connected community.

The Social Framework has five defining features:

- 1) Commitment to four community outcomes (affordability, access to programs and services, safety, and connectedness and inclusion)
- 2) Focus on key shifts in the way organizations and citizens address social issues
- 3) Creation of networks for participation (serving as an entry point for community members to come together to connect with others to achieve social benefits)
- 4) Utilization of backbone support, from one or more organizations, to support the entire process (guiding visioning and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurement, harnessing public will and facilitating supportive policies)
- 5) Adoption of strategic learning cycles (identifying key issues for capacity building, planning, implementing and evaluating action plans)

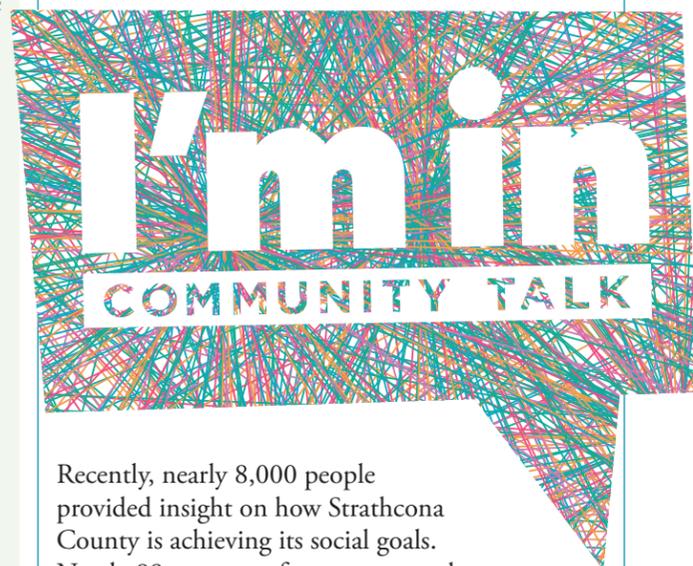
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Be part of a community movement!

You're invited to be a part of the Unity Project, a living art installation that showcases connections in our community. This family-friendly activity celebrates the launch of the renewed Social Framework in Strathcona County.

The interactive art display will be open to the public from June 16 to July 1 at Broadmoor Lake Park (2001 Oak Street, Sherwood Park) from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily. Through this experience, participants will have an opportunity to reflect on how to best create a supported, safe and connected community as part of the Social Framework in Strathcona County.

Participants are invited to reflect on 31 identifiers such as "I volunteer" or "I feel safe in my community" then take a string, loop it around a pole that is connected to the identifiers, and create a web of connection.



Recently, nearly 8,000 people provided insight on how Strathcona County is achieving its social goals. Nearly 88 per cent of survey respondents agreed it's important for people in Strathcona County to feel like they belong and are connected to each other. The Unity Project is an innovative and interactive art display that highlights the connections and uniqueness of our community and helps us identify ways we can contribute to our community.

Find out more at www.strathcona.ca/communitytalk or call 780-464-4044.



We hope you enjoy this edition

There's more news inside, from the Social Framework Policy, to Pride of Strathcona Awards recipients, to a new approach to community hall sustainability, and an update on the Emerald Hills Leisure Centre.

Social Framework Policy offers a new approach

...continued from front page

The Social Framework in action

The following stories, either existing or newly proposed initiatives, illustrate the Social Framework in action.

Bridging gaps: increasing affordability



What if ... there was a way to combine local efforts to better support those who are fleeing violence and need local housing that is affordable?

- A Safe Place, Heartland Housing Foundation, and two local churches are partnering to provide stable, affordable housing while women and their children start a new, violence-free chapter in their lives. A Safe Place provides emotional support to the mother, while Heartland Housing Foundation will lease the home and act as property manager. The churches will provide a rent supplement that will make the home affordable for the family in transition.

Community hub: increasing access to programs and services



What if ... there was a single location in Strathcona County where someone could help you navigate and recommend services and supports that best address your needs?

- Strathcona County is exploring a 'community hub' model of services to better meet our community's needs. This one-stop shop could be a physical location as well as a virtual online portal, where social support and information would be available to citizens when and where they need it.

Collective action on risk: increasing safety



What if ... multiple partners in our community could combine efforts and resources to address issues before they escalate?

- The Violence Threat Risk Assessment model is a community-based approach to safety, made possible through an innovative partnership between Elk Island Public and Elk Island Catholic School Boards, RCMP and others. This initiative is designed to identify and prevent youth violence before it escalates. Partners work together alongside youth to address any concerning behaviours before they escalate to violent ones.

Anxiety support group: increasing connectedness and inclusion



What if ... a couple of citizens who have had their own struggles with mental health used their learning and wisdom to support others who are struggling with the same thing?

- Dealing with mental health issues can be a lonely and isolating experience, and no one knows this better than people who have experienced it themselves. The Sherwood Park Anxiety Support Group is convened by community members every month to create a network of support. By providing a safe and non-judgmental environment, the support group aims to break the stigma that mental health issues should be kept silent. A local church is providing the meeting space, free of charge, and the group continues to grow in membership.

For a full listing of the change stories, download your copy of the Social Framework document at www.strathcona.ca/communitytalk or call 780-464-4044 to request a copy. This renewed Social Framework replaces the previous Social Sustainability Framework, passed by Council in 2007.

2017 Municipal Election

Top 3 ways a citizen can participate!

- **Run as a candidate**
 - Candidate Information Guide now available
 - Candidates intending to run must register with the municipality prior to accepting or using funds or donations for the purpose of campaigning
 - Nomination Day is September 18, 2017
- **Become an election worker**
 - Play important role in electoral process
 - Short-term, temporary work
 - Serve your community
- **Make a plan to come out and VOTE!**

Voters will elect the positions:

 - Mayor and Councillors (8) for Strathcona County
 - Board Trustees
 - Elk Island Public Schools
 - Elk Island Catholic Schools

Visit www.strathcona.ca/election
Your source for all Election 2017 information!



Community association feedback results in new partnership approach

Community associations organize wellness activities, social events, learning programs, and celebrations. Whatever the activity, your local community leagues and seniors' associations are bringing neighbours together, creating a sense of belonging, connection and community.

Many community activities take place at County-owned, community-operated halls and centres. Strathcona County recently gathered input from the people who run these facilities to better understand their challenges, experiences and best practices.

At a May 12 open house and barbecue at the Bremner Heritage Site, the County kicked off a new partnership approach to building strong communities with leagues and associations.

The new approach is based on what was heard through the Community Hall Sustainability Study. It aims to expand County services so leagues and their volunteers can spend more time bringing quality

programs and events to the community, and less time maintaining rural and urban community halls and seniors' centres.

From plumbing to plowing to playgrounds, Strathcona County will provide facility maintenance and support to the halls. Contact Offices are now the first point of contact to connect with these many supports and services. Broadband Wi-Fi service is expanding to and improving in all community halls and seniors' centres, thanks to the efforts of Strathcona County, Strathcona County Library, Shell Canada Ltd., and local internet service providers.

In addition to the County and library, the Information and Volunteer Centre is also ready to support community leagues and seniors' associations. The goal of the new approach is to remove the barriers to success so we can make great communities together.



Community initiatives

Bringing neighbours together — community gardens

Community Gardens is the first program to come out of the County's Urban Agriculture Strategy and we couldn't be more excited.

In April, Council approved a Community Garden Policy, which recognizes community gardening as a valuable activity that contributes to the community. Strathcona County is working to build a program that will help connect residents who are interested in gardening.

Watch for us at local events near you, as we spend the summer mapping interest in our communities. We will be gathering interest so we can plan to proceed with where to install gardens in the coming seasons.

The biggest thing to keep in mind is that community gardens are about community! They are places where neighbours can come together, get to know one another, and grow a feeling of community (and veggies, of course). This means that their development requires neighbourhood interest, people power and a plan. All of this takes time to create, rally and collect.

Missed us at an event? Find out more about the new community garden program, or express your interest in participating in community gardens in your area: www.strathcona.ca/communitygarden

The Urban Agriculture Strategy sets a vision for urban agriculture in the County. It was developed with resident feedback on topics including school and community gardens, urban farms, recommendations for the Animal Control Bylaw and bee habitats.



Congratulations!

2017 Pride of Strathcona Awards recipients



The 2017 Pride of Strathcona Awards recipients have distinguished themselves, and contributed to our community in many ways. Esteemed mentors, leaders, community builders and ambassadors were celebrated at the Pride of Strathcona Awards ceremony on Monday, June 12, at Festival Place.

Mayor's Award

Edwin Riediger

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Bonnie Ferguson
Lilly Kleinke

Community Service

Wilson Bearhead
Sheila Smyth

Outstanding Group

Linking Generations
Strathcona County Victim Services Advocates

For more information about the Pride of Strathcona Awards, visit www.strathcona.ca/pride.

County Initiatives

Let's dive in! Emerald Hills Leisure Centre

Previously published in the Sherwood Park News
Strathcona County's newest swim facility is remarkable, even from a distance. Its bold, white and glass-panelled geometric shapes stand out against the sky. As stunning as the Emerald Hills Leisure Centre looks from the outside, what's inside is equally impressive.

While the leisure centre was originally designed to host only one pool, community engagement prompted the County to expand the scope by adding a second pool and movable floor to provide increased accessibility and enhanced training for seniors, people with disabilities and children.

The resulting budget changes, discussed and approved in a public forum, have proven to be a wise decision. The County's capacity for swimming lessons doubled, with the creation of up to 1,800 new spaces per session. Since opening this past fall, the Emerald Hills Leisure Centre has welcomed nearly 9,000 swimming

lesson registrants, along with over 13,500 people who have signed up for fitness classes or enjoyed a leisurely swim in the design award-winning pool.

For our residents, Emerald Hills Leisure Centre has quickly become an aquatic hub, providing a safe, friendly environment for all ages and abilities, from young babies splashing around to seniors with reduced mobility.

While swimming can be a lot of fun, the two-year design and construction process was serious business. The result, according to project manager Bill Vance with Marshall Tittlemore Architects, is a facility that is innovative in all respects, including master planning, functional programming, technical system integration and architectural expression. The unique design of the leisure centre also caught the attention of the Alberta Steel Design judges who awarded RJC Engineers with the Building Communities Award in May.

Let's dive in!

One of the first things visitors will notice is a greater number of universal change facilities available; almost half of all change area space has been designed in this style to better meet a variety of needs. The experience is also enhanced thanks to a highly efficient pool filtration system that uses salt water and carbon dioxide.

Featuring three specialized pools, the leisure centre is fully equipped to focus on learn-to-swim programs: a six-lane, 25-metre lap swim pool; a four-lane 25-metre pool with adjustable floor; and a children's learning pool. There's also a whirlpool and a steam room.

Accessibility remains a design priority throughout, with ramps in all the pools, as well as an adjustable floor in the teaching pool. These special features make recreation a more inclusive experience and promote well-being for individuals undergoing rehabilitation or therapy.

While the entire community can be proud of this space that connects people, and promotes healthy and active lifestyles, the strong partnerships that made it happen are worth celebrating.

The project was made possible thanks to \$21 million from the Government of Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiative, with Strathcona County providing the balance towards the total cost of \$29 million. This provincial-municipal collaboration was further supported by the Elk Island Catholic School Board, with Archbishop Jordan High School physically connected to the leisure centre. This partnership serves as a model for schools and recreation facilities working together to promote recreation and health.

The facility's proximity to the school even provides opportunities for science-related learning with a group of students coming over to study pool operations and water chemistry. The initial experience was so positive that plans are already underway to continue with similar sessions.

A place for learning, athletic training, physical therapy or simply splashing around with friends and family, Emerald Hills Leisure Centre is helping the community stay healthy and active today, and into the future.



Savour Strathcona

Savour is back for another year, celebrating the best independent food and art in Strathcona County! Come and sample locally-sourced gourmet dishes from restaurants and food trucks while enjoying our outstanding musical lineup at the outdoor main stage. Browse the work of the local artisans. Don't forget to bring the kids, we've got activities for them as well.

Sunday, July 9, 2017

4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Community Centre – Agora, 401 Festival Lane

Admission: FREE

Taste tickets: \$1 each

www.strathcona.ca/savour



Go for gold!

Trying to maintain a green lawn all summer involves a lot of effort and uses a lot of precious water. Allow your lawn to “go golden” during warm and dry weather periods.

When the temperature rises, extended dry conditions persist and outdoor watering increases, putting a high demand on our water system. This can lead to water restrictions and bans. By letting your lawn go golden, you will help conserve the water we have for critical activities like firefighting, drinking, cooking and showering. Once the rain comes, your lawn will be lush and green again.



What to do during a water restriction

We understand that water restrictions are not convenient, but when they are called, we need your cooperation. During a water restriction, residents are asked to reduce their non-essential water use. This can include activities such as:

- not watering lawns, trees and gardens
- taking short, five-minute showers
- not washing vehicles, driveways and house exteriors
- postponing laundry and dish washing
- waiting to fill hot tubs, pools or large aquariums
- turning off taps while shaving and brushing your teeth
- flushing toilets only when necessary

During periods of hot, dry weather, County departments often have already discontinued certain activities, like firefighting training, street sweeping, hydrant flushing, and park watering, or closing most spray parks. These are important activities, but can often be postponed until water supply conditions improve.

Get notified

Sign up to receive Strathcona County Alerts at www.strathcona.ca/scalerts or 780-410-8550. Receive alerts where and when you want: text, phone and email. Water ban notifications will also be posted on the County's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Community events

Canada 150 celebrations under way

Below is a short list of activities and events being held this summer to celebrate Canada's 150 anniversary. For a complete listing and event details, go to www.strathcona.ca/residents/canada150

June 15	Community Talk: I'm in 4 p.m. Broadmoor Lake Park
June 17	Everybody Gets to Play Summer Play Day 1 p.m. Ardrossan Recreation Complex
June 25	Heritage Tea 1 p.m. Smeltzer House
July 1	Community Piano Project 10 a.m. Community Centre Plaza
July 7	Retailles Exhibit by Joe Fafard Gallery@501
July 11	CommuniTEA Pond Parties Campbell Park Storm Water Pond 6:30 p.m.
July 19	Village on the Lake Storm Water Pond 6:30 p.m.
August 1	Craigavon Meadows Storm Water Pond 6:30 p.m.
July 19	Everybody Gets to Play Summer Play Day 11 a.m. Broadmoor Lake Park
August 5 to 20	Chautauqua Tent Broadmoor Lake Park
Sept. 9	Quiet Stories from Canadian Places Exhibit Gallery@501
Sept. 24	Strathcona Wilderness Centre Fall Open House 1 p.m. Strathcona Wilderness Centre

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Community Heritage

The past where we live

Have you ever wondered ... How did Strathcona County become the specialized municipality it is today? What was life like for indigenous peoples before settlement? Why did settlers move here? Why is Strathcona County both urban and rural? These questions and more are answered in a video series called, **The past where we live**.

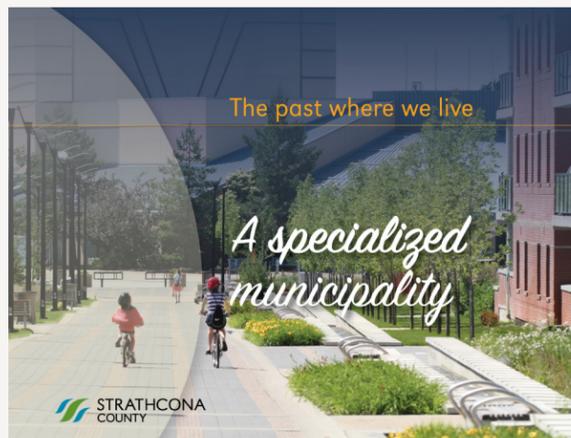
Strathcona County has grown rapidly in recent years. Many residents have moved here from somewhere else and may be missing out on a real understanding of the County's history and heritage.

In 2016, Strathcona County produced two short videos to share some of the back story of this unique

municipality. These videos were produced to give residents a sense of place and a greater appreciation of Strathcona County's origins as a municipality, and of its cultural and natural heritage.

We consider these videos only an introduction — a backdrop to many more accounts of local history to be found on the County website and at the Strathcona County Museum and Archives.

Combined, the two videos are 20 minutes in length. You can find them on the history section on Strathcona County's website www.strathcona.ca/history and on YouTube.



A specialized municipality explores Strathcona County's municipal history, how the County has developed and changed over time. Learn about its name, its boundaries and how it came to be a specialized municipality.



A rich and plentiful country depicts the natural resources that have drawn people here and the industries that developed as a result of these natural resources.

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