



# Strathcona County

# LIVING



Keeping you informed

June 2015

## Message from your Mayor and County Council

### It's a brand new day!



Mayor Roxanne Carr

Earlier this year, Council and our senior executive team met to develop outcome statements for our 12 prioritized strategic goals. Our prioritized strategic goals comprise the base of our strategic plan - Powering our New Tomorrow, which is available on the Strathcona County website ([www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca)).

What we didn't know at that time was, Albertans

would be going to the polls and electing a majority New Democratic Party (NDP) government. This is certainly a historical time in our province. This is the first time the NDP has governed Alberta, and that will provide the province and our County with new opportunities.

More than 50 per cent of eligible voters in our County actively participated in this democratic process; and the Sherwood Park riding had the highest voter turnout in the province, with 66.4 per cent.

On behalf of Council, I'd like to congratulate Premier Rachel Notley and her government on a well-run campaign and an outstanding win.

Within hours of the polls closing, several members of our Council reached out to new Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). We congratulated the incoming MLAs: Annie McKittrick (Sherwood Park), Estefania Cortes-Vargas (Strathcona-Sherwood Park) and Jessica Littlewood (Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville).

We also offered our sincere thanks to our former MLAs – Dave Quest, Jacquie Fenske and Cathy Olesen for working hard and representing our community with professionalism and dedication during their terms.

Recognizing we'd entered into an exciting new era, Council quickly came together to talk about the outcome of the election. It's hard to imagine the steep learning curve our MLAs are facing; however, we're confident that all three are up for the challenge. Our Council has already reached out to support our new MLAs and our new government. During this meeting, we also revisited our 12 prioritized strategic goals to determine where and how they align with the new provincial government's vision for the province.

Our County is a specialized municipality, which means our opportunities and challenges are complex and diverse in nature. What we absolutely don't want to do is to use a "fire hose approach" to get our new MLAs acquainted with our County's priorities and concerns quickly. I began by having a high-level discussion with Ms. McKittrick, MLA for Sherwood Park, to talk about some of our County's most important issues and opportunities.

I met with all three local MLAs to extend Council's support, while they transition into their new roles. We hope to continue these types of discussions on a frequent basis, over the next four years.

We're also trying to find a time in our MLAs' busy calendars during the summer to tour them through our municipality. The tour will give them a better understanding of our County's unique strengths and demonstrate how our "specialized municipality model" creates greater sustainability. The tour will include showcasing the unique blend of local primary agriculture production and opportunities for industrial and residential growth and development.

### Win-win opportunities that support government and County priorities

Strathcona County has a number of innovative initiatives in the works that align with the government's priorities and will enhance Albertans' health and well-being, in the short-term.

### Affordable housing

The NDP platform speaks about affordable housing being a priority, which is a direct connect to the work that is being done through our Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing. Our collaborative partnership with Heartland Housing Foundation is ensuring residents, who live in Silver Birch and Clover Bar lodges are receiving appropriate, consistent care, which allows them to live safely and with as much independence as possible. As a result, our residents are aging in place, and maintaining family and community connections. Right now, we're ready and waiting to expand Silver Birch Lodge. The plans are complete, the needs assessments are done and the building is prepared for expansion. The County is supportive of this proposed expansion to meet some of the identified housing needs of our community, and will continue working with the Heartland Housing Foundation Board.

Within the County, the availability of housing types, along the entire spectrum, is important. Young people, some of whom are students, need a place to live and seniors have to be able to stay in their homes as long as possible. Between these two ends are many other types of housing issues that the County must address in the next generation, if we are to be truly a sustainable "whole" community.

### Innovative community care solutions

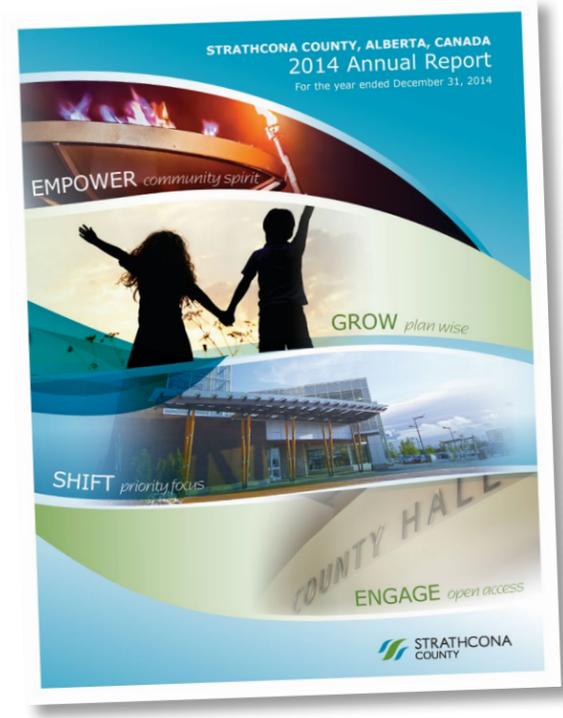
We have an amazing relationship with the province as a pilot community for some "outside the box" social programming through our Family and Community Services Department.

Strathcona County's Social Model of Care is based on principles of independence, autonomy, respect, caring, safety and affordability. Our municipal home care services are directed by the client and their family. In our partnership with Heartland Housing Foundation, the care provided by experienced and well-trained staff enables seniors to remain in the lodge significantly longer than is typical in other lodge settings. This care has been shown to reduce the amount of time spent either in nursing homes or receiving hospital care. This is a unique project piloted through a contract with Alberta Health Services and Strathcona County.

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Strathcona County's 2014 Annual Report shares our financial performance and highlights of our accomplishments over the past year.

View online at [www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca) or call 780-464-8053 for a copy.



## How the water flows: pipes, pumps and people

Water isn't something we think about, until it's not readily available.

For two days in April during a ban on non-essential water use, residents relied on water stored in three of our reservoirs. One of our main water supply lines for the community was shut down to support construction of the Anthony Henday freeway.

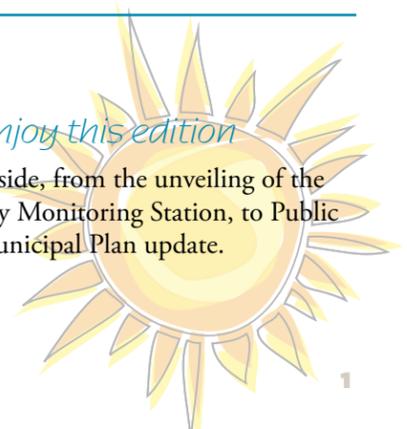
The weeks and days leading up to the shutdown were a flurry of activity for Utilities employees. There were planning meetings, information gathering, reviewing emergency plans, and making major operational changes to ensure our community's storage supplies would sustain the shutdown.

During the ban, the level of water stored in our reservoirs didn't go below 60 per cent, which was better than expected. Thank you to the residents and businesses for changing daily routines and reducing water use: it isn't convenient but is necessary to act when asked.

*continued on page 4...*

## We hope you enjoy this edition

There's more news inside, from the unveiling of the Ardrossan Air Quality Monitoring Station, to Public Works Week, to a Municipal Plan update.



## Message from your Mayor and County Council It's a brand new day!

...continued from front page

We also have a very successful community hospital that was built with expansion in mind. Our Council is eager to open the lines of communication with the new government to discuss opportunities at the current site. Proactive and innovative health solutions are a priority for government and the idea of a "Centre of Excellence" in community health provision follows Council's vision for Strathcona County, to become "Canada's most livable community".

We are asking the provincial government to complete an annual assessment of our hospital and enter into an in-depth discussion with key stakeholders (i.e. citizens and primary care doctors) about the most effective use of our hospital as the focal point for a Community Care Centre of Excellence. Being a mix of urban and rural communities, we believe we have the right ingredients for a mutually beneficial conversation going forward – leading the way with an innovative approach to health care delivery.

### Need for a new courthouse

Our current courthouse is an ongoing concern for the community. One need only visit the facility to understand why. Strathcona County has a real desire to discuss solutions to resolve this important issue and Council will be in contact with our new Ministers of Infrastructure and Justice and Solicitor General soon to look at how court services are best delivered in the County and region.

### Being a specialized municipality and municipal funding

As the Municipal Government Act was opened to discuss the province's rules of engagement with municipalities, so was a discussion about a big city charter and how all sizes of municipalities will best function in our diverse provincial landscape going forward.

Strathcona County is quite appreciative of the fact the NDP platform stated that they support the continuation of Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding. However, we'd like to see an increase in MSI levels for critical municipal infrastructure included in the upcoming budget. We'll also continue to stress the importance of linear property assessment, which includes assigning value to rail and pipelines that run through our County, to ensure our province approaches this critical issue fairly and with the best interest of all municipalities in mind.

### More opportunities for further discussion

Council trusts our new government will see the value in cooperating with Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) to continue to encourage foreign investment. As Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing region, with more than \$30 billion in capital investment to date, it's one of the most successful municipal economic development models in Alberta. It's built on a model of collaboration and alliances that generate jobs for our sub-region.

The energy sector is Alberta's main economic driver; therefore, the new NDP government has much to gain by reviewing investment opportunities and infrastructure needs of this industry. We also believe establishing a Royalty Credit Program for propane will result in an immediate win, by creating new energy-based, value-added investment that will bring more jobs and revenue to Strathcona County and the Capital region.

Strathcona County supports regional collaboration – building on our strengths as a region, while respecting municipal boundaries and governance. We encourage the government to reach out to the Capital Region Board (CRB), because the board is one of the more successful collaboration of municipalities in the province today, with 24 municipalities participating on the board.

With resources and support, the CRB continues its efforts to complete a growth plan and transportation strategy, which will create strong and sustainable sub-regional alliances around a healthy metro core area.

As we continue to progress, we know we all need to roll up our sleeves; and I promise you – Council and our senior management team are ready to continue our work, advancing the County's priorities.

We look forward to working closely with our regional MLAs and the government of Alberta, along with our other regional partners, including the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) and other partners on the opportunities I have highlighted, as well as others as they develop.



Mayor Roxanne Carr

## Awarded contracts now online

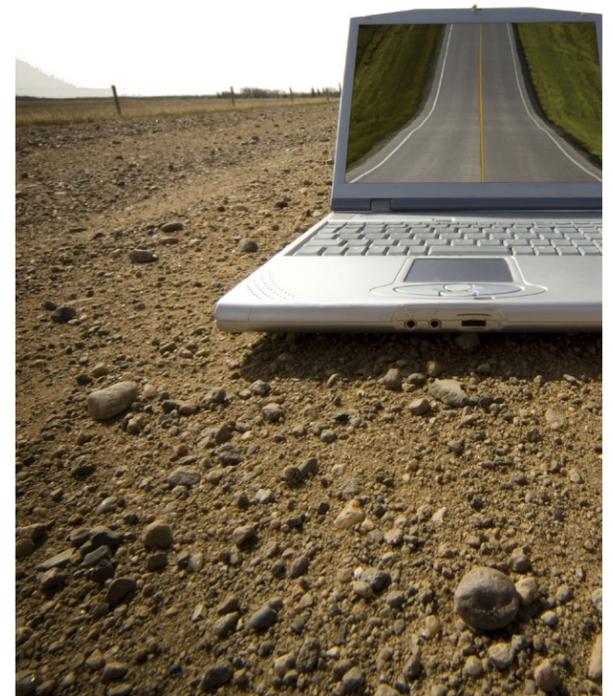
A quick tour of our community reveals signs of the municipality at work for you... whether you've enjoyed a workout at Millennium Place, visited the Community Centre to return a library book or attend a meeting, or slowed down to wave at construction workers who are improving the roadways.

Often going unnoticed; however, are the behind-the-scenes procurement efforts. Strathcona County staff facilitate the public procurement of construction, services and goods that ensure the County runs smoothly day-to-day, and continues to plan and build for the future.

Thanks to a new County initiative—the Notice of Awarded Contracts Program—it is now possible to go online to view information about contracts awarded by the County each month. Awarded contracts data for April and May is available at [www.strathcona.ca/contracts](http://www.strathcona.ca/contracts) and new contract awards will be posted at the start of each month.

Taking the extra step to post information online about awarded contracts is part of the County's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability. The program is also another way we use our Open Data portal to provide convenient, free and open access to government information.

For more information about the Notice of Awarded Contracts Program, contact Procurement Services, 780-410-8507.



## County initiatives

### Strathcona County Municipal Development Plan update

Strathcona County is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP), which is the County's plan for the future. It sets out a clear vision for how Strathcona County will grow and develop over the next 20 years or more, and guides decisions on key issues, like conservation of the natural environment and investment in infrastructure and services.

Since the MDP was last updated in 2007, the County has welcomed more than 10,000 new residents. This growth means we need to ensure that development of urban and rural communities is sustainable and maintains a high quality of life for current and future residents. The new MDP will also reflect recent studies, as well as key trends and best practices.

Over a 10-month period, we are asking residents, business owners, and community stakeholder groups to share what they value most about Strathcona County, and to weigh in on how the County can build on our strengths while planning for the future.

The MDP update process kicked off with an



### STRATHCONA COUNTY MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

interactive public launch event on May 7 at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park. The event raised awareness about the project and opportunities to get involved, provided information about the County's growth and related issues, and gathered feedback from a range of people. The input we received will help us draft an overarching vision and set of goals as part of our development of the updated MDP.

Participants came up with some great ideas and told us about their key values and concerns. Important topics included transportation, industry, urban and rural balance, protection of natural areas and agricultural lands, housing affordability, and services and housing for seniors.

We are now entering Phase 2 of this process and want to hear from residents and stakeholders from across the County on key topics the new MDP must address.

### What's next?

In Phase 2 we will build on community input to date and explore some early ideas for updating the Municipal Development Plan.

We encourage you to attend interactive workshops to learn about and discuss key topics for the MDP update. Dates, locations and times have been advertised in the local paper and can be found on the project website at [www.strathcona.ca/MDP](http://www.strathcona.ca/MDP). These small-group, discussion-based workshops are designed to help you and your neighbours hear from and learn from each other, as well as from planning staff and consultants. Share your ideas!

Stay up to date on the project by signing up to our project mailing list at [www.strathcona.ca/MDP](http://www.strathcona.ca/MDP). You can also visit this website to learn more about the MDP update, check out our whiteboard video, find out about upcoming engagement activities, and view input as it is gathered.



Your community

## Canada is 148 and feeling great!

Grab your friends and family to experience one of the region's largest Canada Day celebrations, attracting more than 30,000 people to Broadmoor Lake Park in Sherwood Park.

July 1, 2015 marks 20 years for Strathcona County hosting the nation's birthday bash and we've got some big plans for this year's celebration!

The festival kicks off at 9 a.m. with the Axiom Mortgage Solutions Pancake Breakfast and stage show in the Community Centre (located at 401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park). At 10 a.m., the Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce Parade will wind its way around the community, starting along Festival Way and ending at the Sherwood Park Mall.

An exciting addition to this year's festival is the official opening of the much-anticipated Broadmoor Lake Park and Spray Park! Join Mayor Roxanne Carr and Council for the grand opening ceremony at the spray park at 12 noon.

This year's festival will see many favourite activities return, including zipline, canoe rides, inflatable bouncy castles, petting zoo, pony rides and much more. Other fun activities include 3D hockey, sand fun and volleyball, dinosaur explore, simulator, laser tag, rat race and tots land.

Little ones are also invited to meet (and hug!) the lovable Octonauts during a meet and greet at 1:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

There will also be lots of activities celebrating the 50 anniversary of the Canadian Flag, as well as lots of exciting interactive multicultural activities

and performances. In honour of the Year of Sport, the Edmonton Eskimos Cheer Team and a few Edmonton Oil Kings hockey players will also be on site.

While the majority of activities are free, some do require tickets or the Sherwood Park Mall unlimited activity wristband, which grants unlimited access to the ticketed activities and alleviates line ups at the ticket booths. Sherwood Park Mall unlimited activity wristbands can be purchased from Sherwood Park Mall, Recreation Administration Office, Kinsmen Leisure Centre, Millennium Place, and Festival Place. Purchase your wristband for \$5 from June 1 - 30. On July 1, tickets can be purchased on site for \$1 per activity at ticket booths.

Festivities will wrap up with an exciting performance from Lighthouse. At 11 p.m., all eyes will be on the sky to watch the spectacular fireworks display from Sobeys Lakeland and Nottingham.

There are still volunteer opportunities available for the Canada Day festivities. Each volunteer will receive a free t-shirt, beverages and food during the festival, and FREE transit within Sherwood Park from your local bus station to the Park N Ride. Anyone volunteering for eight hours or more also receives an exclusive invite to the VIP tent to watch the headlining performer and fireworks.

For more details, call 780-467-2211. Be sure to download the free Canada Day app for a complete listing of all the events, maps and schedules.

[www.strathcona.ca/events](http://www.strathcona.ca/events)

## Forget the weather. Check the Air Quality Health Index.

Before you head outdoors, look for the little green leaf. It's on the home page of the Strathcona County website ([www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca)) beside the weather icon. Even if you're relatively healthy, fit and active, you can consult the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to decide whether to adjust, reduce or reschedule daily activity during times of increased air pollution.

The AQHI data comes from the new Ardrossan Air Quality Monitoring Station, which was unveiled as part of Clean Air Day celebrations on June 3. A partnership initiative between the Strathcona Industrial Association (SIA) and Strathcona County, the station incorporates leading-edge technology and is poised to gather valuable information pertaining to voluntary air quality monitoring and measurement in the region.

It represents a new standard for air quality monitoring excellence in the province and supports one of the guiding themes in Strathcona County's Environmental Sustainability Framework.

The new station fills a gap in an area previously not monitored. Over the last four decades, SIA has built a robust ambient air quality monitoring network in the region. The new Ardrossan site will complement SIA's existing stations located in Sherwood Park, Gold Bar and Beverly. These stations are responsible for gathering scientifically valid air quality information that is shared on the Alberta Capital Airshed website ([www.capitalairshed.ca](http://www.capitalairshed.ca)) and used to inform the AQHI.

Strathcona County includes part of the Beaver Hills Moraine, home to hundreds of wildlife and plant species, and diverse habitats worthy of conservation. It's also home to 75 per cent of petrochemical refining in Western Canada. A specialized municipality, with a large urban population and significant rural territory, the County works with industry and regional partners and other levels of government to support sustainable economic growth, which includes maintaining air quality.



Strathcona Industrial Association president, John Prusakowski; Strathcona County Mayor, Roxanne Carr; Alberta Capital Airshed board member, Brent Korobanik; and manager of Strathcona County environmental planning, Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug.

## Taxi bylaw coming soon to Strathcona County

### A safe ride for taxi drivers and passengers

A taxi ride is the same whether you're travelling down Whyte Avenue or Baseline Road, right? Not quite.

It all depends on the regulations in place for each municipality's taxi industry.

Starting on July 1, 2015, taxi cab passengers and drivers in Strathcona County will benefit from a new bylaw that focuses on public safety, quality service and customer protection for the taxi industry.

Under Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw 20-2013, passengers will be assured that the taxi driver is licensed by the County, with a criminal record check and a driving record that meets the required standards, and that the taxi vehicle undergoes a yearly inspection.

In specific situations, the bylaw also provides measures for taxi drivers to refuse service to a passenger, for example, to someone who is being disorderly or abusive to the driver, or who requests the driver carry passengers or luggage that the vehicle is incapable of carrying.

The bylaw puts regulations in place where none existed before in Strathcona County. As such, all taxi owners and operators in the County will be required to obtain the necessary permits before July 1, 2015, when the bylaw will be actively enforced. RCMP and Enforcement Services are the lead departments responsible for the administration and implementation of the taxi bylaw.

"These regulations were developed with the intent to foster safety and quality service in the taxi industry,"

says Mayor Roxanne Carr. "With the bylaw in place, taxi passengers in the County will be confident in knowing what to look for—such as the taxi driver's permit, taxi vehicle number and inspection decal—when hiring a taxi cab."

Work on the bylaw began in February 2013, when Council directed administration to investigate options for regulating taxi cabs within the County. In developing the bylaw, the County also met with taxi owners and operators to discuss the need to implement regulations for this industry.

Before hopping into a taxi in July, remember to look for the bylaw permit indicating the taxi driver and vehicle are licensed by the County.

Further information about the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw, including FAQs and more about what passengers and drivers can expect, is available at [www.strathcona.ca/taxi](http://www.strathcona.ca/taxi) or by calling Enforcement Services at 780-449-0170.



## Community begins here

### County celebrates Public Works Week

Pothole-free roads. Safe and efficient intersections. Beautiful trails with good signage. A nice, cold glass of water. All depend on the people who work on quality maintenance and infrastructure.

Strathcona County celebrated Public Works Week May 17-23 with a “community begins here” theme. The week highlighted the importance of the work that goes



Residents recently participated in a water ban, while the main water line into Sherwood Park was modified to accommodate upgrades to the Anthony Henday. Our employees ensure 23.1 million litres of safe, clean reliable water are distributed every day... that's equivalent to over 16 lap pools at Millennium Place! As well, 18.3 million litres of wastewater is sent daily for treatment.



It's all about that waste, with close to 28,000 waste collection customers each week. Our employees pick up an additional 23,800 carts, for a total of 51,545, during weekly organics collection from mid-May to mid-October. Reminder: plastic bags can't go in your organics bin!

on behind the scenes to maintain the essential services that support our everyday quality of life. Without the work of the men and women of public works, there would be no community to police and protect, no public to lead or represent. Community begins here speaks to the essential nature of infrastructure, enabling citizens to succeed and prosper.



Pulverizing the road in Beverly Hills subdivision in rural Strathcona County - Strathcona County has 394 km of urban roads and 1,310 kilometres of rural roads... that's the distance from Edmonton to Winnipeg!



It's our people working behind the scenes who help support the quality of life we enjoy. Working in many departments, in various job functions, we celebrate their dedication and commitment to our community.

### How the water flows: pipes, pumps and people

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Whether it's when you turn on the tap, flush your toilet or let water go down the drain, there's a lot involved behind the scenes, even on a regular day. Access to safe, clean, reliable water involves a complex water system. There are reservoirs, pumps, pipes, valves and most importantly, the people who manage and maintain the system.

### Water management is a regional effort

Strathcona County is part of a large regional network of water systems with other communities in the Capital region. We all work together to make sure our water is managed in an effective and responsible way.

### Water conservation begins with you

Whether it's for a water ban or just good water conservation practices, make sure your fixtures (both inside and outside) and your toilets are operating properly and leak free. Leaks may go undetected in your home over a long period of time, costing you hundreds of dollars per year. Something as simple as a leaky toilet can add up to 350,000 litres of wasted water in a year - that's enough to fill up a swimming pool! [www.strathcona.ca/savewater](http://www.strathcona.ca/savewater)

### Water bans and restrictions

Most often we think water restrictions will occur in the summer during long periods of hot, dry weather. But did you know water restrictions can happen any time and can be planned and unplanned?

Do you know what to do during a water ban or restriction? Visit [www.strathcona.ca/waterban](http://www.strathcona.ca/waterban) to learn more.

Sign up to get water ban notifications through the Strathcona County Alerts. [www.strathcona.ca/scalerts](http://www.strathcona.ca/scalerts)

## Get your suits and towels ready... it's almost time!



July 1 marks the opening of the region's newest outdoor spray park and playground – right here in Sherwood Park! The Broadmoor Lake Park Spray Park and Playground, located at 2015 Oak Street, Sherwood Park, is sure to spark the adventurous spirit of kids who love water, swinging, climbing and a really big slide!

This super exciting play area is based on what we heard from the community during the design process, and features lots of extra rubberized space between equipment for kids to run and play games, while providing super fun play options for kids of all ages and abilities. There is a sensory garden with vegetation to delight all of the senses, lots of tables, benches and comfy grass areas to watch your children play, have a picnic or enjoy the sun and the breeze wafting off Broadmoor Lake.

While the classic swings and slides are always crowd pleasers, we've added a huge covered slide surrounded

by challenging vertical mesh netting for older kids to test their climbing ability. Of course, dumping buckets and water guns are a must for anyone who wants to cool down after playing an epic round of tag.

Parents will love the ample seating and shaded areas provided by the stoic trees in Broadmoor Lake Park.

Parking is close at the Sherwood Park Arena; or, better yet, catch our stroller and kid-friendly local bus route 450, which drops you off right in front of Kinsmen Leisure Centre on weekdays.

Come and join the fun at Broadmoor Park Spray Park and Playground! [www.strathcona.ca/spraydecks](http://www.strathcona.ca/spraydecks)



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 STRATHCONA COUNTY