



# Strathcona County

# LIVING

April 2013

Keeping you informed

## Message from your Mayor and County Council

It may be early, but 2013 is already shaping up to be a truly transformative year for Strathcona County.

Your Council ended 2012 on a strong note, approving the 2013-2015 Business Plan and 2013 Budget, and allocating a portion of the projected surplus to keeping the municipal tax increase down to 2.6 per cent. This is the lowest in the region and we are proud of that.

It's always a challenge to maintain the standards we're all used to in a growing community, while keeping taxes down. While we did reduce some budget requests, we were able to fund some important new initiatives, such as programs for youth intervention. Our Emergency Services - already considered to be one of the best in the province, RCMP and Enforcement Services, and the Green Routine all received service enhancements, and our transit is undergoing changes that will culminate in the opening later this year of the Bethel Transit Terminal.

For some time we have believed that we could improve our processes around business planning and budgeting. So, late last year we initiated a comprehensive review of our budget and business planning with the goal of ensuring value is added at every step. This work is now complete and Council received an update of the plans for implementing improvements at its March 12 meeting.

We continue to look for a higher level of public input into the development and delivery of County programs and services. We took a step in that direction by approving the creation of a Finance Committee. This committee will ensure we receive valuable community input on direction and priorities as we develop future business plans and budgets.

We have also created a public engagement (PE) team, comprised of representatives from departments that regularly engage Strathcona County citizens. This team will guide implementation of the PE policy and framework. The team has already introduced the tagline, "Your County. Your Voice." and streamlined the look for advertising all engagement activities.

We're excited about May, when Chief Commissioner Rob Coon will bring forward the much anticipated implementation plan for the organizational review.

Council is very proud of the work we have done to develop a new strategic plan, which is nearly complete. Through many excellent conversations about the strengths of this great community, the challenges to be overcome and the best opportunities to pursue, we are defining our priorities for the next 10 to 20 years.

It's hard to fully express how valuable this sort of long range planning is, but in a community that has seen so much growth in such a short time, a strategic plan is absolutely key to moving forward into a bright and sustainable future. I look forward to sharing it with you later this summer.



Diamond Jubilee honorees (l - r) Peter Włodarczak, Ward 4; Mayor Linda Osinchuk, and Vic Bidzinski, Ward 1

### Honours and celebrations

Those of us who live and work here know that as Strathconians we have much to celebrate in this great community of ours. That said, it is always nice when our efforts are recognized by others beyond our borders.

Three of your elected officials, Councillor Vic Bidzinski, Councillor Peter Włodarczak and I, were humbled and somewhat surprised to receive Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals in 2013. These medals recognize deserving Canadians for their contributions to Canada, a particular province, territory or their community, or for outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to the Country. We were also honoured to be in the company of many other deserving Strathcona County residents who received this prestigious award. Our sincere congratulations to all of this year's worthy recipients – you make our community proud.

Speaking of pride, we had a great number of nominations for this year's Pride of Strathcona Awards. I am pleased so many of you took the time to recognize someone you know for their inspiring achievement, or contribution that adds to our community's "can-do" spirit and success. We will be announcing this year's recipients later this spring, as we lead up to the event on Monday, June 24.

### Partnerships support innovation, infrastructure

We've always believed that true transformation can only occur with strong partnerships and collaboration with other levels of government, business and industry. Here are just a few recent examples of what we've been able to do through partnerships:

In January, Strathcona County kicked off its biomass demonstration project for the Centre in the Park Community Energy System. The project was supported by Western Economic Diversification Canada, as well as a grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund. It was great to have Edmonton—Sherwood Park MP Tim Uppal, Minister of State for Democratic Reform and Member of Parliament, show his support and enthusiasm at the kickoff.

As you may know, our community energy system delivers heat to a number of buildings from a central source, eliminating the need for boilers in each building. Adding a biomass module to the system

allows us to use local renewable fuel sources, while reducing our dependency on fossil fuels - significantly. This has the potential to reduce greenhouse gases an additional 1,200 tonnes per year. More proof that we don't just talk about sustainability in Strathcona County, we actually "walk the walk."

In February, we were pleased to announce interior renovations to the Moyer Recreation Centre, funded in part by the federal government, under the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF). The Honourable Leon Benoit, Member of Parliament for Vegreville—Wainwright, presented us with a cheque that will go towards improvements to the banquet hall/gymnasium, commercial kitchen and the arena, increasing the facility's functionality and life span. These renovations will help ensure that residents of Josephburg and surrounding communities can enjoy their recreation centre for many years to come.



Enbridge also showed their colours as a community partner when they presented a \$100,000 cheque to Strathcona County Emergency Services at Heartland Hall in February, as part of a Safe Community Grant. These funds will allow us to invest in a vehicle fire training prop for firefighters to practice realistic vehicle fire scenarios. This prop will be set up permanently at the Outdoor Skills Maintenance Centre at Fire Station #4 (Heartland Hall). Construction of the Centre will begin this spring.

With the funds, Emergency Services will also purchase two laser fire extinguisher training systems, used for public and industry education. This system uses a laser to replicate extinguisher discharge rather than using a dry-chemical or a CO<sub>2</sub> extinguisher and live fire. This eliminates the cost and clean-up associated with an actual extinguisher, and means that training can take place anywhere as the systems



Outdoor Skills Maintenance Centre concept drawing

*continued on page 2...*

*We hope you enjoy this edition*

There's more news inside... from an analysis of cycling accidents in Strathcona County, to a write up on a Century Family - the Schneiders.

LIVING. REFINED.

...continued from front page

*Message from your Mayor and County Council*

are portable. (I had the opportunity to try it out. It's kind of awesome.) The funds will also cover the printing of a 60-page home safety, fire and injury prevention, and disaster preparedness booklet that will be given to residents during home safety visits.

I cannot speak of infrastructure without addressing the issue of our community's long-anticipated hospital and court house. We were all disappointed to learn in the budget that neither Phase II of our hospital, nor a much-needed court house, would receive funding this year. While that is the province's decision to make, I want to assure you that we will continue to advocate on your behalf, working with our MLAs, doctors, judges, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders to ensure that the valid needs of our community are heard, and addressed.

**Upcoming events**

Here are a few events coming up in the next month:

**Alberta Plus**

Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association (AIHA) will announce the results of an economic impact study on Tuesday, April 16, as part of its Alberta Plus campaign. The initiative brings together municipal leaders of Alberta's Industrial Heartland, industry and community leaders, and other stakeholders to increase processing of Alberta's energy resources, and make Alberta the world's leading petrochemical producer.

**State of the County**

The Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce will host its annual *State of the County* address on Wednesday, April 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Community Centre Agora. Tickets are \$35 plus GST. Contact Kara Hudson at 780-464-0801 or via email at [admin@sherwoodparkchamber.com](mailto:admin@sherwoodparkchamber.com)

Please join us for lunch and learn about our vision for the County over the next several years.

**Mayor's Celebration of the Arts**

Brought to us once again by the Arts and Culture Council of Strathcona County (ACCS), this year's event will be held Saturday, April 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the Community Centre Agora. This promises to be a wonderful evening, highlighting local talent, including live music by Cory & the Hitmen and Jessica Post. Proceeds from this event support the development of educational programs including workshops, interactive demonstrations and the "Alberta Arts Day" programs in Strathcona County.

Tickets are \$75 per person (multiple ticket discount available) and can be purchased until April 21 at Festival Place and Gallery@501, or contact Erin at 780-718-0486.

And, looking further down the road:

**Strathcona Celebrates!**

This year, marks the 120th Anniversary of our origins as a municipality. On August 24 we will celebrate this milestone and honour our military with a Freedom of the County ceremony and parade, featuring Lord Strathcona's Horse. See page 3 for more information on this and other events leading up to it.

**Stay tuned**

Those are just some of the highlights of the first quarter. When I think about all that we've accomplished, and about our plans for moving forward, I get excited about our future. We've come a long way, experienced double-digit growth, and realized many positive accomplishments. I believe we will maintain our momentum progressing into 2013, and look forward to being part of an ever stronger community.

*Linda Dainoff*  
Mayor Linda

*County initiatives*

**An in-depth look at cycling safety in Strathcona County**

To address any safety issue, it is essential to understand the problem. This article defines the extent of the safety risk to cyclists in our community, where cyclist/motor vehicle collisions are taking place, and who tends to be involved in the collisions. The following information is based on motor vehicle collisions in Strathcona County that involved a cyclist and were reported to the RCMP from 2001-2010.



**How many cyclists are involved in collisions in Strathcona County?**

In the 10 year period, there were 114 collisions reported in the County involving a cyclist. In one of these collisions, two cyclists were involved for a total of 115 cyclists involved in a collision. On average, 11 cyclists a year were involved in collisions. It is likely there were more unreported incidents where there was no injury to the cyclist.

**Where are cyclists involved in collisions?**

Twelve per cent of the collisions reported during the last 10 years took place in rural Strathcona County. Eighty-eight per cent occurred in Sherwood Park. There were no collisions reported in the rural hamlets.

Of the Sherwood Park collisions, 75% took place on arterial roads, 23% occurred on residential roads, and two per cent happened in commercial areas. Sherwood Drive, Granada Boulevard and Broadmoor Boulevard were the arterial roads with the most collisions. Most collisions were intersection related, with the intersection at Sherwood Drive and Granada Boulevard experiencing the most incidents (6/114).

**Who tends to be involved in cycling collisions?**

The table below summarizes statistics for the 113 cyclists involved in collisions between 2001 and 2010 in Strathcona County (age of two riders unknown).

**Demographics of cyclists involved in collisions by age and gender 2001-2010**

Age	Number (% Total)	Male	Female
Under 12 years	13 (12%)	62%	38%
12-17 years	52 (46%)	85%	15%
18-24 years	18 (16%)	56%	44%
25 years and older	30 (27%)	80%	20%
All Ages	113	76%	24%

Fifty eight per cent of cyclists involved in collisions were under 18 years old, and 42% were adults. More than three quarters of the cyclists involved in collisions were male. This difference is particularly marked in the 12 to 17 year old age group and the 25 and older age group.

Cyclists 25 and older were the most likely group to be involved in collisions in rural areas (65% of

rural collisions involved this age group) and in urban locations, which indicates they were likely commuting to work (i.e. 17th Street, Sherwood Park Freeway or Baseline west of Broadmoor Boulevard).

Alternately, only one rural collision involving a cyclist less than 12 years of age was reported. Seven of 13 cyclists in this youngest age group were involved in a collision in a residential area.

**What is the outcome of collisions between motor vehicles and cyclists?**

Overall, 84% of collisions resulted in injury to the cyclist. Data is unavailable as to the severity of cyclist injuries. The one fatal collision in the last 10 years involved an 82 year old male in a rural collision.

**Outcome of cyclist/motor vehicle collisions 2001-2010**

Age	% Fatal	% Injury	% Property damage only
Under 12 years	0%	100%	0%
12-17 years	0%	81%	19%
18-24 years	0%	78%	22%
25 years and older	3%	94%	3%
All Ages	1%	84%	15%

Collisions involving cyclists who were 12 and under or 25 years and up were more likely to result in an injury than in the 12-17 or 18-24 year old age groups.

Ninety-three per cent (13/14) of collisions reported in rural Strathcona County resulted in injury, while 84% of urban collisions resulted in an injury to the cyclist.

**What can we learn from looking at the history of collisions involving cyclists in Strathcona County?**

Analysis of historical cycling collisions over the last 10 years can be used to help decide where efforts to improve cycling safety in Strathcona County are best directed.

Children under 12 years of age are the least likely to be involved in collisions. This seems to indicate that parents are doing a good job of supervising their children on their bicycles. However, it is still essential to target this group for educational efforts. Deficiencies in bike safety education in this age group are likely to be related to the increase in collisions in the teenage age group as children age and begin to cycle independently and on the road. It is also important to target this group as they are very vulnerable when they are involved in a collision.

Almost half of the collisions in the County involved cyclists in the 12-17 year age group. Further, 85% of these cyclists were boys. Clearly, efforts to improve cycling safety need to target this group.

Cyclists over 25 years are involved in more than one quarter of motor vehicle/cyclist collisions. Further, these collisions are highly likely to result in injury to the cyclist. Analysis reveals that many of these cyclists are cycling on major thoroughfares and rural roads as on-road vehicles. Safe cycling habits as well as considerate motor vehicle driver behaviour are key targets to improve safety for this group of cyclists.

Strathcona County RCMP, in collaboration with the Strathcona County Traffic Safety Advisor, are committed to the safety of all users of County roads. Through education and enforcement, we will continue to be proactive to ensure that motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians are as safe as possible.



## Community Partnership Program

### Gilmore Community League

When she looked outside, Tammy Greidanus, president of the Gilmore Community League, didn't like what she saw; a green space, created nearly 40 years ago, with minimal play equipment and no accessibility for moms with strollers or the disabled. Taking her young children to a playground meant leaving her neighbourhood; her only option for a quick jaunt to the playground to hang out and play. "The park was built on an old farm in the 1970s and received minor updates through the years. The playground equipment is currently 21 years old and the most recent addition was a few slides in 2002," says Tammy.

When she contacted Strathcona County about her concerns, she learned the playground was scheduled for a review in 2016. Tammy felt her children would be far too old to enjoy the playground by then and contacted her Councillor, who put her in touch with another resident with similar concerns. At that moment the Gilmore Community League was born. Strathcona County representatives attended the Gilmore Community League's first meeting and provided a wealth of information on how these ladies could turn their dream of a safe, accessible, shaded playground for children of various ages into a reality. "Strathcona County has resources and information we cannot access," she says. "It would have been impossible to get this far without their help."

Together, the community league and Strathcona County have worked to make this dream a reality. The community league has raised funds and applied for grants, and the project was added to the County's capital budget this past December. The expectation is that children of the Gilmore community will be playing at their new park next summer.

"Strathcona County is thrilled the Gilmore project is such a success. It's a perfect example of our departments working in synergy with the community," says Stacy Fedechko, director of Planning and Development Services.

"The Gilmore Community League is able to do things that fall out of scope for the County, and we have access to information and other resources the league wouldn't normally have. By working together, families in the community will benefit, and we are very happy about that."

For more information on the Community Partnership Program, please visit the Strathcona County website at [www.strathcona.ca](http://www.strathcona.ca). For more information on the Gilmore Community League project, please visit their website at <http://gilmorepark780.blogspot.ca>

### Strathcona County gets Tour of Alberta spot

Strathcona County will be featured as part of Tour of Alberta, Canada's first major international professional bicycle race. The event will take place from September 3 – 8, 2013. It is the highest sanctioned staged event ever held in Canada, sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale and Canadian Cycling Association.

Tour of Alberta will have seven stages including a prologue and finish in Edmonton and Calgary respectively. Strathcona County will be the primary location of stage 2 (Heartland Highways) of the Tour of Alberta on Wednesday, September 4, 2013; it is expected stage 2 will start at Festival Place in Sherwood Park.

With an anticipated viewing audience of 30.6 million television viewers and over 900 million combined newspaper and web impressions world wide, the event will showcase Strathcona County as a community of choice to an international audience.

Tour of Alberta is an event composed of 15 teams (approximately 140 elite international competitors) competing in a bicycle road race across communities in Alberta. The event is funded by the Rural Alberta Development Fund; marketing support is provided in partnership by Travel Alberta and host municipalities of the Tour of Alberta.

Further information about Tour of Alberta is available at [www.tourofalberta.ca](http://www.tourofalberta.ca) or by calling 587-523-0280.

April 2013

## Department profile

### Assessment and Tax – keeping it fair

Within the Assessment and Tax department are two distinct processes: preparing property assessments and collecting property taxes.

Every property in the County has an assessment, based on a market value estimate as measured by property sales in the real estate marketplace. County assessors work to ensure property assessments are fair and accurate. They conduct property assessment inspections, and gather various data, such as location, age, and size on all types of property — from houses, to heavy industrial facilities, to shopping centres, to farmland.



The other role of the Assessment and Tax department is to ensure property taxes are collected in a timely manner. Each spring, tax rates are finalized to determine each property owner's proportionate tax share required to deliver approved County programs and services. The estimated total tax collection for 2013 is approximately \$245 million.

2013 property assessment and tax notices will be mailed in May. County assessors are available to discuss your assessment with you. The deadline for payment of the 2013 property taxes will be June 28.

#### Further information

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

#### Did you know?

The Assessment and Tax Department...

- updates property assessments each year, based on sales of similar properties
  - approximately 35,000 residential properties — range from just under \$100,000 up to \$8 million
  - approximately 1,550 commercial and industrial properties — highest commercial property assessment is \$100 million — highest industrial assessment in the County is \$2.7 billion
- re-inspects approximately 5,000 properties each year
- sends approximately 40,000 notices each year
- offers a monthly tax instalment payment plan (monthly payments begin in January of each year)

#### NEW!

#### Property Assessment Mapping Tool

Using this GIS-based tool, you can review property assessment information, compare properties, and generate summary and comparison reports.

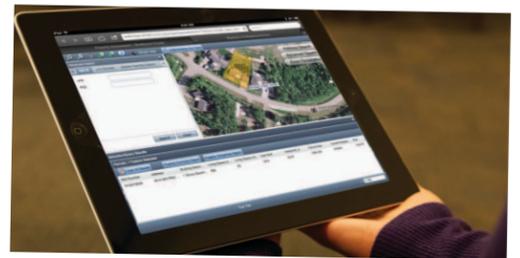
Information includes:

- property address and legal description
- parcel area
- current assessment
- assessment class (e.g., residential, commercial)
- building description
- year built
- approximate living area

The tool maps and displays properties, giving a visually realistic picture, and includes "Google" street view.

Try it out. Search your property at

[www.strathcona.ca/view-property-assessments.aspx](http://www.strathcona.ca/view-property-assessments.aspx)



## Community initiatives

### Strathcona Celebrates...its history, its people, its military



Mayor Linda Osinchuk joined museum volunteers Chuck Howell, Henry Unrau and Barb Flowers in providing residents with a hearty pancake breakfast on Family Day. The event, held at the Strathcona County Museum, marked the official kick off of the 120th Anniversary celebrations.

This year, 2013, ignites a year of celebration for Strathcona County. This community is filled with a rich tapestry of people who have laid the foundation for the success we enjoy today.

*Strathcona Celebrates...its history, its people, its military* focuses on the rich history of Strathcona County, the people who have influenced the County's direction and those who have defended personal freedom.

On August 24, a community event will honour the County's military heritage through a grand

scale Freedom of the County ceremony and parade featuring Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). Lord Strathcona's Horse regiment was personally maintained by the County's namesake, Lord Strathcona.

"Our history is full of wonderful tales of leadership, success and strong values," says Mayor Linda Osinchuk. "Clover Bar was the first area, 120 years ago, in what is now Alberta, to be declared a district under the North-West Territorial

Legislature. This official declaration was a first step in the development of Strathcona County as a rural self-governing body. Today, Strathconians continue to model the values of hard work and determination."

Residents are invited to take part in the celebrations through community events leading up to the full-day event on August 24, 2013. Further details on upcoming events will be announced.

Details can be found at [www.strathcona.ca/celebrates](http://www.strathcona.ca/celebrates) or by calling 780-464-8476.

## Century family: **Schneider**

### Perfection and quality key to champion breeder's success

A visit to Orvis Schneider's home in Fort Saskatchewan says much about his life as a breeder of champion Hereford and Saler cattle. Although he has given almost all of the ribbons and trophies won over 30 years of showing his cattle to his two sons, he has kept a few that are special to him. There is the 1978 banner from the Edmonton Farm Fair, when one of his cows won the grand championship; another from the Provincial Exhibition in Armstrong, B.C., when one of his Hereford bulls won that grand championship, and another from the Edmonton Farm Fair of 1990 for a grand champion Saler cow, to name but three of the many awards for which Schneider's Elk Island Polled Hereford Ranch was famous.



The Elk Island Polled Hereford Ranch — courtesy: O. Schneider

It all began in the early 1960s. Orvis was living with his parents on the family farm on SW30-55-20-W4 in northern Strathcona County, near Bruderheim. His father, Adolph, had a small herd of 18 purebred Holsteins, bred from seed stock that he purchased from other breeders of purebreds, like the Bailey and Hosford families who lived in the vicinity of Sherwood Park.

Even before Orvis took over the farm in the early 1970s, he heeded his father's wisdom of having only purebred stock. However, instead of Holsteins, Orvis decided to go into Herefords. "I saw how the carcass grades of Herefords were coming in a lot better than other breeds. If you are going to get into this, you might as well get the right stock." He began to buy purebred cows from Arnold Milsap and Joe Campbell of Lamont and herd bulls from the Pohl brothers near Wetaskiwin. It was from the latter that Schneider purchased, in 1966, a two-year-old bull that he named Canadian Constructor. It was the progeny of this bull that won Orvis so many championships.

Orvis built up a small, but select, herd of 60 or 70 head on his six-quarter-section ranch. He always kept his herd at 50 per cent or better of production, selling

a third of his calves to commercial herds, keeping a third for himself and selling a third at select sales like the Western Classic.

"As a select purebred breeder I didn't want volume. I wanted quality. Every animal in my herd had a pedigree as long as your arm."

Using semen from Canadian Constructor or that purchased from champions that were shown at the better bull sales such as those in Denver, Edmonton and Calgary, he built up his "little herd of perfection." He showed his cattle—a couple of bulls, a cow, a calf and some yearlings—at all the big sales, the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver, the Provincial Exhibition in Armstrong, B.C., the Lloydminster bull sale, the Edmonton Farm Fair, and at the biggest in North America, the National Polled Hereford Show in Denver, Colorado. "I showed against people who had 1,000 cows and I beat them. The judges look for quality in shows. The only reason I took the cattle on the road was to market and show the breeders what I had to offer for sale. I targeted only the places where there were prospective buyers for my bloodlines."

After 25 years of raising champion Herefords, Orvis figured he had gone as far as he could with that breed. He became interested in a French breed, Saler. "There were some rough looking critters" among this new breed, but Orvis looked upon this as a challenge, and sure enough, by 1990 one of his Saler cows won the Edmonton Farm Fair Grand Champion. Travelling to the various shows and sales, though, is a young man's game and shortly afterwards Orvis sold his herd and went strictly into grain farming. Even here, he could not be content with just any crop, but aimed for the best. In 2000 he beat some 1,200 competitors to win the Alberta Malting Barley Quality Competition.

### A century of farming in northern Strathcona County

Alongside his championship awards is his bronze



In 1986 Twister, a grandson of Canadian Constructor, won the Provincial Exhibition in Armstrong, B.C. Orvis Schneider is on the extreme left holding the banner. — courtesy: O. Schneider

Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award. It was Orvis' grandfather, Johan Schneider Jr. who settled on the land in 1896, land that Orvis still owns. The Schneider family was attracted to the area near Bruderheim, because a small group of Germans of the Lutheran and Moravian faiths had already taken homesteads here. Like Orvis decades later, Johan Jr. was interested in learning about and practising new agricultural methods. Born in 1869 in Heidelberg, Germany, Johan and his parents moved to Russia where they instructed Russian farmers on modern farming techniques and mill working. Interestingly, not only did Johan Jr. keep abreast of innovations in farming, he was also a medical practitioner, having received his training in Heidelberg.

After moving to Canada, Johan Jr. continued to practice medicine as well as farm. "They called him Doc Schneider. He didn't have any papers from the Alberta Medical Association or anything like that. Someone would come in on horseback saying "we need you over here", and away he'd go and fix them up. And he always had his medicine with him, which was pretty strong moonshine. It wasn't made from potatoes and scraps like that; it was the good stuff made from wheat. And he always administered pain relief from his jug, whether it was extracting teeth or delivering babies; it was his magic potion that he made himself." Family lore tells of one of Johan Jr.'s medical exploits. A young boy in the Tofield district was born with one foot backwards. Johan Jr. broke the leg and turned around the foot. Within five years, the boy was playing baseball, a nod to Johan's medical expertise.

Involvement in community affairs also ran in the Schneider family. Orvis' father, Adolph, served as secretary of the DeWille school board, was many times the secretary and president of the Elk Island Mutual Telephone Company, and was president of the Rural Electrification Association in Alberta, that he helped to organize. He also served as president of the Strathcona School Trustees Association before quitting the farm and retiring to Fort Saskatchewan. For his part, Orvis was involved in the Bruderheim Agricultural Society and in the Alberta Hereford Association.

Orvis muses about the community spirit of smaller towns. "In Bruderheim everyone had to get involved to get things done."

As for the century farm families in the northeast part of Strathcona County, Orvis' is one of only a few families who still retain their family's land. It is this changing demographic that has inspired Strathcona County to initiate its Century Families Project, an endeavour to promote the County's history through the telling of stories from long-time residents.

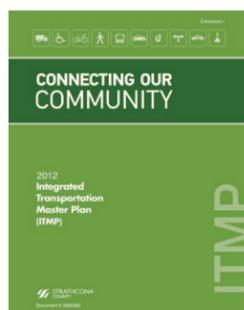
## On the move!

### Council approves final ITMP

Over the past two years Strathcona County has been working with residents to develop an Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP). This plan will guide policy development and decision making about the County's transportation network for 30+ years. The final plan was approved by Council on November 20, 2012.

The ITMP considers various types of transportation modes – private and commercial vehicles, public transit, cycling and walking. Resident input for the document was gathered via questionnaires, public events, and stakeholder forums.

Copies of the plan are now available on the County's website at [www.strathcona.ca/ITMP](http://www.strathcona.ca/ITMP). For further information, or to obtain a paper copy, please contact the Capital Planning and Construction Department at 780-464-8277.



## Let's mingle – the separation is over



Residents can stop separating their paper recycling from their container recycling as of March 1. Paper and containers can be placed in a clear blue plastic bag for collection. There is no longer a cost savings to separating the recyclables and combining (commingling) recycling makes it more convenient for residents.

Residents are reminded to:

- keep clear blue bags under 25 kg (50 lb).
- cut or fold cardboard down to 60 cm x 1 m (2'x3'). Larger pieces

can be taken to a recycling station.

- rinse all containers before placing them in a blue bag for collection. Dirty recyclable containers will contaminate the recycling process, which will result in the recyclables going to landfill and increased processing costs.
- crush or squish your containers to get more items into the clear blue plastic bag.
- mix heavier recyclables, such as glass or newspapers, with the lighter containers, such as plastic. This will help reduce the chance of your container recycling from blowing away.

It is important to include only acceptable recyclable items in the blue bag. Blue bags with unacceptable items will not be collected.

Visit [www.strathcona.ca/utilities](http://www.strathcona.ca/utilities) for a list of acceptable items.