



Strathcona County

LIVING

Keeping you informed

September 2014

Message from your Mayor and County Council

A summer to reflect on!



Mayor Roxanne Carr (left) with Chance Herring of ATCO Gas (centre) and Torchbearers Peggy Sagriff, Gianluca and Guilano Pasutto (residents of Strathcona County), part of the Official Canada 55+ Games ATCO Torch Relay

The past few months have gone by amazingly fast. One minute we were waiting for the hot summer weather, and the next minute children were returning to the classrooms. In the blink of an eye, the County hosted three memorable events: Canada Day, Canada 55+ Games and the Tour of Alberta. These events were a lot of work, and on behalf of Council, I thank the many volunteers who gave up their time to support the events; and the large number of residents, who came out to cheer on the competitors.

On page 2, enjoy some of the memorable moments during the Canada 55+ Games and the Tour of Alberta. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about the value of hosting these events. The Tour of Alberta and the Canada 55+ Games are more than just sporting events. The most important benefit of hosting these types of events is that we bring a lot of people together. These festivals also generate tourism spending and substantial economic impact for communities across Alberta. We know from experience, these types of events significantly increase the number of people who eat in our restaurants, stay in our hotels and work in the County in jobs that support the success of each event.

I'm proud to say Strathcona County has a strong history of hosting successful local, provincial, national and international events. In the last 10 years, our community has hosted a number of high profile events including the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games, 2008 Olympic Wrestling Trials, 2009



Flags of the Canada 55+ Games

National Badminton Championships, 2012 Women's World Wrestling Championships, and the 2012 Pan American Junior Badminton Championships.

Each of these events has given us the incredible opportunity to showcase our community, our recreation facilities, and our residents on a national and international stage. As Strathcona County continues to bid for and put on exceptional events, such as the 2014 Canada 55+ Games, we will continue to raise the profile of our community.

Sharing the uniqueness of our specialized municipality

Councillor Bonnie Riddell (Ward 7) and I spent an interesting day on July 18, hosting a tour of Strathcona County for some of the mayors and staff from municipalities across Alberta. Our visitors came from Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Edson, Grande Cache, Hinton, Leduc, Sexsmith, Wembley and Whitecourt. This tour originated from a request that came out of a March meeting I had with the Mayor of Grande Prairie to discuss the challenges his municipality is facing.

Some of our Capital Region Board (CRB) partners are exploring future governance possibilities. The CRB consists of an elected official from each of the 24 member municipalities within the Greater Edmonton Metropolitan Region. The municipalities are very diverse; however, one of the board's goals is to make the best decisions possible for the citizens of their communities and the region. We know working together and combining our synergies will ensure the long-term economic prosperity and quality of life for more than a million citizens. That's why we're always willing to share information about the successes and the challenges we face, governing within a specialized municipality model.

Strathcona County operations are very different from other municipalities because they are tailored to meet the diverse needs of a specialized municipality — one that services industry, business, agriculture, and urban and rural interests. Because of this, other municipalities tend to look to us to explore how we operate. This full-day tour gave us lots of time to showcase areas in our municipality and talk about viability (both rural and urban), economic realities, governance options, and possibilities for the future.

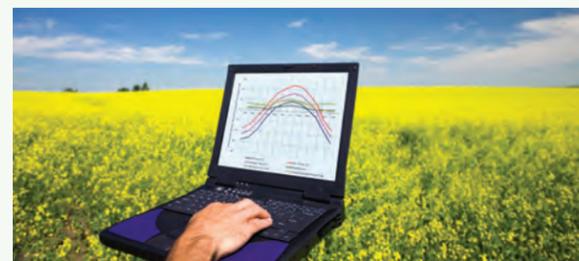
We continued these types of discussions when Chief Commissioner Rob Coon and I attended the Governance Symposium in Grand Prairie. I shared how our governance model is structured to address the varying needs of urban and rural communities, spread out over 1,200 square kilometres within our boundaries.

Rural Internet access

Did you know that many of our rural residents can't access high-speed Internet? In rural areas high-speed Internet is provided by wireless radio signals. Due to the beautiful hills and trees that cover many areas of the County, up to 40 per cent of rural residents can't receive these line-of-sight signals.

Councillors Paul Smith (Ward 5), Linton Delainey (Ward 6) and Bonnie Riddell (Ward 7) have been focused on just how important Internet services are to their rural residents. To help resolve this issue, a study on improving rural Internet access recommended the County invest in a series of local towers. The local towers will reach just above trees and hills to pick up the Internet signals and re-transmit them into areas that are currently underserved.

The County is looking at installing up to 150 of these towers over the next three years. If approved, rollout will begin in 2015 according to identified need. Other recommendations in this study include a partnership with the Strathcona County Library to provide Internet access to community facilities and increased programming in those facilities.



Urban fibre optics study

The Internet has certainly changed many of the ways people work and play. Many residents use the Internet to watch shows online, keep in touch with relatives and friends via video chat, research topics of interest to them, and shop online. Businesses routinely use the Internet to communicate and share information with their customers and partners, and more and more businesses are moving to online services.

Looking ahead, Councillor Brian Botterill (Ward 2) wants to ensure that Sherwood Park residents and businesses continue to have a high level of Internet access. To do this, Council approved a motion that will give administration the ability to conduct a feasibility study for using fibre optics to provide high-speed Internet to homes and businesses in Sherwood Park. That report is expected to come back to Council in early 2015.

Just as everyone is getting back into the swing of life, so is Council. We had our first fall Council meeting on September 9, and look forward to residents joining us at Council meetings, or tuning into the webcasts, in the future.

Kind regards,

Mayor Roxanne Carr

We hope you enjoy this edition

There's more news inside, from Transit's new service, an update on Imagine Bremner, to the history of the Lueders family.



Canada 55+ Games a huge success!

Strathcona County was proud to be the host community for the 2014 Canada 55+ Games. A nation-wide program, the Games promote spiritual, mental and physical well-being among Canadians 55 years of age and older.

From August 27 to 30, we welcomed over 2,000 competitors and 400 of their family members, making the 2014 Games the largest Canada 55+ Games ever held. Including the Organizing Committee, over 600 volunteers were instrumental in making these Games an amazing experience for all.

Participants competed in 24 different sports and activities ranging from hockey and swimming, to bocce and darts. The oldest participant was Florence Storch, a 101-year-old javelin thrower from Hanna, Alberta. Women's Hockey and Pickleball (a sport similar to tennis and ping pong) made their Canada 55+ Games debut. And the economic impact from the Games is expected to be between \$3 and \$5 million.

A great success with spirit second to none!



Special thanks to all of our volunteer photographers. To view all the Games photos visit www.canada55plusgames2014.com.



Strathcona County was excited to be one of the seven host communities for Tour of Alberta, held September 2-7.

Last year, our municipality played host to a race start. In 2014, the tour touched Strathcona County twice. Friday afternoon cyclists travelled from Wetaskiwin through the County, finishing the day at the Garrison in Edmonton. On Saturday the riders left Edmonton for Stage 4 of the tour in Strathcona County. This part of the race was the most technical of this year's Tour of Alberta race. The County's winding 167-kilometre course featured the challenge of "dust-controlled roads." The race finished in Sherwood Park with the tightest and shortest finish circuit of this year's race. A family celebration for racers, residents, and others capped off the day.

Cyclist Theo Bos of Netherlands won Stage 4 of the five-stage competition.

For all results visit www.tourofalberta.ca.



Come along for the ride! Transit's ALL NEW service...



The biggest transit service change since Strathcona County's bus service began in 1957 rolled out on September 2. Serving over 5,000 daily transit users, the all new transit route structure offers improved service to key local destinations, better connections and shorter travel times for most areas.

The changes are the result of a large amount of public input, research and planning. Transit's planning team spent a lot of time riding buses during peak and non-peak travel times, riding every route multiple times, watching travel patterns and collecting data on how residents used both our local and commuter service. Transit staff consulted riders with on-board surveys and stood at the terminals speaking with customers about their overall impression about transit.

The new route structure now sees the majority of commuter service travelling out of the new Bethel Transit Terminal, located on the corner of Bethel Drive and Broadway Boulevard in Sherwood Park. This \$23 million transportation hub anchors inter-municipal transit services between Strathcona County and

Edmonton, and serves as a base for local bus service in Sherwood Park. The region's largest terminal features a climate-controlled building, improved pedestrian and cyclist access complete with bike lockers, as well as over 1,200 parking stalls.

"There are approximately 500 additional homes that will benefit from the new route structure," says Transit Director Matt Carpenter. "Using the new Bethel Transit Terminal as the base for service, we were able to redistribute our existing fleet to best meet the needs of our growing community."

Locally, Transit made sure that every destination can be reached through no more than one transfer. Ride times have been shortened for most riders and it's now easier for residents to travel to high-demand locations in Sherwood Park such as Millennium Place, Synergy Wellness Centre, Sherwood Park Mall, and Centre in the Park where the Strathcona County Community Centre and library are located.

As part of the new route structure, all route numbers have changed. Transit users are encouraged to check out the new routes and schedules online or call our Transit Customer Service Representatives.

Further information: 780-464-RIDE (7433)
www.strathcona.ca/transit

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Department profile

Planning and Development Services

Driving through Strathcona County, one thing is clear – the area is growing and new development is popping up every day. From new retail establishments to residential subdivisions and neighbourhoods, it's easy to overlook the careful thought and consideration that go into these projects before the shovel hits the ground. That's where the Planning and Development Services Department (PDS) excels.

Comprised of five branches, PDS is responsible for ensuring that all new developments meet Strathcona County's high standards for safety, environmental protection and esthetic appeal.

"Our goal is to ensure that all new development in the County meets the highest standards – for today, and for five, 10 and 15 years from now," says Stacy Fedechko, Director, Planning and Development Services.

"To do this, we carefully examine new plans to ensure all are in line with the County's Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan, as well as statutory plans and guidelines set forth by the province of Alberta."

From the very biggest of projects to the smallest, the department oversees all development in the County.



When residents look to add onto or renovate their homes, the first call should be to PDS. Permits are required for many home renovations, such as building a deck, installing a pool or hot tub, or finishing a basement.

"The reason for this is we want to ensure all safety protocols are followed. If you renovate your basement, for example, and neglect to take the necessary safety precautions for the electrical, you put yourself and your family at risk, as well as families who live in the immediate area," said Fedechko.

In addition to overseeing the planning stages of large-scale developments, and the permitting and inspection processes for residential projects, the department also oversees long-range planning projects. Recent examples include the Imagine Bremner Growth Management Strategy and the Mature Neighbourhood Strategy.

The department also plans for trails, parks and other outdoor spaces, and administers County lands and municipal addressing.

If you are planning a new DIY project or home renovation, are looking to open a new business, or if you want to know more about one of the department's projects, customer service representatives are available to answer your questions.

Call 780-464-8080 Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., or visit www.strathcona.ca/PDS.

Mature Neighbourhood Strategy - update

Phase Two of the mature neighbourhood strategy is now underway. At the June 10, 2014 Council Meeting, these citizens were appointed to the Citizens' Task Force:

- Brian Soutar (Village on the Lake)
- MaryJane Alanko (Sherwood Heights)
- Mark Kirkup (Sherwood Heights)
- Brittany Pelletier (Glen Allan)
- William Larose (Glen Allan)
- Katharine Weinman (Mills Haven)
- Alison Mould (Brentwood)
- Douglas Kroetsch (Maplewood)
- Jon Friel (Mills Haven)

The Citizens' Task Force will work collaboratively with County Administration and a consultant to provide advice and input on project tasks specifically for Phase Two, including the creation of an Urban Form and Architectural Character Assessment Report. The protection of the character and charm of the mature neighbourhoods is a priority for Phase Two, infill is not a focus. The Citizens' Task Force will have its own webpage (www.strathcona.ca/mnstaskforce) to keep the community informed of its progress.

For project updates or for more information, visit the project website at www.strathcona.ca/matureneighbourhoodstrategy or you may contact Janna Widmer, Project Manager at 780-464-8127 or by email at janna.widmer@strathcona.ca.

County initiatives

Imagine Bremner – project update



On June 12, 2014, Planning and Development Services hosted a public open house to present and collect feedback on the recommended community design concept for the Bremner area.

The concept is based on the vision and principles developed in 2013 and reflects public comments on three preliminary concepts presented in March 2014. It features a network of green spaces, diverse neighbourhoods and mixed-use centres.

The growth management strategy is an important next step in ensuring future growth projected for the County is sustainable and maintains the County's high quality of life. If Council decides that development of a new urban community in Bremner should proceed, the strategy will provide the basis for more detailed planning ahead.

What's next?

The draft Bremner Growth Management Strategy will be presented to Council in September.

In 2012, Council directed administration to commence preparation of the Growth Management

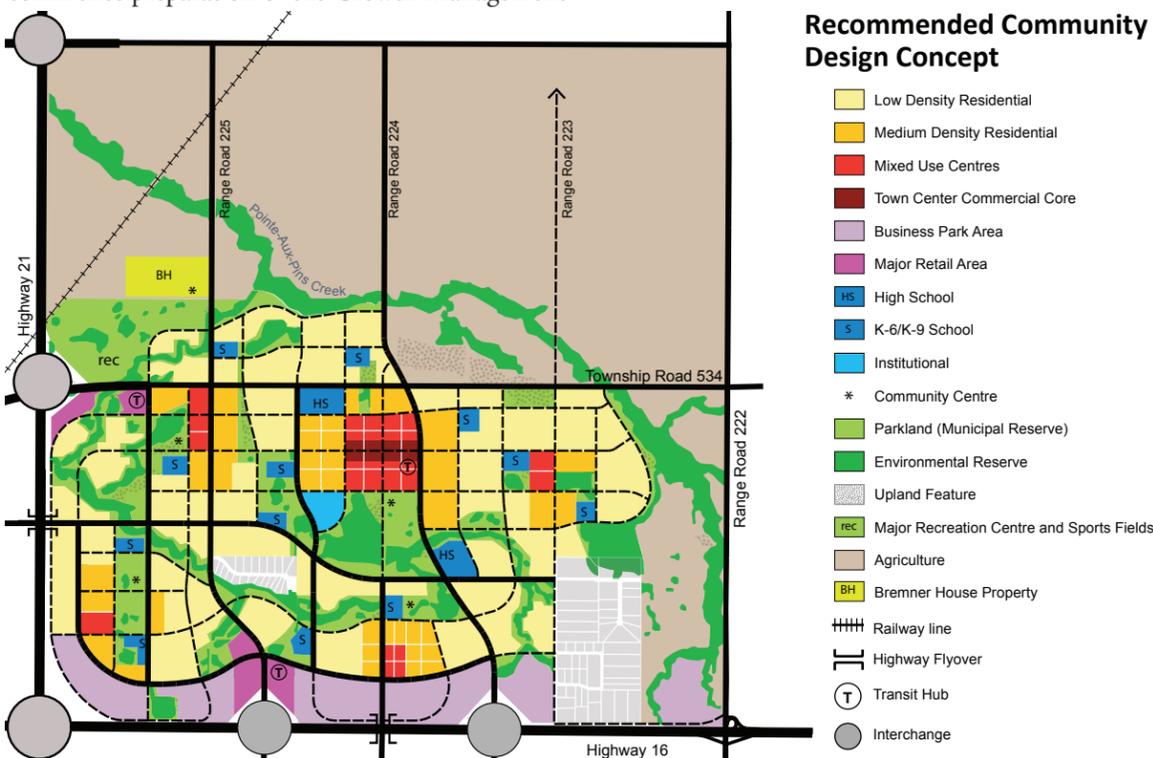
Strategy for the Colchester Urban/Rural Transition Policy Area following completion of the Bremner Growth Management Strategy.

If Council determines Bremner is the best site for a new urban community, the growth management strategy will be followed by more detailed plans for the area, which will take several years to complete.

Completion of the Growth Management Strategy doesn't imply that development in the area has been approved or is imminent. The Growth Strategy is a policy document that investigates opportunities, limitations and high level associated costs to develop an area. It is a tool to inform decision-making.

Timing of development will also depend on the pace of remaining development in Sherwood Park, as well as Cambrian Crossing, an area to the west of Bremner.

For more information on Imagine Bremner, visit www.strathcona.ca/imaginebremner or contact Janna Widmer at 780-464-8127 or by email at imaginebremner@strathcona.ca.



RCMP issue fraud alert



Strathcona County RCMP are warning the public to be aware of a telephone scam occurring in Strathcona County and across the country.

Scammers call residents at home

claiming to be the lawyer of their grandchild or another relative, who has been involved in a collision and requires money.

The scammers target seniors and often claim to be the relative in need or the relative's lawyer. The scammers will state payment is required immediately for the collision or for fees to help the loved one get out of legal problems.

The unsuspecting victims are directed to purchase a large number of pre-paid gift cards from multiple Home Depot Stores around the city and then provide the numbers on the back of the cards to the scammers over the phone. This allows the scammers to access the value of the cards without having to actually have possession of the gift cards.

The scammers try to exploit potential victims and prey on people's emotions and fears about loved ones. They are hoping to gain the trust of their unsuspecting victims and will use tactics to befriend, gain trust and even scare individuals into parting with their money.

Be wary of appeals that tug at your heart strings, especially pleas involving family members in urgent emergency situations who require money immediately. Confirm with other relatives the whereabouts of the family member or friend, and never voluntarily give out family members' names or information to unknown callers.

Residents are reminded to be vigilant when providing personal information over the telephone or computer, and be aware of the techniques used by fraudsters.

Anyone who feels they may have fallen victim to this scam or has any information regarding this crime is asked to contact Cst. Gord Courage, Strathcona County RCMP at 780-467-7741.

It is also recommended to notify the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or www.antifraudcentre.ca.

Century Family: The Lueders

Lyle and Jane Lueders sat down with us in October 2013 to share their account of Lyle's family history in Strathcona County.

The corners of Lyle Lueders' blue eyes crinkle with humour as he recounts a family story ... an attempt by his grandfather, Theodore, to woo pretty young Anna Jantz, who lived with her parents on the quarter section to the north of his. It was certainly with no malice that Theodore carried a cute black and white "kitty" to the Jantz's homestead as a present for Anna.

Born in 1878 in Heidelberg, Germany, Theodore was a city lad who had wandered the world working as a machinist on cargo ships. His worldly experience, though, had not armed him with much knowledge of the Canadian west, of homesteading or of skunks. His future in-laws could smell Theodore before he got to the house and certainly did not allow him or the "kitty" inside! Despite this inauspicious beginning, Theodore won over the heart of Anna, and they married in 1904.

Theodore had arrived in the town of Strathcona the previous year. It was in Edmonton's Strathcona Hotel, where "he had his own table," that Theodore met Jim Gratrix. Jim told Theodore of the homesteading opportunities east of town, and the two men set out for Jim's homestead in the Clover Bar area. After purchasing SW23-52-22-W4 from the CPR, Theodore spent the cold winter with Jim in his log cabin.

Another family story that's been told through the years is how the two men stayed warm that winter. To save hauling in wood every day, ingeniously they decided to cut a hole in the cabin door and pushed a long log through the hole and into the stove. As the log burned, they simply pushed it further into the stove.

"They had plenty of smoke in the shack, but it was easy on the back."

No doubt, Theodore's marriage to Anna changed that practice! With the help of his in-laws, Theodore learned how to build a small log cabin, and how to break his land with a walking plough and then seed it by hand. He learned how to make some ready cash by buying unbroken horses at the city market, breaking them to harness, and then selling the animals to other farmers. He also raised horses and kept a herd of cattle.

Eyeing Kelsey Lake, a large slough on his land, as potential hay land, Theodore ditched and drained it. Today, you can still trace the ditch as it meanders through a number of other quarter sections. As Theodore suspected, the lake bottom produced good hay crops that he sold to the Kent coal mine for its pit ponies, to Alberta Flour and Feed, to mink ranchers and local farmers.



The "big house," circa 1975

— Photo courtesy: Lyle and Jane Lueders



Girls playing outside of Glen Garden School, circa 1915-20

— Photo courtesy of Gloria Kreamer (Lueders)

Over the years, Theodore and Anna added three other quarter sections to their farm. Anna inherited the northeast quarter, her parents' homestead, and Theodore bought two quarters directly west of his original homestead.

The Lueders were much involved in the building of their community known as Garden, located south of Wye Road between Ardrossan and Cooking Lake. Anna and Theodore had nine children—seven girls and two boys—who needed schooling. After much prodding, Theodore succeeded in convincing the government in 1912 to build Glen Garden School.

Faith, too, was important, and Theodore and Anna opened their home to Lutheran pastors from Edmonton, who held services in outlying districts. In 1936, Theodore applied to the church synod for a permanent pastor, one who would conduct services in German. Today, St. John's Lutheran Church, located on Range Road 221, still has an active congregation with a dedicated minister, although English is now the language used.

Building community also meant that Theodore involved himself in local politics, serving in public office between 1916 and 1941 as a municipal councillor and later as reeve. In memory of his years of service, Lueders Crescent and Lueders Court in the Westboro area of Sherwood Park are named for Theodore.

In 1924, Theodore built a large foursquare home next to the original log house. When, in 1958, he turned over the entire farm operation to his youngest and only surviving son, Theodore and Anna moved into a new, smaller house they built on one of the other quarter sections. The son and his wife then moved into the "big house" after living for more than a decade in a small, two-room house built nearby. This same two-room house served as a home for Lyle and Jane (nee Gillies) when they married in 1966.

"It had running water. You know, the kind that you had to run to get," jokes Jane.

For years, Theodore and then his son ran a mixed farming operation, growing grains and hay while raising a small herd of cattle and a few pigs, chickens and turkeys. Then big changes came to the agricultural sector. As oil-related industries expanded during the 1950s and '60s, people were lured off the land by the opportunities, and those farmers who remained on the land enlarged their holdings.

After going into partnership with his father in 1973, Lyle rented a lot of land in the Ardrossan area, on which he grew mostly barley and oats. They concentrated on building a commercial herd of Herefords. Then, as the beef market demands changed, they changed their operation, buying Charolais bulls to lengthen their cattle. By the early 1990s, the Lueders had a herd of 250 cows and eight purebred bulls. When the cows calved in late winter, "it was 24-7," says Lyle. One year, 1990, they had 120 calves, three being born to one of their cows, a rare occurrence that made the local news.

For Jane, a city girl, farm life was an entirely new experience. One day her mother-in-law came into their small house and plopped a chicken on the kitchen counter. Jane can't remember whether the bird had been plucked, but it certainly had not been eviscerated, and the feet had to be cut off.

"Oi vey! What am I going to do with that?"

It took Jane half a day, but there was chicken for supper that night.

"I tell you ... by the time we got rid of the chickens, I made mother look like an amateur. I was a greenhorn, but I learned."



Theodore and Anna Lueders' wedding photo, September 2, 1904 at Ellerslie — Photo courtesy: Lyle and Jane Lueders

Jane learned quickly that ... "The farm comes first, the cattle come first, and then the crops come first. Family comes at the back of the line. And that's a very hard pill for a lot of people to adjust to. But, it's your livelihood."

"It took Jane a long time to train me to change," laughs Lyle, "but we did pretty good."

After power was put through in 1959 and gas in the late 1960s, many farmers decided to subdivide their land into acreages. In 1979-80, Lyle and his father subdivided Lueders Ridge, a 120-acre parcel located in SW 22. All the lots were sold to individuals who wanted a quieter life than that in the city. Over the years, Lyle sold most of his land. Lyle's son has now taken over the farm, but with so much land being taken out of production, he says it is now more difficult to farm.

Having kept the original farm in the family for 100 years, the Lueders family received the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch award in 2004. The Lueders are one of over 20 such families in Strathcona to receive this provincial award since its inception in the 1990s.

Strathcona County is profiling its Century Families as one way to let more people know of the County's diverse history. For more Century Family stories, visit www.strathcona.ca/history.

Upcoming ...

**Small Business Week – Kickoff Symposium
October 20, 2014**

To celebrate the start, Strathcona County is hosting the Small Business Week - Kickoff Symposium on the morning of October 20, 2014.

The event will feature a keynote presentation from Angus Watt, National Bank Financial, and Dale Wishevan, President and CEO, Booster Juice.

Following the presentations, attendees can participate in panelist discussions and networking opportunities. Business development organizations will be on-site to connect with local entrepreneurs and businesses.

For more details or to register, visit www.strathcona.ca/smallbusinessweek.

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