



Strathcona County

LIVING

Keeping you informed

December 2017

Election 2017

Introducing your new Strathcona County Council



Front row: Councillor Ward 7, Glen Lawrence; Councillor Ward 8, Katie Berghofer; Mayor Rod Frank; Councillor Ward 2, Dave Anderson
Back row: Councillor Ward 5, Paul Smith; Councillor Ward 1, Robert Parks; Councillor Ward 4, Bill Tonita; Councillor Ward 3, Brian Botterill and Councillor Ward 6, Linton Delaine

It is an honour to serve as your new Mayor. Congratulations to our newly elected Councillors, and all returning Councillors. I look forward to working alongside you.

I also want to recognize the dedication and hard work of those who led before us in contributing to the great community in which we live; in particular, Mayor Carr.

The last few months have been exciting. We are getting up to speed on municipal processes and policies, the responsibilities of governance, our regional partners and; as important, about each other as we form our new team.

Immediately following the election, your Council went through an extensive 11-day orientation process to learn about many of the 315 programs the County offers.

Some of these sessions provided us with an opportunity to host elected officials from neighbouring communities and get to know each other better. Some of the Councillors and I also attended our first Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board meeting, which again gave us an opportunity to begin forging relationships in the region.

We learned about Edmonton Global, an independent, not-for-profit company that is mandated to take a

regional view of economic development. This body will also coordinate economic development efforts across municipalities to increase investment and grow industry and business opportunities.

Most recently, Council's primary focus has been on Budget 2018. I am pleased to report that the recommended budget, presented to Council on November 20, calls for a tax decrease, with no reduction in service contemplated.

In our short time in office, we are seeing that the people who work for the County are truly engaged in delivering the best outcome for citizens, industry and business.

This is a new day, and Strathcona County has a new Council that is ready to address the challenges we face, and build on the progress our County has made over the last number of years.

We dedicate our service over the next term to advancing the best interests of the community and to Strathcona County being a leading light in Alberta.

Please accept our sincere best wishes for the upcoming holiday season. May this Christmas find you enjoying the company of family and friends, and looking forward to a happy, prosperous New Year.

Cheers

Reel

Budget 2018 aligns resources to community priorities

By the time this newsletter reaches your home, Budget 2018 will have been deliberated by Council and possibly approved. Below is a short explanation of the process leading to the annual budget.

In recent years, Strathcona County has taken positive steps to align its resources, its conversations, and the resulting budget decisions with community priorities. This approach has increased the organization's flexibility in responding to opportunities and external pressures impacting operations.

Priority-based budgeting tools have changed conversations within the County, and have led to significant efficiencies and cost savings. An example is reallocating resources to support areas of higher priority, and reducing levels of support directed to lower priority areas. Other examples include adopting new technologies and partnering with others to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Foundational to this approach is sound planning, because whether you are running a household or a municipality, resources and capacity are finite. Knowing what your priorities are — where you want to go as a household or municipality — is critical to staying on track. It is also important to know your limits, and to set boundaries so you can pace yourselves as you move toward your desired destination. A solid understanding of your capacity for debt and risk tolerance allows you to make sustainable decisions.

Taking the household example, this might translate into putting more dollars aside for retirement or the children's education fund, and delaying or passing on more entertainment-related expenditures, such as an out-of-country vacation.

At Strathcona County, all decisions link back to the strategic plan, as it sets out the long-term vision (2030), and articulates community priorities. The order of these priorities is reviewed by council each year to ensure continued relevance, and to enable the County to adjust its shorter-term focus as necessary.

continued on page 2...

We hope you enjoy this new edition

There's more news inside, from the Reach Out, Speak Out initiative, to your role in winter maintenance, and upcoming events, to how Ypres Valley got its name.

Our community is changing

Right now, many more people in our community are facing the unknown in a system that has been historically designed to address one problem at a time. Through Community Talk we asked, “How can we better create a supported, safe and connected community?” We heard from our most vulnerable and our most secure. Nearly 8,000 people raised their voices and we listened carefully.

As a result, Strathcona County’s new social framework focuses on:

- Affordability
- Access to programs and services
- Safety
- Connectedness and inclusion

For more information

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/communitytalk



SUPPORTED, SAFE, CONNECTED
COMMUNITY FOR ALL.

What we offer

We are in new territory. The new social framework encourages a new approach to working together to enhance social well-being for all.

Our programs and partnerships build on individual strengths to help them flourish and create healthy lifestyles.

We offer:

- Counselling (individual and group)
- Solutions navigation
- Affordable services
- Home support
- Family support
- Outreach services
- Social framework implementation
- Volunteer opportunities

What’s new since Community Talk?

In May, 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, levels of government and citizens who co-created it.

Since May, partners have been gathering to discuss community-driven responses to the varying social needs of those who live and work in Strathcona County. We are just getting started on this collective journey and learning as we go.

In the meantime, Family and Community Services has been realigning its programs and services to better meet the social needs of our community. Some of our redesigned supports include:

New! Walk-in counselling sessions

Family and Community Services is offering professional walk-in counselling sessions. Counselling fees are “pay what you can afford” within the range of no cost to \$90/session (2017 Counselling Fee Schedule).

Monday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	last session at 2 p.m.
Tuesday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.	last session at 8 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. to Noon	last session at 11 a.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.	last session at 8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	last session at 2 p.m.

For more information

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/counselling

Free adult counselling groups

Weekly groups are designed for adults to gather together for support and encouragement. The professionally facilitated weekly format provides an opportunity to discuss and strategize how to navigate life’s challenges. Registration occurs upon arrival.

Monday, Understanding Emotions	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Men’s Group	6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Communications Tools	6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday, Women’s Group	6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, Next Steps for Support	3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/groups

Looking for community connections this winter?

We have something for every stage of life.

Family and Community Services provides a range of supportive programs to help residents improve their quality of life – whether it’s preschool drop-in programs or supports for those experiencing distress.

Here’s a sample of the programs available in Strathcona County this winter. There are many more!

Parenting and play

- Parented preschool programs: various events and programs happening throughout Strathcona County
- Parent education: for parents who would like extra support for the day to day challenges (designed for parents of newborns, toddlers, preschoolers and school-aged children)
- Positive parenting programs: providing support to raise confident and competent children (designed for caregivers of children between the ages of 2-12)

Learning and supports

- Outreach programs: providing emotional supports, advocacy and referrals to individuals and families
- Newcomer connector: drop-in activities for new Canadians to learn about Strathcona County

Most programs are free. A full list of programs and services is available in the Family and Community Services Winter Program Guide.

For more information

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/fcsguide



continued from page 1...

Budget 2018 aligns resources to community priorities

The corporate business plan is also revisited each year, following a review of the strategic plan, and sets out nearer-term goals to achieve the highest priorities. This plan also guides development of department business plans, which describe the operational requirements needed to advance corporate goals. Both the corporate and department business plans are based on a four-year cycle.

Master plans, project plans and operational plans round out the information used to guide operational decisions.

Informing all of these plans is a great deal of community engagement. Strathcona County is fortunate to have involved citizens, who are willing to share their views on a variety of topics like the strategic priorities, transportation plans, municipal development plan, dog bylaw and Community Talk.

If you can take the time to get involved, please do so because your voice matters. Strathcona County engages citizens many times a year in different ways for a variety of reasons, because we recognize that when citizens of all ages are meaningfully engaged in civic life, their voices strengthen decisions and their involvement helps build community.

Your community

Join the “cool” team — be a Snow Buster volunteer

Snow Busters is a volunteer program that has been running since the winter of 2009-2010. Snow Busters matches eligible residents with volunteers who help them by clearing ice and snow from their walkways and driveways within 72 hours after each snowfall.

There are two ways neighbours can help:

- Take some extra time when shovelling or plowing your sidewalk and give someone in your neighbourhood a hand.
- Volunteer with Snow Busters and be matched with someone in the community.

Snow Buster volunteers are essential to help residents remain in their homes safely, prevent injuries due to slips and falls, ensure safe access out for groceries and appointments, and increase independence. Snow Buster volunteers enthusiastically describe the experience as “great outdoor exercise” and “something that we can do as a family.”

The social framework envisions a community where people look out for each other. Many residents are already helping neighbours shovel their sidewalks

and driveway – you can too! Together we can create a community that is supported, safe and connected.

For more information

Family and Community Services

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/fcs



I'm in!

Thousands of people who participated in the County-wide Community Talk shared ideas on how to build a stronger community. The answer was clear: citizenship.

Your neighbours and community members voiced the following examples of how to build community in Strathcona County:

- Volunteer
- Community involvement
- Help one another (empathy)
- Work with each other to reach common goals (collaboration)
- Neighbourliness
- Small individual acts of kindness and support

Communities play an important role in our lives. Being part of a community can make us feel as though we are a part of something bigger than ourselves. Building a stronger community can start with small steps.

Not sure where to start?

Many people indicated they would like to become more involved in our community, but don't know where to start.

Start small - not all of us are able to make a formal volunteer commitment and that's okay. Sometimes even the smallest things we can do in our neighbourhoods can make our community a better place.

Here are some small ideas that can make a big difference:

- Offer a smile and friendly greeting
- Help a neighbour with small jobs or errands, like shovelling snow
- Set up a little free library on your street
- Host a small neighbourhood event, or start a "Mom's night out"

If you're interested in more formal opportunities to get involved, contact the Information and Volunteer Centre at www.ivcstrathcona.org or call 780-464-4242.

Do you have a community-building initiative or ideas you'd like to share with the community? Contact Family and Community Services to get started.

For more information

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/volunteer



County initiatives

Your role in winter maintenance

Winter is here, and County crews are out working 24/7 to maintain safe roads for residents.

Here are a few reminders about the role you have in supporting efficient services and safe conditions throughout the winter season.

- Keep your sidewalk clear of snow and ice
- Be a good neighbour and clear the snow around your property as soon as possible after a snowfall.

Don't forget:

- Shovel snow onto your property, not the road, to avoid creating hazardous conditions.
- Keep catch basins clear to reduce flooding problems on the road.
- Manage ice with rock chips supplied in neighbourhood chip boxes.

Know your snow policy

Based on the Winter Maintenance Policy that covers roads, sidewalks and parking lots, the County follows a priority system for snow removal. High traffic, high volume roads are cleared first, and lower volume and residential roads are cleared last based on a threshold of snow accumulation.

Avoid a tow - watch for parking bans

When snow clearing is required in Sherwood Park neighbourhoods, temporary parking bans will occur. There are two types of parking bans:

1. **Snow route parking bans** – these routes are marked with year-round signage stating "Snow route when declared". A parking ban on these streets will be declared a minimum of 24 hours before parking restrictions are enforced.
2. **Residential street parking bans** – when these routes are scheduled for snow removal, they will be marked with temporary orange signs stating "Residential Street Snow Removal in Progress" with the clearing dates for your neighbourhood.

Drive for the conditions

Weather and road conditions can change quickly. Follow some simple safety precautions to keep you and other motorists safe:

- Slow down – speed limits are set based on ideal conditions, not for ice and snow.
- Look ahead – leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle ahead of you.
- Watch the weather – check the weather before you leave your house each day.



Stay connected

Stay in the know about Strathcona County winter maintenance activities:

- Sign up for Strathcona County alerts – includes parking bans, as well as other emergent notifications: www.strathcona.ca/scalerts.
- Follow us on Facebook or Twitter – to see winter maintenance reminders and notices.
- Visit our website – for all the details on winter-related bylaws, policies and activities, including the location of community chip boxes and interactive snow route clearing maps.

For more information

www.strathcona.ca/winterroads

Will you Reach Out? Speak Out?

It may not be easy to talk about, but the truth is that family violence is happening in Strathcona County. There were 884 reported cases to local RCMP in 2016, and the RCMP believes that many incidents still remain unreported. People affected by family violence come from all walks of life – regardless of gender, age, religion, ethnicity, or economic status.

But what can we, as a community, do to stop family violence?

In partnership with A Safe Place, Victim Services, Saffron, and Men as Allies members, we can all be champions and lead the way by reaching out and speaking out to put a stop to family violence. This community effort is reinforced by the County's new social framework's safety outcome.

Speaking out against family violence can be very intimidating. We know family violence affects all walks of life. This campaign is a reminder that, as a community, we will not tolerate any form of violence. No one has to feel alone - there is help available.

There is also a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit and Victims Services Unit working hard to ensure victims of

family violence are supported and do not need to stand alone. This unit consists of RCMP members and a Family and Community Services social worker and Victim Services volunteers. This integrated team supports victims of family violence to increase their safety and navigate the legal and social systems of support.

What can I do?

You have a role in ending family violence - not just by speaking out when you are aware of violence, but also by creating and engaging in healthy relationships that model healthy ways to have conflict and differences of opinion.

Share your ideas and actions on how you will reach out and speak out against family violence at the All Walks of Life exhibits, located in public facilities throughout the County. The exhibits, featuring hundreds of pairs of shoes of all shapes and sizes, are meant to generate discussions on personal well-being, and healthy relationships, as well as to commemorate and honour the lives of individuals affected by family violence. People affected by family violence are not alone, and there are resources and supports available for those who are at risk.



Need help now?

Anyone who is in, or aware of an abusive situation, is encouraged to call the Safe Place 24-hour crisis line at 780-464-7233. Contact Strathcona County Family and Community Services for resources and supports to address family violence, including walk-in counselling available on the second floor of the Community Centre.

For more information and help

Family and Community Services

501 Festival Avenue, Sherwood Park

780-464-4044

www.strathcona.ca/SCspeakout

Community heritage

Place names: The story behind the naming of Ypres Valley

Special thanks to Dave Drader and Bonnie Ferguson for their contributions to this article

If hearing the name Ypres Valley conjures up images of faraway Europe, you're on the right track.

In the early 1900s in Strathcona County (then named the Municipal District of Clover Bar No. 517), the area north of Highway 16 was sparsely populated. As settlement increased and families grew came the need to establish schools. North of Highway 16 on Range Road 214, a simple edifice was built in 1921 and a few of the pioneers came together to name the new school. Local residents Mr. and Mrs. Harry White suggested the name Ypres (pronounced ee-pra), as David Gunn had recently moved to the district after returning from the front lines of the Great War and the Battle of Ypres¹.

The Battle of Ypres was actually a series of pitched engagements fought between Allied and German forces throughout the course of the First World War (1914-1918). Atop the ridges located near the town of Ypres in northwest Belgium, Allied forces fought to disrupt German supply lines. The strategy was controversial and the protracted back and forth between armies left it with dubious strategic significance. David Gunn was one of many men from the Clover Bar-Strathcona area who fought in these battles that claimed the lives, bodies and minds of thousands of Canadians.

Other combatants from here included three brothers — Eugene, Bert and Will Drader — who were part of the 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment), also known as the Loyal Eddies². A fourth brother, Earl, fought in 47th Battalion and survived the Battle of Vimy Ridge; he was wounded just north of there on May 7, 1917. Two of Earl's brothers-in-law, Bert and Sammy Ball, were killed — Bert, on the last day of the Somme Battle, November 18, 1916, and Sammy at Avion (after surviving Vimy), June 26, 1917. They were in the 38th Battalion. There were also several Ball cousins from the community who died in action.

The 49th Battalion was initially commanded by former Edmonton mayor Lt.-Col. William Griesbach; the thousand-strong force left Canada in June 1916. Within a few weeks of landing, Drader brothers Bert and Will were wounded, and then treated before returning to the front.

Tragically, the third brother, Eugene, was killed September 15, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme in France, alongside over a million other men, in one of the bloodiest, prolonged battles in human history.

Members of the battalion pushed on, culminating in their involvement in the Battle of Passchendaele (the third battle of Ypres). In late 1917, most of Belgium lay in the hands of the German empire. The Allied Forces had managed to hold the town of Ypres when the Canadians arrived to relieve the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp (ANZAC) with the goal of retaking the nearby ruined village of Passchendaele³.

Conditions were hellish: the drainage system had failed

and the Canadians found themselves in a quagmire of mud and rain.

The offensive was launched October 26 and over the course of the next two weeks, over 4,000 Canadians would die in the effort to retake the village. Lt. Bert Drader was wounded here for the second time, October 30, 1917.

Passchendaele was especially costly for the 49th; the Loyal Eddies lost three quarters of their strength on the morning of October 30 alone⁴. Among the dead was Alex Decoteau, the first Aboriginal police officer in Alberta and an Olympian athlete, who was killed by sniper fire. In his war diary dated October 30, F.R. Hasse, who was stationed near Ypres, recorded:

In the early morning we hear that all is going well. But about noon we get the disastrous news; Battalion all but wiped out in a desperate effort to gain objectives. Seven officers reported killed and thirteen wounded. As black a day for the 49th as the 3rd of June last year. The jubilation we felt when the first rumours reached us this morning is now turned to depression and faces everywhere are sad and lifeless⁵.

The Allies fought through and took Passchendaele on November 6 with Winnipeg's 27th Battalion having the distinction of capturing the village. Throughout the campaign, the Canadians demonstrated exceptional bravery and determination in their engagement: nine men earned the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour awarded for valour in the face of the enemy, including 49th Battalion Private Cecil Kinross⁶.

It was from this ruined, fractured landscape that David Gunn arrived in Alberta with his family. Even before the war, Gunn had distinguished himself as a fighter, albeit in the ring. In San Francisco he fought as a pugilist going toe-to-toe with the likes of celebrated American boxer Jack Jeffries in a 15-round bout⁷.

Done with boxing, he moved his wife and infant son to Alberta before joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force as part of the 151st Battalion. When the conflict in Europe ended, David returned to Canada, and after a short time in California, eventually settled east of Fort Saskatchewan in what is now Strathcona County. He was present when his neighbours recommended naming their new school in reference to his wartime service. Looking out the window to the valley below, Gunn himself suggested adding Valley to the title, and thus Ypres Valley was born.

Today, our ability to stand atop this picturesque landscape, on the edge of the newly designated Beaver Hills Biosphere, and gaze into the distance in peaceful contemplation is something we can easily take for granted. We remember and honour the sacrifice of the soldiers and their families in the service of our country, not only in the past but in today's conflicts as well.



We will not forget

Courtesy of Bonnie Ferguson

Approximately 320 individuals from the area now known as Strathcona County served in World War I. In 1917, many men from the districts in and around Clover Bar and Strathcona fought in the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele; this also encompasses Vimy. Here's a listing of those men from this area who died at Vimy and Passchendaele 100 years ago:

- Thomas Atkinson (April 13)
- Joseph Austin (April 10)
- John Loudon Baird (October 30)
- James Balcarras (June 20)
- Charles Ball (August 15)
- Samuel Ball (June 26)
- William Burke (March 31)
- Alexander Campbell (April 4)
- John Coleman (August 15)
- Alexander Gladu (April 28)
- J. Eddie Haley (April 9)
- Thomas Hanlan (April 9)
- Robert Humphreys (August 21)
- Jack McCloskey (April 28)
- Roy McDowell (September 27)
- Lloyd McGhan (April 9)
- Lawrence Webb (August 25)

We remember them.

- 1 Cherished Memories. Pp. 262
- 2 Bacon, P. Loyal Eddies were truly a band of brothers. Edmonton Journal. July 18, 2014
- 3 [Electronic resource]. The Battle of Passchendaele. Veteran Affairs Canada. URL: http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war/fact_sheets/passchendaele. Last Modified: March 3, 2015. Accessed: October 8, 2015
- 4 Bacon, P. 2014
- 5 Brief Notes of First World War Diary Vol. 2. 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) CEF, 21 April 1917 - 1919. Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum
- 6 The Battle of Passchendaele
- 7 Cherished Memories. Pp. 261

Upcoming events

For more information

www.strathcona.ca/events

Canada 150 Skating Day (Free skating)

Sunday, December 10

Ardrossan Recreation Complex (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

Glen Allan Recreation Complex (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Moyer Recreation Centre (1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

780-467-2211

Santa Skate

Sunday, December 17, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Glen Allan Recreation Complex

New Year's Eve Festival

Sunday, December 31, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Community Centre, Broadmoor Lake Park, Festival Place and Sherwood Park Arena and Sports Centre. Fireworks at 8 p.m.

780-467-2211

New Year's Day fun!

Monday, January 1, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Strathcona Wilderness Centre

Toonie skiing lessons, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing

780-922-3939

Strathcona County Fall 2017 Public Survey



Citizens are invited to complete the Fall 2017 Public Survey to provide feedback on some of the County's programs and services. The short survey covers satisfaction, awareness, usage and other areas. Results from the survey will help evaluate service delivery and plan the best use of County resources for our community. The survey runs December 1 - 22. Complete the online survey at www.strathcona.ca/survey.

COUNTY CONNECT

— your online window to service —
www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect

STRATHCONA COUNTY

Connect with us...

Twitter: @StrathcoCounty

Facebook: [facebook.com/strathcona.county](https://www.facebook.com/strathcona.county)

YouTube: [youtube.com/strathconacounty](https://www.youtube.com/strathconacounty)

eNewsletters: www.strathcona.ca/news

2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 3W7

780-464-8111

www.strathcona.ca

info@strathcona.ca

STRATHCONA COUNTY