



# Strathcona County

# LIVING

Keeping you informed

November 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**Happy Hanukkah** ז ריזדבום חרystovym  
Season's Greetings **Feliz Navidad**  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Joyous **Kwanzaa** HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
Happy New Year **JOYEUX NOËL**  
**HAPPY EID SHANAH TOVAH**

It's been just over a year since the election, and Strathcona County has seen and done many exciting things. Our population grew to just over 98,000 residents, and we are honoured to serve and represent everyone who lives and works here. As we move into 2019, we are excited to share some of this year's highlights with you.

### A year in review

- We revised the County's strategic plan this spring to create efficiencies that will guide us in governance, community development, infrastructure and program and service delivery. We consolidated goals from 12 to eight to better articulate our focus and meet resident needs.
- Municipal property taxes decreased this year by 2.18 per cent while the County maintained service levels and funded new initiatives.
- To help keep our students safe, all-day school zones were enacted in September, amending the speed limit to 30 km/h between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. This change supports the Strathcona County School Traffic Safety Partnership recommendations and our Vision Zero philosophy where no one is seriously injured or killed while travelling on County roads.
- A new survey tool launched this fall called SCOOP will help us focus on community priorities and make evidence-based decisions. SCOOP provides residents with relevant, timely opportunities to provide feedback on various County topics like transit service and recreation, parks and cultural priorities.

**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; Councillor Ward 6, Linton Delaine

- The summer brought together many residents through the Community Small Grants program and the youth pilot project called The Slab. The Slab gave over 220 youth ages 12 to 17 a safe, inclusive space to hang out and connect with each other. The Boys & Girls Club of Strathcona County has partnered with the County to continue the program in the fall.

### Looking ahead

- The County is continuing to explore the idea of a community hub to provide residents a central location for affordable, accessible services.
- A new agricultural facility will provide a destination for various agricultural uses like 4H, livestock and canine shows.
- Rogers™ Hometown Hockey™ will be live in the County from January 5 to 6, 2019. This event brings two days of free live entertainment, NHL alumni and hockey-themed activities for all ages, capped off by a live outdoor viewing party of the Oilers vs. Ducks hosted by Ron MacLean and Tara Slone.

- Four new committees will advise on traffic safety, and youth, seniors and accessibility issues in Strathcona County. These priorities currently fall under the Community Living Advisory Committee, which has enhanced our community's social and cultural priorities in order to meet the needs of our residents. We want to thank the committee and express our appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

- Lastly, our agreement and alliance exploration with the City of Fort Saskatchewan promises to bring many innovative opportunities as we explore service delivery, efficiencies, tax impacts, shared governance, identity and growth and resource impacts. This will be a thorough process, focused on the best outcomes for our residents, with discussions wrapping up in December 2019.

In other great news, the provincial government completed the new Davidson Creek and Ardrossan elementary schools and modernizations on New Horizons Charter School. The government has budgeted to modernize École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic Elementary School and will begin construction on the new Wye Elementary School next year.

This year has been busy and exciting, and we look forward to 2019 with anticipation. Our community is diverse and growing, and we will continue collaborating with you to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive community that meets all residents' needs. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019.

*Reel*





## Winter festivities

Join us for various fun and free all-age activities this winter! Find more information online at [strathcona.ca/events](http://strathcona.ca/events)

### Celebration of Lights

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Community Centre, 401 Festival Lane,  
Sherwood Park  
[strathcona.ca/col2018](http://strathcona.ca/col2018)

On Saturday, November 17, the Community Centre will be transformed into a winter wonderland with FREE family activities at the Celebration of Lights. This event is Strathcona County's kickoff to the holiday season.

The festivities take place from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and include an opportunity for a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This year's activities include sleigh rides, live reindeer, cookie decorating, hot chocolate, holiday crafts, inflatable fun and more. At 5 p.m. the community countdown will begin and the magic of the season will come alive with the lighting of our digital tree and decorations outside the Community Centre.

Free parking is available in the Community Centre underground parkade and at Festival Place. Please note that road closures will be in effect on Festival Avenue and Festival Lane from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 17. Parking restrictions will be in place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (5-minute street parking stalls will be available until 1 p.m.)

Remember to share the holiday spirit by bringing a donation for the Strathcona Food Bank.



### Christmas in the Heartland

Presented by the Josephburg Agricultural Society  
November 24 to 25, 2018, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
[josephburg-ag.ca](http://josephburg-ag.ca)

Welcome winter with a trip to north Strathcona County with a driving tour of eight unique venues steeped in tradition. Visit local halls and churches filled with artists, ice carvings, nativity displays, and enjoy sleigh rides, holiday carolling and more! Event times vary by venue. For more details visit [josephburg-ag.ca](http://josephburg-ag.ca), call 780-998-9450 or email [jas.agfacility@gmail.com](mailto:jas.agfacility@gmail.com).



### CP Holiday Train

Monday, December 10, 2018  
Moyer Recreation Centre, Josephburg  
Train arrives at 5 p.m.  
Show at 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Edmonton CP Station, 9735 Gateway Blvd.  
Train arrives at 8 p.m.  
Show at 8:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

The Holiday Train is coming! You won't want to miss this favourite with 14 brightly decorated rail cars and a fun holiday boxcar performance featuring Terri Clark, Sierra Noble and Kelly Prescott. Since 1999, the Holiday Train has raised over \$14.5 million and 4.3 million pounds of food for North American food banks, with donations staying in local communities.

Come with a heart healthy or monetary food bank donation along with your warm winter gear! More information is available on the CPR website at [cpr.ca/holiday-train](http://cpr.ca/holiday-train).



### Winter Freeze Fest

December 30, 2018 to January 4, 2019

The County will host a number of free activities throughout Strathcona County to celebrate the start of a new year, while also building the excitement leading up to Rogers™ Hometown Hockey™. The fun includes recreational skating, Winter Play Days, three skating pathways (Emerald Hills, South Cooking Lake and new this year, Salisbury Athletic Park) and more. Watch [strathcona.ca/winterfreezefest](http://strathcona.ca/winterfreezefest) for the most up-to-date schedule.

### Christmas in the Country

Saturday, December 1, 2018, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
[strathcona.ca/christmasinthecountry](http://strathcona.ca/christmasinthecountry)

Celebrate Christmas in the Country in south rural Strathcona County with markets, sleigh rides, food, fun family activities and even a visit from Santa! Make sure you stay for the light-up event for more treats, lights and fireworks. Take a self-guided tour or hop on the bus.

Participating venues: Ardrossan Senior Citizens' Drop-in Centre, Colchester Community Hall, Deville/North Cooking Lake Community Hall, Hastings Lake Community Hall, Holy Redeemer Catholic School, Ministik Community Church, St. Luke Catholic School, South Cooking Lake Community Hall, Uncas Elementary School. Wrap-up fun will be at South County Office from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Bus tours leave Bethel Transit Terminal in Sherwood Park at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$5/person or \$10/family and must be pre-purchased at County Hall, Economic Development and Tourism office before November 30, 2018. More information: 780-400-3880. Note: bus tours do not include the wrap-up event.



### New Year's Eve Festival

Monday, December 31, 2018, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Celebrate New Year's Eve with the whole family. Enjoy a variety of free indoor and outdoor activities throughout the County. From remote control bobsled races, sports activities and crafts to snowshoeing, wagon rides and a snow slide, there's fun for everyone. And of course, enjoy the traditional countdown to New Year's with a fireworks display! Watch for more information in the events calendar and online at [strathcona.ca/events](http://strathcona.ca/events).



### Rogers Hometown Hockey

January 5 to 6, 2019

[strathcona.ca/hometownhockey](http://strathcona.ca/hometownhockey)

The Rogers™ Hometown Hockey™ Tour presented by Scotiabank is a free family-friendly hockey celebration featuring two days of live entertainment, NHL alumni, local celebrities and hockey-themed activities for all ages. Live on location in the County on January 5 and 6, Ron MacLean and Tara Slone will host an outdoor viewing party of the Edmonton Oilers playing the Anaheim Ducks, including a pre-game, intermission and post-game show from the Sportsnet Mobile Studio. This event will shine a spotlight on Strathcona County's unique community, strong hockey history and personal local hockey stories. Stay tuned for more details, including the festival location and exciting events leading up to the festival.

## Community drug strategy

In response to the opioid crisis, community partners established the Community Drug Strategy Committee in Strathcona County. The committee is made up of 15 different organizations and its strength comes from its combined knowledge and reach into various local sectors including schools, RCMP, Alberta Health Services, Strathcona County departments and various social-serving organizations.

The committee was challenged to reshape the way we think about and approach addiction and substance use in order to address root causes. This new approach and the committee's work is based on a collective ownership of drug

issues, and that Strathcona County is already experiencing the impacts of drug use. The committee's approach recognizes addiction does not discriminate and that recovery is at the individual, family and community levels.

Recently, the committee released its Community Drug Strategy for Strathcona County that provides an evidence base for meaningful community conversations about the County's collective response to substance use. The strategy outlines a series of actions under its four pillars of prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and community inclusion and safety which the committee will continue to work towards to improve overall health and well-

being for all.

The committee also hosted "Opioids Don't Discriminate: An Interactive Experience" from November 5 to 9 that immersed participants in the journeys of three characters impacted by opioid use, based on real-life experiences. The event strengthened empathy and understanding about substance use, addressed pervasive stigmas and judgments about substance use and challenged participants to rethink what they know about opioids and substance use.

The drug strategy can be downloaded or viewed online at [strathcona.ca/opioids](http://strathcona.ca/opioids).

## Make it a green Christmas!

Christmas can be a time filled with lots of stuff. However, it doesn't have to be. Do your part this season and remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Reduce the amount of gifts, packaging and stuff in general. Give experiences instead. Gift cards for classes or swimming, restaurants, a date night out or babysitting make the perfect gifts for anyone! If you enjoy crafting, why not make homemade gifts? Recreation, Parks and Culture offers a variety of hands-on classes for all skill levels and ages.

Reuse items when it comes to decorating and wrapping. Keep your bows and ribbons and reuse them again next year. Why not exchange decorations with family and friends? You each get something new to you to freshen up your décor without spending any money.

Recycle your wrapping paper, and avoid purchasing paper with foil or glitter that can't be recycled. If you are hosting a holiday party or Christmas dinner, don't forget to stick to the Green Routine and compost your organic kitchen waste.

Visit [strathcona.ca/greenchristmas](http://strathcona.ca/greenchristmas) for more ideas and tips to maximize your eco-holiday spirit.

## Share your opinion

### Join SCOOP today!

Your input is valuable for the development and well-being of our community. Through online surveys, polls and discussions, SCOOP (Strathcona County Online Opinion Panel) members are invited to share their thoughts on County initiatives, neighbourhood development, social programs, the environment and much more. Although some surveys will still be available to all residents, by joining SCOOP, you have an advantage. You will start by answering some demographic questions, and then you will only be sent surveys that are relevant to you! You will also receive news and progress updates on previous public engagement initiatives.

### Census 2018 — Follow-up survey

This past spring Strathcona County conducted a municipal census. Our census obtains a population count and gathers other demographic information to help the County plan and deliver services and programs for our community. Please take a short follow-up survey to share any barriers to participation or suggestions to enhance the next census.

The survey is available at [strathcona.ca/censussurvey](http://strathcona.ca/censussurvey) from November 1 to 22.



Join a growing community of engaged citizens and have your say! For more information, visit [strathcona.ca/scoop](http://strathcona.ca/scoop).



# Experience the Holidays

in Strathcona County!

**Celebration of Lights**  
Community Centre  
Nov 17

**Festival of Trees**  
Festival Place  
Nov 24

**Christmas in the Heartland**  
Presented by the Josephburg Agricultural Society  
Nov 24 & 25

**Christmas in the Country**  
South of Highway 16  
Dec 1

**Festival Place**  
A Quartette Christmas  
Nov 25  
The Debaters Christmas Show  
Dec 1  
Singing in the Rain  
Dec 15 - 30

**Christmas Sweater Skate and Santa Storytime**  
Millennium Place  
Dec 8

**CP Holiday Train**  
Moyer Recreation Centre  
Dec 10

**Santa Skate**  
Glen Allan Recreation Complex  
Dec 16

**New Year's Festival**  
Community Centre, Festival Place, and Strathcona Wilderness Centre  
Dec 31 & Jan 1

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

**STRATHCONA COUNTY**

## For all ages and stages of life

Family and Community Services (FCS) offers free and low-cost programs and services for all residents. Our programs and partnerships support individuals, parents and families in building strengths and living a healthy lifestyle.

Our programs and services include:

- walk-in group and individual counselling
- home support
- family support
- outreach services
- volunteer opportunities
- parenting and relationships
- accessing community services and support
- affordable services
- making new friends and meeting your neighbours
- play and learning events for all ages

Contact FCS at 780-464-4044 or visit us in the Community Centre building for more information and services.

### Professional counselling

FCS offers professional walk-in counselling during the daytime and some weekday evenings. Fees are based on what you can afford, starting at \$0.

#### Mondays and Fridays:

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(please arrive by 3:30 p.m. for last session)

#### Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays:

8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
(please arrive by 7 p.m. for last session)

Free, drop-in adult counselling groups are also offered every week, and are designed for adults to gather and offer support and encouragement. Sessions are professionally facilitated, and registration occurs on arrival.

## Recreation and Culture Strategy engaging youth and community groups

Strathcona County is inviting the public's input as planning begins for the next 12 years of recreation, parks and culture (RPC) investments into the community.

The new Recreation and Culture Strategy will expand the RPC department's current focus on revitalizing and introducing new indoor and open space infrastructure to a more holistic view of RPC priorities in the community. This strategy will replace the County's existing Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy.

## Winter safety



Weather and road conditions can change quickly in winter. Remember these safety tips to keep you and others safe this winter:

- Slow down. Posted speed limits are for ideal driving conditions on clear, sunny days, not on icy or snowy roads. Winter tires can help improve traction and handling.
- Look ahead. Leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front of you. Look far ahead while driving so you can spot hazards and have time to respond safely.

**Mondays:** 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Understanding emotions*

**Tuesdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Men's group*

**Wednesdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Communication tools*

**Thursdays:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Women's group*

**Fridays:** 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Next steps for support*



### Parenting and play

We offer a range of free programs and activities for parents and caregivers, both as drop-in courses and registered programs. Whether you're looking for support through tantrums or the teenage years, support for raising confident and competent children, or fun activities where you and your children can connect with your community, we have something for you!

Follow Parent Link on Facebook at Strathcona County Parent Link, check information and programs at [strathcona.ca/parentlink](http://strathcona.ca/parentlink) or view and download the most recent FCS guide at [strathcona.ca/fcsguide](http://strathcona.ca/fcsguide).

For more information:

780-464-4044

[strathcona.ca/community-families](http://strathcona.ca/community-families)

It's now time to look forward. Over 3,000 responses have been received through the public survey. We're also talking to community groups and youth. A survey designed specifically for youth has been made available through the schools, online at [strathcona.ca/youthsurvey](http://strathcona.ca/youthsurvey) and a survey designed specifically for groups has been sent to over 350 community, sport and cultural organizations.

Visit [strathcona.ca/recreationculture](http://strathcona.ca/recreationculture) for more information and other engagement opportunities or call 780-467-2211.

- Get ready. Prepare your vehicle by checking all systems and functions are working. Keep warm clothes and a winter survival kit in your car, and be sure your cell phone is fully charged.

- Watch the weather. Check the weather before you leave, and give yourself extra time to get where you're going.

Stay in the know about weather alerts, parking bans and other situations by signing up for Strathcona County alerts at [strathcona.ca/scalerts](http://strathcona.ca/scalerts). You can also follow us on Facebook at Strathcona County and Twitter @StrathcoCounty.



## Lifelong learning with your library

The Strathcona County Library has over 64,000 square feet of borrowing materials, study areas, interactive children's areas, hangout spaces, computer stations and cozy nooks. We lend everything from books in all formats to language kits, story time kits, DVDs/Blu-Rays, CDs and book club kits. In addition to our extensive collection, we also host daily programs and activities for all ages, both on a drop-in and registered basis.

Our materials and programs are also on the road! The Bookmobile visits designated stops across rural Strathcona County every day and can also visit community events, preschools and seniors' centres. Our low-floor design ensures residents of all ages and abilities can access our onboard services.

Follow the library on Twitter @sc\_library and the Bookmobile @sclbookmobile or contact the Bookmobile at [bookmobile@sclibrary.ca](mailto:bookmobile@sclibrary.ca). For programs and activities, be sure to check our seasonal program guide or visit [sclibrary.ca/calendar](http://sclibrary.ca/calendar).



## Updating the Transit Master Plan

Earlier this year, the public was invited to share ideas on how to best invest and plan for Strathcona County Transit services over the next 10 years, as part of the Transit Master Plan update. The draft recommendations are now ready for public review and feedback. The draft recommendations look at the future of Strathcona County Transit services, including the potential introduction of Dynamic Transit (on-demand shared transit) services, improvement of inter-municipal service such as the University of Alberta evening and NAIT connection, while improving the efficient use of transit services in the community. Review the recommendations and provide your feedback until November 19 at [strathcona.ca/tmp](http://strathcona.ca/tmp).

### Connect with us...

Twitter: @StrathcoCounty

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

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

eNewsletters: [strathcona.ca/enews](http://strathcona.ca/enews)

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