2011 Annual Report

The centre section features excerpts from the 2011 Annual Report — Strengthening Connections, including:

**revitalized facilities** — You will see several accomplishments in our commitment to revitalize existing parks, open spaces and recreation facilities within the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy. These are investments in a healthy, active and green community … and projects that provide great places to connect with one another.

**new online channels** — In 2011, the County expanded its communication connections to support a more open government and engaged community through Council meeting webcasting and building our presence in social media.

**engaged people and partnerships** — The Annual Report section also features examples of efforts that demonstrate collaboration, from safety and well-being initiatives to transportation and partnership programs.

And speaking of strengthening connections, we also extend our thanks to the groups and individuals who take time to connect with us, on issues and solutions, and contribute in this way to strengthening Strathcona County.

**Common bonds with Fort Saskatchewan**

It was a notable occasion as the City of Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County signed a new intermunicipal cooperation agreement at concurrent special Council meetings held on June 27, 2012 to strengthen the positive relationship that exists between our municipalities.

The agreement, called Common Bonds, recognizes that as adjacent neighbours our two municipalities can realize advantages from working together on interconnected matters of benefit to our municipalities and the region.

With nearly 23 kilometres of shared border between our two municipalities, the new Common Bonds Agreement will help us address common issues and more mutually beneficial outcomes.

**New Heartland Housing Foundation**

A very good example of this cooperation, also approved by the two Councils at the joint meetings, is the creation of the Heartland Housing Foundation. Effective January 1, 2013, this new organization will assume responsibility for non-market housing facilities and programs that are currently operated under three management bodies in the two jurisdictions:

On behalf of County Council, I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer!

Strathcona County Living

Message from your Mayor and County Council

Our summer edition of Strathcona County Living presents our Report to the Community. We share both a look back at some of our accomplishments in 2011, and progress in 2012.

It was my pleasure to administer the Oath of Office to Clinton Alexander, who officially took office as Strathcona County’s new Ward 5 Councillor on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at the Swearing In held in Council Chambers.

We congratulate and welcome Councillor Alexander as our newest member of Council, and look forward to his contributions in the interests of Ward 5 and our municipality.

A by-election was held June 25, 2012 to fill the Ward 5 Councillor vacancy created when Jacquie Fenske was elected as the MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville. Councillor Alexander has been sworn in to serve the remainder of the 2010 - 2013 Council term.

On behalf of County Council, I wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer!

Strathcona County Living
Canada Day provided a fitting venue at which to showcase Strathcona County's new brand to the community. The new logo and an explanation of the brand was featured in a number of places.

- Strathcona County banners lined the roadway along Festival Avenue and Festival Lane in Centre in the Park, near the Community Centre.
- A brand display, sharing Strathcona County's brand story, provided the backdrop for branded T-shirts and hats to be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis at the Mayor's Canada Day Pancake Breakfast.
- Two Strathcona County Transit buses were brand wrapped for the Canada Day parade and served to shuttle people between events. These buses will act as large, moving billboards until the entire fleet is permanently rebranded.

Over the next several months, Strathcona County will continue its transition to the new brand. Let us know what you think. A brand is strongest when it is enthusiastically embraced by its citizens and business community. Email info@strathcona.ca

Why brand?
Strathcona County’s brand had remained largely undefined, even as the community grew and evolved into an economic force within the province. Based on feedback from business and industry, the County decided the time was right to distinguish itself as a community.

A distinctive brand offers many advantages. Among these is the ability to strengthen community identity and pride, and function as an aid to economic development. Communities that get it right are better able to attract talent and investment. In the simplest terms, a brand answers the questions: Who are we and why do we matter? Successful brands do this in a way that is unique enough to be heard in a crowded market, where all municipalities sell quality of life to a greater or lesser degree.

Strathcona County’s new brand celebrates the community’s:

- “Can Do” spirit - supported and uplifted by well-educated social and economic movers and shakers, independent risk-takers, who demonstrate leadership and innovation.
- Quality of place - reflected in the words ‘Living. Refined.’ which speak to the energy of our people, who contribute to Strathcona County being a preferred community (recreation, cultural and services infrastructure excellence), as well as the community's status as an energy engine.
- Deeply-rooted value system - founded on determination, honesty, integrity, freedom, personal responsibility, kindness, self-esteem, and compassion.

Strathcona County citizens, business owners and industry shaped the brand by sharing what makes the community special. People from surrounding communities also told us what they think of Strathcona County, and what attracts them to live or invest in a community.

Our brand story
Some things never change, like our value system born of agricultural roots, an honest day’s efforts, and compassionate hands. In our busy lives, we can lose track of what’s happening where we live … we get a bit foggy about why we like it so much … just that we do.

Let us re-introduce you to Strathcona County 2012.
We are parks, community spirit, smaller community feel, excellent recreational infrastructure, and a strong energy industry. More deeply, we are the home of the “Can Do” spirit. Strathcona County is the home of the energetic spirit, super-powered by people who shape success in all its forms. Be it leadership, creativity or innovation, there are things we are at the forefront of in a world that’s constantly changing. For all of us, every day is a chance to re-invent, re-imagine, re-engineer, and re-think the future … a Brand New Day.

Strathcona County. It’s our time.
The Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy addresses a variety of indoor and outdoor requirements to serve the needs of individuals, community groups and program participants of all ages. Throughout 2011, three major indoor facility revitalization projects progressed, along with several outdoor open space projects.

By working on these enhancements with our community partners, Strathcona County has been able to develop quality active living opportunities that contribute to overall health and wellness in the community.

### Indoor facilities

#### Ardrossan Recreation Complex

The Ardrossan Recreation Complex, located nine kilometres east of Sherwood Park, was open only in a limited capacity through renovations in 2011. Residents now enjoy a wonderful, newly revitalized facility, which opened officially on June 16, 2012. This provincially-funded $21 million renovation boasts a new ice arena, children’s indoor playground, state-of-the-art wellness centre, and banquet hall and meeting rooms. A Fun Factory and youth lounge will open in fall 2012, along with completion of the west arena floor replacement, for a total of two full-sized ice surfaces.

#### Millennium Place

Three new spaces were opened in 2011. The leisure ice doubled in size and continues to offer recreational skate times 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The new Youth Lounge and gymnasium have been a welcome addition, with an interactive playground adding a unique dimension to the space. The expansion of the Edu-tainment Centre has been completed, with five activity rooms. The new upper east wellness area focuses on functional weight training for patrons. For 2012, work continues on even more wellness spaces, which include fitness studios, a dedicated group cycle studio and a multi-purpose, combative room.

#### Broadmoor Arena and Clubhouse

The Broadmoor Arena and Clubhouse have gone through extensive renovations. The arena received new spaces including a new Zamboni and ice plant room. A number of upgrades involved modifying the refrigeration system, dressing room, lobby and rink boards. The newly renovated facility accommodates off-season arena dry surface use. The clubhouse’s second-level addition provides meeting and community event spaces overlooking the course. Golfers and visitors have been enjoying the much-improved clubhouse and banquet space.

### Open space progress

#### Clover Bar Ranch Spray Park

Construction of the Clover Bar Ranch Spray Park, an eight-feature spray park with site furniture, opened to the public in the spring of 2011.

#### Deermound Dog Off-Leash Park

This revitalized dog off-leash park consisted of a trail connection to the Waterton Estates neighbourhood, 2.6 kilometres of walking trails, site furniture, fencing, washroom facilities, plus interpretive signage to add to the experience of the may dog owners who use the park.

#### McGhan Park Ice Rink

Construction on the McGhan Park Ice Rink started in the fall of 2010 with the removal of the volleyball court and site grading. The full-size outdoor hockey rink, including players boxes and rink lighting, was completed in 2011.

#### Clarkdale/Chelsea Heights and Sherwood Drive trails

Two multi-use asphalt trails were constructed in 2011: the Clarkdale/Chelsea Heights Trail, which runs east to west through Clarkdale Meadows and continues on the west side of Clover Bar Road through Chelsea Heights; and Sherwood Drive Trail, which runs along the west side of Sherwood Drive from Main Boulevard north to Baseline Road.
In 2011, Strathcona County began to regularly webcast Council Meetings, offering the public a real-time video stream of the proceedings online. An indexed archive of each webcast is also made available a day or two after each meeting; the public can watch the Council items that they are interested in, online, at their convenience.

In designing the Community Centre, the new Council chamber was wired for the webcasting technology. Now three cameras capture Council, administration, and public participants in session to broadcast over the web. The webcasts of the proceedings are not edited. People viewing the webcasts see and hear presenters, and Council discussions and decisions, as if they were in attendance. The number of external viewers per webcast ranged between 40 and 60 in 2011.

The webcasts are also streamed through the County’s intranet, proving to be beneficial for County staff. Online they can monitor how quickly the agenda is moving along to time their arrival for an item in Council, or listen to hear the Council discussion that is relevant to their work.

Making Council Meetings more accessible and convenient for the community creates greater transparency, connecting residents with their municipal government.

Community gardens

In 2011, five community gardens were growing strong in Strathcona County: Clover Bar Ranch and Good News Church community gardens were the newest groups, joining Old Man Creek, Bev Facey and Brittany Lane community gardens. Within the community garden groups, a total of 185 garden plots are enjoyed by 335 gardeners. Some locations also involve their members in community and food bank plots. The Parent Link Lil Sprouts Gardeners received special recognition from the Communities in Blooms judges.

Groundbreaking for Fire Station #6

Shovels hit the ground December 16, 2011 to mark the start of construction on Strathcona County’s sixth fire station. Located at 915 Bison Way, Sherwood Park, next to the RCMP station, Fire Station #6 is slated to open in early 2013. In addition to being a fully operational fire station, it will also serve as a training facility for Strathcona County fire fighters and a home base for management and administrative teams, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and Investigation, Occupational Health Safety and Training. The budget for the design, land, building and vehicles is approximately $20.8 million, with just over half coming from the Government of Alberta’s Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

Support to Slave Lake disaster

Strathcona County Emergency Services was the first emergency services department in Alberta asked to provide mutual aid to the Slave Lake disaster. Fire Chief Darrell Reid was asked to assume incident command, and from May 20 to June 1, his team of 36 staff provided leadership in the emergency operations centre and ground support. Representatives from the County’s Fleet Services, Facility Services, and Transportation and Agriculture Services also provided support. Many expressions of gratitude have been received from those affected by the disaster.

Strong partnerships are at the heart of many of Strathcona County’s endeavours and successes. And behind the partnerships are engaged residents, business and community organizations, County staff, and supportive senior orders of government. Here are some of the 2011 highlights.
In 2011, Strathcona County undertook a number of planning projects including the Community Safety Plan. Today, the County is working with real estate developers, brokers and agents to attract new retail in our community. The projection is for over 500,000 square feet to be added over the next two years. Also, working relationships were established between the Strathcona County ‘Green Committee’ and the Sherwood Park and District Green Committee to focus on six sectors: pollution management, renewable and alternative energy, energy conservation, resource conservation, environmental assessment, sustainable knowledge.

New bus terminal
In early 2011, Strathcona County Transit was awarded $13.6 million in provincial GreenTRIP funding to build a new bus terminal on Bethel Drive. This funding, together with the County’s allocation of $7 million will see a new off-street terminal built: room for more than 20 buses, an enclosed, heated passenger waiting area, more than 1,200 parking stalls, and an improved kiss ‘n ride drop-off area. The terminal is expected to break ground in early 2012, and open in late summer 2013.

Roadway upgrades in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland
Roadway upgrades began in 2011 to include seven kilometres on industrial Range Road 220 north of Highway 15, two CN railway crossings and new turning lanes and traffic signals for the Range Road 220 - Highway 15 intersection. Funding for the project is being supported by federal and provincial grants, and contributions from Shell Canada Limited and Strathcona County. The $18-million project is expected to be completed by late summer 2012 to create a safer and more effective road system for users.

Joint Planning Study
Strathcona County and the City of Edmonton share a 40-kilometre municipal boundary. Along the shared border are a variety of land uses, major transportation corridors and drainage basins. To create a common understanding on risk management, land use, transportation and drainage, the two municipalities are completing a Joint Planning Study that extends approximately 1.6 kilometres on either side of the shared border. The area, which includes a vital economic corridor, could begin to thrive through this plan, rather than be constrained due to proximity to the boundary.

Planning projects

Economic development efforts
Economic Development and Tourism completed a Retail Market Study, working with real estate developers, brokers and agents to attract new retail in our community. The projection is for over 500,000 square feet to be added over the next two years. Also, working relationships were established between the Strathcona County ‘Green Committee’ and the Sherwood Park and District Green Committee to focus on six sectors: pollution management, renewable and alternative energy, energy conservation, resource conservation, environmental assessment, sustainable knowledge.

Biomass module – Community Energy
Strathcona County was awarded a grant by Western Economic Diversification to construct and pilot a biomass combustion system for heating buildings. The modular system was delivered to the existing Community Energy Centre for Centre in the Park. It will use waste wood (pallets) and cereal crop residue (oat hulls and straw) for fuel. The project is under construction with an expected startup of September 2012.

Affordable housing
Strathcona County’s Affordable Housing Implementation Committee, created to assist in funding allocation for new and transitional affordable housing, reported positive news in its 2011 final report. Over three years, more than $12 million was allocated to housing projects and programs toward the creation of over 200 affordable housing units. In 2011, the first-time home ownership and secondary suite grant programs continued, and many affordable housing projects were completed in Strathcona County. Four additional Habitat for Humanity townhouse units in Emerald Hills were completed, and a duplex, also in Emerald Hills, started. Additional funding allocated in 2012 will bring the total number of Habitat for Humanity homes to 12 in Strathcona County. Also, Pioneer Housing Foundation started construction on a 60-unit community housing apartment building, Silver Birch Court. This building will provide affordable rental accommodation for residents, including older non-seniors on AISH and single-parent families. Strathcona County’s funding to implement its Affordable Housing Plan has been made possible through the Government of Alberta’s Municipal Sustainability Housing Program and Capital Enhancement Program.

Elder Abuse Response Strategy
To create a coordinated response to elder abuse, an Elder Abuse Working Group was established in 2011 involving Strathcona County Family and Community Services, the RCMP, A Safe Place, the Primary Care Network, Alberta Health Services, Covenant Health and the Victorian Order of Nurses. The group is developing elder abuse early identification, screening and response services, as well as community education, to pilot an Elder Abuse Response Team in 2012.

Transit Master Plan
The draft Transit Master Plan was shared for public review in the fall of 2011. The plan guides the direction of transit planning and development within the County to 2020. It includes improvements on accessible transit service (SCAT), the development of the new central terminal, and improvements to both local and commuter services.

Update 2012: The Transit Master Plan (TMP) was approved in March of 2012 as the roadmap for County transit growth and service over the next decade. It contains strategic directions and guiding principles, and distinct recommendations to:

• improve Strathcona County Accessible Transit (SCAT) service, including equivalent service hours and destinations as fixed-route service
• establish a 100-per-cent accessible transit fleet
• develop a new central terminal and improved Park and Ride access by increasing the number of parking stalls
• focus on high-demand commuter destinations within the City of Edmonton
• develop an integrated local network that directly connects to neighbourhoods, major destinations within Sherwood Park and the intermunicipal terminals
• consider testing an Androspark Park and Ride pilot project

Biomass module – Community Energy
Strathcona County was awarded a grant by Western Economic Diversification to construct and pilot a biomass combustion system for heating buildings. The module will be connected to the existing Community Energy Centre for Centre in the Park. It will use waste wood (pallets) and cereal crop residue (oat hulls and straw) for fuel. The project is under construction with an expected startup of September 2012.

Roadway upgrades in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland
Roadway upgrades began in 2011 to include seven kilometres on industrial Range Road 220 north of Highway 15, two CN railway crossings and new turning lanes and traffic signals for the Range Road 220 - Highway 15 intersection. Funding for the project is being supported by federal and provincial grants, and contributions from Shell Canada Limited and Strathcona County. The $18-million project is expected to be completed by late summer 2012 to create a safer and more effective road system for users.

Joint Planning Study
Strathcona County and the City of Edmonton share a 40-kilometre municipal boundary. Along the shared border are a variety of land uses, major transportation corridors and drainage basins. To create a common understanding on risk management, land use, transportation and drainage, the two municipalities are completing a Joint Planning Study that extends approximately 1.6 kilometres on either side of the shared border. The area, which includes a vital economic corridor, could begin to thrive through this plan, rather than be constrained due to proximity to the boundary.

Planning projects
In 2011, Strathcona County undertook a number of planning projects including the Community Safety Plan. Policies for the South Cooking Lake Area Structure Plan are being completed to reflect the land use concept as reviewed by the community. Also, work is occurring on the Androspark Area Structure Plan, and the Municipal Development Plan is undergoing revisions to ensure it conforms with the Capital Region Growth Plan.

Economic development efforts
Economic Development and Tourism completed a Retail Market Study, working with real estate developers, brokers and agents to attract new retail in our community. The projection is for over 500,000 square feet to be added over the next two years. Also, working relationships were established between the Strathcona County ‘Green Committee’ and the Sherwood Park and District Green Committee to focus on six sectors: pollution management, renewable and alternative energy, energy conservation, resource conservation, environmental assessment, sustainable knowledge.
Community Partnership Projects policy

In September 2011, Strathcona County Council approved a new municipal policy to create a systematic approach for building community-based recreation infrastructure. The new Community Partnership Projects (CPP) process assists with responses for new or revitalized infrastructure, evaluating them against projects already identified in the Open Space and Recreation Facility Strategy (OSRFS), any approved Park Master Plans, and “other” related strategies. When a group wants to increase the number of amenities, add specialized amenities, or enhance existing infrastructure, a partnership may be necessary as it allows the County to enhance service levels beyond what the municipality can do alone.

Community Recreational Events and Sport Tourism (CREST) investment

A new investment program called CREST was launched in 2011 to boost sport-hosting capacity of local sport and community organizations in Strathcona County. Support is available to help offset facility costs associated with staging major sport competitions, from provincial, western Canadian, Canadian to international-calibre events. CREST will be piloted in 2012, then evaluated to determine how to improve the program moving forward.

Art Gallery @501

Strathcona County Art Gallery @501 opened in March of 2011, offering a new and exciting public space to showcase the talents of our local artists, and to inspire our community. The mission of the gallery is to provide access, drawing on collective histories, and enhancing knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts through art education and art practice for Strathcona County’s inclusive community. For the latest art exhibits and activities, visit www.strathcona.ca/artgallery.

Highlights from the 2011 Consolidated Financial Statements

Where the 2011 municipal tax dollar was spent

Approximately 69 cents of every municipal tax dollar supported roads, public transit, fire, ambulance and police services.

2011 Total Property Tax Distribution

73 per cent of total property taxes supported municipal services.

Tangible Capital Assets Summary

2011 Tangible Capital Assets = $1.47 billion

During 2011, the County invested $103.5 million in a number of capital projects to maintain or improve community services. Some of these projects included: recreation facility revitalization, Silver Birch Lodge seniors’ housing, water supply infrastructure, the Heartland road network, and other road improvements.

This is a summary of Strathcona County’s financial operations for the year ended December 31, 2011. A copy of the complete audited consolidated financial statements can be obtained at www.strathcona.ca or by contacting: Financial Services, 780-464-8053.
Design drawings ready for BMX Bike Skills Park

Construction starts this summer

Strathcona County’s new BMX Bike Skills Park will provide a dynamic and exciting recreational opportunity for novice riders who want to learn BMX bike handling skills, and more challenging features for seasoned riders.

In 2010, the Strathcona County Bicycle Association approached Council about building a permanent bike skills park on County land. Council approved $200,000 capital towards the project and provided a permanent location to construct this facility. The new park will be situated on five acres of municipal reserve lands located north of Baseline Road and east of Bethel Drive.

To ensure ease of accessibility, this park will be tied into the surrounding trail networks and the new transit terminal. One of the parks’ unique features is a Pump Track, which allows riders to maintain and increase their speed by strategically weighting and un-weighting their bikes through turns, dips and hills. Pump Tracks require very accurate and careful construction so riders can complete many laps with little or no pedaling. Cool!

The Strathcona County Bicycle Association is working towards applying for additional grant funding for the park and seeking sponsorship to help complete this multi-year community partnership project.

Attend open house on survey of historic sites

Strathcona County residents are invited to attend an open house to see the results to date of the County’s survey of historic sites. The County began the survey in April of this year and will finish up the work this fall.

The purpose of the survey is to identify potential historic resources that reflect Strathcona’s history and are considered important to the community. Examples of historic resources include a farmhouse, a barn, a cabin, school, church or outbuilding, or there may be a section of an old trail that runs across a property. They may be located in a rural hamlet, or on a farm or acreage. A building may reflect significant architectural features, or more simple and traditional building practices. The survey is developed through photographing structures and landscapes, and researching their history.

Capturing this list of historic buildings and cultural landscapes is one step in conserving more simple and traditional building practices. Strathcona County has hired consultants Heritage Collaborative Inc. to conduct the survey.

Many sites were already known to the County, and a number of residents have come forward with others. The County is holding this open house to give the community a glimpse of what has been captured in the survey so far. Contract staff from Heritage Collaborative Inc. along with County staff will be on hand to talk to residents, receive any new sites for consideration and answer questions.

Open house

Wednesday, October 17, 2012
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (presentation at 7 p.m.)
Brookville Hall
53203 Range Road 212
(corner of Highway 16 and Range Road 212)

Further information:
yolande.shaw@strathcona.ca
www.strathcona.ca/history
780-449-5514

Youth Council ... Welcoming new members!

Looking for a way to join in, help out and be heard? Are you a teen in Grade 7 to 12 living in Strathcona County? Consider checking out the Strathcona County Youth Council.

What do you do on Youth Council?
• Plan projects and activities
• Give input on youth concerns
• Volunteer at events
• Have fun!

Further information:
Jean at 780-464-4044.

Introducing the Green Routine app for iPhones

Strathcona County is pleased to announce the launch of the Green Routine app for iPhones.

Using this FREE new tool, residents are able to:
• Set waste collection day and special event reminders
• Search the A-Z list
• Find a reusable item donation centre
• Locate a recycling centre
• Read the Green Routine guide
• Check the waste collection calendar
• Contact the Utilities Department

As the first custom-built app created by Strathcona County, this new technology is an exciting way to reach residents with information, whenever and wherever they want it. Residents without access to the app will be able to receive almost all of the services offered on the app on the Strathcona County website. Currently, over 80 per cent of mobile device traffic to the Strathcona County website comes from iOS devices such as iPhones, iPads, and iPods. Once the effectiveness of the app has been evaluated, Strathcona County will look at rolling this app out to other platforms such as Android or BlackBerry.

To download the app, search for Strathcona County Green Routine in the App Store. Watch for updates to the app as Information Technology Services and Utilities continue to work together to ensure the app is as user friendly as possible.

Further information:
w w w.strathcona.ca/greenroutineapp or 780-449-5514

Pride of Strathcona Awards

Recipients of the 2012 Pride of Strathcona Awards together with members of Council at Festival Place on June 11. This annual awards program recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions in the categories:
• Community Service
• Arts, Culture and Heritage
• Professional Achievement
• Youth
• Seniors
• Sports and Recreation - Athletic Achievement and Development

Information about the award winners and the nomination process is available at www.strathcona.ca/pride
Top 10 Ways to Connect in the County

Facebook – Where else can you write on walls and not get into trouble?
Get news and share your views about the County.
www.facebook.com/strathcona.county

Twitter – There’s a little blue bird that always has something to say about events and news happening in County. Feel free to follow and join the conversation.
www.twitter.com/strathcocounty

Website – Curious about our new brand? Looking for swim times? Have a question about the Green Routine? Connect with the County online.
www.strathcona.ca or call us at 780-464-8111

Council – Want to share your thoughts about the direction of Strathcona County? The Mayor and Ward Councillors want to hear your ideas and comments on programs and services. To connect – call, email, attend a Council Open House, watch a Council Meeting online and more. www.strathcona.ca/council

e-Newsletters – Stay connected on matters that are important to you. Choose from a variety of electronic newsletters; including preschool activities, active living tips, Millennium Card, County news, and more! www.strathcona.ca/news

Up and coming …

Neighbour Day – September 16
Do you feel connected within your neighbourhood?
As we increasingly rely on technology for our primary method of communication, we sometimes miss our on feeling connected to others in our community.
Research shows that the relationships people have with their neighbours build the foundation for strong communities that have the qualities of tolerance, respect and understanding.
In addition, residents in connected neighbourhoods experience reduced crime, fewer neighbour disputes, improved health and an overall better quality of life.
Connecting to others can be as simple as saying hello to your neighbours, putting your lawn chairs at the front of your house, or reaching out to seniors or individuals who might feel isolated.
Have you considered organizing a block party, a community garage sale, a walking or running group? Welcome new neighbours with a local map highlighting your favourite stops and invite them to your favourite restaurant or coffee.
Volunteering for programs such as Lawn Busters or Friendly Visitor is a great way to feel more connected and involved in your community.
A great event to invite your neighbour to is … Neighbour Day on September 16. It is a special day to recognize and celebrate great neighbours who enhance our lives, and to remind us to make regular connections with our neighbours year-round.
Mark your calendar and tell your neighbour about this fun, free event for all ages.
Further information:
www.strathcona.ca/neighbourday or call 780-464-4044

Sports zone at Millennium Place – Are you looking for a place for your kids to burn some of that extra energy off while making new friends?
Take them to the Sports Zone at Millennium Place, running from August 1 – September 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission fees apply.
www.strathcona.ca/mp or 780-416-3300

Friendly visitors – Do you love to meet new people? Do you long to hear about the good ol’ days?
Sign up to share time and smiles with a senior in your area. www.strathcona.ca/seniors or 780-464-4044

Local community events – Wondering what to do this weekend? There’s always plenty to do in Strathcona County. Take a look at the community calendar at www.strathcona.ca/calendar to see what interests you.

Live evening entertainment at Broadmoor Lake – The patio is an idyllic setting next to the beautiful Broadmoor Lake, with its profusion of greenery and waterfowl. Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. until August 29, rain or shine, Festival Place’s Patio Series presents two acts featuring live music from local and touring musicians.
Tickets prices, beverage and barbeque selection, and performer information is online.
www.festivalplace.ca or 780-449-3378

Disc golf at Strathcona Wilderness Centre – For the competitive types, why not settle the score over a game of disc golf! Gather friends for a nine- or 18-hole game of disc golf – the player with the lowest score wins!
www.strathcona.ca/recreation or 780-922-3939

New event!
Art in the Plaza
Featuring local art and artists, walking tours and original works for sale!
Every Sunday until September 30
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The West Plaza, Community Centre
2001 Sherwood Drive, Sherwood Park
780-410-8505
www.strathcona.ca/artintheplaza

Twitter: @StrathCoCounty
Facebook: facebook.com/strathcona.county
You Tube: youtube.com/strathconacounty
eNewsletters: strathcona.ca/enews

Neighbour Day 2012

West Plaza
Summer 2012

Neighbour Day – September 16
Do you feel connected within your neighbourhood?
As we increasingly rely on technology for our primary method of communication, we sometimes miss out on feeling connected to others in our community.
Research shows that the relationships people have with their neighbours build the foundation for strong communities that have the qualities of tolerance, respect and understanding.
In addition, residents in connected neighbourhoods experience reduced crime, fewer neighbour disputes, improved health and an overall better quality of life.
Connecting to others can be as simple as saying hello to your neighbours, putting your lawn chairs at the front of your house, or reaching out to seniors or individuals who might feel isolated.
Have you considered organizing a block party, a community garage sale, a walking or running group? Welcome new neighbours with a local map highlighting your favourite stops and invite them to your favourite restaurant or coffee.
Volunteering for programs such as Lawn Busters or Friendly Visitor is a great way to feel more connected and involved in your community.
A great event to invite your neighbour to is … Neighbour Day on September 16. It is a special day to recognize and celebrate great neighbours who enhance our lives, and to remind us to make regular connections with our neighbours year-round.
Mark your calendar and tell your neighbour about this fun, free event for all ages.
Further information:
www.strathcona.ca/neighbourday or call 780-464-4044

Summer 2012