

Q. 18 - Do you have any comments you'd like to add with regards to community events in Strathcona County?

* All comments are verbatim, with the exception of any personal / identifying information. Comments regarding multiple themes are repeated in under each relevant heading.

Canada Day (general)

- Canada Day doesn't need to be any bigger than it already is. I don't think any more money / time / effort should be spent making it a bigger and better event.
- Canada Day was a big long advertisement - for politicians and business. I know the county is 'Business Friendly' but that was ridiculous. Provide opportunities for non-business/political floats, perhaps some additional funding or organizing volunteers.
- have the Canada festival last for more than one day
- They are fantastic but way to long line ups and everything should be FREE!!! No more tickets for rides, games, etc.

Canada Day (variety of activity options)

- More teen events for Canada day.
- The bounty of bouncy houses for Canada day was perfect.
- Used to attend the Canada Day parade, but was extremely disappointed in it the past two years.

Canada Day (crowding, lines)

- Canada festival is a gong show. Too many people in too small of space. Needs to be hosted at a larger venue. It's very congested by the lake where all the vendors are. It's very choppy as everything is in different buildings or areas. Would be nice to have it all in one big field. All accessible and room to move. The parade is great. We enjoy that every year :)
- Canada Day events are a total gong show, it's so disorganized it's frustrating to participate in with children.
- Canada day has gotten so big would like to have it moved to somewhere bigger and less crowded.
- I think you should expand the Canada day venue or start out if the box thinking because it's just too much all on one day. For example - hold the parade a different day. Have bouncy castles on the St Theresa facility so they don't have to be closed at 5:00 to setup fireworks...
- Found that the line ups were insane for the Canada festivities this last time compared to all other years. Kids weren't able to do many activities.
- More outdoor seating for the Canada day pancake breakfast
- Too crowded and congested for Canada day Festival

- Have participated in Canada Day Festival in the past however it was very crowded, not kid friendly due to rude patrons, young & old & the parade is too commercialized, more about advertising & not enough entertainment
- Canada day activities could be spread out so it isn't so congested in one place. I don't take my little ones because of the bigger kids at all the activities as well

Canada Day (great job!)

- Canada Day was an absolutely amazing event for all ages.
- Love Canada Day, super fantastic festival!
- LOVE Canada Day in the County!
- Canada Day is great for kids! Thank you for that.
- They are well done--especially love the family oriented Canada Day celebration.
- Canada Day is absolutely amazing!! It's such a great time to spend with family and friends :) The county does an amazing job of celebrating Canada Day and I always look forward to attending it every year! :)
- Canada Day is very well organized.
- The county does a great job in celebrating Canada Day!
- My family have always enjoyed the Canada Day and New Year's Eve events
- Canada Day is a joy and well organized. Only suggestion is to spread out the food locations
- I really enjoy the Canada day festival. We go every year. It's a great family event.
- Love our Canada Day festival, New Year's is too crowded. Often read about events in the paper AFTER they've taken place, rather than in advance, and the events calendar on the county website isn't maintained. I only see recurring events, like the Farmer's Market, but the Cultural event and family events held in September, perhaps at the Agora? were not in the calendar.
- Canada day festival is great.
- they do a great job organizing the Canada day festival
- Canada day was phenomenal well organized
- I really like Canada Day and line ups are so very long but was great event
- our Canada day events are the best ever
- Canada day is excellent

New Year's Eve (general)

- Love our Canada Day festival, New Year's is too crowded. Often read about events in the paper AFTER they've taken place, rather than in advance, and the events calendar on the county website isn't maintained. I only see recurring events, like the Farmer's Market, but the Cultural event and family events held in September, perhaps at the Agora? we're not in the calendar.

New Year's Eve (variety of options)

- More street vendors would be nice especially for hot drinks during NY eve. ... food trucks?
- News Year Eve Festival is great to have early for the kids, but not very orientated towards adults wanting to celebrate the new year
- Have regularly attended New Year's Eve (but not last year)...would appreciate expanding activities for older kids (focus on pre-school)

New Year's Eve (great job!)

- My family has always enjoyed the Canada Day and New Year's Eve events

Marketing

- Absolutely LOVE all the community events. Some of the smaller events could be better advertised within the community.
- Love our Canada Day festival, New Year's is too crowded. Often read about events in the paper AFTER they've taken place, rather than in advance, and the events calendar on the county website isn't maintained. I only see recurring events, like the Farmer's Market, but the Cultural event and family events held in September, perhaps at the Agora? were not in the calendar.
- More advertising with event dates and times. Radio perhaps?
- we never here about these events that are going on, they should advertise more here in the country
- It would be nice to know about where some of these events are -need more information. County website should have an option that you can sign up for alerts on recreational facilities and events for age groups in your household.
- they need to promote more, and make sure that the news is deliver to all resident.
- advertise on TV or in paper, non-English wd be good to have translated events list
- make adds get the word out

Crowding (general)

- The county does a spectacular job putting on these festivals but again for the amount of growth that Sherwood park has seen over the last few years these events are overcrowded and line ups are way too long with little kids.
- Great events but very crowded. Perhaps staggered entry or staggered starts would help some of the indoor events where space is limited.
- Only problem is that they are so well attended that they are often crowded and have long waits. Especially Canada Day and Celebration of lights.
- Way too busy

- The events are busy which is great. However the indoor events are crowded. Is there any opportunity to spread it out further so it doesn't seem so cramped?
- Very well organized and run. For winter events, if possible, the petting zoo should not be in Festival Place - makes it too congested.
- Find the Canada Day and New Year's events a bit too busy and crowded.
- very crowded but I guess that is a good thing
- line ups were too long for attractions. do not plan to attend again
- They are always so busy. Not sure how to fix this. It just means everyone enjoys it. Butte line ups are painful with children.
- They are fantastic but way to long line ups and everything should be FREE!!! No more tickets for rides, games, etc.
- It's too busy not spread out enough! Not enough parking at these events
- They've been great. Very busy though. Long lines in the summer for activities.
- they are great but they need more room
- the herding of the public out after Canada day festival was done in an aggressive manner, packed and shoulder to shoulder
- The line-up for the breakfast at the July first celebration was so long that we had to go and come back and the line was still very long. Somehow make the line-up shorter or faster or something.

Transportation (bus, parking, access)

- Parking is an issue with all of these, thus we have not attended many this past year.
- I would attend more of these events if there was better parking it is not realistic for families to spend an hour on the bus to get to these events when they can drive there in 5 - 10 minutes and sometimes emergencies pop up with kids at these events I do not want to be waiting to catch the bus and then spend an hour getting home with a sick kid
- I live near Kinsmen Pool and traffic and parking in my area is dangerous!!!
- We tried 2 years in a row to go to Canada day but could not find a parking space.
- better parking is needed maybe have park and ride

Volunteers

- When I attend is because I am a volunteer.
- appreciate volunteer commitment
- Events are always well organized and so geared towards families. Some of the teen volunteers are these events need to be more closely supervised as they are too busy creating their own crafts or socializing with their friends to actually be leading the activity

- I am waiting for the day where these programs would be led by volunteers rather than staff. I would be more willing to attend and participate. Let the community truly run these COMMUNITY PROGRAMS!

Event Activity Suggestions

- More diverse activities for adults
- Provide more activities that are not child centered.
- Great job with activities for preschoolers and school age children. Need More activities for our teenagers.
- A midway event or included with existing festival
- County events are fantastic for children and families. Maybe more for adults/seniors to participate in?
- Events that happen from 12-4pm only capture families that have older children. Most children under 4 nap anywhere from 12-4pm. I think a 10am-4pm event would be great!!! I do appreciate that some play day events are 4-7pm for working families.
- Events seem to cater to families with young children. The feedback I get from my teenagers and younger adult children is that the activities are 'lame' and that they would rather go into Edmonton to celebrate.
- More organized options for Tweens/younger teens & their families are appreciated
- current activities are not attracting teens.
- at xmas time should have hay rides for all ages, have a vender for cider and hot chocolate for the kids
- more outdoor events in the centre of the park, could be artistic or sports
- keep up movies in the park and increase the number of them

Other

- Not around for Canada Day and the rest didn't have much info on. Will hope to attend this year.
- It just did not work out for us this year to attend. have attended canada day and festival of trees in the past and it was great
- No
- 55+ games
- where are all the other events from in the County? Ardrossan picnic and parade? Country Classic? light up the heartland?
- Glad to see the Festival of Trees and Celebration of lights combined
- no
- Continue to provide support to keep these great events..

- Loved the tour of Alberta.
- The Parent Link programming being offered to County residents is a priceless resource.
- Arts festival at festival place! We could get so many local artists involved
- No
- N/A
- I believe we are an active community in need of more facilities to accommodate the population growth.
- Hope to attend in the future, heard great things about Canada Day and New Year's celebrations from friends.
- new to the area
- We have participated in Canada day and New Years in previous years but not recently.
- Also attended Neighbor day, High Five awards, youth rocks, p3
- They are jam packed and great! Why not increase price or add more to the wristband/tickets!
- If we were here for them we would go
- More outdoor events for kids at celebration of lights and new year's eve - why bring them indoors?
- I was involved with the Canada 55+ Games event
- No
- they should have more
- seniors celebration on June 5,2014 it was wonderful
- They try to do a good job with facilities they have but there is poor participation. Strathcona county is a rich county which is excellent.
- I went to the new rec centre in Ardrossan and it was nice
- military parade was a very nice event
- they offer a lot of stuff but I don't attend them
- The continue to get bigger and they have difficulty supporting it
- We don't usually go to anything like that basically.
- The fireworks are good
- would like to see a county fair again
- I want to be able to set fireworks off at my own place that is out of town
- I think they are great. I am very satisfied with them. I think the programs are great for all ages.
- the fireworks is the best
- getting too old to go alone

- Need more outside the county outside the Sherwood park, swimming, rec centers but out in county
- All of the stuff is more than for the people live Sherwood park, its far away from the area I live
- they try do many things but does not fit for all familys. we are very spoiled in the county
- We do not want any big events on Sunday and this is for religious reasons. We are Mormons and Sunday is our Sabbath day. We attend all of the events that are not on Sundays. We enjoy the free events for the family.
- Waste of money.
- South cooking lake trails days
- we need a legion we should have one
- I think the library is fantastic./ (i-fantastic)The choice of books. Helpful staff. New books are readily available./
- we need more transit for seniors.
- make bike lanes and get shoulders on the road base line road

Great Job! (general)

- Well done keep it up!
- So much fun! Let's do more!
- VERY GOOD JOB
- Canada day and new year's festivals are excellent events
- Loved the events I attended. Very family friendly!
- Strathcona County's community events are very well organized. I think we do a great job for a community of our size!
- those we visit are great!
- Absolutely LOVE all the community events. Some of the smaller events could be better advertised within the community.
- awesome events
- All are excellent!
- They are awesome and we are so lucky that they are little to no cost
- The community events that are put on are fantastic. Always very happy, will organized and lots of fun!
- festivals are very well done
- They are awesome!
- Strathcona County offers fabulous events throughout the year.
- Love the events. They are always great and out do many community events in larger centers

- lots of fun for the kids
- They are amazing!
- Happy with the events.
- Very well organized and run. For winter events, if possible, the petting zoo should not be in Festival Place - makes it too congested.
- I think we do a remarkable job of these events !
- Always fantastic fireworks, safe, friendly
- July first parade is always wonderful.
- All very well done. Many visitors from other areas come to enjoy our events....makes me a proud county resident.
- They are well done--especially love the family oriented Canada Day celebration.
- They are truly excellent events!
- Well done, a great event
- they are very well done!
- Where else could a family go to celebrate various events and be able to have all family members take part? There may be others, but from what we've seen others don't come close.
- get job by all involved/volunteers
- Love them both as they are! Great job. We know a lot of people from Edmonton that attend our events here.
- Love the events!
- We like the events, but we don't attend because we are out of town for most major holidays.
- Ardrossan does a great job of holding community events. The sense of community is great in Ardrossan.
- We need more!
- These are well run events in great locations
- The County's community events are fantastic and add to our quality of life here.
- We love them!
- I think it is great community that tries to engage its citizens.
- fabulous! great organized event we also attended the Tour de Alberta event...well done but needed more tents
- They are well run!
- The community events are great... Would love to see more movie in the park nights, taste of Sherwood park etc. . . . and advertise more. Sometimes I do not know about the events.
- We LOVE them all!! Thank you!!

- they are great!
- Events are always well organized and so geared towards families. Some of the teen volunteers are these events need to be more closely supervised as they are too busy creating their own crafts or socializing with their friends to actually be leading the activity
- Love that Strathcona County is so family oriented.
- Excellent!
- The fireworks have been great!
- loved it
- Love them all
- They are very good and enjoyable.
- I'm glad to see you are finally offering events in the south part of the County. I feel that area is often overlooked and most rural offerings are staged in Ardrossan.
- maintain our high profile as a location to host all levels of events.
- wonderful events!
- The fireworks keep getting more spectacular every year!
- Well organized events! I participate in these events as they are fantastic!
- good arrangements keep-up the good work
- These are both fabulous family events.
- Keep them coming
- Wow!
- all are fabulous and provide a variety of activities for wide range of ages.
- I like them. Keep them up. I like the movies shown outside during the summer, which I liked.
- They are very good.
- festival place brings in a variety of entertainment which is a good thing
- They are very well done and I appreciate that they are family orientated
- there are well done
- They are wonderful
- should be commended for all the functions and activities for all age groups, also Sherwood park is very affluent for activities
- I think that they do a good job in providing events to bring the community together, but I'd like to see more.
- they are excellent
- we think they are good happy with it
- we try to participate in any event that the community offer and we proud to be a part of it.

- there are doing good job
- I love the fact they do things for kids on Monday mornings and the kids love it.
- I think they're really well done
- I think what they have going is just great
- great job, very famil7 oriented, keep it family oriented
- used to do when younger/you feel they are good family events
- They're sufficient
- the firework during their events are amazing.
- need to continue and they are good
- they are satisfactory
- lots for younger kids and also for older people if they choose to go
- you think they are doing a good job
- i think they are great
- they run very well.
- happy with what we now have
- they are very well done