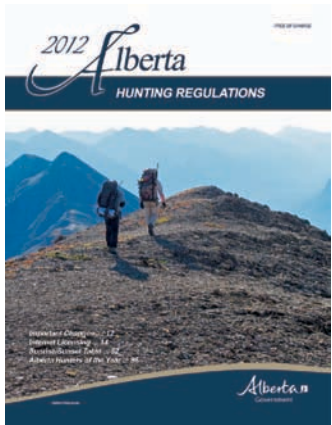


New hunting regulations allow hunting on weekends



Fall is just around the corner, and many rural Albertans are beginning to make plans for their annual hunting trip. No matter how experienced the hunter, those preparations should always include a thorough review of the current

regulations. Even though the vast majority of Alberta hunters are well informed and respectful, there are changes made to the hunting regulations every year, which could easily result in inadvertent infractions or missed opportunities.

In Strathcona County, the biggest change this year is that hunting will now be permitted on Saturdays and Sundays in the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 248 during the Strathcona white-tailed deer season, which opened on September 1.

Delaney Anderson, Wildlife Biologist with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD), explains that providing hunters with additional time and access is one way of controlling the wildlife population in order to maintain sustainable levels and reduce the conflict between humans and animals.

"Deer in this area have adapted to the suburban environment and are expanding their habitat," Anderson says. "As the population of deer increases, we see more problems with damage to farmers' fields and an increase in collisions caused by deer on the roadways. As in previous years, hunters must obtain the property owner's permission to hunt on private lands."

Across the province, AESRD sets population goals for various species and monitors changes in those populations. Hunting opportunities are then adjusted, as required, to maintain the balance. The province is divided into almost 180 WMUs to allow the department to respond to changes in local conditions and effectively manage the province's wildlife resources over the long term.

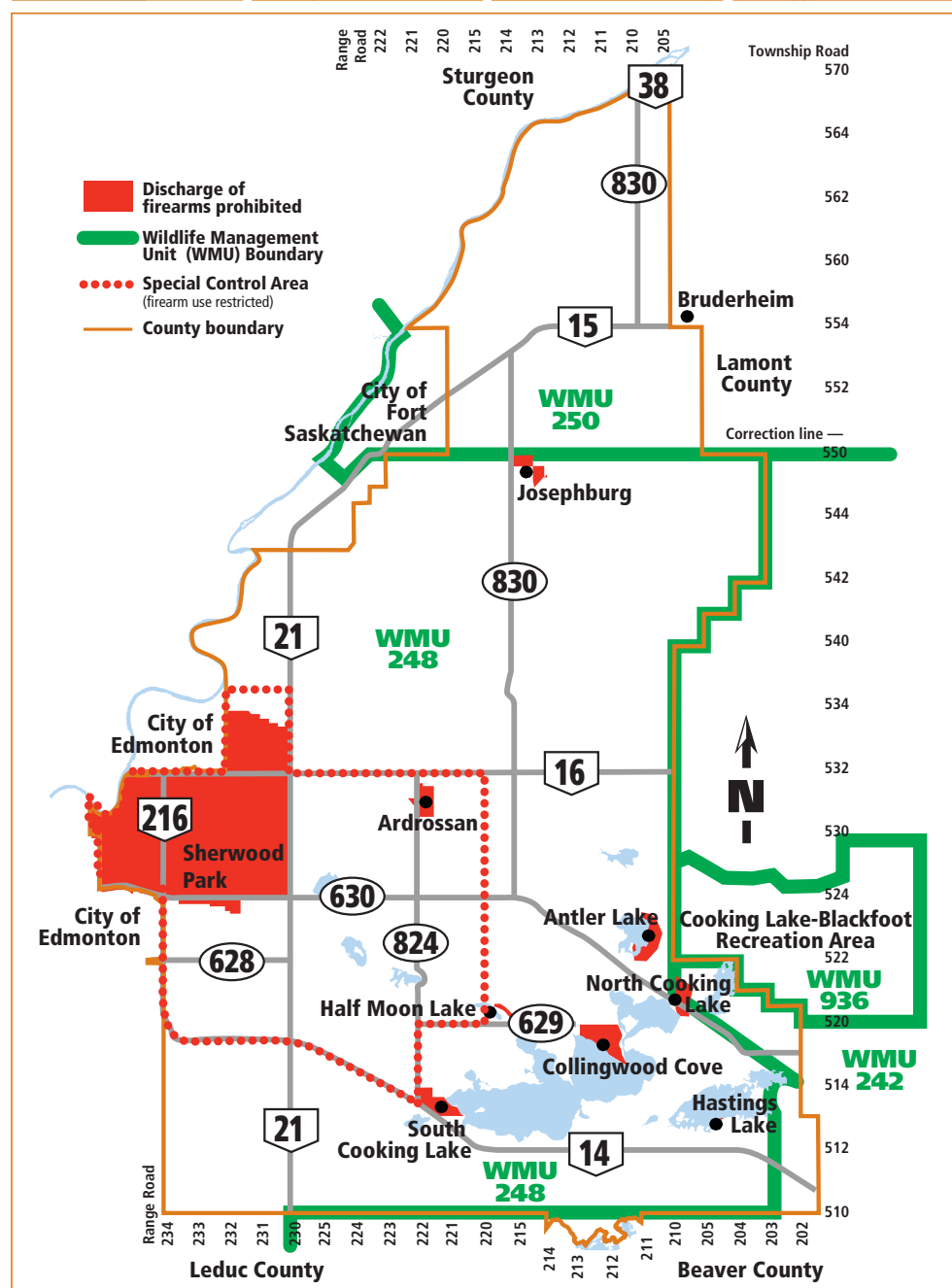
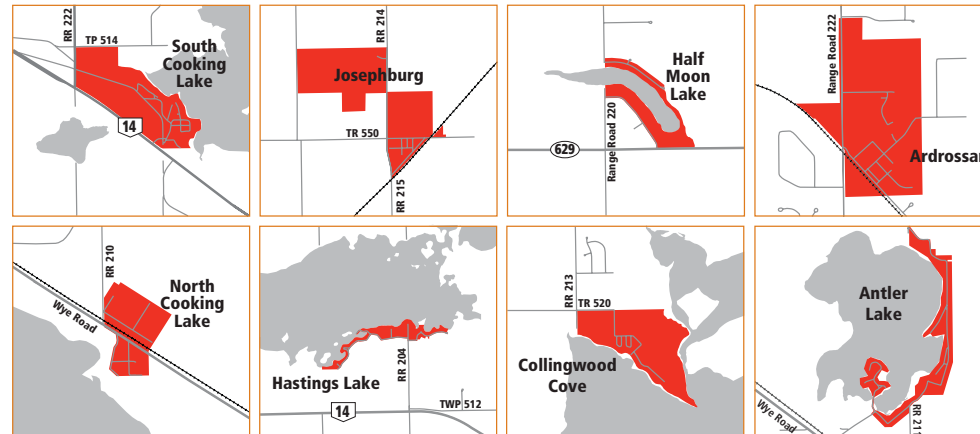
As a result, the regulations vary significantly between regions, for different game and by the method of hunting. "The best way to ensure a rewarding and trouble-free hunting trip is to take the time to understand the applicable regulations before you set out," Anderson concludes.

For more information about Alberta's hunting regulations, visit www.albertaregulations.ca.

The rights of landowners

A large portion of the privately owned land in the County falls into the category of occupied land, as defined under the Wildlife Act. The following regulations apply to hunting on occupied land.

- A hunter needs permission from the landowner or occupant to hunt on a given property. It is entirely the decision of the landowner or occupant whether to allow hunting on the property.
- The landowner is responsible to ensure that the hunter understands any conditions on which hunting is being permitted. For example, hunting may be allowed for one day, several days or longer. The landowner may specify the number of hunters allowed, or particular areas they are to avoid.



Where hunting is and is not permitted

The discharge of firearms in Strathcona County is controlled by the County's Firearms Control Bylaw 11-2007 and enforced by the RCMP. Firearms may not be used for hunting in Sherwood Park, rural hamlets, or County property. The use of firearms is restricted within the Special Control Area. In this area, shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles, bows and arrows, and cross-bows may be used to hunt white-tailed deer during this year's Strathcona white-tailed deer hunt from October 25 to December 7.

Outside of the Special Control Area, Sherwood Park and rural hamlets, Strathcona County does not have bylaws restricting the use of firearms. Provincial and federal regulations apply in these areas.

The County is divided into three different Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Different regulations apply to each. Check regulation details.

Hunting game birds with a shotgun on road allowances is not allowed in the County. Strathcona County is a Specialized Municipality and, because of this designation, all road allowances are considered County property. There is no hunting allowed on County property.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

Looking to FireSmart your property?

Learn how on September 30 at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre



An important step in fire prevention is knowing how to protect your property and valuables from the threat of wildfire.

The FireSmart program outlines how homeowners can reduce the impacts of fire on their property. The most defensible area from the threat of a fire can be created by identifying your "values at risk" You can download a structure and site hazard assessment form and complete it for your property by visiting www.strathcona.ca/sces.

By completing FireSmart tasks, you greatly reduce the risk of fire damaging your property. Fires can be generated from an outside source (such as lightning), or from your own property.

FireSmart strategies include limiting flammable materials and properly pruning or removing plants and trees that are highly flammable such as spruce, pine and cedar and replace them with fire resistant varieties such as aspen, birch or poplar. Other recommended strategies include:

- ensure your address is clearly visible for quick identification by emergency responders
- firewood should be stored a minimum of 10 metres from any structure
- always supervise fires in pits and burn barrels, and cover with a spark-arresting screen
- ensure there are shovels, rakes, axes, garden hoses, sprinklers and ladders available for wildfire protection
- close in any exposed eaves, vents and soffits in your home
- keep your roof and eaves free of needles, leaves and overhanging trees or branches that can catch on fire

To learn more about FireSmart, walk the new FireSmart interpretive trail at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre's Open House on September 30 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Further information

Emergency Services
www.strathcona.ca/sces
780-449-9651

Rural Enviroservice Event

Have some hazardous waste you need to get rid of? Bring it to the Enviroservice Event for proper and safe disposal or recycling!

Hazardous waste can include items such as:

- leftover paint
- household solvents
- oil and antifreeze
- mystery liquids in old bottles (that you know shouldn't go to the landfill)
- old electronics

(For a complete list of items accepted at the Enviroservice Event, please check online.)

The rural Enviroservice Event will be held on Saturday, September 22, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Ardrossan Fire Hall.

Can't make it to this event?

Check on the web for events held in Sherwood Park every two weeks until October.

Looking for compost?

Free Green Routine compost is available (in very large quantities only) for County residents and farmers. Trucking not included.

Use the truck fill?


Read about the changes!

To improve efficiency Strathcona County will start phasing out the use of credit cards at the Ardrossan truck fill in September. Sherwood Park truck fill users now have the option of paying by coins or by using a pre-paid account. Contact Customer Billing at 780-464-8273 to set up your account.

The Half Moon Lake truck fill is now open. It is located south of TWP 522 with access to the station on RR 220. With a fill rate of one cubic metre per minute, the new station is designed for local area and residential haulers. Half Moon Lake truck fill users will also be required to set up an account by contacting Customer Billing.

Further information

Utilities

 www.strathcona.ca/utilities
780-449-5514



Save the date: November 24-25

Christmas in the Heartland

Don't miss out on Christmas in the Heartland, a festive tour of country markets, holiday lights, furry friends and many more family activities. Each year, local community groups kick off the holiday season by holding celebrations at beautiful venues across rural Strathcona County.

The event occurs the weekend of November 24 - 25, with most of the activities taking place on Saturday. Highlights include fireworks and the lighting of a 60-foot Christmas display at Heartland Hall.

Investing in Strathcona County - Investing in People

I have heard from many residents living in our hamlets, and on acreages and farms throughout the County that Strathcona County is more than Sherwood Park. I agree!

I believe in Strathcona County as a whole, and continuing to invest and have a particular vision for our hamlets is part of that. Council heard that the County needed a presence in Josephburg and area, and we built the Heartland Fire Hall and an office to provide this support. Council heard from residents that Ardrossan should expand and have better recreation facilities so residents did not need to drive to Sherwood Park. In response, we invested \$9 million for an underground utility line to secure future growth and fire protection for Ardrossan; and another \$21 million to build a new recreation centre in Ardrossan - a place to play hockey, curl, exercise and have family gatherings close to home.

Now we will have a presence in the South Cooking Lake area. Why? Because you deserve to have a location to ask questions, get answers and revitalize this amazing area which has hosted many dances, historic gatherings and more.

Being raised as a farm girl I too value the country lifestyle. But we are more than country versus city. We are one very proud, uniquely diverse county. People count. I will continue to listen and help you to envision the needs of your community - your home.

— Mayor Linda Osinchuk

Building a deck in Strathcona County is easier than ever!

If the deck you want to build is in compliance with current building codes and zoning bylaws, only a building permit is necessary (previously both development and building permits were required). You can apply for this permit online at your convenience and receive approval in just a few days.

How do I apply?

Log on to the system at www.strathcona.ca/epermits. Once your account is registered, follow the prompts to apply for your permit.

What do I need?

To start your application, all you need is a digital copy of your site plan and construction plan.

Is there a variance?

If your deck plan is not in compliance with current building codes and zoning bylaws, you will require a development permit in addition to the building permit for your deck. Contact us to find out what you need to get your permit application started.

Can I use this system for other permits?

Yes! ePermits is also available for electrical, plumbing and gas permits.



Take control of the permit process. By using ePermits to obtain deck, electrical, plumbing and gas permits you'll enjoy:

- faster and easier processing.
- clearly defined requirements.
- on the spot payment processing.
- transparent process updates.
- view or print permits & inspection reports.
- receive information on any issues impeding permit approval.

Contractors and business owners will also enjoy having the ability to update employee information and monitor the status of employee tickets.

Further information

Planning and Development Services
780-464-8080

Weed inspectors wrap up another busy season

Thank you to everyone for working cooperatively with Strathcona County's weed inspectors this past summer. In many cases, residents took immediate action to control weeds after the weed inspector met with them to discuss their concerns.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your continued support in controlling weeds in Strathcona County.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100



Off-highway vehicle patrols

The Strathcona County RCMP & Enforcement Services will be promoting safe driving practices while patrolling the County by enforcing the Traffic Safety Act and regulations governing off-highway vehicles. Law enforcement personnel will be operating quads and snowmobiles with recognizable police identification to ensure that residents are aware of their presence.

It is illegal to operate an off-highway vehicle on any highways, including ditches in Strathcona County. If you are driving an off-highway vehicle on public property where permitted, you must have a valid insurance and registration and display a current licence plate. Persons under the age of 14 years must be supervised by an adult when operating an off-highway vehicle.

Violators can be subject to fines and penalties as well as having their vehicle seized. Remember the onus is on you to check local bylaws and provincial legislation governing the use of off-highway vehicles.

ATVs and trespassing

For landowner rights and what's permitted for ATVs in the County, the following information provides details about the *Petty Trespass Act*.

Before amendments were made to the *Petty Trespass Act*, a person was deemed to have a notice not to trespass when signs were posted and fences were erected in accordance with the Act.

While it is still possible for a landowner to prohibit entry onto his or her land by giving oral, written notice or by posting signs prohibiting entry, the Act now sets out certain kinds of property where entry is prohibited without any notice required.

This property includes, but is not limited to:

- a lawn, garden or land under cultivation
- land that is surrounded by a fence and/or a natural boundary
- land that is enclosed in a manner that indicates the owner's desire is to keep people off the land or keep animals on the land

Offences carry a specified penalty of \$287 for a first offence, and a mandatory court appearance is required for a second or subsequent offence with respect to the same property. A second offence carries a maximum penalty of \$5,000.

A copy of the Act can be viewed in the Queen's printer Section of the Alberta Government www.qp.alberta.ca

Further information

Strathcona County RCMP
780-467-7741

Strathcona County Enforcement Services
780-449-0170



Snowmobiling in Strathcona County

What residents need to know!

Where riding is permitted

Snowmobile riding is allowed on your property, or other private property with the owner's permission. Snowmobiling is also permitted on publicly-owned lakes.

In Alberta, snowmobiles cannot be operated on any portion of a highway, including ditches. In this case, highways refer to all types of roadways.

Snowmobile drivers are permitted to cross a highway. Snowmobile operators must stop and yield to all traffic, have all passengers get off, and cross by the most direct, shortest and safest route.

Designated trails:

- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area, 780-922-3293
- Ministik Lake Game Bird Sanctuary, 780-464-7955
- Elk Island Sales Staging Area, 780-998-9159

Registration and licensing

Snowmobile drivers require registration and insurance for the machines they are operating and must be able to produce them when requested by a peace officer. The licence plate for a snowmobile must be affixed and be clearly displayed and visible on the machine. Registration for snowmobiles may be obtained from outlets throughout the province. The Insurance Act requires that snowmobiles have minimum coverage of \$200,000 in public liability and property damage. Coverage of \$1,000,000 in public liability and property damage is commonly carried.

Riders must be at least 14 years of age to operate a snowmobile on their own. A person under 14 years of age may be accompanied by an adult, or supervised closely while receiving instruction.

Alcohol and snowmobiling don't mix

In Alberta, a snowmobile driver can be charged with the same impaired driving charges as a driver of a motor vehicle. The majority of snowmobile collisions involve drinking and riding. Play it safe – avoid alcohol and drugs before and during the ride.

Further information on snowmobiling in Alberta

www.altasnowmobile.ab.ca

Further information

Strathcona County RCMP
780-467-7741
Strathcona County Enforcement Services
780-449-0170

ATV Safety

Strathcona County is concerned about the safety of citizens who use ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles). Statistics indicate that:

- Most ATV deaths involve head injuries.
- Kids under 16 years old have a higher risk for injury and death.
- Rolls and flips on hills and flat terrain are the most common causes of serious ATV injuries and deaths.
- Riding an ATV safely takes specific skills.
- Alcohol is found in more than half of the drivers who die in ATV crashes.

In order to prevent residents from becoming one of these statistics, they are encouraged to follow these safety tips:

- Protect your head. Wear an approved helmet with face and eye protection.
- Age matters. Kids under 16 should not drive an adult ATV. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for age and size. Kids' level of development puts them at a higher risk for injury and death on ATVs. Make sure there is always close, visual, adult supervision.
- Refuse to carry or be a passenger on an ATV built for one person.
- Zero tolerance. Alcohol, drugs and ATVs don't mix.
- Get the skills. Take an ATV operator training course.
- Suit up. Wear safety gear including gloves, boots, and sturdy clothing.

For more information on safe riding, please visit the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research at www.acicr.ualberta.ca.

Further information

Strathcona County RCMP
780-467-7741
Strathcona County Enforcement Services
780-449-0170

At your service... in rural Strathcona County

New South Contact Office opens September 18

- A second rural satellite of County Hall to serve residents from south and central Strathcona County with more direct and convenient access to municipal services and information
- A one-year pilot, modeled on the success of the Heartland Hall Contact Office in north rural Strathcona County
- Rural community input will help tailor services and shape the new South Contact Office to best meet needs

Location: 22142 South Cooking Lake Road
(in Fire Station #2)
South Cooking Lake

Hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Office: 780-922-1318 **Cell:** 780-893-1177

Email: dinah.canart@strathcona.ca
www.strathcona.ca/rural

Grand Opening Barbecue

Tuesday, September 18
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit the new South Contact Office and celebrate its grand opening!
Enjoy a barbecue, Strathcona County "Marketplace of Services" and meet the rural liaison team.

Everyone welcome!

Attend open house on survey of historic sites

Strathcona County residents are invited to attend an open house on the County's survey of historic sites, now underway. The County began the survey in April of this year and will finish up the work this fall. This open house provides 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.

The open house will be held on:
Wednesday, October 17, 2012 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Brookville Hall, 53203 Range Road 212

There will be a presentation at 7 p.m.

The purpose of the survey is to identify potential historic resources that reflect Strathcona's history and are considered important to the community.

Further information:

Yolande Shaw, yolande.shaw@strathcona.ca;

780-410-8556
www.strathcona.ca/history



winterIZE

Tips and reminders for residents to help Strathcona County serve you this winter



Rural mailboxes

To prevent snow-clearing equipment or plowed snow from damaging mailboxes, ensure your mailbox is positioned with the:

- ☼ supporting post at least one metre (39 inches) back from the edge of the roadway
- ☼ bottom of the mailbox at 1.1 metre (43 inches) up from the ground

Further information

Strathcona Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100 (24 hour number)
email: info@strathcona.ca

Thank you for your cooperation!

Watch for wildlife on roads



As the days get shorter, Strathcona County would like to remind drivers to slow down and be aware of wildlife activity, especially along rural roads.

Many species are more active during dawn and dusk, particularly deer and moose during the fall mating season. Visibility while driving may be reduced at this time of year. Animals are unpredictable, especially when faced with glaring headlights, blowing horns and fast-moving vehicles.

Reduce the chance of a collision with wildlife

- stay alert and drive at a speed appropriate to road conditions
- reduce speed at night, especially on unfamiliar rural roads where wildlife frequently cross, i.e. near water, wooded areas and open spaces
- look for more than one animal – some species travel in groups
- leave plenty of room when driving around an animal on or near a road; a frightened animal may run in any direction



Take extra care when you see wildlife signs.

Further information:

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

2011 Federal Agricultural Census

Every five years the federal government completes an agricultural census which allows us to follow trends in the farming industry. The 2011 Agricultural Census was released by Statistics Canada in May 2012. This data has been collected to determine trends related to agriculture in Strathcona County by comparing it to the 2006 Agricultural Census. While much more information is available, notes of interest are as follows:

- The average size of a reporting farm in the County has increased by 10 acres to 335 Acres. This is about one-third of the size of the average Alberta farm and one-half the size of the average farm in Canada. Ninety one per cent of County farms are less than 760 Acres while 53 per cent are less than 130 acres.
- The average value of products sold has increased by 22 per cent over a five-year period, while the average farm expenses have increased by 14 per cent.
- The average age of a farm operator has increased to 56.2 years of age from 53.9 in 2006. Fifty-six per cent of farmers are now over 55 years of age compared to 36 per cent in 1996.
- Farmers under the age of 35 years old have decreased from 11 per cent in 1996 to now less than five per cent.
- The number of cattle and calves reported in the county has decreased by 38 per cent since 2006.
- Forty-six per cent of farms have over a one-million dollar investment while 12 per cent have over 3.5 million dollars invested.
- Canola crops are up five per cent to 48,540 acres while wheat crops were up 10 per cent to 43,456 acres.
- There are just over 500,000 square feet of greenhouses operating in the County this is down 5.1 per cent from 2006. Eighty-four per cent of this floor space is used for flowers and 2.5 per cent is used for vegetables.

There are many interesting facts, figures and trends that assist in interpreting and the opportunities and challenges of agriculture going forward into the future. Please see the County website for an overview of the 2011 Agriculture Census at www.strathcona.ca/edt and links to the associated data.

Further information

Economic Development and Tourism

780-464-8259

www.strathcona.ca/edt

Future Workshops

- September 20, 2012 - **Septic Systems for Acreage Owners**
Ardrossan Memorial Hall 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- October 18, 2012 - **Solar Panel Workshop**
Ardrossan Memorial Hall 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- October 25, 2012 – **Pond and Dugout Management**
Ardrossan Memorial Hall 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- March 27, 2013 – **Water Well Workshop** (registration required 780-417-7100) legal land location required.
Ardrossan Memorial Hall 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

If you would like to see a workshop or open house on a rural-related topic, contact Transportation and Agriculture Services 780-417-7100.

Search for abandoned wells before you develop



Planning for any rural development should include a search

Abandoned wells are often cut off below the surface so they are not visible.

The Energy Resource Conservation Board (ERCB) is the regulator and record keeper for all wells. Land title searches do not always identify abandoned wells.

A search for abandoned wells is strongly recommended in the planning stage of your development. You will need to provide your legal land description. Although a search is free for private landowners, developers may be charged a fee.

If the search indicates an abandoned well is present on the land parcel you should contact the licensee or energy company (provided in the ERCB search results). They will provide additional information that may be required or will physically locate the wellbore.

Current ERCB recommended setbacks for abandoned wells are 10x15 metres from the well centre with an eight-metre access road.

For further information on well abandonment see www.ercb.ca and search 'Directive 020'.

For more information contact:

- ERCB Information Services 1-855-297-8311 or inquiries@ercb.ca
- ERCB St. Albert Office: 780-460-3800 (24 hour)
- Alberta Environment: for environmental concerns 780-427-2700 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or env.infocent@gov.ab.ca

Further information

Strathcona County Energy Exploration Liaison
780-416-6739

Guide to Rural Living

Life in the country is full of experiences: connecting to the land, raising animals, growing crops, enjoying the sense of freedom and privacy, wildlife, the fresh air, and the close-knit community with neighbours helping neighbours.

Life in the rural also brings new responsibilities. The way you care for your land may impact the health of the entire landscape, the water quality and supply, wildlife habitat, or your neighbour's property.

The Guide to Rural Living package is designed to help you consider some of the major factors that affect rural residents. It provides practical insights on land uses, development, conservation, bylaws, and safety, as well as recommendations on where you can find additional help or information if needed.



Guide to Rural Living in Strathcona County

For further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services

780-417-7100

www.strathcona.ca/tas

Agriculture Services

The Board acts as an advisory body to Council on agricultural matters, while promoting and developing agricultural policies and programs to meet the needs of our residents and the municipality.

Agriculture Services phone numbers

Manager Joel Gould	780-417-7134
joel.gould@strathcona.ca	
Pest control/weed inspection/vegetation control	780-417-7100
Transportation and Agriculture Services is located at	
370 Streambank Avenue	
Sherwood Park AB T8H 1N1	
Office hours	8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday to Friday	
Phone	780-417-7100
Web	www.strathcona.ca/tas
Fax	780-417-7109

Agricultural Service Board

The members are available to discuss matters of interest to you.

Councillor Clinton Alexander	780-464-8147
Councillor Linton Delainey	780-464-8206
Councillor Bonnie Riddell	780-464-8003
Councillor Peter Wlodarczak	780-464-8146
Paul Barlott	780-951-0631
Jackie Christie (Vice Chair)	780-422-8633
Gary Millar	780-499-9219
Howard Schneider	780-977-0023

