



Strathcona County

LIVING

Keeping you informed

January 2015

Message from your Mayor and County Council

It's a new year and your Council wishes you, your family and friends, all the best of success and happiness during 2015. The new year begins our new 2015 – 2018 Corporate Business Plan and the 2015 Budget.

The traditional approach to municipal budgeting is incremental in nature. In other words, adding to previous budgets, based on expected increases in expense and revenue. While this is an acceptable approach, we believe Strathcona County deserves better. We have shifted to follow priority-based budgeting methods.

Essentially, the priorities defined in the strategic plan provide focus to the corporate and department business plans, and act as a filter for all budget decisions. The focus is on programs, services, and projects that support core service delivery and advance the community's priorities.

We have recently heard from Premier Prentice that the provincial government has some important decisions of their own to make. They are looking to set Alberta straight in the coming years, focusing their decisions on health, seniors and education for the long term, with effective and efficient service delivery.

Because of the falling oil prices, the provincial government now needs to adapt their spending, which will no doubt mean municipalities will be faced with tough provincial budgets in the future. For that reason, when developing Strathcona County's 2015 Budget, administration quickly realized they needed to ensure the budget would reflect our new reality.

Administration presented Council with a 2015–2018 Corporate Business Plan and 2015 Budget, which reflects on economic realities and our priority outcomes:

1. Increasing citizen satisfaction
2. Strengthening our abilities to control costs
3. Making ourselves more adaptable to face the pressures of growth and the changing world

The 2015 Budget calls for a 2.58 per cent municipal tax dollar increase. This means, a sample homeowner with a property assessment of \$425,000 will see an increase of \$47.49/year or \$3.96/month.

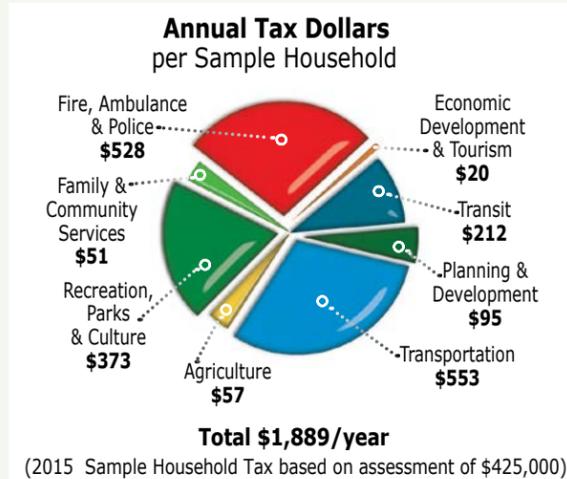
Utility rates for water, wastewater, storm water management, and solid waste collection will also increase 3.25 per cent for the Sherwood Park customer. On average, this translates to an additional \$3.89 on monthly bills. If you break the total increase of municipal taxes and utility rates down to a monthly/residence basis, it's equal to the cost of two or three cups of coffee each month, depending on where you buy your coffee.

Budget 2015 includes a consolidated operating budget of \$336 million and a consolidated capital

budget of \$66 million, which is a significant decrease from the \$101 million that had been budgeted for capital spending in the prior year. The budget reflects the cost of maintaining Strathcona County's core services, programs and infrastructure that citizens rely on every day. It also reflects advancing Council's strategic vision; and at the same time reflects economic and provincial realities.

Your tax dollars at work

Municipal taxes collected from residential and non-residential properties make up slightly more than 74 per cent of Strathcona County's total municipal revenue. We are lucky enough to live in a specialized municipality, which allows industry, agriculture and business to reside in our County. At the same time, we can thank our non-residential sources for their significant contribution to the municipal tax base. This means you, as a resident, pay lower municipal taxes, compared to other surrounding municipalities.



Strathcona County has been and will continue to be a leader in program and service delivery. We are proud to provide excellence in delivering to citizens and businesses some of the highest levels of service anywhere.

A significant portion of the 2015 Budget is directed to maintaining previously approved service levels that citizens have come to expect.

Some examples:

We keep you moving

- Maintaining 1,700 km of urban and rural roads and almost 200 km of trails
- Servicing a fleet of 93 transit and 14 double-decker buses
- Managing \$30 million in transportation system related capital projects per year

- Offering 1.6 million transit rides/year (6,000 every weekday)

We keep you safe

- 97 police officers and 27 enforcement services officers ensure 24/seven community safety, responding to more than 26,600 police occurrences annually

We meet your needs

- Distributing 22 million litres of water per day through 560 km of water pipes
- Treating 17 million litres of wastewater per day
- Maintaining \$1 billion worth of underground infrastructure

Highlights of what's coming up for 2015

Sustainable municipal infrastructure

- Transportation infrastructure maintenance and rehab programs—parking lots, rural and urban roads, bridge replacements, traffic and pedestrian safety improvements
- Planning studies for major road networks
- Targeted technology improvements
- Continued investment in streetscapes, parks, trails, sports fields, playgrounds and landscaping
- Purchase of land for future fire hall to serve the community as a whole

Investment attraction

- Interacting with potential international business investors in the petrochemical sector to attract new investment in the County and create economic opportunities
- Engaging and assisting companies of all sizes looking to invest, grow and stay in Strathcona County

Opportunities to engage and inform the public

- Ongoing investment in community events and recreation, cultural and social programming
- Continued promotion of the emergency notification system
- Colchester growth management study—to provide comparative information on proposed future growth areas
- Agriculture Master Plan to guide agriculture today and into the future
- Shifting public engagement focus, as part of business planning and budget process, to community priorities and performance measurement

continued on next page...



LIVING. REFINED.

We hope you enjoy this edition

There's more news inside, from dog licensing, to a new way to remember garbage pickup day, to an update on parking, and a history of the Ortwell family.

...continued from front page

Strong relationships with our partners

- Expansion of the air quality monitoring network in partnership with industry and Alberta Capital Airshed
- Business case to assess the potential of a compost cure site in partnership with the City of Edmonton

I am looking forward to presenting the State of the County speech on February 18, where I will elaborate on these and other items of interest to Strathcona County residents.

Looking to our future, we will focus our resources and attention on the programs and services that matter most to you - our residents - to increase citizen satisfaction, strengthen our abilities to control costs and make us more adaptable as we face pressures from the economy and continued growth in Strathcona County.

Over the next three years, we will build upon our business planning process, create more diverse and effective tools to engage citizens and enhance the transparency of our progress reporting. The complete budget package is available on the Strathcona County website www.strathcona.ca/budget.

Your feedback on priorities and services are always welcome. We build on your inputs. In the meantime, on behalf of Council, I sincerely wish all of you, all the best and a healthy, happy New Year. Kind regards,



Mayor Roxanne Carr

It's easy to renew a dog licence

If you have a dog licensed with Strathcona County, watch for your renewal notice arriving by mail in early March.

Now you can renew online!

You can still renew your dog licence the way you always have. Now you also have the option to renew online! Check it out at www.strathcona.ca/doglicence or call 780-449-0170.



Never forget garbage day again!

If you've ever lost track of garbage day or raced outside after hearing the garbage truck, you're in luck. Sign up for a new customized service that will send customized reminders through email, tweet, text and/or call.

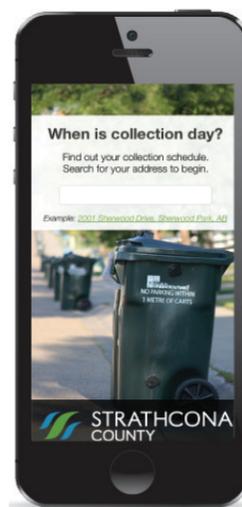
Residents can sign up to receive schedule reminders, important information about waste collection services or service disruptions.

Reminders are available by:

- Email
- Text
- Direct tweet
- Automated phone call
- iPhone or Android app

The new service provides residents with the ability to get information when, where and how it is most convenient for them.

It is also an upgrade to the app that was only available for iPhones. Users will have to re-enter their collection day information to receive reminders.



Visit www.strathcona.ca/wastereminder to sign up, or call 780-449-5514 for more information.

If you are unsure of where an item goes for disposal, take a look online at the Waste Wizard. Type in the item and it will tell you where it goes, along with any special disposal instructions.

www.strathcona.ca/wastewizard

Centre in the Park Public Parking

Centre in the Park is a sustainable urban design development in Sherwood Park. Facilities within this community hub include:

- Community Centre and County Hall
- Strathcona County Library
- Festival Place
- Sherwood Park Arena and Sports Centre
- Kinsmen Leisure Centre

New development in Centre in the Park

Two exciting projects will soon be underway in Centre in the Park — a residential development and a mixed-use residential/commercial development. The sale of these lots means the parking lot north of the Art Gallery will no longer be available, effective March 2, 2015.

During construction, parking may be subject to changes or disruptions.

Public parking options

Public parking in Centre in the Park will be managed through an integrated "campus-like" parking approach.

P Community Centre Parkade

The Community Centre Parkade offers heated, underground public parking.

- **NEW! First two hours parking are no charge in the parkade.**

Be sure to register your parked vehicle at the Pay by Plate machine, even if parking two hours or less.

7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday

- **NEW! First two hours – no charge**
- Additional time – \$2 per hour (Parking Level P1 only during these times)

After 5 p.m. on weekdays, and all day weekends and holidays

- **NEW! First two hours – no charge**
- Any additional time – \$2 flat fee (Parking Level P1 and P2)



Changes to parking Effective March 2, 2015



Parkade NEW! First two hours "FREE"

P_A Outdoor Surface Parking Lots

Lot A – Festival Place

- No charge, no time limit

P_B Lot B – Kinsmen Leisure Centre

- No charge, no time limit

P_C Lot C – Sherwood Park Arena and Sports Centre

- No charge, no time limit

P_D Lot D – County Hall

- No charge, 30-minute maximum, all times
- Education Station customer parking

P Temporary parking, north of Library (Lot designated for future development.)

- No charge, 2-hour time limit 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday

- No charge, no time limit after 5 p.m. on weekdays, and all day weekends and holidays

Street Parking

Festival Lane, Festival Avenue

- No charge, 2-hour time limit 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday
- No charge, no time limit after 5 p.m. on weekdays, and all day weekends and holidays

Festival Way

- No charge, no time limit

Library Book Drop – Parking on Festival Lane

- No charge, 5-minute maximum, all times

Further information

Details and frequently asked questions: www.strathcona.ca/parking

Email: CITPparking@strathcona.ca

Phone: 780-464-8403 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays)

Visit: Community Centre or County Hall Information Desks

Parking enforcement in effect (Bylaw 13-2011)



Department profile

Transportation and Agriculture Services

brushing concrete signs drainage
weeds snow clearing trails
Transportation
aerodrome
traffic safety **Agriculture**
potholes pests road maintenance
paving mowing traffic signals

If you enjoy walking the trails, the quick drive to your favourite local boutique or restaurant, or speedy snow removal, it's all because of the hard work of the County's Transportation and Agriculture Services (TAS) Department.

TAS is the group that works behind the scenes to ensure residents are able to move around the County safely, whether it be on foot, bike or in car.

"Safety is paramount. Our main goal is for residents to get around in Strathcona County quickly, easily and with the least amount of hazards possible," said David Churchill, director for TAS.

With over 1,700 kilometres of roads and over 150 kilometres of trails in the County, the department carefully plans annual improvements, maintaining the quality infrastructure that supports the needs of a rapidly growing community.

"Snow removal and traffic management are two of our higher profile programs, but there is much more going on behind the scenes. Basically, if it's happening on or near a road, it's the work of TAS," Churchill states.

This may sound simple, but activities on the road include more than you may think. From the Christmas lights that appear in time for Festival of

Lights to road closures during Tour of Alberta, to new traffic management and safety projects such as the Shark's Teeth yield lines and Pedestrian Countdown signals, TAS is quietly working to keep everything, and everyone, running smoothly.

The department also supports the unique needs of rural residents by controlling weeds and other vegetation along rural roadsides, weed and pest control services and programs to conserve soil and water.

"Agriculture is an important part of Strathcona County. Balancing the needs of both urban and rural is a priority for us looking forward," says Churchill.

The department is currently working on the development of an Agriculture Master Plan, along with the help of residents through an extensive public engagement process. The plan will provide a framework to guide how the County will support and plan for agriculture today and into the future.

If you have a question about snow clearing, traffic signals, weeds, pests, or you have a question about road or trail maintenance, please call 780-417-7100 or visit www.strathcona.ca/tas.



Chillin' in the County

On a warm summer day (many months ago), communicators, marketing and web specialists from several County departments got together to talk about ice, cold, snow and related activities.

It was more than nostalgia for Old Man Winter. They were crafting a new public relations campaign to share winter-specific messaging around events and overall safety, and to encourage residents to embrace winter in the County and all it has to offer.

With summertime now a distant memory, the Chillin' in the County campaign is in full swing. Be sure to check out www.strathcona.ca/chillin, the place to find everything winter including tips and ideas, family-friendly events, winter-specific snow and safety information, and even an interactive photo gallery.

How do you make the best of winter? Email webservices@strathcona.ca with your winter photos for a chance to have them featured on the County's Instagram feed and website.



High-pressure pipelines in Strathcona County



Call before you dig. It's a statement you've heard time and time again, and it's important advice that saves lives.

High-pressure transmission pipelines are used to transport large amounts of natural gas from producers to communities and industrial customers.

For residential customers, the high-pressure transmission pipelines feed local distribution pipelines, managed by companies like ATCO Gas.

These distribution pipelines run throughout Strathcona County, primarily located in public utility lots and corridors, delivering natural gas to homes and businesses.

Land in public utility lots and corridors is best left undisturbed. Residents are deterred from engaging in activities that might cause a ground disturbance and put the community at risk. This includes landscaping, digging, planting trees and any other activities that might cause a ground disturbance.

For more information on natural gas pipelines, feel free to visit any of the following resources:

ATCO Gas - www.atcogas.com

ATCO Pipelines - www.atcopipelines.com

Alberta One Call - www.albertaonecall.com

If you are unsure if land near your property is part of a public utility lot or public utility corridor, contact Planning and Development Services at 780-464-8080.

Sump pump

A sump pump is an important part of your home's foundation drainage system that helps to protect your house from flooding due to ground water infiltration. The sump pump is usually located in the basement of your home in a utility room or laundry space.

How it works

When it rains or the snow melts, the water is absorbed into the soil and down into the underground water table. The water table rises and falls over time. As the water table rises around your home's foundation, water collects in the sump pump pit through a weeping tile system. When the water reaches a certain level, it will raise the float. The pump turns on and discharges water to the outside of your home.

As a homeowner, you are responsible for the drainage system on your property. This is why it is important to make sure your lot grading is done correctly and your sump pump system is in good working condition.

Maintenance

It is important to perform regular maintenance checks on your sump pump system every spring as well as every couple of months. This can help prevent backups and flooding from occurring.

Visit www.strathcona.ca/sumppump for maintenance tips or call 780-467-7785.



Local settler recalls memorable Christmas

To the right is a memoir written by Richard Philip Ottewell in 1937 in which he recounts his "strangest Christmas", that of 1869 when he was a prisoner of Louis Riel in Upper Fort Garry.

Richard Philip Ottewell was one of the very first settlers in Clover Bar. His life journey at times intertwined with well-known events in Canada's history. Some of his journey has been captured here in his own hand, and other aspects have been gleaned from various written publications, including the community history book *Cherished Memories*, and also from historic research at a number of archives in the region.

Twenty-one-year old Ottewell had left the family home in Bruce County, Ontario the previous August to join a government survey party. The party was charged with surveying a road southeast from St. Boniface to the northwest corner of the state of Minnesota. In his memoir, Ottewell writes that the party was running a road to the northwest angle of Manitoba. As the province of Manitoba was not brought into existence until the next year, 1870, it appears that Ottewell simply made a slip, confusing Manitoba with Minnesota. He was, after all, 89 years of age when he composed his memoir.

How politically astute Ottewell was at the time of his incarceration is not known, but perhaps can be surmised. After his arrival in St. Boniface the previous summer, he must have been aware of the unease amongst the Métis toward the Government of Canada and its intentions on their society and land claims. One suspects that as an Ontarian and a government employee, Ottewell's sympathies lay with the federal government and its designs on the west, and not with the local population and their fears.

By November 1869, the survey party was somewhere between St. Boniface and the border with the United States. It was in the early part of that month that Louis Riel emerged as the leader of the Métis, refusing William McDougall, the newly appointed lieutenant governor and a well-known Canadian expansionist, entry into the Red River colony. The Hudson's Bay Company's neutrality—a good business and political move—emboldened Riel and his Métis followers to seize Upper Fort Garry on December 1, planning to use the Hudson's Bay Company fort as a bargaining chip in what they hoped would be negotiations between Ottawa and Riel's provisional government. Ottewell's adventure began on December 6 (see sidebar on right).



Richard P. and Fannie Ottewell on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, 1927.

— Glenbow Archives, nd-3-3528b

My strangest Christmas

Tonight as I recline in my easy chair before the fireplace, my memory travels back to an extraordinary Christmas which I have witnessed. Never in my fifty-years of pioneering in the great west have I spent such a Christmas. From August to December 6, 1869, I was working on a Government highway between St. Boniface and the northwest angle, Manitoba. The foreman was Mr. Snow. Early in the morning of Dec. 6 a half-breed carrier who was sent by Governor William McDougall advised us to report for duty at Fort Garry as soon as possible.

So, six other men besides myself immediately set out. We made the journey in one and one half days. The weather was bitterly cold, snowy and I had the misfortune to freeze my big toes.

While we were crossing the Red River about seven p.m. Louis Reils [sic] soldiers stopped us with the command arretes [sic] — you are under arrest.

We were taken to Dr. Schultz [sic] residence which was formerly captured by the rebels. We had the pleasure of occupying that night Mr. Schultz [sic] bedroom. Next morning we were marched to Fort Garry as prisoners.

Here, we were held until January sixteenth 1870. At the time Fort Garry was the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay trading post. All free traders were permitted within one mile.

Our food in Fort Garry consisted of dry pemmican and water three times a day.

Christmas day dawned cold and gloomy. We did not lack company on this particular day as there were forty-five of us in a small room.

After a breakfast of pemmican we sang hymns, chatted about home folks and talked of our possible doom. As dinner time drew near we thought of the fat turkeys and puddings that would be gracing some tables in the past. We expected the usual fare but suddenly one of Reil's [sic] men brought before us a steaming wash boiler of hot coffee, sugar, milk along with a clothes basket brimming with delicious buttered buns. This meal was kindly prepared by three Ladies, Mrs. Geo. Young, Mrs. C? and Mrs. Charles Major. They

had received permission from Reil [sic] to make our Christmas much more cheerful. I will never forget that hot coffee. It [sic] was so refreshing and stimulating, the buns seem just to hit the right spot and this tasty meal gave us fresh courage as it let us know that some one [sic] was thinking of us and interesting themselves in our case.

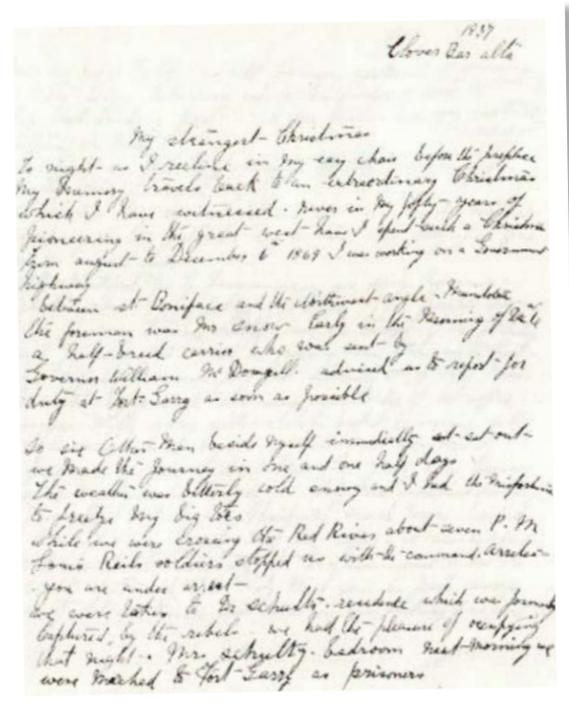
All afternoon we carried buckets of water from the Red River to the Fort for what good reason did not appear but I think to this day that the rebels made us carry it through sheer ugliness as Reil [sic] emptied each bucket of water on the ground as it came. However, that night as we went to bed on the usual damp floor we dreamed of the delicious Christmas dinner we enjoyed in Fort Garry.

Prisoner of Louis Reil [sic]

Signed by

RP Ottewell (age 89)

Oct 22, 1937



Memoir of one of Strathcona County's first settlers, R. P. Ottewell, hand-written in 1937.

— Used with permission. A. Smale Collection

Following this odd though welcome Christmas meal, the prisoners languished another two-and-one-half weeks in their cell. On January 16, 1870, Riel gave the prisoners a choice: to take the oath of allegiance to his provisional government or to leave the colony within six hours, on pain of execution. In the company of two others who refused to take Riel's oath, Ottewell hastened from the colony, heading southeast. The trip was brutal. The temperatures hovered around -40° F/C and howling blizzards dogged their escape. Nevertheless, it took the men only nine days to reach Fort Abercrombie in the Dakota Territory. Their story caught the attention of American railway magnate, J.J. Hill, who took "the refugees", he called the three men, to St. Cloud, Minnesota and hence to Duluth.

Ottewell later returned to the Red River colony. Upon hearing of an expeditionary force being formed under the command of Col. Wolsley to deal with Riel's upstart provisional government, Ottewell returned to Canada to join. While Ottewell had been in the United States, Riel had crossed a line. He had made a critical misjudgment by executing

Thomas Scott in February. Canadianists were determined the Métis leader would answer for Scott's execution. Ottewell may have been disappointed, though. As Wolsley's militia approached, Riel and his followers slipped out of the colony to seek refuge in the United States.

Ottewell returned to his family home in Bruce County on the north shore of Lake Superior. For the next 10 years, R.P., as he later became known, worked in sawmills and mines there, work experience that would serve him well later in his life. In 1877, he met and married Frances (Fannie) Trevillion. By the time two children, William and Ella, had been born in quick succession, R.P. was feeling restless. The lure of the west, now supposedly free of its former political tensions, was reignited, and R.P. left his family in the care of Fannie's parents to move west in search of suitable farmland. A keg of Red Fife wheat seed was packed among his few belongings as he and friends Thomas Jackson, William Carscaden and Ed Langrell joined freighters heading to Edmonton in the spring of 1881.

End of Ottewell family history, part one

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