

CountryTalk

FALL 2015



Glasman family wins 2015 Northlands Farm Family Award

Third generation Strathcona County family honoured with the Northlands Farm Family award.

The Glasman family originally started a homestead in Strathcona County in the late 1800s; three generations have since resided on the home quarter. The operation has always been a mixed farm, which has been kept alive by Robert Glasman and his family.

Nominated by the Josephburg Agricultural Society as honest, hardworking farmers, the Glasmans are a close family who not only farm together, but also spend their free time together. They ride horses, garden avidly, and volunteer at the Shiloh Youth Ranch. Even activities like branding calves and butchering chickens have become a family affair. To relax a little, the Glasmans love to attend Farm Fair and the rodeos in town.

The current farm is not only a beautifully maintained property, but is still a fully functioning dairy, beef and grain operation. This year, wheat, barley and canola were sown. Their beef cows make use of the community pasture near Long Lake, while the dairy cows are still grazed on pasture near the barn.

Lenora Glasman grew up in Uncas, Alberta and met Robert in high school. Robert and Lenora

have been farming on the section full-time since 1994. They have three children: James, Kaylie and Josie, ages 14, 17, and 19, respectively. James is an avid innovator, building his own bicycles and crafting an egg-washer for his 30 laying hens and 115 new chicks. Kaylie is planning to earn her degree in Education in Calgary. Josie is attending Grant MacEwan to attain her Nursing degree. All the children have been actively involved in sports, student council and community events.

The Glasmans take great pride in their farm and sharing the simple pleasures of country life by welcoming everyone who sets foot in their home.

Northlands recognizes a hard working farm family in Strathcona County every other year with this award. Strathcona County also recognizes achievements in Agriculture with our Pride of Strathcona Awards annually.

If you would like to nominate a family or individual for these awards, please contact Transportation and Agriculture Services at 780-417-7100.

Fusarium Head Blight

Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of wheat caused by the pathogen *Fusarium graminearum*, often in conjunction with several other *Fusarium* species. *F.graminearum* was declared a pest under Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act in 1999 because of its aggressive nature. FHB is able to infect wheat, barley, oats and corn.

Strathcona County is monitoring for the disease through our inspection program, in order to limit its introduction, spread and impact. This year, Strathcona County will conduct a field sampling survey as part of the 2015 Fusarium Survey by Alberta Agriculture.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

Fusarium Head Blight facts:

- Most common symptoms of the disease include premature bleaching or wilting of heads and discoloured florets.
- Seeds contained within wilted heads often do not fill normally and take on a shrivelled and/or lightened appearance.
- The pathogen can overwinter on infected crop residue.
- The pathogen is seed borne so infested feed, seed and straw all have the capacity to spread or introduce *F.graminearum* to new areas in Alberta.
- Since the early 1990s, Canadian losses have been estimated between \$50 million and \$300 million annually.
- FHB reduces test weight and lowers market grade due to the production of discoloured, shrivelled kernels.

Keep Alberta rat free



Alberta takes pride in its "rat-free" status and relies on residents in the province to keep them out. Ultimately this prevents crop damage, disease, food contamination and damaged buildings.

The Alberta Rat Control Program and network of Pest Control Officers are dedicated to maintaining this status, any suspected rat sightings or activity should be reported to Transportation and Agriculture Services 780-417-7100 or Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development at 310-RATS (7287).

Things to remember when buying feed from other regions:

- Always check for signs of a rat infestation in your imported feed. Visit the [Alberta Agriculture website](http://www.albertaagriculture.ca) for things to look for and photos.
- Also remember that weeds can travel in feed too! Be vigilant to control or destroy any invasive weeds that could come in from other areas.

www.agriculture.ca/rats

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

Hunting in Strathcona County

2015 hunting season:
September 1 to December 7



Know the rules and regulations that are in place before you plan your hunt. The 2015 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations is now available. For locations of hunting licence issuers, please visit the Government of Alberta website at www.albertaregulations.com or call 1-877-944-0313.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Edmonton District, is responsible for wildlife management and enforcement of Alberta's Wildlife Act.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

www.strathcona.ca/hunting

Alberta Fish and Wildlife
Edmonton District Office
780-427-3574

24-hour numbers

Strathcona County RCMP
780-467-7741

Report-a-Poacher
1-800-642-3800

Land Use Bylaw updates support community living

You chose a rural lifestyle in the country. You have a large piece of property, a plentiful garden and a couple horses the children like to ride.

Strathcona County's Land Use Bylaw was recently updated giving further consideration to the differences between rural and urban living.

All home owners and businesses in Strathcona County are in some way impacted by the Land Use Bylaw. It's the planning tool that establishes rules to govern what can be built where, and for what purpose. It supports our vision as one of Canada's most livable communities.

Here are a few of the Land Use Bylaw changes. Before you proceed with any development, please confirm the zoning of your property to determine how the regulations may affect your project.

- If you are a hobby farmer or gardener and wish to have an agricultural product stand, it is now easier to sell vegetables from your property.
- In addition to secondary suites, stand-alone garden suites are now permitted on some rural properties. These suites offer affordable options for housing, and provide flexibility for mobility challenged residents.
- For larger parcels, more accessory buildings are allowed. The size of a building exempt from a permit has also been increased.

- Need help on the farm? A temporary agricultural dwelling on larger than 40 acres may be considered for intensive agricultural activities.
- Equestrian Centre regulations were developed after consultation with the Agricultural Service Board. These regulations help to define when a permit for an Equestrian Centre is required or when it would be considered general agriculture not requiring a permit.
- Wind energy and solar collectors are now included in the regulations. If you'd like to power the lights in the barn with a turbine, this may be an option.

The Land Use Bylaw provides rules to protect and support our quality of life. It helps to provide clear direction for both County staff and the community.

For more information on the Land Use Bylaw and its recent changes, visit www.strathcona.ca. If you are considering development or a land use bylaw amendment, please contact Planning and Development Services at 780-464-8080.

This article is meant to summarize some of the Land Use Bylaw changes and should not be used to interpret the Bylaw.

Rural contact offices

Strathcona County's rural contact offices act as satellite offices of County Hall, offering a variety of programs, information and services to rural residents.

- Information on County programs for rural residents.
- Assistance with resident inquiries and issues.
- Fire permits, dog licences, maps, County bill payment accepted (by cheque).
- Commissioner for Oaths services - free of charge.
- Computer/Internet access... and more.

South Contact Office

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 22142 South Cooking Lake Road
Office located in Fire Station #2

Phone: 780-922-1318

Heartland Hall Contact Office

Office hours: Monday to Thursday
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 55305 Range Road 214
Office located in Fire Station #4

Phone: 780-400-2165

www.strathcona.ca/rural



South Contact Office



Heartland Hall Contact Office

Extra guests can tax a septic system

The upcoming holiday season with its happy gatherings of family and friends may not seem like the perfect time to talk about proper use and maintenance of septic systems, but it is.

Holiday preparations and get-togethers can mean hosting out-of-town guests who can overwhelm a system and may not be familiar with necessary septic system precautions. No one needs the extra cost of repairs or cleanups, especially during Thanksgiving or the gift-giving season.

Properly maintained and used, septic systems are a safe way to treat and disperse wastewater in millions of homes across the country. Unfortunately, back-ups and overflows can lead to costly repair bills that can run into the hundreds, or even thousands of dollars. Protecting your property value can be a big incentive, but there's also the need to safeguard the health of you and your family. Nitrogen runoff from faulty systems can contaminate your well water or community drinking water supply. The pollutants can also make seafood unsafe to eat, turn lakes and rivers green with algae, and rob underwater life of oxygen.

So residents who use septic tanks may want to follow a few simple steps to avoid problems during the holidays. To prevent problems, here are some tips to keep your septic system flowing smoothly:

- Tell people what not to flush. Ask your guests to only put things in the drain or toilet that belong there. For example, hair combings, dental floss, disposable diapers, flushable wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, and condoms can cause problems for septic systems.
- Identify your drainage field and be sure to keep cars and heavy equipment off of it. Remind guests that the drainage field is an essential part of the septic system and that they should not park their vehicles on sections of the yard where the weight could damage buried pipes or disrupt underground flow.



- Keep your system maintained. Your authorized practitioner will recommend a maintenance schedule for you during which your tank may require pumping and other maintenance work may be performed on your system. Some systems may require more frequent maintenance. Some regions may require specific cleaning and inspections every three to five years. Check with your municipality for compliance requirements.

The results will not only be a merrier holiday; properly maintained septic systems protect our drinking water, our favorite fishing holes and the lakes and rivers we use for recreation. Septic system use is growing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that about 25 percent of new developments are served by septic systems. Statistics indicate that 10 to 20 percent of septic systems fail. Malfunctioning systems are the third most common source of ground water contamination.

Remember that following proper guidelines will help prevent expensive repairs and keep the environment clean—not only during the holiday season—but throughout the entire year.

Further information

Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association
1-877-489-7471 (toll free)
www.aowma.com



Rural Internet Access Program

Do you enjoy peaceful country living but not the snail pace of your home Internet connection?

Waiting endlessly for that web page to load may soon be a thing of the past for residents in rural Strathcona County. With its innovative Rural Internet Access Program, the County is working to improve Internet service in hard-to-reach rural areas where treed and hilly terrain can sometimes keep the online world out of reach.

Working with local Internet service providers, and with feedback from residents, the County has identified areas where Internet access is unsatisfactory. Through this three-year program, the County is offering financial incentives to Internet service providers who erect additional smaller local towers in these areas. These new towers will act as a bridge between households and the larger infrastructure towers, to enable and bring high-speed Internet service to the area.

Going forward on a priority basis, it is anticipated that 12 new local towers will be erected this fall, with the potential for another 100 or more going up by the end of 2018.

Additionally, rural residents will soon be able to enjoy unlimited free Internet access whenever they visit their nearest community facility. In a partnership with Strathcona County Library - with grant funding and Shell Canada sponsorship - local towers will be installed at community facilities where Internet access is not available or limited. This will allow residents to enjoy the entire suite of services and resources that the Library has to offer, including access to all of the e-content (e-books, e-music, e-movies, etc.), and to Library programming with a digital component. When the Bookmobile stops at rural community facilities, it will be able to offer real-time access to patron accounts and reference resources. High-speed Internet will also make the facilities more appealing to groups looking to book a venue for their next event.

The new towers will be owned by the Internet service providers, who will be responsible for the related construction and maintenance. The service providers will identify and contact landowners who might be interested in having a tower installed on their property.

Further information

Information Technology Services
780-464-8024
www.strathcona.ca/ruralinternet

Poster contest

In the spring of 2015, the Agricultural Service Board held its annual poster contest for Grades 3, 4 and 5 students from Strathcona County and Fort Saskatchewan. The students were asked to draw posters with the theme 'Get Growing with Urban Agriculture'. The contest winners were each presented a cheque at the June 16 Council meeting.

The Agricultural Service Board wishes to thank all the students who entered the contest.





Why evergreens lose leaves too

Why is my evergreen tree losing its needles?

Unlike deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in the fall, coniferous trees are known for keeping their needles through the fall and winter months. Coniferous trees are often classified as evergreens, but this does not mean the tree stays green forever. Evergreen actually refers to the group of woody plants where the needles remain green and attached to the tree for more than one year. Evergreen "leaves" usually remain on the tree for 2 to 3 years before they are shed.

Coniferous trees can exhibit some needle colour change and drop off in the fall months. If it is the inside needles of your tree or shrub that are shedding, this is a natural process called autumn needle shed. It is not caused by disease, insects or injury and does not harm the tree.

My cedar is losing lots of branches. What do I do?

Cedar species also lose their needles despite their scale-like leaf coverings. Whole branchlets may drop off in cedars as well as some Junipers. The loss of older needles is typically gradual, but in some cases more leaves will be affected and the tree can lose a substantial amount of foliage. You may notice more branches are lost if the cedar is under stress, which may be caused by drought.

There are brown needles on my pine tree. Is it sick?

This is the time of year when you may notice some brown needles on pine trees. Check your trees to ensure the discoloured needles are towards the interior of the tree (closest to the trunk). The outer needles on branches should remain green. Chemical injury, nitrogen deficiency, over-watering, drought, insect damage or tree disease symptoms can all be confused with autumn needle shed. Coniferous trees exhibiting entire branches with discoloured needles or more widespread browning could indicate a more serious threat to your tree.

Where we are heading: planning for the future

Strathcona County is updating its Municipal Development Plan (MDP) which is the County's plan for the future. It sets out a clear vision for how Strathcona County will grow and develop over the next 20 years or more. The plan will guide decisions on key issues including conservation of the natural environment and investment in infrastructure and services.

Share your ideas

We're asking residents, business owners, and community stakeholder groups to share their ideas on a range of topics including:

- agriculture
- rural residential development
- environmental management
- affordable housing
- nature-based and agri-tourism

For more information on these topics please visit the "backgrounders" on the project website at www.strathcona.ca/MDP. We are currently in Phase 2 of the process and recently hosted interactive workshops in South Cooking Lake, Ardrossan and Sherwood Park to hear from a range of urban and rural residents on these topics.

Next steps - Setting directions this fall

Over the summer, the planning team began to develop policy options based on the feedback and existing County plans and background research. These options will be summarized in a Setting Directions report that will be available in the fall for the public to review and provide feedback. As part of Phase 3, we will host another round of public engagement in the fall to dive deeper into these policy options and directions to make specific choices about where the County can go. This phase will result in draft policies that will shape the updated MDP. These will be refined further into a complete draft plan in Phase 4.

Stay in the know

The best way to stay up to date on the MDP update project and find out the dates for the next round of engagements is to sign up to the mailing list at www.strathcona.ca/MDP or call 780-464-8127. You can also visit this website and the online engagement hub to learn more about the MDP update, check out our whiteboard video, find out about upcoming engagement activities, and view input as it is gathered.



Further information:
Transportation and
Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

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.

Report a DUMPER

780-449-0170

Say no to recycle station dumping. Keep our rural recycling station and events clean.

When reporting, be sure to include date, time licence plate number, description of the person, vehicle and items dumped.

Dumping items on public or private property is illegal and you could be fined.



CountryTalk

News for rural residents provided by Strathcona County's Agricultural Service Board



The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) acts as an advisory body to Council on agriculture matters, while promoting and developing agriculture policies and programs to meet the needs of residents and the municipality.

Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Bonnie Riddell, Chair
780-464-8003

Transportation and Agriculture Services
Joel Gould, Manager, Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

