

CountryTalk

SPRING 2017



The past where we live

This year marks 150 years since Canada was first united as a country under confederation. In light of this exciting milestone, we want to share our local history with you.

Strathcona County has grown rapidly in recent years. Many of us who have moved here from somewhere else may be missing out on a real understanding of the County's history and heritage.

Have you ever wondered ... How did Strathcona County become the specialized municipality it is today? What is the history of our municipality? Why did settlers move here? Why is Strathcona County both urban and rural? These questions and more are answered in a video series called *The past where we live*.

These videos were produced to share some of the back story of how this municipality has formed. We hope they give you a sense of place and a greater appreciation of Strathcona County's origins as a municipality, and of its cultural and natural heritage.

Combined, the two videos are 20 minutes in length. You can find them on our website at www.strathcona.ca/history or on YouTube.

Used with permission, many of the images in these videos belong to the:

- Strathcona County Museum and Archives
- Provincial Archives of Alberta
- Glenbow Archives
- Library and Archives Canada

We are grateful for the community members who contributed: Iris Evans, Mildred Stefiszyn, Warren Thomas and the late George Wunderly. And, yes, it's true. The voice is that of Dave Pettitt.

We consider these videos only an introduction to the many accounts of local history to be found on the County website and at the Strathcona County Museum and Archives.

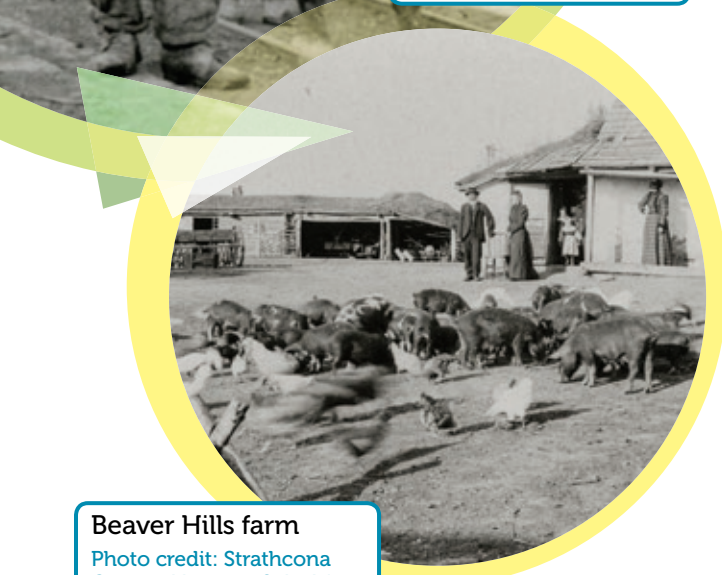
As we celebrate with the rest of Canada our nation's sesquicentennial year, we invite you to take a few minutes to reflect on the history of Strathcona County - the place we all now call home.

If you would like to borrow a DVD of *The past where we live* videos, to show to your family, group or organization, please contact us at info@strathcona.ca or call 780-464-8022.



Coal miner

Photo credit: Strathcona County Museum & Archives



Beaver Hills farm

Photo credit: Strathcona County Museum & Archives

A specialized municipality explores Strathcona County's municipal history, how the County has developed and changed over time. Learn about its name, its boundaries and how it came to be a specialized municipality.



A rich and plentiful country depicts the natural resources that have drawn people here and the industries that developed as a result of these natural resources.



Church and school at Clover Bar

Photo credit: Provincial Archives of Alberta, B3971

We also invite you to participate in some of the Canada 150 events that are happening over the coming year.



CANADA 150

Check out www.strathcona.ca/Canada150 for a calendar of local events, volunteer opportunities and more. You can also add your own event to the community calendar.

STRATHCONA
COUNTY



Discourage pests in your yard

Use these tips to discourage animal pests such as coyotes, porcupines, rodents, skunks, sparrows, magpies, crows and squirrels.

- Clean up bird feeders.
- Remove fruit or other produce from your yard.
- Ensure compost is fenced or contained with a proper lid.
- Remove old crow and magpie nests to discourage re-nesting.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/wildlife

Rural Internet Access Program



Thanks to improved service provided by new internet towers, and upgrades to existing towers, almost all residents in rural areas across Strathcona County will have access to high-speed internet from their homes.

If you live in rural Strathcona and still can't get high-speed internet, we'd like to hear from you. Your feedback will help the County identify any gaps in service.

Further information

ruralinternet@strathcona.ca
780-464-8024
www.strathcona.ca/ruralinternet



Pruning apple trees

If you have apple trees, it is important to prune the tree properly. Pruning can enhance the tree's appearance and keep it healthy.

Light trimming can be done at any time, but a full-scale pruning should be done in late winter or early spring when you can see the shape of the tree.

Apple tree pruning tips

- Train one central leader, which is the main trunk/branch that goes up the middle of the tree. All other branches come off this central leader.
- Be sure to note that this year's growth will carry next year's fruit. When pruning apple trees do not cut off all the new growth; apple blossoms form on new budding twigs.
- Remove suckers growing from the roots as they deprive important nutrients from the rest of the tree. This is very important and can be done at any time of year.
- Remove all dead branches from your tree. Struggling trees should be pruned when the leaves start forming so you can determine what is dead and what is alive.

- Prune out any branches that are growing straight up. These branches do not produce fruit or support the shape of the tree, and use nutrients that could be used for fruit production.
- Remove branches that cross, keeping the one that best supports the shape of the tree. Crossing branches will damage and cut into one another, opening wounds in the bark, making the tree susceptible to insects and disease.
- The amount of openness within a tree is important. If sunlight cannot reach the developing fruit, you may need to prune out more branches.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100

Rural Contact Offices Customer service hours changing

Strathcona County will be piloting new office hours at the north and south contact offices starting May 1, 2017. The new hours will provide more access for residents outside of regular daytime business hours.

South contact office

Wednesday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Heartland Hall contact office

Tuesday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesday 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

NOTE: Residents can still make appointments to come in at alternate times. During tax week, June 26 to June 30, the hours will be Monday to Friday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at both offices.

www.strathcona.ca/rural



South Contact Office

Heartland Hall Contact Office



Weed control in your yard

There are many weed control options available for use on your acreage including mowing, hand pulling, and spraying. If you have decided to spray your weeds, there are some basics all herbicide applicators need to know.

Before you start, ask yourself the following:

- What weed do you want to treat?**
 Herbicides are only effective for the list of plants outlined on their label. Review the information booklet carefully to ensure you are using the product safely. Never use a herbicide for a plant that is not listed on the label.
- Where are the weeds on your property?**
 Certain herbicides may not be applied in areas close to bodies of water or other specific locations. The label will outline any restrictions for use.
- How are you going to spray the weeds?**
 Is the area that you want to treat small enough for a back-pack sprayer or will you need to use a larger ATV or tractor sprayer? This will also affect the rate you mix and you will need to be able to calibrate any equipment you use.
- What will be the water source for my tank mix?**
 Water quality matters! Using untreated well water or water from a dugout may adversely impact your herbicide.

- Am I safe?** Protect yourself! The label will outline everything you need to wear to safely apply the specific product. At minimum, when you are applying herbicides, you should wear a long sleeved shirt, long pants or coveralls, rubber boots, waterproof gloves and eye or face protection.

Herbicide use is complex. This article only highlights some basic things to consider and do when spraying herbicide on your property. If you need assistance, we are here to help.

Try using our County Connect web self-service tool to get professional advice on herbicide use, alternative methods of weed control, integrated approaches, or other weed control questions.

www.strathcona.ca/countyconnect

A listing of private vegetation management companies can also be found on our website, if you choose to hire a professional to do the work.

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
 780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/weeds



Weed Inspection Program

Remember not all flowers are friendly! Weed inspectors will be out again in 2017, talking with and educating residents about the growth and spread of noxious weeds.

Visit www.strathcona.ca/weeds to learn more about the program.



Axle weights for agricultural use

Spring road bans are now in effect.

Let's work together to protect our roads from damage. Agricultural producers can now apply for a Road Use Agreement (RUA) that will allow 100% axle weights outside of spring road bans on approved routes.

Getting started

- Call Transportation and Agriculture Services at 780-417-7100 to apply for an annual RUA
- Include specific route information



February - March

Spring road bans are approaching

- Call for approval to haul at 100%



March - May

Spring road bans in effect.

Weights will be lowered to 90% initially and then again to 75%.

- Call for approval to haul at 90%



May - February

After spring road bans, weights will increase to 90%. As conditions improve, they will be raised to 100%.

- Call us in June to verify approval to haul at 100%

Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
 780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/roadbans

2017 Rural Roadside Vegetation Control Program

Strathcona County Agriculture Services annually controls weeds, brush and trees on rural roadsides and municipal reserves. Weed control for the 2017 season will include:

- All rural roadsides (township and range roads).
- Rural roadsides north of Highway 16 (the Yellowhead) will be broadcast with herbicide.
- South of Highway 16, herbicide will be applied by spot spray application along rural roadsides, as necessary.
- No herbicide will be applied to roadsides where landowners maintain the grass at lawn height.

Landowner Option Program

Rural residents who do not wish to have herbicide applied to the roadside adjacent to their property can sign up for Strathcona County's Landowner Option Program. By enrolling in this program, the resident assumes responsibility of any noxious or prohibited noxious weeds, as well as any brush control requirements. Once signed up, residents do not need to re-enroll in the program.

For more information about the Landowner Option Program or the Rural Roadside Vegetation Control Program, please call 780-417-7100.



Getting more fingers in the dirt!

Community Gardens is the first program to come out of the County's Urban Agriculture Strategy and we couldn't be more excited.

In April, Council approved a Community Garden Policy, which recognizes community gardening as a valuable activity that contributes to the community. Strathcona County is working to build a program that will help connect residents with other residents who are interested in gardening.

Community gardens are a community-led activity and as such, their development needs community interest, people power and a plan. All of this takes time!

This season we will work with established community groups, while exploring new sites for community gardens. Our team will be at community events such as Neighbour Day and local Farmers' Markets to meet residents and talk about community gardening.

Further Information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/communitygarden

Are you interested in seeing a community garden in your neighbourhood or want more information?

- Talk to your neighbours - a new community garden will need a handful of committed neighbours to help plan the garden.
- Visit Strathcona County's website to learn more about community gardens.

Fire Permits

A fire permit can no longer be obtained at Fire Stations 2 (South Cooking Lake) and 3 (Ardrossan).

You can apply for a fire permit:

- Online at www.strathcona.ca/firepermit
- In person at Fire Station 6
 915 Bison Way, Sherwood Park
 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- In person at the South contact office
 22142 South Cooking Lake Road
- In person at Heartland Hall contact office
 55305 Range Road 214

A fire permit is required for open incinerators and burn barrel fires in Strathcona County.



Further Information

fireprevention@strathcona.ca
780-449-9651
www.strathcona.ca/sces

Upcoming Events in Strathcona County

Deville Market

Tuesdays | Deville/North Cooking Lake Hall
 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Spring Market

May 6, 2017 | Brookville Hall | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Country Classic

May 27-29, 2017 | Josephburg | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Garage Sale

June 1-3, 2017 | Brookville Hall | Watch for times

Ardrossan Picnic and Parade

June 17, 2017 | Ardrossan | 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Canada 150 Celebration

July 1, 2017 | Sherwood Park | 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Canada 150 Family BBQ

July 1, 2017 | Good Hope Hall | Watch for times

Savour Strathcona County

July 9, 2017 | Sherwood Park | 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Trail Days

August 19, 2017 | South Cooking Lake
 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Vintage Tractor Pull

August 26 - 27, 2017 | Bremner | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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.

Further information

Agricultural Service Board
Carol Maier, Chair

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