

CountryTalk

FALL 2019



Mark your calendars!



Here are a few of the upcoming events in Strathcona County.

Deville Community Market
Every Tuesday | 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Deville/North Cooking Lake Hall

Fall Play Day
September 29, 2019 | 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Strathcona Wilderness Centre

Celebration of Lights
November 16, 2019
Community Centre

Christmas in the Heartland
November 23 and 24, 2019
Various locations in north Strathcona County

Christmas in the Country
December 7, 2019
Various locations in south Strathcona County

Visit the Strathcona County events calendar for more events and info.
strathcona.ca/calendar

Maier family wins 2019 Northlands Farm Family Award

It's been a family affair for the past 21 years at Country Road Greenhouses in Strathcona County.

Carol Maier is passionate about her greenhouses and her family shares her passion. Her husband, Darrel, is the handyman in charge of maintenance and keeps an eye on the bottom line.

Growing up, all three children were also involved—from working in the greenhouse to making a healthy evening meal that made the long hours in the greenhouse possible.

Carol's business style is innovative and her philosophy is to think long term. Her natural curiosity led her to try many new and interesting techniques and to participate in programs that explore improved greenhouse production, always with the environment in mind.

Current projects include teaming up with Hive World to teach about bees. In September, they hosted their first long table dinner to showcase local products with the hope it will become an annual event.

Throughout development of their business, the family has been selfless in giving back to the community—not only with donations of product and time, but by participating in programs such as Dog with Wings. Initially to help their daughter overcome her fear of dogs, the family has raised assistance dogs for over 10 years.

Carol has a motto: "Don't do a lot, but do it well." We're not sure if Carol and her family know the meaning of "don't do a lot", but we know they do it extremely well!

Northlands recognizes a hardworking farm family in Strathcona County with this award every other year.

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



Peak season for farm machinery on public roads

The peak seasons for farm machinery to use public roads are spring and fall. Because of higher speed limits on rural roads, collisions in rural areas tend to be more serious. The most frequent types of multi-vehicle collisions involving farm machinery include:

- Farm machinery being hit as it turns onto a public road
- Collision as a motorist attempts to pass farm machinery on the road
- Rear-end collision due to motorists miscalculating the rate at which they are approaching farm machinery



Defensive driving tips for motorists

- **Be alert.** Watch for farm vehicles on rural roads.
- **Keep your distance.** Stay at least 15 metres or five car-lengths back.
- **Slow down.** As soon as you see a slow-moving vehicle, slow down immediately. It's difficult to judge how slowly it's moving, especially at night.
- **Be patient.**
 - Do not assume a farm vehicle is pulling right to let you pass. Check the left side of the road for gates, driveways or any place a farm vehicle might turn left.
 - Do not assume the farmer can move aside to let you pass.
 - Do not pass until the road is clear of traffic and you are positive it is safe to pass.
- **Make sure you're clear.** When passing, make sure you can see the farm vehicle in your rear-view mirror before you change back into the right lane.

This fall, slow down and enjoy the drive! Don't let frustration lead you to make a decision that may cause you and others harm.

[Learn more strathcona.ca/trafficsafety](http://strathcona.ca/trafficsafety)

Kelsey Knott (second from left), along with Nancy and Gary Kiziak.



Pride of Strathcona Awards, Agricultural Leadership

Strathcona County annually recognizes individuals or groups for outstanding achievements and contributions to our community in a variety of categories.

This year, we congratulate Gary and Nancy Kiziak of Codiak Acres, and Kelsey Knott—winners in the Agricultural Leadership category—for their exceptional leadership in our agricultural community.

Codiak Acres

Over 27 years, Gary and Nancy Kiziak have expertly grown their business and gained international acclaim. Codiak Acres breeds and exports award-winning Speckle Park Cattle. They are one of a few beef cattle breeds developed in Canada, and are the largest exporter of Speckle Park genetics in the country.

Their farm brings provincial, national and international visitors to Strathcona County to attend their famous cattle sales—held twice a year on the farm. Their success as cattle breeders is a source of great pride for the Kiziak family, as is the great number of friends they have made all over the world.

The family has also supported our local agricultural community in many ways. Gary was past president of the Canadian Speckle Park Cattle Association; their farm has hosted Open Farm Days; they sponsor 4H shows and volunteer and sponsor the UFA Classic in Josephburg; and they have been involved with the Fort Feeders Association and the Northlands Beef Committee

Board. Their two sons, Cody and Devon, were members of the Fort Saskatchewan 4H Club and are long-time volunteers themselves.

The Kiziak family farm is a role model both in terms of commercial success and in their contributions to the community.

Kelsey Knott

Kelsey is a member of a farm family that raises purebred Angus and commercial Angus-Cross cattle. She is a regular exhibitor at Farmfair International, one of Canada's top agricultural shows, and is a well-respected ambassador for the Alberta cattle industry, whether hosting international buyers or as part of a trade mission to Scotland.

In addition to her commitment to the family farm, Kelsey has brought her knowledge, energy and enthusiasm to an impressive number of volunteer projects. She excelled as Chair of the Josephburg Agricultural Society's UFA Classic, which is a great success and attracts visitors from all over the province. She's also a board member of the Alberta Angus Association, attending workshops and conferences to promote that industry.

Kelsey cares about Strathcona County and its residents and shares that pride of place with visitors to the County and on her travels.

[Learn more strathcona.ca/pride](http://strathcona.ca/pride)

What is mulching and why is it necessary?

Mulching removes trees and brush from ditches to improve traffic sightlines, allow proper drainage and ensure there is enough space for the snow plowed from roads in winter. A machine is used to shred trees and brush into chips that are left to naturally decompose over time.

I like the trees in front of my property; will these be mulched?

The County only mulches trees and brush within our right-of-way, typically five to seven metres from the road edge. Attention and care is given to conserving trees wherever possible. The County does not clear the entire right-of-way unless it is required for construction projects.

The County mulched my road in the fall and now that the snow is gone, it looks terrible.

Mulching does change the appearance of the ditch at first. Typically, these areas re-establish grass within the year and by mid-summer of the following year, the appearance improves. The County's annual mowing activities also help break down any debris that remains.



strathcona.ca/vegetationcontrol



2019 School Poster Contest winners

In the spring of 2019, the Agricultural Service Board held its annual poster contest for Grade 3, 4 and 5 students from the Elk Island School District. The winning posters were chosen for their creative representation of the theme, "All About Pollinators".

In total, 654 posters were received and 24 schools participated. Cash awards were presented to contest winners by Council on June 18, 2019.

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

Grade 3 winners

- 1st Place - Alika Lychak**
Jean Vanier Catholic School
- 2nd Place - Trinity Imade**
Strathcona Christian Academy
- 3rd Place - Katie Dyer**
École Campbelltown

Grade 4 winners

- 1st Place - Emma Mickailyk**
Fort Saskatchewan Christian School
- 2nd Place - McKayla Stead**
Brentwood Elementary
- 3rd Place - Alexis Wright**
Strathcona Christian Academy

Grade 5 winners

- 1st Place - Marissa Ozdemir**
Mills Haven Elementary
- 2nd Place - Sam Hashemi**
Wye School
- 3rd Place - Floyd Gural**
Wes Hosford School



Municipal land available for lease

Strathcona County provides the opportunity for individuals to license certain municipal lands (reserves) for designated agricultural use (hay and pasture). The list of available municipal lands for the 2020 Invitation to Tender will be available on the County's website on October 25, 2019.

Learn more

strathcona.ca/landlicensing

Report a DUMPER

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

If you witness someone dumping unacceptable items at a recycle station, by the side of the road or on public or private property, please report them.



Provide as much information as you can - licence plate number, vehicle description, location, date and time.

**Report them to:
780-449-0170**

Rural contact offices

Strathcona County's rural contact offices act as satellite offices of County Hall, offering rural residents, communities and community groups a first point of contact and convenient location to:

- Access information about County programs and services
- Share community event or program information with other County communities
- Apply for or make changes to fire permits and dog licences
- Pay County bills or purchase County maps (cheque only)
- Receive assistance with County Connect or other internet inquiries

strathcona.ca/rural

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

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

Phone: 780-400-3880

North Contact Office
55305 Range Road 214
Office located in Fire Station #4

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

Phone: 780-400-2165



South Contact Office

Deer mouse or white-footed mouse

The deer mouse or white-footed mouse is a species native to this area. Their population tends to increase in wet years in response to vegetation and seed production.



At this time of year, the mice will explore buildings to inhabit over the winter and will contaminate the areas with feces and urine. You can discourage their investigations by keeping a clean yard. Toxicants and trapping devices may be purchased at hardware stores and farm supply outlets for control measures.

Deer mice may be carriers of the hantavirus so exercise caution during handling.

Learn more

albertahealthservices.ca
strathcona.ca/rodents



North Contact Office
(Heartland Hall)



Hunting in Strathcona County

2019 hunting season:
September 1 to December 7

Know the rules and regulations that are in place before you plan your hunt. The 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations is now available. For locations of hunting licence issuers, please visit the Government of Alberta website at albertaregulations.ca 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 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



All about hunting

Join us for a free and informative evening on all things related to the hunting season



Stop by the Ardrossan Recreation Complex on **Thursday, Sept. 26** from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to hear from County experts on the essential information you need to be a successful hunter in Strathcona County. The more you know, the better you'll hunt!

Topics for the evening include:

- Licensing and bylaws
- Rights of landowners
- Chronic waste disease
- Provincial WMU and Strathcona County's Special Control Boundaries

RSVP for this free event at:
strathcona.ca/allabout hunting

Speaker highlight

Come learn **moose hunting tips and different calling techniques** from Cal Wakelin. Cal has spent many years guiding and outfitting, specializing in moose hunting. Spending many of the fall months living in the bush, he has come to know how moose think and act, making Cal one of the best moose hunters around. Whether by bow or rifle, Cal will teach you the dos and don'ts of hunting these magnificent animals.

Another busy season for weed inspectors

The summer of 2019 brought a lot of rain—and a lot of weeds along with it.

A special thank you to all our residents that took the extra effort to control noxious weeds on their property. Our Weed Inspectors appreciate your cooperation. The weed inspection season may be winding down, but weed seeds can still get stuck to your shoes, equipment and animals. As you enjoy the fall weather, remember to clean your footwear, recreational vehicles and pets of weed seeds before leaving any outdoor activity. Protecting Strathcona County from noxious weeds is a team effort.

Thank you for your help.

Strathcona County Weed Inspectors

strathcona.ca/weeds



Country Talk

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
Laura Hammer, Chair

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