

COUNTY connections



FUTURE PARKS,
TRAILS, AND
OPEN SPACES

10



[SturgeonCounty.ca](https://sturgeoncounty.ca)

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GETTING INVOLVED

IN STURGEON COUNTY DECISIONS

Sturgeon County makes decisions that matter to residents, which is why Council and Administration want you to be informed and involved.

You have opportunities to provide input on projects and initiatives taking shape in Sturgeon County.

In-person opportunities

We host in-person information sessions and open houses to provide information and allow attendees to ask questions. These opportunities are promoted via the Sturgeon County website, social media, mailed letters and more! View our events at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Events](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Events).

Council meetings

You're encouraged to attend Council meetings and provide your input on items that matter to you. Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers, unless otherwise specified. Council meetings are

open to the public and can also be livestreamed on our website at [SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings).

You can register to speak at a Council meeting, and you can attend a public hearing – either in-person or via videoconference – and speak for up to five minutes at that hearing. You can also submit written statements via email or mail.

Learn more about upcoming Council meetings and how you can provide input at [SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings)

Council committees

County residents also play an important advisory role to Council, including on the County's six advisory committees that provide advice and recommendations directly to Council on matters related to resource extraction, community services, economic development, transportation, agriculture and youth.

The County is also looking at new ways to engage residents directly through panels, surveys, and other channels to gather input

and suggestions. We encourage you to become actively involved in the future of your community.

Contacting Council members

You're invited to contact the Mayor or your Councillor to share your input or ask questions. Each Council member's contact information is listed on the following pages. Learn more at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Council](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Council).

Contact our staff

Our staff are happy to answer your questions! You can reach us on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by phone at **780-939-4321** or toll-free at **1-866-939-9303**. You can also email us at sturgeonmail@sturgeoncounty.ca, or stop by our offices. Sturgeon County Centre is located at:

9613 100 St.
Morinville, AB
T8R 1L9

MESSAGES FROM COUNCIL



Change is an inevitable part of growth, and here in Sturgeon County we embrace it as an opportunity to strengthen our community. We understand that change can bring challenges, but it's through resilience and adaptability that we discover our true potential. As we navigate new projects and initiatives, Sturgeon County remains committed to supporting our residents and businesses every step of the way.

The County's strategic priorities focus on building a community that is not only ready for change but is also positioned to thrive because of it. This means investing in infrastructure, fostering sustainable economic growth, and ensuring that we're prepared to adapt to both the expected and the unexpected. Your council is here to listen, to engage, and to work together with you in creating a future that benefits us all.

This fall, Council is debating Budget 2025, which puts strategic priorities into action. We are investing in capital projects including road upgrades and maintenance, installing a new playground, and purchasing and maintaining road maintenance equipment. This budget also invests in economic development, cultivating a thriving, business-friendly climate so that we can continue to build a sustainable future for all.

I encourage everyone to stay connected, ask questions, and share your thoughts as we move forward together. As a community, we can make Sturgeon County an even more resilient, innovative, and vibrant place to live and work.

MESSAGE FROM
MAYOR ALANNA HNATIW

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**MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 1 COUNCILLOR
DAN DEROUIN**

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As a former Fire Captain with the City of Edmonton, I know how hard our first responders work and I give credit to our wonderful protective services staff including peace officers, on-call firefighters, and our first responders from neighbouring municipalities for keeping Sturgeon County safe.

It's no secret that Sturgeon County is a diverse and geographically large municipality. It covers nearly 2,100 square kilometers, which is about the size of 6,600 football fields combined. This abundance of land creates many opportunities for our residents and businesses, but it can also pose challenges when providing emergency health services to such a vast area.

It is for this reason that Sturgeon County has partnered with STARS Air Ambulance to provide emergency air ambulatory care to our residents and landowners. To date, we have contributed more than \$600,000 to the organization, which earned us the honour of having our County logo displayed on the side of one of their H145 helicopters last year.

STARS saves lives. They have flown more than 122 county residents since 2010, and the number of people they assist is likely to continue growing. Since 2006, I'm proud to say Sturgeon County has contributed annually to help keep STARS in the sky, and I look forward to continuing our support of this critical service.

As we travel Sturgeon County's beautiful roads this season, it's important to remember that these routes are shared with everyone, including our farmers, school buses, snow removal equipment, and emergency responders—each of whom play a vital role in sustaining our community. It's essential to stay alert and practice patience when driving near them.

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. We ask residents to reduce speed, avoid distractions, and allow extra time during the winter months. In certain areas, Sturgeon County has implemented traffic calming measures to promote safer driving habits. These efforts, combined with your care and

attention, help ensure that our roads remain safe for all who use them, from everyday drivers to those who have special needs on our roads.

As a reminder, please give room for our responders to do their work. And, when you see a school bus on the side of the road with its stop signal out, keep in mind that you are also required to stop your vehicle regardless of which direction you are travelling.

By driving courteously and staying mindful, we can all contribute to a safer travel experience for everyone in our community. Thank you for helping to promote safety and respect on Sturgeon County's roads.



**MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 2 COUNCILLOR
KRISTIN TOMS**

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**MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 3 COUNCILLOR
MATTHEW MCLENNAN**

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Fall can be a challenging and stressful time for many as we settle into our cold-weather routines, and we head into the darkest days of the year. Luckily, Sturgeon County's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) have great resources to help you stay well this season.

Our Wellness on Wheels (WoW) initiative began during the COVID pandemic in 2021, when many people were feeling isolated and disconnected. FCSS traveled throughout the county to promote the range of support available to residents within their community. The program was such a hit that we continue it to this day.

Sturgeon County also offers a variety of mental health services through our

Living Well Counselling Service and Alberta Farm Mental Health Network. You can find out about both resources on our website at SturgeonCounty.ca.

There are many positive changes we can all make in our lives—eating well, exercising, and getting good sleep. While these habits form the foundation of a healthy lifestyle, of course, sometimes more is needed. Our FCSS is always offering great programming for families, youth and seniors. I encourage you to follow Sturgeon County on social media and sign-up for our e-newsletter to learn about all the new and exciting programs offered and take advantage of them for your physical and mental health needs.



MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 4 COUNCILLOR
NEAL COMEAU

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Here in Sturgeon County, we pride ourselves on being an innovative rural community with many generational families. In this issue of County Connections, we honour two family farms who have been homesteading in our area for more than a century.

Congratulations to the Bokenfohr and the Scragg families on reaching this historic milestone!

Both have made a lasting impact through their families' hard work and dedication. Many members of the Scragg and Bokenfohr families still work and live in the Sturgeon area, which is a testament to the

living legacies of these pioneering families. I encourage you to read their stories to learn more about Sturgeon County's rich history. Sturgeon County is proud to recognize these community contributions with a 100-Year Farm Family Award.

To find out if your family farm qualifies, please visit our website at SturgeonCounty.ca, click on Agriculture & Environment, Agriculture Awards. We look forward to sharing your family's story next.



MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 5 COUNCILLOR
DEANNA STANG

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I have learned over the 48 years in this community that our residents are resilient in times of upheaval. We experienced a massive windstorm at the end of July, causing downed trees, property damage, and extensive power outages. Division 5 was one of the areas that was hit quite hard. My utmost gratitude goes out to those who helped remove debris and assisted their community.

I would like to also express my appreciation to our amazing staff who cleared 86 individual sites and 80 km of roads that were impacted because of the storm. It is a huge undertaking to make our region safe after a weather event like this,

especially considering the size of some trees.

This fall and winter let's all do our part to keep Sturgeon County safe by reporting any road concerns you see by using our website at SturgeonCounty.ca or on your mobile device through the Sturgeon County app.

We can do this together!



MESSAGE FROM
DIVISION 6 COUNCILLOR
JASON BERRY

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Sturgeon County continues to attract investment and as a result, the Heartland region continues to grow. The Industrial Heartland is Canada's largest energy processing cluster and the portion located in our county has seen some major investment in the past few months.

Pembina's RFS IV, CANDO Rail, and Wolf Midstream have announced significant development projects in the Heartland, bringing billions of dollars of investment into our community and thousands of jobs to the region. Read about their projects in this issue of County Connections.

We are continuing to attract companies from all over the world to our region. With our solid tax foundation, business-friendly climate and steadfast commitment to helping our businesses thrive, Sturgeon County continues to lead the way for industrial development in Alberta and beyond.



Road Construction 2024: PROJECT ROUND UP

Investment into roads pays off in safety and durability

As Sturgeon County concludes its busy road construction season, our completed projects showcase the County's dedication to enhancing the safety and efficiency of our vital transportation network. These improvements underscore our ongoing commitment to providing residents and visitors with reliable infrastructure that meets the evolving needs of our community.

This year's road construction season saw Sturgeon County invest over \$30 million into critical infrastructure projects. From repaving connector roads to upgrading gravel roads, this extensive work has improved our safety and efficiency.

"Council's commitment to improving road infrastructure is important for the safety of all motorists—this is an investment in the future of Sturgeon County," says Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

Sturgeon Road Roundabout

Safety for drivers and pedestrians is top of mind when the County's Transportation and Engineering department considers its projects. This is evident in the Sturgeon Valley where two of Sturgeon County's busiest roads meet: at Sturgeon Road and Range Road 250.

Recent measured traffic volumes:

- > Sturgeon Road west of the intersection – 6259 vehicles per day
- > Sturgeon Road east of the intersection – 3231 vehicles per day
- > Range Road 250 south of the intersection – 4280 vehicles per day

Based on these traffic counts, this intersection ranks among the top three most heavily traveled intersections under County ownership.

This summer, a new roundabout was built here to better manage traffic volumes and address safety concerns. Valley residents are familiar with roundabouts as this is the second one along Sturgeon Road.

If you're new to roundabouts, learn useful tips and access additional resources on the County website at [SturgeonCounty.ca](https://sturgeoncounty.ca).

Goose Hummock project

The Goose Hummock project located on Township Road 564 east and west of Highway 28, upgraded the existing road to meet the county's general municipal servicing standards for rural highways. This work will enhance safety, drainage, and ride quality for residents.

The three main components of this project include:

A section of Township Road 564 west of Highway 28 was converted from gravel to asphalt. This project improved safety and ease of maintenance on a busy county road that leads to popular attractions.

- > Existing asphalt east of Highway 28 was rehabilitated. This section of asphalt was at the end of its lifecycle and needed rehabilitation. The road has been completely reconstructed with asphalt used for the entire thickness of the new pavement. This new construction will make the road last much longer.
- > A bridge culvert on Township Road 564 east of Highway 28 needed to be replaced to ensure continued traffic flow.

For all three projects, the County needed to coordinate with utility companies, CN Rail, and the Government of Alberta to ensure safety, prevent service disruptions, and comply with regulations.

The project is on track to wrap up in 2024.



Cardiff Park interior road paving

Cardiff Park marked its 40th anniversary with newly paved roads throughout its 130-hectare (320-acre) expanse. The County undertook an extensive restoration project, which included rebuilding the entire road structure from the base up, ensuring the roads are stronger, more durable, and better equipped to handle wear and environmental conditions. This work will extend their lifespan and improve its overall quality.

The County's Transportation & Engineering Services department carefully planned the project to minimize any impact on the landscape. This project also included landscaping repairs that provided the quickest recovery using sod and hydroseeding.

To accomplish this, work was divided into stages, allowing continuous paved access for the Cardiff Golf and Country Club.

Road construction within the park caused significant disruption, particularly for those who frequently use it in the summer. "I want to thank all residents for their patience, and cooperation during this time," says Mayor Hnatiw. "We are confident that the temporary disruption was outweighed by the lasting benefits, as the improvements will lead to safer, more accessible pathways, and better park infrastructure for all to enjoy."

Range Road 251 is also part of the project, from Township Road 554 to Township Road 552. This is a step towards providing a fully paved stretch of road from Cardiff Road to Highway 37, which is a priority in Sturgeon County's Transportation Master Plan. The section between Township Road 552 and Highway 37 is a future link to be addressed.

Sign up to follow these projects and others by visiting www.SturgeonCounty.ca/roads-transportation, or scan the QR code to view road construction projects by division.

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH
YOUR SMARTPHONE
CAMERA TO LEARN
ABOUT ROADS AND
TRANSPORTATION



PUT A FREEZE ON WINTER FIRES: WINTER FIRE SAFETY

Winter is a time to stay cozy and warm, but it's also the season when home fires are most common. As you bundle up, make sure you're being fire smart to protect your home and loved ones. In Sturgeon County, we're committed to your safety, and that means keeping you informed about the risks and how to prevent them.

At Sturgeon County, we're not just committed to fire prevention; we're dedicated to providing effective fire services. We have partnerships in place with neighbouring municipalities, allowing us to respond quickly and efficiently to fire incidents, no matter where you are in the county.

Did you know?

- > Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January, and February.
- > Heating equipment is involved in 1 out of every 6 home fires and accounts for 1 in every 5 home fire deaths.

Tips to Stay Safe:

- > **Keep a Safe Distance:** Make sure anything that can burn is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, or space heaters.
- > **Mind Your Generators:** Portable generators should always be outside, away from windows, and as far from your home as possible to avoid carbon monoxide buildup.
- > **Test Your Alarms:** Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month. This small step can save lives.
- > **One Appliance Per Outlet:** Avoid overloading electrical outlets by plugging in only one heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) at a time.
- > **Chimney and Vent Maintenance:** Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year to prevent dangerous build-ups.
- > **Ash Disposal:** Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, keeping it at least 10 feet away from your home and any nearby buildings.
- > **Candles:** Never leave burning candles unattended. Consider using battery-operated candles for the same cozy ambiance without the risk.
- > **Christmas Trees:** Opt for one that's fresh and green as dry trees are highly flammable. Ensure your tree is securely placed in a tree stand with a broad base for stability, and always keep the stump submerged in water. Remember to position your tree at least three feet away from heat sources like radiators, televisions, fireplaces, or heating ducts, and it should never block any doorways.



Staying fire smart doesn't have to be complicated. By following these simple tips, you can help ensure your home stays safe this winter. For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit <https://www.SturgeonCounty.ca/community-safety>. Let's work together to keep our community safe and warm this winter season.



STURGEON COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
CREWS ARE
READY FOR SNOW!

As the temperature continues to drop, Sturgeon County road crews are ready for the arrival of snow.

In a snow event with more than 10 cm of snow on the ground, the County has established service goals and a priority sequence for clearing County roads.

Snow event service goals

- > The County's goal is to provide snow and ice control on Priority 1 roads within 24-hours, and Priority 2 and 3 roads within 72-hours after a snow event ends.

Roads are plowed in priority sequence:

- > Priority 1. Paved and oiled access roads (arterials, collectors) that have high traffic volumes.
- > Priority 2. Other paved and oiled roads within subdivisions (local roads).
- > Priority 3. Gravel roads (collectors, local roads) and subdivisions.

Sturgeon County crews are scheduled to work weekdays in two shifts covering 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. plowing, sanding, and clearing snow. However, after a snow event of more than 10 centimetres, plow operators will increase their hours and work seven days a week to meet service goals.

Alberta Transportation is responsible for snow and ice removal on all numbered highways.

Clearing snow from your driveway

While County crews are working to ensure our roadways are safe to drive on, residents too are faced with the responsibility of clearing snow.

When you are removing snow from your driveway, be sure to push it off to the right side. This way, when the snowplows and graders come by, they do not push it back onto your driveway. Nobody wants that to happen!

Snow should never be pushed across the road into the ditches. Crossing into oncoming traffic is dangerous, and the chunks of snow and ice left behind on the road can create a hazard for other drivers

As part of routine snow and ice control operations, County equipment may leave windrows across private property approaches. While operators will minimize windrow size, when possible, it is not expected that the County will at any time remove windrows or plow the approaches.

Remember, obstructing the road in any way, even with pieces of snow and ice, is an offence under the Traffic Bylaw and carries a fine of \$500.

Sturgeon County is committed to safe and well-maintained roads throughout the winter season. Please always prioritize safe driving.



SCAN THIS QR
CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE CAMERA
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
OUR ROADS PROGRAMS



Future Parks, Trails and Open Spaces

At Sturgeon County, we're dedicated to making our community a vibrant, welcoming place to live, work, and play. That's why we're focusing on an exciting new initiative: improving our regional parks and creating a better-connected network of parks and open spaces.

"The goal of this project is not just about

improving our parks," said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, "it's about creating spaces that reflect the values and diverse needs of our community and will enhance the quality of life for all county residents."

To better understand what amenities community members want, the County is undertaking different phases of research,

community engagement, and idea generation. Residents and visitors are being asked to share their thoughts about the local park spaces and what activities they want to do in them. Whether you're looking for a quiet place to read, a playground for your children, a space to walk your dog, or trails for hiking and cycling, we can plan for it together.



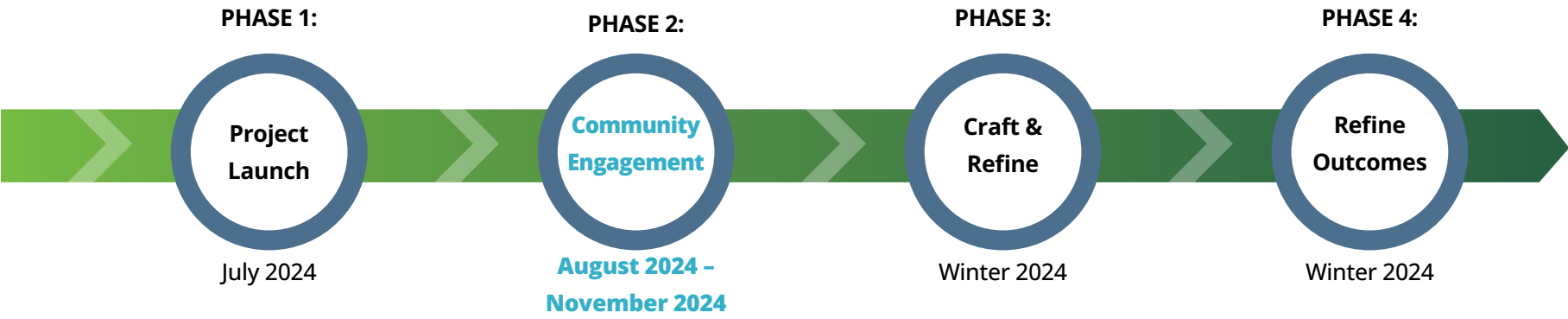
Tell us what you think.

Participate in the survey by responding to the five questions available online.

The survey is open until December 16th, 2024.

www.SturgeonCounty.ca/FutureParks

SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PARKS REFRESH



Keep Connected

Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to get involved as we explore the best ways to develop and connect our parks.



SAFETY STARTS IN STURGEON: SIMPLE STEPS FOR CRIME PREVENTION



At Sturgeon County, your safety is our top priority. We believe that a safe community is built on trust, awareness, and proactive measures. To keep our community safe, we collaborate closely with local law enforcement, community groups, and residents to promote crime prevention and enhance public safety.

One of our key initiatives is encouraging residents to take an active role in safeguarding their neighborhoods. Simple actions, like keeping porch lights on at night, securing doors and windows, and staying vigilant for unusual activity, can make a big difference. We also urge residents to report any suspicious behaviour to local authorities immediately. Your awareness is the first line of defense in keeping our community safe.

Crime Prevention Tips

- 1. Lock It Up:** Always lock your doors, windows, and vehicles, even if you're just stepping away for a short time. Many crimes of opportunity can be prevented with simple actions.
- 2. Light It Up:** Ensure your property is well-lit at night. Motion-activated lights can deter potential intruders and increase the safety of your home.
- 3. Get Involved:** Consider joining or starting a local Citizens on Patrol group or joining the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association. These organizations are effective in deterring crime and creating a sense of community vigilance.
- 4. Report Suspicious Activity:** If you see something out of the ordinary, don't hesitate to report it to the RCMP. Your vigilance can make a difference.

Working with Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch and the two Citizens on Patrol Groups (one in Redwater and one in Legal) provides additional support. These groups of dedicated volunteers work alongside the RCMP to promote crime prevention through education and community engagement. By sharing information and raising awareness, we create a united front against crime.

Sturgeon County also invests in public safety infrastructure, including well-maintained roads, clear signage, and strategically placed lighting. These efforts not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but also deter potential criminal activity.

Public safety is a shared responsibility, and together, we can keep Sturgeon County a safe and welcoming place for everyone. For more tips on how you can contribute to a safer community, visit <https://www.SturgeonCounty.ca/community-safety>



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MORE TIPS TO
PROTECT YOUR
PROPERTY



GRAVEL ROAD MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

Safe and reliable infrastructure

Sturgeon County has an extensive network of gravel roads totalling 1,421 kilometres, making up 82 per cent of the County's road network. These roads connect our rural communities to the broader regional transportation network ensuring access to essential services, economic opportunities, and connecting people.

To support these vital connections, the County has a Gravel Road Program that includes routine grading, gravelling, and dust control.

To further improve the Gravel Road Program, the County is undertaking a new initiative aimed at enhancing these infrastructure assets.

Exploring efficiency

This initiative, called Gravel Roads Modernization, is programed to address immediate and long-term improvements that will enhance the County's Gravel Roads Program delivery. It will be monitored and evaluated to see how it performs.

The initiative will assess current service levels and explore ways to enhance service delivery. By looking at how County graders are deployed, the initiative aims to optimize grader routes and achieve high standards of service. This will help streamline operations and ensure resources are used effectively.

The County will review collected data on service delivery improvements to determine if the changes led to a better gravel road user experience.

Gravel Road Program

Current gravel road maintenance in Sturgeon County involves a comprehensive strategy designed to ensure road longevity and safety while managing costs effectively. Regular maintenance activities include grading, gravelling, and dust suppression. Grading is typically done from April through until November to restore road surfaces by smoothing out ridges and grooves caused by traffic and weather. This process helps maintain a stable and even driving surface.

Gravelling, the replenishment of surface gravel, is done based on road conditions and traffic volumes to replenish worn surfaces and provide adequate traction. Although the frequency of graveling varies, a three-year cycle is followed in Sturgeon County.

The County's proactive approach to gravel road maintenance supports local economic activities, enhances road safety, and ensures accessibility for rural residents, reflecting Sturgeon County's commitment to maintaining safe and stable driving conditions for its extensive network of gravel roads.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS POWER GROWTH IN STURGEON COUNTY'S INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND

Sturgeon County's portion of the Heartland region, Canada's largest energy processing cluster, continues to attract significant investment and development. Recent announcements showcase the region's growing role in energy and industrial expansion.

One major project is Pembina's RFS IV, which is an expansion of their current gas fractionation complex—already one of the largest in Canada. This \$460 million development will boost production by 55,000 barrels per day, with completion expected in 2026. This project will enhance the county's energy processing capabilities and create substantial economic opportunities.



Additionally, Wolf Midstream is expanding its NGL North System, which includes upgrades to the Wolf Feedstock Separation facility in Sturgeon County. In addition to the expansion to their facility, this project will add a rail terminal and increase storage capacity, with operations slated to begin in 2027.

The provincial government has committed \$50 million to the Heartland as part of its Designated Industrial Zone (DIZ) initiative in support of industrial growth. The funding will support the construction of three new process water intakes, one of which will directly benefit existing and future industrial projects in Sturgeon County.

Interest from both national and international developers continues to grow, with investments spanning sectors from hydrogen production to data centers for cloud computing and AI processing. Sturgeon County is set to remain at the forefront of industrial development in Alberta.





HONOURING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY: REFLECTING ON OUR SHARED HISTORY

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, observed annually on the 30th of September, is a time for all of us to learn and reflect on Canada’s history with Indigenous peoples and to remember and honour those who did not make it home, the survivors, and the families and communities affected by residential schools.

Sturgeon County has and will continue to take meaningful action towards reconciliation, as we are a community built on deep roots and strong values. We recognize that our success is deeply tied to the partnerships we’ve cultivated, particularly with the Indigenous peoples who have called this land home for generations. The trails first marked by First Nations peoples and the Métis, for whom this is an ancestral homeland, are a testament to our shared history.

In our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, Sturgeon County continues to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration with Indigenous Nations, especially with our close partner in Alexander First Nation. This journey is guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action and is supported by the Alexander First Nation – Sturgeon County Collaboration Committee, among other key partnerships.

Acting on our commitment to building purposeful connections, the signing of a Relationship Agreement with Alexander First Nation represents a pivotal step in shaping how we will jointly collaborate now and in the future.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is an opportunity for all of us to engage in conversations about our shared history and how we can contribute to a more just and inclusive future.



Sturgeon County family farm celebrates more than a century of memories

From sanctuary to generational homestead

A Sturgeon County farm has been a gathering place for community picnics, card games, and a refuge for military families for more than a century.

In July, the Scragg - Berg family gathered to celebrate the farm's 103rd anniversary. The family was also honored with the 100-Year Farm Family Award from Sturgeon County, recognizing more than a century of continuous family ownership since 1921.

Eva Berg's father, Ralph Scragg, purchased the 138-acre property after returning from service in the First World War. He had previously owned land near Edgerton and Calahoo but settled on River Lot 62 along the banks of the Sturgeon River, where he believed the land was ideal for raising a family and operating a mixed farm. The farm became home to his 10 children, including Eva, who was born in the two-story farmhouse in 1936.

Today, Eva, 88, and her husband, Allan, live on 11 acres of the original homestead, having purchased it from her parents in the late 1960s. Although the farm is smaller now, it remains a cherished part of the family's legacy.

"I love the place," says Eva, recalling her deep connection to the land. Though she lived in Edmonton for 22 years, she returned to the farm in 1974 with Allan and their five daughters. "I thought it was perfect," she adds, reflecting on the rural life she wanted her children to experience.



Life on the farm during Eva's childhood was filled with chores like gathering eggs, making butter, and working in the market garden her parents later established. "Quite frankly, I didn't realize that we were probably living in poverty because we didn't have much of anything," she recalls. "But of course, it was the Dirty Thirties."

Despite the challenges, the farm was a hub of family activity. Evenings were spent playing cards and cribbage in the warm kitchen. Her father, Ralph, a former choir singer in England, often brought out his violin for family singalongs.

During the Second World War, the farm offered refuge to families of soldiers stationed at what is now Edmonton Garrison (Namaso). Eva's parents frequently hosted military wives and their children, giving them a break from the tough living conditions at the time in north Edmonton. "Most of them were destitute," Eva remembers. Her parents also hosted social gatherings for soldiers, offering home-cooked meals, music, and a sense of comfort far from home.

"My dad, being an ex-soldier, understood their loneliness," Eva says. Her parents' generosity left a lasting impact on her, inspiring her lifelong commitment to helping others. Eva was named Sturgeon County's Volunteer of the Year in 2020 for her work with Namaso United Church, the Namaso Museum and Agricultural Society, and the St. Albert Seniors' Choir.

As for the future of the farm, Eva isn't sure what lies ahead. However, she has considered turning the land into something that will ensure it remains a place of beauty and peace for others to enjoy. "This valley is still beautiful for a lot of people to come and enjoy," she says.

While the farm's future remains uncertain, its legacy of family, community, and service endures, much like the land itself.

2024 DALE MACMILLAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alynne Dostie and Brett Majeau are the 2024 Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship for Community Leadership recipients. Sturgeon County Council presented the awards at their July 16 Council meeting.

The award is presented to a Sturgeon County resident enrolled in a recognized post-secondary institution who also practises community leadership and involvement. Two scholarships worth \$2,000 each were awarded in 2024. The awards are made possible through the Calahoo-Villeneuve Gravel Community Enhancement Fund.

Alynne is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science degree program (Chemistry), at the University of Alberta. She is finishing her eighth year in 4-H serving as Vice President. Alynne’s past volunteer work includes supporting recreational programs at West Country Hearth Seniors Facility and editing the Rivière Qui Barre history book.

Brett is pursuing a Master of Arts Counselling degree through Yorkville University while working in neuropsychology services at Alberta Hospital Edmonton. She is a long-standing member of the Calahoo community with extensive involvement and history. She has volunteered with the Calahoo fire department, was an active member of the West Sturgeon Agricultural Society, and was Sturgeon County’s 2018 Volunteer of the Year.

Brett had the chance to get to know Dale MacMillan while growing up in Calahoo.

“Dale was an inspiration. From him, I learned the value of community. I learned how to become active in volunteering and advocate for others in need,” remembers Brett. “Dale was an amazing man with a positive outlook on life.”

Eventually, Brett would like to use her degree to help her community by expanding the counselling services that she offers and continuing to volunteer.



“I enjoy getting to know my neighbours, contributing to a cause, and supporting others,” says Brett.

For Alynne, it is an honour to be chosen for the award that has such a strong focus on volunteerism.

“Fostering connections in a community through volunteerism is fulfilling and gratifying,” says Alynne.

She has some advice for young Sturgeon County residents thinking about volunteering. “Everyone starts somewhere, and small, casual acts of community service are fundamental to community connection.”

In the future, Alynne would like to work in a pharmacy in Sturgeon County helping the community.

Dale MacMillan was instrumental in helping achieve a balance between residents and gravel extraction operations in the Calahoo and Villeneuve areas. The scholarship also recognizes his commitment to community involvement.

The Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee ensures the sustainability of the scholarship fund, evaluates the applications, and selects the recipients. Applications are accepted in early April until the end of May.

More information on timelines and eligibility for the Dale MacMillan Scholarship for Community Leadership is available through the Grants & Scholarships section on Sturgeon County’s website, found at [SturgeonCounty.ca](https://sturgeoncounty.ca).



SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

NEW TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY TO ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY

Sturgeon County considers traffic and pedestrian safety as its foremost concern when designing roads and intersections. Our infrastructure is built to safeguard the well-being of all road users, ensuring there is a secure and efficient transportation system in place for our community.

We actively seek innovative ways to enhance road safety, and continuously evaluate and implement best practices in transportation design and management. As such, the County launched a trial road safety program, which was a suggestion stemming from community consultation. Thanks to the success of that program, Sturgeon County Council has now officially adopted a Traffic Calming Policy.

The trial began in late 2022 when the County accepted suggestions from residents on where they felt safety enhancements were needed on our roads. From these submissions, six speed indicator signs and three sets of rapid flashing beacons at crosswalks were installed in the Sturgeon Valley area. These safety enhancements led to an average speed reduction of 10 km/h.

To build on the positive outcomes of that trial, Council moved forward with approving a Traffic Calming Policy in June 2024. Additionally, Council approved \$100,000 from the Road Network Reserve to fund traffic calming measures and crosswalk installations in 2024.

Correctly used traffic calming measures have been shown to be effective in reducing vehicles speeds and ensuring safe and efficient travel for all road users.

Here are some examples of what we are doing.

- > crosswalks improvements
- > speed tables
- > speed indicator signs
- > “report a road concern” portal

This program relies on residents to submit requests for safety improvements at specific locations. Residents can do this by:

- > Visiting our website or app, selecting the Report a Road Concern portal link
- > Calling 780-939-4321

When sending the County a request, please include the following information:

- > Exact location
- > Why you believe safety enhancements are needed
- > Your name and contact information

Once a request is received, the Sturgeon County Administration will evaluate the location by reviewing speed data and traffic volumes. The request is then added to an established priority list.

Approved locations will have new safety measures added based on priority and available funding.



SCAN THIS QR
CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE
CAMERA TO LEARN
ABOUT AND
REQUEST A TRAFFIC
SAFETY MEASURE



A Family's Century-Long Legacy of Farming and Roots

Lured by the land, Staying for the community

The prospect of fertile land was the start of a century-long legacy for a Sturgeon County family.

Frederick Bokenfohr was born September 4, 1887, in Westphalia, Germany (then part of Prussia), as the youngest child of Johann and Theresia Bokenfohr. He was also known as Fritz.

In 1902, at the age of 15, Frederick's parents emigrated to America. They passed through New York before settling in Westpoint, Nebraska. By the fall of 1903, the family moved north to Alberta – following a recommendation from Fritz's uncle, Joseph Kluthe, who had spoken highly of the land. When they arrived, they found an abundance of water and soil ideal for raising cattle and horses.

Much of the land was covered in sloughs and bush, and it took years for roads to be built. Frederick found hauling lumber home from Morinville to be especially difficult. The rough terrain often caused him to get stuck, forcing him to unload the wagon, guide the team to higher ground, and then reload the lumber. For every two miles he travelled, the effort made it feel like four.

Initially, he bought land just south of Morinville where he grew hay and sold it at the livery stable on Jasper Avenue in Edmonton. During the winter, Frederick spent much of his time cleaning grain and bagging it at his fanning mill.

Frederick first met Annie Kieser while she and her sister were picking wild berries. Later, Father Boniface Heidemeier introduced them more formally at a social event. On April 16, 1918, the two were married at Sainte Jean Baptiste Church in Morinville.

The couple lived on the Harges farm for about three years before relocating to the Rivet farm in late 1920/early 1921 with their two children. Finally, on May 16, 1924, Frederick and Annie bought land from Emmanuel Rivet, east of Morinville, near the current Cardiff Pittsburgh neighbourhood. This became their permanent home, where they raised nine more children.



Frederick was interested in buying land, often selling parcels to friends or relatives arriving from Europe. Many newcomers sought his help to get established in the Morinville area, staying with the family and working on the farm until they could start their own.

Annie also found ways to help those in need. She would often feed drifters as the train passed near their house. Some repaid the kindness by chopping firewood, but many just walked away.

Their home was a lively place with 11 children and frequent gatherings of relatives and friends for large dinners, often followed by evenings of dancing. In 1933, they built a new house complete with its own electrical plant.

Annie passed away on December 11, 1958, and Fritz remained on the farm with his three youngest sons. By the 1960s all eight sons were farming, though a few eventually pursued other interests. Fritz remained on the family farm until his passing on May 17, 1966.

Today, a careful restoration is underway on Frederick's barn by Aaron, Frederick's grandson, and his wife, Chantelle. The project stands as a testament to the family's commitment to preserving the legacy of their 100-year farm, for current and future generations.



Innovative Thinking Transforms County Water Truck

CONVERSION LEADS TO SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS



The original water truck

For years, it was a trusted member of Sturgeon County's Fire & Protective Services fleet: a water tender essential for fire response in areas without hydrants. This vehicle had served its purpose well but was nearing the end of its service life. Although the truck was still mechanically sound, it faced retirement due to industry standards rather than operational issues. The National Fire Protection Association requires equipment of a certain age to be decommissioned, ensuring all vehicles in service maintain high performance standards, regardless of their individual condition.

The County had two options to address the aging water tender. The first was to sell it, but the County's Fire and Protective Services estimated this would only bring in a low salvage amount. The second option, preferred by Administration, was to find ways to extend the vehicle's usefulness, an approach involving the repurposing of County vehicles to meet existing needs within its fleet. By doing so, the County's Fleet Services aimed to maximize cost-effectiveness and operational benefits.

LIVING WELL

Sturgeon County provides a unique service to residents to support the well-being and resiliency of all residents at any age or stage of life.

The Living Well Program was first established in 2018. It is facilitated by the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department and led by community outreach workers and social workers. It is designed to promote and enhance the well-being of families and communities in Sturgeon County.

- In 2023, the Living Well team served 206 Sturgeon County residents. Through a variety of supports, the team provided:
- > 38 residents and families with sponsorship and grants to participate in programs and educational opportunities
 - > 91 residents with support through the Information and Referral program to receive more specialized services from partner agencies
 - > 275 individual counselling sessions through the registered psychologist and counsellors we partner with.

"The Living Well Program is focused on meeting the needs of individuals and communities to improve their quality of life," says Alanna Hnatiw, Mayor of Sturgeon County. "The program addresses social, emotional, and physical challenges of those in need."

The supportive counselling, preventative resources, and referral services are built on understanding of cultural and economic diversity. The Living Well Team strives to help residents find the services and programs that they need to better their situations, whether they are advocating for children, caring for aging parents, or accessing rehabilitation treatment.

Fiscally Responsible

The County's Transportation & Engineering Services needed a gravel truck for its drainage team. The two departments evaluated the repairs needed for the water tender and compared the costs to those of buying a new gravel truck.

A new gravel truck from factory would cost anywhere from \$215,000 - \$265,000. The expected life would be approximately eight years, 10,000 hours, or 300,000 kilometres.

The decision was easy – Fleet Services created a plan to convert the water tender using funds from their annual operating budget.

The Conversion

The water tender, with repairs to chassis and a new gravel box using existing hydraulics, became a gravel truck for about \$57,000. The expected life is estimated to be five to six years, 8,000 hours, or 260,000 kilometres. This approach has resulted in a savings of between \$158,000 and \$208,000.

The transformation took about six months and involved staff from several departments. The new gravel truck is now in service, helping the drainage crews to maintain our infrastructure, ensuring it remains safe and reliable.



The "new" gravel truck

IN STURGEON COUNTY

"The Living Well program is grounded in principles of providing equal access to care and the goal of fostering overall well-being," says Hnatiw. "We truly want to see everyone in our community thrive."

For more information on our Living Well Counselling Service, call 780-722-1479 or email livingwell@sturgeoncounty.ca.





Enforcement Services vs RCMP:

WHO DOES WHAT?

In our community, knowing who to call can make all the difference when it comes to safety and security. Whether it's a bylaw issue or a more serious matter, it's important to understand the roles of Enforcement Services and the RCMP to ensure the right response.

Understanding the Roles

Enforcement Services are your first point of contact for non-emergent enforcement within Sturgeon County. They handle bylaw matters like animal control, parking violations, noise complaints, and property standards. Peace Officers are also authorized to enforce various provincial legislation including the Traffic Safety Act, Petty Trespass Act/Trespass to Premises Act, sections of the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act, and Environmental Protection Act. If you have a

driving complaint, a trespassing complaint, notice a stray dog, have concerns about excessive noise, observe illegal dumping, or spot an illegally parked vehicle, Enforcement Services is equipped to address these issues efficiently and effectively.

When to Call the RCMP

For more serious concerns, such as criminal activity, emergencies, or suspicious behavior, the RCMP steps in. The RCMP is responsible for all criminal investigations and emergency responses. Whether it's a theft, an assault, or a situation that poses an immediate danger, the RCMP is trained and ready to handle these scenarios.

Working Together for Community Safety

Both Enforcement Services and the RCMP are committed to keeping our community safe, each playing a distinct role in maintaining order and peace. Knowing when to call Enforcement Services and when to involve the RCMP ensures that your concerns are addressed by the right team, helping to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure.

For more detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of Enforcement Services and the RCMP in Sturgeon County, visit <https://www.SturgeonCounty.ca/community-safety/enforcement/>

FOOD BANKS AND
COMMUNITY GROUPS
RECEIVE FUNDING

Sept. 26th, Sturgeon Victim Services had officially rolled into the Central Zone. With this change the board made the decision to donate the remaining funds to very deserving organizations. The Gibbons/Bon Accord food bank, Morinville food bank, Gibbons Resource Centre, Fusion, and Higher Grounds. The contributions totalled over \$191,000. Sturgeon County Council would like to express its appreciation and gratitude to the advocates, volunteers, staff, and members of the board all serving our communities



Let's Stay Connected

Download the Sturgeon County App

Search "Sturgeon County" in your app store to download. Turn on notifications to get access to news, contacts, online services, permits, applications and more! Learn more at SturgeonCounty.ca/App.



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AVAILABLE
ONLINE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Register online

SturgeonCounty.ca/Programs

Register in-person

Sturgeon County Family and Community Support Services
9608 100 St. in Morinville

Office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and
12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Register by phone

Call **780-939-8334**

SturgeonCounty.ca/Programs