HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

DECEMBER 2008

prepared for:

Strathcona County

prepared by:

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Municipal Heritage Partnership Program

Canada's Historic Places / Lieux patrimoniaux du Canada

Strathcona County gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Government of Canada in supporting its participation in the Historic Places Initiative and the Government of Alberta in supporting its participation in the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Heritage Resources Management Plan is to provide Strathcona County with a realistic and proactive policy framework for enhanced heritage conservation initiatives that will involve and engage the broader community, including private property owners. This will lead to a better understanding and long-term conservation of the County's significant heritage resources, and the development of an effective municipal heritage management program.

The community consultation undertaken during the development of this Plan indicates that much has been achieved through the efforts of the County and dedicated community volunteers. It also identified that there are significant challenges to achieving effective heritage conservation, and ways in which current initiatives could be enhanced to ensure more effective stewardship of heritage resources. Through the implementation of this Plan, the municipality will foster partnerships throughout the community that will celebrate the County's rich history and heritage, assist the conservation of significant historic sites, and create increased value and investment in heritage.

This comprehensive Plan consists of a review of enabling legislation, a policy framework to carry out the intent of the legislation, and practices to ensure that responsible conservation can be implemented. When the Plan is implemented, it will become the basis of Strathcona County's heritage management program. The following vision has been developed for this program:

> ***Strathcona County has a rich legacy of urban and rural buildings and natural landscapes that define the community. As a rapidly growing community, we must plan for tomorrow without forgetting our past. Our actions will be driven by the following statements:***
>
> - ***Strathcona County values its natural history, archaeological resources and historic community structures as important parts of its rich cultures;***
> - ***the Heritage Resources Management Plan will provide an integrated approach to heritage resources management that will inspire the community to take action to protect its heritage; and***
> - ***the County's role in conservation will be to find creative ways to facilitate preservation through public education, partnership development, planning processes, and conservation incentives.***

The recommended actions for the Heritage Management Program are broken into three broad areas of focus:

- Heritage Planning
- Heritage Education & Awareness
- Heritage Partnerships

The following actions have been identified as the steps required in order to implement the recommendations of the Plan:

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (within 12 to 24 months of plan adoption)

- Identify a Heritage Planning Function.
- Adopt a Heritage Register and the Heritage Resources Management Plan, by Council Resolution, along with accompanying policies and procedures for the protection of heritage resources.
- Sites currently identified as potential heritage resources should be fully assessed for their heritage value.
- Establish a process to be endorsed by Council that describes the circumstances under which a property on the Heritage Register may be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.
- Adopt the national *Standards & Guidelines* as the basis for the conservation of heritage sites.
- Adopt a process that allows the Municipality to review all zoning, subdivision, development and building permit applications affecting potential heritage properties.
- Improve access to archival information.
- Continue to support intangible aspects of Strathcona County's heritage.
- Work with community groups to promote heritage awareness through programming.
- Work with private heritage owners to promote heritage conservation activities.

MEDIUM-RANGE ACTIONS (within 24 to 60 months of plan adoption)

- Consider the establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee to advise Council on heritage-related issues in the community.
- Continue to add identified heritage sites to the Heritage Register.
- Develop a Heritage Stewardship Policy for county-owned heritage sites.
- Create an effective and manageable set of incentives to empower the heritage management program.
- Revise the municipal planning framework to recognize heritage conservation as a core municipal function.
- Develop communication strategies for cultural landscapes and archaeological resources.
- Work with community groups to promote heritage conservation throughout the County.

LONG-RANGE ACTIONS (within ten years of plan adoption)

- Update the Heritage Resources Management Plan and the Heritage Register as required.

Upon implementation of the Heritage Resources Management Plan, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- An approach to heritage conservation that is broadly valued by the public.
- A municipal heritage management program that is supported, coordinated and facilitated.
- Support for the owners of heritage sites through a clear and transparent regulatory process and a range of heritage conservation incentives.
- Accessible opportunities to learn and experience community heritage and history.
- Accurate documentation and research for significant heritage resources.
- Opportunities for the development of heritage partnerships.
- Enhanced capacity for heritage stakeholders to assist in heritage awareness and education initiatives.

The result will be an ongoing heritage management program that is sustainable, and monitored over time to ensure the effectiveness of its outcomes and use of resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Clover Bar football team, 1925 [Glenbow Museum and Archives nd-3-2925]

Strathcona County is the fourth largest municipality in Alberta. Its current day boundaries comprise the urban centre of Sherwood Park and eight small hamlets amidst a vast rural area made up of farms and country residential subdivisions – all encompassing 488 square miles. The historical development of Strathcona County has resulted in a unique legacy of historic buildings, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and other resources.

These heritage resources are an invaluable legacy of the region's origins, and remain a vital part of the local pride, identity, economy, and tourism potential. Diverse in age, style and condition, these resources contribute to a sense of continuing community tradition.

The management of heritage resources is now considered a legitimate and integral part of municipal planning. Strathcona County has already undertaken a number of successful heritage initiatives, such as: continuing support for the Strathcona County Museum & Archives; ownership of two significant historic sites, the Bremner House and the Smeltzer House; and several County-funded initiatives such as the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative and the Beaver Hills Initiative. Throughout the consultation undertaken in the development of this Plan, there was consensus that there needs to be a coordinated and integrated approach to municipal planning for heritage conservation, and also a greater engagement of the entire community in the process of heritage conservation.

The purpose of this project is to provide Strathcona County with an effective and realistic Heritage Resources Management Plan that will proactively develop effective heritage policies and procedures, by enhancing heritage conservation through greater community involvement and engagement of the private sector.

1.1 WHAT IS A HERITAGE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

In order for a community to realize its vision, it must have a plan. A Heritage Resources Management Plan provides a framework for decision-making to help realize a vision to retain, maintain and appreciate historic buildings, landscapes and structures in the community. It is one of the most compelling ways to respect our past and enrich the present and future.

A comprehensive Heritage Resources Management Plan consists of an effective blend of enabling legislation, processes to carry out the intent of the legislation, and practices to ensure that responsible conservation is implemented. One component of this plan identifies a framework to encourage historic resource conservation by balancing incentives and regulations for the benefit of the entire community. Once the plan is implemented, it becomes a heritage management program.

The Heritage Resources Management Plan is a policy document that will guide future initiatives for the identification, stewardship and management of heritage resources in Strathcona County. These resources can be both tangible (e.g., buildings, structures and cultural landscapes) as well as intangible (e.g., family histories, cultural traditions).

Throughout the development of the Heritage Resources Management Plan, there has been broad community consultation and consensus to ensure consensus on the recommended Actions and Implementation Strategy.

The community consultation process undertaken as part of the development of the Plan indicates that much has been achieved through the efforts of the County and dedicated community volunteers, although are areas where current initiatives could be further enhanced to ensure more effective stewardship of heritage resources.

January to February 2008	**Project Start-Up** • Initial meeting with the Project Steering Committee • Background research and consultation
March 19-20, 2008	**Stakeholder Consultation and Focus Groups** • Meeting with the Project Steering Committee • Stakeholder meeting with community leagues, churches, agriculture societies • Meeting with County employees • Stakeholder meeting with seniors' groups, history groups, schools, library, Information Volunteer Centre and the Strathcona County Retired Teachers' Association • Stakeholder meeting with the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation • Stakeholder Meeting with Elk Island Public Schools and the Chamber of Commerce
April to May, 2008	**Continuing research; prepare first draft**
May 12-13, 2008	**Further meetings and workshops** • Planning Staff Workshop • Project Steering Committee Workshop • Council Engagement • Meeting with owners of potential heritage sites
June-July, 2008	**Preparation of final draft report**

August 4-September 16, 2008	**Public invited to comment**
September 10, 2008	**Public Open House**
November 25, 2008	**Presentation to Council - *Unanimously adopted by County Council***

1.2 THE PUBLIC BENEFITS OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Swimmers at Cooking Lake, 1912 [Glenbow Museum and Archives nc-6-411]

Heritage conservation has many potential cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Conserving heritage allows a community to retain and convey a sense of its history, and provides aesthetic enrichment as well as educational opportunities. Heritage resources help us understand where we have come from so that we can appreciate the continuity in our built environment from past to present to future. Historic buildings and landscapes become landmarks and touchstones for the community, and the retention of historic elements serves to moderate the impact of rapid change, currently so evident in Strathcona County.

- Heritage conservation allows a community to retain and convey a sense of its unique history.
- A coordinated approach to heritage planning can take advantage of partnership opportunities with senior levels of government, and engage the private and volunteer sectors.
- Heritage initiatives have a strong positive impact on developing socially-sustainable communities and creating a vibrant culture of creativity and innovation.
- The preservation of historical sites supports tourism development and education. Heritage conservation is often linked with tourism initiatives, and many regional examples show the success of this approach. There is growing research evidence that cultural and heritage-based tourism is now the fastest growing segment of the growing tourism industry.
- Other benefits of strong heritage policies include creating distinctive neighbourhoods, preserving cultural heritage, providing community identity and pride and combating social issues by engaging youth in the history and identity of their community.
- The restoration and preservation of heritage buildings can be marketed as a tool to

create positive economic development and cultural sustainability.

Heritage conservation therefore supports the overall vision and direction for the municipality articulated in the County's Strategic Plan, including governance, community development (social, environmental and economic sustainability), communication, and resource management.

1.3 THE HERITAGE RESOURCES OF STRATHCONA COUNTY

The earliest development of Strathcona County occurred with the melting of the glaciers at the end of the Late Pleistocene approximately 12,000 years ago, and the formation of the Beaver Hills, known locally as the Cooking Lake Moraine. This geomorphological feature encompasses 1,572 square kilometres, covering over half of Strathcona County's land base. The hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain of the moraine, a distinct feature on the landscape, forms a patchwork of depressional areas, which today supports many wetlands, lakes, streams and forested areas. Prior to Euro-Canadian settlement, the moraine was extensively treed and teaming with fish and wildlife, and was used by various first nations for at least 8,000 years. The settlement pattern of first nations was centred on the water bodies, with a lifestyle focused on the hunting of bison, elk, and deer. The Beaver Indians arrived approximately 300 years ago, and for reasons not understood, the Sarcee replaced them in the early nineteenth century. Later the Eastern Woodland Cree acted as the middlemen between European traders and native fur trappers. Beaver fur was especially sought after, and the Cooking Lake Moraine became known as the Beaver Hills for the number of beaver found here. Trade with the first nations communities spurred the development of the largest Hudson's Bay Company Post in western Rupert's Land, Edmonton House.

With the demise of the fur trade in the 1870s, surveyors were sent to the area to locate a rail route to encourage settlement, leading to an influx of new settlers who homesteaded on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River. By the end of the nineteenth century, the area was brimming with European and Canadian settlers and new areas began to develop such as Clover Bar, Bremner, Ardrossan, Salisbury and Cooking Lake, Josephburg, Partridge Hills and Wye. Several railways were built during this time that further ignited settlement: the Canadian Pacific Railway to South Edmonton from Calgary (1891); the MacKenzie & Mann Great Northern from Winnipeg to Edmonton (1905); and the Grand Trunk Pacific, which reached Clover Bar in 1909.

Settlement and agriculture had a major impact on the landscape, particularly the forest cover. Small communities developed around the rail stops, with agriculture as the major industry, including dairy farming. Coal mining and sawmills were also established in the area. Fires started by settlers clearing land swept through the Beaver Hills 1889, 1892 and 1895. In 1892, in response to the fires that swept through the area, the Federal Department of the Interior set aside six townships in the Beaver Hills to protect the forest. This was the Cooking Lake – Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife, Recreation Area, Miquelon Lake Provincial Park and Ministik Lakes Game Bird Sanctuary plus most of the area's current natural areas. In 1894 and 1895 fires again swept through the area. The forest was mostly burnt and wildlife destroyed or driven away. The Government further protected the area's resources by designating a Dominion Forest Reserve. The Department of Forestry established a tree nursery to promote reforestation; the evergreens growing today at the Provincial Legislature in Edmonton came from this nursery.

Elk Island National Park, in the northern section of the greater Beaver Hills ecosystem, also plays a vital role in not only protecting today of the last remaining habitat corridors in east-central Alberta but re-introducing wildlife biodiversity to the moraine. In the early 1900s, a group of concerned Albertans

had a vision—to set aside an area for the protection of what was thought to be the last remaining elk on the Canadian prairies. This beginning, as a fenced preserve for a single species, sets Elk Island apart from the rest of Canada's national parks. The elk preserve now forms part of Elk Island National Park and includes other ungulate populations such as plains bison, moose, elk, and deer. The park's role in the conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species continues and has even expanded. The park plays an important role in the re-establishment of species at risk, such as the trumpeter swan and wood bison.

To better reflect its mix of rural and urban areas, Strathcona County was granted status as a Specialized Municipality in 1995. Despite increasing growth, there remain many reminders of the County's earlier days of fur trading and settlement, including physical, tangible links as well as many community memories, associations and traditions.

1.3.1 TANGIBLE RESOURCES

An initial Inventory of historic sites and resources in Strathcona County was conducted by the province in 1974-75, and was mapped into an Historic Resources Map in 1992. In addition, many archaeological sites have been identified in the County. Summarized below is a sampling of some of the significant historic resources in Strathcona County.

Archaeological Sites

Over 370 archaeological sites have been identified in the County, including many Cree and Métis sites. The Alberta government retains and manages information on archaeological sites.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes have been defined as distinct geographical areas or properties uniquely representing the combined work of nature and man, that possess heritage value. This can include:

- an intentionally designed landscape;
- an organically evolved landscape; or
- a landscape valued because of its religious, artistic or cultural associations.

Strathcona County has a number of landscape features that may be considered cultural landscapes, including rural farms, gardens, cemeteries, parks and modified natural sites. A prime example is the Beaver Hills/ Cooking Lake Moraine ecosystem, which has been recognized for its natural as well as cultural values.

Pioneer Structures

Scattered throughout the rural areas, examples of original pioneer structures include early settler's homes, such as Hillview Farm, 1894 (below) and trapper's cabins.

Agricultural Sites

A number of early farmsteads and agricultural buildings remain as a tangible reminder of when agriculture was the County's primary economic focus. Bremner House, built by James Charles Bremner in 1902, and Smeltzer House, built by Maurice Smeltzer in 1920, are outstanding examples of early farmhouses. Both are now owned by Strathcona County, and Smeltzer House was designated as a Registered Historic Resource by the province in 1986.

Bremner House, 1902 [above] and Smeltzer House, 1920 [below].

Other examples include: the Ottewell Centre, built by pioneer Richard P. Ottewell in 1916, and the Prochnau Farm, 1918, which consists of the house, a flour mill and lumber mill. Many other agricultural buildings remain, including many dairy barns, and a unique stone barn at Brookville.

Schools

Most surviving schools have been moved from their original site. An example is Clover Bar School No. 212, built in 1941-2, and was used until 1957 for the overflow of students from Sherwood Park. This school has been temporarily relocated to the Bremner House Site.

Churches and Community Halls
A number of early religious structures remain in active use, and reflect the development of the spiritual life of the community. St Margaret's Roman Catholic Church is a log structure that was built in 1912 on land donated by Peter Houston. The church was restored in 2002, and was designated by the province as a Registered Heritage Resource. The Josephburg United Church of Christ is also designated as a Registered Heritage Resource. Other significant churches include the Salisbury United Church, 1915, and Ardrossan Church, 1910. As well, there are fourteen community halls in the County, some of which are quite old and have heritage value.

St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church, 1912

Commercial Structures
The County's early commercial activities are represented by a number of surviving structures such as the North Cooking Lake Store & Post Office, the Deville Store and a prefabricated Bank of Commerce that was relocated from Vegreville.

Transportation Heritage
Throughout the County, there is evidence of many early trails and roads that connected the far-flung small settlements to each other and to larger centres. Later railroad rights-of-way are still in active use, but no early train stations have survived. Neither are there any remaining grain elevators in Strathcona County. South Cooking Lake was once the site of a seaplane base.

Cooking Lake Seaplane Base [Glenbow Archives nd-3-4922b]

Cemeteries
A number of early cemeteries still exist, and are a valuable link to the early pioneers of the area. An example is the Clover Bar Cemetery was established in 1901 on one acre of the W.F. Wilkinson homestead, behind Clover Bar Methodist Church. St Margaret's Roman Catholic Church Cemetery, established in 1915, is another example.

1.3.2 INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Teacher and children at School [Glenbow Archives na-2676-6]

In 2003, the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage introduced a widely accepted definition of "intangible cultural heritage", or ICH. As used by UNESCO, ICH is a term for living social and cultural practices including language, arts, traditional knowledge and skills and rituals involving nature and spirituality. It also refers to related tools and artifacts that a community or group recognizes as inherited from its past and as important to its current identity.

In addition, the term can be used in community planning to capture the stories, memories, meanings and values that people attach to historic places as well as buildings, structures, elements of street design (e.g. old store signs) and natural heritage (e.g. lakes) that used to exist but are now gone.

Strathcona County is developing strategies for ICH in its Community Heritage Legacy Initiative. Launched in 2006, this initiative is dedicated to local history and ICH. Community Heritage Legacy stems from a need to bring about a lasting memory of local history and to promote the retention of ICH for today and future generations.

The purpose of Community Heritage Legacy is to preserve and communicate history, including stories and memories as well as records, and to protect heritage in the forms of traditions, practices, knowledge and skills as well as the meanings and values that residents in

communities throughout Strathcona County attach to historic places. Examples of ICH in the County include: aboriginal practices, traditional methods of farming, preserving fruits and vegetables, spinning wool into yarn, milling lumber, blacksmithing, working with old machinery or woodworking tools, constructing a log cabin and community celebrations and events.

In its aim to promote and retain history and ICH, Community Heritage Legacy is connecting residents to the community through a sense of belonging, identity and place. To date, the achievements of the initiative include:

- A survey of historical records and contact people
- A website with over 30 pages on historical themes
- Messages about history and heritage in County and community publications
- Partnerships with support to the Museum and the Library

Community Heritage Legacy values its partnership with the Museum & Archives that connects their shared interest in history and heritage and complementary goals. A strategic plan for the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative, now underway, together with this Heritage Resources Management Plan, will inform the development of an integrated Heritage Policy to direct the stewardship of Strathcona County's built, natural and intangible cultural heritage.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PLAN

2.1 ENABLING LEGISLATION

The conservation of heritage resources at the municipal level is enabled by provincial legislation that allows various actions or processes in order to assess or protect historical properties. These powers rest in two Acts: the Historical Resources Act and the Municipal Government Act. While the Municipal Government Act enables the regulatory powers contained within the Land Use Bylaw, it is the Historical Resources Act that is the major legislative tool with the power to control development or actions affecting historic buildings, structures and areas. The Historical Resources Act contains several Parts devoted to heritage conservation at the provincial level. Part 2 (Historic Resource Management) and Part 4 (General) contain the Sections that are most applicable at the municipal level.

Both the province and municipalities may establish their own regulations and policies as permitted under these Acts. These may include policies that describe the circumstances under which a specific property or area may be designated. Regulations also control what changes may or may not be undertaken following designation. Other policy areas may include the adoption of the Heritage Register by bylaw as well as procedures to amend the Register over time. Policies may also be put in place by the municipality to monitor its historic resources as well as the procedures that must be followed if alterations or demolition are proposed.

Alberta Historical Resources Act
This Act provides for the means to identify and protect historic resources in Alberta. This includes processes to document, survey, designate and provide programs for the purpose of celebrating and conserving historic resources. It is this Act that empowers not only the Province but also municipalities to legally protect properties from demolition.

Alberta Municipal Government Act
This Act is the legislative document that empowers municipalities to govern, protect and develop lands within their boundaries. Sections 26, 27 and 28 of the *Municipal Government Act* enable the regulatory powers contained within the Land Use Bylaw. As a result, this Act provides the legal authority which a municipality may use to designate and control land uses.

The *Municipal Government Act* also denotes the different types of municipalities that may be formed in Alberta. Since 1995, Strathcona County has been designated a Specialized Municipality. This is due to its special blend of both rural and urban attributes that sets it apart from most other municipal jurisdictions that are either rural or urban.

2.2 SENIOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

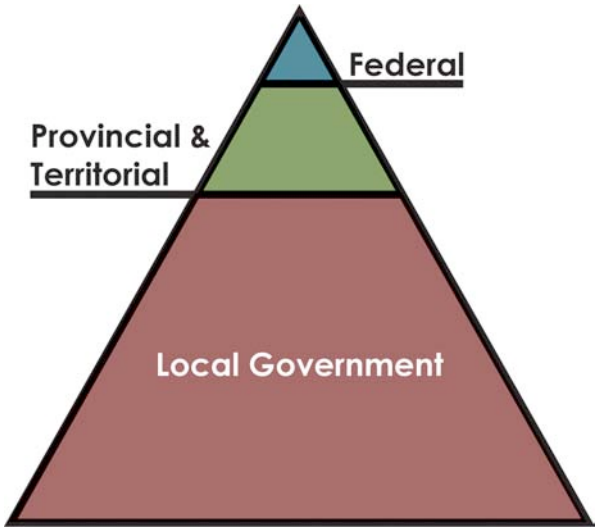
The conservation of heritage resources is supported by a number of programs and initiatives that are available through the Federal and Provincial governments.

2.2.1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In 2000, the Department of Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada began a wide-ranging series of consultations on the best means to preserve and celebrate Canada's historic places. These consultations have resulted in a broad based strategy, the ***Historic Places Initiative***, which is the most important federal heritage conservation proposal in Canada's history.

Parks Canada has initiated a program to preserve and celebrate Canada's historic places. There has been a tremendous sense of cooperation and good will from the provinces and territories, municipalities, First Nations and a cross-section of other Canadians.

This program recognizes that the vast majority of heritage sites are managed at the local level, and that the number of sites managed by senior levels of government is relatively small.



Relative numbers of Historic Places managed by different levels of government.

Under the Historic Places Initiative, the federal government has established a national heritage register and comprehensive conservation standards and guidelines for historic places. The *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* have been officially adopted by the Province of Alberta as the basis for its heritage programs. In support of these programs, the federal government has made an annual contribution to the province that is distributed to local governments through some of the programs of the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.

2.2.2 PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

The Province of Alberta, acting through Alberta Culture & Community Spirit, is the steward of many diverse historic resources. Through the Heritage Resource Management Branch, technical advice and support is provided, and other support programs are offered through funding provided by the province.

A building and the land on which it sits may be designated by bylaw as provided for in the Historical Resources Act. There are potentially three levels of designation: Registered Historic Resource (RHR), Provincial Historic Resource (PHR) and Municipal Historic Resource (MHR). The RHR category is being phased out, and no new RHRs are being designated.

The Alberta Register of Historic Places has been established as the list of historic places of municipal, regional, and provincial significance within Alberta. The *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* have been officially adopted by the Province of Alberta as the basis for its heritage programs.

The following are the heritage incentives currently offered by the Provincial Government.

- **Alberta Historic Resources Foundation (AHRF)**
  Created in 1973, the Foundation assists in the preservation and interpretation of Alberta's historical resources, primarily through the encouragement and sponsorship of community heritage initiatives. It is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of private citizens drawn from all regions of the province. The foundation acts as the single window for Alberta Lottery Fund support to heritage in Alberta. Grants are provided to PHR sites, and are also provided to municipally-designated sites (MHR) that meet provincial criteria. Existing RHR sites (there are three in Strathcona County) will no longer be eligible for funding after March 31, 2009. Municipal designated heritage sites are eligible for $50,000 cost shared funding per application.

- ***Municipal Heritage Partnership Program (MHPP)***
  The Municipal Heritage Partnership Program is designed to help municipalities manage their historic places. Support from the MHPP, for identification and protection of local historic places, consists primarily of cost-shared funding, guidance and capacity-building tools. The province is committed to helping municipalities become stewards of their own unique heritage and the guiding force for the protection of what each community determines to be historically important. This program is designed to help municipalities manage their historic places by providing opportunities for municipalities to access funding assistance, expertise and networks that will help them to establish or maintain an ongoing municipal heritage conservation program.

- ***Alberta Lottery Fund Programs***
  The Community Facility Enhancement Program and the Community Initiatives Program, offered through the Alberta Lottery Fund, are grant programs that may assist owners of community use buildings with mechanical and technical upgrades or repairs and improvements to their heritage buildings.

  The Community Facility Enhancement Program provides financial assistance for the expansion and upgrading of Alberta's extensive network of community-use facilities. The program provides matching grants to municipalities, Indian Bands and Métis Settlements, and registered community non-profit groups to build, purchase, repair,

renovate, or otherwise improve related family and community wellness facilities.

The Community Initiatives Program will support project-based initiatives in areas such as community services, seniors' services, libraries, arts and culture, sports, education, health and recreation. The maximum grant is $75,000 per project per year. Funding is approved on a matching grant basis. The program provides matching grants to municipalities, Indian Bands and Métis Settlements, registered community non-profit groups, the Social Services Sector and Regional Children's Authorities.

2.3 MUNICIPAL BEST PRACTICES

A number of Alberta municipalities were surveyed to determine the scope of their heritage programs. This survey looked at relative population, heritage initiatives to dates, the extent of incentive and heritage awareness programs, and current staffing levels. It was found that communities of different sizes have varying approaches to heritage management. Some are in a formative stage in the development of heritage programs while other have decades of experience. The "best practices" extracted from this survey have been used to assist in the formulation of a recommended heritage management program framework for Strathcona County.

In general, municipalities that have active heritage programs have certain key elements in place that form the basis for effective heritage management:

- **Heritage Planning**
  Dedicated staff is provided to ensure a point of contact with the public on heritage issues, and effective management of the heritage permit application process. Most of these municipalities have designated heritage resources. Most of these municipalities have a Heritage Register that officially identifies significant heritage sites.

- **Heritage Education & Awareness**
  Most of these municipalities have undertaken heritage education and awareness initiatives, often through community partnerships.

- **Heritage Partnerships**
  Almost all municipalities have established a Council-appointed heritage advisory committee. Other community partnerships have been developed to assist program delivery. The private sector is engaged through different levels of heritage incentives that promote and facilitate conservation projects.

Please see ***Appendix B*** for further detailed information.

2.4 COMMUNITY HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

Strathcona County is fortunate to have active community involvement in many diverse heritage activities. This ranges from individuals who own and maintain heritage buildings to community groups with a specific focus. Some groups have been active over several decades, and have deep roots based on the efforts of dedicated volunteers. Local heritage programs are provided primarily by not-for-profit groups, and are offered to a broad age spectrum.

Please see ***Appendix C*** for further detailed information.

3. CURRENT MUNICIPAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The following is an overview of existing plans and initiatives at the municipal level, and indicates where opportunities may exist to expand or clarify heritage management objectives to align with policy recommendations.

3.1 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strathcona County's Strategic Plan provides an overall vision and direction for the municipality by articulating goals and strategies related to:

- governance
- community development relating to social, environmental and economic sustainability
- stakeholder communication
- resource management.

This framework provides the strategic direction under which all other plans must conform. The establishment of a heritage conservation program broadly supports a number of these goals, specifically social, environmental and economic sustainability.

3.2 MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is the fundamental policy document guiding the future land use, development, and community goals for Strathcona County. The 2007 Municipal Development Plan (Bylaw 1-2007) references heritage in Chapters 4 (Sustainability and Growth Management), 12 (Social Development) and 13 (Economic Development). It is defined in the Definitions Section of the Plan as "the history, culture and historical resources of an area and its residents". These clauses allow for the development of a heritage conservation management plan as a policy document in keeping with the objectives of the Municipal Development Plan. As a result, the establishment and administration of a Heritage Resources Management Plan would conform with the goals and objectives expressed in the MDP.

An underlying principle of the Municipal Development Plan is a commitment towards the "three pillars" approach to sustainability, namely: social, environmental and economic. Heritage conservation is inherently a sustainable activity.

- The redevelopment of existing sites and buildings is mentioned as one of the sustainability principles that the County has adopted. From an environmental point of view, retaining existing and heritage buildings reduces landfill loading, conserves embodied energy and retains local materials.
- Heritage conservation is also a socially sustainable activity. It promotes the development of complete communities and helps residents understand the unique characteristics of place and history.
- In addition, heritage conservation can be economically sustainable by providing opportunities for cultural tourism, and the development of specialized restoration and educational skills.

Heritage conservation satisfies all three pillars of sustainability – social, environmental and economic. It is a desirable goal that Strathcona County should nurture a culture of heritage conservation in the community.

3.3 LAND USE BYLAW

The Strathcona County Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is the regulatory document which is used as a tool to enforce the policy statements contained in higher level documents such as the Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plans and Area Redevelopment Plans. The LUB identifies what types of land uses are appropriate in a variety of land use districts and sets out the rules and regulations which govern those uses, i.e. building setbacks, structure height, and parking requirements. The LUB identifies what uses are present throughout the community today. Policy documents identify how we want the community to grow and evolve in the future.

3.4 OTHER HERITAGE PLANNING INITIATIVES

Community Heritage Legacy Initiative
Community Heritage Legacy is dedicated to local history and intangible cultural heritage. The aim of this initiative is to promote and retain history and ICH that connects residents to the community through a sense of belonging, identity and place.
Community Heritage Legacy has the potential to become a supportive hub for County departments, organizations and groups engaged in:

- preservation of local history and protection of ICH
- history and heritage advocacy and outreach
- communications, education and public access to information on history and heritage
- programs and events that integrate history and ICH into everyday life
- history and ICH-led community building

The Strategic Plan for Community Heritage Legacy is now underway, and expected to be completed in 2009.

Legacy Land Policy
The County has a policy that allows for the acquisition of lands for environmental land conservation related to ecological and wildlife habitat.

Open Space and Recreational Facilities Strategy
The Open Space and Recreational Facilities Strategy, approved on June 24, 2008, provides broad direction to how parks, open spaces, trails, leisure and recreation facilities will develop over the next 15 years. Included in OSRFS will be a study to assess the long-term future of community halls; the redevelopment of the Bremner House, site and property; and the promotion of cultural activities in parks and facilities.

Beaver Hills Initiative

The Beaver Hills make up a large portion of modern day Strathcona County. Along with numerous lakes, wetlands, ponds and streams, the Beaver Hills are the product of the Ice Age and the melting of the last great glaciers about 12,000 years ago. Faced with increasing demands from all sectors of industry, recreational, urban, and rural residential land uses, the Beaver Hills ecosystem is disappearing and requires special consideration for conservation.

The Beaver Hills Initiative (BHI) was formed in 2002, recognizing the need for the Beaver Hills/ Cooking Lake Moraine ecosystem to remain sustainable. It provides a mechanism for land managers making decisions on growth and development in the Region to work together to consider the sensitivity of the moraine to development. This initiative involves the coordination of a four-county, multi-stakeholder group to develop land use recommendations that will identify conservation planning strategies within the moraine. The partner municipalities recognize the valuable asset they share jurisdiction over, and the need to conserve the unique qualities and extensive natural areas of the Beaver Hills, while still recognizing the demands for other land uses. The resulting new land management practices and policies will create a balance between recreation, agriculture, industry and residential subdivision.

In 2007 the BHI finalized science-based recommendations that formed the Beaver Hills Initiative Land Management Framework. The resulting framework established conservation planning recommendations, setting the foundation for informed and coordinated decision-making. All land use decisions are based on the goal to balance social, economic, and environmental values. Compatibilities between development will be considered in decisions to ensure the quality of life for residents, visitors and future generations.

Strathcona County has incorporated data into their MDP Plan from the BHI Framework through the introduction of the Beaver Hills Moraine Policy Area, supporting the “three pillar” approach to sustainability as identified in Strathcona Counties Strategic Plan. The connection to the community is being strengthened through participation by expanding the management framework to include historic and cultural tangible and intangible values, while offering additional expertise and capacity from the partnership to other projects.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The purpose of this Heritage Resources Management Plan is to provide Strathcona County with a realistic and proactive policy framework for enhanced heritage conservation initiatives that will involve and engage the broader community, including private property owners. This will lead to a better understanding and long-term conservation of the County's significant heritage resources.

This Plan consists of a review of enabling legislation, a policy framework to carry out the intent of the legislation, and practices to ensure that responsible conservation can be implemented. Through its implementation, the municipality will foster partnerships throughout the community that will celebrate the County's rich history and heritage, assist the conservation of significant historic sites, and create increased value and investment in heritage. When the Plan is implemented, it will become Strathcona County's heritage management program.

Through the course of this project, a vision has emerged that would allow Strathcona County to encourage the conservation of heritage sites, assist in the gathering and dissemination of historic information, and support other aspects of community heritage.

THE VISION FOR THE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Strathcona County has a rich legacy of urban and rural buildings and natural landscapes that define the community. As a rapidly growing community, we must plan for tomorrow without forgetting our past. Our actions will be driven by the following statements:

- ***Strathcona County values its natural history, archaeological resources and historic community structures as important parts of its rich cultures;***
- ***the Heritage Resources Management Plan will provide an integrated approach to heritage resources management that will inspire the community to take action to protect its heritage; and***
- ***the County's role in conservation will be to find creative ways to facilitate preservation through public education, partnership development, planning processes, and conservation incentives.***

IMPLEMENTATION

The following framework of recommendations guides the implementation of a comprehensive Heritage Resources Management Plan that will contribute to the success of these outcomes tailored for Strathcona County.

The recommended actions for a Heritage Management Program are broken into three broad areas of focus:

- Heritage Planning
- Heritage Education & Awareness
- Heritage Partnerships

OUTCOMES OF THE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

In order to best conserve Strathcona County's heritage, and engage the public in the process of heritage conservation, the Heritage Resources Management Plan should be implemented, with sufficient resources to achieve the following outcomes:

- An approach to heritage conservation that is broadly valued by the public.
- A municipal heritage management program that is supported, coordinated and facilitated.
- Support for the owners of heritage sites through a clear and transparent regulatory process and a range of heritage conservation incentives.
- Accessible opportunities to learn and experience community heritage and history.
- Accurate documentation and research for significant heritage resources.
- Opportunities for the development of heritage partnerships.
- Enhanced capacity for heritage stakeholders to assist in heritage awareness and education initiatives.

The result will be an ongoing heritage management program that is sustainable, and monitored over time to ensure the effectiveness of its outcomes and use of resources.

4.1 HERITAGE PLANNING

Farm ,1924 [Glenbow Archives nd-3-2537]

An initial inventory of historic sites and resources in Strathcona County was conducted by the province in 1974-75, and was mapped onto an Historic Resources Map in 1992. There were also several other surveys conducted by the province, and the site forms have been deposited as part of the Provincial Heritage Inventory. Since 1974, the province has collected information on approximately 450 historic sites in the County, though we know there are numerous duplications in this list and many of these sites no longer exist. These previously-identified sites have not yet been mapped on the County's POSSE system (municipal database) and their current condition is not known at present. The actual number of sites that still survive, and have sufficient significance and integrity to be managed as part of a heritage management program, will be much lower than this. It is anticipated that the realistic number of sites that should currently be identified as the basis of a Heritage Register would be in the range approximately 75 sites.

The Province, through the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, provides cost-shared funding for surveys and inventories of historic resources.

- A survey serves to gather information about all of the potential historic resources and identifies what types of resources it has.
- An inventory is an evaluation of the results of a survey, and assists in the management of those places that are deemed significant for their heritage value.
- Up to $30,000 is available as a matching grant for each stage of this work. The potential outcome would be an evaluated inventory of all known heritage resources in the County.

It is therefore recommended that the County take advantage of this funding opportunity to start a process of identifying significant heritage sites that will form the basis of an ongoing heritage management program. The first stage will be a survey to determine what sites still exist and if any sites have been missed. The second stage will involve further detailed research and evaluation to determine significance. Evaluation criteria will need to be established. Not all sites that have municipal heritage significance will meet the provincial criteria (e.g. buildings that have been moved within the last 50 years) and therefore may not be eligible for provincial funding even if designated. However, this evaluation should be calibrated to municipal, not provincial, significance.

Once the final list of evaluated significant sites has been prepared, each site on the final list should be flagged on the POSSE database. Over time, these sites should be added to the official Heritage Register.

As an initial step towards establishing this official evaluated list, a Heritage Register should be established, by bylaw, listing the three sites of known heritage significance (the RHR sites) plus Bremner House. Other sites can be added at a later date.

Once significant heritage resources are identified, a well-balanced heritage management program should include both incentives and regulations ("carrots and sticks"). The experience of many other jurisdictions indicates that it is better to lead with incentives than regulations, that programs based on negotiations and voluntary adherence achieve better results than those that try to regulate. A balance is required between regulations and incentives, that recognizes the needs of heritage property owners and ensures the viability of individual projects.

Over time, policies and procedures for both tangible and intangible aspects of Strathcona County's heritage should be fully integrated within the larger scope of municipal planning.

4.1.1 Heritage Incentives

Incentives refer to programs or measures administered by the municipality or other community-based agencies to encourage the protection and retention of historic resources. Unlike regulatory measures, incentives usually offer something to the owner or developer in return for undertaking rehabilitation work or legal protection.

Examples of incentives are grant programs, tax incentives, technical assistance, or the use of discretionary powers, enabled under the Land Use Bylaw, which allow the Development Authority to waive certain requirements under the development permit or, in some situations, to offer compensation in the form of transfer of development credits.

The application of an incentive should be subject to the following conditions:

- The proposed work on the site would be compatible with and sympathetic to the character and context of the heritage site according to the federal heritage ***Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada***.
- The heritage character-defining elements of the site are maintained.
- For larger incentives, proof of financial necessity may be required through an economic analysis.
- Legal protection, in the form of a heritage designation or a covenant, should be a pre-requisite for any municipal heritage incentive.

Properties on the Heritage Register may be eligible for financial incentives once they receive protection through municipal designation. A program of effective incentives should be created that will encourage authentic conservation and rehabilitation, by encouraging owners to invest in their properties.

Financial Incentives

One of the most motivating incentives is direct financial assistance. It is recommended that there be further exploration of available funding sources, especially for non-profit organizations. Additional funding assistance may be available through a wide variety of other government and private programs. Private foundations may also be willing to support local heritage conservation efforts.

- **Tax-Based Heritage Grants**
  Currently, if a property owner undertakes a rehabilitation of a heritage building, he or she usually encounters an increased property tax assessment due to an increase in market value. This, combined with the high cost of meeting building code requirements, can make the upgrading of heritage properties a marginal economic proposition. The assessment and taxation process is governed by provincial legislation and is very inflexible. There are municipal limitations to

providing direct property tax incentives. However a grant that in effect provides some form of 'tax freeze' may be an option to consider where a local government wishes to provide financial support to a property owner to encourage conservation of a heritage property.

Experience in the United States has demonstrated that incentives tied to income tax are amongst the most effective mechanisms for the preservation of heritage buildings. In Canada, federal income tax incentives for conservation do not currently exist, but municipal tax-based heritage grants have been proven to be successful in many cities including Calgary and Edmonton. It is recommended that the potential for tax based heritage grants will need to be explored further as to their applicability within the Strathcona County context.

Non-Financial Incentives

Heritage conservation incentives may also be provided through non-monetary support, including:

- **Development Permits**
  It is common for heritage buildings to be sited or built in ways that do not conform to the regulations that currently apply to the land use district governing the land on which the building sits. These buildings are considered non-conforming. The Municipal Government Act allows the Development Authority to approve permits for buildings that are non-conforming in recognition of the fact that they were built in an earlier era. Some building permit equivalencies could be made available in order to prevent conservation principles and guidelines from being compromised. It is recommended that there be further exploration of the potential for relaxations for heritage-related development applications.

- **Conservation Agreements**
  A formal written agreement can be negotiated by a local government and an owner to protect a heritage property. This is a contractual agreement between a property owner and a local government or heritage organization. Heritage conservation agreements are intended to enable a local government or a heritage organization to negotiate an agreement with a property owner to protect and/or conserve a site or building. Such agreements may not alter local government regulations such as siting, use, or density. Conservation agreements may apply to natural or built heritage resources. Such an agreement may be used to establish the amount, schedule, and details of the financial compensation negotiated with the owner in return for designation of the property, or it may be used to establish the conservation work program and required maintenance requirements. A conservation agreement is registered on the Land Title, meaning that when the property is sold the conservation agreement remains in effect and shall be binding on the new owner.

  It is recommended that opportunities for conservation agreements and partnerships between the County and heritage property owners to conserve their properties be explored and implemented.

- **Building Code Equivalencies**
  Building Code upgrading is the most important aspect of heritage building rehabilitation as it ensures life safety and long-term protection for the resource. It

is essential to consider heritage buildings on a case-by-case basis, as blanket application of Code requirements does not recognize the individual requirements and inherent strengths of each building. Over the past few years, a number of Code equivalencies have been developed and adopted in the Alberta Building Code, which makes heritage building upgrading more feasible. For example, the use of sprinklers in a commercial heritage structure helps to satisfy fire separation and exiting requirements. Given that Code compliance is such a significant factor in the preservation of heritage buildings, the most important factor is to provide viable economic methods of achieving building upgrading.

It is recommended that the County explore potential heritage building code equivalencies to provide consistent review and knowledgeable advice to building owners. To qualify for these equivalencies, a building should be provincially or municipally designated or protected under a registered covenant agreement.

4.1.2 Heritage Regulations

Under the Historical Resources Act and the Municipal Government Act, the County may establish its own regulations and policies that describe the circumstances under which a specific property or area may be designated. The County can also control what changes may or may not be undertaken following designation. Other policy areas may include the adoption of the Heritage Register by bylaw as well as procedures to amend the Register over time. Policies may also be put in place by the municipality to monitor its historic resources as well as the procedures that must be followed if alterations or demolition are proposed. Sometimes an owner may use a tool called a restrictive covenant to limit the degree to which a heritage property may be changed or to prevent its demolition. A restrictive covenant is placed on the title of the property.

Standards & Guidelines

Standards and guidelines are the principles that guide responsible heritage conservation practice. Heritage conservation principles guide decisions regarding the treatment of heritage resources. Standards and guidelines specify which practices and procedures safely and effectively preserve and maintain original historic fabric. They promote rehabilitation using methods that minimize harmful impacts while restoring the original architectural elements. It is recommended that the County adopt the ***Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*** as the basis for the review of heritage permit applications and the treatment of recognized heritage sites.

Municipal Heritage Designation

Under the *Municipal Act*, every Alberta municipality is given the power to designate a heritage property as a Municipal Historic Resource. “A Council of a municipality, after giving the owner 60 days’ notice, may by by-law designate any historic resource within the municipality whose preservation it considers to be in the public interest, together with any land in or on which it is located that may be specified in the by-law as a Municipal Historic Resource.” No person shall alter or destroy or repair the resource without the approval of Council or a person appointed by Council.

In order to clarify the intent of the designation, the designation by-law passed by the municipality can identify in more detail the extent to which the municipality may have control over changes to the designated building. This may occur through accompanying legal agreements which outline future rehabilitation work,

a maintenance schedule, or limitations on the extent of the protection of the building (e.g. exterior façade only). These are all elements that enable a municipality to negotiate with an owner or developer to develop a mutually acceptable legal agreement.

4.1.3 Heritage Advisory Committee

Currently, Strathcona County does not have a Council-appointed Heritage Advisory Committee. Implementation of the Heritage Resources Management Plan will require a dedicated allocation of resources and commitment from both the community and municipal staff in order to succeed. One of the ways in which the municipality can promote community involvement in the heritage management program is through the appointment of a Heritage Advisory Committee. This Committee could comprise representatives from the community who have a special interest and knowledge in the architectural and cultural heritage of their community. Representation could also be balanced between the rural and urban areas, and would also assist in monitoring heritage activities at the community level. The role of this Committee would be established by Council but could include:

- The review of development applications affecting historic resources
- Co-ordination of municipal heritage awareness programs
- Expansion and development of the heritage management program
- General advice to Council on heritage issues in the community
- Community representatives can be identified including the Strathcona County Museum and Archives

This advisory committee would require a Terms of Reference and a Procedures Manual so that all members would have a thorough understanding of the range of regulatory mechanisms and incentives as well as conservation and rehabilitation principles and guidelines.

4.2 HERITAGE EDUCATION & AWARENESS

The community is fortunate to have many active heritage societies and organizations that already undertake significant heritage education and awareness initiatives; see ***Appendix C*** for further information. Support for these community organizations and their activities will only increase opportunities for more collaboration and partnerships in the strategic administration and delivery of these programs.

Community events and activities engage the community with the purpose of raising the public profile of heritage within the community. These are often the most recognizable public component of a heritage management program.

Examples of public awareness programs are:

- interpretive plaque programs
- heritage walking tours
- annual award programs for rehabilitation work
- community “how-to” workshops
- lecture programs on heritage topics
- heritage festivals, and festivities marking important historic events
- school programs

Technical Information
The responsible conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of historic resources requires specialized knowledge and technical skills in heritage planning, building evaluation and assessment, and conservation methods. In order to put a heritage management plan into practice, it is necessary to know where to obtain the correct professional and knowledgeable heritage advice and expertise for a variety of services when they are needed.

There is a vast array of information resources available to assist public and private organizations as well as individuals with their heritage conservation challenges. Many of these are available over the Internet or in publications available through governmental organizations, education programs on heritage conservation, and community-based societies and agencies. Access to resources is invaluable for the effective implementation and ongoing operation of heritage management programs, and should be facilitated through the heritage management program.

Tourism Opportunities
Current research indicates that cultural tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry, and enhanced heritage information may provide further opportunities for the development of regional and destination tourism.

One of the most effective ways to build and maintain respect for a community's heritage is through a rich selection of events that raise the greater public's awareness and appreciation of local history. In many municipalities, these kinds of events are jointly sponsored or managed with community-based societies that may choose to take the responsibility for administering these programs. There are already numerous heritage events and initiatives that are coordinated by community organizations and volunteers that could be marketed to a broader audience.

Education
Over time, community partnerships can continue to be nurtured through coordination and selective funding. Institutional partnerships can be fostered in association with local school districts, who could also play a key role in public heritage education, through local history curricula and heritage-related educational models. Throughout the school system, there will be many opportunities to integrate historical information within the school curriculum, through tours and educational modules.

It is recommended that heritage education and awareness initiatives should be supported and promoted by the County's heritage management program.

4.3 HERITAGE PARTNERSHIPS

The County is just one player in the community effort to promote heritage conservation. The community is already heavily involved in support for historic sites, in promoting heritage education and awareness initiatives, and in restoring and interpreting individual buildings. The County can support these community players in a number of ways, by enabling the development of partnerships and by fostering communication.

Key players that need to involved as part of a larger heritage network include the private property owners of heritage sites. They need to be engaged in understanding community heritage significance, and supported with technical advice and support. As the heritage management program develops, there will be increasing needs to coordinate local heritage initiatives, and in growing a culture of heritage conservation at the community level.

4.4 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

HERITAGE PLANNING	
Action #1: Identify a Heritage Planning Function. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Identify the appropriate place for a Heritage Planning Function within the corporate structure.	Internal review
2. Identify staff resources and define responsibilities.	Review current staffing and allocate responsibilities
3. Support the Heritage Planning Function with training resources.	Consult with Province for opportunities
Action #2: Adopt a Heritage Register and the Heritage Resources Management Plan, by Council Resolution, along with accompanying policies and procedures for the protection of heritage resources. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Create a Heritage Register. Identify those key sites that should form the basis of the initial Heritage Register. This should include, at a minimum, those three sites that are currently Registered Historic Resources, plus Bremner House.	Staff report to Council
2. Request additional public nominations to the Heritage Register.	Communication with heritage property owners
3. Develop procedures to amend the Register.	Staff review
4. Present the Heritage Register and the Heritage Resources Management Plan to Council for approval.	Staff report to Council; Council action
Action #3: Sites currently identified as potential heritage resources should be fully assessed for their heritage value. ***Shared responsibility: Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs, Planning & Development Services, Communications (Community Heritage Legacy), Recreation, Parks & Culture and Engineering & Environmental Planning.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Apply for funding from the province as required.	Grant application
2. Conduct a systematic survey of the properties identified on sites previously identified as having heritage significance, in order to determine which ones still exist and warrant further consideration.	Consultant report
3. Research and document the current status of these resources, and evaluate them to determine heritage value.	Consultant report
4. Flag potential heritage sites on the POSSE database, once an evaluated list of significant sites has been identified.	Staff action
Action #4: Establish a process to be endorsed by Council that describes the circumstances by which a property on the Heritage Register may be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	

Action	Implication
1. Establish criteria and a process for municipal designation.	Staff review
2. Designate, as appropriate, County-owned and other properties on the Heritage Register (e.g. Bremner)	Staff report to Council; Council action
3. Develop policies for managing designated sites, including long-term monitoring.	Staff review
4. Continue to designate heritage sites over time, to allow access to provincial funding.	Staff report to Council; Council action
5. Document, with provincial assistance, any municipally-designated sites for inclusion on the Alberta and Canadian Register of Historic Places.	Grant application
Action #5: Adopt the national *Standards & Guidelines* as the basis for the conservation of heritage sites. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
1. Adopt the Parks Canada *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* by resolution as the basis for the review of permit applications, and any work undertaken on County-owned heritage sites.	Council action
2. Ensure staff training in the technical aspects of the *Standards & Guidelines*.	Consult with Province for opportunities
3. Hold workshops and distribute brochures to explain the purpose and implementation practices associated with these standards and guidelines.	Consult with Province for opportunities
Action #6: Adopt a process that allows the Municipality to review all zoning, subdivision, development and building permit applications affecting potential heritage properties. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Develop procedures for the processing of permit applications that affect resources on the Heritage Register.	Staff action
Action #7: Consider the establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee to advise Council on heritage-related issues in the community. ***Primary responsibility: Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Review the requirements for a Heritage Advisory Committee or other form of community advisory bodies.	Staff review
2. Prepare Terms of Reference and a Policy and Procedures Manual for advisory body members.	Staff action
3. Invite the participation of members of the community that have an interest including representatives from existing community groups and historical societies.	Staff / Council
4. Invite a member of Council to participate as appropriate.	Staff / Council
5. Assign a staff person to provide administrative support and advice.	Staff review

6. Identify program elements that can be annually supported or coordinated and provide budgets to achieve this.	Staff / Council
Action #8: Continue to add identified heritage sites to the Heritage Register. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Over time, through ongoing contact with owners, add potential heritage sites to the Register.	Staff review
Action #9: Develop a Heritage Stewardship Policy for county-owned heritage sites. ***Shared responsibility: Recreation, Parks & Culture, Engineering & Environmental Planning and Facilities Services.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Develop conservation plans for significant county-owned heritage sites.	Consult with Province for opportunities
2. Identify costs and funding sources, to ensure long-term management, maintenance and conservation.	Staff review
3. Tie maintenance of heritage sites to the County's Life-Cycle Maintenance Program.	Staff review
4. Apply for other available sources of restoration funding.	Consult with Province for opportunities
Action #10: Create an effective and manageable set of incentives to empower the heritage management program. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Develop a set of incentives that may be used to encourage owners of heritage properties in achieving heritage conservation.	Consult with Province for opportunities
2. Develop a policy identifying how these incentives will be calculated.	Staff review
3. Incorporate conservation incentives into planning documents and the taxation system.	Staff review
Action #11: Revise municipal planning documents to recognize heritage conservation as a core municipal function. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Over time, revise planning documents and policies to ensure that heritage conservation is adequately recognized.	Staff review
Action #12: Update the Heritage Resources Management Plan and the Heritage Register as needed. ***Primary responsibility: Planning & Development Services Department.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Undertake a review of the Heritage Register and the Heritage Resources Management Plan to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness.	Consult with Province for opportunities
HERITAGE EDUCATION & AWARENESS	
Action #13: Improve access to archival information. ***Shared responsibility: Recreation, Parks & Culture, Community Heritage Legacy and Legislative & Legal Services.***	
Action	**Implication**

1. Continue to support the Strathcona County Museum & Archives.	Staff / Council
2. Assess the need for a corporate archivist for Strathcona County.	Staff / Council
Action #14: Continue to support intangible aspects of Strathcona County's heritage. ***Primary responsibility: Communications (Community Heritage Legacy).***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Identify, document and enhance intangible aspects of Strathcona County's history and heritage through the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative	Staff action
Action #15: Develop communication strategies for cultural landscapes and archaeological resources. ***Shared responsibility: Communications (Community Heritage Legacy), Engineering & Environmental Planning and the Beaver Hills Initiative.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Consider developing communication strategies that raise awareness of the need to protect, enhance, support and celebrate other heritage resources.	Staff action
Action #16: Work with community groups to promote heritage awareness through programming. ***Shared responsibility: Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs, Planning & Development Services, Communications (Community Heritage Legacy), Recreation, Parks & Culture and Engineering & Environmental Planning.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Identify heritage programming that is currently in place. Do not duplicate efforts.	Staff action / community consultation
2. Identify any new or potential opportunities for heritage programming.	Community consultation
3. Identify how these programs and events will be managed and who will take responsibility for them.	Staff action / community consultation
4. Seek resources both inside and outside of the community for financial and advisory assistance.	Consult with other jurisdictions for opportunities

HERITAGE PARTNERSHIPS	
Action #17: Work with community groups to promote heritage conservation throughout the County. ***Shared responsibility: Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs, Planning & Development Services, Communications (Community Heritage Legacy), Recreation, Parks & Culture and Engineering & Environmental Planning.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Identify opportunities for community-based heritage conservation, including the engagement of non-profit societies and community groups in heritage initiatives.	Staff action / community consultation
2. Seek resources both inside and outside of the community for financial and advisory assistance.	Consult with other jurisdictions for opportunities
Action #18: Work with private heritage owners to promote and encourage heritage conservation activities. ***Shared responsibility: Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs, Planning & Development Services, Communications (Community Heritage Legacy), Recreation, Parks & Culture and Engineering & Environmental Planning.***	
Action	**Implication**
1. Explore different mechanisms that will assist private owners to achieve heritage conservation.	Consult with Province for opportunities
2. Consider what heritage incentives can be offered and negotiated on a site-by-site basis by the County, combined with the potential for provincial incentives.	Staff report / Council

4.5 IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

The following timeframe is indicated for the recommended Actions:

Immediate Actions = within 12 to 24 months of plan adoption
Medium-Range Actions = within 24 to 60 months of plan adoption
Long-Range Actions = within ten years of plan adoption

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- ACTION #1: Identify a Heritage Planning Function.
- ACTION #2: Adopt a Heritage Register and the Heritage Resources Management Plan, by Council Resolution, along with accompanying policies and procedures for the protection of heritage resources.
- ACTION #3: Sites currently identified as potential heritage resources should be fully assessed for their heritage value.
- ACTION #4: Establish a process to be endorsed by Council that describes the circumstances under which a property on the Heritage Register may be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource.
- ACTION #5: Adopt the national *Standards & Guidelines* as the basis for the conservation of heritage sites.
- ACTION #6: Adopt a process that allows the Municipality to review all zoning, subdivision, development and building permit applications affecting potential heritage properties.
- ACTION #13: Improve access to archival information
- ACTION #14: Continue to support intangible aspects of Strathcona County's heritage.
- ACTION #16: Work with community groups to promote heritage awareness through programming.
- ACTION #18: Work with private heritage owners to promote heritage conservation activities.

MEDIUM-RANGE ACTIONS

- ACTION #7: Consider the establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee to advise Council on heritage-related issues in the community.
- ACTION #8: Continue to add identified heritage sites to the Heritage Register.
- ACTION #9: Develop a Heritage Stewardship Policy for county-owned heritage sites.

- ACTION #10: Create an effective and manageable set of incentives to empower the heritage management program.

- ACTION #11: Revise the municipal planning framework to recognize heritage conservation as a core municipal function.

- ACTION #15: Develop communication strategies for cultural landscapes and archaeological resources.

- ACTION #17: Work with community groups to promote heritage conservation throughout the County.

LONG-RANGE ACTIONS

- ACTION #12: Update the Heritage Resources Management Plan and the Heritage Register as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

F. Boyle's Farm, Clover Bar, date unknown

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- Pauline Degenstein, Coordinator, Records and FOIP, Legislative & Legal Services

Strathcona County Mayor and Council 2008

- Cathy Olesen, Mayor
- Vic Bidzinski, Councillor, Ward 1
- Roxanne Carr, Councillor, Ward 2
- Alan Dunn, Councillor, Ward 6
- Jacquie Fenske, Councillor, Ward 5
- Jason Gariepy, Councillor, Ward 8

- Glen Lawrence, Councillor, Ward 7
- Linda Osinchuk, Councillor, Ward 3
- Peter Wlodarczak, Councillor, Ward 4

Community Consultation:

- Ardrossan Recreation & Agriculture Society
- Ardrossan Seniors Association
- Ardrossan United Church
- Arts and Culture Council of Strathcona County
- Bremner Friendship Club
- Brookville Hall
- Clover Bar Lodge
- Colchester Agricultural Society
- Culture and Heritage Association of Strathcona County
- Elk Island Catholic Schools
- Elk Island Public Schools
- Friends of Strathcona County Library
- Green Hectares
- Heritage Mile Society
- Heritage property owners
- Kawtikh Retreat Campground
- Legion of Frontiersmen
- Partridge Hill United Church
- Partridge Hill Community Club
- Seniors Advisory Council
- Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce
- Silver Birch Lodge
- St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Parish
- Strathcona County Heritage Foundation
- Strathcona County Information & Volunteer Centre
- Strathcona County Library
- Strathcona County Youth Council
- Strathcona County Retired Teachers Association
- Strathcona Vintage Tractor Association
- The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling

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APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

Character-Defining Elements
The materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meaning that contribute to the *heritage value* or a *historic place*, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value.

Conservation
All actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the *character-defining elements* of a cultural resources so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life. This may involve *"Preservation," "Rehabilitation," "Restoration,"* or a combination of these actions or processes. Reconstruction or reconstitution of a disappeared cultural resource is not considered as conservation.

Cultural Landscapes
Describes those places and landscapes that have been shaped or influenced by human occupation. They include agricultural systems, modified landscapes, patterns of settlement and human activity, and the infrastructure of production, transportation and communication.

Guidelines
Statements that provide practical guidance in applying the *Standards for the Conservation of Historic Places*. They are presented as recommended and non-recommended actions.

Heritage
Heritage is a broad term that refers to all that is inherited from the past. It therefore includes the built environment, those buildings and works of the past, sites of historic events, historic skills, behaviours and patterns of life. A community's heritage encompasses its entire environmental inheritance.

Heritage Character
This means the overall effect produced by traits or features that give property or an area a distinctive quality of appearance dating from an earlier period.

Heritage Value
The aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations. The heritage value of a historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings.

Historic Resource
An historic resource is any work of nature or humans that is primarily of value for its palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or esthetic interest including, but not limited to, a palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic or natural site, structure or object (*Alberta Historical Resources Act*, Ch. H-9).

Historic Place
A structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value.

Historic Site
Any site that includes or is comprised of, an historical resource of an immovable nature or that cannot be disassociated from its context without destroying some or all of its value as an historical resource (*Alberta Historical Resources Act*, Ch. H-9).

Historic District
An historic district or conservation area denotes a neighbourhood unified by an architectural style and/or historical development.

Interpretation
This is any communication process designed to reveal the characteristics, meanings and relationships of a community's built heritage to the public through reference to objects, artifacts, landscapes, and structures or persons.

Intervention
Any action, other than demolition or destruction, that results in a physical change to an element of a historic place.

Maintenance
Routine, cyclical non-destructive actions necessary to slow the deterioration of a historic place. It entails periodic inspection; routine, cyclical, non-destructive cleaning; minor repair and refinishing operations; replacement of damaged or deteriorated materials that are impractical to save.

Minimal Intervention
The approach which allows functional goals to be met with the least physical intervention.

Preservation
The action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form and integrity of a historic place or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage.

Recording
Heritage recording is the process of documenting an illustrating what is significant or valuable about a historic structure. The results of the recording should be a clear, accurate and concise report, containing drawings, photographs and written analysis of the historic structure. The action of recording or documenting a heritage resource is an integral part of the preservation process. Not only does it necessitate a thorough scientific analysis of the building, but it also ensures that an archival reference will be created that describes the resource in detail, despite the fate of the building in the future.

Rehabilitation
The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or an individual component, through repair, alterations, and/or addition, while protecting its heritage value.

Renovation
This is a generic term used to describe various levels of intervention including remodeling, recycling and rehabilitation. It refers to the improvement of existing buildings or neighbourhoods.

Restoration
The action or process of accurately revealing, recovering or representing the state of a historic place or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value.

Revitalization
Revitalization is a term that describes the process of economic, social, physical and cultural redevelopment of an area or street.

Standards
Norms for the respectful conservation of historic places.

APPENDIX B: MUNICIPAL BEST PRACTICES

Municipality	Heritage Inventory	Heritage Register	Heritage Commission / Advisory	Heritage Protection	Incentives / Grants	Heritage Awareness Initiatives	Additional
RED DEER (Planning by Parkland Community Planning Services as required) Pop. 82,971 (2006)	Yes	Yes	Heritage Preservation Committee	Municipal Historic Resource Designation Permit Review	No	Community Heritage Plaque Program; Heritage Awards Program; Doors Open/Historic RD Week; Walking Tours	C1 Design Guidelines Main Street Project
CALGARY (Heritage Conservation Program - 3 Heritage Planners & 1 Assistant Planner on staff) Pop. 951395	Yes	Yes	Calgary Heritage Authority	Municipal Historic Resource Designation Permit Review	Density Transfer for Heritage Conservation Commercial Conversion to Office Use for Existing Residential Buildings	Community Heritage Plaque Program Heritage Awards Program;	City offers compensation for privately-owned properties; Calgary Civic Trust; Stephen Avenue National Historic District; Tax "Freeze" for the Lougheed Building
EDMONTON (Historic Resource Management Program - 2 Heritage Planners) Pop. 937,845	Yes	Yes	Municipal Advisory Board	Municipal Historic Resource Designation Development Application Review	Granting Program Tax Rebate Program for Rehabilitation	Historic Edmonton Week (run by the Historical Society); Doors Open Edmonton Heritage Plaques "This Old Edmonton House" (Public Seminar Series); Downtown Walking Tour Brochure	Edmonton & District Historical Board (Historic Resources Review Panel); Old Strathcona Foundation; Westmount Architectural Heritage Area (voluntary); Compensation for designation (up to $25,000 in matching dollars for houses and up to 50% for commercial properties.)

COCHRANE (1 Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services) Pop. 12,688 (2004)	Yes	Yes	Heritage Advisory Committee	Municipal Historic Resource Designation	Heritage Conservation Incentive Program	Plaques by Historical Society	Heritage Management Plan; Western Heritage Design Guidelines; Cochrane Historical Archival Preservation Society
LAMONT COUNTY (1 Economic Development/ Tourism Coordinator) Pop. 4,212 plus 4,071 in the included towns and villages	Heritage Survey with Inventory to come	No	Heritage Advisory Board	Municipal Historic Resource Designation	Heritage Incentive policy		Heritage Management Plan
BANFF (1 senior Planner, Planning and Development) Pop. 8,282	Yes	Yes	Banff Heritage Corporation	Municipal Historic Resource Designation	Facilitating Low-Interest Loans; Property Tax Incentives	Walking Tours; Plaquing Program; Public Education; Heritage Awards; Doors Open Banff	Heritage Tourism Strategy
MEDICINE HAT Pop. 50,048	No	No	Arts and Heritage Advisory Board		Arts and Heritage grants		Municipal Development Plan 2004 includes heritage policies
LETHBRIDGE (1 Heritage Inventory Program Consultant) Pop. 67,374	Yes	No					In the process of creating a Municipal Heritage Management Plan

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS & PARTNERS

OWNERS OF HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Every existing heritage site has survived to date because the owner(s) have taken steps to take care of it. It is the owners of the properties who need to be engaged in the heritage management process. There is a substantial difference between the needs and aspirations of private, public and institutional owners. Ownership is the primary determinant of what heritage management tools may be most appropriate.

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE GROUPS

Strathcona County Museum & Archives
Established in 1986, the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation is responsible for preserving the history and heritage of Strathcona County. Between 1986 and 1997, the society gathered historical data from established residents in the area and found a facility to house the artifacts and archives. The Foundation is now the board that runs the Strathcona County Museum & Archives, the only Alberta Museums Association accredited museum within the County limits. Located in Sherwood Park, the museum holds an estimated 20,000 artifacts in its collections. It is also the only archives within the County to have institutional status and as such, has become the primary repository for the County. The museum was opened on July 12, 1997 in the building that was the first fire hall in Sherwood Park. This small museum has undergone many changes in the past six years. Improvements have been undertaken in display status, infrastructure, collections and archives. Schools utilize the museum programs on a regular basis and the museum is developing a science-based program to add to their already strong social science program.

Culture and Heritage Association of Strathcona County (C&HASC)
The C&HASC was formed in 2001 with the purpose of establishing a permanent Public Culture & Heritage Facility in the County. C&HASC undertook to bring arts, culture and heritage groups together to voice long-term space requirements and advocate for a facility to meet those needs. The envisioned community facility is now a reality because the Community Space in Centre in the Park is underway. There is still work to be done to ensure that all arts, culture and heritage groups in Strathcona County benefit from the Community Space in the best possible way. C&HASC meets every second month.

Deville/North Cooking Lake Historical Society
This society protects and preserves area and local history.

Heritage Mile Society
Formed for the recognition and preservation of Strathcona County's heritage. The Heritage Mile runs north from the traffic circle at Broadmoor Boulevard to Main Boulevard in Sherwood Park.

Strathcona Vintage Tractor Association
The Strathcona Vintage Tractor Association is a non-profit organization that was formed in 2005 to provide a club for residents in and around Strathcona County interested in vintage tractors

and farm machinery. The club hosts an annual tractor pull, as well as participates in such events as road side clean-ups, agriculture shows and demonstrations.

The Arts and Culture Council of Strathcona County (ACCSC)
The ACCSC was granted society status in 2004. The organization is led by an elected executive representing diverse rural and urban arts and culture groups, individual artists and supporters of the Arts in the community. ACCSC is supported by County Council and liaison staff from Strathcona County Recreation, Parks & Culture.

Art Society of Strathcona County (ASSC)
Incorporated in 1985, the ASSC promotes the arts within the County. The ASSC moved into the A.J. Ottewell Centre in April of 2002. The ASSC became the operator of the facility, and has a paid coordinator who takes care of the day-to-day operations of the hall. In 2005 the building became a full "Arts Centre" and houses a permanent art gallery.

Strathcona County Library
Serving over 85,000 urban and rural residents today, the Strathcona County Library first opened in 1977. In 1981, the library launched a Bookmobile service to serve the many rural residents of the County. It now visits twelve stops on a weekly basis. From its first location at County Hall to its current site at the Sherwood Park Mall, it has grown in size from 18,000 to over 32,000 square feet. In time to commemorate the library's thirtieth anniversary, Council announced the construction of a new 60,000 sq. ft. library as part of Strathcona County's Centre in the Park Community Centre complex. The new community facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

SENIORS GROUPS

Ardrossan Senior Citizens Club
Provides activities for seniors (55 years and over).

Bremner Friendship Club
Seniors group encouraging community and activity in the Bremner area.

Strathcona County Retired Teachers Association
Formed in 1962, the SCRTA has published a book on the history of schools in Strathcona County: The Schools of Strathcona County: a Success Story (1999).

Linking Generations
Linking Generations is a program for seniors living in seniors' facilities and junior and senior high school students. The program bridges the gap between generations. Seniors and students volunteer their time to share life experiences and build relationships.

Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta
The Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the province on matters relating to Alberta's seniors. It is a government appointed body that reports through the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. The council gathers information on issues important to seniors by consulting with older Albertans and seniors' organizations in communities across the province. The suggestions and feedback gathered through the consultations are used to develop recommendations on legislation, policies, funding and coordination of programs and services for seniors. The council also coordinates the annual, province-wide Seniors' Week celebration, participates in research projects and supports community-based workshops for seniors and frontline workers.

Sherwood Park 55 Plus Club
Sherwood Park 55 Plus Club was first established in 1970 as the Sherwood Oaks Senior Citizens' Association. The Club is a non-denominational, not-for-profit association open to everyone 55 years of age and older, and is run on a volunteer basis by its members.

Strathcona County Senior's Advisory Committee
County Council has established the Seniors Advisory Committee to advise Council regarding seniors' needs, issues, concerns, and ways to enhance the quality of life for seniors in the community.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Ardrossan Recreation & Agricultural Society
In 1980 the Ardrossan Recreation & Exhibition Society and the Ardrossan & District Agricultural Society joined forces to become the Ardrossan Recreation & Agricultural Society (A.R.A.S.). The Society represents a significant number and cross-section of community residents and is often called to participate in focus groups that deal with specific projects in the County. A.R.A.S. hosts a very successful annual Lobster Dinner, an annual Old Fashioned Picnic and Parade, this year celebrating Ardrossan's 100th anniversary in conjunction with the parade. It partnered with the Ardrossan Jr./Sr. High School in the construction of the Ardrossan Community Theatre. The goal of the A.R.A.S. is to identify opportunities, support the members' groups, encourage the development of the community and address emerging needs that will enhance and improve the Ardrossan area.

Colchester & District Agricultural Society
The Colchester & District Agricultural Society was established in the early 1970s and has remained active to the present. They continue to support the Colchester area with financial support to local community groups with emphasis on the agricultural side. The Colchester Agricultural Society began fundraising for the Strathcona Olympiette Centre and provided considerable input into the planning of the Centre. The Society established the gymkana grounds at the Olympiette Centre, erecting buildings and the riding arena. They continue to assist Strathcona County with maintenance of these grounds. Financial support to local community groups includes the Colchester Community League, the Colchester School local pony clubs and the Strathcona County Library.

Josephburg Agricultural Society.
Established in 1973, the Josephburg Agricultural Society (JAS) was originally created to form a committee to build onto the existing community hall. Moyer Recreation Centre, as it is now known, includes a full size arena, gymnasium and kitchen area for catering. Although Srathcona County has taken over the ownership and management of the centre, the JAS has continued to add to the centre and support all programs. JAS sponsors several community events each year. The Society's major fundraising event is an annual "Chicken Supper" that has run continually in the community for more than 100 years, and in 2000 was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people served at a fowl supper. The "Josephburg Presents" series brings a variety of entertainment to the community and the annual "Fiddler's Jamboree" attracts residents from across the County. The Josephburg Agricultural Society has a long-standing history of providing support to the agricultural community through organized events and project development. The Josephburg Agricultural Society truly believes in the value of the next generation.

Green Hectares
Green Hectares focuses on providing rural and urban residents of Strathcona County with a unique education, social experience and technologies in agriculture. The Josephburg Agricultural Society is the non-profit organization that hosts the project. Green Hectares believes that planning is essential for a viable future in agriculture. Studies have shown a dramatic decrease in the number of people involved in agriculture in the under 35 years of age category. In order to address this problem, as well as the growing gap between the urban and rural context, Green Hectares will provide public education about agriculture, agricultural education, economic development, as well as demonstration projects to ensure the family farm thrives in the coming years.

CONSERVATION GROUPS

Friends of Blackfoot Society
Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife Provincial Recreation Area is a unique Alberta landscape comprised of 37 square miles of backcountry, located directly south of and adjacent to the Elk Island National Park boundary. The Blackfoot Forest Reserve was Canada's first, established in 1899. The Friends of Blackfoot Society provides support services, including a Heritage Interpretive Centre. A commemorative plaque was unveiled in 2008 in honour of W.H. Stephens, the first Park Ranger.

Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association
The Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association is one of the largest wildlife conservation groups associated with the Alberta Fish & Game Association. It was founded in 1962 when the sportsmen of the Sherwood Park area saw the need for an active group to ensure Alberta's wildlife, and their habitat, would become sustainable and remain that way for future generations. The Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization.

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND FACILITIES

Strathcona Wilderness Centre
The Wilderness Centre is an all-season outdoor adventure centre, owned and operated by Strathcona County. It consists of 550 acres of parkland on the shores of Bennett Lake.

Strathcona County Family & Community Services
Provides family and community services within Strathcona County.

COMMUNITY LEAGUES AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Antler Lake/UNCAS Community League
The Antler Lake Community League was established in 1975 and, in 1981, the Antler Lake Community Hall was built. In the early 1990s the Uncas Community League disbanded its separate league and joined forces with the Antler Lake Community League. Renamed the Antler Lake/Uncas Community League, it remains active in the community today.

Brookville Community League
Brookville Community Hall is operated by the Brookville Community League.

Colchester Community League
Colchester Community Hall is operated by the Colchester Community League. The group was formed prior to 1970. The hall was a wood-working shop at Bretona Corner, and in the early 1970s was relocated to its current site. The hall was renovated a few years ago and is currently used for weddings and group functions.

Deville/North Cooking Lake Community League
Deville/North Cooking Lake Community Hall is operated by the Deville/North Cooking Lake Community League.

Good Hope Community Club
The Good Hope Community Hall is operated by the Good Hope Community Club. The building was once the original building for the Good Hope School, and it is perhaps the only early school still standing that sits on its original site.

Hastings Lake Community Association
Hastings Lake Community Hall is operated by the Hastings Lake Community Association, which was established in 1952 and has about 230 members.

Partridge Hill Community Club
Partridge Hill Community Hall is operated by the Partridge Community Club.

South Cooking Lake Community League
South Cooking Lake Community League has been in existence since 1922. In 1923, R. Bell donated the land and the community built a hall that burnt to the ground in 1939. The League used the old Franklin School until World War II. In 1943 activities ceased only to be resurrected after the war. The current hall was completed in 1974 and a Seniors' Centre was added in 1993.

Whitecroft Community League
The Whitecroft Community Hall is operated by the Whitecroft Community League.

Wye Community League
The Wye Community League is a growing community organization that serves the rural community just east of Sherwood Park.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Colchester Women's Institute
Collects for WINGS (Women In Need Getting Started), Food Bank and Christmas Bureau.

Friends of Elk Island Society (FEIS)
Incorporated in 1984, the Friends of Elk Island Society is a non-profit, charitable organization that co-operates with Parks Canada to promote understanding, appreciation and respect for Elk Island National Park. The FEIS fulfills this mission by participating in conservation, science-based research, the operation of a sales outlet, special events and providing services to its members. The FEIS raises funds and administers donations to further the objectives of the society.

Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce
The mission of the Chamber is to improve the economic, industrial and civic life of the community through the development and promotion of free enterprise.

Strathcona County Youth Council
Members are youth grades 7 to 12 who want to be involved with their community, develop leadership skills, help other youth, make friends and have fun. Meetings are held every second Monday.

The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling (T.A.L.E.S)
Since 1982, T.A.L.E.S. has operated as a non-profit organization, celebrating the oral tradition of storytelling. They are storytellers, story listeners, writers, interpreters, speakers, entrepreneurs, teachers, curators, librarians, ministers, educators, and parents - anyone who celebrates the art of storytelling.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

River Valley Alliance (RVA)
One goal of the River Valley Alliance is to capture and convey the history of the North Saskatchewan River within Alberta's Capital Region. The initial concept of creating an integrated park along the river valley goes back nearly 20 years. The RVA came into existence in 1996 as a group of volunteers representing five Capital Region municipalities. They shared a vision of transforming an 88 km stretch of river valley into a world-class metropolitan river front integrated park. Other municipalities joined and the RVA was formally incorporated in 2003. Its founding shareholders include the seven municipalities holding lands in the Capital Region North Saskatchewan River Valley - the Town of Devon, Parkland County, Leduc County, City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County and City of Fort Saskatchewan. The RVA partners share a common goal - to protect, preserve and enhance the Capital Region's river valley park system for year-round accessibility, and enjoyment of its citizens and visitors. Each of the seven municipal shareholders appoints councillors and private individuals to serve on The RVA Board of Directors.

Maple Leaf Petroleum service station, 1939 [Glenbow Museum & Archives na-4338-12]

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- *Strathcona County Open Spaces and Recreation Facility Strategy*
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- *Strathcona County Strategic Plan Framework*

Heritage Tourism

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APPENDIX E: WEBSITES

FEDERAL GOVERMENT

Canadian Register of Historic Places
http://www.historicplaces.ca

Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/pc/guide/nldclpc-sgchpc/index_E.asp

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Heritage Resource Management
http://culture.alberta.ca/heritage/resourcemanagement/default.aspx

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation
http://culture.alberta.ca/ahrf/default.aspx

Municipal Heritage Partnership Program
http://www.mhpp.ab.ca/

STRATHCONA COUNTY

http://www.strathcona.ab.ca/