Photo courtesy of Strathcona County Museum & Archives

Strathcona County

Community Heritage Legacy Framework

December 2009

This logo developed for Community Heritage Legacy reflects:

- public pride in Strathcona County's unique history and heritage

- awareness of the identity residents find in community

- the legacy that will endure for future generations as people recognize and value their history and heritage today

Purpose of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework

The Community Heritage Legacy Framework is intended to:

- strengthen the County's commitment to preserving its history and safeguarding its heritage

- provide a central hub for all things history and heritage, both within the County and the community

- engage residents, businesses and the larger community in becoming more aware of local history and heritage

- encourage community development that focuses on history and heritage

- provide support to the community to facilitate activities related to history and heritage

- prioritize and plan for future heritage-related needs and initiatives

- guide and influence new and existing policies and plans

- be used as a guide for responding to historical and heritage issues

- maintain a focus on current trends

Strathcona County

Community Heritage Legacy Framework

Contents

Definitions for history and heritage

History and heritage are closely related.

History involves the study of past events, especially human affairs; the total accumulation of past events, especially relating to human affairs or to the accumulation of developments connected with a particular place …
—Canadian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, 2004

Local history is the examination of change over time involving interrelated aspects of families, schools, churches, farms, civic organizations and facilities, businesses and communities, province, country and the world.
—Nearby History, David E. Kyvig, Altamira, Second Edition, 2000

Heritage is a community's inheritance from the past; that which a group of people deems of sufficiently high value to preserve for future generations.

Heritage can be tangible or intangible. In comparison to the tangible, that we can see and touch, intangible cultural heritage includes traditions, practices, knowledge and skills, and also the meanings and values that people attach to historic places and other examples of cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage is also sometimes known as living heritage, as it reflects aspects of our heritage that are alive today and have survived progress and the passage of time.

For the purposes of this document, the general term heritage includes intangible cultural heritage as well as tangible and natural heritage.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) provides definitions for various types of heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage, as defined in the 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, adopted by the 32nd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, means:

> *the practices, representations, and expressions, as well as the associated knowledge and the necessary skills that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.*
>
> *The intangible cultural heritage is manifested* inter alia *in the following domains:*
>
> (a) *oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;*
> (b) *performing arts;*
> (c) *social practices, rituals and festive events;*
> (d) *knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;*
> (e) *traditional craftsmanship.*

Safeguarding means *measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and nonformal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.*

—http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001325/132540e.pdf

At the General Conference of the UNESCO meeting in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972, at its 17th Session, the following definitions were provided for natural and cultural heritage.

Natural heritage

- *natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;*

- *geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;*

- *natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.*

Cultural heritage

- *monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;*

- *groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;*

- *sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.*

—http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf

For context, we have included the above definition for cultural heritage, which is tangible in nature. Cultural heritage and cultural landscapes are for the most part covered under Strathcona County's Heritage Resources Management Plan, except for aspects of research, heritage education and awareness and heritage partnerships, which share some common actions with Community Heritage Legacy.

Other related definitions

Archival records may be any media, generally unpublished, which an individual, family or organization has accumulated over time. Most commonly these consist of letters, diaries, minutes, financial records, photographs or any other kind of documentary materials created or collected by the individual.

Community, considered in the broadest sense in this document, includes either some or all of County residents, schools and churches, hamlets, districts and neighbourhoods, not-for-profit organizations and agencies, agricultural societies, community leagues, business and industry, and the media.

Community development seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by equipping them with skills they need to effect positive change in their own communities and in part to foster a sense of identity, belonging and place.

Historic resource means any work of nature or of humans that is primarily of value for its paleontological, archeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or esthetic interest including, but not limited to, a paleontological, archeological, prehistoric, historic or natural site, structure or object.
—Province of Alberta Historic Resources Act

Public goods are any benefits (often of an intrinsic value) from a service that accrue to all members of a community independent of their direct use of or subscription to the service.

Four guiding principles from Strathcona's Social Sustainability Framework speak to a sense of place, important for a strong and sustainable community: social inclusion, community connectedness, social responsibility, and health and well-being.

- Social inclusion - A socially inclusive society is one where citizens have a sense of belonging to their communities and have the opportunity to access services, learning, employment, recreational and cultural activities.

- Community connectedness refers to the sense of belonging to a community that occurs through the formal and informal networks developed when people come together for social, educational, recreational, spiritual, cultural and/or work-related purposes.

- Social responsibility is the experience and appreciation of our interdependence and connectedness with others. Social responsibility includes acceptance of individual and cultural diversity … It occurs when citizens value the worth that the community derives from members expressing a sense of responsibility to each other through voluntary engagement and collective decision making.

- Health and well-being is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellness. For individuals it includes the capacity of people to adapt to, respond to, or control life's challenges and changes. A healthy community is one that is continually creating and improving physical and social environments and expanding resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential.

Executive summary

Strathcona County's Community Heritage Legacy Framework is built on the fundamental principle that an awareness and appreciation of community history and heritage are vital to the well-being, strength and continuity of the community. Strathcona is committed to fostering community development that focuses on its history and heritage.

For years and years, Strathcona County Council members and staff have been carefully managing the challenges of rapid population growth fuelled by industrial development and fuelling commercial and retail expansion. While the County does the things it must to keep up with progress, Council determined that it must also make sure we are not leaving behind anything of value. Recognizing the importance of our history and heritage to the community, Council decided in 2005 to establish a proactive program to preserve history and heritage and make it available to the public.

In the first years, the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative looked at the need for action to safeguard the County's human history and its intangible cultural heritage. In 2008, Strathcona County conducted consultations with stakeholders in the community, with Council and the County's administration, and with the general public. The purpose of the consultations was to verify community values concerning history and heritage, identify assets and needs, determine the opinions of County residents and stakeholders, and, based on the results, recommend strategies for consideration. This report completes that process.

> … at least 90 per cent of respondents said that history and heritage are important and should be remembered and that we should protect and retain our intangible cultural heritage …

In the minds of the many stakeholders, County residents, County staff members and Council members who shared their views in these consultations, growth and development threaten to undermine the County's connections to its past and disrupt a natural continuity toward its future, especially in rural areas.

In answering the first two questions in a questionnaire on the subject, at least 90 per cent of respondents said that history is important and should be remembered and that we should protect and retain our intangible cultural heritage. Many want to balance opportunities in the economic dimension of County life with opportunities in the social, cultural, natural and environmental, and community-development dimensions. They agree that the County and its residents should, as they are doing, tap into the economic benefits that come from growth. They also believe the County can and should tap into the community-building power of history and intangible cultural heritage—for the benefit of the social and natural environment, the economy and the overall community.

Consultation participants—County residents, stakeholders, staff and leaders—believe the County needs to devote decisive leadership and judicious funding to initiatives that draw on the County's history and heritage in order to preserve and retain them as valued assets and to provide opportunities for residents to learn and appreciate them. They believe this will help to instil residents and communities with identity; pride; and a sense of place, purpose and direction.

… the County's rural communities still have some surviving examples of heritage; strong feelings of identity, place and community; and a strong desire to save and protect those resources.

Respondents said they want the County to encourage residents and organizations to work in partnerships and as individuals on initiatives to research, identify, collect, preserve and celebrate the County's history and intangible cultural heritage. Many of them want this important work to be done creatively, innovatively, assertively and proudly by taking history and intangible cultural heritage into the community in ways that touch the everyday lives of residents.

This approach would not eliminate the need for a museum (or museums) to collect, conserve, store and formally present artifacts. Rather, it would boost the effectiveness of museums by having them serve as resources for innovative, interactive programming that takes place beyond the walls of the museum right in the community—programming that could be provided by museums themselves as well as other organizations and individuals.

Neither would this approach duplicate the services of a museum. Rather, offering learning opportunities outside of the museum would:

- integrate history and heritage into residents' everyday experiences

- increase awareness of the museum and its programs and services

- serve as a bridge to draw more people to museums, websites and books for deeper investigation and learning

Some participants in the consultations expressed a concern that, especially in the urban areas, there are only a few physical reminders of our community's past. Buildings, often called tangible heritage, and other physical reminders are valuable in themselves, and the County's Heritage Resources Management Plan recognizes their importance. Tangible heritage serves as an important visual reminder of the past as well as a focus, anchor and setting to bring intangible cultural heritage to life. The two forms of heritage are, in fact, complementary and interdependent, as several consultation participants pointed out. Both must be respected, protected and safeguarded. Council members and senior administrators look forward to developing an umbrella heritage policy that will serve both the tangible and the intangible, within the context of the natural.

It is true that, aside from the historic sites situated along Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile, the County's urban areas do not have as much for tangible

heritage as such neighbouring places as St. Albert or Fort Saskatchewan. The County's rural areas have a few more examples, some of which reach back to the earliest days of settlement. It is in this rural assortment of tangible heritage and associated natural heritage and intangible cultural heritage that many participants see the greatest opportunity—and the greatest urgency, for some of it is threatened by development or neglect. This is the opportunity for the County and its residents to rediscover, recover and rejuvenate their roots.

Strathcona County was the second municipality in Alberta to receive status as a specialized municipality; the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo was the first. As specialized municipalities, urban and rural communities coexist under a single municipal government. In Strathcona County, the rural area has a rich agricultural heritage which, combined with significant industrial heritage, uncommon and special natural features, and close proximity to Alberta's capital, the City of Edmonton, make it one of a kind.

This unique mix offers governance and management challenges to County Council, administrators and staff, and they have understandably devoted time and energy to meeting these challenges. This unique mix also offers significant opportunities. The urban communities and the country residential communities have lost much of their connection with local history and heritage. It is in these communities that many residents perceive a lack of identity, connectedness, and sense of place and community—a common theme in the consultations.

Fortunately, the rural communities still have surviving examples of heritage. Families of original settlers and other longtime rural residents still retain strong feelings of identity, place and community; and a strong desire to save and protect these remaining heritage resources.

> County residents, staff and leaders believe the County needs to devote decisive leadership and judicious funding to initiatives that draw on the County's history and heritage …

Strathcona County's rural history exists in the everyday lives of rural residents: on the roads they travel; at local shops they frequent; in their churches, schools and community halls. Some residents belong to multi-generational families whose roots go back to the beginnings of European settlement and governance in the County—and even beyond that to the days of the First Nations people, the fur trade and Métis settlement. Other residents live in dwellings, on farms or in rural hamlets with long and interesting histories. These individuals and families in rural areas are closer to the County's history, its natural heritage, its tangible heritage and its intangible cultural heritage. They feel—fear, in many cases—that their history and heritage are slipping away, never to be recovered.

It is clear from the consultations that residents of urban areas share the same interests in history and heritage as residents of rural areas. What urbanites lack are familiarity and everyday exposure to it, and the intimate knowledge and sense of respect and connection that can come with that proximity.

Opportunity at hand

There is now a ready opportunity for Strathcona County to meet community needs for both rural and urban residents through planned and implemented efforts to preserve and convey its history and the best of its heritage. The goal is to have all residents from the most diverse of communities develop a shared sense of community identity, purpose and cohesiveness. They could then confidently look to the future together—from a perspective that embraces knowledge of the past, awareness and appreciation of their common heritage, and respect for the achievements and contributions of the builders of the past and present.

This report envisions Community Heritage Legacy as a proactive advocate of history and heritage …

The diversity that has been a part of the County's character since the earliest known days—from the time of First Nations inhabitants to Métis and European settlement to the more recent arrival of newcomers from, for example, Asia, Africa, Central and South America and other parts of the world—enriches the character and quality of life in our communities. It also challenges all of us to integrate the old and the new in creative ways that build identities and communities that, taken as a whole, are greater and more dynamic than the sum of their parts.

Next steps

The opportunity at hand is to establish Community Heritage Legacy as a capability within the organization to carry out the responsibilities outlined in the Community Heritage Legacy Framework. The logical next step is to adopt strategies to encourage longtime residents to share their history and heritage with other residents and including recent newcomers, so County residents overall can adopt and share in their heritage.

An important point, made by some consultation participants, is that initiatives to increase awareness of history and heritage need not cost a lot of money. Modest funding will do the job, provided it is backed by bold and visionary leadership from County Council and administration, and from dedicated community members—and carried out through innovative, collaborative participatory programs that reach out to residents across the County.

This report envisions the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative as a proactive advocate of history and heritage in Strathcona County. Recognizing and building on a foundation of work done and being done across our municipality, the initiative aims to showcase and connect individual efforts in a way that compounds their effect and gives them all greater visibility. It looks to raise the profile of history and heritage, support those who champion the cause, and help build stronger relationships among them. The program has been developed to work collaboratively on goals that it shares with County departments and community partners, and to engage the larger community in participating.

This executive summary draws on raw and summarized data from consultations with residents, stakeholders and staff, and from higher-level summaries and analyses of that data.

Recommended strategies

These 10 strategies for Strathcona County are recommended to proactively demonstrate the importance of history and heritage, and to achieve the vision, mission and goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

1. Establish Community Heritage Legacy as a capability within the organization, with Communications as the lead department, to actively advocate for local history and heritage; facilitate and/or co-ordinate County and community initiatives; and serve as a communications hub — as outlined in the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

2. Integrate history and heritage perspectives into existing and future County policies, plans, initiatives, programs and events. Request that departments review the Community Heritage Legacy Framework and develop and adopt strategies to assist in meeting its goals.

3. Establish a heritage policy that takes an integrated approach to managing tangible, natural and intangible cultural heritage.

4. Develop a three-year action plan for Community Heritage Legacy that engages County departments and the community.

5. Develop an inventory of Strathcona County's intangible cultural heritage, its carriers and disseminators. Continue the research and collection of records and accounts of Strathcona's history and heritage.

6. Develop tools to advance the goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

7. Bolster efforts and build capacity among individuals and groups in the community with initiatives related to local history and heritage, including the Strathcona County Museum & Archives.

8. Develop a network of interested community members (County residents, schools and churches, hamlets, districts and neighbourhoods, not-for-profit organizations and agencies, agricultural societies, community leagues, and businesses, industry and the media) to participate and advance the goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

9. Provide engagement, learning and training opportunities to increase County staff and residents' awareness of local history and heritage and involvement in the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

10. Explore opportunities for additional resources, funding and support: research partners, grant funding, and community volunteers and other partnerships.

Introduction

Introducing Community Heritage Legacy

Strathcona County's Community Heritage Legacy Initiative is a community-focused program dedicated to capturing and conveying the County's history and heritage for today and the future. To this end, Community Heritage Legacy aims to connect residents to the community by fostering a sense of identity, belonging and place.

Community Heritage Legacy is interested in Strathcona County's human history, its natural heritage and its intangible cultural heritage. The focus is on the County's social, cultural, economic and political history, as well as its natural heritage back to the earliest known time. As well, it is important to capture significant aspects of the more recent past and present, as they too will one day form history.

This document, the Community Heritage Legacy Framework, addresses local history and intangible cultural heritage within the context of natural heritage. Another document, the Heritage Resources Management Plan, focuses on tangible heritage—built heritage and historic places. These two documents complement each other and together they can be used to develop an overall heritage policy.

Council approved Community Heritage Legacy as an ongoing program in December 2005 after the initial proposal was assessed by Council and County administration that year. The initiative's first two years were devoted to preliminary research. Formal strategic planning began in the third year.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative is:

- to preserve accounts of Strathcona County's history

- to protect intangible cultural heritage in the form of traditions, practices, knowledge and skills, as well as the meanings and values that people attach to historic places

- to increase public awareness of Strathcona's history, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage by various means

- to make history and heritage accessible to residents

The Community Heritage Legacy Framework reinforces this purpose by providing a foundation, structure and a direction for decision-making and program delivery for the next three years and beyond.

Identifying the overall need

In recent years Strathcona County has experienced substantial growth in its population. There are 22,000 more residents living in the County today than just 10 years ago and 30,000 more than in 1992. In fact Strathcona's population has more than doubled to 87,998 (May 2009) since 1976, and it is still growing. Of this current total, 61,660 residents live in urban Sherwood Park, double what it was in 1987, and 26,338 live on farms and in rural hamlets and country residential subdivisions. As newcomers, whether they move to the rural area or to Sherwood Park, the latest residents are likely to have limited, if any, awareness of the County's history and heritage.

> It is a thesis of Community Heritage Legacy that if residents were to have a greater awareness of the history of the area, then they would have a greater appreciation for the welfare and continuity of their community (the County) overall, and its cultural and natural heritage. And with a greater appreciation, they would want to contribute to maintaining this continuity for the future.

The need is now. Strathcona County has been experiencing rapid growth and change. Community Heritage Legacy responds to a clear need to preserve community history and heritage, make them accessible to the public today, and secure their continuity into the future.

In 2006, 14 community stakeholders, indicating their endorsement of Community Heritage Legacy, wrote letters agreeing with the need and showing positive support for the initiative. Some expressed interest in participating in the effort. In 2008, results of community consultations indicate a broad base of interest in history and heritage, and associated activities and achievements.

That said, consultation participants also identified concern over:

- lost opportunity in capturing knowledge, stories and memories
- the need to save historic documents and photos as archival records and permanent resources for the community
- the need for historic research and interpretation of existing records
- the threat to our natural heritage due to growth and lack of awareness
- the community's diminishing connection with the past in terms of its rural character, its human history and its natural heritage
- a loss of a sense of community identity that reflects shared respect for its past and aspirations for its future
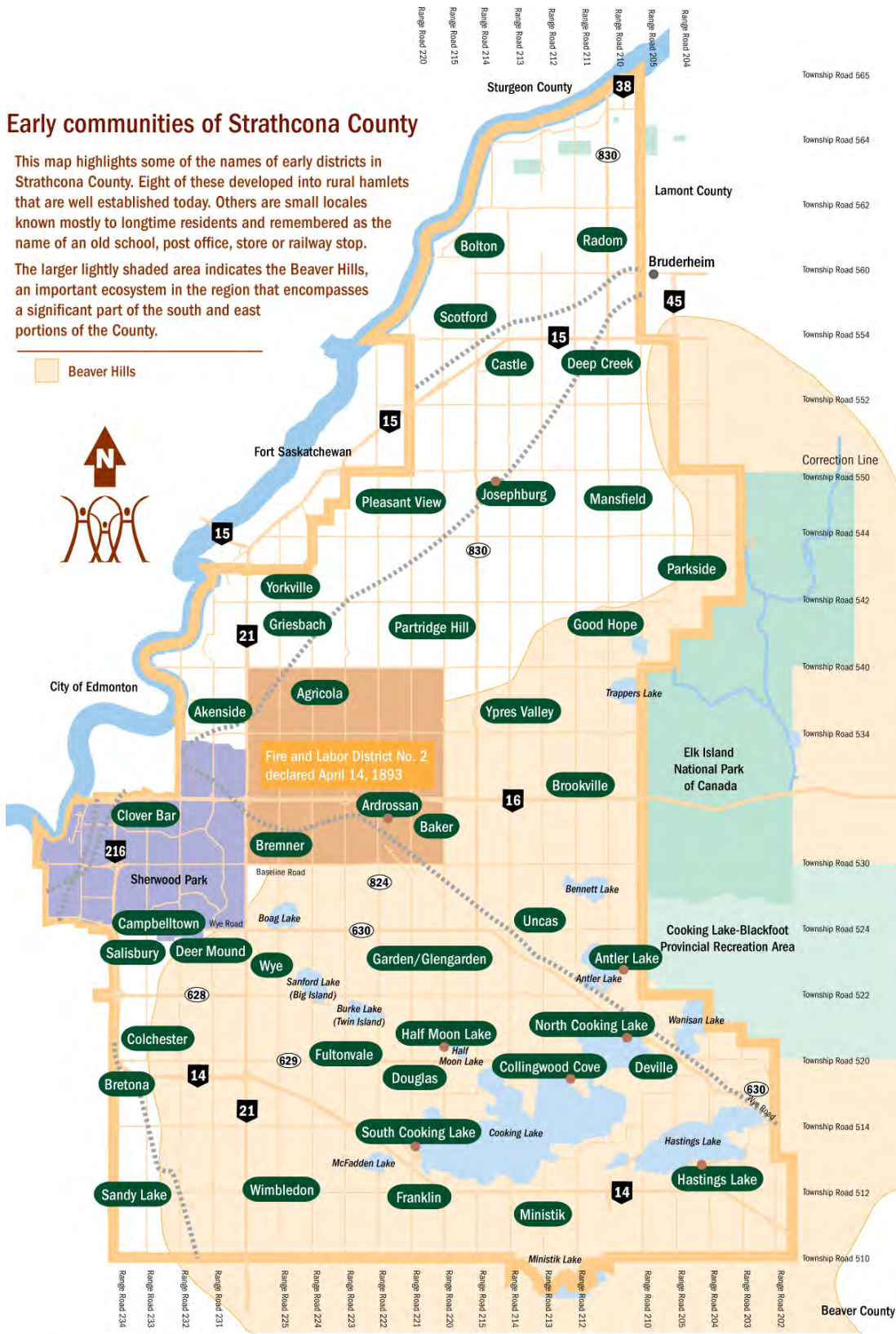
These concerns call for a concerted effort to capture and convey local history and heritage in Strathcona County.

Early communities of Strathcona County

This map highlights some of the names of early districts in Strathcona County. Eight of these developed into rural hamlets that are well established today. Others are small locales known mostly to longtime residents and remembered as the name of an old school, post office, store or railway stop.

The larger lightly shaded area indicates the Beaver Hills, an important ecosystem in the region that encompasses a significant part of the south and east portions of the County.

Beaver Hills

N

Sturgeon County

Range Road 220
Range Road 215
Range Road 214
Range Road 213
Range Road 212
Range Road 211
Range Road 210
Range Road 205
Range Road 204

Township Road 565
Township Road 564
Township Road 562
Township Road 560
Township Road 554
Township Road 552

38
830

Lamont County

Bruderheim

Bolton
Radom

Scotford

45

Castle
Deep Creek

15

15

Township Road 550
Correction Line

Fort Saskatchewan

Pleasant View
Josephburg
Mansfield

Township Road 544

830

Township Road 542

Parkside

15

Yorkville

Griesbach
21
Partridge Hill
Good Hope

Township Road 540

City of Edmonton

Agricola

Akenside

Trappers Lake

Township Road 534

Ypres Valley

Fire and Labor District No. 2 declared April 14, 1893

Elk Island National Park of Canada

Brookville

Clover Bar

Ardrossan
16

Baker

216

Bremner

Sherwood Park

Baseline Road

824

Bennett Lake

Township Road 530

Campbelltown
Wye Road
Boag Lake

Uncas

Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area
Township Road 524

Salisbury
Deer Mound

630

Garden/Glengarden
Antler Lake

Wye
Sanford Lake (Big Island)

Antler Lake

Wanisan Lake
Township Road 522

628

Burke Lake (Twin Island)

Colchester

629
Fultonvale
Half Moon Lake
North Cooking Lake

Township Road 520

14

Half Moon Lake

Collingwood Cove
Deville

Bretona

Douglas

630
Wye Road

21

South Cooking Lake
Cooking Lake

Hastings Lake
Township Road 514

McFadden Lake

Sandy Lake

Wimbledon
Franklin

14

Hastings Lake
Township Road 512

Ministik

Township Road 510

Ministik Lake

Range Road 234
Range Road 233
Range Road 232
Range Road 231
Range Road 225
Range Road 224
Range Road 223
Range Road 222
Range Road 221
Range Road 220
Range Road 215
Range Road 214
Range Road 213
Range Road 212
Range Road 210
Range Road 205
Range Road 204
Range Road 203
Range Road 202

Beaver County

Leduc County

Check www.strathcona.ab.ca/history for more information on Strathcona County's past.

COMMUNITY
Heritage
LEGACY

Strathcona
County

Strathcona County's history and natural heritage

Retreating glaciers 12,000 years ago created the hummocky "knob and kettle" terrain that makes up the Beaver Hills, one of many ecosystems within Strathcona County. This natural environment is significant to the human history that has unfolded here to date; our natural heritage and cultural heritage are very much intertwined, even inseparable, in terms of describing our unique history.

The wetlands, lakes and dry mixed-wood boreal forest of the Beaver Hills Cooking Lake Moraine provided a perfect habitat for the diverse vegetation, animals, birds and fish on which the nomadic First Nations people subsisted for centuries.

Along with other archeological indications of aboriginal life in the area dating back hundreds of years, if not thousands, there is evidence that the Beaver Indians (Sarcee) arrived more than 300 years ago from north of the Peace River. The Eastern Woodland Cree soon followed, looking for rich food supplies and fine furs to trade with European merchants and the Hudson's Bay Company. Finding the area to have an abundance of wildlife, the Hudson's Bay Company in 1795 established a trading post at Fort Edmonton, near the edge of the Beaver Hills. It would become the largest in Western Canada.

After the Hudson's Bay sold its land to the Dominion of Canada, the North West Mounted Police were established at Fort Edmonton in 1874 and at Fort Saskatchewan in 1875. And word spread quickly that the soil was rich and fertile. With law and order in place, and the promise of a railway, settlers began to arrive to lay claim to land. Individuals and families of numerous ethnic and cultural backgrounds came here largely from across the North American continent and Europe.

This is the setting for the rural way of life that came to be in Strathcona County. Out of a pioneer tradition of working hard and working together emerged many strong, close-knit communities. It was the First Nations people and the Métis and European settlers in these early communities who laid the foundation for the dynamic municipality that Strathcona County has become.

And it's within this setting that Sherwood Park was first developed in the 1950s to serve workers at the refineries and other industrial developments on the County's western edge. Near the same time, the County began to develop country residential subdivisions.

Despite all of the change and even with the development of the large urban centre of Sherwood Park, Strathcona County has remained the municipality of its origin. Though its boundaries have been altered due to numerous annexations, no area within the County has ever incorporated to form a village, town or city.

Strathcona County began as territory of aboriginal people, then became one of the dozens of small agricultural regions that sprang up across Alberta as Western Canada was settled in the early 20th century. It has evolved into a municipality like no other in the Province of Alberta—a progressive 21st century community that still cherishes its roots.

Community history is depicted in stories and memories, and in historic records and publications. Through the years some community history has been recorded and collected. However, a lot has not. There are considerable gaps in the records that exist and much more research is required.

Documents and photographs are collected at the Strathcona County Museum & Archives. These primary records—donated by individuals, families, groups and organizations—include personal diaries, letters, financial records and meeting minutes, as well as photographs.

Collecting historical records is ongoing work, as it is time sensitive. For information still within reach, still in the minds and hands of longtime residents, it is important that we actively gather it now. If not captured, it will be lost forever. As well, it is also important to capture more current information, stories and records. As time passes, our daily occurrences become tomorrow's history.

Strathcona County's intangible cultural heritage

The intangible cultural heritage of Strathcona County is rich with traditions, practices, knowledge and skills stemming from the lives of people from many different cultural and economic backgrounds. Intangible cultural heritage is traditionally passed down orally, and through teaching, practice and observation.

A few examples of intangible cultural heritage include memories and stories of the past as well customs, practices, knowledge and skills relating to:

- aboriginal practices
- hunting, fishing and trapping
- traditional building methods
- animal husbandry
- traditional farming and gardening methods
- native and heritage seed stocks
- knowledge of plants and herbs
- cuisine: cooking, baking, preserving food
- handcrafts: textiles and others
- craftsmanship using hand tools and machinery
- music, dance and theatre
- sports and athletic activities
- community activities and celebrations
- religious observances
- commemorative events

Carrying forward these traditional practices, customs, knowledge and skills is important to preserving the expertise and also keeping alive the memory of the first inhabitants and their ways of life. The activities and knowledge are also intrinsically interesting and useful in themselves. In addition to the inherent value

of these examples, they have all contributed to building a sense of community and co-operation among their practitioners.

Traditional knowledge and practices have survived to today simply because the generations before us thought they were important enough to teach to their children. Today, our generation has a similar duty to maintain this continuity for the future. If we don't take action, the invaluable memories, knowledge and skill will be lost to our community.

Throughout the consultations, participants and respondents identified hands-on experience as the way they would like to learn about their heritage— they wanted to actually see and experience these activities. The people in our community today who are the carriers and disseminators of intangible cultural heritage are the people who can share this traditional knowledge, information and skill with the rest of the community and the next generation. We can tap into these valuable resources held by such individuals as:

- farmers, ranchers and animal handlers
- gardeners and naturalists
- skilled workers: carpenters and other craftspeople
- aboriginal people
- hunters, trappers and fishers
- people who cook and preserve food
- artists, weavers and quilters
- actors, musicians and storytellers
- teachers, coaches and trainers
- community leaders and church representatives
- longtime County residents from all walks of life

Intangible cultural heritage also involves the meanings and values that people attach to historic places, such as farming communities, and natural and cultural landscapes. It is important that we capture stories and memories associated with these places and activities so that we can present a complete record of both our tangible and intangible heritage. A few examples of such places of historical significance in the County are:

- sites along Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile, including Smeltzer House
- Bremner House
- Cooking Lake
- Victoria Trail
- The Beaver Hills
- The North Saskatchewan River Valley

Benefits of community heritage

With a deeper knowledge of their history and heritage, residents will gain an appreciation of where they live — a sense of belonging and place — which will foster and enhance connectedness in the community and strengthen the community's sense of identity within its boundaries.

In Strathcona County, by upholding the value of the community's history, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage, municipal leadership can help ensure their preservation and retention, and make them available and accessible to residents today and in the future.

Examples of benefits

- Residents will have access to information about local history and heritage.

- As more information about the community's history is collected, we will have better resources from which to draw when communicating and interpreting our history and recognizing our milestones.

- As we incorporate history and heritage into initiatives, programs and events — offered by the County and the community — residents will have the opportunity to learn and participate in activities in their everyday experience in the community. As well, they can share in their history and heritage — in gathering and preserving it, in recognizing and celebrating it, and in practising and carrying it forward.

- As we integrate aspects of history and heritage into County operations, we become more familiar with it and garner a deeper appreciation for what has taken place before us. Our history is of tremendous value to County Council and administration for day-to-day functions and important decision making about the future of the community. Awareness and understanding of our past provide a vantage point for what is and also what could be. We can only appreciate the present as we understand how it came to be and how it can help shape our preferred future.

Outcomes of heritage

- Heritage unifies a community. Each community's heritage is unique. Knowing and celebrating a community's shared history fosters a collective understanding of its roots and a sense of community identity and pride.

- Residents benefit from a sense of community when they can recognize, experience and share their diverse cultures, history, and family- and community-level traditions and events. They can experience greater community connection and cohesiveness. Strong community social relations are based on strongly shared identities. Social cohesion, the result of citizens interacting and engaging, constitutes the glue that holds communities together.

- Heritage promotes a sense of continuity for residents. It provides a foundation of where we have come from and where we are going.

- Celebrating heritage reinforces the community's distinctiveness, identity and autonomy, and provides inspiration for future endeavours. Distinctive history and environments offer a sense of place—a sense of where we are.

- Heritage anchors a community, especially in times of rapid change.

- Preserving history and heritage and making them available to current and future generations are particularly important for the community as it undergoes significant change. By promoting increased community resiliency, heritage helps the community respond effectively to change and significant adversity, and helps residents take advantage of opportunities.

- Municipalities, as well as their overall communities, play an important role in creating the local community identity and cultivating in residents a capacity for creative problem solving and positive change.

The outcomes here were drawn from these sources:

—A Study of Resiliency in Communities, Health Canada

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/pubs/adp-apd/resiliency-enquete/index-eng.php

—Official Community Plan, City of Richmond, adopted March 15, 1999

http://www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/31_neighbourhood491.pdf

—Local Government Resource Handbook, Nova Scotia Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs, May 2001

http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/manuals/PDF/LGRH/LocalGovernmentResourceHandbook_5.5.pdf

—From Restless Communities to Resilient Places: Building a Stronger Future for All Canadians, Government of Canada

http://www.civicgovernance.ca/node/41

Adopting a framework

Community development perspective

The Community Heritage Legacy Framework connects County policies and plans on matters of history and heritage with a community development perspective, and is based on a partnership model.

Community Heritage Legacy is designed to facilitate:

- preserving accounts of the County's history

- safeguarding of its intangible cultural heritage

- integrating history and heritage into the community to make them available to all through:

    - communication and education

    - interpretation and commemoration

    - community programming

The aim is to connect residents to the community through a sense of belonging, identity and place by capturing and conveying Strathcona County's history and heritage.

Trends in heritage planning

Typically, heritage strategic plans have been used for tangible heritage—to manage historical buildings, sites, structures, landscapes and other physical places of heritage value. Broadening this framework to include intangible cultural heritage is a logical progression.

The Government of Canada in its Historic Places Initiative has been encouraging municipalities since the late 1990s to focus heritage programs on preserving places that are valued by communities for their historical associations or "stories," as well as their significant architectural styles.

The trend to develop plans, policies and programs around intangible cultural heritage is growing. Pioneering work in Newfoundland and Labrador by Dr. Gerald Pocius, Director of the Centre for Material Culture Studies at St. John's Memorial University, is setting the stage for intangible cultural heritage in Canada. It's through his enterprising lead and the contributions of many of his colleagues that intangible cultural heritage has found a significant grounding in provincial heritage plans for Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia. As well, municipalities such as Montreal, Riviére du Loup and Toronto have incorporated intangible cultural heritage within their heritage policies.

The Government of Alberta is also oriented in this direction in its new Cultural Policy (2008). In its stated goal "… to ensure Albertans have access to a wide range of cultural experiences and opportunities …" the province commits to provide support to communities, municipalities and individuals for the conservation of

historic places and for heritage education. Toward this same goal, the province also commits to increasing public awareness of Alberta's natural heritage and history through innovative education, and interpretive and outreach programming.

With input from these sources and others, including UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), and combined with links to County policies, plans and programs, Community Heritage Legacy proposes a made-in-Strathcona approach to address needs and conditions specific to the County.

Links with County policies and plans

The Community Heritage Legacy Framework was developed with a community development perspective within the context of Strathcona County's Strategic Plan and its Social Sustainability Framework. The strategic goals recommended for Community Heritage Legacy uphold the intent of these two documents and several other policies, plans and programs.

Strathcona County's Strategic Plan

The goals of Community Heritage Legacy underline and enhance the capstone policies in Strathcona's Strategic Plan. The outcomes sought through the initiative are linked to all five perspectives in the plan.

Strategic Plan perspective	Outcomes of Community Heritage Legacy
Governance	A better knowledge of history will support the County's autonomy by creating a stronger sense of place and identity among County residents. Grounding in Strathcona's history will enhance decision making and delivery of programs and services.
Community development - Social sustainability - Environmental sustainability - Economic sustainability	With a better knowledge of their history, Strathcona residents will recognize the roots of their community and the people who built it. A strong sense of place and belonging in and between rural and urban areas will support social cohesion and community connectedness.
Service delivery	In a leadership role that engages the community, Community Heritage Legacy will co-ordinate information and facilitate County and community involvement.
Resident and stakeholder communications	Using various media—much of it existing—Community Heritage Legacy will showcase and make the community's history more accessible to the public. It will also encourage deeper research, compile reliable information for communications and interpretive programming, and assist in planning for special events and milestones.
Resource management	To make the best use of human, physical and financial resources, Community Heritage Legacy aims to facilitate an integrated approach to heritage within the County, and also within the community.

The framework for Community Heritage Legacy aims to bring a community focus to history and heritage in order to foster community connectedness through advocating a sense of belonging, identity and place.

Community Heritage Legacy enhances the County's Social Sustainability Framework. A socially sustainable community is one where people identify with and are connected to their community. They identify with their community as a caring place; a good place to live, work and play; and one to which they want to contribute.

Contributing to the Social Sustainability Framework, more than 600 residents provided input to a unique community values survey. This survey, along with other consultation measures, revealed four guiding principles for social sustainability that form the foundation of this framework, and all of which speak to the sense of place that is so important for a strong and sustainable community:

- social inclusion

- community connectedness

- social responsibility

- health and well-being

There is a close relationship between intangible cultural heritage, natural heritage and tangible heritage. Intangible cultural heritage provides a context for natural heritage and built heritage and historic places. Tangible heritage helps give substance and brings a sense of place to intangible cultural heritage.

Though there are separate planning documents for intangible and tangible heritage, there are several important links between them. For example, action steps in the Heritage Resources Management Plan (2008) that would involve or be led under Community Heritage Legacy relate to:

- historic research, writing and interpretation

- heritage awareness and education

- heritage partnerships

as outlined specifically in the following actions from the plan:

Action 3 – Assess heritage resources for their heritage value.

Action 13 – Improve access to archival information

Action 14 – Continue to support intangible cultural heritage.

Action 15 – Develop communication strategies for cultural landscapes and archeological resources.

Action 16 – Work with community groups to promote heritage awareness through programming.

Together the Heritage Resources Management Plan and the Community Heritage Legacy Framework will inform the development of an integrated, umbrella heritage policy for the interplay between intangible cultural heritage, tangible and natural.

Cultural Services Policy

Community Heritage Legacy also relates closely to cultural services and the public good referred to in the County's Cultural Services Policy, SER-011-012, (under review in 2009) as shown in this excerpt:

Whereas cultural services are an essential component of the quality of life in Strathcona County

And whereas everyone benefits from the availability of cultural services in the County

And whereas the provision of cultural services is clearly within the jurisdiction of the public sector

And whereas the County does provide various types of leadership and support in the delivery of cultural services

The County will ensure that appropriate levels of cultural services are broadly available to County residents by acting in the following capacities:

- Provide leadership to ensure that a public good is realized when leadership is needed and when the County is best positioned to provide it

- Provide support in order to achieve a public good when support is needed and no other group or agency is able or willing to provide it

- Act as a partner when an additional partner is needed to ensure that a public good is realized

For the purposes of the Cultural Services Policy, cultural services include the visual arts, the performing arts, the literary arts and heritage resources. Public goods are defined as any benefits (often of an intrinsic value) from a service that accrue to all members of a community independent of their direct use of or subscription to the service.

There is potential for Community Heritage Legacy to connect with, benefit from and enhance other County policies, plans and programs by providing research and interpretation, communication, education, and interpretive and commemorative activities. Here are some examples.

Policy, plan or program	Aspects relating to Community Heritage Legacy
Bremner House - Demand Analysis - Management Plan - Feasibility Study - Site Plan Analysis	These documents reflect the County's commitment to stewardship of Bremner House, a promising venue to showcase many aspects of the County's history and heritage. Plans for a multi-purpose facility include future interpretive programming. Historic research of the house, its habitants and their significance to the community will provide a foundation for future programming.
Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities Strategy (2008)	Provides broad direction to how parks, natural areas, trails, and leisure and recreation facilities will develop over the next 15 years. The strategy includes planning for Bremner House, community halls and the Museum, as well as interpretive signage.
Legacy Lands Policy	Conservation of natural heritage in balance with the County's land use planning.
Beaver Hills Initiative	Conservation and stewardship of natural heritage in the area of the Beaver Hills in balance with regional land use planning.
Environmental Sustainability Framework (2009)	Identifies the need to give greater consideration for matters that involve the natural environment. We can increase public awareness for the environment in part by acknowledging history and heritage.
Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods (SUN)	Aims at fostering complete communities. The 12th theme, culture, involves highlighting the sense of place that stems from connecting to history and heritage.
Building Strong Communities	Aims to engage community members in specific community-building initiatives to address their community needs and increase their ties with their neighbours.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	GIS is a fitting tool to capture, store, manage, display, access and report historical information as it relates to location. There is also potential to use GIS applications to enable users to do interactive searches and analyze spatial information.

Partnership model

Community Heritage Legacy presents a program that invites partnerships where there is opportunity to combine efforts toward achieving shared goals.

Accomplishments and assets

The role of Community Heritage Legacy is, in part, to facilitate, connect and collectively showcase accomplishments of many individuals and organizations who are working separately around the County. As a communications hub, Community Heritage Legacy can also serve as a resource to help members of the community achieve more than they could on their own.

County initiatives for history and heritage

Accomplishments of Community Heritage Legacy

In its first years, Community Heritage Legacy has contributed to public awareness by promoting local history and heritage. The following examples of Community Heritage Legacy activities and accomplishments in part demonstrate its focus on finding ways to increase awareness of existing assets to thereby build a greater sense of history and heritage within the community.

- conducted a survey of historical records
- started a bibliography of publications relating to the County's history
- invited residents to share their historic records
- added to information in a history section on the County's website
- researched and wrote articles on local history for County and community publications
- developed a map showing the names and locations of early districts
- held a public workshop on keeping family records
- partnered with the Strathcona County Museum & Archives to promote local history at community events
- partnered with Strathcona County Library in its popular lectures on history
- assisted with the Friends of the Strathcona County Library heritage bus tours
- developed a display for the 30th anniversary of County Hall
- responded to inquiries from the public and County staff
- encouraged an individual initiative to create a documentary of the Josephburg Chicken Supper
- conducted a number of interviews with longtime County residents
- arranged for the United Farmers Historic Society History in Motion exhibit at the Josephburg Chicken Supper (2008)

Examples of contributions by other County departments

Department	Examples of past and current initiatives in the interest of heritage
Recreation, Parks and Culture	Provide operational support for Strathcona County Heritage Foundation (Strathcona County Museum & Archives)
	Showcase history at festivals in Museum partnership
	Showcase local and provincial history and culture by coordinating aboriginal, ethnic and second language celebrations at festivals
	Developed and administer Permanent Art Collection program
	Incorporated heritage in 2002 and 2009 Cultural Services Policies
	Partnered with Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile Society in various initiatives
	Smeltzer House: Operate the site, offer arts and culture programming, showcase historically significant and accurate planting with a garden club
	Promote and showcase history in our Communities in Bloom participation
	Researched and published articles in the *Strathcona County This Week* newspaper for the 50th anniversary of Sherwood Park (2006-2007)
	Provide grants encouraging the community to develop programs and events relating to arts, culture and heritage
Planning and Development Services	Lead for the management of heritage resources planning
	Naming of streets and developments
	Links between land use and conservation are central to the Municipal Development Plan
Family and Community Services	Use of local history as an anchor and tool for community-building initiatives
	Offers grant writing workshops for community groups and agencies
Engineering and Environmental Planning	Lead for the heritage conservation of Bremner House and preliminary requirements for developing the site for interpretive programming
	Lead for Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities Strategy
	Links between land use and conservation central to the Legacy Lands Policy
Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs	Links between land use and conservation central to Beaver Hills Initiative
	Led the development of the Heritage Resources Management Plan
	Lead for the Environmental Sustainability Framework
Economic Development and Tourism	Partnered in themed tours and events: Buffalo Spirit Aboriginal Experience, Discover Historical Treasures, Eastern Eco! East Tour, Harvest Festival of Foods, Country Cuisine Tomato Fair, and the Canadian Pacific Christmas Train, as examples; as well as a number with rural and agriculture themes
Information Technology Services	Initial spatial data identifies a number of historic places in the GIS mapping system, a starting point for additional data to be added
County Council	Since 1986, recognized several individuals for contributions to preserving history with a Pride of Strathcona Award (previously Awards of Excellence)

In addition to these examples of accomplishments and achievements (not an exhaustive list), County departments and the County overall can play a role in a wider community effort to capture and convey Strathcona's history and heritage. Community Heritage Legacy can be an added resource in these efforts.

Community assets

Consultation participants identified several community assets that involve history and intangible cultural heritage. Many are significant, effective and known somewhat in the broader community. Others, equally significant, are isolated and not widely known. All would benefit by an integrated and co-ordinated awareness strategy. Community Heritage Legacy is envisioned to provide this role.

Strathcona County Museum & Archives

The Strathcona County Museum & Archives does an important and notable job of showcasing the history of the County within its facility. It is sometimes said that the Museum is a treasure trove of history and the best kept secret in the County.

Highlights

- open for just 12 years—it is the only museum for community history in Strathcona County

- designed with themed rooms with period artifacts to demonstrate the lives of our ancestors

- operates a volunteer-dependent, hands-on museum that serves school children, County residents and visitors

- boasts in excess of 20,000 artifacts and over 1,000 books

- volunteers gave 5,900 hours of their personal time to catalogue artifacts, work in the archives and provide tours for about 1,700 children (2009)

- one of 11 Alberta museums with standing as an Institutional Member of the Archives Society of Alberta:
  - follows procedures consistent with generally recognized archival practices
  - developed a public access policy, a conservation policy, a preservation manual and an emergency preparedness plan

- completed accessioning 100 archival collections and 150 oral histories, which are now available for public access

- published a self-directed guidebook for visiting historic sites around the County

- republished a book on Strathcona County's history

- created new public programming and a County history activity booklet for students in Grades 1 to 3, meeting Alberta Education curriculum

- produced first of 16 film vignettes highlighting local history and heritage

- designing an education centre to promote the County's natural history

- designed custom databases to integrate archival and artifact collections for public research

Other examples of community accomplishments

Identified by stakeholders in the consultations, the following are a few other examples (not an exhaustive list) of known assets for history and heritage in the community. In addition to their accomplishments, these groups and others can play a role in a wider effort to capture and convey Strathcona County's history. In return, as a communications hub, Community Heritage Legacy can draw attention to their good work to give the whole community a "big picture" perspective of history and heritage in the County.

Associated group or organization	Examples of displays, exhibits, programs, events to date
Strathcona County Library	Offers adult programs, reference services (online, onsite and inter-library loans), access to historical publications and newspapers
Schools	Within a format of inquiry-based learning, Elk Island Public and Catholic Schools incorporate local and Canadian history in social studies curriculum for Grades 1, 2, 4 and 5.
Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile Society	Features a number of plaques at sites along a mile of Broadmoor Boulevard, recognizing pioneers and historically significant places
Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce	Publishes information of Strathcona County's history in its visitor guide Displays wall of Ball family photos, one of Strathcona's founding families
Information and Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County	Co-ordinates community needs and volunteer services for the County Keeps an archives
Art Society of Strathcona County	Keeps an archives
Friends of Blackfoot Society	Offers programs and services at the Cooking Lake – Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area to protect areas of natural and cultural significance for recreational and educational purposes
Friends of the Strathcona County Library	Offers heritage bus tours of Strathcona County
Sherwood Park Strathcona County News	Provides coverage of heritage themes and events in the local newspaper
Strathcona Industrial Association	Some members have prepared a corporate history of their development
Culture and Heritage Association of Strathcona County	Began in 2001 to advocate for long-term cultural and heritage space requirements
The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling (T.A.L.E.S.)	An active local chapter, T.A.L.E.S. is a non-profit organization promoting the tradition of storytelling Prepared and performed stories based on local oral histories
Deville North Cooking Lake Historical Society	Gathered oral and written histories to write a book on the district history; still active
Green Hectares	Evolving as a hub of knowledge on modern and traditional farming methods and pioneers, collects oral histories

Partnership potential

The wide array of stakeholders with a pre-existing interest in history and heritage, evident from their activities and achievements, reflects the strengths in the community. To build on these strengths, the Community Heritage Legacy Framework presents a plan that invites partnerships where there is opportunity to combine efforts toward achieving shared goals. Two key partners are the Strathcona County Museum & Archives and Strathcona County Library.

Key partnerships with Museum and Library aim to be effective and mutually beneficial

As the Community Heritage Legacy program took shape in its formative years, the initiative aligned itself with goals shared with the Strathcona County Museum & Archives. We established a working partnership with the Museum that connects our common interests and complementary goals.

In the past four years, Community Heritage Legacy has supported the Strathcona County Museum & Archives in specific ways.

For example, in 2006 Community Heritage Legacy hired a professional archivist for a number of weeks. For one of these weeks, the archivist provided Museum staff and volunteers with hands-on consulting services, building on the Museum's previous professional archives training and accreditation.

We also joined the Museum in efforts to promote local history and heritage at community events such as the Ardrossan Old Fashioned Parade and Picnic, and the Strathcona County Trade Fair. In 2008 Strathcona County applied to host the United Farmers Historic Society *History in Motion* exhibit at the Josephburg Chicken Supper. When our application was accepted, Museum staff in turn volunteered to provide assistance.

Of the greatest significance, the Museum provided Community Heritage Legacy with office space and support for 14 months; this allowed the Program Coordinator the means to commit to developing this framework fulltime. Working in the same office enabled us to consult with each other on many occasions. And as specific needs arose, Community Heritage Legacy was able to give back to the Museum by purchasing a quantity of supplies for the Museum's professional archives; having maps designed for the Museum's driving tour guidebook; and providing communications, media and promotion assistance as needed.

We also recognized Strathcona County Library as another valued community partner in terms of its community focus, shared goals relating to adult learning and programs, digitizing of records, reference services, access to historical publications and newspapers, and also for its model of service delivery. When invited to partner on the Library's hosting of lectures on legendary bush pilot Wop May, we contributed to promotions and co-hosted the successful evening events.

Community Heritage Legacy values the relationships we have established with the Strathcona County Museum & Archives and Strathcona County Library and

looks forward to continuing to work in concert with them on common interests and shared goals.

Other potential partnerships expand the effort

With these two partners as models, there is potential for Community Heritage Legacy to collaborate with others as well, in order to facilitate, connect and showcase individual initiatives, activities and efforts. Other potential partners noted include:

- Individual residents, families
- Heritage groups
- Schools and school boards
- Churches
- Post-secondary institutions
- Historians and heritage professionals
- Not-for-profit organizations, agencies
- Community, seniors and youth groups
- Community leagues
- Agricultural societies
- Naturalists, conservationists and environmental groups
- Arts and culture groups
- Sports groups
- Business, industry and tourism
- Local media
- Neighbouring municipalities
- Other levels of government

The initiative also invites mutual co-operation and encourages collaboration between many County departments including:

- Planning and Development Services
- Recreation, Parks and Culture
- Family and Community Services
- Engineering and Environmental Planning
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Legislative and Legal Services
- Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Information Technology Services
- Communications
- Transportation and Agriculture Services
- Facility Services

Consultation findings

Consultations

Consultations for the Community Heritage Legacy Framework took place between May and September 2008 and involved a number of steps and methods for gaining input and information. See Appendices for summaries.

Stakeholders

Two dozen stakeholders drawn from community groups and key County departments were interviewed one-on-one for their views of history and heritage and role of County leadership. About half of them also contributed to the development of guiding principles, a vision, mission and a mandate in a series of three workshops.

The 24 individuals also contributed to possible methods, which will be considered in the action stages.

Strathcona County Council

Council members were engaged in the consultation process through one-on-one interviews. All nine participants supported the draft strategic goals in their entirety.

The general public and County staff

The general public was invited to complete a questionnaire on community values about history and intangible cultural heritage and draft strategic goals.

In a separate survey, County staff members were invited to complete the same questionnaire.

An open house was held in July 2008 to receive public input, and the information panels used were also put on display in the lobby of the Strathcona County Library for an additional five weeks to increase awareness of the program and invite additional feedback.

In the questionnaire responses and the comments received on the information panels, the vast majority of respondents voiced a high level of support for the need to preserve and retain local history, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage, and endorsed all five of the draft strategic goals.

Consultations conducted by Helen Cain Planning + Policy

Analysis of findings prepared by Allan Sheppard

Overview of findings

This report is based on stakeholder and public consultations involving 132 individuals, a number who represented groups and organizations in the community. Participants gave their views on history and intangible cultural heritage in Strathcona County, and possible initiatives that would enhance their awareness.

- ▪ Fifty County residents and 49 County staff members answered online or paper versions of a questionnaire about history and intangible cultural heritage.

- ▪ Twenty-four stakeholders from County staff and community organizations took part in scripted one-on-one interviews. Half also attended workshops to discuss a vision, a mission, mandate and guiding principles.

- ▪ All nine members of County Council took part in scripted one-on-one interviews.

Such a small sample is not statistically representative of the full population of the County. Nevertheless, the information gained from the consultations provides valuable insight into current attitudes, opinions and hopes of County residents, staff and leaders.

The main focus of this report is on intangible cultural heritage, which includes all activities people commonly think of as history and heritage except buildings. (See definitions.) Built environments and certain physical locations, comprise tangible heritage. Conservation of historic buildings and places is being managed separately, under the Heritage Resources Management Plan. However, the two kinds of heritage are interdependent. Both guiding documents will relate to each other and will be combined in an umbrella heritage policy.

General observations

Consultation respondents and interviewees are virtually unanimous (as high as 98%) in agreeing that history and intangible cultural heritage are valuable and should be saved. There is occasional neutrality and isolated disagreement as to whether the County and the community should do more to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and lead or fund heritage initiatives. While they are not insignificant, such views are clearly in the minority compared to persuasive majorities that support strong leadership, timely action and modest funding.

Consultation respondents and interviewees agree strongly on the inherent value of intangible cultural heritage. They believe that knowledge of local history and retention of a community's heritage are public goods for a variety of reasons:

- they show respect for the community's pioneers and builders
- they help us understand where we are and how we got here

- they help demonstrate continuity from past, to present, to future
- they help us make better decisions about where we want to be now and where we want to go in the future

While these observations point to the actual and potential value of intangible cultural heritage, they are not by themselves foundations for policy or action. Fortunately, the consultations point to other, more instrumental, benefits of intangible heritage.

Social dimension

Many respondents and interviewees point to a need for a stronger sense of community and shared expectations for the future among the residents of Strathcona County. The technical term is social cohesion, and its sense was captured in many ways in the consultations:

- history and heritage are the glue for community
- history and heritage bring a sense of connectedness and of place
- history and heritage provide us with an understanding of where we came from and what values are important to the community
- knowledge of history and heritage gives residents a better understanding of their community

The concept of social cohesion is commonly used in a context of social, primarily ethnic, diversity. Though that perspective is certainly applicable to the County, the concept has greater relevance to the diversity between its rural, country residential and urban communities. Some residents see that diversity as an impediment; others see it as one of the opportunities inherent in the County's unique status as a specialized municipality. If there are significant differences between the rural, country residential and urban perspectives, creative approaches to preserving and sharing the County's history and intangible cultural heritage offer ways to pursue those opportunities, and build bridges and social cohesion among individuals and communities in the County.

Many respondents and interviewees say the community needs such social benefits, and they suggest the County has a role to play in providing or facilitating them. They and others who agree with them should remember that building support for such activities is interactive: County officials need as much active support from advocates and proponents of the social benefits of history and intangible cultural heritage activities as advocates and proponents need from County officials.

Community development dimension

Though the concept of community development is closely related to social cohesion, the focus is more on voluntary community organizations—often called "civil society"—than on government. Governments can and often do initiate (prime

the pump for) community development activities and programs, and the goal is normally to have community organizations take over leadership, control and revenue-raising responsibilities.

One of the key strategies in community development is to foster a sense of identity and pride in one's community. Again many respondents and interviewees point directly or indirectly to a need for such connections in the County and among its residents and communities. In responses to the questionnaire, 98% of County resident respondents and 84% of County staff respondents agree that history and intangible cultural heritage are important to the identity of Strathcona County. Many interviewees identify an ability to foster a sense of identity, place and uniqueness, and to engender respect for and pride in the community as positive benefits of activities and programs in history and intangible cultural heritage.

Again, the process is interactive: County officials need as much active support from advocates and proponents of the community benefits of history and intangible cultural heritage activities as advocates and proponents need from County officials.

Economic dimension

Some respondents and interviewees—inspired by precedents in other jurisdictions—point to potential economic benefits of well-designed and well-managed cultural heritage programs. Some respondents and interviewees suggest that communities that have strong identities and social cohesion are better able to attract industrial and residential development, and the commercial and retail activity that normally follow such developments.

Many respondents and interviewees realize that growth can bring with it pressures that can undermine social cohesion in the County. They argue that the greater the rate of and pressure for and from growth, the greater the need for the County and its leaders to seek a balance between economic and social benefits. There is a sense that economic development has many powerful proponents and advocates whose ambitions need to be balanced by a stronger emphasis and greater focus on the social needs to sustain the community.

Businesses exist to make a profit for themselves and their shareholders. They do, however, see the benefits of social cohesion and community development as they align with their corporate goals and vision. Community and County leaders, heritage advocates and champions must respond to the challenge and take advantage of the opportunities that the business community offers as a potential partner in social and community development.

Educational dimension

Several respondents and interviewees point to educational benefits that knowledge of history and intangible cultural heritage can bring. Alberta Education recognizes the value of using local history to teach social studies and other courses. Whether achieved via formal education at schools, colleges and universities or via informal education from clubs, societies, hobbies and personal explorations, such

knowledge, carefully researched and presented, can do much to motivate learning and to help build social cohesion in a community.

Cultural dimension

There are cultural benefits to preserving history and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. In the most obvious sense, already pursued by some County residents, pioneer crafts can be practised as useful hobbies today or be refined to the level of fine craft and visual artwork by professional artists.

Personal and family stories, histories, archives and artifacts can be adapted to or serve as the inspiration for many kinds of artistic activities including storytelling, creative writing, music, dance, theatre, film and visual arts. Some such creative work is happening now. There is no way to know how or to what benefit history and intangible cultural heritage may be used creatively in the future, or to assess what might be lost if potential source material is not preserved. The prudent thing to do is to save as much as one can for the same reasons that pioneer farmers saved seed and pioneer homemakers preserved food—for future need (and some County residents still do). While we cannot always know if or when the things we save will be needed or how they will be used, those who come after us may live better for our foresight.

Another perspective looks on culture as lifestyle. Some residents seek to learn and practise pioneer lifestyles as a way of making connections with the past; they hope to draw lessons about living more simply and more lightly on the land—lessons that may have long-term social and environmental benefits for all of us.

Natural and environmental dimension

Some consultation participants spoke of protecting unique natural environments and landscapes, educating residents about their value and significance, and forging connections between residents and the land. The Beaver Hills, the North Saskatchewan River Valley, Victoria Trail and Cooking Lake were mentioned specifically. Others spoke more generally of a desire to protect environmental quality; precious agricultural land and topsoil; green spaces; and unique biological, botanical and geological features and values, citing their inherent importance and their contributions to feelings of identity, place and community.

Political and governance dimension

All of the benefits mentioned so far have a common thread. They touch heavily or lightly on possible social benefits of history and heritage activities and programs. If social benefits can be realized, and if County and community policies and actions generate the kind of positive outcomes that consultation respondents and interviewees contemplate, then the County and its many communities will become more productive, positive, inspiring and satisfying places to live, earn a living, enjoy educational leisure activities, and raise children. As this happens, the

County's unique character as a specialized municipality and its autonomy within the Capital Region will become more secure.

The County's unique history and heritage can provide a foundation for the enhanced quality of life that many participants in the consultations envision. Carefully developed, history and intangible cultural heritage can also serve as a bulwark to protect that quality of life.

See appendices for summaries of consultations with the public, employees, stakeholders and Council.

Community Heritage Legacy Framework

Values, vision, mission and mandate

During workshops in the consultations, participants contributed to developing a vision, mission and mandate. They also articulated their values around history and heritage. As well, respondents surveyed shared their thoughts on the importance of history and heritage to our lives today. Together, the following statements provide a foundation for Community Heritage Legacy, to guide implementation.

Community values

The Community Heritage Legacy Framework is informed and guided by community values about history and heritage, including:

- Strathcona County is a unique municipality with a rich and proud history that connects residents across its urban and rural communities.

- The diverse history of Strathcona County and its heritage have intrinsic worth and therefore merit stewardship for today and future generations.

- We need to respect the achievements and contributions of pioneers and other builders of the past and present.

- Our history, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage are appreciated in the context of the inherent value they bring to social, environmental, cultural and economic sustainability.

Vision

Strathcona County fosters a strong community where residents are inspired and share a sense of belonging, identity and place from their appreciation of the County's unique history and heritage.

Mission

Our mission is to connect residents to the community through a sense of belonging, identity and place by capturing and conveying Strathcona County's history and heritage.

Mandate

Within the context of Strathcona County and its place in the Capital Region, in the province of Alberta and in the nation of Canada, Community Heritage Legacy is dedicated to:

- preserving accounts of local history

- the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

- facilitating historical research and gathering sources of knowledge

- advocacy and outreach in the interests of history and heritage

- communicating, educating and providing access to information on history, intangible cultural heritage and natural heritage
- opportunities for experiential learning
- facilitating community development with heritage initiatives
- program delivery by way of partnerships and collaboration

Guiding principles

Consultation respondents identified the following as principles to guide the management of intangible cultural resources.

- Safeguard history and heritage in all forms—intangible cultural heritage, tangible heritage, natural heritage—so they can be treasured, preserved and experienced.
- Establish the importance of history and heritage in all we do. Integrate history and heritage in the operations of the County and the everyday lives of the community.
- Manage and sustain intangible cultural heritage as a public good, a benefit of significant intrinsic value for the whole of the community. Recognize the importance of seeing intangible cultural heritage in all of its connections to tangible heritage and natural heritage.
- Make history and heritage accessible to the public.
- Take heritage to the people. Don't wait for them to come. Emphasize hands-on, interactive programs.
- Think big, yet stay focused. Concentrate on capturing the essence of Strathcona County and build community pride.
- Emphasize community engagement: involve the community and form partnerships to encourage grassroots buy-in and shared purpose.
- Support volunteers.
- Respect professional practices and principles. Adopt a code of conduct that aims for professional standards. Establish and protect the provenance and openness of materials and their acquisition. Tell the truth. Don't censor the past; tell the whole story as it is appropriate to the telling of the community's history.
- Everything—County, business, corporate and community initiatives and developments—should be done with respect for heritage and the people who created it.
- Respect and celebrate diversity in our different cultural heritages, and come together in one common heritage.
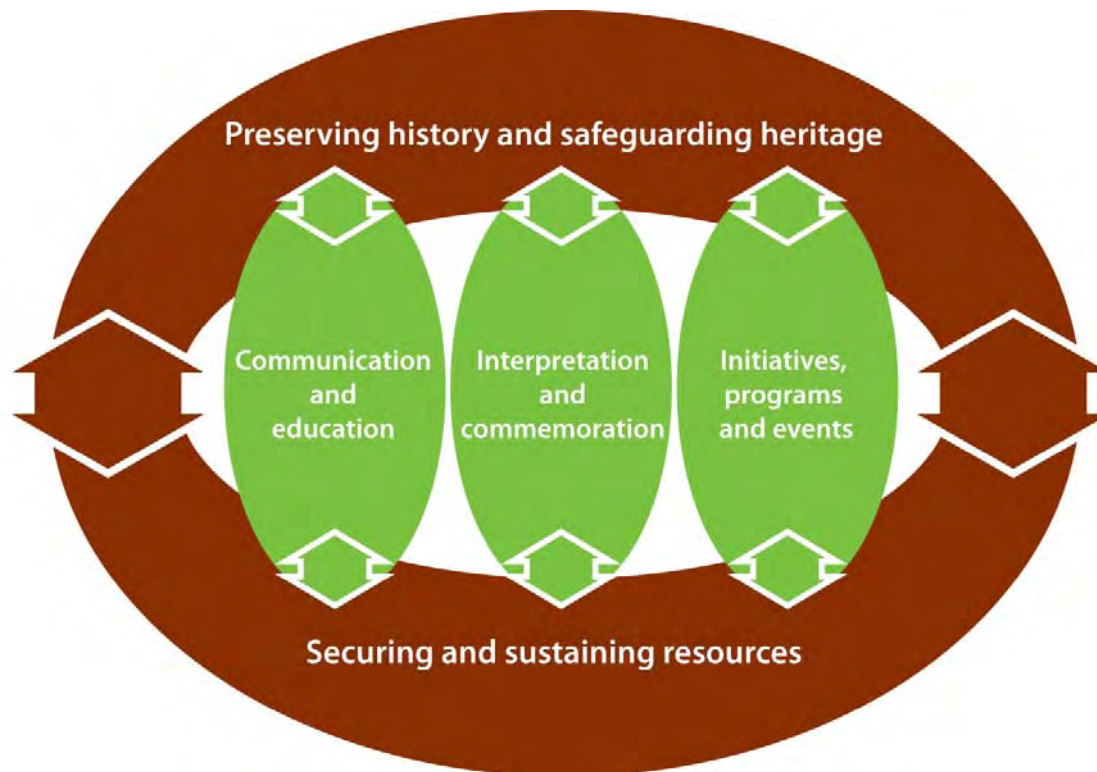
Recommendations

Recommended strategies

These 10 strategies for Strathcona County are recommended to proactively demonstrate the importance of history and heritage, and to achieve the vision, mission and goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

1. Establish Community Heritage Legacy as a capability within the organization, with Communications as the lead department, to actively advocate for local history and heritage; facilitate and/or co-ordinate County and community initiatives; and serve as a communications hub—as outlined in the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

2. Integrate history and heritage perspectives into existing and future County policies, plans, initiatives, programs and events. Request that departments review the Community Heritage Legacy Framework and develop and adopt strategies to assist in meeting its goals.

3. Establish a heritage policy that takes an integrated approach to managing tangible, natural and intangible cultural heritage.

4. Develop a three-year action plan for Community Heritage Legacy that engages County departments and the community.

5. Develop an inventory of Strathcona County's intangible cultural heritage, its carriers and disseminators. Continue the research and collection of records and accounts of Strathcona's history and heritage.

6. Develop tools to advance the goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

7. Bolster efforts and build capacity among individuals and groups in the community with initiatives related to local history and heritage, including the Strathcona County Museum & Archives.

8. Develop a network of interested community members (County residents, schools and churches, hamlets, districts and neighbourhoods, not-for-profit organizations and agencies, agricultural societies, community leagues, and businesses, industry and the media) to participate and advance the goals of the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

9. Provide engagement, learning and training opportunities to increase County staff and residents' awareness of local history and heritage and involvement in the Community Heritage Legacy Framework.

10. Explore opportunities for additional resources, funding and support: research partners, additional funding, and community volunteers and other partnerships.

Strategic framework

The vision, mission and mandate, informed by community values identified during public consultation, will be realized through these five strategic goals.

This diagram illustrates the components of the strategic framework and the interrelationships between them.

- Goal 1 provides the *raison d'etre* for all of the goals.
- Goals 2, 3 and 4 outline strategies on conveying history and heritage.
- Goal 5 is the foundation that provides resources for all of the goals.

Strategic goals and objectives

The following five strategic goals with accompanying objectives define each strategy. A heritage toolkit gives concrete examples of possible actions.

Provided by Helen Cain Planning + Policy

GOAL 1:
To preserve history and safeguard intangible cultural heritage

Objectives

1.1   Preserve accounts of Strathcona County's history

1.2   Identify and safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Strathcona County

1.3   Integrate heritage perspectives with County policies and planning

GOAL 2:
To promote history and heritage through communications and education

Objectives

2.1   Act as an advocate for history and heritage stewardship

2.2   Inform and educate the community

2.3   Facilitate public access to information

2.4   Engage in outreach to raise awareness

GOAL 3:
To interpret and commemorate history and heritage

Objectives

3.1   Commemorate people, places and events

3.2   Develop and support and interpretive programs

GOAL 4:
To integrate history and heritage with initiatives, programs and events

Objectives

4.1   Integrate history and heritage with initiatives, programs and events

4.2   Engage the community in interactive experiences

4.3   Develop, enhance and sustain resident and visitor participation

GOAL 5:
To secure and sustain resources

Objectives

5.1   Build financial sustainability

5.2   Collaborate with community and develop partnerships

5.3   Establish a network of interested individuals, supporters and volunteers

5.4   Build capacity in the community for the effort overall

Recommended roles

Taking up these seven roles, Community Heritage Legacy will champion the framework goals.

1. Co-ordinate needs and interests relating to history and heritage across the County.

2. Provide a central hub and clearing house for communications.

3. Convey history and heritage in order to increase public awareness.

4. Make history and heritage accessible to the public.

5. Facilitate co-operation among departments and across the community.

6. Build capacity in the community for framework goals.

7. Identify and foster partnerships important to gaining the proactive support, leadership and participation of the community.

Heritage toolkit   Provided by Helen Cain Planning + Policy

Strategies	Examples of tools	
Preserving history and safeguarding heritage	Written records	Archives and collections (artifacts)
	Visual records	List of primary sources
	Audio recording	Bibliography
	Oral storytelling	Conservation of historic places
	Traditional knowledge & skills	Spatial data
	Cultural traditions and practices	Film and digital media
Communications and education	Historical timeline	Media coverage
	Accounts of community history	Articles and publications
	Demonstrations of intangible cultural heritage	Visitors guide
	Statements of significance for historic places (heritage value)	Presentations and lectures
		Classes and workshops
	Section on website, eNewsletters	Brochures
Interpretation and commemoration	Events of recognition, milestones	Public art
	Heritage & history exhibitions	Place names: streets, parks, etc.
	Mapping	Plaques and place markers
	Driving and walking tours	
Initiatives, programs and events	Activities for children, youth, adults	Visual culture (artists call)
	Festivals and celebrations	Theatre and spoken word
	Creative writing (artists call)	Music and dance
Securing and sustaining resources	Program funding	Volunteers and advocates
	Grants	Community partners
	Donations	Capital projects (equipment)
	Paid position	Facilities

Implementation plan

Immediate action – Begin 2010   Short-term action – 2010 - 2011   Medium-term action – Begin 2012 or later

GOAL 1: To preserve history and safeguard intangible cultural heritage			
Objectives	Lead	Potential partners	Timeframe
1.1 Preserve accounts of history	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Library Others	Immediate and ongoing
1.2 Identify and safeguard intangible cultural heritage	Community Heritage Legacy	Community members	Short term
1.3 Integrate history and heritage within County policies and plans	Community Heritage Legacy	County departments	Immediate and ongoing
GOAL 2: To promote history and heritage through communications and education			
Objectives	Lead	Potential partners	Timeframe
2.1 Act as an advocate for history and heritage stewardship	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum	Immediate and ongoing
2.2 Inform and educate the community	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Library	Short term
2.3 Facilitate public access to information	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Library	Immediate and ongoing
2.4 Engage in outreach to raise awareness	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Library	Short term
GOAL 3: To interpret and commemorate history & heritage			
Objectives	Lead	Potential partners	Timeframe
3.1 Commemorate people, places and events	Community Heritage Legacy	Mayor's office Museum	Immediate and ongoing
3.2 Develop and support interpretive programs	Community Heritage Legacy	County departments Museum	Medium term
GOAL 4: To integrate history and heritage into initiatives, programs and events			
Objectives	Lead	Potential partners	Timeframe
4.1 Integrate history and heritage with County initiatives, programs and events	Community Heritage Legacy	County departments	Immediate and ongoing
4.2 Engage the community in interactive experiences	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Community members	Medium term
4.3 Develop, enhance and sustain resident and visitor participation	Community Heritage Legacy	To be determined	Immediate and ongoing
GOAL 5: To secure and sustain resources			
Objectives	Lead	Potential partners	Timeframe
5.1 Build financial sustainability	Community Heritage Legacy	To be determined	Immediate and ongoing
5.2 Collaborate with community and develop partnerships	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum	Short term
5.3 Establish a network of interested individuals, supporters and volunteers	Community Heritage Legacy	Museum Community members	Immediate and ongoing
5.4 Build capacity in the community for the effort overall	Community Heritage Legacy	To be determined	Medium term

Acknowledgments

Community Heritage Legacy Working Group

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UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization):
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Appendices

Appendix A: Heritage stakeholders

Stakeholders in the preservation of history and protection of heritage include County departments, non-profit organizations, community groups, school boards, businesses and industry, local media and the Province.

	Stakeholder	Interview	Workshop	Information meeting
County departments and advisory bodies	Communications (Community Heritage Legacy)	X	X	
	Family & Community Services	X	X	
	Recreation, Parks & Culture	X	X	
	Planning & Development Services	X	X	
	Engineering & Environmental Planning (Bremner House)	X		
	Engineering & Environmental Planning (Legacy Lands)			X
	Economic Development &Tourism	X		
	Beaver Hills Initiative	X		
	Corporate Planning & Intergovernmental Affairs			X
	Information Technology Services			X
	Legislative and Legal Services (Records Management)			X
	Strathcona County Seniors Advisory Committee	X		
Not-for-profit organizations and community groups	Strathcona County Museum & Archives	X	X	
	Strathcona County Heritage Foundation	X	X	
	Strathcona County Library	X	X	
	Deville North Cooking Lake Historical Society	X	X	
	Information & Volunteer Centre for Strathcona County	X	X	
	Green Hectares	X	X	
	Art Society of Strathcona County	X	X	
	Culture & Heritage Association of Strathcona County	X	X	
	The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling (T.A.L.E.S)	X	X	
	Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile Society	X		
	Local historians	X	X	
	Métis community	X		
Education	Elk Island Public Schools	X		
Local business & Industry	Sherwood Park and District Chamber of Commerce	X		
	Strathcona Industrial Association	X		
Media	Sherwood Park Strathcona County News	X		

Appendix B: Consultation schedule

June 2008	**Stakeholder consultation** ▪ Interviews (four) with steering committee members ▪ Interviews (20) with County departments, not-for-profit organizations, community organizations, Elk Island Public Schools, business & industry, media ▪ Information meetings (four) with County staff responsible for the Environmental Sustainability Framework, Legacy Lands Policy, Records Management and corporate GIS delivery
June 12, 2008	**Council engagement** - update
June 26, 2008 July 10, 2008 July 24, 2008	**Continuing stakeholder consultation** ▪ Series of three workshops with key heritage stakeholders to define a vision, mandate and guiding principles, and to assess a model of strategic goals and objectives
July 23, 2008	**Public consultation** ▪ Open House at Strathcona County Museum & Archives: seeking public input about community values on history and intangible cultural heritage
July - September 2008	**Continuing Council engagement** ▪ Interviews with nine members of Council in person or by phone seeking input on the vision, mandate, principles and draft strategic framework
July - August 2008	**Continuing public consultation—general public** ▪ Questionnaire available on County website and at various pickup locations: 50 responses providing general public input about community values on history and heritage ▪ Panels from open house received extensive exposure on display at Strathcona County Library for an additional five weeks **Continuing public consultation—municipal staff** ▪ Questionnaire available though County intranet: 49 responses providing input about community values on history and heritage

Appendix C: Findings: Summary of questionnaire

Summary of responses and analysis

County residents and staff completed a questionnaire—either on paper or online—about history and intangible cultural heritage.

Summary of respondent demographics (Optional Question 4)

- **There were 99 responses: 49 from staff; 50 from residents**
  —In each case, two responses with no data were ignored.
- **There were more responses from women than men:**
  73% compared to 24% among staff; 54% compared to 44% among residents
  —In each case, one respondent did not state a gender.
  —The gender ratio for staff may reflect the possibility that more women than men work for the County.
- **There were more responses from urban than rural residents:**
  57% to 22% among staff; and 59% to 36% among residents
  —Both categories include respondents who live exclusively or mostly in either area.
  —Several staff members did not respond, presumably because they do not live here.
  —The 2008 municipal census established the County's population at 85,521, 69.5% (59,409) urban and 30.5% rural (26,112)
- **Most County respondents have lived in the County more than 20 years:**
  46% more than 30 years; 20% more than 20
  —The population of the County has doubled since 1976 (32 years ago).
  —The population of the County has increased by 30% (20,000) since 1991 (17 years ago).
- **Most staff respondents have lived in the County less than 20 years:**
  20% less than 10 years, 24% 11 to 20 years; 9% 21 to 30 years, 8% more than 30 years; 20% (20 respondents) did not reply
  —Some or most of those who did not reply probably do not live in Strathcona.
- A substantial majority of County respondents were older than 55 years:
- 52% are over 65; 32% are 55 to 64; 16% are under 55 or did not reply
  —One respondent was 100; only one was younger than 24.
- A clear majority of staff respondents were 35 to 54 years old:
  59% were in that group; 35% were 18 to 34; only 6% were over 55.

—Hiring and retirement policies and practices probably explain the lack of older and younger respondents.

The respondents do not comprise a valid statistical sample. The sample is too small, and the respondents were self-selected, rather than randomly selected. Though the results are likely to be biased, they provide useful insights for policy development, planning and programming:

- All respondents are interested enough in County history and intangible cultural heritage to respond. They may be or might become advocates and champions of history and intangible cultural heritage activities.

- Middle-aged and senior residents are more interested and more likely to be or to become involved in County history and intangible cultural heritage activities. (And they are likely to have more time to devote to such activities.)

- Rural residents are more likely than urban to be interested and involved in history and intangible cultural heritage activities. However, most urban respondents are interested and open to history and intangible cultural heritage.

- Women are more interested and involved in County history and intangible cultural heritage than men, though the difference is not substantial among County residents.

- Long-term residents, both rural and urban, are more interested and involved in county history than newcomers.

Conclusion: Long-term residents in particular and respondents in other categories in general face a challenge—and an opportunity—to attract the interest and support of newcomers and others who may not be active but recognize and appreciate the community-building potential of history and intangible cultural heritage, and related activities.

Conclusion: Rural residents, who have the greatest interest in and commitment to history and intangible cultural heritage face a challenge—and an opportunity—to attract the interest and support of urban residents who agree that history and intangible cultural heritage can provide a focus for identity- and community-building in the County, even though they may not be as close to or rooted in the County's past.

Respondents' opinions about history and heritage   (Questions 1a to 1p)

1. Please tell us to what extent you agree with the following statements:

Preserving and protecting our history and heritage

a. **Our community's history is important and should be remembered**

b. **We should protect and retain our intangible cultural heritage**

c. **History and heritage are important to the identity of Strathcona County**

Responses were strongly positive:

Among County residents:

- 98% agreed or strongly agreed with statements 1a and 1c
- 96% agreed or strongly agreed with 1b

Among County staff:

- 98% agreed or strongly agreed with 1a, 90% with 1b and 84% with 1c
- 2% (1 responder) disagreed with 1a and 1b
- 6% disagreed or strongly disagreed with 1c
- 5 responders were neutral about 1b, 4 responders about 1c

— disagree or neutral responses may have come from non-residents of the County

Conclusion: There is strong agreement among County resident and County staff responders on the importance of history and its contribution to community identity, and for the need to protect and preserve intangible cultural heritage.

Promoting our history and heritage

d. **It is important to promote the value of our community's history and heritage.**

e. **It is important to inform and educate citizens about our community's history and heritage.**

f. **It is important that residents have access to information about our community's history and heritage.**

Again, responses were strongly positive.

Among County residents:

- 94% agreed or strongly agreed with 1d, 96% with 1e and 98% with 1f
- 2% (1 responder) was neutral about 1d, 4% (2 responders) about 1e
- 1 responder did not reply to each statement

Among County staff:

- 90% agreed or strongly agreed with 1d, 84% with 1e and 100% with 1f
- 16% disagreed with 1e
- 10% were neutral about 1d

Conclusion: There is strong agreement among staff and resident responders on the importance of promoting history and heritage to the County residents. A small but not insignificant number of County staff disagrees on the importance of educating residents about history and heritage. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

<u>Interpreting and commemorating our history and heritage</u>

g.   **We should recognize and commemorate people and events from the past.**

h.   **More steps should be taken to the history of places in the County.**

i.   **It is important for people to experience and engage in activities that involve heritage …**

Responses remain strongly positive, with some diminished support in certain areas.

Among County residents:

- 92% agree or strongly agree with 1g, 88% with 1h and 88% with 1i
- no respondents disagreed, but a few were neutral or did not reply

Among County staff

- 88% agree or strongly agree with 1g, 77.5% with 1h and 71% with 1i
- 12% disagree with 1g, 8% with 1i
- 22.5% are neutral on 1h, 20% on 1i

Conclusion: There is strong agreement among staff and resident responders on the importance of interpreting and commemorating the County's history and heritage. A small but not insignificant number of County staff disagrees on the need to do more and on the need for residents to experience and engage in related activities. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

<u>Integrate history and heritage into community events and programs</u>

j.   **It is important to integrate history and heritage into community events and programs.**

Responses to 1j were strongly positive, though with some disagreement from County staff.

Among County residents:

- 90% agreed or strongly agreed
- 10% were neutral or did not reply

Among County staff:

- 86% agreed or strongly agree
- 14% disagreed

Conclusion: There is strong agreement among staff and resident responders on integrating history and heritage into community events and programs. A small but not insignificant number of County staff disagrees. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

k. **In the past two years, I have participated in history and heritage programs and events in Strathcona County.**

Among County residents:

- 60% did not attend an event or activity
- 18% attend 1 to 3
- 8% attended 10 or more
- 4% attended 4 to 6
- 10% did not respond

Among County staff:

- 33% did not attend an event or activity
- 45% attend 1 to 3
- 10% attended 4 to 6
- 12% did not respond

Conclusion: The participation of County residents is low, given the expressions of interest and support given to early statements (above) and compared to County staff. It would be helpful to understand the reasons, some of which may be given below.

l. **I would participate in more programs and events about history and heritage if …**

Among County residents:

- 57% identified a need for better awareness, access and promotion
- 26% for more interesting, engaging, participatory programs
- 2% (1 respondent) emphasized the importance of events as a focus
- 10% pointed to time constraints
- 10% indicated they were already active

Among County staff:

- 33% identified a need for better awareness, access and promotion
- 26% for more interesting, engaging, participatory programs
- 11% emphasized the importance of events
- 7% emphasized the need for programs that are unique to the County
- 7% cited time constraints
- 3% said they were not interested or do not live in the County

Perhaps significant, 34% of County residents and 45% of County staff did not respond. Note: some respondents gave more than one need or expectation.

Conclusion: There is clear demand for better awareness (promotion, information, advertising) and access to existing and possible future programs.

Conclusion: There is a clear demand for programs that are interesting, preferably, engaging, participatory and offered in conjunction with events or in public places, such as malls.

Conclusion: The high number of responders who did not reply to this statement may indicate a lack of interest that is not consistent with earlier responses, or a lack of enough available programming for responders to form an opinion. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

<u>Build and sustain the program's capacity</u>

m.   There is a need for more programs dedicated to community history and heritage in Strathcona County.

n.   It is important for the County to collaborate with the community on history and heritage.

Among County residents:

- 80% of respondents agree or strongly agree with 1m, 86% with 1n
- 8% are neutral or did not respond to 1m, 14% to 1n

Among County staff:

- 59% agree or strongly agree with 1m, 90% with 1n
- 8% disagree or strongly disagree with 1m, 8% with 1n
- 30% are neutral or did not respond to 1m, 2% to 1n

Conclusion: There is strong support among County residents for having more history and heritage programs in Strathcona County. There is moderate support among staff; there is moderate disagreement and significant neutrality. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

Conclusion: County staff and residents substantially agree on the need for the County to collaborate with the community on history and heritage.

o.   In the last two years, I have volunteered for history and heritage programs and events in Strathcona County.

Among County residents:

- 76% have volunteered between once and 10 or more times
- 24% did not volunteer or gave no response

Among County staff:

- 64% did not volunteer and 18% did not respond
- only 16% volunteered from once to six times

Conclusion: There is a high level of volunteer participation among County residents and a very low level among County staff. The Community Heritage Legacy Initiative must work to maintain resident and increase staff volunteering. Question: Do County policies and practices encourage or discourage staff volunteerism in history and heritage?

p. **I would volunteer for more programs and events about heritage and history if …**

Among County residents:

- 45% cited time constraints on volunteering
- 44% cited a need for more information and promotion, and for more personally or generally interesting volunteer opportunities

Among County staff:

- 22% cited time constraints on volunteering
- 67% cited a need for more information and promotion, and for more personally or generally interesting volunteer opportunities
- 18% did not respond

Conclusion: The reasons for volunteering or not volunteering are similar to those for participating or not participating in history and heritage events and activities—the need for more and better information and a demand for offerings that are interesting and engaging.

Questions: Can or should the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative co-ordinate or otherwise support better information and its delivery? How best to foster more creative and engaging programming and presentation?

2. **My greatest interest in history and heritage is…**

Among County residents:

- 21% cited local and specific community history
- 21% cited personal and lifestyle interests
- 16% cited agriculture and industrial development
- 11% cited respect for pioneers and linking heritage to the future
- 13% cited buildings, property and places
- 6% cited education and youth
- 5% cited aboriginal involvement
- 5% cited general interest

Among County staff:

- 40% cited local and specific community history
- 24% cited respect for pioneers and linking heritage to the future
- 10% cited personal and lifestyle interests
- 8% cited buildings, property and places
- 8% cited photos
- 4% cited natural history

34% of County residents and 51% of County staff did not respond.

Conclusion: The greatest interest is in County and specific community history, with significant mention of agriculture and industry, and personal and lifestyle interests. There is some interest in aboriginal involvement, natural history, and photos. The samples are not large, so important options may have been missed.

Conclusion: The high number of responders who did not reply to this statement may indicate a lack of interest that is not consistent with earlier responses, or a lack of enough available programming for responders to form an opinion. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

… because …

Among County residents:

- 39% cited a specific personal interest or connection
- 32% cited linking the present to the past and the future
- 8% cited building a sense of identity and community
- 9% cited a desire to preserve the past and heritage

Among County staff:

- 24% cited a specific personal interest or connection
- 47% cited linking the present to the past and the future
- 12% cited and interest in simpler lifestyles

64% of County residents and 55% of County staff did not respond to this statement.

Conclusion: Preserving the past and heritage and linking present to the past and the future comprise a key theme for County residents and staff.

Conclusion: Exploring personal interests or connections to the past comprises a key theme for County staff and residents. Community Heritage Legacy might be able to draw on this personal focus to build support and participation.

Conclusion: Respect for pioneers, linking heritage to the past and the future, education and youth comprise an important theme that was also cited in responses to the first part of the statement, above.

Conclusion: The high number of responders who did not reply to this statement may indicate a lack of interest that is not consistent with earlier responses, or a lack of enough available programming for responders to form an opinion. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

3.   What I would like to see happen…

Among County residents:

- 46% cited events and innovative programming and delivery
- 23% cited better information and promotion
- 14% cited action from the County

- 9% cited identification, preservation, archiving and publication
- 6% cited a focus on education and youth
- 3% cited using local expertise
- 1% said we have enough activity already

Among County staff:

- 10% cited events and innovative programming and delivery
- 29% cited better information and promotion
- 19% cited action from the County
- 1% cited identification, preservation, archiving and publication
- 1% cited Cooking Lake
- 1% cited information on pioneer lifestyles
- 2% said "nothing" or "undecided"

45% of County resident respondents and 69% of County staff respondents did not respond to this statement.

Conclusion: Better information and promotion; a focus on events and innovative programming and delivery; and action by the County comprise key themes. A larger sample might generate greater focus or more themes.

Conclusion: The high number of responders who did not reply to this statement may indicate a lack of interest that is not consistent with earlier responses, or a lack of enough available programming for responders to form an opinion. It would be helpful to understand the reasons.

Analysis, with questions and summary of responses

Twenty-four interviewees drawn from County staff, history and heritage stakeholders, and the public were interviewed in depth following a scripted format. This group of interviews does not comprise a valid statistical sample; the sample is too small. However, due to the focus and intensity of the one-on-one interviews, the process generated useful insights for policy development and planning.

> "It is very evident [to me] sports are more important to
> our residents and we lack a sense of history and place.
> … Young people of today do not seem to value history or
> know the importance of preserving it."

Knowing that sports are immensely popular in Strathcona County, this comment from a stakeholder interviewee likely represents a common view among County residents, particularly in the urban part of the community. Like much common wisdom, it has an element of truth. But that element of truth need not limit the vision or constrain the efforts of the community and Council to use County history and heritage to address the challenge—and the opportunity—inherent in the last part of the statement that points to the lack of a "sense of history and place" in Strathcona County.

The challenge is real, in the minds of all participants in the consultations for this report. It is also urgent, given rapid growth in the County, particularly in urban and urban residential areas. The opportunity lies in:

- turning an either/or view of the situation (either sports or nothing) into a both/and view (both sports and heritage)

- finding ways to view sports as a model for building partnerships and developing intangible cultural heritage as a resource for building community identity and pride in County residents.

The interview findings summarized below offer a menu of ways that history and heritage might be used to make Strathcona County a better place—an entity that, as a whole, is greater than the sum of its parts. Not all of the comments and suggestions are practical or feasible, but they are all points of departure for discussion toward a vision and mandate statement leading to short- and long-term goals for Council and the community.

ICH = intangible cultural heritage

TH = tangible heritage

1. What is the value of intangible cultural heritage—stories and memories; cultural practices; community traditions; artifacts; meanings and values that residents attach to historic places?

- Heritage—ICH and TH—is an important part of our lives, even though we don't always realize it.
- ICH and TH help link the present to the past and the past to the future, providing a sense of continuity and respect for pioneer contributions.
- ICH and TH alert us to the value of natural history and heritage, which are vulnerable to growth and development.
- ICH and TH constitute basic knowledge in a community, knowledge that has personal, economic and social value and is in danger of being lost before its value is understood.
- ICH and TH are part of broadly defined culture, which is inherently important.
- ICH and TH foster social values: personal and community identity; a sense of place, uniqueness and identity; respect and pride in the community; social cohesion and connectedness. They help build strong communities and neighbourhoods.
- Preserving ICH and TH fosters respect for history and the achievements of the people who made it.
- Preserving ICH and TH fosters new perspectives among residents and respect for the vision, perseverance and diversity of the people who built the County.
- Preserving ICH and TH fosters new perspectives on and appreciation of citizenship.
- ICH and TH can have economic benefits, without necessarily involving great costs.

2. What is the value of our tangible cultural heritage—historic building; trails, roads and streets; cultural landscapes (e.g. a group of farm buildings); settlement patterns; building and street design (e.g. old building signs); and open spaces?

- Although the County manages ICH and TH under separate policy and planning frameworks, the two things are conceptually interdependent.
- TH helps make ICH real, especially for children. ICH is easier to preserve.
- Strathcona County does not have a lot of TH, which makes ICH more important and more of a challenge to preserve, because TH helps make ICH more real and engaging.
- TH can have esthetic significance and appeal.

3. What are the benefits of raising awareness of our intangible cultural heritage?

- It provides useful knowledge that supports formal and informal education.
- It helps us, especially our children, understand and respect our diverse roots.
- To understand the world, first understand where you live.
- Pride supports growth; people want to live somewhere special.

4. What are the benefits of raising awareness of our tangible heritage?

- It supports education about architecture and its esthetics.
- It supports preservation and can generate economic spinoffs.
- It helps government make better decisions.
- It helps us learn about and from previous ways of living.

B. Mandate

1. How could our intangible cultural heritage be captured, promoted and managed—stories and memories; cultural practices; community traditions; artifacts; meanings and values that residents attach to historic places?

- Be creative, innovative, active (not passive); take it to the people.
- Focus on real people.
- Use the arts, publications, technology and the media creatively.
- Prepare educational materials for teachers.
- Identify, collect, preserve and protect oral material, documents and photos.
- Capture, demonstrate and explain ICH.
- Museums and archives are necessary and play an important role, as do events and innovative, interactive programming.
- Invite communities to gather material and contribute to a heritage cultural centre.
- Keep traditions and practices alive: events, festivals, workshops, demonstrations.
- Build partnerships: everyone can have a role.

2. What could be the role or roles of the County in capturing, promoting and managing our intangible cultural heritage?

- Jumpstart the initiative
- Support through policy, rather than programs
- Provide leadership and co-ordination
- Provide infrastructure

- Provide carefully considered funding
- Raise consciousness; celebrate heritage activities
- Recognize history and heritage as a public good that merits as much attention as developers' needs
- Provide and facilitate advertising, promotion and other awareness-building strategies
- Facilitate historical research and training
- Adopt professional standards and conditions
- Provide interpretive information in public places
- Develop or encourage development of a cultural heritage centre

3. What could be the role or roles of the community in capturing, promoting and managing our intangible cultural heritage?

- Individuals and organizations can contribute ICH resources (stories, records, photos)
- Influence the decisions of politicians and other stakeholders
- Contribute, participate; recruit contributors and participants
- Form and join partnerships
- Use and share skills, knowledge, information, experience, interests, passions, values
- Work at the grassroots to retain ICH and organize grassroots activities
- Motivate, facilitate and recognize business involvement
- Recognize, value, tell and collect personal, family and community stories, histories, artifacts, records

4. In addition to the other valuable work being done by the County, what could be the role of Community Heritage Legacy in promoting our intangible cultural heritage?

- It needs a positive, proactive staff person
- To provide direction, priority recommendations, co-ordination and support to community organizations and Council
- Facilitation
- Information hub and filter, forum for discussion
- Locate, record and house ICH
- Form partnerships
- Develop and maintain "product" (ICH material)
- Research, map and share information about the County's historic geography

A principle is defined as a rule or belief that guides an action.

1. What principles could guide the management of our intangible cultural heritage?

- Think big.
- Stay focused.
- Concentrate on a unique project to capture the essence of Strathcona County and build community pride.
- Heritage is important; it should be treasured, preserved and experienced.
- Take heritage to the people. Don't wait for them to come to you. Emphasize hands-on, interactive programs.
- Everything—County, business, corporate and community initiatives and developments—should be done with respect for heritage and the people who created it.
- Don't forget natural history and heritage (the environment).
- Emphasize community engagement: involve the community and form partnerships to encourage grassroots buy-in and shared purpose.
- Support volunteers.
- Manage sustain ICH as a public good.
- Don't censor the past; tell the whole story.
- Respect professional practices and principles.
- Establish and protect the provenance and openness of ICH materials and their acquisition.

Note: This list was compiled and edited from a longer list of notes taken during interviews with 24 community stakeholders. As this framework is a policy-oriented document, some comments related to programming and other actions have not been included in the report. Rather, they will be considered in future program planning.

Appendix E: **Findings: Council member interviews**

Questions and summary of responses

All nine Council members took part in scripted interviews about their views about history and heritage in Strathcona County. Their responses are strongly supportive and remarkably consistent.

- All Council members recognize the importance and value of history and heritage as embodied in intangible cultural heritage.

- Council members acknowledge the important role that ICH and TH can play in building a sense of place, identity and belonging in any community.

- Council members share with many residents a feeling that rapid growth may be outstripping the community's commitment and ability to preserve its history and heritage and to enjoy the social and other benefits that history and heritage can foster in a community.

- Though otherwise positive and supportive, one Council member has doubts about the willingness of taxpayers to pay more for the program.

- Though otherwise positive and supportive, another is skeptical about the ability of the County and stakeholders to develop the innovative programming and presentation strategies necessary to attract public attention and support.

- Two Council members said that action on history and heritage is as important as action on infrastructure (roads, water, sewers) and that the County must provide leadership and resources.

- A majority of Council members (five) said that the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative's draft strategic Objective 5.1, Build financial sustainability, should be a priority in the immediate-to-short term (up to three years).

A selection of responses to scripted questions follows. The list is not complete, and the words are often from the interviewer's summarized notes, rather than direct quotations from Council members.

ICH = intangible cultural heritage
TH = tangible heritage

Community Heritage Legacy Framework

1. What is the value of the intangible cultural heritage of Strathcona County—memories of the past, stories, knowledge and practices, traditions, meanings and values that people attach to historic places, and artifacts?

- Community connectedness: history makes you aware of why we are here, who we are and why.

- Intangible cultural heritage is probably more important in the rural area.

- We can look at the past and learn from it.

- We need to protect our heritage. It should be part of everyday life.

- If you don't know where you've been, how can you know where you're going?

- Knowing where you've been gives direction, especially to the young and new residents.

- History and heritage are the glue for a community; community building is important.

- Advocacy and partnership—both can be done without a lot of money

Several Council members said that intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage can't be considered separately, and their comments for both are in the next set of responses. (Note: The County currently deals with ICH and TH in separate processes that will come together under one umbrella policy.)

2. What is the value of our tangible heritage—historic buildings; trails, roads and streets; settlement patterns, building and street design (e.g. old signage); and natural heritage?

- Heritage and history are the glue for community; building community is important.

- Buildings are important. Many were poorly built; we have to preserve those that are sound.

- Trails are important. They recall patterns of settlement.

- It helps us honour our elders.

- Intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage bring a sense of connectedness and of place.

- It helps us understand the role of agriculture and other economic activities in the County's development.

- Knowledge of the past helps generate new knowledge.

- We need intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage together; they are interdependent.

3. What are the benefits of raising awareness of intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage across the community?

- A sense of pride.

- You have to distinguish yourself through history. Without it, there is no loyalty, no cohesiveness, no sense of identity.

- It is an opportunity to educate the young.

- It is an opportunity to bring different cultures together and enjoy them.

- Interaction with tangible heritage gives a sense of pioneers' lives and their strength.

- We want and need to know. Most people like to hear stories about the past.

- Identity: people are known for where they came from, and your origins can be a refuge or retreat.

- Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

- Knowledge of the past allows us to move forward in decision making.

- It creates a sense of community—nice to know who you are and where you came from (i.e. ethnic background/country of origin). If you have a past, you have a future.

4. What principles (values or beliefs) could guide the Community Heritage Legacy?

- Get buy-in from the people. Establish the importance of history. We have to care. (Most people do care.)

- Take history and heritage to the people (events, malls, public places, website). The world doesn't need another museum.

- Keep history and heritage alive in all forms.

- We need an inventory of what we have.

- Identify tangible heritage first, to anchor the value of intangible cultural heritage.

- We need to take care of our heritage.

- Integrate intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage.

- While we should respect and celebrate our different cultural heritages, we also need to come together in one common heritage.

5. **How could memories of the past and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage help to build and sustain a unique sense of identity and place across Strathcona County?**

- Appreciation of history and heritage is a source of community pride.

- Honouring our common heritage should be part of good citizenship.

- We need an inventory of what we have, and that inventory has to be interpreted.

- Honouring our common heritage builds a strong, cohesive identity that will become more important as the county's population grows.

- By using innovative approaches, not museums and displays, to tell stories to the people.

- Learn from other communities that have successfully captured their diverse roots and histories.

- Council needs to lead and take ownership of initiatives to preserve tangible heritage and intangible cultural heritage.

- We may have to connect the residents in urban areas to the rural history. Rural communities are more focused on heritage.

6. **What is your vision of the County with respect to the conservation of historic places? How do you think the latter could be integrated with a vision for Community Heritage Legacy?**

- The County has to commit to sustaining tangible history. This does not have to involve funding; look for partnerships.

- The Heritage Resources Management Plan (for tangible heritage) and the Community Heritage Legacy Framework (for intangible cultural heritage) are complementary and need to be integrated.

- We need an inventory (significant sites, events, leaders, residents) and it needs to be ongoing: today is tomorrow's history.

- Every resident of the County should know local history.

- We value history and heritage based on personal experience. Newcomers and the young can buy into the vision if they have opportunities for activity and interaction.

- Preserving history and heritage is as important as anything else, such as economic development.

- We need to revitalize the rural area. That is where the history and heritage still exist. But urban areas don't appreciate the rural. We don't understand each other. History and heritage can help bridge the gap, the approach has to be right (interactive, aimed at people where they are and where they go; not in museums.)

- Conservation is not enough. You have to use places such as Bremner House in ways that attract people.

7. What opportunities exist for Community Heritage Legacy to support and enhance County policies, plans, programs and projects?

- It has to be part of the policy process, e.g., land-use planning.

- We need to break down the disconnect between rural and urban residents; it gets in the way.

- Have the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative collaborate with Family and Community Services and Recreation, Parks and Culture, Planning and Development, all other departments.

- Preservation should be fully integrated into County policy. Develop a checklist and require consideration of preservation in all processes. The County's archeological assessment policy is a template.

Defining a mandate

8. What could be the role of the municipal government in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, and ensuring the past is remembered?

- Advocacy and partnership—both can be done without a lot of money.

- The County should act as a facilitator and engage the community.

- Provide direct services and act as a facilitator.

- Advocacy and facilitation.

- Develop a business plan to sustain the program.

- The County should play a direct role and be action-oriented in this area.

- Always ask … How can we connect what we do to the past, e.g., naming of streets, developments, etc.

- Talk has to lead to action. Set a consultative legacy and naming group.

- We need Council's commitment. Accept that it is important and create the policies to protect it. Without written policies, nothing happens in government.

- Identify budget line and a full-time staff person

- Any policy has to spread throughout the corporation. It has to be part of the culture.

9. **What could be the role of community groups, businesses and residents in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, and ensuring the past is remembered?**

- Community groups and individuals could have a consultative role.

- History and heritage are not part of the mandate for business. Council and the community would have to show business the value of supporting history and heritage.

- History and heritage should be part of everyday life.

- The County's role is critical. It sets policy and direction and informs the others of what it wants so they can take it up. (Community leagues already do some of this.)

- Community partners need to incorporate County policies into their activities, such as naming of streets and business developments. They will need County co-operation and support in this.

- People need to be empowered.

10. **What strategic goals from the list provided could direct Community Heritage Legacy over the next 10 years? If all, which should be the priorities of the initiative over the coming three years?**

- All council members support all five goals; some had specific priority preferences.

- Goal 1. Preserving of history and intangible cultural heritage (four mentions, two as top priority)

- Goal 2. Communications and education (five mentions, no special priority)

- Goal 3. Interpretation and commemoration (four mentions, no special priority)

- Goal 4. Community programming (five mentions, one top priority)

- Goal 5. Securing and sustaining resources (five mentions, no special priority)

11. **Would you support the objectives in the list provided as guideposts for Community Heritage over the next 10 years? Which could be the focus of the initiative for the coming three years?**

- Eight members of Council endorsed the full list of objectives. One Councillor advised to watch that the intent not be lost in the wording.

12. Is there anything you would like to add about the importance of the County's history and heritage, or heritage management?

- Community Heritage Legacy should not be boring or stale—it must be vital and dynamic and will progress over time.

- Community Heritage Legacy should deliver one high-profile activity that involves community engagement and is new and different.

- The strategic framework of goals and objectives captures everything you would want to do.

- History and heritage have to come alive. People need to participate and engage, not just read about them.

- Community Heritage Legacy is a potential user of the Building Strong Communities Program.

- Although history and heritage are important, I worry about the financial implications if the County takes a leadership role as presented in the Service Delivery Model of the Social Sustainability Framework. All taxpayers may not support allocation of more funds to the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative.

- Action in this area is long overdue.

- The County has a responsibility to act on history and heritage, as it does for roads, water, sewers, etc.

- Compared to the money the County spends on infrastructure, the amount it spends on the Community Heritage Legacy Initiative is insignificant. Yet it is also important.

- Without heritage, we are missing the people, whom we represent.

Appendix F: **List of initial supporters**

Early in the program (in 2006) the following 14 community members, indicating their endorsement of Community Heritage Legacy, wrote letters agreeing with the need and showed positive support for the initiative, some expressing interest in participating in the effort.

- Iris Evans – MLA, Sherwood Park and Minister of Health and Wellness
- Michael Roppelt – President, Sherwood Park & District Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Dolynny – Chair, Elk Island Public Schools
- Tony Sykora – Chair, Elk Island Catholic Schools
- Ed Marsh – President, Strathcona County Heritage Foundation
- Brenda Wispinski – Executive Director, Beaver Hills Initiative
- Edith Zawadiuk – President, Kalyna Country Ecomuseum
- Muriel Abdurahman – Chairman, Strathcona County Library
- Carol Gibney – President, Art Society of Strathcona County
- Anna Attademo – Chair, Information and Volunteer Centre, Strathcona County
- Peter Wlodarczak – Chairperson, Pioneer Housing Foundation
- John Ashton – Project Co-ordinator, Sherwood Park's Heritage Mile Society
- Kurt Kletke – Secretary, Fultonvale & District Lions Club
- Larry Zeisman – Secretary, Sherwood Park Elks