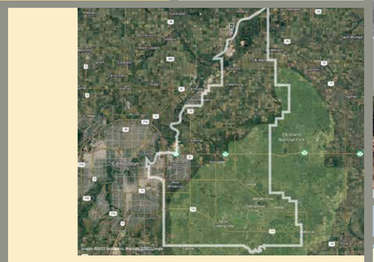
# From time to time

A selection of key moments that have shaped how our municipality has evolved to what it is today.

Before recorded history . . . . . 1875 | 1880 . . . . . 1900 | 1905 . . . . . 1940 | 1945 . . . . . 1970

Strathcona County is a unique municipality with a fascinating past. Whether we have always lived here or have moved here from somewhere else, there is much to learn about the history of this place we call home—its natural heritage, its cultural heritage (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) and its origins as a municipality. These images help to tell a fraction of the story.

Strathcona County is located on Treaty Six Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions Two and Four. Strathcona County honours the First Peoples of this land. We recognize that we stand upon land that carries the footsteps of Cree, Métis and Blackfoot amongst many other Nations who have been here for thousands of years. Therefore, Strathcona County has an inherent responsibility to foster healthier relationships with First Peoples and further the Calls to Action.



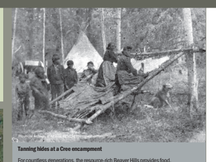
The Beaver Hills, *Amiskwaciy* in Cree, is a distinct geographic area where the land rises ever so slightly in elevation above the surrounding aspen parkland. Shaped by glacial retreat some 12,000 years ago, its "knob and kettle" terrain is made up of wetlands, lakes and a dry mixedwood boreal forest—lush habitat for diverse vegetation and wildlife, including elk, bison, deer, moose and beaver, and for an abundance of waterfowl, including geese, ducks and pelicans. More than half of the 1,600-square-kilometre Beaver Hills falls within the municipal boundaries of Strathcona County.

Strathcona County boundary 2022

The Beaver Hills, internationally recognized as a UNESCO biosphere reserve

**Our place in the Beaver Hills: Aerial of Minnitik Lake and Cooking Lake, looking north, September 6, 1924**

Among the many bodies of water in the hummocky Beaver Hills landscape, the largest lakes are Cooking Lake (seen in the distance) and Hastings Lake (off frame to the right). They are known in Cree as *opi-mi-now-wa-sisi-pa* "a cooking place" and *a-ka-kwa-tikh* or "the lake that never freezes." In 1911, Minnitik Lake (in the foreground) becomes Alberta's first bird sanctuary. At 7,349 hectares, it is home to many migratory birds, including the American white pelican and the blue heron.



**Tanning hides at a Cree encampment**

For countless generations, the resource-rich Beaver Hills provides food, shelter, furs and a meeting place for many Indigenous peoples; their oral history speaks of the Beaver Hills as a place they would often come to rest and replenish provisions.

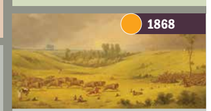
Archaeological investigations in the 1970s find signs of seasonal occupation on a high point along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, near the Clover Bar Bridge. Signs of human habitation dating back to ancient times have also been discovered through digs in and around Cooking Lake and Hastings Lake.

Royal Alberta Museum

Nehiyawewin (Cree) syllabics for *Amiskwaciy - Beaver Hills*

King Charles II of England grants a Royal Charter to the Hudson's Bay Company, enabling the company to tap into the wealth of fur in Rupert's Land (the entire Hudson Bay watershed, which includes the Beaver Hills). European fur traders move further and further inland to trade firsthand with Indigenous peoples.

The North West Company establishes Fort Augustus and the Hudson's Bay Company builds Edmonton House; these fur trading posts are both situated at the mouth of the Sturgeon River, near the edge of the Beaver Hills. After more than 25 years of competing, and a move upriver, the two rival trading companies merge in 1821 under the Hudson's Bay Company banner and name the local post Fort Edmonton. Aided by Indigenous contacts and guides who know this land, the fort becomes the largest trading post west of Winnipeg. As the fur trade makes inroads from the east into the prairies, missionaries follow.



Unit the late 19th century, a variety of Plains tribes lived in and migrated through the Beaver Hills—the *Nehiyawak* (Cree) and *Nitotapi* (Blackfoot) primarily, and also *Tsuut'ina* (Sarsee), *Anishinaabe* (Saulteaux), *A'aninin* (Gros Ventre), Dene, Nakota Sioux and Métis. Oral history tells of the Beaver Hills' importance in providing a traditional gathering place for:

- rest-and-refuge from long travels and harsh weather
- provisions through fishing and hunting, gathering berries—saskatoons, chokecherries, currants, raspberries, haws, silver berry, moose berry, pembina berry—and harvesting wild vegetables, timber and medicinal plants
- peace and safety for inter-tribal trade, military negotiations, ceremonies and family life

The Beaver Hills was and still is of great significance to Indigenous peoples.

Produced courtesy of Alberta Culture and Tourism

Métis from as far away as Lac La Biche and Lac Ste. Anne meet at Beaverhills Lake for one of the last great buffalo (bison) hunts. Within only one decade, the herds—once numbering tens of millions on the prairies—virtually disappear due to overhunting, disease, competition for territory and other factors. The disappearance causes starvation among Indigenous peoples who rely on the buffalo as a diet staple.

With permission of ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Toronto, Canada. ©ROM 972.1.13. A Buffalo Pound, oil on canvas, 1894-1952. Paul Kane

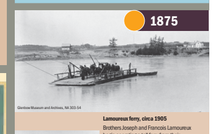
Smallpox sweeps the continent, killing up to one-third of the local Indigenous population. Beaver Hills Cree Chief Botoisi (Wakayo) and his people choose to stay away from fur trading posts, isolating themselves from other bands, they make for the north and northwest sides of Beaverhills Lake, "the then more wooded part of the country … toward the hills." The decision to take cover in the Beaver Hills may have saved this band from the devastating disease.

*(Tales of Tofield, 1969)*

Instead of negotiating treaties with the Métis, the federal government offers scrip, a document redeemable for land or its cash value, in exchange for land ownership rights. Most scrip ($5 per cent) ends up in the hands of colonial speculators at discounted prices.

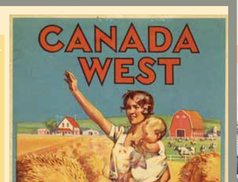
Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-4

**Métis scrip coupon**



**Chief Papaschase**

Beset by disease and hunger, and embroiled in escalating intertribal warfare, Indigenous bands in this region are compelled to sign Treaty 6 to survive. In August 1877, Chief Papaschase signs an adhesion to Treaty 6 and is assigned to Indian Reserve No. 136. The Papaschase lose reserve status in 1888 through a surrender initiated by the federal government, and these sections of land are thrown open to homestead entry. The once-reserve land lies within the Municipal District of Strathcona until, bit by bit, the City of Edmonton annexes the land, all by 1982.



**Massive endeavour to settle the West**

Starting in the 1870s, Canada takes significant steps to attract newcomers to settle the West.

- In 1872, surveyors hired by the Dominion Land Survey begin dividing the western prairies into tidy townships, sections and quarter-sections for transfer to homesteaders, the Hudson's Bay Company, railways, colonization companies, schools, religious groups and others.
- The North-West Mounted Police begins training its first recruits in 1873 to patrol the newly surveyed territory.
- The Canadian Pacific Railway completes its Atlantic-to-Pacific railway in 1885, primarily through land that has long been home to Indigenous peoples.
- To obtain the land, the Canadian government negotiates a series of treaties with Indigenous groups; one stipulation requires they live on prescribed reserves in return for promised support. Canada has yet to deliver on all the promises made in these treaties, signed close to 150 years ago.

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3720-1

**1795**



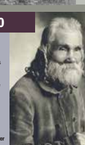
Glenbow Library and Archives NA-1408-1

**1868**



With permission of ROM (Royal Ontario Museum), Toronto, Canada. ©ROM 972.1.13. A Buffalo Pound, oil on canvas, 1894-1952. Paul Kane

**1860**



Thomas Clover

**1867**

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the United Province of Canada (now part of Ontario and Quebec) unite to form the Dominion of Canada. Two years later, Canada purchases Rupert's Land—the territory given to the Hudson's Bay Company in its 1670 charter—for £300,000. The fledgling nation begins surveying the West to open it up for settlement; surveyors arrive at Fort Edmonton in 1882.

Hulse Historical Society of North Dakota, Lake Metonen, #2011.0020.1

**1877**

**1875**



Glenbow Museum and Archives, NA-303-54

**Lamoureux ferry, circa 1905**

Brothers Joseph and Francois Lamoureux begin operating a toll ferry from their settlement, across the river from present-day Fort Saskatchewan. They charge eight cents for foot passengers; 20 cents for horse or mule and rider; and 50 cents for a vehicle drawn by more than two animals, plus a driver. The ferry operates until 1905.

The North-West Mounted Police arrives in the region in 1875. Inspector William D. Jarvis chooses to build their barracks about 30 km downstream from Fort Edmonton. Initially named Sturgeon Creek Post, it is later renamed Fort Saskatchewan. The post is moved to Edmonton in 1912.

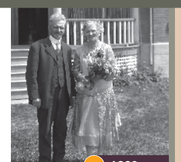
**1882**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-1510-1

**Survey crew near Fort Saskatchewan, 1905**

The first eight area townships are surveyed: Townships 52, 53 and 54 in Range 23; Townships 54 and 56 in Range 22; Township 56 in Range 20; Townships 53 and 55 in Range 22. Other local townships continue to be surveyed into the 1900s. Former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Edmonton, some of them Métis, are among the first to acquire homesteads in this region.

**1882**



Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-1

**R.P. and Fannie Ottewell on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1928**

R.P. Ottewell, Thomas Jackson, Edward Langfeld and William Cascadden are among the first newcomers to settle in the Clover Bar area. Hailing from Ontario, they establish homesteads and take up farming. Their arrival coincides with the launch of the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company, a business venture aimed at quickly settling the West. This colonization company tries to sell the area as a bustling "Clover City," a scheme that soon fails as the Canadian Pacific Railway bypasses the entire Edmonton region.

**1884**

**William Kaith**

Snapshot, used with permission

Hungry for news from loved ones, Clover Bar settlers secure the right to a post office. In the early days, mail crosses the North Saskatchewan River from Edmonton by ferry and is delivered at school for children to carry home. William Kaith operates the post office from his home for a time; on occasion, men panning for local gold come to weigh their finds on Kaith's postal scales.

**1891**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-1337-8

The Calgary and Edmonton (C&E) Railway, a branch of the CPR, finally reaches the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River. With long-awaited rail access, more settlers make their way to the region; however, locals have to wait almost a decade before a rail bridge is built across the river to Edmonton. Crews complete construction of the Edmonton Bridge (Low Level Bridge) in 1900; it is the first bridge across the North Saskatchewan River in the region.

**1892**

**Class of 1906, Partridge Hill School**

Another large group of colonists arrives from Parry Sound, Ontario, following Thomas Pearce, who urges his community to move to "sunny Alberta." Many of the initial 299 settle in the Partridge Hill district; within two years another 146 follow, spreading throughout the immediate area where they could find land.

**1892**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-2

**Maurice Smeltzer and son Frank in front of the family home, circa 1900**

Maurice Smeltzer chooses a homestead in what is now Sherwood Park's Westboro subdivision. In 1920 he builds a large brick house that becomes a municipal historic site in 2013.

**1900s**

Cooking Lake is becoming Edmonton's playground as townspeople seek nearby vacation property. The Grand Trunk Pacific completes its track north of Cooking Lake, and travel to and from the resort area becomes much easier, further boosting the lake's popularity as a recreational destination.

**1905**

**Era of dramatic growth**

Canada creates the Province of Alberta in the midst of an unprecedented boom. Alberta's population multiplies from 73,000 in 1901 to 374,000 in 1911. Farmers in the Clover Bar and Strathcona districts benefit from their proximity to Edmonton, especially given the demand created by the area's growth.

**1900s**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-3

**Cyrus Wilkinson and Uncle Norman, working the land, 1912**

Early settlers engage in mixed farming as a hedge against hard times, raising hogs, chickens, cows and grain.

**1883**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-4

**Road to Clover Bar Ferry, Edmonton, Alberta. circa 1907**

Local settlers, having chosen a homestead south of the North Saskatchewan River, rely heavily on ferries to access Edmonton markets across the river. The Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land Company starts up the Clover Bar ferry in 1883. John Walter builds a scow for the ferry in 1890. When the ferry stops working between 1900 and 1902, inconvenienced settlers on both sides of the river petition to get it operating again. Other local ferries include the Fort Saskatchewan (Lamoureux, 1875-1905), Edmonton (1882-1913) and Vinca (north of Brudenheim, 1913-1966). During the winter, people cross on the frozen river.

**1885**

Louis Riel and other Métis petition the federal government for the rights to own land, self-govern and protect their people. The government sends the North-West Mounted Police to confront the Métis and a series of battles ensues. Fearing bloodshed, settlers around the Beaver Hills seek shelter at Fort Saskatchewan.

Louis Riel, leader of the Métis resistance, is captured on May 15, 1885. Charged with high treason on July 6, he is hanged on November 16.

**Louis Riel**

Glenbow Library and Archives, S-223-35

**1885**

**Yuang Charlie Brunmor (standing; top left) with his siblings in Glasgow, July 1885**

Newly emigrated from Glasgow, 18-year-old James Charles Chatterton (Charlie) Brenmor enters on a homestead claim in the Clover Bar district. More than 25 years later, on the eve of an unforeseen economic downturn, he builds a 5,400-square-foot house. Completed in 1913, "Brenmor House" is designated a municipal historic resource in 2009.

**1891**

Jeffrey Kingly, used with permission

**Knobs half-way house on South Victoria Trail, 1891**

The first group of immigrants—53 families from Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire—arrives. They take up homesteading in what is now the Josephsburg and Ross Creek districts. Among them, the Krebs run a halfway house three miles north of Josephsburg, along the South Victoria Trail, the local name for the final stretch of the Carlton Trail from Winnipeg.

**1893**



**North-West Territorial Gazette**

Alberta Legislature Library

Clover Bar settlers struggling with fires, wandering livestock and poor roads petition for help. The North-West Territorial government responds by creating Statute Labor and Fire District Number 2—the first in what is now Alberta. Each landowner pays five cents an acre property tax in cash, by working on roads or fighting fires. Elected as the first district overseer, Archie Boag organizes the work, collects taxes and levies fines.

**1892**



**Class of 1906, Partridge Hill School**

Another large group of colonists arrives from Parry Sound, Ontario, following Thomas Pearce, who urges his community to move to "sunny Alberta." Many of the initial 299 settle in the Partridge Hill district; within two years another 146 follow, spreading throughout the immediate area where they could find land.

**1892**



**William Henry Stephens**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

The Dominion of Canada sets aside six townships in the Beaver Hills area for a federal timber reserve to help ensure settlers have a good supply of building materials. William Henry Stephens serves as forest ranger of the Cooking Lake Forest Reserve from 1895 to 1912. Local settlers set up sawmills and log the area for lumber, then in 1910 an initiative launches to reforest the area.

**1894**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-1

Seeking political and religious freedom, Moravian immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire emigrate to Canada and settle in what are now the Bruderheim and Colchester areas. Among them is Ephraim Schmidt, who farms with his wife, Emma, and six children in the Colchester district. As often happens, family and neighbours work together to build up their homesteads, using a portable sawmill to turn logs into lumber.

**1903**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-5

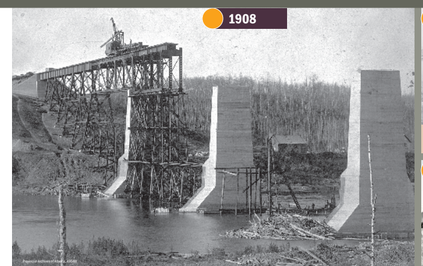
The Great West Coal Company begins mining on the bank of the North Saskatchewan River near Clover Bar. One of many coal mines in the area, Great West becomes the largest and longest operating in the capital region, closing in 1952.

**1904**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-6a

While most local farmers raise Shorthorn multi-purpose cattle, some introduce dairy breeds. Eventually, Holsteins dominate on the many small dairy farms dotting the landscape in Strathcona.

**1908**



Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3843-7

**Building Clover Bar Bridge, 1908**

The Clover Bar Railway Bridge, built by the Canadian Bridge Company for the Grand Trunk Pacific (GTP) in 1907-1908, connects the Clover Bar district with Beverly, Edmonton and points west. The 504-metre-long bridge spans the North Saskatchewan at a height of 42 metres. The first GTP train arrives from Winnipeg in August 1909; fueled in part by expanded rail service, the Edmonton area experiences dramatic growth.

**1905**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-2784-18

Construction crews build the station and grade the track for the arrival of the Canadian Northern Railway at Fort Saskatchewan. A transcontinental line, it is the first railway to be built this far north.

**1909**

The Grand Trunk Pacific (GTP) Railway builds a transcontinental line to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, over the Yellowhead Pass. The railway purchases land here in 1906 and constructs stations or sidings at Tofield, Deville, Cooking Lake, Uncas, Ardrossan, Bremner and Clover Bar.

**1909**

**Telephone crew, 1913**

A telephone line connects Cooking Lake to Edmonton.

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**1912**

Local settlers build St. Margaret's Church at Hastings Lake; it is one of the earliest churches in the area.

**1914**

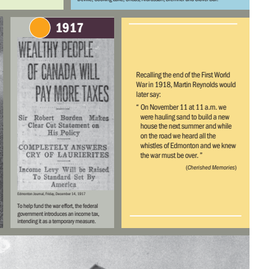
The First World War begins. Investment money dries up and Alberta's real estate market goes from boom to bust. "The Great War," as it was called, the "war to end all wars" claims the lives of over 6,000 Albertans before fighting ceases in 1918, at a time when the total population of the province is about 500,000.

Herbert "Bert" Franklin Ball is killed on the last day of the Somme Battle, November 18, 1916. After surviving Vimy, Bert's brother Sammy is killed at Aviion on June 26, 1917. Both served in the 38th Battalion. The Ball brothers are two of an estimated 50-plus men from the Clover Bar-Strathcona area to die in the First World War.

**Herbert Franklin Ball**

Darrel Davies, used with permission

**1917**




Edmonton Journal, Friday, December 14, 1917

Recalling the end of the First World War in 1918, Martin Reynolds would later say:

" On November 11 at 11 a.m. we were hauling sand to build a new house the next summer and while on the road we heard all the whistles of Edmonton and we knew the war must be over. "

*(Cherished Memories)*

**1919**

Jeffrey Kingly, used with permission

Everyone and their dog. More than 50 hunters turn out for a coyote hunt organized by the United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) to shrink the population of coyotes preying on settlers' livestock. It's a time when local UFA groups respond to a variety of area needs and interests

**1918**

Provincial Archives of Alberta

**Milking time on Henderson Farm at Rabbit Hill, circa 1890**

Alberta assigns names to numbered municipal districts, and Municipal District No. 518 adopts the name used by the City of Strathcona (its neighbour to the west) prior to that city's amalgamation with Edmonton in 1912. And so, we become Municipal District of Strathcona No. 518. Before early annexations, the MD of Strathcona No. 518 stretches far enough west to encompass the Henderson farm at Rabbit Hill.

**1920**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-2784-18

**Opening of United Farmers of Alberta convention, Edmonton, Alberta, 1909**

United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) chapters operate at Strathcona, Ardrossan, Clover Bar, East Clover Bar and Fort Saskatchewan; Ardrossan is also home to United Farm Women of Alberta Local #183 and Junior UFA Local #25. The chapters continue work begun in 1895 when area farmers formed a local chapter of the Territorial Grain Growers' Association, a grassroots forerunner of the UFA. Strathcona is a hotbed of debate as members hammer out ground rules.

**1929**

Edmonton Journal, Friday, October 4, 1929

The Wall Street stock market crashes, heralding a worldwide economic depression, the worst of the 20th century. Most families have no money for luxuries such as cars or telephones, yet have enough to eat because they grow their own food. Alberta Government Telephones can no longer afford to maintain rural lines and sells them to farmers' mutuals in 1934. By 1938, successive crop failures across Alberta prompt numerous farmers to raise poultry; the Department of Agriculture approves since

**1928**

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3-4022b

**Bellanca Pacemaker on floats at Cooking Lake**

The City of Edmonton builds a seaplane base at South Cooking Lake. Later, in 1980, the Alberta government builds a landing strip that is still in use today.

**1930**

Homestead Aerial Photos 02, 4115-141-39

**Lakeview Inn at Cooking Lake, from the south, 1955**

Lakeview, a new summer resort and amusement park, opens at South Cooking Lake on Empire Day, May 24. The event attracts thousands of pleasure-seekers for a day at the beach, enjoying baseball, boating and even airplane rides. A nine-piece orchestra entices dance enthusiasts to try out the new 9,000-square-foot floor. For 50-some years, large crowds gather to hear popular performers such as Don Messer and Wilf Carter in the 1950s, and Bobby Curtola, Chilliwack and Paul Revere and the Raiders in the decades to follow.

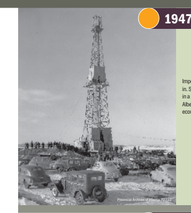
**1939**

Glenbow Library and Archives, CU230243

The Second World War begins. More than 82,000 Albertans fight overseas. From the Clover Bar-Strathcona area, dozens of lives are lost before fighting ends in 1945.

**Second World War patriotic poster**

**1947**



Imperial Oil's Leduc No. 1 well blows in. Subsequent oil discoveries usher in a promising new industry for Alberta, an influx of people and an economic boom.

**1948**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**Imperial Oil Strathcona Refinery**

Strathcona extends a welcome to oil refineries: Imperial Oil in 1948 and British American in 1951. The refineries attract petrochemical companies; they create the nucleus of Refinery Row and open the door to even more petrochemical industries in the immediate region. Decades later, in the 1990s, industry and municipalities launch a collaborative initiative that evolves into the Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association. The partnership has grown into the largest petrochemical processing region in western Canada.

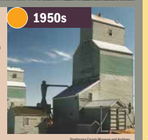
**1950s**

**A. and H. Martin dairy farm, five miles southeast of Edmonton on the Wye Road, 1933**

The Colchester and Salisbury districts become known as the "Dairy Belt of Edmonton." Due to changes in the industry, dairy farms double in size between the 1940s and the 1960s; many farmers get out of dairy, switching to grain.

Glenbow Library and Archives, NA-3720-1

**1950s**



Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**Elevators at Josephsburg survived until 2000; most were torn down decades earlier**

Post-war demographic shifts see farmers move to the closest town for schooling and better shopping, a turn that leads to the waning of rural districts. Small schoolhouses close and students are bussed to consolidated schools. Railways begin their long withdrawal from unprofitable lines, forcing grain companies to close elevators along those lines.

Subdividing begins. The Municipal District of Strathcona begins to approve acreage and country residential properties, creating smaller land parcels that attract people looking for a rural lifestyle other than farming. Calgary Power electrifies the area in 1954, making rural living that much more appealing.

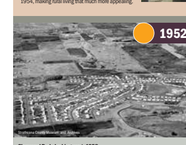
Speaking of the toils of farming, life-long resident David Doxter says:

" I'm still amazed how they got hay crops off. Some years were wetter and it rained more often. The heartbreak of having a hay field cut with a team of horses and mower, dodging yellow jackets and whatnot, and then couldn't get it off because it was never dry enough. Then there would be a couple of years when they did get it off, but a piece of machinery got too hot and burned, so was lost. The trials and tribulations … nobody knows! Impossible to transfer that sense of desperation they had. 'You had to survive on your wits.' "

**1950s**

Baseball thrives in the district; a fierce rivalry exists among the community ball teams of Bremner, Salisbury, Ardrossan and Clover Bar.

**1952**



Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**Sherwood Park, looking west, 1958**

The Municipal District of Strathcona No. 83 approves the creation of a satellite community to accommodate employees of the newly established oil refineries. Developers envision the largest housing development in western Canada. Planners choose a location south and east of Clover Bar village on farmland along Wye Road in the Salisbury district. The proposal survives regional scrutiny to become the first planned residential development of its kind in Canada. The start-up and growth of Sherwood Park injects an urban dimension into municipal planning.

**1955**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Canada Post refuses the name Campbelltown for the new satellite community to avoid confusion with Campbellton in New Brunswick and Campbelltown in Scotland. Coming up with a new name falls to an advertising agency, which proposes "Sherwood Park" after the legend of Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest. Hamlet residents embrace the new name.

**1955**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Show homes receive plenty of interest when their doors open in December 1955. Featuring California ranch-style homes, the new community grows rapidly—to 2,900 in the first five years and to nearly 30,000 by its 25th anniversary.

**1960s**

Industrial companies along Refinery Row acquire much of the land farmed by Clover Bar settlers during the first half of the 20th century. The Alberta government plans a transportation corridor with highway enhancements that align with the crisscrossing of existing railways. The resulting highway network encompasses much of Strathcona's three of its early communities—Clover Bar, Brenmor and Salisbury. While benefiting from new major roadways, the municipality loses significant connections to its past.

- 1964 - West Salisbury General Store relocates 1.5 km to the south to make way for an overpass and cloverleaf at Highway 14 and the new Sherwood Park Freeway.
- 1966 - Brenmor United Church closes to accommodate an overpass at Highways 16 and 21. The Province acquires Brenmor Recreation Grounds, rebuilds the railway grade and expands Highway 16 to four lanes.
- 1970 - The Village of Clover Bar disappears when the Department of Highways purchases land for highway expansion. Its 67 buildings are auctioned off and either moved or razed to make way for a cloverleaf interchange at Highways 16 and 216.

**Clover Bar Village**




Edmonton Journal, May 30, 1970

**1950s**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**Baseline Road**

Baseline Road is the first road in the area to be surveyed, in 1892. Its name comes from the fact that it is the baseline for the surveyors' grid. Baseline Road is the first road to be paved, in 1950.

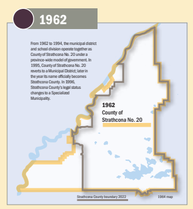
**1950s**

Strathcona County Museum and Archives

**Sherwood Park Freeway, 1968**

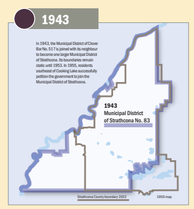
Commuters breathe a sigh of relief in 1968 when the province completes the new Sherwood Park Freeway, speeding travel to Edmonton by connecting Wye Road to Edmonton's 82 Avenue. The $6.5-million expressway is the most expensive section of highway in Alberta to date due to the interchanges at Salisbury Corner and elsewhere. The province covers the lion's share of the cost.

**1962**



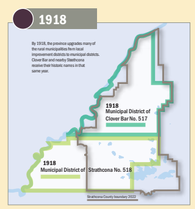
From 1962 to 1994, the municipal district and school division operate together as County of Strathcona No. 20 under a province-wide model of government. In 1995, County of Strathcona No. 20 ceases to exist when the municipality in the area to the north officially becomes Strathcona County. In 1994, Strathcona County's legal status changes to a Specialized Municipality.

**1943**



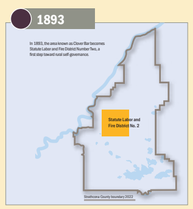
In 1943, the Municipal District of Clover Bar No. 517 is joined with its neighbour to become one larger Municipal District of Strathcona. Its boundaries remain static until 1963. In 1955, residents southeast of Edmonton vote successfully to remove the area from its jurisdiction. Municipal District of Strathcona.

**1918**



By 1918, the province upgrades many of the rural municipalities from local improvement districts to municipal districts. Clover Bar and nearby Strathcona receive their historic names in that same year.

**1893**

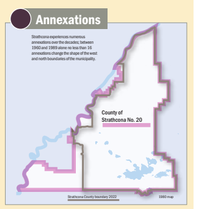


In 1893, the area known as Clover Bar becomes Statute Labor and Fire District Number Two, a first step toward rural self-governance.

**Changing governance, shifting boundaries**

Since first organized as a district in the late 19th century, the place we now know as Strathcona County has evolved through numerous adaptations to emerge as a Specialized Municipality, one of only a few of its kind in Alberta.

**Annexations**



Strathcona experiences numerous annexations. Those that occur between 1900 and 1994 alone in no less than 16 annexations change the shape of the west and north boundaries of the municipality.

**Place names**

As early settlers take up homesteads in this region, they come together to build local communities.

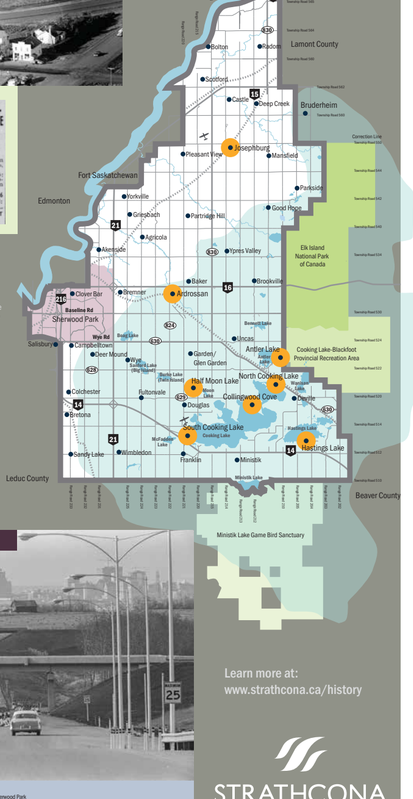
Early communities and small locales known as the name of an old school district, post office, railway stop, church, store or community hall

Today's rural hamlets

- Josephsburg is settled by immigrants arriving from Josefsberg (Galicia in Austro-Hungary) in 1891.
- Ardrossan dates back to the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1909.
- North Cooking Lake and South Cooking Lake take root in the early 20th century, when Cooking Lake develops as a resort area.
- Lakeside developments begin in the 1940s at Ardrei Lake, Half Moon Lake and Collingwood Cove.
- The Hastings Lake area joins the municipality in 1995 after a shift in school division boundaries.

Sherwood Park gets its start as Campbelltown in 1955.

The Beaver Hills was designated as a biosphere by UNESCO in 2016.




**1968**

**Sherwood Park Freeway, 1968**

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Learn more at:
www.strathcona.ca/history

STRATHCONA COUNTY