



Find out what is happening with Strathcona in Bloom.

Spring
2017

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Excitement is building about Canada's 150th Birthday. Red and White flowers have been ordered and volunteers are itching to plant! Planting for Strathcona in Bloom beds and planters is scheduled for the first week of June!

Our bed captains put in extra time and effort last fall to ensure orders were placed early for these special colours.

Another way to participate is to join the Information and Volunteer Centre's [150 for 150 Challenge](#). The goal is to have all residents volunteer and register with the goal of contributing 150 hours during 2017.

Congratulations to our Front Yard Finalists for 2016

Fay White
Ian and Elaine Simpson
Karen and Walter Sputek
Beth and Ross Hunt
Shirley Stawniczy

Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors that participated and helped to make this event a success.

Strathcona County has been chosen to host the **2018 Communities in Bloom Awards and Symposium**.

Awarded in 2016, the Circle of Excellence (Evaluated) category – 5 Blooms Silver and a special mention for Prairie Walk in Centre in the Park . [Read more](#)

Pollinator Habitat and Legacy Forest

Many of our volunteers were able to participate in the planting of the Pollinator Habitat in June, 2016.

The following is an excerpt from an article to be published in the Sherwood Park News highlighting plants used in the pollinator habitat. Pollinator Habitat is just south of Centennial Park. [Read more](#)

The three types of trees in the garden, which support pollinators with flowers and fruit, are Japanese lilac tree, Dropmore linden and Showy mountain ash. Other plants that are both hosts and food sources for butterflies are Joe Pye weed, globe thistle, golden marguerite, false sunflower, fleabane, Shasta daisy and pearly everlasting. Three varieties of milkweed are included as they are excellent sources of nectar for all butterflies as well as hosts for Monarchs, which will sometimes migrate this far north. Butterflies are attracted to flowers that have large "landing pads" such as members of the daisy family, which include asters, fleabanes and coneflowers. They also enjoy members of the mint family such as catmint, blue sage, thyme and hyssop.

Special Places and Hidden Gems

Sometimes when we live in an area for a while we find ourselves getting set in our routine and frequenting the same places. When friends come to visit and we want to show off our community we discover all sorts of hidden gems and special places. Here are a few places that you may want to check out the next time you are looking for something a little different:

The [Strathcona Science Provincial Park](#). Sandwiched between 17th Street and the North Saskatchewan River, the Strathcona Science Park is part of the River Valley Trail system. You can enjoy a leisurely stroll while taking in some lovely views of the city or make it more challenging by crossing the pedestrian bridge over to Rundle Park and getting your heart rate up with a few good hills.

Maybe you're more in the mood for a stroll through the forest? The [Sherwood Park Natural Area](#) offers plenty of trails with birds and wildlife just South of Township Road 522 (Whitemud Extension) on Range Road 231. This is a conservation, education and recreation area.

Did you know there is an outdoor gym in Ball Lake Park in the Nottingham Neighbourhood?

I have heard that if you go North on Clover Bar Road all the way to the end and then turn left on Township Road 540 and follow it to the end you'll be in a lovely natural area by the North Saskatchewan River. This is part of the [River Valley Alliance Trail](#). I think this will be the next place I check out!

Summerwood is home to an [Urban Forest](#) on Summerland Drive, just north of Lakeland Drive. There are native berries here and elsewhere throughout the trail system in Sherwood Park. Many native berries and nuts, numerous bird species and different types of wildlife can be found along the trails and in the many park areas within Sherwood Park.

If you would like to share a special place or hidden gem around our community please post it on our Facebook page.

Sustainable Gardening, Conserving water and Soil Protection. [Read more](#)

Executive Notes

Thanks to Dulcy Berry for her great organization skills and contribution as Volunteer Coordinator! Thanks also to Tim Goos for our fantastic photos last year. We welcome Leesa Lacombe (Volunteer Coordinator) and Lynn McPherson (Secretary) to our Executive.

Last winter, Strathcona County offered two morning Leadership Workshops, facilitated by Suzanne Wilson, that all of the executive attended.



The Canadian Shield Rose has been chosen as the Official flower of the Canada 150th Celebration.

22 Ways to successfully grow a vegetable garden. Projects you can use for either small or large spaces. [Read more](#)

GMOs, hybrids, open-pollinated selections and heritage varieties explained. [Read more](#)