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“New Community Living Room” – Strathcona County Library started its life in County Hall in 1977, has been a tenant in the Sherwood Park Mall since 1992, and after 32 years, the library will have its first permanent home back in the centre of the community. The library is about to double in size to 64,000 square feet in order to meet literacy and learning needs of Strathcona County residents for generations to come. On November 1, 2010, the new two-storey library will open in the Community Centre, Centre in the Park.

The new library will have something for the whole family. There will be room for visitors to have their special space depending on their needs, from quiet study areas to dynamic and interactive children’s areas, from a welcoming space for teens to hang out, to lots of cozy nooks for anyone to curl up with a good book. There will be an internet café, wireless Internet access throughout the facility, group meeting rooms that can be booked for group study, more program and public meeting rooms, a Career Centre to support employers and employees, and flexible spaces to meet the changing needs of our growing community. Hand-in-hand with increased space will be a bigger collection, newer and revitalized, with more books, DVDs, CDs, kits, and magazines, for all age groups. For more information about Naming Opportunities at the new library or to make a donation, please contact the library’s fund development coordinator, Glenda Sheard at 780 449-7331.

Part of the Service, Part of the Community – The Bookmobile, the traveling branch of Strathcona County Library, started providing library services to rural Strathcona County in January of 1982, just five years after Strathcona County Library opened its doors in Sherwood Park. The library’s second Bookmobile, purchased used in 1993, provided excellent service for many rural families, but fell short (as did its predecessor) providing accessibility to all county residents because of steep steps to get into the Bookmobile.

From concept to reality, our new Bookmobile has been a long time coming. It is just as we envisioned it – bright, open, warm and inviting. Add versatility and accessibility, and you have our new innovative Bookmobile!

- **Truly accessible** – Strathcona County Library believes in universal accessibility for everyone, young and old. The new Bookmobile is built on a Nova LFS (low floor) chassis that provides a low entry for easy access, and a ramp to allow entry for strollers, scooters and wheelchairs.
- **Accessible shelving** – Traditional bookmobiles use floor to ceiling shelving to carry a maximum amount of library materials. In the new Bookmobile, the books, CDs, and DVDs will be on easily accessible shelving and the plan is to turn over the inventory more often.

- **Portable shelving** – This is an incredible innovation! Seven shelving units on wheels provide quick and easy changeover of library materials to provide the ultimate in flexibility. With these units, Bookmobile staff will be able to move from serving seniors to preschoolers in minutes by rolling in shelving units with different library books.
- **Natural Light and Air** – Traditional bookmobiles lack windows. Our decision to keep shelves lower has the added advantage of keeping the top transom windows free to provide natural light and air flow. In addition, six solar panels make the Bookmobile self-sufficient during the day.
- **No air conditioner** – We are using a combination of windows, reflective blinds, and a motorized roof vent to keep the interior of the Bookmobile cool.

The new Bookmobile is now on the road visiting 12 rural communities in Strathcona County.

For more information about Strathcona County Library or the Bookmobile, visit www.sclibrary.ab.ca or call 780-449-5801.