Morinville closed session to consider selling old arena

The town of Morinville hasn’t called for proposals for the disposal of the town’s old hockey arena, which it replaced with the new Morinville Leisure Centre. However, a special council meeting has been set for Aug. 6 regarding “the potential sale of Ray McDonald Sports Center.”

Keeping with its practice of secrecy, council has scheduled the only item on the agenda to be discussed in closed session — so you can go and sit in the foyer as council determines the fate of the taxpayer asset until it reaches a consensus. Assuming council follows its usual routine, if there is to be action, the doors to the council chamber will open and in public session council will pass a motion bereft of substance referring to a numbered clause from the closed door discussion. It will then follow that with a resolution not to release details of the agreement effectively shutting out details from the taxpayers of the town.

Council even used the technique to wipe out an overdue tax account earlier this year, with one unnamed landowner receiving a benefit of thousands of dollars from this council without any public request or explanation for the taxes being written off. The tax write-off was done just months before council approved a tax bylaw that resulted in commercial property owners paying an average increase of over 30% in municipal taxes for 2019.

At least 3 seek County council seat

Three candidates had filed nomination papers in the Sturgeon County Division 2 byelection by early last week, giving residents a variety of options on voting day.

Lynda Moffat, Kristin Toms, and Rudy van Woerkom were listed on the County website as having filed nomination papers by July 29. Nomination day is Aug. 6 so there may be additional candidates filing before the deadline.

The byelection is on Sept. 17, with advance polls also being scheduled prior to election day.

The byelection was called to fill the seat vacated through the resignation of Susan Evans. Her letter of resignation was a single paragraph and did not contain an explanation for the action.

Related stories page A9

Spectators cheer as two mini cars collide during the Demo Derby on July 26 at the annual Fête au Village celebration in Legal. More than 2,500 spectators gathered to cheer 29 driver-gladiators who delivered high-octane action as they smashed up vehicles ranging from souped-up trucks to agile mini cars. —photo by Grant Cree

Related stories page A9

Meet Division 2 Sturgeon County Council candidate

Kristin Toms!

Join Kristin for coffee at the Cardiff Golf Course Restaurant either Monday, August 12 from 9-11 a.m. or Monday, August 19 from 4-6 p.m.

Integrity. Honesty. Commitment. www.kristintoms.com

Bat Car 1 driver Keilan Jackson had a grand entrance minutes before race time as “support crew” member Logan Tanner pushed the cart to the line up. Jackson has participated in several soapbox derbies and was excited for this year’s race. The soapbox derby was a highlighted event at Legal’s Fête Au Village festivities on July 27th with 10 racers this year.

—photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
5 year old Ivory McIlwraith holds Chico, the Molucan Cockatoo during a set up by Zoo2U at Legal’s Fete Au Village events on July 27th. There were a selection of birds, reptiles and a friendly tortoise. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
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T: 780.459.7711
F: 780.458.3213

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Servus supports Legal Citizens On Patrol, Sturgeon Victim Services

In Grant Cree

The Servus Credit Union in Legal donated $2,200 to a couple of local community groups on July 26 during a presentation outside the branch. Representatives from Legal Citizens On Patrol and Sturgeon Victim Services were each presented with $1,100 cheques from Damien Stinn, Branch Manager of the Servus Credit Union.

“We raised $2,200 and split the proceeds 50-50 for those two organizations,” said Stinn.

“We did our annual fundraising barbecue in May. We do different events each year so this year we decided to split between the two,” he explained. He had that his corporate office in Edmonton also allocates funds every year for local branches to support various events and organizations.

“Once of our pillars as a company is community involvement, which is awesome especially in a small community like Legal where there are so many different events that require sponsorship,” said Stinn. “Servus Credit Union is all over Alberta, but we can still be local enough that we can support local events.”

Funds donated to the newly formed Legal Citizens On Patrol will pay for their operating costs, said President George Prefontaine. “I want to thank the Credit Union for this donation, it’s amazing. It’s going to go along way in helping make our community safer.”

Sturgeon Victim Services Program Manager Elyse Prince was also grateful for the $1,100 donation. “The cheque is going to go directly to our client services and also to our facility dog named Hope,” said Prince, referring to a two-year-old female yellow Labrador trained and certified as a service dog by Dogs With Wings.

“This cheque will be going to her long-term care as well as helping our clients access their basic needs such as transportation, shelter, food and things like that.”

The Servus Credit Union in Legal donated $1,100 to Sturgeon Victim Services on July 26 during a presentation outside the branch. (L-R): George Prefontaine, President of Legal Citizens On Patrol; Laurette Rivard, Legal Community Council for Service Credit Union; and Damien Stinn, Branch Manager of the Legal Servus Credit Union. -photo by Grant Cree

The Servus Credit Union in Legal donated $1,100 to Legal Citizens On Patrol on July 26 during a presentation outside the branch. (L-R): George Prefontaine, President of Legal Citizens On Patrol; Laurette Rivard, Legal Community Council for Service Credit Union; and Damian Stinn, Branch Manager of the Legal Servus Credit Union. –photo by Grant Cree
This week in Morinville photo enforcement will be conducted in the following areas:

- Cardiff Rd
- Grandin Dr
- Morinville Dr
- Sunnydale Rd
- East Boundary Rd
- 96 St
- 100 St
- 104 St
- 107 St
- 100 Ave
- 101 Ave
- All School zones
- All Playground zones
- All other areas where speeding is a concern

NOTICE

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

Landrex is the sponsor of the Morinville Leisure Centre arena. Through a seven-year agreement, Landrex attains naming rights to the Arena in the Morinville Leisure Centre. Funds from this sponsorship agreement will be applied to operation and construction costs of the facility,” states the town in a media release.

Mayor Barry Turner did not respond to a media question on the dollar value of the sponsorship. Only one sponsorship arrangement involving the $30.5 million leisure centre project has had the level of financial support released to town residents, responsible for paying for the publicly owned facility.

“We are very excited that Landrex has stepped forward to support the Morinville Leisure Centre,” states Turner in the media release. “The Morinville Leisure Centre is a major hub of activity in the community, and we are thankful that Landrex has chosen to be a sponsor of the arena. Landrex is a significant contributor in Morinville’s development and their investment will support the ongoing sustainability of the Morinville Leisure Centre.”

The project includes an NHL sized arena, a field house, indoor track, fitness centre, children’s play space, meeting room, lobby, concession, and spectator areas and was opened at the end of May. During the opening ceremony the town stated the project was completed on budget, however the town has also stated that commercial taxpayers saw their municipal taxes increase by 22% in 2019 when, in fact, the average increase is over 30%. There has been no public accounting yet for the Leisure Centre project. Turner did not respond to media question regarding when that accounting would be made public.

“It is really important for me to express how appreciative Landrex is to be collaborating with the Town of Morinville on our new developments, and on our Morinville Leisure Centre sponsorship,” states Sophie Baran, Executive Vice President of Landrex in the town’s media release. “Giving back to the communities we serve is one of our core values. We are so grateful for the businesses and residents that fill this community with joy, love and laughter.”

Landrex refers to itself as a “locally-owned land development company with a not-so-typical land development approach. We put people first in everything we do, from our customers to builders and employees, and we believe in the power of dedication, hard work, and commitment to doing the right thing.”

“For nearly four decades, we have remained steadfast in our mission of creating top-notch, best-in-class neighbourhoods throughout the greater Edmonton area. Landrex’s communities in Morinville, The Lakes and most recently Westwinds, are no exception. We hold ourselves to the highest standard of excellence in both residential and commercial sectors. Each and every one of our communities is developed with innovation and family in mind—because we know what matters,” states the media release.

Landrex is Leisure Centre arena sponsor

Participant Mya Legue, Summer Leader, Natasha Kryger and participant Keira Selman, discussing a strategy as they maneuver through the Bouncy Obstacle Course at Sturgeon County’s Carnival Extravaganza held at Cardiff hall on July 30.

A firefighter observes as frontend loaders assist damaged muscle cars leave the pit during the Demo Derby on July 26 at the annual Fête au Village celebration in Legal. More than 2,500 spectators gathered to cheer 29 driver-gladiators who delivered high-octane action as they smashed up vehicles ranging from muscle cars and souped-up trucks to agile mini cars. — photo by Grant Cree

Revised by Marla O'Grady

Tag: 15577853457725718551
Arinn Young of Legal named to Team Canada’s wheelchair basketball roster

by Amy Abbot-Hulseck

The Canadian Parapan Am Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Roster features the name of local athlete and Paralympian, Arinn Young of Legal. Named as 1 of 12 women on her team, and the only Albertan, the athletes will compete for Gold for Canada at the Lima 2019 Parapan American Games from August 23 to September 1st in Peru. The women’s team must finish in the top 2 to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games for Canada.

“Congratulations to all supremely well-deserving individuals who have been selected to play for Canada in Lima,” said Stephanie Dixon, chef de mission of the Lima 2019 Canadian Parapan Am Team. “I know how important these Games are for our wheelchair basketball teams and the entire Canadian ParaPan Am Team will be behind you. We know you are ready for the challenge, and I am so excited to support you and cheer you on.”

“This is the biggest tournament of the year,” says Young who has been in Toronto since May 1st in preparation for the event. She trains with her team for 4-6 hours daily, 5 days per week. Young is well versed in the commitments of this as she has been on the Wheelchair Basketball Team Canada since 2014. “It’s high intensity,” she says. Young has a minimal disability resulting from too many lower body injuries to her hips, knees and legs. The 24 year old has torn both of her ACL’s (anterior cruciate ligaments in the knees), and both menisci (the rubbery cushion in the knees) and also suffered a broken left femur. She has adjusted perfectly to her disability and couldn’t identify a weakness when asked, but rather listed her weakness as helping teammates too much on the defensive side. She said she’s a very physical player and is regarded as “the girl that will push you around.”

The Canadian women finished fifth at the world championships last year, where they were the top nation from the Americas. At the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Canada was also fifth and second in the Americas behind the USA who won gold.

Arinn Young and Cindy Ouellet will co-captain the team in Lima, where the squad will feature seven Paralympians and five newcomers to the Paralympic Games. Canada won the silver medal in the women’s wheelchair basketball tournament four years ago at the Parapan Am Games.

Following the big tournament, Young will be returning to school at the University of Alabama where she will face her 5th and final year in her college basketball career with her graduation set for spring of 2020. The past school year earned Young a nomination for MVP when her team won the 2019 National Championship Tournament. Following graduation, Young is open to whatever opportunity knocks at her door. She hopes to earn a spot on a European team and play professional level for a few years and then coach in either a strength and conditioning role or as head coach. Her main goal is to give her experience back to the next generation of basketball players. She says she won’t close the door on opportunities and enjoys chasing new experiences.

Young wanted to add that she couldn’t be where she is today without the support of her family at home in Alberta. She appreciates that her parents attend every major tournament that she plays in and they will be cheering her on in Lima where her team will face off against Mexico, Argentina and Colombia. The Lima 2019 Parapan American Games will surpass Toronto 2015 as the largest Parapan Am Games ever with a record 1,850 athletes set to participate. Canada is expected to send a team of approximately 152 athletes and competition partners in 13 sports.

Team Canada’s Wheelchair Basketball Roster

Arinn Young of Legal, playing Wheelchair Basketball for Team Canada during the Rio 2016 Games. – photo courtesy Wheelchair Basketball Canada
A family of Canadian Geese went out for an evening swim on July 22 then stopped to have supper. Geese basked in the sun while delighting in the delicious vegetation throughout Cardiff Park. --photo by Dolly Bolen

More than 2,500 spectators gathered to cheer 29 driver-gladiators who delivered high-octane action as they smashed up vehicles ranging from muscle cars and souped-up trucks to agile mini cars. --photo by Grant Cree.

Derby a smashing success in Legal

Spectators react as they watch cars crash into each other during the Demo Derby on July 26 at the annual Fête au Village celebration in Legal. --photo by Grant Cree.

Mud flies as two trucks slam into each other during the Demo Derby on July 26 at the annual Fête au Village celebration in Legal. More than 2,500 spectators gathered to cheer 29 driver-gladiators who delivered high-octane action as they smashed up vehicles ranging from muscle cars and souped-up trucks to agile mini cars. --photo by Grant Cree.

Noah Bjorklund and Ophelia Radborne enjoying a Bouncy Castle at Sturgeon County’s Carnival Extravaganza Theme Day at Cardiff Hall on July 30.

Mud flies as two trucks slam into each other during the Demo Derby on July 26 at the annual Fête au Village celebration in Legal. More than 2,500 spectators gathered to cheer 29 driver-gladiators who delivered high-octane action as they smashed up vehicles ranging from muscle cars and souped-up trucks to agile mini cars. --photo by Grant Cree.

Noah Bjorklund and Ophelia Radborne enjoying a Bouncy Castle at Sturgeon County’s Carnival Extravaganza Theme Day at Cardiff Hall on July 30.

A family of Canadian Geese went out for an evening swim on July 22 then stopped to have supper. Geese basked in the sun while delighting in the delicious vegetation throughout Cardiff Park. --photo by Dolly Bolen
Due to financial reasons, after over 45 years of service, the Morinville Associate Medical Clinic will be closing its doors on September 30th. –photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Lynda Moffat has municipal council.

Chamber experience

Lynda Moffat is running in the Sturgeon County Division 2 by-election being held Sept. 17th. She advises, “We have lived in Sturgeon County for nine years, and I have come to love the County and the people who live here. With my experience in municipal government, I believe I can be an excellent Councillor to represent Division 2.”

Her experience includes serving as City Councillor in St. Albert, years as President and CEO of the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Board of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Chairing a successful Task Force on the Villeneuve Airport, President of the Rotary Club of St. Albert, President of the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada, President of the Alberta Chamber Executives, and participation in numerous boards and committees.

Moffat currently sits on the Sturgeon County Economic Development Board, and the Government Affairs Committee for the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce.

Her four children include the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club. She was named Chamber Executive of the Year by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, named St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, Honoured Business Person, and the Government Affairs Committee for the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce.

Lynda Moffat has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce for 20 years, and has participated in numerous boards and committees.

Moffat currently sits on the Sturgeon County Economic Development Board, and the Government Affairs Committee for the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce.

Her four children include the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club. She was named Chamber Executive of the Year by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, named St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, Honoured Business Person, and the Government Affairs Committee for the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce.

Her community involvement includes serving on the Sturgeon County Economic Development Board, and the Government Affairs Committee for the St. Albert and District Chamber of Commerce.
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- Wages range – $13.00 - $15.00/hr
- Minimum age 15 years
- MUST be able to work Evenings & Weekends
- Customer Service skills a priority
- DUTIES: Concession operation including cash and customer service

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FEED
On July 11, the Town of Bon Accord hosted a small ceremony at the cemetery to recognize the generosity of the Strawson Family. The Strawson’s donated their land for the development of the Bon Accord Cemetery in the late 1920’s.

Glenn and Donald Strawson’s late grandparents, Walter and Edith Strawson and late parents, Irwin and Mae Strawson farmed the land and then later donated a portion of the land for the cemetery development. (L-R) Glenn Strawson, Shirley Strawson, Donald Strawson, Susan Strawson, Councillor May, Councillor MacArthur and Councillor Sidney.

St. Albert Canoe & Kayak Club met at Cardiff Park on July 22 enjoying the beautiful sunny weather. The club met at Cardiff Park as a regular location for training and summer camp.

--photo by Dolly Bolen
Tough chicks with kicks! Congratulations to Morinville’s newest Black Belt Miss Doveina Bolen who successfully tested on July 26 at Phoenix Taekwon-Do in St. Albert. Miss Bolen (middle) posed for a photo with 6th Degree Black Belt Theresa Stanley (left) and 2nd Degree Black Belt Michelle Kardolus. She joined Phoenix Taekwon-Do in Morinville September 2015 when she was 11 years old never having taken any Martial Arts before. In November 2017 Bolen became an Assistant Instructor with Phoenix Taekwon-Do in Morinville. Her female role models Theresa Stanley and Michelle Kardolus inspired her to achieve her goal to become a Black Belt! --photo by Dolly Bolen

Riding gear on, and cart ready to go. 5 year old Carter Prefontaine was ready to be announced in the first heat of races for the soapbox derby at Pete Au Village in Legal on July 27th. There were several registered racers but only 10 arrived at check in time, likely due to weather conditions. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock