Danny Getzlaf of Morinville has an unrelenting zest for life. His smile is contagious, his positive attitude is admirable and his determination to fight — nothing short of courageous. He has become a local face for support and advocacy for ALS awareness. Receiving the diagnosis of the debilitating disease in November of 2017, Getzlaf made it his mission to find out as much about his condition as he could and to warrant himself available to any studies and research opportunities that arose.

Getzlaf participated in some MRI studies, but on October 4th, 2018, it was announced that Health Canada approved a drug called Edaravone (Brand name Radi-cava) manufactured by Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation. It was a “notice of compliance” approval that followed a 180 day priority review of the drug. This is only the second ALS therapy to be approved by Heath Canada, and the first in approximately two decades. The company made limited supply of the drug available to Canadian patients while the Health Canada application was being considered. Under the care of Dr. Wendy Johnston, at the U of A Hospital, Getzlaf is one of about 210 patients Canada wide. Dr. Johnston says, “The patients who are offered the drug are thought to be the ones most likely to benefit based on the research that led to its approval.” Studies show it is most effective for patients in the early stages of the disease who can feed themselves and require no assistance in activities of daily living.

In patients with ALS, the brain loses the ability to control muscle movement from neurological failure. Early symptoms include muscle twitching, stiffness or weakness, followed by difficulty with slurred speech, reduced mobility and eventually the loss of ability for chewing, swallowing and breathing. The average life expectancy of a person with ALS is 2-5 years following diagnosis. Its cause is unknown and although there is no cure, treatments with drugs such as Edaravone have shown to slow the progression of the disease and extend the length of quality of life in patients.

Clinical tests that led to the approval of Edaravone by Health Canada indicated a 33% decrease in the progressive rate of the disease. After doing his preliminary blood work and assessments, Getzlaf started his first Edaravone infusion at the U of A Hospital Outpatient Infusion Clinic on January 28th. There is a 28 day treatment cycle where he will attend 1.5 hour infusion appointments for 14 days then have 14 days off; then 10 of 14 days with the same infusion appointments followed by 14 days off and then repeat. Dr. Johnston says, “The drug is considered to be safe with few if any side effects. The main challenge is that it has to be given by intravenous daily for up to 14 days in a row.” The special access programme supports treatment for nine months. Getzlaf is hopeful that he will be able to transfer his treatment appointments to the Sturgeon Community Hospital to shorten his travel time.

Getzlaf is focused on being grateful to have been chosen for this program and being a prime candidate for it. He says, however, that there is a stress factor involved when thinking what happens after the nine months of the special access programme are up. He is hopeful that his benefit plan through Sunlife will cover the costs associated, as an annual treatment for Edaravone will cost an estimated $210,000. Dr. Johnston outlines that although it is approved to be marketed and sold in Canada, the other considerations such as an effort to negotiate a fair price in Canada and whether private insurers and provincial drug plans will cover the costs associated have yet to be worked out. In the meantime, Getzlaf has much to do to prepare for his role of the 2019 Edmonton ALS Walk Ambassador.

Keeping true to his dedication to voicing the need for support for those with ALS, he will be involved in some community events leading up to this year’s ALS Walk in June.
Sturgeon County is to consider a strategy to improve cost efficiency and maintain the serv-ice standards set by council. Apparently those council standards don’t include transparency in keeping the taxpayers informed of their activi-ties.

The resolution from counc. Patrick Tighe going to the Feb. 12 council meeting has word-ing which conceals any information of sub-stance from electors.

Tighe submitted a notice of motion in Janu-ary to bring the issue before council this week. The proposed motion states: “That Council direct Administration to proceed with the direction provided within the February 12, 2019 Agenda Item E.4. in keeping with section 24 of the Free-dom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP).”

That direction is to come from a “Closed Session in accordance with section 24 (Advice from officials) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act” according to the agenda, which notes that it refers to “plans relating to providing quality, cost-effective services to implement and maintain the service standards set by Council.”

FOIPP does not require that all advice from officials be heard in closed session. Adminis-tration officials routinely provide advice to council in public at all council meetings. The FOIPP provision has been used by Mor-inville Town Council repeatedly without even disclosing the topic to be discussed. As long as all members of council remain on board to keep council activities secret from taxpayers, there is nothing in the Municipal Government Act to prevent the hiding of council actions through vaguely worded action motions passed in public referring to a discussion at a council closed session.

Pat Homeniuk hosted her display of Mermaid pillows, journals, pencil cases and other items during the Morinville Farmers’ Market on Feb. 8 in the lobby of the Ray McDonald Sports Center. “The pillows are made with sequin material, and when you rub it, it changes colour,” said Homeniuk. “So you get either a red and black or purple and black, and I also have a rainbow one. You can spruce up your living room and give it some colour.” –photo by Grant Cree
INDUSTRIAL OPERATING APPROVAL RENEWALS

AN UPDATE

The need for Operating Approvals
Most facilities operating in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland need an approval to construct, operate and ultimately reclaim their site. This is required from the province of Alberta as one way to manage the environment. Once an approval is granted, a renewal is necessary every ten years. These regulations are part of the province’s Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA). Most of these approvals must be renewed every ten years.

Why renew?
Approval renewals are required for several reasons. In part, the renewal process allows the opportunity to:

- review any changes to the facility
- incorporate current environmental conditions and any additional requirements that have changed since the original operating approval was granted
- review and identify continuous improvement industrial sites

To manage the large number of approval renewals across Alberta, regulatory agencies have the ability to extend the expiry date of an operating approval by 1 year (this can be done more than once). This allows the regulatory agencies to spread out the 10-year renewal cycle to make it more manageable.

How is the public involved?
Public involvement is a key component. The public must be notified of all applications through notices in local newspapers. Anyone that may be directly affected by an application may file a Statement of Concern with AEP or AER. All filed statements must be addressed by the applicant and the regulator prior to an approval or renewal being granted.

Therefore, you are likely to see notices in local papers about these renewals. You can stay informed using the Public Notices Viewer and the Approval Viewer.

What is the current status of Approval Renewals for NCIA Member Companies?
Of the 22 member companies that are part of the Northeast Capital Industrial Association, 16 have gone through the approval renewal process in the past couple of years. Of those, 8 have received their approval renewals and 8 are currently working through the process with either Alberta Environment and Parks or the Alberta Energy Regulator.

For more information about Life in the Heartland, visit lifeintheheartland.com, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, or email info@lifeintheheartland.com.
This week in Morinville photo enforcement will be conducted in the following areas:

- Cardiff Rd
- Grandin Dr
- Morinville Dr
- Sunnydale Road
- East Boundary Rd
- Sunnyvale Rd
- 96 St
- 100 St
- 104 St
- 107 St
- 100 Ave
- 101 Ave

Notices to parents:

Doveina Bolen #9 from Morinville Community High School (MCHS) Junior Varsity Lady Wolves dodges a player from Wetaskiwin Composite High School Sabres on February 8 during the Boston Pizza Classic Basketball Tournament held at Ecole Camrose Composite High School. MCHS Wolves won their first game. —photo by Dolly Bolen

Doveina Bolen #9 from Morinville Community High School (MCHS) Junior Varsity Lady Wolves dodges a player from Wetaskiwin Composite High School Sabres on February 8 during the Boston Pizza Classic Basketball Tournament held at Ecole Camrose Composite High School. The Sabres fought hard to keep up but MCHS Wolves won then went on to win Bronze in the tournament which finished up on February 9. —photo by Dolly Bolen

The town of Morinville has over seven blocks of unpaved lanes that are rated as in poor condition, as well as several smaller sections. Besides this there is also a section in the east area of the town with a paved lane rated in poor condition. While the problem lanes have been identified, residents cannot expect to see any upgrades in the near future — with the costing alone expected to be $10,000 per block and an upgrade running between $100,000 and $150,000 per block. This would not include storm sewer installation to drain excess water from the lane.

The town did not budget to upgrade any of the lanes in 2019, with the exception of one just east of 100 Street that has been designated as the public access to a drive-in coffee business. The rest are essentially back alleys.

While the number of lanes considered in poor condition is a cause for concern, the situation with those considered satisfactory is less than reassuring. “The lane status map outlines four types of lanes in terms of their current condition being either paved or unpaved and also classified as poor or satisfactory. None of the unpaved lanes would be considered as being in ‘great’ condition,” states a report going to council Feb. 12. “This classification is not based on the number of complaints received, but rather on the level of effort required to maintain adequate drainage in terms of equipment and labour required to do so, either during spring thaw or following a substantial rainfall,” states Claude Valcourt, director of Public Works, in the report to council.

While administration was directed by council to identify the worst lanes and bring cost figures to upgrade these, administration is advising “without any survey and geotechnical information for any of those lanes, it is difficult to provide a more accurate cost estimate related to improving the lanes. However, Administration can estimate the cost to survey and provide geotechnical information for one block of lane (distance between two avenues) would be approx. $10,000. Based on the June 14, 2018 AECOM report, the cost to upgrade one block of lane as per option 1, excluding any underground stormwater work would be approx. between $100,000 and $150,000 depending on the amount of material required to be removed and replaced. The recommend approach to upgrade any lane would be to budget for the survey, geotechnical work, design and tender on year 1 then proceed with the capital work on year 2 based on actual known budget requirement.”
People still fish in -30 weather? Well, when you’re dressed in about 6 layers and have a tent and seat off the ground like dedicated fisherman Trent MacMullin, I guess they do! MacMullin was the only one outside in what otherwise seemed like a deserted Fish and Gaming Pond area in Morinville on February 3rd. —photo by Amy HibbardHiscock

Inter Pipeline is hosting an open house in your area to share updates about the Heartland Petrochemical Complex. This complex will convert propane into polypropylene plastic pellets and is scheduled to be operational in late 2021.

- **Event**: Inter Pipeline’s Heartland Petrochemical Complex Open House
- **Date**: Wednesday, February 20, 2019
- **Time**: 3pm to 7pm
- **Venue**: Dow Centennial Centre, Lions Mane Room
  8700 84 Street
  Fort Saskatchewan, AB

On behalf of the AIHA Board of Directors

CONGRATULATIONS PEMBINA

Final Investment Decision for a PDH/PP Facility in Alberta's Industrial Heartland
Sturgeon County Council will formally receive the 2018 Year in Review report covering a wide range of factors from economic to quality of life issues. “Locally, the commissioning of the North West Redwater Partnership Sturgeon Refinery, and the announcement by Canada Kuwait Petrochemical Corporation and G3 Canada to move ahead with Industrial development in Sturgeon County shows continued growth. Nine major projects (projects greater that $5 million in value, announced or in progress) that impact Sturgeon County and may extend beyond our borders are currently worth an estimated $6 billion,” the report notes.

Under its ‘Planned Growth and Prosperity’ heading the report refers to four topics:

- G3 Canada Expansion -- “The new facility will be located 2.4 km west of Morinville on the north side of Highway 642. G3 Morinville will have a capacity of 42,000 tonnes and is located on a CN Rail line. It is well placed to move grain to the G3 Terminal Vancouver that will be in operation in 2020.”
- Completion of Foreign Direct Investment Study -- “This project provided information on the strengths of Sturgeon County as a foreign investment opportunity, what type of foreign investors may be interested in these strengths and how to approach them. The final report comes with significant implementation items which will be a focus in 2019.”
- Approval of Sturgeon Valley Special Study Area by the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board -- “The work completed by Sturgeon County in collaboration with the City of Edmonton and the City of St. Albert addressed a decade-long uncertainty regarding what future development would incorporate in the Sturgeon Valley.”
- Broadband Network Study -- “In partnership with the Town of Morinville, a broadband network study was completed to understand business broadband needs that will support business attraction, retention and expansion. This project was supported by a grant from the Alberta Government Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) program,” states the document.

Erica Ritter enjoyed some ice time during Friday Shinny on the afternoon of Feb. 8 in the Ray McDonald Sports Center arena. Several hockey enthusiasts laced up for ice time despite the -33 temperature outside. --photo by Grant Cree

---

**Market Manager for the Gibbons Farmer’s Market!**

- **Looking for a part time outlet for your creativity?**
- **Want a connection to your community?**

The Gibbons Farmers’ Market is held Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:30 pm starting mid June through mid September. As manager of the market, you will be responsible for various administrative and promotional tasks as well as being present at all markets.

Ideally the manager will setup and maintain a website and/or social media presence and will coordinate special events such as the Annual Christmas Market.

Remuneration to be negotiated.

Interested, self motivated and organized individuals are required to submit a resume or letter of interest to:

Sturgeon River Agricultural Society
Box 392
Gibbons, AB T0A 1N0
Email: dtburner@gibbons.ca

Application Deadline: March 31, 2019
February is our Kick Off to Customer Appreciation Month

Book any two pieces of machinery or equipment and pay commission on one item only, offer ends March 1st, 2019

Call Nick and get your machinery, tractors, rv’s, boats quads, trucks and industrial equipment booked for this 8th Annual Sale!

We have calls looking for tandem grain trucks, acreage tractors and farm discs.

Consign today for free advertising for this sale.

Sale updates coming soon here and our website as well as globalauctionguide/alberta

Call Nick NOW
780-960-1914, cell 587-982-4306
www.heartlandauctions.ca

Heartland Auctions, Where There Are Friends at an Auction Sale!

Nick Gulka - 587-982-4306 • heartland-auctions@outlook.com
Find us on Facebook • www.heartlandauctions.ca

DOES YOUR CHILD QUALIFY FOR ONE OF OUR EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES?

Thinking your child may benefit from an Enrichment or Headstart program? Call our office at 780.939.4321 ext 1257 to book a screening session. All children must be screened and qualify for these programs under Alberta Education guidelines.

Enrichment Program
Designed for children who are assessed as being “cognitively advanced”.
To be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year, children must be a minimum age of:
- 3 years, 8 months, by September 1, 2019.

Screenings are being offered at:
- MCCC = March 7, 8, 12, 15, 18

Headstart Program
Designed for children who require support for speech, language, and/or fine motor skills and/or social skills.
To be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year, children must be a minimum age of:
- 2 years, 8 months, with significant needs, by September 1, 2019, or
- 3 years, 8 months with mild to moderate needs, by September 1, 2019.

Screenings are being offered at:
- Fable Garden Hall = March 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20
- Bon Accord School = March 11
- MFRC = March 11
- Camilla School = March 13
- Landing Trail = March 18
- Namao School = March 19
- Ocche Park School = March 20

TO BOOK A SCREENING, CALL STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION AT 780.939.4341 EXT 1257

MCCC (Morinville Community Cultural Centre), 9502 -100 Ave, Morinville - screenings serving all school locations
Fable Garden Hall, 10010 - 101 Ave, Morinville - screenings serving all school locations
MFRC (Military Family Resource Center), Edmonton Garrison - screening serving Guthrie and Namao communities
Bon Accord Community School - screening serving Bon Accord, Gibbons and Legal communities

Remember, your child’s birth certificate will be required at the screening session.
CHARMING 3 STOREY
$280,000
1368 sq.ft, 3 bdrms / 2.5 baths
Open den w/garden doors to balcony
Double detached garage w/back lane access
No Condo Fees
MLS# E4141341

WARM & INVITING
$394,500
1627 sq.ft, 4 bdrms / 3.5 baths
Fully finished basement
Landscaped & fenced yard w/no neighbours behind you
MLS# E4133664

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN
$159,900
1119 sq.ft, 3 bdrms / 1.5 baths
Fully finished basement
2 powered parking stalls
MLS# E4116560

RENOVATED HOME ON 7.29 ACRES
$374,900
874 sq.ft, 2 bdrms / 1.5 baths
Completely renovated
Detached garage, barn & chicken coop
20 mins NW of Morinville
MLS# E4126117

LOCATION! LOCATION!
$189,900
782 sq.ft, 1 bdrm / 1 bath
Large backyard w/workshop
Great rental property or redevelopment property w/commercial zoning
MLS# E4126578

MAINTENANCE FREE LIVING
$184,900
905 sq.ft, main floor condo
2 bdrms / 2 baths
In-suite laundry, warm laminate, concrete patio
1/titled underground parking stall & 1 assigned outdoor stall
MLS# E4126014

MAPLE BROOKE VILLAS
$236,900
1221 sq.ft, 2 bdrms / 2 baths
Newer flooring, crown moulding, S.S appliances
1/titled outdoor parking stall & 1/assigned outdoor parking stall
MLS# E4129783

NEWLY RENOVATED
$208,900
1198 sq.ft of total living space
3 bdrm / 1.5 bath
Fully renovated
Fenced yard
MLS# E4142902

ACREAGE W/SHOP
$642,900
1200 sq.ft, 3 bdrms / 2 baths
2.64 ac 8 mins W of Morinville
Single att'd & triple def'd garage PLUS shop
Municipal water
MLS# E4141489

GREAT PRICE! GREAT HOME!
$299,900
904 sq.ft, 4 level split
3 bdrms / 2 baths
Updated kitchen & bathroom, newer flooring & windows
Heated, insulated dbl detached garage w/RV parking
MLS# E4137515

MAINTENANCE FREE LIVING $184,900
905 sq.ft, main floor condo
2 bdrms / 2 baths
In-suite laundry, warm laminate, concrete patio
1/titled underground parking stall & 1 assigned outdoor stall
MLS# E4126014

GETZ YOU MOVING!
Linda Getzlaf
GETZ IT LISTED - GETZ IT SOLD!
#1 REALTOR at RE/MAX Real Estate
Morinville for the past 7 years!
Call Me Direct: 780-690-3861
Lindagetzlaf@ymail.com          www.lindagetzlaf.com

GREAT PRICE! GREAT HOME! $299,900
904 sq.ft, 4 level split
3 bdrms / 2 baths
Updated kitchen & bathroom, newer flooring & windows
Heated, insulated dbl detached garage w/RV parking
MLS# E4137515

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN $159,900
1119 sq.ft, 3 bdrms / 1.5 baths
Fully finished basement
2 powered parking stalls
MLS# E4116560

CUTE & COZY $154,900
843 sq.ft, renovated bungalow
2 bdrm / 1 bath
Single det' garage w/front & back lane access
Located on main street in Legal
MLS# E4134167

FINISHED TOP TO BOTTOM $414,900
1741 sq.ft, fully finished 2 storey
4 bdrms / 3.5 baths
Bonus room
Central air, hardwood, granite
Oversized, heated & insulated garage
MLS# E4139392

RENOVATED HOME ON 7.29 ACRES $374,900
874 sq.ft, 2 bdrms / 1.5 baths
Completely renovated
Detached garage, barn & chicken coop
20 mins NW of Morinville
MLS# E4126117

MAINTENANCE FREE LIVING $184,900
905 sq.ft, main floor condo
2 bdrms / 2 baths
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2 bdrms / 2 baths
In-suite laundry, warm laminate, concrete patio
1/titled underground parking stall & 1 assigned outdoor stall
MLS# E4126014
In Long Lake Estates (just 1 hour north of Edmonton), over a half acre with only 100 yds of park reserve land between you and the lake. Mowed trail leads through the trees to the sandy beach and dock. This feature - vaunted ceilings, hardwood floors, concept living room/kitchen, 2 baths, 2 baths, den, family room, and 3 massive att'd garages 2 car garage has an extra room in it that is drywalled and perfect for additional summer sleeping or sleep over guests.

The yard has a hill ski, golf course, fishing trails, rock driveway, storage shed (matches house & garage), garage has an extra room that is drywalled and full 4 piece bath complete the year round living area. Full house & garage for $629,900.

REDUCED!

3.9 ACRES WITH HOME AND SHOP BY MORINVILLE

This is a perfectly located 3.9 acres just 30 min north of Morinville with less than 1/2 mile of gravel. Almost 1400 sq ft home with large living room, concept great room & fully finished basement. It features vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, large bedrooms & 4 pce bath along with lots of storage. There is room to make an additional bedroom if needed. Along with the double att'd garage is a 30'4"x16'6" heated shop with a staircase to storage. The yard has a dugout with water system to a waterfall & stone shelters for animals.

The property is fenced & fenced & perfect to keep your dogs. This property is a gardener's delight with lots of fruit trees of all kinds, many flowering. The perimeter of property is beautiful. Other features include 3 season enclosed deck off kitchen, storage shed & storage sheds complete the yardsite. Beautiful landscaping with lots of business tenants. The remainder of the land is rolling crop land. A bonus is that it has city water. So much potential here. Run your own business, indoor storage facility or great for a car enthusiast. A must sell! $1,295,000.

3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN THORKILDSON ONLY $35,000

Recently renovated 3 bedroom bungalow in Thorhild with beautiful renovations throughout. The SW facing 50'x34' home in Sunshine Lakes has 2 large bedrooms & 4 pce bath on the upper floor & another large bedroom with 3 pce bath & large walk in closet on the lower level. The basement has a finished FR (which could be converted to 4th bedroom) & huge laundry room with sink & storage. The huge fenced back yard is a gardener's delight with lots of flowers & plants. In the home you will find a wine cellar, sunken LR, Huge master suite with 5 pce ensuite and corner jetted tub, hardwood floors throughout, wood stove, bay windows, huge MB, all freshly painted in 2017. The huge kitchen features new modern cabinets, sunken LR, huge MB, all freshly painted in 2017. The huge kitchen features a large island, pantry & solar tube in the kitchen which make an additional bedroom if needed. Along with the double att'd garage is a 30'4"x16'6" heated shop with a staircase to storage. The yard has a dugout with water system to a waterfall & stone shelters for animals.

The yard has a dugout with water system to a waterfall & stone shelters for animals. The property is fenced & fenced & perfect to keep your dogs. This property is a gardener's delight with lots of fruit trees of all kinds, many flowering. The perimeter of property is beautiful. Other features include 3 season enclosed deck off kitchen, storage shed & storage sheds complete the yardsite. Beautiful landscaping with lots of business tenants. The remainder of the land is rolling crop land. A bonus is that it has city water. So much potential here. Run your own business, indoor storage facility or great for a car enthusiast. A must sell! $1,295,000.

THE FREE PRESS, Morinville/Gibbons, Alberta, 780-939-3309, email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, February 12, 2019, Page A9
Sturgeon council to consider bylaws for gravel excavation

Sturgeon County council is expected to pass final readings of the bylaws to allow Lehigh Hanson Materials Ltd. to excavate sand and gravel deposits in the Calahoo Villeneuve Sand & Gravel Extraction Area under a revised Area Structure Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

A Jan. 22 public hearing saw the proposal supported by several neighbours to the site in the public gallery of the council meeting and while they expressed their support informally, only one letter of support was formally considered.

“According to the Applicant, they are interested in extracting aggregate from this area because there is a viable amount of non-renewable aggregate in the ground that is relatively close to the Edmonton Region market. Before Lehigh moves onto a new area, they want to ensure that they remove as much of the material as they possibly can so they don’t sterilize the material or must come back in the future to extract it.” County administration explains in the background. The area involved had been excavated by another company in the past.

County to discuss using oil as dust suppression

Sturgeon County council will be considering a motion on Feb. 12 “that Council direct Administration to bring an amended policy forward for Council deliberations allowing for oil and other dust suppressant products to be utilized in the County.”

On Jan. 22, coun. Patrick Tighe submitted a notice of motion that he would introduce the resolution regarding oil and other dust suppressant products.

Working in subzero temperatures isn’t fun … Morinville’s Public Work’s staff were clearing sidewalks on the brisk -30 Celsius afternoon on February 3rd following the weekend snowstorm that delivered upwards of 30 cm of snow. –photo by Amy Håbärd-Hiscock

Embracing Your Child’s Early Learning Experience.

At Sturgeon Public School Division, we work hand-in-hand with parents/guardians to bring out the individual strengths and unique personalities of each little learner, while starting them on the path to a bright and promising future.

CAMILLA SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Learn more about what our Kindergarten Program has to offer.

CAMILLA SCHOOL
- February 28, 8:30pm

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS
Children must meet the minimum age requirements by September 1, 2019 to be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year.
- KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM minimum age: 4 years, 6 months

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION AT 780-939-4341
Robert (Bob) George McRobbie
June 27, 1942 - February 2, 2019

After a long hard fight, Robert lost his battle with cancer on February 2, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. He is predeceased by his father George, mother Olga, and sister Ruth. He leaves behind his partner Shona, children Jacquie (Bill), Barbara (Mike), Rob (Caroline), David (Danni) and stepchildren Robert (Lori) and Sarah (Randy) and sixteen grandchildren. Bob is also survived by his sisters Rita (Joe) and Rena (Gary). Special thanks to Dr. Erasmus and the wonderful staff at the Redwater Health Centre. A celebration of Bob’s life will be held at the Jewel Box, 4916-52 Street, in Bon Accord, AB from 1-4 pm on Monday, February 18th. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directly made to the Redwater Health Centre Auxiliary. PO Box 39, Redwater, AB T0A 2W0.

Rod Pittman, owner of the Razors Edge sharpening service, hosted his display during the Morinville Farmers’ Market on Feb. 8 in the lobby of the Ray McDonald Sports Center. “I sharpen almost anything, but can’t do skates or circular saw blades because I don’t have the equipment for that yet.” Pittman added he can sharpen a variety of blades ranging from kitchen knives and folding knives, to things like scissors, gardening tools, hatchets and axes. --photo by Grant Cree
Jordan Imgrund-Harvey practiced his scoring skills during Friday Sheryy on the afternoon of Feb. 8 in the Ray McDonald Sports Center arena. "I used to play a lot of hockey," he said. "And Farmington, but it's nice to come out on the ice when I have the chance." --photo by Grant Cree

Town shies away from vacant newsboxes turned business signs

While at least one business in Morinville has had less than positive interaction with the town over the location of temporary signs, it appears a precedent is being set by the town which will allow businesses to argue for more flexibility in the use of street signage.

When town council awarded a new advertising contract with an 11% hike over the previous year, administration was questioned about whether Dalfo's business would be removing or utilizing the unsecured news boxes in the commercial area under the undisclosed terms of the contract. The news boxes have not carried newspapers since the fall of 2017 when the printed publication ceased, and appear to be left in place as street signage.

However the town of Morinville appears to be divvying for cover regarding the news boxes turned signs. "If you have a concern regarding what you deem to be 'abandoned news boxes' please contact Enforcement Services," was the initial response from the town of Morinville CAO's office.

However, this was later elaborated on: "...like most advertising contracts with major newspapers like the Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, or Metro, those contracts do not specify the number or location of news boxes. To conclude that this [location of news boxes] would be included in the contract is not an accurate conclusion and should be an issue discussed with the Publisher and/or Editor," Corporate Communications in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer stated. The difference between the Journal, Sun, and Metro newspaper boxes is that they actually contain newspapers. The terms of the Morinville advertising contract with the councilor's business are secret, but it doesn’t appear to include any printed material going into the news box signs.

The town’s Land Use Bylaw puts pages of restrictions upon the use of commercial signs in the town, but it has no guidelines for the town councilor’s business signs that render future enforcement attempts toothless. Any business experimenting problems with its sign being removed by the town or being directed to bring temporary signage in every eight feet after closing should be able to lobby council for equal treatment, using the precedent of the councilor’s news boxes being allowed a full year’s grace as street signs without action by administration or Enforcement Services.

Ollie Green holds a plate of homemade baked treats at her display table during the Farmers’ Market on Feb. 8 in the lobby of the Ray McDonald Sports Center. "This is our first Farmers’ Market of the year," said Green. "Even though it’s cold out there, we hope people will come. I have cinnamon buns, fresh bread and buns, dinner buns, pies, cookies and cakes. You name it. I’m here every Friday afternoon." --photo by Grant Cree
Canada Kuwait Petrochemical Corporation (CKPC) announced a positive final investment decision of its 500,000 tonnes per annum integrated propane dehydrogenation (PDH) plant facility to be built in Sturgeon County. The formal announcement that building of the $4.5 billion facility will begin in 2020.

“Adding value to our resources benefits all sectors and all corners of the province,” said Sturgeon County CAO, Reegan McCullough said. “Today’s announcement is the culmination of many years of hard work with our partner to develop a project that is well positioned to capitalize on Alberta’s abundant supply of propane and undertake value-added processing that benefits all of Pembina’s stakeholders, not just the residents of Sturgeon County.”

“Synchronizing the PDH/PP facility is the largest step taken to date by Pembina in executing its strategy to secure global markets for Alberta’s abundant and economically competitive propane supply,” said Pembina president and CEO Mick Dilger. “This is fantastic for Alberta for one thing,” said Pembina president and CEO Mick Dilger.

Farhoud, CEO of PIC. “Our investment in CKPC provides us with an opportunity to build on our existing asset base in Alberta by developing large-scale petrochemical infrastructure with a highly strategic partner in a market with a long term feedstock security and supportive local government.”

“We worked very hard to reach this significant milestone which represents substantial benefits to Sturgeon County through jobs and economic diversification,” Hnatiw said. “Pembina and PIC are successful, leading edge companies that will provide highly skilled, paid and jobs with over 50,000 persons-years of employment, anticipated over the life of the project. We thank them for their support of value-added processing in one of the world’s most attractive locations for chemical, petrochemical, oil and gas investments.”

Sturgeon County CAO, Reegan McCullough said, “We very much support the (CKPC) project, and I believe this investment will help to support Alberta’s Industriial Heartland as an economic engine to create more than $40 billion in current capital investment, which translates to over 6,000 direct and 25,000 indirect jobs. This investment will also support government revenues that fund important initiatives like schools, hospitals and roads.”

CKPC Commercial Manager Kevin Jagger said, “Sturgeon County has been a strong supporter of CKPC since day one, and their work to create a competitive jurisdiction for large-scale energy infrastructure investments helped us reach this exciting milestone. Our project provides significant long-term economic opportunities for creation and we recognize the important role Sturgeon County will continue to play through the execution and operations phases.”

“This is a big opportunity for not only our region but the entire country,” said Gibbons mayor Dan Dyonnes. “We are happy to support this project.”

“I think this a great initiative for not only our region but the entire country,” said Gibbons mayor Dan Dyonnes.

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CKPC brings together two strategically aligned organizations, with complementary strengths. PIC brings comprehensive PDH and PP project experience, along with diversified global petrochemical marketing expertise. Pembina will manage long-term propane supply and provide Alberta-specific operating and project execution experience, feedback connections and strong producer relationships.

For more information on CKPC, please visit www.canadak Kuwaitpetrochemical.ca.

For more information on Pembina, please visit www.pembina.com.

For more information on PIC, please visit www.petrochemicals.com.

For more information on the PDH/PP Facility, please visit www.pk-pdhlpp.com.

About PIC

Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) is one of the world’s largest ethylene producers and is the world’s third largest propylene producer. PIC is a leading petrochemical company headquartered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with production facilities in the United States, the United Kingdom and the People’s Republic of China. PIC has been established as the integrated petrochemicals hub of the Gulf Sector and one of the largest and most diversified petrochemical complexes in the world.

About Pembina

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CKPC is an equally-owned joint venture entity by Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Petrochemical Industries Company K.S.C. (PIC) of Kuwait. The PDH/PP facility will be constructed on the east side of Pembina’s Redwater fractionation facility (RF). CKPC will build a fully integrated PDH/PP as well as associated infrastructure, such as transmission and utilities and rail. The facility is expected to be in service mid-2023, subject to environmental and regulatory approvals.

In neighboring Thorhild County, Gibbons mayor Dan Dyonnes said, “Any investment of this kind has to be viewed as positive for Alberta and for the heartland of Canada. It has been a pleasure to work with PIC, and our strong partnership has helped mitigate the risks of entry into this new market segment.”

The PDH/PP facility is ideally located in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin, the facility will have long-term access to an abundant supply of propane feedstock, with a structural cost advantage when compared to other North American facilities.

The PDH/PP Facility has a capacity of 550,000 metric tonnes of PP per year, including linear low and random copolymers. PP is one of the world’s most commonly used building blocks in the manufacturing industry and is fully recyclable. PP is lightweight, heat and impact resistant, transparent and non reactive. These attributes make PP an ideal foundation for products found in daily life including automotive parts, food storage containers, medical devices, and bus roofs. PP is a high value polymer which can be cost-effectively transported, using existing third-party infrastructure, throughout North America and to global markets. The market for PP continues to see favorable long-term fundamentals with global PP demand growth outpacing global economic growth.

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Morinville’s boutique Yoga studio to close its doors

by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Morinville Entrepreneur, Stacey Bonik, had a dream and 3 years ago after creating a vision and business plan that seemed feasible, turned it into a reality. My Strength Wellness Studio was born. An upscale, yoga studio where no detail was overlooked. It had cork floors, clay walls, sound dampers, a proper heating system to support hot and warm yoga classes, change rooms and refreshment area, and a welcoming lobby complete with a convenient storefront of inventory for all her clients’ yoga needs.

Bonik says, “I knew from the very first day of my yoga teacher training that the path ahead was going to be life changing. Although it took a lot of determination and sweat to open the studio, I felt this community deserved a sacred place to experience the profundity of Yoga.” She goes on to say that the last three years have all been made possible because of her fabulous instructors that taught and shared their love and energy in the studio, and of course, “all of the smiling karma yogis who kept the studio sparkling.” Unfortunately, the strength of her close knit yoga family, isn’t enough to keep her business afloat, and My Strength Wellness will close its doors on March 2, 2019.

The 3 year lease has come to term and moving forward as she has been isn’t feasible to sustain her business. “It’s small town business,” she says, “I’ve learned the hard way that the economy creates a fine line.”

“It takes cohesiveness and relationships to keep afloat, and an ongoing commitment from clients to not only sustain, but to grow.” The truth is that operating costs for “convenience” options are what has hurt her the most. Fighting with increasing costs of utilities, increased wages, merchant fees for offering debit credit payment, and membership with the MINDBODY app are just a few. All of this of course, aligned with her vision to stand out and offer a studio with all the conveniences in the community.

“I’m deeply saddened and would very much love to have a Richmond turned into a more sustainable place to ensure the space operated more efficiently on a second go around.” Unfortunately, Bonik says that she can no longer operate the space solely on her own, she’d need a partner or multiple partners to make it work. “It’s not impossible, but no one has come forward with the interest and willingness of being willing to be the one to remove all of the conveniences to save the high costs of those — the creation of the debit credit payment option, cancelling the MINDBODY app membership, eliminating unnecessary utility costs associated with offering hot yoga and removing the inventory of yoga attire and gear.

The front space could potentially be rented for another related retail such as health food or supplements, a naturopathic doctor, or even a collective of another related retail such as health food or supplements.

Although essentially, these are ideas that have been circulating through Bonik’s mind in recent weeks, they all still require partnerships to secure the studio’s future, hire and promote a variety of classes.

For the studio, Bonik envisions a collective schedule where each instructor essentially rents the space for their classes and then charges their clients to attend the classes—where in theory, tenant rental costs would then be covered. The instructors would work at promoting themselves and creating a schedule around their life obligations and the other classes, taking the weight off of the studio owner to manage and advertise around their life obligations. The studio owner could then promote a variety of classes.

Should a reset not happen, Bonik says she’s not done with yoga. She will continue to share her passion through other avenues such as retreats, offering a mobile service and adding her recent Ayurveda Health Coach certification (Eastern Medicine) to her list of qualifications she has to offer. She says, “I’ll sincerely go with the flow of the force that guides me; the lessons of yoga is to simplify and dig deeper.” Bonik says that the feelings and positive experiences will always remain with her. The friendships she’s built will persevere and she is grateful for the support of her “tribe” at the studio with this big decision. My Strength Wellness Studio will host a class followed by a workshop on March 2nd before closing its doors. The Website and Facebook page will both remain active and up to date for followers.

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More information and pictures about the Yoga studio can be found on their Facebook page. The Create Space Retreat will still be held in Watfield, AB in July 2019.
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