Future military frameworks

by Grant Cree

"It would be helpful to be able to share some thoughts on the status of the Canadian Armed Forces as we are in the second year of implementing Strong, Secure and Engaged," said Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk during the annual Conference of Defence Associations International conference at the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa.

This is the largest annual public conference of its kind in Canada to address security and defence policy, military capability, planning and analysis. Over 450 delegates were there, including key decision makers from the Department of National Defence, Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), NORAD, the defence and security industry, and academia.

LGen Wynnyk spoke about the international frameworks under which the CAF operates, and the challenges faced by Canadian military members operating around the world.

"These conflicts are compounded by a variety of factors," said LGen Wynnyk, referring to the impacts of climate change, natural disasters and economic insecurities.

"Contemporary conflicts are rooted in multiple complex causes, and therefore they must have multi-faceted and comprehensive solutions."

He pointed out the military is one part of those solutions, as they partner with those in the diplomatic and economic realms. Continual adaptation is the key to dealing with those challenges while setting up the CAF for success in future warfare.

LGen Wynnyk provided an overview on Canada’s current military operations, and spoke about how the CAF is being shaped into an agile and robust force. “Broadly speaking, we are engaged in operations in six theatres,” he said. They are, Canada, the Arctic, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia-Pacific.

“Our domestic operations are shaped, in many ways, by working alongside with many government departments and agencies to help Canadians, and to keep them safe,” he said. For example, last year CAF search and rescue teams conducted 866 missions, which was only a portion of their tasks in Canada.

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of partnering with the Coast Guard, RCMP, Parks Canada, and other government agencies on a variety of operations. In 2018, the CAF assisted provincial authorities in response to six natural disasters including floods, forest fires and winter storms. “Over the past few years, our role in domestic disaster relief has increased significantly,” he said.

Reserve units will continue to play an important role across Canada, particularly when the military is called to assist civilian authorities. “They responded rapidly in their local communities on many occasions. This summer, we will put in place an immediate response unit made up entirely of Reserve Force members who will be able to answer the call at any time.”

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of working with international allies, noting when Canadian and American fighter jets were scrambled on Jan. 26 to escort two Russian bombers that entered Canadian airspace. “This is not the first time that foreign aircraft approached our coastline without permission,” he said. “And nor will it be the last.”

He noted those type of incidents reinforce the importance of partnerships with NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) particularly in terms of modernizing all aspects of defence.

"Meanwhile, in Europe, our largest effort is our contribution to NATO assurance and deterrence measures,” said LGen Wynnyk. “Canada is leading a NATO enhanced forward presence battle group in Latvia.” There are now nine nations participating in the mission to enhance security and stability in the region.

There are 1,300 soldiers with 10 different native languages all working together for a unified purpose,” he said. “I can’t think of a better example of tactical interoperability in the entire history of NATO, it’s quite significant.”

He noted that Canadian soldiers recently helped train more than 10,000 members of the Ukrainian security forces.

"I’m proud of the way this mission has evolved since 2015,” said LGen Wynnyk. “And of the contributions that our soldiers are making on a day-to-day basis. What started as a training mission primarily in two locations has developed into mentoring in almost 10 locations across western and central Ukraine.”

LGen Wynnyk also spoke of CAF members deployed to places like Iraq and west Africa.

"Their work is simple, but it is absolutely vital,” he said of Mali, where CAF members conducted seven medical evacuations since last August. “They are saving the lives of our partner forces in Mali,” Canadian military participation in Mali ends in July.

As for the Asia-Pacific region, the Canadian military is providing leadership in South Korea while also participating in multinational naval operations near North Korea and humanitarian relief in Indonesia. “We have demonstrated our commitment to stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region,” said LGen Wynnyk. “We have supported Canada’s diplomatic efforts there as well.”

As of mid-February, there are more than 2,400 CAF members deployed on 21 operations around the world. “Conducting operations is what we’re designed to do,” said LGen Wynnyk. “But to be effective and truly excel, we have some institutional priorities that we must get right.”

Regarding future military operations, they are projected to include cyber warfare, outer space. “Our defence policy addresses this, and calls upon us to increase our capacity in these areas and we are,” he said, noting that in 2018 the CAF created a cyber operator organization. “We’re all keenly aware of the impact that a cyber attack can have on Canadian society. It’s an ever growing threat, and one that needs close attention.”

Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff
Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk speaking on Feb. 13 to hundreds of delegates attending the annual Conference of Defence Associations International conference at the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa. --photo by Grant Cree

Future military frameworks
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, 6:30pm

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

sturgeon.ab.ca

Buy or Sell Any Home on MLS with Us for Your Chance to Win $5,000!

1000 sq ft - 5 bedroom bi-level with fully developed basement. Many upgrades have been completed: shingles with ice/water membrane, flooring, paint, kitchen, deck, fridge, stove and microwave. With just a short commute to the city and Garrison. $297,900.

MLS # 64138511

BRAND NEW IN MORINVILLE!
1805 sq ft 3 bedroom 2 storey features gorgeous hardwood flooring, glamorous ceramic tile, cozy fireplace, bright dry spaces with an open concept design. Stainless steel appliance package. The garage is oversized at 24 ft deep. $399,900.

MLS # 64145666

EDMONTON’S ELMWOOD
Immaculate air conditioned 1075 sq ft fully developed 2+2 bedroom bungalow with separate entrance to basement. Over sized heated detached 26x24 garage. Numerous upgrades! $399,900.

MLS # 64136104

MEADOW WOODS - MORINVILLE
1746 sq ft one owner 2 storey with 4 bedrooms with 3 ½ bathrooms. Oversized attached garage area w/ RV parking. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac location, steps away from parks and schools! $369,900. Call Guy Pelletier 780.974.7480.

MLS # 64142214

FREE HOME EVALUATIONS

Mayor Barry Turner, Deputy Mayor Rebec- ca Balanko and coun. Sarah Hall will serve as the CAO Performance Evaluation committee for the town of Morinville. The committee is responsible for developing and facilitating the process which the evaluation will follow, but all members of council are involved in completing the actual evaluation of CAO Stephanie Labonte, who was hired last year. He had less than a year of experience in the capacity of municipal CAO before the hiring by Mor- inville but had previously worked in the Plan- ning and Development Department of Stur- geon County, which has its administration based in Morinville.

Turner is the only veteran council member on the committee appointed Feb. 12, with the other two in their first term on council.

Coun. Stephen Dafoe wanted the committee opened up to all available council members, however Turner and Labonte pointed out there is a limit on the number of councilors who can be at a committee meeting. If a majority of council are at a committee meeting, it is deemed by the Municipal Government Act to be an actual meeting of council because there is a quorum of council present. Dafoe with- drew his amendment regarding the committee composition.

The MGA requires that a CAO Evaluation be done annually. With the retirement of CAO Andy Labonte in 2018 and his impending retire- ment in the prior years, the process has not been thorough. Coun. Nicole Brounstein noted this is the first time in several years for a real evaluation process to be conducted by council.

FREE HOME EXAMINATIONS
Residents Could Save on Fire Insurance

Sturgeon County Protective Services has been accredited by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) to provide Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS). The Districts of Bon Accord, Calahoo, Legal, Namace, Redwater and the Fire Service Areas of Gibbons and Morinville have been accredited for the delivery of Superior Tanker Shuttle Services and the appropriate changes have been made to the fire insurance dwelling protection grading index.

What does this mean for you?

Residents within the Fire districts and Fire Service Areas named above who own detached dwellings and are within 8 km of an accredited fire hall and 5 km of a recognized water supply may be eligible to receive an improved Fire Insurance Grade.

We recommend that you contact your insurance agent directly and review your current Property Fire Insurance ratings. If your insurance company does not wish to apply the STSS Accreditation, it is recommended that you explore options by obtaining quotes from other companies.

*Letters of Accreditation are available online at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/STSS

For more information, please visit www.sturgeoncounty.ca/STSS to review the FAQ or contact Chief Pat Mahoney at 780-939-8400 or by email at pmahoney@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Who’s Ready for Spring?

Even with snow on the ground, Agriculture Services wants you to think about spring activities. It just might warm you up!

Planting for the Future Workshop

Wednesday, March 13 from 6-8 p.m., Rendezvous Centre

Formerly the Shelterbelt Workshop, we’ve expanded this session to also cover eco-buffers and riparian planting as well as shelterbelt planning and site preparation. Sturgeon County residents who attend will receive a $25 coupon to be used toward the purchase of seedlings from the Sturgeon County Tree Program. The Tree Program is open between March 14 and April 12.

For those who love rural living

Country Living Expo

Saturday, March 23, 2019
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Morinville Community Cultural Centre

Hosted by Sturgeon County

We'll have some great drop-in information sessions, a conversation area, local vendors and of course, a concession area. Best of all, it’s free to attend. Mark your calendar and watch for details right here in your Weekly FYI and online at sturgeoncounty.ca

Weekly FYI is digital at sturgeoncounty.ca

Check out your Weekly FYI online every Tuesday at sturgeoncounty.ca. Starting this year, the “printed edition” will only be available bi-weekly. In the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review.

Next print edition: March 5, 2019

Sturgeon County Council celebrated National Flag of Canada Day on February 15th. From left to right: Counsellors Karen Shaw, Dan Derouin and Neil Comeau, Mayor Alanna Hnatyshin, Deputy Mayor Patrick D. Tighe and Counsellors Wayne Bokenfish and Susan Evans.

OHV Safety Session this Weekend

Saturday, Feb. 23
10 a.m., Redwater Fire Hall
4925 - 47 Street, Redwater

Join Sturgeon County Enforcement Services and Redwater RCHP for this important session to learn more about OHV safety, the Provincial OHV Act & Regulations, and the current rules of Sturgeon County’s OHV Bylaw.

Outstanding Taxes Due Feb. 28

Residents are reminded that any outstanding amounts owing on property taxes from prior years will be subject to a 12% penalty effective March 1, 2019. To avoid this penalty, payment by cash, cheque or debit card only must be received at Sturgeon County Centre before the end of business, 4:30 p.m., February 28, 2019.

For more information please contact Financial Services by email at taxation@sturgeoncounty.ca or call 780-939-4321.

Sturgeon County Offices will be closed the morning of Wednesday, February 27, 2019 for the Annual General Staff Assembly. We will be open from 1-4:30 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience.
Alicia DiBerardino and Hayley Deveau were doubling up to block a pass from Abagail Davey during the Senior Girls Basketball practice at Morinville Community High School on February 11th. The team were practicing a drill run by Coach Kent Lessard.

--photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
May 27, 1950 – February 11, 2019

It is with great sadness the family announces the passing of Dean Preston Lewis on Monday, February 11, 2019 at the age of 68 years. Dean will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 46 years, Kay; his 3 sons, Rod (Anna), Greg (Kristy), and Curt; his 4 grandchildren, Cole, Tyson, Parker, and Keira; his father, Bob Lewis; siblings, Dale Lewis and Barb (Steve) Collier; as well as numerous relatives and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Gibbons Community Cultural Centre, 5115 – 51 Street, Gibbons, Alberta. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in memory of Dean to Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, 308, 14925 – 111 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2P6. Arrangements entrusted to the care of Sturgeon Memorial Funeral Chapel (780) 921-3900.
The recent cold snap across the province has been a concern for humans and livestock. Barry Yaremcio, beef and forage specialist at the Alberta Ag-Info Centre, looks at ways to lessen the stress on cattle created by cold temperatures.

Yaremcio says to start by adjusting rations to meet requirements, as there is a limit to the amount of heat cattle can produce by digesting feed. “You can’t just let them pick extra hay or pick straw off the bedding pack to make up the intake differential. Straw is a low protein, high fibre, low energy feed that takes a long time for the animals to digest. If they eat extra straw, the total protein content in the ration goes down, and bacteria can’t digest the fibre. In reality, their feed intake in reality may drop two, three or four pounds a day, and you’re just going backwards by letting them have the extra straw.”

“I am referring specifically to cattle, but these principles apply to other animals staying outside right now,” he says. “Cattle can stay warm down to -20 C without wind chill, and the heat from digestion when they consume their feed will keep them warm.”

It is a natural response for animals to eat more feed when it gets cold. Provide extra hay or silage but extra grain is needed as well. Feed intake changes when the temperature drops below -20 C.

* At -30 C, increase grain intake by an extra two lb. of grain per head per day over and above what was previously being fed at -20 C. If temperatures drop to -40 C, four lb. of extra grain per head per day needs to be added,” says Yaremcio. Thin animals get colder faster than those that are in good shape, as they do not have the fat layer that provides insulation.

* That four lb. of additional grain during the cold weather might have to be stepped up to six or seven lb. to maintain their body weight or hopefully get them to gain a little bit,” explains Yaremcio. “It is difficult to do in cold weather but it is a possibility. Judge accordingly, and watch the manure. If the manure looks normal, you can see that your ration is providing an adequate amount of protein.”

He adds that providing shelter behind a wind fence and providing a lot of bedding helps reduce the amount of energy needed for an animal to keep warm. If possible, move the thinnest animals into a barn to protect them from the weather. “A cow laying on snow could potentially lose 25 per cent of her body heat, especially if that snow is wet or dirty.”

The implications of not lessening the stress from cold temperatures could compromise the animals, says Yaremcio. “During cold weather, cows can lose anywhere between one to three pounds a day. If the cow is losing weight in the last trimester of pregnancy, it is possible there will be more calving difficulties because the cow’s muscles are not as strong as they should be. Nutrient requirements for a lactating cow increase by 25 per cent compared to one in late pregnancy. That is when the large weight losses can occur.”

“Colostrum quantity – and possibly quality - will be compromised if the cow is losing weight prior to calving. The calf may not be as healthy, and get up rapidly after birth if the cow has lost weight in the cold weather. You could have a little more problems with disease. A cow with very little fat reserve will not be able to produce as much milk as one that is in good condition. The growth rate of the calf is probably going to be reduced as well. Long term, if that cow stays skinny all the way through lactation, it can reduce reproductive efficiency by 20 to 30 per cent.”

For more information, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276).

—Agri-News, Alberta
Cattle auction volumes and beef production update

The latest cattle auction volumes and beef production numbers are in. Jason Wood, provincial livestock market analyst with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, breaks them down.

Wood says that Alberta cattle auction volumes for January to December 2018 were 1.573 million head, down just over half a per cent from 2017, and 2018 auction numbers were less than two per cent above the five-year average.

“Looking at auction volumes from the start of the fall run in September to mid-January we see that volumes are down 3.4 per cent compared to a year ago and on par with the five-year average,” says Wood.

“Last fall we saw cattle marketed ahead of the traditional fall run period as producers managed pasture conditions,” he notes. “But, we also saw volumes decline in November and December, leaving the overall total similar to the previous year.”

Wood adds that for the first few weeks of 2019, volumes are about six per cent higher than they were a year ago.

Slaughter and beef production were up in 2018. “In Western Canada, 2018 beef production was more than 897,000 tonnes, or seven per cent higher than in 2017,” says Wood. “In total, Canada’s beef production was 1.158 million tonnes, an increase of more than six per cent compared to 2017.”

On the cattle supply side, Wood says that the total federally inspected slaughter in Canada was more than three million head, with more than 78 per cent being processed in western Canada.

“We also saw an increase in beef exports with data for the January to November 2018 period reporting exports up four per cent year over year.”

Canada’s top five beef export markets continue to be the U.S., Japan, Hong Kong, Mexico and China. --Agri-News, Alberta
**Province investing $100 million to attract high-tech companies**

A historic investment in high-tech industries will create thousands of jobs, attract millions in new investment and help diversify Alberta’s economy. The Alberta government is investing $100 million to attract Artificial Intelligence-based high-tech companies to invest in Alberta. Coupled with last year’s investment of $50 million to create 3,000 new high tech training seats at post-secondary institutions across the province, this represents a significant diversification initiative.

“Innovation is a critical tool for competitiveness in nearly every sector of the economy, including energy. By investing in technology and the talent that powers it, we are ensuring Alberta continues to be a world leader in clean, efficient energy production and that our economy is more resilient and diversified for the future,” states Rachael Notley, Premier.

The province’s investment in technology will build the industry and business capacity needed to help talented Albertans find jobs here at home. This investment in both Alberta Innovates and the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii) will leverage partnerships with Alberta’s leading research universities and support long-term research and job creation. The overall investment is estimated to result in:

- over 5,000 trained, skilled Albertans
- the creation of over 140 new companies
- over 30 new multi-national offices, labs in Alberta
- increased competitiveness and productivity of at least 150 Alberta businesses through the use of artificial intelligence (AI)

“By investing today, we are setting Alberta up for long-term economic diversification and success, while creating thousands of jobs and generating millions in value in the near term,” states Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

An initial investment of $27 million will allow Alberta Innovates, Amii to develop a new program that supports companies looking to build their in-house AI capacity, incorporate innovative solutions and drive benefits. It also means the Edmonton-based organization can expand its presence and open a new Calgary office. This new investment, along with the federal government’s commitment of $25 million, will accelerate the positive impact of artificial intelligence and machine learning on the Alberta economy.

**Two appointed to library board**

Diane Ellis and Nas Salhani are the newest members of the Morinville Public Library Board. The two were appointed by council Feb 12 as members at large for their first term. The appointments run until October 2022.
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
- 101 Ave
- 100 Ave
- Playground zones
- School zones
- All other areas where speeding is a concern

NOTICE

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

And in Morinville the winner of the title of worst lane goes to the alley running north from Highway 642 between KFC and Basil’s Kitchen. While residents backing on the alley may expect to see equipment move in shortly to end the problems, the best they can expect is council chatter during this fall’s town budget season — possibly followed by surveys, geotechies, and alley designers in 2020. There may be some actual reconstruction of the lane in 2021 if the chatter, design and construction efforts all fall into place.

Administration responded to council questioning Feb. 12, indicating they could not recall the town receiving any complaints about the lane in 2019, however the rating is based on the time and work required to keep it passable.

Most of Morinville is designed without back alleys (termed ‘lanes’ by administration) however the report uses ballpark figures which show that seven blocks of lanes in poor condition and multiple shorter links will require well over $1 million to upgrade. The report referred to a 2018 AECOM Canada report on another lane to estimate $10,000 per block for surveys and geotech work, followed by design work at a cost which administration explained later could vary widely depending upon what is contained in the alleyway (such as utilities) and then $100,000 to $150,000 per block to upgrade the lane because most do not have a solid base. Any underground stormwater drainage work would be in addition to these figures.

Administration recommended council adopt a practice of doing the pre-construction work in year one, followed by construction in year two on each of the lanes identified in poor condition rather than trying to do the survey, design and construction in a single season. Council was told this would provide known costs for doing the budget.

Council directed that the report be brought back later this year during the initial deliberations on the 2020 budget.

Administration confirmed counsel Lawrence Giffin’s question about whether the use of the lanes by garbage trucks in the spring was a factor in creating problems as a result of the alleys not having a solid base. Council was told that in some instances the residences served by certain lanes are asked to roll their waste containers to the front street for pickup. This avoids excess damage from trucks going up the lanes when water pools in the lane during spring melt.

Worst lane in town will be upgraded in two years ... maybe

School Box Social raises $1,395 for Midstream Society

G.H. Primeau Middle School in Morinville held their annual Box Social on Valentine’s Day. Teachers Peggy Dugan and Denise Groten showcased the beautifully decorated boxes. Once again, teacher Vince Falcone auctioned off the lunches that were prepared by the girls this year and bid on by the boys. The event started off with a bang as the first lunch auctioned off for over $100! This was the school’s 12th year of hosting the event. 41 lunches made with 176 participants involved. $1,395.20 was raised to be donated to the Midstream Society. Always a much anticipated event, it brings students of all ages together to enjoy a social lunch together in a positive atmosphere and raises money for charity.

–photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

25% OFF Browning & Winchester Firearms

Limited Qty. & Limited to Stock on Hand

Ruger 10/22 Carbine Wood or Synthetic
Reg. Price: $399.00 Sale Price: $329.00

Savage MK II BTVPX
22Long Rifle, Brown Laminated
Thumbhole Stock, 10rd Mag, 3-9x32mm
Tacso Scope Inc.
Reg. Price $499.00 Sale Price $399.00

Mossberg 702 Plinkster XP
22Long Rifle Semi-Auto, 10rd Mag, c/w
Baraska 4x15mm Scope.
Reg. Price $269.00 Sale Price $229.00

Remington Golden Bullet High Velocity Rifle Ammo 22 LR, PHP,
36 Grains, 1280 fps, 525 Rounds, Boxed
Reg. Price $44.00 ea. Sale Price $39.00 ea.

CX Shooters Supplies
101 Ave. North
Morinville, AB
(780) 938-9593
Email: cxsupplies@gmail.com
Web-Site: www.cxsupplies.ca

School Box Social raises $1,395 for Midstream Society

G.H. Primeau Middle School in Morinville held their annual Box Social on Valentine’s Day. Teachers Peggy Dugan and Denise Groten showcased the beautifully decorated boxes. Once again, teacher Vince Falcone auctioned off the lunches that were prepared by the girls this year and bid on by the boys. The event started off with a bang as the first lunch auctioned off for over $100! This was the school’s 12th year of hosting the event. 41 lunches made with 176 participants involved. $1,395.20 was raised to be donated to the Midstream Society. Always a much anticipated event, it brings students of all ages together to enjoy a social lunch together in a positive atmosphere and raises money for charity.

–photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Worst lane in town will be upgraded in two years ... maybe

And in Morinville the winner of the title of worst lane goes to the alley running north from Highway 642 between KFC and Basil’s Kitchen. While residents backing on the alley may expect to see equipment move in shortly to end the problems, the best they can expect is council chatter during this fall’s town budget season — possibly followed by surveys, geotechies, and alley designers in 2020. There may be some actual reconstruction of the lane in 2021 if the chatter, design and construction efforts all fall into place.

Administration responded to council questioning Feb. 12, indicating they could not recall the town receiving any complaints about the lane in 2019, however the rating is based on the time and work required to keep it passable.

Most of Morinville is designed without back alleys (termed ‘lanes’ by administration) however the report uses ballpark figures which show that seven blocks of lanes in poor condition and multiple shorter links will require well over $1 million to upgrade. The report referred to a 2018 AECOM Canada report on another lane to estimate $10,000 per block for surveys and geotech work, followed by design work at a cost which administration explained later could vary widely depending upon what is contained in the alleyway (such as utilities) and then $100,000 to $150,000 per block to upgrade the lane because most do not have a solid base. Any underground stormwater drainage work would be in addition to these figures.

Administration recommended council adopt a practice of doing the pre-construction work in year one, followed by construction in year two on each of the lanes identified in poor condition rather than trying to do the survey, design and construction in a single season. Council was told this would provide known costs for doing the budget.

Council directed that the report be brought back later this year during the initial deliberations on the 2020 budget.

Council confirmed counsel Lawrence Giffin’s question about whether the use of the lanes by garbage trucks in the spring was a factor in creating problems as a result of the alleys not having a solid base. Council was told that in some instances the residences served by certain lanes are asked to roll their waste containers to the front street for pickup. This avoids excess damage from trucks going up the lanes when water pools in the lane during spring melt.
While an Edmonton city councillor has apologized to his constituents and is reimbursing the city for funds spent by his business, in Morinville the council continues to award contracts to sitting members of council and doesn’t see an issue with that activity while filling their role as guardians of the public purse.

Edmonton city councillor Jon Dziadyk apologized to constituents Feb. 7 and promised to repay $11,000 in taxpayer money used for tuition toward an Executive MBA at the University of Alberta, according to a CBC story. The decision to repay the funds came just hours after CBC broke the story on the use of taxpayers’ dollars by the councillor. Dziadyk is quoted by the CBC as saying “I’m very sorry I put the trust of my constituents.”

In Morinville two sitting members of council currently have separate contracts with the town of Morinville. A business interest owned by Coun. Stephen Dafoe has been receiving contracts from the town for years while he sits as a member of town council, with the accumulated total well over $100,000. Coun. Rebecca Balanuk’s contracts from the town are much smaller, with the cumulative total under $10,000. In every case the councillor has left the council meeting while the remaining members of council unanimously approved the specific contract. Dafoe’s advertising contract increased by over 11% for 2019 compared to the previous year.

The town of Morinville has refused to release the contracts and also refused to release the specifications which the councillors were asked to quote — so electors don’t know the details of what they are receiving from the councillors for their tax dollars. Mayor Barry Turner has repeatedly defended the mayor’s business quotes than the other two asked.

Directors’ action on the use of taxpayers funds is allowed under the MGA, however it was not acceptable to the majority of 900 people who responded to the survey by some other members of Edmonton council.

Edmonton City councillor Bev Esslinger is quoted by the CBC as indicating that while she supports policies which guide how powers and authority granted with- in the MGA will be exercised, “the decisions which the councillors were asked to quote” were not acceptable to the majority of 900 people who responded to the survey. The city intends to discuss its policy and bring in more concrete controls by April.

While Edmonton reacted in a matter of hours, Morinville officials will not look at creating a policy again if the mayor’s business quote than the other two asked.

The incom- sistency in the town’s statement and policy development was pointed out and the Mayor was asked again if the town will set a policy on the awarding of contracts to sitting members of council.

There was no response before press time.

Morinville is intending to raise residential taxes by 4% and commercial taxes by 14.4%.

Members of the Girl Guides of Canada pride themselves on friendships made. Here, members of the 1st Morinville Brownies, Paige Miedema and Maia Bagllee show their completed beaded hearts while their friends in the background, Alya Hansen and Destroy Heinke work putting finishing touches at the group’s Valentine’s Party on February 11th at the Morinville Alliance Church. — photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Sports tournaments  Social gatherings  Colour Therapy  Excellent quality  Rounds  – if your business.
Morinville’s G.H. Primeau Middle School held their annual Box Social on Valentine’s Day. The girls made lunches this year and boys bid on them. Here, teachers Peggy Duggan and Denise Groten, showcase the next item for bid, while Vince Falcone was busy auctioning and raising bids to sell it for a whopping $75! —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock