Will ICF sessions generate more than bluster?

The town of Morinville and Sturgeon County will be trying to draft rules to deal with issues impacting both municipalities, as required by new provincial legislation. Although the two municipalities will be at the same table, will they talk merger? Morinville is continuing the council practice of keeping its activities secret from the general public whenever it can find a way to do so. In the case of the Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework, council went into closed session Dec. 11 to discuss the topic before coming out and approving the terms of reference and concepts related to the topic — then passed a resolution to keep the information secret.

Councillor S. Hall moved that the Town of Morinville—Sturgeon County ICF Approach report, and attachments, remain private pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA 2000, Chapter F-25, Sections 21 (Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations) and 24 (Advice from Officials)," states the draft minutes from the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously by the five council members present: Mayor Barry Turner and councillors Nicole Boutestein, Stephen Dafoe, Lawrence Giffin, and Sarah Hall. Councillors Rebecca Balenko and Scott Richardson had left the Dec. 11 meeting part way through and were absent for the vote.

Hall also moved that Turner, Dafoe, and Boutestein be appointed to represent the town on the ICF Task Force. Dafoe has taken verbal shots at the county during council meetings in 2018 when the County was not present — which doesn’t bode well for potential success in reaching mutual agreement between the town and county on a framework.

Boutestein had moved that Council "approve the concepts identified in the Town of Morinville—Sturgeon County ICF Approach report" and Giffin had moved that Council approve "the formation of the Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) Task Force Terms of Reference" as amended. Both resolutions were approved unanimously by the five council members present.

The motions came prior to council voting to keep issues related to the topics secret from its taxpayers.

All four motions made in public session took a combined total of four minutes for discussion and voting.

The town of Morinville expects to borrow a total of $22 million for a single recreation centre (one of the three in the Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework) that could be the town or county on a framework.

The $30.5 million community recreation centre is on the verge of adding over $2,200 per capita debt to residents of the town as debenture borrowing kicks in. The ICF sessions may allow the town and county to approach the issue of merging into a single municipality along the same lines as Sherwood Park (with seven times the population of Morinville) and Strathcona County.

Such a merger is unlikely to advance under the current town council but after several years of double digit percentage tax hikes for town business and ongoing smaller but steady tax hikes for residential property, the town electors may find the possibility of tax savings through reduction of service duplication by the two local municipalities appealing. Both Sturgeon and Morinville have their administrative offices in Morinville.

The town of Gibbons offers residents the best of both worlds — modern facilities like the Cultural Centre on the left of the background photo which links to the arena and curling rink complex to the right, while the Sturgeon River valley winds around the edges of the community providing natural beauty summer and winter. The town has developed parks and walking trails to take advantage of the the sanctuary offered by the valley's nature.
Sturgeon County council will be discussing its Open Spaces Master Plan during an update on its implementation at a Committee of the Whole meeting on Jan. 8.

Documentation from administration notes that planning for implementation of the Municipal Reserves, Parks and Open Space Master Plan is included as an initiative under Strategic Goals, specifically that “Sturgeon County residents have access to programs, services and infrastructure that contribute to their well being and quality of life.”

The proposed framework is intended to start the conversation and build an understanding of the scope and scale of a comprehensive approach to open space development, states administration. “This foundational work will support current initiatives and guide the development of a future Municipal Reserve Policy to guide long-term planning.”

“The County is rich in reserve land but facility and amenity poor. Most parcels remain undeveloped and undermaintained,” states the briefing note to council.

Sturgeon County’s public land inventory includes approximately: 81 Environmental Reserve parcels; 115 Municipal Reserve parcels; 132 Public Utility lots; and 186 Reserve parcels, states the documentation from Susan Berry, Manager Community Services in the briefing note.

“The value that parks and open spaces add to building strong, resilient communities is well researched and documented.” One of the principles in Council’s asset management policy is systematic, administration notes, “take a methodical approach (i.e. formal, repeatable, and consistent) to the management of assets. Development of defined, achievable and affordable Levels of Service is key to measuring and improving performance.”

County to discuss Open Spaces Master Plan:
Rich in reserve land but facility and amenity poor
Sturgeon County may finalize new traffic bylaw this week

Sturgeon County will consider second reading of its Traffic Bylaw on Jan. 8 and could pass third reading to enact the bylaw.

“This proposed bylaw revision has been updated/amended to align with provincial legislation as well as to address new policies within the County. This update has been a collaborative effort between Protective Services, Transportation, Utilities, Engineering and Legislative Services,” states background information from administration.

The documentation shows proposed amendments were presented to Council on Sept. 11 and the Bylaw was given first reading: “The following areas were amended: definition section, restricted vehicle operation (specifically, prohibited miniature vehicles), parking and general provisions relating to littering.”

Administration notes the amendments also included content in relation to the “recently passed Road Use Agreement and Road Use Policy, which will allow for enforcement of said agreement and policy.”

Through the bylaw amendment process, only a few inquiries were received, the documentation notes, which resulted in clarity on mobility aid devices and also the applicability of road use agreements to the agriculture industry — an exemption clause was added in the proposed bylaw amendment.

Student employment program ready to help employers and students

Applications for the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) are now being accepted online. The Alberta government re-introduced STEP to create work opportunities for high school and post-secondary students between May and August, by providing a $7-per-hour wage subsidy to employers.

“Alberta students deserve good jobs and the best possible training, and Alberta businesses deserve the labour resources they need to thrive. Since we brought STEP back in 2016, the program has provided nearly 9,000 jobs for students across the province. Employers who hire students improve job prospects for young Albertans and can hire additional resources to sustain and build their business,” states Christiana Gray, Minister of Labour.

STEP makes it possible to take on students to work in small businesses and public institutions that could not afford to hire them otherwise. Students who have worked for us have all gone on to build successful careers,” states Peter Wallis, president and principal scientist, Hyperion Research Ltd.

New this year, applications are being accepted online only to streamline the process, through the Labour Workforce Grants Portal. Employers interested in hiring a student for 2019 are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Applications must be submitted before the Feb. 8, 2019 deadline. Additional information and application forms are available online at alberta.ca/step.

STEP is a four- to 16-week wage subsidy program that provides funding to employers to hire high school or post-secondary students for summer jobs from May to August. Employers are offered a $7-per-hour subsidy for a maximum of 37.5 hours per week. STEP was reintroduced in 2016, receiving $10 million annually.

The program will accept applications through the online portal alberta.ca/step from Jan. 3 to Feb. 8, 2019.

Happy New Year!
We are the first people of this land, major contributors to this country, and have faced the truth about our shared history, allowing students to become to understand our ways of knowing as we are all distinct and diverse because of the land where we come from. It also allows us to get rid of stereotypes and misconceptions and begin the process of reconciliation moving towards Reconciliation Action. The new curriculum is concepted to allow our education system to become more holistic,” states Jamie Ahksis-towaki Medicine Crane, Alberta Education.

“La nouvelle diversité dans nos communautés francophones fait que ce nouveau curriculum répondra mieux aux besoins de tous les apprenants dans nos écoles francophones. Aussi, les notions clés dans le nouveau curriculum nous permettront de reconnaître notre identité culturelle et notre langue dans toutes les matières, et non et continuer à faire l'effort pour enseigner la langue française. Cela nous permettra de mieux aux besoins des apprenants la perspectiv francophone dans notre congranation” -- Micheline Spencer, enseignante de langue française.

“This new curriculum will provide teachers in francophone and anglophone schools across the province the opportunity to share the important contributions from our diversified francophone communities. In addition, since the francophone perspective will be evident in all subjects in both languages, it provides the francophone community the opportunity to communicate loudly and proudly its cultural identity and the importance of the francophone language in our world/user-focused curricu-lum,” states Micheline Spencer, francophone teacher.

“I have had the opportunity to be a collabora-tive voice in the process of updating the Alberta curriculum. The new curriculum is designed to be modern and reflective of who we are as a province. I am excited about the opportunities it provides students,” states Amanda Foster, teacher.

We have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of teachers who have looked at the draft curriculum since April. Most teachers say they are excited and optimistic about the changes. I believe this curriculum will help prepare students for a life in a complex and interconnected world,” states Colette Mon-dor, teacher.

The targeted timelines for ministerial approval of curriculum are: Grades K-4 -- December 2018; Grades 5-9 -- December 2019; Grades 10-12 -- December 2020 to 2022. Implementation timelines have yet to be established. Current curriculum remains in effect until implementation timelines have been developed.
The 10 year strategic farm plan

No matter your age, it is never too early or late to put together a 10 year strategic plan for your farm. Dean Dyck, farm business management specialist at the Alberta Ag-Info Centre, looks at what to consider when creating such a plan.

Farmers are always busy with their daily and seasonal tasks,” says Dyck. “When asked what their plan for the next 10 years, they often say they haven’t had a chance to work on it yet. When they are generating a plan to take over, or you are in the prime of your farming career, you need to ask yourself what the farm business will look like 10 years from now.

The first step in developing a strategy is to ask how long the business will exist. Will it exist for five more years or 25 more years? The planning horizon if often closely tied to the age of the operator.

“If you are young and recently entered farming, your planning horizon may be quite long. However, if you are 55, your planning horizon could be somewhat shorter depending on the direction of the farm operation,” he says.

The second step is to define where the business is going. “A younger operator may consider an aggressive growth strategy by adding one or more new enterprises or expanding the existing enterprises,” explains Dyck. “Other alternatives to be considered are to stay the same size, changing the crop and/or livestock enterprises, or processing and marketing of farm products.”

He says that an older operator may consider the 10 year strategic farm plan.

FARM ANIMAL CARE awards of distinction accepting nominations

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) is now accepting nominations for the 2019 AFAC Awards of Distinction. Nomination deadline is February 15, 2019, and the awards will be presented at the Livestock Care Conference on Saturday January 19 at 1PM.

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The 10 year strategic farm plan should start with a family meeting and asking some simple yet complex questions:

What do we desire for our family, the founders, the successors, and the non-farm members?

What will our family story and legacy be?

What do we want for the next generation and possibly future generations?

How will our family values influence our vision and where we want to go?

How will the farm business be part of our family vision?

Who is leading the farm business now and into the future, and how are they leading?

What are the opportunities and the strengths of our farm business?

“Although the answers to these questions may not be clear cut, they can provide a good base for discussion and the start of a plan. This base for discussion and the start of a plan. This base for discussion and the start of a plan.

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

The 10 year strategic farm plan

These strategies depend on their ability to take on the risk. However, a higher priority may be retirement and the continuation of the farm business. Questions that need to be asked include:

“How long will I farm? How long will I physically and mentally be able to continue?

If my desire is for the farm to carry on, who is the successor? Do they want to take over the farm? Am I prepared to go back to being a hired farm manager? Do I have a plan? If so, is it written down? Is it realistic?

If there is no successor, Dyck says to then ask yourself if you have an estate plan. "Filing your income tax on a cash basis allows for the deferral of tax through the use of various strategies. But when you exit the business, this tax becomes due and payable, and the biggest beneficiary of your estate could be the Canada Revenue Agency. Do you want that? If you are in this category, maybe it is a good time to develop an exit strategy that will minimize the tax you will pay as you wind down your farm business and you transfer assets into your estate. Is it time to talk to your accountant about this?"

If you have a successor, then what is the shared vision for the farm or ranch? “The vision is the shared image of the family’s definition of success and what the family wants the business and legacy to be. Having a clear vision allows the family to set goals and address the dreams of the family. This is critical to the success of the family, the individuals and to the farm business.”

Dyck says that the discussion about the long-term strategic plan of the farm should start with a family meeting and asking some simple yet complex questions:

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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.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSES

Join us at one of our Open Houses - learn more about our *Preschool Programs, and check out what our Kindergarten Programs have to offer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION AT 780-939-4341.

STURGEON HEIGHTS SCHOOL - January 16
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm - Kindergarten
Childcare available - email Stefanie at stefanie.bovenmars@sturgeon.ab.ca

MORINVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL - January 24
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm - Kindergarten
Childcare available - email Judy at judy.santerre@sturgeon.ab.ca

NAMAO SCHOOL - February 5
6:00pm - Preschool Programs
6:45pm Kindergarten
Childcare available - email Natasha at natasha.piquette@sturgeon.ab.ca

BON ACCORD SCHOOL - January 14
6:00pm - Kindergarten

GUTHRIE SCHOOL - January 16
6:00pm - Kindergarten

OCHRE PARK SCHOOL - February 5
6:30pm - Kindergarten

LANDING TRAIL SCHOOL - February 11
5:30pm - Kindergarten

CAMILLA SCHOOL - February 28
6:30pm - Kindergarten

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS include HEADSTART for children who require support for speech-language and/or fine motor skills and/or social skills. ENRICHMENT for children who are assessed as being “cognitively advanced”. Children must be screened and qualify for these programs under Alberta Education guidelines.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS
Children must meet the minimum age requirements by September 1, 2019 to be eligible for the 2019/2020 school year.

- PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS minimum age:
  2 years, 8 months - those with significant needs;
  3 years, 8 months - those with mild to moderate needs

- KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM minimum age:
  4 years, 6 months

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
Interested in our Preschool or Kindergarten Enrichment Program? Please ensure that you complete and bring with you to the Open House, the Initial In-Take Form that can be found on our website at www.sturgeon.ab.ca, simply click the Open House ad on the homepage.
Four Winds Public School

Welcoming students in grades 5 to 9 for the 2019/2020 school year

Information Night

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

Drop by our information table, and discover why registering for Four Winds is a step toward an inspiring educational journey.

6:00 PM  Information Session
Morinville Public School
10020 101 Ave, Morinville AB

FOUR WINDS PUBLIC SCHOOL
In partnership with Worklund School of Education, University of Calgary

- Where students, grades 5 to 9 discover their passion and reach their full potential.
- Where the school’s philosophy is as innovative and flexible as its environment.
- Where students leave grade 9 well prepared for the future.
Alberta celebrates January as the Month of the Artist

Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism, issued the following statement to kick off Alberta’s first Month of the Artist:

“Artists play a vital part of our culture. They make our province a great place to live, visit and raise a family. Month of the Artist provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the important contributions Alberta artists bring to our province both socially and economically.

“Alberta is the first province in Canada to dedicate a month to celebrate artists. It is a way to raise awareness of the challenges artists face and the value they bring to our province. Art is work. Art creates jobs, and art contributes to our growing economy.

“Alberta’s artists are storytellers, innovators, entrepreneurs, community builders, teachers and mentors. Art helps create conversations and builds relationships between people and communities.

“Throughout January, I encourage everyone to learn more about the people behind the art in their community and support local artists. Our province is full of amazing events that feature work by Alberta artists. Take in a show at your local theatre. Visit an art gallery. Go to a concert. Or try something new and let your creativity blossom.

“I hope everyone enjoys Canada’s first Month of the Artist.”

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“I am proud that our government is support- ing the hard-working artists who build Alberta’s rich social fabric and our economy. I hope everyone enjoys Canada’s first Month of the Artist.”

Derek Macaulay
In 2016, Alberta spent $4,112 per house- hold on culture and recreation goods and services, up from $3,480 in 2012. (Source: Statistics Canada, Provincial and Territorial Culture Survey, 2016).

“Alberta’s artists are storytellers, innova- tors, entrepreneurs, community builders, teachers and mentors. Art helps create con- versations and builds relationships between people and communities.”

According to Statistics Canada, Alberta spent $3,480 on culture and recreation goods and services in 2016. In 2016, there were 1.4 million domestic overnight visits to Alberta that included arts and culture activities. (Source: Statistics Canada: 2016 Travel Survey of Residents of Canada).

“Alberta’s artists are storytellers, innova- tors, entrepreneurs, community builders, teachers and mentors. Art helps create con- versations and builds relationships between people and communities.”

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Province says made-in-Alberta plan protects energy jobs

Premier Rachel Notley and her government fought to protect workers and the Canadian economy by taking action in the short term and long term according to a release from the province.

“For decades, Albertans have been talking about getting more value from our oil and gas, but too often we’ve fallen short,” Notley said. “Some governments have bailed out unprofitable industries or spent billions on pipelines to export our raw material. It’s time to stop settling for less.”

We’re grabbing the bull by the horns with a made-in-Alberta strategy to create good, long-term jobs, open new markets for oil and gas, and make more of the energy products the world needs, states Rachel Notley, Premier.

Major boost to energy upgrading

In the long term, the province doubled support for petrochemical upgrading to $2.1 billion, which will leverage private investment that’s expected to help create about 15,000 jobs, states the government.

Alberta also created a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) investment fund to work directly with industry on reducing barriers for securing final investment decisions on export projects that will increase the value of Alberta’s natural gas resources.

In response to strong industry encouragement, Alberta is taking action to explore private-sector interest in building a new oil refinery in the province. Building new refining capacity would create good-paying, long-term jobs for Albertans while helping lower the oil price differential over the long term.

Larger industrial-scale investment will help provide economic resilience and diversification, and create highly skilled, well-paying jobs for decades. Alberta has abundant feedstock, skilled labour and a practical climate to refine our resources to high-value products the world needs. There is significant international competition for these projects and for Alberta to compete, government and industry must work together.

“Commend the government’s focus on ensuring that the value of Alberta’s resources stays with Albertans,” states David Chappell, chair, Resource Diversification Council.

Fighting for pipelines and market access

The government also continued its fight for new pipelines. Premier Notley’s advocacy was instrumental in the federal government’s decision to purchase the Trans Mountain Pipeline. Now, the Premier continues to fight for needed changes on two federal fronts:

• Bill C-49, which would create a new, fast-tracking impact assessment process for resource development projects.

• Bill C-48, which would impose a moratorium on oil tankers off the north coast of B.C.

This year, the province also launched the nationwide Keep Canada Working campaign to explain to Canadians the benefits of new pipeline access. The latest push includes a real-time lost-revenue counter to show how much Canadians are missing out on by keeping Alberta’s energy resources landlocked.

“Under Premier Rachel Notley’s leadership, many Albertans, myself included, worked together to support this project because they knew we shouldn’t be selling our products on the cheap. There’s too much at stake. We will keep the federal government’s feet to the fire so that the Trans Mountain Pipeline is operational. As well, thewent to the head of the crowd,” said Notley.

New jobs, private investment in wind power

Private companies are partnering with First Nations to invest close to $2 billion in wind energy projects in Alberta. This helps create new jobs and continues with record-setting low prices for Albertans. These results showcase Alberta as a proud leader in all forms of energy.

The five successful projects are made possible through the latest phase of the Alberta government’s Renewable Electricity Program. They include investments from homegrown Alberta companies, as well as from new investors from across Canada and around the world.

In total, the new developments will create about 1,000 jobs, attract new economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and bring an estimated $175 million in rural benefits over the life of the projects, states the province.
Manderley Turf Products Inc.
55403 Range Road 222, Sturgeon County, AB T0A 1N1

Looking for FARM LABOURERS Seasonal, Full-Time Work 20 Vacancies Hours 8 am - 5 pm, Mon - Fri $16.00 per hour Benefits include: 4% Vacation Pay per pay period, Medical Insurance provided. 

Duties include:
- Operation of farm vehicles and machinery
- Cultivation, maintenance, and harvesting of general farm workers and harvesting laborers, maintaining and repairing farm equipment
- Assisting with general farm operations

Job length: 3 months
Wage: $15.50 to $16.00 per hour

Apply by mail or email only.
Mailing address: 55403 Range Road 222 Sturgeon County, AB T0A 1N1
Email: bjones@manderley.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Weed Technician Intern (1 Position)

Lamont County is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Weed Technician - in part of the AATC Career Focus Program. This is a 6 month position starting from May 6th to the end of October 2019. The Weed Technician will report directly to the Agricultural Extension.

Duties and Responsibilities
- Receiving and responding to weed complaints, conducting field inspections and weed identification
- Advising/and/or training of weed control responsibilities
- Leasing/farming enforcements as required by the Agricultural Service Board and the Weed Control Act
- Assisting with annual crop pest surveillance, including insect and crop disease

Qualifications:
- The successful applicant shall be a student graduating in April 2019, or a graduate of a post-secondary program in Environmental or Agricultural Studies from an accredited institution. The individual shall possess good communication and public relations skills. A working knowledge of weed species identification, crop pest identification, an agricultural background, and a familiarity with word processing and spreadsheet computer software would be an asset.

All applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age, possess a valid Class D driver’s license and provide their own reliable transportation to work. A driver’s abstract will be required prior to employment commencement.

Deadline: March 14, 2019

The competition will remain open until 4:00 p.m., January 30th, 2019. Please forward your applications to:

Lamont County
Human Resources Department
5150 – 50 Avenue
Lamont, AB T0B 2N0

Email: hr@lamontcounty.ca

Please indicate which position you are applying for with your application.

Lamont County thanks all applicants for their interest. However, only those who have been selected for an interview will be contacted.

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CAREERS

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BUS. OPS.

LOOKING FOR A CROP & FIELD Irrigations & Hayfields for rent or lease. Redwater Thirstor (Roadway) Irrigation & Area (approx. 2400 acres) sold short term to long term. Call for more info regarding my farm 780-844-4691

CROP LAND WANTED

LOOKING FOR CROP (farm) & Hayfields for rent or lease. Redwater Thirstor (Roadway) Irrigation & Area (approx. 2400 acres) sold short term to long term. Call for more info regarding my farm 780-844-4691

EMPLOYMENT


R & D MAINTENANCE LTD is looking for a worker for snow removal. Work only when it snows. $17.50/hr. Call 780-888-0866

CALLER APARIS in 55401 Rge Rd 11-4 T0A 1N1, Sturgeon County, AB T0R 0R0, is looking for a visiting technican (NOC 8431) seasonal April thru September, 8 hours a day, $20/hr. Duties: all aspects of beekeeping and hive maintenance, feeding and treating bees, disease detection and hive treatment, harvesting honey. Valid Drivers license required. No formal education but two years experience required. Physically demanding, outdoor, rural area. Email LM Joinery@outlook.com

SEEKING A CAREER in the Community Newspaper business? Post your resume for FREE right where the publishers are looking. Visit: www.awna.com/job-seekers

RENTALS

BON ACCORD - 3 bdrm apartment for rent. Large living room and separate dining room, upper floor, well maintained building. Parking in back. 401, 511056th Road. RR 2, DD. Lease negotiable. Available now Call 780-942-4107 ext 228, www.awna.com

RENTALS

FEED

WANTED CANOLA, peas, peas, barley, oats, hay. Call feedGrainFeed.com 888-483-8789

HEATER CANOLA signing canola, pick your load. We are a registered and ensheathed Canola. Buying: oats, a little bit of all grades of canola for feed. Buying damaged or off grade. "On Farm Pick-up" Wistan Feed & Grain, 1-855-595-5052

FIREWOOD

SEASONED BIRCH $450 per cord or $5.00 per bundle. Winter seasoned poplar $300 per cord or $4.00 per bundle. Phone 780-734-8266

FIELD DISTRIBUTION

Economical, reliable - no shrinkage from carrier non-delivery; no daily bookings in your coverage. Large chain has their experts evaluate our system and select only small businesses who know their clients and their market also choose us. Our prices are great – great clients. Covers the full territory or a single community. Phone 780-939-3006. email: morinville@shaw.ca

FLYERS

FIND A FARM...want to farm...find a farm

LAMBERT Real Estate Services 780-594-4981

REAL ESTATE

PRAIRIESKY ROYALTY LTD. is a publicly-traded company in Calgary that is looking to acquire oil & gas title and royalty interests at any market value. To receive a proposal, contact them at 780-597-2306 or visit: www.prairiesky.com/Sell-Your-Royalties

PERSONALS

65 YEAR OLD MALE SEEKING female roommate to share rent & expenses in Morinville. Call 780-284-0214

HAY FOR SALE

ALF/FRY/FRY MIX, peas, rounds, Minimum rain 100. Small squares, shredded, no rain $8.00. Phone 780-942-107 late evenings

RENTALS

BON ACCORD - 3 bdrm apartment for rent. Large living room and separate dining room, upper floor, well maintained building. Parking in back. 401, 511056th Road. RR 2, DD. Lease negotiable. Available now Call 780-942-4991

THORILD - 4 bdrm 1/2 duplex just renovated. Front facing the lake. Large laundry room with cupboards. $101/month plus DD. Lease negotiable. Available now Call 780-942-4991

SUNRISE CUTE HOME Sturgeon County. 500 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 22’ x 40’. 3 years on market. BS includes: washing machine, gas, water, power and internet. $500.00 per month or $750.00 for the 3 yrs for $750.00/month. 1 mile from pavement.
The weed seed bank -- how to prevent unwelcome deposits

Below the soil surface lurks the weed seed bank -- the predominant source of weed pressure on current and future crops. Harry Brook, crop specialist at the Alberta Ag-Info Centre explains how the weed seed bank works and how to reduce its impact.

"You don't want to draw on this bank account," explains Brook. "It is a source of annual and perennial weeds that will wait for years before the right conditions come about, and then germinate to steal moisture and nutrients from your crop. The seed bank consists of freshly shed seeds from this year's weeds as well as older seeds that have persisted in the soil."

Brook says that of the many seeds in the soil bank, very few will ever result in adult plants. "Most will either die, decompose or be eaten by predators prior to germination. Seed predation has the greatest effect when weed seeds are left on the soil surface, as in zero tillage or perennial forage crops. Ground beetles and crickets can reduce weed seed emergence by five to 15 per cent. Weed seeds are also consumed by rodents and birds. Keeping the soil in permanent cover increases predation on weed seeds." 

Causes of seed mortality - other than predation - are lethal germination and desiccation. Explains Brook, "Lethal germination takes place when the seeds germinate at too great of a depth, and seeds exhaust their energy and die before emergence. Kochia and some other weeds can sense the depth of burial and limit lethal germination."

"Desiccation takes place when the seeds germinate, but the soil drainage is too tight after emergence starts and before emergence. Dry seeds are very resistant to desiccation. If a dry seed remains dormant, seeds can remain viable for hundreds of years. However, frequent and short term wetting and drying will increase weed seed dormancy due to desiccation. This occurs more often near the soil surface. In a research trial in Montana, wild out seed losses increased from 55 to 88 per cent as soil moisture went from 6 to 24 per cent."

Seed dormancy prevents germination when conditions are otherwise conducive to weed germination. When weed seeds are dormant at plant maturity, it is called primary dormancy. Called secondary dormancy, these seeds can also alternate between dormancy and not dormancy due to environmental conditions. Says Brook, "Secondary dormancy prevents germination when the seeds cannot complete their life cycle within the time left before winter. It is regulated by seasonal soil temperatures."

"For most summer annual weeds that spring germinate, the winter cold breaks dormancy, allowing spring growth. Conversely, winter annual weeds require the summer heat to break dormancy and form rosettes in the fall. Seed dormancy is controlled by a variety of factors. Those can be immature embryos at maturity requiring time to ripen, hard impermeable seed coats preventing moisture penetration, or environmental factors for biotic seed dormancy." 

Brook says that changes in a cropping system can alter the weed seed bank. "Secondary dormancy prevents germination when the seeds cannot complete their life cycle within the time left before winter. It is regulated by seasonal soil temperatures."

Up to 25 words: $15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c each. Deadline: Thursday 2 p.m.

Mail to: Free Press, Box 3005, Morinville, AB T8R 1R9
Phone 780-939-3309 email: morinville@shaw.ca

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The town of Morinville is starting off 2019 the way it finished off 2018 — in secret discussions.

The first meeting of the new year is on Jan. 8 and there are only two items of action on the in-public portion of the agenda (other than the routine approval of minutes and accepting correspondence). These two items are to correct the May meeting dates of the council meetings and to approve a relaxation of the bylaw to allow a school to have more than six live chickens.

The closed session — off limits to electors and taxpayers — lists four items.

The first is the Morinville Recreation Facility - the predominant source of weed pressure in the crop. Don't make large weed seed deposits to the soil, it is a 'gift' that keeps on giving.

"Herbicides are useful tools to combat weeds, notes Brook. "Don't forget to use some of the other tools at the disposal of the land manager, such as crop rotation, tillage and crop maturity, it is called primary dormancy."

Callable secondary dormancy, these seeds can also alternate between dormancy and not dormancy due to environmental conditions. Says Brook, "Secondary dormancy prevents germination when the seeds cannot complete their life cycle within the time left before winter. It is regulated by seasonal soil temperatures."

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In accordance with Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, Sturgeon County Council is approving a modification to Bylaw 1114/18.

This Bylaw proposes to amend the Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 for a portion of the SW 65-22-W4M, located one mile northeast of the City of Edmonton from AG - Agriculture to DC11 - Direct Control District 11 to allow for an existing Fleet service business, and to change the definition of Fleet service.

PUBLIC HEARING - Proposed Bylaw No. 1424/18
Bylaw 1424/18 - Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

The Public Hearing shall be held on: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at: Sturgeon County Council Chambers, 9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta

All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a submission in writing and/or registering to speak, either in favor in or opposition to the bylaw, by contacting Legislative Services (phone 780-939-6279 or email legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca).

Please note that all oral presentations will be limited to five (5) minutes and must be summarized in writing to form part of the public record. Although all those in attendance wishing to speak will be heard, persons registered to speak at the Public Hearing will be heard first.

Any inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw should be directed to Mary Bell in Current Planning & Development Services at 780-930-8365.

Postal forages are extremely useful in preventing additions to the weed seed bank. Research in Canada and the U.S. show rapid declines in the weed seed bank when new seeds are allowed to enter the soil. The weed seed bank is chaff collection in annual forages. Chaff collection during harvest can prevent up to 90 per cent of weed seeds from being added to the weed seed bank," he adds.

Position in the soil also has a marked effect on seed longevity. Says Brook, "Using zero tillage places the vast majority - up to 90 per cent - of weed seeds in the top four inches, or 10 cm, of soil. There, they are subject to wetting and drying cycles, stimulating germination. If weed seeds are prevented from going to seed, as in a burning situation, major weed seed can be reduced." 

Using cultivation, the majority of weed seeds are placed lower than four inches, or 10 cm, from the surface. The dormant seeds will then survive longer in the soil. It is vital to keep weeds from going to seed and adding to the seed bank.

Another strategy that effectively reduces weed seed banks is chaff collection in annual forages. "Chaff collection during harvest can prevent up to 90 per cent of weed seeds from being added to the weed seed bank," he adds.

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Sturgeon County council may have a group of residents review its pay.

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw has submitted a resolution for consideration on Jan. 8, stating: “That Council direct the CAO to establish a citizen task force to review the elected officials’ remuneration and to bring back to Council a comprehensive list of recommendations that will ensure future compensation is fiscally responsible, fair minded and equitable.” The Mayor had provided council with notice on Dec. 11 that she would introduce the motion at the Jan. 8 Regular Council Meeting.

Positive stats released

The provincial government has released stats showing Alberta’s economic recovery is continuing.

According to Statistics Canada’s latest Labour Force Survey, the number of employed people in Alberta has increased by 112,100 since falling to a recession low in June 2016. In November 2018, Alberta employment reached a record level of 2,338,900.

• After reaching a recession high of 9.0 per cent in November 2016, Alberta’s unemployment rate has dropped to 6.3 per cent in November 2018.

• During the first nine months of 2018, average weekly earnings (including overtime) rose 2.7 per cent to $1,149 (after rising only 1.0% in 2017).

• Alberta exported $98.7 billion worth of goods in the first 10 months of 2018, up 18 per cent from 2017.

• In the first 10 months of 2018, oil production reached 540,000 cubic metres per day, up 10.2 per cent from 2017.

In August 2018, Alberta recorded the highest levels of oil production in the province’s history, reaching 959,000 cubic metres per day.

• In the first 10 months of 2018, manufacturing sales reached $44 billion, up 9.2 per cent from the same time period in 2017.

• Almost all sectors have seen their sales increase during this time period, with the largest gains registered in the petroleum refining sector, which grew 23.6 per cent, year to date, to $16 billion.

• Manufacturing in the petroleum refining sector reached $19 billion in October 2018, the highest level recorded since October 2014.

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