Valued at

War Amps program provides prosthetic recreation leg for Morinville youngster

by Amy Hibbard-Hisscock

In 1918, the First World War amputees formed The War Amps, as an Association to assist war amputee veterans. Now, 100 years later, The War Amps has expanded its program to support all amputees, including 5 year old Avery MacAdam of Morinville.

Avery is a typical 5 year old who attends kindergarten at Morinville Public School. He enjoys building cars and houses with Lego blocks, playing soccer, running and playing with his one-year-old brother, Parker. Note that without support of The War Amps, running and playing soccer may not be possible for Avery.

Avery's artificial leg, MacAdam was born with PFFD (Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency). In simple terms, he is missing his femur and hip. After having consultations with a team of doctors from across Canada to devise a plan, he will be undergoing a surgery in Calgary to remove the bit of femur that exists, use his knee as a hip and conduct a rotation plastic to turn his leg 180 degrees. By doing so, he will be able to utilize a prosthetic leg that bends. Young Avery is quite excited about the procedure stating; “then I can run faster and ride a normal bike, I think.” His parents, Alison and Greg grinned at his enthusiastic spirit.

The War Amps have been a source of support for the MacAdam family since Avery was one month old. He was 7 weeks old when Alison and Greg attended their first Child Amputee “CHAMP” seminar in Calgary and have travelled to others in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The 2019 regional CHAMP seminar where CHAMPS and their parents learn about the latest in artificial limbs, dealing with teasing and bullying, and parenting an amputee child, will be held in Edmonton. “The seminars provide a positive and supportive environment, leaving Avery recharged and ready to take on any challenges,” says Alison.

The Morinville community has been an environment where Avery feels accepted and proud to show off his artificial leg and his parents are very grateful for that.

“The War Amps have been a wonderful source of support. They not only help with the costs associated with Avery’s prosthetic “recreation” legs but they’ll support with recreation programs and swimming lessons; provide support workers and connections like “matching mothers” where mom’s can talk and get support from other mom’s in the same situation,” says Alison. Avery is currently on his 5th artificial leg and typically needs a new one every year. He received his first artificial leg at the age of 14 months. Greg says that funding comes from government programs and healthcare benefits but they won’t fund “recreation” limbs which allow Avery to swim, and play in water and sand. “The standard leg has a metal component at the ankle point that cannot get wet or have sand trapped in it as it will cause wear.”

Avery’s prosthetic legs are custom made in Edmonton and he gets new prosthetic leg covers with a cast of his leg and create a demo to check the socket and make adjustments as necessary. Next they add a flex which then gets a protective coat and Avery has had a different look every year depending on what his favourite character might be. The new current leg is plastered in yellow minions while his recreation leg has a school related look with big bold letters all over it. His parents say he will soon be due for another set of legs as he’s been growing so much and The War Amps will once again help find the new recreation leg.

The MacAdam’s like to give back as well. During the 2018 Town Wide Garage Sale, Avery held a lemonade stand and sold $238 in lemonade, water and chips, and donated that money directly to The War Amps. Greg will likely be on lemonade making duty, again during the 2019 Town Wide Garage Sale as Avery has plans to expand and add muffins to the menu! Avery has other things he is looking forward to in the next number of months as well. He will soon be fitted for his hand-cycle bike that the family rents from “you can ride 2” and is partially funded from participating in the Ride for Refuge fundraiser; he is currently in swimming lessons and will play t-ball in the spring. Alison says that turning 6 this summer means a lot more opportunities for Avery. “He can become part of the Paralympics Sports Association and try sledge hockey and adaptive skiing; he can ride the War Amps float during the K-Days Parade in Edmonton, and become a member of Operation Legacy which is associated with the Legions and he’d have the opportunity to lay a wreath during a Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Being a CHAMP has truly created a CHAMP in all senses where Avery is concerned, thanks to The War Amps program. Executive Director of the CHAMP program, Danita Chinholm says, “although The War Amps has provided 100 years of innovative programs, there is still much to do to ensure amputees have the artificial limbs they need to lead full and active lives. With the public’s support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service, our vital programs for amputees will carry on long into the future.” The War Amps receives no government grants and its programs are possible through public support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service, for which families such as the MacAdam’s are very grateful for.

5 year old Avery MacAdam of Morinville sits proudly with his special doll “Ty” who has a little leg just like him. Together, they looked through Avery’s memory book which has several photos of him growing up and participating in a variety of experiences made possible through support of The War Amps. Beside him is his recreational leg which is funded through The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, and he can ride on the War Amps float during the K-Days Parade in Edmonton, and become a member of Operation Legacy which is associated with the Legions and he’d have the opportunity to lay a wreath during a Remembrance Day Ceremony.

advertising deadlines

Thursday 2 p.m. for Tuesday edition
Morinville resident Gary Bowhey had the outdoor rink to himself on the balmy afternoon of Jan. 25, so he practiced scoring drills. “The new ice is great,” he said. “I’ve been playing here for nine years, and it’s always good.” –photo by Grant Cree

Taxpayers facing more than 4% increase as a result of new utility levy, says resident

Letter to the editor,

Council has hidden an additional 2.5% tax increase with the inclusion of a $5/month utility levy. Call this levy (tax) whatever you want, it is still an extra $50 a year more that we have to pay the town. I added this increase into my taxes and combined with the 4% my taxes in reality will go up 6.5%.

My taxes are going up 6.5% not 4%. Keep this in mind.

Town council just forgave a residential tax bill of $8,347. Council’s reasons must have been legit. However, Morinville tax payers have a right to know enough about this gift to understand how this was justifiable. Saying that we do not have to explain ourselves because of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act doesn’t cut it. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act is a long and full of legal talk. I would think that few know enough about the act to know what sections apply and what do not without legal consultation.

A 4% increase in taxes plus the addition of a new utility tax ... levy.

Too bad the next municipal election is 3 years away.

—Bill Hubbard, Morinville
Sturgeon County unanimously authorized the process recommended by administration to collect tax revenue through a Supplementary Assessment in 2019 which is expected to bring in millions of dollars to the municipality. “There are approximately 50 residential properties that may be affected in 2019. NWR Refinery, PraxAir and Pembina are three significant non-residential properties that may be affected in 2019,” council was advised, with administration noting “a supplementary assessment bylaw is required to meet the allocations in the 2019 budget in accordance with the Significant Tax Revenue Growth Policy.”

Sturgeon Assessment Services manager Arla Pirtle told council that 2019 inspections on new improvements will be in May for the 2018 ‘new builds’ that were progressive or new improvements started in early 2019. If not complete in May, they will be inspected again in September. Financial Services will send out combined assessment and tax notices annually as per usual. “Approximately 50 supplementary combined notices may be sent late October. Tax payment deadline will be 30 days from mail out.” Legislative Services will implement secondary appeal process, 60 days from supplementary mail out, she explained.

Pirtle told council “tax revenue could be significant” and that while the residential supplementary tax benefit is expected to be immaterial in the overall budget, the same is not the case for non-residential properties. “Non-residential properties completed in 2019 will be prorated for number of months complete. There are a couple projects in the works and may be supplementary assessed.”

“NWR Refinery is projected to be commissioned in Q1 (Quarter 1 of 2019). This property will be assessed and taxed based on the number of months commissioned or complete in 2019 to October 31.” She also noted that “changes to the Municipal Government Act have given the opportunity to apply supplementary assessment to linear property” (pipelines, etc).

Council gave unanimous support required to pass all three readings of Supplementary Assessment Bylaw 2019 in one sitting on Jan. 22.

Warm temperatures and sunshine attracted a small crowd to the water station sledding hill in Cardiff on Jan. 20th. Daryl and Lyla Steinbach of Morinville enjoyed a few runs down the hill on their big red tube. Lyla was all smiles and giggles the entire way down and was then ready to go again!

--photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

**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
- Arnella School
  - March 13
- Landing Trail
  - March 18
- Namao School
  - March 19
- Ochre 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.

sturgeon.ab.ca
Morinville’s Dance Connection had a group of 33 dancers perform during the halftime show of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball game at Rogers Place on January 26th. With a cameraman right in front of them and panning along they didn’t skip a beat during their routine to Round and Round by Sia. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Two councillors successfully used “the dog ate my homework” excuse for not filing their expense receipts with Sturgeon County on time … or at least the digital version of the explanation … “the computer ate my receipts and wouldn’t fetch them.”

Council approved the motion Jan. 22 by coun. Patrick Tighe to direct administration to process expense claims submitted by Tighe for May and June 2018 and by coun. Wayne Bokenfohr for the period of January to June, 2018. Tighe said there had been issues with the retrieval of receipts after computer changes at Sturgeon County.

Only coun. Karen Shaw rejected the explanation that receipts could not be moved from one device to a new computer program used by the County suggesting that if the digital system failed, the expense forms could have been completed manually. Bokenfohr noted the attempt to submit was done on time, with Tighe adding “it was the new hardware” to blame.

Bokenfohr explained that problems with the system have been resolved. There was no figure presented for the amount of money involved, however it was noted the resolution means the receipts will go through the normal process by administration and be posted to the website.

Both Tighe and Bokenfohr remained in council for the debate and voted on the motion (made by Tighe) without declaring a pecuniary interest although the two were specifically named in the resolution.

Sturgeon allows two councillors to submit expense claims late because …

Great Beginnings Start at École Notre Dame!

Have you considered a faith-based education for your child?

KINDERGARTEN & PRE-KINDERGARTEN EXPO

Join us for sessions on:

- Preparing Your Child For Kindergarten
- French Immersion
- Pre-Kindergarten Programming
- Kindergarten Program Options: Half-day, Full Day and Progressive

Take your first steps with us & register your child

At the Expo, you can register in our English or French immersion Kindergarten programs.

For more information, contact us:

6 St. Vital Avenue St. Albert, Alberta, Canada T8N 1K2
Phone: 780.459.7711
Fax: 780.458.3213

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019
École Notre Dame Elementary
9717 Morinville Drive.
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. — School displays open
6:15 p.m. — Opening remarks
Book a Pre-Kindergarten Screening at the Expo
Our Catholic Schools Welcome All

Junior players will be on hand to hand out goodie bags to the first 100 kids for the Morinville Dance Connection.
February Meetings

5th Municipal Planning Commission 9 a.m.
5th Subdivision & Development Appeal Board 2 p.m.

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 right here in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review. Next print edition: February 19, 2019

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Session Coming to Redwater

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

Join Sturgeon County Enforcement Services and Redwater RCMP for this important session to learn more about:
- OHV Safety
- Provincial Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Act & Regulations
- The current rules of Sturgeon County’s OHV Bylaw.

It’s a great opportunity to ask questions about the proposed changes to the new bylaw to be made consistent with the recently established Provincial legislation. Everyone is welcome.

Off Highway Vehicles include snowmobiles, quads, trikes, dirt bikes, gators and side-by-sides.

Snowmobile Etiquette

While you’re enjoying the great outdoors on your snowmobile or other OHV, Sturgeon County residents are reminded that they are required to ask for permission from the property owner before travelling on private property. It is especially important to prevent damage to crops and fields covered in snow.

Activities are enforced via the OHV Bylaw. Residents who wish to register a formal complaint may contact Enforcement Services at 780-939-8418.

Residents Could Save on Fire Insurance

The Districts of Namao and Calahoo, along with Morinville, Legal, Bon Accord, Gibbons, and Redwater Fire Stations have been accredited by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) for the delivery of Superior Tanker Shuttle Services (STSS) and the appropriate changes have been made to the fire insurance grading index.

What does this mean for you?

Residents within the districts named above who own detached dwellings and are within 8 km of an accredited fire hall and 5 km of a water supply point 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 apply the STSS Accreditation, please explore options by obtaining quotes from other companies.

For more information, check out the FAQs on the Property Fire Insurance page at sturgeoncounty.ca or contact Chief Pat Mahoney at 780-939-8400 or email pmahoney@sturgeoncounty.ca.

Upcoming Application Deadlines

Time is running out! The deadline for the following Sturgeon County programs is January 31.

Dog Licences
Call 780-939-4321 to purchase or renew your dog licence with your credit card or visit County Centre and pay in person before January 31st.
For more information visit sturgeoncounty.ca

Excellence in Agriculture Award
This award recognizes innovation and/or environmental leadership by individuals or producers involved in a grain, cattle or mixed farming operation, or in businesses and community groups that serve the agricultural sector in Sturgeon County.

100 Year Farm Family Award
The 100 Year Farm Family Award recognizes those residents actively farming the same family-owned land for 100 years or more.

Full details and applications for the agriculture awards are available at sturgeoncounty.ca. call 780-939-8349 or email jbeazer@sturgeoncounty.ca

Sturgeon County Offices will be closed February 18 for Family Day.
**YEAR ROUND LAKEFRONT AT LIVING STONE**

Pride of ownership shows throughout this entire property in Long Lake Estates (just over 1/2 hour north of Edmonton). Over a half acre with only 150 yds. of private lake frontage. The entire property is fenced with roads cutting through the trees to the sandy beach and dock. The home features vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, open concept living room/kitchen, 2 baths, 2 brms, den, family room, and in premise pressure treated deck and lots of shade. The garage has an extra room in it that is drywalled and carpeted for additional summer sleeping space. Concrete block driveway, snow storage, shed (matches house & garage), driveway walk and parking area complete this gorgeous property. There is a cistern for water as well as a drilled well with water softener in place. Long Lake has a ski hill, golf course, hiking trails, tennis court, and the marsh just a few minutes walk to the lake. Mowed trail leads to the 10 km freshwater lake. Complete with all furniture, dishes and utensils, firewood, yard equipment and even boat lift. Summer getaway or year round living. $689,900. Call Heather to view.

**1.5 ACRES BUNGALOW ON THE LAKE**

Located just over 1 1/2 hours north of Edmonton and only 10 minutes north of Morinville on Hwy 63, this 1 1/2 acre homesite is your perfect “get away” location. This home has a large master bedroom with walk in closet and 1/2 bath, 2nd entrance to kitchen & back entry, pantry & solar tube in the kitchen which offer lots of light for the cozy but spacious kitchen. The finished basement has 2 bedrooms, huge FR, plenty of storage, and a workshop in the unfinished area. The upstairs features the living room, vaulted ceilings, 2 bedrooms & a full 4 piece bathroom. The home shows throughout like new with an almost 1700 sq ft bungalow with triple attached garage, 10 hp air throughout & built in monorail crane. There is also a 30'x20' heated shop with a 2nd stair case to a large loft area. This home is move in ready! Priced at $299,900. Call Heather to view.

**Affordable Housing in Redwater**

Great property at a very affordable price! 2+1 bdrm, 1 bath, 1000 sq ft home located just a few miles from Legal. This home was built in 1994 by local builder and sits on a corner lot with a large front yard. The home is move in ready! $99,900. Call Glenn to view.
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# E4112634

GREAT PRICE! GREAT HOME! $299,900
- 904 sq. ft
- 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

REDUCED! $119,900
- 875 sq. ft 2 storey townhouse
- 3 bdrms / 1 bath
- Fully finished basement
- 2 powered parking stalls
- MLS# E4114341

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

INVESTMENT PROPERTY $177,000
- 875 sq. ft
- 2 bdrms / 1 bath
- Large backyard
- Newer roof, bath, flooring & paint
- MLS# E4121141

MADE IN MCMILLAN $374,900
- 874 sq. ft
- 2 bdrms / 1.5 baths
- Completely renovated
- Detached garage, barn & chicken coop
- 20 mins NW of Morinville
- MLS# E4126117

SOLD! $239,900
- 1064 sq. ft 4th floor condo
- 2 bdrms / 2 baths
- Newer flooring, crown moulding, S/S appliances
- 1/titled outdoor parking stall & 1/assigned outdoor parking stall
- MLS# E4138973

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN $159,900
- 1119 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 1.5 baths
- Fully finished basement
- 2 powered parking stalls
- MLS# E4114167

MODERN & STYLISH $314,900
- 1610 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 2.5 baths
- Bonus room w/wet bar
- Double detached garage w/back lane access
- No condo fees
- MLS# E4134271

MAPLE BROOKE VILLAS $239,900
- 1221 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 2.5 baths
- Single attached garage
- Central air
- MLS# E4129783

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

NEW! $236,900
- 1221 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 2.5 baths
- Single attached garage
- Central air
- MLS# E4129783

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

INVESTMENT PROPERTY $177,000
- 875 sq. ft
- 2 bdrms / 1 bath
- Large backyard
- Newer roof, bath, flooring & paint
- MLS# E4121141

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

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

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

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

VACANT Lot $159,900
- 875 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 2 baths
- Fully finished basement
- 2 powered parking stalls
- MLS# E4116560

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

INVESTMENT PROPERTY $177,000
- 875 sq. ft
- 2 bdrms / 1 bath
- Large backyard
- Newer roof, bath, flooring & paint
- MLS# E4121141

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN $159,900
- 1119 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 1.5 baths
- Fully finished basement
- 2 powered parking stalls
- MLS# E4114167

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

BON ACCORD TOWNHOUSE $119,900
- 875 sq. ft
- 2 bdrms / 1 bath
- Fully finished basement
- 2 powered parking stalls
- MLS# E4114341

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

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

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

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

INVESTMENT PROPERTY $177,000
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- Titled underground parking stall & 1/assigned outdoor stall
- MLS# E4126014

SOLD! $238,900
- 1221 sq. ft
- 3 bdrms / 2.5 baths
- Single attached garage
- Central air
- MLS# E4129783

Linda Getzlaf
GETZ IT LISTED - GETZ IT SOLD!
REALTOR at RE/MAX Real Estate
Morinville for the past 7 years!
Call Me Direct: 780-690-3861
Office: 780-939-1111
www.lindagetzlaf.com
lindagetzlaf@ymail.com

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www.lindagetzlaf.com
lindagetzlaf@ymail.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
- 96 St
- 100 St
- 104 St
- 107 St
- 100 Ave
- 101 Ave
- All School zones
- All Playground zones
- All other areas where speeding is a concern

NOTICE

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

Gibbons Public Library received direct services from Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) totalling $93,000, which is nearly three times the levy paid by Gibbons. In 2018 the Gibbons Library Board and the Town of Gibbons each paid a per capita levy to NLLS of $16,000 ($32,000 total). For that, NLLS provided $93,000 in direct services.

“I think that’s pretty good value for the money,” said NLLS board chair Larry Tiedemann when he and executive director Julie Walker presented the 2018 statistics to Gibbons council Jan. 23.

In 2018 NLLS services to the Gibbons library included four site visits for orientation and set ups valued at $1,400; public services such as support and training for librarians, data bases and program entertainers of $6,500; information technology (IT) supports including Supernet, software licences and online catalogue of $12,500; board member reimbursements of $570 and administration for auditors, insurance, vehicle expenses, marketing, and communications of $8,260. Administration does not include salaries, which fall under the Public Library Services grant. NLLS pays Gibbons $20,600 from that provincial Services Grant.

Another service provided by NLLS is shared TRAC services which give library patrons access to the over 3.6 million items which are on the shelves of libraries in three regional library systems. The Polaris Integrated Library System is valued at $950 and the Overdrive and Cloud Library at $13,900. During 2018 Gibbons library patrons borrowed 7,000 items from other libraries in TRAC. To purchase those items would have cost $175,900.

Walker said there were 19,300 items checked out of the Gibbons Library during 2018.

Coun. Darren McCann said the Gibbons Library is always busy when he sees it, even on a Tuesday morning. “I’m always amazed at the number of people using the bricks and mortar facility,” he said.

NLLS member municipalities and their library boards paid an annual levy of $5.07 per capita from 2016 to 2018. The levy increased to $5.15 per capita for 2019. Municipalities that do not have library boards pay a levy of $10.30.
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

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

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

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

CAMILLA SCHOOL - February 28
6:30pm - Kindergarten

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.

*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
Morinville artist teaches Zentangle

by Grant Cree

A group of aspiring artists recently embarked on a personal journey with their pens and pencils. They gathered on Jan. 21 at the Allied Arts Council in Spruce Grove where Certified Zentangle Instructor Dolly Bolen of Morinville taught them basic skills of the abstract art.

“What I love about Zentangle is that it is not a traditional art form. It is art for everyone,” said Bolen. “I taught six people today; some of them knew little about Zentangle. Some didn’t.”

The Zentangle Method is a fun and easy-to-learn way to create beautiful images by drawing abstract patterns.

Bolen taught her students how to create patterns, or tangels. They are a mix of lines, dots, gentle curves, S-curves and orbs. These simple shapes are the “Elemental Strokes” in all Zentangle art.

“Even if you think you can’t do this, you can,” said Bolen. “Because in Zentangle speak, we say there is no right or wrong, no mistakes. We don’t see an eraser. Unless you want to use one, because there’s no rules, you can do whatever you want.”

As Bolen roamed the class to chat with students and admire their creations, she emphasized an important point: “It’s your personal journey that gets you to your unexpected destination,” she said. “Because you don’t know where that pen and pencil are going to take you. It’s something that will totally surprise everyone who has taken my class.”

Spontaneity is the essence of Zentangle art, so it is created with a predetermined image in mind. Rather, it’s about enjoying the process so the artist is free to focus on each pen stroke with no concern about the result. “We don’t try to have an expected outcome,” said Bolen. “It’s the unexpected outcome that makes this art form really exciting because it’s in its truest form, it’s abstract.”

Sew & Sos choose top communicators to go to district

The Gibbons 4-H Sew & Sos Multi Club held their communications competitions on Jan. 19 at Bon Accord School. Masters of Ceremonies were Juden Rigney and Brady O’Donnell. Judges for the event were Mrs Linda Zinnuck, Miss Shweta McLaughlin, and Mrs Judy Van Hecke.

Members of the Club all spoke, some for competition, the others to complete their 4-H requirement. Following are participants and their topics.


Winners were: Seniors - Brady O’Donnell; Intermediates - Annabelle Romanowski, Kalyna Romanowski and Gracie Stewart; Juniors - Charley Romanowski.

Public Speaking: Juniors - Hayden Clark with My Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

― Dr. Darren Romanowski & Dr. Katie Wittig General Dentists

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County orders fire truck

Sturgeon County council approved administration awarding the purchase of a new Water Tender/Tanker Fire Apparatus for $388,208.

“This new apparatus will be capable of providing 1,000 gallons per minute (GPM) water flow from its onboard fire pump. The water tender/tanker will have an onboard 2,100-gallon water tank. The truck will carry all the basic tools necessary to provide water supply during firefighting operations. The apparatus will have capacity for two (2) firefighters,” Pat Mahoney, Fire Chief/Manager of Protective Services told council Jan. 22. “This piece of apparatus is a service enhancement (new truck) to our current fleet and will serve the County and its residents for the next twenty years. The only concern was raised over the lack of competitive bids in the tender process, however Mahoney advised council that while Commercial Truck Equipment Co. of Delta, B.C. was the only tender received the invitation to tender was placed on the Alberta Purchasing Connection website and received 23 views with 22 showing interest.

Scott MacDougall, General Manager, Municipal Services noted that the specs included a single axle unit to allow access in tight areas but the pump and tank capacity was sized to maintain the County’s fire rating. He speculated the single axle combination may have been hard for some potential suppliers to meet, however Mahoney added that in the previous three equipment purchases they attracted 2, 1, and 2 formal tender submissions so a low number of bids to supply the equipment is not rare.
Gibbons finalize 2019 budget with 4% increase in tax revenue

Gibbons council adopted its 2019 operating budget with a four percent tax increase over last year in a split vote. That is half the proposed increase of eight percent in the first draft of the budget presented in November.

The 2019 operational budget has total revenues of just over $3.9 million and expenditures of nearly $3.7 million. That set the required municipal tax revenue at $2.7 million, up four percent ($103,000) from tax revenues of $2.6 million in 2018.

Although during the Jan. 23 budget meeting coun. Darren McCann argued strongly in favor of raising the tax increase by up to one percent so some items would not have to be deleted from the proposed budget, during the council meeting that followed he made the motion to adopt the proposed budget as presented. It passed with councillors Amber Harris and Norm Sandahl voting against it.

McCann later explained why he did not make a motion to amend the budget as he had advocated earlier but moved to adopt it with no changes. He said, “I did so out of respect for our ratepayers in our great community and with the recognition that it is more important that council and administration be able to focus our energy on building on the momentum, direction and commitment we have made with our Rooted In Family Community.”

Assistant CAO Debbie Turner reviewed the changes to the budget which lowered the amount of required tax revenue. Land purchase financing costs of $30,800 were removed from operations and taken out of reserves.

Replacement of reserves used to purchase the town’s Odyssey, which was being done at $7,100 per year for seven years (complete in 2022), will not be done this year. “We plan on putting it back in the budget next year,” Turner said.

The community assistance grant (the town’s contribution to a fund largely made up of donations by other organizations) was reduced from $10,000 to $7,000.

Trail Committee funding was reduced from $15,000 to $10,000 because the committee will be supported in part by the $60,000 budgeted for the Trail Master Plan. That plan was last updated in 1983. Another $8,000 will be saved because two pods (pad, bench and garbage can) planned for construction along the trails will not be built. A site for them will be chosen after the Master Plan is done.

Installation of a water fountain in the cultural centre will not be done this year, creating a saving of $4,000.

The $7,100 planned to be put in IT reserves for future replacement of the town’s computer server will not be done this year. The server gets replaced every five years at a cost of about $45,000.

The in-house weed spraying budget was reduced from $15,000 to $10,000.

McCaan suggested putting one percent of additional taxes (about $26,000) back in the budget and having an overall increase of five percent for 2019. He said an alternative would be to increase the budget just enough to cover the water fountain and reserves for the van.

“We would be in a position to better leverage the cost of key assets, such as the two items, over a number of years, instead of having to cover the entire costs in one budget year,” said McCann.

“My fear is if we trim our budget too much, we’ll start going backwards. During the last four years council did a lot of heavy lifting.”

Sandahl asked what impact a one percent increase to the tax revenue would have on the average house in town. Turner explained that the assessments are not in for this year yet, and the mill rates won’t be set until spring; however, because there is expected to be very little assessment growth, it could be estimated as one percent of whatever municipal property taxes were paid last year.

Sandahl calculated that for a $300,000 home one percent would be just over $2/month.

“That’s not even a cup of coffee per month,” he said.

Coun. Loraine Berry said, “I feel 3.5 percent is high as we want to go. People’s salaries haven’t risen that much.”

The ensuing discussion included a lot of uncontrolled costs the town has to pay, such as carbon tax and increased minimum wage, totalling $159,000 for 2019.

“We didn’t raise taxes by the amount downloaded onto us,” said McCann. “If you move forward, you’re going backwards. I don’t want a 10 percent tax increase in the future to cover things we didn’t do today.”

Coun. Jay Millante said he would agree with adding a half percent to the taxes to be collected. Coun. Jean Woodger supported putting back one percent, to make a five percent tax revenue increase. “The ratepayer’s dollars aren’t shielded shouldn’t be,” she said. “They’ll have a big impact on people.”

Mayor Dan Deck favored making no changes to the proposed budget unless an increase was made to a particular line item.

Harris said she agrees with McCann, but because it is a provincial and federal election year there is no way of knowing what will happen with the economy. She felt people would “go ballistic” if council passed a budget with a 4.5 percent tax increase.

CAO Farrell O’Malley noted the budget has a $35,000 contingency council can access if necessary. He said there is interest from developers and the intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICF) municipalities are required to do may result in additional funding from Sturgeon County for facilities used by area residents.

“There is a future, and I believe it’s very positive,” said O’Malley.

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Different specs used for competitive quotes as Morinville unanimously awards contract to councillor

As expected the town of Morinville council unanimously awarded another contract to a sitting member of council on Jan. 22 — this one 11% higher than the 2018 contract awarded to the same councillors.

Coun. Stephen Dafoe declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting and council then awarded a contract to a maximum of $10,000 to Dafoe’s business interest. The contract was not presented during the meeting and no specs were released.

Communications Director Felicity Bergman did confirm to council that the Dafoe contract is the only contract the town of Morinville has for advertising. The 11% increase was not mentioned by administration or council.

CAO Stephanie Labonne advised that the town is trying to find the “sweet spot” with regards to advertising and referred to the online resident survey it did last year. The survey has no statistical validity and was presented in such to council.

The Town’s Fiscal Principles and Practices Policy states, “written competitive quotations are to be obtained for goods and services between $2,500.00 and $10,000.00”.

Bergman confirmed later that she had three such quotes, however admitted the ‘competitive’ quotes were not for the same specifications. She stated, “this policy does not state the same specifications must be quoted for services offered.”

The Fiscal Principles and Practices policy actually makes provision for the whole competitive quote process to be ignored. There is no requirement for competitive pricing or multiple quotes if council approves a contract.

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) also allows municipalities to award a contract to a sitting member of council if that council approves the contract. (This allows remote municipalities access to a service which may only be available from one source and that source may be owned by a councillor). Morinville is the only municipality in the region known to award contracts to sitting members of council and has done so multiple times.

As in all previous contracts awarded to council members — with Dafoe having received the majority of these — the approval was supported by all council members in the meeting.

The town of Morinville has no policy in place setting any conditions or standards to either prevent or allow town contracts to sit members of council.

Mayor Harry Turner shifted all the responsibility for this to the province in his response to media questions.

“This process is governed entirely by the Municipal Government Act,” he stated, when asked whether the town governors regarding awarding contracts to sitting members of council. The response is correct, however this law is also taken by a municipality in under the authority of the MGA. Every municipality — including Morinville — also has policies in place requiring council’s authority to be used. Except, of course, in Morinville’s case, for the awarding of contracts to council members.

Given the frequency of contracts being awarded to Morinville councillors will the town have administration prepare a policy? “This is entirely governed by the Municipal Government Act and how this is handled is dictated by the Provincial Government,” stated the Mayor.

In the years that Morinville has been awarding contracts to councillors, not a single example of another municipality in Alberta awarding contracts to its councillors has been produced “I don’t have any information on the contracts of any other municipalities,” stated Turner when asked whether he could provide the name of any other municipality that has awarded a contract to a sitting member of council.

Council has awarded over $100,000 in contracts to Dafoe since he was first elected to council. He is one of two current councillors to receive contracts to supply goods or services to the town. The contracts have not been made public by the town, nor have the specs on which the councillors quoted.

Man with stolen Gibbons truck arrested in Thorhild area ditch

RCMP arrested a man with no fixed address after receiving a call of a man sitting in a passenger truck in a ditch on Hwy 63 just south of Hwy 16.

Redwater RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Ed Bourque said police responded to the call at 1:00 a.m. on Jan. 21. Investigation revealed the 2904 Chevy pickup the man was in had been stolen out of Gibbons, so the driver was arrested. He was charged for Possession of Stolen Property over $5,000. He was released on a Recognizance to appear in court Feb. 7.

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Private use of public utility corridor in Cardiff will end after 10 year transition

After hearing six presentations opposed to the recommended action which would end the use of Public Utility Lot (PUL) 62 in Cardiff Echoho by all adjacent landowners within 10 years, Sherritt noted that the presentations would have to be analyzed in detail. Five of the presentations had opposed the plan to require landowners to turn back 15 feet (or sooner if the property changed owners) and advocate for continuing the private use of the utility corridor. The sixth presentation was from a lot owner back- ing on County land to be a squatter in the future. Evans told council before the vote that it is a huge disservice when a municipality takes something away from the people. Tighe responded that public input is just one factor in a decision. He stated during questioning of a delegation’s presentation that if council simply follow the wishes of the majority of the people they would have no tax revenue because no one likes taxes. He said council has to weigh all the factors when making a decision.

Coun. Wayne Bokenför suggested the County needs to look at its beautification program, suggesting that some of the costs of the improvements done by the residents to the PUL for land- scaping could be offset through the funding when the property is returned to the County at the termination of a private use agreement.
Do you enjoy managing people and information? We have an exciting project for you. Responsible for preparing the municipal council, the Coordinator will also be involved in hiring, training and supervising employees and reporting results to Municipal Affairs. This is a temporary full time position with a flexible schedule. You must have your own transportation and cell phone, and be familiar with Sturgeon County. Competition closes on February 1, 2019. For complete job, schedule and application details please check out www.sturgeoncounty.ca.

Do you enjoy working with young children? The casual Preschool Program Assistant aids with the implementation of early childhood programs for children ages 0 to 6 years. If you have Child Development Assistant or equivalent training through Life Experience Equivalency Process (LEEP), as well as previous experience working with preschool children, this may be the job for you. This is a temporary part time position with a flexible schedule depending on the programs offered. You may have your own transportation as the programs are held in various rural locations.

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Sturgeon, Morinville begin negotiating intermunicipal collaboration

On Jan. 21, the respective negotiating teams from Sturgeon County and the Town of Morinville held their initial meeting to discuss better ways of delivering services through an Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework (ICF) mandated through the Modernized Municipal Government Act.

Sturgeon County is represented by Mayor Alanna Hnatiw and Councillor Karen Shaw and Deputy Mayor Patrick D. Tighe. The Town of Morinville is represented by Mayor Barry Turner and Councillors Nicole Boutestein and Stephen Tighe.

The neighbouring municipalities discussed and agreed on the principles, results and process moving forward to increase resident satisfaction and to reduce costs.

“The Sturgeon County Task Force is excited about the opportunity to work with our neighbours, finding ways to create efficiencies and cost savings wherever logical and possible,” said Hnatiw.

Turner states, “the meeting was an encouraging first step as both parties are coming to the table with open minds and looking to develop a strong future partnership for the benefit of our residents.”

Under the Modernized Municipal Government Act, municipalities with common boundaries, must, within two years create a framework that:

- Provides for the integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of inter-municipal services, such as water and waste water, solid waste, transportation, recreation and emergency services.
- Steward scarce resources efficiently in providing local services, and
- Ensures municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents.

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Two aircrew members with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron (408 THS) stand at their CH-146 Griffon helicopter outside the Edmonton Garrison Officers Mess on Jan. 25. 408 THS hosted the monthly business luncheon which provides community leaders an opportunity to meet military members and tour a variety of displays. –photo by Grant Cree
Morinville Fire to Consider Putting a Priority Classification on Services Provided by Town

Morinville town council is about to consider engaging in a hazy classification of services the town provides. The purpose of such an exercise is equally hazy.

In a split vote council shuffled a motion from Coun. Stephen Duflo off the Jan. 22 agenda which called for council to “undertake a series of meetings prior to Administrative Committee developing the 2020 budget that looks at what services we provide to the community, which are essential under the MGA (Municipal Government Act), which we believe are deemed essential by the community, and which may be considered for reduction or elimination.”

The motion was referred to the Feb. 19 council committee of the whole meeting for discussion, although Duflo and councillors Lawrence Griffin and Scott Richardson opposed that action.

The town just passed its 2019 budget in December and administration advised council that imbedded in the budget is a high level outline of the services provided in each division.

Griffin noted that acting on the motion might lead to some micro-managing by council — getting involved in administration’s responsibilities.

Duflo responded, “I don’t think I could ever be accused of micro-managing.”

Coun. Nicole Boutestein noted the town will also have a list of services that it will be discussing with Sturgeon County during the inter-municipal collaboration framework meetings.

She questioned whether staff had the capacity to take on a further study if council approved the Duflo resolution.

CAO Stephanie Labonne listed a number of projects, including the strategic plan and business plan in addition to the local term financial plan and the comprehensive review that require administration time. However, she said, there is also a “full court process of staff resources directed toward the opening of the new Recreation Centre.”

Mayor Barry Turner made the motion to refer the item to committee, noting the town has no budget for doing another study and staff are already working on priority tasks. He also voiced concern about approaching a service review with the mindset to make cuts.

Duflo objected to that statement saying nowhere in the resolution did he use the word cuts.

Turner responded that the proposed study should be done post the strategic plan is in place and could even be considered as an element of that plan. He won the support of councillors Bournestein, Sarah Hall, and Rebecca Balanko to move the item to the February committee meeting.

Council can contemplate whether parks are a higher priority than sidewalks or police fire-fighters or the splash park but what’s the point of the process? Residents expect the full range of services to be available in a town of almost 10,000 people.

Local Fire Departments Receive $15,000 Donations From Nutrien

The Gibbons Fire Department and Sturgeon County Emergency Services each received $15,000 donations from Nutrien Jan. 22. Nutrien Redwater fertilizer plant site general manager Ron Jennings said responding to emergencies is a difficult challenge faced by the departments, and his company wants to do its part to support them.

Nutrien gave a total of $50,000 to four local departments, with the Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona County departments also receiving grants.

“We appreciate it very much,” said Gibbons firefighter Dylan Wells. “It’ll go a long way.”

“It’s a lot of money,” added St. firefighter Kory Hedstrom. “It’s a lot of ways we can spend it. We’re happy to have it.”

The Gibbons department plans to use part of the money for third party training in things they can’t get in-house instruction on. Some will go for the purchase of Canvas Comers props to assist with training in different ways of attacking structure fires.

The rest of the Nutrien donation will be used to buy cancer and illness prevention equipment for the firefighters. Those include particulate-blocking balaclavas so firefighters do not breathe in as many particulates while at fires and decontamination packs which will help to keep harmful materials out of firefighters’ vehicles and homes.

Sturgeon County Manager of Emergency and Protective Services fire chief Pat Mahoney said the $15,000 his department received will be used to upgrade the training site by Ron Accord that is used by all seven area departments.

“We’re trying to get the industrial fire props completed this year,” said Mahoney. They include equipment to simulate fires involving compressed gases such as would occur at well sites and industrial plants. At present, area departments have to rent facilities in Nisku for industrial fire fighting training. Having such training available at a local site will allow members to train more frequently and at a lower cost.

Other upgrades planned for the training site include some paving and lighting.

“This is amazing support by Nutrien and will assist firefighters for years to come,” said Mahoney.

Frances Pelletier from Sturgeon County showed off her page from Jan. 19 during Courageous Journaling Workshop with Sally Sybblis at the St. Albert Painters’ Guild studio in St. Albert Place. Towers-Sybblis from Red Deer taught 11 artists how to create fantastic journal pages using borders, doodling techniques, funky lettering and collage. The workshop broke through creative blocks unleashing creative potential by surrendering to the process. Towers-Sybblis encouraged artists to let go and allow their intuition create their pages.”

—photo by Dolly Bolen