Council flip-flops on military monument site after ultimatum from volunteers

The town of Morinville was given an ultimatum by a conglomeration of community groups spearheaded by the Morinville Rotary; put the project in its current location or move it to the southwest corner of the site. Council complied on June 11.

At a closed session held that day, Rotary representatives June 11, according to Mayor Barry Turner council rescinded the April motion. Councilors Stephen Dafoe, Sarah Hall and Scott Richardson flip-flopped their votes from supporting the relocation in April to rescinding the change.

The April decision to move the monument site was made by council without consulting the Rotary who have been working on the project for over a year, or the project instigator Jayson Wood, a local military veteran who has been advocating for it for years. Boutestein apologized to Rotary spokesman Gordon Putnam for the town failing to advise the project organizers of the change before they heard it from the media, however made no apology for the lack of consultation by council before making the decision. In April only Turner and coun. Lawrence Giffin opposed the relocation of the LAV III monument site to the southwest corner.

Putnam, a former town councillor, started out supporting the council June 11 decision, backed by a full public gallery, with Simon Ilorensma and Mark Stevens also listed as part of the presentation although they did not speak during the public session.

Putnam noted the project involves a number of partners — including the town — along with the Rotary, Morinville Legion Branch, Connaught Tourism, and the military. The monument has been broadened from its original tribute to Afghanistan veterans and will now be a monument to all the military. The monument is an actual demobilized LAV III (Light Armored Vehicle) previously used by Canadian forces in Afghanistan veterans and will now be a monument to all the military. The monument is an actual demobilized LAV III (Light Armored Vehicle) previously used by Canadian forces in Afghanistan veterans and will now be a monument to all the military.

Putnam told the group the idea was that the $36.5 million Leisure Centre project, it wanted to be the the focus of the site and the location of the monument immediately across the East Boundary Road as people drove from Morinville would enjoy a high profile and provide another amenity to draw the public.

Griffin asked Putnam about earlier discussions with the Rotary that power is needed at the monument site, with Putnam confirming they had discussed with council regarding conduit being installed to the site for electrical services while the groundwork was being done.

Putnam made the situation very clear when Boutestein tried to justify the planned relocation. He stated “if you move us to the southwest we’re probably not going to go ahead.” Then adding, “We’re pumping the brakes. Then full stop.”

Dafoe confirmed with town administration that there is sufficient space (1/2 to 1 acre, with the preferable size 3/4 acre, according to Putnam) at the original concept site. Community and Protective Services director Dave Schefer also confirmed the size was shown to scale on the original concept plan and would not interfere with the adjacent soccer field.

The Mayor stated it was “at the request of the Rotary Club, Council agreed to add this item to the Closed Session agenda” on June 11. The agenda cited the reason for discussing it in closed session as: Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party; advice from Officials; and Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body. There is no land sale involved, no labour agreement, and no legal action pending.

After the closed session council also direct ed administration to negotiate an agreement that would secure the capital and operational of the LAV III Monument Project and report back to Council on July 9.

GOATS VISIT ASPEN HOUSE RESIDENTS FOR SUMMER

Aspen House resident Rolande Pelletier (left) and Recreation Therapist Leeza Shymka (right) fed Hope’s Baby on June 14 in appreciation.

The mayor stated it was “at the request of the Rotary Club, Council agreed to add this item to the Closed Session agenda” on June 11. The agenda cited the reason for discussing it in closed session as: Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party; advice from Officials; and Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body. There is no land sale involved, no labour agreement, and no legal action pending.

After the closed session council also directed administration to negotiate an agreement that would secure the capital and operational of the LAV III Monument Project and report back to Council on July 9.
SCREENING ASSESSMENTS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR.

Thinking your child may benefit from an Enrichment or Headstart program? Call our office to book a screening assessment.

Enrichment—for children who are 3 years, 8 months as of September 1, and are assessed as being cognitively advanced.

Headstart—for children between the ages of 3 years, 8 months and 5 years as of September 1, who have an identified mild to moderate delay in one or more of the following areas; speech-language, fine motor or social skills. Children 2 years, 8 months as of September 1, will be considered if the delays are severe.

CALL STURGEON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT 780.939.4341 EXT 1257 TO BOOK A SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Children must be screened and qualify for this program under Alberta Education guidelines.

Joe Pelletier 780-974-1440

BUY OR SELL ANY HOME ON MLS WITH US FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN $5000.

CALL FOR DETAILS

1000 sq ft - 5 bedroom bi-level with fully developed basement. Many upgrades have been completed: shingles with ice/water membrane, flooring, paint, kitchen, deck, hidge, stove and microwave. With just a short commute to the city and Garrison. $264,900.

1164 sq ft 3 bedroom bungalow with a spacious yard and a 22x26 ft garage. Numerous upgrades!.. Paint, fixtures and beautiful luxury vinyl plank throughout. Bright white kitchen with granite counter tops, and stainless steel appliances. $274,700.

1656 sq ft - 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 2 storey with oversized 24’ x 24’ insulated garage. Open concept design and main floor laundry. Located in Notre Dame close to the new school being built. $399,000.

1691 sq ft 2 storey home with a 24x24 oversized garage. The basement is developed with a bedroom, recreation area, 3 pce bathroom and laundry room. Boast of numerous upgrades.

NEW LISTING!

FREE HOME EV

ALUA

TIONS

1887 sq ft 3 bedroom, 2 storey features gorgeous hardwood floors, glamorous ceramic tile, cozy fireplace, bright airy spaces with an open concept design. Stainless steel appliance package. The garage is oversized at 24 ft deep.

BRAND NEW IN MORINVILLE!

1987 sq ft 3 bedroom 2 story with double attached garage. Upstairs you will find a huge master bedroom with a 4 pce ensuite and walk-in closet, 2 more airy bedrooms, 4pc bathroom, plush broadloom and a wonderful bonus room with large windows. Basement has 9ft ceilings. $384,990.

MARVELOUS IN MORINVILLE!

1691 sq ft 2 storey features gorgeous hardwood floors, glamorous ceramic tile, cozy fireplace, bright airy spaces with an open concept design. Stainless steel appliance package. The garage is oversized at 24 ft deep.

TOP SOIL FOR SALE

$10.00 PER YARD FOR PICK UP OR WE CAN DELIVER

DEALRY PRICE ADDITIONALLY

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 8-4PM OR WEEKENDS BY APPT ONLY.

Call 780-942-0006

Junior Girls Basketball player Emma Doney grade nine was all smiles when she won the Teachable Spirit Award presented by coaches Heather Gerow and Gavin Dentham. Morinville Community High School Athletic Awards were held at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre on June 12. –photo by Dolly Bolen
Free Library Memberships for Seniors

In recognition of Seniors’ Week June 2-8, Sturgeon County Council has approved providing Free Library Memberships to Sturgeon County residents 55+ years who access 2019 library memberships during the month of June at any of these local libraries: Bon Accord Public Library, Edmonton Garrison Community Library, Gibbons Public Library, Morinville Public Library, Redwater Public Library. Contact Shelly Chubb at 780-930-8333 for details.

Cannabis Legalization in Sturgeon County

The Federal Government introduced Bill C-45, known as the Cannabis Act, to legalize recreational cannabis in Canada. Cannabis became legal on October 17, 2018, and provisions will be made for consumption of cannabis products such as edibles as of October 17, 2019.

Over the past two years, we have connected with residents to talk about cannabis legalization through drop-in sessions and an online survey, gathering feedback about consumption, production and distribution, and retail sales. Sturgeon County is working to manage the legalization of cannabis in the best interests of our community and based on the feedback that was received. We would like to share the proposed approach to manage the legalization of Cannabis.

Sturgeon County has currently proposed Bylaw 1436/19 to amend the Land Use Bylaw, which proposes to allow standard-sized production and distribution facilities in medium to heavy industrial areas, and to allow micro-sized production and distribution facilities within agricultural parcels. It also proposes for retail facilities to be allowed in commercial areas and puts forward specific regulations that will regulate the impacts of these facilities on surrounding land uses.

A public hearing will be held Tuesday, June 25 at 2 p.m. in Council Chambers. A draft of Bylaw 1436/19 can be found at sturgeoncounty.ca

Experience Ag Tour a hit with students

Sturgeon County recently hosted 170 students from three local schools on the Experience Ag Tour. Students visited Karen and Stuart Shaw’s ranch to see a cow-calf operation, as well as the Northbank Potato Farm, and learned more about local food production. Thank you to our sponsors, G3 Canada Ltd., Nutrien, and SERVUS Credit Union Morinville & Legal, and to our tour hosts, the Shaw’s and Northbank Potato Farm.

Fire Restriction has been lifted for Sturgeon County and the Towns of Bon Accord, Legal and Redwater
by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

“There are no bad days.” Not the typical comment you’d routinely hear from someone living with a debilitating disease, yet those are the words commonly heard leaving the mouth of the 2019 ALS Walk Ambassador, Morinville’s own, Danny Getzlaf. June 8th was the day and Hawrelak Park in Edmonton was the place where supporters gathered to support Getzlaf for his mission to raise awareness for ALS. He, along with 40+ supporters of his team “Danny Getzlaf Community Spirit” joined hundreds of others as they walked around the park in honour of those affected by ALS from the past, present and the future.

“I need to do the best that I can, while I can, to bring our awareness and raise funds to end this deadly disease,” he said during his emotional speech addressed to the crowd. Supporting him on stage were his wife, Linda and daughters, Tessa and Talia. With the gratitude of Danny’s slow progression of the disease, comes along the common realizations of what is to come. The fact is that there is no cure for ALS and although he’s still able to be a strong voice and advocate, some preparations are starting to take place. A recent group meeting on “getting affairs in order” was a sobering topic for Getzlaf. He says in daily life, they don’t talk about it — it’s a silent acknowledgment, and they stay busy as their way of coping.

Keeping busy as an advocate for awareness has led Getzlaf to raise 98% of his $40,000 goal. “I used to think Morinville was my community ... this is my community now too,” he says of the ALS society and supporters. 60% of raised funds is allocated to client support for equipment for daily living such as walkers, wheelchairs, speech assistance, etc. The other 40% goes towards ongoing ALS research and the National research program. Getzlaf plans to host an Oktoberfest on October 5th at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. With the focus on awareness and potential to reach his 2019 fundraising goal he has already booked The Emeralds and hopes to secure the Accordion Society and Wildrose Fiddlers as the entertainment lineup for the evening. Getzlaf believes the lineup will be attractive to the 50-70 age group, who are those most affected by ALS. His dedication doesn’t stop there however. Getzlaf laced up his shoes for another ALS walk in Hinton on June 16th where he supported another ALS Ambassador.

2019 ALS Walk Ambassador, Danny Getzlaf of Morinville cuts the ribbon to initiate the start of the Walk in Edmonton’s Hawrelak Park on June 8th with wife, Linda by his side. —photo submitted by ALS Society

The 2019 “Danny Getzlaf Community Spirit” team raised nearly $40,000 for ALS and took part in the ALS Walk on June 8th in Hawrelak Park in Edmonton. --photo submitted by The ALS Society

With technology there’s no need to send five councillors to Quebec conference

Letter to the editor,

It looks bad when the taxation of Morinville businesses goes up by thirty percent and is approved by the council. Worse yet, five members flew across the country to attend a municipal conference. Even if there is room for the expense in the professional development budget, it still gives us the unsentimental feeling that these people aren’t into saving money and lowering business taxes.

Why must our politicians ALWAYS meet face to face? Teleconferences are so much cheaper and members could stay home. Normal people, meaning us taxpayers, do things that way so why not have our elected representatives do the same? The unspoken message this sort of expenditure sends to electors is that some personnel are more equal than others. It’s easy to blitz us with budget figures but the general feeling is that Councillors figure that they’re more important than the rest of us.

As for the benefits of these professional development seminars, they can all be obtained by teleconferencing. The savings on time and travel alone also make this an attractive way to do municipal business and training.

This is 2019 and we have the technology to see and speak with people around the world. It’s time that councils act in the public interest rather than living like it’s fifty years ago.

— Bruce Atchison

Bundle Home & Auto
Save up to $500

Drayden.com
Letter to the editor,

I am the first person to question spending by council, so I felt I should comment on the use of funds to have council members attend the conference in Quebec.

When I first heard of Mayor Ted Clugston’s call for a boycott of the Quebec conference, my initial reaction was “great, that will send a strong message.”

But after thinking on it, I realized that not participating in dialogue with the hundreds of Mayors and councils that represent the majority of small towns where we need pipelines, (most of whom actually support job initiatives for their towns) would be a mistake. I sent an e-mail to Mayor Turner and I support his decision on this.

I do expect an analysis of our number of representatives sent vs the numbers other communities sent.

I do expect a thorough audit of expenses.

Most importantly, I am looking forward to a recap of what we got for our money, hopefully communicated through this publication.

—Alan Otway

NOTICE

This week in Morinville photo enforcement will be conducted in the following areas:

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

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!
Morinville Community High School (MCHS) recognized its outstanding athletes last week. The award included all individual sports, as well as recognizing the following multi-sport contributions.

MCHS 1 - 5 Star Athletes
Any athlete that participates in at least 3 sports will become a 3 star athlete. Any athlete that is a 3 star athlete for three consecutive years from grade 9-11 will receive a MCHS jacket/hoodie in their grade 12 year.

MCHS Grade 9 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Cameron O’Brien — Volleyball, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 10 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Cole Rivard — Curling, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 11 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Cole Rivard — Curling, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 12 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Cole Rivard — Curling, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 9 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Jacob Christensen
- Cole Rivard
- Jamie Spilsbury
- Abbey Davey
- Leanne Van Brabant
- Renee Whitefield

MCHS Grade 10 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Jacob Christensen
- Cole Rivard
- Jamie Spilsbury
- Abbey Davey
- Leanne Van Brabant
- Renee Whitefield

MCHS Grade 11 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Jacob Christensen
- Cole Rivard
- Jamie Spilsbury
- Abbey Davey
- Leanne Van Brabant
- Renee Whitefield

MCHS Grade 12 Star Athletes
4 Star Athletes
- Jacob Christensen
- Cole Rivard
- Jamie Spilsbury
- Abbey Davey
- Leanne Van Brabant
- Renee Whitefield

MCHS Grade 9 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Damian Kempe — Volleyball, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 10 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Damian Kempe — Volleyball, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 11 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Damian Kempe — Volleyball, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 12 Star Athletes
3 Star Athletes
- Damian Kempe — Volleyball, Badminton, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 9 Star Athletes
4 Star Athletes
- Taylor Fieldsend — X-Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 10 Star Athletes
4 Star Athletes
- Taylor Fieldsend — X-Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 11 Star Athletes
4 Star Athletes
- Taylor Fieldsend — X-Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 12 Star Athletes
4 Star Athletes
- Taylor Fieldsend — X-Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field

MCHS Grade 9 Star Athletes
5 Star Athletes
- Jamie Spilsbury

MCHS Grade 10 Star Athletes
5 Star Athletes
- Jamie Spilsbury

MCHS Grade 11 Star Athletes
5 Star Athletes
- Jamie Spilsbury

MCHS Grade 12 Star Athletes
5 Star Athletes
- Jamie Spilsbury

Coaches Choice Awards went to (L to R) Jacob Christensen, Carter Hills, Laura Staizer and Alicia Diberardino grade 12 for their dedication to sports during the 2018-2019 school year at Morinville Community High School. Athletic Awards were held on June 12 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre celebrating individual and team sports, team spirit and a healthy lifestyle. — photo by Dolly Bolen

Sturgeon County Community Services thanks the businesses and residents that contributed to our Sponsor a Child Program. This program helps families in the Sturgeon area who are unable to afford children’s programs with the cost of registration fees.
Morinville resident Cliff Haryett brought several stats and observations to council regarding Automated Traffic Enforcement (photo radar) in the community. Telling council he reviewed the quarterly reports for 2018, Haryett said “there are 36 photo radar sites approved by the RCMP. Of these 36 sites, 15 sites or 42% reflect zero hours of monitoring. Interestingly of these 15 unmonitored sites, the zones that were approved and signed June 2017.”

He also questioned the highest monitored sites. “During 2018 a total of 607.44 hours were spent monitoring Cardiff Road (EB and WB), Pump House (EB), and RV City (UFA) (SB).” EB is east-bound, WB west-bound, etc. “This represents 49.3% of the total hours of 1,232.43 logged at four of the 36 approved sites. Do we have traffic accidents that support this high level of monitoring?”

Haryett also questioned the timing of monitoring school zones, noting the follow was his personal observation. “It appears from my observations that the contractor’s operator sets up after the children are on the school ground of in school and leaves before dismissal. Do we have traffic stats that indicate a higher risk when the children are inside the school?”

The final observation was the only one addressed during the council meeting, with Haryett noting 10 sites were approved and signed off by the RCMP in June 2017 and subsequently inactivated in October 2017. “During this period of time these sites were never monitored. What justification was used to inactivate these sites, given that they had never been monitored?”

In a later report to council, director of Community and Protection Services Dave Scharfer told council that color charting shows the rates of traffic violations. A small grey box is attached to a utility pole at the site and monitors the speed of traffic, allowing enforcement officials to map those sites which have zero, a few, or many speed infractions. This assists in determining the location of the radar enforcement.

Council later directed Administration to report to “in the fall of 2019 the potential impacts of discontinuing automated photo enforcement and replace it with a combination of RCMP Peace Officers and speed education campaigns.”

Council also directed administration to report to council for “funding of Jessie’s House, the first emergency shelter to be built in the Sturgeon County region scheduled to open in January 2020.”

Now to a happier note, this year, are numerous children’s events that include an activity-based 1 km fun run, bouncy inflatable and other activities for families that include an activity-based 1 km fun run, bouncy inflatable and other activities for families.
Horse set up with walkout Bungalow
This well maintained 3bdrm bungalow in Morinville is waiting for its new family. This bungalow features 3 bdrms, 2 baths, open concept floor plan, vaulted ceilings, & newer hardwood flooring. The large master bdrm on the main floor has a walk in closet & 4pc ensuite. French doors lead to the rear covered deck. The basement has a total of 946 sq ft & is wide open, ready for your finishing plans. The bungalow is located in a quiet neighborhood & is close to schools, walking trails, & shopping. Excellent value in a great location! $269,900. Call Heather to view.

Acreage in the City
65.5 ac with 4 bdrm home, double garage, 2 pools, & barn on 19.5 acres in the heart of Morinville. Located in Bhs. 6-8 & 1-2 on 102 Ave between 167 & 168 St. Mature trees & a pond with a large open area for a yard. This property is perfect for equestrian uses. The house is built in 2004 & features hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, & an open concept living area. The basement is wide open & ready for your finishing plans. The property is located in a quiet neighborhood & is close to schools, walking trails, & shopping. Excellent value in a great location! $1,295,000. Call Glenn for more information.

Affordable Home on Almost Half Acre in Thorsby
Beautiful acreage set on a 0.5 acre lot in the Hamlet of Thorsby with a 1976 3 bedroom mobile home. This location is ideal for someone looking for quality and extra space. The home features 3 bdrms & 2 baths, with hardwood floors & a large living room. The kitchen is spacious & features a pantry, laundry room, & a large island. The home has a large yard & is perfect for someone looking for additional living space. Excellent value in a great location! $99,900. Call Heather to view.

Bungalow with SECLUDED FIRE PIT AREA
Almost 1700 sq ft of living space in a beautiful bungalow located in Lake Waskatenau Estates. This bungalow features 3 bdrms, 2 baths, & an open concept living area. The kitchen is spacious & features a pantry, laundry room, & a large island. The home has a large yard & is perfect for someone looking for additional living space. Excellent value in a great location! $189,900. Call Heather to view.

Acres with Home and Shops by Redwater
Nicey nicely protected 3.9 acres with 3-3.5 bdrm bungalow with double detached garage, barn, & storage sheds. The barn is 24'x36' & has a 14' overhead door, & the garage is 20'x32' with 12' overhead door. The property is located in a quiet neighborhood & is close to schools, walking trails, & shopping. Excellent value in a great location! $1,175,000. Call Glenn for more information.

Country Home and Shop
Almost 21 acres with a 2 bdrm bungalow on a 1.25 acre lot. The home features 2 bdrms, 1 bath, & an open concept living area. The kitchen is spacious & features a pantry, laundry room, & a large island. The home has a large yard & is perfect for someone looking for additional living space. Excellent value in a great location! $250,000. Call Heather to view.

10.07 SQ FT COMMERCIAL LOT IN LEGA
Prime commercial lot in a great area right on main street in Legal. Perfect opportunity for a business to build a new building for your business or build an office building to rent out to other businesses. The lot has plenty of parking & is located in a busy area. Excellent value in a great location! $99,900. Call Heather to view.

New 2 Story in Edmonton
Stunning new 2 story bungalow in a beautiful neighborhood of Starling in the heart of Edmonton. The house features 4 bdrms, 3 baths, & a large open concept living area. The kitchen is spacious & features a pantry, laundry room, & a large island. The home has a large yard & is perfect for someone looking for additional living space. Excellent value in a great location! $549,900. Call Heather to view.

Updated 5 Plus Condo in North Edmonton
Beautifully kept & upgraded one bedroom condo in the heart of Edmonton. There is a large living room, a spacious kitchen, a full bathroom, & a large balcony. The unit is located in a quiet building & is close to shops, restaurants, & public transportation. Excellent value in a great location! $139,900. Call Heather to view.

Farm Land NE of Westlock
157 ac of good grain land (beautiful canola crop this year) with 2 bdrm bungalow, 20'x32' garage, workshop, & shop by Redwater. There is a large pond, a large barn, & a large hayfield. The property is located in a quiet neighborhood & is close to schools, walking trails, & shopping. Excellent value in a great location! $289,900. Call Glenn for more information.

2.47 acres of bare land near Morinville
Your choice of two great building sites, not in a subdivision, just 25 minutes south of Morinville. Each site is approximately 2 acres & has a septic system, water well, & GST. The sites are located on north east & north west by large mature trees. Upgrades in the past include roads, water systems, septic systems, & GST. Each site has a large garage, a large workshop, and a large garden. The property has a great view of the surrounding countryside. Excellent value in a great location! $85,800. Each parcel. Call Glenn for more information.

8 acres to build on mins to Edmonton
A rare opportunity to own 8 acres of land only minutes to Edmonton! This property has a beautiful view of the city & is close to schools, walking trails, & shopping. Excellent value in a great location! $99,900. Call Glenn for more information.
NO CONDO FEES $304,900
$690sq.ft fully finished bi-level
2 bdrms / 2 baths
Renovated Kitchen
Deck w/ soundproof walls
Det'd garage w/RV parking
MLS# E4148766

WELCOMING BUNGALOW $299,950
1097sq ft bungalow
3 bdrms / 2 baths
Fully finished basement
Over sized heated det'd garage
Newer furnace, tin roof, central air, hot water on demand & more
MLS# E4145737

FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME $455,400
1438sq.ft 2 storey
4 bdrms / 2 full baths & 2 & ½ baths
Fully finished basement
Large landscaped yard
MLS# E4149544

RENOVATED HOME ON 7.12 ACRES $359,000
7450sq ft bungalow
2 bdrms / 1.5 baths
Completely renovated
Detached garage, barn & chicken coop
20 mins NW of Morinville
MLS# E41262117

RAISED BUNGALOW $359,000
1168sq ft raised bungalow
5 bdrms / 2 baths
Fully finished basement
Oversized det'd garage
Located in Legal
MLS# E4193461

IMPRESSED $379,900
1600sq ft 2 storey
3 bdrms / 3.5 baths
Fully finished
Hardwood & granite
Landscaped & fenced yard
MLS# E4144110

WARM & INVITING $394,500
1027sq ft 2 storey
4 bdrms / 3.5 baths
Fully finished basement
Landscaped & fenced yard
MLS# E4123684

BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED BUNGALOW $429,000
2096sq ft bungalow
5 bdrms / 3 baths
Fully finished w/ceilings in basement + Den on main floor
MLS# E4147883

SPACIOUS 2 STOREY $439,900
2160sq ft 2 storey
5 bdrms / 3 baths
Hardwood & granite
MLS# E4151942

ACREAGE W/SHOP $629,900
1200sq ft bungalow
4 bdrms / 3 baths
Central air, vaulted ceilings, hardwood, Triple car garage
MLS# E4141489

40 ACRE HOBBY FARM $289,900
1667sq ft bungalow
3 bdrms / 3 baths
Backs onto crown land
MLS# E4145364

5ACRES W/QUIET W/QUONSET $299,900
Out of subdivision
Municipal water & utilities at property line
50x150 metal Quonset on concrete
MLS# E4144554

THE FREE PRESS, Morinville/Gibbons, Alberta, 780-939-3309, email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, June 18, 2019, Page A9

#1 REALTOR at RE/MAX Real Estate
Morrinville for the past 7 years!
Call Me Direct: 780-690-3861

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated
Town councillor hired by sponsor to paint mural on town facility

Morinville town councillors continue to mix their personal occupations with town-issued contracts and now facilities. Announcing the sponsorship of the Morinville Leisure Centre’s play space, a town press release stated “This support has included a vibrant painted mural, which has added extra colour and life to this invaluable interactive play space.” The artist — Sarah Hall — was not named in the release. Hall is a Morinville town councillor.

When asked for the name of the artist, specifically to confirm whether it was councillor Hall, the town of Morinville responded “Painting of the mural was arranged directly between Atlas Premium Home Development and the artist.”

Subsequently Atlas Premium Home Development Ltd. was contacted by media and asked to confirm whether the councillor had painted the mural. “I am proud to confirm that Sarah Hall did complete the mural. We announced this on our company Facebook site about two weeks ago. My wife suggested using Sarah as she is a local artist and is very involved in the community. She did a great job and we were happy to have the opportunity to work with a local artist as opposed to having to hire outside of our community,” Lauren Monti responded.

Hall later responded: “I can reply that I, as an individual artist and friend, was contracted and paid directly by Atlas Premium Homes to paint the mural. I did not volunteer for this portion of the mural, however, further work on the mural will be finished over the summer, and the supplies and time that remain, will be a donation from myself.”

Hall did not respond to the question of whether she had consulted with the Mayor or town staff regarding the appropriateness of a councillor accepting an art commission on a town-owned facility. However CAO Stephane Labonte stated: as the presenting sponsor of the Children’s Play Space, ATLAS Premium Home Development as part of the agreement, decided to paint a mural inside the play space, to promote their company. The Town of Morinville approved the concept, but who ATLAS Premium Home Development chose to paint the mural, was left to them. The Town of Morinville did not decide the artist of the mural.”

Hall was not directly hired or paid by the town of Morinville, however two sitting members of council have had several contracts with the town. Coun. Stephen Dafoe has had numerous contracts dating back to the previous term of council to supply advertising to the town, while Coun. Rebecca Balanko has had several much smaller contracts to provide a course through the town’s Community and Prosecution Services Department. The first term councillor advised that she checked with the mayor before running for council and was advised that she would be able to continue providing the course if elected.

The town of Morinville has no policy regarding the awarding of contracts to sitting members of council, the dollar value of the contracts, or the frequency of such contracts, the supervision of such contracts or any other related aspects. The remaining members of council have voted unanimously to award each of the specific contracts — which were not viewed by council before being awarded — to the respective councillors. A brief summary was provided for council by administration in each case to base its decision on.

Council also has no policy regarding sitting members of council providing services indirectly to town facilities through employment or contracts with a third party.

Council maintains the practice of awarding contracts to councillors is allowed under the Municipal Government Act (MGA). While the MGA does not specifically allow a municipality to award a contract to a sitting member of council, it does allow a council to award a town contract to a council member (the onus is put on the council as staff are not allowed under the MGA to award a contract to a councillor). In the same context, the MGA does not ban a municipal council from awarding a pay bonus of $100,000 to each member of council, but no council has done so, just as no other municipality in the capital region is known to regularly award contracts to sitting members of council.

Residents can contact Albany Municipal Affairs directly to seek an explanation of the practice of a town awarding a contract to a sitting member of its council.

Councils are generally considered the protectors of the public purse.

1800-100 Ave., Morinville, Alberta T8R 1R9

cxshooters.ca

(780) 939-5593
10126 - 100 Ave., Morinville, Alberta T8R 1R9
Email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Auditor says Gibbons relatively low reserves vs debt level is not a cause for concern

The Town of Gibbons has lower than average reserves and higher than average debt, but its auditor said the 2018 financial statement overall “looks pretty good.”

“We are issuing a clean opinion,” said auditor Phil Dirks of Merix Group LLP when he presented the 2018 audited financial statements to council May 22. “Overall, it’s a really good statement. You hit the budget on the head.”

Mayor Dan Deck commended “staff for keeping us on target throughout the year.”

Dirks noted the net financial assets showed net debt for 2018 of $2.2 million, which is a significant increase from the 2017 net debt of $2.4 million. “It’s really nothing to get too concerned about,” he said.

“You’re moving cash into capital assets.”

Dirks said, “It’s down quite a bit, mostly to do with capital purchases.”

“Cause for concern vs debt level is not a relatively low reserves,” Auditor says Gibbons relatively low reserves vs debt level is not a cause for concern

Auditor says Gibbons relatively low reserves vs debt level is not a cause for concern

The Town of Gibbons has lower than average reserves and higher than average debt, but its auditor said the 2018 financial statement overall “looks pretty good.”

“We are issuing a clean opinion,” said auditor Phil Dirks of Merix Group LLP when he presented the 2018 audited financial statements to council May 22. “Overall, it’s a really good statement. You hit the budget on the head.”

Mayor Dan Deck commended “staff for keeping us on target throughout the year.”

Dirks noted the net financial assets showed net debt for 2018 of $2.2 million, which is a significant increase from the 2017 net debt of $2.4 million. “It’s really nothing to get too concerned about,” he said.

“You’re moving cash into capital assets.”

Dirks said, “It’s down quite a bit, mostly to do with capital purchases.”

“Cause for concern vs debt level is not a cause for concern”
A Supply Chain Forum gave half a dozen major employers the opportunity to connect with over 200 potential contractors and service providers. “The response has been very positive,” said Sturgeon Economic Development co-ordinator Amy Oshanyk. “People are very excited to learn about how their little companies can do business with all these exciting projects or for Sturgeon County on things like little brushing projects.”

About 220 people attended the event, which was hosted by Sturgeon County in Redwater June 10. “Folks are really enjoying it, and they like the opportunity,” said Sturgeon Economic Development manager Tyler Westover. “We’re here to network with fellow Sturgeon County businesses and check out any opportunities,” said Dustin Paquette of The Haz Waste Company out of Calahoo.

Supply Chain presentations were given by government and private industries. Speakers were Sturgeon County general manager of Municipal Services Scott MacDougall, Government of Canada Small and Medium Enterprise Research & Innovation Development officer Robyn Auld, Interpipeline Indigenous & Stakeholder Relations officer Michelle Goodkey, North West Redwater (NWR) Partnership (Sturgeon Refinery) Supply Chain co-ordinator Mike Halliday and NWR External Relations manager Vanessa Goodman, Pembina Buyers and Supply Chain Management supervisor Chantel Verbin and Canada Kuwait Petrochemical Corporation (CKPC) External & Community Affairs manager Sarah Penny.

Sturgeon County staff began working on this event about four months ago and were pleased with the high attendance. “We’re certainly interested in hearing feedback,” said Westover. “We want to support local businesses.”

Most attendees were from the local area, but some came from as far as Red Deer and Calgary.
Aspen House welcomes baby goats

In Guest Cove:
“We have three goats that will live here for the summer,” said Aspen House Recreation Therapist Lizze Shynka on June 14. “What’s unique is that right after the baby goats were born, they came straight to us, they had no idea about any other setting.”
Shynka explained that Aspen House employs a Case Manager who owns a goat farm, and provided the goats for residents to enjoy. “We’ve always wanted to bring a small barn here in our courtyard,” said Shynka, adding the Aspen House recreation staff is involved with the animals. The residents voted on the goat’s names. For example, the boy is named after Grant Cree and the girl is Molly and the mom is Hope Baby. “Only because the mom’s name was Hope and so it’s Hope’s Baby,” laughed Shynka. “Our residents are involved with the goats.”
Benn Fingler, Grade 12 graduate of Morinville Community High School performed his final band project on the Community Cultural Centre stage on June 11th as he rent their premises and the landlord pays the taxes. Administration noted that business licenses are also not a good guide because any business coming into Morinville has to buy a business license to work in town.
After approving the Procurement Policy on April 23 council had gone into closed session and later passed council. Stephen Dafoe’s motion “to amend the policy to add a clause stating that local business be given purchasing priority on contracts with a dollar value less than $25,000, with a maximum of $1,750, and construction contracts under $200,000, with a maximum of 10% of $200,000.” The amendment passed however, the policy failed to define local businesses.
With the June addition of the broadly defined local business, not only those businesses owning or renting premises that pay taxes to the town will benefit from the additional margin — virtually any business in the region can now be up to 10% above the lowest quote (to a maximum of $7,500 or $10,000 depending on the size of contract) and claim local status.
That local business be given purchasing priority on contracts with a dollar value less than $25,000, with a maximum of $1,750, and construction contracts under $200,000, with a maximum of 10% of $200,000. The amendment passed however, the policy failed to define local businesses.

| Asparagus | One concept originally aimed at providing an advantage for Morinville businesses trying to gain supply or service commerce with the town of Morinville has degenerated into a process that can provide higher costs for taxpayers with no advantage specific to businesses located in Morinville.

The revised town Procurement Policy was unanimously approved by council on June 11, after defining “local business” in such broad terms that virtually any business can qualify as a local business and receive an up to 10% keevy on the low quote, if administration so chooses.
The policy defines “Local Business” as “A type of business that is based in a local area and provides a variety of commodities, goods, products or services that are needed to a local population.”

Coun. Scott Richardson who had originally suggested a similar concept that Morinville businesses contribute to the community in a variety of ways — from employment to taxes to community sponsorship — and deserve additional consideration when awarding town business.

At the June meeting he initially noted concerns about the wording of the definition of local business, but said he realizes that it can’t be defined as a business that pays taxes to the town of Morinville because many businesses

| Aspen House welcomes baby goats | Benn Fingler, Grade 12 graduate of Morinville Community High School performed his final band project on the Community Cultural Centre stage on June 11th as he
rent their premises and the landlord pays the taxes. Administration noted that business licenses are also not a good guide because any business coming into Morinville has to buy a business license to work in town.

After approving the Procurement Policy on April 23 council had gone into closed session and later passed council. Stephen Dafoe’s motion “to amend the policy to add a clause stating that local business be given purchasing priority on contracts with a dollar value less than $25,000, with a maximum of $1,750, and construction contracts under $200,000, with a maximum of 10% of $200,000.” The amendment passed however, the policy failed to define local businesses.

With the June addition of the broadly defined local business, not only those businesses owning or renting premises that pay taxes to the town will benefit from the additional margin — virtually any business in the region can now be up to 10% above the lowest quote (to a maximum of $7,500 or $10,000 depending on the size of contract) and claim local status.

Town of Morinville commercial property taxes increased an average of over 30% in 2018-19 because many businesses consider when awarding town business.

Administrators noted that business licenses are not a good guide because any business coming into Morinville has to buy a business license to work in town.

After approving the Procurement Policy on April 23 council had gone into closed session and later passed council. Stephen Dafoe’s motion “to amend the policy to add a clause stating that local business be given purchasing priority on contracts with a dollar value less than $25,000, with a maximum of $1,750, and construction contracts under $200,000, with a maximum of 10% of $200,000.” The amendment passed however, the policy failed to define local businesses.

With the June addition of the broadly defined local business, not only those businesses owning or renting premises that pay taxes to the town will benefit from the additional margin — virtually any business in the region can now be up to 10% above the lowest quote (to a maximum of $7,500 or $10,000 depending on the size of contract) and claim local status.

Town of Morinville commercial property taxes increased an average of over 30% in 2018-19 because many businesses consider when awarding town business.

Administrators noted that business licenses are not a good guide because any business coming into Morinville has to buy a business license to work in town.

After approving the Procurement Policy on April 23 council had gone into closed session and later passed council. Stephen Dafoe’s motion “to amend the policy to add a clause stating that local business be given purchasing priority on contracts with a dollar value less than $25,000, with a maximum of $1,750, and construction contracts under $200,000, with a maximum of 10% of $200,000.” The amendment passed however, the policy failed to define local businesses.

With the June addition of the broadly defined local business, not only those businesses owning or renting premises that pay taxes to the town will benefit from the additional margin — virtually any business in the region can now be up to 10% above the lowest quote (to a maximum of $7,500 or $10,000 depending on the size of contract) and claim local status.

Town of Morinville commercial property taxes increased an average of over 30% in 2018-19 because many businesses consider when awarding town business.
In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, notice is hereby given that the 2019 Combined Property Assessment and Taxation Notices were mailed to all property owners on June 13, 2019. The 2019 Assessment Roll is open for inspection at the Town Office (3025 50th Street) from 8:30 am to 12:00pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. An electronic version can be found on the Town of Legal website at www.legal.ca

Please speak to the Town of Legal Assessor, Dan Kanaka at 780-939-3310 with any assessment questions and prior to filing a complaint, as most concerns can be resolved before complaints get to the Assessment Review Board.

Assessment complaints must be filed within 60 days from the Notice of Assessment Date using the Government of Alberta “Assessment Review Board Complaint form” and filed to the Clerk of the Local Assessment Review Board, Box 390, Legal, AB T0G 1L0 along with the required fee as per the fee schedule below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential 2 or under</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential 3+ or more dwellings</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value up to $40,000</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value $40,001 to $499,999</td>
<td>$420.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value that exceeds $500,000</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value up to $19,999</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value $20,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessed value that exceeds $50,000</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forms are available by contacting the Town Office at 780-964-3773 and are also available online at http://www.municipalities.ab.ca.

Information booklets regarding the Assessment Complaint process are available at the Town Office. Details can also be found on the website at www.legal.ca.

Final Date for Assessment Complaints is by 4:30pm August 14, 2019.
Combined assessment and tax notices were mailed May 23rd, 2019. To avoid penalty charges, tax payments are to be received at Sturgeon County Centre before the end of business, 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019, without exception.

The options for tax payments are:
- By mail: 9613-100 St, Morinville, Alberta T8N 1L9
- Monday to Friday during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- At the County Centre through the mail slot: cheque only.
- Non-business hours, weekends and holidays, until Friday, June 28, 4:30 p.m.

As noted above:
- In person, or via telephone/internet banking at most chartered banks, trust companies, credit unions and cable companies, so that Sturgeon County receives payment by June 28.

To avoid penalties, taxes must be paid on or before 4:30 p.m. on June 28, 2019, as specified on the tax notice even if a complaint is filed.

Assessment Complaints

The Assessment Review Board Complaint form can be found on the County website at: www.sturgeoncounty.ca

Please talk to your assessor before filing a complaint, as most concerns are resolved before complaints get to the Assessment Review Board.

A complaint must be made by July 30, 2019.

In accordance with Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaw No. 1436/19. This Bylaw proposes to amend the regulations regarding cannabis production, processing, distribution and retailing within Sturgeon County.

The Bylaw proposes areas where both standard and micro-sized production and distribution facilities will be allowed, where retail facilities will be allowed, and specific regulations that will regulate the impacts of these facilities on surrounding land uses.

The Public Hearing shall be held on:
Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2:00 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 or in opposition to the bylaw, by contacting Legislative Services (phone 780-959-8279 or email legisativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca).

Please note that all verbal 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 Colin Krywiat in Current Planning and Development Services at drykwa@sturgeoncounty.ca or 780-959-8279.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the records of the Federal and/or Provincial government. Further information is collected in the course of processing your comment to determine your interest in the subject matter of this bylaw. Should you have any questions, please contact the Sturgeon County FPD Coordinator at 780-959-4351 or email: pinfo@sturgeoncounty.ca.

www.sturgeoncounty.ca

BEAUTIFUL SPRUCE TREES
4-6 feet, $50 each
Free delivery
Includes: 60-70cm - 120cm
- Dying free guarantee
- Disease elimination
- Drought
25 tree minimum order
Delivery fee $12.50 each
Quality guaranteed

403-820-0961

Genome Alberta would like to congratulate the winners of the Best Ag Supplement Award from the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association 1st - Lloydminster Merit Source
2nd - Flagstaff Sedgewick Community News
3rd - Taber Times

Thank you all community members who entered this competition. We appreciate your interest in Alberta’s agricultural sector.
Despite a sudden spring rainfall on June 14, students at Morinville Public School (MPS) kept the chickens safe in their coop outside the gym. “It’s a Learning Farm and we have to keep the chickens protected because they depend on us,” said Grade 3 student Cali Stark.

“We learn their life cycle and how to protect them,” said Grace Kuessner, who was holding Flappy McFlapper, a 1-week old baby hen. The chickens were named by the Grade 3 students. They all submitted suggested names and held a vote to identify each chicken by name.

The Learning Farm will also teach students useful skills such as life cycles for when the chickens lay eggs, and basic math to figure out a budget for the project based on selling eggs in the community.

Town of Gibbons council salaries and benefits increased 11 percent from 2017 to 2018.

Council’s total salaries and benefits in 2018 were $141,100 compared to $127,300 in 2017.

Mayor Dan Deck said council salaries and benefits were higher in 2018 to reflect the mandatory training required for councillors that was put in place prior to the October 2017 election.

“As well, there were the additional orientation and strategic planning sessions undertaken in order to better educate the new members of council on their responsibilities to the citizens of Gibbons and to their respective committees, both internal and external to the Town of Gibbons,” said Deck.

Deck, who was elected in October 2017, received $25,350 in 2018 and $4,640 in 2017.

Coun. Darren McCann was paid $25,170 in 2018 and $23,750 in 2017.


Coun. Jean Woodger was paid $17,800 in 2018 and $17,630 in 2017.


Former mayor Doug Homer and coun. Jonathan Derouin did not run for re-election in 2017. From January to October 2017 Homer received $10,200 and Derouin $11,300.

Former deputy mayor Louise Bauder and coun. Ed Parsons were not re-elected in 2017. In 2017 Bauder was paid $22,900 and Parsons $11,290.

The above information was taken from the 2018 audited financial statements. Salary includes monthly base pay and honours. Benefits include the employer’s share of professional memberships, Canada Pension Plan, health care and dental benefit plans, group life insurance and disability coverage.