Eliminate council and staff duplication
with huge tax savings by Morinville homeowers

With Sturgeon County and the Town of Morinville going to the cage match of municipal budgeting where relatively petty expenditures can be a major point of contention, a more palatable discussion of having a major impact for taxpayers there is actually a huge saving available for Morinville homeowners that neither municipality will even whisper.

Every morning the parking lots at several Sturgeon County premises fill up with staff from the Planning Department, Community Services, Financial Services, Utilities, Public Works, Enforcement Services and the CAO’s office. At the same moment, in the same community, the town of Morinville parking lots fill up with staff from their Planning Department, Community Services, Financial Services, Utilities, Public Works, Enforcement Services and the CAO’s office.

Sturgeon County is governed by a Mayor and six councillors with regular meetings in Morinville at the Sturgeon Administration Office. In the same community, often on the same day, the Morinville Mayor and six councillors hold their meetings to govern the town in their administration building.

Less than a half hour from Morinville there is a model of an urban and rural community which eliminated all duplication of governance, administration, staffing, facilities and equipment that occur by having a rural government in the same community as an urban government.

Sherwood Park, with a population about 10 times that of Morinville, is not a city — nor a town — it is part of Strathcona County as a hamlet. Both are governed by a single council, with only one administration and staff team and one set of buildings and equipment.

And one tax bylaw.

Morinville residents are paying the third highest mill rate in the capital region while Morinville non-residential assessment pays almost the lowest mill rate. This low rate is council’s attempt to build its commercial and industrial tax base. Meanwhile, the other municipalities within Sturgeon County — all have a much higher tax rate for commercial and industrial assessment than for residential — as do the other municipalities in the capital region.

Merging Sturgeon and Morinville into a single municipality would result in a large saving through the elimination of duplication. On top of this, Morinville residents could see a one third decrease the municipal portion of their tax rate by ridding themselves of the “we’re right and everyone else is wrong” philosophy of its governing body when it comes to a split mill rate for residential and commercial property.

Here’s the numbers for the mill rates this year (rounded to two decimal points).

- Residential: Morinville 6.97; Sturgeon 3.72; and Strathcona 4.32 (including library which is separated on Strathcona tax notices). The mill rate is a multipler of thousands of dollars not collected from a higher mill rate applied to the commercial and industrial sectors.

A complicating factor to any merger of Morinville into a hamlet of Sturgeon County is the $30.5 million Morinville recreation facility now under construction. With council approving up to $22 million in borrowing for the facility, this can be anticipated to stay with Morinville taxpayers above whatever Sturgeon residential mill rate is applied to other properties. That is to say, the debt incurred by this Morinville council is unlikely to be paid off across the full Sturgeon County — it will still have to pay off any pre-existing debt. However, the residential mill rate would still be considerably lower for Morinville than it is now.

Will it happen? Story page A9.
Searching for the best possible arrangements for Sturgeon and St. Albert in annexation process

The City of St. Albert and Sturgeon County’s Annexation Negotiating Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 19 to discuss St. Albert’s potential annexation of a portion of Sturgeon County. The Municipal Government Board attended the meeting and made a presentation regarding the annexation process. The Committee also reviewed several recent annexations, which provided valuable background information to assist them in their work.

The City of St. Albert is planning to hold two open houses regarding the potential annexation, which are scheduled for Nov. 6 and 7. Affected landowners will also receive information in the mail regarding the open houses.

The Annexation Committee is a subset of the Intermunicipal Affairs Committee (IAC) which is made up of all members of both Councils. The annexation negotiations formally started on Dec. 6, 2017.

“Annexation is a complex process, so we are taking the time to do the necessary studies, reviews and analysis to find the best possible arrangement for both the City of St. Albert and Sturgeon County,” says Sturgeon County Councillor Susan Evans, the Annexation Committee Chair.

“We are committed to reaching an agreement that is mutually beneficial and meets the needs of residents impacted by the potential annexation, as well as the other residents in Sturgeon County and St. Albert,” says St. Albert Councillor Ray Watkins, Annexation Committee Vice-Chair.

The next meeting of the Annexation Negotiating Committee is scheduled to take place on Dec. 5.

Residents who are impacted by the potential annexation, or who are unsure if they will be impacted, are encouraged to visit the City website.

The City of St. Albert in annexation process

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Coats for our Community

Each year a number of our families go without proper winter clothing. This is our opportunity to donate or receive warm winter clothing.

Gently used, jackets, mitts, hats, and snow pants in all sizes are greatly appreciated.

When: Clothing drop off October 1 to 15
Where: Morinville Community Cultural Centre Meeting Room 5
Cost: FREE

Town Reminders

LIVE at the CCC - November Shows
Will's Jams Live
November 3, 2018 at 2 p.m.

We welcome Will's Jams Live back to the Family Series with his all new show on Saturday, November 3, 2018. This interactive multimedia experience integrates video content from the CBC Kids TV series with live music by Will Strott & the Backyard Band. Will's fun and educational music is about creativity, art and imagination, sports and sportsmanship, and respect for people, animals, and the planet.

The Great Canadian Songbook
November 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Join us on Saturday, November 10, 2018 for a musical journey across Canada. The Great Canadian Songbook takes audiences on a tour of some of the best Canadian music from Bonavista to Vancouver Island. In addition to original music, Ken Lavigne, Tiller's Folly and Diyet will feature music from Canadian legends like Leonard Cohen, Stan Rogers, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Buffy St. Marie, Anne Murray & Stompin' Tom Connors, Bare Naked Ladies, and Blue Rodeo.

Check out our full season at www.morinville.ca!

Organics Collection

Organics are collected weekly from May to October. November to April, organics will be collected monthly (3rd week of the month). For detailed information, download the waste collection schedule at www.morinville.ca.

Sani/Trailer Dump

The sani/trailer dump will be closed following the Thanksgiving weekend.

M.Y. LOFT Fall Hours

M.Y. LOFT is a drop-in program for grades 6+ that hosts a variety of programs at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre, 9502-100 Avenue, throughout the open hours.

Effective September 11 to November 29, 2018:

- Tuesdays: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays: 2:30 to 8 p.m.
- Thursdays: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Community Services at 780.939.7839.

Thanksgiving Weekend

Town of Morinville offices will be closed for the statutory holiday on Monday, October 8, 2018. Offices will re-open Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 8 a.m.

Ice Rental Schedule

FREE Programs sponsored by ReMax
Youth Skinny
- Mondays 3 - 4:15 p.m.
- Fridays 3 - 4:15 p.m.

Adult Skinny
- Fridays 12 - 1 p.m.

Family Skate
- Fridays 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.
- Sundays 12:45 - 2:15 p.m.

Ice Rental Rates: Contact Community Services for availability or to request a booking at 780.939.7839.

Winter Photo Contest

We are in the process of designing the Winter Community Guide and are looking for your great winter photography that showcase Morinville.

Whether it is kids tobogganing, dogs playing in the snow, a gauder clearing roadways, or something out of the ordinary, we would love to have it.

From all of the photos received, we will choose a selection to appear throughout the Guide! Staff will also choose from all of the submissions and the winning photograph will appear on the front cover of the Guide.

Let’s showcase what makes this community so great! Please email your high resolution photos by November 2, 2018 to communications@morinville.ca.

Upcoming Town Events

Senior Events

Shopping Trip: Premium Outlet Mall at EIA
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Pick up: Lemoyn Manor 9:30 a.m.
Heritage Place 9:50 a.m.
Aspen House 10:30 a.m.
Cost: $5/senior & youth
$8/adult
Shopping trip is day trip only. Estimated arrival time back to Morinville is 5:30 p.m. The bus will be cancelled for temperatures colder than -25°C or unsafe road conditions.

Smoky Lake Pumpkin Fair
Saturday, October 6, 2018
Bus Pick Up: 8:45 a.m. & Bus Drop Off: 4:30 p.m.
Where: Morinville Community Cultural Centre (9502-100 Avenue)
Cost: $20 per person, includes GST, admission to the Agri-Fest, and transportation (limit of 22 participants)
Join us for an exciting day in the Town of Smoky Lake! Watch the giant pumpkin weigh-offs & have a traditional Ukrainian meal in the Agricultural Complex.
For more information about the program, contact Community Services at 780.939.7839.

Jr. Youth Corn Maze Trip (grades 3 to 5)
Monday, October 15, 2018
Time: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Cost: $25/youth, includes a campfire supper
Pick-up and drop off at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre (9502-100 Avenue), Register at www.morinville.ca or call 780.939.7839.

Sr. Youth Corn Maze Trip (grades 6 to 12)
Thursday, October 18, 2018
Time: 4 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cost: $25/youth, includes a campfire supper
Pick-up and drop off at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre (9502-100 Avenue), Register at www.morinville.ca or call 780.939.7839.

For a full listing of Community Events Go to www.morinville.ca

Town Council

Agenda packages for Regular Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings are posted on the Town website at www.morinville.ca by 4:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting date.

Regular Meeting of Council
October 9, 2018 | 4 p.m. *new time*
Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 9, 2018 | Immediately following
Regular Meeting of Council
Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

Committee of the Whole Meeting
October 16, 2018 | 4 p.m. *new time*
Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

Regular Meeting of Council
October 23, 2018 | 4 p.m. *new time*
Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

Civic Hall: 10125 - 100 Avenue www.morinville.ca
Sturgeon artist Pelletier paints from special place in her heart

Sturgeon County artist Frances Pelletier recently won Honourable Mention in the beginner category at the Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove (AACSG) 2018 Open Art Competition for her painting ‘The Pond.’ Pelletier reflected, “I like to draw buildings and landscapes but I have not had any training in drawing. People say but how can you paint if you can’t draw but it’s different, I am able to paint things but if I have to draw things it is a real struggle. I would like to learn how to draw better.”

Pelletier reflected, “The Pond is situated on our farm located in Sturgeon County east of the Town of Legal. It represents a lot of what farm life is all about. Years ago it provided water for our barns. Our boys played hockey on the frozen pond when they could manage to clear off all the snow. Not an easy task. When the water was low for a few years we spent many hours with family members laying pipe through the fields in order to fill it with water from other source, a true bonding experience. Today, the pond doesn’t look so much like this painting. The trees have grown up around it and we don’t use the water supply anymore. Frogs sing away and wildlife come to drink. The pond will continue to change along with the landscape and wildlife come to drink. The pond will continue to change along with the landscape and it will always hold a special place in my heart.”

“I am not a member of the AACSG but I entered the Open Art Competition after seeing the call to artists online. Since there was a beginner category I felt confident enough to enter in that category, having only been painting for just under two years. ‘The Pond’ is one of my very first acrylic paintings, being original and meaningful to me, it just seemed like the right choice for the competition. I was very pleased to receive the Honourable Mention award. There were so many very good pieces of artwork in the beginner category. When the City of Spruce Grove purchased ‘The Pond’ for its collection I was stunned. What an honor! I just fiddled around with it. I started following a few tutorials online. I followed the paintings there and I learned quite a bit from that. Then I just decided I didn’t want to follow those anymore and I started painting what I liked,” said Pelletier.

Pelletier said she was working full time, then it got to be too much. She needed some time at home so she started to work part time and then started painting. “I just bought a cheap set of paints at the dollar store and some cheap little canvases. I wasn’t very good, you know, I just fiddled around with it. I started following a few tutorials online. I followed the paintings there and I learned quite a bit from that. Then I just decided I didn’t want to follow those anymore and I started painting what I liked,” said Pelletier.

Pelletier’s dad is very artistic. He was a photographer and he would take her out when she was young, taking photos of her. A lot of the subject matter she paints comes from that time, remembering the landscapes, old buildings and old cars. She grew up in the Edmonton and they would drive out to the country.

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Pelletier’s basement and house are full of paintings. She works with acrylic because she says she is impatient. “I like it to dry and keep moving on with it. Oil would probably kill me because it would have to sit and dry so much in between.”

Pelletier is a member of St. Albert Painters’ Guild (SAPG), just joined the Morinville Art Club last week and joined Visual Arts Association of St. Albert (VASA) last year.

In the future, Pelletier would love to be able to work full time and explore where it could go. “I have not been in the whole art scene. I am not sure where it could go. I want to develop more of a style of my own because it has only been two years.”

“I realistic paint, I can’t do abstract, it’s just not in me. I would like to expand from that to impressionistic with some realism in there. I would like to be able to show my work and people recognize it, recognize a style but that takes time and you have to have time to work on that. I would like to get a show in a gallery that is more well known but that is a long ways away,” said Pelletier about her plans for the future.

The Pond is situated on our farm located in Sturgeon County east of the Town of Legal.
Council Supports Four Local Charities

Through two tournaments, the Mayor’s Annual Golf and the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board (EMRB) Regional Golf Tournament, $29,125.00 was raised to benefit four local charities. The funds were raised through generous sponsorships, registrations and donations. The recipients of the Mayor’s Golf Tournament raised $19,281.82 in total both Jessica Martel Foundation and West Sturgeon Aging in Place Foundation (West Country Hearth) received $9,640.91.

The EMRB Regional Golf Tournament raised $9,843.63 in total with Courageous Companions receiving $6,148.97 and the Edmonton Military Family Resource Centre received $3,694.66.

Boards & Committee Positions Available

Positions are available on a variety of advisory boards, including the newly formed Transportation Advisory Committee, where you can use your knowledge and expertise to help shape the future of Sturgeon County.

Boards & Committee Include:
- Agricultural Service Board
- Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand & Gravel Advisory Committee
- Community Services advisory board:
  - Division 1: 1 year term
  - Division 2: 2 year term
  - Divisions 4 & 6: 3 year term
- Economic Development Board
- River Valley Alliance
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
- New! Transportation Advisory Committee

Apply before October 31, 2018. Application forms and information about the various boards are available online at www.sturgeoncounty.ca on the Legislative Services page or call 780-939-8277.

October Meetings

- Municipal Planning Commission 9 a.m.
- Subdivision and Development Appeal Board 2 p.m.
- Regular Council Committee of the whole to follow 9 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Sturgeon County Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Monday, October 8th
Morinville trustee returned as board vice chair

Morinville area trustee Réné Tremblay remains vice chair of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools.

At the Organizational Meeting last week trustees began their planning work for the upcoming school year, including electing their Board Chair and Vice-Chair by acclamation for the 2018-2019 school year.

In a follow-up press release David Keohane, Superintendent, announced, “Trustee (vice) Becigneul will serve as this year’s Board Chair and Trustee Tremblay will continue in the role of Vice-Chair.”

Becigneul commented, “It’s a privilege to take on the role of Chair, and to have unanimous support from my fellow trustees. As a passionate advocate for Catholic education, I look forward to serving our families and supporting the outstanding work of staff who equip our students to be future citizens and leaders in our communities. I recognize this is an important year for the district with the Official Opening of Sister Alphonse Academy and breaking ground on the construction of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in Morinville. I’m truly blessed to be part of this Board who are committed to ensuring success for all students in an inclusive and welcoming environment.”

The Board includes seven trustees representing 17 schools in the District. The Board of Trustees for the upcoming term are:

-St. Albert, Areas of Sturgeon County: Joe Becigneul (Chair), Juan Crockett, Greg Schell, Serena Shaw

-Ed, Areas of Sturgeon County: Cathy Proulx

-Morinville, Areas of Sturgeon County: Noreen Radford, Rene Tremblay (Vice-Chair).
THE FREE PRESS, Morinville/Gibbons, Alberta, 780-939-3309, email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, October 2, 2018, Page A7

Join community leaders and industry experts to learn about industry activity, projects, and future plans in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland.

Monday, October 29, 2018
Gibbons Cultural Centre
5115 - 51 Avenue, Gibbons
Doors Open 5:00pm / Presentations 6:00pm

5 WAYS TO REGISTER
1. Website Link www.lifeintheheartland.com
2. Email: info@lifeintheheartland.com
3. Message us on Facebook.com/LifeintheHeartland
4. Direct Message us on Twitter: @LifeinHeartland
5. Phone or Text us at 780-566-0122

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for updates on the event www.LifeintheHeartland.com

Mona Bouchard, Vice President of the Morinville Art Club, was busy creating her “On Beat” masterpiece during their painting event for Alberta Culture Days on September 29th at the Community Cultural Centre. The group created a mind map of what “On Beat” could mean and ideas consisted of musical notes, rhythm, drums, dance, rain, etc. Bouchard used sheet music cut in a shape of an umbrella for her piece. —photo by Amy Hibbard-HiscocK

Campbell finds Sturgeon classrooms warm, welcoming places

Sturgeon Public School Division (SPSD) superintendent Mary Lynne Campbell became the Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Trustees and Chief Education Officer of the school division July 30. She chose to come to SPSD after eight years as the Executive Director of the Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta.

“Sturgeon board of trustees are very thoughtful and courageous,” said Campbell. “Children are at the heart of everything they do.” She believes that extends to the individual schools within the division.

“Parents and communities really support their schools,” Campbell said. “Every classroom is wonderful; they are warm welcoming places for our students to learn.”

Prior to working with the PSBA Campbell spent nine years, from 2001-2010, as the superintendent in Parkland School Division. Before that, she served as assistant Superintendent of Senior Years for six years in Brandon School Division in Manitoba and as an assistant principal in Elk Island Public Schools.

Kathy Ioanidis (left), grade 11, and Skylar Boissonnault, grade 10, drew artistic messages on Sept. 27 at Morinville Community High School (MCHS) using pre-cut watercolour paper tiles stained with tissue paper. Students learned Zentangle and used Gelly Roll pens to create their mini artwork. Alberta Culture Days was celebrated a few days early at MCHS on Sept. 25, 26 and 27 with visual arts activities and scenes played from previous MCHS drama productions projected on stage in the Drama room. —photo by Dolly Bolen

Sturgeon County presents $29,125 to four charities after successful golf tourneys

Sturgeon County Council presented donations to four local charitable organizations for a total of $29,125 during the regular Council meeting on Sept. 25.

The funds were raised through generous sponsorships, donations and registrations at the Mayor’s Annual Golf Tournament hosted at Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club on June 22 and at the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) Regional Golf Tournament held Aug. 23 at the Edmonton Garrison Memorial Golf & Curling Club.

Recipients of the Mayor’s Golf Tournament funds are the Jessica Martin Foundation and West Sturgeon Aging in Place Foundation, each received cheques for $9040.91.

The recipients of the EMRB Regional Tournament funds are Courageous Companions and the Military Family Resource Centre sharing the proceeds of $9,843.63.

The Mayor’s Golf Tournament is an annual event while the EMRB tournament is hosted by a different municipality each year. The 2018 Mayor’s Golf event hosted 138 golfers and the EMRB event hosted 88 golfers. Both tournaments were organized by the Sturgeon County Corporate Communications department.

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I The police are the public and the public are the police. ‘Sir Robert Peel, the Metropolitan Police founder, would be quite happy today,’ said Morinville RCMP Constable Dalton Rouse. “We work for the public, and we are driven by their complaints to assist them.”

On Sept. 26, the Free Press rode with Cst Rouse as he did his regular beat. Morinville Regional Police Services (MRPS) covers a vast area comprised of acreages separated by rolling flatland. The Morinville RCMP jurisdiction spans about 50 km by 50 km, or roughly 2,500 kilometres.

While driving the marked RCMP vehicle on that rainy afternoon, Cst Rouse exchanged friendly waves with people of all ages. He shared his thoughts about community policing, and emphasized the importance of partnering with police by reporting suspicious activities linked to property crime.

“Sometimes the public says, ‘Well, we don’t want to bother you.’ But if it was the fire department, you wouldn’t want to have a fire, right? So, why would you not call in suspicious activity to the police?” said Cst Rouse. “That’s what we are here for. We get paid to take your calls and investigate.”

There’s more than 20 members in the Morinville Rural Crime Watch Association and Citizens On Patrol (COP) teams in the Morinville RCMP detachment area.

“Every time I see a Cst Rouse on the beat, it’s like seeing a familiar face. He’s so approachable,” said one member. “It’s nice to see familiar faces doing their thing.”

“Community partnerships so the RCMP can be at the right place at the right time to arrest criminals. Criminals don’t belong in the area. Sometimes they will pretend to be regular folks, knock on the door, and if the door is open, they will walk in,” said Cst Rouse.

“Thieves walk around like they belong there, then they see an opportunity and they take it.” He noted they often commit crimes because these folks are watching their back roads and properties, said Cst Rouse. “They see something suspicious and they use something.”

Now, while Mr. Rouse has been a police officer for a number of years, he also has a background in teaching. He is passionate about his job and his community. He said he loves the job because he is able to make a difference in the lives of people. He said he enjoys being able to help people, and he loves being able to make a difference in the community.

“Community policing across the county can make it a better place to live.”

Grant Cree

The Free Press, Morinville/Gibbons, Alberta, 780-939-3309, email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Community policing across the county can make it a better place to live.
Will Morinville become the new Sherwood Park; Sturgeon the new Strathcona?

Viewpoint by Ed Cowley

If there are efficiencies to be gained in almost every department of both Morinville and Sturgeon County by amalgamating into a single municipality, what’s stopping it? Public.

Strathcona County, which includes Sherwood Park, has one mayor and eight councillors for over 98,000 population. Sturgeon has one mayor and six councillors for under 10,000 population.

Combined, Sturgeon and Morinville have one mayor and four councillors more than Strathcona to govern fewer than one third the population of Strathcona. At least one mayor and four councillors would be out of a job if Morinville and Sturgeon amalgamated. Are Morinville councillors going to vote to save their residents money if it means risking their own council positions?

No. Merging the two municipal staffs would allow the reduction of a number of jobs at the service delivery level through efficiency, but the largest saving would be due to cuts to senior management duplication. Senior management is the level which has the ear of council, so can councillors expect to receive reports in favor of saving by eliminating staff duplication?

No. The biggest hurdle may be Strathcona County itself. Would Sturgeon County accept Morinville as a hamlet even if the town requested it?

Probably not. Sturgeon would have to be convinced that Morinville’s spending habits would not have the County’s current tax base subsidizing previous decisions of the town. ... and there simply is not a lot of trust between municipalities or between taxpayers and municipal politics.

Politically, a six councillor and Mayor governing body of the amalgamated municipality would see proportional representation create two councillor positions for Morinville with four for the rest of the county (assuming the Mayor continues to be elected from the municipality as a whole). Will farm and industry taxpayers feel they are getting adequate representation as council becomes dominated by urban representation from the former town of Morinville and upper Sturgeon Valley subdivision councillors? Unlikely.

However, the increase in efficiency through the elimination of duplication may have Sturgeon optimists supporting the successful Strathcona model — after all 75% of the residents and councillors there reside in Sherwood Park and the surrounding rural areas seem satisfied. The benefit to Sturgeon may be the end of battling domains, such as the recent incident of Morinville going ahead with its $30.5 million rec facility project then wailing when the County rejected the town’s request for $4 million. Delegations requesting support from the town are familiar with remarks from council about the County needing to carry its share of the funding.

So, while town of Morinville residents have an opportunity for a large drop in tax rate it is not going to happen in this term. And it won’t happen in the future, unless residents recruit a slate of strong candidates for the 2021 general election who are committed to studying the issue.

In the meantime enjoy the melodrama of the budget gyrations of council during a budget cycle and the over the cut of a thousand dollars here or $10,000 there in a budget of multi millions as Morinville councillors proudly sly paper dragons.
There was lots of loot to be found, and treasures to be treasured at the 10th Reuse It or “Loose It” event on September 22nd in Morinville. Several large items including furniture, appliances, electronics, exercise equipment were displayed in an area away from the enclosed shelter that housed smaller household items, clothing and toys. The initiative started in 2013 to keep unwanted items out of landfills. The event has grown to support organizations such as The Father’s House Church Youth Group, The Gibbons and Bon Accord 4-H Clubs, Value Village and the Morinville Food Bank. Despite the cold snow-rain mix over 310 vehicles attended the event in six hours.

--photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Ronin Hayward and Eric McCrea of Morinville Public School proudly wore stickers with names of who they were running for during their school’s Terry Fox run on the bright and sunny afternoon of September 27th. Each student was encouraged to run in honour of someone who has been affected by cancer.

--photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Registration open for Sturgeon’s annual parent conference

Join Sturgeon Public School Division on Oct. 12 and 13 at Morinville Public School for a fantastic two-day conference designed for parents of preschoolers! Division parents and community members are all welcome. Snacks, lunch and childcare are all provided at no cost.

On Oct. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. clinical psychologist Dr. Judy Carrington will discuss the journey that every child takes through relationships, attachments and discovery of the world around them. Dr. Carrington worked for 10 years on the Mental Health Inpatient Units of the Alberta Children’s Hospital, where she became a believer in the power of the relationship in assisting kids and their families who are struggling with emotional dysregulation.

On Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. participants can take part in numerous workshops offered by industry professionals.

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CAREERS

Are you interested in leading an Alpine and Nordic Ski area as it grows into a dynamic four-season destination? We are currently offering an exciting opportunity for a full-time General Manager to oversee all aspects of the day-to-day leadership, management, and operations of the facility's staff and volunteers.

The ideal candidate will possess education and/or experience in the resort or hospitality business, operations, business, or management. Leadership skills are preferred along with the ability to work with teams as an asset.

This position will offer an excellent salary and benefits. For further information please contact us at:

Closing date October 9, 2018.

MARINA

Winter office is an hour north of Edmonton in scenic Tawatina Valley.

Auctions

RV PARK & CAMPFROUN - Drayton Valley AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, October 24, 9:00 am. Commercial real estate, 16.52 +/- Title Acres. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

STRIPE MALL - Slave Lake AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, Saturday, October 13, 11 AM; 2005 TWP Road rural. 71.27 +/- title acres, 68 +/- ac cult, Hwy 2 frontage. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL ACRES - Cremona AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, October 13, 11 AM. 104 acres in Cremona. 2.03, 2.12 and 2.02 +/- Title Acres. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

UNRESERVED 2 DAY AUCTION SALE - Friday, October 12 at 11 am; Saturday, October 13, 11 AM; 6302 149 St. Edson AB. 149.61 +/- title acres, 75 +/- ac cult. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

FLYER DISTRIBUTION - Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, Saturday, October 20, 11 AM; 2018 44 ST. Edmonton AB. 4.27 +/- ac commercial. 2.2 +/- ac residential. 30 +/- ac cultivation. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

SEED

SUNFLOWER - Town of Edson AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, October 24, 11 AM. Commercial real estate, 6.86 +/- Title Acres. 40 Year Round RV Site Campus. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

PRAIRIESKY ROVALY LTD. is a publicly traded company in Calgary that is looking to acquire oil and gas fee title and royalty interests at fair market value. To receive a cash offer, call 780-293-4008 or visit: www.prairiesky.com/Sell-at-fair-market-value. To receive a cash offer, call 780-293-4008 or visit: www.prairiesky.com/Sell-at-fair-market-value. To receive a cash offer, call 780-293-4008 or visit: www.prairiesky.com/Sell-at-far-market-value.

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FIREARMS WANTED for October 20th, 2018 Live and Online Auction. Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Militaria, Auction or Purchase. Collectors, Estates, Individual items. Contact Paul, Swissmr Auctions at 587-609-2609; info@switzersauction.com or switzersauction.com

10 YEAR OLD FREE RUN brown laying hens. $3.00 each. Pick up Oct 29 or Oct 6 southeast of Two Hills. Call 780-633-9047

REAL ESTATE

2 TITLES: Cape Cod style 2+10 acres & 40 acres of farmland. Located 3 miles East of Edmonton. 780-923-0201

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Rental

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For 10 km from Morinville $35/41 range road 262 sturgeon community. $4 (children under 12 Free). www.switzersauction.com

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DRIED & SPLIT BIRCH - # 50.00 or bundle of 100lbs Gibbons address. 780-923-0201

BROKEN +10 acres & 80 in Gibbons. 10

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RITCHIE BROS. AUCTIONS - Strathmore, AB. Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Unreserved Auction, October 24 in Edmonton. 3.3 Million +/− Title Acres. 1,065 +/- ac cultured. 7298 Surface Lease Revenue. Jerry Hodge: 780-706-6652; Brokering on behalf of Ritchie Bros. Real Estate Services Ltd.; rbauction.com/realestate

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Morinville town councillors showed more independent thinking on Sept. 11 than had been demonstrated in the previous six months.

Leading up to the Sept. 11 council meeting every resolution since March 1 had been unanimously passed or defeated by council, with the exception of two resolutions during nine regular and special meetings in that period.

On Sept. 11 four motions failed to gain unanimous support. A motion to draft a cannabis control bylaw passed 4-3 with councillors Scott Richardson, Rebecca Balanko, and Stephen Dafoe opposed. An amendment to reduce the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation gala sponsorship to $500 was defeated 6-1 with only Dafoe supporting it. The motion to set the sponsorship level at $1,000 passed 5-2 with councillors Balanko and Nicole Boutestein opposed.

And finally a motion to have administration review the contract options with the current Automated Traffic Enforcement (photo radar) supplier passed with only Dafoe opposed.

The four split vote motions resulted the same day The Free Press carried a story on the unanimous voting pattern shown by council in the previous six months. Morinville residents elected four first-term councillors in October 2017.

--photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Town won’t stop snow piles on private lots

The possibility of reducing the problems in Frustration Alley by restricting an annual snow pile on a vacant lot was eliminated as far bylaw enforcement in Morinville is concerned.

There are no bylaws that prevent snow from being piled on a private lot in Morinville, council was told on Sept. 11. The issue arose over the mudhole the alley a half block east of 100 Street became this spring.

Enforcement Services manager William Norton noted that unless someone was placing snow on another person’s lot without permission or on public property there is no legislation to prevent the storage of snow on private property. His summary to council indicated that such a restriction is not in place in other municipalities in Alberta. He noted that civil action (suing the property owner for damages) may be an option open to neighbouring property owners if the snow pile and spring melt are causing damage to their private property.

Council voted unanimously to accept the report. Town staff have been directed to give the alley priority for maintenance until a decision on the possible upgrade is made by council.

Kristine McDonnell of Sturgeon Victim Services (SVS) (left) was presented with a $700 cheque from Servus Credit Union representative Kathy Kowalczyk (right) during the SVS Chardy Run in Echo Glen Park in Gibbons on Sept. 22nd. The funds raised are in support of the crisis and court dog program.

Orange shirt day began in 2013 as a result of Residential School survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad sharing her story at the St. Joseph Mission Residential School Commemoration event held in British Columbia. On her first day at the Mission, she had her new orange shirt taken away. Orange Shirt Day is now used to educate students about residential schools, their assimilation practices, and the impact they had on Indigenous Peoples. The annual date of September 30th was chosen because it is the time of year when children were taken from their homes to the residential schools, and also to promote anti-racism and anti-bullying practices for the new school year. While September 30, 2018 falls on a Sunday, several schools in the area participated on Friday, September 28th. Here are a few of Mrs. Monti's kindergarten students at Landing Trail School in Gibbons showing their support: top row (L-R) Nevis Neithercut, Alexander Webb, Kendall Zaboroski, Denver Hunt; bottom row (L-R) Bridget Meyer, Tristan Selman and Wren Loudoun. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock