Low ridership kills bus service to Base, but funds may open rec facility doors for County residents

Rising costs and declining users spelled the death knell for the Edmonton Garrison transit service while at the same time opening a door to negotiations for Sturgeon County recreation facility access on Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Edmonton.

Sturgeon County Council unanimously authorized administration to give written notice to terminate the Regional Transit Service Agreement with the City of Edmonton effective Dec. 31, 2019, during their regular Council meeting Aug. 27.

The transit service was designed to connect riders from the base to a new Clare Transit Centre in North Edmonton, running every 45 minutes in peak morning and evening hours.

“Over the past ten years demand for the service has been steadily decreasing,” reported Susan Barry, Manager, Community Services.

Council has had conversations with Lieutenant-Colonel Damon Dyer, Commanding Officer Personnel Support Services around the service and other investment opportunities that could contribute to a strong community. The Base hosted a Town Hall meeting June 17 to engage with their residents as well.

General Manager of Municipal Services, Scott MacDougall added that by reallocating transit funds to recreation, the possibility that the $330,279 expense for the service be reallocated in the 2020 budget toward recreation was also discussed by Council. Barry said “the CFB Edmonton had the desire to work collaboratively on opportunities that can create greater public benefit.”

Council administration’s recommendation that the $330,279 expense for the service be reallocated in the 2020 budget toward recreation, the possibility to contribute to CFB’s recreation facilities could potentially open their multitude of facilities and programs to Sturgeon County residents. “There are a lot of facilities to explore for residents, if support funds are there,” he concluded.

Brent Reaume of Morinville and his team won gold in Canoe Polo at the 2019 Alberta Masters Games held in Rocky Mountain House August 22-25. Pictured here are teammates (L-R): 5 Rob Kerestes (Grande Prairie), 7 Gord McCollum (Calgary), 6 Brent Reaume (Morinville), 4 Richard Allan (Edmonton), and 3 Emil Ohler (Calgary).

Another gold in the family

by Amy Hibbard-Huskow

The Reaume Family of Morinville and Canoe Polo almost go hand in hand. Sisters, Kasandra and Jaeda Reaume participated in the Canoe Polo World Championships last summer, representing Canada. Their influence for the sport came from their father, Brent, who introduced them to classes with Edmonton White Water Paddlers (EWP) after he had taken lessons. This summer brought forth some attention and a rewarding experience to Brent, and his canoe polo team.

The Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center Xtreme relay team ran past 3rd Canadian Division Headquarters at Edmonton Garrison on Aug. 29 during their 253 km running trek to CFB Wainwright. Their 26-hour marathon was a fundraiser for the Soldier On program. Story page A4. –photo by Grant Crea
On Aug. 23, Sturgeon County held a Flag Raising Ceremony in honour of Treaty No. 6 Recognition Day. The Treaty 6 flag was raised by Mayor Alanna Hnatiw and members from Alexander First Nations and the Michel Band at Sturgeon County Centre.

"Sturgeon County recognizes the importance of honouring and recognizing Treaty 6 territory and the contributions of the Indigenous communities as we work towards strengthening our relationships," said Hnatiw, adding, "today is about acknowledging our past, present and future."

Guests joined together to commemorate this important day with Elder Ronald Arcand and Chief Burnstick of Alexander First Nation, Elder Ernie Callihou from Michel Band, and Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert was also in attendance.

The ceremony included drumming, a victory dance and a gift presentation from Hnatiw on behalf of Sturgeon County to members of Alexander First Nations and the Michel Band. Guests gathered for refreshments indoors, after the event.

Two candidates filed nomination papers for the Town of Bon Accord municipal council.

Lacey Laing and Neil MacLean will have their names on the ballot in the Oct. 7 by-election to fill the council seat vacated when former councillor Jennifer MacArthur resigned July 24.

Bon Accord council consists of a mayor and four councillors.

When: Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7-9 p.m.
Where: Gibbons Community Cultural Centre
Register by: Sept. 19
Facilitators: Lisa Babich, E-RYT 500, Holy Fire III
Information: programs@sturgeoncounty.ca

Two candidates filed nomination papers for the Town of Bon Accord municipal council.

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Bon Accord council consists of a mayor and four councillors.
MEN’S Monday & Thursday Evenings
LADIES Wednesday Evenings
MIXED Tuesday & Friday Evenings
SENIOR (50+) Tuesday Day
(Jackie Senior)
Thursday (Day)
JUNIOR Sunday Afternoons
11:30am - 1 pm
OPEN SATURDAYS FOR RENTALS
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Friday, Sept. 13
7 p.m.
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Door Prizes
Happy Hour
2019 / 2020 Season Registration
Join us at the MORINVILLE CURLING CLUB Registration & Information for the 2019 / 2020 Season
Back to school preparations were going strong with the 2019/20 Student Council for Morinville Community High School on August 28th. The group of students, - back row (L-R) Taylor Hiscock, Ashley Enns, Skylar Boissonault, Mackenzie Hunting, Skylia Belanger, Ciara Delaney, Coran Bolen; Front row Oakley Person, Emma Van Brabant, Cheyenne Dunn, Dovella Bolen, and Sierra Dunn (missing: Morgan Brophy) spent the full day planning some key events for the upcoming school year and will be at the school bright and early on Sept. 3rd to greet their fellow peers to “experience the power of the MCHS wolf pack”.

Reed, Soetaert presented with Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarships at Sturgeon County council
Sturgeon County Council presented Nolan Reed and Riley Soetaert each with a $2,000 cheque after being chosen as the 2019 recipients of the Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship.

Mayor Alana Huard thanked the recipients for “standing out in a crowd”. She added “I look forward to your continued leadership in our community.”

Nolan Reed is a life-long resident of Sturgeon County who takes pride in being an active, contributing member of the community. Raised in the Namao area, Nolan puts great value in education, and has honed his leadership skills through participation in school clubs and organizing fundraising events. His contributions to community include helping organize the Canada 150 celebration in Namao as well as Namao Days and volunteering with the 2019 Namao Outdoor Hockey Tournament. The Dale MacMillan Scholarship will help him to follow in his father’s footsteps as he begins his studies in Instrument Engineering Technology at NAIT this fall.

Riley Soetaert has lived in the Calahoo area of Sturgeon County for his entire life. Much of his volunteer time has been spent in support of the West Country Heart, including helping with construction of the Harmony Haven Two. He has also helped with fundraising efforts, including participating in three separate musicals and volunteering for the West Country Heart’s obstacle race. Riley is building on his passion for helping the community by pursuing a career in firefighting, and the Dale MacMillan scholarship will assist him in completing his Emergency Medical Technician training.

The Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship commemorates Dale MacMillan who was instrumental in helping achieve a balance between residents and gravel extraction operations in the Calahoo and Villeneuve area. Two Sturgeon County students are chosen every year and receive $2,000 toward their post-secondary education. The scholarships are made possible through the Calahoo-Villeneuve Gravel Extraction Community Enhancement Fund.

Happy 1st Anniversary Brent
One year ago on September 1st, I married my best friend and lover. To many years ahead, Love Nicole

1998 - 2019
20 years of service in May.
by Grant Cree

The Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center (CMTC) Xtreme relay team ran 253 km from Edmonton Garrison to CFB Wainwright as a fundraiser for the Soldier On program. The 10 soldiers, members of the CMTC based in CFB Wainwright, gathered in the parking lot of the Edmonton Garrison CANEX on Aug. 29 before they started their 26-hour trek that began at 10 a.m. sharp.

“To me, this is a challenge of mental and physical resiliency,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Ross Bonnell, the Deputy Commander of CMTC. “As well, it’s for a good cause. Soldier On is an initiative giving support to our wounded members, so it’s an outstanding initiative put together by our CMTC team here.”

LCol Bonnell noted the Xtreme relay team would have a runner on the road at all times during the event. “We’re going to try and fit some sleep in there with the rest of us in the back of a van,” he said, referring to one of two military vans accompanying the team. Their plan was to arrive at Wainwright around noon on Aug. 30.

Sergeant Karine Jeandroz was one of the 10 relay team members. “I’m a big runner. I did some relays before and I thought this was a good opportunity to do a relay for Soldier On,” said Sgt Jeandroz. “From the base here to Wainwright is a pretty good distance and a good challenge. We found a lot of runners at CMTC, and we’ve built a really good team.”

Chief Warrant Officer Rene Kiens, the Regimental Sergeant Major of 3rd Canadian Division, spoke to the 10 runners moments before he sounded a horn to officially start the run. “Soldier On is a great program that brings lots of benefits to everybody involved in it,” RSM Kiens told the relay team. “By these activities, they get it, and they’re a little more willing to come forward and seek that help if they need it and carry on with their new normal.”

Warrant Officer Eric Venema is the Western Region Coordinator for the Soldier On Program, and he helped spearhead the fundraising running marathon. “First and foremost, I hope they have a safe run,” said WO Venema. “It’s great to see people that will challenge themselves by doing this relay and also raise funds for their fellow service members. It’s great to see they’re standing up for themselves.”

The Soldier On program began in 2006, and has supported more than 5,000 ill and injured members by delivering a variety of events. WO Venema and other coordinators across Canada deliver activities to help serving members and veterans to overcome physical or mental health illness or injury through physical activity and sport. Activities range from snow and ice sports such as alpine skiing, triathlon and hockey to land or water based activities such as cycling, fishing and golf. For more information about the Soldier On program, visit their website at www.soldieron.ca to learn about the programs available.

Xtreme relay team supports Soldier On
County, refinery happy with agreement on taxes despite NWR not being fully operational

It could be counted as a win - win for both Sturgeon County Council and the North West Redwater Partnership (NWRP) at the regular Council meeting Aug. 27. NWRP got an amendment extending their tax prepayment agreement and Sturgeon County got a $6 million community enhancing gift.

NWRP Chief Operating Officer Kerry Margetts presented an update on the refinery project citing technical, complex engineering details for delays in getting the gas fired “heart” of the refinery operational. He concluded “we believe most of that is behind us” and they will be doing another test in September with commercial operations of the refinery beginning in Q1. By the end of March 2020 they said they expect to be up and fully operational if the adjustments are successful.

The portion of the complex producing diesel has been operational since the end of 2017 with 15 million barrels produced to date, Margets said. They will be going through a shut down for regular maintenance this fall. He said they “don’t think we will see an appreciable difference in traffic” for the shut down as many of the workers will be moved over from the gas fire section for the work.

Margets said they are 100% focused on the safe start up of the two gas fire units; to be producing from bitumen is key for the economic success of the project.

Given the project delays to full operations, Margets asked for another amendment to the NWR Partnership taxes prepayment agreement, shifting the start date out one year for the five year span running 2020 to 2024. Council unanimously supported the amendment. He acknowledged the taxes paid in 2019 were well below what had been anticipated. “We fell short,” he said. In recognition of that economic impact, Margets said they would like to provide a $6 million community enhancing payment to the County.

Coun. Patrick Tighe commented “It is rare people want to pay more taxes.” Mayor Alanis Heaton thanked NWRP for their contributions to the area communities and for the enhancement funds.

$637,60 was raised at the Greystone Manor Lemonade Stand for the Stollery Children’s Hospital Foundation “Lemonade Stand Day” in Sturgeon County on August 25th. Their goal was set for $200 and was more than tripled. Expert Lemonade sellers for the day were (L-R) Sean Lavoie, Matteo Texeira, Ethan Thresher, Evan Thresher, and Jonathan Texeira. —photo submitted by Claudine Lavoie
Prices effective September 5th to September 11th

**Sale starts this Thursday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price per Unit</th>
<th>Offer Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Navel Oranges (3 lb bag)</td>
<td>5.98</td>
<td>Works out to $2.99 each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kraft Dinner (12 x 225 g)</td>
<td>15.98</td>
<td>Works out to $7.99 each; Limit 2 free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Pot Pie (Works out to $2.49 each)</td>
<td>4.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Buddig Sliced Meat (55 g)</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>Works out to $0.75 each</td>
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In March 2019, Council directed Administration to strike a Citizen Task Force to review elected officials’ remuneration and bring recommendations to Council. Through expressions of interest, a Citizen Task Force was appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer to conduct a review of Council members’ remuneration.

During the August 17 regular council meeting, Task Force Chair Lee Danusch presented the recommendations to Council. Task Force findings showed that no comprehensive review of the Mayor and Councillors’ remuneration has been conducted since 2006, resulting in Sturgeon County’s rates falling well below the rates of similar-sized municipalities. In addition, amendments to the federal Income Tax Act that took effect on January 1, 2011, resulted in salary deductions of 14.6 per cent for the Mayor and up to 13.9 per cent for Councillors.

“The Task Force has undertaken significant work to review Council’s remuneration and believes that the recommendations presented to Council are fair and equitable,” said Danusch.

Danusch shared that the Task Force recognizes the importance for Sturgeon County to have quality elected officials who serve residents, address their concerns, as well as represent Sturgeon County effectively on a global scale in an environment of significant political change. “Eleven market peer comparators were used and include a mix of rural counties and mid-sized urban centres as well as larger, smaller, and similar sized municipalities,” says Danusch.

The Task Force recommended that Council base salaries be adjusted to the 67th percentile among the market peer comparators and for recommendations to take effect on January 1, 2020, states a release from Sturgeon County.

A Council Remuneration Policy will be presented to Council on September 10, 2019 that incorporates the recommendations of the Citizen Task Force. On September 10, Council will also consider first reading of a Parental Leave Bylaw, which would allow a Councillor to take a parental leave prior to or after the birth or adoption of a child. Further details will be provided at the September 10 Council Meeting.

In the Westwinds area of town just north of the No Frills Grocery Store. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hascock
Karen Shaw asked if other municipalities offered the benefit. Sopko noted he knew of five in Alberta with it already in place while Shaw pointed out that they were mainly cities with full time positions for Council.

Parental leave for councillors adds new factor for consideration

Parental leave may become another benefit for Sturgeon County Council members as they unanimously directed Administration to draft a Parental Leave Bylaw for their consideration at their next regular Council meeting Sept. 10.

The bylaw was a recommendation coming from the Citizen Task Force on elected officials remuneration at the regular Council meeting Aug. 27. “Parental leave was not on our radar,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw. “It may open a demographic who may not have considered running for Council before.”

Manager of Legislative Services & Information Management Jesse Sopko noted parental leave is a relatively new addition to the Municipal Government Act, when Coun.
Hemp harvested for fibre in local region

Stephen and Katlin Mykyte harvested their first hemp fiber crop east of Thorhild recently. It was cut with a sickle mower, dried for a few days and baled. Gary Mykyte hosted a short tour for local politicians, representatives from Greensight Agri-Holdings Inc. and Canadian Rockies Hemp Corporation, Richardson Pioneer and media while the hemp was being harvested in Hurtsville’s sugar tap root, which goes two to 2.5 feet down, will loosen the soil deeper down. ‘It’s another crop for the rotation,’ he said. ‘We need it and take off first.’

Thorhild County councillor Richard Filipchuk commented that while it was a learning experience for hemp, they had an excellent turnout for the harvest tour. ‘It (hemp) grows phenomenally here,’ said Barr. ‘It’s like a non-alcoholic beer and a beer,’ said Yang. ‘I hope Canada gets the United States it was banned because it competed with cotton. Today, in addition to its thousands of other uses, it could replace synthetic materials and seques

Canadian Rockies Hemp Corporation Operations Manager Spencer Tighe (Left) and Thorhild County farmer Gary Mykyte chat during the harvest of Stephen and Katlin Mykyte’s hemp field.

Hemp does not contain the THC which is the defining characteristic of cannabis plants, their qualities are very different.

‘It (hemp) grows phenomenally here,’ said Barr. ‘Hemp regulations need to break free from the United States they have been bogged down by the THC which is defined as marijuana plants. ‘It’s like a non-alcoholic beer and a beer,’ said Tighe. ‘You can’t tell the difference by looking at them. ’

Andersen said new industries investments for processing different varieties of hemp in the region are opening new farming opportunities for producers. Northern Alberta’s long summer growing season is well suited for industrial hemp production, so industry and producers are experimenting with new agronomy.

Greensight Research and Development director Matt Mykyte added that because it was harvested in Hurtsville’s sugar tap root, which goes two to 2.5 feet down, it will loosen the soil deeper down. ‘It’s another crop for the rotation,’ he said. ‘We need it and take off first.’

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Members of the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Center Xtreme relay team listen to Soldier On Coordinator Warrant Officer Eric Venema (left) on Aug. 29 before they began their 253 km run from Edmonton Garrison to CFB Wainwright as a 26-hour fundraiser for the Soldier On program. --photo by Grant Cree

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**2**

**DATE**

**DATED at the Town of Morinville,** in the Province of Alberta, this 27th day of August 2019.

( Returning Officer, Jesse Soplo)

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**Aging in Place, Victim Services each receive $13,706 from Sturgeon County Mayor’s golf tourney funds**

Sturgeon Victim Services and West Sturgeon People Aging in Place received a total of $13,706 from the 2019 Sturgeon County Mayor’s Golf Tournament. The recipients each received a cheque for $13,706.94 of the $27,413.88 raised at the Sturgeon County Mayor’s Golf Tournament. The recipients each received a cheque for $13,706.94 of the $27,413.88 raised at the tournament.

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**DATE**

**DATED at the Town of Morinville,** in the Province of Alberta, this 27th day of August 2019.

( Returning Officer, Jesse Soplo)
The Canadian Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team is heading to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games after a clutch 61-40 semi-final win against Brazil at the Lima 2019 Parapan American Games. Canada and the United States, the tournament’s two undefeated teams, were to faceoff for the gold medal August 30. It was Canada’s sixth consecutive finals appearance at the tournament having won gold in 1999 and 2003, and silver in 2007, 2011, and 2015.

“There are so many emotions right now. I’m just thankful we pulled through. That was a really great team win. We just kept working minute by minute and it paid off. We are going to Tokyo,” said co-captain Arinn Young, of Legal.

“We have been training for a few years for this tournament to qualify for Tokyo. This summer in particular we trained hard for four months leading into this. So we are super proud right now that we qualified for our country,” said co-captain Cindy Ouellet, of Quebec City.

The Lima 2019 championship game was billed as a rematch of the Toronto 2015 finals in which Canada was edged by the USA 80-72. Five Canadians (Ouellet, Erica Gavel of Prince Albert, Sask., Maude Jacques of Lac-Beauport, Que., Rosalie Lalonde of Saint-Clet, Que., and Young) played in the final four years ago.

Leading into game day Young said, “I think Canada is all about redeeming ourselves right now. We had a rough go a little bit for the last couple of years and I think the world needs to see what Canada can do on the wheelchair basketball field. We are going to get the job done.”

The results were not available before press time.

The Parapan Am tournament serves as the direct qualifier for wheelchair basketball to the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Both Canada and the USA have qualified for next year’s Paralympic on the women’s side regardless of the outcome of the Lima 2019 final.

Both Canada and Brazil struggled mightily to put the ball in the net in the first half of their game. Canada shot just 28%, and Brazil 30%, from the field through the first two quarters. The teams combined for just 14 points between them in the second quarter and Canada hung onto a slight 23-18 lead going into the crucial third quarter.

“It was a little bit stressful at first, but we knew what we had to do to win. We stuck to the game plan and then at halftime we took a breath, regrouped, and came out strong in the third quarter,” said Ouellet.

Forty-eight seconds into third quarter the flood gates opened up for Canada. Young posted up and hit nothing but net as Canada finally began to find their rhythm on offence. Moments later they forced back-to-back turnovers and fuelled their growing momentum.

At the seven-minute mark of the third quarter Ouellet made a critical steal and made a quick transition outlet pass to a wide-open Lalonde as part of an 11-0 Canadian run that put them up 40-22.

On the strength of remarkable 68% shooting in the third quarter, Canada extended their lead to 20 points. The score was 46-26 in favour of the Canucks heading into the fourth and final frame.

Young finished with a game-high 24 points, and going into the final leads the tournament in scoring with 25.5 points per game. She also had 11 rebounds to earn her second double-double of the tournament.

Ouellet contributed 10 points, 5 rebounds, and 5 assists in the win, while Tamara Steeves of Mississauga, Ont. potted nine points. Lalonde added eight more points and paced the floor with seven assists.

“Defense is always super important. Defense is a strength of ours and a strength of my game. If you have good defense, at the end of the game you are going to look up at the scoreboard and you are going to be winning,” said Ouellet.

The Lima 2019 final will be the sixth consecutive time Canada and the USA have faced off for gold in women’s wheelchair basketball at the Parapan American Games. The USA has emerged victorious three times (2007, 2011, and 2015, and Canada twice (1999, and 2003).

---courtesy Wheelchair Basketball Canada, Canadian Paralympic Committee