Morinville declares itself the key to region’s economic success as it fumes over Sturgeon County’s $500,000 contribution to rec facility

The town of Morinville has rejected the explanation from Sturgeon County for the level of cooperation in that $36.3 million recreation facility which already has the site prep done and walls up.

In a press release Aug. 29, the day after Sturgeon County advised the town it would be contributing $500,000 to the project, the town of Morinville verbally struck back at the county.

Under the title “Morinville Council disheartened with contribution from Sturgeon County towards the Morinville Community Recreation Facility”, the press release states “While appreciative of the financial commitment and support, Town of Morinville Council has concerns with the $500,000 commitment as the expected rural use of the facility is projected at 35 to 40 per cent and the contribution by Sturgeon County represents approximately 1.6 per cent of the total costs of the facility and site. This decision is not keeping with the principle of mandated Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) process – which is based in principal on rural jurisdictions contributing equitably to the costs of facilities used by its residents.”

It goes on to quote Morinville Mayor Barry Turner stating, “The County of Sturgeon had the opportunity to be a partner in a regional project that will positively impact growth and economic development of the entire region. Unfortunately, the decision was to maintain the status quo, which is the disjointed and inequitable funding of recreation. This is a blow to ratepayers throughout the region, who will benefit from a joint approach to funding recreation in a sustainable way. Our residents expect and deserve meaningful municipal collaboration, and we did not see that yesterday.”

The town acknowledged the County’s growing industrial tax base and long standing agricultural economy by proclaiming itself as the key to the region’s success. The town press release states, “It is understood that the overall economic success of the region is positively correlated to the growth and economic success of Morinville, as the largest municipality within the boundaries of Sturgeon County. An investment in regional recreation facilities will bring a long-term return in terms of increased growth in the entire region.”

The town did not address the explanation presented by Sturgeon County Mayor Alan Haarlow and Community Services Manager Susan Berry presented to Morinville Council for the amount, which is well under the $4 million requested by the town on July 10. However the town acknowledge “The financial commitment by Sturgeon County marks the single largest contribution towards Morinville recreation to date.”

Sturgeon officials told Morinville the town made all the decisions on the type of facility without input from the County, even though input from residents showed strong support for a swimming pool that is not part of the project; financial details for the project should have been settled before construction started; public input should have been done before the project construction started.

While the half hour presentation from Haarlow and Berry contained additional reasons for the Council decision, an unscripted comment by the Sturgeon Mayor summarized the situation County council faced. Haarlow told Morinville that three years earlier (prior to being elected to Sturgeon County) he had been in those same council chambers as a supporter of the project.

While she said she wished the outcome was different, the County residents made their views clear and the County has to accept that. She felt the public should have been engaged in the project three years earlier before decisions were made by the town on the design and cost of the facility.

The town took a more moderate stance on the future relationship with the County than implied by Morinville’s public. Stephen Dafso the previous evening. He referred to an arbitration option contained in the Municipal Government Act if a municipality does not feel it is being treated fairly by the adjacent municipality.

The town states in its press release, “Moving forward, Morinville is looking forward to growing communication paths with neighbouring municipalities, including Sturgeon County, establishing supportive relationships and engaging in future discussions that benefit the entire region.”

During the Aug. 28 meeting, Turner agreed there wasn’t a process in place for engaging the County or its residents when this issue came forward, but said there was an “urgency” due to the status of the existing arena in town. He felt the County’s involvement should come with a meaningful contribution and the amount approved by the County might not reflect this.

Turner, however, did note the County was cooperative in the shared servicing of the site with the County’s adjoining property.

Sturgeon County council debates contribution level. Page A3

PH: 780-939-3309
Fax: 780-939-3093

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The town of Morinville spent $25,000 on a resident survey which revealed nothing significant but has produced a lot of coffee shop talk.

In addition to statistics from a consultant-conducted telephone interview survey, the report on the resident survey presented at the Aug. 28 council meeting includes the results of the town’s web-based responses to the same questions — even though the consultant noted the web results have no statistical reliability. The web results were not lumped in with the phone survey results.

Communication coordinator Felicity Bergman later explained that “while the web survey results are not considered statistically reliable, they are ‘substantial’ and offer a perspective from our diverse population for Council’s consideration. They were included in the report, separate from the telephone survey, to ensure the input from all respondents was available for consideration.”

The survey results contain stats ranging from 74% of residents rating their overall quality of life satisfaction as four or five out of five. Perhaps more surprising is that one percent were very dissatisfied. The survey didn’t explain why this percentage remained in the community. While 92% of respondents were satisfied with fire services, only 45% gave recreation and leisure programming a rating of four or five.

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Perhaps the closest thing to a significant finding is that while the town has decided to use its senior government Infrastructure and Gas Rebate grant programs to pay for financing of the new Recreation Facility residents supported roads and sidewalks as a higher priority than facilities. The survey lists both Snow Removal on Streets (94%) and Summer Road and Sidewalk maintenance (83%) in the top seven Importance of Programs, Services and Facilities. Indoor Facilities’ importance was rated below both these (77%).

Satisfaction was 75% or higher in all categories regarding dealings with town staff, ranging to a high of 86% in both the categories of Courteous and Providing a Response within a Reasonable Time. A huge majority of respondents have not attended a Town Council Meeting nor watched the live streaming of the meetings (88%). Despite this, over half of respondents agreed that Council is Acting in the Best Interest of the Community as a Whole (57%) and that Council Effectively Plans for the Future of the Community (51%).

The largest category of the 400 respondents in the phone survey were working full time (56%), with 16% working part time and 16% retired.

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The largest category of the 400 respondents in the phone survey were working full time (56%), with 16% working part time and 16% retired.
Though not a unanimous decision, during the Sturgeon County Council meeting Aug. 28 Council approved a contribution to the Morinville Community Recreation Facility in the amount of $500,000 payable in 2019.

Coun. Neal Comeau and Coun. Dan Dersusin opposed the decision. Comeau noted the County contribution to the St. Albert Servus Place was $500,000 for three NHL size hockey rinks, two fieldhouses, gym courts, water play centre, wellness centre, four lane track, children’s play zone plus more. He said he felt the contribution was too much for Morinville’s less than half the facility.

Dersusin argued “things have to be addressed” — you need to put funding in place, plan, then build. “Even in the spirit of being a good neighbor I can’t support this,” he concluded. Coun. Wayne Bokenfohr had suggested a friendly amendment to the motion to increase the range for funding from $500,000 to $952,000 to allow for flexibility during 2019 budget deliberations. He pointed out with inflation adjustments since the County’s last major facility contribution in 2011 a $500,000 contribution then would be $804,000 now.

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw denied the amendment as it would change the motion. She added her opinion there had been missed opportunity for collaboration, with area schools given as an example.

Hnatiw said she believes there will be an opportunity going forward to track resident use to help in decisions on how to direct funding.

Coun. Karen Shaw supported the funding as being “consistent with what was done in the past and respectful of our residents.”

Coun. Patrick Tighe cited the extensive and expert public engagement process as a learning for Council and hoped lessons learned could be used in other public engagement processes such as for roads.

Coun. Susan Evans put forward the motion for the contribution, noting the extensive public engagement allowed for a knowledge base that gave Council residents’ expectations and what they were prepared to pay. She called it valuable information as they go into the Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework process.

“It is a difficult decision. The Town of Morinville is our neighbor and our friend,” she said. “I think the recommendation is respectful of what we heard from residents.”

We all need to do our due diligence in the future before proposing such facilities,” Evans concluded.

The town had requested $4 million toward the $30.5 million project which has been under construction for months and is now fully enclosed.

While the contribution level had Morinville town politicians spluttering, the figure was expected and had been carried in a front page story in the Free Press on Aug. 28.

Administration made the recommendation and explained the decision in a subsequent press release, noting “Between June 6 and July 6, Sturgeon County engaged with residents both face-to-face and online to gather their feedback on considerations for investment in the Community Recreation Facility; 541 residents participated face-to-face and online. The purpose of engagement was to gather input from residents on different approaches to what investment could mean for Sturgeon County.

“The input and data collected at the meetings and through the surveys was analyzed, and a summary report of the engagement activities was prepared by the consultant. The recommendation to Council was informed by:
• Regional Recreation Facility Master Plan
• Public Input from the Public Engagement process
• Analysis of the Community Recreation Facility Business Case
• Principles of Recreation Cost Share
• Faxometer”
Cherish Arcand completed her locker agreement and textbook rental agreement forms for one final time on August 28th as she’s going into Grade 12 at Morinville Community High School. Educational Assistants, Theresa Jones and Val Ferland were minding the table for the grade 10 and 12 students from 9am till 3pm and say they’re excited for a new school year. Staggered entry begins on September 4th for grades 9 and 10 and regular classes for all grades (9-12) begin September 5th. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Morinville housing starts drop to 11 units in six months

Residential building in Morinville barely reached double digits during the first six months of the year. Only 11 single family detached homes were started, with a construction value of $2.8 million. This is less than one third of the 35 home starts during the same period of 2017.

The figures are even worse for duplexes and multi-unit homes, without a single unit being started from January to June 2018. In 2017 six housing units were started in the duplex category with a value of $1,170,000 and an additional four units in the multi unit category with a construction value of $580,000.

With 50% of the year complete, housing starts were at just over 15% of the target level. “Based on the population forecasts in the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the desired growth rate for 2018 is documented to be 67 housing starts (single family and multi-family starts combined),” states the Planning and Economic Development Department report to council on Aug. 28.

Attention: Full Road Closure in Your Area

TWP 554 at intersection with RR220

Road closure is in effect from August 23 to September 30

The road closure will be along TWP 554 from RR220 to 125 Street.

We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause. For more information visit: iplheartland.com/community/road-closures.cfm

Dates are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
This week in Morinville photo enforcement will be conducted in the following areas:

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

NOTICE
PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

Two young men with an interest in business are the 2018 Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship recipients. Sturgeon County Council announced Bailey Parno and Desmond Krywko as the recipients during their regular Council meeting Aug. 28 and presented the $2,000 cheques.

County Council presented Bailey Parno, who has completed his first year of a Bachelor of Business Management program at Concordia University and Desmond Krywko who is working towards his Business Administration Degree at NAIT, each with a $2000 cheque after being the chosen recipients for the Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship.

Parno was born and raised in Riviere Qui Barre and Calahoo area. A news release from the County notes he strongly believes in Dale MacMillan’s message “if you want something done or to see something change, step up to the plate.” He has been an active community volunteer for the St. Emerence Church annual clean up, the Hair Massacre Fair, as Kalie the Bear mascot at Sturgeon Heights School and raised money for the West County Heart Attack.

Krywko was raised on a farm in Sturgeon County and hopes to apply his post-secondary education to working in the agricultural sector or running his own farm. For nine years he has been playing music for the Camilla School Masses and Thursday nights you can see him at West County Heart where he plays with a group of musicians for seniors during “Pub Night.”

Jason Clevett of Canadian Reptile Encounters introduces a tarantula to participants in the Reptile Party on Aug. 28 at the Bon Accord Public Library. More than 40 children gathered in the library where they learned about a variety of small exotic creatures. Clevett founded Canadian Reptile Encounters in 2008, and hosts presentations year round to educate people about reptiles. –photo by Grant Cree

The Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) have announced another competitive option for Alberta’s crop, livestock and honey producers to help manage cash flow throughout the year. Beginning September 1, 2018, AWC will provide cash advances through FarmCash under AAFC’s Federal Advance Payments Program (APP).

APP is a federal loan guarantee program which provides agricultural producers with easy access to low-interest cash advances up to $400,000 per program year based on the value of their agricultural product, with the Government of Canada paying the interest on the first $100,000 advanced to a producer and the remaining $300 thousand at a low interest rate.

FarmCash will offer interest free advances and low interest rates on 45 commodities, including all major crops, livestock and honey, through a fully automated and efficient web-based platform. The Alberta Wheat Commission will administer the program which is designed to help producers meet their financial needs, cash flow obligations and increase marketing opportunities to improve profitability.

"AWC believes that like any management tool, farmers need options. By launching FarmCash, AWC saw an opportunity not only to introduce a new competitive option into the market but also to better serve Alberta’s farmers and help improve long-term profitability," states Kevin Bender, AWC Chair.

AWC is committed to administering a fully transparent and accountable business model where 100 per cent of any proceeds from the program will be used to benefit the entire agriculture industry in Alberta.

“Ensuring our programs continue to respond to the needs of farmers remains a priority for our Government. With its established relationships in the province, AWC is well positioned to offer Alberta farmers an additional option for cash advances that will help producers meet their needs and grow their businesses,” states Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

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

- Cardiff Rd
- Grandin Dr
- Durno Dr
- Sandy Road
- East Boundary Rd + 96 St + 100 St
- 101 Ave
- All School zones
- All Playground zones
- All other areas where speeding is a concern

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!

Once upon a time ... there was a tarantula in a library

Some day in the middle of August, a tarantula made its way into the Bon Accord Public Library. More than 40 children gathered in the library where they learned about a variety of small exotic creatures. Clevett founded Canadian Reptile Encounters in 2008, and hosts presentations year round to educate people about reptiles. –photo by Grant Cree
Lieutenant-Colonel Heather Morrison, Commanding Officer of 1 Service Battalion, stands on parade with her troops during the 1 Service Battalion Freedom of the City ceremony on Aug. 26 at Edmonton City Hall. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the battalion that marched through downtown Edmonton as a symbol of the trust between the community and the Canadian Armed Forces.

--photo by Grant Cree.

Injury accidents reduced to about half 2017 level, County advised

Sturgeon County Council heard good news on traffic safety from Sgt. Chris Palfy as he presented the Morinville RCMP Sturgeon County Police Report (January - July 2018) at the regular Council meeting Aug. 28.

Traffic Safety was one of three priorities identified based on feedback from Council, Palfy said, “with the focus on education and changing behaviors rather than enforcement.”

Current initiatives throughout the County consist of enforcement and education campaigns for School Zones, speeding, intersection safety (stop signs, etc) and school bus safety. Coordinated media campaigns and enforcement activities are held throughout the year, Palfy noted, with support from Provincial Traffic Services based out of Stony Plain.

“We’ve had some really good successes as you will see in the stats,” Palfy concluded. The statistics showed two fatalities to the end of July and 26 injury motor vehicle accidents (about half the number as in 2017).
Upcoming Town Events

**Active Living Fair**

**Thursday, September 6, 2018**

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Location:** Morinville Community Cultural Centre (9502-100 Ave)

The event will showcase the spirit of our community including local organizations, community groups, agencies and businesses that provide services within our community. Registrations and information will be available at the various booths.

IF YOU ARE A VENDOR CALL 780.939.7893 TODAY TO BOOK YOUR TABLE.

**Reuse It or “Loose” It - 10th Event**

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Location:** Skyline Ball Diamonds (10510-107 St)

You are invited to set “loose” items no longer wanted or needed but still usable by bringing them to a central location for others to browse through and take home free of charge.

This event is 1-day only!

For more information, please contact Public Works at 780.939.2390.

**Household Hazardous Waste Round Up**

**Saturday, September 22, 2018**

**Time:** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Location:** Struan Agricultural Centre (9513-100 St)

Doing some cleaning before winter sets in? Certain household wastes need special treatment, items should be tightly sealed in original or clearly labeled containers.

For a full list of items accepted, visit www.struancounty.ca/

**Alberta Culture Days**

**Friday, September 28, 2018**

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

Join us for a variety of free activities throughout the town.

Watch for more information at www.morinville.ca.

**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 day prior to the meeting date.

**Regular Meeting of Council**

**September 11, 2018 | 6 p.m.**

Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**September 18, 2018 | 4 p.m.**

Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

**Regular Meeting of Council**

**October 9, 2018 | 4 p.m.**

Council Chambers
St. Germain Place 10125-100 Ave.

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**Community Grants**

**Submission Deadline: September 30, 2018**

If you are a not-for-profit organization, community group, team, or association of Morinville and have projects that benefit our community, you may qualify for assistance through the Community Grant Program.

To apply, download the application at www.morinville.ca, or for more information, please call 780.939.7839.

**Back to School Traffic Reminders**

As children head back to school, please slow down, pay attention and drive safely!

Commutes have the potential to take longer with all of the added delays and traffic.

**SPEEDING** — Maximum is 30 km/h from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days.

**CROSSWALKS** — Pay close attention around all crosswalks. Do not park within 5 m of a marked crosswalk.

**U-TURNS IN SCHOOL ZONES** — U-turns are prohibited in school zones and between intersections. Plan ahead and use an appropriate route.

**PARKING ZONES** — Parking is restricted in school zones to allow for proper access for children. Pay attention and abide by all parking signs.

**PASSING SCHOOL BUSES** — Vehicles travelling in both directions must stop and remain stopped when a bus is flashing red lights on an undivided roadway. The fine amount for violators is $543.

Together we can arrive safely.

---

**Town Reminders**

**Organiacs Collection**

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

**Splash Park Closed**

Morinville Splash Park is now closed for the season.

For additional information, please call Public Works at 780.939.2390.

**Forts Maintenance Program**

Forts contractors are in Morinville now until the Fall of 2018 to paint about 850 items over that time such as street light poles, transformers, etc. Forts will be sanding/grinding any rust areas, applying a rust inhibitor, priming and then painting. This is done in steps so light poles may look “unfinished” during these stages. Should you have any questions, please call 780.939.2590.

**Kiyasowin Warrior Pursuit**

Have you registered for the Kiyasowin Warrior Pursuit?

**Saturday, September 8, 2018**

**Check-in Time:** 9 a.m.

**Race Start:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** MCCC (9502 - 100 Ave.)

**Teams:** Min 3/Max 4

Register your family, business or friends today at www.morinville.ca for this ‘Extreme’ event.

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**Adult/Senior Pickleball Program**

Join your friends on the court for recreational pickleball.

The program is scheduled to run every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Morinville Public Elementary School (10000-101 Avenue) from October 10, 2018 to April 20, 2019.

Program not running on certain days. Drop in or full registration fees available.

For more information or to register, contact Community Services at 780.939.7839.
Then & Now in Sturgeon County!

Johnny’s Store was built in 1902 and is the oldest store in Alberta. It has operated as a convenience store selling everything from gas to groceries. When you walk in the squeaky old front door the charming history allows you to connect to the past for a moment. Today the store showcases 80 local vendors selling unique products. On September 13th, the store will add the Escape Room House "LOCKED" which includes five unique rooms that feel the charm of the area and history.

Visit Johnny’s pop-up store at the Centennial Celebrations at Cardiff Park, September 8 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. See 22 local vendors on display and receive a coupon to the Grand Opening of the LOCKED house!

Council Approves $500G for Recreation Facility

During the August 28 meeting, Council approved a contribution to the Morinville Community Recreation Facility in the amount of $500,000, payable in 2019. Sturgeon County engaged with 541 residents both face-to-face and online to gather their feedback on considerations for investment in the Community Recreation Facility between June 6 and July 6, 2018.

The input and data collected at the meetings and through the surveys was analyzed, and a summary report of the engagement activities was prepared by the consultant. The recommendation to Council was informed by:

- Regional Recreation Facility Master Plan
- Public Input from the Public Engagement process
- Analysis of the Community Recreation Facility Business Case
- Principles of Recreation Cost Share
- Taxometer

Thank you to all the residents who took the time to provide feedback for Council to make this important decision. The final report is available at sturgeoncounty.ca/engage

Recipients of the $2000 Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship

Sturgeon County Council awarded a total of $4,000 in scholarships to two local students, Desmond Krywko and Bailey Parno, as part of the Dale MacMillan Memorial Scholarship.

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 each one receives $2,000 toward their post-secondary education.

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Kids Cooking:
Workshops Options—4pm, 5pm, and 6pm
Ages 5+
Registration is $10 each and participants receive:
- Chef hat
- Apron
- Cookbook
- Three delicious culinary creations
20 spaces per class available
Sign up online in advance only at http://sturgeoncentennial.eventbrite.
GORGEOUS SMOKY LAKE HOME
BED & BREAKFAST

This beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home on 1/4 acre is a perfect setting for bed & breakfast. The original hardwood floors, original hardware, classic fixtures & windows, modern doors & windows have recently been replaced. The home shows pride of ownership throughout. Upper floor consists of two 2 bdrm apartments which each have their own 4 piece ensuite, a 2 pce bath & main laundry. Partially finished bsmt has a furnace, HWT. There is a cute front deck to sit & enjoy your morning coffee. Main floor features good sized kitchen with island & corner pantry, sunny LR with gas fireplace & door to back deck. 2 nice bdrms & bath which could be office, kids play area, exercise room or library. Upper floor has large MB with 4 pce ensuite with double shower, gas f/p in sunken LR, ensuite with large soaker tub & walk in closet. Other 2 bdrms are good sized w/ full baths & walk in closets. Great place to make your family's $390,000. Call Heather to view.

11/20 ACRES UPDATED HOME & HEATED GARAGE

Beautiful 11.39 ac with well kept 1288 sq ft 3 bdrm home that also has gas natural gas. These two lots are at the end of the cul-de-sac so there is plenty of room for cars & toys. Large yard is completely fenced in & has a large tree that shades the entire back. If you sweat like a pro in the heat & can enjoy the cool comfort of a air conditioned home, this could be the one you are looking for! Contact Call Heather for more information.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN LEGAL

Wonderful investment opportunity here with all the amenities you could want. Fully remodeled with lots of character & charm. The living rm of front has 9 foot ceiling with crown moulding, wood floor, roof, upper floor windows, siding, balcony. Kitchen features lots of cupboards & counter space. 3 bdrms on lower level. Master bdrm with walk in closet. Lower level also has full bath. Upstairs has 2 bdrms & full bath. Isolated upper floor entrance features walk in closet. Updated mechanicals, laundry area & 3 pce bath. Beautiful 500 sq ft roof with metal roof, eaves & gutters. Also has enclosed back yard with large gas fireplace, media room with surround sound & a 24x26 detached garage & pole shed. Great place to have your own business or FR could easily accommodate another bedroom. Great investment potential with 96” off door. Must be seen! $564,000. Call Glen to view.

AFFORDABLE 3 BEDROOM HOUSE IN REDWATER

Over 2000 sq ft 2 storey home shows plenty of space for the family with 3 bedrooms on the upper level. Fully finished bsmt also has 2 bdrms, laundry area & 3 pce bath. Beautiful 50’x62’ hip roof has metal roof, wood siding & stone siding. The area features many attractions including a bakery & store. Amazing place to raise a family for the combination of: 30 acres of farmland, 3 AC ON PAVEMENT, a total of 6 acres to use. New owners to confirm with County. 50’x127’ lot has plenty of room for a garage & lots of parking in the back. $185,000. Call Heather to view.

BUILDING ON LAND WITHOUT DEED OR TITLE

Call Heather to view. This beautiful 3 acres is perfect for building a home with a walkout bsmt. Two pretty lots each with separate titles and $1 lot is 1 1/2 ares & 1 lot is 1 1/2 ares. There is a nice row of mature planted trees on the east side of the property. Less than 1/2 mile of gravel. Easy commute to Redwater, Edmonton or Fort Sask, west of Thorhild. 3/4 acre has 20 seat soup & sandwich coffee shop. There is a nice row of mature trees, garden area & 67 ac of mature native forest surround the property. Beautiful 50’x127’ lot has plenty of room for a garage & lots of parking in the back. $185,000. Call Heather to view.
Elvis Festival fills shelves at food banks

by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

The Morinville Food Bank was recently “all shook up” with a donation of 3490 lbs of food and over $1300 in monetary donations (with more to come) following the Blue Suede Music Festival in Busby on August 24-26th. Trudy Taphorn, Creator and Producer of the event says, “I knew this would always be a food bank event. It’s sad that in our beautiful country we have people who are hungry and run out of money before they run out of the month.”

In 2016, over 4100 lbs and $2100 cash was donated at the gates by festival attendees and at the end of the festival, an additional $10,800 was donated to three food banks and The Ripple Connection.

Ten years ago, Taphorn started what has now become the annual Blue Suede Festival on her private acreage. It was to be an informal gathering with some friends and neighbours to listen to three of her favourite Elvis tribute artist friends perform. When over 100 people showed up and she didn’t know half of them, she realized that this type of event was needed in Alberta.

At the time, there were two Elvis Festivals in Canada - one in Penticton, BC and the other in Collingwood, Ontario; both competitions. Taphorn didn’t want this festival to be a competition, and in keeping with Elvis’ belief in charity work, she decided it would benefit four area food banks, and because they want to give more to the community, the tribute artists donate their time to entertain the crowd that now is made up of approximately 3,000 people for the weekend.

Due to its growth, since 2012, the festival is held annually at the Busby sports grounds and now has the room for silent auctions and merchandise tents to raise even more funds for charity.

Paul Ellis, an Elvis Tribute Artist from Langley, BC rocked the stage at the 10th Annual Blue Suede Music Festival during the open mic karaoke on August 24th in Busby. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Trudy Taphorn, Creator/Producer of the Blue Suede Music Festival held annually in Busby, with her 2018 Festival V.I.P. - Dancer/Actor, Christopher Riordan who worked directly with Elvis in the 1960’s. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Mridul Sharma sends the ball soaring over the net during a serve in a pickleball game with partner Bryn Karch on August 28th at the outdoor rink in Morinville. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Jacob Colson and mom, Karen Colson attended the “Meet the Faculty” night at G.H. Primeau Middle School in Morinville on August 30th so Jacob could meet his new teachers before he begins grade 6 on September 4th. Several staff including Tiphany Nielsen and Theresa Barnes greeted students and their families, handed out donuts, answered questions and caught up with students they’ve missed over the summer. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Students and families of Morinville’s Notre Dame Elementary School were welcomed with several new smiling faces at the school’s “Get the Scoop” meet and greet event on August 30th. New to the school this year are (L-R) Principal- Mr. Ryan O’Gorman, grade 3 teacher- Mrs. Ford, grade 1 teacher- Mrs. Grekul, Pre-K teacher- Miss Larson, Pre-K teacher- Mrs. Brodeur, grade 4 teacher- Miss Cimino, grade 4 teacher- Mrs. Frew and Acting Vice-Principal- Mrs. Jen Wiley. Missing from the photo is Vice-Principal- Lori Lamer, Grade 4 teacher- Mrs. Frew, and Library Technician- Mrs. Kim Elliot. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

Lorna Karch (left) from Morinville Pickleball explains the game rules to newcomer Janet MacDonald (R) of Cardiff, during the Pickleball launch event at the Morinville outdoor rink on August 28th. Two courts were set up and residents were given the opportunity to try the paddle sport which is a mixture of badminton, tennis and table tennis and uses a perforated ball. The wind made the game a little more difficult on the sunny afternoon. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

While most of the region was experiencing cool damp weather last week one street in Morinville generated a series of dust storms in the centre of the community. Highway 642 (100 Ave.) was being chip sealed through the full east-west length of town and power sweepers removing the excess chips created a unique image for people parking their vehicles as the equipment progressed down mainstreet. —photo courtesy Bill Hubbard

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French component to projects could result in funding for Morinville

The town of Morinville heard a presentation from the Centralta Tourism Society offering to work with the town to access funding through federal and provincial programs such as Heritage Canada, Young Canada Works, Community Initiatives Program, Community Facilities Enhancement Program to contribute toward community projects.

Morinville resident Andy Noel and Centralta executive director Ernest Chauvet told council Aug. 28 the society has accessed grants in excess of $600,000 over the past 20 years for projects in the francophone corridor of St. Albert – Morinville – Legal. These have included projects such as the tableaux and vignettes in St. Jean Baptiste Park and bilingual street signs in Morinville.

The two suggested that if a French element is included in projects being planned by the town the society may be able to access funding (requiring grant amounts to have a matching element) toward the project. They explained that communication is important regarding potential projects as so grant opportunities can be explored — which requires lead time. The town welcome signs as well as updated street banners were mentioned as examples of potential projects for including a French element and accessing funds through the society.

Coun. Lawrence Giffin’s motion to have the administration work with Centralta Tourism to find project possibilities passed unanimously.

Noel and Chauvet said the inclusion of French in the community builds pride in the bilingual community.

Concert series brings wide range of entertainers

LIVE at the CCC returns with a brand new, dynamic and exciting season for 2018-2019. This season our Mainstage Series features four performances that are new to our stage. We kick off the season with an evening of classic Canadian music as folk group Tiller’s Folly, join forces with singer/songwriter Ken Lavigne and Inuit singer Diyet for The Great Canadian Songbook. This performance will feature songs from Canada’s best loved singers and musicians and be sure to have everyone singing along. Following that, we will be welcoming prolific actor and musician Chase Padgett and his one man production Nashville Hurricane. This performance features Padgett using his acting and musical abilities to take on the roles of many different characters as he tells the story of a fictitious country music legend. March will bring us Atlantic Canada’s Coig, a group of talented musicians that will bring us the best of what the East Coast can offer. Both this performance and Nashville Hurricane will feature a buffet dinner prior to the performance. We close out the season with the popular ABRA Cadabra, Canada’s top ABBA tribute band. They will play all the hits and everyone can dance and sing the night away.

Our Family Series stars three returning performers, all with brand new shows. Will Stroet and his Backyard Band will bring the magic of his TV show to the stage with Will’s Jams Live. The performance will be fun and interactive and have the whole family moving. Canadian legend Al Simmons’ wild, fun and hilarity filled stylings are a treat for both young and old. You never know what he will bring out but it is sure to make you laugh, think and cheer. Our final family show will see the return of Ted and Marion Outerbridge, masters of magic and illusion with their new show OUTERBRIDGE - Magica! Odyssey. Ted and Marion’s first trip to our stage was one of the highlights of our past season and they are sure to dazzle the audience again.

“This season we tried to bring a balance of fresh performances as well as building on successes of previous years,” explains Ryan Telfer, Events & Culture Coordinator. “Live entertainment brings community together and offers fresh opportunities for interaction, meeting and shared communal experience. Our hope is that individuals experience something memorable that they can carry with them.”
RCMP remind drivers of rules as students return to school

Morinville RCMP wants to remind drivers and pedestrians of some important safety considerations as kids head back to school the first week of September. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and drivers and pedestrians should familiarize themselves with their local school zones, and pay extra attention around school zones.

- Speeding – Maximum 30 km/hr in marked school zones from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on school days.
- Crosswalks – Stop, look, listen. Watch for signals and crossing guards. Failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk carries a violation fine of $776.
- U-Turns in School Zones – U-turns are prohibited in school zones and between intersections. Plan ahead and use an appropriate route. Pay attention and abide by all parking signs.
- School Buses – All vehicles must stop in both directions and remain stopped when a school bus is operating alternately flashing red signals and crossing guards. Failing to yield to a school bus is operating alternately flashing red signals and crossing guards. Failing to yield to a school bus is operating alternately flashing red signals and crossing guards. Failing to yield to a school bus is operating alternately flashing red signals and crossing guards.
- Parking Zones – Parking is restricted in school zones to allow for proper access for children. There is no parking permitted within 5 metres of a marked cross walk. Pay attention and abide by all parking signs.
- Distracted Driving – Put away electronic devices, and stay focused on the road. Distracted driving significantly increases the risk of collisions.
- RCMP and Community Peace Officers will be conducting traffic enforcement and will be focussed on some of the most common school zone violations.

Taking an extra minute, slowing down, and paying attention will ensure everyone has a safe and happy back to school season.
Frustration Alley continues to cause problems for lot owners

Almost four months after the Free Press asked the town whether it had reserves to address the situation with the alley—which was a mudhole at the time—Mayor Barry Turner responded on Aug. 30. “Council has a number of reserves and contingency funds that could be accessed for a variety of reasons. The issue in the alley is drainage. Both the Town and property owners have responsibilities regarding the handling of surface water on their properties and at the time your asked your question, the town was in the process of identifying the source of the problem. It is not yet determined and was not appropriate for me to comment at the time. Additionally, alleyways tend to experience a high degree of localized traffic. Sometimes local improvement levies are used when the benefit of a particular improvement is highly concentrated to a limited group of residents. Council has yet to determine if this is applicable in this situation, it would be inappropriate to determine whether or not specific reserves were available in advance of Council determining whether or not a local improvement levy is applied, and to what degree. As I stated at the meeting on August 28th, I believe there is a component of local use that needs to be evaluated in this particular case, and the fact that current land use plans put restrictions on front accesses to businesses in the area also may justify a portion of the project to be funded by the town at-large. I will qualify this by noting that this is my individual view at this point, and Council as a whole will need to make a final determination.”

In the May 2 email The Free Press also questioned whether there was an infrastructure plan for services in the older sections of the town and the Mayor confirmed no such plan exists. On Aug. 30, he stated “Regarding whether or not a long term infrastructure plan for older neighbourhoods (exists) — the answer is not at this time. This was identified as a gap that needs to be examined for future capital planning.”

Consorters with Whitson Contracting and Rapid Concrete were busy on Aug. 28 at the new Shell station and liquor store located on 100 Street north of the Tim Hortons. The new facility is scheduled to open in mid-November.  

--photo by Grant Cree
As part of the Crime Reduction priority, Morinville RCMP is piloting a project for the PROS Data Centre (PDC) Sturgeon County Council learned during the Police Report by Sgt. Chris Palfy at the regular Council meeting Aug. 28.

The PDC is designed to allow members to do file documentation based on dictations provided over the phone. “This will lessen the need to return to the office to complete necessary administrative file work and data entry,” Palfy said. Morinville Cst. Dmitry Rachkow was the first member to use the PDC in Alberta on June 20, 2018.

Palfy noted the ability to dictate information and then have the data entered by public service staff at PDC allows officers to remain in the community doing the police work they have been trained to do. Currently only Morinville detachment is using PROS, Palfy noted, but once testing is completed it will eventually be rolled out province-wide.

Palfy concluded the program will have more impact on smaller detachments like Morinville and Redwater where administrative support is limited. The efficiencies will allow officers less time behind a desk and more time for police work.

Crime reduction initiatives include direct hotspot patrolling, Habitual Offender Management Program (HOM) monitoring condition/parole/probation breaches to curtail and prosecute, collaboration with partner agencies to re-direct non-police interventions to the appropriate agency (Child and Family Services, Alberta Health, etc) rather than having the police be the catch all, and covert ops for intelligence gathering.

The Lock-It or Lose It campaign continues to create community awareness and provide education on reducing thefts from vehicles. “Criminals are like electricity,” Palfy said, “they take the shortest, easiest route” for their crimes. The crime statistics were up almost across the board with exceptions including theft of motor vehicles, theft over $5,000 and fraud. Possession of stolen goods was up from 45 in 2017 to 60 for 2018. “That’s a good thing,” Palfy said, “as it means we are catching them.”

Break and Enter incidents were also up significantly with “ProNorth (industrial park) hard hit”, Palfy noted. Arson also saw a steep incline but Palfy said most were vehicle fires where stolen vehicles were dumped and burned in Sturgeon County. Palfy noted “you can thank social media for increases to Criminal Harassment and Uttering Threats incidents.”

Drug Enforcement trends were stable with the exception being possession charges which were half those of 2017. Palfy concluded the presentation stating “our success is very much dependent on our relationship with the community and our community leaders.”

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Jacob Boyko, 12, jumps out of an inflatable bouncy castle on Aug. 28 during the Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Centre picnic and Expo. The event attracted hundreds of military families who enjoyed a variety of activities and displays.

--photo by Grant Cree