Morinville residents will be paying millions in debt and interest for Leisure Centre over next two decades

The grand opening of the Morinville Leisure Centre featured fun and frivolity throughout last weekend — but, residents will be paying at least two — probably three — long time debentures over the next two decades just to pay for what has been constructed in the largely empty 77 acre recreation site now home to the Leisure Centre.

According to documentation going to council Sept. 10 the town now has two 20 year debentures on the centre to pay off, issued for a total of $17 million. Morinville taxpayers will pay this amount in principal plus another over $5.6 million in interest. That totals up to well more than $2,200 for every man, woman and child in Morinville — a family of four is looking at paying about $8,800 for this portion of the funding. There is still another debenture expected to be issued. This third long term debenture is projected to be just over four and a quarter million dollars (plus the interest). This should put your share of debt and financing at over $2,500 per person ($10,000 for a family of four). In addition, Morinville taxpayers will be responsible for the operating deficit of the new facility — optimistically about a half million dollars per year, but realistically you expect double that figure.

Of course, this is only the cost of having the beautiful facility available just outside of the town of Morinville. If you wish to experience the facility, be prepared for fees ranging from very small (to use the indoor track) to a bargain in most instances.

While the Leisure Centre opened at the end of May, the site still has no pedestrian access other than walking or cycling on the shoulder of Highway 642 from Morinville to the Leisure Centre driveway near the east side of the property, but the report contains no reference to the cost of extending the town trail system to the Leisure Centre nor the lighting for the trail. Both these elements were discussed earlier this year by council and appeared to be given the go-ahead.

In addition, Morinville taxpayers will be responsible for the remaining of work left to do on the Centre over next two decades just to pay for what has been constructed in the largely empty 77 acre recreation site now home to the Leisure Centre.

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While the Leisure Centre opened at the end of May, there remains about $746,000 of work left to do on the project, some of which is weather dependent according to the report.
Aspen House residents have advice for students

by Grant Cove

Several residents of Aspen House teamed up with their Recreation Therapist Leeza Shymka to provide local students with some words of advice and inspiration to help them with returning back to school.

“So many kids have returned to school for the 2019-2020 school year and we are loving all of your back to school posts,” said Shymka. “We decided to do our own back to school post and give all the kids some good advice from a few folks at Aspen House in Morinville.”

Several residents of Aspen House enjoyed participating in the project that included them holding a small white board with their name, the year they graduated, and their friendly advice for students today.

More photos in the online Heartland Extra

Joe Pelletier 780-974-1440

CENTURY 21

Reward Realty

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

CALL FOR DETAILS

BRAND NEW

EAST OF MORINVILLE

1656 sq ft - 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 2 storey with oversized 24' x 24' insulated garage. Open concept design and main floor laundry.

Located in Notre Dame close to the new school being built.

$389,900.

BRAND NEW

ST ALBERT’S DEER RIDGE

1106 sq ft 3 bedroom 2 storey home features great curb appeal, double attached garage, open spacious design. The basement is fully developed with a large recreation room, 3 pce bathroom and nice laundry area. Close to schools! $329,900.

MARVELOUS IN MORINVILLE!

Air conditioned open concept 1788 sq ft 3 bedroom 2 Storey with double attached garage. Upstairs you will find a huge master bedroom with a 4 pce ensuite and large walk-in closet, 2 more airy bedrooms, 4pce bathroom, plush broadloom and a wonderful bonus room with large windows. Basement has 9ft ceilings. $381,900.

MINUTES FROM ST ALBERT

This 75.30 acreage boasts of a 1150 sq ft 2+2 bedroom bungalow and a 2nd renovated 1088 sq ft 2 bedroom residence with a separate gas meter. Huge 40’ x 64’ roomy garage with 220v, 8 paddock barns, 22’ x 28’ double garage and numerous out build buildings. $795,900.

FREE HOME EVALUATIONS
Upcoming Events

Division 2 By-election: Advance Voting
Not available to vote on Election Day?
Electors may vote in advance of election day at the following dates and times at Sturgeon County Centre, 9613-100 Street in Morinville:
- Thursday, Sept. 12 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Alanna Hnativ’s State of the County Address
“The Future Takes Flight”
Thursday, September 19, 6 p.m.
Synergy Aviation Ltd, Villeneuve Airport
Please join Mayor Alanna Hnativ at Synergy Aviation where she will share her current perspective of Sturgeon County and an outlook for the future. Tickets $30 + GST per person. More information available online at sturgeoncounty.ca

Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up (HHW)
Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sturgeon County Centre, 9613 - 100 Street, Morinville
More information available online at sturgeoncounty.ca

Wellness Workshop - Integral Living
Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.– 9 p.m.
Gibbons Community Cultural Centre, Gibbons
Register by September 19. More information available online at sturgeoncounty.ca/programs

Sturgeon County Boards and Committees:
the commitment is minimal, but the rewards are substantial
Share your great ideas, your experience, and your willingness to learn by joining one of Sturgeon County’s boards and committees. We have plenty to choose from - which one grabs your interest?
Ready to put your agriculture experience to work on the Agricultural Service Board? Or does your volunteer background make you better suited for the Community Services Advisory Board? Perhaps your mind for business would benefit the Economic Development Board.
If environment is a passion, consider applying to be on the Calahoo-Villeneuve Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee. If you like to talk roads, put your name in for the Transportation Advisory Committee.
If you’re interested in learning about land use and property assessment guidelines, you should check out the Assessment Review Board or the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board.
Whatever your passion, whatever your interest, we have a board or committee for that. You also get paid for serving on a board or committee!
Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca and apply to be on a Sturgeon County board or committee. Application deadline is September 30, 2019.

Sturgeon County’s fall programs are now open for registration! Watch your mailbox for your copy of the Fall Program Guide or find it online at sturgeoncounty.ca

Weekly FYI is digital at sturgeoncounty.ca
Check out your Weekly FYI online every Tuesday at sturgeoncounty.ca
Starting this year, the “printed edition” will only be available bi-weekly in the Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review.
Next print edition: September 24, 2019

Harvest Season Safety Tips
Harvest season is upon us and farmers are back on the roads and in the fields. This means an increase in slow-moving equipment on rural roads, which can be hazardous. Be safe out there and share the road.

Farmers - please remember to:
- Avoid high traffic times and busy roads.
- Make sure all flashers and lights are clean, visible and working properly.
- Stay alert for hazards such as soft shoulders, narrow bridges, loose gravel, and deep ruts.
- Pull over to allow traffic to pass if conditions are safe.

Motorists - please remember to:
- Be aware of slow-moving farm machinery.
- Be patient.
- Watch for vehicles marked with slow-moving vehicle signs.
- Do not drive in equipment blind spots where operators cannot see you.
- Keep back a safe distance - at least 50 feet - when following.
Residents in the Pinewood /Woodbridge area will be seeing a trail link between communities as Sturgeon County approved up to $50,000 to support Phase 1 of the Athabasca Landing Trail (ALT) — approximately 1.25 km — section between the subdivisions.

Sturgeon County’s contribution to Phase 1 will include funding for clearing and grubbing, cut and fill grading and fencing. The unbudgeted expenditure will come from the County’s Municipal Park Trust Reserve.

The natural trail created after grubbing will provide an informal opportunity for residents in the area to connect between the subdivisions, will avoid any impact of the spring nesting season (Migratory Bird Act) and demonstrate commitment to the master plan for ALT.

A conceptual master plan for the proposed ALT was completed in 2010. The proposed route for the 150 km non-motorized recreational trail runs between Fort Saskatchewan and Athabasca and highlights the region’s historic and natural features. To date only five km have been built, Berry said, with three projects in Sturgeon County valued at over $1.8 million (Lamoureux Staging Area, Fort Augustus Trail and Lamoureux Trail).

Tighe said the section provides connectivity and is a more localized benefit between Pinewood/Woodbridge. In making the motion to approve the expenditure he concluded, “it is a very good return” (on investment).
The 2019 / 2020 School Year debuts a new brand for Sturgeon Public Schools.

Sturgeon Public Schools is growing with the communities we serve and creating rich learning experiences for all of our students.

Our brand is more than a new logo and colour scheme, it reflects the vibrant, creative, connected and welcoming culture of our Division.

We are bold, entrepreneurial and focused on excellence.

At Sturgeon Public Schools we are committed to delivering a welcoming educational experience, accessible to all students.

Dare to reimagine learning

Our tagline captures the progressive manner in which we deliver Public Education. As a Division, we challenge ourselves, our teachers, our parents, and our students to reimagine how they teach and learn.

We do not rely on traditional methods. At Sturgeon Public Schools we do things differently, so that students have many opportunities to experience success each and every day.

Visit our website to view Our Story.
FRIDAY SEPT 27 AUCTION 5PM FOR: MEL TURNER

**EXCELLENT 4 BEDROOM HOME CENTRAL AREA IN ST ALBERT**

Over 2000 sq ft, 4 bdrm home that shows pride of ownership. Updated kitchen with new appliances, hardwood flooring, two baths and walkout bsmt. Newer shingles, fence, many planted trees, a nice firepit area, garden spot, storage shed and lots more. Large, sunken main floor FR with stone fireplace, gorgeous 14’ X 10’ high open beam ceiling, HW fl detected. New 2002 home with full basement development. Newer quartz countertops, built in appliances & plenty of cabinets. Bsmt has a huge laundry room & pantry that leads to the mezzanine above. A beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Built in 2002 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**4 BEDROOM REDWATER BUNGALOW**

Nestled 1165 sq ft 3+1 bdrm garage is a gorgeous 1794 sq ft bungalow on a 17’x40’ lot in Wildrose, just 10 minutes from Redwater which has NWR & many other amenities. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. A beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Built in 2002 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**1700 sq ft 6 bdrm bungalow back onto the Sturgeon River in 3313 Estates, only about 20 min to St. Albert, with pavement. Large, sunken main floor FR with stone fireplace, gorgeous 14’ X 10’ high open beam ceiling, HW fl detected. New 2002 home with full basement development. Newer quartz countertops, built in appliances & plenty of cabinets. Bsmt has a huge laundry room & pantry that leads to the mezzanine above. A beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Built in 2002 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**FRIDAY SEPT 27 AUCTION 5PM GOOD/MINT CONDITION**

**3 BEDROOM HOME NORTH EAST-地段位置:**

Over a half a mile, with only 100 yds of pasture, fenced, 100 yds of fencing, 800 yds of fencing, a nice 22/24 garage built in 2000. Very good sized fenced lot with a large & large storage building. Call Heather to view.

**TOWNHOUSE AUREA IN TITAN**

Built in 1950 with major upgrades & additions in 2005, but still retains much of its original character. New siding, windows, doors, interior paint, new carpeting, furnace, HWT, Harvey windows, exterior doors, soffits, fascia, roof, electrical, complete bsmt development. There has been a huge addition added to the back of this beautiful home to make the back yard a dream. A beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Built in 2002 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION RANCH STYLE HOME IN TITAN**

Built in 2005 with major upgrades & additions in 2005, but still retains much of its original character. New siding, windows, doors, interior paint, new carpeting, furnace, HWT, Harvey windows, exterior doors, soffits, fascia, roof, electrical, complete bsmt development. There has been a huge addition added to the back of this beautiful home to make the back yard a dream. A beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Beautiful home was moved onto a new ICF concrete foundation in 2000 & almost $200,000 spent on the interior. Built in 2002 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**HOLMES WINDHAM BUNGALOW**

Built in 2000 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

**HOUSE & ACCESSES IN RED WATERS**

Built in 2000 & features vaulted ceilings, open concept living, RC to the kitchen, formal DR & LR, main floor laundry with sink & sewing/folding area, 4 pce bath, 3 pce ensuite & w/i closet in MB, hardwood flooring, h/w tank, appliances. Lots of large windows and open concept layout makes this an amazing home.

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GETZ YOU MOVING!

Do you need help getting the word out about your community organization?
Sturgeon County recognizes that volunteer community associations are vital to the health, well-being and social development of our community.

Sturgeon County’s Community Bulletin Board showcases non-profit, non-recreational organizations in our community, running the second week each month throughout The Morinville Free Press and Redwater Review newspapers.

We can help you:
• promote your organization
• recruit volunteers and members
• advertise events & meetings

This is a great marketing opportunity and it’s FREE for groups that qualify.

For more information on how your group might qualify, please contact Ruth at 780-939-8335 or email rkleser@sturgeoncounty.ca

Community Bulletin Board

In Support of St. Albert Food Bank
Serving Sturgeon County Families

Sturgeon County residents can drop off non-perishable food items to the Sturgeon County Bus at the Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club on Sept. 21st. Help support the St. Albert Food Bank.

Saturday, September 21st
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sturgeon Valley Golf & Country Club
25114 Sturgeon Road
MLA Nally vows to help cut red tape

give Grant Cree

“We have a mandate to reduce 30 per cent of red tape, and I encourage people to get involved with that.” MLA Dale Nally was asked via email by the media. “Unnecessary time and resources spent by citizens and businesses to comply with regulatory requirements imposed by legislation, regulations, associated policies, and forms.”

Nally encouraged Albertans to submit their ideas online. Their website includes a submission form for residents to provide feedback on encounters with costly and unnecessary red tape, and suggestions on how to get rid of it. The site also shows where red tape has already been cut.

Go to the website and send us an email,” said MLA Nally. “Do get involved because it’s a great way to get our province back in business by getting rid of those unnecessary roadblocks to doing business.” He emphasized that people don’t have to wait until Oct. 4 for Red Tape Reduction Roundtable. Instead, they can become part of the solution by sending ideas before then. “We’re going to go through every submission,” said Nally. “If it’s not a safety issue and it is inhibiting business from moving forward, then we’re going to get rid of it.”

Town officials speechless as 100 Street access installed

After a couple years of fighting the conditions in a back alley that was designated as the only access to a drive-through coffee business the town of Morinville has suddenly provided a long delayed front for the Espresso Barn has been involved in an at times bitter dispute with the town over access to the business through what has been dubbed as Frustration Alley a half block east of 100 Street.

Despite the town’s denial of its refusal to provide direct access, the town is not pronouncing the move as an indication of support for local business. In fact, it doesn’t even want to talk about it.

“The curb break has now been made with the apparent intent to install a direct access to the business property. Why is this being done now when it was refused in several previous requests by the business? (What has changed to make it possible now?),” the Mayor and town communications department were asked via email by the media.

There was no response. Both the operated by the coffee business and a vacant lot next to it had the curb cut during the last week of September in order to allow direct access from the downtown street.

The alley which caused ongoing concern serves as the back alley serving the Espresso Barn on the east side of the lane.

The Espresso Barn has been involved in an at times bitter dispute with the town over access to the business through what has been dubbed as Frustration Alley a half block east of 100 Street.

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Steven Borle, racer #440, finished the West Country Heart Health Attack Obstacle Course race at Inland Aggregates near Villeneuve. The 5th annual event was in support of the West Sturgeon People Aging in Place Foundation that owns and operates the West Country Heart Health Seniors Supportive Living Facility in Villeneuve. –photo by Amy Hibbard-HiscocK

Shallen and Chris Moore, organizers of the West Country Heart Health Attack obstacle course race were pleased at the turn out of their 5th annual event in support of the West Sturgeon People Aging in Place Foundation. It’s a non-profit organization that owns and operates the West Country Heart Health Seniors Supportive Living Facility located in Villeneuve. The race was held at Inland Aggregates on September 7th and offered over 600 acres of property for the 6 Km race. This year there were 289 registered participants, volunteers who assisted as registration clerks, parking attendants, race timers, course and obstacle marshaling and of course cheering. –photo by Amy Hibbard-HiscocK

Legend of Billy Loutit lives on with Athabasca Landing Trail

One of the historic stories of the Athabasca Landing Trail relates to Metis runner William (Billy) Loutit. The memory of the man and his athletic ability is honored in Athabasca with a summer triathlon (swim, cycle, run) and winter biathlon (skiing, snowshoeing). The 2019 event is a children’s triathlon Sept. 14 with the adult event scheduled to return in 2020. In 1904 a massive ice dam at Athabasca Landing sent great slabs of ice through downtown, cutting buildings off their foundations, smashing log homes and forcing the residents to retreat with their livestock to higher ground.

The Hudson Bay Company’s warehouses were being inundated with floodwaters, threatening the annual re-supply for a large portion of the north — including Lake Athabasca, the Slave River Valley, Great Slave Lake and the entire Mackenzie Valley and Arctic Coast. The Bay needed help and fast with this threatened destruction.

The Company sent two messengers racing to Edmonton with an emergency call for help. A young Reynor Whitey left Stoney Creek on horseback for the 80 mile ride. Billy Loutit left Athabasca on foot all the way. “He meets me at the top of every mountain and at every finish line and it is not about how I do but what I learn about myself and how I overcome the limits that I set on myself. I know in my heart that’s all it takes to make him smile.”

Related story page A4
Local senior shows why he’s the Tomato King

Aspen House resident Joe Zukowski is an avid gardener, and he wants people to know about a tomato he grew in the courtyard for the past three years. “Last year I grew 30 plants and they were up to two pounds, but this year it was bigger,” said Zukowski. “The name of the tomato is Oxheart. I’ve had the seed for years, my mother brought it over from Poland. It is something else. It’s the best tomato I ever grew, the largest and the tastiest.” He noted that the tomato weighed just under four pounds, at a healthy two pounds, but this year it was bigger,” said Zukowski. “The name of the tomato is Oxheart. I’ve had the seed for years, my mother brought it over from Poland. It is something else. It’s the best tomato I ever grew, the largest and the tastiest.” He noted that the tomato weighs just under four pounds, at a healthy two pounds, but this year it was bigger,” said Zukowski. “The name of the tomato is Oxheart. I’ve had the seed for years, my mother brought it over from Poland. It is something else. It’s the best tomato I ever grew, the largest and the tastiest.” He noted that the tomato weighs just under four pounds, at a healthy two pounds, but this year it was bigger,” said Zukowski. “The name of the tomato is Oxheart. I’ve had the seed for years, my mother brought it over from Poland. It is something else. It’s the best tomato I ever grew, the largest and the tastiest.” He noted that the tomato weighs just under four pounds, at a healthy two pounds, but this year it was bigger,” said Zukowski. “The name of the tomato is Oxheart. I’ve had the seed for years, my mother brought it over from Poland. It is something else. It’s the best tomato I ever grew, the largest and the tastiest.”

Local farmers Share the Harvest with foodgrains bank

Sept 14 (weather permitting) a local group Share the Harvest will host its 17th annual harvest event. Local farmers and supporters will show up with about a dozen combines, along with various trucks and grain carts to harvest a 295 acre barley field located east of Gibbons. This field is actually two different projects. The Grow Project is 145 acres and the Grow Hope project at this site is 150 acres. The crop will be sold and the proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) to work towards their vision of a world without hunger. The CFGB is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches working together to end global hunger. To reach this goal, the CFGB organizes works parties around the world. They provide emergency food in times of crisis. There are also training programs to help the poor help themselves through farmer training, disaster relief, and microfinance programs, micro finance projects, as well as other components.

In 2018-19, the Foodgrains Bank provided assistance for 50 different 400,000 people in 36 countries. Locally, Share the Harvest was formed in 2003 by a group of Fort Saskatchewan area farmers who believed that we were blessed to live in Canada, a land of abundance. They felt called to help the poor around the world who struggle to simply get enough food for themselves and for their families. The Grow Project is one of over 200 similar projects across Canada that raise funds for the CFGB. Business and individuals donate land and crop inputs like seed and fertilizer. Directors donate time and equipment. As in previous years organizers will make a bit of a celebration of the harvest. Supporters join them as about a dozen combines along with tractors with grain carts and grain trucks roll in and in a couple of hours harvest 295 acres of barley. They hope to raise about $70,000 from the annual harvest event. The local group Share the Harvest has raised over $25 million to help the poor around the world. These funds are eligible for up to 4:1 grants from the government of Canada, so it can make a significant impact.

“I’ve had the privilege of traveling to Ethiopia to see how lives have been changed through the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. It’s really gratifying for our group to be a part of these efforts to better the lives of others struggling to have their basic needs met,” states director Sharyne Galway.

The Grow Hope directors have committed an additional 275 acres of their own fields to be sponsored by the community. 150 of these acres are at the Harvest Event field and the others are in five other fields around the Fort Saskatchewan area. Organizers call this project “Grow Hope” and have launched an appeal for the community to support it by sponsoring an acre. The grower distributes corn on each sponsored acre and donates the proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. They have a goal of raising $500,000 (with up to 4:1 matching grants from the Govt. of Canada) in this community sponsored initiative.
Heavy equipment operators with Apex Contracting were busy on Sept. 4 with construction of a Boston Pizza restaurant on 100 Street. According to a statement provided by Landrex to the Free Press in July, previous construction was delayed due to inclement weather. The restaurant is scheduled to open in early 2020.

—photo by Grant Cree