Huge pay increase for Sturgeon council

Sturgeon County’s new base salaries see the Mayor at $102,874, Deputy Mayor $78,872 and Councillor’s rate $74,339.

With Coun. Karen Shaw as the sole opposing vote, Council approved the new Elected Official Remuneration Policy and repealed the previous Elected Officials Allowance bylaw at their regular Council meeting Sept. 10.

The new policy followed the recommendations of the Citizen Task Force on elected officials remuneration. It will see the increased salaries (27.5 to 36%) higher per diem rates and the mileage paid tagged to the Canada Revenue Agency rate rather than scaled to local gas pricing. There were no changes to the optional benefits programs that includes accidental death and dismemberment, basic life insurance, dependent life insurance, dental plan, emergency travel plan, extended health care coverage, vision care, registered retirement savings plan, health and wellness spending accounts and voluntary critical illness coverage.

Manager, Acting Director Corporate Services Jesse Sopko advised Council the estimated 2020 budget impact of the increase is an additional $140,000.

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw concluded that it is a matter of “doing what’s right” rather than the political optics. She said all of Council applies themselves diligently to their positions and have a salary that was last reviewed 13 years ago. She noted the current Council will have two years at the new rates recommended by the task force before the next election.

Leisure Centre - rec grounds project not completed and cost is well over $30.5 million

Morinville town council was verbally thumping their chests and patting staff on the back for bringing the Morinville Leisure Centre in on time and below budget — but it appears to be pure puffery. The actual all-in costs are millions more than the $30.5 million which has been quoted over the past year and the initial phase of the project is not complete.

Walk for Valour

Soldiers of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment marched 13km during the 6th annual Walk For Valour on Sept. 8. Their journey began at RCMP K Division Headquarters in Edmonton and ended at Valour Place. Story Page A3. —photo by Grant Cree
Dedication, sacrifices of firefighters recognized by Sturgeon ceremony

by Grant Cree

The Sturgeon County Emergency Services awards ceremony was held Sept. 10 in the county Protective Service Headquarters building. Firefighters and town officials from across the county were there representing communities from Calahoo, Legal, Namao, Gibbons, Bon Accord and Morinville.

“This ceremony is to recognize their hard work, dedication and sacrifices. It’s a little something for what they do for residents of the county,” said Pat Mahoney, the Sturgeon County Manager of Protective Services and Fire Chief.

Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatow helped present numerous awards that evening. The Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal was presented to Firefighter Jamie Primmer with the District of Legal Fire Department. This award honours a member with 20 years service, 10 years that were served while performing duties involving potential risks.

The Alberta Emergency Services Medal was presented to Captain Craig Morrissey and Firefighter Shawn Machiskinic, both of the District of Legal Fire Department. The medal recognizes a total of 12 years service in a sector of the Alberta Emergency Management System.

The award ceremony also recognized eight firefighters who graduated from the National Fire Prevention Association 1001 Level II Firefighting Program. The event concluded with long term service awards presented to those who served for periods ranging from five years to 45 years. Lieutenant Mike Gagne with the District of Legal Fire Department was recognized for his 45 years of service.

“The service has grown a great deal over the years and we have a great number of dedicated professionals,” said Mahoney. “It’s really nice to give them back a little something for the hard work they do.”

Lieutenant Mike Gagne (centre) with the District of Legal Fire Department was recognized for his 45 years of service during the Sturgeon County Emergency Services awards ceremony on Sept. 10. He was presented the award by Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatow (left) and Pat Mahoney (right), the Sturgeon County Manager of Protective Services and Fire Chief. --photo by Grant Cree

Firefighter Jamie Primmer with the District of Legal Fire Department was presented with the Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal by Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatow during the Sturgeon County Emergency Services awards ceremony on Sept. 10. This award honours a member with 20 years service, with 10 years that were served while performing duties involving potential risks. --photo by Grant Cree
Soldiers of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LER) participated in the 6th annual Walk For Valour on Sept. 8. The event was hosted by Valour Place, a facility described as a “home away from home” for injured military members and first responders undergoing medical treatments in Edmonton.

Despite blustery weather, the 50 soldiers were joined that morning by dozens of other people at RCMP K Division Headquarters. After checking in at the registration desk, participants chatted and laughed as they enjoyed a complimentary pancake breakfast.

The yearly Walk For Valour was created for the military and civilian community to walk together and honour those who serve. “To have 50 soldiers from the regiment come out and support this walk, rain or shine, is great,” said LER Master Corporal Wolfgang Brettner. “This event is pretty important to the regiment because Valour Place was found by our former Honorary Colonel Dennis Erker.”

In January 2010, Edmonton businessman Dennis Erker recruited a committee of supportive community members to address the issue of military family separation during the rehabilitation process of an injured or ill CAF Member. The committee put together a plan to raise funds to build, furnish and operate what is now called Valour Place.

As everyone prepared for the 2019 Walk For Valour, LER Honorary Colonel John Stanton, Founder and CEO of The Running Room, thanked all for participating. He spoke a few words of encouragement, then officially started the event at 10 a.m. That prompted groups, families and individuals to stream into the heart of downtown Edmonton, as they walked south on 110 Street.

“We had the troops out and they marched 13km for Valour Place,” said HCoL Stanton, who led his LER soldiers the entire distance. The walk finished on 111 Avenue at Valour Place where everyone feasted on a delicious lunch courtesy of Chili’s. Military musicians with The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Band provided lively entertainment.

“Despite the weather, we had very enthusiastic people walking for us,” said Connie Erker, a board member with Valour Place. “It means a lot to us, because at Valour Place, we wouldn’t be here without you.”

She explained that Valour Place provides a temporary home away from home for eligible guests who require medical treatments in Edmonton, and live outside of the Edmonton area. This service is provided to guests at no cost.

“We run on donations from the public, and private donations,” said Erker. “Donations allow us to be able to open our doors for those that need our services and need our home free of charge to them.”

Valour Place is Canada’s first military support home for injured or ill Canadian Armed Forces Members, RCMP, Veterans, First Responders, Families of the Fallen, and their family members. Through Valour Place, these individuals have the means to face the challenges of rehabilitation in a warm, welcoming and supportive environment.

“They’re displaced from their normal living conditions, and here they’re in the comfort of those facilities,” said HCoL Stanton. “They’re amongst their fellow members and their healing process is much quicker. And the camaraderie helps in the process of getting back to their normal lives.”

Valour Place is a temporary residence with 12 private barrier-free bedrooms each equipped with a private bathroom, TV and Internet. A large kitchen enables families to prepare their meals at any one time together. Other common areas include a large dining room, living room and family room. The lower level features a recreation room, children’s play area, exercise equipment, games area, library, and arts and crafts area.

Valour Place, a registered Canadian charity, officially opened on Oct. 2, 2012 with over $10 million being raised from community donations and gifts in kind.

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**Walk for Valour**

Soldiers of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment stopped in a park for a group photo during their 13km march during the 6th annual Walk For Valour on Sept. 8. Their journey began at RCMP K Division Headquarters in Edmonton and ended at Valour Place. –photo by Grant Cree

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Local farm hosts Ag Minister’s safety consultation

Approximately 50 people – many of them local farmers – attended the last “Farm Freedom and Safety Consultation” on Aug. 30 at Tri M Farms, located east of Morinville. In this photo, farmers listen to Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, during his presentation. --photo by Grant Cree

According to the literature, Alberta has more than 40,000 agricultural operations that contributed almost $5.2 billion to the provincial economy. The “Conversation Guide” stated that for Alberta agriculture to have a prosperous economy. The “Conversation Guide” stated that rather than being prescriptive, have some- er hot topic he heard about often. “Farmers say th t they now have to carry, but they’ve always had their private insurance, and they prefer private insurance.” Dreeshen also said: “Their workers get covered when they’re not on the job. There’s just a litany of reasons why they would prefer their private insurance. But they’re forced to cover and have two insurance premiums, and pay two insurance premiums.” Education about a farming safety was another hot topic he heard about often. “Farmers say that rather than being prescriptive, have something that’s higher level that promotes safety on farms,” said Dreeshen.

“Farms in Alberta are safe. At the end of the day, farmers want, whether it’s their sons or daughters or paid employees, to be able go home safe at night. Encouraging that culture of safety is another reoccurring theme that we’ve heard.”

When asked for his remarks about the entire consultation process, Dreeshen said: “Farmers are appreciative of us going out and seeking their input. Consulting first and legislating sec- ond is going over really well.” Dale Nally, the MLA for Morinville-St. Albert and the Associate Minister of Natural Gas, also attended the final consultation near Morinville. “This is an important industry to our province and it is an important industry to the riding of Morinville-St. Albert. So it was extremely important to me that we did one of these consultations here.” Rhonda Mulligan is one of the owner/operators of Tri M Farms, and she helped host the consultation. She spoke to the Free Press moments before provincial government offi- cials began the formal presentations.

“We're concerned about farm safety,” said Mulligan. “We think that the legislation as it is could perhaps be changed. We also believe in giving back to the community and we think these occasions are really good for melding of information and opinions. I hope we're part of a collective number of voices with some opin- ions, and hope there will be perhaps tighter and better legislation tabled.”

Approximately 50 people – many of them local farmers – attended the last “Farm Freedom and Safety Consultation” on Aug. 30 at Tri M Farms, located east of Morinville. In this photo, farmers listen to Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, during his presentation. --photo by Grant Cree

Local farm hosts Ag Minister’s safety consultation

by Grant Cree

Approximately 50 people – many of them local farmers – attended the last “Farm Freedom and Safety Consultation” on Aug. 30 at Tri M Farms, located east of Morinville. The after- noon gathering was hosted by the Mulli- gan family in their large shop where elected officials with the Alberta government mingled with farmers before the consultation.

Everyone enjoyed plentiful farm fresh food as government officials placed up- page booklets titled “Farm Freedom and Safety Conversation Guide” on several tables. PowerPoint equipment was set up for the 2-hour consultation as some farmers read a one-page document called “Discussion Questions”.

“It’s great to see so many people out here today,” Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agricul- ture and Forestry, told the Free Press before he began his presentation.

“T his is actually our last consultation stop. We’ve been on the road for the last seven weeks or so and we’ve put on thousands of kilometres on the truck. We’ve talked to thou- sands of farmers and it’s great to see the energy that we’ve had throughout this entire process that concludes with today.”

According to the literature, Alberta has more than 40,000 agricultural operations that contributed almost $5.2 billion to the provincial economy. The “Conversation Guide” stated that for Alberta agriculture to have a prosper- nons, and hope there will be perhaps tighter and better legislation tabled.”

Nine year old Danica Cyr of Legal, enjoyed some leisure time at the town’s “Meet Your Community” event on September 14th at the Legal Arena. It was an afternoon of free entertainment, food and fun for the family. --photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Infinitely More offers a fusion of folk, pop, hymns and worship that soothes the heart & ignites the soul.

Infinitely More has a desire to share the love and light of God through song!

Husband and wife duo, Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming, offer a fusion of folk, pop, hymns and worship that soothes the heart and ignites the soul. Their original songs and fresh interpretations of the classics will encourage and inspire both the seeker and the lifelong Christian.

Based out of St. Catharines, Ontario, this full-time nationally touring ministry travels over 40,000 Km annually, singing in churches of all sizes and denominations. Infinitely More will be performing at Lilian Schick School in Bon Accord on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

Their latest project — The Beauty Of The One — recently won two Covenant Awards! This lush album is a collection of infinitely More's original worship and inspirational songs celebrating the wonder found in God’s glorious creation. Awarded by the Gospel Music Association of Canada, the Covenants celebrate the best of Canadian Christian music.

The duo was awarded:
Folk Album Of The Year — The Beauty Of The One; Collaboration Of The Year — My Soul Is Spoken For (feat. Drew Brown). The Beauty Of The One also received a celebrated nomination for Inspirational Recording (Album) Of The Year by the East Coast Music Awards.

Within a year of their marriage, Allison and Gerald moved to Nashville to spend three years performing, studying with music greats, writing songs, and recording CDs.

Combining prodigious finger-style guitar and signature vocal harmonies, Allison and Gerald create music that is uplifting, Spirit-filled, and cross-generational. Their songs are rooted in Scripture and on the stories of all of our stumbling walks of faith. Whether performing for a secular music festival, a joyous church event, or an intimate house concert, Infinitely More is always entertaining, inspiring, and full of God’s joy.
Over $200 million will need to be invested in Sturgeon County infrastructure in next 25 years

It was with some frustration that Sturgeon County Council endorsed the County’s Infrastructure Master Plan (IMP) at the regular meeting Sept. 10, to be used as a key infrastructure planning document for the community.

Coun. Patrick Tighe concluded while the final report from ISI Engineering is an extensive document it is kind of frustrating, given technology, to be “looking at yesterday’s data for tomorrow’s problems.” He concluded that the technology is already being used to track truck movement (logistics) and there should be a way to track and collect data from external sources “quickly, accurate and cost efficient.”

Coun. Karen Shaw noted that for transportation in the report data from the 2005 Edmonton area travel survey was used. “I question if it is credible,” she said, adding the 14 year old survey was prior to Alberta’s Industrial Heartland expansion. She concluded there is clearly a need for current data and hoped to see it included at the budget process.

The IMP is a planning study which integrates land use planning and infrastructure planning for transportation, water, wastewater and stormwater. The final report to Council stated “its primary purpose is to identify conceptual term infrastructure requirements and priorities for the County to undertake further analysis, rather than offer detailed solutions.”

“The plan also estimates at a high level the capital costs associated with these various projects,” reported Travis Peters, Acting Director, Planning, Development & Economic Development Services. A key element of the IMP “is to begin establishing the financial foundation to ensure that sufficient long-term resources are sustainable and equally distributed for infrastructure investments.”

The IMP estimated a 25-year infrastructure capital investment amount of $139.4 million with $38.7 million to Transportation, $36.9 million to water, $28.5 million to wastewater and $53.3 million to stormwater drainage. Peters said the estimated costs for supporting studies within the next five years include $720,000 for transportation, $380,000 each for water, wastewater and stormwater drainage for a total cost of $1.62 million.
For more than 100 years, The War Amps has been making a difference in the lives of amputees including Avery Macadam, 6, of Morinville, and Abel Diemand, 5, of Grande Prairie. Avery, a right leg amputee, and Abel, born a left arm amputee, are members of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program. They became friends a few years ago at an annual CHAMP seminar and recently reunited at the 2019 Western Seminar in Edmonton. The seminar gives Avery the opportunity to meet other kids who are just like him,” says mom, Alison. “It means so much to know that he has such a strong support group behind him.” At CHAMP seminars, young amputees and their parents learn about the latest in artificial limbs, dealing with teasing and staring and parenting an amputee child. The seminar is also an opportunity for child amputees and their families to connect and share similar experiences about living with amputation. “Seminars are a powerful experience, as Champs and parents learn they are not alone,” says Danita Chisholm, Executive Director of the CHAMP program.

“Thanks to the public’s support of the Key Tag and Address Label Service, we are able to bring young amputees like Avery and Abel together; as well as provide financial assistance for the cost of artificial limbs,” (L-R) Avery and Abel at the 2019 Western CHAMP Seminar.

Kathy Hutton, Chairperson, and Colleen Prefontaine, Secretary of the Local and District Chamber of Commerce were in attendance at the Legal annual trade fair that was held during the Town of Morinville’s “Meet Your Community” event on September 14th at the local arena. ~photo by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock
Council’s project praise turns to missing cost details

Morinville town council was full of praise for the Morinville Leisure Centre project and the budget and only putting residents of the town in debt by over $21 million of the off-quoted $30.5 million project. 

However, all seven council members went silent the day following the Sept. 10 council meeting when it came to providing the all-in cost for the project ... and still haven’t answered.

At the meeting after acknowledging “I’m not a numbers person,” coun. Sarah Hall said administration had made it clear and praised them, adding “we are on time and under budget.”

Mayor Barry Turner echoed the sentiment stating the facility is located just outside the east boundary of the town so the cost of site servicing would be shared with Sturgeon County. “We’re on time and under budget,” Turner said, and took the issue further calling it “overall a sustainable project.”

No projections on the operating costs or revenue have been presented in a public session of council.

On the day of the council meeting, The Free Press published figures showing the total cost of the Leisure Centre project, including the land purchased, is $28.8 million in the report the land purchase was $1.7 million.

However there are other aspects to the project which are not contained in the accounting. Council was questioned about the cost of trail/sidewalk access from the east end of Morinville to the Leisure Centre,ubs the lighting for the sidewalk/trail extension; the cost for any other aspects of the recreation land purchase/leisure centre not contained in the contract (administration has already stated the Leisure Centre contained in the budget to complete it by the toboggan hill, site servicing and other remaining projects); and finally the cost for any other aspects of the recreation land purchase/leisure centre not contained in the accounting. Council was questioned about the cost of short term financing and a final 20 year debenture not yet released to the public.

“In short, what is the total all-in cost to cover every aspect of the Morinville Leisure Centre and recreation property?” all members of town council were asked by email on Sept. 11. Not one of them provided a response to the specific costs or the all-in cost.

Administration is to bring an updated report to council on the Leisure Centre project on the new 77 acre recreation grounds at the Nov. 26 council meeting.

While the seven member council’s praise was welcomed by the nine town staff members at the meeting, it was more of a cushion rather than reflecting the reality of the project ... and its budget increase. There was no reference to council removing its commitment that residents would have the final say on any long term borrowing.

Council had passed a resolution on Feb. 9, 2016 giving town residents the final say on any major borrowing for what was then a much smaller rec centre project. Town documentation shows: “Councillor S. Dafoe moved that should Council’s decision to build the first phase result in the Municipality needing to debenture an amount of money that could not be repaid within 5 years, Council will put such decision to the Morinville residents. The program is implemented under developmentally appropriate interven-

Sturgeon Public Schools and Islamic Academy work collaboratively to serve students

Sturgeon Public Schools and the Edmonton Islamic Academy have entered into an agreement that enables families to access Sturgeon Public Schools’ Family-oriented Programming (FOP).

FOPS is individually planned developmentally appropriate intervention for young children and their families.

The program is implemented under the direction of a certified teacher or therapist and is designed to engage the child’s parents/guardians in reaching the child’s individual goals.

“This agreement is the first of hopefully many joint endeavors,” explains Terry Jewell, Board Chair. “We are continuously seeking opportunities where Private Schools and Public Schools can come together to enrich the lives of every student.”

Abraham Abuoguache, Edmonton Islamic Academy’s School Principal says, “We are very excited to be working collaboratively with Sturgeon Public Schools in regards to Family Oriented Programming; we are pleased to be in a position where we can offer high quality service to all the families involved.”

Workers prepared the parking lot on the south side of the Gibbons arena and curling rink for paving Sept. 11. This project is funded with $125,000 in Municipal Sustainability Initiative grant funds.

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Businesses along 100 Ave. to face another tax, more bureaucracy as town solves slow development

Morinville town council had praise while approving the Implementation Plan for its 100 Ave Cordeau de Morinville business area that will increase both cost and bureaucracy for local business.

Less than 24 hours after unanimously approving the plan, one of the seven council members would comment on the section of the commercial Implementation Plan that will “...explore options such as creating a Community Revitalization Levy” for the 100 Ave streetscape and facade improvement program. Four days later all members of council still had no response.

Council was questioned by media through email: “The town increased municipal property taxes for commercial businesses by over 30% in 2019, why would this council now consider imposing an additional levy to support its streetscape and facade improvements and help direct architectural decision for the taxpayer?” Although they unanimously approved the commercial Implementation Plan, no one responded.

The Implementation Plan also calls for the creation of guidelines to inform architectural development and help direct architectural decision for the Develop- ment Authority. The “Implementation Plan” calls for the creation of a Design Review Panel noting “Revi-
talization is needed along 100 Avenue to bring it up to at least the same standard as 100 Street and to help re-emphasize its historic and perceived role as the ‘Main street’.”

Again no member of council responded to the media questions concerning what influence the Design Review Panel had on the 100 Street upgrade and how much was collected in that area from busi-
nesses through a Community Revitalization levy.

In that regard the Morris has no control over the panel and there was no Community Revitalization levy.

The Implementation Plan indicates most changes will be considered regarding the requirement for multi-story buildings in the commercial section of the Cordeau de Morinville plan, as well as a review of requirements for parking at the rear and the condition of lanes (some areas have no lanes/alleys) and the number of parking spaces currently stipulated in the Cordeau plan. The Town is also to engage Alberta Trans-
portation regarding a half dozen roundabouts on 100 Ave (Hwy 642) contained in the Cordeau de Morinville area structure plan (ASP). The ASP was approved by council six years ago and has seen commercial develop-
ment largely stall in the section contained within the plan.

Coun. Lawrence Griffin told administration he was happy to see the reference to revising the requirement for two storey buildings and the review of the round-
about proposals. He noted these areas have also been a problem for busi-
ness. He noted that it would be impossible to comply with the current plan without losing business.

Director of Planning and Economic Development Brian Loveland noted something like a height requirement is an issue there are processes to address that through permits and appeals. He noted there have been some initial discussion with Alberta Transportation regarding the roundabouts.

Alberta Transportation is responsible for the main-
tenance and is the authority on what traffic controls are allowed. However that control is also designat-
ed as a secondary highway.

Staff said the next steps in the process involve the town considering the Use Bylaw and the Cordeau Area Structure Plan if council wants to eliminate the requirement for two storey buildings for future development along 100 Ave.

“Lots of work has been done here,” said Coun. Stephen Dufoe as he moved the approval of the Implementation Plan.

There was a plan to increase pedestrian safety on the street by extending the north-south sidewalks into the parking lanes of 100 Ave intersections which would reduce the six lane pedestrian crossing to four lanes — however that was removed from the town’s budget in 2019.

Fire dept cost recovery to target insurance companies

Sturgeon County Council paved the way to go after insurance companies for cost recovery of fire department expenses relating to insured perils.

Council unanimously supported endorsing the cost recovery and directed administration to engage a third-party company to recover from the respective insurance company or not individual policyholders, at their Sept. 10 regular Council meeting.

While Coun. Dan Derouin noted some “may see it as a money grab,” he contended “getting extra money is just unfair.” He suggested earmarking the funds from the insurance recovery to benefit the communi-
ty. Coun. Wayne Bokenforf countered suggesting taking the extra money for extra equipment for the fire department which would see the community “benefit directly from cost recovery.”

Coun. Karen Tom Shaw questioned what percentage a third-party company would take. General Manager, Infrastructure & Community Services Scott Mac-
Dougall said it is his understanding “typically 50% of the recovery fee” goes to the company with no up-
front fees.

Coun. Patrick Tighe concluded it has “great poten-
tial for expense recovery.”
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REDWATER - 2 bdrm; 1 bath, 1200sqft basement apartment. Separate entrance. Garage parking 1 car. Utilities + cable TV included. 150 sqft laundry, In-suite dishwasher, fridge, stove included, built-in vac. Per payment for details. 780-942-2026

THORHILD HOUSE FOR RENT - Basement apartment with separate entrance. Garage parking 1 car. Utilities + cable TV included. 150sqft storage, laundry in suite. Garage parking 1 car. Pet friendly. 1 bdrm + den, spacious living room and kitchen, fridge, stove, laundry and garage. Self contained. Nice, clean suite. 20 minutes to Redwater. $975 included utilities. 1 bdrm + den also available, same amenities for 675/month incl. NS. NP. Phone for details 780-474-6179

REDWATER - 2 suites available. 1,400sqft & 1,200sqft commercial space. 2005 soft. It is well interested call me at 780-737-8694. Reasonable rent negotiable.

RADWAY RECREATIONAL Studio Space To Hire - Perfect for group class activities such as Dance, Yoga, Karate and Fitness - Large open space with mounted wall mirrors - Daytime - Evening and Weekend Rentals - Available Hourly One-Time or Recurring Monthly - Email info@loveyourdancestudio.com for more information

HOUSE FOR RENT ENID - 2 suites available. 1 4bdrm & 1 2bdrm. [100 sqft living area], spacious living room and kitchen, fridge, stove, laundry and garage. Self contained. Nice, clean suite. 20 minutes to Redwater. $975 includes all utilities 1 bdrm + den also available, same amenities for 795/month all utilities incl. NS. NP. Phone for details 780-474-6179

LEGAL / NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of JEANNIE RUBIS, Deceased, whose last known address was 160, 10825 – 102A Avenue, Morinville, AB T8R 1A1. Attention: David W. Hrycun, Q.C.

NEIGHBOURS TREE Co Ltd Certified Arborist, Quality affordable tree services, hazard tree removal, pruning, stump grinding. Free estimates, low competitive discounts, winter. Call 780-919-2302. www.neighbourstree.ca info@neighbourstree.ca


+ Notice to Creditors and Claimants Estate of JEANNIE RUBIS, who died on July 26, 2019. If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by October 26, 2019.

The Review, Redwater. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Closed 12:00 to 12:30 for lunch.

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THE FREE PRESS, Morinville/Gibbons, Alberta, 780-939-3309, email: morinville@shaw.ca, www.cowleynewspapers.com, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Here’s how you harvest! 12 combines were driven across a 295-acre field of barley for the 17th annual “Share the Harvest” event on September 14th outside of Gibbons. It is an annual fundraiser for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which in 2018-19 assisted 800,000 people in 36 countries. —photo by Amy Hibbard-Hisscock

Local harvest has global benefit

by Amy Hibbard-Hisscock

The 17th annual Share the Harvest event was held at the junction of Highways 643 and 825 near Gibbons on September 14th. “Share the Harvest” was founded in 2001 by a group of Fort Saskatchewan area farmers who believed they were blessed to live in Canada—a land of abundance. They felt compelled to aid people around the world who struggle to have enough food for themselves and their families. “There’s many ways to help others and this is just one that our farmers are involved in,” says Shane Switzer, spokesperson member of Share the Harvest.

They host an annual harvest where local farmers will attend with an average of a dozen combines and trucks and grain carts where the crop is sold and all proceeds are 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 who work together in an effort to combat world hunger.

This year, there were 11 combines that worked together to harvest 295 acres of barley.

The land and crop inputs such as seeds and fertilizer are donated by businesses and individuals. The field was two different projects—the Grow project of 145 acres (donated to the cause by Suncor Ltd.) and Grow Hope project of 150 acres is an initiative to increase donations by requesting public sponsorship of $300/acre. Currently there are 375 acres available for the project and 252 are sponsored. Proceeds from the two projects are further supported by 3:1 to 4:1 Government of Canada grants to support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

The Grow Project is one of 200 projects across Canada that raise funds for the CFGB. Share the Harvest has raised over $1.25 Million to help the poor around the world. The CFGB works with partners around the world to provide emergency food in times of crisis, and offer programs to help the poor provide for themselves through farmer training, help with irrigation projects, micro finance projects, etc. The CFGB provided assistance to 800,000 people in 36 countries in 2018-2019.

At mid-day, following about three hours of combining, Galloway projected a yield that would be pretty close to 100 bushels per acre. That would make the harvested crop worth around $14,000, to be matched with a projected 3:1 or 4:1 Government of Canada grant to make the 2019 project worth a total of roughly half a million dollars. The Grow Hope project is still looking for sponsorship of their acres which can be done through Share the Harvest.

Morinville doesn’t put new council pay rate in policy

When Morinville council adjusted its own pay it became abundantly clear councillors are comfortable picking at the smallest of details of policies—except when it comes to policies impacting the council itself. According to the minutes of Aug. 27 council meeting: “Councillor N. Boutestein moved to amend item 3.1 to read ‘appoint representative after ‘develops the agenda’. “

There was opposition from Coun. Karen Shaw to the bylaw stating “Councillor N. Boutestein moved to amend item 3.1 to read ‘appoint representative after ‘develops the agenda’.”

“Councillor S. Hall moved to amend the following amendments to the Terms of Reference: a. Item 3.1 – remove the letter ‘s’ from representative b. Item 4.2 – replace ‘must’ with ‘shall’ c. Item 5.5 – add the letter ‘s’ to ‘representative’.”

“Councillor S. Hall moved to amend item 3.1 to read ‘appoint by Council’.”

All of these revisions were approved unanimously by council—the same council that didn’t find it necessary to even state a dollar amount or percentage increase regarding councillor remuneration minutes later.

This council includes two members who have received multiple contracts to supply products or services to the town of Morinville while serving as councillors and a third who has done work on a municipal building through a third party hiring. Council has no policy in place regarding the awarding of town contracts to members of council.

The actual amounts paid to councillors will become public knowledge through the annual audited financial statement. Provincial legislation requires that both the council and Chief Administrative Office pay be included in the financial statement.

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$19/Tree Install Fee
(4-feet or 5-feet tall) * 4:1
(5-feet or 6-feet tall) * 5:1
(6-feet or 7-feet tall) * 6:1

20 tree minimum order
Delivery fee $125-$150/order
Quality guaranteed

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Coun. Dan Derouin opposed the bylaw stating serving on Council “is a part-time job doing full time hours. It is simply too demanding if you’re pregnant.”

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Councillor has to have a process to ensure the members representing a division of three councillors will be able to fill in for one another during maternity leave or parental leave, which may include another member providing coverage or any other process deemed appropriate.

Coun. Neil Comeau supported the bylaw as a move in the right direction seeing it as an opportunity to include another member providing coverage or any other process deemed appropriate.

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The full test run of Sturgeon Refinery’s gasifier begins this month. That testing will coincide with a maintenance shutdown to complete routine inspections and repairs on several units that have been processing crude since 2017. The September shut down involves an additional 700 local contractors at peak.

“This timing coincides with testing and maintenance of the gasifier, so all units will be ready for full start up at the end of this year,” said North West Redwater (NWR) Partnership External Relations manager Vanessa Goodman. The timeline has remained the same that was issued in July: bitumen processing is expected by the end of 2019, with a ramp up to full operations at capacity in 2020. This assumes any additional unexpected challenges are overcome without causing further delays.”

Repair work on stress cracks in stainless steel piping was successfully and safely completed. The redesigned burners are being installed, intended to extend the life of this component that is part of converting heavy bottoms of bitumen into usable gases. When installation is completed, the full test run of the gasifier will begin.

Since the Sturgeon Refinery began processing crude in December 2017 it has produced over 2.9 billion litres (18 million barrels) of ultra low sulphur diesel and achieved one million hours recordable injury free, which Goodman said is among the best safety records in the industry.

First Gibbons Scouts group was one of many organizations that hosted a recruiting booth at the ninth annual “Meet the Community Night” on Sept. 10 in the Gibbons Cultural Centre. Hundreds of people enjoyed the free public event that showcased local community groups and businesses. This gathering was an opportunity to register for programs or learn something new about the community. In this photo are First Gibbons Scouts leaders Jeff Peart, Amy McConnell, Laura Vickerman, Susan Kerr and Natacha Stewart. –photo by Grant Cree

Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw made it clear during discussion on proposed responses to Heartland Resident Task Force recommendations that the Voluntary Purchase Program for property was long over and based on very different economic conditions (proposed seven projects in the Heartland) compared to the one refinery yet to reach full operation.

Council had directed administration to bring forward proposed responses to the Task Force’s 14 recommendations in June. At the Sept. 10 regular Council meeting they approved actions directing administration to coordinate sources of Alberta Industrial Heartland (AIH) information including air emissions, emergency response planning, roads and other information into a one window source for Heartland residents; research and assess the potential for a dark sky policy for the portion of AIH; look into potential communications systems to communicate and notify residents; prepare a report on options available to improve air quality in the Heartland area; and hold an event to update residents on air quality monitoring.

Of the task force recommendations, the response focused on four or five areas, noted Manager, Development Support Services Colin Krywicki. Mayor Hnatiw said it is a step forward and not the end of dealing with the recommendations. “We are committed to working with residents on quality of life issues,” she said. By no means are we done with recommendations as we are committed to finding solutions and a way forward, she concluded.