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Vol. 32 No. 12

Morinville, Gibbons, Bon Accord, Legal, and surrounding areas

Wednesday March 23, 2022

A sister publication to **The Review**, Redwater, Alberta



Sturgeon Composite High School (SCHS)

Grade 12 students Corra Mack and Kristen Towle sold chocolate covered almonds in the lobby of the Gibbons Arena on March 18 during a Gibbons Broncos playoffs game. "We're fundraising for our 2022 grad on June 11," explained Towle. "This will be the first grad I think that Sturgeon is having since COVID started, so hopefully everything's going to go back to normal." All funds raised will pay for banquet fees, decorations and food for the grad ceremony that will be held at the Edmonton EXPO Centre. "We're going to have music that will be 1920s glam, so it should be a lot of fun," said Towle.

Photo by Grant Cree.

Gibbons Junior Broncos players scramble for the puck at the Beaumont Buccaneers net during a playoffs game on March 18 in the Gibbons Arena. For more information on both teams, visit Noralta Junior C Hockey League at www.njhl.hockeyshift.com.
Photo by Grant Cree.



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Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma (left) spoke with residents in the Community Cultural Centre on March 15. The Town hosted an evening information session on the local implications of provincial Budget 2022. Photo by Grant Cree.

Town hosts Budget 2022 info session

By Grant Cree

“I think it’s great seeing all the residents come out here tonight,” said Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma. He was in the Community Cultural Centre on March 15, surrounded by a few dozen residents attending a Town-sponsored evening information session on the provincial Budget 2022. “I’m already hearing some great questions,” said Mayor Boersma.

“I think it’s important that we understand which levers we need to pull, and we need to have our residents’ feedback. That’s the most important thing because we are seven people within this community as a council.”

During the March 22 Town Council meeting, the seven councillors will discuss and vote on a plan to raise taxes by five percent. Travis Nosko, Manager of Financial Services with the Town of Morinville, spoke to media about the implications of the provincial budget on the Town’s finances.

“We are working on things; we’re trying,” said Nosko. “We know there is really no way around the fact that we have some financial challenges, that’s for sure. But we are working with Council to find creative ways to address that.”

Nosko said the long-term plan to manage the Town’s financial situation would be to do things differently, emphasizing more cost-effectiveness. “We’re making strides, and we’re going to continue making strides and making some improvements. It has been a tough couple of years for every municipality.”

He noted that Morinville had “the dubious distinction” of opening the Leisure Centre during the pandemic. “But we’re optimistic things will be a lot better at the MLC this year, which will be a big help for us because it’s a big driver of our costs in town.”

Nosko added that one financial plan is to generate more revenue at the MLC and turn it into a self-funded operation. As for the provincial government’s Budget 2022, he said: “This budget was a tough one, being an election year and having new council and things like that.”

He said the Town has “invested

Continued on page 4

PUBLIC HEARING –BYLAW 1562/21 Clean Energy Improvement Program Tax Bylaw

In accordance with section 606 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaw 1562/21. This Bylaw proposes to establish a Clean Energy Improvement Program in accordance with Part 10, Division 6.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*. This Bylaw will allow Sturgeon County to make borrowings for the purpose of financing Clean Energy Improvements, to enable Clean Energy Improvements to be made to eligible properties; and to impose a Clean Energy Improvement Tax in respect to a Clean Energy Improvement made to a Property to raise revenue to pay the amount required to recover the costs of that Clean Energy Improvement.

The Public Hearing will be held both in person and via videoconference:

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

(or as soon as practical thereafter) at:

**Sturgeon County Council Chambers
9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta T8R 1L9**

In-person Speakers

If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register for the Public Hearing by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8279 or 780-939-8277.

Speakers participating through videoconference

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via teleconference, you must register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing (no later than April 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.) by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8279 or 780-939-8277. This is to ensure that virtual participants receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Requirements for all Speakers

All Speakers will be given a 5-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.

Written Submissions

All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission to Legislative Services by email at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to view the Public Hearing without making a submission are invited to attend in person or view the livestream Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

Any inquiries regarding the proposed Bylaw should be directed to Brandon Sandmaier, Municipal Energy Specialist at bsandmaier@sturgeoncounty.ca or 587-783-7696.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the Public Hearing, or otherwise made public. This information is collected in line with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have any questions, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Officer at 9613-100 Street, Morinville, AB T8R 1L9, 780-939-4321, or foip@sturgeoncounty.ca

sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

**Sturgeon
County**

Rotary Club of Morinville Sturgeon



Pictured is Alan Otway, Club Services Director for the Rotary Club of Morinville Sturgeon, accepting a cheque for \$190. from Raj Dhaliwal at the Morinville Bottle Depot.

The cheque is the donations from the Skip the Line Bottle Drive program that Rotary runs in partnership with the Bottle Depot.

To date, through ongoing donations over the past two years, and several bottle drives, The Rotary Club of Morinville has collected and donated over \$16,000. for community projects and service and non-profit groups.

Some of these include, The LAVill

Military Memorial being dedicated this year at the LCC grounds, The Jessica Martel Foundation, Friends of the Morinville Library, Morinville Youth Basketball, The Four Winds Dance Academy, The Morinville Food Bank, and the Morinville Marvelous Moms Adopt a Family Golf Tournament Fundraiser.

The residents of Morinville continue to show their strong sense of commitment to supporting, as well as the businesses giving of their time, space, and resources to help with fundraising and events.

The Rotary Club of Morinville will be fundraising the first six

months of 2022 to support the Festival Days in June with a Hot Sauce Challenge at Rotary Park on the Saturday. Local non-profits are invited to participate with their recipes that will be judged by the residents and visitors who step up and chow down.

The first major Bottle Drive of the year for Rotary will be Saturday, March 19 at the Sobeys parking lot and the Morinville bottle depot from 10 am to 2pm.

Please drop by with your bottles or donations to support the efforts and help build a successful event for our community!

Contact Alan Otway at aotway@telus.net.

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Photos by Grant Cree.

The Gibbons Arena was packed with fans who cheered local hockey action as the Gibbons Broncos faced off against the Beaumont Buccaneers during a playoffs game on March 18 in the Gibbons Arena. In this photo, Broncos player Dylan Richter (jersey #27) and three Buccaneers hustle for the puck. For more information on both teams, visit Noralta Junior C Hockey League at www.njhl.hockeyshift.com.

PUBLIC HEARING –BYLAW 1571/22 Amendment to the Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

In accordance with section 606 of the *Municipal Government Act*, Sturgeon County Council is requesting public input on proposed Bylaw 1571/22. This Bylaw proposes to amend the land use district of Lot A Plan 4491MC from AG – Agriculture District to REC – Recreational District.

The Public Hearing will be held both in person and via videoconference:

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
(or as soon as practical thereafter) at:
Sturgeon County Council Chambers
9613-100 Street, Morinville, Alberta T8R 1L9

In-person Speakers

If you intend on participating in person, you are encouraged to pre-register for the Public Hearing by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8279 or 780-939-8277.

Speakers participating through videoconference

If you wish to speak at the Public Hearing via teleconference, you must register 24 hours prior to the opening of the Public Hearing (no later than April 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.) by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8279 or 780-939-8277. This is to ensure that virtual participants receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Requirements for all Speakers

All Speakers will be given a 5-minute time limit and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission in advance of the Public Hearing.

Written Submissions

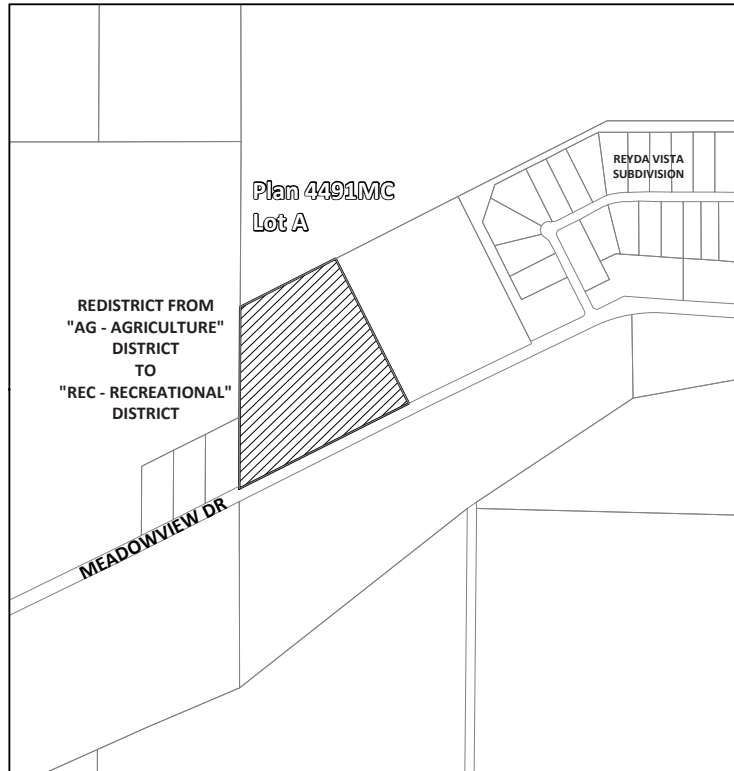
All interested parties are encouraged to express their views by providing a written submission to Legislative Services by email at legislativeservices@sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions will be accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

Persons wishing to view the Public Hearing without making a submission are invited to attend in person or view the livestream Sturgeon County website at www.sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.

Any inquiries regarding the proposed Bylaw should be directed to Martyn Bell in Planning and Development Services at mbell@sturgeoncounty.ca or 780-939-8365.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the Public Hearing, or otherwise made public. This information is collected in line with section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Officer at 9613-100 Street, Morinville, AB T8R 1L9, 780-939-4321, or foip@sturgeoncounty.ca

sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Gibbons Junior Broncos forward Dylan Thimer (jersey #96) tries to score against the Beaumont Buccaneers during a playoffs game on March 18 in the Gibbons Arena.

Continued from **page 2**

a lot of money” in big-ticket items over the last two years. That resulted in using a substantial amount of its reserves, which means Council relies a little bit more on government grants.

Nosko said he is working with Town Council and staff to turn things in a positive direction.

“To have those significant cuts this year definitely cuts deep,” said Nosko. “It makes us have to pinch pennies a little bit on the capital side and get creative with things. We are just going to have to rein it in and focus on core infrastructure for a bit while we get things built back on.”

Mayor Boersma urged residents to visit the Town website to get the facts and register their concerns by phone or email with their Councillor. “I think those are important things because of the feedback we get. I’m available via email or through a meeting every Wednesday.” The Town website is www.morinville.ca.



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RCMP urges residents to lock it or lose it

By Grant Cree

“It is essential that residents remove valuables from their vehicles and lock them. Most thefts from vehicles are crimes of opportunity, with very few in the area reporting a forced entry,” said Sergeant Chris Palfy, Morinville RCMP Detachment Commander.

He responded to a Free Press query about the local policing fourth-quarter report on March 8 to Town Council.

The report is available online through the Town’s website. It revealed a 250% increase in motor vehicle thefts compared to 2020 records from October to December. The same report showed a 16% increase in all offences compared to late 2020.

“Essentially, if it is not readily accessible, the would-be thieves will likely move on,” warned Sgt Palfy.

Local RCMP members partner with residents across the community to confront the threat through a police initiative.

“Lock It or Lose It is an awareness

campaign to remind residents of the importance of locking vehicles/removing valuables,” said Sgt Palfy. “And that it is an extremely effective deterrent for these types of crimes.”

Morinville RCMP are urging residents to secure their vehicles as part of the Lock It or Lose It campaign. **Photo by Grant Cree.**



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AGM

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7:00 pm

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Inflation in Alberta hit 5.5% in February

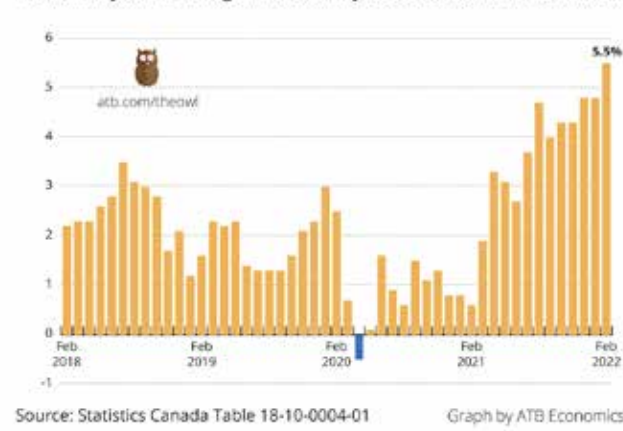
We knew it was coming, but it is still eyebrow-raising to see the national inflation rate hit 5.7% in February. Here in Alberta, the rate was slightly lower, but still high at 5.5%. The last time inflation was this high in Alberta was April 2007.

Driven by pre-existing factors related to the pandemic and exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the elevated level of the Consumer Price Index is setting the stage for additional interest rate hikes by the Bank of Canada. It doesn't help consumers who are paying more for energy and food, but tracking "core inflation" (which excludes the typically more volatile categories of energy and food) helps us get a sense if the economy is overheating in ways monetary policy can actually address.

Raising interest rates won't, for example, have much of an impact on oil prices driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the will-they-or-won't-they status of the Iran nuclear deal. At 3.9% in February, core inflation in

Monthly inflation in Alberta

Year-over-year % change in the unadjusted Consumer Price Index



Canada is also well above the Bank of Canada's target range of 1-3% and reinforces the likelihood of interest rate increases. Core inflation in Alberta was also running hot at 3.1% in February.

There is still a chance that price pressures could ease over the course of the year, but this is dependent on a relatively swift resolution to the geopolitical morass Russia's actions have created.

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CARDIFF BUNGALOW

SOLD

Minutes from Morinville, this beautiful property sits on a massive corner lot with curb appeal! Massive yard with an oversized 24x30 double detached garage, mature trees, 12x24 deck and storage shed and it only gets better inside. Front patio opens into large living and dining room with cove ceiling, exiting into a breakfast nook attached to the kitchen with updated countertops and gas stove with easy access to the back door and driveway for bringing in groceries. Finishing off the upstairs is an updated three piece bath, master bedroom with walk in closet and sliding door to the deck, and second bedroom. Downstairs is a fully finished basement with large family room/den space, four piece bath, and three additional bedrooms - one of which is set up for conversion to a kitchen for another family space. Don't miss this great value - the convenience of town with the quiet of a rural setting! **\$369,900. Call Glenn or Tara to view.**

5 BEDROOMS AND TRIPLE ATTACHED GARAGE ON 2.89 ACRES

SOLD

Time to get some space and quiet! This massive property sits on 2.89 acres with a small pond, 15 min north of Edm. Pass through the covered front porch into the foyer, flanked on the left by an office space and on the right by a dining room. Straight ahead is a living area with a gas fireplace and two storey windows letting in the sun, next to a large open concept kitchen with granite counters overlooking the back deck and a walk in pantry. 3pc bath on main floor next to mud room leading to the triple attached heated garage, as well as a 2pc bath on main floor. Upstairs is a large bonus room with wet bar, flanked by two bedrooms. Down the hall is the primary bedroom with double doors, a bay window overlooking the yard, and a huge 5pc ensuite and walk in closet. Further down the hall are two additional bedrooms and another 5pc bathroom. The back deck is partially covered and overlooks a children's playground and the fire pit, perfect for summer gatherings. Full unfinished basement for even more potential. **Call Glenn or Tara to view. \$799,000.**

EDMONTON APARTMENT BUILDING

SOLD

12 ACRES IN REGAL PARK

Beautifully landscaped 12.09 acres, right on pavement, about 1/2 hour to Edmonton, north of Bon Accord. This large family home was originally built as a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom bungalow in 1982 and in 1986 had a large addition added which has a huge open wood finished family room on the ground level and a 4 pce bathroom and two huge bedrooms each with a walk in closet above the 30'x24' garage. Features a wood stove in the family room and a wood burning fireplace in the living room. 3 Season Sunroom runs all along the west side of the main floor. Upgrades over the years include some flooring, shingles, hot water tank and furnaces. All set up for horses with fenced and cross fenced pasture land and a good well. Property would be great for multiple families wanting to live side by side as well since it has three separate titles (the main yard is 7.09 acres and the other two parcels are 2.5 acres). Greenhouse, storage sheds, fenced in dog run with building (or chicken coop) complete this great acreage. **\$399,900. Call Heather to view.**

MULTI PURPOSE BUILDING IN THORHILD

This 2500 sq ft hall was originally built in 1976 but had an addition and total renovation done to it in 1994. It has been kept in excellent condition. The total property consists of the hall with two fenced, paved lots. There is a large central room with a smaller room with window to view main hall. Ladies and Men's washrooms, baby change room, large back entrance, and storage room complete the property. Completely wired for p/a system. Comes complete with all furnishings. Many opportunities here. Would only take a few renovations to add a kitchen area. Could also convert to a single family home with a few renovations. Wheelchair accessible. Located in the Hamlet of Thorhild, about 45 min north of Edmonton. Thorhild has the a grocery and hardware store, dental office, County administration office, and even an outdoor swimming pool. **\$165,000. Call Heather to view.**

UPGRADED THORHILD BUNGALOW

Very well kept 945 sq ft 2 bedroom home with heated garage in Thorhild. Upgrades over the past years include metal roof on house and garage, exterior paint, furnace, hot water tank, windows, main bathroom renovations, paint, and high end laminate flooring. Basement has a large family room, 3 pce bathroom, cold room, laundry and lots of storage. There is a chimney for a wood stove in the family room and plenty of room to make a 3rd bedroom and still have a good sized family room. The 22'x16' garage has recently been insulated and finished inside and now has gas heater. Beautiful landscaping with lots of mature shrubs and trees and room for a garden. Thorhild is a small hamlet about 50 min from Edmonton that has everything you need. Grocery store, hardware store, banks, restaurants, gas stations, dentist, medical office, K-12 school, and even an outdoor swimming pool. **\$174,900. Call Heather to view.**

WELL KEPT 4 BEDROOM HOME IN THORHILD

Upgrades this summer include exterior & interior paint, shingles & LR flooring. Furnace & linoleum replaced just a few years ago as well. Main floor features a large eat-in country kitchen with plenty of cabinets, large LR and storage closets. Upper floor has a good size primary bedroom with double closets & two additional bedrooms. The main floor bathroom has lots of cabinet and counter space as well as a linen closet. There is convenient door to the Primary Bedroom as well. Bsmt has laundry area, large 4th bedroom & 3 pce bath. There is lots of additional storage space in the crawl space. Back yard has a 22'x16' garage with attached 22'x16' covered carport. Just needs the walls on the carport & you would have a nice double garage. Thorhild is a great community with K-12 school, dentist, medical office, banks, grocery store, hardware store & even an outdoor swimming pool. Less than an hour from Edmonton. **\$189,800. Call Heather for more information.**

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