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Vol. 33 No. 12

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

Wednesday March 22, 2023

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

MCHS Sr Boys are North Central Zone Champions



MCHS hosted the North Central Zone Championships last weekend, and the Wolves didn't disappoint.

The Wolves entered the tournament ranked 3rd after suffering losses to both Edwin Parr and Parkland during the season. In the first game, the Wolves played Frank Maddock from Drayton Valley. The Wolves took charge of the game early and never let up as they coasted to an 80-45 victory. In the semi-finals the team played Edwin Parr from Athabasca, and it was a back-and-forth game for the first quarter. In the second quarter the Wolves stepped up their intensity and won 69-38. In the final, the Wolves played a confident team from Parkland (Edson).

Matthew Murphy put the team on his back in this game as he scored 30 points and brought down 13 rebounds to lead MCHS to a 71-56 victory.

Grade 12 players Alex Thachuk and Matija Mandic were also instrumental in the victory with their outstanding defense and composure on the court.

The Wolves will now be travelling to the ASAA 3A Boys Provincial Basketball Championships in Wetaskiwin.



Jack Reader received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA). Reader was recognized at the AFGA Conference held in Edmonton from February 23 to 25. The certificate presentation took place at the Morinville Fish and Game Clubhouse on March 9, with AFGA President Faran Schaber, Past President Victor Benz, AFGA CEO Kelly Carter, and Mayor Simon Boersma in attendance. - Lucie Roy Photo

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U11 Desmond (black) and U11 Thompson (white) battled in the Morinville Youth Basketball U11 Co-Ed House Winter League Final on Friday, March 10th. After three rounds of overtime, they settled the match with a "first-to-4". U11 Desmond edged their way past U11 Thompson, 40-38, in one of the league's most exciting games this season.



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- Take in a presentation at the workshop corner to learn about a rural living topic of interest!

Schedule:

- 10:30 - 11:00 AM - Small Flock Poultry, *Susan Schafers*
- 11:30 - 12:00 PM - Permaculture, *Claudia Bolli*
- 12:30 - 1:00 PM - Vegetable Gardens, *Claudia Bolli*
- 1:30 - 2:00 PM - All About Garlic, *Fifth Gen Gardens*
- 2:30 - 3:00 PM - Protecting Pets, Property & Production from Problem Wildlife, *Bill Abercrombie*

For more info, visit
sturgeoncounty.ca/countryexpo



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Visit: www.morinville.ca/mlc

Budget pressures prompt Council and Administration to start 2024 process early

By Colin Smith and Morinville Online

Discussion of Morinville's 2024 budget kicked off at last Tuesday's town council meeting, and indications are it will be a difficult one.

At the meeting, Financial Services Manager Travis Nosko presented a report emphasizing economic pressures to be taken into account in the creation of the budget.

Some of those pressures are relatively new, including persistent inflation and higher interest rates, while others are more longstanding concerns.

Nosko stated in his report that year-over-year inflation is currently sitting at 5.9%, which is well above historic levels, although it has decreased from last year.

That means that for the 2024 budget, the cost of all goods and services the town

requires will again increase substantially.

In its fight against inflation, the Bank of Canada hiked interest rates in 2022 and 2023.

According to the report, that is unlikely to directly affect the town's expenses because

all current debt is locked in at low rates, and no new debt is planned in the near future.

However, it foresees higher interest rates having an impact on the local housing market, putting downward pressure on prices and perhaps

discouraging investment in new buildings.

The result is expected to be limited assessment growth, with administration projecting a figure of 0.5%.

Nosko pointed out that with almost no natural growth in tax revenue due to increased assessment, revenue increases will need to come almost entirely from raising taxes.

Ongoing issues include continued tax-supported deficits; low reserve balance and limited recent investment in reserves; an infrastructure investment gap of \$4 to \$5 million; limited alternatives to residential tax revenue; and the Morinville Leisure Centre.

"The MLC impact continues to be an issue," Nosko said. "It uses up a considerable amount of resources."

Uncertainty of funding from the Alberta government is also a concern, but the town recently got some good news, learning that the provincial grant for the year will go up from \$1.025

million to \$1.7 million.

Nosko said administration is now doing an inventory of services, to determine what exactly each town department provides.

"I think this is the first step in this service levels discussion," he said, noting that there will have to be trade-offs between service levels and tax rates."

As stated in his report, "Council must now choose how to deal with the challenging financial situation: raise taxes, cut services, or – the likely answer – a combination of both."

During discussion, Deputy Mayor Scott Richardson questioned that conclusion after doing a quick calculation that housing starts at the current rate would bring in only about \$150,000 in extra revenue per year, a "drop in the bucket" in terms of addressing the infrastructure investment gap.

"What's the plan?" he said. "Are we going to try and recoup that cost by increasing tax revenue or are there going to be some unique or different solutions rather than just taxes?"


"Because it seems to me

Continued on page 8



Council and Administration will have some tough decisions as budgetary pressures continue to be a challenge for the Town of Morinville. – Morinville Online File Photo

AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023, 7:00 pm

Bon Accord Community School, Hwy 28 RR240, Bon Accord, AB

For Zone 2 members, there will be a Board of Director Vote
(see www.npprea.ca for more info)

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





ELECTIONS TO BE HELD FOR 3 POSITIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Nominations for directors is now closed as of March 22, 2023.

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Sturgeon Brewing Co. visits Heritage Lodge to sample beer with seniors



Sturgeon Brewing Company owners Kerry Lamoureux and Josh Watson with Heritage Lodge resident Wilhelm Kungl, who was enjoying some of their Raspberry Cream Ale. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

By Stephen Dafoe and Morinville Online

Heritage Lodge residents celebrated St. Patrick's Day a little early when Sturgeon Brewing Company owners Josh Watson and Kerry Lamoureux dropped by to talk to the residents about beer and let them sample some locally-brewed products on Monday, March 13.

Homeland Housing Activities Coordinator Courtney Farmer invited the local brewers after her father suggested the seniors might like to experience a beer tasting.

"It's something I've always wanted to try with the residents," Farmer said. "I was going to do it on my own,

but my dad suggested we get them [Sturgeon Brewing] to come in and do it with us. I think it's good for the community to see the collaboration."

Sturgeon co-owner Kerry Lamoureux said they were happy to come out and talk beer with residents. "It's a way to come out and help out in the community," he said.


Watson and Lamoureux started Sturgeon Brewing Company in the spring of 2020, right at the start of the pandemic. The two owners talked to seniors about their company, the history of beer, how they get their ingredients and how they make their beer, including a couple of special ones: Saturday Morning

Cartoons, which used waffles and syrup, and their Anniversary Beer, which used entire sheet cakes.

The two brewers didn't bring any of their more offbeat beers to Heritage Lodge, instead bringing four of their popular beers for seniors to try. These included the brewery's Combine Cream Ale, Raspberry Cream Ale, Boots on the Ground Indian Pale Ale, and Dark Mild, an approachable dark beer with only 3.4% alcohol by volume. Watson explained to residents that Dark Mild had a cult following and had been well-received at beer festivals.

The first beer sampled was Sturgeon's,

Continued on page 8



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RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

St. Albert RCMP charge three individuals involved with break and enter

With business break and enters on the rise, St. Albert RCMP have increased patrols in hotspot locations in the community. While patrolling on March 9, 2023, at approximately 9:30 p.m., St. Albert RCMP responded to a complaint of a possible break and enter in progress at a St. Albert storage facility. When members arrived, they were able to locate two individuals and arrested them without incident.

A third individual was believed to still be in the compound area, thus RCMP Police Dog Services was deployed to assist with the search and subsequently located and arrested the individual.

Jamie Green (32), a resident of Morinville, Alta., Steven Bolle (40), a resident of Busby, Alta., and Dustin Waldbrook (37), a resident of Bon Accord, Alta., were all charged with the following offences:

- Break and Enter
- Mischief
- Possession of Break-In Instrument

In addition, Steven Bolle was charged with Fail to Comply and Dustin Waldbrook was charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance.

All three individuals were held for a Judicial Interim Hearing. Jamie Green was released from custody and is scheduled to appear in St. Albert Provincial Court on April 3, 2023. Steven Bolle was granted bail but remains in custody and is scheduled to appear in St. Albert Provincial Court on April 3, 2023. Dustin Waldbrook was denied bail, remanded into custody and is scheduled to appear in St. Albert Provincial Court on March 20, 2023.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Budget pressures prompt Council and Administration to start 2024 process early

that since I've been on council - five years - everything's just tax, tax, tax. We're not really clawing back or getting lower in our budget."

Richardson stated that having only the "levers" of raising taxes or cutting services to work within dealing with Morinville's financial situation puts members of council in a difficult position.

He suggested that finding efficiencies in areas such as fleet management, perhaps by contracting for more services, might be one route to reducing costs.

At the same time, that could contribute to a sense of balance

on the part of the residents, seeing that the town was cutting back.

"I really hope that this budget is going to give us more levers than just either reduce services, which will upset the residents, or tax them, which will upset the residents," he said.

Nosko said that council would be presented with options, but, "I don't think its realistic to say that we can address a \$4 to \$5 million investment gap without impacting residents either on the service level or the tax level."

"We have to uncover any rock," he added. "But it's going to take a concerted

effort on both sides of the table to get us where we need to be."

Councillor Stephen Dafoe observed that while the MLC is constantly under discussion, the Morinville Community Cultural Centre is rarely mentioned, even though it often sits empty.

"I think we're going to have a conversation about that," he said.

As part of his report, Nosko presented council with a timeline of the budget process. The next step is an April 18 presentation on Morinville's 10-year capital plan, followed by a council budget engagement for council on May 9.

The May 9 meeting will provide an update of relevant issues and enable council to provide initial direction for budget development, informing the first draft prepared by

the administration so it better aligns with council expectations.

"I would like council to start thinking about what types of targets, what types of directions, what types of things you want us to put in the draft 2024 budget," said Nosko.

"I'm hopeful that we can address some of the concerns with timelines, and some of the long nights and make sure the process works better, which will hopefully result in a better budget."

Further work on the 2024 budget by administration will be followed by its presentation to council on September 10, with deliberations leading to planned approval of the budget on November 14.

That leaves an additional six weeks, if necessary, before the required completion of the budget at the end of the year.

Along with that, public engagement on the budget is planned, and will include a survey and in-person information session with council and administration.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Sturgeon Brewing Co. visits Heritage Lodge to sample beer with seniors

Raspberry Cream Ale.

Heritage Lodge resident Wilhelm Kungl said he liked the raspberry-flavoured beer. "It doesn't taste like beer," he noted of the unique flavour. "It tastes like a fruity drink."

Fellow resident Anne Peters also liked the beer. "I wouldn't want too much of it," she said, chuckling.

After sampling all four beers, the residents decided that the Combine Cream Ale took first place, and the Raspberry Cream Ale took second place.

Sturgeon Brewing Company are located on 100 Street in Morinville. They are open Thursday through Sunday.



Heritage Lodge resident Anne Peters enjoying some of Sturgeon Brewing Company's beer. - Stephen Dafoe Photo



A male downy woodpecker looks for an afternoon meal. - Stephen Dafoe Photo



SMOKY LAKE BUNGALOW WITH HEATED GARAGE

Just over 1400 sq.ft move in ready bungalow right in the heart of Smoky Lake. The kitchen was completely renovated in 2012, with new cabinets, built in hidden dishwasher, counter top gas stove, built in microwave and oven, beautiful hood fan, and engineered wood floors. There is a great butler's pantry with cabinets that match the kitchen. 2012 renos also include main floor bathrooms, new moulding and trim, main floor light fixtures, and a high efficiency furnace. The basement is prewired for surround sound for optimal movie night enjoyment. The oversized primary bedroom has 3 closets and 3 pce ensuite. The house boasts RAYOMAX windows and is a spacious open floor plan. Garage and house roof redone in 2009. The oversized 28x30 heated garage, low maintenance deck and a newer fence complete this must see house. Smoky Lake is less than 45 minutes to Edmonton and close to many lakes. **\$299,900. Call Janine to view.**



HALF DUPLEX CONDO IN MORINVILLE

Three bedroom townhouse style condo with attached garage! This property offers an open concept kitchen and living room with fireplace. Down the hall is a 2pc bath and access to the insulated garage. Upstairs is a primary bedroom with vaulted ceiling and 3pc ensuite, as well as two additional bedrooms and a four piece bath. Downstairs is a finished basement with high ceilings, another 2pc bath, and laundry as well as flexible open space for a family room, office, or even an additional bedroom. Back deck accessed from the living room lets you enjoy the green space. Great opportunity for a starter home, those looking to downsize, or investors! **\$249,900. Call Tara to view.**



BUNGALOW WITH DOUBLE ATTACHED GARAGE IN THORHILD

1434 sq ft home with full basement features a large kitchen with lots of cabinets and corner pantry, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms, main floor laundry room, 3 pce main bath and 4 pce ensuite. Upgrades over the years include windows, metal roof, new drywall, and flooring. The main bath has a newer corner shower and the ensuite has a newer soaker tub. Furnace and hot water tank installed in the last few years. There is laundry hook-ups both upstairs and in the basement. The basement also has a chimney for a wood burning stove. The basement exterior walls are insulated and it is waiting for your future development. The 24'x24' attached garage is insulated and finished inside and has one overhead door. The framing is in for a second overhead door. **\$159,900. Call Heather to view.**



NEW LISTINGS

2.47 ACRES READY TO BUILD ON

Newly fenced land with easy access to Hwy 44 and Hwy 2. Municipal water line and fiber optic cable runs in front of the property, possibility to hook up to property. Minutes NW of Morinville, great opportunity for a new build or investment! **\$174,900. Call Glenn to view.**



FULLY RENOVATED IN REDWATER!

Beautifully upgraded 3 bdrm 2 bathroom 16x80 mobile home on a huge pie lot that backs onto a park in a cul-de-sac in Redwater. Home was built in 1991 and had a new metal roof and vinyl siding installed in 2007. Hot water tank was replaced in 2012. Since 2015 it has had a new furnace and air conditioner, new appliances, new high end laminate and linoleum throughout, new interior doors, baseboards and trim, windows, light fixtures, toilets, bathroom vanity and sink, bottom kitchen cabinets and countertops, sink and taps, and more. All expansion strips were removed and joints filled in and the whole house was painted. Vaulted ceilings, skylight, pantry, built in china cabinet, huge master bedroom with soaker tub, walk in closet and large 2nd and 3rd bedrooms are some of the features. Yard is fenced with a gate to the park and has two nice storage sheds. There are extra pilings already in for a deck or addition. Room for a garage on this lot. You own the lot so no rent! Must be seen! Move in ready! **\$139,900 Call Janine to view.**



72.5 ACRES WITH MOBILE SW OF MORINVILLE

SOLD \$499,900



FARM LAND NORTH OF GIBBONS

Two 75 Acre parcels of land north of Gibbons. The land is zoned agricultural and fully fenced with a crop lease of \$3000/yr. on each 75 Acres. Easily accessed by Highway 28 and close to town. **Asking \$289,900. For each parcel. Call Glenn for more info.**



2.32 ACRES FOR ONLY \$249,900

Great opportunity here for an affordable acreage in Sturgeon County, just a few miles west of Legal and less than 1/2 hour to Edmonton. 960 sq ft bungalow built in 1973. Kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms and 4 pce bath on main floor. Basement has a walkout door to the yard, 2 pce bathroom and is framed for 3 more bedrooms. Upgrades over the years include windows, kitchen cabinets, some flooring and complete bathroom upgrades. Both front and back decks have maintenance free railings. There is also a mechanical lift to allow access to the back deck and house with a wheelchair. The 2.32 acres is well treed and mostly fenced. There is an older garage that would also make a nice barn or large chicken coop along with a storage shed. Only 1 mile off pavement. **Call Heather to view.**



BUNGALOW ON DOUBLE LOT

Very solid, well built bungalow on a huge 130'x110' double lot in the hamlet of Thorhild. Upgrades include new paint, main floor flooring, shingles on both house and garage as well as upgraded attic insulation. Gorgeous classic sculptured ceiling in living room and well kept mahogany doors, trim and cabinets. This home features double 3/8" drywall throughout the main floor. Basement is partially finished with a 3 pce bath and large family room. There is plenty of room to add another bedroom and make a bit smaller family room if needed. The huge yard has lots of large, mature native trees along with apple, crabapple, chokecherry and plum trees. Lots of room to park an RV, set up a playground, or to have a massive garden. There is even a clothesline. Good sturdy single detached garage finishes this great property. **\$179,900. Call Heather to view.**



GLENN FISHER TEAM



REAL ESTATE

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