

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

# Betting on Yak: A county family's journey into healthier red meat



Terrance Majeau's fascination with an unusual idea has transformed a family farm into a pioneer for healthier red meat.

Three years ago, Terrance discovered yaks online, fascinated by their efficiency in grass feeding compared to traditional cattle. Without hesitation, he shared this newfound inspiration with his brother, Derek, who responded with an unequivocal "Let's do it!" within 45 minutes.

After a trip to Rimbey to look at a herd and sample the meat, the Majeau brothers embarked on a unique journey into yak farming, marking a shift in their family's agricultural legacy.

Today, Prairie Yak Farms is a testament to the family's commitment to raising lean, heart-healthy red meat that defies conventional standards, providing a tasty alternative to beef.

"When I first did the research, I saw how efficient they were at grass feeding compared to beef. That was a huge thing," Derek Majeau said. "They eat about a third of what beef does so that we can pasture a lot more with a lot less."

Prairie Yak Farms Ltd's herd is entirely grass-fed, without any grain finishing, which they say shortens the animal's lifespan.

Yaks are lighter than cattle when it comes to total weight. Terrance Majeau explained that a bull yak can weigh 1400 to 1500 pounds.

"You can get a little more if you push them, but around 1400 pounds is where your bulls are, and cows are around 900 pounds," he noted.

However, the Majeau family is not raising their herd for the size and weight; they focus on the quality of the meat, known for its leanness and sweet taste. Yak meat has been compared to bison and even elk, although it lacks a gamey taste.

Yaks, the highest-elevation mammals originating in Tibet, can hold a significant amount of oxygen in their blood and lungs. This attributes to the high 3% Omega-3 content in the meat.

It's a red meat, but it's lean

Continued on **page 2** 

# **Vestmor Denta**

Halloween is always interesting in Morinville where many homes like these two put a lot of

Terrance Majeau feeds one of the Yak at Prairie Yak Farms Ltd. **– Stephen Dafoe Photo** 

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# Bon Accord Community School's Christmas Craft Sale

## November 5, 2023 from 10am-3pm

\*Food Bank Donations Welcome \*Door Prizes & 50 / 50 Draw

\*4-H Concession

Location: HWY 28 and RR 240 (Bon Accord Community School)



From left: Derek, Brett and Terrance Majeau and Terrance and Brett's children Braxton, Jaylyn, and Quinn pose on the family farm. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

#### Continued from page 1

and heart-healthy," Terrance's wife and partner Brett Majeau said. "It's good in all the omegas and less in the bad fats – cholesterols, triglycerides, lots of those unhealthy fats. It's comparable to skinless chicken when you do the side-byside, but it's a red meat."

#### Not their first farming experience

The Majeau brothers are fourth-generation farmers who grew up on the family grain and hog farm in Sturgeon County.

"They had a dairy, and they had a beef feedlot. That was sold when we were very young," Terrance Majeau said. "Now, we're bringing livestock back."

Brother Derek said transitioning

to yak on the family farm has been a great experience. "We've always had a passion for animals, and we've always liked chores, so we're stubborn that way and want to keep livestock around but at an easier level," he said.

One of those more manageable aspects is calving yaks, which Derek finds easy due to the calf's weight of 40 pounds or less.

"That was one of the triggers that we were interested in because we didn't want a full-scale kind of operation," he said.

Terrance adds that they are usually present when the calves are due. "If we want to tag them, we need to do it within the first 24 hours; otherwise, the calf is pretty fast," he said. "So, we like to

monitor them, check on the calf, and ensure everyone is healthy, but we also let them do their thing."

#### Farm to Table

Prairie Yak Farms has approximately 106 head of yak at the Majeau homestead farm and another location in Rivière Qui Barre, nearly triple where they started in 2020.

'They were supposed to come home with ten, but they came home with 35," joked Brett Majeau, noting 33 were pregnant.

Although the herd started three years ago, Prairie Yak Farms product has only been available for about a month. Getting the herd to the required weight and size took three years.

Currently, the Majeaus sell their yak meat directly to consumers on a farm-to-table basis, and they are exploring partnerships with butcher shops. They also plan to offer halves and wholes for those who want to stock their freezers.

Derek Majeau encourages area residents to explore yak, particularly for the health benefits of lean red yak meat.

"We have not had any reviews that are not good about the taste," he said. "The taste is there."

For more information on the products available from Prairie Yak Farms, visit their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093487944374. Yak meat can be ordered onhttps://forms.gle/ line at kESq48tiR5N2TuYt7.



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THURSDAYS: 3:00PM-4:45PM   9:00 PM-11:00PM	
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Morinville King rookie Zachary Giacobbo battles to control the puck from Bonnyville Pontiac rookie Cameron Zelisko during a home game on Sunday, October 22. **– Stephen Dafoe Photo** 



Morinville Jets forward Braydin Maio had firm control of the puck during Sunday's home game against the Strathcona Bruins. The Jets secured an 8-4 win to extend their winning streak to eight straight games. **– Stephen Dafoe Photo** 

# Contrasting Fortunes: Morinville Jets soar while Kings seek redemption

#### by MorinvilleNews.com staff

In Morinville, hockey fans have witnessed two very different stories this season, with the Morinville Jets and Morinville Kings experiencing contrasting fortunes.

The Morinville Jets have been on a remarkable journey, racking up impressive victories week after week. Their latest accomplishments include two backto-back wins. On Wednesday, they faced off against the North Edmonton Red Wings and showcased their prowess, dominating the game with a final score of 6–1. The Jets outshot the Red Wings 37-25, proving their skills in both offensive and defensive plays. While the Red Wings managed to squeeze in a power-play goal in the first period, the Jets quickly responded, securing a 2-1 lead. They continued their dominance with two more goals in the second period, ultimately sealing their victory at 6-1.

Sunday night saw the Jets facing the Strathcona Bruins, where they triumphed with an 8-4 victory. Despite being outshot by the Bruins, the Jets displayed resilience and adaptability in their gameplay. The Jets' season record now stands at an impressive 9-2-0, leaving fans eager to see what's next for this dynamic team.

In contrast, the Morinville Senior AA Kings have had a challenging start to their season, with a current record of 0-4-0. Their journey began with a pair of daunting games against the Westlock Warriors, resulting in a 10-0 and an 8-2 defeat, respectively. Seeking to rebound, the Kings took on the Camrose Bruins on Saturday, but they fell short with a 10-5 loss. The following day, they engaged in their closest game of the season against the Bonnyville Pontiacs, ultimately losing 7-5.

Despite these early setbacks,

the Kings are determined to turn their season around. They had one more opportunity to secure a win in October, facing the Lacombe Generals at home on Saturday, Oct. 28. Results were not available by press deadline. With a lighter schedule in November, they hope to redefine their season's trajectory and gain momentum in their upcoming games.

In Morinville, hockey enthusiasts are witnessing a tale of two teams this season, with the Morinville Jets soaring high with a 9-2-0 record and the Morinville Kings working hard to overcome a challenging 0-4-0 start.



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# **Shuttle Service for Seniors** — Pilot Proaram -

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# **November 8: Royal Alberta Museum**

Aspen House pick up: 9:05 a.m. drop off: 3:10 p.m. **Rendez-Vous Centre pick up:** 9:15 a.m. drop off: 2:50 p.m. MCCC pick up: 9:25 a.m. drop off: 3 p.m.

# November 22: St. Albert Centre

Aspen House pick up: 9:35 a.m. drop off: 1:55 p.m. Rendez-Vous Centre pick up: 9:45 a.m. drop off: 1:35 p.m. MCCC pick up: 9:55 a.m. drop off: 1:45 p.m.

View full schedule at www.morinville.ca/seniorservices

#### For details and to register for transportation:

Call 780-939-7839 | In-person at the Morinville Leisure Centre or Morinville Community Cultural Centre | Online at www.morinville.ca/seniorservices

Bus rental service available for Senior excursions. Call 780-939-7839 for details.

Morinville

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Enrollment Cancellation Policy: Transportation fees will be refunded up to 72 hours prior to the program start time. No refunds will be issued for cancellation notice with less than 72 hours notice, unless for medical reason.



**Bon Accord and District Agricultural Society** 

# **Annual Meeting** November 18, 2023 at the Bon Accord Jewel Box

5:00 pm - Meet & Greet and discussion of
50 anniversary activities
5:30 pm - Light supper served
6:30 pm - Presentation of Scholarships
7:00 pm - Annual Meeting including annual
and financial reports and election
as necessary

Public is encouraged to attend (18 yrs and older): current and prospective members.

Memberships will be sold at the door (\$1.00) for those who require one.

For more information you can email ba.districtagsociety@gmail.com or call 780 921 2485



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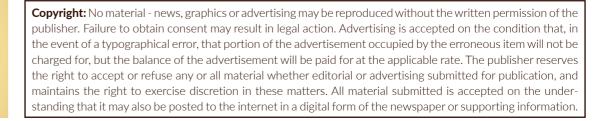
Please be advised that the Town of Legal is proposing to increase the local access fee, which is charged to FortisAlberta Inc. (FortisAlberta) for use of municipal lands for its power lines effective January 1, 2024.

The fee is recovered by FortisAlberta from its customers as the local municipal access fee on electric billings of all customers that receive electric service in the Town of Legal. This local access fee will be increased from \$10.68 (15%) to \$15.18 (20%) of the delivery charge of FortisAlberta, excluding energy related riders. This calculation is based on 640kWh consumption in 30 days.

Questions or concerns should be directed to Robert Proulx, Chief Administrative Officer at 780-961-3773.



or email morinvillepress@gmail.com



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Have your say 7

# Alberta engagement encouraged for Alberta Pension Plan

ALBERTA PENSION PLAN

#### By Brandie Majeau

The Alberta government seeks engagement with Albertans as they explore the possibility of shifting Alberta from the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) to an Alberta Pension Plan (APP).

On October 17, during a virtual roundtable meeting with rural media, Minister Nate Horner gave an opening statement regarding the Alberta Pension Plan Report and what it could mean for Albertans.

Minister Horner stated that the results looked promising, and by keeping contributions here, Albertans and employers could save \$5 billion within the first year. He continued to expand on the possible savings and stability of an APP.

The Alberta Pension Plan Report also suggests the possibility of improved benefits and a strengthening of our economy, as well as an increase in business startups and entrepreneurs drawn to Alberta because of the lower costs.

We are witnessing the beginning steps of a long journey. Minister Horner remarked on feedback that has already been received from Albertans, stating that many people were in favour of an APP, while others were strongly against it.

The clear indication was that people want more information and a stronger understanding. Questions arose regarding what Alberta expects to be able to take from the CPP, comparisons to the Quebec Pension Plan, and concerns about Canadians moving to and from Alberta.

"We want everyone to be part of the conversation," expressed Minister Horner. Albertans are being asked to view the Alberta Pension Share your thoughts, concerns, suggestions & questions

The Panel is hosting a series of regional telephone town halls to provide Albertans the opportunity to ask quostions and share your thoughts. Each session will dial up people in the area or region specified, inviting you to participate. And no matter where in Alberta you live, you can listen live to every session online by clicking on the link provided.

Plan Report and visit www. albertapensionplan.ca to access current information, listen to live or past recorded sessions of telephone town hall meetings, or register to participate in upcoming telephone town halls. Albertans are also encouraged to take the APP survey by visiting the website and clicking on the "Have your say" tab. Be a part of the discussion. The

Upcoming engagement session: Nov 9, 2023

province expects to have all the information needed by May 2024 to move forward in making a decision on whether Albertans will be asked to participate in a referendum.

Sturgeon

COUNTY

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# JOIN THE Youth Advisory Committee



From Left: Sturgeon Sting Captain Riley McQuade, Edmonton Oil Kings Captain Rhett Melnyk, and KC Columbians Captain Domenico Barone at the ceremonial puck drop during the U13 Sting's home opener on Saturday, October 21.

**APPLY TODAY** 

If you are a young adult who is interested in providing Council and Administration your perspective on County programs, services and matters that affect youth in the community.

Members must be between 16 and 24 years old, live in Sturgeon County, and available to serve a twoyear term and attend 10-12 meetings per year (in-person or online). You will be paid for your time and it's great experience for your resume.



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or go to sturgeoncounty.ca/ youthcommittee

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In the effort to raise money for Jessie's House, the Leadership class at Sturgeon Composite High School expressed great satisfaction with the support they received. The community's donations and the demonstration of Sturgeon Spirit were greatly appreciated. The event underscored how a short gathering could bring together the communities for a meaningful cause.

Free Press

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#### **Notices**

Classified Word Ads require Payment with Order. Low cost - high circulation. Your ad will also run free

in the Redwater Review. Up to 25 words: \$15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c/each.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE ESTATE OF LUCILLE MARY BOUCK aka LUCILLE MARY MONTSION, late of Grande Prairie, Alberta. All persons having claims against the estate of LU-CILLE MARY BOUCK aka LUCILLE MARY MONTSION, late of Grande Prairie, Alberta, who passed away 17th day of April, 2022, are hereby notified to send particulars of their claims to the undersigned on or before November 29, 2023. Address for Claims: True North Signature Services 9823-116 Avenue, Suite 211, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 4B4.

#### **Real Estate**

TWO FOR ONE, Duplex in Waskatenau on a single title, 4909-53rd Ave. Price is \$177,400. Each side is 820 sqft, half is newly updated and move-in ready. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full basement. Within 3 blocks are 24hr fitness center, convenience store, restaurant and a K to 12 school. Phone or text 780-283-2343.

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If you have a background in transportation systems, road construction, or engineering and want to help build a safe and efficient transportation system in Sturgeon County.

Members must live in Sturgeon County, and available to serve a three-year term and attend six meetings per year (in-person or online). You will be paid for your time and have the opportunity to learn more about improving the safety and connectivity of

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The moon was waxing crescent at 43% illumination early in the evening on Saturday, October. 21. The Hunter's Moon full moon was a week later, on Saturday, October 28. – Stephen Dafoe Photo

the County's roadway network.

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: NOVEMBER 9, 2023** 



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Congratulations are due to the athletes from Morinville Community High School who took part in the Cross Country Provincials in Trochu last week. Carter and Jaxon represented the school with immense pride. A special shoutout to Carter, who achieved an impressive 4th place in his category! Furthermore, heartfelt thanks go out to Ms. Wiley for her invaluable support, accompanying the team on the journey and cheering on our dedicated athletes.



The installation of the space-themed playground equipment in Centennial Park is cur rently in progress. The community expresses gratitude for everyone's patience and kindly reminds park visitors that the area is temporarily closed for public safety during the installation. It's worth noting that these playground projects received funding through the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) federal grant program.

# **GOT A SEPTIC TANK?**

# **JOIN OUR SEPTIC SENSE WORKSHOP!**

#### **MORINVILLE RENDEZ-VOUS CENTRE TUESDAY, NOV.21 @ 6:00 PM**

Attend a free workshop to learn how to take care of your septic system.

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- Regulations
- Design, installation, and maintenance
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**RESERVE YOUR SPOT:** Call: 780-939-8349 Email: agricultureservices@sturgeoncounty.ca



#### **NEW LISTING 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW** IN WESTLOCK

Nice sturdy bungalow with single detached garage in downtown Westlock area. Features large eat in kitchen with solid oak cabinets

and new built in dishwasher, fridge and stove. Lots of cabinets and counter space with room for a large family table too. Good sized living room, 3 bedrooms (primary has a 2 pce ensuite with new toilet), and 4 piece bathroom complete this level. Basement is almost completely finished with large family room, 4th bedroom, storage room (which just needs flooring, ceiling and paint to make it a nice 5th bedroom), and large furnace/laundry room. There is a 3 pce bathroom with new shower just off the laundry room and a built in vacuum here as well. Upgrades in the past few years include shingles (2022), soffits, eavestroughs, and siding. Pressure treated front steps and back deck were done in the past few years as well. Single garage, lots of trees and flowering shrubs, and chain link fenced yard finish off this great property. Great home at an affordable price. \$169,900. Call Heather for more info.

# **FULL QUARTER OF LAND** IN THORHILD COUNTY

Full quarter of open pasture and bush land approximately 1 hour north of Edmonton in Thorhild County. About 100 acres has been brushed in the past few years and just needs clean up of

the brush piles to make open land. This portion had been used as hay land many years ago so could potentially be hay or grain land again. The remained 59 acres is large, mature bush land. The fenced and there are two good dugouts so it's all ready for and i your animals. Also a few nice building spots on this property and power runs along both the range road and township road. Great spot for hunting, quadding, snowmobiling. County bylaws allow for subdivision of this land. \$279,900 plus gst. Call Heather for more info.



#### NEW LISTING **BUNGALOW AND GARAGE**

**ON DOUBLE LOT** 1250 sq ft home on a huge 100'x130' double lot in Thorhild with central air conditioning. 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the up-

per floor and bsmt has a huge family room, 3 pce bath (shower is not connected) and room to add a couple bedrooms. Upgrades just before 2012 include 2 furnaces, hot water on demand, air conditioning, windows, shingles, soffits and fascia, and siding with styrofoam underneath. Since 2012 renovations include main floor laundry room, kitchen cabinets, shower in ensuite, flooring, and chain link fencing.. The detached 14x26 garage is insulated, drywalled, and painted. Back yard is fully fenced with a crossed fenced dog run and raised garden beds. \$179,900. Call Heather to view.

#### 4.99 ACRES BY BUSBY

Room for everything on this 4.99 acres with a 2400 sq ft 1 1/2 storey home that has 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a full unfinished basement that is framed in for an additional 2 bedrooms. House was originally built in 2009 on a crawl-

space but was lifted and had a full basement installed in 2013. Bsmt has roughed in plumbing for another bathroom and a wet bar. This energy efficiency with walls built from

#### **REDUCED TO \$89,900 BEAUTIFUL 10 ACRE BUILDING SPOT**

Gorgeous 10 acre treed parcel of land a few miles SW of Thorhild, about 45 min to outskirts of Edmonton and 1/2 hour to Fort Saskatch

ewan. Best of both worlds with plenty of privacy amongst the trees yet only 1/2 mile from pavement. Property has recently had a high grade gravel driveway and parking pad installed and building site is cleared. Power line runs along the edge of the property. Corners are marked with survey stakes. Comes with storage shed and a handy Ford Super Major 5000 tractor com-plete with bucket, mower deck, blade, tiller, box scraper and forks. **\$89,900. Call Heather to view.** 

#### **10 ACRES OF HEAVY** INDUSTRIAL LAND NEAR REDWATER

Welcome to an exceptional investment opportunity in the heart of the thriving Industrial Heartland by Redwater. This 10.03-acre parcel of land is strategically zoned as

Heavy Industrial, offering endless potential for businesses seeking a prime location to establish their operations. Located near highway 38 and the Town of Redwater, there is already power and gas on the property. There is also an old 42'x280' barn that could still be use able for storage. **\$350,000. Call Heather for more info.** 

#### THORHILD ACREAGE

Spacious, well kept, 1470 sq ft 3 bdrm, 3 bath modular home on full partially finished basement with separate entrance to basement from outside. 40'x24' metal clad





#### **3 BEDROOMS AND DOUBLE GARAGE IN REDWATER**

Nestled in a serene and peaceful neighborhood, this cape cod style house offers a perfect blend of classic design and modern comfort. Boasting a generous 1764 sq ft on two finished floors with a full

basement that just needs a little work to be completed. Upgrades over the past few years include most windows replaced, shingles, flooring, paint and bathroom renovations. Large fenced yard with good sized deck, hot tub, and 26'x24' garage complete this great property. \$319,900. Call Janine to view.



insulated panels (30-50% more efficient). It has in floor hot water heating system powered by 2 electric boilers that were installed in 2013. Features 2 sided wood burning fireplace, large kitchen/dining room, moveable island, double oven, gleaming wood ceilings, main floor laundry, chair lift to 2nd floor and more. Master suite has 2 w/i closets, gorgeous ensuite, and private loft area with door to future balcony. Double det'd garage with loft space above. Lots of fruit trees, firepit, trails throughout the trees. A few minutes SW of Busby, just over a half hour to Edmonton. \$484,900. Call Heather to view.



garage with 220 power. Upgrades in the past few years include septic

tank (2021), shingles (2016), vinyl windows, bathroom renos and all new flooring. Lots of cabinets (and island) in the large eat in country kitchen with garden doors to back deck, main floor family room, formal living room with corner wood burning stove, large master bedroom with walk through his and hers closets and 4 pce ensuite. Two additional bedrooms and 4 pce bath complete the main floor Basement has a 3 pce bathroom, is framed and partially drywalled and ready for buyer to finish. Lots of planted trees, flower beds and shrubs and plenty of room for a future garden. Located right on pavement, but set well back from the highway for privacy. Less an hour to Edmonton, just about 15 min NE of Redwater. \$285,000. Call Heather to view.

