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Morinville Centennial Community Gardens has new leadership

Morinville Centennial Community Gardens' new President, Doug Neuman, stands among the rental plots at the society's Champlain Park location. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

By Stephen Dafoe

Morinville The Centennial Community Gardens (MCCG) will continue into the 2024 gardening season after several volunteers have stepped up to lead the organization, preventing the non-profit's dissolution and disbursement of funds.

With the non-profit's executive down to three people and the Gardens' President Johanna Silver stepping down, the group had two people left on the executive, too few to continue under the province's societies act.

Members were informed of the group's situation in an Oct. 30 email. Long-time the group is Chrismember and past executive member Doug Neuman decided to

step up and offer his services as president at the Nov. 20 meeting.

"When I saw the email that said we might have to dissolve the Gardens Society, I thought, 'Well, if there is a time to step up, probably now is the time to step up," Neuman

He was not alone in stepping up to keep the Gardens going.

The new leadership roster fills all positions, which the group has struggled with recently. Joining Neuman are existing executive members Linda Mondor as Vice President and Paula Collins as Treasurer.

The secretary for Wengrzynski, and Michelle Rheubottom will serve as Registrar.

Directors-at-large are Becky McNeil and Val Loseth, the latter of whom started the organization in 2011.

"I think it speaks to the passion that our members have for gardening," Neuman said of the increase in executive.

"We have this valuable service that we provide to the community, and I think it's easy for people to get apathetic and get wrapped up in their own lives. But when there's that threat of, 'Hey! This thing might not be here if you don't step up,' then I think that galvanizes a lot of

Continued on page 4

Morinville Council abandons staff cost-cutting measures in 2023 budget after unanimous vote

By Colin Smith

Morinville council has decided against trying to save hundreds of thousands of dollars in the 2023 budget, specifically by cutting town staff

At a special meeting Tuesday, Nov. 21, council members voted unanimously to rescind a motion calling on administration to come back to council with the implications of budget cuts of \$200,000, \$300,000, \$500,000 and \$700,000 targeted at staff costs.

That motion had been passed 5-2 at council's regular meeting the previous week, with information on possible reductions to staff salaries, wages and benefits and training sought by

December 12.

Councillor Richardson, who had originally proposed the motion, moved that it be rescinded.

This followed a presentation by Chief Administrative Officer Naleen Narayan and then a closed session of council.

In his presentation, Narayan declared that administration would be unable to provide council with the staffing implications of the possible budget cuts by December 12 as called for in the motion.

He then put forward a view of council's role as providing a strategic vision, stressing that need for longterm planning rather than too narrowly on the current situation.

Continued on page 2

Four-year-old Eleanor McMillan and Letisha McMillan Camp work on their Christmas tree decorating at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during the Lite Up the Nite Festival activities on Saturday, November. 25. -Stephen Dafoe Photo





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Children had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa Claus at the Lite up the Nite Festival activities at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre on Saturday, November 25. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

SUDOKU

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Fun By The Numbers: Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you squeare off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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			1				6	
2								
9		3						
					2	9		5
6			8					1
		6	4		3			
4					8			2
1	8							6

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Morinville Council abandons staff cost-cutting measures in 2023 budget after unanimous vote

Narayan said he stands behind the 2024 budget, which would result in a 7.3% tax increase, pointing to rising costs beyond the town's control and defending its level of economic efficiency.

He warned council about staff resources already being stretched thin, indicating that budget reductions could result in a drop in well-being and efficiency, along with an increase in the town's already high turnover rate.

"The reality is that this is a service-based organization," Narayan told council. "Any cuts are going to have an impact on service levels and quality."

Following the presentation, Richardson and Councillor Maurice St. Denis asked questions about staff retention and staffing pressure points within the organization but were informed that these were more appropriately dealt with in closed session.

Council then went into the closed session, and after it came out, Richardson moved to rescind.

"I would be willing to put forward a motion to rescind in the light of the information we have received tonight," he said.

Still in force is a second motion passed by council at its November 14 meeting. Moved by Councillor Stephen Dafoe, the motion called on the administration to find \$200,000 in operational savings in the 2024 budget.

At that time, Dafoe emphasized that this motion was not related to the one targeting staff costs, and might be a replacement for it in whole or in part.

Narayan affirmed that the administration was able to bring forward this information on December 12.

A subsequent motion by Dafoe on November 21 asking admin to come forward with approximate costs to do a service level review in 2024 passed unanimously.



PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1638/23 Road Closure Bylaw 1638/23

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1638/23.

Cando Rail & Terminals has requested a partial closure of Range Road 222 to facilitate the expansion of the business. The closure is between Township Road 555 and Township Road 560. As a result of the proposed road closure, Cando proposes to develop a bypass around its site.

A road closure bylaw is needed to close a portion of the road and a public hearing must be held. The bylaw and all feedback received during the public hearing will be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for review and approval before Council considers approval of the road closure.

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Questions? Contact us!

Mark Morrissey Economic Inovation and Growth 780-939-0625 mmorrissey@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to preregister.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by January 15 at 1:00 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@ sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Watching the Public Hearing

You can view the Public Hearing in person or online at sturgeoncounty.ca/ CouncilMeetings. To view the livestream, click on the meeting date on the calendar, then click on the video link.



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 questions, contact the Access and Privacy Officer at foip@sturgeoncounty.ca or 780-939-4321.

Canadian economy – same story, different GDP route

By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

A surprising Canadian GDP report this morning. The third quarter fell much more than expected, but the second quarter was revised up sharply. A bit of a GDP rollercoaster, but today's report does not change the storyline that Canada's economy has effectively ground to a halt.

The numbers: Canada's real GDP contracted at an annualized rate of 1.1% in the third quarter, much weaker than the Bloomberg consensus of a modest increase. Exports, business investment and inventories weighed on the Q3 reading, partly offset by stronger housing investment and government spending. The consumer has pulled way back, with spending flat for the second straight quarter. In contrast, second quarter GDP expanded at an annual clip of 1.4%, revised up from -0.2% previously.

In summary, a similar landing spot, but a different route. We can hold off on the 'technical recession' talk (for now), as the economy did not register two straight quarterly

declines (see "what is a recession anyway"). The contrast with our southern neighbour is stark, where U.S. third quarter real GDP ran very hot at 5.2% (annualized) following a 2.1% gain in Q2.

Implications? Not the outcome many were expecting, but the main story is the same. The Canadian economy has cooled dramatically under the weight of higher interest rates, and we expect the Bank of Canada to hold again next month. Tomorrow's jobs report is the last big release before the Bank's December 6 decision.

Closer to home, we don't get a provincial breakdown, but the monthly numbers tell us about industries more relevant to Alberta. In the oil sands, GDP edged down slightly (-0.1%) in September, while conventional oil and gas slipped 3.6% with Statistics Canada citing maintenance work on an oil platform off the Atlantic coast. Advance estimates suggest that oil and gas activity picked up in October, contributing to a 0.2% improvement in Canada's overall GDP to kick off the final quarter of the year.



Movement Dance Studio dancers performed during this year's Lite Up the Nite Festival, showcasing a variety of dance styles.

Three-time World Champion hoop Dancer Dallas Arcand was the featured performer at this year's Lite Up the Nite Festival. Arcand did two shows at the Morinville Community Cultural



Musician and author Riley Quinn performed a number of Christmas songs during this year's Lite Up the Nite Festival.



Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1635/23.

The property owner would like to bring their existing fleet service (trucking) business into compliance with the County's Land Use Bylaw on their land at 55013 Hwy 825 (legal land description: RL-24-55-22-W4M). This land is currently subject to the AG-Agriculture district, which does not allow this type of activity.

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: Tuesday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

You can view the hearing online at sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

To operate a fleet service at this location the land use district must change, and the applicant is pursuing a Direct Control District. The purpose of a Direct Control District is to provide for developments that, due to their unique characteristics and/or site conditions, require specific direction unavailable in conventional land use districts. The applicant is requesting the land be rezoned to DC24 – Direct Control District 24, which would allow them to apply for a development permit for a fleet service.

Each time land is redistricted, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a public hearing must be held.

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/hearing-1635

REDISTRICT FROM "AG - AGRICULTURE" DISTRICT TO "DC24 - DIRECT CONTROL 24" DISTRICT WWENT E

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky Planning and Development Services 587-404-9866 rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca

Important information about Public Hearings

Requirements for speakers

All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

Speaking in person

To speak at the Public Hearing in person, contact Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377 to preregister.

Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by December 11 at 2:00 p.m. by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8277 or 780-939-1377. This ensures you receive instructions to access the videoconference.

Written submissions

Email your written submission to Legislative Services at legislativeservices@ sturgeoncounty.ca. Written submissions are accepted up to the close of the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission, you must include your name, state your interest in the matter (such as a County resident directly impacted by the proposed bylaw), and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

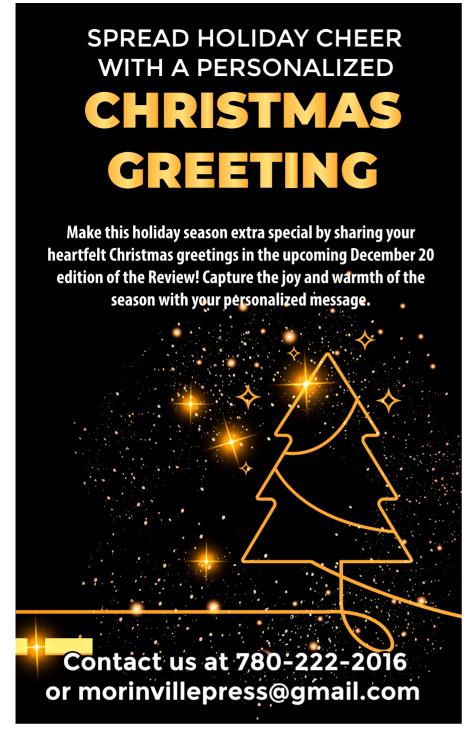
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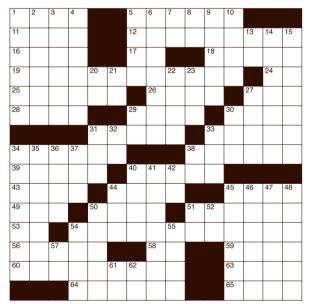


Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: By submitting comments on this bylaw, either orally or in writing, the personal information you provide may be recorded in the minutes of the public hearing, or otherwise made public. This information is collected in line with section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have questions, contact the Access and Privacy Officer at foip@sturgeoncounty.ca or 780-939-4321.





CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 5. Requesting 1
- 1. Give temporarily
- 12. Happiness 16. Military branch
- 17. -__, denotes past
- 18. Middle Eastern city
- 19. Air hostesses
- 24. Partner to Pa
- 25. Percussion instrument
- 26. Popular computers
- 27. Decrease light
- 28. Valley in the Osh Region
- 29. "To __ his own"
- 30. Absence of difficulty
- 31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out

- in church
- 33. Trims by cutting
- 34. Impact
- 38. Military member
- 39. A French river
- 40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico
- 43. Messenger ribonucleic
- 44. Musician Clapton
- 45. Greek sophist
- 49. Largest English
- dictionary (abbr.)
- 50. Narrow valley
- 51. A way to disentangle
- 53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)
- 54. Recommending
- 56. Genus of legumes
- 58. Friend to Larry and

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

- 59. Off-Broadway theater award
- 60. Fencers
- 63. Small Eurasian deer
- 64. Denoting passerine
- 65. Separate by category

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Colorless fluid part of blood
- 2. Of a main artery
- 3. Photographic equipment
- 4. Confirms a point
- 5. Developed over time
- 6. Not the leader
- 7. __ Lang (country singer)
- 8. Adults need one
- 9. Nests of pheasants
- 10. Antelopes 13. One quintillion bytes
- (abbr.)
- 14. Japanese threestringed lute
- 15. Type of cat
- 20. Cools your home
- 21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 22. Pouches
- 23. Trigraph
- 27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan
- 29. __ route 30. Body part
- 31. Bridge building degree
- 32. Indicates position 33. Political action
- committee 34. Tasty snack
- 35. Part of a quadruped

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Morinville Centennial Community Gardens has new leadership

that support and a lot of that volunteer hours."

Back to their roots

As president, Neuman hopes to take the MCCG back to its roots figuratively and literally. In an email to the membership on Sunday, Nov. 26, Neuman outlined his thoughts, echoing those he expressed when he was acclaimed into the role.

"I think we have taken on too much work for the number of volunteer hours we can realistically muster, leaving members of the executive spread very thin," Neuman wrote to the members. "I would like to see our group get back to basics and focus first and foremost on our mission statement."

That statement: "Morinville Centennial Community Gardens will provide rental plots in an inclusive and accessible organic garden in Morinville and promote organic gardening," is something Neuman sees as the group's primary focus.

As such, the presrecommends consolidating efforts to a single garden site in Champlain Park, eliminating the food bank garden in favour of more rental plots or

36. Locate

statistic

38. Of I

street

scrape

47. More

breathable

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home to

52. Sodium

55. Zero

State

college's Flyers

54. Large fish of

mackerel family

57. __ and behold

61. The Palmetto

62. Popular Tom

franchise (abbr.)

Cruise movie

37. Pitching

40. City in Utah

in the trenches

45. Performers

46. Slang for cut or

41. Football players

42. Hammer is one 44. A "nightmarish"

grass and trees, working with the town on some path improvements, and running meetings quickly and efficiently.

"What we've seen over the past couple of years is we've had a strong focus on that public space side of things and doing the community events," Neuman said. "Personally, as a gardener, that's less of what I'm interested in. I really like the idea that we can provide these low-cost rental plots to people and give people the opportunity to grow in the garden."

Neuman said that he has observed minimal volunteer support in activities and initiatives outside the core mission statement over his years in the organization.

The president said he believes there is absolutely a place for supporting the food bank. "We should encourage gardeners to grow a row for the food bank," he said, noting that planting, weeding, harvesting and sorting food for the food bank is not the most effective use of the organization's time. "I think it is something that is not sustainable, and I think that is evidenced by the situation in the fall where

there were so few people to take on the work that the society might dissolve."

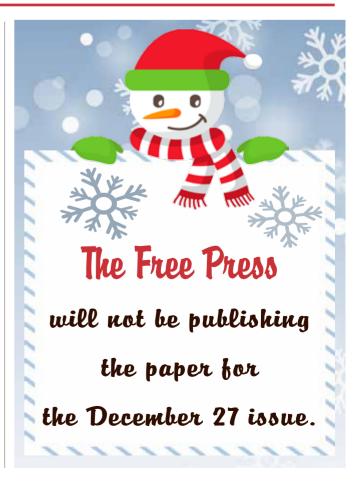
By focusing on the group's mandate and getting that right, the president said there would be opportunities to build from that foundation.

"At this point, given where we were a month ago, I think it is important that we take a realistic look at what we can muster in terms of volunteer hours and plan accordingly," he said.

There was mixed reaction to the ideas at the Nov. 20 meeting, and Neuman and the executive will discuss the new ideas and other topics at upcoming meetings. The president points out that decisions will be made by the group as a whole rather than any individual members.

The MCCG's next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at Rendez-Vous Centre in Morinville. Meetings are open to all members and those interested in becoming a member.

"We're always happy to have new faces and new energy," Neuman said. "I think through this, we've heard from a lot of people that feel this is a valuable part of our community."



SCHOOLNEWS



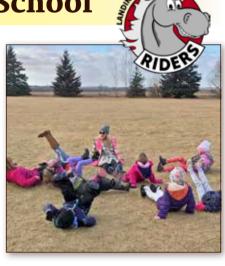
This month, Heather Buerfiend, from the Neil Squire Society's 'Makers ing Change' visited Gibbons School. Students in the STEAM Academy had the wonderful opportunity to participate in "Hacking for the Holidays," an event with a meaningful purpose. This event addressed a common challenge faced by children with mobility differences who may find playing with traditional toys a bit challenging. During this event, students utilized their tech knowledge to craft adapted toys and bring joy to kids with disabilities in Alberta and beyond.





Landing Trail School

Landing Trail School introduces the SPARK Supported Recess Program, ensuring a secure playground experience for all students. This collaborative effort prioritizes safety without compromising outdoor play, guiding children towards safer activities. By addressing unsafe behaviors, Landing Trail School fosters a positive and inclusive environment that champions the well-being of every student during recess.



SEE SOLUTIONS



A child hits the target on a snowman, one of the many activities at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during the Lite Up the Nite Festival activities on Saturday, November 25. – **Stephen Dafoe Photo**

HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH

Т Т N Α Н K G N Ι U N Ι Τ N 0 C Α U Τ R D R Ε I P S Ι Ε Т

WORDS BAKED CHOCOLATE COOKIES CREAM CRUMBS DESSERT EGGS FOLD **FRUITCAKE** GINGERBREAD **INGREDIENTS** KNEAD **PASTRY** PLATTER PUDDING PUMPKIN PIE RECIPE ROLLING PIN SPRINKLES STRUDEL TEMPERATURE TORTE TREATS VANILLA







Morinville Community High School celebrated Mrs. Elsa MacIssac as she received the Edwin Parr Award for Teacher Excellence! What an outstanding achievement!



From left: Lions Club of Morinville member Joe Jacob, Santa Claus, and Morinville-St. Albert MLA and Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction Dale Nally pose at the Breakfast With Santa event at the Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre on Saturday, November 25. The annual event is a fundraiser to support Lions programs. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

HOROSCOPE



Aries, if you work or spend time with an introvert, reach out to him or her and strike up a conversation. This person may only need a little nudge to become a good friend.

TAURUS

(April 21 - May 21)



Taurus, a friendly competition that may have started out lighthearted is now starting to transform into something a bit more competitive. Dial it back a bit.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)



Gemini, things are starting to slow down in your life, and your to-do list has gotten shorter. Expect things to ramp up again soon enough, but enjoy the break for now.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)



This is a good week to begin something that you've been thinking about tackling, Cancer. You'll have pep in your step and others willing to lend a hand if it is needed.

LEO

(July 23 - August 23)

Leo, someone may offer you some honest feedback that is a little too raw for your ego at this point in time. You will simply have to take it with dignity and lick your wounds

elsewhere **VIRGO**

(August 24 - September 22)

You need to be the driving force on a project that will pop up, Virgo. Even though you're not sure of your readiness for this type of work, you can give it a good attempt.

LIBRA

(September 23 - October 23)



Whatever you tackle this week, it shouldn't revolve entirely around money, Libra. Finances may have gotten in the way of things for some time; focus now on relationships.

SCORPIO

(October 24 - November 22)



Don't let a dream you had put you all in a tizzy, Scorpio. That was just your subconscious working through some things and not a prediction of things to come.

SAGITTARIUS



Don't be shy about receiving credit for something that you did, Sagittarius. You deserve the recognition no matter how large or small the task. Celebrate all your victories.

CAPRICORN



You may be coveting something of late, Capricorn. However, only when you stop actively wanting that thing or person will you finally get what you desire.

AQUARIUS



Aquarius, your positive attitude is an asset in life. Even as challenges come your way this week, you can prove the naysayers wrong by maintaining your rosy outlook.

PISCES

(February 19 - March 20)



Pisces, standing up for yourself this week is challenging, but you need to do it to get your point across. Don't worry, you have many supporters in your corner cheering you on.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

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CROSSWORD ▼ ▼ ▽

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				В	Α	Ν	Ν	S		Р	Α	R	Е	S
Α	F	F	Ε	С	Т				М	Α	R	1	N	Е
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WORD SEARCH ▼▼▽

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BIG REACH

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- » Possibility to develop multiple Shoe Repair Shops.

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Announcements

AIRDRIE DREAM VACATION LOTTERY 2024. Tickets at aird-riedreamvacation.ca. Only 600 tickets! \$35,760 in prizes and \$3,900 in Early Birds. 12 - \$2500 Dream Vacation Vouchers & 48 prizes of \$120.

Auctions

MEIER FIREARM AND SPORTS-MAN AUCTION, Saturday December 16, 10AM Rifles, Shotguns, Ammo., Hunting Supplies. 4740 57 ST Wetaskiwin. Consignments accepted up to sale time. Free Pickup. Visit www. meierauction.com PH 780 440-1860.

Buildings for Sale

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008 BUILT WITH CONCRETE POSTS. Barns, Shops, Riding Arenas, Machine Sheds and more, sales@integritybuilt.com 1-866-974-7678 www.integritybuilt.com.

Coming Events

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2023 AUCTION PROGRAM: Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections,

Estates, Single Items. For Auction, or Possible Purchase: Toll-Free 1-800-694-2609, Email Us at sales@switzersauction.com or Visit Us @ www.switzersauction.com.

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