

Morinville sees 25% drop in crime and traffic offences in 2023, RCMP report says

By Colin Smith

Morinville saw significant reductions in crime and traffic offences in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Morinville RCMP Municipal Detachment statistics show total criminal code offences down 25%.

The drop was

reported in the detachment's Third Quarter Report, which Acting Detachment Commander Sgt. Lew Simms presented to the council at its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 12.

Crimes involving persons fell by 46% last year, from 46 in 2022 to 25. Property crimes went down

24%, from 84 to 64, and there was an 8% reduction in other criminal code offences, from 50 to 46.

There were no crimes related to death, robberies, or kidnapping/hostage/abduction offences.

Along with 12 assaults, there were two incidences of extortion, four of criminal

harassment and three of uttering threats.

One sexual assault was recorded, and three other sexual offences.

Compared to 2022, property crime thefts declined last year from 38 to 27, including motor vehicle thefts, down from seven to four. There was also one less break-in.

There were 25 mischief offences, 11 of which involved damage to property. Nine frauds, two possession of stolen goods, and one arson were committed.

Other criminal code offences included offensive weapons, one,

disturbing the peace, eight, drugs, two, and failure to comply and breaches, 35.

A 73% drop in provincial code traffic offences, from 292 to 80, was reported, together with a 33% drop in criminal code traffic offences.

The RCMP responded to 32 motor vehicle collisions in 2023, down from 35 the previous year. Four of these involved non fatal injuries.

There was one missing person report last year, compared to six in 2022.

Serving the towns of Morinville, Bon Accord, Legal, and Gibbons, as well as

Sturgeon County and Alexander First Nation, the Morinville Detachment has a complement of 34 personnel, including RCMP members and eight public service and Town of Morinville employees.

In his report, Simms pointed to effective detachment initiatives, including the Lock or Lose It program and Hot Spot Checks, to help reduce property crime.

He said recent enhanced awareness and education events, including Coffee with a Cop on November 1 and the Candy Cane

Continued on page 4

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From left: Manager of Community Safety Services and Morinville Fire Chief Brad Boddez, Town of Morinville General Manager, Community and Infrastructure Services Sharleen Edwards and Acting Staff Sergeant Lew Simms chat during the Coffee with a Cop event at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre on November 1, 2023, in this file photo. Several more public engagements are planned with the public and the RCMP for 2024.

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SCHOOL NEWS

École Morinville Public School



At the beginning of March, our Grade 3 and 4 Running Club Dragons represented École Morinville Public School at the Running Room Indoor Games held at the University of Alberta Butterdome.

They practiced for weeks ahead of the event so that by the time it was race day, they were ready to take on anything. Even though

they went up against some runners much older than them, our Dragons were fearless and they did our school proud.

They even beat all their own practice times! As they raced around the track in the all girls relay and two mixed relays, they proved to the world that Dragons really do fly!



Camilla School



Camilla School has been participating in the Running Room Indoor Games, formally known as the Edmonton Journal Indoor Games for more than 20 years. It's a tradition. Once again this March, the school's Running Club entered 4 relay teams and 11 individual 200m, 800m and long jump athletes looking to qualify for the BIG Day of competition. The first round of qualifications would see two relay teams, and 9 individuals advanced to the Saturday event. After

a long of day of giving it their all, Camilla had 7 spots in the top 20! The Elementary Girls Relay team finished 13th, long jumpers Aliya Soetaert and Decker Moore each placed 4th, Aurora Lamont placed 13th and Payton Soetaert placed 17th in the elementary girls 800m, and racing in the elementary boys 800m final was Clark Lamont (7th) and Liam Lutz (8th). Amazing! We are so proud of all our runners and our amazing coach! This team spent hours training for this day with noon hour, after school and early morning practices once a week! Way to go Camilla!



Town of Gibbons MAILING OF ASSESSMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the assessment notices for all property held in the Town of Gibbons were mailed on March 20, 2024 in accordance with Section 308 and 311 of the Municipal Government Act, M-26, 1 RSA 2000.

All assessment notices are deemed to have been received seven (7) days after mailing within Alberta and fourteen (14) days outside of the province.

Any person who wishes to appeal their assessment must, by May 27, 2024 register a complaint on the Assessment Review Board Complaint Form, which are available at the Town Office or on our website at www.gibbons.ca



Four Winds Public School



Firebirds Carnival (Carnaval Oiseaux de feu): A week-long celebration filled with spirited activities!

Students showed their Firebird pride through Spirit Days (toque/flannels, Firebird gear, jersey day), enjoyed the sugar shack treat and pastries at the cafe, and took part in fun challenges like 3v3 street hockey, tug of war, ski races,

frozen jug curling, and the home-room flag design competition. The grand finale featured thrilling hockey finals with the whole school to watch.

Congratulations to homeroom 8B for getting the most points from the challenges and earning a well-deserved pizza party!

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TILLAGE & SCRAPER - **Flexicoil** Model 5000 **Airdrill**, 57 ft, 9 in Spacing, Double Shoot, c/w Model 3450, 3 Comp. Air Tank - **IHC 5700 Chisel Plow Cultivator**, 37 ft Extended to 41 ft, Walking Beam Axles, 4 Bar Tines - **Leon 4000 Vibrashank Cultivator**, Walking Beam Axles, 3 Bar Tines - **Leon 25 Chisel Plow**, Model CP600, 4 Bar Tines - **Laurier 50 ft Packer Bar** - **Leon Model 550 6 yd Scraper** - **HARVEST & AUGERS** - 2002 **Massey 8780XP Combine**, 1424 Threshing Hrs c/w Pickup Header, New Concaves, 1 yr. on Rub Bars, Hydro, SHEDDED - 2000 **Massey Ferguson** Model 220 Swather, CAHR, c/w 18 ft header model 9518, c/w Pickup Reels, Roto Shears and gauge wheels, showing 1654 Hrs - **Massey 22 ft Header** c/w Ull pick up reels - **Grain Chief** Model 450 Batch Dryer - **Brandt 8x47** Supercharged Auger, Self-propelled, 30 Hp Kohler Motor - 2011 **Brandt 5200EX Grain Vac.**, 540 PTO, only 128.7 Hrs, Orig. Owner, SHEDDED - **IHC Model 770**, 6 Btm Plow - **Farm King 7 x 41 Auger** c/w 16 Hp Kohler - **Farm King 7 x 36 Auger** c/w 14 Hp Kohler - **Scoop-A-Second 6 x 30 Auger** c/w 10 Hp Kohler - **SPRAYERS & TRUCKS** - 2009 **Apache Hi-Clearance Sprayer**, 90 ft, AS1010, 1613 Hrs, GPS, Triple Nozzle Bodies, 1000-gal Tank, Raven Monitor, Raven Auto Steer, SN. 909-4148 - Two Hi-Clearance Sprayer 10 Bolt Rims c/w 380/90R46 Titan Tires - **2003 GMC 7500 Single Axle Grain Truck**, 8.1 L Gas, 75,379 Km, 6 Spd. Standard, 11R 22.5 Michelin Tires, Roll Tarp, SN. 1GD17E1E53F518442, ABC 18 Steel Box, Nordic Hoist - 1984 **Mack Econodyne** Tandem Grain Truck, 350 Hp, SWS Unibody 20 ft Box, Roll Tarp, Nordic Hoist, 11R22.5 Rub, Air Ride, Shows 23,142 Miles - **Vicon** Model LS2410T, 540 PTO, 2400 L Tank, 62 ft Sprayer, Markers - **Chem-Handler II** - 16 ft Tote Tank - **SAWMILL, BALER, YARD ITEMS & MISC.** - **Sawmill**, Saw Blade 42", 20 ft Carriage PTO Drive, 38 ft Overall Length - **Massey #12 Square Baler** - **IHC Farm Wagon** - **Farm King**, Model 620 Rough Cut 6 ft Mower - **Farm King 7 ft**, 3 pt Finishing Mower - 1000-gal. Galv. Water Tank - Mandako 3 pt Hitch, Attachment - Qty of 11-inch Knock-On Shovels & some misc. Clean Auction

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Legal says farewell to its arena ahead of major project

By Stephen Dafoe

The Town of Legal said goodbye to its old arena over the weekend, holding a Farewell event on Sunday, March 17.

The arena closed on Monday ahead of a roughly 18-month upgrade to the facility.

A regional focal point since 1964, the facility will undergo major rehabilitation in its 60th year, allowing Legal to continue using it for recreational

opportunities, programming, and community events.

Sunday's volunteer-initiated and run event celebrated the facility's history and use with a family glow skate, face painting, free hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks and two alumni hockey games.

"I'm excited. This event is going to be a massive kickoff for our new arena project," said Legal Mayor Trina Jones as the event got underway on Sunday.

"It's a chance for our community to come together, celebrate having one last skate in the old barn."

Legal's project has been a few years in the making and aims to offer several modernizations, including a larger ice surface, more dressing room space, and a community activity area.

Improvements are anticipated to reduce the facility's energy consumption by an estimated 31.8 per cent and greenhouse gas emissions by 59.4 tonnes annually.

"When we embarked on this project three years ago, with the first assessments, the structure, [etc] - we were slated for \$9.2 million. It has now grown to about \$13.3," Mayor Jones said, noting her appreciation for federal and provincial funding for the project.

"We have some other funding options on the go."

The government of Canada will provide \$7,159,360 through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program to modernize



Legal Councillor Fred Malott gets ready to serve up some hot dogs at the Legal Arena Farewell on Sunday, March 17. - Stephen Dafoe Photo



A face painter works on six-year-old Savanna de Champlain at the Legal Arena Farewell on Sunday, March 17. The afternoon event offered area residents a variety of family-friendly activities to enjoy the arena one last time ahead of an 18-month renovation project. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

the arena and curling club.

The Sturgeon Hockey Club also applied for and received a \$1 million Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant to enhance the Legal

Arena.

The mayor said the curling club will be open for the 2024/2025 season, and the rink will be open for the 2025/2026 hockey season.

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Carl Beniuk

Adam Romano

Join us virtually via Zoom. **** NO VOTING VIA ZOOM - in person at AGM only.** To register, please contact our office by April 10, 2024 at **780-398-2000** or contact@npprea.ca Registrants will receive the Zoom link and AGM agenda by email.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Check Stop on December 21, were also valuable.

At the meeting, council members also discussed Morinville RCMP policing priorities for the 2024-2025 operating year.

Acting Detachment Commander Simms had requested information about the community's policing policies for the

year by the end of this month.

Three top policing priorities are identified annually based on a review of projects, including the 2021 Community Safety Plan, the Traffic Safety Plan, the Traffic Safety Bylaw implementation, the Transportation Master Plan, and the Pedestrian Crossing

Review, as well as community feedback and RCMP reports.

The administration recommended that this year's policing priorities be community engagement and presence, public safety, and crime reduction, the same as for 2023-2024, and the recommendation was adopted by council unanimously.

The priority of community engagement and presence implies increased visibility and presence of the RCMP, which will make proactive and positive appearances throughout the community.

Improving traffic, intersection and pedestrian safety through education is the aim of the public safety priority, along with increasing public safety through community awareness,

education, partnerships, planning and enforcement.

A focus on reducing crime through police visibility and patrols, as well as educating residents on how they can enable crime reduction in local neighbourhoods, are integral to the crime reduction priority.

Other policing priorities that have been identified in recent years include property crime, family and domestic crimes of violence and traffic

safety.

During the discussion, Councillor Ray White expressed concern about the notion of top priorities.

"As soon as you pick three priorities, it seems like you say the other priorities are not as important," he said.

Sharleen Edwards, General Manager of Community and Infrastructure Services, replied that Simms made it clear other priorities continue to receive attention.



Loose Threads support volunteer Shelley Faganello poses with some of the book bags the group has made over the past while. The book bags are now on sale at the Morinville Community Library. Proceeds will go towards more materials for the quilting group, which makes items to donate to worthy causes.

- Stephen Dafoe Photo

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Thank you to **Robert Manolson** who took the time with each of the job seekers needing help and helping them on their job seeking journey.

Thank you to the vendors below for helping make this event so successful. We look forward to you continued support.



Many thanks to our partnerships for this event.



This event was hosted by the Redwater & District Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the Government of Canada & Government of Alberta



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For Sale
SQUARE HAY AND STRAW BALES. 3 X 4 X 8. \$40 each straw, \$100 each for hay. Call 780-942-3170.

Health
HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT. Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING? The Disability Tax Credit allows for \$3,000 yearly tax credit and \$30,000 lump sum refund. Take advantage of this offer. Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide: Expert help. 1-844-453-5372.

Services
CRIMINAL RECORD? Why suffer employment/licensing loss? Travel/business opportunities? Be embarrassed? Think: Criminal Pardon. US entry waiver. Record purge. File destruction. Free consultation. 1-800-347-2540. www.accesslegalmjf.com.

PRIVATE MORTGAGE LENDER. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228; www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca.

Wanted
COLLECTOR/ ENTREPRENEUR PURCHASING COINS & COLLECTIONS! CASH PAID! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, collections, rare & old coins, silver & gold coins, jewelry, nuggets, bullion, sterling, gold & silver! 250-864-3521.



Team Durstling, who took first place in the B Division of the Morinville Curling Club's Mixed Bonspiel, make their way down the ice on Saturday, March 16. Team Grover took A Division, Team Lavallee won C, and McLean D. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**



A group of waxwings sit atop an evergreen tree, a sure sign that spring has returned. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Saturday, March 30

1 - 3 p.m. | Cardiff Park
FREE for everyone!

Two Egg Hunts:
1:30 & 2:30 p.m.

Crafts & colouring!
Win prizes!
Pictures with the Easter Bunny and giant Easter Eggs!



Family and Community Support Services
780-939-8334 | programs@sturgeoncounty.ca
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MOVE IN READY IN WESTLOCK

This cute, well kept 3 bedroom bungalow in Westlock is move in ready. Renovations over the years include newer flooring and paint, new windows, furnace and h/w tank in 2016, bathroom renos in 2017, shingles in 2017, front and back decks, backflow valve installed in both washer drain and floor drain, and new front door and patio doors. Wall has been opened up between kitchen and living room to allow for a more open concept. Features include a built in vacuum system, pantry, solar light tube in kitchen, patio doors in back bedroom allow access to back deck and fenced yard with storage shed. Basement is partially finished with a family room space, laundry area and den which could easily be a 4th bedroom if window was made a bit larger. There is roughed in plumbing for a bathroom in the basement. Just needs flooring and ceiling installed to finish the basement. This is a great starter home or small family home. Would also be great for an investor as all the work has already been done. **\$214,900. Call Heather to view.**



ONLY \$154,900 FOR 2 BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN LEGAL

Looking for affordable living that's move in ready? This 2 bedroom bungalow in Legal is perfect for first time buyers, investors or seniors who aren't quite ready to give up their pets and move into a lodge. Many upgrades over the years including furnace, vinyl siding and windows. Renos in the past year include all new bathroom with stacked washer and dryer and on demand hot water heater, new counter tops and backsplash in kitchen, eavestroughs, sump pit and pump. Fresh paint throughout. Brand new carpet in bedrooms and lino in bathroom and back entrance and the living room/kitchen flooring is only a few years old. Large 75'x66' fenced lot with fire pit, flower beds, deck and plenty of parking space for a couple of cars and holiday trailer. Or build a garage if you like. Ramp is also in place for easy access with wheelchairs or walkers. Legal is a great small town that's only a few minutes north of Legal. Move in ready! **\$154,900. Call Heather to view.**



BUILDING SITE BY NEWBROOK

24.8 acres bordering the Hamlet of Newbrook, about 1/2 hour NE of Redwater on Hwy 63. This is the remainder of the quarter that much of the hamlet of Newbrook is built on. Currently being used as pasture land with lots of open land and a few treed areas. Nice building sites. Zoning on this land allows for many possibilities for use. Build your dream home on a nice sized acreage, subdivide some lots to expand the Hamlet, maybe start a business ventures. Good possibility to get County approval for any of these uses. May be possible to tie into residential utilities. **\$180,000. Call Heather for directions.**



HOBBY FARM

SOLD

\$469,900



THORHILD BUNGALOW

This delightful 767 square foot home boasts modern upgrades and a convenient location close to amenities, including a K-12 school and an outdoor pool within the community. Step inside this meticulously maintained 2 bedroom home to discover a bright and airy living space with modern flooring and ample natural light streaming through upgraded windows. Upgrades in the last 3 years include a new hot water tank, furnace, flooring, windows, and shingles, offering worry-free living for years to come. Bsmt family room has a nice corner woodstove and could be opened up into the adjoining den if you wanted an additional bedroom. The 2 piece bathroom in the basement has the plumbing roughed in for a shower. Large fenced yard with raised garden beds and single detached garage. Downsize to your own home that's cheaper than a condo and no extra fees. **\$174,900. Call Janine to view.**



77.16 ACRES NEAR EGREMONT

Fenced pasture land located just two miles west of Egremont (a few minutes north of Redwater). Lots of great building sites with power lines running on both the range road and township road bordering this property. A nice mixture of open land and large mature spruce, pine and poplar. Approximately 40 min to Edmonton. Nice spot to start your own small hobby farm, weekend retreat or rent the land out in the summer and use it for hunting in fall. **\$250,000 plus gst. Call Heather for more info.**



5.32 ACRES READY TO BUILD ON

Gorgeous building spot or weekend getaway within a half hour of north Edmonton, right across the road from Half Moon Lake (north of Bon Accord). This 5.32 acres is one of the largest lots in this subdivision of Pinebrook Estates. Beautifully treed for privacy with mature spruce, poplar, birch and more. There is a nice cleared area with a firepit or a spot to build on. Lots of hiking or cross country ski trails throughout the property. Lots of recreational opportunities at Half Moon Lake like boating, swimming and fishing. Only about a mile of gravel to the nearest paved road. Utilities nearby. **\$99,900. Call Heather to view.**



NEW LISTING

NEWBROOK GEM

The effective age of this 1977 home with additions is 2015 as it was completely rebuilt at that time. The original walls were doubled to make a 2x8 frame and extra insulation added. Windows, doors (interior and exterior), siding, metal roof, bathrooms, flooring, crown mouldings, furnace and paint all were done in 2015 or later. Must be seen to be appreciated. High end custom cabinetry throughout the home with granite countertops in the kitchen. Built in ss appliances, induction stove, pull up mixer shelf, pullout shelves, island kitchen, garden doors to maintenance free deck, huge w/i closet in master bedroom, 5 pce ensuite with two counters and sinks and soaker tub, and custom cabinetry in the office are some of the features. Total of 3 bedrooms and a den as well as enclosed, heated front porch. Heated single garage and asphalt back driveway. No lot rental, you own the 50x150' lot. **\$199,900. Call Janine for more info.**



REDUCED TO \$375,000

ALMOST 20 ACRES IN THORHILD COUNTY

Nestled on 19.89 acres of serene countryside, this property offers the perfect blend of tranquility and functionality. A charming 1344 sq ft 1980's built bungalow boasts large eat in kitchen with island and pantry, living room, 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on main floor. The lower level of the home is partially finished, offering a roughed-in rec room, two additional bedrooms, and a convenient two-piece bathroom with the potential to add a shower/bathtub. This level also provides a walk-out door. Features include large windows both upstairs and downstairs. 3 West facing windows have recently been replaced. Livestock facilities, including fencing and corrals, make it suitable for agricultural pursuits, while several outbuildings offer storage space for equipment and toys. **\$375,000. Call Heather to view.**



GLENN FISHER TEAM



REAL ESTATE

Each office independently owned & operated.



IRP Approved Agent

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