



## Local businesses honoured at Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony

By Stephen Dafoe

The Morinville Community Cultural Centre was packed on Saturday, Oct. 26, for the Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Awards. This year's theme, Hollywood Nights, saw the Chamber roll out the red carpet figuratively and literally for an evening of good food, entertainment, and recognition of the region's business stars.

Businesses from small startups to legacy enterprises were recognized, with 53 nominees vying for 12 awards honouring their dedication to

quality, innovation, and customer commitment in the Morinville and the Sturgeon Region.

Ahead of the awards presentations, NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi, Sturgeon County Mayor Alana Hnatiw, Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma, and event sponsor Jandel Homes addressed the crowd, each speaking on the importance of small businesses in supporting both communities and the province as a whole.

### 2024 Award Recipients

The evening's Small Business Award went to Panchita's Taqueria, which distinguished itself from

a competitive group of nominees that included Nancy Johnson Fitness, The Flower Stop & Gift Shop, Northern Belle Laser & Aesthetics Studio, Black Bar Crossfit & Nutrition, iCandy Optical, and Sturgeon Brewing Company. Panchita's win highlights its dedication to delivering a unique culinary experience while building strong community ties.

The Medium Business Award went to Jiffy Lube Morinville for its exceptional service in the community. Other nominees were Odin Renovations, the Ashley Moore Century 21 Realty Team,



Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma speaks on the importance of small business to the community. - Stephen Dafoe Photo

and Animal Wellness Veterinary Clinic.

In the Large Business category, Atlas Premium Home Development Ltd. took the top honour, surpassing fellow worthy

nominees Putnam Law LLP and Sobeys Morinville.

TLC Mobile Massage received the Home-Based Business Award for its personalized approach and

commitment to wellness. Other home-based contenders included Grass Theory, Destiny Travel, and Riverbend Roasters.

Continued on page 2

## Morinville Council delays \$10M Infrastructure Building Project by two years after divisive vote



Replacement of the Town of Morinville's Meunier Maintenance Building or Infrastructure Services Building has been deferred for two years after a 4-3 vote of Council - File Photo

By Colin Smith

Town council has chosen to delay the planned 2027 construction start of a major capital project for two years.

The project is replacement of the Infrastructure Services Building, which stands in the department yard at 10310 107 Street.

The replacement is included in Morinville's long-term

capital plan, accepted by council in 2023, with \$600,000 budgeted in 2025 for the design phase.

Construction was set to begin in 2027, at a cost initially estimated at \$6 million, later revised to \$10 million.

Council's contested decision came at its Tuesday, Oct. 22 meeting as a result of a motion by Councillor Ray White.

White moved that

the proposed replacement of the Infrastructure Services Building be transferred to 2029 from 2027.

Following debate, the motion passed in 4-3 vote, with Deputy Mayor Rebecca Balanko and Councillors Stephen Dafoe, Scott Richardson and Ray White in favour, and Mayor Simon Boersma and Councillors

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Higher Grounds Espresso Bar Manager Rick Melvin poses with Oscar after receiving the Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce's Community Spirit Award. - Stephen Dafeo Photo



Sobeys Morinville co-owner Shaun Thompson expresses his gratitude to the community and his staff on accepting the Chamber's Business Integrity Award. - Stephen Dafeo Photo



NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi speaks to local business owners at the Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce Business Awards on Saturday, October 26. - Stephen Dafeo Photo

**Business Awards Gala**  
*Continued from page 1*

Among new businesses, Movement Dance Studio was awarded the New Business Award over notable nominees, including Hair & Holistics, Creative Cove, Connecting Within, Blessings From Birth Doula, Riverbend Landscape Supply, Elsewhere Home, Yard & Pet, and RT Heavy Duty Repair.

Canadian Agri-Bland & Bag' n Block and Plantae Technologies were nominated for the Agriculture Business Award this year, with the former receiving the honour.

The Community Spirit Award went

to Higher Grounds Espresso Bar, a local favourite known for creating a warm, inclusive space with a strong sense of community. Jandel Homes / Fill-a-House and Morinville Art Club were also nominated.

The Steve & Marci Crouse Memorial Award, a new award honouring long-time Farmers' Market vendors Steve & Marci Crouse, was presented to Purple Wings Crafts. Other market artisans nominated included Au Chocolat, 1904 Farm Family Faves, Sweet G's Home Bakery Lori's Eats & Treats/Mundare Bakery, and Emily's Petdanas.

The Business Legacy Award went to Morinville Trail Tire, celebrating its long-standing presence and dedication to customer service. Marshall Roofing was the other nominee.

In the Youth Customer Service category, Leah Kirsop of Sobeys was recognized for her outstanding Customer service commitment. The other nominees were Emily Trithart, Jade Van Lersberghe, Hayley Oullette, and Grace Dundas of Movement Dance Studio.

The Chamber's most prestigious honour, the Business Integrity Award, was presented to Sobeys

Morinville and owners Shaun and Susie Thompson. Chamber Acting President Sarah Hall, who emceed the event, highlighted the award winner's significance in the community.

"They have made a significant impact for the support of local charities in the committee," Hall said of the local business, noting that Sobeys' owners are always eager to step up and donate and help where they can. "This award is so well deserved."

Upon accepting the award, Shaun Thompson expressed his deep appreciation for the community's support. "We can't thank the community

enough for the support they show us," he said, emphasizing the dedication of Sobeys' 85 employees and the network of local partners who work together to make the store a success. Co-owner Susie Thompson, added, "This couldn't have come at a better time. Thank you for accepting us into the community for the

last ten years. We just want to keep doing what we do." In addition to the 12 award winners, honourable mentions were presented to The Niche Hair Studio, Tea Boutique, Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation, RT Septic & Water Systems Inc., and Blaire Borle Mortgage for their significant contributions to the community.



Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Awards Gala. - Stephen Dafeo Photo

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## Notice of application to be filed for reapproval of the natural gas franchise agreement between the Town of Morinville and Apex Utilities Inc.

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

The Alberta Utilities Commission expects to receive an application from Apex Utilities Inc. to reapprove its franchise agreement with the Town of Morinville, following the submission deadline indicated below.

The franchise agreement will, subject to further renewal, continue to allow Apex Utilities Inc. the exclusive right to deliver natural gas to the residents of the Town of Morinville for approximately 10 years from the effective date of the franchise agreement.

The franchise fee rate rider percentage will remain the same at 19 per cent. The average monthly franchise fee for an average residential customer is forecast to remain at \$17.93. The franchise fee is calculated based on distribution charges. An average residential customer uses about 120 gigajoules per year.

You may send your objections, concerns about, or support for the application in writing to Apex Utilities Inc. or Town of Morinville on or before **November 13, 2024** at:

Apex Utilities Inc., Irv Richelhoff, 5509-45th Street, Leduc, AB, T9E 6T6t, phone: 780-980-7305, email [businessdevelopment@apexutilities.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@apexutilities.ca).

Town of Morinville, Travis Nosko, 10125 100 Ave, Morinville, AB, T8R 1L6, phone 780-939-7861, email: [travis.nosko@morinville.ca](mailto:travis.nosko@morinville.ca).

Any submissions received, unless you request otherwise, will be part of the application submitted and will become part of the public record.

For more information on franchises or to receive a copy of the franchise agreement please contact either Apex Utilities Inc. or the Town of Morinville at the addresses listed above.

**For more information:**

For more information about the AUC or its approval process associated with franchise applications, please contact the AUC directly at 310-4AUC or at [info@auc.ab.ca](mailto:info@auc.ab.ca).

The Alberta Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body responsible for making decisions about utility-related applications.

Issued on October 30, 2024.

Alberta Utilities Commission



**Morinville Council**  
Continued from page 1

Jen Anheliger and Maurice Saint-Denis opposed.

At its June 25 meeting, council directed administration to provide a report outlining the rationale for the replacement of the current Infrastructure Services Building, including options for deferment and savings.

A report delivered on August 27 by Infrastructure Structure Services Manager Jordan Manager stated that the building, constructed in 1979 and expanded slightly in 2009, is no longer suitable due to Occupational Health and Safety concerns, building conditions and a shortage of space and capacity for growth.

A facility condition assessment was done in 2021, and in 2023, an architectural consultant was engaged for the Infrastructure Services Feasibility Study.

According to Betteridge's report,

workplace OHS deficiencies include ventilation issues, inadequate hazardous materials containment and load-bearing wall issues.

The roof is judged to be at the end of its lifecycle and leaks when it rains, and there are issues with the foundations, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical.

Betteridge said the building has already passed capacity, while staffing growth is expected in the future to meet increased service demands.

The architect who conducted the feasibility study looked at two alternatives to building replacement, i.e. doing only the most urgent repairs or expanding/renovating.

The report asserts that these do not suitably resolve the issues or meet long-term needs.

Construction of a new Infrastructure Services Building is to be funded through borrowing, with the debt to be financed over the long term,

probably 30 years.

Locking in costs now would provide certainty about the total cost of the project and protect against inflationary pressures, it states.

In the opening debate on his motion, White said he felt the consultant's report on the Infrastructure Structure Services Building previously presented to council was not very objective.

"The only option that was really presented to us was for a brand-new building," he said. "There was no thinking outside the box. No thinking about how we can make this building last longer, can we put in more office space that's wanted."

White pointed to the debenture financing, which he said would push the ultimate cost of the building to \$19.5 million, or \$650,000 per year over a 30-year term.

"I'm not saying we don't need an Infrastructure Services Building," he said. "I

just don't think this is a good time to be doing this, and two years down the road would provide for more alternatives."

Councillor Rebecca Balanko spoke in support of the motion, saying that some of the capital to be expended on the project could be spent on other community needs such as repairing crumbling sidewalks, roads and other infrastructure.

Councillor Stephen Dafoe agreed with White that the report of the project was not objective, and that there may be other more affordable options that would meet the needs of the Infrastructure Services department.

The report of the OHS deficiencies in the Infrastructure Services Building gives Councillor Maurice Saint-Denis "A lot of trepidation."

"We have a building that is neither safe nor dependable for our staff and the idea of delaying that for two more years to then revisit it doesn't

sit well with me," he said.

"To delay the decision for two more years is precisely what got us into this infrastructure deficit today and only results in greater costs for taxpayers."

The problems with the existing building, including provisions for staff, and liability issues was also a focus for Councillor Jen Anheliger.

"We know deficiencies exist and we know we are going to have to take action," she said. "If we are not going forward with this project, I would like to see a plan."

Apart from the need for the new building itself and its timing, council was divided on what approach should be taken to making the decision.

White argued that with an election coming up next year the issue should be left to the next council to decide.

"I think this should be in front to the electorate for us to run on, to make the

argument for or to make the argument against," he said. "I think the electoral process will do that."

His position was supported by Councillor Scott Richardson.

"I think by opposing this it gives a chance for the new council to have an idea of what they want to do and go from there," Richardson said.

This line of thinking was opposed by Mayor Simon Boersma.

"Critical infrastructure projects should not be dictated by the electoral cycle," he said. "If we were to delay this project, it could set a precedent for other critical projects to be deferred."

Said Saint-Denis, "I respectfully disagree that this project should be decided in our next election when we were elected to make these decisions."





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**HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Town Office and Municipal Shop will be closed Monday, November 11 for Remembrance Day.

**CENTENNIAL RV PARK & SANI-DUMP**

The Centennial RV Park and Sani-Dump are now closed for the season. We look forward to having you next year!

## 2025 Property Tax Installment Payment Plan Deadline

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For those on **Self-Administered Payment Plans** annual renewal applications are due by **January 15, 2025**

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Thursday, December 12th

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Drop off @ Town Office 8:00  
FEE: \$5 (does not include dinner)  
Register at Town Office

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### To a Senior

This November - pick up your gift tag from the tree at the Chateau Sturgeon!  
Tree will be inside the entrance doors of the Chateau.

Chateau Sturgeon  
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## Have your lights on

### December 8 - 14th

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# LITE UP LEGAL CONTEST

**COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW REMINDERS**

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (RV's)**

- RV's cannot be parked in front yards or on a highway between the dates of October 30 and April 30.
- Only 1 RV and no more than 2 non-recreational vehicle trailers are permitted on any residential or commercial property.
- Trees that grow or hang over into alleys are the responsibility of the property owner. Ensure branches are cut back or trimmed as to not obstruct vehicles.

For more information on the Community Standards Bylaw, visit [www.legal.ca](http://www.legal.ca)

**PREPARING FOR WINTER**

With the cold weather fast approaching, please keep the following in mind:

- ✳ Remove all curb ramps from roads. The Town will not be responsible for damages.
- ✳ Stay off the surface of the fishing pond. It is not safe any time during the winter for skating, fishing or walking.
- ✳ Remove vehicles from roads after a snowfall. This allows equipment to clean streets safely and without obstructions.
- ✳ It is your responsibility to keep your sidewalks clear of snow, ice and debris. Do not put snow removed from your property into roadways or neighbouring properties. \$250 fine for first offence (Bylaw 13-2022)





Members of the 3061 1 Combat Engineer Regiment (1CER) Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (RCACC) gather for a photo on Saturday, October 26. The group were on hand at No Frills in Morinville selling poppies. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**



Like taking candy from a Mayor. Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma provided a bit of a game with his candy display at the Father's House's Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**



What does it cost? Peanuts. Lucy from the Peanuts directs traffic to the Father's House's Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**

Deadpool and the Mandalorian were on hand at the Father's House's Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26. The annual no cost event provides families with an opportunity to dress up in costume and collect candy in a safe and fun environment. - **Stephen Dafoe Photo**



### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.  
**GRITSEDREE SUERN**

9	1	6
12	8	10
3	11	4

Solution

Answer: Registered nurse

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

4		3	18
10			30
	1	9	16
20	20	24	

### NEW WORD

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### HISTORY

1827

The University of Toronto, now a public research university in Toronto, Ontario, is founded by a royal charter as King's College. It is the first institution of higher learning in Canada.

**How they say that in...**

**English:** Nurse  
**Spanish:** Enfermera  
**Italian:** Infermiera  
**French:** Infirmière  
**German:** Krankenschwester

**Did You Know?**

Nurses work in many different settings, including in hospital emergency rooms and in doctors' offices.

**Health FACT:**

This is one of the first medical professionals who assists patients.

# REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day in Canada, observed each year on November 11th, is a day of solemn reflection and respect, honouring the sacrifices made by the men and women who have served in the armed forces. It marks the anniversary of the armistice

that ended World War I in 1918. Canadians across the country pause at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month to observe two minutes of silence, commemorating the bravery of those who fought in WWI,

WWII, the Korean War, peacekeeping missions, and other conflicts. This moment of quiet reflection is a powerful reminder of the courage and selflessness displayed by those who have served and continue to serve in Canada's

military. Ceremonies are held in communities large and small, with gatherings at cenotaphs, war memorials, and legions. Many Canadians wear red poppies, a symbol of remembrance inspired by the famous poem \*In

Flanders Fields\* by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Schools, veterans' organizations, and community groups often organize events to educate younger generations about the importance of remembering the past and honouring

the contributions of veterans and service members. Remembrance Day not only serves to honour fallen soldiers but also emphasizes a commitment to peace, reminding Canadians of the profound cost of war and the value of freedom.



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**The Long Watch – Kieran Watson**

I have bled from Flanders to Panjwahi  
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I've defeated the evil of tyrants  
That had no reason or rhyme

I've marched to the call of colours  
I've marched to the sound of the guns  
Over the beaches and into the caves  
For the peace of our daughters and sons

I am no hero or statue or marker  
Yet I am more than flesh or bone  
I am every free breath a baby takes  
And every free thought you've known

So if you value your rights and freedoms  
If you hate evil's chains  
If you think the future is worth the cost  
And that life is worth the pain

Let justice be your lantern  
Liberty will be your guide  
It does not take a sword or gun  
To stand bravely by my side

I am a Canadian Soldier  
And I will stand on guard for you  
Until all things are set right again  
And my long nights watch is through

## Remembrance Day Services

- 10:20 Color Party Lineup at Gibbons Legion  
5027-50 Street
  - 10:30 March to Gibbons Cultural Centre  
5111-51 Street
  - 10:55 Service of Remembrance
- Gibbons Legion will be open following the service for refreshments and entertainment
- 2:00 Children under 18 must leave with guardian or parent
  - 2:30-8:00 Entertainment – Sean Gristwood
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Morinville - AB

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Morinville Community High School hosted the Canadian Student Leadership Association's (CSLA) Horizons Leadership Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 23, to encourage student leadership. The one-day event united student leaders and teacher advisors to develop leadership skills and promote collaboration among local schools. The session included two keynote speakers, The Keynote speakers are Ian Tyson and Larissa Franklin. Tyson was the first to take to the MCCC stage to speak to students. - Stephen Dafeo Photo

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### 2 BEDROOMS IN LEGAL WITH OVERSIZED DOUBLE GARAGE

This cheery two bedroom comes with a NEW DECK, large backyard and a double detached 24'x38' garage. Pass the low maintenance front yard to enter into the living room with a large picture window with the first bedroom off the living room - could be used as a lovely office as well. Through the living room is an open concept kitchen and dining room with a double sink and pantry. In the south side of the house is the primary bedroom, four piece bathroom, and laundry room by the back door with room for a deep freeze. Downstairs is a partial basement with cold room and crawlspace for utilities. The fenced backyard has a brand new deck, access to the garage, and a sizeable garden next to the garage - if that's not enough space, there's also a driveway next to the house for RV parking! Within walking distance of parks and shops, and with easy highway access to head into Morinville or Edmonton; this home is perfect for a couple just starting out or looking to downsize. **\$239,900. Call Glenn to view.**

### 79.5 ACRES OF LAND IN THORHILD COUNTY

Hay and bush land about 50 min north of Edmonton boundaries. About 50 acres has been in hay since 2008. Was previously grain land. It was aerated last fall and fertilized this spring. The 30 remaining acres is mature bush (some of it was logged about 5 or 6 years ago and is growing back nicely. Nice building sites with power along the north side and part of the west side. Mostly high rolling land with very little low land. Lots of moose and deer in the area. County bylaws should allow this land to be subdivided once more. Long term renter would be willing to keep renting the land. **\$225,000. Plus gst. Call Heather for more info.**

### STUNNING 10.72 ACRES NEAR WASKATENU

A gardeners delight with mature trees, flower beds, gazebo and garden area. Older home was added onto in 1996 and remodelled and features a mixture of old country charm and modern conveniences in this 1485 sq ft home. Some original doors and light fixtures, lots of modern white kitchen cabinets with granite countertops, gas fireplace, both main floor and bsmt laundry facilities, large back entrance and covered deck. Main floor has 2 bedrooms, 4 pce bath and large kitchen, dining room and living room. Bsmt has new flooring throughout the family room, bath (with corner jacuzzi tub) cold room and den. 32'x28' heated double garage was built in 2021 and is completely finished inside. Even has roughed in wiring for future electric car charger. 56'x20' metal clad cold storage shed and small barn. Completely fenced with new 5 strand barb wire fencing. Great opportunity for horses or hobby farm. About an hour from NE Edmonton, near Waskatenau. **\$550,000. Call Heather to view.**

**2 BEDROOM BUNGALOW IN LEGAL**  
**SOLD**  
**\$149,900**

### NEW LISTING MORINVILLE TOWNHOUSE WITH DOUBLE GARAGE

Welcome to this 3-story END UNIT townhouse! The ground floor features a spacious kitchen with a walk in pantry an island, perfect for entertaining, as well as a small dining area and living room. Across from the back door offering access to the backyard and garage is a two piece bathroom. The second floor has two cozy bedrooms, a versatile bonus room, and a four-piece bathroom. At the top floor of this home is the primary bedroom, featuring VAULTED CEILINGS and south facing dormer windows that fill the space with natural light. The ensuite four-piece bathroom includes a JACUZZI bath. The unfinished basement provides potential for customization to suit your needs. Outside, the backyard is great for gatherings or gardening, and the double detached garage with back lane access has room for vehicles or storage. **\$329,900. Call Glenn to view.**

### 3 BEDROOM HOME IN PIBROCH

Great starter or retirement home or rent it out. Has been rented in the past few years for \$950 per month plus utilities. Upgrades over the past years include metal roof, windows, and furnace. In the past 3 years the hot water tank has been replaced, bathroom renovated and new vinyl plank flooring was installed. Main floor features a large back entrance with laundry, good sized kitchen with plenty of wood cabinets, 4 pce bathroom, furnace room and huge living room. Upper floor has 3 bedrooms. Sits on a large 150x50' corner lot with plenty of room to add a garden or garage. Backs onto a park with basketball court, ball diamond, fire pit area and kids playground. Pibroch has city water and community sewer and an active community hall. It's only minutes away from Westlock with all the amenities you will need including a hospital and indoor swimming pool. **\$82,400. Call Heather to view.**

### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN REDWATER

Tenant currently pays \$1250 a month including utilities and internet and TV. Good long term tenant would like to continue renting. Lot is zoned commercial. Quaint 400 sq foot house in downtown Redwater. Newer high efficiency furnace and windows. Single detached garage with back alley access. Buy as an investment or move into this tiny home for an affordable starter or retirement home **\$99,900. Call Janine to view.**

### NEW LISTING 2,78 ACRES NEAR BON ACCORD

2.78 acres of treed land on pavement 30 minutes north of Edmonton, in a beautiful setting close to Lily Lake. The property has two outbuildings - a 87x24 ft pole shed and a 30x12.5 ft storage shed. Close to power and gas, with the trees offering privacy from the road, this land is great for a new home or private storage. Easy access to Bon Accord and Gibbons for shopping and schools. **\$129,900. Call Glenn for more info.**

### HUNTER'S PARADISE IN THORHILD COUNTY

109 acres of native bush land at the end of a dead end road just over an hour north of Edmonton. Property has been used as cattle pasture many years ago. Great hunting opportunities as it backs onto Cache Lake and borders crown land. Lots of wildlife in the area. Build your off grid property or tie into the grid as power runs along the road in front. Live year round, use it as a weekend getaway, hunting property or add to your pasture land. Close to Long Lake Provincial Park where there is a golf course, ski hill and great beach and boating. **\$175,000. Call Heather to view.**

### FULL QUARTER IN THORHILD

Nice mixture of grass land and mature trees. Nice building sites in the trees with power running along the road south of this property. There was a gravel pit that has been mostly reclaimed. Nice hard pad still there which would be great for a shop and parking area. Some black dirt still piled up and a bit of gravel piled there. Seller is willing to spread this however buyer would like. Good 5 strand barbed wire fence and a dugout in the northeast corner so would make great pasture land. Only 2 miles south of pavement and close to Half Moon Lake. Build your house and have land to raise a few animals. Or use it for hunting, quadding and snowmobiling. **\$399,900. Call Heather for more info.**

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10018 - 100 Avenue, MORINVILLE  
Website: www.glennfisher.com Email: glenn@glennfisher.com

**IRP Approved Agent**

**GLENN FISHER:**  
780-913-2493  
**HEATHER MOELLER:**  
780-699-7914  
**TARA FISHER:**  
780-932-0196  
**JANINE PEQUIN:**  
780-349-0361