

## Town of Morinville and CUPE Local 2426 ratify new collective agreement

### Submitted release

The Town of Morinville and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 2426 have reached a new collective agreement.

The three-year contract is retroactive

to January 1, 2025, and will provide wage increases for all CUPE positions in the following amounts:

- 2025 – 3%
- 2026 – 3.5%
- 2027 – 3.5%

"Council is pleased that Administration and CUPE Local 2426

reached an agreement that balances the needs of our employees with the long-term sustainability of our community. The negotiation process was respectful, collaborative and

Continued on **page 4**



Pictured left to right: Dustin Haglund, Chief Shop Steward, CUPE Local 2426, Miriam Stuart, President of CUPE Local 2426, Mayor Simon Boersma, Town of Morinville, Travis Nosko, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Morinville.  
– Submitted Photo

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\*Some conditions may apply.



## Sturgeon County's Winterfest brings the community together for a day of fun and festivities

### By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon County's Winterfest at the Sturgeon Agriplex was a huge success, attracting a record-breaking crowd of eager attendees.

The event featured a variety of winter-themed activities, filling the air with excitement and festive cheer. It was a joyous occasion that created lasting memories for residents of all ages.

One of the main attractions was the scenic skating

trail, where families and friends glided through the beautiful winter landscape, taking in the fresh air

and stunning views. For nature enthusiasts, the Alberta

Continued on **page 3**



Sturgeon County Photo

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# The Loft: A lunch break hangout for high school students

By Haylee Winger

The Morinville Community Cultural Centre has become a popular destination for high school students in the area, offering a unique and inviting space for students to relax and unwind during their lunch breaks.

Known as the "Loft," this hangout spot has become a favorite among local grade 9 to 12 students, providing a refreshing change from the typical school cafeteria setting.

Designed with students in mind, the Loft is a comfortable and laid-back environment where students can gather, socialize, and enjoy their lunch.

One of the main attractions of the Loft is the free Wi-Fi, allowing students to stay connected, complete homework, or just

browse the internet during their break.

For those looking to take a break from studying, there's a pool table available for some friendly competition.

The spacious area also features comfy couches, perfect for relaxing or hanging out with friends while enjoying a snack or lunch.

The initiative, which runs on regular school days, has quickly gained popularity due to its accessible and welcoming atmosphere.

Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., the Loft is designed to offer students a break from the usual school routine and a chance to recharge before the next set of classes.

With its range of activities and relaxed vibe, it's become the go-to spot

for students looking for something different during their lunch hour.

The Morinville Community Cultural Centre aims to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for students, and the Loft is just one of the many ways the center is helping to create a stronger sense of community for local youth.

By offering a space for students to connect with one another outside the classroom, the Loft encourages social interaction and provides an alternative to the traditional school lunch break.

So, if you're a high school student looking for a place to kick back, enjoy some downtime, or meet up with friends, make sure to drop by the Loft.

Whether you're looking to play a quick



game of pool, catch up on schoolwork, or just relax on a comfy couch, the Loft at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre is the perfect place to make the most of your lunch hour.

## Sturgeon County Dust Suppression



Sturgeon County offers three options for dust suppression to help reduce dust created by vehicle traffic on gravel roads. See our website for details on select placement of recycled asphalt millings this year.



### Early bird deadline is April 16, 2025

TYPES OF DUST SUPPRESSION	OIL	MINERAL OIL *UPDATE*	CALCIUM
First 100m	\$4,165	\$1,097	\$405
Each Additional 10m	\$494	\$187.20	\$118

A late fee of \$100 is applied to orders received after April 16, 2025. No orders will be accepted after May 17, 2025.

Download application forms: [sturgeoncounty.ca/dust-suppression](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/dust-suppression)


**Questions?**  
Call: 780-939-8252 | Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303  
Email: [DustSuppression@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:DustSuppression@sturgeoncounty.ca)





# RCMP

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



### Morinville RCMP attend to scene of fatal motor vehicle collision

On February 25, at 12:15 p.m., Morinville RCMP and EMS responded to a head-on collision on Highway 37 near Range Road 240.

The two vehicles, a Ford Focus and a Chevy Silverado, came to rest in the south ditch of Highway 37.

The driver and sole occupant of the Ford Focus, a 17-year-old female resident of Sturgeon County, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The driver and passenger of the Chevy Silverado were not injured.

Morinville RCMP and the RCMP Collision Reconstructionist remained on scene for several hours. The circumstances of the collision remain under investigation.

RCMP have since cleared the scene, and normal traffic flow has resumed.

The RCMP extended their condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

## Notice of Application

### Confined Feeding Operation

Amin Valji has filed Application BA25008 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an approval to expand and change the livestock category at an existing confined feeding operation (CFO) located on the SW 12-55-27 W4M in Sturgeon County, Alberta. The application is to change the livestock category from 1,000 beef finishers to 220,000 poultry layers and 125,000 poultry pullets, and to construct barns and manure pads. This will bring the total permitted livestock at this CFO to 220,000 poultry layers and 125,000 poultry pullets.

#### Filing a Response

Any person who is directly affected by the application may submit a written response to the NRCB. The response must be received by the NRCB on or before **4:30 pm on April 9, 2025**. Submissions should be made to the NRCB address provided below. All attachments sent electronically must be in pdf format. A copy of the responses will be sent to the applicant for comment. Responses regarding the application may be posted on the NRCB's public website, as they are public records and are non-confidential.

Your written response must include your name, the legal land description of your residence or landholdings, mailing address, phone number, and email. You must also explain how you are directly affected. For further information please refer to the fact sheet "The Permitting Process for Confined Feeding Operations in Alberta" at [www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca).

Failure to submit a written response affects your right to apply for an NRCB Board review.


#### Viewing the Application

A complete copy of the application and supporting documents submitted by the applicant under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* may be viewed on the NRCB website at [www.nrcb.ca](http://www.nrcb.ca) (under Confined Feeding Operations / Notice of Approval and Registration Applications). The application will also be available for in-person viewing at the Morinville office by appointment. If you require further information, please contact the approval officer listed below.

Nathan Shirley, Approval Officer  
201, 10008 – 107 St  
Morinville AB T8R 1L3  
[nathan.shirley@nrcb.ca](mailto:nathan.shirley@nrcb.ca)  
T 587-785-0407

The closing date for submissions:  
**4:30 pm on April 9, 2025**

Dated at Morinville AB, on March 5, 2025





Winterfest

Continued from page 1

Wildlife Workshop offered an educational and hands-on experience, giving participants the chance to learn about the province's diverse wildlife.

In addition to these activities, Winterfest featured a host of fun-filled experiences for everyone to

enjoy.

Residents indulged in maple syrup sticks, while children got creative with coloring and cookie decorating.

Outdoor activities like hayrides and pony rides added to the festive atmosphere, while the petting zoo allowed guests to interact with animals in a warm and friendly environment.

Smores snacks were a big hit, providing the perfect treat for those seeking comfort in the crisp winter air.

The day's record-breaking turnout was a testament to the community's strong sense of togetherness and the success of the event.

Families, friends, and neighbors came together to celebrate

the season and create lasting memories.

The presence of Elsa and Olaf, beloved characters from Frozen, added an extra layer of magic, delighting children and adults alike as they

posed for photos and greeted excited fans.

Winterfest was a true celebration of community spirit, showcasing the warmth and unity that makes Sturgeon County such a special

place. The event brought residents together to enjoy a day of fun and festivities, proving once again that when the community comes together, incredible moments are created.



Sturgeon County Photos



SUDOKU

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 6

2				9			1	7
6							9	
	7				4			3
		8						
	5				3		4	
			6				2	
							3	
7			2		9	8		
3						7		1

Level: Intermediate

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!

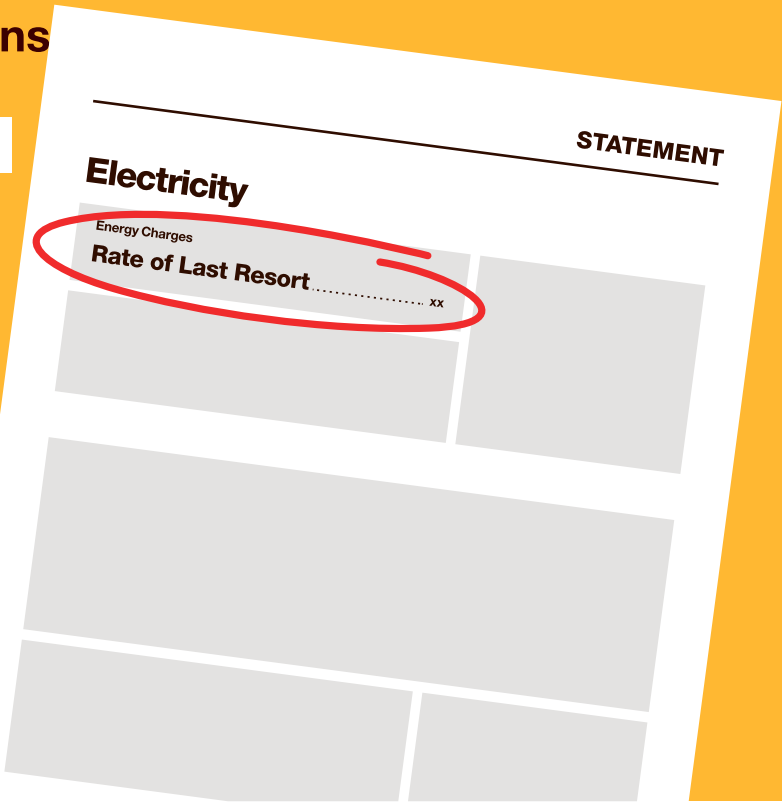
**Fun By The Numbers:** Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Alberta



Collective agreement  
Continued from page 1

conducted in good faith, demonstrating a shared commitment to fairness and stability. Our employees play a vital role in serving the community and delivering the essential services that residents rely on every day. We appreciate the dedication of all

involved in reaching this agreement and look forward to continuing our strong working relationship," says Mayor Simon Boersma. "As a labour union, we recognize the importance of collective bargaining and the role it plays in securing fair agreements. This deal ensures labour stability in uncertain times,

allowing our members to continue providing the essential public services that the Town relies on. We remain committed to advocating for the rights and interests of our members while maintaining a strong and cooperative relationship with the Town," said Miriam Stuart, President of CUPE Local 2426.

PET SITTER WORD SEARCH

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 7

C C L S E R D E Y O S L Y Y H L U V S P  
P L P S E Y S L M H S N A V L S W Y A I  
M P O S W R F R C L U U E S V I T O R O  
L M A L N O A S E Y T T L F R E M E B R  
L E A S H U T F E Y E H E K L L F A I U  
V M N F T E G Y L R B E G D K E A R F G  
D T T R P C U G I E D H P I R A C F P Y  
V S D S Y P Y N L I W O F E N F H N L G  
B D M Y M O A E N E U W N Y G R H M B U  
N P T V U R D G I O P C U H N U E H F C  
K U H U I G V I I U E E T S I I M V S E  
S I B A D D H E T S R S U H L B C V O W  
N S N R D E L N G C F U K L E L O D O G  
C H B L L D G C R C U K N L V V M N Y C  
H P K P S N I V O E A R R A A E P K C T  
T M E C O S L M U G T R T N R W A H F K  
H O F C K N M T S U R T E S T I N P F W  
D D M E D I C I N E R S I G N B I O D D  
H Y V S E C N R E M O H V S K I O C I T  
R S H R L C K O K R K M O L M B N T A C

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BOWL	DOG	LEASH	SNUGGLE
CARE	FAMILY	MEDICINE	TRAVELING
CAT	FEEDING	OVERNIGHT	TRUST
COMPANION	HELP	PETS	VETERINARIAN
	HOME	REFERENCES	WALKS
	INSTRUCT	SITTER	WELFARE

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For more information

Call: 780-939-8349

Email: agricultureservices@sturgeoncounty.ca

In the February 19 edition of The Free Press, an incorrect Rain Barrel advertisement was published due to an error on the newspaper's part. We sincerely apologize for this mistake and any inconvenience it may have caused.

CROSSWORDS

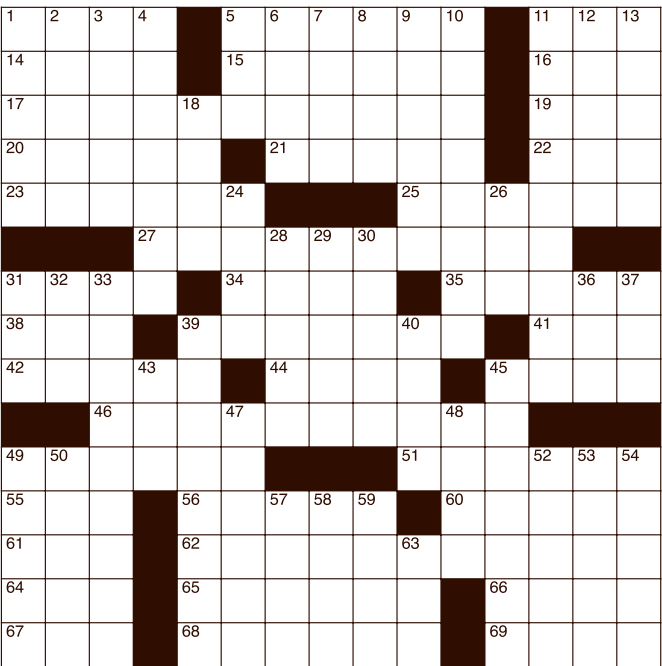
SEE SOLUTIONS  
PAGE 6

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut a little bit off 5. State with confidence 11. River in NE Scotland 14. Not narrow 15. Lacking social polish 16. Amount of time 17. Frame 19. Automobile 20. Toadstools 21. High school dances 22. Utilize 23. Challenged 25. One-sided 27. Showing extreme greed 31. Potted plants 34. Everyone has one 35. Lake in Botswana 38. E.T. rode in one 39. Juniors' parents 41. Small amount 42. Mother of Perseus 44. Ornamental box 45. Gov't investigators 46. Uncertain 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish 51. The vast grassy plains in S. America 55. Your consciousness of your own identity 56. Noted consumer advocate 60. Spanish sports club 61. Body part 62. Tractability 64. Woman (French) 65. Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed aside 2. Water sprite 3. Ones to look up to 4. Monetary units 5. A number everyone has 6. Marine invertebrate 7. One who takes you to court 8. Indicates outer



9. Parallelograms 10. Strains 11. Cross 12. A way to remove 13. Some pages are dog- 18. Ukraine city 24. A citizen of Denmark 26. Summer month (abbr.) 28. Hindu queens 29. Jewelry brand 30. Fictional rider of Rohan 31. Wet dirt 32. Russian city 33. Observed 36. Furious 37. Drivers' licenses 39. Musical composition 40. Auction 43. They 45. Women 47. Inspire with love 48. Japanese ankle sock 49. Appears 50. Old World lizard 52. The leading performer 53. Type of protein 54. Pennsylvania town 57. Art 58. Blyton, children's author 59. Abnormal breathing 63. A place to sleep 66. Muslim ruler title 67. Depressed 68. Gradually gave way 69. Clear-thinking



Ph: 780-572-5585, Email: morinvillemuseum@shaw.ca

The Morinville Historical and Cultural Society  
will hold their  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the  
**Musée Morinville Museum, 10010-101 Street**  
Refreshments will be served



\*NOW SERVING ALL OF STURGEON COUNTY\*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS**

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Gibbons Community Cultural Center,  
5115 - 51 Street, Gibbons, Alberta

**SPEAKER - S/SGT D.R. (DARCY) MCGUNIGAL**  
Detachment Commander, RCMP Morinville

Meet the **EXECUTIVES** and **DIRECTORS OF THE SRCWA**,  
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We are a Not-For-Profit volunteer organization and are looking for  
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OBJECTS of the ASSOCIATION

- To assist the law enforcement agencies in the execution of their duties.
- To improve community awareness with regard to crime prevention
- To promote crime prevention through the sharing of information regarding techniques, products and ideas.
- To interact with and to share information of other crime watch/prevention groups in the area
- To study problems of concern such as, but not limited to the prevention of crime, the investigation of incidents and the judicial system.

**"THE ONLY THING NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS FOR GOOD MEN TO DO NOTHING."** EDMOND BURKE

**CRIME PREVENTION**  
is EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



# Who's Who in Alberta

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The quality of your hearing affects every aspect of your life. The experience and qualifications of **St. Albert Hearing**, and their commitment to work with you, is what sets them apart. You can trust them to recommend the hearing solution that is best for you and is tailored to your needs.

**Klinton Pilling** is a Hearing Aid Practitioner BC-HIS with over 20 years of experience in the industry, he believes that there is nothing more rewarding than helping a patient achieve better hearing. **Klinton** is a registered member of the College of Hearing Aid Practitioners of Alberta (CHAPA), the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS) and the International Hearing Society (IHS). He is also a member of the Canadian Hearing Instrument Practitioners Society (CHIPS).

During the evaluation, **Klinton** will perform a variety of hearing tests, or audiometric tests to determine the degree and type of hearing loss you may have. After the evaluation, he will explain your results provide recommendations, and give you the opportunity to ask questions. **Klinton** uses the best practices when it comes to fitting hearing technology including real-ear measurements (REM) considered the gold standard in hearing aid fitting and verification.

**St. Albert Hearing** provides a range of services including diagnostic hearing tests, hearing aid fitting and adjustments, custom moulds, hearing aid cleaning, hearing aid repairs, cerumen (earwax) removal, and complete accessories. They also offer direct billing to WCB, DVA, AADL, NIHB and Alberta Blue Cross.

Contact them for a complimentary consultation and experience the difference at **St. Albert Hearing**. Visit their website [www.stalbertheating.com](http://www.stalbertheating.com) to learn more about their services, or to book an appointment online. Like them on Facebook.

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In a world filled with fast-paced technology and

ever-changing trends, bingo remains a timeless classic that continues to captivate and delight players of all ages.

Bingo is more than just a game; it's a timeless tradition that brings people together in pursuit of fun, excitement, and the chance to win big.

**Castledowns Bingo** offers an exhilarating gaming experience that combines the excitement of bingo with the camaraderie of community gatherings. Boasting modern facilities, friendly staff, helpful volunteers and a vibrant atmosphere, **Castledowns Bingo** has become a beloved destination for locals and visitors alike. They provide the perfect setting for an unforgettable bingo adventure.

The local charity groups associated with **Castledowns Bingo's** non-profit organization are grateful that you have chosen to play with them. All proceeds go directly to the Clubs and Organizations you're supporting.

General Manager **Brenda Pope** and her dedicated teams daily efforts contribute to making their facility an exciting destination for fun and entertainment year-round.

The facilities at **Castledowns Bingo** are first-rate. The experienced well-liked Callers ensure that playing the game is made easy and fun. A fine concession offers a variety of tasty food, refreshments, bingo supplies and lottery sales.

**Castledowns Bingo Association** is open 7 days a week, with 3 events daily. The doors open at 10:00 AM. Bingo Hours: Afternoon Bonanza pre-call 12:00 noon, regular games 12:40 PM Half time: 1:40pm. Evening pre-call 6:00 PM regular game 6:40pm, halftime 7:40 pm. Late Night Bonanza pre-call 9:45 pm, earlybirds/regular games 10:05 pm.

**Castledowns Bingo** offers awesome pots with numerous bingo game formats. Tuesday is half-price for all three events. Wednesday is player and Pal of the week! Month end special is the last Saturday of the month. Guaranteed \$500.00 Bonanza every Thursday evening. Join their loyalty rewards.

Visit their website [www.castledownsbingo.com](http://www.castledownsbingo.com) for upcoming events and daily specials. Download the Bingo App at [app.castledownsbingo.com](http://app.castledownsbingo.com). View real-time Pots, Callers, Programs, Specials, and Hall Info 24/7 from your mobile device.

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**Freshco Gateway Village** is a community-minded business guided by Franchise Owner/Operator **Cory Nastluk**. He is assisted by a helpful, friendly team in every department.

**FRESHCO** stores are designed to provide a fast and efficient shopping experience, with clearly marked discount sections, weekly flyer deals, and an easy-to-navigate layout. At **FRESHCO** their bright white and neon green colour scheme conveys their image of freshness without sacrificing great prices.

**FRESHCO** features fresh baked goods, vegetables, fruits, quality meats, specialty deli meats and cheese, seafood items as well as canned goods, frozen foods, pet food, snacks, beverages, household items, bottled water, and dairy products, fresh flowers and potted plants, garden seeds, plus time-saving hot in-store cooked chicken.

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**FRESHCO** provides an impressive Double Fresh Guarantee - if you're unsatisfied with your purchase, they will replace your item and refund your money. **FRESHCO** also offers a price-match guarantee and an in-stock guarantee, ensuring that you get the best deal possible.

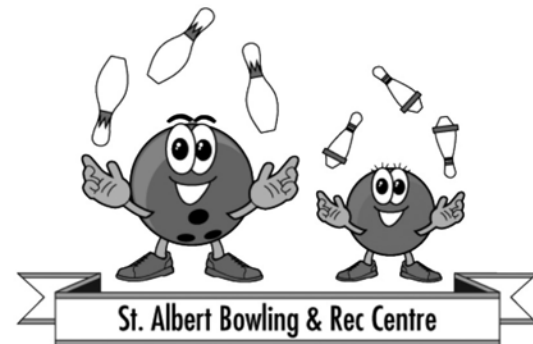
The **FRESHCO** Pharmacy provides your prescriptions, vaccinations, health and beauty products phone **780-460-9339**.

To learn more about **FRESHCO's** promotions and deals, you can visit their website [www.freshco.com](http://www.freshco.com) to view the flyer that is packed with savings. Download their mobile app for personalized offers and faster rewards.

Drop by **FRESHCO** and save money on your next grocery bill. Gift cards are available. They offer Scene+ exclusive member offers. Swipe your Scene+ card and Save. 1000 PTS = \$10 toward your groceries. Use the Scene+ app to rack up points.

**FRESHCO** is open 7 days a week 8:00 AM-10:00 PM. for your convenience.

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*Fun For The Entire Family!*

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**780-459-3337**

Bowling is more than just a game—it's an exciting social activity that brings people together for fun, competition, and laughter. Whether you're a casual player rolling a few frames with friends or a serious competitor striving for a perfect game, bowling offers entertainment for all ages and skill levels.

Bowling is a fantastic group activity. Whether you're celebrating a birthday, having a work outing, or just hanging out with friends, the game creates a lively atmosphere. **St. Albert Bowling & Rec Centre Inc.** offers Neon Bowling, featuring neon lights, music, and a party-like vibe.

Beyond being fun, bowling also has surprising health benefits. The game involves walking, lifting, and swinging, which can help improve coordination, balance, and muscle strength. It's a low-impact activity, making it an excellent choice for people of all fitness levels.

**St. Albert Bowling & Rec Centre Inc.** features modern five-pin and ten-pin lanes, automatic scoring systems, and comfortable seating areas. With leagues, tournaments, and open bowling sessions available throughout the week.

The modern bowl lanes are equipped with bumper rails to assist children 10 years of age or younger. They also offer 4 different packages to make any kid's birthday party a big success. Leagues for bowlers of all skill levels young, adult and Club 55 are available.

**St. Albert Bowling & Rec Centre Inc.'s** pub-style food menu offers tasty pizza, pretzels with cheese sauce, nacho platter, team platter, fries, wings, appetizers, and plenty of snacks. The licensed Strike Zone Lounge & restaurant offers a great beverage and food menu.

Their Games Room is one of the largest in Western Canada. It features exciting redemption games, cost is 1 or 2 tokens to play. Play each game to win tickets that can be redeemed at the prize counter.

The warmer months brings about outdoor fun on their 18 Hole Mini-Golf Course. Discounted rates are provided for you to enjoy both Mini-Golf and Bowling together.

Visit their website [www.stalbertbowling.com](http://www.stalbertbowling.com) to book your lane online, signup for their Newsletter or to learn more about this exceptional business. Like them on Facebook.

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When your Check Engine Light comes on visit **Morin Repairs NAPA AUTOPRO** as they have advanced diagnostic equipment to retrieve the fault codes from your vehicle's onboard computer via the OBDII port. They will analyze the findings and provide you with a game plan to get your vehicle back on the road.

Appointments are preferred, and emergency situations are addressed in a timely manner. Shuttle and loaner vehicles are available.

If you're having issues with your vehicle contact **Morin Repairs NAPA AUTOPRO** who come highly recommended. Visit them online at [www.morinrepairs.com](http://www.morinrepairs.com) to book your next service.



# Gibbons celebrates International Women’s Day with a special event

By Shelley Winger

On Sunday, March 9th, the Gibbons Cultural Centre will host a special event in honour of International Women’s Day. This celebration, running from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., aims to empower and inspire women through a variety of activities, including yoga, art, plant workshops, and

motivational talks on wellness and success. Organized by the Gibbons Family Resource Centre and MFC Creating Motion for Life, the event is open to women aged 18 and older. Participants can look forward to a morning filled with creativity, self-care, and personal growth opportunities. The cost to attend

is \$15 per person, with registration closing on March 1st. This year’s theme, “Empower, Create, Grow,” highlights the importance of women supporting each other in their personal and professional journeys. The event will offer a space for attendees to connect, learn new skills, and gain valuable insights from inspiring speakers.

As International Women’s Day continues to be a global movement for gender equality and empowerment, events like these provide a meaningful way for communities to come together in support of women’s achievements and well-being. For more information, visit the Gibbons Family Resource Centre.



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## PUBLIC HEARING – Bylaw 1669/24

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1669/24. This Bylaw would redistrict a portion of SE-34-56-26-4 from AG - Agriculture to AG 2 - Agriculture 2 District, which accommodates diversified agricultural development with increased traffic and visitors.

The proponent is seeking to operate an Event/Wedding Venue on the property. As this land is currently designated as AG - Agriculture, it does not allow for this type of activity. Redistricting is being proposed to accommodate or allow for the associated uses.

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-1669](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/hearing-1669)

### Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville) [sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings](http://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings)

### Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerk  
Planner, Current Planning  
780-939-1398  
[jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:jheemskerk@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 pre-register.

#### Speaking via videoconference

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you **must** register by March 10 at 1:00 p.m. **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.

#### 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](mailto:foip@sturgeoncounty.ca) or 780-939-4321.



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Can I count on the Canada Pension Plan when I retire?

(NC) The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) has been in place for almost six decades, but there's a persistent – and unfounded – concern among some Canadians that it will not be there for them when they retire.

According to a recent survey, almost 30 per cent of respondents fear CPP benefits will not be available to them in retirement and another 25 per cent are not sure.

The survey did not delve into the reasons why, but the concerns expressed by those surveyed could go back to the mid-1990s, when it was estimated that the Canada Pension Plan would not be able to cover benefits

by the mid-2010s; or, perhaps it's the influence of the United States, where social security is forecast to be insolvent by the mid-2030s.

CPP Fund's financial stability: The fact of the matter is, the fund is on a firm financial footing thanks to actions taken more than 25 years ago by the federal government and the provinces that participate in the pension plan. They raised contribution levels and created CPP Investments, a professional investment management organization that is overseen by an experienced board of directors and is accountable to Parliament and the federal and provincial

finance ministers.

CPP Investments manages excess funds that are not currently needed to pay pension benefits in the best interest of more than 22 million contributors and beneficiaries. As of September 30, 2024, the CPP Fund stands at \$675 billion. And it's worth noting that pension contributions that come off your pay can only be used to pay CPP benefits; and cannot be used by any governments for any other purpose.

Checks and balances for financial sustainability: There are strong checks and balances in place to ensure the financial sustainability of the system. Every six years, CPP Investments undergoes a

special examination of its systems and practices by an independent examiner. In addition, the Office of the Chief Actuary (OCA), an independent federal body, reviews the future costs and financial stability of the CPP every three

years. The OCA's most recent report reconfirmed that the Canada Pension Plan is financially sustainable under legislated contribution rates for at least the next 75 years – the longest period actuarial forecasts can look out.

These factors – a professional investment manager combined with strong oversight – means you can have confidence that your benefits will be there for you for as long as you live – for generations to come.

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