

## Sturgeon Public Schools Celebrates Design Funding for Morinville Public School Replacement

By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon Public Schools, along with Morinville-St. Albert MLA Dale Nally, came together on April 2 at Morinville Public School to celebrate the Government of Alberta's March 20 announcement of design funding for the replacement of the school.

The project will replace the existing building, which has been serving the community since 1958.

This funding is a critical milestone in the school division's

efforts to modernize educational infrastructure and accommodate long-term community growth.

The existing school, which serves students from Pre-Kinderergarten to Grade 4, has relied on modular classrooms for nearly half of its space, leading to operational inefficiencies and a fragmented layout.

These conditions have become increasingly problematic as the community grows.

Several issues have been identified with the current structure, including a

sunken gymnasium susceptible to water damage and mold, as well as second-floor washrooms that present accessibility challenges.

To alleviate these concerns, the new design will feature a purpose-built school located on the north-west side of the existing site.

The new school will also shift the grade configuration, expanding the range to K-6, which will help ease enrollment pressures by allowing Four Winds Public School to focus on Grades 7-9.

Tasha Oatway-McLay, Board Chair of Sturgeon Public Schools, expressed her gratitude for the government's support, emphasizing the importance of creating a modern and inclusive learning environment for students.

"The replacement of Morinville Public School will ensure



Group photo. - **Sturgeon Public Schools photo**

our students continue to learn in a high-quality environment that supports their academic and personal growth," she said.

"We look forward to working closely with the province to bring this project to life and provide our students with the best possible learning opportunities."

Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the urgency

of building new schools to meet the growing needs of the community.

"There's no time to wait, we need to build schools now."

The replacement of Morinville Public is a much needed project for our community and will provide students with a world-class space for them to learn, grow and reach their full potential."

The new Morinville Public School will be designed to

accommodate up to 740 students.

Construction will occur while the existing school remains operational, ensuring minimal disruption for students and families during the transition.

This investment represents a significant commitment to the future of education in Morinville and the surrounding community, promising enhanced learning environments for generations to come.



Dale Nally with students. - **Sturgeon Public Schools photo**



Board Chair Tasha Oatway-McLay - **Sturgeon Public Schools photo**



Dale Nally - **Sturgeon Public Schools photo**



Superintendent Shawna Warren - **Sturgeon Public Schools photo**

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## Sturgeon County Council Recap: March 25

### Public Hearing – Bylaw 1662/24 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 1662/24 to amend the site grading regulations within the Land Use Bylaw. This would facilitate an effective and balanced approach to site grading across the County that considers site context and provincial jurisdiction. Council will consider the presentations made during the hearing and any written submissions registered and will make a decision at a future Council meeting.

### Consolidated Contract Award Report February 26 – March 17, 2025

Council received the Consolidated Contract Award Report February 26 – March 17, 2025 as information. This report outlines contracts worth more than \$500,000 issued by Sturgeon County.

### Bylaw 1670/24 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 1670/24. The bylaw amendment redistricted a portion of a 17.19-acre parcel from R4 – Hamlet Residential to DC24 – Direct Control District 24. The purpose of this application is to facilitate the relocation of a Recreational Vehicle Sale operation (All Sun's RV Ltd) to Rivière Qui Barre.

### Bylaw 1676/25 – Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Council gave the first reading of Bylaw 1676/25 to allow for a proposed Land Use Bylaw amendment to proceed to Public Hearing to receive feedback from affected parties.

Bison Low Carbon Ventures Inc. is proposing a carbon sequestration facility at their lease site located approximately one mile west of the Legal Crossroads Area Structure Plan by the Town of Legal, and a land use bylaw amendment is

necessary to allow for this development.

### Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee Recommendation – Reclamation

Council directed Administration to provide recommendations before summer 2025 on the potential reclamation of lands used for gravel operations for recreation purposes, as suggested within Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee correspondence. The Committee raised this matter with Council after industry partners expressed an interest in providing lands to the County.

### Options for Historic Resource Designation (Victoria Trail and Bridge)

Council directed Administration to implement a heritage marker for the Victoria Trail, in addition to the development of a Municipal Historic Area Designation Bylaw for intact portions of Victoria Trail for Council's future consideration.

Victoria Trail, also

sometimes known as the Carlton Trail or Fort Garry (Winnipeg) Trail, is often referred to as “the first highway” in western Canada for its role as an early and primary overland travel route for exploration, mission, and settlement in the Canadian West.

### 2025 Assessment and Financial Update

Council directed Administration to prepare the 2025 Taxation Rates Bylaw to reflect a municipal tax rate reduction from 1.66% to 0% by using additional tax revenue anticipated from the annual assessment declaration in 2025, and by replacing new 2025 debt with \$5.0 million from the Municipal Tax Stabilization Reserve (to be repaid by the 2024 operating surplus).

Despite Council's efforts to implement a tax reduction, residents will see increases on their annual property tax bill due to the rise in educational taxes that are collected by Sturgeon County

on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Sturgeon County has no control over education tax requisition required by the province each year.

Council also received a financial update in support of its decision making on the municipal tax rate for 2025.

### Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy Option

Council approved the distribution of the Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy revenue as follows: 50% General Revenue, 37.5% Recognized Community Associations, 12.5% CAP Levy Reserves and directed Administration to bring forward associated policy updates.

### Tobogganing Activities on Municipal Land

Council defeated a motion for Administration to complete a feasibility study to determine level of service options for tobogganing hills in Sturgeon County. A feasibility study would

have provided recommendations and evaluate the related organizational impacts on staffing and resources.

### Safe Communities Facilitator Permanent Position

Council approved the transition of its Safe Communities Facilitator position from a temporary (1.0 FTE) to a permanent (1.0 FTE) position, effective April 6, 2025. This position is responsible for identifying crime prevention and reduction strategies within Sturgeon County and building strong community relationships and programs to raise awareness and address community safety issues.

### Sturgeon Valley Core Area Structure Plan

Administration provided information to Council on possible amendment to the Sturgeon Valley Core Area Structure Plan to remove all lands identified as Valley

Continued on page 4



# Five ways to get the work-life balance you need

(NC) In this connected world, it's all too easy to let work obligations cut into your personal time.

While greater flexibility is crucial for many, it's important not to let the idea of 'working from anywhere' lead to 'always on the clock'. If you're looking to bring more balance back into your life, start with these five tips.

**Track your time.** The first step to reclaiming balance is to find out where the imbalance lies. Put some effort into tracking your time for a week or two and see where and how it is being used. Many companies have online time-tracking tools that you can trial for free. Do some research to find the one that works best for you. Take this information and see if you can lessen distractions throughout the work-day so that it doesn't start crossing-over into your evenings or weekends.

**Set boundaries.** Prioritize your schedule and communicate

your availability with colleagues and clients.

Being clear on your work hours and response times will help reduce the need to check on work after hours or on your time off. If there is a need to check in after-hours, set a specific hour to do so and time limit for your responses.

**Schedule breaks.** Add breaks to your daily calendar so that not only is your time blocked off, but you'll also get reminders that a break

Continued on **page 8**



## Haying Permits available for bidding.

Sturgeon County will accept bids for Haying Permits on Municipal Reserve (MR) Lands starting April 22, 2025.

Bids must be submitted by 12:00 (noon) MDT on May 26, 2025.

View property details, conditions and place a bid by scanning the QR code or by visiting:

[www.sturgeoncounty.ca/HayingPermit](http://www.sturgeoncounty.ca/HayingPermit)



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### SUDOKU

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**SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 8**

**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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Level: Intermediate





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CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool  
5. A way to preserve  
11. Gratitude  
14. Domestic sheep  
15. Simpler  
18. Cavities containing liquid  
19. Large fish-eating bird  
21. Ocular protection index  
23. Phil \_\_, former CIA  
24. Icelandic poems  
28. Pop  
29. Device  
30. Actor Rudd  
32. A pituitary

- hormone  
33. Focus on an object  
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)  
36. Young women's association  
39. Not shallow  
41. Doctor  
42. Furniture  
44. Hindu male religious teacher  
46. Highly spiced stew  
47. A way to communicate  
49. Almost last  
52. Astronomer Carl  
56. Small horses  
58. A slender tower with balconies

60. A disrespectful quality  
62. Fully shaded inner regions  
63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option  
2. Oil cartel  
3. Agile  
4. Greek goddess of discord  
5. Genetically distinct variety  
6. Indicates badly  
7. Popular Mr. T character  
8. Consumed  
9. Chinese dynasty

SEE SOLUTIONS PAGE 8

10. NFL great Randy  
12. Within  
13. Palm trees  
16. Fungal disease  
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants  
20. Affirmative! (slang)  
22. A passport is one  
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)  
26. Swiss river  
27. Deferential  
29. Where a bachelor lives  
31. Portable computer screen material  
34. A crying noise of a bird  
36. Sticky, amorphous substance  
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers  
38. Type of acid  
40. Partner to "Ma"  
43. 16 ounces  
45. The Bay State  
48. A well-defined track or path  
50. Substitution  
51. Defined period  
53. Group of toughs  
54. Region  
55. Famed Scottish Loch  
57. Blood relation  
58. Not around  
59. Recipe measurement  
61. Father to Junior



Cheerleaders from École Georges H. Primeau Middle School show off their stunts during a pep rally on March 20. - Photo by Ecole Georges H. Primeau Middle School

Sturgeon County Council Recap

Continued from page 2

Core Reserve north of Twp Rd 544A (excepting those lands that are currently subject to an Outline Plan application).

This amendment would allow the lands to retain their existing agricultural designation and assist in preserving the unique character of the Sturgeon Valley Core. No further action was taken by Council following administration's

presentation.

CLOSED SESSION - Contractual Matter

Council discussed a contractual matter in closed session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Council Correspondence

Council received a Letter from the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding Budget 2025 - Education Property Tax.

The letter informed the County that the Government of

Alberta is increasing the proportion of Alberta Education's operating budget covered by education property taxes to 31.6 per cent in 2025/2026 and 33 per cent in 2026/2027.

Sturgeon County collects educational property taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

CLOSED SESSION - Assessment Complaints Update

Council discussed an assessment complaint update in closed session.

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)

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To ensure safe railway operations, the annual vegetation management program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Alberta. A certified applicator (Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2025.

Visit [www.cn.ca/vegetation](https://www.cn.ca/vegetation) for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at [contact@cn.ca](mailto:contact@cn.ca) or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA





Saige, Jordan, and Phoenix smile together at the Junior Jamboree on February 23 at Four Winds. - Photo Four Winds



The Sturgeon County Country Living Expo, held on March 29 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre, offered a day full of excitement with a vibrant vendor market, engaging workshops, fun kids' activities, and insights from rural living experts. - Sturgeon County photos

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October 9, 1940 – April 2, 2025



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A celebration of life will be held April 16, 2025 at 11:00 am at North Pointe Community Church, 14025 - 167 ave NW, Edmonton.

Everyone is invited to stay for lunch and fellowship following the service. A private family interment to follow.

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ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

This week you are going to take action on a project that has been on your mind for awhile, Aries. Trust your instincts, but make sure you are not moving too fast.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

This week brings an opportunity for intellectual pursuits, Taurus. You might think to enroll in a higher education class or a take a course on a specific hobby that has been on your mind.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Partnerships are key right now, Gemini. You might want to pursue new professional relationships. Embrace your ability and willingness to adapt and facilitate change.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

You need to take care of your body and mind, Cancer. Now is as good a time as any to begin this pursuit. Even small adjustments can lead to long-term health benefits.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, this is your week to look into matters of self-expression and creativity. Pour your energy into anything that gets you excited. Your enthusiasm may draw others in as well.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, home life takes center stage this week, and you might feel a strong desire to nurture your space. Decluttering and organizing could bring more harmony to your home.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are able to express your thoughts with clarity and charm, which is why personal relationships often come easy to you. This week you may use this superpower to make friends.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You may soon find yourself reevaluating how you spend your money or what you value most in life, Scorpio. This is a good time to check financial goals and adjust them.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

There is a sense of fresh energy surrounding you this week, Sagittarius. If you have been putting off something, now is the time to take the leap.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, focus on rest and relaxation in the days ahead. You have been putting in a lot of work lately and now is a time to focus on your inner self and recharge.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Collaborations with others could prove fruitful this week, Aquarius. Don't hesitate to lean on your social network when you need to get something done.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

You might be presented with a way to take your professional life to the next level, Pisces. Strategize about how to move forward in this regard, and think through all decisions.

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kids' corner

How they say that in... English: Frog Spanish: Rana Italian: Rana French: Grenouille German: Frosch

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

MUJP ARWTE CKAOR SHIF

5 3 4 7 8 4 1 2 4 6 2

Answer: Frogs hop to it

NEW WORD LEAP jump or spring a long way

Animal FACT!

The bulging eyes of of these animals allow them to see in front, to the sides and partially behind them.

Answer: Frogs


Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Frog







# BUDGET 2026


## ONLINE SURVEY

### Sturgeon County residents - get ready to have your say!

Check your mailbox for instructions on how to complete your online survey.

### Shape the 2026 Budget and inform future strategic planning in the County.

SturgeonCounty.ca/BudgetSurvey2026



YOUR CAREER AD AT [WWW.MORINVILLEPRESS.COM](http://WWW.MORINVILLEPRESS.COM)

### The work-life balance

Continued from page 3

is needed. Whether it's a 15-minute stand up and stretch or an hour-long lunch with a walk and some fresh air, taking time away from your desk will increase your overall productivity, help with creativity and reduce levels of stress.

**Automate tasks.** With today's technology, automating tasks is a safe and reliable

time-saver. For those that run their own business, cloud-based accounting software, such as FreshBooks, can save you time by automating processes to create invoices, track expenses and calculate taxes, leaving more time to focus on the rest of the business.

**Set priorities.** Plan your day the night before and prioritize your tasks by their importance and urgency

(high, medium and low) along with how much effort will be involved to complete them. Once the priorities are set, block out time on your calendar for the high and medium ones and the lower priorities can be worked on in between.

Find time-tracking tools and learn more about how cloud-based accounting can help your work-life balance at [freshbooks.com](http://freshbooks.com).

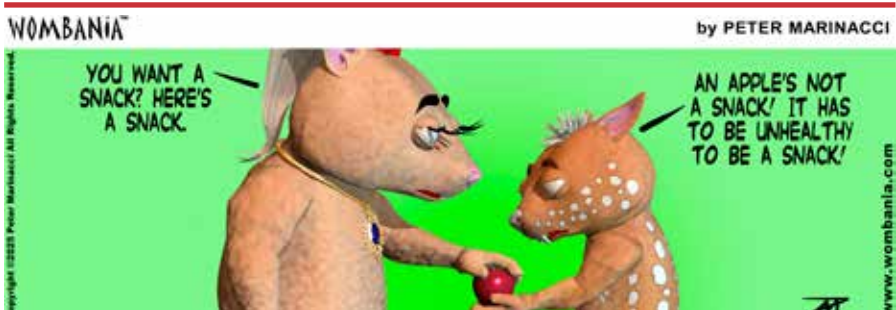
## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU

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

### CROSSWORDS

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





### NEW

#### 10 ACRES WITH HILLSIDE BUNGALOW NEAR SANDY LAKE

UPDATED KITCHEN with HARDWOOD FLOOR, SOFT CLOSE DRAWERS and KICK PLATE VACUUM, sunny living room with an attached deck offering a beautiful view of the countryside, upstairs are two bedrooms: one with a WALK IN CLOSET, as well as a handicap accessible 5pc bathroom! Downstairs the unfinished WALKOUT BASEMENT offers a cold room, front loading washer/dryer, and wood & gas heaters (two thermostats). Completing the home is a mud room and second deck on the back of the house. Outside you have TWO SHOPS - one 48'x30' with an air compressor & CAR LIFT and the other 28'x88'. The yard is a homesteader's paradise with many different fruit trees along with a CHICKEN HOUSE, FENCED DOG RUN and HORSE CORRAL set up. Numerous upgrades in recent years including; INSTANT HOT WATER, doors, windows, a newer roof, siding, ducts, and decks on the house and metal roofs on both shops. 30 MINUTES FROM ST ALBERT & STONY PLAIN. **\$529,900. Call Glenn to view.**



### GORGEOUS 5 BEDROOM 2 1/2 BATH HOME IN THORHILD

This spacious 1296 square foot home offers an open concept kitchen, living, and dining area and is ideal for family living and entertaining. Built in 1987, the home has received numerous upgrades over the years. The kitchen was redone in 2015 and features a large quartz island countertop and stainless steel appliances. Windows were updated in 2015, shingles replaced in 2021, and two new furnaces were installed in 2025. A no-maintenance deck with a pergola overlooks the large, fenced backyard, which also includes a 12x12 sunhouse - perfect for relaxing or hosting gatherings. The fully finished basement offers a spacious family room with a cozy woodstove and a wet bar. Additional highlights include central air conditioning, b/i vacuum and a single detached garage with covered carport. This well-maintained property combines modern upgrades with small-town comfort. **\$295,000. Call Janine to view.**



### GORGEOUS 70 ACRES

**SOLD**

**\$199,900**



### 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. **\$79,900. Call Heather to view.**



### 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.**



### 10 ACRES IN THORHILD COUNTY

This newly subdivided lot has all kinds of potential. It is on the SE corner of Range Road 225 and Township 614 and is only 2 miles south of paved highway 661. Great spot for a future hobby farm as it is currently mostly open pasture land. It's fenced on two sides and survey stakes mark the corners. Located in a fairly quiet, private area of Thorhild County, less than an hour to Edmonton. Lots of wildlife in the area. Great building spot, weekend getaway or set up a hunting camp. **\$129,900. Call Heather to view.**



### NEW

#### AFFORDABLE LIVING IN REDWATER

This charming 2+2 bedroom, 708 sq ft home offers a blend of comfort and modern upgrades. The upgraded kitchen features a countertop induction stove, built-in oven, dishwasher, and stainless steel appliances. Skylights brighten the upstairs bedrooms, with the master boasting a walk-in closet. The finished basement includes two additional bedrooms - one with a walk-in closet - a bathroom, laundry area, and a stand-up freezer. Upgrades over the years, include new shingles (2023), a high-efficiency furnace, hot water tank, and newer windows that fill both levels with natural light. Outdoor amenities feature a greenhouse and a garden ready for spring planting. **\$175,000. Call Janine to view.**



### NEWBROOK FARM

Enjoy privacy on this 160 acres at the end of a dead end road just a few minutes south of Newbrook. This cute 896 sq ft 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home was built in 1983 with 2"x6" walls and has been well kept. Upgrades over the years include flooring, kitchen cabinets, windows, ss appliances (stove and dishwasher new this year) shingles and bathroom renovations. Open living/kitchen concept, bay window and garden doors to a large covered deck add to this great home. There is a 32'x24' detached garage with addition on the back for more storage. Beautiful setting amongst large mature trees. The pasture land is all fenced and has dugouts for water and has been rented out for cattle pasture the last few years Perfect property for someone wanting a little privacy with lots of land for hunting or farming. Just about an hour to Edmonton. **\$459,900. Call Heather to view.**



### WEEKEND GETAWAY IN THORHILD

**SOLD**

**\$59,900**



## GLENN FISHER TEAM



### REAL ESTATE

Each office independently owned & operated. **IRP Approved Agent**

10018 - 100 Avenue, MORINVILLE  
Website: [www.glennfisher.com](http://www.glennfisher.com) Email: [glenn@glennfisher.com](mailto:glenn@glennfisher.com)

**GLENN FISHER:**  
780-913-2493

**HEATHER MOELLER:**  
780-699-7914

**TARA FISHER:**  
780-932-0196

**JANINE PEQUIN:**  
780-349-0361