



A sister publication to **The Review**, Redwater, Alberta

Morinville Council approves 2026-2028 Operating Budget and 2026-2035 Capital Plan

At its November 18, 2025, meeting, Morinville Council approved the 2026-2028 Operating Budget and the 2026-2035 Capital Budget, continuing Morinville's focus on strong financial planning, fiscal responsibility and long-term

sustainability. The approved budgets maintain current services at Council-directed levels, respond to growth and inflationary pressures, and increase investment in core municipal infrastructure, while keeping the 2026 municipal

tax increase to 2.48%. For the average residential property owner, this represents an estimated \$13.62 monthly increase on the municipal portion of the property tax levy. "This budget strikes a balance between being

financially responsible and making the kinds of investments residents expect from a growing community," said Mayor Simon Boersma.

"We are maintaining service levels, investing in core infrastructure and neighbourhood safety, and planning responsibly for Morinville's future."

The 2026 Operating Budget largely represents a continuation of current services, with a disciplined approach to spending and strategic investment in service delivery. Increases are primarily limited to:

- Needs-based

operating initiatives, totaling approximately \$508,285 to ensure existing services can continue at current levels, in areas where workloads, inflation or regulatory pressures have created gaps.

Continued on **page 3**



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Dog rescued after breaking through ice at Cardiff Park Pond

A dog named Leo was rescued recently after falling through thin ice on the pond at Cardiff Park.

According to Sturgeon County Protective Services, Leo had chased a goose onto the frozen surface when the ice gave way, leaving him unable to climb out.

Emergency crews

responded quickly and managed to reach the exhausted dog, bringing him safely back to shore.

Leo was soon reunited with his relieved owner and was noted by rescuers for remaining calm and cooperative throughout the incident.

Officials say the close call highlights

the dangers of frozen lakes and ponds as temperatures drop.

They urge residents to keep themselves and their pets away from ice-covered bodies of water, which can be unpredictable and hazardous.

Authorities continue to remind the public: stay safe, and stay off thin ice.



Sturgeon County photos

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Morinville launches next phase of social needs assessment, invites residents to help shape community solutions

By Haylee Winger

The Town of Morinville is moving into the next stage of its Social Needs Assessment, a wide-ranging initiative designed to better understand how residents are doing, identify the supports people rely on most, and pinpoint where new or strengthened services may be

needed.

The project aims to create a clearer picture of community well-being and guide future planning.

This phase builds on insight already gathered through interviews, focus groups, and community conversations held earlier this year.

With those initial themes in hand, the Town is now inviting

residents, local organizations, and community partners to help shape practical, forward-looking solutions.

The goal is to respond to emerging challenges in ways that support a more connected, inclusive, and resilient Morinville.

As part of that effort, the Town will host a **Community**

Dinner and Design Lab on **Thursday, December 4, 2025**, at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

• **5 p.m. - Community Dinner** (free; registration required)

• **6 p.m. - Design Lab** (open to everyone aged 8 and up; no registration needed unless attending the dinner).

During the Design

Lab, participants will review key findings gathered so far, take part in small-group discussions, and work through ideas for addressing community priorities.

Families are welcome, and children aged 8 or older may participate alongside their caregivers.

The evening is designed to encourage collaboration and spark practical solutions to the question: *“Here’s what we heard – now what?”*

Residents are also encouraged to share their experiences through the **Social Needs Assessment Survey**, which is open from **November 13 at 7 a.m. until**

December 12 at 11:59 p.m.

The anonymous survey helps validate earlier feedback and ensures the assessment reflects the lived experiences of people across Morinville.

The results will guide decisions related to social planning, funding, and supports that foster a community where everyone feels safe, connected, and supported.

Together, these engagement opportunities mark an important step toward understanding local needs and strengthening the services that help Morinville residents thrive.



◀◀ Last week, members of the Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce helped decorate Smile Cookies at Tim Hortons in support of the Morinville Food Bank. Each cookie sold contributes to feeding local families, adding a little extra sweetness – and impact – to the community.

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Rotary Club donates \$2,250 to support Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Leanne LaRocque, Chair of the Town of Morinville Library Board, and Danielle Frey, Director of the Morinville Community Library, accepted a \$2,250 cheque on behalf of the library from the Rotary Club of Morinville Sturgeon’s Community Service Committee

this week. Presenting the donation were committee members Simon Boersma, Craig Klettke, and Monty Johnson.

The contribution will support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, an early-literacy initiative that mails free, age-appropriate

books each month to children from birth to age five.

Rotary clubs frequently partner with local libraries and community organizations to help fund and administer the program, ensuring young families have access to books and the joy of early reading.



Lucie Roy Photo

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Morinville Sturgeon Men's Shed Club celebrates grand opening at Sturgeon Agriplex

By Haylee Winger

The Morinville Sturgeon Men's Shed Club (MSMSC) officially celebrated the grand opening of its new home on Nov. 15 at the Sturgeon Agriplex, located at 25021 Township Road 554 in Sturgeon County. More than 60 attendees joined the event, marking a major milestone for the growing community organization.

Greeters Bruce Ehrman and Bruce Davis welcomed guests and led tours through the newly constructed member-built workshop, showcasing completed projects and the club's spacious meeting area.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma, and Sturgeon Agriplex Society President Cody Johnston.

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony featured Building Committee Chair Bruce Davis, MSMSC Chairman Monty



Cliff Davis with some of the lighthouses. - Marie Roy Photo

Johnson, Mayor Hnatiw, and President Johnston. The program also included remarks from Mayor Boersma and a presentation of the book *Living and Aging Well* by author and LPN Kathleen Cesarin.

Chairman Monty Johnson served as emcee, delivering a message centered on "Celebrating Community, Connection and Craftsmanship." In his address, Johnson emphasized that a Men's Shed is more than a space for tinkering with tools - it is a place for sharing stories, building friendships,

contributing skills, and turning "me time" into "we time."

Johnson reflected on the club's beginnings in April 2024, when a small group of residents set out with determination and a shared vision. Early support from Kathleen Cesarin of Morinville FCSS and Elene Hartman of Sturgeon County FCSS helped the group gain momentum despite initially lacking a permanent home.

During that time, members contributed to several community projects, including constructing bottle bins for the Rotary



Men's Shed Club member Patric Rankin, Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma and Men's Shed members Darryl Brenneis, Alan Otway and Donald Bodinsky. - Lucie Roy Photo

Club of Morinville Sturgeon, birdhouses for the Namao Historical Society, and compost bins for the Morinville Community Gardens.

The club hosted its inaugural International Men's Day dinner last November and its second on November 17 of this year. A turning point came in December 2024 when Hartman identified the Sturgeon Agriplex as a possible permanent location. With Sturgeon County's support, the group secured funding and began building their own workshop, completing construction by July.

Heavy equipment was moved into the space this past October.

Johnson extended sincere thanks to the many volunteers and contributors who made the workshop a reality. He recognized all members of the club including Cecil Mackesey, the first Chairman and Chief Marketer, Secretary Brent Henry and Treasurer Don Bodinsky.

Additional appreciation was given to those who completed finishing touches, including taping, mudding, painting, and administrative support. Johnson noted that a sponsor recognition board

will be created in the new year to honour all supporters.

The MSMSC will meet from 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 1, Jan. 5 and 19, and Feb. 2, 2026.

The Morinville Sturgeon Men's Shed Club is one of more than 30 Men's Sheds operating across Alberta. The Alberta Men's Sheds Association (AMSA), established in 2022, supports the expanding network. New openings this year include Jasper, Peace River, Innisfail, Grande Prairie, and now Morinville Sturgeon.

Men's Sheds provide safe and welcoming spaces for men to gather, talk, share coffee, learn new skills, and work on meaningful projects.

Activities range widely - from woodworking and furniture repair to cooking, crafting, metalwork, sketching, and more - driven entirely by the interests of local members.

For more information, contact the Alberta Men's Sheds Association or the Morinville Sturgeon Men's Shed Club at mwj54@telus.net.

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Morinville RCMP Weekly Round-Up

Morinville RCMP members responded to several calls for service throughout the week (November 10 to November 16, 2025):

- Morinville RCMP members responded to 181 calls for service this past week.

- Morinville RCMP members have attended multiple Remembrance Day on November 11th throughout the communities.

- Morinville RCMP members responded to a call to a local school for acts of vandalism where five windows and one door were smashed out.

- Morinville RCMP investigated the break and enter at a local business. There was a theft of a pick-up truck, a white 2004 Ford F350, and a 2003 VW Jetta, silver in color AB licence plate CBV 3570 that were stolen from the area of Morinville, AB. The identity of the suspects remains unknown, and the truck has not

been recovered as of yet.

- Morinville RCMP recovered six stolen vehicles in the course of the week.

- Morinville RCMP members conducted traffic stops resulting in four impaired drivers arrested and charged, one uninsured driver arrested and charged, two drivers with warrants.

- Morinville RCMP remains committed to ensuring the safety of our communities through proactive patrols and enforcement.

Do not attempt to interrupt a crime in progress or approach any suspicious person(s) or vehicle(s). Call 911 for any activity in progress and mention the call is in response to a RAVE alert. For events that are not in progress, call 1-833-547-RAVE. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com.

Morinville Council

Continued from page 1

- **Value-added operating initiatives**, targeted enhancements that support quality of life and community priorities, including:

- State of Morinville event - increase of \$5,000 to help share progress and future directions with the community.

- Morinville Leisure Centre (MLC) hours of operation - revised hours to remain open to 10 p.m., improving access for families, workers and user groups while resulting in a net decrease of \$25,300 to the operating budget.

- Festival Days Pedestrian Parade - increase of \$9,600 to support a safer, pedestrian

focused community celebration.

The 2026-2035 Capital Budget continues Morinville's shift toward proactive, long-range capital planning.

The approved plan:

- **Increases investment in infrastructure renewal**, helping manage the risk and cost of aging roads, utilities and facilities.

- **Includes two major growth-related projects** to support recent residential and commercial expansion.

- **Helps improve Morinville's performance** on provincial municipal indicators by investing in the condition and capacity of core assets.

"At its core, this budget is about doing three key things well," said CAO Michelle Hay.

"First, it protects

the services people rely on every day - roads, snow and ice control, utilities, recreation, enforcement, and community programs. Second, it invests where service levels were at or beyond capacity, in a few targeted areas where we simply could not sustain the current workload without compromising quality. And third, it keeps Morinville on a steady, responsible path: not expanding unnecessarily, not cutting irresponsibly, but making measured adjustments that support Council's long-term priorities."

Highlights from the 2026-2028 Operating Budget and 2026-2035 Capital Budget will be shared on morinville.ca/budget and through Morinville's digital channels as projects move ahead.



Vendors display handmade goods and holiday creations during the Morinville Farmers' Market's first Christmas Market & Craft Fair, held Nov. 16 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. - **Morinville Farmers' Market photos**



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Not slowing yet: Housing starts pick up momentum in October

Siddhartha Bhattacharya
ATB ECONOMICS

Alberta's new home construction activity appears to be accelerating again after a relatively slow third quarter. While one data point doesn't define a trend, the recent numbers suggest a pick-up in momentum.

In October, Alberta recorded an average* of 58,072 housing starts**, an increase from the 54,652 units seen in September. Starts were up 7.6% from last October and towered 71% above the 10-year average for the month.

Housing activity in Alberta has been strong since mid-2023, largely fueled by substantial population growth. Activity reached an all-time high of 69,000 units in May of this year before moderating, averaging 50,934 units in Q3, which coincided with a slowdown in population growth.

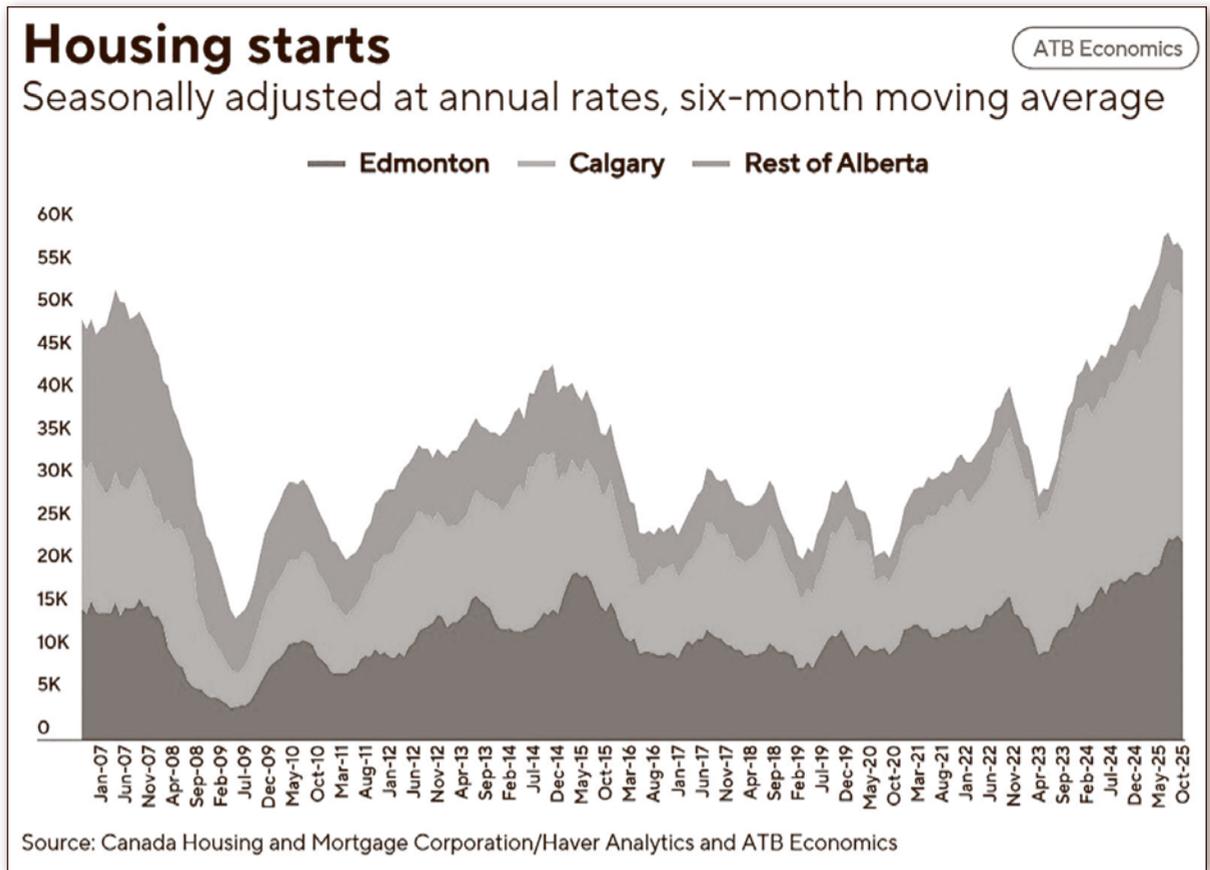
However, the more recent September and October numbers indicate a renewed

surge.

The average for the first 10 months of 2025 now stands at 56,389 units, a 20% increase year-to-date (YTD) and the highest average on record for this period. Multi-unit starts remain the primary driver of this year's growth, with a YTD increase of 28%. Single-unit construction is also up, albeit by a more modest pace of 5%.

Calgary drove the majority of the October pick-up, though Edmonton's activity has tempered slightly from its earlier multi-year highs. Nonetheless, both cities maintain a pace of construction above their 2024 levels and 10-year averages. For regions outside of Calgary and Edmonton, although monthly data is limited, starts are collectively up 15% YTD, with notable increases in Grande Prairie and Medicine Hat.

Beyond Alberta, national housing starts are showing some signs of recovery after annual declines



consistently since 2022. YTD starts for other provinces have ticked up 1.3% from the first ten months of 2024, although October starts remain about 10% below the 10-year average for the month.

Housing starts are a vital economic indicator (GDP driver), extending their impact beyond just homebuilding. For

example, the 33% surge in starts during 2024 contributed to a 13% increase in residential construction spending, accounting for about a quarter of Alberta's real GDP growth last year.

Alberta is on track for a record-breaking 2025 for housing starts, projected to exceed 55,000 units and surpass the peaks of past housing

booms experienced in 1978, 2006/07, 2014, and 2024. We expect the pace of home construction to slow next year but still remain above the 10-year average, as builders catch-up to historic population growth and as migrant inflows ease.

*Seasonally adjusted annual rate
**A housing start is

defined as the beginning of construction work on the building where the dwelling unit will be located. This can be described in two ways: 1) The stage when the concrete has been poured for the whole of the footing around the structure. 2) An equivalent stage where a basement will not be part of the structure.



Sturgeon Hockey Club proudly presented the Brenda Stewart Memorial "Family Spirit" Award to the Duquette family, honouring their unwavering dedication to the club and community. Corey and his son accepted the award on behalf of the family, whose commitment truly reflects Brenda's legacy. - Sturgeon Hockey Club Photos



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Exploring Witches Inn Store: a community hub for modern Wicca

By Shelley Winger

Morinville's Witches Inn Store has become a go-to destination for those seeking authentic Wicca supplies and a deeper connection to earth-based practices.

Founded in 2020 by Melanie, the store was born out of a simple need: as a solitary practicing Wiccan, she found it challenging to source authentic items for rituals and daily practice. "Sometimes you can source or make the items you need, but not always," Melanie explains.

"I wanted to create a place where the community could reliably obtain what they need."

At the heart of the store is an impressive selection of herbs.

Melanie carries over 300 organic, ethically sourced, locally grown and foraged plants and flowers, traveling several times a year to gather them herself and supplementing with hard-to-find herbs from specialty

suppliers.

The store also offers a growing line of skin-care and soaps made from all-natural ingredients, handcrafted jewelry, spell and ritual kits, astrologically timed oils and incense, and 100% beeswax candles.

For those seeking guidance, experienced intuitive tarot and tea-leaf readers are available weekly.



Witches Inn Store also emphasizes education.

Classes focus on Wicca Foundations for beginners, though more experienced practitioners often attend to gain fresh perspectives.

Workshops provide hands-on experiences with tools used in daily practice, creating a fun and interactive environment for learning.

"Our instructors are elders and experienced practitioners," Melanie says. "We want everyone to have access to authentic teachings."

Melanie's journey into Wicca began in England, where she was raised by intuitive family members.

Her grandmother taught her to read cards at the age of eight, and as she grew, palm reading became one of her natural abilities. She practiced more seriously in her twenties and thirties, raising two children who grew up surrounded by Wiccan traditions and Sabbats. She emphasizes that sharing these traditions openly is vital to building a thriving, informed community today. For centuries, witches practiced in hidden covens, and misconceptions about witchcraft often stem from secrecy and misrepresentation.

"If we want a successful and healthy community, our traditions need to be taught



to everyone who wants to learn, not just within covens," Melanie says.

"Teaching openly helps dispel misunderstandings and ensures that practices are carried out responsibly. Many people are curious about our faith but aren't sure where to start, and education is the key to supporting them."

For anyone curious about exploring witchcraft, Melanie encourages an open mind and heart.

"Wicca describes

who we are, witchcraft is our practice, and Pagan refers to the community. Our faith is earth-based, so we often practice outside and work with energy, but at its core, it's not much different from other faiths - everyone has a belief, a higher power, and a place of worship."

Witches Inn Store is more than a shop - it's a hub for learning, connection, and discovery, welcoming anyone interested in exploring the path of modern Wicca.

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Sturgeon County takes home 2025 Planning Award for “Who Regulates What” interactive map

By Haylee Winger

Sturgeon County, working in collaboration with V3, has received a 2025 Planning Award from the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) for its innovative “Who Regulates What” Interactive Regulation Map.

The recognition highlights the County’s leadership in developing new tools that make planning information clearer, more accessible, and easier for residents to navigate.

The award-winning map is a first-of-its-kind resource that helps residents, businesses, and developers quickly identify which authority regulates a specific area.

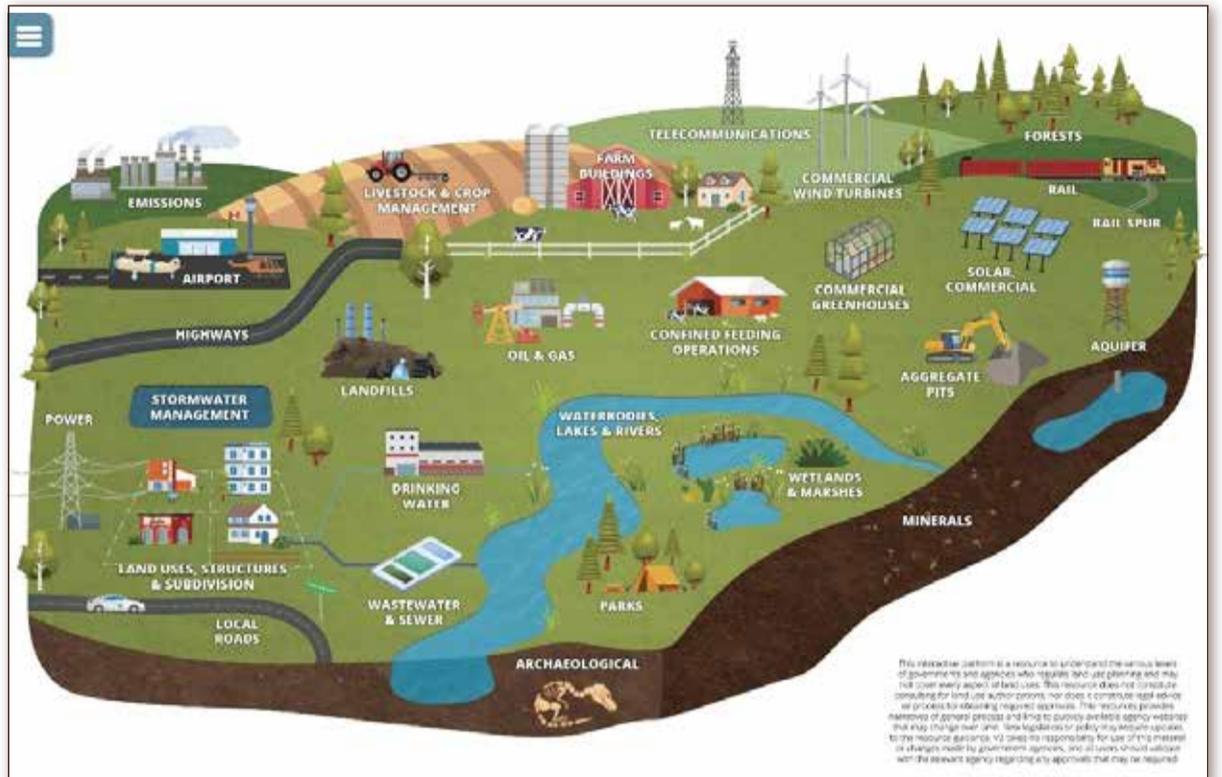
By presenting

regulatory information in a straightforward and visual way, the tool narrows the gap between policy and the people who rely on it.

“Who Regulates What” is designed for user-friendliness, allowing visitors to search by location or regulation type.

It also provides clear next steps for those planning new developments, expanding businesses, or simply looking to understand the rules that apply to their property.

Sturgeon County notes that the tool aligns with its broader commitment to improving transparency, supporting local growth, and streamlining the regulatory process for



A snapshot of Sturgeon County's award winning “Who Regulates What” Interactive Regulation Map, recognized by the Alberta Professional Planners Institute for its innovative approach to improving planning transparency.

the community. Residents can explore the “Who Regulates What” Interactive Regulation Map on the County’s website to see how the tool is making planning information more accessible and easier to understand.





CONTACT FOR:

- ADVERTISING
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- FLYER INSERTS

780-222-2016 or email morinvillepress@gmail.com



FAMILY HOME ON 3 ACRES IN WESTLOCK COUNTY

Great family home on gorgeous 3 acres a few minutes NW of Westlock, about a ½ hour to St Albert. Room for everyone in this 1770 sq ft 5 bdrm, 3 bath bungalow. Substantial upgrades over the past 20 years include siding, soffits, paint, HOT WATER ON DEMAND, high efficiency furnace, wood stove, and back deck. In 2018 CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING was added along with a GENSET SYSTEM which automatically turns on if the power goes out and powers the whole house. At that time new flooring and a maintenance free front deck were also added. Other features are IN FLOOR HEATING in basement, pantry, 3 pce ensuite with soaker tub, main floor laundry, main floor office, back up sump pump system. Heated garage built in 2016 has 2 floor drains and a handy back porch area for boots and coats. Main floor also has a large flex room and office space. Garden area and raised garden beds, storage sheds, mature trees and view from front deck of a small lake complete this great property. Even room for animals on this 3 acres. **\$499,900. Call Heather to view.**



COMMERCIAL LOT IN THORHILD

1.24 acres of open land ready to develop into your commercial endeavor. High level land on the outskirts of the Hamlet of Thorhild. Paved road in front, gravel road on one side. Utilities are nearby. Thorhild is a small hamlet with lots of potential for growth and new business. Located approximately an hour NE of Edmonton. **\$59,900. Call Heather for more info.**



OUR DREAM BUILD AWAITS!

1.52 Acres of sloped land in the Hillsborough subdivision! Great opportunity to build a beautiful walk out home, with mature trees at the back of the property offering privacy from the neighbors. ON PAVEMENT all the way to Hwy 28, 10 mins from Gibbons and 30 mins from Edmonton. **\$180,000. Call Glenn for more info.**



NEW NEUTRAL FARMS

74 Acres of land bordered by the Hamlet of Radway and Highway 28, less than an hour to Edmonton. Approx 25 acres of this land is high while the rest is wetland. May be able to have it rezoned to agricultural or country residential and use as pasture land or get a few acres of grain land with the possibility of building a house on the high land at south end. Creek runs through the property. Was pasture land at one time but old fence is in poor condition. Possibly use as a weekend getaway and go fishing at the Radway Fish Pond next door. Seller had trees cleared on some of it a few years ago but some have started to grow back. **\$120,000. Call Heather to view.**



80 ACRES OF GRAIN/BUSH LAND IN THORHILD

Perfect for farmers, hunters or build your dream home. Ideal location just a few minutes from Abee, about an hour north of Edmonton. 80.61 acres of partially treed land at the end of a dead end road just a couple miles off Highway 63. Great place for hunting with lots of moose and deer. Use it as a weekend getaway, build your future hobby farm or add to your current farming operations. About 25 or 30 acres are cultivated and has good crop land. Much of the rest of the land could be cleared for more crop land if wanted. Power runs on the road right past the property. Another 10 acres could likely be subdivided out of this parcel. **\$225,000. Call Heather for more information.**



AFFORDABLE FAMILY HOME IN REDWATER

Great opportunity to own this 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home with a double attached garage and just under 1500 sq ft of living space. The entire upper floor can be a spacious primary suite with 4 pce bath or fantastic play area for the kids-flexible to suit your lifestyle. The main floor features an open kitchen/living room, 2 bedrooms, 4 pce bath plus a handy space for home office right off the the living area. Step outside to enjoy the private, treed backyard with a deck and hottub-perfect for relaxing or entertaining. Upgrades include some windows, high efficient furnace and 2 jetted tubs. This home offers comfort, great value, and room for your family to grow, all in a quiet Redwater neighborhood, close to schools and parks. **\$249,900. Call Janine to view.**



TWO 3.09 ACRE PARCELS IN STURGEON COUNTY

2 great building sites in Pinewood Estates, less than 1/2 hour to Edmonton. The corner lot has trees planted all along the north and west boundary. The adjacent lot has planted trees along the north side and natural bush all along the east. Great opportunity for family or friends who want to build next door to each other. Or if you want a larger parcel buy them both. Listed at **\$84,900** for one and **\$94,900** for the other.



GLENN FISHER TEAM



REAL ESTATE

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