

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

## Morinville's Lite Up the Nite parade brings big crowds and holiday magic

By **Shelley Winger**

Morinville's annual Lite Up the Nite celebration once again proved to be one of the community's most cherished traditions, drawing

record crowds along 100 Avenue and filling the town with holiday spirit throughout the Nov. 28-30 weekend. Festivities began Friday with free hot chocolate served by

the Morinville Community Library and the Friends of the Morinville Library Society as families lined the streets early for the parade. The Musée Morinville Museum was

also open Friday and Saturday with an old-fashioned Christmas village display, Christmas artifacts, and free DIY ornament kits, all offered with free admission.

Later that evening, the Lite Up the Nite Dance Party welcomed a sold-out crowd of 415 guests, collecting 43 toys and raising more than \$600 for Ronald McDonald House Alberta with support from Presenting Sponsor McDonald's.

At 5:30 p.m., the Lite Up the Nite Parade travelled west along 100 Avenue with a total of forty entries, including groups from Gibbons, Bon Accord,

Sturgeon County, Redwater, and MP Michael Cooper.

Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma, Deputy Mayor Jenn Anheliger, and Councillors Maurice St. Denis, Jayson Wood, and Daryn Duliba took part, handing out candy to spectators. Honourary parade marshal 840 CFCW once again led the procession.

Floats were brightly lit and creative, including a first-time entry from Off the Mat Virtual Golf featuring a 6-foot inflatable Christmas golf cart, and an entry from the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation showcasing an inflatable house decorated for

the season with the message "until all homes are safe."

Many youth and sports groups joined in, including the Morinville Mavericks, Minor Soccer Association, B League Sports, Sturgeon Hockey Club, Rooke School of Karate, The Father's House School and Church, Movement Dance Studio,

Morinville Tiny Tots, Our House Child Care Centres, and MCHS. Larger entries came from Morinville OK Tire, Roadrunners Towing, Morin Auto Repair Autopro, Smokehouse Grills & Power Equipment, the Legion, Mission

Continued on **page 5**



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# Holiday spirit shines at Morinville Farmers' Market

The Morinville Community Cultural Centre was alive with holiday cheer on November 30th, as families and community members gathered to enjoy a full day of festivities. Attendees lined up for Santa photos, explored a wide array of unique vendors, and soaked in the lively atmosphere. With the centre bustling from corner to corner, the event provided a perfect opportunity for friends and neighbors to connect, celebrate the season, and support local artisans.



Morinville Farmers' Market photos

# RCMP

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## Morinville RCMP Weekly Round-Up

Morinville RCMP members responded to several calls for service throughout the week (November 24 to November 30, 2025):

- Morinville RCMP members responded to 155 calls for service this past week.
- Morinville RCMP members attended Coffee with a Cop in Villeneuve and Morinville
- Morinville RCMP members and Administration attended MCHS for a couple of friendly games of dodgeball with the local students.
- Morinville RCMP members recovered 4 stolen vehicles.
- Morinville RCMP members conducted traffic stops resulting in one impaired driver arrested and charged, one driver with suspended licence, one driver with no insurance or registration and multiple drivers exceeding the speed limits by 30-50KM/H
- Morinville RCMP responded to a Break and Enter in Sturgeon County. Suspect arrested and charged.
- Morinville RCMP responded to multiple calls of motor vehicle

collisions due to the heavy fog on Monday, including a fatal collision at the intersection of Highway 28 and Highway 642. A parked emergency vehicle conducting traffic control at the scene was then struck a short time later resulting in minor injuries. Officer was transported to hospital, later released.

• Morinville RCMP investigated a Robbery in Sturgeon County, suspect arrested and charged.

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](http://www.P3Tips.com).

## Alberta RCMP encourages safe driving this December

While December brings holiday celebrations for community members across the province, it's important to practice safe driving and to never drive impaired due to drugs or alcohol. We can all do our part to uphold traffic safety so that everyone can arrive home safely.

As part of the Canada Safety Council's National Safe Driving Week, the Alberta RCMP is also encouraging drivers to never drive distracted. This includes any activity that might impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely.

On December 6, the Alberta RCMP will be participating with other enforcement partners in National Impaired Driving Enforcement Day. Officers will be conducting traffic enforcement initiatives and check stops to remove impaired drivers from the roads.

Stay safe when driving by following the below reminders:

- Driving while impaired due to drugs or alcohol is never okay. Impaired driving is criminal and dangerous.
- Mandatory Alcohol Screening is used by the Alberta RCMP to deter and detect impaired

drivers. If you are pulled over or at a check stop, you can expect to provide a breath sample.

• Impaired driving is always preventable and can always be avoided. Call a taxi or rideshare service, use a designated driver or stay the night.

• Party hosts are still accountable. If your guests have been drinking or using drugs, ensure they have a safe place to stay or a sober ride home.

• Individuals with a Graduated Driver's Licence must abide by the zero-tolerance law.

• Call 911 immediately if you witness or suspect impaired driving.

"The Alberta RCMP will be busy this month with enforcement initiatives aimed at removing impaired drivers from the roads," says Sgt. Darrin Turnbull, Alberta RCMP Traffic. "Look out for one another. If you suspect an impaired driver, call 911 immediately. You never know whose life you could be saving."

For more traffic safety information, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and X @RCMPAlberta.

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# Budget 2026 invests in roads and community safety while keeping taxes low

**Sturgeon County press release**

Sturgeon County Council has approved Budget 2026, which supports resident priorities and Council’s strategic plan.

The budget focuses on maintaining competitive tax rates, delivering quality municipal infrastructure and services, and ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

**Municipal tax rate**

The approved budget includes an estimated increase in the County’s property tax rate of 0.73% for residential and farm properties, and a 3.57% increase for non-residential properties.

This means that for a residential property valued at \$500,000, the increase will be about **\$1 per month.**

For a business

valued at \$1,000,000, the increase will work out to about **\$33 per month.**

The differential increase to non-residential properties is directly proportionate to the risk associated with non-residential appeals.

The County’s non-residential tax rate remains highly competitive.

The 0.73% increase applied to residential properties is amongst the lowest increase for regional and provincial municipalities and reflects Council’s continued focus on low taxes and cost-effective service delivery.

Following a comprehensive organizational efficiency review, the County generated material savings that offered the potential to hold tax rates even lower; however, due to a significant assessment

appeal that threatens millions in the County’s revenue, these savings were prudently set aside as contingency funding.

“We’ve had an excellent track record of keeping taxes low in the County, and I’m pleased that this will continue particularly in the face of a significant assessment appeal,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

“This budget reflects prudent planning and financial sustainability measures, enhances services for residents, and delivers generational investments in roads and other infrastructure that residents expect and rely on.”

**Key investments**

The budget allocates funds for several key investments that will benefit residents across the County. This

includes:

**Economic growth and infrastructure**

- A \$16.6 million provincially funded process water intake project to unlock new growth in Sturgeon County’s Industrial Heartland.

- Major road and infrastructure improvements, including:

- \$6.5 million for paving Range Road 10 from Highway 37 to Pine Sands Subdivision and a \$4.7 million bridge replacement.

- \$3.4 million for the replacement of the Victoria Trail Bridge.

- \$3.1 million for road rehabilitation of Bristol Oakes and Lower Viscount Roads.

- Intersection upgrade for the intersection of Range Road 274 and Highway 633.

- Multiple other initiatives to maintain and improve infrastructure across Sturgeon County.

**Community safety**

- Enhanced emergency response capacity, to ensure the County remains a leader in attending to emergency situations.

- Planning and preparation for a new fire hall in the County, pending confirmation of location.

- Improved bylaw enforcement coverage, ensuring the County meets its legislative obligations in addition to resident expectations.

- Streamlined ‘one-window’ enforcement service delivery for residents, to improve response time and coordination.

“This budget balances affordability with the need

to invest in critical infrastructure and community safety,” said Mayor Alanna Hnatiw.

“Our Council is proud to support these important services, which will benefit both current and future generations of County residents.”

**Utility service fee increases to come**

In 2026, County residents will see an increase in utility fees due to increased costs from service providers such as EP-COR (water) and Arrow Utilities (wastewater treatment).

While the County’s portion of utility rates will see marginal change, there will be a 5% increase in EPCOR’s water costs, as well as a 34% increase in Arrow Utilities’ wastewater treatment costs.

Continued on page 6



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This 2008 built bi-level offers a beautiful open floor plan and is located at the end of a cul-de-sac in a family friendly hilltop neighborhood. The large kitchen has new quartz countertops, large pantry, tiled backsplash and plenty of cabinets and counterspace. The adjacent dining area is extra large. The kitchen and dining area are open to and overlook the huge 15'x12' living room. The primary bedroom offers a walk-in closet and has its own 3 piece ensuite. There is a full 4 piece bathroom and 2 more bedrooms on the main level as well. On the lower level, there is a massive 24'x12' partially finished family room, laundry/utility room, 2 framed future bedrooms, and a large closed-in storage area. All the flooring (except bathrooms) has been replaced with durable laminate flooring, no carpet at all, and the fridge, stove and dishwasher are only 1 year old. This home has a fenced back yard and a convenient 14'x12' covered back deck, accessible from the kitchen or back yard. There is back alley access, this home is close to the hospital and schools and Centennial Park. Great option if you're looking for a more affordable newer home.



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## Lite up the Night Festival kicks off with annual Breakfast with Santa

The 2025 Lite Up the Nite Christmas Festival began on Saturday with the much-loved Breakfast with Santa, hosted by the Lions Club of Morinville at the Rendez Vous Centre.

Families filled the hall for a warm and

festive start to the holiday season.

The by-donation breakfast featured pancakes, sausages, and plenty of Christmas cheer. Children enjoyed personal visits with Santa and one of his cheerful elves, along with a grab bag to take

home. Laughter, conversation, and holiday excitement filled the room as families made memories and captured photos with Santa throughout the morning.

The event once again proved to be a heartwarming kickoff to the community's seasonal celebrations.

Lucie Roy photos



**Lite Up the Nite**

*Continued from page 1*

Ridge Stables, the Morinville-Sturgeon Rotary Club, SCARS, Paradise Acres Ranch, GFL Environmental, Fog Distillery Co., Cote's Services, Comfort Construction, and other local businesses, along with town and Sturgeon County equipment. Santa and Mrs. Claus closed the parade to cheers from the crowd.

Families also enjoyed the Shoppers Glow & Go Station, where glow sticks and candy canes were handed out, and 96.3 The Breeze entertained attendees with holiday favourites before the lighting ceremony.

At 6 p.m., the

community gathered in front of St. Jean Baptiste Park for the official Lite Up the Park moment with the Mayor, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and representatives from Shoppers Drug Mart leading the countdown.

The park lit up with bright trees, festive pathways, and seasonal installations.

The evening concluded with a 7:30 p.m. high-level fireworks show at Notre Dame Park, visible across Morinville and enjoyed by residents from multiple viewing spots.

Saturday began with the annual Breakfast with Santa hosted by the Lions Club of Morinville at the Rendez-Vous Centre,

where families enjoyed pancakes, sausages, photos with Santa, and grab bags for children.

Activities continued at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre with the Festive Family Festival, presented by FortisAlberta, featuring cookie decorating, crafts, balloon art, face painting, live entertainment, and a full audience for the theatre performance "A Kidmas Carol."

Community generosity continued with donations collected for the Food Bank and Ronald McDonald House Alberta.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday with the Flowpoint Fun Skate at the Morinville Leisure

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With record turnout, glowing reviews

from attendees, and perfect pre-winter weather, the 2025 Lite Up the Nite celebration was a resounding success

and once again highlighted Morinville's strong community spirit as the unofficial start of the holiday season.



Mrs Claus and Santa, Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma and Councillor Daryn Duliba. - Photo by Lucie Roy



The RCL Br. 176 Morinville float in partnership with the Town of Morinville. - Photo by Lucie Roy

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Marvelous Mascots photo

# Bumper crop: Wheat, canola and barley production in Alberta

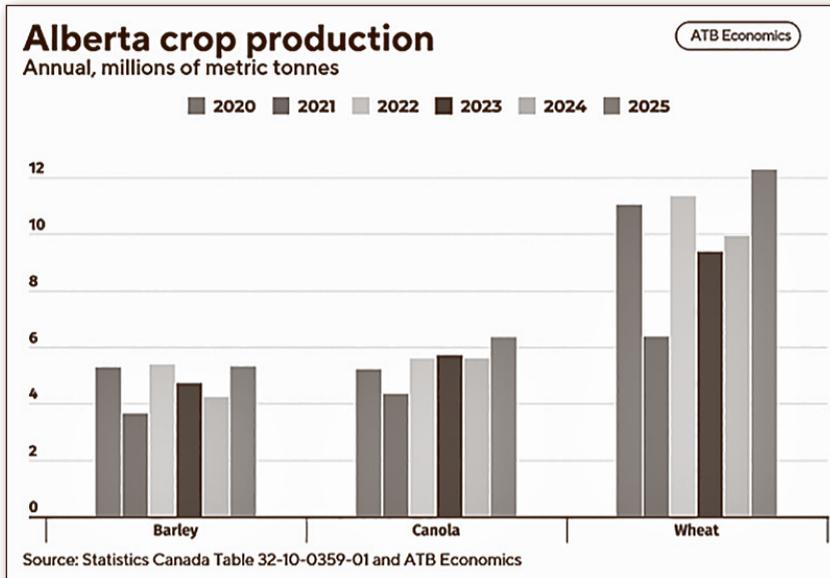
Rob Roach  
ATB ECONOMICS

From an output perspective, it was a good year for Alberta's three largest crops: wheat, canola and barley.

New numbers from Statistics Canada show that Alberta's wheat production in 2025 set an all-time record at 12.3 million metric tonnes, up by 28% over the five-year average (2020-2024).

Alberta farmers planted more wheat this year with the seeded area 6% higher than the five-year average. They also achieved the third-highest yield on record at 57 bushels per acre, up by 19% over the five-year average.

National wheat production also hit an all-time high with Alberta accounting



for 31% of the total. With global wheat production likely to set a record, Alberta's bumper crop comes at a time when global supply will also be riding high, pointing to softer prices going forward.

**Canola production** in Alberta didn't set a record, but was still very strong at 20% above the

five-year average. The rise in output came despite farmers planting less canola this year with the yield 22% above the five-year average and tying 2016 for the all-time high.

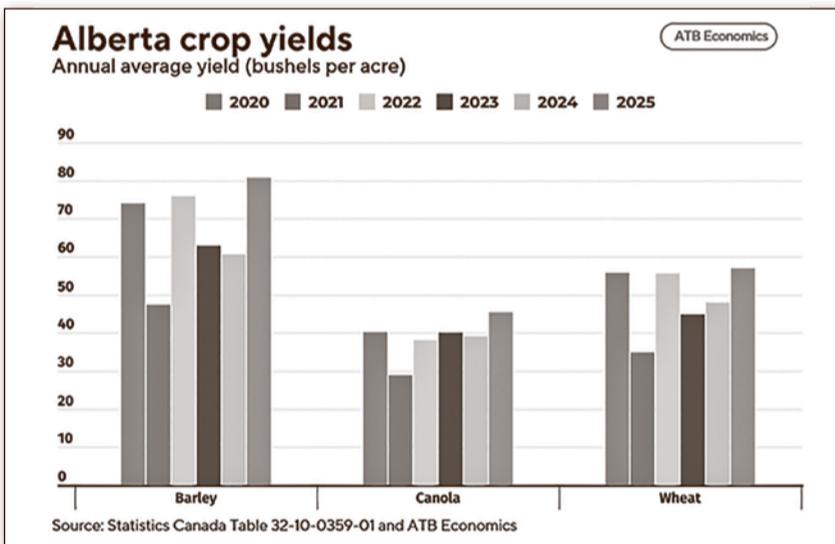
Alberta's canola producers are facing a 76% Chinese tariff on Canadian canola seed. Some of the damage from this trade barrier will be

offset by more canola processing capacity in Canada.

**Barley**, meanwhile, also had a strong year with production up by 14% over the five-year average and yield at an all-time high of 81 bushels per acre.

The large barley crop will benefit from robust Chinese demand for feed and ongoing demand for malting with the price outlook generally soft but stable.

\*The November Field Crop Survey provides the final production estimates for 2025, which are subject to revision for two years, based on results of supply and disposition exercises, which produce estimates of stocks of principal field crops.



## Budget 2026

Continued from page 3

For the average resident using these utility providers, this will translate into a monthly increase of about \$16 (based on 22 cubic

meters of water consumption).

Utility rates are set to be finalized on December 9.

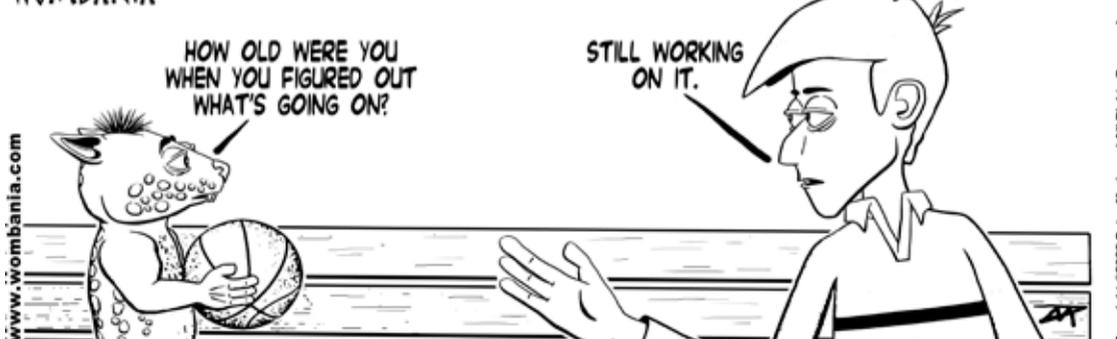
Additional information will be shared with rate-payers in upcoming utility bill mailouts.

## Education taxes

The County collects education taxes on behalf of the Government of Alberta. Those rates make up approximately 40% of the property taxes residents pay.

Education taxes are set by the Government of Alberta and collected on their behalf by municipalities. Final rates will be announced by the province closer to the 2026 provincial budget.

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# Alberta RCMP provides tips to secure property and help avoid mail theft

## RCMP release

The holidays are coming, and this means an influx of deliveries and mail to residents across the province. As a result, there are more occurrences of mail theft. The Alberta RCMP is urging residents to secure their mail and homes this holiday season. If ordering online or sending gifts through the mail, follow the below tips:

- Whenever possible, opt for a "signature required" delivery, or provide instructions for the delivery person to leave your items out of sight.
- Track your shipments to ensure you know when to expect your items. This way, you or a trusted neighbour can grab your items before someone else does.
- If possible, arrange for deliveries to be scheduled when

you're at home.

- Have packages shipped to a delivery service pickup location. This is a free service and a great option for large or valuable items.
- Installing a doorbell camera and motion sensor lights can be great deterrents for opportunistic thieves.
- Never send cash or other forms of payment through the mail.
- If you see suspicious activity at yours or someone else's mailbox, report it immediately to your local police.
- For those traveling this December, follow the below tips to help keep your mail and property safe:
  - Ensure there is no mail left on your doorstep or in your mailbox as this can indicate that you're not around.
  - Ask a neighbour to shovel and collect your mail while you're away

to give the impression that someone is present in the home.

- Ensure that all doors and windows are locked. Consider motion sensor lights for the exterior, and timers for indoor lighting.
- For more information on mail theft and keeping your property safe, follow us on Facebook (@RCMPinAlberta), X (@RCMPAlberta) and YouTube (RCMP-GRC Alberta).
- The Alberta RCMP encourages the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for, and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at [www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.



The Sturgeon Mustangs' SU601 team celebrates their hard-earned 4-3 victory over St. Albert in Edson this past weekend, coming from behind after the first period to capture the gold medal. The win highlights the team's determination, teamwork, and skill on the ice. - Sturgeon Hockey Club photo



Beginning January 1, 2026, the Morinville Leisure Centre will operate with consistent hours throughout the year, following a review of facility usage, community feedback, and regional benchmarks. The new schedule is Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday and statutory holidays (except Christmas Day), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The change is intended to provide residents with reliable access to support their fitness and wellness goals. - Town of Morinville photo

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### For Rent

FORT SASKATCHEWAN 1 bedroom 2nd floor condo available. 45 plus building. Fully furnished and outfitted. Laundry in the unit. Underground parking. No smoking, no pets. Perfect for an out of town worker looking for a home away from home when on shift. Easy access to Dow Chemical. Rent \$1550/month includes utilities, wifi and cable. Damage deposit \$1550. Available January 1, 2026. Contact Ashleigh 780-271-1985.

### For Sale

READY TO BURN FIREWOOD. Birch, spruce/pine and tamarack. We also have log truck loads of spruce/pine and birch. We can also deliver up to 5 cords of split dry wood with our big dump trailer. Delivery to your farm, residence, cottage or cabin. Red Baron Firewood. Call or text 780-849-1168. Email [red\\_baron\\_firewood@hotmail.com](mailto:red_baron_firewood@hotmail.com).

### Grazing Lease for Sale

SW 28-63-19-W4. Approx 3 Miles from Long Lake Provincial Park. Fenced dug out corrals and holding pens. \$25,000 OBO. 780-576-3333.

### Travel

EXTRAORDINARY VILLA IN OSOYOOS, BC, breathtaking lake views, just 3 minutes from town. Vacation in Canada's warmest destination. Or warmer weather, two luxurious 5-star resort units in Phoenix, Arizona. Doug 306-716-2671.



## Army Cadets team up for action-packed winter training weekend

Army Cadets from 3061 (1 CER) Morinville and 3069 (1 Fd Amb) Edmonton Garrison participated in a joint field training exercise on November 21 to 23, 2025.

The cadets had a fun-filled weekend where

they built on friendships as well as received lessons on topics such as leadership, teamwork, signs of and actions to take in the event of hypothermia, outdoor survival, lighting a fire, as well as tent and shelter building.



Submitted photos






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**SOLD**

### RIVIERE QUI BARRE FARM

Huge ranching opportunity of FOUR QUARTERS near St. Albert! 639.75 ACRES of a working regenerative farm, set up with a confined feeding operation and part of ALUS conservation with a transferable NRCB permit! The home quarter has an old house and barn as well as a shop, granaries, seven fenced feeding pens, sheds and two dugouts. There are three drilled wells total, the best well producing 30 GPM out of the Villeneuve aquifer. Cattle are on rotational grazing with electric fencing and part of the verified beef program. Land has been sustainably farmed, with flat land on the home quarters and gently rolling land on the northern quarters with a beautiful view. Close to Hwy 37 for easy access to St. Albert, Edmonton, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Westlock and near the hamlets of Calahoo and Riviere Qui Barre, this is a unique opportunity! **\$5,500,000. Call Glenn for more info.**



### 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.**



### YOUR 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.**



### 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.**



### VACANT LOT IN STURGEON COUNTY

This 3.09 acre lot in Pinewood Subdivision is just a few minutes north of Gibbons, less than a half hour to north Edmonton. This lot is mostly open grass land with 3 rows of trees planted all along the north and west sides. The trees have a great start and in a few years will give you lots of privacy on this lot. This is a quiet subdivision with many newer homes. There is a small community area with a playground, ball diamond, outdoor skating rink, fire pit and small clubhouse with gas bbq right in this subdivision. The adjoining 3 acre lot may also be available for sale. **\$89,900. Call Heather to view.**



## GLENN FISHER TEAM



**REAL ESTATE**

Each office independently owned & operated.

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