



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

Morinville's Brandon Hagel heads to the Olympics with Team Canada



By Shelley Winger

Morinville has reason to cheer as one of its own, Brandon Hagel, is set to make his Olympic debut with Team Canada at the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Hagel's rise from local rinks to the world stage is nothing short of remarkable.

Born in Saskatoon

but raised in Morinville, he made his international debut in 2021 at the IIHF World Championship – and won gold in his very first tournament with Canada.

He returned in 2024, scoring his first international goal in a preliminary-round win over Great Britain, and helped Canada capture the 2025 4 Nations Face-Off,

adding an assist to the team's championship effort.

A sixth-round pick in the 2016 NHL Draft by the Buffalo Sabres, Hagel eventually signed with the Chicago Blackhawks, making his NHL debut in March 2020.

Two years later, he was traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning, where he helped the team reach the Stanley Cup final.

In the 2024-25 season, Hagel set career highs with 90 points – 35 goals and 55 assists – and earned a

Second Team NHL All-Star selection.

Before turning pro, Hagel played junior hockey with the Red Deer Rebels in the WHL, where he set the team record for career assists.

He served as assistant captain for two seasons and was a WHL Second Team All-Star in 2019.

At one point, Hagel even considered stepping away from hockey to pursue college and a teaching career, but signing

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Brandon Hagel, a Morinville native, warms up with the Tampa Bay Lightning. Hagel will make his Olympic debut with Team Canada at the 2026 Winter Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo. – Jenn G / Wikimedia Commons photo

Morinville replaces pet licensing with mandatory identification tags

By Shelley Winger

Morinville has updated its approach to pet ownership, eliminating the requirement for annual municipal licences for cats and dogs and introducing mandatory visible identification tags instead.

The change follows amendments to the

Town's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, which were approved by council to streamline requirements for residents while maintaining community safety and responsible pet ownership standards.

Under the updated bylaw, all cats and dogs must wear a visible identification tag

whenever they are outside the owner's property.

The tag must clearly display the owner's current phone number and/or address.

Town officials say the new model prioritizes quick reunification of lost pets with their owners while reducing administrative burden

for residents.

Municipal cat and dog licence tags will no longer be available for purchase.

"Ensuring pets have clear, accurate identification helps us return them home and reduces stress for both the animal and the owner," said Sergeant William Norton, Supervisor

of Enforcement Services.

"These changes also allow us to focus more on safety, education and supporting pet owners in our community."

Although annual licensing is no longer required, the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw continues to outline

clear expectations for pet owners.

Dogs must be leashed when on public property unless they are in a designated off-leash area and are not permitted on playgrounds, splash parks or other posted locations.

Continued on page 8

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Notice of Application Confined Feeding Operation

Hutterian Brethren Church of Morinville has filed Application BA25015 with the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) to obtain an Approval to expand an existing confined feeding operation (CFO) on the E½ 30-56-26 W4M & SE 31-56-26 W4M in Sturgeon County, Alberta. The application is to increase poultry broilers from 12,000 to 240,000 and construct four poultry barns; decrease the permitted dairy cows (plus associated dries and replacements) from 90 milking cows to zero; and to decrease the swine farrow to finish numbers from 60 to zero. This will bring the total permitted livestock at this CFO to 1,285 beef finishers, 3,000 lamb feeders, 240,000 broilers, 500 turkeys, 1,500 ducks, 500 geese, and 19,989 chicken layers (plus associated 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 February 11, 2026**. 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.

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 (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
T 587-785-0407

The closing date for submissions:
4:30 pm on February 11, 2026

Dated at Morinville AB, on January 14, 2026

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PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1668/24 - CHADI PIT REDISTRICTING

Amendment to Land Use Bylaw 1385/17

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1668/24 (Chadi Pit Redistricting). This Bylaw would redistrict a portion of NW-17-54-26-4 (roughly 500m north of Villeneuve) from Agriculture and Direct Control District 1 to Resource Extraction Direct Control District 3.

Villeneuve Gravel JV Ltd. is seeking to develop a natural resource extraction operation. This land is currently designated for 'Agriculture' and 'Heavy Equipment Operator Business,' which does not allow this type of activity. Redistricting is being proposed to allow for the associated uses. This district allows Sturgeon County Council to establish site-specific criteria and regulations that the operator must follow.

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/public-hearing-bylaw-1668-24.

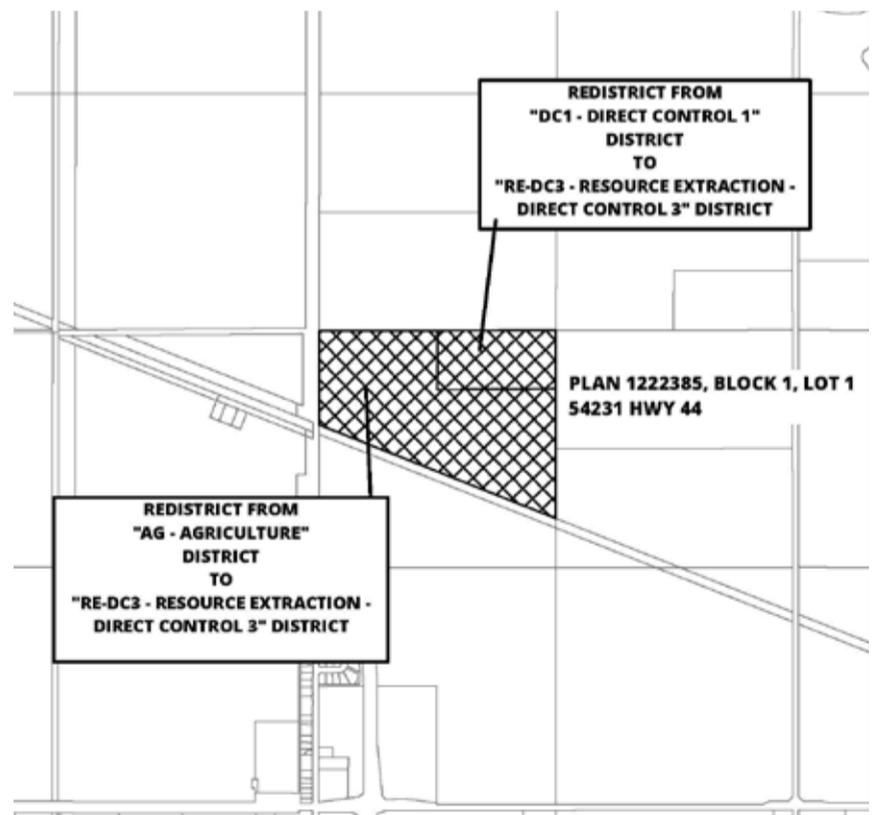
Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemsker, Planner, Current Planning
780-939-1398; jheemsker@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 **780-939-0620** to pre-register.

Speak via video conference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **January 26, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** by calling Legislative Services at **780-939-0620**. 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.

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 under section 4(c) of the Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). If you have any questions about the collection, use or disclosure of your personal information, please contact the Sturgeon County Access and Privacy Advisor at 780-939-1306 or accessandprivacy@sturgeoncounty.ca.



Public notification: Proposed Pembina Communication Tower near Morinville

By Haylee Winger

Pembina Pipeline Corporation (Pembina), a long-standing provider of pipeline transportation and midstream services

in North America, has announced plans to install a new communication tower at its Morinville II Mid-Point Pump Station facility. Pembina has operated within the energy sector

for more than 70 years and emphasizes safety, reliability, and responsible operations in the communities where it conducts business.

The proposed communication tower would be approximately 25 metres in height, with an additional allowance of up to three metres for the foundation and lightning protection.

The structure would be a self-supporting lattice tower located within the legally described lands of 16-02-56-25 W4M, inside the boundaries of Sturgeon County.

The tower is intended to support radio communications required for the

operation, monitoring, and remote control of Pembina's pipeline equipment in the area.

Pembina is committed to transparent communication and ensuring that landowners, residents, Indigenous communities, local authorities, Crown disposition holders, and other interested parties are informed about planned developments. Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposal and submit any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the project. The public notification package is available on Sturgeon County's website.

All feedback must be

received by January 22, 2026. The public information package, including contact details for Pembina's project representatives, is available on Sturgeon County's website.

For further details or clarification regarding the proposed communication tower, interested parties may contact Pembina Pipeline Corporation c/o Synergy Land Services Ltd., Attn: Tanya Elchuk, Sr. Land Analyst, Project Manager, Division Manager, Telecommunications, 124, 885 - 42 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2G 5N9. Pembina can also be reached at 403-283-4400 or directly at 403-930-3309.

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Alberta RCMP urge caution after rise in fatal winter crashes

By Haylee Winger

Alberta RCMP are advising motorists to take extra care on provincial highways following an increase in deadly collisions over the winter months.

Early figures indicate that 20 fatal crashes occurred across K Division in December, exceeding the

10-year average of 16.7. Police say winter driving conditions, including snow and icy roads, are believed to have played a role in many of these incidents.

The trend has continued into the start of the new year. In the first four days of January, four fatal collisions were reported in Alberta, resulting in four deaths.

Weather conditions are suspected to be a contributing factor in three of the crashes, although investigations are still underway.

RCMP remind drivers to reduce speed, increase following distance, and allow extra time to reach their destinations during winter travel.

Police also note that postponing travel until road conditions improve can help reduce the risk of serious collisions.

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1690/25 To close a portion of Township Road 555

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1690/25. This bylaw would close the portion of Township Road 555 between Highway 825 and Range Road 223.

The proposal would consolidate the western portion of the closed road with the adjacent south parcel. The remaining portions of the closed road would be consolidated with the quarter-sections they are located in (SE-33-55-22-W4 and NE-28-55-22-W4).

The eastern portion of the road allowance is undeveloped with no future plans for development. The developed (western) portion is a dead-end road used as driveway access for four adjacent land parcels. **The proposed road closure would transfer the ownership and maintenance of the road from the County to the private landowners.**

View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1690-25/

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St. in Morinville)

sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings



Questions? Contact us!

Kyle Schole, Senior Planner, Land Management; 780-939-1397, kschole@sturgeoncounty.ca

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Legal Public School Review

Community Conversation & Meal

We are reviewing the future of Legal Public School (LPS) beyond the 2025–2026 school year. This review does not mean a decision has been made to close the school. We are seeking public input to understand the community impacts of either closing the school or keeping it open past this school year. Public feedback, along with research and data review, will help inform the Board of Trustees' decision at the March Board Meeting.

Join Sturgeon Public Schools for a community meal and conversation about the future of **Legal Public School**.

This event is one of multiple opportunities for families and community members to ask questions, share concerns and provide input.

Event Details

- Dinner, childcare and counselling support will be provided.
- Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026
- Time: Dinner at 5:30 p.m. | Conversation begins at 6:00 p.m.
- Location: Chauvet Room, Legal Public School – 5109 46 St., Legal, AB
- Please RSVP by Thursday, January 15 using the QR Code below



Or visit:
www.sturgeon.ab.ca/division/lpsreview



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Brandon Hagel

Continued from page 1

with Chicago in 2018 kept him on the ice and on track to the NHL.

Off the ice, Hagel is a dedicated advocate for mental health awareness, actively participating in the NHL's Hockey Talks initiative after losing

three family members to suicide.

Hagel's roots in Morinville run deep. He grew up idolizing NHL superstar Alexander Ovechkin, decorating his bedroom with an Ovechkin theme. His father worked in roofing sales, his mother in insurance, and he has a brother, Tyler, and a sister, Chelsea.

The 2026 Winter Olympics open on February 6 and run through February 22.

Milan will host the Games for the first time, while Cortina d'Ampezzo returns after hosting the 1956 Winter Games.

Milan-Cortina won the Olympic bid in 2019, defeating a Swedish bid with 47

votes to 34.

For Morinville, Hagel's selection is more than a personal achievement - it's a hometown victory.

From local ice rinks to the Olympic stage, Brandon Hagel's journey shows that dedication, talent, and small-town roots can lead to the world's biggest arenas.



Member of Parliament Michael Cooper stands with parish and community representatives during the first Sunday Holy Mass at the rebuilt St. Jean Baptiste Parish in Morinville. - MP Michael Cooper photo

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Silver linings: A look into what's driving silver's outperformance

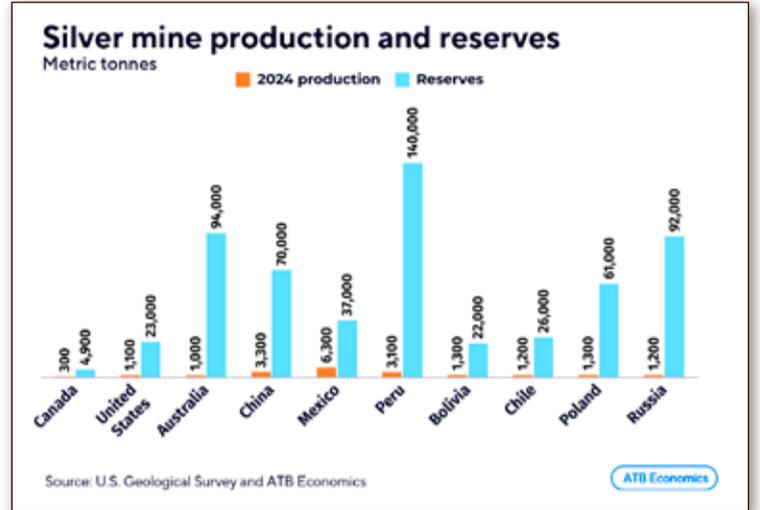
Carol Kamel,
ATB ECONOMICS

A few months back, I highlighted gold's ascent amid a year defined by volatility. I want to pivot to the asset that has arguably stolen the show. In this edition of the Twenty-Four, we examine what's behind silver's remarkable run.

Silver is often dismissed as the cheaper, more volatile relative of gold, but at US\$77 an ounce (as of this morning) and a record rally of ~140% in 2025, it demands more attention. Although down from its December high of US\$84, the precious metal has received a boost from the latest whirlwind of geopolitical events that have unfolded - most recently, the capture of Venezuelan President Maduro and Greenland annexation headlines. For context, an ounce of silver now costs more than a barrel of oil, a rarity we haven't seen since 1980.

A safe haven asset

Like gold, silver is a safe haven asset, meaning it tends to attract investors in times of uncertainty and concern surrounding fiscal sustainability. It also benefits from lower interest rates (which reduces the opportunity cost of holding



non-yielding assets) and a weaker U.S. dollar (silver is priced in U.S. dollars, a weaker greenback makes the metal cheaper for international buyers). Silver has also attracted investors who are increasingly reluctant to chase gold at its current record highs, leading to spillover demand into other precious metals.

A conductor - enabling electrification

But, perhaps most importantly, silver's price is also determined by what happens on factory floors where it is used to make a wide variety of products including circuit boards, solar panels and medical supplies.

As such, silver occupies a unique position in global markets, straddling the line between monetary assets

and industrial inputs. It is treated like a safe haven in periods of uncertainty, and it is simultaneously a critical physical resource for the modern economy. As the most conductive metal on Earth, silver is extensively utilized in electric vehicles, solar panels, and the infrastructure that underpins AI data centres.

A shortage of this critical metal

One of the main price drivers of silver is the narrative that there is a global shortage. According to the 2025 World Silver Survey, the market is now in its fifth consecutive year of structural supply deficits, with inventories at multi-decade lows. This imbalance is difficult to resolve, in large part

Continued on page 8

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Pet licensing

Continued from page 1

Excessive barking, howling or other noise that disturbs others is prohibited.

Dog owners are also required to pick up after their pets while in public spaces.

When walking a dog, owners must carry a bag or other item for cleaning up waste and may be asked by a peace officer to show it.

Disposal bags remain available along walking trails and in other locations throughout the community.

Cats are also subject

to regulations under the bylaw. When on public property, cats must be on a leash.

Cats found at large may be impounded by residents or peace officers, with fines and fees applying.

These measures are intended to reduce conflicts, protect wildlife and promote neighbourhood safety.

As part of responsible pet ownership, the Town strongly encourages residents to microchip their pets.

Microchipping provides a permanent form of identification that cannot fall off or be removed and can

assist in reuniting pets with their owners if a visible tag is missing.

The Town reminds residents that pets must wear an identification tag whenever they are outside the owner's property and that the information on the tag must be kept current.

Additional restrictions and responsibilities for pet owners are outlined in the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

More information about pet ownership requirements in Morinville can be found on the Town's website at morinville.ca/pets.

Silver linings

Continued from page 7

because more than 70% of silver mining supply is a result of byproduct mining, meaning it is extracted as a byproduct of mining other metals like copper, gold, zinc, and lead. Currently Peru leads the world in silver reserves, but Mexico leads in production with China coming in second.

A strategic asset

Concurrently,

governments are increasingly viewing key industrial metals through a strategic lens. Most recently, China, the world's second largest exporter of the metal, has tightened controls on silver exports in 2026, citing national security. This recent action draws comparisons to the country's earlier restrictions on rare earth minerals.

The bottom line

What sets silver apart in this

cycle is that its strength is not purely speculative.

It reflects a convergence of declining confidence in fiat currencies, structural supply constraints, and rising industrial demand.

As we move into 2026, silver will be worth watching not only for what it says about investor sentiment but also what it reveals about where strategic resource policy is headed next.

Legal Alfalfa Products Ltd



WE ARE HIRING

Equipment Operator & Labourer

To apply email marty@alfatec.ca or call/text Marty (780-905-6985)

Help us decide what police should focus on in your community!

Policing Priorities Virtual Town Hall

Monday, January 19
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Two ways to join:

- Online from home
- In person at a watch station

To learn more and register for the town hall, and to complete the Policing Priorities Survey, scan the QR code or visit SturgeonCounty.ca.




Public Information Session

Highway 2 and Cardiff Road Interchange Project

January 20, 2026 | 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Morinville Community Cultural Centre




Transport Canada / Transports Canada

PUBLIC NOTICE
INVITATION TO COMMENT ON
Sturgeon River Pedestrian Bridge

Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program administers the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

In accordance with requirements of the Canadian Navigable Waters Act, Stephen Hinton hereby gives notice that an application has been submitted to the Minister of Transport for the following works.

Common Project Registry Number	Navigation Protection Program File Number	Project Description <i>(Please describe the type of work, activity and status of work, for example: wharf, dam, etc.)</i>	Worksite location <i>(Please include the name of the waterway, geographic coordinates, lot # if applicable, etc.)</i>
13654	2025-615640	Bridge	Sturgeon River, 53° 41' 4.34" N, 113° 34' 15.78" W

How to send comments:

Comments about the potential effect of this work must be received within 30 days of this posting.

We invite you to submit comments online through the Common Project Search site at: Common Project Search (<https://common-project-search.canada.ca/>). To do so, enter the registry number indicated above in the search box, and follow the instructions. Alternatively, comments can be mailed or emailed to:

Navigation Protection Program – Transport Canada
344 Edmonton Street Winnipeg MB R3C 0P6
NPP File number: 2025-615640
TC.NPPNR-PPNRPN.TC@tc.gc.ca

Note:

- Comments will only be considered if they are in writing (electronic or mail) and received by the deadline. Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program may communicate with you to obtain additional information on your comments.
- Transport Canada does not publish comments submitted through the Common Project Search site or mailed to the Navigation Protection Program (see Common Project Search - Navigation Protection Program Registry). However, comments submitted online or by mail are considered public record. As such, they are subject to the Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act and are accessible through access to information and privacy (ATIP) requests. This means the information you provide should not contain confidential or sensitive information since it could be disclosed (see Make an access to information or personal information request).

Posted at Morinville/Redwater, Alberta on January 14, 2026.

