

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

Morinville-based Kadence Legacy Fund turns loss into hope through service dogs

By Shelley Winger

What began as one family's fight against childhood cancer has grown into a mission supporting veterans and first responders living with PTSD and operational stress injuries.

The Kadence Legacy Fund, founded in memory of Morinville teen Kadence Miller, provides professionally trained service dogs through its program One Dog, One Life.

The organization honours Kadence's life by transforming profound loss into hope for others facing trauma.

Kadence passed away on April 19, 2024, after a five-year battle with Stage 4 medulloepithelioma, a rare and aggressive cancer.

She was known for her resilience, humour, and compassion – qualities she carried through years of treatment.

"The moment came

when I realized the hope we had been holding onto was gone – and that hope had betrayed us," said her mother, Tina Gillies, a military veteran and founder of the Kadence Legacy Fund. "Cancer does that. You're told to stay positive and believe it will go away, and sometimes it doesn't."

During Kadence's illness, Gillies worked with Courageous

Continued on **page 2**



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Sadie the service dog was a constant companion for Kadence Miller through hospital visits and treatments, helping bring calm and hope. - Tina Gillies Photo

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Kadence Legacy Fund
Continued from page 1

Companions after a recommendation from fellow veteran John Dugas of Holdfast K9 to secure a service dog for both Kadence and herself as her caregiver.

The decision was made intentionally to support their mental health during treatment – and in case Kadence did not survive. That service dog was Sadie.

Sadie attended hospital visits, chemotherapy, radiation treatments, transfusions, and countless medical appointments. While pediatric oncology offered little mental-health support, Sadie became a constant presence, providing calm, structure, and comfort during the most difficult moments.

“Sadie was there for everything,” Gillies said. “When everything else felt fragile, she was constant. She

gave Kadence structure, purpose, and hope during a time when so much felt out of our control.”

After Kadence’s death, Sadie became essential to Gillies’ ability to function through grief.

The trauma of losing her daughter resurfaced PTSD from her military service in Afghanistan. Returning to training, therapy, and routine with Sadie became a lifeline.

“In my darkest moments, it was Sadie that pulled me back to hope when it was all lost,” she said. “One dog can save one life. Sadie is saving mine and my family.”

That experience led directly to the creation of the Kadence Legacy Fund and its core mission: One Dog, One Life. “It can support a veteran, their partner, and their children by restoring stability, routine, and hope,”

Gillies explained. “This mission exists so others do not have to fight alone.”

“I want the Morinville community and veterans to understand that this legacy is about prevention, dignity, and compassion,” she added. “It’s about turning pain into purpose and protecting lives before they reach a breaking point.”

The fund partners with Holdfast K9, an Alberta-certified, trauma-informed service dog training organization with extensive experience working with veterans and first responders. Dogs are placed at no cost to recipients.

The organization operates with a strong commitment to stewardship: 95 per cent of donations go directly to the One Dog, One Life program, while just five per cent covers administrative costs. Much of the

work is supported by dedicated veteran volunteers.

The Kadence Legacy Fund continues to build momentum locally in Morinville. While there is no confirmed launch date for upcoming initiatives, updates will be shared through the organization’s social

media channels.

One upcoming fundraiser is a comedy night on January 31, featuring Rob from the Pepper and Dylan Show. Organizers hope the event will bring people together through laughter while raising funds to support service dog placements. Tickets

are currently on sale.

“Kadence carried hope herself,” Gillies said. “Her life could not end in lost hope. This is how we carry it forward – one dog, one life at a time.”

For more information, to donate, or to apply for a service dog, visit kadancel-egacyfund.ca.

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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

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 p.m.** by contacting 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.



Sturgeon County launches 2026 Tree Program with wide variety of affordable seedlings

By Shelley Winger

Sturgeon County residents will once again have the opportunity to invest in their properties and the local environment this spring as the County's 2026 Tree Program opens for sales on Feb. 18.

The long-running program encourages residents to plant a diverse mix of native and climate-hardy trees and shrubs, an approach that

offers environmental, economic and practical benefits for both rural and urban landscapes.

County officials say increasing species diversity is key to creating healthier, more resilient tree cover, particularly as changing weather patterns place new stresses on local ecosystems.

Trees planted through the program play a critical role in improving air quality by filtering pollutants

and capturing carbon, while also helping to manage snow drift, reduce wind exposure and provide natural cooling during warmer months.

In rural areas, well-planned shelterbelts and windbreaks can protect crops, livestock and buildings from harsh weather, reduce soil erosion and help retain moisture in surrounding land.

In residential areas, additional tree cover

can lower household energy costs by providing shade in summer and buffering

cold winds in winter. Mature trees and shrubs also improve property value,

enhance curb appeal and create more

Continued on page 6



YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT STARTING THIS WEEK

Check your assessment when it arrives to make sure it's accurate. If you have any questions, contact an assessor using the online tool at SturgeonCounty.ca/Assessment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [STURGEONCOUNTY.CA/ASSESSMENT](https://SturgeonCounty.ca/Assessment)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

January 27, 2026 at 4 p.m.

Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 14/2025

Council Chambers, Morinville Civic Hall: 2nd floor, 10125 100 Avenue, Morinville



Town of Morinville Community Growth Concept

What is the Bylaw About?

A Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is like a roadmap for our community. The MDP builds on Morinville's vision for the future, setting out key policies and directions to guide how the community grows and evolves over time. This plan is a tool for the people of Morinville, Council, and Administration, so it was created from the ground-up with community-driven planning. By putting the community first, this plan affirms what the people who choose Morinville value and what they want for its future.

How Can I Participate?

Advance registration to speak in-person is encouraged but not required. Written submissions and registration to speak by video conference must be submitted by 4 p.m., January 26, 2026 to ensure you receive instructions to access the video conference; to do so, email legislativeofficer@morinville.ca. A copy of the report relating to the Bylaw can be found by visiting www.morinville.ca/councilcalendar and selecting the link to the August 26, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Need More Information?

Contact Planning and Economic Development at: 780-939-7635 or planning@morinville.ca.



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Notable activities from the month of December

Morinville RCMP responded to a high volume of collisions on highways around Sturgeon County during the month of December, including 22 collisions that resulted in injuries. On December 4, a police vehicle was struck while conducting a roadside traffic stop on Highway 2 north of St. Albert. The officer involved escaped with minor injuries.

On December 10, Morinville RCMP responded to a complaint on the Alexander First Nation of an assault and threats with a firearm. Police executed a search warrant at a residence and arrested a 22-year-old man from the Alexander First Nation who is charged with robbery and multiple weapons charges. Police also arrested a 40-year-old man from the Alexander First Nation, who is charged with robbery and assault.

On December 10, Morinville RCMP responded to a two-vehicle collision on Highway 642 on the Alexander First Nation. One of the vehicles involved in the collision was a pickup truck stolen from Athabasca County. The driver of the vehicle, a 34-year-old man from Smoky Lake, fled from

the scene but was arrested a short time later and charged with possessing stolen property, driving while prohibited, and leaving the scene of an accident.

On December 15, Morinville RCMP responded to a complaint of a break and enter in progress at an industrial outbuilding on Range Road 260 in Sturgeon County. Police attended and arrested two suspects who were in possession of a pickup truck stolen from Edmonton. A 39-year-old man from Stony Plain and a 37-year-old woman from Edmonton were arrested and face numerous charges including break and enter, theft, possession of stolen property, possession of break-in instruments, and several counts of failing to comply with previous conditions of release.

On December 18, Morinville RCMP responded to a complaint on the Alexander First Nation of a carjacking, with the driver being assaulted and forcibly removed from their vehicle. A 31-year-old man from the Alexander First Nation was arrested and charged with robbery and failing to comply with previous release conditions.



Sturgeon County is proud of its diverse and innovative agricultural sector! The Excellence in Agriculture Award is a way to recognize those who demonstrate excellence in what they do and help improve local communities, the economy, and the environment.

Past award recipients have been recognized for demonstrating excellence in a variety of ways, including: innovation and use of technology, engagement with youth and other community members, or protecting the environment through improved stewardship practices.

Who is eligible?

- Families and operators (individuals, community associations, groups and clubs) of farms of all sizes and types, such as grain, greenhouses and livestock producers.
- Businesses supporting the agricultural sector.
- Businesses that add value to agricultural commodities.
- Agri-tourism operators.

Applications and nominations can be submitted online by visiting

SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

The deadline for application submissions is Saturday, February 28, 2026.

For more information on submission requirements, eligibility, and award details visit: www.sturgeoncounty.ca/AgAwards. If you have questions or need help with your application, call 780-939-8349.



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.

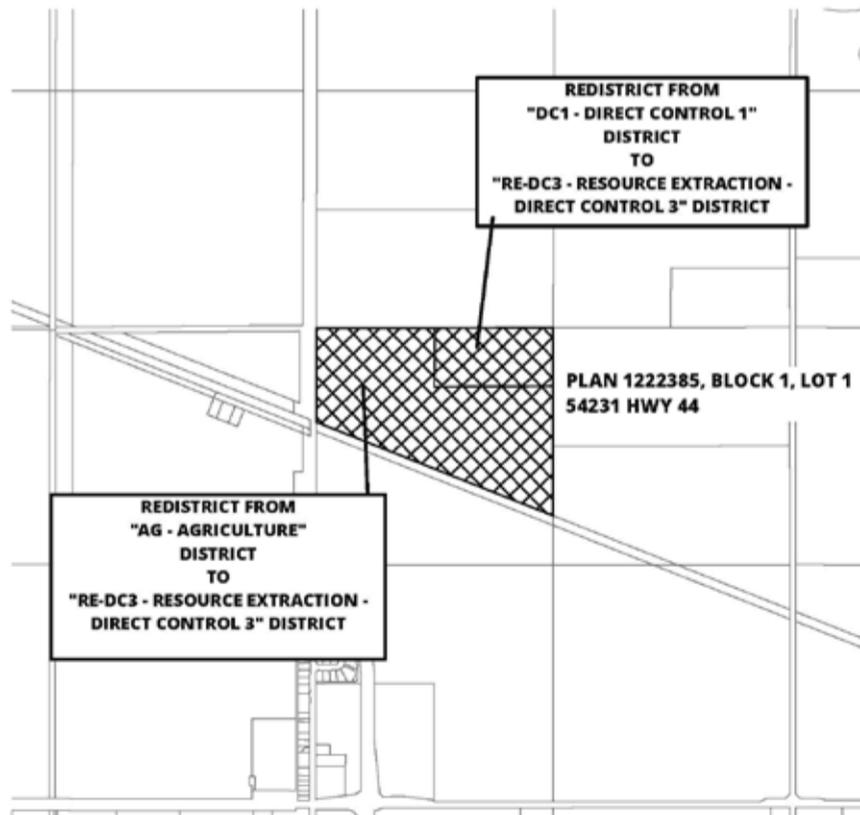
Each time land is redistricted, a bylaw is needed to amend the Land Use Bylaw, and a Public Hearing must be held. View the proposed bylaw at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1668-24.

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 Heemskerk, Planner, Current Planning
780-939-1398; jheemskerk@sturgeoncounty.ca



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- Zone 1: Abee / Newbrook / Thorhild (1 position)
- Zone 2: Bon Accord / Gibbons (1 position)
- Zone 4: Lac La Biche (1 position)

Nomination Deadline:
Friday, February 6, 2026

For zone details and nomination papers:
Call 780-398-2000 or Email contact@npprea.ca
www.npprea.ca



Morinville Youth Basketball players sharpen their skills! Coach Steele worked one-on-one with the girls on their shooting form last week, and they brought their A-game. – **Morinville Youth Basketball photo**



Sturgeon County's 100 Year Farm Family Award recognizes families who have lived and farmed in the County for 100 years or more.

If you meet the following criteria, your family may qualify for this award!

- Your family has owned the land for at least one hundred consecutive years, which can be demonstrated through documentation and records of ownership.
- You are a direct descendant of the homesteader.
- Your family is currently farming the land.
- You, or another direct descendant of the original homesteader, still reside on the parcel of land.

Applications can be submitted with ownership records and documentation via: SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

For more information or for alternate submission options visit SturgeonCounty.ca/AgAwards

If you have questions or require assistance with your application, call us at 780-939-8349.

**The deadline for application submissions is
Saturday, February 28, 2026.**

Thinking of planting a shelterbelt?

Sign up for Sturgeon County's

Shelterbelt Workshop

Date: January 22, 2026 from 5 PM - 7 PM

Location: Morinville Rendez-vous Centre

Cost: FREE!

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- Planting and establishing a shelterbelt
- Customizing a shelterbelt that works for you
- Problem solving

Sign-up online today

Eventbrite.ca, search *Shelterbelt*



2026 Tree Program

Continued from page 3

comfortable outdoor spaces for families to enjoy. Over time, these benefits can contribute to stronger, more attractive neighbourhoods across the county.

Planting trees and shrubs also supports local wildlife by creating habitat and food sources for birds, pollinators and small mammals. Species such as Saskatoon, dogwood and willow provide shelter and seasonal food while helping stabilize soil and manage runoff during periods of heavy rain. These natural systems can reduce strain on drainage infrastructure and improve overall land health.

Beyond environmental advantages, the Tree Program makes large-scale planting more accessible by offering seedlings at reduced prices. By purchasing in bundles, residents can establish new plantings or expand existing ones at a fraction of the typical retail cost, making it easier to plan long-term landscape improvements.

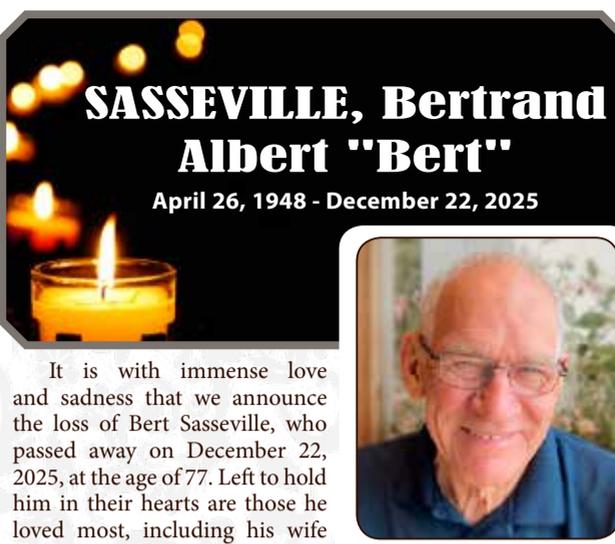
Seedlings for the 2026 program will go on sale at 9 a.m. on Feb. 18 through the Sturgeon Services online portal. Residents can log in, select from available varieties and complete payment online.

Purchased seedlings will be available for pickup on May 15 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Prices range from \$15 to \$20 per bundle, depending on species and bundle size. The 2026 selection includes deciduous trees such as white birch, trembling aspen, green ash, American elm, hybrid poplar, crabapple, plum and sour cherry. Coniferous options include spruce, pine, Douglas fir, tamarack and larch, while shrub varieties include Saskatoon, lilac, red osier dogwood, prickly rose and pussy willow.

Quantities are limited and will be sold while supplies last. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to order early, as popular varieties often sell out quickly.

Through initiatives like the Tree Program, Sturgeon County continues to promote long-term land stewardship, offering residents practical tools to improve their properties while contributing to healthier, more sustainable landscapes across the region.



SASSEVILLE, Bertrand
Albert "Bert"
April 26, 1948 - December 22, 2025

It is with immense love and sadness that we announce the loss of Bert Sasseville, who passed away on December 22, 2025, at the age of 77. Left to hold him in their hearts are those he loved most, including his wife of 17 years, Skye; children Leanne, Patrick, Ryan (Angelle), Dale, and Tamara; and grandchildren Elise, Nate, Hayden, Ellis, Harper, and Sloan. Bert was predeceased by his first wife, Marie (née Pelletier). Bert was born on April 26, 1948, to parents Thomas and Adelaide Sasseville, in McLennan, Alberta, and was the youngest of 14 children. From the very start, he seemed to be made of equal parts kindness, loyalty, and quiet strength. He was the kind of man who simply showed up for people – loving, giving, always willing to lend a hand or simply sit beside you when that was what you needed most. A bit quiet at first, he liked to take everything in, but once he felt comfortable, he had an easy warmth about him and a sense of humour that could surprise you in the best way. He loved his family deeply, and some of his happiest moments were spent reading to his grandchildren, laughing with them, and being their steady, gentle presence. Bert also had a playful side and loved to tease his wife, filling their days with laughter and lighthearted moments. He also made time for the things that brought him peace and joy – spending hours outdoors, fishing and boating, setting off in the RV, or simply wandering through nature, collecting little treasures. A devoted hockey fan with a sweet tooth and a fondness for birds, Bert found joy in life's simple treasures. Beyond his devotion to his family, Bert worked hard throughout his life, spending many years as a skilled bricklayer – building with his hands, shaping things with patience and precision, and taking pride in honest work well done. His work will remain a lasting legacy in the many buildings he contributed to throughout Alberta, including the clock tower in Morinville, where he lived for nearly 50 years and raised his children. He was steady, thoughtful, funny when you least expected it, and endlessly kind. To say he will be missed feels too small; Bert's presence will be cherished forever.

Bert will be laid to rest in late Spring in Morinville, AB. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, www.alzheimer.ca. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.springfieldfuneralhome.com.

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Sundara Dancers kick off the year with a colourful performance at Aspen House, Morinville, sharing the beauty of Indonesian traditions with the community. - Sundara Dancers of the Edmonton Indonesian Community Association photo



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PRODUCTION LABORER
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Interview to follow if qualifications are satisfactory.

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Morinville Community High School held its 2024/25 Achievement Awards Night on January 8 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre, presenting over \$29,000 in awards. Pictured are some of the Music Award recipients - Sebastian Spila, Jordan Klassen, Victoria Aksenova and Danica Elliott - one of many groups of students recognized. A heartfelt thank-you was extended to all sponsors for their generous support of MCHS. - Marie Roy photo



Winter conditions keep Morinville crews busy

By Haylee Winger

Changing winter temperatures continue to create challenging conditions across Morinville, keeping Town crews busy maintaining roads, sidewalks, and pathways.

Periods of mild weather followed by freezing temperatures have resulted in ongoing freeze-thaw cycles, increasing the likelihood of icy and slippery surfaces.

Municipal teams are actively monitoring conditions and

responding where needed, focusing on targeted ice control and localized treatments while continuing regular snow removal operations.

Residents are asked to assist by treating private sidewalks, driveways,

and walkways with sand or ice melt, and by keeping snow off roadways to prevent it from freezing into hazardous buildups. Extra care should be taken during early morning and evening hours when temperatures drop and surfaces can refreeze.

Pedestrians are encouraged to move carefully, use handrails when available, and wear proper winter footwear.

Drivers should remain alert, allow additional stopping

distance, and watch for black ice as winter conditions persist.



Town of Morinville photos

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NEW

MORINVILLE BUNGALOW WITH DOUBLE DETACHED GARAGE



ORIGINAL OWNER three bedroom two bathroom BUNGALOW showing true pride of ownership! On the main floor is an open living and dining room adjoining a large kitchen with an additional breakfast nook space. The primary bedroom has a two piece ensuite as well as a WALK IN CLOSET. Completing the main floor is a four piece bathroom and two additional bedrooms. Downstairs you have a party area with a built in bar and a gaming room great for pool or an entertainment set up. A large workshop with adjoining storage room offers plenty of space to work on projects, with a small bedroom down the hall and a laundry room. Outside is an **OVERSIZED DOUBLE DETACHED GARAGE**, large yard, and an additional parking pad on the east side of the house. Numerous updates throughout the years include flooring throughout the main floor, furnace, hot water tank and garage opener. You don't see one like this every day - move in ready and full of charm! **\$375,000. Call Glenn to view.**

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.**

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.**

74 ACRES OF LAND



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.**

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.**



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