

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

# SCARS rescue centre brings second chances to pets in Morinville

By Shelley Winger



Just 15 minutes north of St. Albert, the SCARS Rescue Centre is giving homeless and abandoned animals in Northern Alberta a new lease on life.

Opened in October 2022, the Morinville

facility is helping the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society expand its reach, care for more animals and provide a welcoming space for adopters and volunteers alike.

Located adjacent to the Morinville Veterinary Clinic at 9804 - 90 Avenue, the SCARS Rescue Centre is open to the public by appointment for meet-and-greets with animals available for adoption. The 3,800-square-foot

facility provides placement for pets when foster homes are full, a quiet space for post-surgery recovery, and new opportunities for volunteers to interact with animals.

Setting up the Morinville Rescue Centre has been an incredible learning experience for the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society.

The organization is grateful for the support of donors, staff, volunteers, and its board, all of whom made the renovation and setup possible.

To keep the Rescue Centre running smoothly, the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society is seeking donations of daily supplies such as pet food, kitty litter, garbage bags, and

cleaning products. Volunteers are always needed to help care for the animals and assist with day-to-day operations.

The society also offers a fun opportunity for residents to feature their pet's photo inside an indoor dog kennel, a unique way

to support the rescue and showcase local pets.

The Second Chance

Continued on **page 7**



Some of the adorable animals currently waiting for their forever homes at the SCARS Rescue Centre in Morinville. The facility is open to the public by appointment for meet-and-greets with adoptable pets. - **Second Chance Animal Rescue Society photos**



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# The fog of war: BofC will wait this out

By Mark Parsons, ATB ECONOMICS

Not shocking at all. Last week's decision by the Bank of Canada to hold its policy rate at 2.25% was widely expected. It was also our call.

The Bank has been on the sidelines for three straight meetings, hanging out at the lower bound of its neutral range of 2.25-3.25%.

At the risk of oversimplifying, two major developments factored into today's hold decision.

The **first**, and most important, factor is the war in the Middle East.

The blocking of the Strait of Hormuz and the damage to production facilities has caused the price of oil, Asian and European natural gas and fertilizer to spike.

This will feed through other prices (like food), given that so many of our purchases are transported large distances and now face higher input costs.

The bottom line is that we will see higher inflation readings in the coming months.

From the press conference: "The sharp increase in global energy prices is causing higher prices at the pump, which will push up inflation in the coming months."

If only... The war comes at a time when the recent (albeit lagged) inflation numbers have been

cooperating. Last month's headline CPI reading came in at 1.8% year-over-year.

More importantly, the main core measures (median and trim) were just over 2% - the lowest since 2021.

Progress indeed, but it's really the calm before the inflation storm.

From the press conference: "CPI inflation excluding taxes and measures of core inflation have also come down and are all now close to 2%."

The **second** factor is the Canadian economy.

Recent data has been disappointing, including a mild GDP contraction in 2025Q4 and last month's job loss of 84K.

The combination of a weak economy and cooling inflation could have even put a cut on the table. But that's before the new inflation shock.

From the press release: "We continue to expect the Canadian economy to grow modestly as it adjusts to US tariffs and trade policy uncertainty, but recent data suggest that near-term economic growth will be weaker than anticipated in January."

On balance, we maintain our view that the Bank of Canada will stay on hold this year.

The inflation pressures from the war are too large to ignore, and yet it's unclear how long the

conflict will persist. The Bank will see through a short-term spike in inflation above its target, but will get more concerned if the shock persists - particularly if higher energy prices feed through the broader inflation basket.

At the same time, an underperforming economy will make the Bank reluctant to raise rates.

The Bank is in a tricky spot. But keep in mind that even before the war, we weren't expecting the Bank of Canada to come to the economic rescue by cutting rates.

Other policy levers outside its control, like accelerating major projects, will need to be pulled.

John Mayer sings "We keep on waiting... waiting on the world to change." For the Bank of Canada, they'll want a lot more clarity on the war, and for some fog to clear, before making its move off the sidelines.

Above all things, the Bank wants you to know that they are committed to price stability - which means keeping underlying inflation over time near its 2% target.

The Bank's press release ends with this: "The Bank is committed to ensuring that Canadians continue to have confidence in price stability through this period of global upheaval."

# Preparing for the spring melt

Sturgeon County release

The potential for spring flooding in Sturgeon County is dependent on four natural factors: rainfall, soil moisture, snowpack, and temperature. When warmer weather arrives, it is common to see water accumulate in ditches, ponds, and fields. It is a natural part of the spring thaw.

To prevent flooding and damage to our roads and infrastructure, County crews will address problem areas before the spring thaw arrives. The process includes removing snow from roads or clearing channels.

During spring runoff, there are County

crews dedicated to opening blocked culverts and carrying out emergency pumping as required.

Together, we can keep our community safe by protecting our homes, roads, and public infrastructure.

For more information on what landowners and the Province can do to help manage water, read the Government of Alberta's Fact Sheet for Spring Run-off Flood Prevention.

### Notice a Drainage Issue?

If you notice a drainage issue, contact the County. Crews prioritize calls about spring drainage to protect our public infrastructure

like roads and bridges. They also address issues like blocked culverts or catch basins that may threaten private property.

Call: 780-939-8252  
Online: SturgeonCounty.ca/ReportARoad

### Be proactive to prevent flooding

• Be mindful of where you place the snow when clearing your driveway.

• Shovel snow away from your foundation paying special attention to ground level windows and doors.

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• Check your sump pump.



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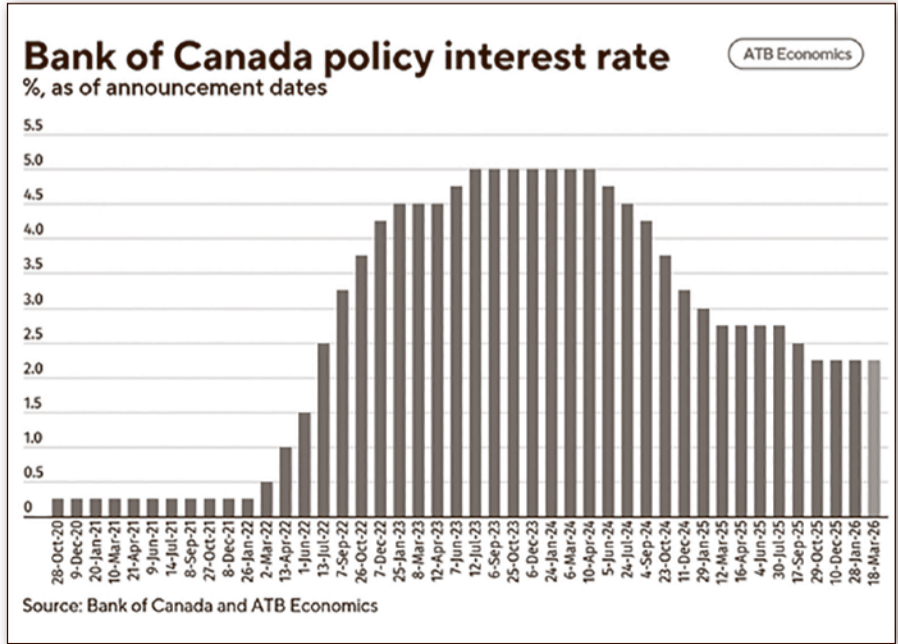
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# Property assessments and taxes: What Morinville residents need to know

By Shelley Winger



Property assessment notices were mailed to Morinville property owners in February.

Your assessment arrives before your property tax bill, giving you time to review the details and ask questions if needed. Property tax bills are expected by May 30.

A property assessment estimates the market value of your property based on several factors, including recent sales of similar properties, the size and location of your property, any buildings or improvements, and current market conditions.

The goal is to provide a fair and

consistent assessment for all properties in the community. If your assessment appears accurate, no further action is required.

Property taxes are calculated by multiplying your property's assessed value by the municipal and education tax rates.

Taxes may increase from year to year even if your property has not changed, due to rising property values in the area, changes in municipal budgets, or adjustments in tax rates.

Understanding your assessment and tax bill helps ensure you are paying a fair share of municipal and education services.

If you disagree with your property assessment, the first step is to contact Morinville's assessor, Travis Horne of Municipal Assessment Services Group Inc.,

at 780-939-3310 or by email.

The assessor can answer questions, explain how your property was evaluated, and may be able to adjust your assessment without requiring a formal complaint.

Property owners also have the option to file a formal assessment complaint within 60 days of

receiving their notice.

Complaint forms and filing information are available through the Town of Morinville at 780-939-4361.

Filing fees are required but will be refunded if your appeal is successful.

Even if you file a complaint, property taxes are still due by June 30, so it is important to

pay on time to avoid penalties.

Property assessments are reviewed and updated annually to reflect current market conditions.

Assessors may also conduct inspections of a portion of properties each year to ensure the information used in assessments is accurate.

This process helps maintain fairness and

consistency across the community.

Understanding your assessment and your rights as a property owner can make a difference in ensuring your taxes are calculated correctly.

Residents who have questions or did not receive a notice should call 780-939-4361 or visit the Town of Morinville website for more information.



On March 15, Morinville skaters strike a pose during their end-of-season photoshoot, proudly wearing the medals they earned over the year—each a testament to countless hours of practice, dedication, and passion for the sport. - Skate Morinville photo

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## Sturgeon County inspires future first responders through YES Academy

By Haylee Winger



Sturgeon County is continuing to engage local youth through its Youth Emergency Services (YES) Academy, a dynamic program designed for individuals aged 14 to 17 who are interested in careers in emergency response.

The academy will be held at the Riviere Qui Barre Arena and Hall and runs over three days, with participants given the option to stay

overnight for two nights. Throughout the program, recruits are introduced to the realities of emergency services through hands-on learning.

Physical training, scenario-based exercises, and presentations from experienced professionals are combined to create an environment that reflects real-world conditions in the field.

Participantstake part in a variety of activities that highlight different emergency response roles.

In previous years, these have included live fire-fighting exercises,

demonstrations from police dog units, and presentations from emergency medical personnel and other specialized teams. Recruits may also gain exposure to tactical training techniques and equipment used by law enforcement and military personnel.

Beyond technical skills, the YES Academy places a strong emphasis on personal growth. Team-based challenges and structured routines encourage recruits to build confidence, improve communication, and develop leadership abilities. The program

is designed to push participants both physically and mentally, while fostering a sense of discipline and cooperation.

While the overnight component is optional, it offers an added level of immersion for those who choose to participate. Regardless of whether recruits stay on site, all participants benefit from a supportive environment that encourages learning, teamwork, and self-development.

More than just an introduction to emergency services, the YES Academy provides youth with

Continued on page 7



Sturgeon County photo

## YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES (YES) ACADEMY

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Athletes from Morinville Minor Soccer gather for a team photo following a successful March 14-15 weekend of competition, bringing home multiple podium finishes and representing Morinville with pride. - Morinville Minor Soccer photo



Morinville Public School students roast bannock over an open fire during an outdoor learning activity last week, gaining hands-on experience while connecting with traditional cooking practices. - Morinville Public School photos

# Three changes to know about tax filing this year

(NC) With tax time fast approaching, Canadians are getting organized and ready to file. But before you open your tax software, here are some changes you should know about for this year:

Tax filing is becoming more digital. Starting this year, the usual paper income tax package won't be sent proactively by mail for those who choose to file on paper. Over 93 per cent of Canadians already file their taxes online, and their tax returns are generally processed much quicker than paper ones. If you still choose to file by paper, you can get the tax package and schedules by ordering online or over the phone, or by downloading and printing it on your own.

Online tax tools and portals are getting easier to use. There are a few improvements to the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) digital services this year, including:

- A new way for users who've forgotten their sign-in information or lost access to their account to get back in without having to call.
- The addition of

a mandatory backup multi-factor authentication (MFA) option on file to prevent potential lockouts during the MFA process.

- Optimized web pages in key areas, including clear answers about Tax-Free Savings Accounts, the Canada child benefit, registering a business and registering for an account.

Grant representatives permission to access your account. Someone using EFile to file your taxes on your behalf now must request access to your account through the represent a client online portal. This lets you decide and control who has access to your tax information. If you have a representative doing your tax filing, you can authorize them instantly through your online account portal once they submit a request.

By keeping on top of tax changes and available digital services, Canadians can have an easier time filing and getting the information they need. You can find a full list of the changes at [canada.ca/taxes-whats-new](http://canada.ca/taxes-whats-new).

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# Don't take the bait: spotting AI scams before they spot you

This March, the Alberta RCMP shares a variety of tips and resources in support of the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association's (ACCPA) Fraud Prevention Month campaign. The campaign seeks to educate Albertans on the many ways that fraudulent activity negatively impacts their communities.

Today's theme is artificial intelligence (AI) scams, which may include any of the following:

- Voice cloning scams
- AI-generated kidnapping calls
- Deepfake video impersonation
- Romance scams enhanced by AI chatbots
- Fake customer support agents
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investment advisors

- Phishing emails and texts written by AI
- AI-assisted job interview scams
- Synthetic identity fraud
- AI-generated rental or marketplace listings

"AI-generated content can look flawless, feel personal, and reach anyone. That is why staying alert is crucial. The more we learn to spot the subtle warning signs, the harder it becomes for scammers to turn powerful tools into targeted traps."

Cpl. Sean Milne, Provincial Financial Crime Team, RCMP Federal Policing Northwest Region

To better protect yourself, consider the following resources:

- Learn how cyber

criminals are using AI in their scams

• Learn how to spot AI-generated content and the risks it poses to online users

• Learn how AI can be used to generate content

If you are unsure of whether or not you are being targeted by a scam, visit the Government of Canada's website to learn about common scam types. If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to your local law enforcement agency and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca), or by calling 1-888-495-8501. Be sure to contact your bank and credit card company if you believe your personal or financial information has been compromised.

### SCARS

Continued from page 1

Animal Rescue Society has a long history of rescuing pets from northern communities, many of which lack local pounds or accessible veterinary services.

The Morinville facility strengthens that mission, allowing the society to care for more animals, prevent overpopulation and connect

with people who want to make a difference.

Through its Morinville Rescue Centre, the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society continues to live up to its mission: no animal left behind.

Residents can help by adopting, donating, or volunteering, giving Northern Alberta's pets the second chance they deserve.

### YES Academy

Continued from page 5

an opportunity to explore potential career paths while building meaningful life skills.

By connecting participants with professionals and offering realistic training experiences, Sturgeon County continues to support the development of future leaders within the community.

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## Class 1 Driver

Target Products Ltd is a rapidly expanding company, specializing in the production of sand products for use in a variety of applications and industries. We are presently looking for a full time, Class 1 Driver for our Morinville location. If you are a mature driver, reliable and have Class 1 driving experience, then we would like to hear from you.

This driving position has exceptional earnings potential, along with a generous extended health and RRSP benefits plan (upon completion of a three-month probationary period). We offer a safe working environment and operate a modern fleet of trucks (outfitted with automatic transmissions, adaptive cruise control, and lane departure warning systems). Trucks are equipped with Samsara electronic logging devices.

As this is a safety sensitive position, pre-employment & random Drug and Alcohol testing, and medical testing will be required.


**Requirements/Qualifications**

- Experience with Super B Decks.
- Experience with pneumatic tankers is considered an asset, though we are willing to train the right candidate.
- Be fit to work, and available on weekends (rotational weekend work).
- Willingness to drive long hauls (AB, BC & SK) however most are day runs so you'll be home most nights! Up to 2-3 overnight runs per week.
- A people person; comfortable interacting with customers.
- First aid and safety training considered an asset.
- Experience with Samsara logs and cameras is preferred.
- Great earnings potential (range of \$75K to over \$100K)

**THIS POSTING WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FILLED**

**How to apply:**  
Drop off in Person: **9503 - 87 Ave. Morinville**  
Email: **Morinville.order@quikrete.ca**


We thank all applicants. However, only those individuals under consideration will be contacted.



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