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Saturday, May 9
10 am - 2 pm
Morinville Leisure Centre

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JUST ONE WEEK AWAY

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

Brag Night draws sold-out crowd in support of community fundraising efforts

By Haylee Winger



The Morinville Fish & Game Association, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Morinville/Sturgeon, hosted the 31st annual Brag Night dinner and auction at the Morinville Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 18.

The sold-out event drew a crowd of 600 attendees, including several dignitaries. Among those present

were Michael Cooper, Sturgeon County Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, and Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma. Councillors Jenn Anheliger, Lisa Parenteau and Jayson Wood were also in attendance.

Guests explored more than 300 silent auction items, with offerings ranging from kitchen appliances and jewelry to garage equipment, clothing, wooden benches, and art décor.

The variety encouraged attendees to circulate throughout the venue to monitor and place bids.

The evening's live auction featured 27

items and was led by auctioneer Mike Wowk, supported by assistants both on stage and in the crowd.

One unique item included a live performance of the national anthem by Rob Clarke, known for his performances at Edmonton Oilers games.

Among the top bids of the night, a hand-crafted wine barrel liquor cabinet with LED lighting and included spirits sold for more than \$4,500.

The highest bid - exceeding \$6,500 - was placed on a painting by Alberta artist Lewis Lavoie.

The purchaser

dedicated the piece in memory of his wife, Carla.

Lavoie, who grew up in Sturgeon County, is recognized for his dinosaur artwork and live art performances.

He began the evening with a blank canvas and completed the painting in time for it

to be auctioned.

In recent years, he has led community mosaic mural projects locally and internationally and has created hundreds of murals across the United States, including works tied to the country's 250th anniversary.

Additional live auction items included a "Night Moves-Cougar" limited edition print, a Jason EBS 26-inch electric adult bike, an "Along the Trail" Flowers for a Year edition print, a race car drag

Continued on **page 3**

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Legacy of Hope exhibit coming to Sturgeon Composite High School

By Haylee Winger



Sturgeon Public Schools will host the Legacy of Hope exhibit, Generations Lost: Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools, at Sturgeon Composite High School, with a grand opening scheduled for May 4, 2026.

The exhibit, on loan from the Legacy of Hope Foundation, will be displayed throughout the month of May and will be open to students, parents, and members of the broader community.

“The Legacy of Hope Foundation has generously agreed to loan us the exhibit for the whole month of May, and we are looking forward to students, parents, and community members

coming in to view it,” said Maxine Hildebrandt, Indigenous Education Coordinator with Sturgeon Public Schools.

“The Legacy of Hope Foundation is a national Indigenous charitable organization based in Ontario that has produced museum-quality exhibits and educational resources to increase awareness and knowledge of the residential school system, as well as other topics pertaining to Indigenous peoples in Canada,” Hildebrandt said.

The exhibit features a 25-foot curved installation that presents a visual timeline of key events related to Indian Residential Schools in Canada.

It also includes free-standing cylindrical columns that provide additional contextual information.

The entire display is constructed using printed fabric

graphics mounted on metal frame structures.

Hildebrandt said the exhibit draws on experiences from schools and survivors across the country.

“The residential school system impacted Indigenous peoples, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis, and Inuit peoples,” she said.

Special guests and dignitaries, including residential school survivors and representatives from Indigenous and related organizations, have been invited to the grand opening.

Some guests are local to Sturgeon County.

Sturgeon Public Schools says the exhibit supports its ongoing commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action and broader Indigenous education initiatives.

“We believe that a starting point is to share information on the history of Indian Residential Schools with students and the public to gain a deeper understanding of Canada’s relationship with Indigenous peoples,” Hildebrandt said.

“This is an important step in doing the work of reconciliation.”

She added that the goal is to support meaningful learning and reflection across the division. “Our students will continue to deepen their sense of intercultural understanding and look toward a brighter future for all Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners.”

The grand opening will take place at 1:30 p.m. on May 4, 2026, at Sturgeon Composite High School, with the exhibit remaining on display throughout the month of May.

Sturgeon County fire advisory

Sturgeon County press release

A fire advisory is now in effect for Sturgeon County.

The following activities are allowed with caution and in compliance with Sturgeon County Burning Bylaw 1476/20 www.sturgeoncounty.ca

- Yard and garden debris fires, burn barrels and incinerators (Fire Permit required) www.sturgeonservices.ca
 - Recreational backyard fire pits
 - Propane and natural gas-powered appliances
 - Charcoal barbecues
- Residents should

also exercise caution when engaging in activities that could provide an unintended ignition source such as welding, grinding, ATV use, etc. ATV riders should be carrying a fire extinguisher with them, every ride – no exceptions.

Residents are encouraged to refer to Alberta FireSmart www.firesmartalberta.ca as a valuable resource providing methods to help reduce the risk of wildfires to their homes and property. Please check this website and www.sturgeoncounty.ca frequently for updates as environmental conditions change.

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PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1710/26

2026 PINNACLE VILLAGE OUTLINE PLAN AND REDISTRICTING BYLAW

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1710/26. The property owner wants to build a **100-lot residential neighbourhood** on their land in Sturgeon Valley (Lot 1 Block 1 Plan 182 1685). This land is currently districted (zoned) as AG - Agriculture District, which does not allow this type of development.

An Outline Plan was submitted in support of the redistricting application. The land must be redistricted before a subdivision application can be submitted. The proposed bylaw would change the zoning to a mix of:

- R7 – Transitional Valley Residential District
- POS – Public/Private Open Space District
- PU – Public Utility District

This is the second Outline Plan submitted for Pinnacle Village and proposes a **reduction in the number of lots from 144 to 100**. Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1710-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via video conference on: **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky
 Planning and Development
 587-404-9866
rschapansky@sturgeoncounty.ca



Legend

- Plan Area Boundary
- Transition Valley Residential District
- Local Road
- Public Utility Lot (PU)
- Park and Greenway (MR)
- Stormwater Management Facility (PU)
- Mailbox Pull-out

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 780-939-8029 to register.

Speak via videoconference (phone or video call-in)
 To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **May 11, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.** by contacting Legislative Services at 780-939-8029. 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.





Mayor Simon Boersma and Councillor Lisa Parenteau volunteer at a ticket booth during the 31st annual Brag Night fundraiser at the Morinville Leisure Centre on April 18.

Brag Night

Continued from page 1
racing experience with Twisted Motorsports, a four-piece lawn care package,

and a “Tall Grass Tiger” limited edition print. A highlight of the evening was a special recognition of Darcy



Lori and Darcy McLaughlin of The Flower Stop & Gift Shop are pictured with emcee Joe Dwyer during Brag Night at the Morinville Leisure Centre. Darcy McLaughlin stepped down after decades of leadership in organizing the Morinville Fish & Game Association’s annual Brag Night fundraiser.

McLaughlin and Lori McLaughlin for more than two decades of involvement in organizing Brag Night. The acknowledgment was met with a standing ovation.

Emcee Joe Dwyer noted that what began as a simple idea has grown into a highly anticipated annual tradition, crediting Darcy McLaughlin’s vision and dedication.

He highlighted McLaughlin’s role in building partnerships, securing auction items, and helping expand the event to more than 500 attendees, with annual

fundraising totals exceeding \$50,000 in support of the community.

Lori McLaughlin expressed appreciation to those who have supported the event over its 31-year history, including



Renowned artist Lewis Lavoie begins work on a blank canvas during Brag Night; the completed piece later sold for more than \$6,500 at auction.

sponsors and attendees. She also recognized the Rotary Club of Morinville/Sturgeon for stepping up as Darcy McLaughlin prepares to step down for personal reasons, noting the significant effort required to

organize the event. Darcy McLaughlin briefly addressed the audience, offering thanks to Garry Kayln, who mentored him when he first became involved with Brag Night decades ago.



Jennifer Hunting, president of the Rotary Club of Morinville/Sturgeon, presents the ticket winner with a Leon Draisaitl autographed Edmonton Oilers Adidas jersey, displayed in a protective case, during Brag Night.

Morinville celebrates Youth Week with activities for all ages

By Shelley Winger



Morinville’s young residents will have plenty to look forward to this spring as the community gears up for Youth Week, running May 5 to 8. The four-day lineup features a mix of free and low-cost events designed to bring youth

together through games, creativity, and social connection.

Hosted at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre and surrounding facilities, Youth Week offers something for a wide range of ages and interests. From casual drop-in activities to structured creative sessions, the goal is to create welcoming spaces where youth can connect with friends, meet new people, and try something new.

The week kicks off Tuesday, May 5, with a “Bring a Friend” After School Hangout Party for students in Grades 3 to 6. Running from 3 to 6 p.m., the free drop-in event includes games like gaga ball, craft stations, and treats such as cotton candy, all in a relaxed, supervised environment led by youth program staff.

On Wednesday, May 6, the focus shifts to community connection with a tabletop

Continued on page 6

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1709/26 WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1709/26.

The County is looking to provide greater clarity on waste management facilities. To support this, the County is proposing amendments based on the following themes:

1. Modernize municipal land use definitions and align with provincial wording
2. Direct waste management facilities away from residential uses and agricultural operations
3. Regulate site level considerations such as setbacks, traffic, noise, dust, odour, etc.

Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1709-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 1 p.m.** (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Jonathan Heemskerck
Planning and Development
780-939-1398
jheemskerck@sturgeoncounty.ca

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Haying Permits available for bidding.

Sturgeon County will accept bids for Haying Permits on Municipal Reserve (MR) Lands starting April 20, 2026.

Bids must be submitted by 12:00 (noon) MDT on May 24, 2026.

View property details, conditions, and place an bid by scanning the QR code or visit:

www.sturgeoncounty.ca/HayingPermit



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May Meetings and Important Dates

Meeting schedule is subject to change. Members of the public are welcome to observe or listen in. For teleconference details and links to the livestream, click on the meetings notice in the following locations:

- Council Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/CouncilMeetings
- Board and Committee Meetings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards
- Public Hearings:** SturgeonCounty.ca/Notices

Sand and Gravel Advisory Committee	May 4	9:00 AM
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	May 5	2:00 PM
Youth Advisory Committee	May 6	6:00 PM
Community Services Advisory Board	May 11	6:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	May 12	9:00 AM
<i>Holiday Closure - Victoria Day</i>	<i>May 18</i>	<i>Closed</i>
Subdivision Development Appeal Board	May 19	2:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	May 26	9:00 AM
Transportation Advisory Committee	May 28	6:00 PM

DALE MACMILLAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS MAY 25

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Stitching community together: the story of Scrap Happy Quilters Morinville

By Shelley Winger



For the past fifteen years, a dedicated group of local women has been quietly making a big impact – one quilt at a time.

Scrap Happy Quilters Morinville was founded by Rene Knight, who brought together a handful of ladies with a simple idea: meet once a week to sew, socialize, and create quilts for those in need. What began as a small gathering has grown and evolved over the years, with changing membership and leadership, but its heart has remained the same – community, connec-

tion, and giving.

Beyond the quilts themselves, the group offers something just as valuable: a sense of belonging. For many members, Tuesday mornings have become a cherished routine – a place to share stories, support one another, and build lasting friendships. Newcomers are quickly welcomed, whether they are experienced quilters or simply curious to learn.

Today, the group continues to meet every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rendezvous Centre in Morinville. Their time together is about more than stitching fabric; it's about friendship, laughter, and making a difference locally.

Their handmade

quilts and blankets have been donated to a wide range of organizations and individuals in the area. Recipients have included Jessie's House, the Alexander First Nation senior home, Morinville Victim Services, local seniors' residences, and the Giving Tree through Community Support Services. They've also supported the Morinville Food Bank and contributed items to local silent auctions and raffles.

One particularly meaningful moment came when the group created a quilt for an elderly woman in Bon Accord who had lost her home in a winter fire – an example of how their work often brings comfort during difficult times.

There's also a quiet sustainability element to their work. By using donated fabric – often scraps or unused materials – the group gives new life to textiles that might otherwise go to waste. Each quilt becomes a patchwork not only of colour and pattern, but of generosity from the wider community.

The group makes a conscious effort to keep their donations local and remains open to suggestions from the community about where help is needed most.

Looking ahead, Scrap Happy Quilters Morinville hopes to continue growing both its membership and its impact. With more hands, more fabric, and more community support, the group



Finished quilts and blankets prepared by Scrap Happy Quilters Morinville are ready for donation to local organizations, including the food bank and victim services.

can expand the number of quilts they create and reach even more people in need. Their message is simple: everyone has something to contribute, and even small acts – like a piece of fabric or a few hours of time – can come together to create something truly meaningful.

Their work is made possible thanks to generous donations of unused cotton fabric. These contributions allow the quilters to continue creating and giving back. They are always happy to accept

fabric donations and are equally welcoming to new members who would like to join.

For those interested in getting involved – or simply seeing the group in action – the door is always open on Tuesdays at the Rendezvous Centre.

In a world that often feels fast-paced and disconnected, Scrap Happy Quilters Morinville is a reminder that small, consistent acts of kindness can create something truly meaningful – one stitch at a time.



Representatives from Sturgeon County present a \$2,500 donation to the Edmonton Humane Society earlier this week, supporting the organization's ongoing work to care for lost and stray animals and connect pets with families across the region. – Sturgeon County photo

Youth Week

Continued from page 3

game night open to all ages. Taking place from 5 to 9 p.m., the event features a wide selection of games provided by a professional facilitator, making it accessible for both beginners and experienced players. Organizers note that children under 13 must attend with an adult, while teens can participate independently with an active MY Loft membership.

Creativity takes centre stage Thursday, May 7, during the Youth and Adult Connect Paint Night. For a \$5 registration fee, participants aged 11 to 17 can attend with a parent or mentor for an evening of guided painting led by a local artist.

Each participant will leave with their own finished piece, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and painting beginning at 6 p.m.

The week wraps up Friday, May 8, with "Youth Unleashed," a high-energy event for ages 11 to 17. Starting at 5 p.m., participants will take part in a photo scavenger hunt around Morinville before heading to the Morinville Leisure Centre for a wrap-up celebration. The evening includes a free barbeque, open gym access, and time to socialize.

In addition to the

activities, youth are encouraged to register for a free MY Loft membership, which provides access to programming and entry into a draw for a \$100 Visa gift card during the Youth Unleashed event.

Events like Youth Week play an important role in supporting the well-being of young people by creating safe, inclusive environments where they can build friendships and develop a sense of belonging.

Opportunities to connect in person, especially through shared activities, can help reduce feelings of isolation and encourage positive social development.

They also give youth a chance to explore new interests, express creativity, and build confidence in a low-pressure setting.

By offering accessible programming for a variety of age groups, the initiative helps ensure that all youth in the community have opportunities to engage, participate, and feel valued.

More information, including registration details, can be found on the Town of Morinville's website.

With a mix of recreation, creativity, and community spirit, Youth Week aims to highlight and celebrate the important role young people play in Morinville.

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Players from the Morinville Youth Basketball U11 girls team take a moment to have fun during a practice session on April 21, as they continue to build skills and confidence throughout the season. - Morinville Youth Basketball photo

Council sets direction with approval of Morinville's 2026-2030 strategic plan

Town of Morinville release

Morinville is pleased to announce that Council has approved the Morinville 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. Approved at the April 14, 2026, Council meeting, the plan sets a clear and focused direction for how Morinville will align its priorities, resources, and decisions over the next four years - identifying high-impact areas for the community.

Strategic Focus Areas

Council identified four strategic focus areas to guide intentional prioritization of investment in effort and resources. Significant progress in these focus areas over the next four years will support Morinville's continued growth as a vibrant, connected, and resilient community.

•Community Connection and Well-Being: Morinville offers inclusive, welcoming spaces and amenities where residents gather, stay active, and build meaningful connections.

•Downtown Vibrancy: Morinville's downtown is a vibrant, welcoming place

where residents connect, businesses thrive, and community identity is visible and strong.

•Infrastructure Stewardship: Morinville enhances its infrastructure portfolio in a strategic and proactive way to responsibly maintain existing assets, support growth, enable connection, and strengthen the community's economic base.

•Community Storytelling and Partnerships: Morinville fosters strong community connections and a shared sense of belonging while strengthening collaborative relationships with regional and strategic partners.

"This Strategic Plan sets a clear direction for the next four years, focused on the priorities that matter most to our community. It is about connection, building a Morinville where people feel supported, included, and proud to call home," says Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma. "At the same time, Council has made deliberate choices to focus our efforts

where they will have the greatest impact: strengthening our infrastructure, supporting a vibrant downtown, and building strong community partnerships. Council is committed to moving this work forward in a way that is thoughtful, responsible, and guides Morinville's growth with purpose".

About the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan establishes Council's focus for the term. It does not commit specific funding or approve individual projects - rather, it provides the framework for how future plans, budgets, and decisions will be made. Progress will be reported to Council regularly, providing clear visibility into outcomes, key milestones, and emerging pressures. As a living plan, this Strategic Plan will be reviewed periodically over the term of Council. Adjustments may be made to respond to changing conditions, emerging opportunities, or shifts in priorities, while maintaining alignment with Morinville's long-term direction.

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