

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

Rain fails to dampen Festival Days celebration



By Shelley
Winger

Rain failed to dampen community spirit as hundreds of residents and visitors took part in Festival Days on June 19 and 20, with organizers adapting to wet weather to ensure the annual celebration

continued as planned. The weekend began Friday evening with the Festival Days Kick-Off Dance Party, which welcomed about 170 people for an evening of music, dancing, photo opportunities with Hunter the mascot and a new retro arcade experience.

Saturday's festivities continued

despite the weather, with large crowds attending the Mayor and Council Pancake Breakfast for a free meal and live entertainment before heading to events across the community.

One of the newest additions to this year's festival was the inaugural Pedestrian Parade.

Nine registered groups, representing approximately 180 participants, took part in the event, with about 40 people walking the parade route.

Organizers said participants embraced the rainy conditions, helping make the new parade a memorable addition to Festival Days.

Rain forced the

Festival Fun Zone, presented by Team Moore – Century 21 Masters, indoors to the Morinville Community Cultural Centre, where it remained

Continued on **page 2**



Participants set off at the start of the first Pedestrian Parade, joining the community celebration. – **Lucie Roy Photo**



Volunteers and members of Morinville council prepare breakfast during the Mayor and Council Pancake Breakfast. – **Town of Morinville photo**

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Full Event Details Here

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Town of Morinville photos

Residents filled the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during Festival Days after the Festival Fun Zone was moved indoors because of rainy weather.

Festival Days

Continued from page 1

a popular attraction throughout the day.

An estimated 900 to 1,100 people attended, enjoying 29 activities and attractions, including a retro arcade,

Indigenous Game Making Experience, live entertainment, local musicians, the Morinville Farmers' Market and a variety of interactive activities. Although the train and inflatables were unable to operate because of the

weather, the indoor venue remained busy throughout the day.

The NAPA Morinville Show N' Shine featured 48 vehicle entries before wrapping up early at 12:30 p.m. due to the rain.

Another Festival Days highlight was the Morinville Fire Fighter Combat Challenge, which welcomed more than 30 competitors from across the region and drew enthusiastic spectators throughout the day.

Festival-goers also made good use of the free Community Bus, which provided transportation between Festival Days venues throughout the weekend.

Despite the rainy conditions, Festival Days once again brought the community together, offering entertainment, activities and opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages to celebrate one of Morinville's signature summer events.



Stilt walkers entertained visitors during Festival Days at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.



A festival-goer poses beneath the Festival Days entrance arch after the Festival Fun Zone was relocated indoors to the Morinville Community Cultural Centre during Festival Days.



A family stops for a photo with MCSnet's mascot, Giggy the Cyber-Axolotl, during the festivities. - Lucie Roy Photo

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Students share a hug while enjoying the foam station during Morinville Public School's annual Play Day on June 25. The year-end celebration gave students the chance to take part in a variety of outdoor activities and games as they wrapped up the 2025-26 school year. – Morinville Public School photo



Project Maple Leaf brings Canadian Pride to Morinville classrooms



By Haylee Winger

The Morinville Lions Club partnered with local schools throughout June to participate in Project Maple Leaf, a program supported by the Lions of Alberta Foundation and Lions Clubs across Canada.

As part of the initiative, Lions Club members visited Grade 1 classrooms to present students with Canadian flags and certificates. During the presentations, teachers called students forward one at a time to receive their certificates and flags. A verse about the Canadian flag was read aloud before students and staff joined together in singing O

Canada. On June 23, Lion Joe Jacob visited Notre Dame School to present flags and certificates to Grade 1 students participating in the program. Project Maple Leaf is designed to promote appreciation for Canada's national flag and encourage pride in Canadian citizenship among young students.



Photos by Lucie Roy



RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY 2026

GET READY TO HELP SHAPE MORINVILLE'S FUTURE

Morinville residents will be asked to participate in the 2026 Resident Satisfaction Survey to share priorities for municipal programs, services and future planning.

THE SURVEY IS OPEN FROM JUNE 18 TO JULY 16, 2026.

- Morinville residents will receive invitations in the mail with instructions on how to participate in the survey.
- Please check your mailbox for your invitation.





Sturgeon COUNTY

July Meetings and Important Dates

9613 100 Street,
Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
County Centre Office
Ph: 780-939-4321
Toll Free: 1-866-939-9303
Emergency After Hours:
780-939-4321

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](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/CouncilMeetings)
- Board and Committee Meetings:** [SturgeonCounty.ca/Boards](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Boards)
- Public Hearings:** [SturgeonCounty.ca/Notices](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Notices)

Holiday Closure - Canada Day	July 1	Closed
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	July 7	2:00 PM
Regular Council/Committee of the Whole	July 14	9:00 AM
Council Break Begins	July 15	
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	July 21	2:00 PM

SUMMER PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Register online at [SturgeonCounty.ca/Programs](https://sturgeoncounty.ca/Programs)



COUNTY BOUNTY



Saturday, August 8, 2026 | 12 - 8 PM

Pride Picnic brings community together despite rainy weather



By Shelley Winger

Despite rainy weather forcing a change of venue, Morinville's annual Pride Picnic in the Park continued to bring residents together for an afternoon focused on inclusion, diversity and community connection.

Originally planned as an outdoor event, the celebration was moved indoors to the Morinville Leisure

Centre, where families, friends, neighbours, allies, performers, volunteers and community partners gathered to mark Pride Month.

The event offered an opportunity for residents of all ages to come together in a welcoming environment while celebrating the values of acceptance, belonging and respect.

Colourful Pride flags, live entertainment and community activities helped create a festive

atmosphere throughout the day.

Organizers expressed their appreciation to the many volunteers, sponsors and partners who helped make the event possible. Presenting sponsor Shoppers Drug Mart (Morinville) joined Proud Partner Sturgeon County in supporting the celebration, while GFL Environmental participated for the first time and served more than 150 hot dogs to attendees throughout

the afternoon.

Additional support was provided by Midstream Support Society, The Flower Shop & Gift Stop and Tugs: 2 Spirit Drag & Burlesque/Real Deadly Productions, whose contributions helped bring the event to life.

Entertainment was a highlight of the afternoon, with performers engaging attendees and helping create an energetic and welcoming atmosphere. Guests had opportunities to connect with one



Volunteers with GFL Environmental prepare hot dogs during Morinville's Pride Picnic in the Park. The company served more than 150 hot dogs throughout the afternoon.

another, enjoy the performances and celebrate the diversity that helps make Morinville a vibrant community.

While the change in weather meant the picnic could not take place outdoors as originally planned, organizers noted that the move indoors did little to dampen spirits. Residents continued to show their support for the event, demonstrating the strong sense of community that exists within Morinville.

The Town of Morinville thanked everyone who attended, volunteered,

performed and contributed to the event's success. Organizers said the celebration was made possible through the collective efforts of community members and local organizations committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community.

As Pride Month continues, events such as Pride Picnic in the Park provide opportunities for residents to come together, build connections and celebrate the diversity that strengthens communities throughout the region.



A performer entertains attendees during Morinville's Pride Picnic in the Park, held at the Morinville Leisure Centre after weather moved the event indoors.



Attendees take part in Morinville's Pride Picnic in the Park, a community event celebrating inclusion, diversity and belonging.

PUBLIC HEARING - BYLAW 1707/26 DYNAMIC DEMOLITION & RECYCLING

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1707/26.

The applicant is proposing to redistrict a portion of 26431 Township Road 540 from AG (Agriculture District) to DC26 (Direct Control 26) to better accommodate an existing aggregate recycling yard business. The redistricting application is required to bring the property into compliance with the Land Use Bylaw.

A Direct Control (DC) District is a customized land-use district that allows for specific, site-unique regulations. It offers detailed control over development where standard land use districts are unsuitable or inadequate. It is often used for development requiring regulations beyond those provided by standard land use districts.

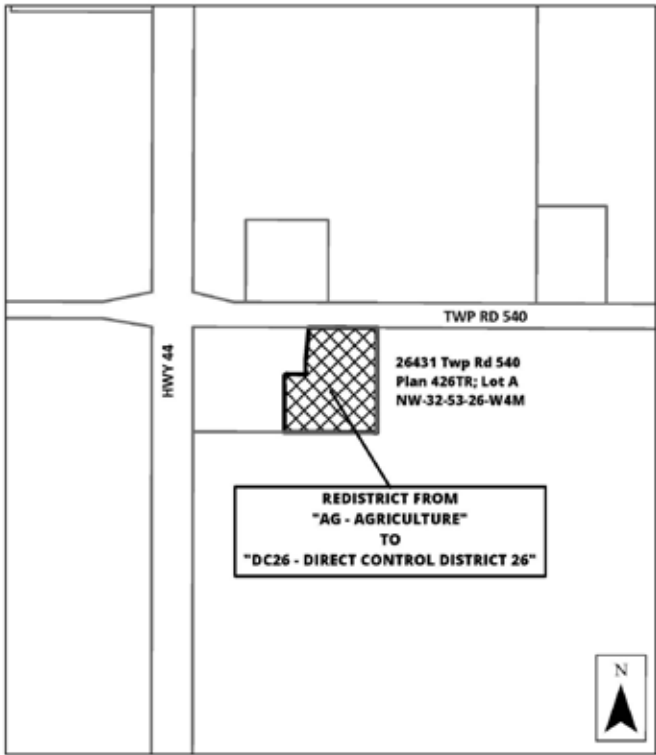
Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1707-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:
Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 1 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky, RPP, MCIP
Planner, Current Planning
587-404-9866,
rschapansky@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 **780-939-8029** to register.

Speak via videoconference (phone or video call-in)

To speak at the Public Hearing via videoconference, you must register by **July 13, 2026 at 1 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.



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Broadband expansion, land-use changes headline busy Sturgeon County Council Meeting



By Haylee Winger

Rural broadband expansion, land-use amendments and community priorities dominated discussions as Sturgeon County council met on June 16.

One of the meeting's most notable decisions saw councillors' direct administration to prepare a design package to extend the County's broadband fibre network to the Sturgeon Valley Estates subdivision. The work, estimated at up to \$20,000, will be funded through the Municipal Tax Stabilization Reserve.

Council also dealt with several planning matters. Bylaw 1712/26 received second and third

readings, formally redistricting lands associated with the Morinville Colony to accommodate residential, agricultural, institutional and other uses typically connected with communal farming operations.

First reading was given to Bylaw 1707/26, which would redesignate a portion of land at 26431 Township Road 540 to support an existing aggregate recycling operation run by Dynamic Demolition and Recycling. A public hearing will be held before additional readings are considered.

Councillors also gave first reading to Bylaw 1715/26, which proposes to rezone Prairie Gardens & Adventure Farm on Lily Lake Road from Agriculture District to

Agriculture 2 District to accommodate its existing agricultural support service operations. Public input will be gathered at a future hearing.

Waste management regulations were updated through the passage of Bylaw 1709/26. The County-led amendment aims to provide greater clarity regarding potential new waste facilities and strengthen compliance measures involving unauthorized sites.

Financial matters also featured prominently. Council received the 2026 first-trimester financial report, covering the period ending April 30, and approved transferring \$750,000 from the Heartland

Continued on page 7

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 1715/26 PRAIRIE GARDENS REDISTRICTING APPLICATION

Sturgeon County Council requests public input on proposed Bylaw 1715/26.

The application proposes to amend Land Use Bylaw 1385/17 to redistrict 56311 Lily Lake Road from AG (Agriculture District) to AG2 (Agriculture 2 District) to better accommodate an existing agritourism business.

Prairie Gardens is an agritourism operation that offers agriculture-focused programs and events to the public.

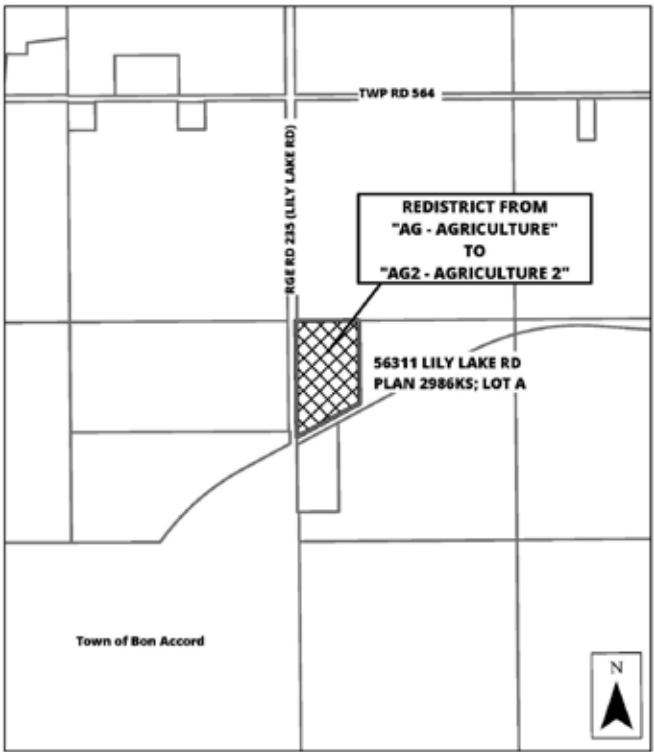
Learn more at sturgeoncounty.ca/public-hearing-bylaw-1715-26

Public Hearing details

The Public Hearing will be held in person and via videoconference on:
Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 2 p.m. (or as soon as practical thereafter) at Sturgeon County Council Chambers (9613 100 St., Morinville)

Questions? Contact us!

Rebecca Schapansky, RPP, MCIP
Planner, Current Planning
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Pros and cons of a home equity line of credit

(NC) With the warm weather finally here, maybe you're considering installing a pool or doing those home renovations you've been dreaming about.

Perhaps you want to get away and an RV or a cottage are at the top of your wish list.

A home equity line of credit (HELOC) is a quick and easy way to pay for such big expenses. But the long-term risks of HELOCs can outweigh their up-front benefits if you don't manage the loan well.

How do HELOCs work?

HELOCs are secured by your home as a guarantee that you'll pay back the money you borrow.

With a HELOC you can borrow money, pay it back and borrow it again up to a maximum credit limit.

They use a variable interest rate, which means your payment amounts

will change as the lender's prime interest rate goes up or down.

Advantages of HELOCs:

- They offer easy access to credit.
- They have lower interest rates than other types of credit, especially unsecured loans and credit cards.
- You can pay back the money you borrow at any time without a penalty.
- You can borrow as much as you want, up to your available credit limit.

Disadvantages of HELOCs:

- It takes discipline to pay off a HELOC because you're usually only required to pay the monthly interest charges.
- Large amounts of available credit can make it easier to over-spend and carry debt for a long time.
- You will have to pay off

your entire HELOC if you sell your home or want to switch your mortgage to another lender.

- The amount you owe on your HELOC reduces the equity in your home.

- Your bank could take possession of your home if you miss payments.

Before you take out a HELOC, make sure you consider the risks and have a repayment plan.

If your lender is a federally regulated bank, they must offer and sell you products and services that are appropriate for you, based on your circumstances and financial needs.

They must also tell you if they assess that a product or service isn't appropriate for you.

Don't hesitate to ask questions and make sure you understand the product offered to you.

Find more information at canada.ca/money.

Morinville's Yards in Bloom program open for nominations

By Valerie Winger

The Town of Morinville is once again inviting residents to recognize some of the community's best-looking yards through its Yards in Bloom program.

Nominations opened July 6 and continues until

August 13.

This year's award categories are Best Overall Yard, Natural Front Yard, Public Spaces in Bloom and Best Sustainable Yard.

Two nominees from each category will be selected in a draw to receive a \$250 gift

card to a local store that offers landscaping and garden supplies.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program or submitting a nomination can visit <https://engagemorinville.ca/yards-in-bloom>.



Morinville Mayor Simon Boersma (right) congratulates Councillor Jayson Wood, who is serving as Morinville's deputy mayor from June 23 to Oct. 27. The deputy mayor position rotates among members of council.. - Town of Morinville photo

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Thomas George Hutchings

It is with sadness that the family of Thomas George Hutchings announces his passing on June 10, 2026 at the age of 76 years.

Tom is survived by his wife of 54 yrs, Annerose Hutchings, his children; Heidi Zadderey (Troy), Sarah Beggs (Troy), Anita Hutchings, Holly Dewitt (Joe), Tom Hutchings (Sheena), and Carla Hutchings; his many grandchildren and his sisters; Linda Edwards, Karen Orlick (Jerry), and Maureen Stacy (Roger). He was predeceased by his parents, George and Marion Hutchings and his brother, Jeff Hutchings.

Dad (Tom) was loved by all of us for his appreciation of the simple things. He was honest and had a great sense of humour which he used in the most necessary of moments. He loved nature and things that were real.

Dad believed in his family and truth and beauty and was an artist at heart. He was a farmer and a family man and made quality leather saddles as a hobby. He loved the idea of the cowboy way of life; simple, honest, and free. Dad enjoyed collecting, and always had time for a coffee with someone he cared about.

He was a great dad, a great husband and friend, a wonderful granddad, and an incredible person. Dad was intelligent and kind and was really loved.

Tom chose not to have a funeral but if there is a celebration of life, an announcement will be made.

Special thanks to Rivercrest Care Centre and Fort Saskatchewan Hospital and Palliative Care for their dedicated staff and kindness.



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Lower your risk of West Nile virus infection this summer

Mosquitoes are a common summer pest. It's important to remember that if you're bitten, you may be at risk for West Nile virus.

With mosquitoes thriving this time of year, Primary Care Alberta asks Albertans to protect their health by preventing bites.

While the risk of West Nile virus remains low in Alberta, some mosquitoes can carry the virus, so it's best to avoid being bitten at all.

West Nile virus is an infection that can give you flu-like symptoms. In rare cases, the infection can lead to brain and spinal cord inflammation, which can be hard to recover from. There is currently no specific treatment for West Nile virus infection.

Here are some ways you can help prevent mosquito bites:

- Cover as much of your body as possible when outdoors, especially in grassy or wooded areas.

- Wear long-sleeved, light-coloured shirts and pants, and a hat.

- Stay indoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

- Use a Health Canada-approved insect repellent (for example, products with DEET or Icaridin) and follow the product label instructions.

If you're a parent or caregiver, do not use insect repellent with DEET on babies under six months of age. Instead, use mosquito netting and try not to be outside when insect activity is high, like at dawn and dusk.

If your child is old enough for you to use insect repellent with DEET, limit use where you can:

- If your child is six months of age to two years old, do not use insect repellent more than once a day. Use insect repellent only when there's a high risk of insect bites, like at dawn and dusk.

- If your child is over two years of age, you can use it up to three times a day.

Always make sure you use a registered product labelled as an insect repellent for use on people. Visit PersonalInsectRepellents-Canada.ca for more information. To learn more about West Nile virus and ways to keep safe, visit Fightthebite.info.

Care is a lifelong commitment for Primary Care Alberta. We plan, fund and support primary health-care across the province, improving access to care providers and offering front-line services through Health Link 811 and public health teams.

Throughout the health journey, we are by your side – managing, preventing and reducing illness. Along with our partners, we nurture the connections our communities need to thrive and strengthen the health of all Albertans.

Broadband expansion

Continued from page 5

Signage Project to the Machinery and Equipment Reserve.

Additional motions directed administration to develop terms of reference for a Dark Sky Policy, review community grant programs to consider support for non-profit organizations that do not operate facilities and prepare a report examining employee remote and hybrid work arrangements and the implications of possible policy changes.

Council further instructed administration to work with the Government of Alberta

to determine the feasibility of installing traffic signals at the intersection of Highways 643 and 38.

During Committee of the Whole discussions, members received a presentation on the ecological health of the Redwater wildfire area, including information about post-fire recovery and the impacts recreational activities may have on sensitive landscapes. Council also accepted the annual presentation from STARS and recommended increasing the municipality's contribution to \$3 per capita beginning in 2027.

Quarterly updates from the Morinville, Redwater

and Fort Saskatchewan RCMP detachments were received as information.

Earlier in the meeting, Mayor Alanna Hnatiw proclaimed June 21 as National Indigenous Peoples Day in Sturgeon County. Council also referred a request from resident Amanda Bodhi for compassionate municipal tax relief to administration for a future recommendation and appointed the mayor to the YEG-ZVL Noise Advisory Committee.

The meeting reflected council's continued focus on infrastructure investment, responsible growth and support for communities across Sturgeon County.

SMALL ADS BIG REACH

Classified Word Ads require Payment with Order. Low cost - high circulation. Your ad will also run free in the Redwater Review. Up to 25 words: \$15.00 per week, GST included. Additional words: 50c/each. Deadline: Thursday 2:00 p.m. Phone: 780-222-2016 E-mail: morinvillepress@gmail.com.

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For Sale

INLAND SPRAYER with a 500-gallon tank, pull-type design, and

65-foot booms. Also available is an Inland Arrow drawbar automatic-fold harrow with 17 harrows. Located in Smoky Lake, Alberta. For more information, call 780-258-0058.

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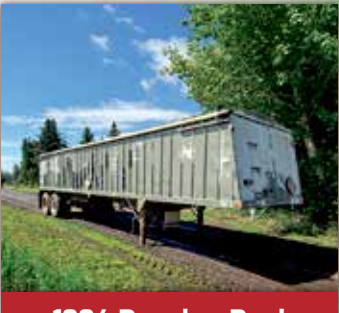
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