

# N Morinville News

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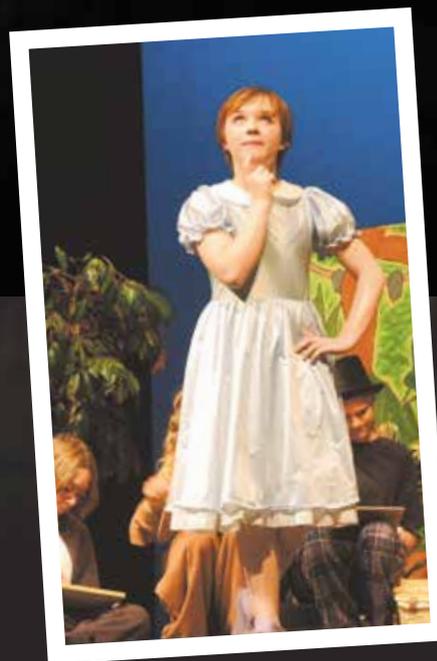
Vol. 5 — Issue 16

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## Wendy and the Lost boys

Georges H. Primeau School put on two performances of J. M. Barrie's play Peter Pan at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre last week. See Pages 18 and 19 for more photos.

- Lucie Roy Photos



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# Community Champions

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Georges H. Primeau students Natasha Ladouceur (left) and Saydee Gustafson (right) find another way to talk during the We Are Silent event at the school last week.

- Submitted Photo

## Primeau students shut up for a day

by Lucie Roy

Georges H. Primeau students spent 24 hours being silent this week, all part of the We Are Silent event which falls under the Free the Children initiative. On April 16, those participating went silent for 24 hours for the millions of children around the world facing poverty, exploitation and the denial of their right to education.

At Primeau, the Me-to-We students have wanted to participate in We Are Silent since their first year working with Free the Children.

Every morning this week the school participated with various presentations. Wednesday's presentations looked at international rights for children, including the right to play and rest. Other segments explored homelessness, child slavery, empowerment of girls and education for women.

"The movement at Primeau is beyond raising funds," said teacher Dianne Hutton, adding the school had raised well over their \$500 goal. "We do raise funds, but the Me-to-We group is now old enough that they really want to raise awareness. They have gone beyond posters and putting them up to using social media in a manner that promotes the cause."

To be able to distinguish the We Are Silent participants from other students, Primeau received assistance from MCHS students who designed and made buttons students could purchase for \$5. On the button students would write what they were being silent for.

Free the Children is an international charity and educational partner, that works domestically and internationally with youth, encouraging them to be agents of change.

Me to We offers students an opportunity to take part in social justice initiatives through a variety of activities, including the annual Me to We Day event.



Clockwise from left:

A white board is full of student donations during last week's We Are Silent initiative at Georges H. Primeau School. Father Martin was silent for clean water. A teacher covers her mouth with tape, replicating the silence students took part in.



# Pet Fashion Show a hit at Trade Show

Lucie Roy Photos

About a dozen dogs and their owners took to the catwalk at the Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce's Leap into Spring Expo Saturday afternoon. The event, sponsored by the Morinville Veterinary Clinic and Champion Petfoods offered prizes for the best-dressed animal. First prize was a year's supply of Champion Petfoods product, second prize was a gift certificate to the clinic, and third prize was bragging rights for the owner.

The all dog contestants this year showed off a wide range of creative costumes.

Winners were narrowed to the top three by audience applause, and the top three were decided by the loudest of a second round of applause.

First Place went to Penny Isaak and Hera for their viking theme costumes. The winner received a 12 month supply of pet food from Champion Petfoods.

Second place went to Avery Lloyd, her mom Erin and dog Galway for their cow and cowgirl outfits. They received a gift certificate for the Morinville Veterinary Clinic. Third place mention went to Brittany Ball for her prisoner attire and her police officer dog Sadie.

**Clockwise from top:** The winners gather for final judging. Erin Berube and her clown dog Tiny. Kiley Berube and her lost tourist Gibson. Kord Smyth and Bell, the balarina. Dogs Max and Booh waiting for their turn on the catwalk to show off their pumpkin costumes.



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# Ruling means council doesn't have a prayer

Under the guise of a ruling on the place of the prayer at Saguenay's City Hall, the Supreme Court of Canada has put a mirror up to the face of all Canadian legislators.

The onus for maintaining a secular public space is on them and not on the individuals who toil in the public service and/or who interact with their administrations.

Moreover, neither the preservation of a historical religious heritage nor the notion that a given faith is that of the majority should override the principle of a neutral state.

On that basis, the crucifix is more likely to eventually come down from the walls of institutions such as the Quebec national assembly than kippas, turbans and religious veils such as the hijab are to be banned from Canada's federal, provincial or municipal workplaces.

There is also little in the subtext of the ruling to sustain the federal case for a ban on the face-covering niqab from federal citizenship oath ceremonies.

Wednesday's judgment dealt specifically with the practice of Saguenay's municipal council to open its public meetings with a prayer. The court found that it infringed on the fundamental rights of non-believers. The immediate consequence of

that finding is to force Mayor Jean Tremblay - a devout

Catholic who had cast this battle as nothing less than a religious crusade - to abandon the practice.

The same goes for the dozens of municipal councils across Canada that begin their deliberations with a prayer of some sort.

According to the Court, it is not because the text of a prayer is non-denominational that it is non-discriminatory or that it respects the principle of the neutrality of the state. The recitation of a prayer remains a fundamentally religious act, a fact about which the court had this to say: "the state may not, by expressing its own religious

preference, promote the participation of believers to the exclusion of non-believers or vice-versa ... A neutral public space free from coercion, pressure and judgment on the part of public authorities in matters of spirituality is intended to protect every person's freedom and dignity, and it helps preserve and promote the multicultural nature of Canadian society.

(As an aside, the House of Commons prayer, whose text is identical to the latest version used in Saguenay, may be protected by parliamentary privilege.)

## National Affairs Column



Chantel Hebert

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This is just the latest chapter in an increasingly heated national debate over the balance between religious freedom and the secular character of Canada's public institutions. In its unanimous ruling, the top court drops more than a few hints as to how it sees the way forward.

Although it refrains from pronouncing on the place of religious symbols on the walls of public institutions, the judgment suggests that their presence - if challenged - is unlikely to be saved by the argument that they reflect a historical or cultural heritage.

That's the rationale most commonly used to defend the crucifix that hangs on the wall of the national assembly.

But perhaps the part of the judgment that will be read most carefully by justice officials and their political masters is the section that spells out that a neutral public space is not one that obliterates religious diversity. In paragraph 74 of the judgment, and almost as an aside from its core narrative,

Justice Clement Gascon writes: "I note that a neutral public space does not mean the homogenization of private players in that space. Neutrality is required of institutions and the state, not individuals."

He adds for good measure: " a secular state does not - and can-

not - interfere with the beliefs or practices of a religious group unless they conflict with or harm overriding public interests."

That amounts to a red light flashing in the face of any government contemplating - as Quebec recently did - the imposition of a secular dress code on its public sector employees.

It also suggests that the federal government, should it want the court to give its ban on face-covering niqabs at citizenship oath ceremonies a green light, may have to come up with a pretty compelling demonstration of the "overriding public interest" served by such a measure.

The prayer "God, eternal and almighty, who has all power and wisdom, we are assembled in your presence to ensure the welfare and prosperity of our city. Grant us, we beseech you, light and energy to our deliberations to promote the honour and glory of your holy name and the spiritual and material happiness of our city. So be it."

*Chantal Hebert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.*

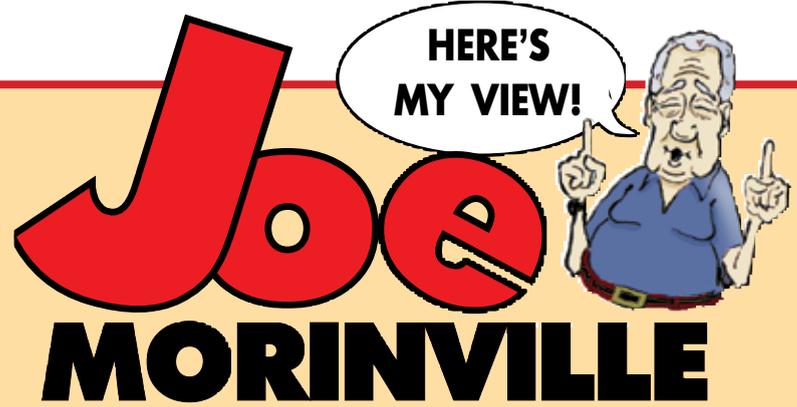
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We got a provincial election on and as far as I can see it, the only ones what really are excited about it is the candidates that's running to be MLAs. The people don't seem to be too concerned.

**1** I'd be excited to run for MLA. The job pays \$127,000 a year and that's after the 5% pay cut they give themselves in February. And if you're a Cabinet Minister, you make about \$191,000 a year. That's pretty big money. If you don't believe me, ask a teacher or a nurse or the gal serving you coffee at Timmy's in the morning.

**2** The new Wildrose leader Brian Jean has been in the news with his little cardboard arrow pointing at stuff Jim Prentice apparently made more expensive with his budget. I don't know how well the Wildrose is going to do this time, but I think they ought to keep the arrow after the election so they can show what way they're going when they're crossing the floor.

**3** But according to the polls the Wildrose is doing great in rural Alberta, and the NDP are popping up orange signs all over Edmonton, and quite a few here, at least in Sunshine. The National Post calls it the left / right squeeze and that the PCs ought to be worried about it. I call it the people-are-not-happy-with-the-budget squeeze.

**4** Of course, polls don't amount to anything you can take to the bank. They're like Internet petitions - it counts what people is thinking at the time, and makes for an interesting headline or two, but it gets as much traction as bald summer tires in a foot-and-a-half of mud. The only thing what counts is how many bums get put in seats when the real votes are counted.

**5** Seen on the Morinville News Facebook page how Kubinec has her campaign office in the telephone store and Turner has his campaign office next to Chef's Pizza. Guess Kubinec is in the right place to phone up and order a pizza, and Turner is in the right place to whip one up for her. Since Van Dijken don't have an office here, there's probably little chance he'd deliver it.

**6** The way I see it is you got more than 250 bums looking to sit in only 87 seats. Some of the bums have sat in the same seat for a long time, and some bums want to take it from them. The only way that'll happen is if we all get off our bums May 5 and vote.

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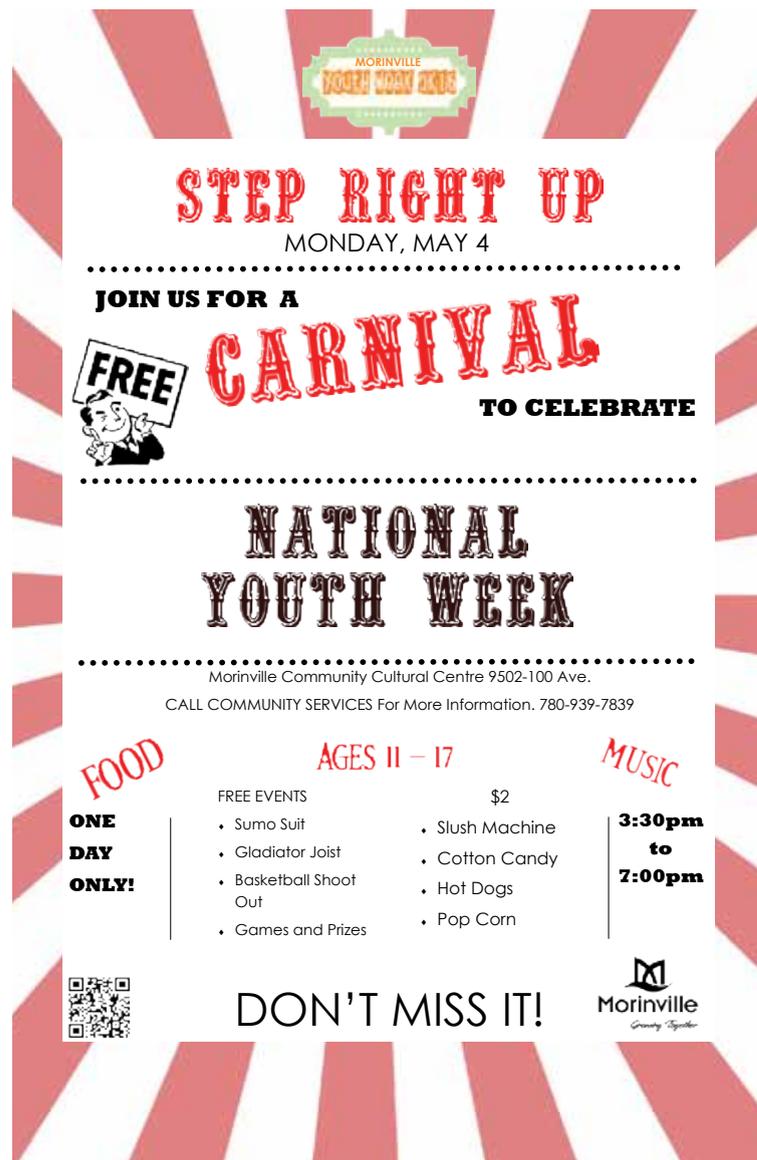
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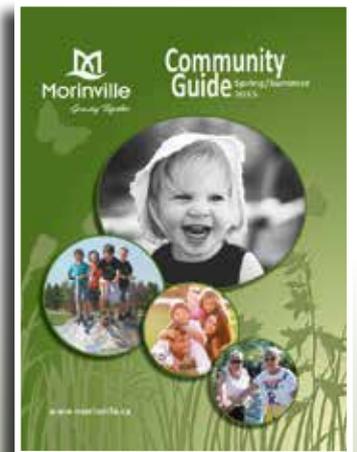
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Morinville is currently completing a Communications Survey to get a sense of how the community interacts with the municipality, and how you want to receive information.



The survey can be completed online at:  
<http://morinville.fluidsurveys.com/s/2015CommunicationsSurvey/>

**Survey will close April 22, 2015**

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# Morinville property taxes higher than budgeted

by Colin Smith

Morinville homeowners could be paying property taxes at a higher rate than expected this year.

A 3.39 per cent rate increase is set out in the 2015 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, which received unanimous first reading at the regular meeting of Town Council Apr. 14. Second and third reading is anticipated for the Apr. 28 meeting.

The proposed rate is a .39 per cent increase, up from the three per cent municipal tax increase in the Town's 2015 Budget, approved in December. The increase is due to the assessment figures it was based on were too high. With a rate increase of 3.39 per cent, the municipal taxes for a home assessed at \$300,000 will rise by about \$65 per year.

The Town of Morinville needs to raise \$8,160,137 in municipal taxes to meet its expenditures and debenture debt, in line with its 2015 Operating and Capital budget approved in December.

In addition to municipal taxes, it has to cover this year's Education Property Tax Requisition in the amount of \$3,091,592.65 for the Alberta School Foundation (ASFF) and Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools. There is also the Sturgeon Foundation Tax Requisition in the amount of \$115,861.26, for a total of \$11,316,388.

Tax calculations for 2014 are based on property assessments as of July 1, 2014, with changes made to properties up to Dec. 31 recorded as if they had been made by July 1.

Real growth in assessment for 2014 was 3.11 per cent as compared to the budgeted 3.5 per cent. As a result, homeowners will pay a higher rate in order to generate the budgeted amount of revenue for the Town.

For a property valued at \$300,000, total taxes for 2015 would be \$2,735.84 compared to \$2,664.73, an increase of 2.67 per cent or \$71.11 per year.

## Average Tax Bill Increase

(Home Valued At \$300,000)

2014 = \$1,917.68

2015 = \$1982.89

## School Taxes

Up .069 per cent or \$4.98

## Sturgeon Foundation requisition

Up 4.05 percent, \$1.12

That is based on the assessed value of the home rising 2.44 per cent to \$300,000 from \$292,855 in 2014. Municipal taxes will go from \$1,917.68 to \$1982.89, school taxes are up by .069 per cent or \$4.98, and the sum that goes toward the Sturgeon Foundation requisition rises by 4.05 percent, \$1.12.

Tax assessment notices will go out later this month and in May.

The Town administration points out that individual ratepayers may see their municipal portion vary from the average increase due to market adjustments on individual properties and improvements made.

Residential and occupied non-residential properties are both assessed at a tax rate of 6.09618. Vacant non-residential properties are assessed at 19.192351 and vacant farmland at 31.970466.

Morinville's 2015 projected revenue also includes \$51,202 in local improvement taxes collected from ratepayers in the Business Park.



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## Put your right foot in...

The Leap into Spring Expo clown joined Mayor Lisa Holmes, Councillor Gord Putnam and Chamber President Simon Boersma in a little clown fun Sunday afternoon at the trade show.

- Lucie Roy Photo

# Morinville Council Briefs

by Colin Smith

## Development okayed

Town Council has approved a bylaw allowing commercial and business industrial development in an area along 100 Street north of Cardiff Road and east of 100 Street. Bylaw 3/2015 amends the Land Use Bylaw to redistrict a 24-acre parcel from Urban Reserve (UR) District to Corridor Commercial (C-3), Commercial and Industrial Service (CIS), and Parks and Open Spaces (POS) Districts. Application for the redistricting was made by IBI Group.

Council gave second and third readings to the bylaw Tuesday following a public hearing, during which a resident expressed concerns that the proposed development area contained wetlands.

## Planning and Development position

Council has approved the addition of an additional Planning and Development staff member to support Economic Development in response to the increased activity in Morinville.

The \$67,000 salary and benefits for the clerk

position can be covered by the existing 2015 approved budget.

On Mar. 24, Council had asked the Administration to provide it with information on the cost to add a position to address capacity issues related to economic development and growth pressures, something identified in the recent Organizational Review.

## Residential waste minimization

A report on the progress of the Capital Region Waste Minimization Advisory Committee was received by Council as information.

The Committee is a voluntary group of technical and political representatives from 24 municipalities in the Alberta Capital Region, including Morinville.

The update by Public Works Director Claude Valcourt provided a review of the committee's recommendations on residential waste minimization in the areas of performance management, education and communications, recycling harmonization, contract management and information sharing.

The report states that recommendations are generally meant to be "quick wins" that could easily be implemented over the next year.

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# Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock Ask-A-Candidate Week One



**PC**

Maureen Kubinec



**NDP**

Tristan Turner



**Wildrose**

Glenn van Dijken

by Colin Smith

Improving healthcare for Albertans will require more localized decision-making and patient-centred care.

That is something all the candidates seeking election in Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock can agree on.

Morinville News recently asked the three candidates for their views on how to improve the healthcare system, as well as what approach they think should be taken to services, benefits and programs for the province's growing population of seniors.

## Healthcare

Wildrose candidate Glenn van Dijken said a government formed by his party would return to a structure of more local authority and sit down with doctors and nurses to create a patient-centered health care model.

"The morale of our workers will improve when they begin to implement local solutions that bring positive and timely results for their patients," he said. "I trust them to look after the interests of patients."

Other policies include development of metrics and incentives to drive competitive innovation at the front lines and a secure publicly accessible patient health care portal through which patients can access their own health care records, referrals, appointments, billing fees and other information.

According to Progressive Conservative Maureen Kubinec, her party would focus on regional decision-making in healthcare by establishing eight to 10 operational districts aligned with local advisory councils to give the community a say on how their health care is delivered.

Also critical is getting get better value for the

amount of tax money spent on healthcare, she said.

"We will find efficiencies in administration and trim the bureaucracy so that dollars can be dedicated to frontline services," she said. "At the same time, we will find ways to improve the quality and performance of our health system."

Building a healthcare system that focuses on the needs of patients is a major priority for the New Democrats, indicated party candidate Tristan Turner.

"We will fill nearly 600,000 square feet of currently unused hospital space so that we can offer the care that Alberta needs, and reduce wait times for emergency rooms and surgeries across the province," he stated.

"We will also commit to improving the quality of care and reduce wait times for critical surgeries in Alberta's hospitals by reversing the hundreds of millions of dollars cut from our health care system, and focus on front line services and care."

Other measures include reviewing the largest hospitals to improve efficiencies and costs through acute care hospital benchmarking and improving safety standards and quality of care in health facilities by strengthening the system to monitor, audit and ensure compliance. Programs to support the mental health needs of children will be expanded.

## Seniors

Increased home care funding is one avenue his party would take to help fragile seniors spend their final days with comfort and dignity, said van Dijken.

"A Wildrose government would invest an additional \$50 million dollars in home care and annually increase homecare funding thereafter to keep up with enrollment," he said. "This will em-

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power Albertans to continue living in the comfort of their own homes and communities while freeing up badly needed acute care hospital beds.”

It would also work with the private sector, such as Shepherds Care in Barrhead, to increase seniors care capacity, and support and encourage local municipal authorities in developing programs to serve the needs of seniors in their community.

Kubinec said the Progressive Conservatives want to help aging Albertans stay at home and stay independent for as long as possible through enhancing home care capacity.

When a senior can no longer live at home, access to affordable living spaces in their own communities will be available and all Albertans will be able to depend on safe and secure long-term care.

“We have committed to opening 464 continuing care beds and 2,612 supportive living spaces,” she said. “We have committed to upgrade sprinkler and fire safety systems in 75 seniors lodges – improving 4,700 units over three years – and in 30 other seniors facilities with 1,750 continuing care spaces.”

Other policies include requiring minimum staffing standards for seniors lodges – a minimum of two staff members present at all times – and implementing an effective elder abuse prevention strategy.

Ensuring adequate long-term care facilities is a major element of the New Democrats’ program for seniors.

“The NDP is committed to building 2,000 new long-term care beds over the next four years, and will invest millions to ensure that the quality of care at all of our facilities is increased,” Turner said.

## All Candidates Forum This Week

Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock voters will have an opportunity to hear the candidates make their pitches and answer questions at an all-candidates forum Apr. 23. Organizers have arranged to have PC candidate Maureen Kubinec, Wildrose candidate Glenn van Dijken and NDP candidate Tristan Turner attend the event.

The forum will take place at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is being put on by the Rotary Club of Morinville, Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce, Sturgeon Teachers (ATA Local No. 27) and the Greater St. Albert Catholic Teachers Local No. 23. The event is also sponsored by the Town of Morinville, Sturgeon County and The Morinville News.

Those wishing to have questions asked at the forum will need to arrive a little early as question submissions will take place between 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Students from Grade 4 and up are encourage to attend as there will be a student vote at the conclusion of the forum to gauge how well the candidates did with youth.

Babysitting will be available from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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# Silent auction to support upcoming library programs

by Stephen Dafoe

The Morinville Community Library will be pushing aside some books and other items next week for their spring Silent Auction fundraiser. The event takes place from opening Apr. 27 to May 3 at 4 p.m.

Library Manager Isabelle Cramp said the library has already received many donations from local businesses for the upcoming auction. They have once again been able to acquire a large amount of new Disney toys and bedding products, items that have been popular in the past. Ugg boots are a new item this auction.

Bidding is open through the entire week to bid, check and rebid if necessary. The highest bid by close of the auction is the winning bid. Cramp said items can be picked up immediately after the close of

the auction.

"The reason we are doing the silent auction is to raise funds to support all our programs, and especially this year as we have our big Harry Potter Summer Reading Program coming up," Cramp said. "We need to make sure we have adequate funding to run the program."

More than raising funds for the library and its programming, Cramp said the silent auction adds some extra vibrancy to a popular community hub.

"This is something that's brought in a lot of people on a regular basis," she said. "We do the silent auction twice a year and we are now starting to see regulars. It brings in people that have never been in the library and gives them a chance to see what the library looks like."

Visit [MorinvilleLibray.ca](http://MorinvilleLibray.ca) for more info.



Hope Vanden-Brink from Serenity Studios of Morinville performed on stage Saturday at the Leap into Spring Expo. - Lucie Roy Photo

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2015

## Morinville Election Forum

April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre  
(Submit forum questions from 6:00pm to 6:30pm)

### Adults

- Attend the forum and get informed on local issues and your candidates
- Please consider bringing and staying with your youth / teen grade 4+

### Youth / Teens

- Listen to the candidates and cast your ballot afterward at our Student Vote if you are grade 4+
- Please consider bringing your parents!

### Children

- Babysitting available from 6pm to 8:30pm

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Barrhead Morinville Westlock

## Meet the Candidate Fundraiser



Glenn van Dijken

**Friday, April 24, 2015**  
**Memorial Hall Westlock**

**Cocktails 5:30 pm**  
**Dinner 6:30 pm**  
**Tickets \$25**

**Live and Silent Auctions**  
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The Greatest Show on Earth circus theme was a hit at the Legal School Open House held Thursday night. Trustee Cathy Proulx and MCHS Principal Todd Eistetter were both present at the event, which included a number of booths and activities displaying MCHS opportunities, Legal school projects and information, fundraising for Development and Peace, games, snacks, refreshments and prizes.

## Legal recognizes and celebrates its volunteers

Annand Ollivierre, Program Manager Volunteer Alberta, was the keynote speaker at the Legal Appreciation event held at the Community Centre Friday night. Ollivierre spoke on the value of volunteers and the impact on the community.

- Lucie Roy Photo



Comedian Bob Beddow entertained with stories of a small Northern Alberta Town, road rage, men buying underwear, getting older, dogs chasing rabbits, thongs, and other topics. Beddow has a long line of credits, including the Regina Comedy Festival, Calgary Comedy Festival, the Hollywood Laughter is Hope Comedy Festival, and CTV's Profiles in Comedy.

- Lucie Roy Photo



Legal Lions members Donna Fauque, Karen Oloske and Megan Thiel with the appreciation tokens they received from the town for their volunteerism. The thank you gift was provided at every table setting.

- Lucie Roy Photo

# Firebugs destroy Morinville playground

by Morinville News Staff

Morinville Fire Department and RCMP were called to Grandin Heights Park Thursday night to find a major piece of playground equipment had been destroyed by fire.

An alert resident called fire and police after her sons spotted smoke in the park from their back window.

"There was smoke coming out of the end of the tunnel and a pile of leaves burning inside," the resident told Morinville News. "The wind fed the fire, so it got hot enough to melt through the tunnel. Our park is ruined."

Unfortunately, the resident and her children did not witness anyone setting the blaze.

Corporal Sheldon Robb with the Morinville RCMP Detachment said police took two witness statements from the incident and that the investigation continues.

The destruction of the playground equipment

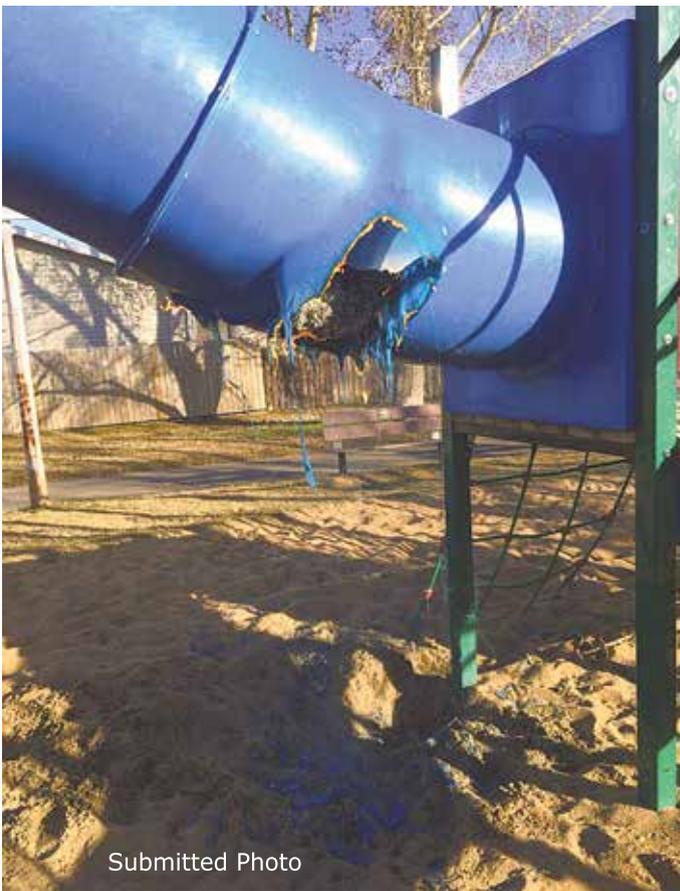
marks the second major incident of vandalism in April. The community awoke Apr. 4 to find St. Jean Baptiste Church, the post office and other buildings and vehicles had been vandalized overnight.

Police say the investigation into those incidents is ongoing and that RCMP are following up on some potential leads.

With better weather at hand, Robb and his fellow RCMP members are encouraging residents to be vigilant and lend a hand to the police.

"We always want the citizens to be part of the solution. And part of the solution is being an extra set of eyes and ears out there to call and report any suspicious activity," Robb said. "Without it, it makes our job a lot harder. Cooperation from the general public, whoever it might be, does assist police in solving crime. We encourage citizens to call in any suspicious activity."

Anyone with info on this or other crimes can call the Morinville RCMP at 780-939-4520.



Submitted Photo

## It pays to Shop Local

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# Lions and business uniting to support Midstream Support Society

by Stephen Dafoe

More than 100 motorcycle riders are expected to start and stop in Morinville for the first Christmas in June Toy Run, a new event that will support the Midstream Support Society. The event takes place June 6 at 10 a.m. and organizers are excited to get their motors running and head out on the highway in aid of the charity.

Lions Club members Marty and Deb Robillard came up with the idea to hold the event, and The Morinville Lions Club were quick to lend their support. The Lions will be assisting with sponsorship, registrations and promoting the event, as well as providing volunteers to help run the Toy Run on June 6.

"We weren't able to participate in the Christmas Auction for the Santa Store this past year," said Marty Robillard. "We felt we would go ahead and host a toy run instead. We know there are lots of bikes in Morinville, and we know it's something everyone can get behind."

Both Robillards are bike enthusiasts themselves. "It's the freedom and the feel of the wind on your face," Marty Robillard said of riding a motorcycle. "It's better than any convertible as far as I'm concerned. The acceleration, the adrenaline, the relaxation of it all."

The event is a rain or shine event. The route departs from Technical Automotives in the industrial park and will wind its way through Onaway, Alberta Beach, Barrhead, Westlock, before returning to Morinville. There will be an after party barbeque at Coaches Corner.

Organizers are looking to make the event an annual one. Although the Midstream Support Society's Santa Store will be the recipient



of this summer's event, the benefactor may change each year.

"We'll still do a toy run, and it'll still go to the Santa Store, but the proceeds would go to a different charity," Deb Robillard said.

Regardless of the cause, riders will be encouraged to bring a toy.

But this year's inaugural event seeks to offer a broader scope of help for the Midstream by providing the registration proceeds to the charity.

"The Midstream helps out people who can't make their rent, can't buy groceries," said Marty Robillard. "They help people in a lot of different ways."

Registration for the event is \$25 per participant. Those participating will receive an event t-shirt. Anything left after costs will go to the charity.

The Robillards are personally stepping up through their business Technical Automotives and will be matching the entry fee for the first 100 riders dollar for dollar. "If we have 100 riders, Technical Automotives will donate \$2500."

Organizers are looking for corporate sponsors. Donation in excess of \$1000 gets the company name on the back of the event t-shirt.

Registration will take place Friday, June 5 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Technical Automotives and Saturday morning until 9:30 a.m.

Those interested in pre-registering can call 780-939-3976 or 780-907-8139. Riders are encouraged to register in advance. Those who register by May 15 will receive a goody bag of local items.

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# Ready—Set—Garden

**Valerie Loseth**  
**The Wheelbarrow Gardener**

Preparing your yard and garden now for the growing season ahead is not only smart but it also saves you time and money. Doing a few projects now when there is time will prevent obstacles getting in your way when it's time to get busy in the gardens. Here are a few things you can do now.

**1)** Get out the seed catalogues and gardening magazines. Everything starts with an idea, and these are great resources for ideas on what you can incorporate into your yard or garden this year. Whether it's a new type of perennial you want to try or maybe there is a part of the yard you want to design differently, now is the time to do the research. Make sure that when dreaming and ordering of new plants that you're keeping in mind the zone that we live in, which is a 2b-3a. If you're creating a new flower bed, take a photo of the area now, get out the hose or extension cord and draw the outline of the garden, then take another picture. You will get a better perspective of the size and relation of the new garden with the pictures than you will with the naked eye.

**2)** Clean and sharpen the tools. Gather all of your tools and give them all a once over. Using a stiff wire brush remove all the dried on soil and loose rust. Then in order to prevent transferring destructive pathogens from last year into this year's gardens give all your tools, pots, and baskets a good washing with a bleach water wash. One cap full of bleach for four litres of warm water will do the trick. Make sure you dry everything well. Sand down any of the handles that are starting to look rough, and then give them a coat of outdoor Varathane. This procedure will help prevent splinters. Tighten any nuts or bolts on the tools and sharpen any blades. If you're not comfortable doing it yourself take them to a professional. Put new o-rings in the hose and check the nozzle that it works, no one likes a leaky hose. Oh, and make sure the wheelbarrow tire is full of air, nothing worse than finding a flat tire when you don't have time to deal with it.

**3)** Rake the grass, this will help remove snow mold from the grass and remove some of the



**The  
Wheelbarrow  
Gardener**

dead thatch. Top dress lightly with some compost and rake it in, this will help feed the lawn without the use of chemicals. Edge the grass along garden edges now while they are still moist and not actively growing with plants.

**4)** If you've covered your garden beds with leaves, get a rake in there and stir things up. You don't have to remove all the leaves, if you leave some there they will break down and feed the soil. But make sure that you stir them up to incorporate some

air into the soil to help with decomposition and to help warm and dry things up. Be careful as you remove the leaves and debris from around the perennials, you'll no doubt unearth a ladybug den if they haven't already emerged.

**5)** Give a gentle wake up to your perennials. Remove winter mulches exposing emerging rosettes that are crowning now or trim back any perennials to about 4-5 inches above ground level and put the cuttings into your compost. Add a dressing of compost around the plants but not directly on them, as you don't want to burn the delicate new growth.

**6)** Prune any obvious, broken, dead or diseased branches from trees or shrubs. If you're pruning a tree that you know is diseased make sure to clean your tools between each of the different cuts that you make with a bleach water solution. If you're pruning for shape, prune shrubs that bloom in the spring or early summer after they bloom. For those shrubs that bloom in the late summer or fall, most should be pruned in the spring.

**7)** Clean out the shed, dispose of any broken pots, tools, garden accessories or gloves that don't have companions. Organize all the tools and supplies and donate what you don't use. Take out the lawn furniture and give it a good wash with the hose and a stiff brush, now sit back, and relax and dream of the warm summer days to come.

**The Wheelbarrow Gardener  
can be found online at:  
[facebook.com/wheelbarrowgrdnr](https://www.facebook.com/wheelbarrowgrdnr)  
[www.thewheelbarrowgardener.com](http://www.thewheelbarrowgardener.com)**

In the final heat it was Emily Kavich, James Menard and Jedrek Tokarczyk for placement in first, second and third.

# Babies crawl their way to prizes and fame



Photos by Lucie Roy

Morinville News held their annual Baby Crawl Sunday, the final day of the 2015 Leap into Spring Expo. This year's event saw four contestants battling it out to be crowned the fastest crawler in Morinville.

The event included two heats of two contestants each. A third heat between the losers of the first to heats gave one baby the opportunity to race with the winner in a three-way race to determine the first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Jed Tokarczyk was this year's first-place winner and received a \$100 gift basket from Neighbors Vitamin Shop and an accompanying trophy from The Morinville News. Second-place winner James Menard received a trophy and a \$50 gift certificate from the Morinville News advertiser of their choice. Third-place winner Emily Kavich won a trophy and \$25 gift certificate. The Morinville News awarded fourth-place winner Khloe Stephenson a \$25 gift certificate as well.



**Clockwise from top right:**

Jed Tokarczyk was first-place winner.

Second-place winner James Menard.

Third-place winner was Emily Kavich.

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## Primeau performs Peter Pan

Georges H. Primeau Middle School held their performance of Peter Pan Apr. 14 and 15 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. More than 300 attended the two performances.

Twenty-six students from Grade 5 to 8 made up the cast, spending one to two hours rehearsing three times per week since January.

Directed by Primeau teachers Jessica Workun and Bethany Kordyback, the play was based on the novel by J.M. Barrie and adapted by Craig Sodaro.

The production included five stage settings: the nursery at the Darling residence, Neverland, the lagoon, the Lost Boys' Cave and the pirate ship. Workun said the three-sided rotating backdrops were built by MCHS teacher Ryan O'Gorman

**Above:** Captain Hooks' crew look on. **Opposite Page from Top:** The Lost Boys dance. Wendy and Peter Pan have a chat.

- Lucie Roy photos

 *J. M. Turner*   
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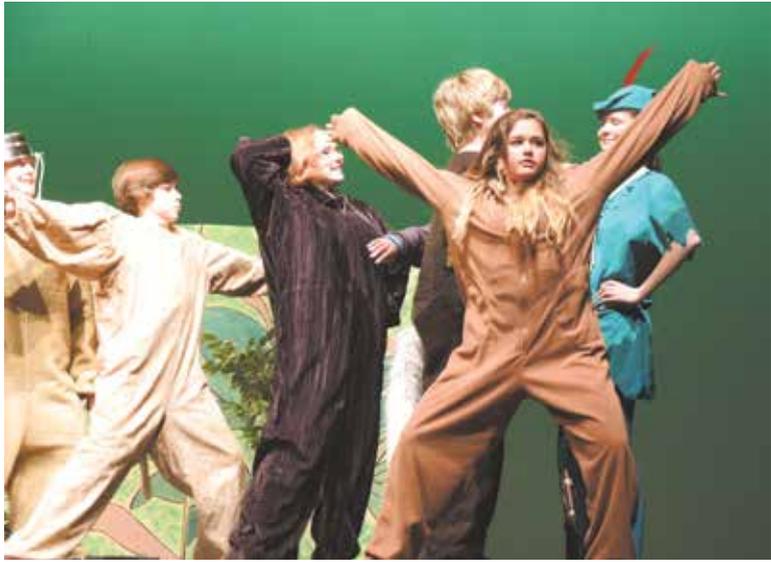
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## Schools excel at Music Festival

by Lucie Roy

Morinville schools did well at this year's St. Albert Rotary Music Festival (Apr. 13-22). Morinville schools numbered among the more than 700 performances in six venues scheduled for this year's event.

Primeau music teacher and conductor Nicole Baker received Gold Certificates at the Arden Theatre Apr. 13. Both were on behalf of the two band performances given that day. The Grade 6/7 Band performed in the morning with Silver Sceptor by John Kinyon and Two Canadian Folks Songs by Anne McGinty. In the afternoon the Grade 8 Band performed Crystal Clear Overture by John Edmondson and A Childhood Hymn by David Holsinger.

Notre Dame student Sofiya Chvojka got a Gold Standing Certificate Apr. 14 for her performance in the L216 Piano Recital for Exam Preparation Grade 1 with Dream Journey in C Major.

MCHS Music Teacher Corinna Cormier was given Gold with Distinction for the MCHS Band. Cormier and the band performed Windjammer by Buckley and March of the Belgian Parachutists by Leemans at the Arden Theatre Apr. 15. Gold with Distinction is awarded for marks between 91 to 100 percent.



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# Sports Briefs

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## Sturgeon Hockey Club rewards its star players



Cory Rogers presented the Leigh Kilarski Memorial Award Best Sportsman-Atom to Garrett Buhler.



The Kevin Lynch Memorial Award Most Improved Player was presented by Cory Rogers to Jack Volpe. This award is presented annually to the most improved Novice player in A, B or C teams.



The Nicholas Deschenes Outstanding Peewee Player Award was presented to Raphael Pelletier by Nicks' father Pierre Deschenes as Nick was unable to attend.



The Brian Puchala Hockey Camp was presented by his wife Julia to Cade Van Brabant. Brian passed away in 2010 and served over nineteen years on the board for the Jets.



The Sturgeon Hockey Club Jeff Richardson Memorial Award Top Junior Goaltender was presented to Jackson Berube.



The Sturgeon Hockey Club Jeff Richardson Memorial Award Top Senior Goal Tender for 2014-2015 was awarded to Dylon Starman (absent) and Colton Kucher.



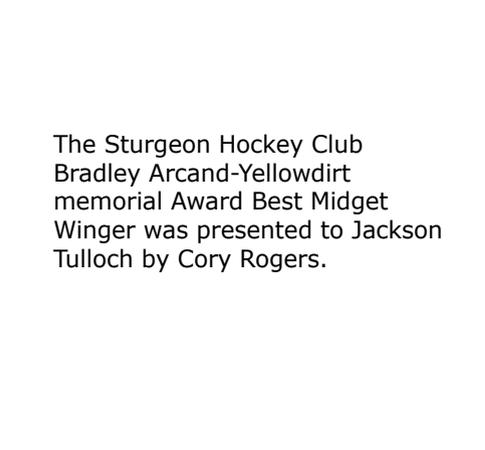
The Sturgeon Hockey Club Terry Grykuliak Memorial Award for Outstanding Hockey Volunteer was presented to Janice Kluss by Cory Rogers, Equipment Director.



Sturgeon Hockey Club Junior Coach of the Year 2014-2015 was presented to Cory Rogers (on right).



Sturgeon Hockey Club Senior Coach of the Year 2014-2015 was presented to Dylan Stang (on far right).



The Sturgeon Hockey Club Bradley Arcand-Yellowdirt memorial Award Best Midget Winger was presented to Jackson Tulloch by Cory Rogers.



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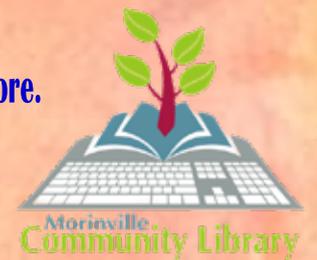


# SILENT AUCTION

**Monday, April 27th to Sunday, May 3rd (4 pm)**  
**Bidding closes on Sunday, May 3rd at 4 pm!**  
**Lots of wonderful items to bid on!**

*Awesome selection up for silent auction, collectibles, toys, kids clothes, quilt sets and much more.*  
*Watch our website and April newsletter for more information.*  
*Help support the library's programs and services.*

**Highest bidder Wins!**



## Upcoming Community Events



### All Candidates Forum

Rotary and Chamber are hosting an All Candidates Forum Apr. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. Babysitting available. Those wishing to ask questions of candidates are asked to arrive at 6 p.m. to record their questions.

### Penguins on film

The Morinville Community Library will hold their next Kids Flicks Apr. 24 at 1 p.m. The next movie is The Penguins of Madagascar.

### Morinville News Baby Crawl

The Morinville News would like to thank Neighbors Vitamin Shop for donating the First Place Prize Gift Basket again this year. Special thanks to Infinite Events Services and Sheldon Fingler for being our emcee once again.

**Like to see your organization's non-profit event here. We'd be happy to publish it for you.**  
**Send your not-for-profit community events to editor@morinvilnews.com**

### Library Corner

Happenings at the Library this week...  
*Click on EVENTS on our website for all the new programs at the Library!*

**Spring**

### SILENT AUCTION

**Monday, April 27th to Sunday, May 3rd (4 pm)**

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All proceeds help support programs and services at the Morinville Community Library



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## The Steffes House 9902-101 St. Morinville Built in 1919



Circa 1920s



2015

Ferdinand Steffes built this home for his wife Mary and himself. It is believed to be the first brick house constructed in Morinville and many of the other brick homes found throughout the town were fashioned after it.

### Own a piece of Morinville History The Steffes House at 9902 101 Street Is offered For Sale

Have you dreamed of owning the classic movie style house?  
Sitting on your covered front porch on a rocker or swing?

This could be the perfect home for you.

This 2 and a half story, 2500 square foot solid brick home sits on a double lot in the core of Morinville. Features include hardwood flooring, a covered front porch, wide solid wood moldings, wood staircase, 4 bedrooms, a sunroom, and 2 bathrooms. Country sized kitchen and dining area. The front door opens to a 12 ft. x 12 ft. entrance room leading into the Parlor and sitting rooms. The third floor has two large dormers opening onto one big open room. Sitting on a huge 72ft x 180ft lot with towering trees and a 22x30 ft. garage near the center of town

Upgraded electrical and plumbing, solid concrete foundation, freshly painted.

This one of a kind eye catching home is ready to be restored to its original splendor.

Magnificent personal home or even possibilities for an amazing bed and breakfast.

There will be an

**Open House**

For viewing of this  
Magnificent Historic Home

**The Steffes House**

9902-101 St. Morinville

On Sunday, April 26th

From 12-4 pm

Please come join us

Contact Craig Berke of 2% Realty Pro for information

**780-460-0421**