



Christmas bakers

Emma and Addison Berry just finished making some chocolate toffee shortbread cups when they posed for this festive photo. See story and photos on page 18.

- Lucie Roy Photo

Deputy Chief Retires
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Open House Sheds No Word On Rec Location
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Community Christmas Celebration This Week
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Retired Deputy Fire Chief Ken Thiemann (left) sits at the executive table with Fire Chief Brad Boddez and his fellow Morinville Firefighter colleagues after Thiemann's retirement barbecue earlier this fall.

- Stephen Dafoe Photo



Deputy Chief reflects on his years of volunteer service to the community

by **Stephen Dafoe**

Deputy Fire Chief Ken Thiemann is all smiles as he sits around a simple wooden table in a bay of the Morinville Fire Department. Joining him are five of his fellow firefighters, men who have served with him for many years. Though each of the volunteers have their own stories to tell, it is the stories told over the old table that truly unites them.

A relic of the early days of the Morinville Fire Department, the table and a little red bench that some of the members sit on as they reminisce are sacred relics to the men gathered to say farewell to a colleague as he retires after more than 33 years with the Department.

Thiemann didn't always have a place at that old table. Certainly not in 1981 when he joined the Morinville Fire Department. Back then, he and his fellow rookies would sit atop a fire truck while the leaders of the department held court at the table down below.

"It's been great. There's none like it," Thiemann said of his three-decade career as a volunteer firefighter. "This was a tough decision. I've had something to do with pretty much every truck in this hall except Unit 1. I've designed them and built them and that kind of stuff. Lots of mentors came through the door and helped us build what we've got today. They built me the way I am today. There was a lot of good people."

Though Deputy Chief Thiemann played a hand in helping design Ladder 4, Rescue 5, and even the Fire Chief's pick-up truck, he remembers a day when the department did not always have the quantity and quality of gear it presently enjoys.

"It was a lot smaller then," he says of the early 1980s when he became a firefighter. "We were in Sal's [Famous] place. That used to be the old fire

hall. We could get two trucks in there. the third one was jammed up tight against the washroom."

Though the physical environment was tighter, the atmosphere was a little less restrictive. "It was a different time. It was looser. We were a family. We all hung out together. The whole outfit did. Everyone that was on the crew all got together. We had parties. We had births, deaths, whatever. we were all pretty tight. It was a nice tight group."

The Deputy Fire Chief said the family atmosphere prevails today, but is not exactly the same as it was in years gone by. "Bigger is not always better," he said. "You lose some of that. A lot of these guys are the age I was when I started. Not saying this isn't a good crew. These guys are taking the trade and doing the job. Back in the day we would leave our families on the side of the road and go on a call, and they'd find their way home."

Though the dedication to the job they are charged with doing is the same, Thiemann says he finds the current breed of men and women who have joined the department to be a little more formal than in his day. "When they come up to you, they call you Chief," he said. "Back in the day we used to use our names all the time. Now its Chief or Captain."

But whether new breed or old breed, it is the firefighters and the camaraderie between them that populates Thiemann's fondest memories, including many nights gathered around the old wooden table. Thiemann said the table and bench represent the Department's past, a past that is respected and revered by both long-time and more recent members.

"When I joined the only guys that sat at this table was the executive," he recalled. "That was four Captains, the Chief and the Deputy Chief. "They sat at this table. We sat up on top of the trucks. They pretty much did their business and we [nodded in agreement]. But those guys that sat around



This page from left: Deputy Fire Chief Ken Thiemann sits at the executive table in front of Ladder 4. Thiemann has a chat with retired Fire Chief Ron Cust at Thiemann's farewell barbecue in the fall. The Deputy Chief's hat sits on the gear shelf in the fire hall.

- Stephen Dafoe Photos

this table - they built this place. Don Found, Ron Cust, Paul Krauskopf. Bud [Rockwell] was an intricate part of it. Those guys built the place."

Those leaders advanced the Department to where it is today through a series of discussions and planning sessions around the same table that was there in more humble beginnings. "This is where the planning was done. This is where we first decided we were going to get bunker gear. Before that it was coat and long boots. The hall was planned on this table, sitting on that bench. This thing goes back a long way and seen a lot of changes. There was talk at one time of do we really need it [the table]. Well that lasted about 30 seconds and we are never going to run out of room for this table. It just means too much to too many people."

But just as the table means a great deal to firefighters past and present, so too does the legacy left behind by the retiring Deputy Chief. Fire Chief Brad Boddez said Thiemann's departure leaves a huge hole in the Morinville Fire Department. "But he's passed down some great experiences and a wealth of knowledge," Boddez said. "So we will be able to move forward for sure and move into the next stage of our journey."

Fire Investigator Ed Pomerleau said he has nothing but fond memories of working with Thiemann. "He was always helpful, always jovial, and he's a great guy," Pomerleau said. "I wish him well."

They are sentiments shared by senior member Bud Rockwell. "He joined 10 years after I did and we both worked our way up the ranks," Rockwell recalled. "We're not going to replace him. There's nobody here that can replace him."

Thiemann, who recently turned 60, said he is too young to retire just yet. Though his work will continue to keep him busy, he said he is looking forward to the time he will gain from leaving the Department he has been a part of for 33 years. "I just wanted to move on," he said. "It was time for me to do something else. I've got a Jeep in my garage that I'm not doing anything with."

Deputy Chief recognized by Council

by Tristan Turner

Ken Thiemann, Deputy Chief of the Morinville Fire Department, was recognized by Council for his years of service to the community in light of a recent announcement that he would be retiring. Thiemann and many supporters from the local department accompanied him as he was honoured and celebrated by Council during their Dec. 9 meeting.

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Morinville News Editorial Pages

Column: Prime minister has political winds at his back

The House of Commons may have provided a scenic backdrop, but for Stephen Harper, all the world – and the 905 – was a stage during the parliamentary sitting which wrapped up this week.

Buffeted more by events outside the Canadian political realm than within, most of the prevailing winds were blowing the prime minister's way.

It was a session marked by a war debate, an attack on Parliament, sexual harassment and Harper's world travels and Ontario campaign-style stops.

But with the wind in his sails, he then rode into some tough headwinds in plummeting oil prices, frightening headlines about Canadian homes overvalued by as much as 30 per cent, a public battle with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, and Julian Fantino, a man whose electoral value in that key 905 belt cannot possibly overcome his liabilities in the sensitive veterans affairs portfolio.

The actual debate in the Commons was often a mere background chorus to the real stage.

By committing Canadian air power to northern Iraq for a six-month mission, Harper gained political points, particularly when weighed against the uneven performance on the same issue by Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

Then, in the days after that commitment, outside forces intervened in the form of a gunman who killed a young soldier at the country's war memorial before storming the House of Commons, terrorizing all who worked there.

Days earlier, another Canadian soldier had been murdered, this time in Quebec.

This was a time for Harper to show leadership and resolve and he did. He showed a rare empathetic side, pledging (short-term) unity with his adversaries and support for his decision on the Islamic State campaign grew.

Then came a national debate over sexual harassment, one that first played out in the cultural community as the CBC turned on itself in the wake of the Jian Ghomeshi affair. Daily stories of the CBC gnawing on its own leg are always a popular show for Harper and his base.

When the harassment story hit Parliament Hill, Harper got a pass.

Instead, the two men vying to emerge as his primary opponent next year, Trudeau and Tom Mulcair, were driven badly off course by the suspension of two Liberal MPs, then the sniping from the bunkers of the two opposition parties, then the inaction that dragged the story out for weeks, then a series of media interviews given by one

of the NDP MPs who had made the initial accusations.

As that saga played out, Harper hit the road, stopping at the United Nations, visiting China, Australia, New Zealand and Senegal. In Australia, he won positive coverage for a confrontation with Vladimir Putin and in Senegal, he helped win the job of secretary-general of la Francophonie for Michaëlle Jean.

Trips closer to home were more important to the prime minister and it often appeared he and his key ministers were running satellite offices in the 905 and southern Ontario.

If you wanted to find the prime minister Thursday, you looked to a Canadian Tire in Mississauga.

That marked his 12th public event in the 905/Toronto/Hamilton area since Labour Day, plus a visit to Sault Ste. Marie.

He has been to a fundraiser at the Woodbine Banquet Hall, toured IBM in Markham, dropped by a National Research Council lab in London, announced tax cuts at the Vaughan Community Centre, received a Rotary Club award in Toronto, warned about a new gun registry in Sault Ste. Marie, announced a child fitness tax credit in Whitby, did a board of trade "roundtable" in Brampton, made a naval announcement in Hamilton, dropped by the Forty Creek Distiller in Grimsby, visited an Orthodox Cathedral in Markham (again) and met the Aga Khan in Toronto.

That travel itinerary should leave no doubt where the 2015 election will be fought.

As he breaks for Christmas, Harper would know better than anyone that good fortune smiled on him during this session, but good fortune is not a political strategy.

Getting past the Fantino crisis is within his control. Dealing with Wynne will have to be a priority, or his Ontario efforts could go for naught.

But sliding oil prices and falling house values cloud his election year prospects.

As Shakespeare told us about the stage, "All the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts."

Harper's 2015 part is still very much unsettled and as we have just learned, events off the parliamentary stage will largely define that role.

Tim Harper is a national affairs writer. His column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. tharper@thestar.ca Twitter: @nutgraf1

Letter: Other ways to help the Food Bank

The Christmas season is upon us all once again! The sharing of laughter, good food, gifts with family and friends seems to be more important at this season than any other. We are all busy running around getting ready for the big event, making sure we have all our decorations out, food bought, our dainties baked, school plays, work parties and yes the gifts bought and wrapped. It is a busy season, but let us stop for one moment and think of those less fortunate that we are.

For me this year, my thoughts are with our local food bank as due to bad weather and other circumstances, the food bank collected much less than it has in previous years and I know for a fact that the number of people walking through their doors on a weekly basis has increased substantially. Also, were you aware that the Food Bank hands out mitts, scarves and toques to those who walk through the doors and have none? They are also accepting knitted or crocheted items such as blankets, afghans etc.

They say charity begins at home and for me that is the Town of Morinville and so I would like to challenge everyone to look deep in their hearts and donate whatever they can to the Food Bank to help others out at Christmas.

The Food Bank is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 4:00 and their phone number is (780) 939-2636.

Merry Christmas

Linda Lyons

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Budget passes Second Reading with new cuts

Note: As Dec. 9 was Council's last meeting for 2014, the Mayor would need to call a special meeting for Third Reading before Dec. 31. We received word Sunday afternoon from Town Administration that the special meeting was set for Dec. 15, a time past our deadline. Read us online at MorinvilleNews.com for details on Third Reading.

by **Tristan Turner**

After some debate, additions and cuts, Council burned the midnight oil and passed second reading of an amended 2015 Operational Budget and Capital Plan. Third and final reading of the 2015 budget has been pushed to a later date this month.

Council considered community concerns and hopes for the new budget brought forward during a Dec. 2 open house, as well as through social media, visiting community groups, and holding a series of coffee conversations at local coffee shops and restaurants.

The Operating Budget and Capital Plan that

passed first reading projected Town revenues for 2015 will be \$12,447,194, a 5.9 percent revenue increase from the \$11,777,327 budgeted in 2014. On the spending side, the budget presented \$12,620,241 in costs to run the Town in 2015, an increase of \$461,856 (3.66 per cent) over the \$12,158,385 listed in the 2014 budget. Tuesday night's Second Reading deliberations reduces expenditures by \$9,000 with a possibility of \$59,000 depending the outcome of a Council information request.

Cuts and requests for cuts

Thinking about the upcoming implementation of the Organizational and Effectiveness and Efficiency Review, due to be presented to Council Jan. 27, Deputy Mayor Stephen Dafoe felt it was important to set aside money to implement whatever may be necessary to respond to the findings of Nichols Applied Management, the firm hired by the Town to conduct the review. Dafoe made a motion to set aside \$25,000 for this purpose, but said that this must be done within the current budget, meaning that cuts must be made elsewhere to create room for the expenditure if needed. This motion passed unanimously.

Councillor Rob Ladouceur followed with an information request of administration on what they would do to find an additional \$50,000 in expense reductions in the budget. This was unanimously

supported by Council, however Councillor Turner raised concerns that the budget currently had the town spending \$1,267,029 out of operating reserves, a move that would put the town's Operating 'Reserves' at an actual deficit of \$47,926. Councillor Turner said this "looked bad" as it seemed that some residents may see this as the town using operational reserves to make debenture payments.

Councillor Brennan Fitzgerald posed some hard questions to administration on the Youth Council operational project, an item included in the 2014 budget that he felt was not adequately completed. Last year Council budgeted \$2,000 for the initiative that Councillor Fitzgerald said aims to establish a permanent youth body that would serve in an advisory role to Council on matters that impact youth in the community. Councillor Fitzgerald felt the initiative was not completed and took issue that the only listed outcome by Administration was a two-day youth conference held by the Sturgeon School Division and Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools that the Town "supported" under the Youth Council budget.

"I'm wondering how is it that a two-day youth conference constitutes a permanent youth council?" Fitzgerald asked Administration, adding the Town had no role in planning or implementing the 'youth conference'. Fitzgerald said he spoke at the event and that the workshops dealt with substance abuse and healthy relationships and had



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little to do with the eventual development of an ongoing Youth Council.

"How is it that we are taking credit for this event?" he asked. "Where did the \$2,000 dollars go and how does it equate to a Youth Council?"

CAO Deb Oyarzun responded by saying that she had hoped this event would lead to feedback that would be useful in developing a Youth Council. David Schaefer, Director of Corporate Operations, said the Town was involved in the event in that they financially supported Morinville youth attending it.

Two Council projects received trimming by all or most of Council at second reading, both on motions from Councillor Nicole Boutestein. A proposed budget of \$10,000 for a French Heritage event like the annual Oktoberfest evening was trimmed back to \$5,000 with the unanimous support of Council. A subsequent motion to cut \$6,000 from the budget by pairing back a proposed bi-monthly family dance or community family night event to three events passed with a 4-3 vote. Deputy Mayor Stephen Dafoe, Councillor Rob Ladouceur and Councillor Gord Putnam opposed the cut to the family events.

The additions and subtractions from Second Reading create a net reduction to the budget of \$9,000.

The budget as it sits represents an approximate 2 per cent tax increase to Morinville taxpayers.

Seasons givings

Midstream Support Society President Susan Swanson (far left), Morinville Drayden Insurance Branch Manager Blair Shepherd (far right) and staff pose with some of the toys Drayden employees donated to the Midstream Support Society Dec. 10 for their Santa Store. The employees decided to buy for the kids this year instead of a gift exchange.

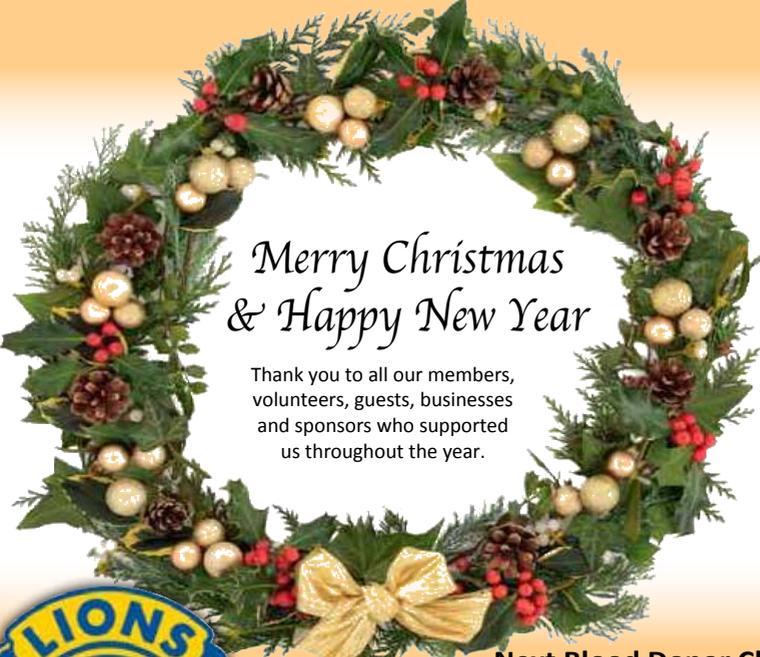
- Lucie Roy Photo



Carolling road trip

Members of Heritage Place Lodge, along with Programs Coordinator Mary Benson, Housing Administrator North Area Stacey Danake, and two members of the Morinville Minstrels (Carol Kaup and Judy Baker) took a carolling trip by bus to all of the Sturgeon Foundation Lodges: the Gibbons Spruce View Manor, Legal Chateau Sturgeon, Redwater Diamond Spring Lodge, and Chateau Mission Court and North Ridge Lodges in St. Albert Dec. 11, bringing a little Morinville Christmas cheer to other seniors.

- Lucie Roy Photo



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

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Major business development in south end being proposed

by **Tristan Turner**

Morinville could see additional business development if a new proposed commercial development on the south part of 100 Street goes through.

Council was asked to give First Reading to By-law 16/2014 – Application R14-004 to adopt the South Business Commercial Area Structure Plan (ASP). The bylaw related to 15.72 hectares of undeveloped land at the southern end of 100 Street, a parcel of land that was divided by the realignment of 100 Street. As Alberta Transportation has control on the southwest section for a promised interchange, the ASP will deal with the northeast area from Cardiff Road to the edge of the existing industrial park.

The ASP calls for a phasing of the development, starting with a commercial / industrial component at the northern end of the property and working south with a series of corridor com-

mercial opportunities for strip malls and box businesses.

The project also calls for a “linear landscape buffer, along with the drainage swale” to provide separation between the development and South Glens. There will, however, be a new road connecting South Glens to the new development as well as 100st along the north side of the current South Glens location.

Councillor Boutestien had concerns about the increased utility draw of these new developments. She wanted town administration to make Council aware of potential new investments that would be needed as a result of future development, such as a new booster station. Claude Valcourt, Director of Public Works, assured Councillor Boutestien that this development would not require a booster station, but that new developments “south of the railroad tracks” beyond these along 100 Street may require a booster station.

Greg Hofmann, Director of Planning and Development, explained to Council much of what is contained in the ASP and told Council he believed the only elements in the ASP where the developer and the town could not reach an agreement were the landscape buffer and an issue related to stormwater drainage.

A public hearing is scheduled for Council’s Jan. 27 meeting, after which second and third reading may be given to the ASP.



Sweet gridlock

A Candy Cane Check Stop took place on 100 Avenue and 102 Street in front of Town Hall Dec. 11. The annual anti drinking and driving awareness initiative is a partnership between Town of Morinville Community Peace Officers, Morinville Fire Department, Morinville RCMP and EMTs. Drivers were stopped and given some information and a candy cane.

- Lucie Roy Photo



Power play
Fortis Alberta workers installed a new pole on 101 Avenue near the fire hall Dec. 9.

- Lucie Roy Photo

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Chamber seeks VIC funding

by Tristan Turner

Simon Boersma, President of the Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce, gave a brief presentation on the operations of the local Visitor Information Centre (VIC) during the Dec. 9 Council meeting. The centre offers information about the town and surrounding areas, particularly key tourist locations.

Boersma said the \$17,000 currently given by the town falls short of the \$27,000 the Chamber is currently spending to run the centre. Boersma said the chamber has covered \$23,000 in VIC losses over the past three years and that they are looking for the Town to fully fund the costs of operating the centre in 2015.

The Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce worked with Town of Morinville CAO Debbie Oyarzun in 2012 to develop a contract for services between the Town and Chamber to operate the Visitor Information Centre (VIC).

That contract outlined a \$17,000 fee for service, monies to run the Visitor Information Center year round and provide the costs associated with maintaining official Travel Alberta Accreditation Status, a requirement for official VICs. Meeting those requirements includes having front desk staff available to respond to calls and in person questions.

The centre is open 20 hours a week from Labour Day until the end of June, and the hours double to 40 hours per week from July to the Labour Day weekend.

Boersma's verbal and slide presentation to Council stated that in 2013 the VIC had 163 guests but that only 110 guests visited the centre as of the end of November in 2014, numbers Boersma said were a little down from last year.

After the Council meeting, Diane Mineault, Administrator for the Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce, shared that the number of 110 is only over the months of June through August 2014 and does not represent a year to date figure.

Boersma also said in his presentation the centre received "countless telephone requests for information and directions." Mayor Holmes said she felt it would help their case more if accurate stats on phone calls and online requests were taken as is done for in-person visitors.

Deputy Mayor Stephen Dafoe asked Boersma if he had asked for funding outside of the town as the Visitor Information Centre also promotes tourism in the region. Boersma said he had looked but that he so far was unable to find other funding.

The 2014 Budget contained the standard \$17,000 funding for the VIC. No motion to increase the amount given to the Chamber was made prior to second reading of the budget.



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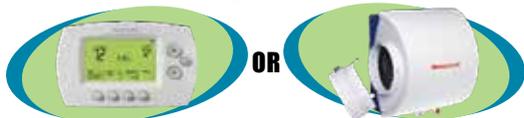


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Residents line up to ask Council their questions about the proposed arena / recreation centre project during an open house held at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre Dec. 11.

Opposite page: Residents sign up for a number of project stakeholder groups.

- Lucie Roy Photos

Rec open house offers lots of answers, just none on land

by **Colin Smith**

with files from Tristan Turner and Lucie Roy

Morinville and area residents who hoped to find out the location of the proposed new regional multi-use recreation centre at a December 11 open house were disappointed.

However Mayor Lisa Holmes did inform the almost 100 people in attendance at the event that an announcement can be expected shortly, with only a few details left to be settled before it is made.

"We've been working for the past seven months to get to this point," she said. "We have taken 9 1/2 of 10 steps. We are almost there."

Holmes did disclose that the Town has signed a conditional agreement to purchase a 60+ acre site. Those conditions have to be lifted by the end of January.

The sum of \$13.75 million has been allotted for the facility in the proposed 2015 budget, which is awaiting third reading and approval by Town Council. However that figure is considered merely a starting point, with total costs depending on the type of facility and whether any partnerships can help offset the costs.

At the open house Mayor Holmes and representatives of site consultants AODBT provided a recap of the steps in the lengthy planning process that led to the decision to replace the aged Ray





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MacDonald Centre and replace it with a regional multi-use recreation centre.

These include studies, a previous open house, surveys, Rotary Club open houses and a visit by councillors to two recreation facilities in Saskatchewan as well as individual Councillor visits to other facilities.

Those in attendance were presented with three scenarios to consider as the project goes into its next phase, ranging from essentially replacing the current arena, through adding additional amenities and commercial space, to constructing two arenas with additional amenities.

To advance the process, six stakeholder groups will begin meeting in January to give all Morinville and area residents a chance to help determine what the rec centre should be. "What is it going to include?" said Holmes. "How can we plan for a facility now that will meet Morinville's needs in 30 years?"

Each group will be chaired by a member of Council. They are Political Body, Mayor Lisa Holmes; Public Institutions, Councillor Nicole Boutestain; General Public for Morinville residents and those within the region, Councillor Brennan Fitzgerald; Community Organizations, Councillor Barry Turner; Businesses and Business Organizations, Deputy Mayor Stephen Dafoe; Current Arena User Groups, Councillor Gord Putnam; Other Sports Groups, Councillor Rob Ladouceur.

Requests for proposals will be put out for a coordinator to help facilitate the process and organize all the information coming in, as well as for an architectural engineer to design the facility.

The Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce and the local Rotary club released an open letter earlier this month expressing concerns about the handling of the rec centre project. The letter addressed to the Mayor and Council asked a number of questions and called for a more open consultation process.

"To this point many feel as though they have been left on the outside and have only been invit-

ed to "participate" in decisions that have already been made," it stated.

Simon Boersma, president of the Morinville and District Chamber of Commerce, attended the open house and was pleased with what he learned there and through a Frequently Asked Questions section put up recently on the Town website.

"I am happy to see an open process," he said. "I've seen stuff on the website we did not find before. I'm now able to get some of the information I was looking for."

Boersma indicated he was happy to see that a large parcel of land was being considered.

"That was one of our biggest concerns," he said. "It will accommodate further growth in the business sector. That's important. It will also help with payment of some of those taxes down the road."

"I'm glad to see partnerships," Boersma added.

The partnership idea also appeals to Noreen Radford of the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Board. She is encouraged by the opportunity the site may offer as a location for construction of the new K-6 school the

district recently announced by the provincial government.

"I was very pleased to hear 60 acres," Radford said. "I think there's great potential. And the fact that there's time to develop. You can do it in stages. I love that part."

Now the board will have to see where the site is and what the plans are for the facility.

"How will this benefit us?" she asked. "We need to wait and see where the site is and what are the facilities. Then we go back to the board and have out conversation."

The board is currently looking at two possible school sites. "We want to see what meets our residents' needs."

Mayor Holmes had previously pointed out that as the two sites currently under consideration come at no cost to the Town, serious thought would have to be given to using land it had paid for a school site.



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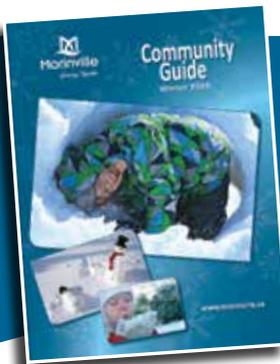
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Any taxes that are in arrears as of January 1, 2015 will be subject to a penalty of 18%.



Holiday Office Hours

December 24: Closed at Noon
December 25: Closed
December 26: Closed
December 29: Closed
December 31: Closed at Noon
January 1: Closed

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Deadline: January 31, 2015



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2014 Toilet Rebate Program

has been extended to December 31, 2014. If a resident purchases a toilet in 2014 but doesn't have it installed until January 2015, they still qualify for the rebate.

The Town of Morinville is offering a rebate to residents, rental properties and business owners to encourage the replacement of old and inefficient toilets with low-flush or dual-flush toilets to reduce water consumption. There is no limit to the number of toilet(s) per property to qualify for the rebate. The rebate is \$75.00 per toilet replaced. Application forms are on the website. Application forms are on the website, or available in the Town Hall lobby (2nd floor).



2014 Organic Caddie Rebate Program

will end December 31, 2014.

The Town of Morinville and your local Home Hardware store have partnered together in promoting the enhanced organics collection program. Morinville's eligible premises have the option to purchase an "under the sink" caddie to collect daily organics while receiving a promotional rebate. Simply purchase your caddie at Morinville Home Hardware, bring your receipt with proof of Morinville residency to the Public Works Shop at 10310 -107 St to get your rebate. Limit of one caddie per household. This new initiative only applies to eligible premises now receiving yard waste as defined in Bylaw 7/2014.



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Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year

~ Maureen Kubinec

Minister of Culture & Tourism
The Honourable Maureen Kubinec, MLA
Barrhead Morinville Westlock

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Celebration of song a pause that matters

by Morinville News Staff

The sounds of the season will ring out from St. Jean Baptiste Church Dec. 18 as the community comes together for the 36th Annual Community Christmas Celebration, a seasonal interdenominational evening of Christmas music that organizers are once again hoping will bring residents and visitors together as it has for the past three-and-a-half decades.

Organizers believe the event continues to be popular in Morinville because it hits all members of the community and has a real community feel to it.

Part of that community feel is due to the committee's long-standing tradition of maintaining the event's original intent of not being merely a Christmas concert where people come to watch people perform. Rather, the magic of the event is its participatory nature. Carol singing, scripture readings and gathering together as one group, regardless of denomination or adherence to any faith has filled the pews year after year.

Committee member and co-organizer Nadine Trenchard sees the event as a seasonal pause that really matters. "The evening of the Morinville Community Christmas Celebration gives us all a break from that business of the Christmas season: that shopping, baking, organizing everything for the schools," Trenchard said. "It gives us a time to just sit and enjoy the spirit of Christmas and just to take a break."

While the event draws a diverse group of denominations, it also draws a diverse group of musical talent. The committee's only ground rule is that the music must be Christmas music; beyond that anything goes in terms of musical style. This year's celebration will once again include the Morinville Minstrels Seniors' Choir, student choirs from local schools, musicians and singers from local churches, each taking a role in the programming for the evening. The Bulger Family will return to the holiday tradition, leading carolers in song, and local businessman and rocker Paul Smith will take to the stage this year to



offer his unique take on a Christmas carol classic with fellow musician David LeBel.

Though Trenchard is now organizing the event, she has memories of attending as a child in the days when former Morinville teacher, school board trustee, and Citizen of the Year John Unsworth was running the event.

In its inaugural year in 1978, staff and students of École Georges P. Vanier School invited parents and the general public to a traditional Christmas concert in the school's gymnasium. The response was so positive, Unger organized the first full Community Christmas Celebration the following year at St. Jean Baptiste Church, inviting other Morinville churches to participate. Over the next eight years the event evolved into what organizers say was the community's most anticipated annual event. Unsworth moved to British Columbia in 1988, at which time the annual celebration was taken over by a small group of dedicated volunteers who wanted to see the event continue. It has done so for more than three decades.

Trenchard is hoping the community will once again come out and fill St. Jean Baptiste Church for an evening of song and celebration. That celebration takes place Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, but organizers are asking for monetary donations to help the Knights of Columbus purchase perishable food items for the Christmas Hamper program. The perishable items supplement the non-perishable food that has already been received.

 J. M. Turner 
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Morinville Public Rocks Christmas

Morinville Public School held two Christmas concerts last week, packing the Morinville Community Cultural Centre Dec. 9 and 10 with parents and family members.

Notre Dame, Georges H. Primeau and MCHS held concerts this week after our press deadline for this edition. See MorinvilleNews.com for coverage of those events.



From left: Morinville Public School Kindergarten students Mackenzie Jackson, Enver Hibbs-Pinney and Jaelyn Carson perform *It Must be Santa* at the 4th Annual MPS Snowflake Festival held Dec. 9.

PEP students Hailey Lavallee-Hobbs and Finnan Byfield perform *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

Dragons Scale Rock Band bassist Taebren Gordon lays down a groove during the band's rendition of *Taking Care of Christmas*.

- Lucie Roy Photos



Joyeux Noël

Right: Minister of Culture and Tourism, the Honourable Maureen Kubinec poses with École Citadelle Principal Lisa Magera and students after the school's Christmas concert Dec. 11.

- Submitted Photo



Legal sings

Legal School celebrated Christmas Throughout the Ages during their Christmas concert Dec. 11. To coincide with the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division 150th Anniversary, the students sang, danced, and performed various holiday hits.

Above: Kindergarten students sing *And So This Is Christmas*.

- Submitted Photo

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Adults and children from the ages of three to seven gathered at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre for a Parent and Child Christmas Baking session Friday morning. The children made German thumbprint cookies, toffee shortbread cups and Hershey surprise Kisses. The primary instructor for the family class was Marie Hurtubise. Some children seemed to enjoy eating the chocolate treats and dough more than actually making the cookies.

Clockwise from top right: Melissa and McKenna Meade starting on the sugar cookie dough. Genevieve Ouellette and Ayla Hauptman fill their cups. Julien Ouellette, making Hershey Surprise kisses.

- Lucie Roy Photos



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	- Sunday, Dec. 28 th	- 9:00 am 11:00 am
NEW YEAR'S EVE	- Wednesday, Dec. 31 st	- 5:00 pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY	- Thursday, Jan. 1 st	- 10:00 am
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Upcoming Games



Dec. 19 ROAD GAME 7:30 p.m.
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Dec. 21 HOME GAME 6:45 p.m.
Jets vs. Sherwood Park Knights



Dec. 20 HOME GAME 8:30 p.m.
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Sports Briefs

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It was a winless weekend for the Jets and Kings

by **Stephen Dafoe**

There was plenty of action in the NCHL and CJHL for Morinville teams over the weekend, but neither team could catch a win. The weekend outings resulted in a loss for the Morinville Kings and a pair of losses for the Morinville Jets. The Kings were defeated 7-4 by the Rocky Rams and the Jets fell 4-3 on Friday night to the Merchants and 9-6 on Sunday night to the Strathcona Bruins.

The weekend tally puts the Morinville Kings in second place in the North Central Hockey League and the Jets in a fourth place tie with the Mustangs in the Capital Junior Hockey League's West Division Standings. With some games still left in both league's seasons, both the Kings and Jets are well positioned heading to the playoffs.

The Jets Friday night contest saw the Junior B club evenly matched at 2-2 after one, but trailing 3-2 after 40 minutes. That deficit edged to 4-2 with seven minutes left in the game. Though Brandon Duboc got one on the powerplay with 25 seconds on the clock, there just wasn't another to push it to OT.

Saturday night saw the Kings and Rams locking horns at one apiece at the end of the first, but the Kings trailing 7-2 by the end of the middle frame. The Kings piled on another pair in the final 20, leaving them three short of a tie.

Sunday night saw the Jets facing the Bruns on home ice in their second matchup of the year, one that generated the opposite result to the Jets 3-0 win over the club Oct. 12.

The Jets play Spruce Grove on the road Friday and at home Sunday against the Sherwood Park Knights. The Kings play the Warriors at home Saturday night, their last home game of 2014. Game time for the Kings / Warriors game is 8:30 p.m. Game time for Sunday's showdown between the Jets and Knights is 6:45 p.m.



SHC Team Of The Week

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Our team consists of 15 awesome players who are lacing up for the first time ever. The team has been practicing very hard and getting better with each practice. We have had a lot of learning and basics to cover; their skating, puck handling and stopping has improved by leaps and bounds since the beginning of the season.

With hard work, great listening and huge hearts this group has proven that their efforts are paying off; as they continue to grow and learn with lots of the year ahead of them. They are eager to take what they have learnt to their first game on December 14th.

We love playing, practicing and most importantly having FUN. Thank you to all the families for all the support in making this a wonderful hockey season.

Brandy Roy
Initiation 5 Team Manager





Sports Shorts



Wolves on the court

The Morinville Wolves Sr. Boys basketball team took to the court Dec. 9 in a game against Barrhead Composite School. With volleyball provincials now over, basketball is the sport that will dominate the school's recently renovated gymnasium.

- Lucie Roy Photos



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Couch Theatre DVD Reviews

by Sam Struckhoff

PHOTO: Leonardo in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) With the city under the heel of the ruthless Foot Clan, our best hope lies in four grotesque heroes rising from the sewers of 1980s and '90s pop culture. The team of turtles — that's Leonardo, Donatello, Michaelangelo and Raphael — spew groan-worthy one-liners while leaping from explosions and fighting various thugs. The series' supervillain, Shredder, gets a sharp robo-suit instead of the usual metal-plated outfit.

While this reviewer will never forget the role The Turtles played in his younger years, this is sadly one of the most forgettable flicks of the summer. Even big-budget action flicks cashing in on highly marketable nostalgic action franchises need to have a little charm, a pinch of originality. While the action flashes continually on screen, the genuine thrills are brief and far between.

Maze Runner" (PG-13) In another adaptation of a young-adult novel, we find familiar issues handled in a slightly new way. Thomas (Dylan O'Brien) wakes up in an unfamiliar place, apparently dropped off with a colony of other stranded teenage boys inhabiting what they call The Glades. Thomas falls in with a group of boys who run through a nearby mechanized maze — a huge complex that's full of traps and nasty critters. Thomas and the others struggle to stay alive, reclaim their lost memories and to make sense what has happened to them.

There is a fun aspect to watching the characters strive against the contrived challenges of their world. With a steady trickle of tantalizing plot development, you might get hooked -- like TV's "Lost" — into watching how this dark fictional world unfolds.

This is Where I Leave You" (R) With an awesome A-list cast, this family drama-comedy is a bit of a let down. Jason Bateman and Tina

Fey (both Emmy-winners with great histories of down-to-earth comedy) headline as siblings in a fraught family that just lost their father. Dad's last wish is to have the whole family — four adult siblings and Mom (Jane Fonda) — sit shiva and mourn together for seven days. The twist is that, of course, these people can barely stand each other under the weight of so much baggage. With all of this emotion and cast to carry it, the film relies too much on slapstick and low-end gags.

Skeleton Twins" (R) In a different dramedy about adult siblings forced into a reluctant reunion, two different comedic actors make a much better effort. Former "SNL" campaigners Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig play a pair of fraternal twins who were close throughout childhood, but have separated to different sides of the country in adulthood. Pulled together by forces outside of their control, together the twins must face all the ways their lives have not gone to plan. Among many troubles, Milo (Hader) is not the A-list actor he'd dreamed of being, and Maggie (Wiig) is facing disillusionment in her marriage.

TV RELEASES

1 - Cowboy Bebop: The Complete Series	4 - Finding Your Roots: Season 2
2 - Extant: Season 1	5 - Nova: Emperor's Ghost Army
3 - Makers: Women Who Make America 2	

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Upcoming Community Events



Midstream Santa Store Program

The Santa Store program will operate differently this year. Kindly list three (3) items your child is requesting for Christmas and our committee will strive to ensure that one of those wishes are fulfilled. You will receive a phone call with a time and date to pick your "order" up at the Midstream Thrift Store before December 19th. Your privacy is our top priority, and as such, volunteers at the Midstream Thrift Store do not have access to your file and are unable to answer questions regarding your appointment or your gifts. If you have questions or concerns regarding the form or your appointment, please contact Susan Swanson at 780-554-1979.

Midstream Hamper Program

The Midstream Support Society partners with Morinville's Knights of Columbus to ensure all residents are able to pre-

pare a festive meal in the comfort of their home during the holidays. This year, hamper delivery is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 19th between 4-6pm. Alternatively, pick up is available between 3:30-6pm at the Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre located at 9913-104st (across from the arena). You must bring government issued identification with proof of address for pick up. Note that delivery is available to in-town Morinville addresses only. Residents of outlying areas may pick hampers up between 3:30-6pm. A member of the Knights of Columbus will call in advance to confirm delivery.

Completed forms may be dropped in the "Santa Store" lockbox at the Midstream Thrift Store (9922-101 Street) during business hours, between Monday and Friday 9:30am-3pm. They will accept applications for the Santa Store and Christmas Hamper Programs until Friday, December 12th.

Community Christmas Celebration

The 36th Annual Community Christmas Celebration will take place at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Morinville Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Non-perishable food items and cash will be accepted for the Knights of Columbus Hamper Project. All are welcome.

Blood Donor Clinic

The Morinville Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus will host a blood donor clinic Jan. 15 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Rendez-Vous Centre (9913 104 St.)



Library Corner

Happenings at the Library this week...

Click on **EVENTS** on our website for all the new programs at the Library!
www.morinvillelibrary.ca

Lego Club

Saturday, December 20th 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Cozy Corner Stories

Thursday, December 18th at 10:30 am - 11:00 am

HOLIDAY HOURS

Wednesday, December 24th	10 am - 12 Noon
Thursday, December 25th	CLOSED
Friday, December 26th	CLOSED
Saturday, December 27th	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, December 28th	Noon - 4 pm
Monday, December 29th	10 am - 8 pm
Tuesday, December 30th	10 am - 8 pm
Wednesday, December 31st	10 am - 12 Noon
Thursday, January 1st	CLOSED

Drop by the library and say hi to our new Hermit Crabs "Fred & George". Check out the Clapping Claws Book Review on Morinville Library's Facebook page!



10125 - 100 Ave.
Morinville, AB T8R 1P8
Phone: 780-939-3292
Fax: 780-939-2757
info@morinvillelibrary.ca

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Linda Getzlaf GETZ YOU THINKING!



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FABULOUS Bi-Level located on a large corner lot in the Lakes. this 1545 sq. ft. 5 bed, 3 bath home is gorgeous and features stunning oak hardwood cabinets, doors and trim throughout. Large entrance boasts oak planters and railings and is open to the lower level. The great room on the main floor has space for your living room furniture and dining table. Go into the huge eat in kitchen and see ample cabinets and counter space, a walk in pantry and garden door that goes out to a covered deck. 2 junior bedrooms and main bath are also located on the main floor with the upper level boasting a very large master bedroom that can hand with walk in closet, 4 piece ensuite and loads of windows! Basement boasts a 4th and 5th bed. A 3pc bath, laundry/utility room and good sized family room with gas fireplace complete the interior of this wonderful home. Outside you'll see a very large fenced yard with a gate on either side of home + double attached insulated garage w/man door to back yard. Great Quality built home! Only \$434,900

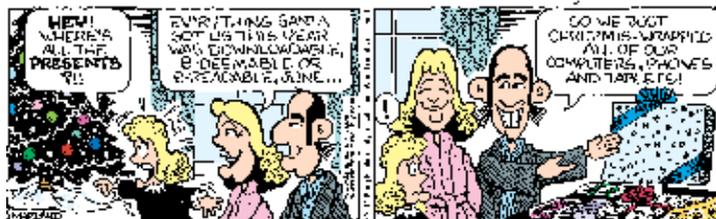
Only \$434,900
MLS: E3373035



Amber Waves



N.H.D.



The Spats



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1				7				9
		9		2	5			3
	2		8			4		
4	5			2			6	
7			3				5	
		6		8				2
		8			3	9		
	7		6					1
2				5		7		3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: *

* Moderate ** Challenging
*** HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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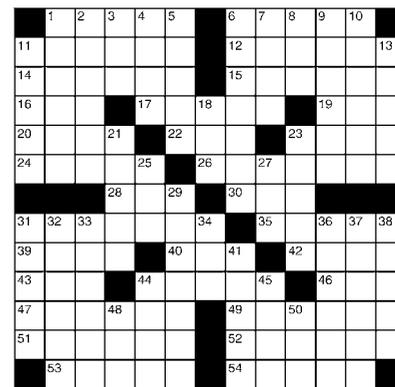
Trivia Test Answers
1. A mob; 2. Mercury; 3. The Argo; 4. GEICO; 5. Lao Tzu; 6. Pregnancy; 7. Edward R. Murrow; 8. Suspending; 9. "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness"; 10. The Russian Revolution

This Weekly Puzzle Page Sponsored by Linda Getzlaf

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Great —!"
6 "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" composer
11 Woman's snug hat
12 Jong and Kane
14 Steve of the WWE
15 Steve of "The Jerk"
16 Edge
17 Bessemer material
19 U.N. workers' org.
20 Screen image
22 Day divs.
23 Acknowledgment
24 Muddle with liquor
26 Fishermen
28 However
30 Moray, e.g.
31 Combination
35 Trunks
39 Unrivaled
40 Fond du —, Wis.
42 Garden intruder
43 Third degree?
44 Frank — Wright
46 Aye undoer
47 Steve of "Family



- land
7 Kazakh river
8 Creme de cassis cocktail
9 Hardly idle
10 Tar
11 Antillean tribe
13 "The — of Kilimanjaro"
18 Historic time
21 Aristocratic
23 Let
25 Yank
27 Understand
29 Fox hunt cry
31 Socially dominant
32 Punk rocker's coif,
33 Tenor Bocelli
34 Long March leader
36 Break a promise
37 Caulking matter
38 Pastoral pieces
41 Washer phase
44 Toy block name
45 Speaker's spot
48 Namely (Abbr.)
50 Pensioned (Abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Floodgate
2 Carl Sagan topic
3 Autumn mo.
4 Not that
5 First extra inning
6 Legal possession of

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- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What would a group of emus be called?
- SCIENCE: What is the only known metal that turns to liquid at room temperature?
- MYTHOLOGY: In Greek mythology, what was the name of the ship that Jason used in pursuit in the Golden Fleece?
- AD SLOGANS: Which company's ads claim its services are "So easy a caveman can do it"?
- FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which ancient philosopher once said, "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading"?
- MEDICAL: What is the condition called cye-sis?
- TELEVISION: Who used to sign off his program with the words, "Good night and good luck"?
- LANGUAGE: What is the American equivalent of the British term "braces"?
- MOVIES: In which film is "The Children's Marching Song" performed?
- LITERATURE: What is the subject matter of the book "Ten Days That Shook the World"?

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My Listings



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10 - 18
2015**

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- All in country transportation
- All gratuities, taxes, fees
- Deluxe bus tours
- Experienced and fluent English-speaking tour guides
- Seven of China's ten 'wonders of the world'
- Time for shopping will be available
- Opportunity to have businesses meetings arranged with Chinese businesses if desired
- Opportunity to attend Rotary Meeting if desired



CHAMBER MISSION TO CHINA, 2015

Day 1 10/10 Vancouver/Shanghai/Beijing

Check in at Vancouver International Airport. Flight with China Eastern Airlines MU598 by 1:30am to Shanghai. Your adventure begins as you fly trans-Pacific aboard a wide cabin jetliner. Cross the International Dateline.

Day 2 10/11 Shanghai/Beijing

Land in Shanghai at 5:05am for custom then take a transit flight MU5129 9:20am and arrive in Beijing at 11:55am You will be met by your local tour guide at the airport. Transfer to the hotel to have a rest.

Day 3 10/12 Beijing

Photo stop at the 2008 Beijing Olympic venues for the outside views of National Stadium the Bird's Nest and the National Aquatic Center. Continue the tour to the Great Wall. The 4,000- mile long and 2,000 years old construction is said to be the only man-made structure visible by the naked eye from the moon. En route visit the Jade Factory. Visit to the Ming Tombs, one of 13 Ming Emperors' Tombs is fully excavated and open for exploration. Peking Roast Duck Dinner is arranged.

Day 4 10/13 Beijing

Visit the Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world. The Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, home of 24 emperors with a total space of 9,999 rooms. A Hutong tour by rickshaw riding to see the old Beijing. Lunch at local family's house. The Summer Palace, known for the Long Corridor with a painted gallery, Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill, Seventeen- Arch Bridge and Marble Boat. Visit the Pearl Factory.

Day 5 10/14 Beijing/Shanghai/Suzhou

Flight to Shanghai MU5146 11:30am/1:40pm, then take a bus riding to Suzhou. Afternoon sightseeing to the Tiger Hill & take a boat ride on Suzhou canals. Visit the Suzhou Singapore Industrial Park and one of the foreign enterprises. Take an exchange talk.

Day 6 10/15 Suzhou/Hangzhou

Morning visit the Suzhou Silk factory. Continue the tour with the centuries old Lingering Garden. Afternoon visit the National Embroidery Institute to see the silk embroidery, an important local craft with 1,000 years history. Take a bus riding to Hangzhou.

Day 7 10/16 Hangzhou/Shanghai

In the morning have a boat ride on West Lake with relaxing stopover at jewel-like pagodas. Visit the Longjing Green Tea Plantation. The centuries old Lingyin Temple, with the main feature of the 64.3 ft-high camphor-wood carved Buddha. Continue the bus journey to Shanghai.

Day 8 10/17 Shanghai

The Bund, a famous waterfront park. Visit the Shanghai Silk Rug Factory. Afternoon enjoy the Yu Garden, a maze of marvelous pavilions, ponds, rocky works and over arching trees. Free time exploration of the old town bazaar. Visit the Pudong District. The amazing acrobatic Era Show is arranged.

Day 9 10/18 Shanghai/ Vancouver

Return flight MU597 will depart by 11:50pm for Vancouver where you will arrive at 7:40pm on the same day.

Organized and hosted by:



Supported by:

Licensed travel agent acting on our behalf:

Escape Travel travel+plus

Tours must be booked and paid for by August 1, 2015. There is a \$300 non-refundable deposit required at time of reservation.

Tours are organized by Citslinc, a Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce member.

Local travel arrangements in partnership with Escape Travel, a Morinville & District Chamber of Commerce member. Spaces are limited.

Attend a complimentary information session to find out more on Feb 18, 2015 from 5:30 - 7 pm at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

RSVP is required and can be done online at morinvillechamber.com or by calling 780-939-9462.

Details on the itinerary and other tour information available online at morinvillechamber.com/chinamission