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# Monday Morning News



### Belting it out

Rend singer Carol-Lynne Quinn belts out a number during the bands stop in Morinville Mar. 31. The concert was in aid of youth programming in Morinville. See story and photos pages 18 - 21.

— Stephen Dafoe Photos

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# Autism not well understood

By Stephen Dafoe



Brooke Levesque (pink headphones) takes part in a walk for Autism last fall. — Submitted Photo

Morinville — Brooke Levesque looks like any other 12-year-old girl at Georges H. Primeau School, but her penchant for wearing bright pink construction headphones sets her apart from many girls her age. The headphones help Brooke block out unwanted noises when she goes swimming or shopping with her family, noises that can cause behaviours that make Brooke look less like other 12-year-old girls.

Brooke has Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS), a form of autism sometimes referred to as atypical autism. She was diagnosed just prior to turning 4.

The Autism Society of Edmonton Area defines autism as "a neurological disorder that affects the way the brain processes information." According to the organization, adults and children with Autism Spectrum Disorders are affected with respect to their verbal and non-verbal communication, social skills, relationships, behaviour, interests and activities. Autism is referred to as a spectrum disorder because of the wide range of symptoms autistic people may display as well as the varying degrees in which the symptoms affect their lives.

Just what causes autism is unknown, but researchers believe it concerns developmental differences and functions in the brain. Current research is tracing theories that suggest autism may be caused by genetics or viral infections, and other theories that point to environmental causes, including allergies and exposures to certain types of chemicals.

Whatever the cause, Brooke's mother, Dawn Gilmour, said autism can range from children with no verbal abilities to children with higher-than-average IQs. Brooke's autism seems to fall in the middle of the spectrum; she is able

to speak, carry on a conversation, and learn at her own level at school. But she does not function socially as many children her age do. Although treated well at her school by teachers and students alike who are supportive of her needs, Brooke does not have friends in the typical sense. But neither does she seem to seek them out. In fact, social interactions are occasionally puzzling to her; she was recently confused as to why her mother spoke to a stranger at the gas station.

People with Brooke's form of autism have difficulty with social interactions, tend to be literal thinkers to such an extent that figures of speech and sarcasm escape their grasp. They can also be greatly affected by external influences.

Brooke often has trouble with people humming, singing, crying or making other loud noises, but is not bothered when she turns her own TV to loud levels. The key

seems to be the difference between sounds that she can control and sounds she cannot. Thus the pink headphones she frequently wears have been a valuable tool that lets Brooke control some of the external noises around her.

"She finds things too noisy," Brooke's mother said, adding her pink headphones have been a positive help. "It just muffles it down. The world is just too noisy to her. She likes to block it and then it doesn't bother her as much."

## MORE UNDERSTANDING OF AUTISM NEEDED

But while Brooke's parents and siblings understand her pink headphones and other behaviours, the same cannot always be said for those outside the family.

"Recently, Brooke was being teased by some little girls at her gymnastics club and the sad thing was that she didn't even realize she was being teased," Gilmour said. "I knew it though, and I was very hurt by it. I have always tried to look past people's stares and just focus on what my daughter needs but lately I am having more trouble doing that. I think that our community still needs to be educated. There just isn't enough patience and acceptance out there."

It is Gilmour's hope that education will help people stop judging children with autism before they know the situation or what the children are capable of doing. Autistic children may wear pink headphones and pace back and forth flapping their hands and fingers as Brooke does. They may throw tantrums at what appears to be nothing of importance. They could be the 12-year-old girl screaming, crying, hitting or lying on the floor in the shopping mall. It could be Brooke or it could be some other child with autism.

"They see a girl who doesn't understand society's rules," .....

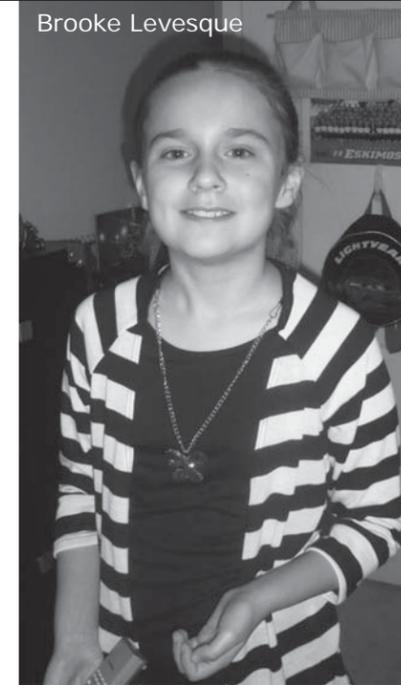
Gilmour said. "She may say things inappropriately; she may speak too loud or talk about things that nobody else cares about. What they do not see is that those headphones help her to filter out the world around her — a world that is just too noisy for her to handle. They help her to go out into community without having those tantrums. They don't see that the pacing and the flapping help to calm her and help to center her so she can go on functioning throughout her day. They don't see that those tantrums are a result of her not being able to understand what is expected of her and that sometimes her body just can't take the sensory overload that it is in. They don't know that those tantrums have become less and less frequent. They don't understand that they are not a result of bad parenting or a spoiled little girl. They don't understand that she talks about so many different things because she is interested in so many things and wants to share them with people but really doesn't know how."

Gilmour thinks it is unfortunate many people are willing to write off autistic children, assuming they cannot do something before they are even given a chance to try. It is a situation she has experienced first-hand with Brooke when people do not give her the benefit of the doubt because of her disability. "How do any of us know how far she will come if we never give her the chance?" Gilmour said. "She surprises us all the time with the things that she knows. The problem is that she can't always relay that information when she is asked. It will come out at a later time. So she may not seem like she has comprehended something, but believe me she knows way more than she is given credit for."

## HOPE FOR A GOOD FUTURE

As the family has watched Brooke become the person she is today there have been challenges. Things most families take for granted: going shopping, eating in a restaurant, going to the movies as a family, driving in the car, or even taking a simple walk in the park can erupt into a stressful episode for Brooke. But like many families with autistic children, there are small celebrations each and every day.

Brooke Levesque



"We celebrate all the little things that most people would think a common occurrence," Gilmour explained. "Like making it through an entire meal at a restaurant or waiting in line at Wal-Mart without screaming; having lunch in the cafeteria with a friend; greeting someone or asking them a question without being prompted; giving someone a compliment or a gift; looking at the person she is talking to."

Gilmour said when out in public, Brooke will often walk right past children she knows from school - not out of rudeness, but because she is focused on something else. When made aware of the fact she is quick to say hello to them and have a chat.

Although academically not at the same level as other Primeau students, her family is pleased with her learning. Brooke's education is provided in a regular classroom with a modified curriculum and a full-time education assistant. She has been in this program for the past three

years and has shown growth in her learning over that time. Brooke is able to read, write and do basic math skills, educational abilities her parents are pleased with. But perhaps most pleasing of all is her ability to remember facts and figures and her imaginative spark. "She has an unbelievable memory, an amazing imagination (although some of it she thinks is real) and a wonderful personality," Brooke's mother said. "She makes us laugh all the time. She is always talking about becoming an astronaut, or inventing a time machine to travel back in time because she wants to meet a real live dinosaur. She would love to open her own pizza parlour, which is her favourite food."

Gilmour said, like many parents with autistic children, she and her husband worry a lot about what the future will hold for their daughter, but they will never stop trying to make the world a little easier for her.

The family continued to do their part to raise awareness of autism last Monday - World Autism Awareness Day - by lighting some blue lights on their home.

For more information on autism and its effects on families, visit <http://www.autismmedmonton.org/what-is-autism> or <http://www.autismsocietycanada.ca/>.

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**MONDAY MORNING EDITORIAL**

# Don't look for this news magazine next Monday

The Apr. 9 issue of Monday Morning News will be the last issue of Monday Morning News we publish. No, we are not going out of business — far from it.

Beginning next week our publication will stop coming out on Mondays and will begin coming out on Wednesday's instead. Now, because it would be silly to call a Wednesday news publication Monday Morning News, we are changing the name of our weekly news magazine to reflect the publication's primary focus. Effective Apr. 18 our publication will be called The Morinville News.

The motivation behind the change in title and publication date is to better align our print readership with our online readership.

MorinvilleNews.com began in the summer of 2010 because I felt Morinville needed a community news publication that delivered the news while it was still news. We've held to that mandate with our online publication since day one, and we've rapidly become the go to source for local news because of it.

We've done our best to make Monday Morning News as relevant and timely as possible, but because of the time-lines necessary to make weekly print publications possible, we felt Monday Morning News was just not as timely as we wanted it to be. You've told us repeatedly we were doing a good job, but we've told ourselves we must do better.

This was particularly true with respect to the many great events happening in Morinville on the weekends. For example, the concert photo on the cover of the Apr. 9 edition of Monday Morning News was published on MorinvilleNews.com Apr. 2, a full week earlier.

By switching our publication date to Wednesdays, we will now be able to bring weekend news coverage to our print readers shortly after we bring it to our online readers.

It is a small change that we feel makes a big difference to readers of our print edition. We respect and understand that Morinville is made up of a variety of age groups and that those age groups want their news delivered in different formats. We want to make the joints between our two formats as seamless as possible.

We have never tried to emulate the business model of the little rural tabloids that have been so common in the region for the past several decades because we have long felt jamming newsprint in your mail box is not the way to deliver the news today. The Morinville News will continue to be available in our local

stores and restaurants because we want to encourage our readers to support our local businesses. We've always felt if you build a publication worthy of the reader's time, they will come to you to get it. And week after week you have, online and offline. We are grateful for that support and for your many kind words about our coverage of the news in our community.

Under the united banner of The Morinville News, we are committed to continuing to earn your support and your trust as Morinville's locally owned and community invested news organization.

Stephen Dafoe  
Editor, The Morinville News  
www.morinvillenews.com



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**MONDAY MORNING GUEST COLUMNS**

Clayton  
speaking:

## Which flavour are you going to choose?

By Clayton Rosaasen

With summer peering around the corner, not quite here yet, evidenced in the recent snow dump, but certainly coming, one can picture a group of youngsters looking at the ice cream menu trying to figure out what flavour to make a mess with. Now making a mess may be the operative word in more ways than one as you finish this column.

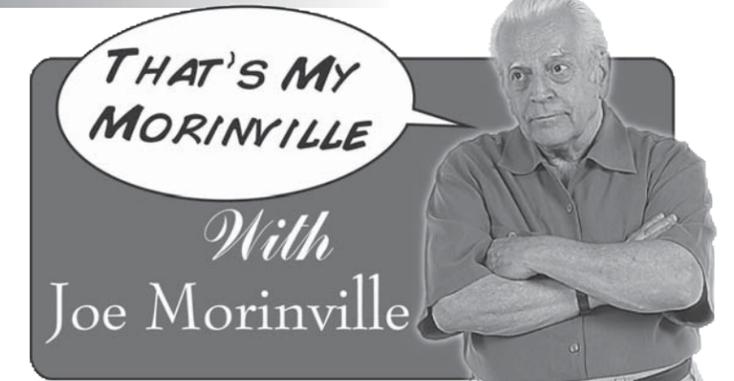
There is an important day coming, Apr. 23 to be precise, a day where Albertans will go to the polls to elect the government that will sit and make decisions for the betterment of Alberta's population.

All I have heard over the last few days is that Alberta is bracing for political change, and if it happens, it will be by a wide margin of victory. The change of power will sweep through Alberta with the same power as a gale force wind that blows from Medicine Hat to Claireseholm.

Let me let you in on a little secret; the only massive change, if it happens, is going to be to the name of the party. Just so you folks know, the PCs and the Wildrose are both conservative parties at their roots. This is not a race between the Liberals, NDP, Alberta Party, Supergreeners, Marijuana, and any other existent but non-existent party you can think of. It's a race between two conservative parties, and that suits me just fine. I will say though that the Allison Redford PCs have made a bit of a side step to the left, and have made themselves more liberal than ever before. The real right wing party - the Danielle Smith Wildrose Party — is poised to take control of the government. After all, they are the right wing conservatives that Alberta has voted for the last umpteen years. It only makes sense.

Back to the mess that I alluded to earlier — kids make a mess with whatever flavour they choose. Ice cream is messy; the conservative flavour Alberta chooses will make a mess, too. That's politics and we should expect it.

I like Vanilla. What flavour are you?



## Keep it clean folks

It's 1964 and a little girl stands in a field of daisies. She's holding one in her hand and like all children back then, she makes a little game with the flower. She begins to pluck off a petal at a time, counting down one by one. But soon, the little girl's out of sequence counting is replaced with the countdown of an adult, finger on the button of a nuclear warhead, ready to launch the world into certain Armageddon — an Armageddon that will occur if the American voter chooses Barry Goldwater over Lyndon Johnson. Tight shot on the girl's eye, cut to a shot of a mushroom cloud and the first attack ad is born.

And here we are in 2012, knee deep in another provincial election. Now Americans and Canadians are a lot farther apart than we were 48 years ago in many respects, including the quality of our beer, but politically we seem to be moving closer and closer, at least in our political parties and their love of the attack ad. Except now it extends to this Tweeter and Facebooks and blogger pages, too.

Watching MLAs go at one another on Tweeter with 140 letters to do it is like watching a couple nine-year-olds trying to hold a verbal peeing contest with one another playing Scrabble. Seeing a woman take a shot at another woman who can't have kids, all in the name of political positioning, is just ignorant. If I wanted to see that kind of crap, I'd turn on one of those reality shows or go hang out in a store in the mall. There's enough drama in both of those places — I don't need it in an election.

What a sad state of affairs it is when our political parties expend so much energy trying to convince us of their suitability to lead this province by telling us how crappy the other guy or gal is.

Politics can be a dirty business, but the three ring circus that is our current political discussion does little to help the voter decide who to vote for. How about spending those 30-second spots or 140-letter Tweeter comments telling the undecided and non-voter what you will do and how rather than tell us how the other guy is going to screw up the province.

With spring upon us, perhaps voters will stay in their backyards waiting for the daisies to bloom or for someone to fight an honest campaign with a bit of integrity.

Given the political climate, we could be waiting a long time for both.

*Joe Morinville*



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# Little Warriors to offer child sexual abuse prevention session in Morinville

By Stephen Dafoe

Morinville — Stewards of Children is a three-hour session on child sexual abuse prevention being offered free of charge Apr. 12 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. The program is being conducted by Little Warriors, and the Town of Morinville's Family and Community Support Services Department (FCSS) will be picking up the tab for those community members interested in taking the program.

Stewards of Children will teach adults the signs and symptoms they should be looking for that show a child has been sexually abused as well as how to handle a disclosure, should a child reveal to an adult they have been sexually abused. Participants will be instructed in the proper way to report a disclosure to authorities.

"I think anyone that has children in their life should take the program," said Little Warriors Founder and Chair Glori Meldrum. "The research shows that for every one person that we train, it protects 10 kids."

The 1988 Badgley Report provided statistics that showed one in three girls at an average age of 12 and one in six boys at an average age of four are sexually abused. Given those high numbers, which Meldrum said do not include child pornography or human trafficking, Little Warriors believes the Stewards of Children program is an important preventative measure in fighting child sexual abuse in Canada.

"It's a massive problem," Meldrum said of abuse. "You can't pick up a paper across the country in any market and there's a story. Whether it's Graham James just getting two years of a sentence that he'll be out by February. It's a massive, massive problem right across the country. It's in the news every single day."

Meldrum and her organization feel penalties for child sexual abuse are too lenient in Canada, a point illustrated by disgraced hockey coach Graham James recent two-year sentence for abusing players in his care. "I think it's disgusting," Meldrum said. "What Canadians need to realize is that the average sentence for raping or molesting a child is two to three years. But in Canada it's usually a third of what you serve. So when I heard he got two years and he's serving six months, I wasn't surprised because that's what the laws are."

While the statistics on the numbers of children sexually abused and the small amount of time abusers spend in jail are alarming to Meldrum's organization, other statistics are ore concerning and motivation for wanting as many as possible to take the Stewards of Children program. Meldrum explained 95 per cent of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by people who personally know the children they abuse. "The offender has usually gained the trust of the parents to get access to the child," she said. "That's the scary stuff."

### PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE

For Meldrum, protecting youth from those who would rob them of their innocence is a personal mission in life. A victim of sexual abuse at the hands of her grandfather, who Meldrum said was

a serial child molester, she knows all too well the importance of protecting children from abuse. "It's a volunteer thing for me because I was one of those kids," she said of her organization, which began four years ago. "I lived at my grandfather's

house and I was sexually abused from the time I was eight to 10. I have to do whatever I can to help these children."

Part of that help will be to create a long-term treatment centre for victims of child sexual abuse; something she said does not exist in Canada, although there are three centres to help rehabilitate sex offenders in Edmonton alone.

"I'm going to build the first treatment centre, and it's going to be called the Be Brave Ranch, for kids that have been sexually abused," Meldrum said. "Right not I'm trying to raise \$3.1 million to create all the programing from scratch and buy the facility."

While that goal is still some time away, Meldrum's organization will continue to offer the Stewards of Children program to communities in the hopes of equipping community members with the tools to prevent other children from enduring what she experienced



Glori Meldrum

as a child.

### FREE SESSION IN MORINVILLE

The Morinville session, taking place at the Community Cultural Centre Apr. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m., is free to adults wishing to take the program. Morinville's FCSS department will cover the \$30 registration costs provided people register in advance.

FCSS Coordinator Amy Dribnenky hopes Morinville residents will take advantage of the opportunity. "I think it is an important program, especially for anybody that deals with kids or has any kind of involvement with kids," Dribnenky said. "I want to make sure anyone that is interested in the program has that option and the ability to come to it."

Dribnenky said people are familiar with how much recovery is needed for those who have been sexually abused. "By giving adults the tools they need to recognize it, it's just so important," she said. "FCSS is about preventing, preventing social breakdown and creating resiliency."

Little Warriors believes program participants will come away with an understanding of the facts on child sexual abuse, knowledge of how it happens, the certainty adults are responsible for the protection of children, and an understanding of the proactive role youth-serving organizations need to take to better protect children and educate the community about child sexual abuse.

The program includes an interactive workbook for each participant containing the full program curriculum, an accompanying DVD, and the opportunity for discussion about important issues in sexual abuse prevention.

Dribnenky said those interested in registering for the program can call her at 780-939-7832, and she will set them up with Little Warriors. She may also be contacted at adribnenky@morinville.ca.

# All Candidates Forum set for Apr. 16

By Robert Jump

Morinville — Five provincial candidates looking to fill the shoes left behind by retiring Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock MLA Ken Kowalski will get their chance to win over Morinville voters Apr. 16 at an All Candidates Forum being organized by The Morinville News and moderated by the Morinville Toastmasters club. The forum, scheduled for Apr. 16 from 7 to 10 p.m. will assemble five candidates to talk to voters about their vision for the constituency and the province.

The 2008 general election saw incumbent Kowalski facing four would-be challengers: Liberal Leslie Penny, NDP Rod Olsted, Alberta Green Dan Evans, and Carl Haugen running for the Social Credit. Kowalski, of course, took the election with more than 70 per cent of the voters. His closest rival, Leslie Penny, took 15.25 per cent of the vote.

Four years later and Penny is the only familiar face to Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock voters, once again running for the Liberal Party. Kowalski, who stepped down when the writ was dropped is replaced by Maureen Kubinec, a Westlock County Councillor who received her constituency associations nod prior to the election. Although a player in the 2008 election, the Wildrose Party had no candidate in the last race. This time around they have former journalist and senator in waiting Link Byfield to run in the area. Byfield ran in 2008 for the party in the Whitecourt-Ste. Anne constituency. Running for the NDP is

Trudy Grebenstein, and for the recently formed EverGreens is Morinville resident Lisa Grant.

Morinville News editor and forum organizer Stephen Dafoe said the current provincial election is an important one, particularly in the Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock constituency where people are likely unfamiliar with the candidates.

"Two years ago we organized an election forum because we felt the 2010 municipal election was an important election in that there were 10 candidates for council, many of whom were unknown to residents," Dafoe said. "That is certainly the case with the election currently before us. Media have an obligation to make their readers aware of their voting options, but not everyone reads or watches the news today. The All Candidates Forum is an opportu-

nity for everyone to come out and hear the pitches and ask questions about the issues that affect them."

Dafoe teamed up with Smith Music to put on the 2010 municipal election forum; this time he's teaming with the Morinville Community Cultural Centre and the local Toastmasters.

"We were really fortunate to have the Community Cultural Centre step up and provide us their excellent venue and support staff to make this event possible for Morinville and area voters," Dafoe said, adding the venue was the only one in town capable of handling the turnout he's expecting. "We're also fortunate to have a group in town whose whole mandate is centred on facilitating effective communication."

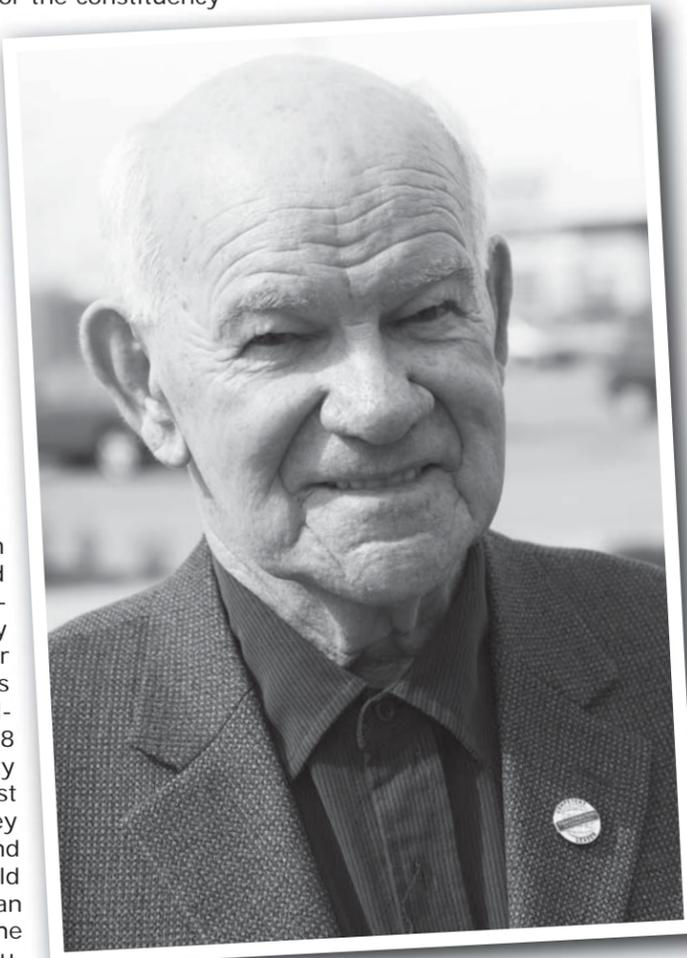
That group is the Morinville Toastmasters who will be providing long-time member Peter Kossowan to serve the role of forum moderator. The group will also be on hand to assist with the overall operation of the evening's activities.

"It is my belief that the community consists of people with some influence and some people with no direction whatsoever," Kossowan said of people's voting preferences. "I believe that a forum is an ideal opportunity to allow people from the entire community to see what is happening in the community. The forum gives you that kind of informa-

tion that allows you to vote for the candidate of your choice, knowing what your values are and what the party's values are."

Kossowan said he is pleased to have Toastmasters involved in the election forum. "Toastmasters, with some experience, have the ability to transmit the information that is required," he said. "They sort of coordinate. They introduce properly. They have the ability to introduce the speakers in such a way that it's supportive to the speaker, regardless of which political party they are running for. We in Toastmasters have been doing it now for about five different elections. We get better with it as we go from one political forum to the next."

The All Candidates Forum will take place Apr. 16 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the cultural centre. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.



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**APRIL 16, 2012 - 7 - 10 P.M.**

Morinville Community Cultural Centre





Left: Carrie Harney of Carrie's Hair Design, Phil Morrow, Abram Giffin, Justin Kuchta, Bruce Miedema, Steve Langston, Bob Baker and Anora Hartney of Carrie's Hair Design, seated Jill Morrow, Patricia Hounsell-Dickie and Kevin Wood posed for a photo after their heads were shaved at the Legion on Mar. 30 during a Canadian Cancer Society fundraiser.

Centre: Kevin Wood had his hair braided, cut and donated to the Wigs for Kids program.



Below: Steve Langston found the quickest path to a shaved head was right up the middle. Anora Harney of Carrie's Hair Design has a chuckle at his expense.

— Lucie Roy Photos

## Legion buzz raises more than \$6,000 for cancer research

By Lucie Roy

Morinville — Legion and community members gathered to have their heads shaved for cancer at the Morinville Legion Mar. 30. At the end of the evening the money raised for the Canadian Cancer Society Fundraise for Life event was more than \$6,000 with a few more donations still coming in. Money collected came from participant sponsor sheets, a 50/50 draw, quilt raffle, food served that evening, and additional donations.

Event organizer Paula Mulbery said the cheque to the Cancer Society will be presented Apr. 13 at the Legion when the final total is known.

Carrie and Anora Harney of Carrie's Hair Design volunteered their time and equipment to shave the heads of the 10 volunteers, consisting of eight men and two women. Each volunteer had a story to tell of how cancer has affected their lives and that of their family. Jillian Morrow cut her shoulder-length hair for her grandmother who died of pancreatic cancer eight years ago, and for a good family friend who succumbed to cancer in 2008. Bob Baker said he did it to raise money for cancer research because he lost a close friend and family member to cancer. Patricia Hounsell-Dickie had her hair shaved in memory of her daughter Natalie who died of a brain tumor at the age of 22. Phil Morrow said he wanted to shave his head for a few friends he lost to cancer at a really young age. Bruce Miedema, Justin Kuchta and Abram Giffin did it because it was a good thing to do and felt it was for a good cause. Kevin Wood had his long hair braided and carefully cut off. The hair to be made into will be given to the Wigs for Kids program.

Mulbery said the hairy event was a success and that she plans on making it an annual event.



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# Town Talk

## Community Organizations

As you might be aware the Career Employment & Counselling Services (CECS), in conjunction with the Town of Morinville Family & Community Support Services (FCSS), manage a volunteer posting board to showcase your organizations volunteer opportunities located at CECS.

Organizations in Morinville are invited to post volunteer opportunities and events through CECS. These opportunities will be made available at CECS for people looking to volunteer and get involved with their community. Potential volunteers are then invited to contact your organization directly to discuss the opportunity.

Morinville and CECS is committed to connecting residents and organizations to support people and businesses in the community. The Volunteer Opportunities board is a great way for organizations to connect to people looking for opportunities in the area. For more information please contact Amy 780-939-7832 or visit [www.morinville.ca](http://www.morinville.ca) for further details.

## Connecting Organizations and



### Pitch-In and help keep Morinville a clean Community

The Town of Morinville will host the Operation Clean Sweep event as part of Pitch-In Canada Week on May 9th. With little time, your Pitch-In efforts will help make a big difference in beautifying your Town.

#### How can you Pitch-In?

Lend a helping hand pulling weeds or picking up litter in your yard, around your workplace, or at the nearest park. Take pride in making Morinville a clean and tidy community.

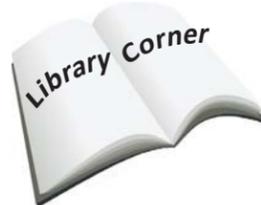
If you would like to take part in this year's Operation Clean Sweep, May 9, 2012 contact:

Tyler Edworthy at (780) 939 – 7834 or [tedworthy@morinville.ca](mailto:tedworthy@morinville.ca).

For more information on Pitch-In Canada week, visit [www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca)

### LOOSE THREADS

Like quilting? Join our club and meet fellow quilters in our community. Bring your new or unfinished project to the library and share your talents and quilting stories with other members.



**Monday, April 16, 6:00 pm** at the Community Cultural Centre

#### KNIT WITS

Come and join us for KNIT WITS. The coffee will be ready, so just bring your knitting needles and some wool and come to **Parish Hall** due to renovations at the library.

**Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 pm**

# Town Talk



## Youth In Action

**Morinville Does Downtown** - Have nothing to do on a PD Day? We have planned an awesome trip that will showcase the rich arts scene in Edmonton. Paint your own creation at Clayworks Studio and then head out for lunch at a tasty local restaurant. We will then enjoy a movie and popcorn at one of Edmonton's historic theaters. This is for youth ages 12 and up. Lunch is provided.

**When:** April 27th Pick up at the Youth Centre at 8:30 am, Drop off at the Youth Centre at 4:30 pm.

**Where:** Clayworks on Whyte Avenue and then a movie afterwards in Edmonton.

**Instructor:** A.D. Richardson **Fee:** \$30.00

**I am Girl... I am Proud** - Being a girl is hard these days. Join this all girls group as we talk about the issues that are facing girls every day; from healthy eating and fitness to DIY projects and self-esteem. Let's help the girls of Morinville become strong, confident and independent!

**When:** Tuesday May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & June 5th. Junior girls (Grades 6-8) will meet from 6-7:00 pm. Senior girls (Grades 9-12) will meet from 7:30-8:30 pm.

**Where:** The Morinville Youth Centre **Instructor:** A.D. Richardson and guests **Fee:** \$30.00 per girl



**Enjoy an evening at the movies at the Community Cultural Centre April 29th**  
Feel free to bring your own blankets, chairs, pillows. Free admission with donation to the Food Bank. There will be a full concession available to purchase treats.

**Movie Times: Family Movie** 6:00-7:30 pm (doors open at 5:45 pm)

**Youth Movie(14+)** 7:45-9:45 pm. ID must be presented at the door for the 14A movie.

### Active Parenting for teens/tweens

**AAHHH** the teenage years!! Is it worse than the Terrible Twos?

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**When:** Mondays • April 16, 23 & 30 • 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** Community Cultural Centre

**Instructor:** Facilitated by Parents Place **Fee:** \$30/person

### Town of Morinville Volunteer Awards

Nominations for the following awards are now being accepted:

- **Volunteer of the Year**
- **Youth Volunteer of the Year**
- **Legacy Award**
- **Partnership Award**
- **Leader of the Year**
- **Morinville Sustainability Plan (MSP) Champion**
- **Silent Hero Award**

Nomination forms can be found online at [www.morinville.ca](http://www.morinville.ca), at Town Office or at the Community Cultural Centre. For more information please see our website or call Amy at 780-939-7832.

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# Veteran fiddler coming home next weekend

By Stephen Dafoe



Veteran Canadian fiddle Calvin Vollrath stands outside the Morinville Community Cultural Centre last week. The international performer will be returning to the community where he got his start Apr. 20 – 22.

— Stephen Dafoe Photo

Morinville — Veteran Canadian fiddler Calvin Vollrath will be coming back to Morinville Apr. 20-22 for three days of music in a community he once called home. The three-day fiddle fest will include a Dine and Dance Apr. 20, a CD Release Party Apr. 21, and a Fiddle Gala Apr. 22.

A world-class fiddler who represents his province and country internationally, Vollrath said he was looking forward to coming back to the community where it all began.

"When I started in the music business I was 15 years old and living here," he said, adding his family home was between Morinville and Cardiff. "We were living on the farm when I started my first band called Country Swing."

That was in 1975. Six years later Vollrath recorded

his first album, something he's continued to do for the past 31 years. The upcoming Morinville show will see the release of his 55th and 56th CDs: the aptly named The Homecoming, and a second release titled Spring Creek. Each year for the past 19 years Vollrath has held a CD release party, always somewhere in the Edmonton area. This time he decided to bring the show home.

"When I heard Morinville built there new centre, I thought wouldn't it be nice to go home and play," Vollrath said. "I played lots of the Frontier Days dances. I played lots here. So to come here and do my show here — it really made sense."

Initially a Saturday night concert to release his newest CD, the event has grown over the years to the point where it is now a three-day event. "Fiddle fans of mine were coming from all across Canada, and so they'd get here on Friday and the show would be Saturday, and then Sunday or Monday they'd go home," Vollrath explained. "So I started thinking maybe we should be having a Friday night function. We started putting on a Friday night dance and it grew into a nice big thing."

A few years later and the veteran performer and song writer found more and more people kept coming to the annual event, among them fiddlers from across the country and around the globe. "I thought maybe we should do a show on Sunday and try and feature all of these [fiddlers]," he said, noting there are a large variety of fiddle styles throughout Canada. "It's not just one style. You get your Cape Breton, your French Canadian, your Metis, your Ukrainian, and the old time, the Don Messer stuff. So we started doing the Sunday show and calling it the Fiddle Gala."

Those expansions over the years from a CD release concert will all be present in the Apr. 20 – 22 event at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

It all kicks off Apr. 20 with a Dine and Dance with Vollrath's Edmonton-based band Country Swing, an homage to his first band that started in Morinville back in 1975. Seven fiddlers will take part in the Sunday afternoon Fiddle Gala with Vollrath, but Saturday night's CD release show is the big event of the three-day fiddle fest. That's the night Vollrath and his seven-piece band will break out the tunes on the new releases.

"We kind of emulate a symphony orchestra," Vollrath said of his band which includes three other fiddlers as well as other instruments. "They're a little string section, which is something different for a fiddle show. It adds a new special twist to the whole thing."

Vollrath explained many people equate fiddle music with Turkey in the Straw, but he assures those unfamiliar with his work that the Morinville show is well worth their attendance. "You really don't have to be a fiddle fan," he said. "If you like music, I think it's going to be really good music. Every tune has a story, so you tell a story about where the title comes from."

The Dine and Dance will take place Apr. 20 at 7:30 p.m., the CD Release Concert Apr. 21 at 7:30 p.m., and the Fiddle Gala Apr. 22 at 2 p.m. All events take place at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. Tickets for each of the three events are \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the Community Cultural Centre office.

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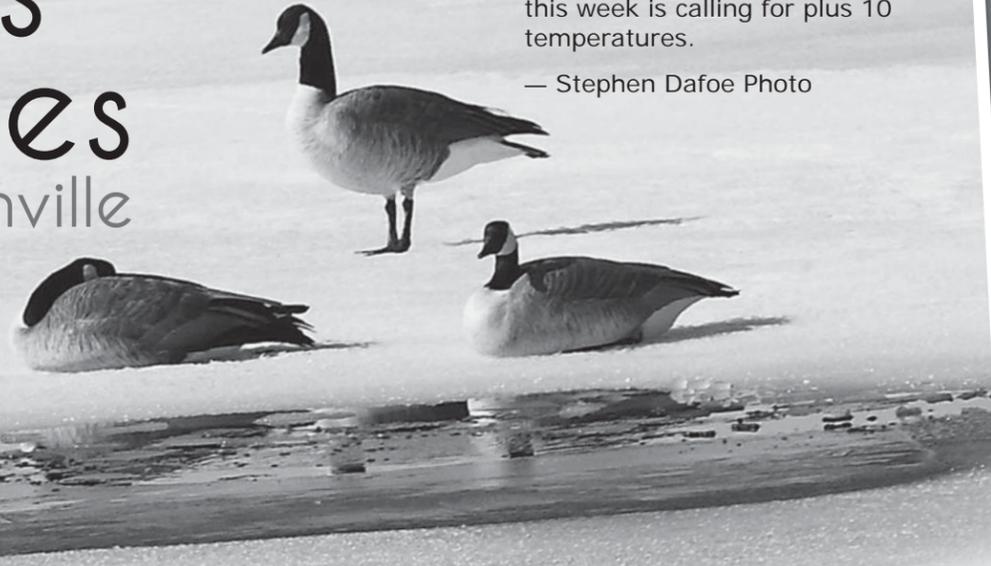
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# Sights & Bites of Morinville

**On frozen pond**  
The warm weather last week brought these geese out to enjoy the sun. The weather forecast for this week is calling for plus 10 temperatures.

— Stephen Dafoe Photo



**Lucky numbers**

Servus Credit Union ended the month of March by handing over a check to one of their members. Albert Buckle took part in a wealth contest run by Servus Credit Union during RRSP season. Every member that opened a new investment with a minimum value of \$5,000 was eligible to participate in the contest. Buckle won the prize, a \$1,000 GIC. From left: Kym Moore (Branch Manager), Albert Buckle, and Lorraine Blackburn (Financial Advisor).

— Submitted Photo



**Lions give**

The Morinville Lions Club presented a \$2,500 to the Dufour/Bouchard family to help Frederic Bouchard get a vertical motorized wheelchair. From left: Mother Nathalie Dufour, daughter Melodie Bouchard, President of the Morinville Lions Club Carrie Foss with Vimy Lions Club member Bob Hunter, father Eric Bouchard, Frederic Bouchard and brother Jean (kneeling in front). The Lions Club Zone 3A District L, consisting of 131 members from Morinville, Vimy, Legal, Busby and Athabasca, each contributed \$500 towards the chair for Frederic. The vertical lift chair is similar to the one Melodie has. The Lions Club are collecting tabs from pop cans to assist in the cause. — Lucie Roy Photo

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# Rend rocks Morinville families in all-ages show

By Stephen Dafoe

See story next page



Clockwise from above: Quinn gets a little onstage help from some young fans. Carol-Lynne Quinn and husband-bassist Jeff. Drummer Charis Logan does a solo.

— Stephen Dafoe Photos

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Left: Nate Glubish, Jeff Quinn and Charis Logan.

Facing page: The Morinville Jazz Band opened the show with an entertaining variety of tunes.

— Stephen Dafoe Photos

## Rend rocks Morinville

Morinville — Rock-pop band Rend brought their No Lines tour to the Morinville Community Cultural Centre Mar. 31 for an all-ages show in support of youth programming in the community.

From their opening anthem Battlecry to their encore song Monster, lead singer Carol-Lynne Quinn and her band kept Morinville youth glued to the edge of the stage moving to the band's unique rock-pop sound that is infused with a bit of jazz, a bit of soul, and plenty of positive energy.

Although clearly characterized by Quinn's strong vocals — the girl can really belt it out — the band's full sound is accomplished with the skills of some incredibly talented musi-

cians: Charis Logan (drums), Jeff Quinn (bass), Steve Roe (Guitar), and Nate Glubish (piano/synthesizer). While each is a master of their respective instruments and demonstrated it during solo opportunities, Glubish brings another interesting dynamic to the band's multi-faceted sound, elevating the band far above conventional guitar, bass and percussion bands.

While Rend's sound was enjoyed by the approximately 70 who saw the show Saturday night, the audience's enjoyment was raised higher by the non-stop visual show that added to the energy level with each successive number.

That visual presentation continued at the conclusion of the show with a short horror film that had Quinn turning into a monster at the end of the clip just as she returned to the stage in theatrical makeup to close the show with



Rend's aptly titled song Monster.

But Rend was not the only talent on the stage Saturday night. Opening for the band was the Morinville Jazz Band, who provided 30 minutes of brass, bass, piano and percussion ranging from Glenn Miller to the Beatles. The relatively new group on Morinville's music scene is not short on talent, and was an audience pleaser Saturday night.

The weekend concert was a partnership between Higher Grounds Espresso Bar, MorinvilleNews.com, The Town of Morinville and the Morinville Community Cultural Centre. One hundred per cent of profits from ticket sales went to the Morinville Youth in Action committee for Youth programming in Morinville. The event raised \$500 above costs and that money will be used for programming at the Youth Centre which had a break-in over the Mar. 22-26 weekend.

See our full concert photo gallery and video footage at [morinvillenews.com/?p=9223](http://morinvillenews.com/?p=9223)

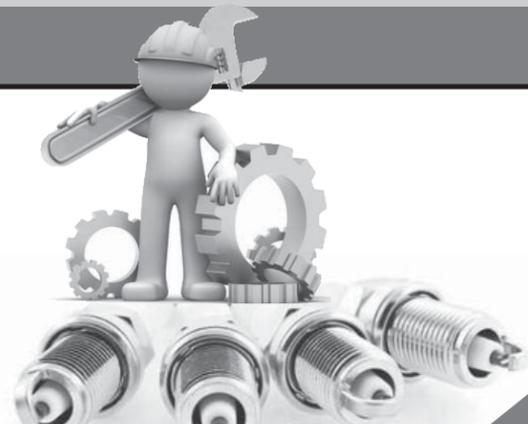


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# Man killed in street fight in Morinville

By Monday Morning News Staff

Morinville – A man in his 20s is dead following a street fight in Morinville Wednesday night.

Police received a report of a street fight in Morinville around 11:05 p.m. Apr. 4. On their arrival, they found a young male with a visible wound. He was treated by ambulance personnel but pronounced dead on the scene.

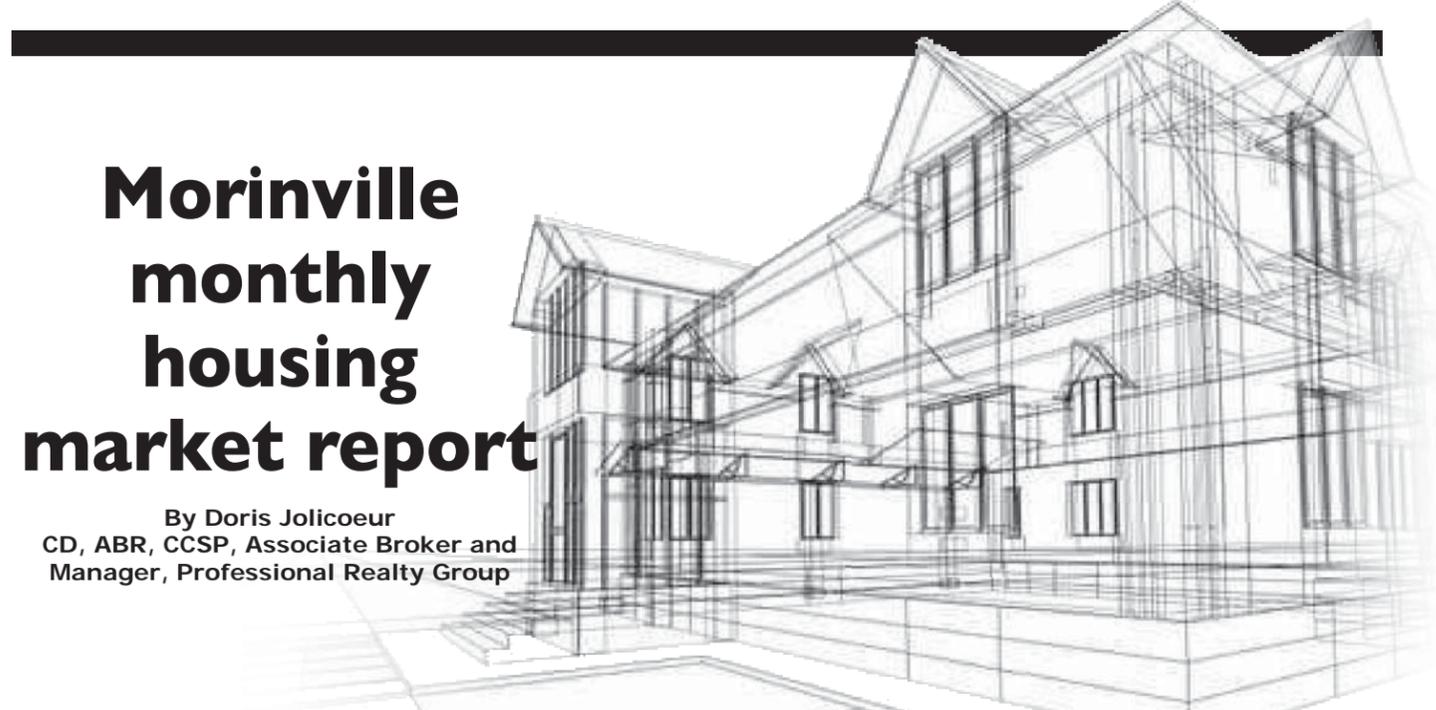
Morinville RCMP Staff Sargent Mac Richards said he was unable to reveal many details. He did say the RCMP Major Crime Section was called out and have been investigating the incident, and that he believed autopsy on the deceased as expected to be

held Thursday.

Richards said the man was discovered on 103rd Street in the area of Biddescombe Glass.

Name of the deceased is not being released pending notification of next of kin. The investigation continues.

The homicide is the second investigated by the Morinville Detachment in the past year. In March of 2011 a suspicious death in Gibbons was declared a homicide. Three men, including a Morinville man, were later charged in relation to the incident.



## Morinville monthly housing market report

By Doris Jolicoeur  
CD, ABR, CCSP, Associate Broker and  
Manager, Professional Realty Group

This past January, during the Housing Market Outlook Seminar, many economists and seasoned investors predicted a 2% increase in sale prices this year. Month over month, from February to March, the City of Edmonton has already seen a 1.3% increase in sale prices and a 24.5% increase in the number of sales. Many banks are continuing to offer record low fixed mortgage interest rates that are below bank prime. I personally believe that this is what has caused this increase in sales and home prices.

Housing market activity in Morinville, as it is historically, is slightly behind that of the big city.

Last month, the average Morinville single family home sold for \$304,832. That's a 0.7% increase from the previous month's price of \$302,606. The same home would have

sold in January for \$325,423, six months ago for \$301,556 and at 2.1% less, 298,533 one year ago. Morinville's average home sold in March at a price 23.1% lower than similar Capital Region homes.

Sales were up 29.4% from 17 in February to 22, 46.7% from 2011, and 15.8% from 2010.

The average single family home was on the market for 52 days last month. This is a five-day increase from February, a 46 day decrease from January, and 5 days more than it took the average single family to sell in the City of Edmonton.

With banks still offering fixed rates as low as 2.99% with rate holds for up to 90 days, one could speculate that this increase in sales will continue well past this spring.

## Let's Face It, Morinville...

Our community is growing, changing, and awfully close to becoming a city. Along with those changes is the need to bring this growing community the type of news connectivity available in bigger centres. The type of news connectivity that Morinville deserves - and the type of news connectivity that can unite us all closer together by bringing you the important information you need when you need it.

We believe we have achieved this through **MORINVILLENEWS.COM** and through the Monday Morning News.

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# The Morinville News

# New Orleans mission trip a success

By Stephen Dafoe

Morinville — Twenty-one Morinville Community High School students spent their spring break in New Orleans to learn a bit about the history and culture of the region and to offer a lot of help to those affected by Hurricane Katrina which devastated the area in 2005.

During the school's mission trip students worked hands-on in the humanitarian work still being conducted more than half a decade after the initial devastation.

Students spent several days of the trip working to repair damaged residences, assisting the work of the Catholic parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

MCHS Teacher Neil Korotash said the trip was a rewarding experience for all concerned and that students had an active week. Students arrived late Mar. 24 and eased into their trip on the Sunday by attending a mass and taking a cruise on the Mississippi River. That was followed by four days of work and one day of spending time with some New Orleans children.

"We worked on three different homes while we were there, trying to make life a bit easier," the teacher said. "Each family had a different circumstance. In one case [it was] to get them back in their home, and in the other two [it was] just to help them make some repairs in their home."

But it wasn't all work. Korotash said the students spent the Thursday at Cathedral Academy, a Catholic elementary school in New Orleans. "That was probably a highlight for a lot of the students — spending time with some of these kids," Korotash said. "The kids came from very different



From left: , Grade 9 student Samantha (Sam) Ringuette ,teacher Neil Korotash, and Grade 12 student and MCHS Student Council president Brennan Fitzgerald pose for a group photo Apr. 4 after their return from New Orleans.

— Stephen Dafoe Photo

backgrounds from what we have here in Morinville."

MCHS students were told 80 per cent of Cathedral Academy's student population came from broken and troubled homes. "Most of the kids at that elementary school had seen more than one person die in their lives, either shot or killed. There were three kids in the school that week who were dealing with someone in their family who had been shot or killed. And you'd never know it from these kids," Korotash said, adding the elementary school students just latched onto the MCHS students. "These kids just wouldn't leave our students alone, and then to find out later on what some of these kids were going through was truly amazing."

One student who was particularly affected by the visit to the Catholic school was Grade 9 student Samantha (Sam) Ringuette, a participant who prior to the trip said she believed the opportunity to go to New Orleans was not only an opportunity to help other people but an opportunity to bring some positive change to her life.

"I got to see how kids could have such a bad life at home but they could still come to school, and they could put all

their troubles behind them," Ringuette said. "It just showed me that you can do that here, too. It rubs off. After that day, we were just so happy."

The Grade 9 student said she has brought the experience back to Morinville with her and is now viewing her surroundings from a different viewpoint. "I can tell now who may have a bad background in their own home just from looking at them," Ringuette said, noting she will be more observant now of fellow students who may be in need of someone to talk to. "I find that talking to people helps a lot. Just letting people talk to you."

Grade 12 student and MCHS Student Council President Brennan Fitzgerald will also be applying the lessons learned down south here at home. The experience was a moving and rewarding one for him.

"Prior to the trip I think everyone was unaware of what exactly we were going to feel when we got down there," he said. "Everyone kind of knew we were going to help people and feel good about ourselves, and maybe hope to gain a new perspective. But nothing could prepare us for what we really felt. It's just so much fulfilment and so much love that we felt down there, that we experienced down there."

Fitzgerald said a personal highlight of the trip for him was having breakfast with the homeless people who would come into the building the students were staying at. "Lots of people had a rough life just like here, people involved in crime or drugs or things like that, but also people who had lost a lot of things during the hurricane," he said. "I met one lady who was living in the projects who told me her house was being demolished in a year and she wasn't going to be able to go anywhere. A lot of pain, a lot of sadness, but overwhelming joy and hope and faith."

The student council president said coming back to Morinville and being able to appreciate what he has here will help him apply what he and the other students learned in New Orleans, particularly with respect to listening to people and loving them.

"Being the student council president, I can see areas in the framework of council where I can apply some things that I learned down there," Fitzgerald said. "For example — the idea of talking with people who need an ear. We have so many people in the school who I've never talked to. I don't know who they are. I don't know their story or their names. I think if it was easy to talk to somebody who once killed a person, then I should be able to talk to anybody in these hallways. I hope to bring that aspect back to council — making this school feel like a home. Making it feel like a place of welcoming and of love and faith. That's what I hope to bring back."



MCHS students spent several days helping New Orleans residents repair their homes during the school's spring break mission trip. — Submitted Photos

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# Primeau set to take to the waters in latest play

By Stephen Dafoe

Morinville — Georges H Primeau Middle School is getting ready to take audiences beneath the waves next week. The school will conduct two evening performances of this year's play, *The Little Mermaid*, Apr. 17 and 18 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

One of the play's directors, Debbie Rivet, said the school chose the *Little Mermaid* because the play had not been done before and because it was felt the production would appeal to a broad age group.

The co-director said more than 80 students tried out for the production, a number that has been whittled down to 50 students taking on stage and back stage roles. Because the school wanted to include as many students as possible, several characters will be played by multiple students. The audience should not be surprised if Neptune, the prince or Annabel appear to change height from scene to scene as even students will fill the three roles during the course of the play.

Rivet, said she and fellow directors Ryan O'Gorman and Jes-



Part of the Primeau cast for *The Little Mermaid* pose outside the school Apr. 4 for a cast photo. The play takes place Apr. 17 and 18 at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre.

— Stephen Dafoe Photo

sica Workun, have been working with the students since January and the efforts show. "We practice approximately two to three times a week, an hour or two per day," Rivet explained. "It's been a lot of hard work but the kids are quite excited."

The production, in addition to having a large cast, also has a large and colourful wardrobe. Rivet said costumes were created by Bev Lussier, one of the school's parents. Together with the assistance of staff and students, Rivet is convinced Primeau has put together a colourful, must-see production for 2012 sure to make a splash with the audience.

Part of that theatrical magic will be the venue. Rivet said the cast is really looking forward to performing on the cultural centre's stage. "We've never had this much space," she said. "The stage, the lighting, the sound — we're so excited."

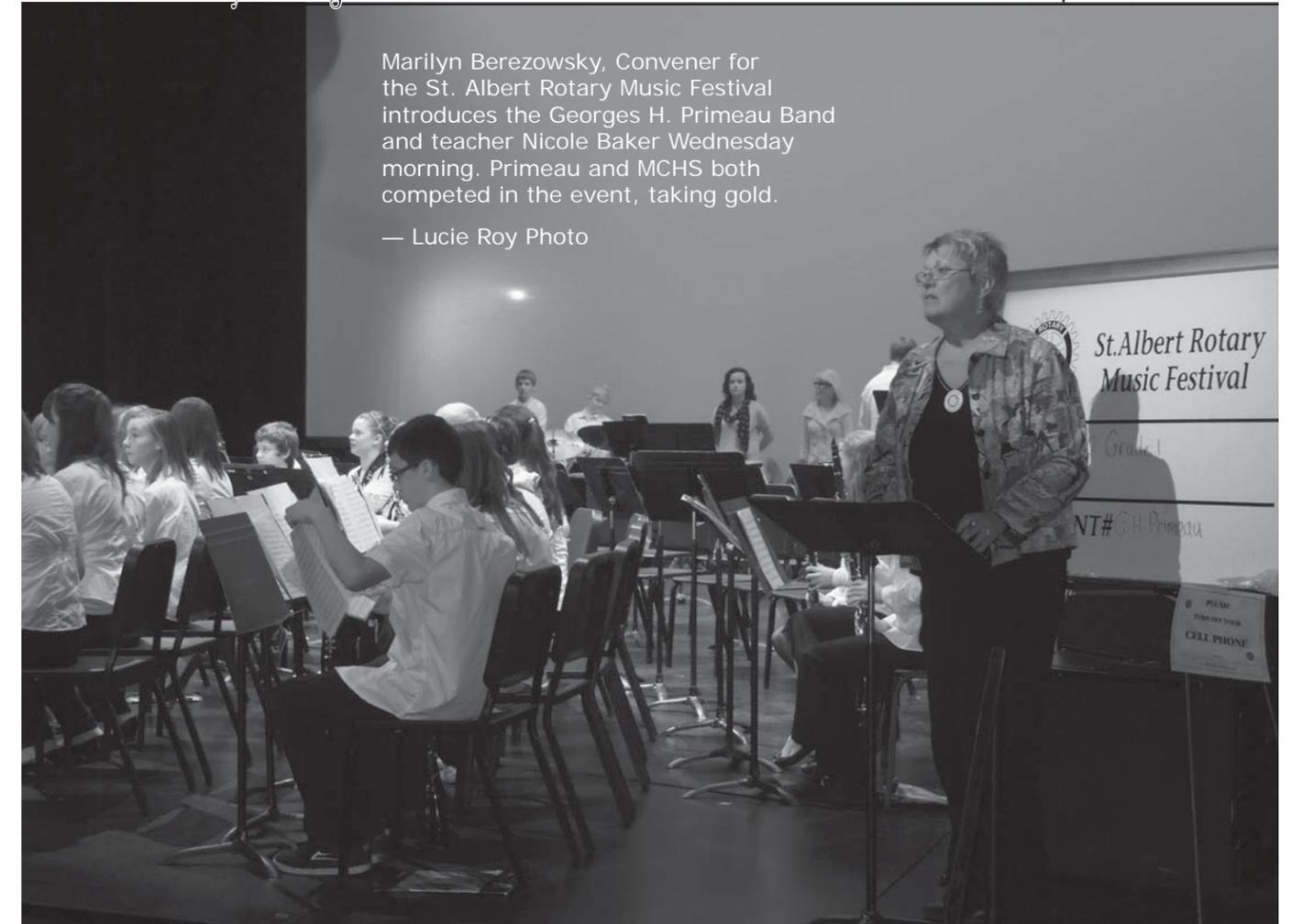
She, her fellow directors, and the cast are hoping Morinville will be excited about attending the two performances and seeing the fruits of more than three months' labour.

"The effort that the kids put in and the final product is just wonderful," Rivet said. "I think everyone would really enjoy it."

Doors at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre open Apr. 17 and 18 at 6:30 p.m. The performances will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults - \$3 for children and students. Tickets can be purchased at Primeau or Sobeys.

Marilyn Berezowsky, Convener for the St. Albert Rotary Music Festival introduces the Georges H. Primeau Band and teacher Nicole Baker Wednesday morning. Primeau and MCHS both competed in the event, taking gold.

— Lucie Roy Photo



# Morinville schools take gold in festival

By Lucie Roy

St. Albert — Music students from Primeau and MCHS took to the stage of the Arden Theatre on Wednesday in the St. Albert Rotary Music Festival.

Primeau Band was awarded a Gold Certificate in Class No.11000 Concert Band Grade I Junior High School category for their performance of *Mystic Runes of Ra'ak*. Students from MCHS, who performed Wednesday afternoon, also received Gold.

This is the 35th anniversary of the Music Festival and the 18th year that the Rotary Club of St. Albert has hosted the event. 25 band classes from Edmonton, Stony Plain, Morinville, Gibbons and Namao were set to performing.



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Vanier School students Jenna Tolsma and Jordan Hessel were busy making a pulley crane Wednesday afternoon as part of the curriculum covered on simple machines. — Lucie Roy Photo

### What the politicians didn't tell you last time

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# The Morinville News

We're putting the community back into community news



# APRIL 20 - 22

# Morinville shines during Earth Hour



By Monday Morning News Staff

Morinville — It was lights off in Morinville Mar. 31 during Earth Hour. The community ranked seventh in FortisAlberta's top ten communities who powered down for environmental reasons.

"I'm happy to report that Morinville was number seven on our top 10 list of best-performing communities for Earth Hour," said Kate George, a communications advisor with FortisAlberta. "Morinville saw a decrease of electricity usage by 11.8 per cent over the previous Saturday. These savings equal 1.029 Kw, which is enough electricity to power 1,143 houses for a one hour period."

Earth Hour took place globally Mar. 31 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., a time when people around the world were asked to turn off lights and other electrical devices in support of the cause. Earth Hour is the highlight of a major campaign to encourage businesses, communities and individuals to take the simple steps needed to cut their emissions on an ongoing basis.

As in previous years, FortisAlberta once again collected electricity consumption data for Morinville and other communities during the hour and compared it to consumption from the same hour on Saturday, Mar. 24.

The top ten communities in order of most energy saved to least energy saved were Canmore, Edson, Vulcan, Black Diamond, Strathmore, Chestemere, Morinville, High River, Okotoks and Viking.

FortisAlberta encourages residents to conserve energy at all times and has a list of energy efficiency tips on their website at [www.fortisalberta.com](http://www.fortisalberta.com).

## Community group profile: What is Toastmasters?

By Wayne Sager



Toastmasters are a group of people that come together to conquer one of the greatest fears that many humans have, speaking in front of a group of people.

Toastmasters work together to do something that you cannot do alone. The skills are learned in a very positive, supportive environment and members have a lot of fun doing it.

In a typical Toastmaster meeting, you may work on the art of an introduction, how to chair a business meeting, give prepared presentations, learn to speak "off the cuff" and how to provide and receive effect evaluations that help individuals grow.

Meetings are run by club members that take turns assisting the operation of a meeting by performing roles such as a "timer", "ah counter" and "grammarian". A role designated as "Toastmaster" provides experience in how to lead a meeting, much like an MC leads an event.

Toastmasters have opportunities to try out many aspects of the art of effective communication and simultaneously build their leadership skills at their own pace.

Club members talk about things of interest, areas of expertise and subjects they are passionate about. There are plenty of laughs along with heart warming moments in any given Toastmasters meeting.

Toastmasters work towards specific designations that signify the growth and progress they make on their Toastmaster's journey. These designations are recognized and noticed by many successful businesses who seek employees who express themselves with skill and confidence. These same skills are invaluable in a person's daily social interactions.

People involved in Toastmasters work toward common goals and build friendships that can last forever. The supportive environment allows individuals to challenge themselves while feeling safe because they are with people who are trying to achieve the same goals and want them to succeed as much as they do. Many consider fellow members as another "family" of theirs.

Toastmasters has shown many times over that almost everyone has the ability to communicate effectively if they gain the skills and confidence that being a member of Toastmasters can give them.

The changes seen in new members are quickly evident as they try various speaking roles while being supported, mentored and provided with helpful feedback.

All of this is achieved in one of the easiest and most economical ways that these valuable skills can be learned.

For over eighty years Toastmasters has grown to over a quarter million members in this world-wide organization.

There is no need to fear having to stand up and give your report at work, to tell a story at a banquet or how to impress someone you just met. You can change your life today.

You are invited to be a guest of the Morinville Toastmasters Club who currently meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Morinville Community Center. Join fellow members of your community to have great time while you learn how to be your best.

For more information contact Wayne Sager — [saynewager@telus.net](mailto:saynewager@telus.net) or Liz von Kanel at [lizvinkanel@hotmail.com](mailto:lizvinkanel@hotmail.com)

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## Legal wins Big Valley Jamboree contest

By Stephen Dafoe

Legal — Big Valley Jamboree's Small Town Saturday Night contest came to an end last Tuesday night with the announcement Legal was the contest winner. The announcement was made at the Travel Alberta Growing Rural Tourism Awards Dinner in Camrose and the community of 1,200 was represented with 13 in attendance.

One of those in attendance was Councillor Phil Hughes who said anticipation was high leading up to the big announcement. "Everybody was itching and biting at the bit to find out," Hughes said. They were constantly texting us that day, the day before, the week before. Then when we finally found out it went viral. The whole town knew within seconds pretty much due to the media."

Legal's video submission, one of 53, was selected as one of 10 finalists in the competition Mar. 6. The community made the cut when the field of finalists was narrowed down to five at the end of online voting Mar. 20. Legal residents together with those of Bashaw, Bonnyville, Devon and High River had to wait until Apr. 3 to find out if they were the overall winner.

The prize for that winning entry will provide Legal with a country music concert Apr. 28 and \$5,000 towards a community cause.

"The whole town is so behind us right now," Hughes said. "you are getting so many people that are talking about it right now and getting ready for it. That's the scary part of it is the big event now."

Hughes said the event will consist of four artists who will do an artist's circle during the day and a concert in the

evening. The councillor said tickets will be sold to the evening event with proceeds going towards the community's cause, adding to monies raised by the Friends of Legal School for a much-needed playground restoration.

"For five or six years they've been working on this," Hughes said, adding the 45,000 cash prize and ticket sales will greatly add to that fund. "Now it's the bells and whistles for these guys."

Hughes said none of it would be possible without a great deal of support. "The whole town — council, everybody is absolutely ecstatic about this," Hughes said. The councillor, who was at the Morinville and district Chamber of Commerce luncheon Apr. 4 also extended his thanks to Morinville residents for their support in voting for Legal. Final numbers were within just more than 700 votes in Legal's favour.

### A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The idea to put together a video entry for the town was brought to Jeannie Charrois by Legal Town Manager Robert Proux last Christmas. A committee was formed in early January and brainstorming began on just what form the video would take at that time.

The video soon evolved into a music video showcasing the town and centred on a big red cup, an image borrowed from a Toby Keith country song about drinking and lyricized in a community and family-friendly way by Melanie Thibault. Local musician Keith Bennett sat down with the committee and his guitar and put together the music for the piece.

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High praise indeed! But well earned! Indeed, people come from all over the world to learn the secrets of Alberta's success.

But your PC government recognizes that we can't rest on our laurels. That's just not the Alberta way. The world is changing — and we must continue to innovate and evolve if we are to continue to be a world leader.

Recently, the government introduced a new Education Act, designed to provide a framework for that continued leadership. The Act dealt with issues that we hadn't even been thought of when the existing School Act was passed in 1980. In 1980, we did not envision there would be so many children with complex needs that would require specialized services in our schools. And who among us had even heard of the phrase "cyber-bullying"!

The new Education Act was to provide more local autonomy to school boards to deal with these and other issues— so that the unique needs of all of our students can be met locally. Without undue interference from the folks in Edmonton!

And of course, the new Act reinforced the concept of "parental choice" which is central to our system and is a core value of Albertans.

Your Progressive Conservative government believes that parents, not bureaucrats or politicians, are best placed to make educational decisions about their children's education.

And of course, it was a concern about this last point — particularly from parents who have chosen to teach their children at home — that prompted the controversy about the Act — and which led to time running out in the legislature to pass the new Act.

Now, I want to make it clear that I support the revised Education Act — and I do believe that we have it right. But I also believe that we should take the time to ensure that all parents in our province feel the same way. Public confidence in our system is central to our success.

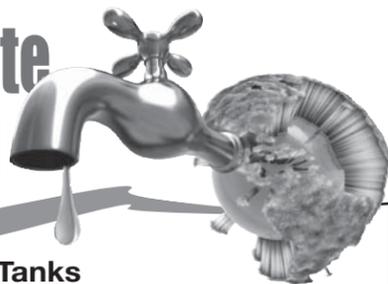
We need to take the time to get this right. And if that means further amendments are necessary — well so be it.

You know, no child is going to go without an education because we take a little longer to develop an Act. No child will be harmed. Let's ensure that we take the time to get this right! Because I believe, like you do, that education is so very important to the future of this great province.



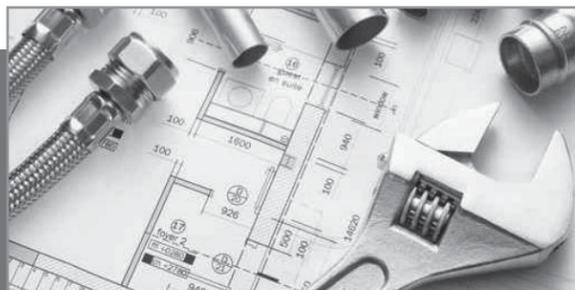
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## MONDAY MORNING CALENDAR

### MONDAY APRIL 9

#### Collective Kitchen

Collective Kitchen group meets every 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month at the Rendez-Vous Centre. New members welcome! Contact Therese at 780-939-2938 for information.

#### Floor Curling & Bridge

The Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre holds floor curling and bridge club Mondays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. For curling, contact Madeleine at 780-939-2061. For bridge, contact Lucien at 780-939-4244.

#### Yellow Rock Dancers

The Morinville Yellow Rock Dancers dance every Monday night from 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Morinville Community Cultural Centre (9502 - 100 Ave). Start-up date, September 19, 2011. Contact Jeannine at 780-939-7437.

### TUESDAY APRIL 10

#### Army Cadets

3061 Morinville Army Cadets parade every Tuesday evening from 6:30 - 9 p.m. at the Community Cultural Centre. For all ages 12 and up. For more information, please contact Capt. Bishop 780-436-4741. New recruits welcomed.

#### Food Bank

The Morinville Food Bank Society is open Tuesday's and Thursdays from noon until 2 p.m. Phone line other times – 780-939-2636. The food bank can now accept frozen foods.

#### Toastmasters

Toastmaster's meetings are every Tuesday evening from 7 - 8:30 at the Community Cultural Centre. For more information, contact Liz von Kanel at 780-884-1154 or 780-939-4819.



### WEDNESDAY APRIL 11

#### Movie Night

Movie Night every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the Rendez-Vous Centre. A pot luck supper at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish to share - followed by a movie. Contact Charles at 780-939-5143 to learn the title of the movie to be featured.

#### Rotary Meets

Morinville Rotary Club meeting at 7:15 a.m. at the Community Cultural Centre.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 11

#### Beginner Bridge and 500 Club

The Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre holds Bridge for Beginners Wednesdays at 9 a.m. 500 Club is held at 1 p.m. with pool, shuffleboard and other open activities.

#### Quilting

The Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre holds quilting sessions every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Contact Renee Knight at 780-939-3925 for more information.

### THURSDAY APRIL 12

#### Al-Anon

Al-Anon meets at the Morinville Baptist Church at 8 p.m. Call 780-433-1818 for more information.

#### Alcoholics Anonymous

Morinville Baptist Church at 8 p.m. Phone 780-498-0034.

#### Food Bank

The Morinville Food Bank Society is open Tuesday's and Thursdays from noon until 2 p.m. Phone line other times – 780-939-2636. The food bank can now accept frozen foods.

#### Knitting Club & Euchre

The Morinville Rendez-Vous Centre is the place to be for knitting action Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. Euchre takes place Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

### UPCOMING

Morinville Minstrels invite you for a trip to Fort St. John, B.C. May 7-10, 2012. \$375.00 includes the trip, double occupancy accommodation, concert ticket, 2 coffee stops and driver's gratuities. Concert on May 8th: "Buddy Wasiname and the other Fellers" – comedian entertainers from Newfoundland; You'll enjoy 4 stops at seniors' Lodges along the way and areas of interest; Must be able to take care of yourself; Bring a friend to share room; Money must be in by April 9th; Let us know before April 8th; Diana Moquin – 780-939-7241 or Lucille Dube – 780-939-5626 after April 4th.

## ATTENTION COMMUNITY GROUPS

To have your non profit event listed in our weekly **Community Calendar**

send your events to:  
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<b>2x</b> 12" 3-topping pizzas <b>\$25</b>	<b>1x</b> 12" pizza and 12 wings <b>\$22</b>	<b>2x</b> 16" 3-topping pizzas <b>\$35</b>
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