



# Make Morinville your new home

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You will want to live in Morinville.

As it continues to undergo “significant” growth in an inexorable march to 10,000 people, the town northwest of Edmonton and St. Albert along Highway 2 has been butting heads with several misconceptions.

“We’re not a small town anymore; we’re a small city,” explained mayor Lisa Holmes. “I think that’s the biggest thing is people have the misconception that Morinville is a tiny town that’s quite a ways north of Edmonton, but we’re not.”

There is a lot to attract people to Morinville, Holmes said, whether it’s a family looking for their first or new home, a young person looking for work, or a business looking for a place to get a toehold.

“We’ve had a lot of young families move to town, and it’s really attractive to people who are in the trades,” she said.

While many other communities have been hit by the sluggish economy, Morinville has escaped that fate, and is instead thriving.

“We actually haven’t felt the same pressures as other municipalities in the region,” Holmes said. “There are a lot of opportunities for jobs, especially in the Alberta’s Industrial Heartland, and those aren’t slowing down – those projects are ramping up.”

In terms of what Morinville has for residents, Holmes said there is much and more available, with the town’s location helping fill the gaps in what the town itself has.

At the top of the list are festivals.

“We find ways to celebrate the culture in Morinville all through the year,” she said.

One of the largest annual festivals is the St. Jean Baptiste festival, which draws in thousands of guests, all coming to take part in the parades, midway, kids’ activities and a show and shine. In the works are lumberjack games and demonstrations.

“It celebrates our Francophone heritage, but it’s also a great community event,” Holmes said.

Oktoberfest in the fall promotes and celebrates the area’s German heritage, while a fiddling competition and championships is in the works for this fall.

In addition, the Community Culture Centre regularly plays hosts to concerts and other performances throughout the year.

When it comes to the outdoors, Morinville is home to a “fantastic” trail system and a fishing pond right in the town.

There is also a new multi-use recreation facility complete with an arena, fieldhouse and running tracks due to come to town in the near future, Holmes added.

“There are more amenities than people realize,” she said.

Of course, if there is something you want that Morinville doesn’t have, yet, both St. Albert and Edmonton are a short drive south along Highway 2.

“We have the local amenities, but also our proximity to the region really allows people to have that small town lifestyle with access to all of the big city amenities they desire,” Holmes said.

It is perhaps the small town feel with big city services right there on the doorstep that is Morinville’s greatest calling card. And because it’s not in Edmonton, or even St. Albert, housing prices are lower in Morinville as well.

For Holmes, it was the small town feel that brought her to Morinville, explaining that when her children were young, she moved to the town to give them that sense of small town living.

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