



## News Release

For Immediate Release | November 21, 2011

### ***“Morinville’s Christmas Festival Nov. 25 – Nov 27, 2011”***

Festival packed full of exciting events & activities during centennial.

**November 21, 2011 (Morinville, Alberta)** - Morinville will be holding its annual Christmas festival. This year’s festival aims to be larger than in the past because of the centennial. The festival will offer a variety of events running to engage the community at large. (see itemized itinerary attached).

Gord Bamford (2010 CCMA Male Artist of the Year) will headline opening night of the festival with his *Country Christmas Show* at the Community Cultural Centre (CCC), doors are open Friday at 7pm. During the day Morinville’s 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Fill-a-Bus” food drive will be in full swing. The bus will be parked at the local *Sobeys* and *No Frills* grocer hoping to surpass last year donation of 1200 pounds for the Morinville Food Bank and the Knights of Columbus x-mas hampers.

“There is something for everyone at this year’s event, no matter what their age or lifestyle.” says Tyler Edworthy, acting Director of Morinville Community Services. “Not only is it a fun filled family event that engages our residents it also brings pride to the community. Without the involvement of over two hundred volunteers the event would not be possible.”

Saturday is a full day of activity commencing with the Lion’s pancake breakfast at 9am. From there families can spend a whole day at the Community Cultural Centre starting at 10 am with crafts, games, bounce house, acclaimed children’s entertainers Lee and Sandy Paley and pictures with Santa. The festivities will then continue at 5 pm with the Christmas Parade featuring Bonhomme and Santa running along 100<sup>th</sup> Ave., followed by lighting of the park at St. Jean Baptiste Park on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue with a fireworks display to follow. The Ray McDonald Sports Centre is hosting a “100 Years of Hockey” game from 8-9:46. Each line-up will consist of over 100 years of experience.

Sunday will see the Family Skate with Santa and Bonhomme run from 1:30 -3pm at the Ray McDonald Sports Centre. A new addition to the festival takes place Sunday at the CCC with local artisans displaying their crafts from 1-5pm. Country music artist Lisa Hewitt will entertain from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. At 3:00 pm the documentary tribute to all fallen Canadian soldiers “If I Should Fall” will be showing with proceeds by donation going to the family of our own recently fallen soldier Cpl. Byron Greff who’s sacrifice has been added to the documentary. There will also be a donation of quilts to Victim Services.

**Photo opportunities:**

**Friday Nov 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Gord Bamford's "Country Christmas" 7:30 pm at the CCC

**Saturday Nov 26<sup>th</sup>:**

Lee & Sandy Paley Children's entertainer's noon at the CCC

Christmas Parade along 100 Ave with Santa & Bonhomme

Lighting of the Park 6:15 pm at St. Jean Baptiste Park

100 Years of Hockey Game 8:00 pm at the Ray McDonald Sport Centre

**Sunday Nov 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Morinville Artisans display including the Centennial quilt 1-5pm at the CCC

Country Artist Lisa Hewitt 1:30-2:30 pm at the CCC

Presentation of quilts to Victim Services 2:35 at the CCC

"If I Should Fall" documentary 3:00-4:30 pm at the CCC

Family skate with Santa & Bonhomme 1:30 – 3:00 pm at the Ray McDonald Sport Centre

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