



Your COMMUNITY

MARCH EDITION

204-668-8112 | www.eaststpaul.com | info@eaststpaul.com
1 - 3021 Birds Hill Road | 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

Want a new rec facility? You gotta join the team

East St. Paul council has thrown its support behind a new recreation facility for the municipality, now the community must get behind it as well.

Mayor Carla Devlin says recreation facilities in the RM are needed. The current arena was built in 1971 and at that time volunteers played a huge role in getting the build completed, offering equipment and skilled labour to get the job done.

Devlin says that type of community spirit will be needed again to bring recreation in the municipality up to today's standards.

"In 2025, council approved the formation of a fundraising committee to explore the development of a recreation centre for East St. Paul. We are pleased that the Community Centre has expressed its interest in helping spearhead this initiative and be an active part of the committee as we begin this important work," Devlin said.

"Our growing community — particularly our young families — needs recreational opportunities close to home rather than relying on the city and surrounding municipalities. I will be serving on the committee alongside Coun. Brian Duval and dedicated community volunteers as we work collaboratively to assess options and build support for this much-needed project."

Karla Gould, ESPCC President and Kyle Ouellette, ESPCC Hockey Director, along with

Meagan Shaw, the RM's Community Services Manager, are the other members on the committee.

This is not the first effort to upgrade facilities, with the most recent being in 2016 when the RM hired engineering company Stan-tec to complete a multiplex plan. That effort, like previous ones, fizzled out, and Gould and Ouellette say it's time to bring everyone together and bring recreation in the municipality up to modern standards.

Gould feels the time is right to get the job done.

"As a community centre, we're frustrated, and I think people are too," Gould said.

"It's not like people haven't tried to do this before, it just never follows through. We need it to happen this time."

For Ouellette, there needs to be community buy in, and he's confident East St. Paul has the right people with the right skills to get this done.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this but I think this is being looked into, a committee is being formed and this is your opportunity to come forward and say, 'I have time, I can volunteer, I have this background and I think

You really need to be shovel ready before the province and the feds will start to put money into things.

I can be a beneficial player sitting on the committee and I think I can really help with this project'. There are people with knowledge in the community, and they can help," Ouellette said.

Shaw is working on hiring a consultant to develop a recreation master plan that can provide guidance for the future of recreation in the municipality. She's also been engaged with neighbouring RM of Springfield, who is about to start construction on its new rec facility, following a years-long drive, led by the community, to get it done.

"This is going to be a long process," Shaw said.

"There's always been talk that we're going to build a new facility, that we're going to build a multi-plex...and nothing has ever happened."

The reality, Shaw says, is that the community has to galvanize before any levels of government will invest in what could be a project with a price tag upwards of \$30 million.

"The province isn't going to come to the table, the feds aren't going to come to the table unless the community is behind this 100%, so we need our community members to start driving the fundraising and what they want in a facility," she said.

"You really have to be shovel ready before the province and the feds will start to put money into things."

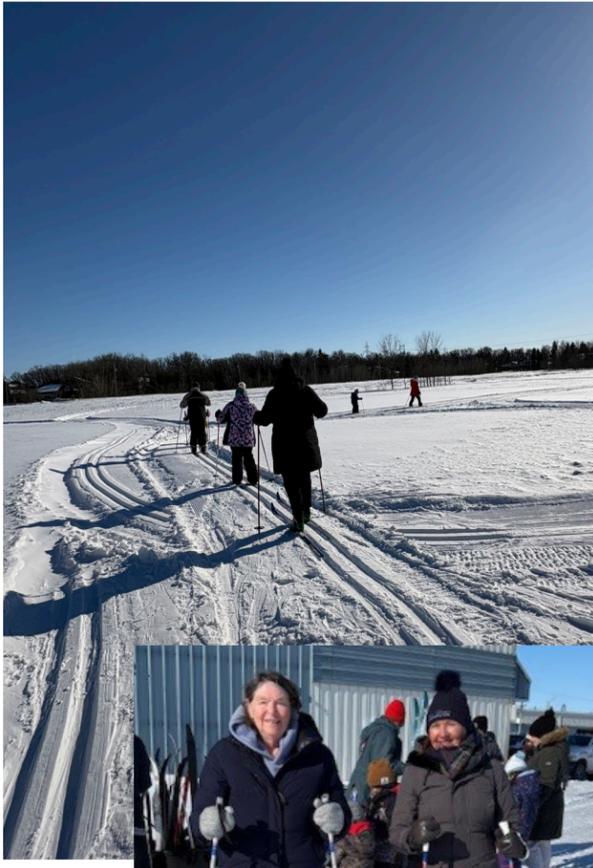
An open house was held in February and the next will be on April 19, from 7-9pm in the banquet hall at the arena. Shaw says they need a good turnout.

"We're trying to put together a committee of like-minded people that are willing to drive this fundraising initiative to get something built, very similar to what they've been doing in Oakbank for the last eight years," she said.

Watch this newsletter and the RM's website and social media for more details about the April 19th meeting.



Annual Flurry Day slides into East St. Paul



RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Child: Martial Arts / Toddler Drop In Tuesdays / Kids Dance / Lullaland

Adult: Mat Pilates/ Zumba/ Flexy Fit / Flexy Flow / Yagalates / Gentle Yoga

Stay tuned for more!
www.eaststpaul.com

Feb. 22 was Flurry Day in East St. Paul and skiers of all abilities showed up at the East St. Paul Arena to make tracks in the snow.

Once again Anders Swanson, Executive Director of the non-profit Winnipeg Trails, was on hand with skis and expertise to get everyone upright and gliding. The Mobile Ski Library travels the city and surrounding communities providing

people the chance to get outside and try cross country skiing. The RM provided free hot chocolate for skiers and the Cycling with Sarah girls were on hand to help people get the right boots and other equipment.

Congratulations to everyone who embraced the cold and the snow and spent the afternoon getting some healthy exercise in the Manitoba sunshine!

Spring Break Adventure Camp

\$170/ person

4 DAYS OF ADVENTURES MARCH 30- APRIL 2

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Approximately 32,000 census jobs are available across Canada

Help collect information that shapes services like education, public transit, health care and more.

census.gc.ca/jobs

- From March to July 2026** (depending on position and location)
- Must be available to work flexible hours**, including days, evenings and weekends
- Roles available:**
 - Enumerators (\$25.87/hour)
 - Crew leaders (\$31.32/hour)

Canada



Love to read, love green eggs and ham



East St. Paul Community Safety Officer Markowski helped Ecole Birds Hill School recognize I Love to Read Month by reading the Dr. Seuss Classic 'Green Eggs and Ham' to Grades 1 & 2 students last month.

ESP withdraws from Capital Planning Region

At its February 24, 2026, meeting, Council of the RM of East St. Paul passed a resolution requesting withdrawal from membership in the Capital Planning Region pursuant to The Planning Act (Manitoba).

This decision follows Council's review of the finalized regional framework and consideration of its financial, land-use, servicing, and governance implications for our community. Council supports the principle of voluntary regional collaboration; however, it also recognizes its responsibility to preserve local planning authority, fiscal sustainability, and direct accountability to residents.

The Chief Administrative Officer has been directed to forward the resolution to the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations, requesting that the Province enact the necessary regulation to formalize the RM's withdrawal.

Council remains committed to constructive inter-municipal cooperation and regional dialogue on matters of shared infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and land use, independent of formal Capital Planning Region membership.

Capital Planning Region FAQ

- RM of East St. Paul

Why has the RM of East St. Paul requested withdrawal from the Capital Planning Region?

Council determined that, given the approach-

ing provincial deadline and the absence of a finalized regional plan, it was important to act now to maintain local planning flexibility. The decision allows the next Council to consider regional participation within a clearer legislative and planning framework.

Does this mean East St. Paul is opposed to working regionally?

No. Council supports voluntary collaboration with neighbouring municipalities on shared priorities, including infrastructure, transportation, economic development, and land use. The decision relates specifically to formal membership in the Capital Planning Region under provincial legislation — not to regional cooperation more broadly.

What are the future withdrawal opportunities under provincial legislation?

Under The Planning Act, once a regional plan is adopted, a formal review is initiated eight years later. At that time, member municipalities have a 180-day window to consider withdrawing after receiving written notice from the Region. If a municipality wishes to withdraw during that period, Council must hold a public hearing and pass a resolution. The Minister may then enact a regulation to change the Region's membership.

If a municipality does not act within that 180-day review window, it remains a member until the next statutory review period.

Council determined it was prudent to act before the October 28, 2026, deadline rather than wait for a future review cycle.

Will this affect local development or planning approvals?

No. Planning and development in East St. Paul will continue to be administered by the RM under its existing Development Plan, zoning by-law, and applicable provincial policies. Day-to-day planning processes remain unchanged.

Are there financial implications?

Once provincial regulations formally remove East St. Paul from membership, the annual Capital Planning Region levies will cease. Council's decision was primarily based on governance considerations and long-term planning authority.

What happens next?

Council's resolution has been submitted to the Province of Manitoba. The Province must pass a regulation to formally amend the membership of the Capital Planning Region. Until that occurs, East St. Paul remains a member.

Could the RM rejoin in the future?

Yes. Provincial legislation allows municipalities to apply to join the Capital Planning Region at any time. To do so, Council would be required to hold a public hearing, pass a resolution requesting membership, and submit that request to the Minister. Membership changes are finalized by provincial regulation.

RM of East St. Paul 2026 Flood Forecast

The East St. Paul Emergency Response Committee (ERC) has started the planning process for the 2026 spring runoff and flood risk.

All information regarding river levels, flooding potential etc. is taken directly from the Province of Manitoba, namely the Hydrologic Forecast Centre. It is imperative for everyone to understand the province will be the sole source of information the ERC will be using to plan for any possible flood issues our municipality will face this spring.

We encourage you to refer to the following provincial web site www.manitoba.ca/flooding for the detailed flood forecasts and information.

The initial flood outlook report was issued by the province on Feb 24th, 2026. The risk of flooding in the Red River basin is considered low to moderate for this spring.

The province indicated the level of winter precipitation was near normal or below normal in most areas. Soil frost depth is considered shallower than normal this winter. Frost depth plays a major role in flood forecasting as the deeper the frost, the longer it takes for soil to thaw. Frozen soil prevents precipitation from being absorbed into the ground leading to an increased risk of overland flooding. According to the province, the ice thickness on the Red River is considered slightly thinner than last year.

The ERC uses river levels measured at the James Street pumping station for planning

purposes. When the Red River level reaches 21.0 feet (James), flood mitigation work needs to take place in our municipality. The February 24th provincial report predicted the following Red River levels as measured at James:

- Favourable weather: 11.2 feet
- Normal weather: 16.9 feet
- Unfavourable weather: 18.9 feet

Favourable weather includes a slow freeze, thaw cycle with little to no additional precipitation. Unfavourable weather means higher temperatures with a rapid thaw taking place and substantial precipitation.

Based on the current report, the Red River Floodway will not be put into operation under favourable and normal conditions. In addition, ice cutting has started on the Red River.

This is what you need to know:

- Stay away from retention ponds, creeks and the Red River. Once the ice starts to break up and water flows increase, it will create very dangerous conditions.
- The ERC will publish updated flood information on the East St. Paul web site www.eaststpaul.com and through other social media on a regular basis.
- Be wary of rumours. Contact the administration staff in the municipal office if you have any questions and someone from the ERC will provide you with the answers.
- There is some risk to overland flooding in some areas of the municipality due to snow cover and frozen ground. The amount of

flooding will depend on the thaw rate.

- Once the Red River starts rising and the flow rate increases, there is an elevated chance of ice jams forming which can cause a rapid rise in the river level in some areas. The river will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
- The RM has a substantial inventory of sand bags ready for use.
- Sandbags will be provided to residents of East St. Paul at no cost. Residents will be provided with a date and location where sand bags can be picked up. Sand bags should only be used to protect the main residence and not utility sheds etc.
- Testing of flood fighting pumps and portable generators has started.
- Aqua dams are ready for use.
- Public works staff will be starting to clear out ditches and opening culverts using portable steamers.

The RM of East St. Paul Emergency Response Committee is diligently monitoring all information being provided by the Province of Manitoba and is committed to keeping the residents of East St. Paul up to date with 2026 spring runoff and flood information.

If you have any questions, send an email to info@eaststpaul.com or call 204-668-8112 and someone will get back to you.

Thank you
East St. Paul Emergency
Response Committee



Councillor Corner Ward 3 Brian Duval

With the coming of late February and early March it's always fascinating how quickly the daylight stretches out. The fastest increase in daylight occurs at the spring equinox near March 21 and the warmth of the sun really becomes noticeable and welcome. We hope everyone has an enjoyable spring.

Your Council has been very busy on a number of issues, not the least of which is the Waste Water Treatment Plant project. This project, will, by far, be the largest ever undertaken by East St. Paul and your WWTP committee is working closely with our consultant to identify key factors and plan the best facility that suits the particular needs of ESP.

One of the key factors is plant capacity. The plant must not only replace the capacity of the current facility, but also service projected growth over the next 30 and 50 year time periods. Potential sales of service to neighbouring communities must also be considered. Such projections are never clearly obvious but a decision must be made.

Another key factor is the type of process. Our existing plant uses an outdated process of 50 years ago and great improvement have been made in technology since. More importantly, environmental standards have become much more stringent. Councillor Imhoff in his report to this publication several months ago explained in more detail the work on this key factor.

Location must also be decided. Can construction of a new plant take place on the current site while keeping the old plant functioning? Continuous service MUST occur. If a new site is necessary where should it be and what are the ramifications to the collection and outfall systems?

Looming over all these technical and engineering issues are cost and financing. We are examining a number of funding options and I'd like to point out two factors that are often misunderstood - new developments not only fund the internal infrastructure of their own project, they contribute a fair share of the capital cost of a new plant. The current plant has



outlived its useful life and must be replaced regardless of future growth.

On another subject of a much lighter vein is our Community Safety Officer program. Its success has not gone unnoticed and the RMs of Springfield and West St. Paul have initiated programs of their own. Several others are seriously considering the same.

Hats off to the East St. Paul Curling Club for hosting the Manitoba High School curling championship recently. This is a major event with at least 30 high school teams from all across the province competing. We are fortunate to have such a great recreation facility in our community and more importantly, run by a dedicated and accomplished executive and staff.

I wish everyone a healthy and enjoyable spring and summer.

Artist of the Month



Dave Feeney

Dave grew up surrounded by the beauty of Prince Edward County, the Bay of Quinte in Belleville, Ont., and the Thousand Islands near his hometown of Kingston. His love of nature and art started at an early age with pencil or India ink drawings of family pets, old sea ships and stills of various people and landscapes in oil. Not being discouraged by his colour blindness his love of art continued through high school including oil painting, silk screen and drawing being mentored by art instructor Mr. Thomas Greg.

In 1974 his life's path was changed and a long career of 40 years with a major railroad took most time away from his art.

Rekindling his passion for art after retirement in 2011, Dave aggressively continued his dream in his home studio and continued with instruction in photography and new love of water colour.

Dave's art has appeared in the Artist of East St Paul Tours, recently renamed East of the Red Artists along with showings at the annual Homes for the Holidays Tour in Selkirk. As a member of East of the Red Artists he assisted organize its groups show: "20/20 Vision". Dave is also a member at Gwen Fox Gallery in Selkirk.

ARE YOU BUILDING THIS SUMMER?

Planning a construction project this summer? Now is the perfect time to check in with the Red River Planning District (RRPD) to confirm requirements and submit your building permit application.

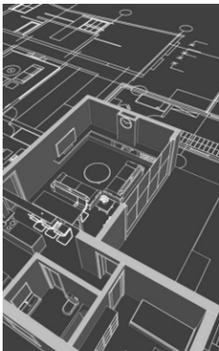
Apply early and beat the building RUSH!
Building permits are valid for one year from the date of issuance.



HOW TO AVOID PERMIT DELAYS

Incomplete applications are the most common cause of permit processing delays. Before submitting your application, be sure to include:

- A current Status of Title, dated within 30 days of permit application submission
- A Letter of Authorization signed by the registered property owner
- Clear, legible documents and drawings with consistent details
- A complete site plan showing property lines, dimensions, existing structures, setback, and all required information
- Detailed building plans, including elevation drawings, insulation details, fire protection and STC details, and structural information
- If applying through Cloudpermit, ensure all plans are saved and uploaded as one PDF document



RRPD ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP YOU APPLY WITH CONFIDENCE
RRPD's Resources section is designed to help homeowners, builders, and developers prepare complete applications and better understand planning and building requirements. These tools can save time and help avoid common delays. Visit redriverplanning.com/resources to access these tools and get started.

RED RIVER
PLANNING DISTRICT

2978 Birds Hill Road,
East St. Paul, Manitoba R2E 1J5
Phone: 204-669-8880 Email: info@rrpd.ca

QUIZ NIGHT

Trivia presented by Quizzlers

Saturday MARCH 28
7PM-9PM
Team size: up to 8
\$20/player
BAR MENU AVAILABLE

MARCH EVENTS

- 28th | Quiz Night 7-9PM
- 7th | Snow Golf 11-5PM
- 7th | Wayne Morrow 5-9PM
- 13th | Wayne Morrow Music Bingo 6:30-9:30PM
- 14th | Fiddlers Band 7-9PM
- 28th | Easter Bingo 3-5PM

Royal Canadian Legion #215
215 Maxwell King Drive

PET OF THE MONTH

MARCH

I'M COOPER!

Cooper is an almost 10-year old Yorkshire terrier who lives for snuggles and treats. He loves lazy days spent watching birds and squirrels from his perch on the sofa, and cozy Netflix evenings cuddling with his family. He's not the biggest fan of winter (with the exception of Christmas - he LOVES opening presents!) and is looking forward to the sunny days of summer when he can once again run around the yard, chasing his ball.

Show Off Your Star!
Do you have a pet that deserves the spotlight? Share their photo and a short bio (name, age, favourite things, fun facts, or a funny story) to be featured in East St. Paul's monthly newsletter!

• All pets welcome - dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and more!
• Send entries to: administration@eaststpaul.com
• One pet is randomly selected each month to shine!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE AMAZING PETS THAT BRING JOY TO OUR COMMUNITY!