

# Your COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY EDITION

204-668-8112 | [www.eaststpaul.com](http://www.eaststpaul.com) | [info@eaststpaul.com](mailto:info@eaststpaul.com)  
1 - 3021 Birds Hill Road | 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL



February is I Love to Read Month! What book will you read?

# RCMP appreciate presence of CSOs

Every year, police agencies around the province conduct seasonal Checkstops at Christmas time, aiming to keep the communities they serve safer. This year was no exception, and RCMP from the Selkirk and Red River North Detachments were aided by East St. Paul's Community Safety Officers (CSOs).

According to Selkirk RCMP Lead Inspector Chris Lambert, it showed how CSOs can support the RCMP.

"Working together with CSOs this Christmas season was a good example," Lambert said.

"What we found with this past Christmas season is how well the CSO program can be integrated into our own traffic related enforcement efforts for the season. I had optimistic thoughts and seeing how we worked together...went beyond my expectations."

The Manitoba Safety Officer Program is a community-driven approach to improving safety and well-being. One of the core principles of the program is maintaining high visibility within the community, a proven method of reducing crime rates.

Lambert says the CSOs provide another safety layer, and they are able to do things RCMP cannot.

"It's no secret that (the RCMP) are in a bit of a resource crunch across the board. And this helps alleviate from some of the lower risk tasks that we might normally have to engage in so that we can concentrate on more complex or much more serious investigations," Lambert said.

The RCMP remain the primary police force in East St. Paul, and CSOs assist by conducting general patrols and engaging in some core law enforcement duties. As sworn Provincial Peace Officers, they can enforce provincial laws under the Highway Traffic Act, Liquor, Gaming, Cannabis Control Act, Trespassing Act and several others.

East St. Paul's CSO Coordinator Marcus Hutton says they are a visible presence in the community and have established good relationships with members of the community at various events and with students at schools in the municipality.



"We've worked hard to become established in East St. Paul and let the public know that we're here to make our community safer," Hutton said.

"We have a great working relationship with the RCMP and we're working together with them and other CSO programs within the detachment area to improve the program for residents."

Other provinces have established programs using peace officers that are similar in nature. The CSO program in Manitoba is relatively new, having formed in 2015 with a two-year pilot program in the City of Thompson. East St. Paul's CSO program was formed in 2024, while West St. Paul and Selkirk are just establishing theirs now. All three are working with Inspector Lambert to create efficiencies and share knowledge and experiences. Lambert says that while all three have unique challenges in their communities, there are similarities and the

basics of how to conduct enforcement will be the same.

"All three municipalities are building these programs and there are a lot of intricacies to the work being done and the mechanics of how to conduct enforcement that can be challenging," he said.

"Program coordinators were coming to me individually with questions, and what I felt was best for all of the program coordinators was to come together as a whole and share how they overcame various obstacles and barriers and put them in touch with people that can solve the problems for them. It's everything from the tools they need to do their work, communication and how to conduct speed enforcement, traffic stops and other types of traffic enforcement."

Lambert says RCMP detachment areas are large, and having a presence in each community is extremely difficult. The CSO program puts bodies where the RCMP simply cannot be.

"It's a program to support public safety, the same way Citizens On Patrol Programs work. It's public engagement," he said.

Information that comes to the RCMP through both COPP and the CSO program helps them with their job, Lambert says. He recommends citizens call in when they see suspicious activity in their neighbourhoods – call RCMP, CSOs or COPP – but make sure you call someone.

"If you see something in the community that you think is suspicious, you're probably the best person to say whether that's suspicious or not. Trust your instincts, phone the police. The more programs or initiatives that you have, the more eyes and ears out there and the public taking ownership of their safety and community safety, all supports the efforts that we're doing," Lambert said.

"Policing in general is a tool for safety, but not the only tool. And we encourage and we enjoy and appreciate the support, any support that we get from members of the public to take said ownership."

# Your pets' safety is important to RAMS

The RM of East St. Paul has contracted Rural Animal Management Services (RAMS) as its service provider for dog related issues.

Owner Meghan Main bought RAMS in 2018 and has been providing animal management in rural Manitoba ever since.

RAMS is contracted by numerous municipalities and has a dedicated and growing team that includes trained animal control officers, kennel attendant and dispatch staff, and volunteers who support its adoption centre and community programs.

"RAMS currently works with multiple jurisdictions in rural Manitoba mainly in the South-East and North-East areas, and we continue to expand as communities seek a proactive, humane approach to animal management," Main said.

Many of the calls they receive at RAMS are about dogs running at large, but regardless of the reason for the call, Main wants a resolution that keeps everyone happy.

"My motivation always comes back to the animals, but also to the people and the community we serve. It's important to us to work with pet owners to achieve voluntary compliance whenever possible. Our approach is grounded in respect and understanding, and that mindset leads to positive outcomes in the majority of cases," Main said.

"We take the time to dig deeper with owners, understand what's really going on, and help find practical solutions that work for everyone involved — all while keeping the core purpose of by-laws at the forefront, which is maintaining a safe community."

RAMS has a shelter/adoption centre to try and ensure that all animals end up in a loving, safe home. It's something that was important to Main.

"The RAMS Adoption Centre was created to support unclaimed animals and give them a second chance at finding a home. Since COVID, shelters across Manitoba have been bursting at the seams, and the pressure on rescues has been immense," she said.

"We work hand in hand with incredible rescues and shelters throughout the province to help share that burden, all while working toward the same goal. Creating the adoption centre was a necessary step to keep doing right by the animals and to be part of a larger, collaborative solution."

They also offer affordable spay/neuter services.

"Affordable spay and neuter services are one of the most effective ways to reduce overpopulation, shelter intake, and long-term suffering. Many people want to do the right thing but face financial barriers. By making these services more accessible, we're addressing the root of the problem rather than just responding to the aftermath. This program is made possible through a partnership with a mobile vet clinic, and it benefits animals, owners, and municipalities in the long run," she said.

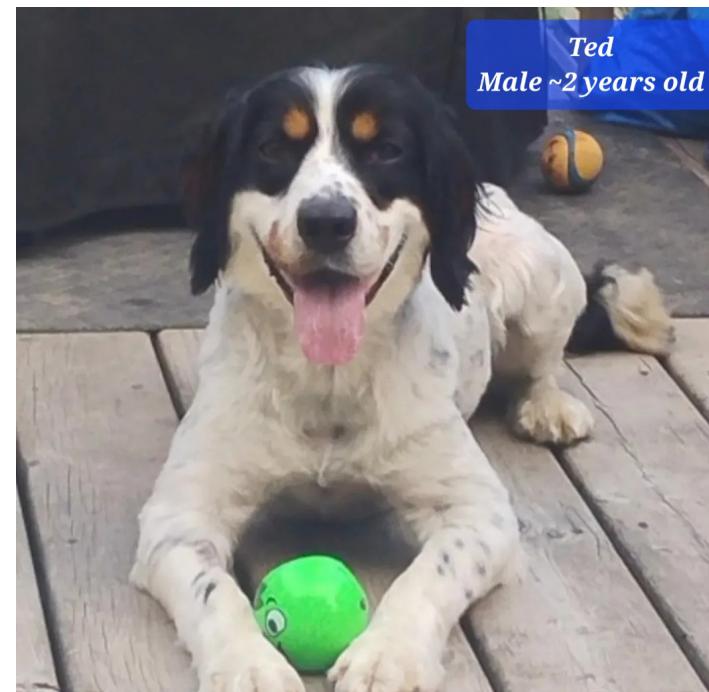
Main also has some tips for people to be responsible owners:

- Always spay/neuter pets to help control the animal population



- Keep vaccinations up to date
- Prevent heartworm with medication from your vet – it can be fatal
- Train your dog to avoid behavioural issues
- Have a fence or a GPS wireless fence so your animal can't run at large
- Don't let your pet bark excessively when outside; consider how it impacts your neighbours
- Provide a good quality of life to keep your pet happy. Regular exercise, clean housing, and proper food and water will help keep your pet happy!
- Register your pet with the RM and attach their ID to collars so if they go missing, they can be reunited with you
- Be aware of what the RM's by-laws are. You can check them out online or call the RM
- If you lose a pet or have found a lost pet, call RAMS and check local social media pages and for dogs, check Winnipeg Lost Dog Alert online.

## Dogs in care at RAMS



These animals are in the care of RAMS. The RM does not administer adoptions. For inquiries, please contact RAMS at: [Info@ramsadoptioncentre.com](mailto:Info@ramsadoptioncentre.com) Phone - 431-276-8114.

# Busy 2025 for ESP Fire Department

We're into our second month of 2026 and the East St. Paul Fire Department would like to extend our sincere thanks to our residents, Mayor, and Council for your continued support and cooperation throughout the year.

Our firefighters responded to emergencies, delivered fire prevention education, and worked alongside community partners to help keep our community safe in 2025, as we do every year. We are proud to serve such a supportive and engaged community, and your awareness and preparedness play an important role in public safety.

The Fire Department responded to a total of 412 calls in 2025. The total calls per year over the last five years are:

**2021- 347**

**2022- 395**

**2023- 398**

**2024- 430**

**2025- 412**

The breakdown of calls was - medical - 263, MVC - 61, Fire Alarms- 59, CO - 10, vehicle fires - 5

Last year also marked an important milestone as we recognized the retirement of several long-serving members whose dedication



Thank you to three East St. Paul Firefighters who retired last year - Deputy Chief Dennis Wiwcharyk, Firefighter Rolfe Kajpust and Captain Jernej Anderlic. Happy retirement to you all!

helped shape our department. Congratulations to Deputy Chief Dennis Wiwcharyk, Captain Jernej Anderlic, and Firefighter Rolfe Kajpust on their retirements after over 35 years of dedicated service to the East St. Paul Fire Department.

Their commitment, professionalism, and leadership have made a lasting impact on both the department and the community they served. We thank them for their decades of service and wish them all the best in their well-earned retirement.

As we move into the new year, we encourage

everyone to take a moment to review home fire safety practices, ensure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working, and remain mindful during the winter season.

On behalf of all members of the East St. Paul Fire Department, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the year ahead.

Stay safe,

**East St. Paul Fire Department**

## Stay safe snowmobiling

With winter in full swing, the RM of East St. Paul is reminding residents of the rules that apply to snowmobile operation within municipal limits.

Snowmobiling is not permitted throughout the municipality, except on designated routes approved for access to and from areas outside the RM. These routes are in place to help protect public safety, private property, and residential neighbourhoods while still allowing recreational use where appropriate.

A few reminders:

- Snowmobiles may only be operated on designated routes shown in Appendix "A" of the Snowmobile By-law
- The maximum speed is 25 km/h within 200 metres of residential development
- Snowmobiles are not permitted on roadways, shoulders, and sidewalks unless authorized in accordance with the Snowmobile By-law
- Operators are reminded that snowmobiling on private property is not permitted without the property owner's express written permission (ie. farmers' fields)
- Operation must be done with due care and attention, and with reasonable consideration for people and property
- Late-night operation near homes is restricted under municipal legislation

Residents are also reminded that snowmobile owners may be held responsible for violations involving their snowmobile, even if they were not the operator at the time.

The Snowmobile By-law is in place to balance winter recreation with community safety and respect for our shared spaces.

Safe and responsible operation helps reduce conflicts, protect property, and prevent injuries.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping keep East St. Paul safe and enjoyable for all.

For full details and a map of designated snowmobile routes, please visit [eaststpaul.com](http://eaststpaul.com) (<https://eaststpaul.com/Home/DownloadDocument?docId=59549053-649a-42ee-848d-4f1a6c7f30f3>)

**PET OF THE MONTH**  
**FEBRUARY**

**I'M GIZMO.**

This 8-year-old, 20-lb big boy loves the simple things in life ...good food, long naps, and snuggling. A total lovebug and enthusiastic foodie. Gizmo knows how to live his best life!

**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!

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

**KIDS IN THE KITCHEN**

**Join us on Wednesdays!**

**Ages 10-12**  
**Date: February 18 - March 18**  
**Cost: \$115/person**

Register online at [eaststpaul.com](http://eaststpaul.com).  
Questions? Contact [recreation@eaststpaul.com](mailto:recreation@eaststpaul.com) or 204-391-1367

**FOR THE LOVE of COFFEE HOUSE**  
**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> 7PM**

**ABUNDANT LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
3486 Raleigh St. Birds Hill

**TICKETS: Adults \$15 / 6-12 years \$5  
6 and under FREE  
CASH ONLY AT THE DOOR**

Admission includes beverages & delicious desserts

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT BY TALENTED LOCAL ARTISTS AND GROUPS**



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# Councillor Corner

**L**ife in Manitoba is never dull. Our distinct seasons make sure of that. Just as we settle into a routine, the weather shifts and daily life shifts with it. For the municipality, those changes influence everything from service delivery to how our community gathers, moves, and supports one another.

As I write this, we are firmly in the grip of the Polar Vortex. It is definitely Winter! Winter is when the behind-the-scenes work really shows its value. Operations staff are out early and often clearing roads, sanding intersections to keep us moving. Utilities staff ensure our essential services continue to run through cold, dark days. The Community Services staff keeps the arena, as well as all of our other facilities buzzing. Winter is also a major planning season for operational budgets, capital projects, and coordination across departments. Much of this work is not visible, but it is foundational and our staff approach it with dedication.

As the snow melts in the spring, our community comes back to life. Our Municipal teams shift to drainage management, road repairs, and cleaning up winter's wear and tear. Residents return outdoors too, tidying yards, visiting parks, and reconnecting with neighbours. Spring often brings more conversations and ideas from the community as people start thinking about the months ahead.

Summer is our busiest, and most vibrant season. Parks, trails, and features like the splash pad really come to life. Events like ESP Day and the Farmers Market return and local businesses see more activity. Municipal staff focus on mowing, landscaping, facility upkeep, and supporting recreation programs and



community events. Our road construction and maintenance program is also in full swing. It is a demanding stretch, but also a rewarding one, as public spaces are enjoyed to their fullest.

Then the pace slows down a bit. Fall arrives and brings a season of transition. Crews finish up the construction projects, repair and inspect equipment, and prepare for winter operations. Families settle into back-to-school routines, and the community takes a moment to catch their breath and reflect before winter returns.

Throughout all four seasons, our Fire Department and Community Safety Officers diligently look out for our safety and well being. Last, but by no means least, connecting the activities of all the departments is our wonderful Administration staff.

# Ward 1

No matter the season, one thing stays the same. We are truly fortunate to have dedicated people who keep our community running. RM staff work year-round, often behind the scenes, adapting to changing conditions and responding to community needs. Their efforts ensure roads are safe, facilities stay open, programs run smoothly, and most importantly, residents are supported.

But community life is shaped by more than municipal services. It is created by residents, volunteers, event organizers, neighbours helping neighbours, and everyone who contributes in other meaningful ways. Living here means embracing change together. As a municipality, we should celebrate that we are a community that shows support, cooperation, and pride in every season. Whatever comes next, we are ready to face it together.

As always, I wish everyone happiness and health.

**Brian Imhoff**

**Ward 1 Councillor**

**brian.imhoff@eaststpaul.com**

**204-771-7569**

**EAST ST PAUL**

**FLURRY DAY**

Sunday, February 22 from 2-4:30  
East St Paul Arena

Outdoor Skating      Cross Country Skiing  
Snowshoeing and Kick Sled      Hot Chocolate

Winter Fest

Love  
Reading

**EAST SAINT PAUL FIREFLIES**

**Spring Sport Registration**

PLEASE VISIT  
**ESPCC.ca**  
for  
FULL REGISTRATION  
DETAILS

204-668-8112 | www.eaststpaul.com | info@eaststpaul.com

**Spring Break Adventure Camp**

Welcome to Frontier Adventurer's Academy

- Immersive Storytelling
- Active Adventure
- Team-building games
- Magical Crafts

4 DAYS - MARCH 30-APRIL 2

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 2

**\$170/ person**