



# Your Community

The official newsletter of the R.M. of East St. Paul

May 2023

For more information, call: 204-668-8112

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Office: 1 - 3021 Birds Hill Rd. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Russell answering casting call from Manitoba's lakes

There's a good chance that the voice message on Gary Russell's phone now has a simple message – 'gone fishin'.

Russell punched his last time clock with the RM on May 19, bringing to a close a career that began on March 4, 1987 when Russell was hired as a heavy machine operator.

As he was finishing up on his last Friday, he said he didn't have any definite plans, but casting and water were the most likely in the short term.

"I'm just doing some fishing, just day trips for now," Russell said.

Thirty-six years went pretty quick and he says when he told Operations Manager Andrew Toews three months ago that he planned to retire, that time "just flew by".

A retirement lunch on May 18th was special.

"It was emotional for me. I've been here a long time, but it was good though."

He knows not getting up and driving to work on weekdays is going to be strange, and he says the variety of the job is what he enjoyed.

"The biggest thing is, the job was never repetitive. Lots of different things you were doing. That's what I liked the most. You never just sat on a machine all day long. I was kind of a handy guy so I did welding or repairs or whatever was needed," he said.



Gary and Nadine at his May 18th retirement lunch.

"You dealt with people, with drainage, it was always a different ball of wax."

And in 36 years, you better believe he saw some changes.

"I've seen this place grow over

the years. When I first started it was a lot smaller, about 2,000 people compared to 10,000 now," he said.

"When I started there was no cell phones out there, we had a mobile phone in the truck and that was it. It was two-way radios. Things have changed dramatically, there was no computers back then, it was all paperwork."

He became the supervisor in 1992, but he said stepping into that position wasn't all that different for him.

"Back then we were so small, you ended up doing everything anyway," he said.

"It wasn't that all you did was supervise, you did everything with the guys."

And that's likely what he's going to miss the most – the guys.

"That's the biggest part. A lot of the guys become your friends, they're co-workers but they're your friends too," he said.

If those friends want to keep up with Russell, he plans of fixing up his gazebo this summer and do some yard work, so he'll be home.

That is, of course, unless he and wife Nadine are off fishing.

"The best fishing we do, when we have my grandchildren, is Grand Rapids, you catch fish unbelievable."

Congratulations Gary, and happy fishing.

## Tips to be Wildlife Smart

East St. Paul once again hosted a Provincial team who presented on being 'Wildlife Smart' to a crowd at the Arena Banquet Room on May 17. The main message of the presentation was that coyotes are here and we have to learn how to co-exist with them.

Being wildlife smart means understanding why we have conflicts with wildlife and taking appropriate steps to reduce our risks of conflict and understanding how to respond appropriately to wildlife.

An adult coyote typically weighs 13kg, is 60 cm high at the shoulder and about 1.5 m long, including its tail.

By comparison, a Labrador Retriever dog is twice the weight of a typical coyote.

Coyotes are very intelligent and adaptable and are now found living in urban areas across most of North America as well as in rural and natural areas.



East St. Paul hosted a provincial presentation on being "Wildlife Smart" at the Arena Banquet Room on May 17.

From the presentation:  
"People tend to be most concerned about human safety when coyotes are in urban areas. However, the statistics show us

that we have more to fear from domestic dogs than from coyotes. In 2009, the Canada Safety Council estimated that more than 460,000 people are bitten

by domestic dogs in Canada each year. In comparison, a 2011 research study on coyote interactions with people and pets estimated that less than three people are bitten by coyotes annually in Canada. Each year, the city of Winnipeg receives reports of domestic dogs causing about 250 injuries to people and about 150 injuries to pets. To the best of our knowledge, the province has not ever received a report of coyotes causing human injury in the province, and on average, Manitoba annually receives fewer than five reports that involve coyotes injuring people's pets across North America."

And while the risk of conflict is low, there are things people can do to lower that risk even more. The No. 1 way to reduce that risk is to never feed coyotes.

"Coyote attacks on people are extremely rare, but the risk of potential attacks increases. Feeding coyotes, whether directly or indirectly, encourages them to spend more time in closer

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## Fire Department Open House June 3

The East St. Paul Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday June 3rd, 2023. The event will take place from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Location is the fire hall at 2127 Cam-sell Avenue (beside the administration building).

Activities will include:

- Static displays of fire department vehicles and equipment
- Public access to the fire hall
- Children's firefighter challenge
- Face painting for children
- Vehicle extrication demonstration
- Fire safety trailer sponsored by Manitoba Firefighters Burn Fund

• BBQ lunch consisting of hamburgers/hot dogs and refreshments will be provided free of charge from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There is plenty of parking



available in a lot on the west side of the fire hall.

Your East St. Paul Fire Department members are cordially inviting all of our residents to come out and visit us. We look

forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions, email us at [fire.department@eaststpaul.com](mailto:fire.department@eaststpaul.com) or call 204-668-0064 and leave a message.

### Transfer station not the place for construction materials

The RM's transfer station is for East St. Paul residents to dispose of items that exceed the limit for regular weekly pick-up.

The station accepts a variety of items, free of charge, from tires with or without rims, scrap metal and dried paint, as well as household waste for a fee.

The transfer station does not accept construction materials, but those can be taken to the nearby Prairie Green landfill.

Materials from the transfer station are taken to Prairie Green, and the RM is charged per tonne and per trip. Additional volume and weight would mean increased costs to the RM.

And while there is a fee schedule for household items taken to the transfer station, they are based on number of bags or a level one-ton truck.

The transfer station does not have a scale and therefore cannot weigh construction material being brought in, which makes it difficult to determine a fee structure for things like shingles and other materials which are quite heavy.

Building and construction material from residents can vary significantly, depending on what they are doing or the project they are completing.

If the RM was to accept this waste stream, it could result in a significant increase in annual operating expenses.

For a complete list of what the transfer station does and does not accept, go to [eaststpaul.com](http://eaststpaul.com).

## Scotties ESP2023 donates to Vic's Little VIPs

During the planning stages of Scotties ESP2023, the decision was made to donate a portion of the 50/50 profits collected at the event to Vic's Little VIPs. A few weeks ago Debbie Palson proudly presented Vic's daughter Kasandra with a cheque for \$2,400 in support of the fund.

Vic's Little VIPs Fund (in memory of the late Vic Peters) was set up by his family to honour his memory. It will help children in Manitoba develop skills to assist them in their pursuit of sport.

"His legacy is not only of sporting excellence but also of being 'a hell of a guy', which is how his peers described him," Kasandra said.

"I think that is why people and organizations, such as Scotties ESP2023, have allocated their financial support to the fund, and for me, it is so satisfying that so many people remember him as being as great as I do. Everyone thinks their dad is the best and I am so honoured that donors agree too."



*Debbie presenting a cheque for Vic's Little VIPs to Vic Peters' daughter, Kasandra.*

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can do so through the Winnipeg Foundation.

## The right way to dispose of a Canadian flag

East St. Paul CAO Suzanne Ward had a lovely chat with long-time resident Nellie Allen recently, and Nellie wondered if Suzanne knew the rules around disposing of a Canadian flag.

Suzanne did not, but the two spent some time later that day discussing it over the phone and with the help of a well-known search engine the two came upon some guidelines. We thank Nellie for her curiosity and provide the following information in case anyone else is wondering.

"A flag is considered to be in unsuitable condition if it is tattered, has faded significantly, has developed a hole, or the outermost seam has become frayed. When a Canadian flag is no longer suitable for use, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner:



- Return flag to participating retail stores who will dispose of them.

• Flags made of natural fibers (wool, cotton, linen) should be burned in a dignified manner; privately without ceremony or public attention being drawn to the destruction of the material.

• Flags made of synthetic material (nylon or polyester) should be respectfully torn into strips, with each element of the flag reduced to single colour, so that the remaining pieces do not resemble a flag. The individual pieces should then be placed in a bag for disposal – the shreds of fabric should not be re-used or fashioned into anything. Flags Unlimited flags fall into this category.



# Have fun, be safe on paths and trails

The RM has an abundance of trails, pathways and sidewalks that provide an excellent opportunity for getting outdoors and getting active.

Trails Manitoba has provided some online tips to make the trails safe and enjoyable for everyone. Below is a summary of them.

1. Wheels yield to heels – the fastest moving people on the trail usually are on wheels. These folks need to be cautious when they approach walkers and runners especially from behind.

2. Always pass people on the left – just as you do driving.

3. If you aspire to win the Tour de France – don't train on a heavily used fitness trail. You will be frustrated by frequent slow-downs and travelling fast will increase the risk of collisions. To satisfy your need for speed, train on the roads.

4. All cyclists should use a bell or horn to warn others they are planning to pass. This "heads up" is appreciated by everyone you pass and reduces the risk of accidents. Remember that ding-ing your bell is not a "command" to get out of the way – you still need to be prepared for people who do not respond to your warning. If you don't have a bell or horn, use a verbal warning such as "coming by on your left".

5. Maintain situational awareness – look around regularly and listen for people coming up behind you. Staying vigilant while you use a shared trail is difficult to do if you are wear-



*Walking on trails and pathways should be enjoyable for everyone.*

ing ear buds, texting your friends or reading a book.

6. When you walk your dog on the trail, it should be on a leash. Even the best trained dogs can be unpredictable especially if they see a squirrel.

7. Children are motivated by fun and sometimes will

rapidly change direction to see something interesting such as a frog. When learning to ride their bikes, children are particularly unpredictable because of their poor balance and bike control. Parents and everyone who shares the trail needs to recognize this and be appropriately

alert to prevent collisions.

8. Be understanding – you may be sharing the trail with people who have hearing, visual, mobility or intellectual disabilities.

9. If you are exercising as a group, avoid travelling side by side such that you impede the flow of others who are also enjoying the trail.

10. Do not leave glass, paper, cans, plastic, or any other debris on or near a trail. If you drop something, please remove it immediately.

11. Trails are open to the public, but often the land on the side of the trail is private property. Please respect all property rights.

12. Be equipped with lights when using a trail at any time from dusk to dawn. Bicyclists should have a white light visible from five-hundred feet to the front and a red or amber light visible from five-hundred feet to the rear. Other trail users should have white lights visible from two-hundred fifty feet to the front, and a red or amber light visible from two-hundred fifty feet to the rear.

13. Use extra caution where trails cross streets. Stop at all signs and intersections and be cautious when crossing driveways. When entering or crossing a trail yield to traffic on the trail.

Enjoy the RM's outdoor spaces, and remember to be courteous to others on the trails and path-ways so that everyone has a great outdoor experience.

## Hot diggity dog! Off leash area coming soon!

The RM is working on an off-leash dog area, just under one acre in size, behind the Arena on Hoddinott Road and it's expected to be open this summer.

To ensure the experience is positive for everyone, here are some tips to keep it fun and safe:

- Always stay close to your dog and have your leash in hand.
- When you enter the area, make sure your dog is calm. You may need to take your dog for a short walk first to help relax him or her. When you are securely inside the gate, remove your dog's leash.
- Be aware of other dogs entering or exiting the area when you arrive. Let them do so safely before you enter, and always ensure the gate is properly closed once you have entered.
- If you have a young, energetic, large dog, be mindful of smaller dogs or elderly dogs who might get hurt.
- When you exit, be aware of others entering or exiting and wait for an appropriate time. Make sure there are no other dogs trying to escape, leash your dog and go.
- When you're in the area, always pick up your poop bags and dispose of them properly.

Watch eaststpaul.com and the RM's social media for an opening date.



*It's off leash, so let's make sure it's fun for all dogs.*

## DED inspectors out and about

Provincial inspectors have started their yearly urban forest management program to monitor for Dutch Elm Disease (DED) and other invasive forest pests and will be in East St. Paul.

Please be aware that:

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED) surveys and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring are underway again this season in participating communities.

- Provincial inspectors will be driving, biking, or walking around both public and private properties to look for DED infected trees, elm firewood with bark (which spreads DED and is illegal to store), or EAB infested trees.

- Inspectors may be working in the evenings and on weekends.

- Inspectors wear high visibility vests and government issued identification.

- Staff may not approach every resident or house before entering onto properties to conduct inspections.

- Surveyors will ring doorbells or knock on doors prior to taking branch samples, marking DED infected trees, or marking elm firewood for removal under the Dutch elm disease management program.

Contact Information:

Manitoba Tree Line: 204-945-7866 or [treeline@gov.mb.ca](mailto:treeline@gov.mb.ca)

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# Councillor Corner

Ward 1 - Brian Imhoff

The warmer weather is back! With the mercury creeping up, we can embrace the fact that our summer is beginning. Even though we had a relatively decent winter, it just seemed to take forever to go away. However, one of the benefits of the longer, cooler spring was that we escaped major widespread spring flooding.

Climate scientists are predicting the reemergence of an El Niño event. El Niño is a situation when there are unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. The trade winds are weakened which allows more warm water to be pushed toward the west coast of the Americas. These warmer waters also push the Pacific jet stream south of its typical position, which tends to impact weather patterns in North America. For the northern U.S. and Canada, this will likely lead to warmer weather than usual.

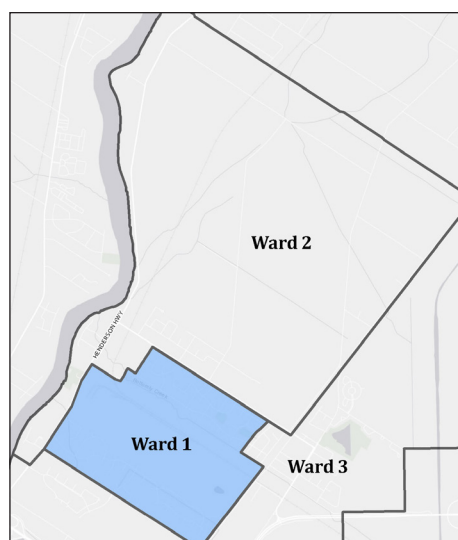
While this is mostly good news in terms of enjoying our short summer, the flip side of it is that it can create conditions that could lead to more unsettled weather and storm events. The prevailing climate trend seems to be not only an increase in the number of storms, but also the increased severity of those events. Over the last few years, there have been several examples of these type of high impact events in Manitoba ranging from mid-summer flooding to extended power outages to wildfires. It is in everyone's best interest to be prepared, just in case.

The RM recently posted a series of notices on the ESP website during Emergency Preparedness Week, and I think it is important to reiterate that here. The purpose was to bring awareness to things that can be done to prepare for a wide range of emergencies. There was also a link to a website referenced in the notices: [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca). There is a lot of good information and resources avail-



able there as well as our own site: <https://www.eaststpaul.com/p/emergency-preparedness>. Please take a few minutes to have a look at the material and see what you can do at home for you and your family. East St. Paul is fortunate to have an excellent Emergency Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Team who make sure we are prepared on a larger scale as a community.

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and safe summer. Go and enjoy all of the things that make the season so wonderful. As always, I can be reached at either [brian.imhoff@eaststpaul.com](mailto:brian.imhoff@eaststpaul.com) or 204-771-7569.



## Wildlife Smart continued from front

proximity to people and begin associating people with a food source. This may cause them to become bolder in approaching people in hopes of obtaining a food reward."

An American study from 2019 used a GPS tracking collar to study the travel patterns of one coyote over an approximately six-week period. The results showed the coyote returned to two locations over and over again. Investigation revealed two homeowners were providing food for the animal. They were asked to stop, one was issued a warning from the police, and five weeks after the food source was removed, the animal stopped returning to those locations.

"As a result, local residents

are much less likely to interact with coyotes in the area. What can we learn from this? Like all animals, coyotes need food to survive, and they will spend a lot more time in areas with abundant food supplies. More food equals more time in the area. If you don't want coyotes to spend a lot of time in your neighborhood, secure any food attractants in your yard and encourage your neighbours to do the same."

Even leaving pet food in your yard can attract coyotes, so it's best to keep their food inside.

"Coyote conflicts reported to the province frequently involve the presence of pets. Here are some things you can do to help



These traps are used to detect the emerald ash borer (EAB). EABs attack and kill ash trees and are spread by moving infested firewood. Buy firewood locally. Burn it on site.

For more information, visit: [www.inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/pests) or [www.manitoba.ca/forestry](http://www.manitoba.ca/forestry)

Warning: Do not handle traps. Skin irritation may occur.

Learn more at: [Manitoba.ca/stopthespread](http://Manitoba.ca/stopthespread)

Manitoba



reduce their risk of conflict with coyotes. Don't leave your pets outside unattended. Pets can be considered prey by coyotes or alternatively, dogs can also be considered potential competitors. Either situation can make them vulnerable to coyote attack. Owls, eagles, hawks, foxes, and coyotes can all prey on smaller pets. Cats are safest indoors or in secure, outdoor play enclosures. Bring pets inside at night. Coyotes tend to be more active from dusk until dawn in their attempt to avoid interacting with people. Keep pets on a short leash. For

walks, an unleashed pet will be more vulnerable. Try to avoid walks between dusk and dawn. When coyotes are more active, try to vary your walking route and walk in areas with other human activity. Don't allow your dog to play with coyotes. The closer their physical proximity to coyotes, the greater their risk of harm. Coyotes are known to sometimes play with their prey prior to killing them."

To view the full presentation, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fpKgk3O5g0>

Have a story idea? Email [donna.maxwell@eaststpaul.com](mailto:donna.maxwell@eaststpaul.com)