



# Your COMMUNITY

JANUARY EDITION

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1 - 3021 Birds Hill Road | 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

# A year at a glance - Highlights from ESP

2024 has been a year of milestones and community growth for East St. Paul. From launching new traditions like East St. Paul Day to achieving major infrastructure upgrades, we're thrilled to reflect on the accomplishments that have strengthened our vibrant community. This year has been filled with exciting events, vital projects, and remarkable progress for our residents.

### Community Events

East St. Paul Day marked its inaugural celebration, bringing families, friends, and neighbors together to enjoy a vibrant lineup of activities. The event featured live music, food trucks, an unforgettable wrestling event, and a kids' zone with interactive games, all of which showcased our community's unique spirit and brought



residents together in celebration.

Santa Parade was an inaugural event, bringing holiday cheer and a sense of togetherness to our community. The parade led directly into our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, which was a magical highlight of the year. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Aliyah Posthumus for assisting me in lighting the tree, making the event even more special for everyone who attended. We are excited to grow these beloved traditions in 2025, making them even more magical for residents of all ages.

The Farmers Market continued to provide fresh, local produce and goods, with the addition of several new vendors offering unique products like homemade preserves, organic baked goods, and artisanal crafts. This thriving market has further strengthened our connection with local businesses and provided a meaningful gathering space for the community.

Additionally, our Fire Department Open House on June 1 was a huge success, offering residents a closer look at the vital work of our firefighters. The EMO Evacuation Exercise on June 12, conducted with neighboring municipalities, enhanced our preparedness for emergencies.

The Tournament of Aces was held across two weekends in March, further solidifying East St. Paul as a destination for sports and recreation. We even had a touch of Hollywood in East St. Paul, as the filming of "Nobody 2" brought excitement to the area.

### Long-Term Initiatives

This year marked the successful implementation of the Community Safety Officer (CSO) Program, which completed its first full year of service. By addressing community concerns through active enforcement and education, the program has significantly improved compliance with traffic laws and

provided the community with a sense of peace through its consistent and reassuring presence.

### Capital Projects

Investments in community services, infrastructure, and safety have been at the forefront in 2024. Notable projects include:

#### Community Services

- Completion of the long-awaited Splash Pad, which will celebrate its official opening day in 2025, providing a fun and refreshing activity for families.

- Enhancements to local ponds, including aesthetic and ecological improvements.

- Landscaping along Swistun Path, making it a more inviting space for walkers and cyclists.

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- Completion of the Burr Oak Bay Trail

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Aliyah Posthumus helped Mayor Carla Devlin and Council at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, far left, and the Parade at the First East St. Paul Day drew an enthusiastic crowd.

# A Year at a Glance

Continued from front

Connection, expanding our network of trails.

Public Works

- Our Roads Program saw the completion of key roadway upgrades.
- Installation of new roadway street lighting for safer and brighter streets.
- Hoddinott Railway Crossing received an important upgrade.
- Progress on the Tartan Culvert Project and implementation of the Transfer Station Card Access system.

**Fire and Emergency Services**

- Acquisition of a Trench Rescue Trailer and a SCBA Bottle Fill Station, ensuring our fire department remains well-equipped.
- Installation of Aqua Dam Storage Units on a new concrete pad, enhancing our emergency response readiness.

Planning and Engineering

- Adoption of a Pond Development Policy to guide future land use and development.
- The new Secondary Plan is shaping policies for future development east of Highway 59, establishing a foundational vision for East St. Paul's growth and progress.
- Water and Wastewater Servicing Study and Water Treatment Plant Distribution Line Twinning have advanced critical infrastructure planning.
- Bray Road Feasibility Study is underway, with plans to evaluate future transportation needs.
- Enforcement of the Derelict Buildings By-law has been a priority. Council is committed to maintaining the beauty and safety of our community by addressing derelict properties. This initiative reflects our dedication to preserving the high quality of life East St. Paul residents value.

**Working Collaboratively with Neighbouring Municipalities and Among Ourselves**

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of our achievements in 2024. From joint emergency preparedness exercises to regional planning discussions, East St. Paul continues to work closely with neighboring

municipalities to build a stronger, more resilient community for all. Within our Council, we have fostered a strong working relationship built on mutual respect and support. I am grateful for a team that works well together, embraces challenges, and remains committed to the betterment of East St. Paul. Together, we ensure that every decision reflects our shared dedication to the community.

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of our achievements in 2024. From joint emergency preparedness exercises to regional planning discussions, East St. Paul continues to work closely with neighboring municipalities to build a stronger, more resilient community for all. These partnerships ensure we can share resources, knowledge, and strategies to address common challenges effectively.

**Fostering Kindness and Community**

As we navigate the complexities of life, let us remember that everyone carries their own challenges and burdens. A small act of kindness—a smile, a word of encouragement, or simply listening—can have a profound impact. Let's strive to create a community where compassion and understanding guide our actions. Together, we can build a more supportive and connected East St. Paul.

**Looking Ahead**

As Mayor, I will be hosting an initiative designed to directly benefit residents by addressing misinformation topics impacting our community. These sessions aim to foster community engagement, encourage open dialogue, and provide clarity on key issues affecting East St. Paul. This exciting new initiative, called "Coffee & Clarity," will take place once a month throughout 2025. Stay tuned for specific dates, and join me for open and honest discussions to ensure everyone is well-informed.

East St. Paul continues to thrive, thanks to the collaboration and dedication of our residents, businesses, and municipal team. As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded of the incredible strides we have made and the bright future that lies ahead.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and invite you to join us in celebrating our shared achievements. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant East St. Paul.

Warm regards,  
Mayor Carla Devlin

## RM provides safe buy & sell space

The RM is pleased to announce the establishment of a Buy and Sell Safe Exchange Zone in the parking lot of the RM of East St. Paul Administration Building. This designated area is monitored by security cameras and is located near the RCMP office, providing an additional layer of safety for all residents involved in buy-and-sell transactions. To ensure your safety, we recommend following these important tips when meeting for exchanges:

- Complete transactions during daylight hours and in a public space. If the other party refuses to meet at this location, it may be a red flag.
- Do not meet someone alone. Always have a friend or family member accompany you.
- Never share your banking or personal information.
- Take screenshots of all transactions and conversations as a record.
- Bring only enough cash to cover the cost of the item being purchased.
- Always trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, walk away and contact authorities.

Additionally, please note that only legal transactions are permitted at the Buy and Sell Exchange Zone. Transactions involving weapons, firearms, or other illegal products or services will not be allowed. The RCMP and Community Safety Officers will not facilitate or conduct exchanges on your behalf. The RM of East St. Paul accepts no responsibility for any transactions that occur within the Buy and Sell Safe Exchange Zone.

We hope this initiative helps make your buying and selling experiences safer and more secure. Thank you for being proactive in keeping our community safe.



The Buy And Sell Exchange Zone is located in the parking lot beside the Administration Office and the RCMP Office.

## Important changes to TIPPS

Effective Jan. 1

Property owners participating in the Municipality's TIPPS program would have seen their payment amounts lowered over the course of 2024 due to changes by the Province of Manitoba during the tax year and it's expected there will be further impacts to TIPPS in 2025.

The Province changed the Manitoba School Tax Rebate during 2024 and approved the rebate to be added directly to the 2024 annual property tax bill instead of issuing a cheque. Adding the rebate directly to the tax bill meant lower TIPPS payments for property owners in the program from August to December of 2024, as the full Manitoba School Tax Rebate was applied to these five monthly TIPPS payments.

Property owners will continue to see

their TIPPS payments change in 2025 with the implementation of the Home-owners Affordability Tax Credit, which replaces the Manitoba School Tax Rebate and the Education Property Tax Credit Advance. This new tax credit will provide eligible property owners a credit of up to \$1,500 on their annual property tax bill.

Most property owners will see an increase to their TIPPS payments as of January 2025 to reflect the new tax credit on the upcoming year applied over 12 months. Property owners should expect to see a measurable increase to their January 2025 payment instalment compared to their December 2024 payment.

You can contact the municipality for your January 2025 payment amount. You will need your property roll number when contacting us.



# Stay off the ice

The East St. Paul Emergency Preparedness Committee along with the East St. Paul Fire Department would like to advise all residents to stay off ponds, lagoons, creeks and especially the Red River.

Although we are currently in a cold snap weather wise, we had a fairly warm fall and early winter. As a result, it is unknown how thick the ice is in various locations.

Even though it may appear that ponds, lagoons etc. have a solid ice cover, you do not know what lies underneath.

The Red River is still open in some areas and should be avoided. Venturing out on the ice also puts emergency responders in dangerous situations should they receive a call.

Parents are asked to remind their children to stay off the ice. If walking a pet near ice, make sure it is on a leash to prevent it from running onto the surface.

If you see someone on the ice, especially the Red River, call 911.

Refer to chart below for ice thickness information.

Ice Thickness*	Permissible Load
3 inches	A single person on foot
4 inches	Group in a single file line
7 1/2 inches	Passenger Car (2-ton gross)
8 inches	Light truck (2 1/2-ton gross)
10 inches	Medium truck (3 1/2-ton gross)
12 inches	Heavy truck (8-ton gross)

\* Solid, clear, blue/black pond and lake ice

# Fire Prevention Week Poster contest winner Blake Fill

When Birds Hill School student Blake Fill set about making a poster for Fire Prevention Week, he had some personal experience that likely influenced his work.

The Grade 2 student had experienced a family member's loss of their home to fire a few years before.

Mom Sarah Fill says her in-laws home was destroyed by fire when Blake and his younger brother Troy were quite young, but they definitely remember it.

"My kids saw what that was like and what happened," she said.

"The house was gone, they remember the rebuilding of the house. They were little when it happened, but it wasn't just something that lasted five minutes and was fixed, it was years to rebuild and get back to the place they were. We always instilled the importance of that in our kids."

When the school newsletter came home and including information on the Fire Prevention poster contest, Sarah was excited.

"I thought it would be a cool thing for them to do, not just to make the plan but so that we actually have this plan if something were to happen. So Blake was all over it," she said.

And when he won, well that was exciting too.

"He was very excited when he came home from school that day," she said.

"He had probably the biggest grin I've ever seen."

Sharla Cockriell, principal at Birds Hill School, says Blake's win was important for the entire school, and the visit from the firefighters was fantastic.

"Blake's poster is outstanding, and it was really positive for our students," Cockriell said.

"Blake winning brings awareness to fire safety in our building, which is great. The kids are really excited now about fire safety which is outstanding. The other thing that's super neat about it is they know that firemen are a safe refuge, if ever they're in trouble, so I think that's also really great for our community. They are nearby and they are helpers."

The Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest is run annually through the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

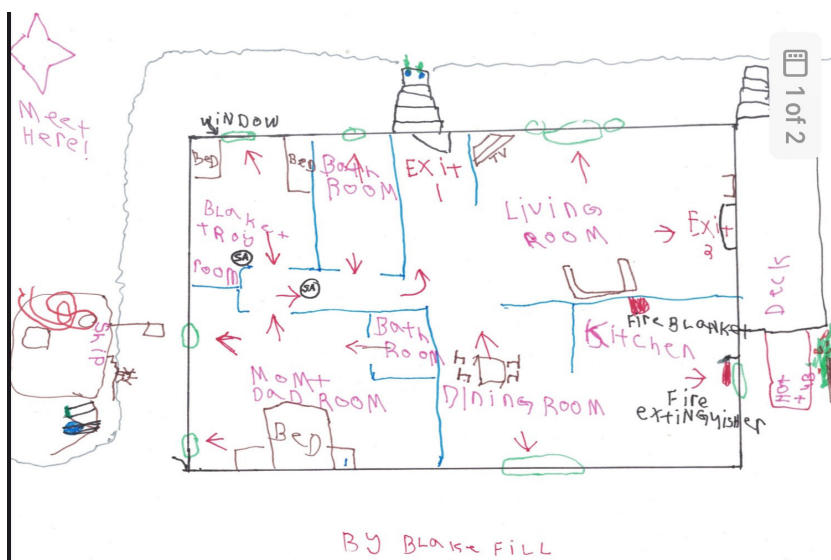
Blake received

a certificate from the Office of the Fire Commissioner and a \$200 gift card from Toys R Us. His entire class was also presented with swag bags.

Congratulations Blake!



East St. Paul Firefighters Chris Park, left, and Captain Jernej Anderlic presented Blake with his certificate from the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Below, Blake's winning poster.



## Wanted - Country Villas fire footage

The East St. Paul Fire Department is turning to citizens for help.

Department members responded to a house fire in Country Villas late last year. Several neighbours took video footage of the fire and the department would like to see the videos.

Fire Captain Jernej Anderlic says the videos will be used for training purposes and if anyone has footage to share, please contact Jernej at [jernej.anderlic@eaststpaul.com](mailto:jernej.anderlic@eaststpaul.com)

## Hamper Program huge success

The 2024 Community Christmas Hamper Program was a huge success. Seventy five Christmas Hampers were completed and given to families who graciously received them with many thanks to the community. The following businesses and organizations stepped up with donations to help complete the Christmas Hampers.

- Abundant Life Lutheran Church Members
- Bird's Hill Physiotherapy
- Canvasback Pet Supplies
- City Wide Water Heater Experts
- Created 4 Me Learning Centre
- Dr. Hamilton School
- East Selkirk Fire Dept.
- East St. Paul 55+ Activity Club
- East St. Paul Animal Hospital
- East St. Paul Legion

- East St. Paul Physiotherapy
- Elmwood Wednesday Morning Ladies Curling League
- Esdale Printing Company Ltd.
- Gondola Pizza Bird's Hill
- Greg Michie Team Real Estate Office
- Harry's Fine Foods
- Lee's Restaurant
- Lion's Club of East St. Paul
- Manitoba Highland Gathering St. Andrews
- Manitoba Highland Gathering St. Clements
- One Insurance
- River East/Transcona Transportation Dept.
- River Warriors
- RM of East St. Paul
- RM of West St. Paul
- Robert Andrews School
- Selkirk & District Community Foundation

- Sobeys
- St. George Wakefield Anglican Church
- St. Margaret's Parish
- The tenants from Middlechurch on the Red a 55+ Life Lease Building
- West St. Paul Nursery School

Thank you to Abundant Life Lutheran Church for facilitating the Community Christmas Hamper Program. We wish to thank the many individual community members who donated food items and toys, volunteered their time and financially donated towards the Christmas Hamper Program. Without all of you the Christmas Hamper Program would not exist. Thank you.



# East St. Paul Skates with Santa



Santa made a stop at the East St. Paul Arena on Dec. 22 and spent the afternoon skating with everyone.

Starting January 1st, 2025, the Red River North RCMP will no longer be accepting cash for criminal record checks. Payment options are certified cheque or money order in the amount of \$10, made out to the Receiver General for Canada.

## FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC COFFEE HOUSE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th 2025 at 7pm  
ABUNDANT LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3486 Raleigh St. Birds Hill

Featuring local vocalists and musicians

Silent auction

Admission: (cash at the door)

Includes beverages and delicious desserts

Adults: \$15

6 to 12 yrs. \$5

5 and under free

# January Artist of the Month Patricia Johnson

Each month an artist's works are featured in the RM of East St. Paul Administration office. Meet January artist Patricia Johnson and stop by the office to see her work.

### Patricia Johnson

Patricia is an accomplished artist garishing many awards for her watercolours, acrylics and carvings. Her love of



colour, design, and shapes are evident in the variety of subjects.

She has dabbled in art her whole life, self-taught, honing her skills with the aid of workshops. In the early 80's she developed a process of dyeing papers and silks to imprint watercolour paper, then beading and embel-

lishing with gold and silver threads.

She shares her love of creating with the seniors of the Gordon Howard Active Living Centre on a volunteer basis. Her art hangs in homes in Germany, France, UK, Japan, Denmark, Australia, USA and from coast to coast in Canada.

Henderson Legion has Thursday night dances!  
January bands - 16th Dennis Nykoliation, 23rd Country Plus,  
30th Mark Morriseau

## KIDS VALENTINES CHOCOLATIER

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A CHOCOLATIER? NOW IS YOUR CHANCE. PAINT THE CHOCOLATE MOLD WITH EDIBLE PAINT. ONCE IT IS FILLED WITH CHOCOLATE, YOU GET TO DECORATE IT WITH A VARIETY OF TOPPINGS. WE WILL THEN PACKAGE IT BEFORE YOU TAKE IT HOME TO ENJOY.

DATE: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025  
AGE: 6 - 14 YRS  
TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: BANQUET HALL  
(2ND FLOOR AT ARENA; 266 HODDINOTT RD)  
COST: \$30



Register at [www.eaststpaul.com](http://www.eaststpaul.com)

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

## Wine Bottle Paint Night

No walls to hang any more pictures?  
Don't worry! Paint wine bottles!

All supplies and instructions are included

Friday February 7, 2025  
6:30PM

\$40 per person

Register at [www.eaststpaul.com](http://www.eaststpaul.com)



\*\*\* May not be exact image of design painting\*\*\*