



# Your Community

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

**August 2022**

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## Cars, crowd, come out for Show & Shine

The East St. Paul Lions Club had their annual Show & Shine car show on July 24th after a 2 year Covid delay.

The event, held at the East St. Paul Arena, was a tremendous success with a record 439 vehicles registered.

"The car community was eager to show their prized possessions to a record crowd. We are ecstatic with the result of the show," said Lions member Norm Paulson.

"Thanks to all our sponsors, vendors, Lion members and the team of volunteers who made this possible."

Paulson said the Show & Shine will be back in 2023 bigger and better than ever.

All proceeds from the Show & Shine go to charities supported by the Lions Club.



**RM of East St. Paul property tax bills have been mailed out.  
Taxes are due Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022 at 4:30pm.**



# Learn how to be bear smart

There have been at least two bear sightings in East St. Paul this summer and we want to remind residents to be cautious if you see a bear.

Please call the Manitoba Natural Resources Tip Line at 1-800-782-0076.

According to the Manitoba Government's 'Co-existing with Black Bears' brochure – which can be found at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish\\_wildlife/bear\\_smart\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish_wildlife/bear_smart_booklet.pdf) – black bears are present throughout the province, but are more prevalent in wooded areas.

They do occasionally wander into residential areas, and the most common reason for that is the presence of food.

**Some facts about Black Bears from 'Co-existing with Black Bears':**

- Although the coat colour is commonly black, it can be brown, cinnamon, blond or combinations of these colours.
- Black bears are intelligent, powerful, but shy animals preferring to avoid humans.
- They are superior climbers, strong swimmers and when running can reach speeds of 50 kilometres (30 miles) per hour.
- Bears are always in search of food, motivated by sights, sounds, memories and particularly, odours.
- When bears find an easy

source of food at a residence or campsite, they begin to associate this food source with people and dwellings.

- When bears discover that humans can be intimidated, they can get bold in acquiring this food.
- Bears that learn food is available from residences or campsites become nuisances. This results in people asking for them to be removed. However, relocating or destroying bears does not resolve the problem. Other bears will take their place. The better solution is to remove food sources from residences and campsites. This will reduce the attraction for them to visit in the first place.

**Tips for homeowners and cottagers:**

- Secure garbage where bears can't access it, in a bear resistant container/building or with electric fencing.
- Clean garbage containers regularly with bleach or ammonia.
- Take garbage with you when you leave or ask a neighbour to put out your garbage just before pick-up.
- Don't burn garbage.
- Don't compost any food items outside.
- Remove all bird feeders between April and November.
- Clean barbeques thoroughly



*There have been bear sightings in East St. Paul this summer. Educate yourself on how to be bear smart. Photo courtesy Manitoba Government's 'Co-existing with Black Bears'.*

- after every use; don't forget the grease trap.
- Feed pets and keep their food dishes indoors.
  - Remove all fruit from your yard as it ripens.
  - Be aware that odours from cooking, baking and composting can attract bears.

# Take Action on Radon Challenge

The RM of East St. Paul will participate in the Take Action on Radon – 100 Test Kit Challenge this fall. The initiative is spearheaded by Take Action on Radon which is a national program funded by Health Canada to bring together stakeholders and raise awareness on radon across Canada.

Radon is a colourless, odorless, radioactive gas created by the natural decay of uranium in the soil. A measurable amount of radon is found in every building, but exposure to high amounts over a long period of time presents a risk for lung cancer. In fact, radon is the primary cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. It is important to note, however, that all homes can be tested for radon and radon levels can be reduced if they are found to be high.

100 free radon test kits will be made available to residents of East St. Paul on a first come first served basis. You will be able to register for a free test kit once the program is launched in October.

The radon test will be in place for three months and once the testing period is over, the kits will be collected and test results compiled. Those households involved in the testing program will receive a report summarizing the results. The Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) will be the lead on the Take Action on Radon project and take on the responsibility to ensure the radon tests kits are sent to the lab for analysis and that each participant gets their report. Privacy of the participants will be maintained.

The test kits will be provided free of charge to anyone who wishes to participate.

There will be more information regarding this initiative in the September and October newsletters. Stay tuned for more details.

If you have questions regarding the Take Action on Radon – 100 Test Kit Challenge, please email [administration@eaststpaul.com](mailto:administration@eaststpaul.com).





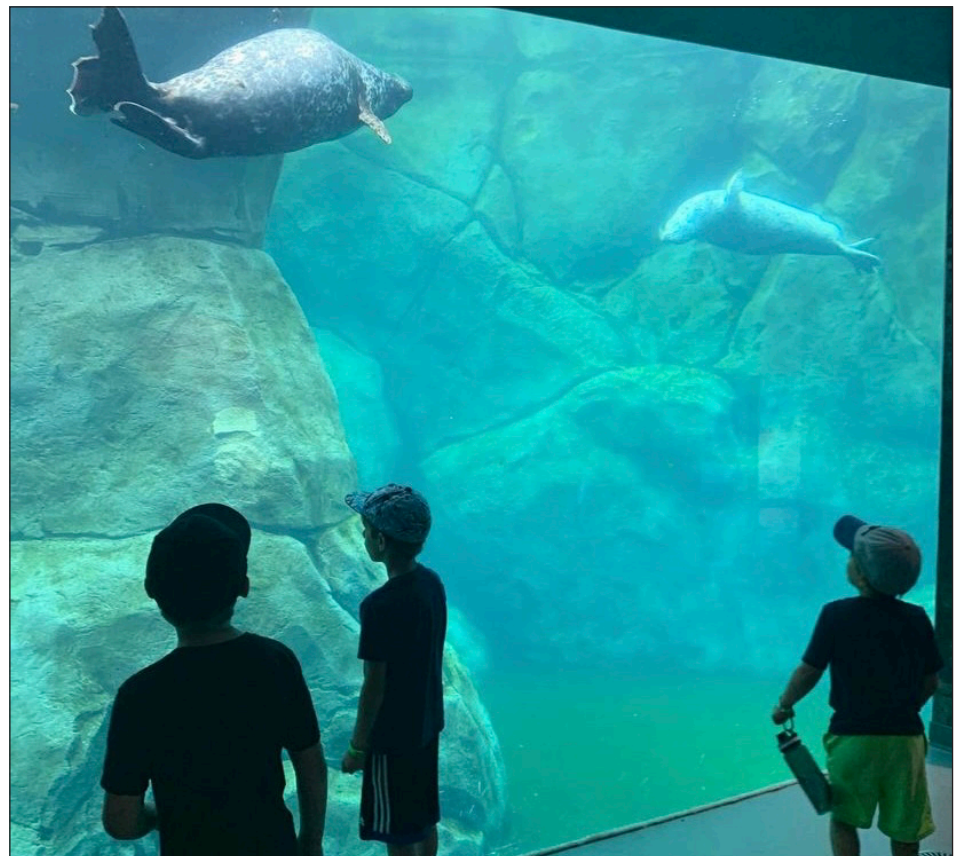
## Summer Camp in ESP has been fun, fun and more fun!

The East St. Paul Summer Camp is full for the entire 2022 season with 70 campers per day. And the campers have been very busy. Their days are spent doing activities like tie-dye, paw tracking, field games, arts and crafts, science experiments and much more.

The campers have also had onsite visits from Badminton Manitoba and Canadian Parks and Wildlife. And they had a blast on their Thursday field trips, which included stops at the Zoo and Children's Museum.



*Trips to the zoo, right, and the Children's Museum, above, have made the 2022 East St. Paul Summer Camp a big hit with the kids.*



## Beetles doing well in battle with purple loosestrife

Beetles released into Swistun Park last summer to help control purple loosestrife are doing their job.

The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project (MPLP) released the beetles to biologically control the invasive plant that competes with native plants and deters wildlife.

Adam Baranyk, MPLP Coordinator, said site visits to the Park showed promising results.

"In monitoring the area we actually found that beetles had travelled from a previous release site and had become naturalized in the area," he said.

"As such, there was a fairly substantial beetle population that should only take a number of years to balance the loosestrife population."

Though the beetles are detrimental to the plant, they do not interfere with the public being able to enjoy the park.

The beetles are leaf eaters from Europe and have proven to be successful at controlling areas infested with purple loosestrife.

They were released into the Pritchard Farm/Eagle Creek pond system last year as well and a return visit by MPLP this summer revealed the beetles were having success there as well.

"We noticed that there are beetles doing damage throughout the area, and they appear to

be inhibiting the spread of the plant, as there has not been significant changes in the population/location of plants throughout the area," Baranyk said.

"As a result of this, and the fact that the plants are relatively spread throughout the area as opposed to in dense stands, we do not find it necessary to release beetles in the area this year."

The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project, a partnership between the Manitoba Conservation, Ducks Unlimited and the City of Winnipeg, has three objectives – community education, habitat restoration through bio-control beetle releases and loosestrife mapping and monitoring.

Purple loosestrife was introduced to North America from Europe in the 1800s unintentionally when livestock was shipped here. It was also intentionally brought in for its medicinal value and for gardens. Predators of the plant did not come with it, making its spread difficult to stop.

Originally, ornamental varieties of the plant were thought to be sterile, but research proved that to be false and purple loosestrife can in fact produce up to a million seeds per plant.

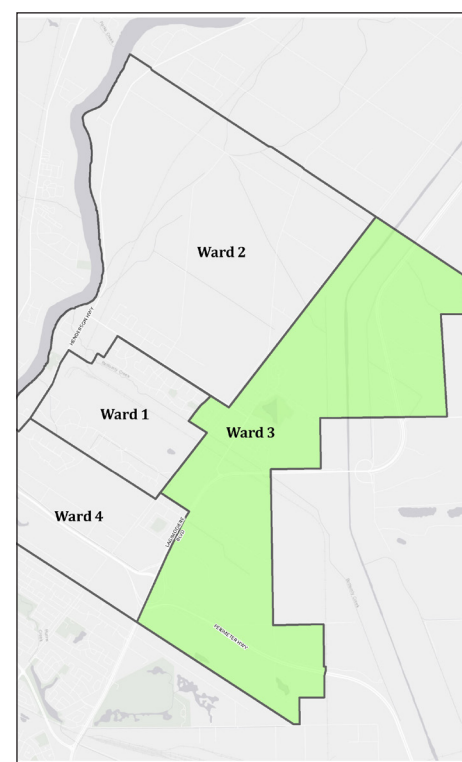
For more information on purple loosestrife go to [purpleloosestrife.org](http://purpleloosestrife.org).



*Beetles introduced to Swistun Park and Pritchard Farm/Eagle Creek ponds are keeping purple loosestrife in check.*



*Ward 3 - Brian Duval*



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