

Your Community

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

November 2024

For more information, call: 204-668-8112

Online: www.eaststpaul.com

Email: info@eaststpaul.com

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

Remembrance Day Service Nov. 11 Eastview Church 10:50am



Please arrive by 10am for seating; gathering at the Henderson Legion located at 215 Maxwell King Drive afterwards

Honours for Henderson Legion Veteran Bob Watkins

It's been a year since we profiled Robert 'Bob' Watkins in this newsletter and the Second World War veteran, at 99, has been busy.

Most recently the member of the Henderson Legion was awarded the Winnipeg 150 Medal.

"Somebody nominated me and didn't tell me," he said.

He was awarded his medal at Maple Grove Park, along with eight other recipients from the area, and a tree was planted in his honour. Members of HMCS Chippawa were in attendance.

"It was good. We had family with us and we planted trees. Everybody had a tree in their name. I'm going to have to stick around for a while and see how it grows," he said.

When we last visited, Watkins was hard at work recreating the frigate Loch Achanalt, the ship he served on with the Canadian Navy. He was doing it not from a kit, but from scratch.

He's made significant progress on the ship, but a recent stay in the hospital has put the ship on the sidelines.

"I put it in dry dock," he laughed.

Watkins' memories of his days at war are vivid, and his commitment to serving his country was well established at a very young age. From last year's article:

"When Bob Watkins was a young boy growing up in Brooklands, the Second World War was just beginning, and he had his sights set on joining the battle to defend his country's, and the world's, freedom.

"When the war started I was 14, and I was walking down the street a few days later and an old soldier from World War 1 stopped me and he asked me if I'd be joining up," Watkins recalled.

"I says, 'well, if the war's still on...yes, I will'."

The old soldier then asked him what he would join, and Watkins had his answer ready.

"I pointed to the sky and I said, 'I'm going to join the Air Force. Lot of room up there.'"

Fast forward a couple of weeks and young Bobby Watkins was



Watkins, above, front centre with the HMCS Chippawa contingent, and at left with Winnipeg Coun. Markus Chambers planting a tree in his honour in Maple Grove Park.

walking down Ellice Avenue and he saw the Sea Cadets parading at the Naval Barracks. That was the day he said goodbye to the Air Force.

"I went in and I ended up joining the Sea Cadets. You had to be 14 to get in there, so I joined... was with them for four years and then I joined the Navy at 18."

When he went to war, he and his mates patrolled the waters of the North Atlantic. He said he remembers at the time hoping that the war would end. Sadly, all these years later, it's still a harsh reality.

"We always hoped (war would end)...but there's always been war. And what's going on today between Israel and Palestine, Ukraine and Russia, to my mind is senseless because war is hell,"

Watkins said last year.

Fast forward to today, and his thoughts are even more dire.

"I still hope that there will be no more war," he says.

"It's getting worse though."

The state of the world gives Watkins much cause for concern. Israel and Palestine are at war, and Iran has become active.

He sees the political climate around the world as dangerous.

"Everybody wants to be dictators," he says.

"It boggles the mind."

With Remembrance Day around the corner, Watkins will be attending the service at HMCS Chippawa. He's the last Second World War veteran at the Henderson Legion, but he attends Chippawa because of the friends that he served with.

"Henderson asked me if I could attend, because apparently I'm the oldest member there at the present time. We lost the fellow that was older than me last year and I'm the only Second World War veteran left," he said.

"It would be nice, but I always go to Chippawa. I lost four guys I joined up with and my brother, so I like to go there and take part."

ESP Secondary Plan Presentation: Shaping Our Community's Future Together

On October 29, 2024, we presented the draft of East St. Paul's Secondary Plan to the public. While 102 residents attended the session—a promising start—we know many more voices will shape this plan. As one of the few RMs in Manitoba without a secondary plan, East St. Paul stands at a critical juncture: this plan is an opportunity to build a framework that secures sustainable growth aligned with our community's character and values.

Why PlaceMakers LLP Consulting?

To ensure an objective, world-class approach, Council selected PlaceMakers LLP Consulting, a firm with USA and Canadian ownership. PlaceMaker's experience working on projects globally, combined with in-house engineering capabilities, means we benefit from fresh perspectives while reducing the need for additional consultants.

Importantly, PlaceMaker's has no local landowner clients, ensuring their focus is solely on East St. Paul's best interests.

Clarifying Misconceptions: Development, Policy, and Responsible Growth

First and foremost, there is no active application for development east of 59 Highway, and East St. Paul still has a moratorium on new development. We are proactively working on solutions for water and wastewater facilities to support responsible growth.

This Secondary Plan does not approve development; it establishes a framework for future policies and bylaws, fulfilling the role of elected officials to create and govern policy.

It's essential to emphasize that this plan is not only for the residents of today but also for those of tomorrow—the up-and-coming generations who will shape and live in our community in the future. Planning responsibly now ensures

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Hey! East St. Paul seniors, 55+ wants you!

The ESP 55+ Activity Club, located at 262 Hoddinott Road (just past the Curling Club in the large parking lot) is vibrant, active and full of programming dedicated to seniors.

We offer events and social gatherings geared to seniors, including Zumba (two classes per week), yoga (7 classes per week), Mah Jongg, Cards (cribbage and whist 2 times per week), Pool, Line dancing (2 times per week), Shuffleboard, Quilting (2 times per week), Artists, book club, puzzling and other ad hoc social activities.

Our rates are affordable as we are run by ESP seniors from our community who volunteer their time to put on some great programs. Classes are led by qualified & certified instructors. Here are just a few comments about some of our specific activities:

Email us at esp55plus@gmail.com if you are interested.

Body Benders Yoga & Silver Fox Zoomers

Seven yoga classes and two zumba classes are offered every week, led by qualified and certified instructors at very affordable low rates \$4-\$5 per class. Registration for our Winter 2025

sessions will commence in late 2024.

Step in Timers Line Dancing

Yee haw! If you are interested in a lively bit of fun with participants dancing choreographed steps while facing and dancing in the same direction, this is for you. Get some exercise and have fun all at the same time.

Creative Minds (Artists)

If you enjoy drawing, painting or creating in any other way, we invite you to join our group at the ESP 55+ Centre from 11:00 - 2:00 on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Because making art is usually a solitary occupation, we enjoy this time to work at our crafts in the company of friends.

We do not teach painting, but we do offer helpful critiques and often suggest new ideas and techniques. Our members also have the opportunity of displaying their artwork at the RM's Municipal Hall.

Mah Jongg

Our Mah Jongg group plays the ancient Chinese tile game that will keep your mind and memory sharp. Our group has grown but we are accepting new members to play on Wednesday



The 55+ Centre hosted a Halloween Party on Oct. 26, above, but Witch Sylvia Piper, left, and whoopie cushion Sharon Harris continued the fun during cards on Tuesday.



with couches and a shuffleboard table in case that piques your interest.

Puzzlers

One of our newest activities - the puzzlers meet on Wednesday afternoons to enjoy comradery while solving some great puzzles. Come on out and try it with us.

Shuffleboard (floor)

We supply the equipment, you supply the fun! The group meets on Thursdays from October to April on the 4 floor courts at the Centre.

The Bookies Book Club

Share your ideas and thoughts with others who have all had a chance to read the same book. The group meets on the 4th Monday of each month.

afternoons. If you are interested in playing (or learning) get in touch!

Cards and Pool

We play Whist (Thursdays) and Cribbage (Tuesdays) and will always welcome new players. Pool players are also welcome to play on our beautiful pool table in a relaxed and comfortable entertainment room equipped

Learn how to co-exist



Coyotes are present in the area and residents are reminded to be vigilant at all times. Please keep pets on leashes and do not leave them unattended even when in a fenced back yard.

Though coyotes are normally timid animals, they are wild animals but very adaptable, meaning they can live in rural or urban areas as easily as in the wild. It is important that people learn to co-exist with them.

Visit eaststpaul.com under protective services/animal control to learn how to stay safe with coyotes in our midst.

Historic old church with accessible walkway



The paved walkway extends from the street to the side entrance of the church so people of all mobility levels can enter.



Birds Hill United Church has always been open to all but a new addition makes it more feasible for those with mobility issues.

A new incline, paved walkway allows those in wheelchairs or those who have difficulty with stairways the ability to get into

the church easily.

Val Cooke, Sheila Byers, Paul Blonski and Grant Cowan were instrumental in making the dream of a walkway a reality.

A big thank you to them and the individuals who donated to the cause. A special thank you to

Prairie To Pine Regional Council for the grant.

The church, located at 2105 Burton Ave., is holding its Christmas Tea & Bazaar Dec. 7 from 1:30 - 3:30. Everyone invited!

SIGN UP FOR e-blasts at eaststpaul.com

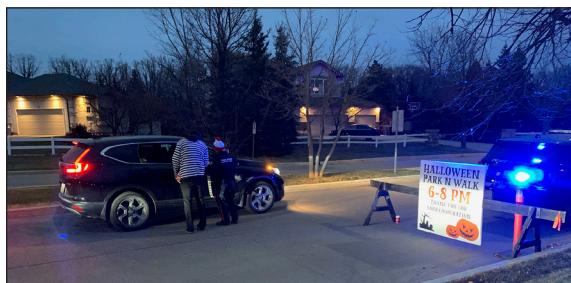
Thank you to our wonderful Park & Ride volunteers and community

Halloween night in Pritchard Farm Properties was once again a shining example of community spirit and safety, thanks to the incredible cooperation of our residents, COPP members, CSO members, and my own family, who continuously support this initiative. Your dedication to keeping our kids safe as they enjoyed two full hours of trick-or-treating in a traffic-free environment is invaluable.

Reflecting on this tradition, it's heartening to see how much it has grown since I first proposed it upon my election in 2018. With the council's support, what started as an initiative has now become a cherished Halloween tradition in Pritchard Farm Properties. Knowing that Halloween often sees an increase in pedestrian-related accidents, having our Park & Walk ensures kids can focus on the fun without the worry of nearby vehicles.

I encourage other neighbourhoods to join us and consider implementing similar safety measures. If you'd like to collaborate on making Halloween safer for 2025, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Together, we can make every Halloween a night to remember—safely!

- Mayor Carla Devlin



Community spirit!
Top photo, volunteers Tracy Rodych and Emmy Pernsteiner; middle, Rabindra and Minache Samara, ESP COPP members.

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that they, too, will have the opportunity to enjoy East St. Paul as a **vibrant and sustainable home**. Landowners who pay taxes have the right to work within our **RM's by-laws** to develop their property responsibly, just as many of us benefited from similar opportunities when buying our own homes here.

It's worth reflecting on this: most of us live in East St. Paul because **developers created the communities we call home**. We need to ensure that **growth**—like the **homes and neighbourhoods** many of us cherish—remains possible within a **fair and balanced structure**.

Additionally, any and all **development applications** will continue to go through a **public hearing process**, just as they always have. This plan does not change the approval process but rather provides a **guiding framework** to ensure **responsible, community-aligned development**.

Upcoming Community Q&A on the Draft Secondary Plan

To foster informed dialogue, Council will be hosting a **community Q&A session** on the **Secondary Draft Plan**. We encourage residents to **review the plan**, available on our website, to come prepared with **thoughtful questions**.

The session will take place on **Nov. 14**, from **6pm to 9pm**. The **location will be determined based on registrations** to ensure the right-sized venue for those attending.

A Path Forward with Community Input

The consultant invited residents to **review informational boards, ask questions, and share feedback** that will shape the final stages of the plan. However, it was alarming to see how much **misinformation** had circulated, especially on **social media platforms like Facebook**.

This highlights the importance of relying on **official channels for accurate information**. As Mayor, I have **received fewer than 10 emails** and a **handful of calls** directly related to the Secondary Plan. Some residents felt they couldn't place **positive sticky notes on the boards** due to **fear of retaliation** from a negative presence at the meeting.

We must remain **respectful** and allow all perspectives to be shared **openly and constructively** as we refine our approach together. We look forward to further **discussions** and upcoming **public meetings** that will help us shape **East St. Paul's future responsibly**. Let's work collaboratively to create a **sustainable and welcoming future for generations to come**.

- Mayor Carla Devlin

Consider others when doing pest control

Recently, we received a concerning message from a resident regarding incidents of pet illnesses linked to potential rodent poison exposure. This situation highlights the need for all pet owners to be vigilant and proactive in ensuring the safety of our furry companions.

It was reported that their dogs experienced severe symptoms after possibly ingesting toxins from rodents that may have consumed poison. It appears that several pets in the area have shown similar symptoms, raising concerns about the use of rodent control products.

Rodenticides, while effective for pest control, can pose serious risks to pets and wildlife. Animals can be exposed to these toxins through direct contact with poisoned rodents or by ingesting the poison itself. Symptoms of poisoning can include vomiting,

diarrhea, lethargy, and more serious health complications.

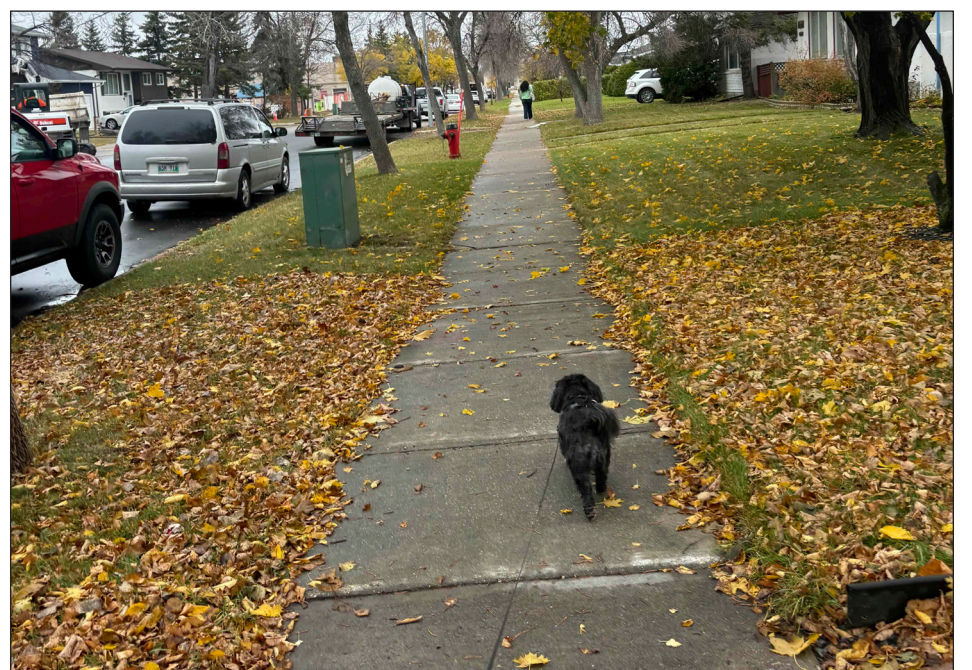
What Can You Do?

- **Educate Yourself and Neighbours:** Discuss the risks of rodenticides with fellow pet owners. Encourage the use of safer, more environmentally friendly pest control options.

- **Opt for Safer Alternatives:** If you are dealing with rodent issues, look into non-toxic methods for pest management. Many natural solutions are available that can help keep pests at bay without endangering our pets.

- **Supervise Your Pets:** Keep a close eye on your pets, especially during walks. Prevent them from sniffing or ingesting anything they find outside and monitor their health for any unusual symptoms.

- **Report Concerns:** If you notice any unusual animal deaths or have concerns about



Keep a close eye on your pets, in your yard and especially during walks.

potential rodenticide exposure, please report it to local authorities or animal control.

By being proactive and work-

ing together, we can help prevent incidents like these from occurring in the future.

Large item pick-up starts Nov. 4

The RM reminds residents that Yard Waste Pick-up ends Friday, Nov. 1 and Large Item Pick-up starts Monday Nov. 4 to Saturday Nov. 16.

Waste Connections of Canada will be offering East St. Paul residents the ability to leave household items at their curb side for pick-up

during the time frame of Nov. 4 - 16 on the day of your regular scheduled garbage day service.

For items that will be accepted, please visit eaststpaul.com

For any questions, please call the Operations Department at (204) 668-8336.

SIGN UP FOR e-blasts at eaststpaul.com

Councillor Corner

Orest Horechko - Ward 2

Climate Change and Native Vegetation

Native plants have a role to play in combating the effects of climate change.

In this article I hope to convince you to plant some native species, convert your sod back to native areas, or even easier- conserve the natural habitats you already have on your property to preserve the benefits. If you are considering a manicured lawn this coming spring, or are interested in wildlife or bird habitat and helping tackle climate change, read on!

Native plants are those that occur naturally in a region. They are the regional vegetation that make up the local environment upon which life depends, including birds and people.

Native vegetation means those species that naturally existed in a given area and help identify a healthy and productive space. They are not only capable of making a beautiful space, but they also help the environment.

Climate change is a great example of where we need to think outside our individual boxes, and do something for the greater community. Planting native vegetation is a simple, nature based climate solution that helps the community as a whole!

These non-traditional landscapes are helpful to the community in many ways. They reduce noise and carbon pollution from lawn mower exhaust. Also, many native plants, especially long-living trees like oaks and maples, are effective at storing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. If you aren't cutting down the trees and vegetation, you are storing that carbon, as well as using more water and heat from the surroundings. Also did you know that our Bird population has declined with of more croplands and urban expansion.

Other benefits include:

- They provide a diverse and beautiful, low maintenance landscape. Many native plants offer beautiful showy flowers and colorful fruits and seeds, as



well as brilliant seasonal changes in colors.

- The highly manicured "perfect" lawn isn't as popular as it once was. They require a lot of maintenance, that people these days just don't have the time for.

- Sod lawns are notorious for requiring profuse amounts of costly fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Native plants don't. By choosing native plants you are creating an all around healthier place.

- They require less water because they are better adapted to local conditions.

- They provide habitat for birds, and many other wildlife and insect species. Native plants also provide nectar for pollinators, protective shelter for many mammal, and are a food source for all forms of wildlife.

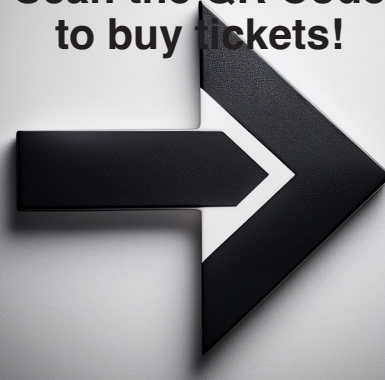
Best of all, they are less work in the long run! Once planted and established, these natural species take care of themselves and require little maintenance. No monthly paid chemical application needed, no mowing, and no aeration! You can just sit back and enjoy the view, while the rest of the community also wins.

The benefits to incorporating native plants into your landscape are great, and the actions are significant!



Mayor Carla Devlin drops the puck at the East St. Paul Gators home opener on Oct. 27. The Springfield Extreme defeated the Gators 6-0.

Support the Legion!
Scan the QR Code
to buy tickets!



Come support your local Legion!
Royal Canadian Henderson Legion #215
Let's raise this rooftop and give Santa a place to land!

Up on the Legion #215 rooftop, click, click, click...split some cash with old Saint Nick!

Royal Canadian Legion Henderson #215 is so appreciative of all your continued support! It is through your continued patronage that we can continue to be here to serve you.

All proceeds raised for this years \$0/50 will contribute to our fundraising efforts towards a new legion roof!

Purchase your tickets quickly and easily online until December 21, 2024!

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

Holiday Floral WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 AT 6PM

EXPERT GUIDANCE
HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE
TAKE-HOME CREATION

REGISTER AT
WWW.EASTSTPAUL.COM

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

IN-SERVICE STICK & PUCK/RING

East St. Paul Arena
Oct 25, Nov 22, Jan 31, Feb 3 & Mar 14
from 1PM-3PM

Stick & Puck/Ring rules must be followed.
Details at www.eaststpaul.com

Parent & Child Cooking Class

JOIN NOW

ONLY \$195
3 - 1.5 HOUR CLASS
NOV 20, DEC 4 & DEC 14
CHILD 6+

Build a Balanced Lunch
Easy Weeknight Dinners Your Kids Can Help You Make
DIY Snacks for Kids

Register at www.eaststpaul.com

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

HOLIDAY AT THE PLAZA & SANTA PARADE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14
3021 BIRDS HILL RD

SANTA PARADE
Parade route to be released soon!

PLAZA HIGHLIGHTS
Santa Claus Photo Booth
Special Visit from OLAF
Tree Lighting
Delicious Hot Chocolate & Coffee & More

SIGN UP FOR e-blasts at eaststpaul.com