



Your Community

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

July 2024

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It was a great East St. Paul Day for all

Hoddinott Road was the place to be the morning of June 22 as the parade for the first annual East St. Paul Day rolled on by.

Mayor Carla Devlin, who was chauffeured along with Deputy Mayor Orest Horechko in a classic car, said the day was a great success.

"East St. Paul Day was a fantastic success!" Devlin said.

"It was truly heartwarming to see our community come together, celebrating our shared spirit and camaraderie. This event showcased the strength and unity of East St. Paul, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved together. Here's to many more celebrations that bring us even closer!"

There were 25 floats entered in the parade and the street was lined with people cheering and watching them go by.

Candy hand-outs were popular with the little ones and a member of the East St. Paul Lions said they were happy to put smiles on the kids' faces.

Once the parade wrapped up there was still plenty to do.

The arena grounds had bouncers, games, a chainsaw carver display, petting zoo, dunk tank axe throwing and more. Inside the arena there was a variety of games for those who wanted out of the heat.

Live wrestling was a big hit and featured East St. Paul Fire Department's own Dylan Bellmore, who battled inside the squared circle as 'James, the Real Deal, Roth'. He had his arm raised in victory too!

The band Pop Vegas entertained in the evening.

Unfortunately, weather forced the cancellation of the Drone Show, but it will be rescheduled.



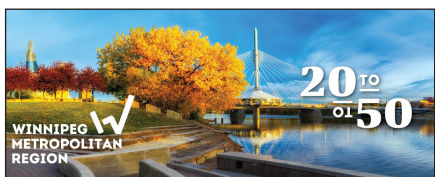
Clockwise from above; Mayor Carla Devlin and Deputy Mayor Orest Horechko ride in style in the parade; the dogs were out to cheer on their hometown; a wave from a young parade fan; candy from the Lions was a big hit; and the kids were ready with bags in hand.



Smiles and fun at East St. Paul Day



Clockwise from left: High-flying James, the Real Deal, Roth; a howling good time at the parade; a dunk tank dip and realization that water is cold; fun times on the bouncer; and saying hello to a pony.



Plan20-50 Public Hearing:

Thursday, July 25 at
3 pm at Canad Inns
Polo Park

1405 St. Matthews
Ave. in Winnipeg.

For any questions,
call 204-989-2048.



ESP Fire Department Open House

Jayden was among the hundreds that attended the East St. Paul Fire Department Open House on June 1 and he had fun meeting Sparky and checking out the fire trucks. Thanks to everyone who came out!



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Emergency exercise successful, and fun

On June 22, an emergency exercise put RM staff and volunteers from East St. Paul, West St. Paul and St. Clements through a mock disaster that will prepare them to deal with a real one someday.

And according to Shelley Napier, Managing Director of Napier Emergency Consulting (NEC), the fake catastrophe was a real success. The fake was an out-of-control fire in St. Clements that forced the evacuation of residents in all three municipalities to a command centre in West St. Paul.

"It went incredibly well," Napier said.

Dennis Wiwcharyk, Emergency Coordinator for the RM of East St. Paul, says all municipalities are mandated by the Province to have an emergency plan, update it yearly, and conduct emergency exercises. Municipalities are required to hold an exercise every year with a fullscale exercise required once every four years.

"Joint exercises with neighbouring municipalities prove to be invaluable as they provide an opportunity for volunteers to work together within their assigned municipal functions," Wiwcharyk said.

"Large scale emergencies such as this could quickly overwhelm a municipality if training was not done in advance to prepare municipal staff and volunteers should such a situation arise."

Throughout the exercise, the RM learned what went well and what functions may need to improve upon.

"We would like to thank all the volunteers who acted as evacuees, the volunteers who manned the different registration desks, municipal staff and council members who took time from their day to assist us in making this exercise a success."

Work on the exercise began seven months prior and brought together staff and volunteers on several occasions to learn their roles. They went through a three-hour training session and each were given booklets that defined their role and responsibility on the evening.

Some were registering people, others were registering pets, and there were stations for people who needed clothing, a kids' zone to keep young ones entertained, and of course food.

Volunteers who played evacuees brought with them all the issues that could arise in an emergency situation. Some showed up and sat quietly while others had issues and didn't hold back.

One man was without his medication and was loud and agitated; another woman perhaps even louder and volunteers used their training to deal with each of them.

"We had a lot of really good actors. We had obnoxious people, we had people that had some mental health and wellness issues, we had babies being born, we had all kinds of fun



Clockwise from above: East St. Paul Emergency Coordinator Dennis Wiwcharyk, right, and East St. Paul Fire Department Captain Jernej Anderlic work the registration centre at the mock emergency; a volunteer deals with a resident who was very vocal in her displeasure with being evacuated; everyone gathered in the gym at the command centre; and a pup waits patiently to be registered.



things going on," she said.

"The idea was to make sure the teams understand what they're dealing with but also to have some fun tonight. We wanted to bring the residents together, because these communities have just amazing teams, and volunteers."

Next the volunteers will reconvene with NEC to review the exercise.

"I think it was very successful, and now it's time to critique and speak to the volunteers and find out what worked and what has to be improved and then we raise the bar on every one of the emergency programs," Napier said.

Napier worked with Manitoba Emergency Measures Operations for 32 years prior to forming NEC and says the scenes that were played out on June 22 are based on real scenarios she has seen over the years.

"I have worked in enough reception centres and emergency operation centres with enough



evacuees that I know there are a lot of people that come in, they're evacuated quickly, they've forgotten their medication or they're still in pain from a twisted ankle, or they have al-

lergies, or they didn't bring any clothing with them," she said.

"We created the reality of the situation tonight so that we could put them through what really happens at these centres."



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Councillor Corner

Brian Duval - Ward 3

The coming of late spring and summer brings with it warm weather, sunshine, outdoor activities, socializing with friends and neighbours, etc., and generally a lifting of spirits all around.

But it may also bring extreme events and hazardous conditions. I'm sure we all saw the news last summer and the horrific scenes of wildfires across much of the prairies and British Columbia. The tremendous loss of property, and sometimes lives, and the traumatic upheaval of people's lives was hard to watch.



Our community might not have the same level of probability as other areas, but we cannot consider ourselves immune from disasters such as wildfires. East St. Paul has an abundance of treed, bushy, grassy areas in and around our residential developments.

So far this summer we are experiencing an abundance of precipitation which greatly reduces the fire risk. With the right (wrong?) conditions of dryness, heat, and strong winds of other years we could encounter similar situations here in ESP.

One of the difficult logistical challenges of an emergency caused by not just wildfires, but also tornadoes, chemical spills, fuel tanker fires, snow storms, etc., is how to quickly handle an evacuation of large numbers of residents.

Towards investigating this challenge the RM's of East St. Paul, West St. Paul, and St. Clements teamed together to stage an Evacuation Exercise titled "Plan, Prepare, Be Aware". The exercise was staged to represent the actual process of assisting residents who have been suddenly evacuated from their homes. Many details that we normally wouldn't think of such as registering names, food, accommodations, clothing, special needs, medications, pets, etc., were simulated and addressed.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made this important event successful and educational.

On another topic, Plan 20-50, the master document that will control much of the land use development of all the regional Municipalities, has been in the making for over three years. During that time many consultations with Municipal Councils and Administration, the public, and other stakeholders have taken place leading to many changes and amendments to the document.

The final draft version was completed and passed first reading by the Winnipeg Metro Region Board on June 13, 2024. In the following several weeks a public hearing will be held which will provide an opportunity for residents to voice their opinion. Please watch for schedule an-

nouncements. To view the Plan in its entirety go to winnipegmetroregion.ca.

I'm sure you have noticed our Community Safety Officers (CSO) patrolling our streets in their highly visible vehicles. I'm pleased to report they have had a huge positive impact on the safety of our community.

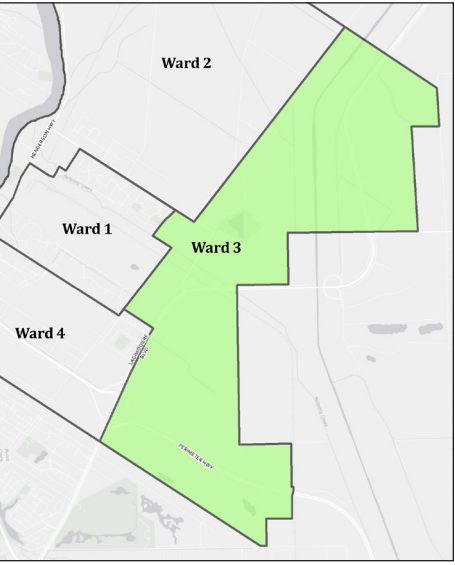
These two officers are RM employees, and often work in concert with the RCMP on incidents such as serious crime and major traffic accidents. They recently received authority from Manitoba Justice to issue speeding tickets and other HTA traffic violations.

It's important to note that before this authorization, no speeding tickets were issued. Also, please note all proceeds from traffic fines go to the Province, ie the RM receives no revenue whatsoever.

Our recreation staff and administration have been working hard in organizing many fun events for this summer. Just a few that have taken place already this summer:

- June 1 - Fire Department open house
- June 9 - Opening day of Farmer's Market
- June 22 - Inaugural East St. Paul Days
- July 1 - Canada Day hosted by the Henderson Legion.

I wish everyone good health and a safe and enjoyable summer.



East St. Paul Coun. Brian Duval attended the official opening of the Henderson Legion's new patio recently. Pictured with Duval are Legion President Diana Tashe, right, and MP Raquel Dancho, centre.



**EAST
ST. PAUL
FARMER'S
MARKET**

302 Hoddinott Rd
10AM - 2PM

Sundays
June 9 - September 29, 2024

Join us weekly to shop your
favorite local products
from over 50 vendors





If you have a
dog, make sure
you're a pooper
scooper.
It's the law.