



# Your COMMUNITY

DECEMBER EDITION

☎ 204-668-8112 | 🌐 [www.eaststpaul.com](http://www.eaststpaul.com) | ✉ [info@eaststpaul.com](mailto:info@eaststpaul.com)  
📍 1 - 3021 Birds Hill Road | 🕒 8:30 am to 4:30 pm



RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

## Holiday at the Plaza



Mayor Carla Devlin got a little help from 11-year-old Griffen who volunteered to flip the switch and light the Christmas tree at the RM's annual Holiday in the Plaza.

It was a chilly night, but those who came out warmed themselves around the fire and enjoyed listening to carols while drinking coffee and hot chocolate. Santa was on hand and it was an enjoyable evening for all.

"We thank everybody for coming out to participate in our parade and our tree lighting ceremony and we thank our staff for putting on the event," Devlin said.

"We're very happy that we have the chance to have the tree lighting in our plaza, which provides this opportunity to gather in this space."

Devlin was joined by Couns. Brian Duval, Brian Imhoff, Charles Posthumus and Orest Horechko.





# Emergency exercise prompts good discussion, improves emergency plan

Before a flake of snow had even fallen, the RM of East St. Paul's Emergency Coordinator and staff were preparing for Snowmagedon – a fictitious winter storm that knocks the power out in the area and blocks all roads.

“The point of the exercise is to better understand if everything we have in place is adequate, or sufficient, or do we need to take a look at some of the issues that may arise and do we need to address those issues,” said Dennis Wiwcharyk, the RM's Emergency Coordinator.

“It's a good chance to see the difference between a plan on paper and a plan in action, even though we were just talking it through.”

All municipalities are mandated to have an emergency plan, and they must do a tabletop exercise once a year and a full-scale emergency exercise once every four years.

The group of about 30 staff members discussed every possible scenario that would occur should a severe storm knock out power and close the roads in the municipality for an extended period.

The discussion was productive and made everyone realize there are some things that need to be looked at more closely.

“That was the point of the exercise, even though we do have plans in place and they are considered good, you can see that once you start to brainstorm, you realize there are things that need to be addressed,” Wiwcharyk said.

A key point of the exercise was that the RM itself and residents need to be prepared to survive for 72 hours.

“The exercise itself is something that could happen tomorrow, snowstorms happen throughout the winter, I don't want to say often but we do get storms, and the severity of the storms could



be quite intense,” Wiwcharyk said.

“Realizing that power outages do happen and we do need to be prepared, the residents and the municipal staff, for 72 hours should such a situation arise. Basically, what came out of the exercise was that although we have plans and strategies in place, we could see that we need to address a couple of things.”

One issue that became apparent during discussions was the need to canvass employees regularly to know who can stay and work during prolonged emergency situations. Some people will have commitments that don't allow them to, and managers need to have a list of who will be available.

Wiwcharyk said also that those workers will need to be people who live close enough to the municipal office or public works yard to be able to get there even if roads are closed.

“Prior to the exercise I don't think any de-

partment really had a handle on that, so we learned managers need to canvas their employees shortly after the exercise to determine who can stay, who lives by and can make their way there if roads aren't accessible,” he said.

“And you can't just do it once, you have to do it regularly, because the person you're depending on, their situation could change.”

Another issue was the need to increase the RM's fuel delivery capacity to make sure generators can operate.

“We're all happy with how the exercise went. We did a debrief afterwards and everybody expressed that we should be doing such an exercise more often,” Wiwcharyk said.

“It was good, we achieved the objective of the exercise noting that have we some concerns that need to be addressed immediately, and recognizing there needs to be some higher priorities placed on other issues.

## 72 hours: Is your family prepared?

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours. The East St. Paul Emergency Preparedness Committee would like to provide residents with the information to help you create your kit.

Your kit should be assembled well in advance of an emergency as you may only have minutes to collect essentials. Your kit should be in a container that is durable and easy to carry such as a duffle bag, plastic tote or suitcase with wheels. Keep your kit in an easily accessible location and tell all members of your household where the kit is located.

Your basic kit should include:

- Water (2 litres per person per day)
- Food (that will not go bad such as canned food, energy bars and dried food. Replace food and water on a regular basis throughout the year)
- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio (battery-powered or wind up)

- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Special needs items
- Prescription medication for all family members
- Infant formula and diapers
- Equipment for people with disabilities
- Pet food, extra water for pets as well as any other items your pet may need
- Extra keys for your home and vehicle
- Cash including small bills and change

Additional supplies to consider:

- Two additional litres of water per person per day
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothes including shirt, pants and sturdy shoes
- Candles and matches in a waterproof container
- Paper and pencil
- Whistle

- Books, games, playing cards, puzzles or other activities for children
- Toiletries, hand sanitizer, toilet paper
- Utensils, garbage bags
- Household chlorine bleach or water purification tablets/drops
- Basic tools (hammer, pliers, screwdriver, work gloves, pocketknife)
- Duct tape
- Small fuel-operated stove and fuel
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification, bank account records.

You should also consider packing a spare cell phone charger in case you have access to a power source such as your vehicle battery. If you are using your vehicle to charge your cell phone and it is running, make sure you are outside and not in a garage or enclosed space.

If you need further information, please contact the administration office at 204-668-8112 or email [info@eaststpaul.com](mailto:info@eaststpaul.com).



# Thank-you lunch for 55+ outgoing executive



East St. Paul's 55+ Centre members paid tribute to outgoing President Charlene Erb and outgoing Vice President Johanna Handford with a lunch on Nov. 8.

Charlene joined the Centre in 2014, signing up for yoga. By 2017, she ran successfully for the President position and has held it for eight years.

Outside of the Centre, Charlene had an entrepreneurial spirit and with her husband, Horst, ran a cushion manufacturing company, overseeing eight employees, and then a ladies clothing boutique with her friend Arla. Charla's ran successfully for six-and-a-half years. After that she moved onto doing the books for her husband's business.

Johanna joined the Centre's quilting club in 2011 and is still actively involved with that, as well as the book club and social seekers. She is the book club's representative to the board. She has been Vice President since 2022.

New and outgoing executive members, left to right, Bonnie Konzelman, Vice President, Jan Anderson, President, Charlene Erb Past President, Johanna Handford, current Board member and former Vice President, Lynne Evans, Treasurer, and Candace Bishoff, Secretary.



She spent 37 years in education and taught in the Sunrise and River East Transcona school divisions. After retirement, she worked in adult education. She is fond of visiting her son in Texas and enjoys travelling to exotic parts of the world, including Istanbul and Dubai.

Congratulations to Charlene and Johanna on all their hard work at the 55+ Centre!

# Henderson Legion Remembrance Day



After a Remembrance Day service at East-view Church attendees went to the Henderson Legion for lunch and fellowship. Top, left to right, Stephane Guindon, Sgt. At Arms Shaun McIntosh, and President Diane Tashe. Bottom, Past President Gord Machej addresses the crowd before the North Winds Band provided entertainment.



# Winter WORKSHOPS

• Registration opens November 10th

<b>December 22</b> Engineering for Kids 10am-12pm	<b>December 23</b> Breakdancing 10am-11:30am Graffiti Art 1pm-2:30pm	
<b>December 29</b> Holiday Cookie Decorating 1pm-3pm	<b>December 30</b> Adaptive Art Adventure 10am-12pm	<b>January 2</b> Nerf Party 1pm-3pm

Visit [eaststpaul.com](http://eaststpaul.com) to register

## PET OF THE MONTH

# DECEMBER

### I'M LUNA!

Luna (aka Lunatic) is a 6 year old Goldendoodle.

- Luna loves belly scratches, or any form of affection
- Is a great cuddler
- And our best friend

**Show Off Your Star!**  
Do you have a pet that deserves the spotlight? Share their photo and a short bio (name, age, favourite things, fun facts, or a funny story) to be featured in East St. Paul's monthly newsletter!

• All pets welcome – dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and more!  
• Send entries to: [administration@eaststpaul.com](mailto:administration@eaststpaul.com)  
• One pet is randomly selected each month to shine!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE AMAZING PETS THAT BRING JOY TO OUR COMMUNITY!



# Vacation Home Patrol Program back this year

# Crime Prevention Tips

East St. Paul’s Community Safety Services is once again offering a Vacation Home Patrol Program.

Under the program, residents of the municipality can apply to have the RM’s Community Safety Officers (CSO) conduct exterior patrols of their home while they are away on vacation. The service is free of charge and open only to residents of the municipality.

The service is offered by many police services across the country, and it helps ensure that residents can enjoy their time away from home without having to worry about security threats from thieves.

All residents need to do is submit an application – available online at eaststpaul.com – a minimum of seven days prior to their vacation departure date.

During routine patrols, the CSOs will go to your residence and do an exterior patrol of the property to ensure all windows and doors are secured on the home, garage and any other structures.

In winter months, the CSOs will not check your residence and make footprints in the snow, but if they see footprints, they will investigate.

Residents are reminded that the Vacation Home Patrol Program does not replace the any requirements of your home insurance, it is simply to ensure that if your home is broken into while you are away, it will be secured quickly by the CSOs and RCMP.

**When you apply online you will be required to provide the following information:**

Travel dates and times, if known

When the traveler expects to return

Name, address, and phone number

Whether there will be any cars outside the residence while they are away (include

make, model, and license number)

Who has permission to enter the residence while they are away (i.e., pet feeders, water plants, etc.)

An emergency contact name and number and any other information you feel is important

To apply for the Vacation Home Patrol Program or for more information, go to eaststpaul.com.

Also, visit the East St. Paul Community Safety Services Facebook page.

The page is dedicated to keeping the East St. Paul community up to date on all things related to safety within our municipality. Here, you’ll find important announcements, safety tips, updates on local law enforcement activities, community event information, and much more. Our goal is to keep you informed and engaged, ensuring that East St. Paul remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Stay connected and stay safe!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564328072287>





## CRAM THE CRUISER

**JOIN US AT**

<b>HOLIDAY IN THE PLAZA* &amp; SKATE WITH SANTA!*</b>	
<b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29</b>	<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21</b>
<b>FROM 5:00PM-8:00PM</b>	<b>FROM 12:15PM - 1:45PM</b>

**AND HELP US CRAM THE CRUISER WITH:**

- New Toys
- Non-Perishables
- Pet Food

**Bin for donations will also be located at the Municipal Office\***

Donations will be brought to Abundant Life Lutheran Church to support their hamper program

## WINTER 2026

PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

### REGISTRATION OPEN

Dance classes / Martial Arts / Zumba / Mat Pilates / Flexy Michelle / Kids in the Kitchen

**More to come!**

Pickleball registration opens December 8, 2025

Visit [www.eaststpaul.com](http://www.eaststpaul.com) for more information



## SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

**SUNDAY DEC 21**  
12:15 – 1:45 PM

**EAST ST PAUL ARENA**  
266 HODDINOTT RD

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