



# 2025 Year in Review - Building for today and tomorrow

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many projects, improvements, and milestones achieved in East St. Paul throughout 2025. It was a busy and productive year, focused on strengthening infrastructure, enhancing recreation opportunities, improving service delivery, and planning responsibly for the future.

## Community Services & Recreation

Community programming and recreation continued to grow in 2025. We proudly hosted the 2nd Annual East St. Paul Day, bringing residents together for a fun, family-focused celebration. The splash pad officially opened, complete with new shade structures, and new pickleball courts were added to meet growing demand.



A major highlight was the construction of a new playground at Hugh McDonald Park, supported by a \$50,000 grant, along with the continued expansion of the dog park, including a dedicated small-dog area, new lighting, a water line, and gravel pathways.

Additional investments included resurfacing the Eagle Creek pathways, purchasing new John Deere mowers, and adding a new electric ice resurfacer, supporting both sustainability and operational efficiency. Improvements were also made to the Administration Building with exterior and interior painting and new building

lettering.

The arena received new exterior doors on the west side, improving energy efficiency and significantly reducing heat loss during the winter months.

The Farmers' Market had a successful season, with strong vendor participation and community support. Planning is already underway, and we look forward to building on that success in 2026.

## Operations & Public Works

Significant operational improvements were completed across the municipality. These included construction of a new emergency exit ramp outside the Council Chambers, implementation of access cards at the Transfer Station, and expanded Transfer Station hours to better serve residents.

Public Works also upgraded fleet communications with new radios and GPS tracking, installed new pedestrian crosswalk lights at Birds Hill Road and Hillview, and continued to modernize equipment and processes to improve safety and service delivery.

## Community Safety Officer (CSO) Program

The CSO program continued to evolve, including the introduction of a Vacation Home Patrol, providing residents with added peace of mind during extended absences. Also in 2025, the Buy & Sell Safe Exchange Zone was established in the parking lot of the East St. Paul Administration building, to provide a safe place for residents buying or selling online.

The CSOs were a positive presence in the municipality, taking part in events like East St. Paul Day, Holiday at the Plaza and Skate with Santa. They've also developed a strong relationship with the River East Transcona School



Division.

## Utilities & Infrastructure

Several major utility projects were completed or advanced in 2025. The Second Water Distribution Line was completed in June, strengthening system reliability. New clarifier arms were installed, and work continued on the NEXOM full-scale densified sludge-based SBR system, a significant investment in long-term wastewater treatment capacity.

## Administration & Planning

Administration made important strides to modernize systems and plan for future growth. These included the implementation of Microsoft Teams phones and a new phone tree, completion of CUPE negotiations, and the hiring of an Asset Management Consultant to support long-term capital planning.

Key strategic initiatives included work toward adoption of the RM's first Secondary Plan, acquisition of land for a future wastewater treatment facility, a Service Sharing Agreement with the RM of St. Clements, and completion of a Utility Rate Study by Way to Go Consulting.

The RM also secured grant funding through the Green Team Initiative and the Canada Summer Jobs program, supporting the hiring of summer students across multiple departments. These programs provided valuable employment opportunities for youth while assisting the municipality with seasonal operations.



Continued on Page 2

# Year in Review

Continued from front



and projects.

The RM received a \$25,000 New Horizons for Seniors grant to support programming focused on protecting seniors and their assets, including education on Power of Attorney in Manitoba.

## Fire Department

To enhance emergency response capabilities, the Fire Department added a new off-road fire and rescue vehicle, improving access in challenging terrain and strengthening public safety.

In 2025, the East St. Paul Fire Department responded to over 400 calls for service. These included approximately 260 medical responses, 60 motor vehicle accidents, and 8 vehicle fires. Notably, there were no structure fires resulting in major loss, reflecting the department's strong focus on prevention, training, and rapid response.

## Thank You

Mayor and Council would like to sincerely thank all RM staff for their hard work, profes-

sionalism, and dedication throughout the year. The day-to-day efforts of our employees across all departments are what keep the municipality running and moving forward.

We also extend our appreciation to the many residents who take the time to share kind words, constructive feedback, and support for the work being done in the community. Your engagement helps shape better decisions and a stronger municipality.

Finally, we acknowledge the support of provincial and federal partners, whose funding programs and initiatives continue to play a vital role in helping East St. Paul deliver projects and services that benefit our residents.

As we look ahead to 2026, Mayor and Council remain committed to working together with staff, residents, and partners to build a strong, safe, and vibrant East St. Paul.

**Mayor Carla Devlin**

## ESP goes skating with Santa



Santa made one of his favourite pre-Christmas stops on Dec. 21 at the East St. Paul Arena. While there, he skated with kids and moms and dads, including at left, Travis, 4-year-old Benny and Melanie. Peace Officer Matt, below left, donned his skates and handed out candy canes and stickers for his friend Santa. Jolly St. Nick stayed busy, and made sure he gave high fives to anyone who asked!



## DED tree removal starts this month

Voluntary Authorization of Access forms have been delivered to East St. Paul property owners who had trees with Dutch Elm Disease (DED) identified on their property. Trees are marked with orange paint and are tagged.

Removal of all marked trees will begin in January and will take approximately six weeks to complete, dependent on weather.

The RM has contracted Green Drop Ltd. to remove the diseased trees and a representative has or will be going door-to-door to deliver authorization forms. If you are home at the time of delivery, the representative can answer quick questions, and you can sign the form and return it to them. If no one is home, they will leave the form in the mailbox or door, to be signed and returned via mail or email to Green Drop Ltd.

A total of 155 trees with Dutch Elm Disease were identified and marked this summer in East St. Paul by the Province of Manitoba's Department of Sustainable Development employees. There is no cure for Dutch Elm Disease, and the trees must be removed, as authorized under the Forest Health Protection Act. (C.C.S.M., c. F151)

Inquiries can be directed to Green Drop Tree Care:

- Phone: 1-833-928-8733
- Email: [trees@greendrop.com](mailto:trees@greendrop.com)

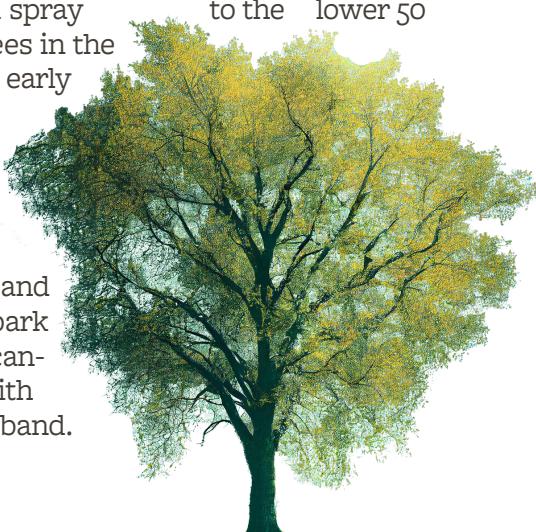
## Dutch Elm Disease Facts

Dutch Elm Disease is a fungal disease that blocks water movement in elm trees and eventually leads to the death of the entire tree. A dead or dying elm attracts elm bark beetles, which breed underneath the bark of the tree. When the beetle leaves the tree, it will be contaminated with the spores of the fungus and spread them to other elms.

A tree that is infected with Dutch Elm Disease may produce sparse leaves in the spring. In early summer, there will be a sudden wilting of the leaves, usually at the top of the tree. In late summer, the leaves may become yellow and fall prematurely.

There is no cure for Dutch Elm Disease; prevention and removal of dead and dying trees is the only way to stop the spread of the disease.

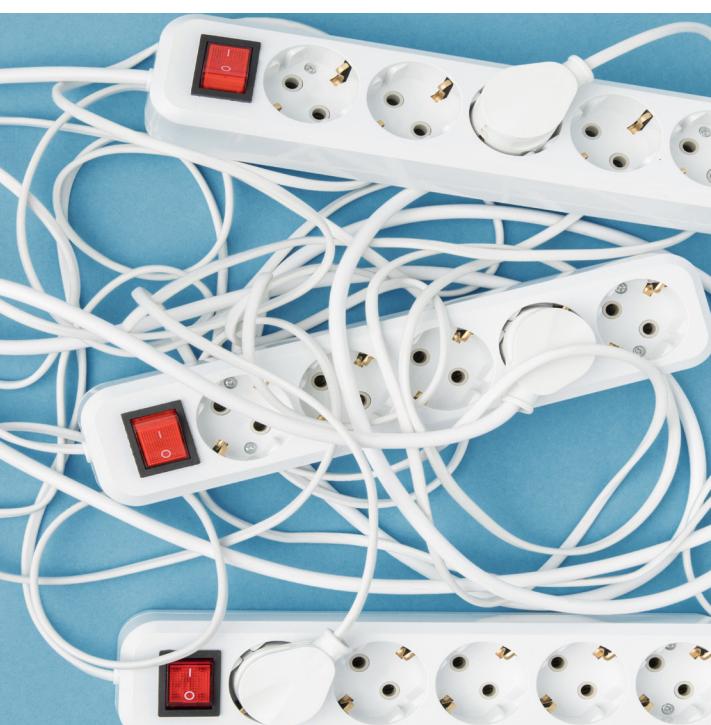
You can help prevent Dutch Elm Disease by watering and fertilizing your elm to keep it healthy; pruning dead or dying branches immediately (The Forest Health Protection Act prohibits pruning between April 1 and July 31); doing a basal spray to the lower 50 cm of elm trees in the late summer, early fall; having a licensed injection specialist do a therapeutic injection; and control elm bark beetles and cankerworms with a tangle foot band.



# Fire prevention tips and other info

With the winter season in full swing, the members of your East St. Paul Fire Department would like to provide some tips to our residents to help prevent fires. We are also providing some other general information to make you and your family safer.

- If you have an attached garage, do not plug your vehicle in to use the engine block heater. The temperature in most attached garages is not cold enough to require the use of an engine block heater. Faulty engine block heaters and faulty extension cords are a leading cause of garage fires in the winter months. Wind chill does not affect a vehicle. If a vehicle starts on fire within the attached garage, it may be some time before the occupants become aware of a fire.



- It is recommended that you install a heat detector in your attached garage. Just a note that in Manitoba, all new residential construction occurring after October 1st, 2008 must have a heat detector in an attached garage wired into the house smoke alarm system. If your residence was constructed prior to this date and you are considering renovations to the attached garage area, consider the installation of a heat detector.
- With the increased use of furnaces in the winter, make sure you have working carbon

monoxide detectors on each level of your residence. Ideally one should be placed outside your bedroom. Carbon monoxide (CO) is odourless and colourless. It can cause significant health issues and even death if undetected. Test your detectors on a weekly basis. Purchase CO detectors that can be plugged into a wall outlet with battery backup. Detectors should be replaced after 10 years use. Refer to the manufacturers guidelines for further information.

- Many residences have high efficiency furnaces. It is important to keep the outside furnace flue vent clear of drifting snow. If the vent becomes obstructed with snow, it can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide within the residence. This often triggers the CO alarm.
- Extension cords are designed for use as a temporary measure. If you are going to use an extension cord, do not cover it with rugs or other flammable material. Covered extension cords will overheat and short out causing a fire hazard.
- Use portable space heaters safely. Make sure they are at least three feet away from anything that can burn and on a flat surface. Space heaters should have a thermostat with overheat protection and auto shut off if it accidentally tips over. Do not use space heaters in areas that may come in contact with water. If you are leaving your residence, make sure you turn your space heater off. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for further details.
- Fireplaces are mostly designed for decorative purposes. Do not burn paper or products other than dry seasoned wood. Prior to using your fireplace, it should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified person on an annual basis. Burn only a few logs at a time and make sure your fire is contained within the fireplace. Use a screen to prevent embers from popping out onto the floor.

We are also providing some other general information to make you and your family safer.

- If you are using candles, make sure they are fully extinguished prior to leaving your residence or going to bed.
- Make sure your addresses are visible from the street.
- Icy roads and packed snow lead to many vehicle collisions. If you are planning on driving during inclement weather, consider leaving earlier to give yourself more time. Remember that the posted speed limit is designed for ideal conditions that exist on dry summer days. Reduce your speed and drive to the conditions of the roadway. ABS brakes do not reduce your stopping distance. They are designed to prevent your tires from locking up and allowing you to steer around obstructions.

- Please do not drink and drive. Please do not use drugs and drive.

If you have any questions regarding fire prevention or other fire related concerns, contact the fire department via email at [fire.department@eaststpaul.com](mailto:fire.department@eaststpaul.com).

**Thank you**  
**Your East St. Paul Fire Department**

Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working, and if you burn candles in your home, make sure they're out before you go to bed or leave your house.



## Self-referral age for BreastCheck screening lowered to 45

The Manitoba government is expanding access to early breast cancer detection by lowering the self-referral age for BreastCheck screening to 45, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced.

Manitobans aged 45 and older can begin booking appointments starting Jan. 2, 2026.

The expansion follows targeted investments in staff and equipment to strengthen Manitoba's breast cancer screening capacity and ensures the system is ready to safely support increased demand, allowing health authorities to screen more people while maintaining high-quality care. It also delivers on the Manitoba govern-

ment's commitment to early detection and follows recommendations from advocates, including Dense Breasts Canada, which praised the Manitoba government earlier this year for expanding access to people in their 40s.

"Earlier screening saves lives, and lowering the age to 45 will help thousands more Manitobans get care when it makes the biggest difference. This is an important step toward improving women's health in Manitoba," said Asagwara. "Thank you to the technologists, nurses and partners who make this work possible. We're investing in more staff and stronger outreach to ensure every community—rural, northern,

newcomer and underserved—benefits from this change by making access to breast screening more equitable."

Lowering the screening age to 45 marks a major milestone in Manitoba's multi-year plan, the minister noted, and work is already underway to continue expanding eligibility to age 40 by the end of 2026.

The BreastCheck Cancer Screening Clinic will be in East St. Paul from Jan. 26 - Feb. 5 at 264 Hoddinott Road. To make an appointment call 1-855-95-CHECK.



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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

# Tips to stay safe on the road this winter

East St. Paul's Community Safety Services Department wants everyone to stay safe on the roads this winter and is offering these MPI tips to help keep you and your vehicle on the road when ice and snow make driving a little tricky.

## Speed and slippery roads

In winter, traction is reduced affecting your ability to get out of snow, make a turn or stop. As a general rule, stopping distance is doubled on wet pavement, tripled on packed snow, and up to 10 times longer on an icy road. Ice on roads at -1C is twice as slippery as ice at -18C.

## Slow down

Slowing down will maintain traction and decrease your total stopping distance. Posted speed limits are the maximum recommended speed for ideal conditions only.

## Leave earlier

Avoid the temptation to drive too fast for conditions by giving yourself extra travel time.

## Winter tires

Using winter tires increases traction, making it easier to get out of the snow and can cut stopping distance by 25 per cent or more.

## Clear snow and ice

Before you drive, clear snow and ice from your vehicle and be sure you can see through your windshield, windows and mirrors. Make sure your light covers are clear and remember to clear snow off the hood to prevent snow flying

onto vehicles behind you.

## Emergency supplies

Keep a cold-weather survival kit in your vehicle. Include a candle and matches, water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, flares or reflectors, booster cables and a shovel, an ice scraper, warm clothes, boots and blankets.

## Severe conditions

Conditions on Manitoba highways during winter can quickly turn dangerous. Planning ahead may save your life. Check for weather forecasts and road condition alerts by visiting Manitoba511.ca for road information. Fill up on gas, anti-freeze and windshield washer fluid and travel with a fully-charged phone if you have one.



# Residents donate big time



When East St. Paul's Community Safety Officers put out the call to residents to help fill hampers for Abundant Life Church's annual food drive, you really came through!

The CSOs were able to Cram the Cruiser to capacity and then some.

The non-perishables went to the hamper drive and anything donated past the deadline was donated to a local food bank.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and made someone in need happy over the holiday season.

**CancerCare Manitoba ActionCancerManitoba**

**BreastCheck Cancer Screening Clinic**  
**Clinique de dépistage du cancer du sein du programme BreastCheck**

<b>EAST ST. PAUL</b> East St. Paul Arena	<b>EAST ST. PAUL</b> Aréna East St. Paul
<b>264 Hoddinott Road</b>	<b>264, chemin Hoddinott</b>
January 26 - February 5, 2026	26 janvier - 5 février 2026
Women age 50-74 should call for an appointment: 1-855-95-CHECK cancercare.mb.ca/breastcheck	Les femmes âgées de 50 à 74 ans devraient téléphoner pour prendre un rendez-vous : 1-855-952-4325 cancercare.mb.ca/breastcheck-f

# Thank you!

# Artists of the Month



**Jackie Bockstael**

Jackie grew up on a farm in Zhoda Manitoba. She began her love for art with sketching and drawing in pencil. After moving to Winnipeg she began taking oil painting classes with Joyce Anderson. Her love for the prairies shows in her art with farmland and old barn buildings.



**Ida MacKenzie**

Ida's creative spirit was sparked when she took up oil painting at a very young age. From painting, to potting, to carving, and back to painting, she pushes herself outside her comfort zone to learn more. Her subject matter is influenced by her love for animals and the surrounding landscape. She is inspired by her summers spent at a remote cabin in Northern Ontario where she experiences the raw natural beauty. She works in watercolour, pastels, acrylics, and scratchart and sometimes combines several of these materials to create the beauty of the world as she sees it.

**"Following the Unfolding Path of My Inner Soul To Create."**

**PET OF THE MONTH**  
**JANUARY**

**I'M HELA!**

I'm a 3-year-old black German Shepherd and I love the snow! I'm one of seven pups at my house! My mom says I'm a good girl, and smart! So smart I can open doors, so now we have different knobs that I can't open!

## 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!

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

- 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!



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