



Your COMMUNITY

MARCH EDITION

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

 RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

Making connections in the freezing cold

Feb. 16 was a cold day, but there were several dozens of hardy Manitobans who embraced the chill, dressed up warm and put on skis to take a glide around the East St. Paul Rec Complex on trails groomed by the non-profit Winnipeg Trails.

Kim Shumsky came out with her husband Shane and their kids Rowan and Raya.

“It was great and fun,” Kim, who skis a lot, said.

“(The weather) was kind of awful but it was good to be out there. We did the whole loop and another little baby loop. We were out there for about an hour.”

Shane says the weather was no problem.

“It’s Manitoba, it’s supposed to be cold.”

Anders Swanson, Executive Director for Winnipeg Trails, couldn’t agree more. He spent hours outside the arena getting newcomers going on the trails, giving tips and brushing off any suggestion that it was too cold to be outside.

“The thing about the wintertime is cold weather often brings sunshine, they go hand in hand,” he says.



“I’m used to spending all day outside and what I love about a really crisp, cold day is if you can find a spot that’s out of the wind, that warm sunshine and the patterns it makes on the snow, everything sparkles. And it looks cool.”

For Swanson, you work with what you’ve got.

“It’s easy to say, ‘ah, it’s cold and it’s too bad.’ I find that kinda lazy because we live here. What

are you gonna do? Stand around in Bermuda and complain about palm trees?”

Swanson’s been with Winnipeg Trails since 2006 and started the Mobile Ski Library during the pandemic.

He was in Finland when the pandemic hit, and when the Canadian government advised any Canadians abroad to get home while they still could, Swanson came home.

He’d seen ski libraries in Finland, where they’re quite popular. And an idea emerged as an option to help people keep their minds and bodies healthy during the lock down.

“We saw this ski library idea in Finland, at a community centre, it’s common to have that there, and so we thought ‘what if we make it mobile?’” he said.

“It became, I think, the first mobile ski library ever.”

This is the second year for the event in East St. Paul and Swanson says about 40 turned out, perhaps slightly more than last year’s crowd.

It’s a fun afternoon for those who show up, and for Swanson it’s chipping away at a rather lofty goal of changing attitudes around movement.

He’s passionate about infrastructure that gets you around without a motor and has been promoting that idea since he joined Winnipeg Trails as a volunteer, three years after it was formed in 2003 by former Forks CEO Paul Jordan and current City of Winnipeg Deputy Mayor Janice Lukes.

“We’re a non-profit established with the goal of connecting Winnipeg with sustainable transportation and recreation. Infrastructure was the main thing, we call it connectivity,” Swanson said.

“We’ve been fairly successful at turning cycling and walking into now an essential service. In our 20-year history we went from nobody knowing what a bike lane was to suddenly putting one down Pembina Highway is a no brainer.”

They host an incredible number of events each winter – the week they were in East St. Paul they’d done nine events in five days – and Swanson says it’s partly in response to a pandemic-driven awakening in people, that they



About 40 folks came out to ski during Winnipeg Trails mobile ski library at the East St. Paul Rec Complex. It was cold, but, hey, it’s Manitoba - you might as well ski.

don’t need a treadmill or a gym membership to be active and connect with others.

“We started doing a lot more programming, sort of direct services for people and also equipment access. Accessibility for us is really important, we’re really trying to connect everybody,” he said.

“It’s funny how much money is locked up in things that don’t empower people to be independent. Whether it’s being at a stop light in your truck, or the parking lot that gets repaved so it’s perfectly smooth before you have bike racks at your school bothers us,” Swanson said.

“And by being bothered by that kind of thing we’re always looking for solutions and one thing that came up in the first winter was that there’s one thing we can do is make trails on the snow. We’re not pretending that people are now taking these skis and skiing to work or solving climate change that way, but we do realize that we’ve made people be able to touch a moment of joy in the winter and connect with a bunch of people and see why they might actually enjoy living here instead of somewhere else.”

Standing strong against bullying: A Pink Shirt Day Message from the Mayor of East St. Paul

On Pink Shirt Day, we are reminded of the importance of standing up to bullying in all its forms. What started as a grassroots movement in support of a student facing harassment for wearing a pink shirt has evolved into a global initiative against bullying and harassment in schools, workplaces, and communities.

As Mayor of East St. Paul, I take this opportunity to acknowledge a form of bullying that is too often overlooked—the harassment and abuse faced by elected officials, particularly women, who put their names forward to serve their communities.

Running for public office is an act of courage. It requires individuals to stand before their communities, share their vision, and open themselves up to scrutiny. However, for many women in leadership—myself included—this commitment to public service comes with an unjust burden: targeted attacks, harassment, and bullying.

It is no secret that elected officials face criticism; this is part of the job. Constructive discourse is essential to a healthy democracy, and I welcome the discussions that make our community stronger. However, what should never be accepted is the bullying and abuse that cross the line from disagreement into intimidation, misinformation, and personal attacks.

I, as Mayor of East St. Paul, have experienced



firsthand the relentless nature of such bullying from particular individuals within our RM. Whether it's through online harassment, attempts to undermine my work with false narratives, or direct confrontations meant to demean rather than debate, the personal cost of public service has been steep.

And I am not alone. Across all levels of government, women in leadership are disproportionately subjected to threats, harassment, and targeted attacks. Studies have shown that female politicians face more online abuse than their male counterparts, often gendered and deeply personal in nature. This not only discourages women from seeking office but also threatens to erode the diversity and inclusivity of our democratic institutions.

Despite these challenges, I stand firm in my commitment to serve the people of East St. Paul with integrity and resilience. I also want to commend my fellow leaders—both in our RM and beyond—who continue to rise above the noise and lead with strength and conviction. Your perseverance in the face of adversity does not go unnoticed, and I am proud to stand alongside you.

As we recognize Pink Shirt Day, I encourage every member of our community to reflect on their role in fostering a culture of respect and kindness. Bullying, whether in schools, workplaces, or political spheres, has no place in a society that values democracy and human dignity.

March artists of the month - Jackie Bockstael & Ruth Kamenev

Jackie Bockstael

Jackie grew up on a farm in Zhoda, Manitoba. She began her art with sketching and shading in pencil. After moving to Winnipeg she began taking oil classes with Joyce Anderson. Her love for the prairies shows in her art with old barn buildings and farm life. She has not expanded her art beyond oils, but perhaps in the future Jackie will venture out into other mediums.



Ruth Kamenev

Ruth Kamenev is a Winnipeg artist whose representational watercolours are hanging in homes and offices across Canada and abroad. She is a member of the Manitoba Society of Artists and served as secretary and on the jury committee for many years. As an instructor at the Forum Art Centre for 10 years, she enjoyed teaching and learning from her enthusiastic students. Her love of nature, animals and her fellow human beings inspires her work in landscapes, animal portraits, still life and beautiful sun-filled florals. She invites you to view her work at Gwen Fox Gallery in Selkirk. website: <http://ruth-kamenev.pixels.com/> email: rkamenev@shaw.ca

HENDERSON HIGHWAY LEGION
RCL BRANCH #215

Legion

Sunday March 23rd, 2025

Kings Coronation
Medal Presentation

Henderson Highway Legion Branch #215 is pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Kings Coronation Medal Presentation Ceremony on March 23rd 2025.

This Ceremony will be held in Branch 215 of The Royal Canadian Legion at 215 Maxwell King Drive, in East St Paul MB.

The Ceremony starts at 2pm sharp, and all are welcome to attend.

Please join us to celebrate the honored recipients.

There will be a short reception to follow the ceremony.

7:30 PM

Saturday MARCH 15

St. Patrick's Dance with MARK MORISSEAU

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch #215
215 Maxwell King Drive
East St. Paul, Manitoba
204-338-4867

Standing strong against bullying

To those who use their voices to uplift instead of tear down, to debate with respect rather than degrade, and to support those who serve—thank you. Your actions make our community stronger.

Let Pink Shirt Day serve as a reminder that we must all do our part to stand against bullying and harassment in every form. Because when we lift each other up, we create a community where everyone—regardless of gender, position, or belief—can lead, serve, and thrive without fear.

Mayor Carla Devlin

Skiing at ESP Rec Complex



Top, Swanson gives last minute instructions to some new ski enthusiasts; right, the wonderful girls from Cycling with Sarah were on hand volunteering and getting the right boots on the right feet; and above, the Shumsky family were all smiles after their trek around the ski trail.

PHARMASAVE

WELCOME

STRATHCONA TRUST

CurlESP is proud to be hosting the PHARMASAVE Senior Women's "Open" & STRATHCONA TRUST Senior Men's Provincial Championships from March 19 - 24, 2025.

There will be 4 draws each day, featuring 16 men's teams & currently 8 women's teams*, showcasing Manitoba's finest 50+ year old curlers.

Tentative Schedule*:

- Mar 19:** Practice Ice & Closed Cocktail Party
- Mar 20-23:** Group Play
- Mar 23:** Crossovers & Page Playoffs
- Mar 24:** Semi Finals & Finals

(*Official Draw to be posted in March. The final # of women's teams is still pending as their registration deadline is Feb 27th)

Admission:**

- \$10 Game Pass
- \$20 Day Pass
- \$50 Event Pass

(**Purchase at the door)

Daily 50/50 & Silent Auction Prizes

CurlManitoba

CURL esp
EAST ST. PAUL
WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

(Current as of 28-Feb-2025)

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION

OPENS MARCH 1, 2025

Child: Martial Arts / Ninja Warrior / Sportball

Adult: Mat Pilates/ Zumba/ Pickleball

Stay tuned for more!

www.eaststpaul.com

Councillor Corner - Brian Imhoff Ward 1

Budget season is upon us again. Developing a budget for a small municipality in Canada is a complex task, often constrained by limited revenue sources, inflationary impacts on operational expenditures and rising infrastructure capital costs. Small municipalities, like ours, primarily rely on property taxes and government grants. This makes it challenging to address aging infrastructure, fund larger capital projects, and respond to unpredictable expenses such as emergency repairs or severe weather events.

One way to help navigate these challenges is to integrate an asset management system along with the associated policies and procedures. An asset management system allows administration to systematically collect data on their infrastructure and other assets, assess conditions and forecast maintenance and replacement needs. This data-driven approach enables the municipality to prioritize spending based on the condition and criticality of assets and reduce the reliance on reactive, emergency repairs.

The system also provides the ability to perform Lifecycle Costing Analysis. Lifecycle Costing is a key component of asset management. It provides an understanding the long-term costs associated with owning, operating, and replacing assets. This provides the ability to plan and budget more effectively by allocating resources towards preventive maintenance which, in turn, extends asset lifespan and reduces future costs.

The analytics provided by an asset management system will help support the development of multi-year capital plans and more accurate long-term financial forecasts. The RM can more effectively align budgets with anticipated infrastructure investments, ensuring that reserve funds are built up effectively to cover future repairs and replacements. Additionally, the system enables the RM to assess risks associated with asset failures and better prioritize investments in critical infrastructure that could impact public safety or essential services.



Effective asset management can also strengthen the ability to secure funding from higher levels of government. Many federal and provincial grant programs require evidence of asset management planning and municipalities that demonstrate proactive infrastructure management often have a competitive edge in grant applications. Having the ability to provide solid data is also beneficial to show the tangible value of investing in infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

Why am I talking about this? Several years ago, the RM invested in an Asset Management software system and had a staff member dedicated to the project. Since then, there had been considerable staff turnover and the program had fallen through the cracks. Each business area still collects data, tracks and reports spending but consolidating that information in a single platform is what takes it to the next level. East St Paul is not alone in this regard. There are many other municipalities that are experiencing the same issue. Our current Council is restarting this project and ensuring that it is maintained for the long term. Operationally, it will take some time to configure the system to meet the RM's needs and implement policies and processes to ensure its integrity but it will be worth the effort.

To sum all of this up, integrating an asset management system helps to address inherent financial and operational challenges. When

fully implemented, it will enable an improved budgeting process, reduce the risk of unexpected costs, and support sustainable infrastructure management while ensuring that the RM can continue to deliver reliable services into the future.

I want to mention one other item before I sign off. In case you missed it, East St Paul residents, The Baranyk Family, owners of Pratt's Wholesale, were recently inducted into the Manitoba Business Hall of Fame. Congratulations on this well-deserved honour! This achievement serves as a testament of their commitment to excellence and service, not only in business, but also in our community. It is also a reflection of our respect and admiration as we wish them continued success into the future.

As always, I wish everyone happiness and health. My contact information is:

Brian Imhoff
Ward 1 Councillor
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204-771-7569

EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025
 TIME: 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 PRICE: \$10/PERSON 4 & UNDER FREE

PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, COFFEE & JUICE
 PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
 EASTER CRAFT

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE
 PAYMENT DUE AT EVENT (CASH OR DEBIT)

www.eaststpaul.com

RM OF EAST ST. PAUL

SPRING BREAK CAMP

Spring Break Camp Take Over! We have partnered with Whitetail Sports Camp to offer a Spring Break Camp to our community. The experienced and qualified staff members are dedicated to providing a safe and supportive environment for children to learn, grow, make new friends & HAVE FUN!

5 DAYS - MARCH 31 - APRIL 4TH
\$200/CAMPER

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 10

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