



Winter Issue

February
2022

West St. Paul among the TOP TEN fastest growing municipalities in Canada

For communities over 5000 people, West St. Paul is the 10th fastest growing population in the country and the second fastest in Manitoba, according to Census Canada 2021 numbers released February 9th.

The RM's population rose to 6,682 in the May 2021 census, up from 5,368 in 2016. That's an increase of 24.5%, behind St. Catherines/Niagara at 25.6%.

What is Our Formula for Success?

"Our success story in West St. Paul can be directly attributed to great planning. Having a comprehensive community strategic plan ensures well planned, well managed development for our community. And our success is directly related to our strong partnerships with all levels of government and the private sector. We have received over \$20 million in grants that benefit all our residents and businesses," said Mayor Cheryl Christian.

Chief Administrative Officer Brent Olynyk has been managing the municipality for more than 10 years and has been instrumental in developing those key partnerships.

"We have trust and credibility with our private sector which translates into private capital flowing into West St. Paul. We've had over \$200 million invested in our community in recent years from private partners, developers in the residential and retail sectors," Olynyk said.

How Growth Benefits Existing Residents

Growth in West St. Paul is not only about welcoming new families and new businesses to our wonderful community. The growth of West St. Paul has provided many amenities and benefits for all residents, including improved walkability, additional trails and improved highway safety with additional traffic lights.

"For each residential lot developed in West St. Paul our municipality receives over \$12,500 in capital fees from our developers. We use those fees to fund new park projects, purchase new fire equipment, add to our snow removal equipment, upgrade our roads, add yard waste services, extend our trails and enhance all our municipal services," Mayor Christian said.

According to Olynyk, the economic explosion has created hundreds of jobs for local businesses and residents.

"Everything has come together thanks to great planning and partnerships. It's amazing to see our local businesses thriving during difficult times thanks to a booming residential market. The barometer of health for a community is directly related to employment and schools,"

Olynyk said.

"We have two new private schools in West St. Paul and a new public school planned for in the next two years to accommodate all the new families moving to Wonderful West St. Paul. It's a true success story for our community, our region and the Province."

Statistics Canada will continue to roll out additional information gathered in the 2021 national census in the coming months. ●●●



"West St. Paul is the 10th fastest growing population in the country and the second fastest in Manitoba"

Greetings from the Mayor – Cheryl Christian



Winter greetings to all our Wonderful West St. Paul residents and business owners! It's been quite a winter of cold and snow. It will come as no surprise that we have received three times more snowfall this February, with over

46 cm of snow this month alone. As this newsletter goes off to print, we are currently experiencing the 6th snowiest February since records have been kept. In fact, West St. Paul hasn't had this much snow in over 60 years. Confronted with one storm after another, Provincial Highway closures and a relatively small staff, I'm proud to say our Public Works Department has more than stepped up to the challenge of clearing this snow from our municipal roads in a timely manner. Storm after storm, our Public Works crew has worked evenings and weekends and has consistently cleared our local streets within 24 to 36 hours. I extended my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff and I want to thank all those residents who have taken the time to email or call in with messages of appreciation for this hard-working group! If our 2022 budget is approved by Council, they will have more equipment and more support to help our community and continue to provide superior service.

Speaking of our upcoming municipal budget, I was excited to have the opportunity to propose a zero per cent municipal tax increase for 2022 in our preliminary budget discussions. My request for a zero percent increase on our mill rate is possible thanks to well-planned and well-managed development in our community. As the 10th fastest growing municipality in Canada, our existing residents are able to enjoy the benefits of that growth and save more of their hard-earned dollars. I want to thank Councillor's Parag and Busceti for supporting my request for a zero percent tax increase as the final budget is being prepared. Our services and programs will continue to expand thanks to the revenue generated by our growth. I am hopeful this budget will be supported by council for the benefit of all our community members.

February 23rd was national Pink Shirt Day against bullying. I can assure our residents that we are doing everything we can to provide a safe workplace for municipal council and staff. There is no place for bullying and harassment in our great community.

Thanks to all the wonderful residents and business owners who reach out to council members and municipal staff to share ideas and concerns. We appreciate your feedback. As always, our council meetings are available on live YouTube and on our website. We are committed to continuous communication through our newsletters, email blasts, social media posts as well as open and transparent decision making in West St. Paul.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Christian, Mayor



Mayor Cheryl Christian, front centre, with CAO Brent Olynyk, and West St. Paul administration staff recognized Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 23. The National Day aims to create a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness and funds for anti-bullying initiatives. Mayor Christian said the RM is committed to fostering a safe and supportive workplace.



CONGRATULATIONS TO NIAMH—WINNER OF THE VALENTINE'S DAY COLOURING CONTEST



West St. Paul residents show off community spirit in Holiday Yards of the Season contest

Congratulations to the West St. Paul winners of the Holiday Yards of the Season contest!

The contest, which includes yards from West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements, has local winners from each community as well as an overall winner.

West St. Paul's Top 3 are:

Reindeer Land, 222 Moore Road, Legendary Yard, 45 Griffin Way, Ed's Xmas Wonderland, 145 Burnes Road.

Each community judges entrants from its municipality and submits them to Red River North Tourism, who runs the contest. From those submissions, an overall winner is selected. This year's overall winner was from East St. Paul.

"I applaud all those who entered the Holiday Yards of the Season contest and congratulate our three local winners," said Mayor Cheryl Christian.

"They not only demonstrate great holiday spirit but community spirit as well. Everyone who took the time to decorate and enter is a winner." ●●●



Reindeer Land — 222 Moore Road



Legendary Yard — 45 Griffin Way



Ed's Xmas Wonderland — 145 Burnes Road



RM OF WEST ST. PAUL SPRING WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN MARCH 1, 2022 AND REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Weight Restrictions are in place to protect roadways during the spring thaw.

To learn more about WSP's Weight Restrictions, visit weststpaul.com



Loving where you live in West St. Paul's Parkview Pointe

When the RM held an official ribbon cutting to mark the opening of Parkview Pointe Drive in December, it was a historic moment and it certainly wasn't lost on Mayor Cheryl Christian.

The fourth generation of a West St. Paul family, Christian took great pride in seeing the roadway – which provides an east/west connection off Main Street to the new community of Parkview Pointe – open to vehicle traffic.

“Opening Parkview Pointe Drive to east and west traffic is a real milestone and provides a safe way for people to access the community and the Sunova Centre,” the Mayor said.

“It's a paved street and there are traffic lights at Main and street lighting, which is a great safety feature. There will be sidewalks from Main Street into the development so pedestrians and cyclists can safely access additional trails, the new pergola and of course our wonderful Sunova Centre.

“It's really exciting. The barricades that were placed at the railway tracks were removed and it was special to be able to drive across them for the first time.”

The Mayor led a procession of cars that made the first trip across the tracks.

Parkview Pointe Drive's Main Street access is one of three that will bring you into the community – the other two are Middlechurch Gate and Acorn Way.

The traffic lights at Main Street provide enhanced safety for everyone, whether driving, walking or riding a bike. Nathan Mehling, Project Manager with Waterside Development, said safety is a top priority and so too is providing amenities that make the community a place people want to call home.

“Parkview Pointe is a community built around the Sunova Centre offering gorgeous park views and walk out lake lots which are a first of its kind in West St. Paul,” Mehling said.

“We have designed pathways to meander through the community to accommodate walking as well as biking. The pathways will connect to the pergola overlooking the lake, a state-of-the-art inclusive play structure leading to the Sunova Centre and future retail, coffee shops and restaurants in West St. Paul.”

When all three phases of the development are complete there will be about 10 km of pathways.

Waterside has planted 145 trees already and will plant another 280 this summer.

One hundred per cent of

Phase 1 is sold. Phase 2 is selling now and is located to the west of Phase 1; services are installed and builders will be starting show homes shortly. Phase 3 was conditionally approved late last year and will be constructed north of Phase 2.

Waterside has made substantial investments in West St. Paul, and Christian said the result is a complete community that people are excited about.

“The approval process to put Parkview Pointe Drive in place is time consuming and expensive, because it's crossing a railway track,” Christian said.

“Waterside wanted to do this right and they've really invested in the community. They went above and beyond on so many special touches, from the pergola that overlooks the lake to all the trees they have planted and the ones they will plant. They've done a fantastic job and I'm really thrilled to see Parkview Pointe take shape.”

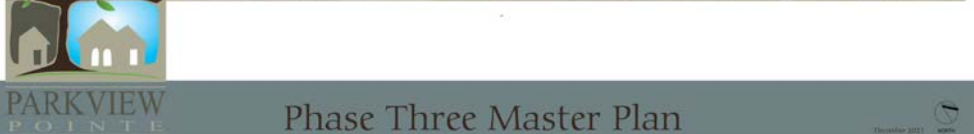
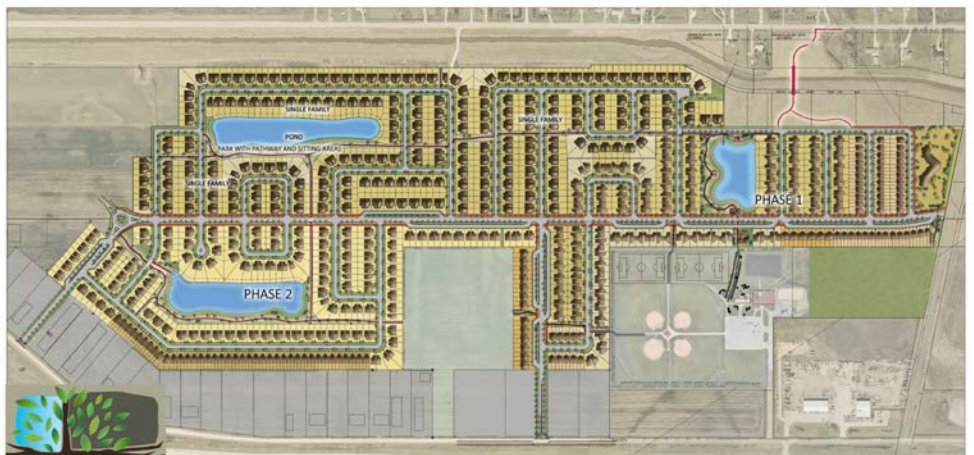
The Main Street access is important for users of the Sunova Centre.

“Having an access point to the Sunova Centre off of Main Street through the Parkview Pointe development is great for all users of the facility and recreation grounds,” said Damara Geddes, the RM's Recreation Director.



“As those that frequent the facility know, sometimes the conditions on Kapelus Drive are not ideal, especially during inclement weather such as snowstorms and heavy rain. This is especially true at night as there is no lighting along the stretch between the Sunova Centre and Main Street. Having fully paved access to the Sunova Centre, now coming from both the east and the west, is a great addition!”

CAO Brent Olynyk said Parkview Pointe Drive improves mobility for not only those that live in the community, but anyone going to Sunova. It's also good for Seven Oaks School Division and the busses that will pick kids up for school. Ten homes in Phase 1 were part of the Parade of Homes last year as well. ●●●



Phase Three Master Plan

Meet WSP's new COPP coordinator, Murray Luschinski

The RM of West St. Paul has a new coordinator for its Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP) and he's happy to have the opportunity to volunteer in his community and meet others who want to do the same.

Murray Luschinski has been a member of West St. Paul's COPP since 2015 and now as coordinator he's looking to bring more volunteer members on board.

"Our main goal is to recruit members to replace those that have retired or moved. We're currently looking for additional volunteers to help patrol the municipality," Luschinski said.

"Only a few hours a month are required to have a rewarding volunteer experience by helping to keep our community a safe place to live."

COPP volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the community, patrolling with another person and watching for unusual activity. Volunteers never act on things they see, rather contact the RCMP if necessary.

Luschinski would specifically like to encourage new members of the community to get involved. It's a great way to learn more about the municipality and meet people.

Luschinski has been going out on patrol with members and sharing ideas on how to improve the program. He's working on ways to be more efficient and ensure the entire municipality is patrolled.

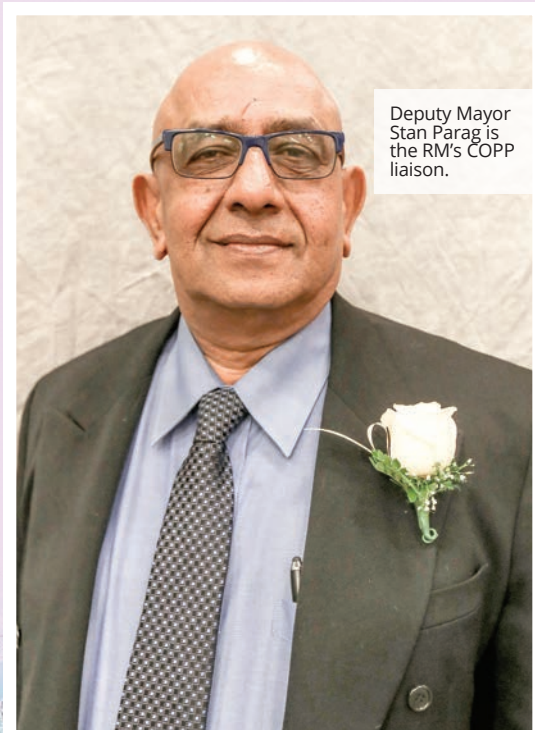
Members go out in pairs, often it's spouses or friends, and one does the driving while the other takes note of anything out of the ordinary, like broken windows or abandoned vehicles. Luschinski said if patrols see what they believe to be a crime taking place, they do not approach. He said they're trained to take descriptions of people and vehicles and get licence plate numbers if possible. Then they call the RCMP.

Deputy Mayor Stan Parag is the council liaison with COPP and he's worked with Luschinski on the program.

"We have dedicated volunteers who commit time and effort with COPP to keep our community safer," Parag said.

"It's a pleasure to work with Murray and the other members and I'm happy to see the program gaining some momentum again."

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Luschinski at 204-226-4274.



Deputy Mayor Stan Parag is the RM's COPP liaison.



West St. Paul's new COPP coordinator Murray Luschinski, left, with members Wayne Bodnarchuk and Diana Rochon.

ALL DOGS OVER THE AGE OF SIX MONTHS IN THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ST. PAUL MUST BE LICENSED EVERY YEAR. LICENSES ARE ISSUED IN JANUARY AND ARE VALID UNTIL DECEMBER 31.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER TO RENEW THEIR DOG'S LICENSE EACH YEAR.

DOG LICENCE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

A copy of the current rabies certificate must be provided at the time of registration. Please contact Municipal staff at **204-338-0306** for information on how to purchase your licence while our office is closed to the public.

Spayed or neutered dog licenses are \$10 per year, per dog and unaltered dog licenses are \$20 per year, per dog.



Mayor Christian pushes for 0% tax increase; CAO says administration will deliver

Mayor Cheryl Christian is determined to help residents save money and hold the line on taxes in West St. Paul, and that's exactly what she proposed at budget deliberations this year.

At a Special Meeting of Council in February the Mayor introduced a request for a 0% increase to the municipal mill rate. She found support from Couns. Stan Parag and Giorgio Buscetti, and opposition from Coun. Eleanor Link, who abstained from voting because she did not like the wording of the resolution.

A big reason the Mayor says Council can achieve this significant goal of no tax increase for 2022 is the development occurring in the RM right now.

"Given our incredible growth and the money we have collected from developers for every lot developed, I believe that it is financially possible to introduce a 0% increase without an impact on our superior service," Christian said.

"In 2021, we collected over \$3.3 million in capital levies from developers. We have never been in a stronger financial position than this and able to hold the line on taxes in previous years. The phenomenal growth we are experiencing has benefits. I want our existing residents to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets."

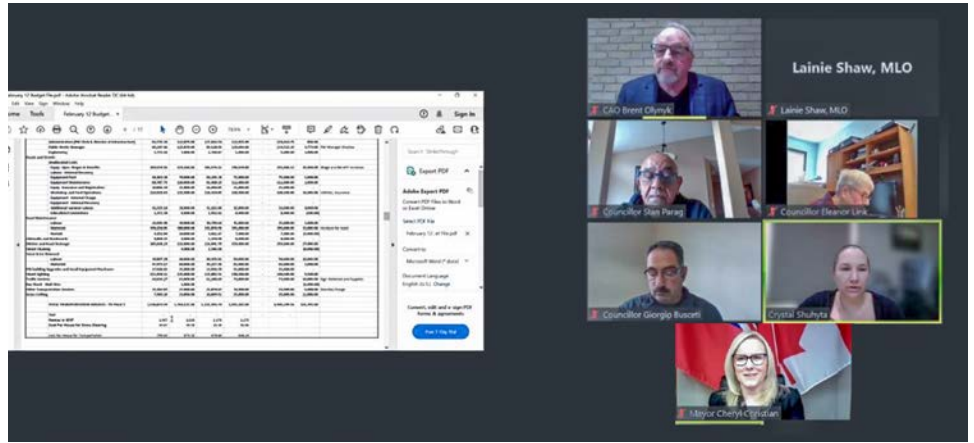
West St. Paul is in the top ten fastest growing municipalities in the country, with an astounding 24.5% population increase in the past five years. West St. Paul went from 5,368 in 2016 to 6,682 in 2021.

It's not growth for growth's sake, it's well planned, it's sustainable and it's intentional. Every resident has had the opportunity for input during the planning stages of development.

"Planning for development, and higher density growth in parts of our municipality, particularly the Middlechurch settlement centre, has been taking place for more than 30 years," Christian said.

"Our development plan, secondary plan, zoning by-law, subdivision approvals and service agreements for water and wastewater have all involved decades of planning, public open houses, public hearings, and consultation with the community."

Chief Administrative Officer Brent Olynyk said achieving 0% is no small feat, but is possible thanks to the leadership of council, hardworking staff and strong partnerships with the private sector.



"The Mayor, Couns. Parag and Buscetti have given us a mandate for no tax increase on the mill rate and I know my team and I can deliver," Olynyk said.

"Normally this would be difficult given inflation is at a 30 year high, but being in the Top 10 in Canada for growth has benefits. New development has provided \$50.35 million in new assessment for 2022, which improves the economies of scale in West St. Paul. More homes and businesses to share the costs. I fully support the Mayor's call to arms."

Christian said 1,200 new residential lots were approved last year and are ready for development.

"It's a very exciting time. We will be welcoming many new families to West St. Paul, as well as new schools and businesses," she said.

Investment in the municipality is at an all-time high and it's because investors believe in West St. Paul.

"We have trust and credibility with our private sector, which translates into private capital flowing into West St. Paul," Olynyk said.

"We've had over \$200 million invested in our community in recent years from private partners, developers in the residential and retail sectors."

Every new lot sold in the municipality is an investment that benefits not just new residents, but everyone living in the RM.

"For each residential lot developed in West St. Paul our municipality receives over \$12,500 in capital fees from our developers," Christian said.

"We use those fees to fund new park projects, purchase new fire equipment, add to our snow removal equipment, upgrade our roads, add yard waste services, extend our trails and enhance all our municipal services."

The RM engages with developers and encourages them to do the same with existing residents so that new growth compliments the communities that have defined West St. Paul for decades.

"Every single development currently taking place in West St. Paul has undergone changes at some point and in some way thanks to feedback from residents at open houses, on a development website or through feedback received at public hearings," Christian said.

feedback received at public hearings," Christian said.

"There is nothing more important to our council than community feedback to ensure these developments are a good fit for our community now and into the future."

Mayor Christian will need the majority support of council at the public hearing on March 7 at 5pm for residents to see a 0% tax increase. ●●●

"OUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SECONDARY PLAN, ZONING BY-LAW, SUBDIVISION APPROVALS AND SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER HAVE ALL INVOLVED DECADES OF PLANNING, PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES, PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY."



THE WEST ST. PAUL RECREATION COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY LOOKING TO FILL THE POSITIONS OF:

Mini Soccer Convener & U9-U12 Soccer Convener

Volunteer Conveners are responsible for organizing all aspects of the Soccer Program including assisting with registrations, forming the teams, arranging for coaches, arranging

team jerseys/equipment, attending any meetings required, communicating with parents and overseeing the duration of each Soccer Season.

EMAIL recreation@weststpaul.com for more info

IN ORDER TO HAVE SPORTS PROGRAMS SUCH AS HOCKEY, SOCCER, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL RUN OUT OF WEST ST. PAUL, WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Historic Main Street administration building will have new future

Part of this year's budget discussions focused on a new administration building for the municipality.

Mayor Cheryl Christian said a new site and new administration building was part of the RM's Strategic Plan. And it's also been a topic of conversation for not just today's council, but for councils from many years gone by.

"The building that houses the RM staff right now is certainly an important part of West St. Paul's history, and it will remain that," Christian said.

"Residents can rest assured we have no plans of getting rid of the historic building, but we need to move forward, we need to meet the needs of our residents."

When the RM engaged the community in its Strategic Plan, residents said they wanted superior service, and as the community grows the RM has to grow to meet those needs.

CAO Brent Olynyk said previous councils had architects look into whether the current building could be renovated, and the answer was no.

"Past councils and this council have looked at whether or not renos can be done," Olynyk said.

"We've had architects look at the current building and they said we can't expand this building, the costs would be too high, more than a new building."

There are eight staff that work out of the building, and council meetings, prior to COVID-19, were held there as well.

There is currently \$700,000 in a reserve fund for a new building and a preliminary design has been completed.

The Municipal Office is located at 3550 Main Street and was built in 1917. The first council meeting ever held there was on Sept. 14, 1917.

According to 'A Changing Scene', the West St. Paul history book: "... in accordance with the wishes of the community, "a good substantial building, suitable for office, council chamber and all public meetings" was built on the site, and is still in use today." In 1917 there were no huge construction machines – the basement was dug out with a spade by one man, who wheeled all the dirt up a plank in a wheelbarrow.

"...The upstairs hall became a community centre where meetings, dances and whist drives were held, and it doubled as a schoolroom for many years. Following World War II the upstairs hall was taken over by the Middlechurch Legion who effected much-needed renovations of it."

Christian said though it's not confirmed what new life the old building will have, it will have one.

"We are going to keep this building that is so aligned with West St. Paul history. It's iconic in the municipality and it will have another role to play in the RM going forward," Christian said.

"We don't know for sure what that is yet, but this historic building will be preserved." ●●●

WSP council meetings are 'Must see TV'

When Cheryl Christian successfully ran for the Mayor's seat three years ago, she promised council would be more open to residents.

There's no way she could have known how well that promise would be fulfilled.

First, the council chambers were redone to accommodate 50% more people. It was a great first step – and then COVID hit.

The RM Council and staff put on their innovative thinking caps and came up with creative ways to continue to bring the public in to what was going on in the RM without actually bringing people in.

The result is online council meetings, that have become must see TV.

"Our staff have been incredible at organizing online meetings and they've made council more accessible to the residents," Christian said.

"Last term we had on average two people attend in council chambers per meeting, outside of public hearings. We now have about more than 100 people watching our meetings. In the midst of COVID, that is true success."

Meetings begin at 6pm and they are streamed live on YouTube. About a dozen or so people tune in for the live stream, which in itself is impressive. But it's what happens afterwards that's really big news.

The meetings have been viewed more than 8,000 times – a number that is mind blowing in the world of municipal politics.

"We said that we were going to be accessible, and we are really accessible. We have 10 to 12 viewers at the actual live meeting and then we go back and look and we're averaging 150 views per meeting," Christian said.

"By giving people the opportunity to engage on their own time schedule, people are more involved, and that's a great thing." ●●●



Sunova naming rights a great partnership

West St. Paul's Sunova Centre will continue to be known as the Sunova Centre after the RM awarded the naming rights to the financial institution for the next 10 years.

Sunova Credit Union was awarded the naming rights after the RM's Request for Proposal was issued in August. Sunova will pay the municipality \$150,000 for the 10-year term.

"We're pleased to continue our partnership with Sunova Credit Union," CAO Brent Olynyk said.

"Our relationship with Sunova has always been strong, and it's these types of partnerships that make our community better. Sunova's financial commitment to the RM of West St. Paul allows us to grow and we're able to fund important recreation in the municipality, which benefits our residents."

Ed Bergen, President of Sunova Credit Union, said he's happy to continue the relationship with West St. Paul.

"Sunova has had a great partnership with West St. Paul since acquiring the naming rights to the recreation site," Bergen said.

"We are thrilled to continue our ongoing support of this important venue in our local community, and look forward to working together in the years to come."

The naming rights was a public tender and high sealed bid was opened publicly.

Olynyk delayed the tender for naming rights due to the pandemic.

"I felt that we couldn't approach businesses for a handout during the first year of the pandemic," he said.

"The timing to get the best bids was important and we were looking for good bids!"

West St. Paul's Recreation Complex was completed in 2008 and Sunova Credit Union was awarded the naming rights that year for a ten-year period.

The complex is located on more than 42 acres and has a 17,000 square foot building that has a gym, commercial kitchen, nursery school room, boardroom, outdoor skating rink, 4 softball/baseball diamonds and 5 soccer fields.

It hosts hundreds of events in a typical year, from socials to craft sales and lacrosse to pickleball games. The ball diamonds are well known as being among the best in the province and the soccer fields are enjoyed by players of all ages.

"It's a top-notch facility and the outdoor grounds are booked all summer long," Christian said.

"It's the hub of the community."

The \$150,000 goes to support programs at the Sunova Centre as well as upgrades. ●●●



Seven Oaks School Division update

As West St. Paul grows Seven Oaks School Division is growing with it. The School Division is adding portables and additions and planning for new schools.

Seven Oaks is currently beginning construction on a 10-classroom addition to West Kildonan Collegiate to open for second semester in February 2023. In addition to classrooms, the school will add a 2,000 sq. ft. fitness room, two science labs and a dance studio.

The province has approved three new schools for Seven Oaks to

accommodate new residential growth. The new schools will be located in Aurora at North Point and Highland Pointe in Winnipeg and in the Meadowlands development in West St. Paul. The division is currently completing site acquisitions and waiting on design approval for the first of these schools.

In the interim the division will make use of additional portables at West St. Paul School and École Rivière-Rouge and transportation to accommodate students in new residential developments. ●●●

Council member suspended for 60 days following independent HR investigation

West St. Paul Coun. Dorothy Kleiber was suspended from council for 60 days after an independent, third party investigator found she had contravened the RM's Code of Conduct.

In January 2021 People First HR Services, a Provincially selected investigation company, found Coun. Kleiber had contravened several sections of the Code of Conduct by breaching confidentiality under Section 83(1)(d) of The Municipal Act.

What is the Code of Conduct?

In 2019, the Province of Manitoba amended The Municipal Act to require that all municipalities establish a Council Member Code of Conduct By-Law to define the standards and values that the council members must adhere to in their dealings with each other, employees of the municipality and the public. Council has a duty to consider the well-being and best interests of the municipality as a whole. All members must conduct themselves in such a way as to promote public trust and public confidence in the council and the municipality. Every member of council signs the code of conduct as a pledge and commitment to adhere to the principles drafted by the province and passed as a by-law of our municipality.

Provincial legislation and the Council Member Code of Conduct By-Law outline not only the rules governing council member conduct but also outlines a process for dealing with contraventions, including the procedures for receiving reports of contraventions. Legislation sets out the sanctions that may be imposed on a member or the remedial measures that a member may be required to take if they are found to have contravened the Code.

A Code of Conduct complaint was filed against Councillor Dorothy Kleiber for an alleged breach of confidential employee information by Mayor Christian on June 4, 2021. An initial assessment of the complaint was reviewed and accepted by the Province's Intake Reviewer for investigation.

Who determines if a councillor has breached the Code of Conduct?

Pursuant to RM Council Resolution 2021-366, the complaint's allegations of breach of confidentiality under Section 83(1)(d) of *The Municipal Act* was accepted and the complaint proceeded to investigation.

The processes for reporting and investigating misconduct are clear. Third party investigations by professional HR companies ensures the process is objective, fair and not political. When there is a finding that a council member has contravened the code of conduct by-law, it is the

findings of the independent third-party investigator and not the findings of any member of Council or staff.

The complaint was investigated by a provincially approved independent third party investigator, People First HR Services, who subsequently issued a final report. Following an extensive four-month long investigation, People First HR Services found Coun. Kleiber had violated the Code of Conduct and outlined recommendations for sanction.

At the January 27, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council, two resolutions were passed. Resolution 2021-038 affirmed the final report of People First HR Services which found that Councillor Kleiber **did contravene** the Code of Conduct by breaching confidentiality under Section 83(1)(d) of *The Municipal Act*.

What were the sanctions?

Resolution 2022-039 provided that Council, having reviewed and considered the final report, including the recommendations on sanctions, that the following sanctions be imposed:

- That Councillor Kleiber be required to issue a letter of apology to the CAO and Council within 30 days after being directed to do so;
- That Councillor Kleiber be required to once again complete the Manitoba Codes of Conduct mandatory on-line training course;
- Suspend Councillor Kleiber's power, duty or function as a member of council for a period of 60 days, without pay, beginning 12:01am on Jan. 31, 2022, ending April 1, 2022; and
- That Councillor Kleiber be required to attend, and be responsible for the costs – rather than the RM of West St. Paul, an Emotional Intelligence (EI) training and coaching session recommended by People First HR Services within 30 days after being directed to do so.

In determining the sanctions imposed upon a member, a number of factors must be considered including if a member has previously contravened the code of conduct. Councillor Kleiber had been previously found to have contravened the Code of Conduct in 2021.

Both resolutions 2022-038 and 2022-039 were passed by a majority vote of Council.

The RM of West St. Paul remains committed to its Code of Conduct By-Law.

More information

For more information, the West St. Paul Code of Conduct for Members of Council By-Law can be found on the municipal website at <http://www.weststpaul.com> ●●●

West pedestrian bridge set to be completed this summer

West St. Paul's new pedestrian bridge will provide a connection across Grassmere Drain on the west side of Main Street and take walkers and cyclists to the Sunova Centre.

Manitoba Infrastructure awarded the construction contract for the bridge to TetraTech and construction on piles and abutments began this winter.

The RM completed a paved trail on the south side of Grassmere Road last summer. The pedestrian bridge will give walkers a way across the drain and onto the trails and sidewalks in Parkview Pointe on their way to Sunova.

"It will be a safe way for people to get to the Sunova Centre," said Mayor Cheryl Christian.

"Our trail system is expanding and giving more options for people to get outside and move about in the municipality without having to take a vehicle. People want options that allow them to be more active and to be more environmentally friendly.

Trails on the south side of Grassmere are expected to be completed this spring and summer and the bridge is expected to be open by July. ●●●



Artist's rendering of the west pedestrian bridge

ENJOY OUR TRAILS — BUT WALK THE WALK!



Aki Centre helps Mother Nature teach important lessons

All teachers have their own style and when it comes to Mother Nature she often delivers her lessons in an in-your-face kinda way, with snow, rain or wind in excessive degrees.

But she's a well-rounded educator who also has a softer side that can sneak up on you and impart wisdom in subtle ways, ways that perhaps will have a more lasting effect.

Aidyn Parsons experienced the softer version during a school trip to the Aki Centre on Grassmere Road in West St. Paul last fall.

Parsons was among a group of Seven Oaks School Division students who spent the day at the Centre, learning countless things, including how and why the land is being restored to tall grass prairie and tasting produce that had been plucked from the soil just that day.

Both had tremendous impact on him.

The produce was a carrot, and he couldn't believe the difference in taste when compared to the bagged ones found in grocery stores.

"The carrots were so sweet and they were juicy, I didn't even know carrots were juicy," Parsons said.

"The ones you get in the store are just dry."

More so than the taste of the carrots, Parsons was struck by how growth and development has impacted Indigenous plants and their disappearance from the landscape. He has designs on becoming a general contractor and is now thinking about what role he can play in restoring natural habitat while still working in the construction industry.

Alexis Nazeravich, program coordinator at the Aki Centre, said witnessing students go from classroom understanding to real world experience, was definitely a thrill.

While harvesting seeds, the students bonded and became engaged in meaningful conversations.

"They were sharing information, sharing how they feel and the experience clearly provoked some passion in the group because

suddenly a group of students are talking quite passionately about what we really need to do differently," Nazeravich said.

"It's really interesting that they could take this activity and really make that many connections, to so many other things, so many aspects of our life and feel very passionate about making good choices. It really shows their citizenship and their sense of responsibility and their want to do the right thing."

Isabela Pástor, who's been here for six months and hails from Ecuador, has worked in the Amazon, and she too was moved by her experience at Aki.

She got to see composting up close and gain a better understanding of its benefits, and that stuck with her.

"Learning about compost in person has been a massive part of my learning," she said.

"It helped me understand the role of nature in our everyday life and in what ways we can contribute to it. Also understanding the reality of how nature works for us not with us. It is sad to understand this but knowing the reality is valuable as the first step."

Stephanie Ringer, an advisor at the Met Centre for Arts and Technology, where Pástor and Parsons are in Grades 11 and 10 respectively, said Pástor's presence and grasp of lessons learned on Manitoba soil demonstrate the parity the earth can teach us.

"People in Manitoba are impressed, and rightly so, by the Amazon," Ringer said.

"So for her to come here and see the value in this, in this Prairie that we have, is just really interesting and to hear her reflection on it and to hear her think about it and talk about it is cool."

Prairie Naturals Gardening Group also helped harvest seeds last fall and established some model gardens at Aki. Students from the Met will be returning to Aki in March. ●●●



Seven Oaks School Division students leave the classroom and experience Mother Nature first hand at the Aki Centre in West St. Paul.

It's time to live beautifully in Meadowlands in West St. Paul

Meadowlands of West St. Paul is taking shape on the municipality's southern horizon, and the pipes and pavement that have already been laid are, in every sense, the foundation for what is destined to be a community where its residents will live beautifully.

Meadowlands is one of the largest master planned communities outside of Winnipeg. The 380-acre development will be a destination for future residents that will include a wide variety of housing types that will be seamlessly connected to parks and green spaces, shopping and neighbourhoods.

Exemplar Developments began acquiring the land that is now Meadowlands almost a decade ago and President Jas Kalar said making sure their vision for the future included input from the people who already called West St. Paul home.

"We engaged the community in three public open houses," Kalar said.

"The initial meeting was to provide the residents with a general overview, which we took comments and feedback from to implement within our design."

They returned two more times, Kalar said, and continued to mold and shape the design of Meadowlands in a way that would result in the new community complimenting the existing ones.

Mayor Cheryl Christian said Kalar and the Exemplar crew have been great to work with and have demonstrated a desire to be part of the community.

"They've made sure that they're working with us, and by us I mean the municipality but also the people that live in West St. Paul," Christian said.

"Jas and the contractors and everyone involved has taken time to do things right and to be respectful of what existing residents want. It's been a terrific working relationship and I'm so excited for them and for the new community of Meadowlands."

Kalar said they take great pride in working with their neighbours. They came to know many during the public consultations and worked with them on concerns ranging from types of housing to road improvement and landscaping.

The RM requested Exemplar improve Addis Avenue – at Exemplar's expense – along both sides of the street when sewer was installed and Kalar said they used it as an opportunity to work with existing residents.

"There was a resident that we were talking to during the installation of sod on Addis Avenue, and she wanted the sod extended to marry the old and the new sod, and so we did that and they were quite impressed with the contractor and our involvement," Kalar said.

"We were continuously meeting and hearing from residents, and we always try to get back to them in a timely manner and address their concerns."

Kalar said the marrying of old and new continued with the location of larger lots in Meadowlands.

"We have a nice transition from old to new with larger lots on Addis Avenue," he said.

"We kept 60-foot wide lots on the north side of Addis Avenue while the rest of the lots in the development range from 44-foot-wide frontage to 60, and we have duplex lots as well. It's a nice variety of housing that did not previously exist in West St. Paul."

Phase 1 of Meadowlands is sold out. Forty-nine permits have been issued and construction of new homes will start this spring.

There are more phases planned in the 380-acre master plan community, but how many will be determined over time. Phase 2 is currently underway.

Christian said Meadowlands exemplifies the kind of well-planned and well-managed development the RM is known for, and a big part of the reason West St. Paul is the 10th fastest growing municipality in the country. She's excited that a new school will be part of the community.

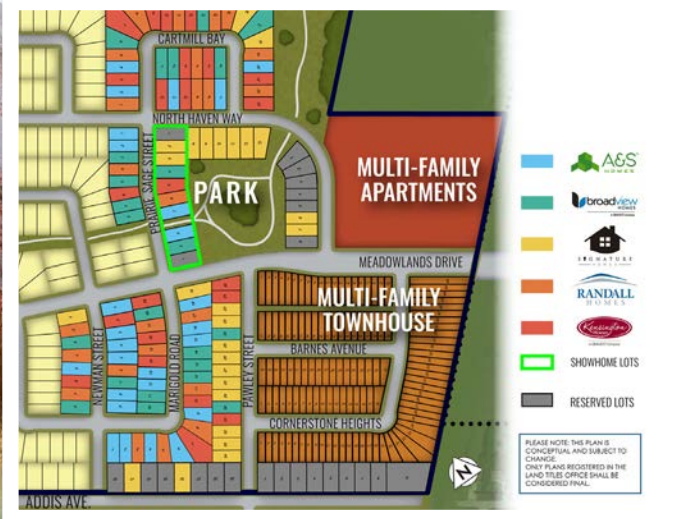
There will be a commercial/retail development on the east side of the railway tracks that is being done by United Equities.

Consultants that have worked with Exemplar Developments are Lombard North Group, Stantec and Pollock & Wright Land Surveyors. Contractors are Taillieu Construction, Bituminex Paving, and Maple Leaf Construction. Builders in Meadowlands include A&S Homes, Broadview Homes, Kensington Homes, Randall Homes, and Signature Homes as well as a small group of custom home builders.

Kalar said the RM has been a pleasure to work with as well and he applauded council and administration for their forward thinking and well-planned development goals.

"The administration, council, and Mayor at the RM of West St. Paul have done a great job over the course of the last eight years. It's visionary," Kalar said.

"There's been tremendous growth in the municipality and still more to come with the commercial centre to the east side of the tracks. It's a great team effort and we're headed in the right direction."



 Meadowlands

2022 West St. Paul Garbage/ Recycling Schedule



EMTERRA
Environmental

Thinking innovatively
Transforming waste to resources

Set all materials at the curb by 7 am

JANUARY 2022

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AUGUST 2022

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NOVEMBER 2022

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DECEMBER 2022

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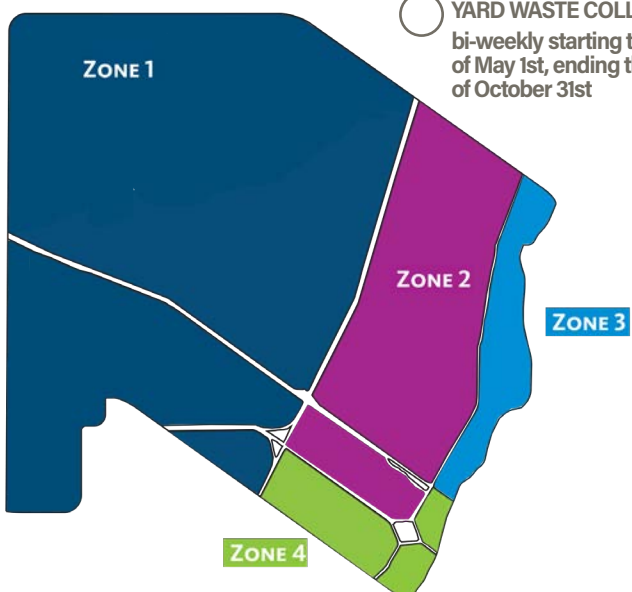
WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION
Waste will be collected in your zone **EVERY WEEK.**



COLLECTION ZONES

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○ **YARD WASTE COLLECTION**
bi-weekly starting the week of May 1st, ending the week of October 31st



sunova centre
wonderful WEST ST. PAUL

Spring Break Camp

Children Ages 5-11 yrs
Mon March 28 to Fri April 1 – 8am - 5pm

Registration Fees:
RM of West St. Paul Resident \$125/Camper
Non-Resident \$140/Camper

weststpaul.com

Watch for details on **SUMMER CAMP** Coming soon!