

# 2024 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE *City Guide*

JULY TO  
DECEMBER



**Historic Apology at Dakota Plains First Nation**

**City Hall Accessibility Project  
Well Underway**

**Saskatchewan Ave. Roadway Project**

**Community Safety Officer  
Program Update**

Portage  la Prairie  
*City of Possibilities*

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Historic Apology: Portage la Prairie confront past injustice at Dakota Plains First Nation.



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## MESSAGE FROM Mayor Sharilyn Knox

**"Portage la Prairie has always  
been defined by the spirit  
of its people."**

Dear Residents of Portage la Prairie,

As we welcome the warm and vibrant days of summer, I am thrilled to address you through our City Guide. This is a time for both celebration and reflection.

Portage la Prairie has always been defined by the spirit of its people. Over time, our community has shown remarkable resilience, adaptability and unity, along with a bit of good old-fashioned stubbornness. This collective strength fuels my optimism for our future.

Just the other day, a conversation with a colleague from a neighboring community reminded me how special Portage la Prairie is. They expressed envy over the exciting developments happening here, praising our wonderful local businesses, new industries, beautiful parks, and strong community spirit. Hearing this from an outsider made me reflect on how much we have to be proud of. Even more thrilling is hearing our own residents talk about the amazing attributes and potential that make Portage la Prairie a fantastic place to live.

Economic development is at the forefront of our efforts to ensure a prosperous future for all residents. We've made significant strides in attracting new businesses and supporting existing ones. Our local entrepreneurs and business owners have shown incredible determination, and their success is a testament to the vibrant economic landscape we are cultivating. We, as your council, will continue to focus on sustainable growth for our region.

City services are crucial in maintaining the quality of life in Portage la Prairie. From infrastructure improvements to public safety initiatives, our city staff work tirelessly to ensure essential services are delivered efficiently and effectively. Recent and upcoming upgrades to our parks, roads, and public facilities are examples of our commitment to enhancing the amenities available to our residents. These improvements are investments in our physical environment and the well-being and happiness of our community.

Collaboration and partnership are at the heart of our success. The challenges we face as a community can only be addressed through collective action and mutual support. Our partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and neighboring municipalities have been instrumental in driving progress. By working together, we can leverage our strengths, share resources, and create innovative solutions to complex problems. I am particularly proud of the initiatives we support that benefit our youth, seniors, and vulnerable populations, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As we look to the future, it is clear that our work is far from complete. Building a better community requires continuous effort and dedication from all of us. We must remain committed to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic environment where every resident feels valued and heard. This means participating in community events, engaging in civic activities, working towards reconciliation, and lending a hand to those in need.

I encourage all residents to stay informed and involved with our local municipal government. Your voice matters, and your input is essential in shaping the policies and initiatives that will guide our future. Attend city council meetings, participate in community surveys, and share your ideas and concerns. Together, we can create a city that reflects our shared vision and values.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and hard work. It is through our collective efforts that we have weathered past storms, and it is through these efforts that we will continue to build a brighter future for Portage la Prairie. Let us celebrate the resilience of our community, the partnerships we have forged, and the promise of a prosperous tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued commitment to making Portage la Prairie a wonderful place to live, work and grow.

**—Mayor Sharilyn Knox**

# CITY FACILITY HOURS

City Hall is open to the public from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., excluding statutory holidays. Entering and exiting City Hall is through the east front doors.

*Note: City Hall will be temporarily closed during the months of July, August, and September 2024. These renovations will enhance accessibility within City Hall, ensuring that all members of our community can access our services comfortably. During this period, the public can visit our temporary office located at 60 Saskatchewan Ave. E., where our staff will be available to assist with any in-person inquiries or services needed. Please note that although our office location will change during renovations, our mailing address, email addresses, and phone numbers will remain the same. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding as we work to improve our facilities for the benefit of all.*

The Operations Department is open to the public, but it is encouraged to call ahead at 204-239-8346. They are closed between 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Fire Department is always accessible to the public in the event of an emergency. However, if your inquiry is of a general nature, please contact them by telephone at 204-239-8340 or email at [firehall@city-plap.com](mailto:firehall@city-plap.com). Office hours for general inquiries are Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

For all other inquiries please call the general line at 204-239-8309 or visit the City's website.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.city-plap.com](http://www.city-plap.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cityplap/](https://www.facebook.com/cityplap/)

Twitter: [Twitter@cityofportage](https://twitter.com/cityofportage)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/cityofportagelaprairie](https://www.instagram.com/cityofportagelaprairie)

### CITY HALL

97 Saskatchewan Avenue East

Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8

T: 204-239-8309 • F: 204-239-1532

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After-hours emergency: 204-239-8340

Email: [info@city-plap.com](mailto:info@city-plap.com)

Operations Department: 204-239-8346

Water On/Off & Invoices: 204-239-8370

Property Tax Clerk: 204-239-8308

Animal Control/Bylaw Enforcement:  
204-239-8326

Planning District: 204-239-8345

RCMP: 204-857-4445

EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

July 1 – Canada Day

August 5 – Terry Fox Day

September 2 – Labour Day

September 30 – National Day of Truth and  
Reconciliation

October 14 – Thanksgiving Day

November 11 – Remembrance Day

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 26 – Boxing Day

### YOUTH MEMBER OF COUNCIL

City Council sees value in having a Youth Member of Council in order to build interest and knowledge of municipal government in today's youth. A Youth Member will be selected at the beginning of each school year and will remain until the last meeting of the Council in the following August.

For more information on the Youth Member of Council position contact the Manager of Administration at 204-239-8337 or [info@city-plap.com](mailto:info@city-plap.com).

### 2024 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, July 8 (at Prairie Fusion)

Monday, August 12 (at Prairie Fusion)

Wednesday, September 11 (at Prairie Fusion)

Monday, September 23 (at Prairie Fusion)

Tuesday, October 15 | Monday, October 28 (at City Hall)

Tuesday, November 12 | Monday, December 9 (at City Hall)

Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. Meetings can also be live-streamed or watched after the fact on the City of Portage la Prairie YouTube channel. Meetings are scheduled for 6:00pm unless posted otherwise. Council meetings can also be watched on cable television. Check your channel guide for the Rogers community channel.

Mayor Sharilyn Knox provides a video recap of Council meetings the morning after each meeting, which can be viewed on the City's Facebook page.

### DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Persons wishing to present information to or make a request to City Council may do so by appearing as a delegation. To register as a delegation, please fill out the registration form and submit it no later than the Wednesday prior to Council to the Manager of Administration.

Delegation registration forms can be submitted online, in person at City Hall or via email to [info@city-plap.com](mailto:info@city-plap.com).

Link: <https://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/council/register-as-a-delegation/>

### INVITATIONS TO COUNCIL

Each year, the Mayor and members of City Council attend many special events, ceremonies, and celebrations throughout the City.

If you would like to invite the Mayor or Council to an event, please submit using the online request form.

Link: [www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/council/invitation-to-council/](http://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/council/invitation-to-council/)

# CITY COUNCIL



**MAYOR SHARILYN KNOX** sknox@city-plap.com

*"I'm filled with optimism due to our community's resilience, economic growth, effective city services, and strong partnerships, and I encourage everyone to stay involved in shaping our city's bright future, while extending my heartfelt gratitude to those who tirelessly work towards improving our city."*

**Member:** Finance, Legislative & Property Committee, City Planning & Economic Development Committee, Public Safety Committee, Waterworks Committee, Transportation Committee, Community Services Committee. **Director:** Portage Regional Recreation Authority. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Tax Sharing Committee, Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Committee, RCMP Community Consultative Committee.



**COUNCILLOR COLIN DOYLE** cdoyle@city-plap.com

*"What I love about public safety is that it is a topic that is always top of mind, so I always get to have engaging conversations with our community."*

**Chairperson:** Public Safety Committee. **Second:** Community Services Committee. **Director:** Portage Regional Recreation Authority, Portage Regional Economic Development. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Tax Sharing Committee, RCMP Community Consultative Committee.



**COUNCILLOR RYAN ESPEY** respey@city-plap.com

*"I believe that the Community Services Committee plays a vital role in enhancing the well-being and quality of life for residents through its initiatives and support systems."*

**Chairperson:** Community Services Committee. **Second:** Transportation Committee. **Director:** Portage la Prairie Planning District Board, Portage Regional Landfill Authority. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Board of Revision, Tax Sharing Committee, Parks Committee.



**COUNCILLOR JOE MASI** jmasi@city-plap.com

*"I enjoy being Chair of Finance because it provides me with a great overall insight into the financial health and issues facing the City of Portage la Prairie."*

**Chairperson:** Finance, Legislative & Property Committee. **Second:** Public Safety Committee. **Director:** Portage la Prairie Planning District, Regional Library Board. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Tax Sharing Committee, Chamber of Commerce.



**COUNCILLOR PRESTON MEIER** pmeier@city-plap.com

*"I enjoy doing my part in making economic development a primary focus for our city, in order to create a diverse, inclusive, welcoming community with opportunities for all."*

**Chairperson:** City Planning & Economic Development Committee, Board of Revision. **Second:** Finance, Legislative & Property Committee. **Director:** Regional Landfill Authority, Portage Regional Economic Development. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Tax Sharing Committee, Board of Revision, Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition, Public Art Committee.



**COUNCILLOR FARON NICHOLLS** fnicholls@city-plap.com

*"Waterworks provides our city/area with both residential and industrial water and water pollution control services. I am very proud to serve and support our committed staff within my portfolio."*

**Chairperson:** Waterworks Committee. **Second:** City Planning & Economic Development Committee. **Director:** Portage Regional Recreation Authority, Portage Regional Economic Development. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Tax Sharing Committee, Heartland Community Futures, Fort la Reine Museum.



**COUNCILLOR TERRIE PORTER** tporter@city-plap.com

*"My favourite part of being the Chair of Transportation is that when a plan comes together, I see firsthand all the different components simultaneously working together to create a community that will reap the benefits and foster community pride for years to come."*

**Chairperson:** Transportation Committee, Heritage Advisor Committee. **Second:** Waterworks Committee. **Director:** Portage la Prairie Planning District Board, Portage Regional Landfill Authority. **Representative:** Budget Committee, City Manager's Evaluation, Emergency Control Group, Board of Revision, Tax Sharing Committee.

# Taxes and utility rates



## PROPERTY TAXES

2024 Property Tax Statements were mailed out in June. If you did not receive a copy of your Property Tax Statement, please contact us at 204-239-8308. Taxes are due on July 31, 2024.

To avoid waiting in line, we offer a variety of payment options. Please note electronic payments take three to five days to process. To avoid penalty, allow sufficient time for your payment to be received by the City on or before the due date.

- **Online banking:** set up through your financial institution
  - **Telpay:** [www.telpay.ca](http://www.telpay.ca)
  - **Mail:** Cheque or money order made payable to City of Portage la Prairie, 97 Saskatchewan Avenue East, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8.
- Cheques and post-dated cheques must be dated and received at City Hall by the due date of July 31, 2024.
- **After hours:** a night deposit box is located on the east front door of City Hall.
  - **E-Transfer:** Send to [payments@city-plap.com](mailto:payments@city-plap.com). Please include the roll number or civic address in the message field.
  - **Credit card:** online through PaySimply at [www.paysimply.ca](http://www.paysimply.ca). Fees of 2.5% apply.
  - **In person:** at City Hall Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall will be closed for

renovations during the months of July, August, and September. During this period, the public can visit our temporary office located at 60 Saskatchewan Ave E, where our staff will be available to assist with any in-person inquiries or services needed. Please note that although our office location will change during renovations, our mailing address, email addresses, and phone numbers will remain the same.

- **TIPP:** Properties set up on the preauthorized payment program will continue to have payments withdrawn monthly as scheduled.

If you have sold the property, please return the property tax statement to City Hall.

## TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN: T.I.P.P.

Pay your 2025 property taxes in 12 easy monthly installments on the 15th of each month beginning January 15, 2025. Applications should be submitted by December 15, 2024, to be enrolled for the January 15th start date.

To enroll complete the TIPP application found on the City website, visit City Hall, or call 204-239-8308 for more information.

## ALARM PERMITS

Alarm permits are required for alarm systems installed in any residential or commercial building. There is no charge for this permit. Contact City Hall at 204-239-8309 or [officeclerk@city-plap.com](mailto:officeclerk@city-plap.com) for more information. If you currently have a permit, please ensure that all information is current by calling City Hall at 204-239-8309.



# Community Safety Officer Program update

By Lisa Kopochinski

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.



At the present time there are three officers, with a fourth officer to be added at a later date.



CSO officers perform many duties including regular patrols both on foot and by vehicle, assisting local businesses with safety concerns.

The City of Portage la Prairie Community Safety Office is located at 60 Saskatchewan Ave. E.



The Community Safety Officer Program began in mid April and, to date, there has been a great deal of positive feedback for the program. The officers are now equipped with the tools they need and have been on the streets patrolling.

"They have been able to make an impact in the short amount of time that they have been on the streets by providing support to businesses and a presence in our downtown core to discourage negative behaviors," says Brad Bailey, City of Portage la Prairie Director of Public Safety.

"I feel that the buzz in the community is positive and that everybody sees a need for this type of layered policing."

The officers are performing regular

patrols and have mainly focused on the core area of the city along Saskatchewan Ave.

"They have been in many other areas when concerns arise," says Bailey. "Along with patrolling, they have been engaging with local businesses and the community to create relationships and inform the public of what they do.

## MANY DUTIES

As for the extent of their responsibilities, CSO officers perform many duties including regular patrols both on foot and by vehicle, assisting local businesses with suspicious individuals. They also respond to concerns about public alcohol and drug use, needle disposal, trespassing, vandalism,

graffiti, property damage, illegal dumping, squatters in encampments, and general property crime.

Bailey says the administrative goal is to have four officers in place for 2024, which they are on target to do.

"As the program rolls out, we will determine what staffing levels we'll require to achieve our goals as they develop. With the positive feedback we're receiving from the public and local businesses, I can only assume that this program will continue to grow over the next five years. Community safety officers are a key part of this city's strategic plan, and the Council has set public safety and crime reduction as one of their three main priorities."

**"I feel that the buzz in the community is positive and that everybody sees a need for this type of layered policing."**

## SUMMER 2024 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

# SASKATCHEWAN AVENUE WEST ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

As we embark on the final year of our three-year roadway improvement project, we are delighted to share that the project—one of the community's largest investments in infrastructure—will be completed this year.

We are grateful to our community partners for their patience and support during this period of transformative

construction and community beautification. This project has been a top priority for City Council, and we are excited to see the significant infrastructure improvements that will result. The improvements will deliver safer traffic flows, enhanced drainage, street-level beautification, more reliable utility services, and upgraded paths for pedestrians and cyclists.



**CONSTRUCTION 2024 SEASON START:  
LATE MAY 2024 (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**APPROXIMATE DURATION FOR 2024 SEASON:  
EARLY OCTOBER 2024 (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

### TRAFFIC IMPLICATIONS:

- Restricted on-street parking along Saskatchewan Avenue West
- Reduction to one lane in either direction for vehicular traffic

During construction, we must leave enough room outside of the active roadway for equipment, necessary pavement work, protection of trees, and safe passage for the public at all times. Saskatchewan Avenue West is a provincial highway. During active construction, one lane of traffic will be maintained in either direction.

Construction has been divided into three distinct phases to be completed over three consecutive years:

## PROJECT TIMELINE

**PHASE ONE: ROADWAY RESURFACING: 4TH STREET WEST TO 7TH STREET WEST**  
(2022-2023) Timeline: Construction is complete in this area

**PHASE TWO: ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION: 7TH STREET WEST TO 20TH STREET WEST**  
Timeline: Summer 2023 – Summer 2024

Phase Two of the roadway project is the most progressive change to the roadway. The new infrastructure creates and improves upon roadway drainage, sidewalk connections for pedestrians and provides a protected cycling lane on either side of the street. In the summer/fall of 2023, roadworks were mostly completed on the north side to 20th Street W and on the south side to 13th Street W. This spring,

sidewalks, bike lanes, and landscaping were completed. Over the summer the final section of phase 2 on the south side from 13th Street to 20th Street is being completed. In addition, the new traffic signals at 8th Street and 12th Street were installed this spring, and signals at 18th Street and Elm Street are being replaced this summer.



### PHASE THREE: ROADWAY REHABILITATION: 20TH STREET WEST TO ELM STREET

Timeline: Currently Underway - Estimated Completion – early October – 2024



Phase Three of the roadway project features streetside bioswales designed to capture water run-off from the roadway, reducing the surface contamination before reaching the land drainage outfalls in Crescent Lake. The roadway geometry is enhanced to include new medians with boulevard trees. Pedestrian and cyclist connections are introduced along both sides of the Avenue.

Phase Three work includes:

- Roadway renewal - existing asphalt will be milled down and repaved

- Land drainage sewer updates - new catch basins
- Parking re-organization - new curbs, defined approaches and medians
- New multi-use path at sidewalk level on the north side and new concrete sidewalks on the south side
- New medians with trees
- New bioswales adjacent to the roadway



From left to right: Saskatchewan Avenue W.; Bioswales at 19th Street W.; and Bioswales between 18th and 19th Street W.

## **HOW WILL THIS WORK AFFECT ME OR MY BUSINESS?**

We recognize undergoing major roadway and underground services construction will create some short-term inconveniences. We want to ensure the disruptions to you are minimal and reasonable. It is likely there will be short term lane and sidewalk closures, construction noise and possibly some reorganization of access points in order to provide the necessary upgrades to underground services and improve the quality, experience and equity of the road environment.

### **PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION:**

- There will be no parking permitted on Saskatchewan Avenue West within the active construction zone. Parking will be available on the nearby side streets.
- Residents will be expected to park on the closest side street unless they have accessibility issues and require direct access.

### **BUILDING ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION:**

- Access will be maintained to applicable businesses which have no secondary access.
- There will be times where access will be restricted for a few days. For example, during concrete pours for approaches, curbs, gutters, sidewalks or during asphalt paving operations. Businesses and residents will be given notice as early as possible in advance of the work.

## **GARBAGE & RECYCLING COLLECTION:**

- Garbage and recycling will continue to be picked up at regular locations and times. The contractor may relocate bins if required, and they will be restored to their original location when the work is complete.

## **EXISTING TREES WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION AREA:**

- We have strived to keep many of the existing trees along this section of roadway. Unfortunately, some existing trees are in locations which do not meet the accessibility goals of this project: they prohibit safe sightlines and clear pathways of travel. Other existing trees are in direct conflict with the renewal of the underground watermain and wastewater services and need to be removed. Where adequate growing space can be maintained, the remaining existing trees along the avenue will be protected during construction and saved.

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES:**

Emergency services will be maintained throughout the duration of this project. We appreciate your patience during construction.

We recognize undergoing major roadway and underground service construction will create some short-term inconveniences. We want to ensure disruptions to you are minimal and reasonable. Our team will be issuing communications throughout the project to assist owners, residents and visitors as we move through construction.

**This project is engineered by Stantec Consultants Ltd.**

**If you have accessibility concerns, special access requirements, or any questions regarding this construction please contact Brent Kellett at Stantec 204-795-2256 or [Brent.Kellett@stantec.com](mailto:Brent.Kellett@stantec.com)**

**The project contact for the City of Portage la Prairie is Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin, Director of Operations 204-239-8387.**

**For more information on the project, please visit the City's project website:  
[www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/projects/saskatchewan-avenue-west/](http://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/projects/saskatchewan-avenue-west/)**





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# Operations & Utility

The Operations/Utility Department consists of the Engineering, Parks and Cemeteries, Transportation, Waterworks, Wastewater Treatment and Water Treatment divisions.

Operations and Utility look after treating and supplying water, road maintenance, solid waste, sewer maintenance, wastewater treatment, maintaining parks and cemeteries, road construction, paving projects, and so much more.

## **TREE DISPOSAL SITE (BURN SITE)**

The Tree Disposal Site is located behind the Water Pollution Control Facility, east of River Road (PR 240), where only trees and tree trimmings may be disposed of. The site is open 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, 7 days per week. The tree disposal site is for use by City of Portage la Prairie residents only and not for commercial use. Only tree trimmings less than 2 meters long will be accepted. Disposal of anything other than trees (garbage, engineered wood, pressboard, metal, septic tank effluent, waste oil, etc.) is strictly prohibited. To report illegal disposal of non-tree waste, contact by-law enforcement at 204-239-8326.

## **COMPOST SITE**

The Public Works Department operates a compost site at the corner of 4th Avenue N.W. and 15th Street N.W. The site accepts all organic yard and garden waste (no tree trimmings, no animal waste). The site is open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. To keep the compost site free of garbage please remove your compostable waste from plastic bags and place unwanted bags in the garbage container. Finished compost is available for use annually.

## **BULK WATER STATION**

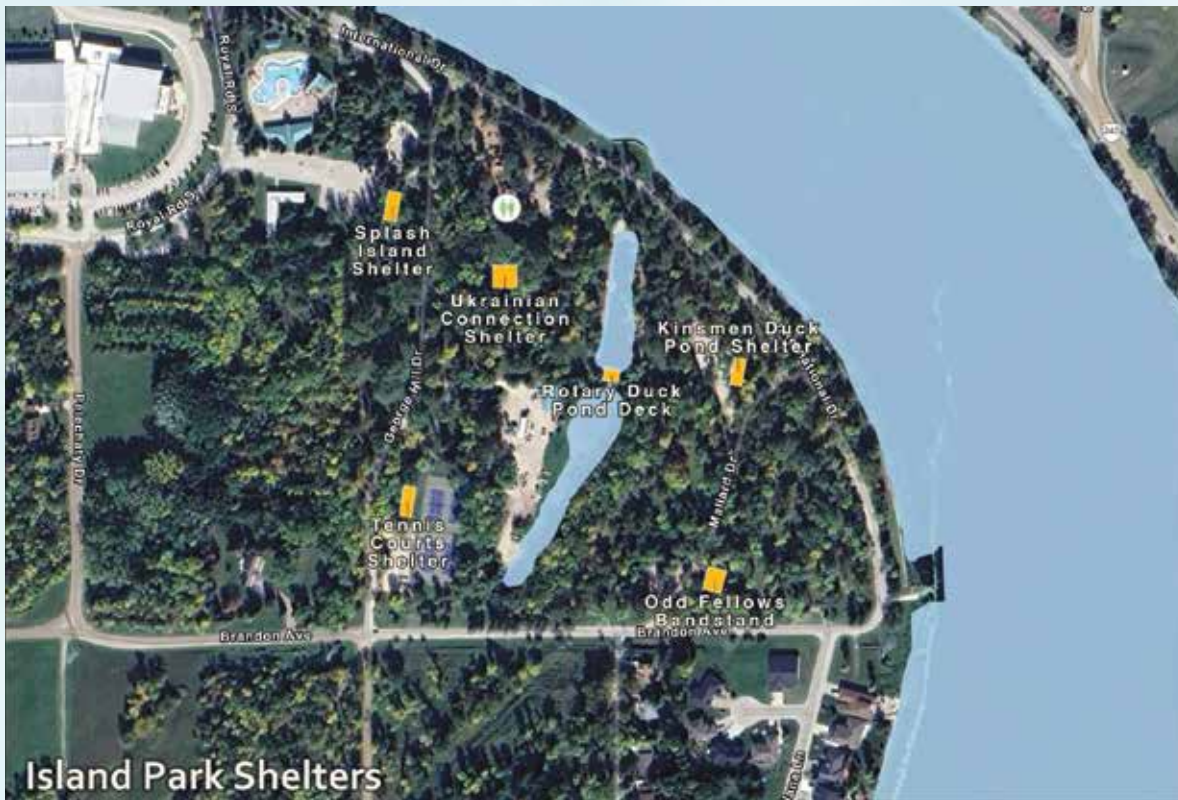
The bulk water station located at the Water Pollution Control Facility is for filling clean drinking water containers only. Containers containing any chemicals including fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, etc. cannot be filled at this site.

## **CEMETERIES**

The Parks and Cemeteries Department maintains three cemeteries – Hillside Cemetery, Hillside Memorial and St. Mary's Cemetery. Our website has searchable maps for use. For more information about City-owned cemeteries,







Island Park Shelters

## Island Park Shelters

or visit our website at <https://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/departments/operations/parks-cemeteries/>.

All flowers, vases, wreaths, fences, solar lights, figurines etc. must be removed from Hillside Cemetery, Hillside Memorial and St. Mary's Cemetery by the end of October annually. Any plastic flowers and vases not removed will be discarded. The City will not be responsible for any damage to these items caused by our normal winter operations such as snow removal, openings and closings after this date.

There are several parks, playgrounds, green spaces, and active transportation paths throughout the City. Island Park is home to playground areas, picnic sites, and recreational facilities. There are four picnic shelters, the Ukrainian Connection Shelter, and the Rotary Duck Pond Deck available for public use at no cost. To book a shelter please contact the Operations Department at 204-239-8346 or [operations@city-plap.com](mailto:operations@city-plap.com) or complete the online Island Park Shelter Booking form on our website.



# SOLID WASTE & RECYCLABLE COLLECTION

## SOLID WASTE

Residential dwelling units are allowed a maximum of 2 waste containers per household per week. Each container must not weigh more than 25 kg. (55 lbs.) and each garbage bag must not weigh more than 18 kg. (40 lbs.) Additional waste will be collected provided a waste collection

tag is affixed. The tags are available for purchase at various retail and City outlets. Waste containers must be placed on the front boulevard near the curb. Items weighing more than 45 kg. (100 lbs.) must be disposed of by the owner. Bulky items such as furniture weighing less than 45 kg. (100 lbs.) and tree trimmings properly

bundled will be collected curbside, provided a waste collection tag is affixed.

Please have refuse out for collection prior to 7:00 am on your collection day, but no earlier than 8:00 pm the day prior.

There is a limit of four waste containers per household on the first collection day following the Christmas Holiday.

## RECYCLABLE COLLECTION

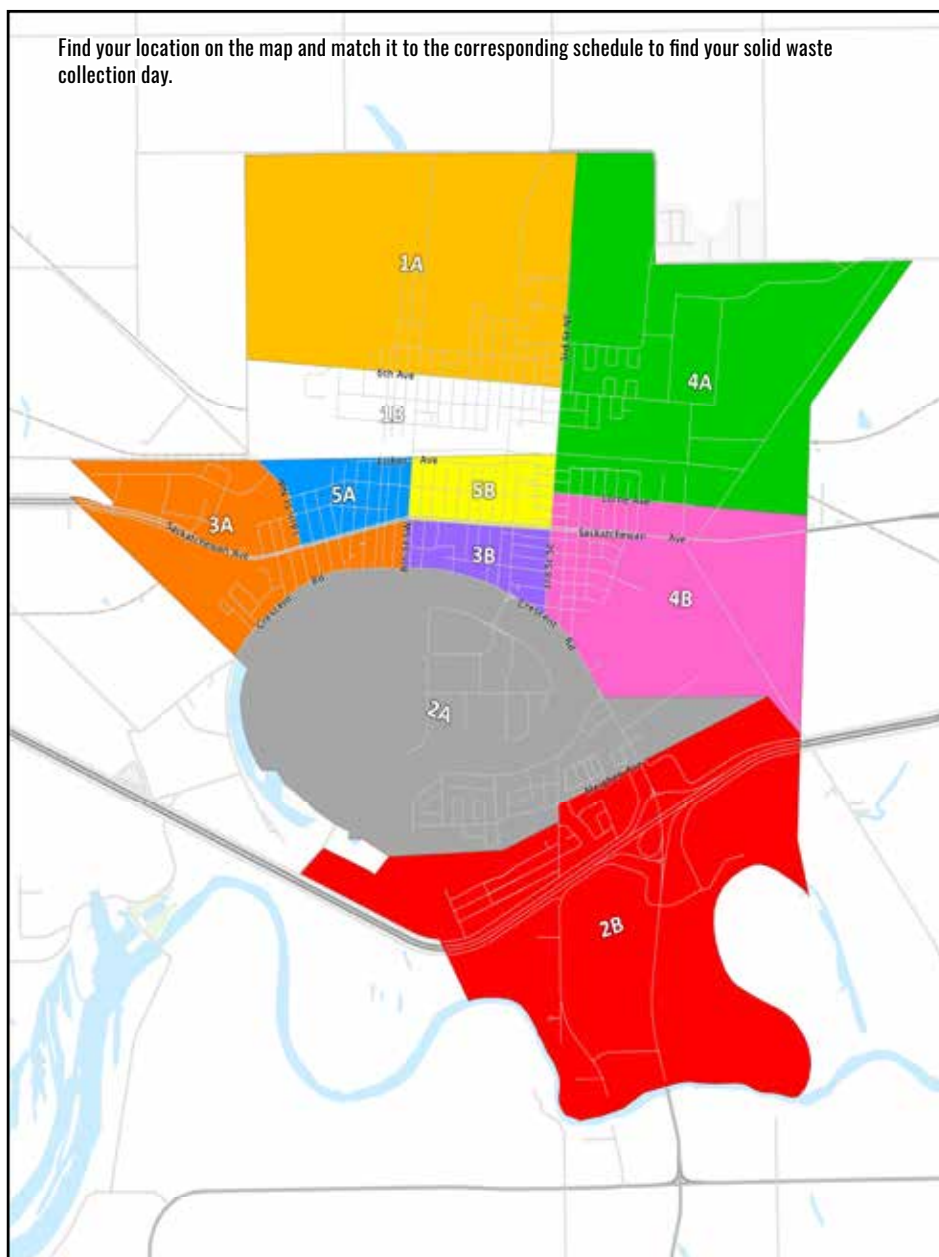
The City provides curbside collection of recyclables to single and multiple-family dwellings on regular solid waste collection days, on a bi-weekly basis. All recyclables must be placed in a recycling box, with a maximum of 4 recycling boxes per household.

Yard, garden, and kitchen vegetable wastes, excluding tree trimmings, may be deposited at the compost site located at 4th Ave. N.W. and 15th St. N.W. Empty all bags and containers and place them in garbage containers provided or remove them from the site. Free curbside yard waste collection takes place each spring and fall, on dates advertised.

A Tree Disposal Site is located behind the Water Pollution Control Facility, east of River Road (PR 240) and south of the by-pass, where trees and tree trimmings may be disposed of. Open Monday through Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Christmas trees may be placed on the boulevard in front of your residence and will be picked up when advertised in January.

Find your location on the map and match it to the corresponding schedule to find your solid waste collection day.







## Area 1A to 5A

### Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Schedule - 2024

Solid waste & recyclables will be collected on the days blocked on the calendar.

Please have refuse out for collection prior to 7:00 a.m. on the days marked, but no earlier than 8:00 p.m. the day prior.

For inquiries please contact the Operations Dept at 204-239-8346 or email [operations@city-plap.com](mailto:operations@city-plap.com)

PEACH  
GREY  
ORANGE

DAY 1  
DAY 2  
DAY 3

GREEN  
BLUE

DAY 4  
DAY 5

R - SOLID WASTE/RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION DAY

H - HOLIDAY

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	R	R	R	R	13
14	R	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	R	R	R	R	27
28	R	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	R	R	R	R	10
11	R	13	14	15	16	17
18	H	20	R	R	R	24
25	R	R	28	29		

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	R	R	R	9
10	R	R	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	R	R	R	23
24	R	R	27	28	H	30

31						
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APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	R	6
7	R	R	R	R	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	R	20
21	R	R	R	R	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	R	4
5	R	R	R	R	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	R	18
19	H	R	R	R	R	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	R	R	R	R	R	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	R	R	R	R	R	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

30						
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JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	R	R	R	R	6
7	R	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	R	R	R	R	20
21	R	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	R	R			

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				R	R	3
4	H	R	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	R	R	R	17
18	R	R	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	R	R	R	31

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	H	R	R	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	R	R	14
15	R	R	R	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	R	R	28
29	H					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		R	R	R	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	R	12
13	H	R	R	R	R	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	R	R	R	R		

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					R	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	H	R	R	R	R	16
17	R	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	R	R	R	R	30

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	R	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	R	R	R	R	14
15	R	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	R	H	H	R	28
29	R	R				

# B Area 1B to 5B

## Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection Schedule - 2024

Solid waste & recyclables will be collected on the days blocked on the calendar.

Please have refuse out for collection prior to 7:00 a.m. on the days marked, but no earlier than 8:00 p.m. the day prior.

For inquiries please contact the Operations Dept at 204-239-8346 or email [operations@city-plap.com](mailto:operations@city-plap.com)

WHITE  
RED  
PURPLE

DAY 1  
DAY 2  
DAY 3

PINK  
CANARY

DAY 4  
DAY 5

R - SOLID WASTE/RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION DAY

H - HOLIDAY

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	R	R	R	R	6
7	R	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	R	R	R	R	20
21	R	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	R	R			

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				R	R	3
4	R	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	R	R	R	R	17
18	H	R	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	R	R		

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					R	2
3	R	R	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	R	R	R	16
17	R	R	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	R	R	H	30
31						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	R	R	R	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	R	13
14	R	R	R	R	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	R	27
28	R	R				

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			R	R	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	R	11
12	R	R	R	R	17	18
19	H	21	22	23	24	25
26	R	R	R	R	R	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	R	R	R	R	R	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	R	R	R	R	R	29
30						

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	R	R	R	R	13
14	R	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	R	R	R	R	27
28	R	30	31			

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	H	6	R	R	R	10
11	R	R	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	R	R	R	24
25	R	R	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	H	3	4	R	R	7
8	R	R	R	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	R	R	21
22	R	R	R	26	27	28
29	H					

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	R	5
6	R	R	R	R	11	12
13	H	15	16	17	18	19
20	R	R	R	R	R	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	R	R	R	R	R	9
10	H	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	R	R	R	R	23
24	R	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	R	R	R	R	7
8	R	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	R	R	R	R	21
22	R	24	H	H	27	28
29	30	31				



Portage la Prairie  
Community  
Revitalization  
Corporation

Working with the **community** to create **community!**

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### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **July**

Communities in Bloom - Garden Tour & Judging  
Donation Raffle Draw - July 12th - Reaching Home  
Indigenous Seniors Gathering - July 16th  
Community Safety Survey  
Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser for Reaching Home  
Beat the Heat bags - Reaching Home

#### **August**

Indigenous Seniors Gathering - August 20th  
Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser for Reaching Home

#### **September**

Indigenous Seniors Gathering - September 17th  
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation gatherings - Sept 23rd - 27th  
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Sept 30th  
Fall Beautification Days  
Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser for Reaching Home

#### **October**

Small Grant Program Phase 2  
Flocking Flamingo Fundraiser for Reaching Home  
Indigenous Seniors Gathering - October 15th  
Communities in Bloom - Conference  
Trick or Treat Event

#### **November**

Indigenous Seniors Gathering - November 19th  
Diwali

#### **December**

Indigenous Seniors Gathering - December 17th  
Skate with Santa

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204.240.7272 [www.portagecrc.com](http://www.portagecrc.com) 56 Royal RD N PLAP, MB R1N 1V1



# HISTORIC APOLOGY: **Portage la Prairie confronts past injustice at Dakota Plains First Nation**

By Michael Blume

Article and photos courtesy of PortageOnline



Mayor Sharilyn Knox giving apology to Dakota Plains First Nation on behalf of City of Portage la Prairie.

A historic landmark event took place in Dakota Plains First Nation on Wednesday (June 26, 2024) afternoon. The City of Portage la Prairie gave an official apology on Dakota land outside in the community's arbor to Dakota Plains First Nation.

Premier Wab Kinew attended along with the entire Portage la Prairie City Council.

Portage Council also held an official council meeting that convened exactly at 5:16 p.m. where council voted to overturn a law that was created in 1911 in

Portage la Prairie forbidding Dakota people to live in the City. The vote was unanimously in favour of overturning that ruling.

Elder Leslie Smoke opened up with prayer and these words:

"Thank you for all the blessings each day and I know that God brought us together this day so that we can look ahead and see better things. Too many long years we missed a lot of things. You must have come down that road. My nephew went out to fix the road for you so you could come in. I'm just thankful for God that

took me one day and accepted me and ever since then, I've been going on and on, and on with Him. I'm just thankful for all of you [who] come out here to see what little Dakota Plains can do."

Chief Don Smoke told the gathering that he was happy to see everyone in attendance.

"It's a little emotional for me. I was talking to MLA Jeff Bereza before about my father, the late Chief (Orville Smoke), and how proud he would be for this date to be here, and how proud it would be to see the progress that we're making in and around the area in the unceded territory of the Dakota, and how proud he would be to have the City of Portage la Prairie Council have a meeting within our community to rescind a motion that displaced us as Dakota, and how especially proud he would be that we have a Premier who's First Nations."

Smoke notes his father and uncles predicted many things that would take place. He says during his time growing up, some of those things came true.

"It's just a testament to how they were as a family and as a community," continues Smoke. "We were put here, in my opinion, to die off as a people. I believe that back



in the day, there was enough racism in the world and in the area that we put here to hide us so we could become dependent on the federal government. We, as Dakotas, have never conformed and we still, to this day, refuse to do that.”

He added they still have no signed treaties and are working with the different levels of government to establish and be recognized as Dakota people.

“I want to thank everybody here, especially the City of Portage la Prairie, for being so progressive and being here today in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.”

Smoke added action needs to go along with these words, but acknowledged the day was a very pivotal one.

“It’s an admission. It’s an apology, and it’s an acceptance by us as the Dakota Plains and as the Smoke family. There wasn’t too much here when we were put here, but take a look around. Now, it’s beautiful.”

Mayor Sharilyn Knox addressed the crowd and described the event as a profound and significant chapter in the history of Portage la Prairie. “It is a chapter that has left a lasting impact on the Dakota people and their ancestral lands; one that demands our recognition, reflection, and sincere apology. We acknowledge the historical mistreatment and displacement that was endured by the Dakota people. The City of Portage la Prairie’s resolution of 1911 is a painful reminder of the injustices faced by the Dakota people. These actions not only erase their physical presence, but also undermine their cultural identity and heritage.”

She added she had a typical upbringing in the province and



**Chief Don Smoke addressed Portage la Prairie residents with these words:**  
“We’ve come a long way in terms of our history, and I’m really excited to see what the future brings.”

was largely unaware of the darker aspects of our history, including the injustices faced by the Dakota people.

“It wasn’t until I sat on Council that I began to grasp the depth of these historical wrongs. I listened to leaders from the Dakota Community who spoke about the experience of their ancestors and the lasting impact that the City of Portage’s motion of 1911 had. Their words were powerful and filled with a deep sense of pain and loss. I remember feeling a mix of emotions, sadness, guilt and overall, a profound sense of responsibility. These conversations were a turning point for me. I realized that my ignorance was part of the problem. I had taken for granted the privileges I enjoyed and had not considered the price others had paid for the development and prosperity of our city.”

She explained how the stories of displacement and cultural erasure as well as systemic injustice were not just distant historical events. Knox said they were lived experiences that had been passed down through generations, affecting real people in the community.

“As I delved deeper into our local history, I learned and continued to learn more about the Dakota people’s rich culture. I learned about the resilience and strength, they have shown in preserving their heritage and language despite the many challenges they face. This journey of learning and reflection made me realize that Truth and Reconciliation are not optional. They are essential for the health and unity of our community. For me, Truth and Reconciliation means acknowledging the full history of our city, not just the parts that are comfortable or convenient. It means listening to and amplifying the voices of those who have been marginalized and wronged. Reconciliation is important because it’s the foundation upon which we can build a more just and equitable Society.”

*“We extend our deepest, apologies to the Dakota people for the pain and suffering caused by the City of Portage motion of 1911. We are committed to the path of Truth and Reconciliation. We will work with you toward a future where the Dakota people’s legacy is celebrated and integrated into the fabric of our community.”*





**Jerry Daniels, Grand Chief of Southern Chiefs Organization says it is a monumental occasion in terms of the relationships between the Dakota people, Portage la Prairie, and the leadership of Portage la Prairie.**



**Sophia Smoke spoke on behalf of the younger generation and outlined the history of how her people came to be where they are at in Dakota Plains.**

*“Chief Smoke, Council, and all Dakota people, we ask that you let us move forward together, embracing reconciliation as a pathway to healing, and build a future where all cultures and histories are valued and respected. We thank you for your partnership and trust on this path. Thank you.”*

— Portage la Prairie Mayor Sharilyn Knox

Councillor Ryan Espey read the Acknowledgment and Apology for 1911 Council Resolution, seeing as his portfolio covers the Community Services Committee.

“It was a lot, but it was a deep honour to actually bring that forward and have a role in, not only the apology, but the education of what actually happened. There was a lot there. You have to acknowledge the history you need in order to move forward.”

Wilbur Pashe is a resident of Dakota Plains First Nation and notes it was something very historical.

“It’s something that we needed. Hearing my uncles and the ones that were passed on, gone now, they spoke about things like this, too. They said some day we’ll have reconciliation. It is a very, very nice thing to see the Premier here, too, and the Mayor

from Portage and all the Council. It’s very exciting.”

He says he did hear of Portage’s ruling of 1911 as a child.

“My parents spoke about it a little bit. They were both in the residential school in Portage. They did speak about it, but not very much; just something in history that was just kind of left alone, you know. The younger generation now, when they’re growing up, even to look at the history part of it, is something that they don’t know. It was kind of a type of hush-hush thing. They didn’t want to talk about it. It was the same as the residential schools, until people started opening up and talking about it.”

When asked if he ever thought an apology like this would happen in his lifetime, he responded, “I never really expected it to happen.”

Chief Don Smoke addresses Portage la Prairie residents with these words:

“We’ve come a long way in terms of our history, and I’m really excited to see what the future brings. It’s been a long time coming and reconciliation is a two-way street. Dakota Plains wanted to do their part and they were looking forward to a brighter future.”

As far as actions in the future are concerned, to put feet to the apology, Smoke added, “I’m thinking of some sort of an economic reconciliation where we can partner in hopes of getting some type of our own sources of revenue for the community. Where we are right now, we can’t do that. There’s no traffic and it’s no market. So, we’re looking to move closer to Portage la Prairie.”

He notes he thanks Portage la Prairie. He grew up here and loves it. Smoke says he looks forward to a brighter future between themselves and the City Council.

Wab Kinew says this kind of happening in Dakota Plains is a big step in Canada and is very important in terms of righting an historic wrong and saying that although we can’t change the past, we can learn from it.

“We can move together in the future in a good way. I know that for Portage, the long-term role is to be a hub for all the communities in the region; to serve people at the new hospital, for people who come in to do their shopping. If you’re like me, you go to Popeyes. That hub role means that Portage is a leader also. I think by the City leadership and Council taking this action and



building that relationship with Chief Smoke and Dakota Plains, as well as the broader Dakota community, does send a message to the community and to the surrounding area that this is a path forward.”

To you, the Portage people, Kinew adds, “Your city leadership has taken an important step to advance reconciliation and to ensure that everyone can understand the challenges and mistakes of the past, but understand that everyone’s welcome in Portage going forward. I know there are a lot of community members from Dakota Plains and from the other First Nations communities in the area, whether that’s Long Plain and Dakota Tipi, and many others.”

He adds he believes it’s an important step because it’s going to help and advance reconciliation, and also send a message to the broader community that Portage is an inclusive place, a positive place that is taking some steps to be a leader in the region, and in the province.”

Grand Chief of Southern Chief’s Organization Jerry Daniels says it’s a monumental occasion in terms of the relationships between the Dakota people, Portage la Prairie, and the leadership of Portage la Prairie.

“It sets the stage, I think, for a lot of progress and a lot of good relations going forward; whether that’s in business or land development. It sets the stage for a lot of good things to come.”

Daniels address Portage la Prairie residents noting that they should be proud of their leadership today.

“They reflect where we’re going as a society throughout Manitoba and Canada, and I think they have

a lot to look forward to with our participation in that. Each and every one of the citizens in Portage are a part of creating that change in the actions that they do, the words that they share, and the way that they work together with their neighbours.”

Sophia Smoke spoke on behalf of the younger generation and outlined the history of how her people came to be where they are at in Dakota Plains.

“The reason our territory is so vast is because when we came up from under the Earth when we were becoming a nation, we were struggling, we were starving, and we had newfound enemies. We were the new nation, and no one really knew what to do with us.”

She explains the buffalo gave them help by providing shelter and food through the sacrifice of the bison leader. Smoke adds the legend continues with the Dakota people following the bison wherever they roamed ever since.

Smoke addressed Portage in the story, noting her people would endure hard work here and cut ice for the rich people, while the women would clean their houses over the weekend. They were finally able to save \$400 to buy Lot 99 which is a 109-acre lot just north of the Assiniboine River

“We finally had our own piece of land. It’s ironic and it’s kind of funny to buy something that you should already own. We went, moved, and we lived there in log houses. It was warm and we were flourishing until Portage said that we were drunk, and we were a nuisance to the community. They didn’t want us anymore. So, we were forcibly removed from the plot of land that we had owned and that we had

bought. We were moved to another plot of land. We began to rebuild as we do, and then Portage says, ‘We think the land might flood.’ Something that my grandfather told me is that one day, when he was a little boy, his brother came home from work in town and said, ‘They’re going to remove the dike. They’re going to flood us on purpose.’ So, we were removed once again and now we are here.”

She adds it’s good to see the step Portage has taken to apologize.

Elder Kevin Tacan shared how horses in history were called to come and watch what’s happening today, as horses were led around the arbor where the gathering was held.

“We honour them by coming together and talking in a good way; in a peaceful way about reconciliation. For me, it’s good for me to see. I’ve shared a lot of miles with my grandparents driving up and down the highways, and coming to and from Ontario, Minnesota, and all over the place. And we’d always come back along the highway. And he’d say, ‘Our people used to live in that area, right over there; a Sioux Village. This is where our people used to be.’ And I said, ‘Well, why aren’t you there now,’ and this is the result of this.”

He added his grandfather would be extremely happy to see this day.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief Kathy Merrick says their people have come a long way and their past leaders could only envision where they are today.

*This is an excerpt from a June 26, 2024 Portage Online article.*

# New Active Transportation Pathway is well underway

**This project is part of creating a safe pedestrian crossing that is separated from vehicle traffic.**

By Lisa Kopochinski



Construction has begun on the installation of a concrete active transportation pathway on the south side of Saskatchewan Avenue W.

Construction has begun on the installation of a concrete active transportation pathway on the south side of Saskatchewan Ave. W. from Elm Street to Shindleman Way.

With the main aim to provide a proper walking path for students who walk to and from Westpark School, this project is part of creating a safe pedestrian crossing that is separated from vehicle traffic.

“Currently we find people walking right up along the south side of Saskatchewan Ave. across the railroad tracks,” says City of Portage la Prairie Manager of Engineering Matthew Phillips. “It will also create a safe place to cross the ditch to Saskatchewan Ave. and the crosswalk north at Shindleman Way.”

With an estimated construction cost of \$162,000, the City of Portage la Prairie has received 60 percent funding from the Federal Government’s active transportation fund.

This project also involves constructing a cast-in-place 600-metre-long sidewalk that will improve pedestrian safety and



accessibility for individuals using mobility devices. Additionally, the sidewalk will improve access to shopping, restaurants, and small businesses in the area.

“The general contractor for this project is E.F. Moon,” says Phillips. “They will subcontract Ellwood McRorie Ltd. to do the concrete work. Both companies are located in Portage la Prairie.

### DESIGN STAGE

The project began with the design phase, which included a preliminary topographic survey where engineering technologists used GPS to survey the elevation of the existing land and existing infrastructure. This survey data was then loaded onto the computer and AutoCAD Civil 3d to help with the drafting process.

“A construction drawing was then created showing the alignment and elevations for the proposed sidewalk,” explains Phillips. “At this point a list of construction items with estimated quantities, called a schedule of prices, was created. The construction drawing, schedule of prices, and tender documents were then compiled and sent to contractors to bid on the contract.



The sidewalk will improve access to shopping, restaurants, and small businesses in the area.

All bids received on the closing date were evaluated and the winning bidder was presented to City Council to award the contract.”

The construction phase began with the engineering techs “laying out the job” which involved placing grade stakes in the construction site that will show where and at what elevation the sidewalk is to be constructed.

“The contractor then started with removing the sod and topsoil along the intended alignment of the path,”

continues Phillips. “Culverts will be installed at the ditch crossing locations. Fill material will be brought in to build up the sub-base of the path to 200mm below finished elevation. This will allow for 100mm A-base and 100mm of concrete to create the sidewalk. After the sidewalk is constructed, the final landscaping and sod will be installed.”

### PROJECT CHALLENGES

As for what the biggest challenges have been to date, Phillips says it has been the scheduling of work.

“As half of this project is directly adjacent to the Saskatchewan Ave. Reconstruction project, we have had to wait for work to progress so both jobsites can be accessed at the same time. Thankfully E.F. Moon is subcontracted on the Saskatchewan Ave project so they can build the road and sidewalk at the same time.”

**With an estimated construction cost of \$162,000, the City has received 60 percent funding from the Federal Government's Active Transportation fund.**



# PHASE 2: CITY HALL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT BEGINS

## Adapting this historical building to meet modern accessibility standards.

By Lisa Kopochinski



Phase 2 of the renovation of the historic City Hall building is well underway with the goal to make this 125-year-old historical building accessible to the public.

Phase 2 of the renovation of the historic City Hall building is well underway with the goal to make this 125-year-old historical building accessible to the public.

In the first phase of this impressive project, a ramp was installed from the street to the main floor with an accessible door. Additionally, an accessible service counter was also installed.

“Phase 2 will extend accessibility to the second floor of City Hall,” explains

Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin, Portage la Prairie Director of Operations.

“This involves the installation of a lift to the second floor to access Council Chambers and meeting rooms. In addition, a new accessible washroom will be installed on the second floor, and modifications will be made to the Council Chambers to also make it accessible.”

This new lift will be installed in the existing vaults on the first and second floors. The existing vault

doors — which are beautifully painted and have historic value — will be preserved and displayed in another area.

Other improvements that will be made during the closure include new flooring and paint throughout the first and second floors, updates to the first floor washrooms, new window coverings, a new front counter, and fire shutters for the windows above the ramp that was completed in Phase 1.

The total cost of this project is expected to be \$900,000. Of this amount, the City of Portage la Prairie received a federal grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Enabling Accessibility Fund.

As for how this renovation project is impacting the public — as the building is closed — Lequier-Jobin says, “Many services are accessible digitally through our website at [www.city-plap.com](http://www.city-plap.com). We also have a temporary service location set up at 60 Saskatchewan Ave. E. across the street from City Hall in the Community Safety Office.”



Far left: The existing vault doors—which have a beautiful decoration—will be preserved and displayed in another area.

Constructing accessibility to this 125-year-old historically significant building has been a challenge.

## CITY HALL CLOSES FOR RENOVATIONS

City Hall will be temporarily closed for renovations during the months of July, August, and September 2024. These renovations will enhance accessibility within City Hall, ensuring that all members of our community can access our services comfortably.

During this closure, the public can visit our temporary office located across the street from City Hall at 60 Saskatchewan Ave E (Community Safety Office), where frontline staff will be available to assist with in-person inquiries and services.

Please note that although our office location will change during renovations, our mailing address, email addresses, and phone numbers will remain the same. We appreciate your understanding as we work to improve our facilities for the benefit of all.

### City Hall Mailing Address

97 Saskatchewan Avenue E  
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8

### City Hall In-Person Services

July 2 – September 30, 2024  
60 Saskatchewan Avenue E  
(Community Safety Office)

**Mayor** – sknox@city-plap.com  
204-239-8333

**City Manager** – npeto@city-plap.com  
204-239-8336

**Manager of Administration** –  
dvanaert@city-plap.com  
204-239-8337

**Director of Corporate Services** –  
jsandney@city-plap.com  
204-239-8305

**Manager of Finance** –  
nmcculloch@city-plap.com  
204-239-8355

**Human Resources** – hr@city-plap.com  
204-239-8338

**Parking Tickets** –  
officeclerk@city-plap.com  
204-239-8310

### Animal Control / By-law Enforcement –

bylaw@city-plap.com  
204-239-8326

### Accounts Payable –

accountspayable@city-plap.com  
204-239-8357

### Accounts Receivable –

ar@city-plap.com  
204-239-8311

### Taxes – taxclerk@city-plap.com

204-239-8308

### Utilities – utilityclerk@city-plap.com

204-239-8370

### Licenses (alarm, business, livery,

mobile home, pet) –  
officeclerk@city-plap.com  
204-239-8310

The City of Portage la Prairie offers a variety of e-services and online payment options to ensure uninterrupted access to services. For more information visit our website at <https://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/departments/finance/>



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## THUNDERSTORMS

A thunderstorm develops in an unstable atmosphere when warm moist air near the earth's surface rises quickly and cools. The moisture condenses to form rain droplets and dark thunder clouds. These storms are defined by lightning and are often accompanied by hail, heavy rain, strong winds, and sometimes tornadoes. Non-severe thunderstorms typically last about an hour. Severe thunderstorms can last several hours.

## LIGHTNING

During a thunderstorm, the air is charged with electricity. Bolts of lightning hit the ground at about 40,000 km per second—so fast that the series of strikes hitting the ground appear as a single bolt.

### *What to do when there is lighting:*

1. If indoors, stay away from windows, doors, fireplaces, radiators, sinks, bathtubs, appliances, metal pipes, telephones, and other things that conduct electricity.
2. Unplug electronic equipment. You can still use a cellular phone.
3. When outside stay away from tall objects such as large trees, towers, metal fences or poles.
4. If outdoors, take shelter in a building or ditch but never under a tree.
5. If caught outdoors, do not lie flat but crouch in the leapfrog position and lower your head.
6. Do not ride bicycles, motorcycles or golf carts or use metal tools as they conduct electricity.
7. If swimming or in a boat, get back to shore immediately.
8. If you are in a car, stay there but pull away from trees that might fall on you.
9. You may resume activity 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.

## HAIL SAFETY

Hail forms when updrafts in thunderclouds carry raindrops upwards into extremely cold areas and freeze layer upon layer until they are too heavy and fall to the ground. Hailstones vary in size from peas to grapefruits and fall at great speed. People have been seriously injured by hailstones.

1. Routinely monitor the Environment Canada weather forecasts, watches, and warnings for thunderstorms (which may include hail).
2. When hail or thunderstorms threaten to occur, seek shelter in a solid building and stay away from windows, glass doors, or skylights.
3. If you are in a vehicle, find a place to safely pull off roadways and protect yourself from possible shattered glass.



4. If caught outdoors and there is no available shelter, crouch down, face away from the wind and protect your head and neck with your hands.
5. Look out for flooded areas. Excessive hail (when combined with heavy rain) can plug storm drains and suddenly create local flooding.

## **TORNADOES**

Tornadoes are violent windstorms identified by a twisting funnel-shaped cloud.

They are always produced by thunderstorms but not every thunderstorm produces a tornado. They travel between 20 and 90 km/h, are erratic, and can change course suddenly. Do not chase tornadoes. Tornado Watch means the weather could develop a tornado. Tornado Warning means a tornado has been seen or it is very likely that one will develop shortly.

### **Warning signs of a potential tornado:**

1. Severe thunderstorms with frequent thunder and lightning.
2. A very dark sky sometimes with green or yellow clouds.
3. A rumbling sound, such as a freight train or whistling, similar to a jet aircraft.
4. A supercell may have a funnel cloud at the rear of a thunder cloud often hidden behind a curtain of heavy rain or hail.

### **What do to during a tornado:**

#### **If you are near a building:**

1. At the first sign of a storm, check for weather up-dates at [www.weather.gc.ca](http://www.weather.gc.ca)
2. If a tornado warning has been issued, take cover immediately.
3. Go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room, closet, or hallway.
4. Protect yourself by sitting under a heavy table or desk.
5. Stay away from windows, outside walls and doors.
6. Do not use elevators.
7. Avoid large halls, churches, arenas, etc. Their roofs are more likely to collapse.
8. Stay close to the ground, protect your head, and hide from flying debris.

#### **If you are driving:**

1. Drive to a nearby shelter and get inside immediately.
2. Do not seek shelter under an overpass or bridge.
3. If you are unable to drive and the tornado is close, get out of your car and take cover in a low-lying area, such as a ditch. Protect your head.
4. If you are caught in a vehicle by extreme winds, park out of the traffic lanes and stay in the car with your seat belt on. Cover your head and keep down below the windows.
5. Beware of flying debris.

## **EXTREME HEAT**

Extreme heat is considered a weather emergency. Heat warnings are issued when two or more consecutive days of daytime maximum temperatures are expected to reach 32 degree C or warmer and nighttime minimum temperatures are expected to fall to 16°C or warmer; or when two or more consecutive days of humidex values are expected to reach 38°C or higher. An extended heat warning is issued when these conditions are expected for three days or more.

### **What do when there is extreme heat:**

1. Slow down. Your body can't function at its best in high temperatures.
2. Get out of the heat and into a cooler place as soon as you begin to feel too warm.
3. Avoid alcohol and drink plenty of water to keep your body from dehydrating.
4. Avoid high protein foods. They increase your bodies water loss and heat production.
5. Dress appropriately in lightweight, light-coloured clothing made of natural fibers.
6. Avoid getting sunburned as it restricts the bodies cooling system.
7. Do not leave children or pets in a closed vehicle for any amount of time.

## **HUMIDEX**

The humidex is an index that describes how hot or humid weather feels to the average person. The humidex combines the temperature and humidity into one number. A humidex of 40 degrees with a temperature of 30 degrees means that the humidity on that day, combined with the 30 degrees temperature, will feel like 40 degrees on a dry day.

# PRRA

## Portage Regional Recreation Authority

204-857-7772 info@prra.ca  
245 Royal Road South  
Portage la Prairie, MB on the Island



FB: @StridePlace



IG: @stride\_place

**StridePlace.ca**



### SPLASH ISLAND - [SplashIsland.ca](https://www.splashisland.ca)



FB: @PortageSplashIsland



IG: @SplashIslandPLAP

Two Waterslides, Kiddie Slide, Lazy River, Water Features, Beach - Like Entry, Picnic Area & Concession. Public Swims, Fitness Swims, Aquafit, & Private Rentals. Summer Splash Island Memberships Available. New for 2024: Two Public Swim Times on Saturdays & Sundays | June 3 - September 2, 2024

### DELTA CAMPGROUND - [DeltaCampground.ca](https://www.deltacampground.ca)

Daily Camping, Sand Beach, Play Structure, Picnic Shelter, Dump Station & Washrooms.  
Serviced Site \$35 /Night Non-Serviced Site \$20 /Night | May - October Long Weekend

### KAYAK RENTALS - [StridePlace.ca](https://www.strideplace.ca)

Hourly Rental: Kayak, Paddles & Life Jackets. Single & Double Kayaks. Crescent Lake Dock Access.  
\$20 /Hour & \$10 /Hour for Additional Rental Hours | June - October

## FREE SUMMER FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

### PICKLE BALL PADDLES & BALLS | DISC GOLF DISCS | BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Free To Use. Rentals & Information Available at Stride Place | May - October \* Deposits may be required

## PRRA FITNESS DAYS | September 16 - 22, 2024

Save 20% off ALL PRRA Memberships & 25% off PRRA Family Memberships \* Payment Plans Available

### PRRA MEMBERSHIPS:

**ACTIVE:** Gives you full access to the 4000 sq.ft. Viterra Fitness Centre, Homestead CO-OP Walking Track, Shindleman Aquatic Center & Splash Island (in season)

**AQUATIC:** Love the water? This gives you full access to the Shindleman Aquatic Centre & Splash Island (in season)

**WALKING TRACK:** Beat the heat and the UV rays during summer! The Homestead CO-OP Walking Track is a 210 meter long indoor track with 2 - 1 meter wide lanes.

### SWIMMING LESSON REGISTRATION DATES

FALL 2024

AUGUST 28, 2024

WINTER 2025

DECEMBER 11, 2024

### FACILITY - PROGRAM

### BASIC INFORMATION

POOL RENTAL - SPLASH ISLAND

\* Local \$170/hour Visitor \$228/hour  
\* June - August

SUMMER ICE RENTALS

\* All Ice \$140.75/hour \* Stride Place only  
\* June - August

ROTARY REPUBLIC PARK

\* Soccer, Baseball, Football / Rugby  
\* Seasonal Athletic Park \* May - Oct

POOL PARTY - SHINDLEMAN

\* 16 People \* Public Swimming  
\* 2 hours in the Pool Party Room

REGULAR ICE RENTALS

\* Youth \$130/hour Adult \$170.50/hour  
\* September - May

POOL RENTAL - SHINDLEMAN

\* Local \$144/hour Visitor \$206/hour  
\* September - May

FREE PUBLIC SKATING

\* Public, Family, Senior, Sticks n' Pucks  
Tiny Tots \* October - May

# Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill

## Portage Regional Landfill

26095 PR#227

Telephone: 204-871-4549

Site Manager: Robert Pohl

Email: rpohl@city-plap.com

Residents may deliver waste to the Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill site located 12 km north of the City on PR 240 and 15 km east on PR 227.

Effective January 1, 2024, Tipping Fees of \$60 per metric tonne apply to all City residents and all commercial users within the RM of Portage.

The Landfill has a minimum charge of \$10 which applies to loads of 200 kgs or less. A \$10 per metric tonne provincial Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Levy has been applied to waste deposited in the landfill.

Effective January 1, 2024, the Landfill will no longer charge for freon-containing appliances.

Before you leave home...

- Review your City of Portage la Prairie Waste Reduction Guide to see which products can be kept out of the Landfill. The site is prohibited from receiving hazardous waste (e.g., oil, flammable products, chemicals of any kind).
- Sort loads by material type.
- The Landfill recycles metals, freon-containing appliances, tires, mattresses, and box springs.
- Remove all fluids from gas-powered equipment.
- Customers must make their own arrangements to unload heavy materials.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Haulers from outside the region often comment that the Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill is one of, if not the best kept, landfills in Manitoba.
- According to data gathered by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, workers in the waste industry consistently rank in the top six most dangerous jobs in the United States.



- Secure open loads with a tarp and straps or rope. The Landfill will be enforcing a \$60 penalty for all untarped loads.

Customers are asked to dispose of their waste between the two orange metal gates, in an open area away from any prior loads. Pets and small children should remain in the vehicle, as heavy equipment is frequently operating in this area.

- The Landfill accepts cash, Debit, Visa, and Mastercard.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

- April 1 to October 31: Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm
- November 1 to March 31: Monday to Saturday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Closed Sundays and all Statutory Holidays

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There is no scavenging, trespassing, or hunting allowed on the Landfill site.

Your cooperation in helping to keep the customers and staff of the Landfill safe is appreciated.

The Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill Authority operates the development as a Class 1 Waste Disposal Ground pursuant to regulations under the Environment Act, Manitoba Regulation 37/2016 and Environment Act Licence No. 3278.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Terrie Porter (Chair), Doug McAuley (Vice-Chair), Preston Meier, Ryan Espey, Roy Tufford, and Garth Asham.

It was ranked as the 5th most dangerous occupation in North America by the Solid Waste Association of North America.

- Hazardous waste, while typically not accepted by municipal solid waste landfills, will still show up in the waste stream and landfill staff can be at risk from these types of materials.



In November 2023, we proudly unveiled our Strategic Direction to the public, emphasizing our commitment to five key initiatives: Quality of Life, Community Safety and Well-being, Economic Opportunity, Inclusive and Informed Community, and Showcasing our Community.

Since then, we have been diligently working on the tasks outlined within each of these strategic initiatives. This infographic provides an update on our achievements to date, showcasing the progress we have made and the positive impact on our community.



### QUALITY OF LIFE

We will continue to connect and build upon the strategic investments of the past that have created a community of excellent cultural and recreational activities while ensuring we provide opportunities to grow and enhance housing in the community.

#### ***What we have achieved so far:***

- Received the former Agassiz Youth Centre land from the Province and eager to collaborate with partners to develop this land for the best use of the community. Plans will be communicated in the fall of 2024.
- Organizing a Developer Day to showcase Portage la Prairie's potential to commercial and residential developers, encouraging investment.
- Progressing with the development of the Junk Yard Dogs Bike Park.
- Koko Platz Recreation Club reconstruction is planned for late 2024, to be completed in 2025 along with a new rink.
- Investing in the Garrioch Creek Trails, improving signage and rest stops.
- Expanding our active transportation pathway network, improving access to Westpark school and the west end commercial district.
- Implemented a policy that incentivizes infill development and neighborhood renewal in more established neighborhoods.



### COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

We recognize that it takes an entire community working together to improve the safety and well-being of all residents. This Council is committed to working in collaboration with our partners to continue to improve and support the well-being of our citizens. Community safety is ultimately about helping communities to be and feel safe.

#### ***What we have achieved so far:***

- Hired and equipped Community Safety Officer team, now operating from their downtown office patrolling the downtown corridor and engaging with community groups.
- Launched our community safety and well-being survey. The results will help drive our plan in late 2024.



## SHOWCASING OUR COMMUNITY

We believe that community beautification and tourism-focuses investments contribute to civic pride for a more livable community. Our goal is to share out story about the quality of life we enjoy here in Portage la Prairie.

### ***What we have achieved so far:***

- Secured a four-year funding agreement for the Tourism Coordinator and Promoter position.
- Adjusted accommodation tax to prioritize funding for tourism initiatives and community beautification.
- Leveraged \$60,457.60 for exterior business upgrades through the Business Storefront Improvement Grant program.
- Approved a four-year plan to invest over \$600,000 into enhancing green spaces and playgrounds in our community.



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

We will build upon our accessible and diverse transportation infrastructure, ample quality water and soil, existing innovative industries and labour pool, and exceptional quality of life amenities to grow our region's economy and population in a sound and sustainable, but robust manner.

### ***What we have achieved so far:***

- Completed engineering and design of the Water Treatment Plant expansion that will allow us to double our capacity and attract new industry to our area.
- Continuing to incentivize and encourage investment in our downtown corridor and former Portage Mall property.
- Launched the Infill Development Rebate Program.



## INCLUSIVE AND INFORMED COMMUNITY

We cherish how diversity brings appreciation, understanding and energy to our region, but we also value how the friendships, bonds, and partnerships we build as we learn from each other help us find new solutions and identify new opportunities that we could not find or achieve alone. We forge renewed strength as we walk this path together.

### ***What we have achieved so far:***

- Held a reconciliation ceremony with Dakota Plains First Nation.
- Secured CEDI funding to collaborate with the Long Plain and Dakota Plain First Nations on developing a regional economic action plan.



# Exciting News:

## A new municipal website is coming!



We are thrilled to announce that we are in the early stages of developing a brand-new municipal website, set to go live later this year. This upgraded website will bring you enhanced accessibility and improved navigation, making it easier than ever to find the information you need.

New Features to Look Forward To:

- Better Accessibility: Ensuring everyone can access and use our website with ease.
- Improved Navigation: Find what you're looking for quickly and effortlessly.
- Enhanced Notification System: Sign up for email notifications tailored to your interests once the site is live.

### CALL FOR PHOTOS:

We want to showcase the beauty and spirit of our community on our new website. We invite you to submit your favorite photographs of Portage la Prairie to be featured. Please send your submissions to [info@city-plap.com](mailto:info@city-plap.com).

Stay tuned for more updates and get ready to explore our new municipal website later this year.

Thank you for helping us make our city's online presence as vibrant and welcoming as our community itself!

## PET LICENSES

Each year, city residents are required to register their pet(s) with the city. Reminder letters are mailed out at the end of the year to previously registered owners.

Registration begins January 1 and can be done in person at City Hall during office hours, online, or by mailing back the application form included in your reminder letter.

Please remember to include your current vaccination papers showing the expiry date of the rabies vaccination for your pet.



# WATER MAIN FLUSHING PROGRAM 2024

Water main flushing occurs each year from late June to mid-August to clear mains of iron and calcium scale deposits to maintain high-quality water. This program will run for 8 weeks and will take place between the nighttime hours of 10:00 pm – 6:00 am.

Please do not use any hot water until you have operated your cold water taps to clear the line of any discoloration that may occur during flushing.

## THE 2024 SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

### **Week #1 - June 23 - June 28**

15th St. NW between Saskatchewan Ave. W. and McKay Ave. moving westward to 25th St. NW

### **Week #2 - June 30 - July 5**

15th St. NW to 8th St. NW between Saskatchewan and Fisher Avenues and continuing from 9th St. SW westward to city limits between Crescent Rd. and Saskatchewan Ave.

### **Week #3 - July 7 - July 12**

7th St. NW to 10th St. NE between Saskatchewan Ave. and Fisher Ave.

### **Week #4 - July 14 - July 19**

8th St. SW to 9th St. SE between Saskatchewan Ave. and Crescent Rd.

### **Week #5 - July 21 - July 26**

15th St. NW to Tupper St. NW north side of tracks

### **Week #6 - July 28 - August 2**

Royal Rd. to Westco Dr north side of tracks

### **Week #7 - August 4 - August 9**

Koko Platz and Island Park Areas

### **Week #8 - August 11 - August 16**

Mellenville and Old Bridge Road Area

**For further information, please call the  
Department of Operations at 204-239-8346.**



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TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

LET'S BEGIN!

EVE O'LEARY  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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204 - 856 - 5000



[www.investinportage.ca](http://www.investinportage.ca)



Investinportage



[eoleary@investinportage.ca](mailto:eoleary@investinportage.ca)





# Portage la Prairie Regional Library

40 B Royal Road N., Portage la Prairie R1N 1V1 | Ph: 204-857-4271

## Welcome!

Have you visited the library lately? Last year, community members of all ages visited us over 55,000 times to attend activities, enjoy events, investigate the internet and borrow books!

All of our programs and events are open to the public and free of charge!



## SERVICES

- Books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, blood pressure monitors, radon screeners, air quality monitors & board games
- Databases: Libby, Ebscohost, CBC Corner & Ancestry.ca
- Resources and tools for Patrons with Disabilities: Victor Readers, Envoy Connect, CELA & NNELS
- Free Wi-Fi access & public computers
- Photocopying & Printing (starting at 25¢)
- Local history archives
- Free activities for all ages
- Exam proctoring

## SUMMER/ FALL 2024

46th Summer Book Sale:

June 25 - September 3

TD Summer Reading Wrap-Up Party:

August 31

Stuffy Sleepover: September 18 - 19

Trick or Treat: October 26

Mrs. Claus Storytime & Craft: December

Santa is Coming to Town: December

## Library Hours:

Tuesday	10 am to 5 pm
Wednesday	10 am to 8 pm
Thursday	10 am to 8 pm
Friday	10 am to 7 pm
Saturday	10 am to 4 pm

Closed Sundays, Mondays and Statutory Holidays.



Library Card

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER  
FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION



PortageLaPrairieLibrary



@PortageLaPrairieLibrary



www.PortageLibrary.com



# EVENTS

## Around town



Mayor Knox and Councillor Masi had the pleasure of attending the Filipino Heritage Celebration in Island Park. This event was organized by the Association of Filipinos in Portage la Prairie to honor and display the vibrant culture, traditions, and contributions of the Filipino community in our city.



Councillors Faron Nicholl, Colin Doyle, and Ryan Espey congratulate Councillor Masi on being re-elected to represent Manitoba on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors.



Councillor Terrie Porter attended the 3 Canadian Forces Flying Training School Multi Engine Wings Grad in May.



Mayor Knox, second from right, had a wonderful time at the PCI Pride Flag raising and walk.



At the Association of Manitoba Municipalities Spring Convention in Brandon, Manitoba.



Mayor Knox greeting Mr. Roy Lyall at his 102nd birthday celebration.