

# 2025 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE *City Guide*

JANUARY  
TO JUNE



Photo courtesy of Memories by Me Photography.

**Strategy for  
greenspace investment**

**Roadway Infrastructure  
Investment strategy**

**Portage la Prairie**  
*City of Possibilities*

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## ON THE COVER

Lighting of Vopni Park by the Holiday Avenue Project.

Photo: Memories by Me Photography.



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**CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE**

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## MESSAGE FROM **Mayor Sharilyn Knox**

**"The more we engage,  
the more connected  
we feel."**

Dear Residents of Portage la Prairie,

As the New Year rolled in, I found myself reflecting on something that's been on my mind ever since I met a few new residents in our city. Their excitement and stories opened my eyes to just how important it is to feel a genuine sense of belonging in a community.

These newcomers shared their hopes and dreams about settling into our small city, and it struck me how many of us crave connection, especially in times when it feels easy to be disconnected. They talked about wanting to feel welcomed, valued, and part of something bigger than themselves. Listening to them, I was reminded of the rich tapestry of cultures and experiences that makes our city so special.

I couldn't help but think about how we could continue to celebrate this diversity. We could attend and support the events that honor the unique backgrounds of each resident. I envisioned lively cultural festivals, neighborhood potlucks, and art showcases where everyone could come together and share their traditions. I see local organizations continuing to team up to create initiatives that promote understanding and appreciation, turning our city into a place where friendships can grow and flourish.

But belonging isn't just about events; it's also about getting involved. I encourage newcomers—and everyone else—to dive into local initiatives and volunteer opportunities. Whether it's joining a community clean-up, mentoring young people, or attending charity events, each small action we take helps weave our community closer together. The more we engage, the more connected we feel.

Our parks, libraries, and community spaces are really the heart of our city. They're more than just places to visit; they're where we come together. I dream of parks filled with laughter and families enjoying picnics, libraries buzzing with workshops and classes, and community spaces and recreations centres that pulse with activity.

Together, let's make sure these spaces are welcoming and accessible to all, turning them into vibrant places for connection and fun.

From neighborhood block parties to thrilling sporting events, there are so many chances for us to gather, share stories, and celebrate what makes our city unique. I urge everyone to join in, participate, and even volunteer their time. Your involvement not only enriches your own experience but strengthens the ties that hold our community together.

Let's not forget about our local businesses, which are truly the backbone of our community. Supporting them helps build relationships among residents and creates a sense of pride that resonates throughout our city. When we uplift our local entrepreneurs, we invest in a future that feels like home.

Communication is also key to building a strong community. I invite you to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. By creating spaces for open dialogue, like our advisory groups, we can make sure everyone's voice is heard. When we listen to one another, we foster understanding and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

Finally, let's embrace kindness and empathy. Small gestures—a friendly smile, lending a hand, or checking in on a neighbor—can create waves of positivity. Let's commit to being good neighbors, supporting one another, and making our city a place where everyone feels at home.

As we continue through this New Year, I carry with me the stories and hopes of those new residents I met, reminding me of how vital it is to belong. Together, let's create a community that celebrates our unique qualities, strengthens our connections, and ensures that everyone feels they truly belong. I'm excited about the journey ahead and can't wait to see our sense of community grow stronger each day.

**—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.

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. The general office is closed between 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

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

## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

**January 1 – New Year's Day**

**February 17 – Louis Riel Day**

**April 18 – Good Friday**

**April 21 – Easter Monday**

**May 19 – Victoria Day**

**July 1 – Canada Day**

**August 4 – Terry Fox Day**

**September 1 – Labour Day**

**September 30 – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

**October 13 – 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. Youth members are selected at the beginning of each school year and remain until the last meeting of the Council in the following August.



The Youth Members of Council for the 2024 – 2025 term are Francois Barnachea and Yuvan Ramachandran.

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).

### 2025 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, January 13 | Monday, January 27 | Monday, February 10

Monday, February 24 | Monday, March 10 | Monday, March 24

Wednesday, April 16 | Monday, April 28 | Monday, May 12

Monday, May 26 | Monday, June 9 | Monday, June 23

Monday, July 14 | Monday, August 11 | Wednesday, September 10

Monday, September 22 | Tuesday, October 14 | Monday, October 27

Monday, November 10 | Monday, December 8

Council and Committee meetings are held in City Hall Council Chambers unless advertised otherwise and are open to the public. Meetings can also be live-streamed or watched after the fact on the City of Portage

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Twitter: [Twitter@cityofportage](mailto:Twitter@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

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://forms.city-plap.com/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: <https://forms.city-plap.com/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, Regional Landfill Authority. **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:** 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



## 2025 UTILITY RATE CHANGE - WATER & SEWER

The Public Utilities Board granted the City of Portage la Prairie approval for revised rates effective January 1, 2025. The revised rates are:

<b>Cubic Meters per Quarter</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Wastewater</b>
Domestic, up to 227 CM	\$2.64	\$1.76
Intermediate, 228 CM to 2,273 CM	\$2.19	\$1.76
Wholesale, 2,274 CM to 18,184 CM	\$2.07	\$1.33
Variable, over 18,184 CM	\$89	\$1.33
Quarterly Service Charge	\$22.69	

## 2025 PROPERTY TAXES

2025 Property Tax Statements will be mailed out in June. If you do not receive a copy of your Property Tax Statement, please contact us at (204) 239-8308. Taxes are due by 4:30 pm on July 31, 2025.

## HOW TO PAY TAX OR UTILITY BILLS

To avoid waiting in line, we offer a variety of payment options.

Please note electronic payments take 3 to 5 days to process. To avoid penalty, allow sufficient time for your payment to be received by the City on or before the due date. Penalties will be applied to current year taxes beginning on August 1, 2025, at a rate of 1.25% per month.

- Online Banking: set up through your financial institution, allow 3 to 5 days to process.
- 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 money orders must be received at City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on the due date.

- Post-Dated Cheque: cheque must be dated and received at City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on the due date.
- 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). Include the roll number in the message field.
- Credit Card: online only through Pay Simply at [www.paysimply.ca](http://www.paysimply.ca). Fees of 2.5% apply, allow 3 to 5 days to process.
- In Person: at City Hall Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- TIPP: Properties set up on the preauthorized payment program will continue to have payments withdrawn monthly as scheduled.
- Prepayment: Taxes may be prepaid up to 90% of the previous year's net tax levy. Payments made prior to June 30, 2025 may be eligible for a discount.

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

Pay your property taxes in 12 easy monthly installments on the 15th of each month beginning January 15th, 2025.

You can join TIPP if:

- Your tax account is not in arrears.
- You have chequing privileges at a financial institution (bank, trust company, treasury branch or credit union)
- Your taxes are not presently paid through a mortgage company (P.I.T.).
- Your application is received prior to December 15, or the application is received prior to June 30 with an initial payment of the missed installments paid at the time of application.

Complete the TIPP application found on the City's website, visit City Hall, or call (204) 239-8308 for more information.

# Five new Community Safety Officers hired

By Lisa Kopochinski

**"The business community and citizens see the value of having regular patrols in our core areas."**

**– Brad Bailey**

The City of Portage la Prairie recently hired four Community Safety Officers, which marks a big step forward in its public safety program.

"The new officers were on the street the third week of November 2024," says Brad Bailey, Director of Public Safety and Fire Chief.

"This put us back on track for this year. With the new officers, you will see an increase of patrols in the city core and presence at public celebration events. We have worked throughout 2024 to build relationships and receive feedback with business partners, community members and organizations on where to focus the Community Safety Officers' efforts."

Community Safety Officers have many authorities through Manitoba Justice.

"The goal is to do regular patrols and be a presence in the city core areas and address safety concerns throughout the city," said Bailey.

According to an article by Portageonline published in November, the officers trained at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, committing to a month away from home to prepare for their roles.

"We really applaud them for sticking through it," said Councillor Colin Doyle, Chair of Public Safety.

"Being part of that graduation ceremony was really nice



Meet the current Community Safety Officers. Left to right: Lukas Kanne, Jason Sanderson, Caitlyn Saindon, Seth Bryson, and Todd Allard.

for me because the look on their face, they were proud of themselves and they're proud of their city and they want to make a difference."

Since November, Portageonline reported that the officers have connected with local businesses, schools, and residents to explain their role and foster trust. Recently, all four visited Crescentview School to meet staff and students, showcasing their focus on education and engagement alongside enforcement.

"We are going to make sure that this program is successful, our citizens want that sense of safety, and we want to give it to them," said Doyle.

The CSOs' vehicle is fully outfitted with lights, sirens, and the tools needed for their duties, which include enforcing the Highway Traffic Act.

Initially piloted in Thompson, the CSO program has become a model for community safety in Manitoba, and Portage is embracing its potential.

When asked how the feedback has been so far about this program and the new recruits, Bailey doesn't miss a beat.

"Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The business community and citizens see the value of having regular patrols in our core areas. Our new recruits have completed their training and are ready to make a positive impact on Portage la Prairie."

# Strategy for green space

## STRATEGY FOR GREENSPACE INVESTMENT

In September 2024, City Council approved the Greenspace Investment Strategy that will be funded by allocating \$200,000 annually for the next three years from land development fees towards enhancing current parks and green space.

This investment would be strongly supported by the recent strategic priority document and give clear direction to the community on planned investments, while contributing to the city's overall well-being and quality of life.

The 2024 budget currently plans to match up to \$75,000 for the Garrioch Creek trail project, which is being supported with \$75,000 by the Province of Manitoba Sustainable Communities Funds. Additionally, the city has committed \$20,000 to support the building of a fence/barrier around the Junk Yard Dogs' new Bike Park. There

is also consideration for basketball nets and lighting to be installed in the former skate park near the BDO Centre.

Aligning with the Inclusive and Informed Community Initiative of the City Strategic Plan, Council has committed to developing Dakota Oyate Park on the Island, to honor our Dakota people. This is in the planning stages, with the budgetary commitment yet to be determined.

## PLANS FOR 2025 AND 2026

In 2025 and 2026, there are a number of projects that could be supported, including support for a community-fundraised accessible swing, additional features in Simplot Central Park (including consideration for bathroom facilities with leveraged funding), upgrades to the playground next to the McKay Reservoir (to support the recent infill) or inclusion of small play structures or fencing in undeveloped greenspaces.

## GREENSPACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY PLAN

Current and long-term priority action plan to enhance and grow our recreational opportunities and green spaces in our community.

### CURRENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024:

- Junk Yard Dogs Activity Park – Contribution of \$20,000 towards fencing and natural barriers
- Garrioch Creek Trail – Contribution of \$75,000 towards trail upgrade project
- BDO Centre – Contribution of \$5,000 towards community basketball court at former skate park location
- Skateboard Park – Contribution of \$8,000 towards landscaping
- Koko Platz Community Centre – Contribution of \$40,000 towards design resource support
- Elm Street – Shindleman Way Sidewalk – Investment of \$140,000 in Active Transportation trail extension from Elm Street to Westpark School

### PRIORITY ACTION PLAN FOR 2025

**McKay Avenue Playground – Allocation of \$150,000:**

- Repair and replace swing sets
- Remove any current play structures
- Install small new play structure
- Minor landscaping

**Island Park Playground – Allocation of \$50,000:**

- Replace damaged slide on current play structure
- Minor repairs to major play structure
- Paint, upgrade, and maintain swing sets
- Minor landscaping

**Dakota Oyate Park**

- Planning and development of park
- Budgetary commitment to be determined

### PRIORITY ACTION PLAN FOR 2026

**Prosvita Park Playground – Allocation of \$40,000:**

- Replace swing set
- Paint and minor repairs to play structure
- Minor landscaping

**Simplot Central Park – Allocation of \$50,000:**

- Install pedestrian asphalt pathway

- Minor landscaping

**9th Street NW Playground – Allocation of \$30,000:**

- Upgrade play structure
- Upgrade fencing
- Landscaping

**Island Park Playground – Allocation of \$50,000:**

- Install accessible swing

### PRIORITY ACTION PLAN FOR 2027

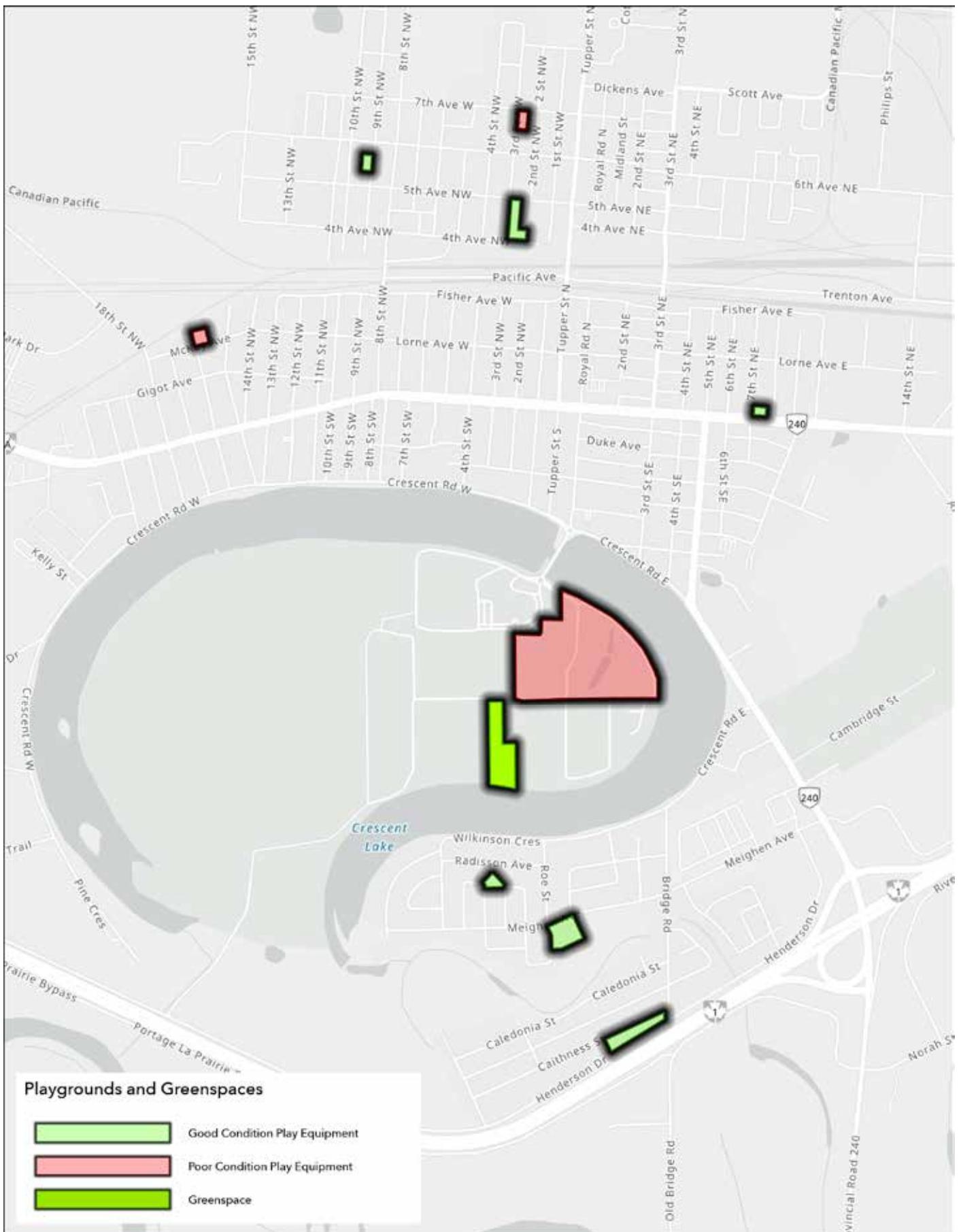
**New Development Play Structure – Allocation of \$200,000:**

- Install new play structures between former AYC land and Southeast Development, in proximity to Republic Park

### MISCELLANEOUS ACTION PLAN – GRANT AND/OR PARTNER DEPENDENT

**Simplot Central Park – Estimated cost of \$120,000:**

- Install washroom facilities
- Intention to apply for funding. 50% of the costs associated with this project to come from our General Reserve



# THREE YEAR PLAN: Strategy to Roadway Infrastructure Investment

With its aim to improve roadway structure, a three-year strategy has been created which outlines the City of Portage la Prairie's plan to focus additional investment on roadway infrastructure from 2025 to 2027.

The plan responds to the substantial damage caused by the harsh Winter/Spring of 2024, which led to extensive freeze-thaw cycles, significantly deteriorating the roadways. This strategy aligns with the city's strategic priorities, including enhancing public safety, ensuring sustainable infrastructure, and fostering economic growth.

In an article published by [www.portageonline.com](http://www.portageonline.com) this past October, City Manager Nathan Peto emphasized the strategy's long-term planning approach and said, "Previously, we evaluated priorities annually, but now, with consistent funding over the next three years, we can take a more proactive approach, focusing on specific areas for reconstruction and resurfacing."

He said the plan includes the option to adjust allocations annually based on road conditions and other priorities.

"We recognize that every year is not going to be like the last and it allows flexibility so that administration

can come forward to outline the priorities to Council and have the special allotment of funds approved every year in our capital budget process that allows us to focus on the issue that are most front-and-center every year."

## THREE KEY AREAS

The City of Portage la Prairie's annual budget allocation for roadway infrastructure will be strategically targeted into three key areas, ensuring that resources are utilized effectively to address the most pressing needs each year. These areas will be adjusted annually based on ongoing assessments and priority shifts. The priorities will be outlined annually to City Council with appropriate budget allocations outlined, and communication on these annual priorities will be clearly conveyed to the public. The three key areas are as follows:

## ROAD RESURFACING

**Objective:** To extend the lifespan of existing roadways by applying new layers of asphalt or other durable materials.

**Focus:** This allocation will target roads that are structurally sound but require a new surface layer to prevent further deterioration. Resurfacing is a cost-effective way

to maintain roads before more extensive damage occurs.

**Annual Adjustment:** The amount allocated to resurfacing will be adjusted based on the condition of the roads, identified through regular assessments.

## ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

**Objective:** To rebuild severely damaged or outdated roadways that cannot be maintained through resurfacing alone.

**Focus:** This allocation will be dedicated to roads where the underlying structure is compromised, necessitating full reconstruction to restore safety and useability. Reconstruction is essential for roads that have suffered extensive damage, particularly following the harsh Winter/Spring of 2024.

**Annual Adjustment:** The allocation will be modified each year to prioritize the most critical reconstruction projects, ensuring that the most damaged roads are addressed first.

## ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR (POTHOLES/SURFACING CRACKING)

**Objective:** Conduct ongoing maintenance to address minor issues



before they escalate into major problems.

**Focus:** This allocation will support routine maintenance activities, including filling potholes, repairing surface cracks, and other minor repairs. Regular maintenance is vital for extending the lifespan of all roadways and ensuring public safety. Administration will also review additional equipment and a communication strategy to keep the public informed on progress.

**Annual Adjustment:** The budget for maintenance and repairs will be flexible, increasing in years with higher incidences of damage and

adjusting as needed to maintain road quality.

With the completion of the Causeway project, additional resources have become available through the Community Building Fund (formally known as the Gas Tax Fund). Council will be able to invest an additional \$700,000 annually in road infrastructure over the next three years. This strategy will not result in an increase in rates to taxpayers in our community.

By allocating the budget into these three areas and adjusting it annually based on need, the City of Portage la Prairie will ensure a balanced

approach to maintaining and improving its roadway infrastructure while addressing the set back in overall road condition occurring in the last year.

Peto told Portageonline that the adaptability of the plan is crucial as is the multi-year approach.

“This allows us to think more long term, to really focus on particular areas that we couldn’t necessarily complete in a year and complete a section rather than just a portion. It means we can be more proactive and looking a little farther down the road.”

# PROJECT UPDATE: CITY HALL ACCESSIBILITY

By Lisa Kopochinski

Phase 2 of the \$900,000 renovation of the historic 125-year-old City Hall building has been well underway and is expected to be completed shortly,

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 of has been underway all summer and fall," says Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin, Director of Operations.

"New accessible washrooms on the second floor are now complete and new handrails have been installed on the stairway, doorway modifications are underway, in addition to the installation of the lift. However, we will not be able to use the lift until several inspections have taken place."

## THREE MAIN ENTRANCES

City Hall has three main entrances, all of which have at least eight steps to the main level. The City received a funding grant of \$100,000 towards this project from the Enabling Accessibility Fund. This grant went towards Phase 2 of the project and washrooms.

"We have also reworked a side entrance with a ramp on the west side of the building and push door operators," says Lequier-Jobin.

"The flooring has also been completed throughout, and new lighting and ceiling tiles have been installed. Additionally, most of the painting is done with the remainder to be completed shortly.

Of the \$900,000 price tag for this impressive project, the City of Portage la Prairie received a federal grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Enabling Accessibility Fund.'

Many services are also accessible digitally through our website at [www.city-plap.com](http://www.city-plap.com).



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



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



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

## CITY HALL CONTACTS

City Hall Mailing Address  
97 Saskatchewan Avenue E, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8

Mayor — [sknox@city-plap.com](mailto:sknox@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8333

City Manager — [npeto@city-plap.com](mailto:npeto@city-plap.com)  
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(204) 239-8305

Manager of Finance — [nmcculloch@city-plap.com](mailto:nmcculloch@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8355

Human Resources — [hr@city-plap.com](mailto:hr@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8338

Parking Tickets — [officeclerk@city-plap.com](mailto:officeclerk@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8310

Animal Control / By-law Enforcement  
[bylaw@city-plap.com](mailto:bylaw@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8326

Accounts Payable — [accountspayable@city-plap.com](mailto:accountspayable@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8357

Accounts Receivable — [ar@city-plap.com](mailto:ar@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8311

Taxes — [taxclerk@city-plap.com](mailto:taxclerk@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8308

Utilities — [utilityclerk@city-plap.com](mailto:utilityclerk@city-plap.com)  
(204) 239-8370

Licenses (alarm, business, livery, mobile home, pet)  
[officeclerk@city-plap.com](mailto: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>

# SNOW CLEARING: WHAT TO KNOW

When we get a significant snowfall event our first priority is always to clean the main roads that provide access to our hospitals, schools, and essential services. Once those are clear we will move on to secondary and residential areas the day following waste collection.

## ROUTINE SNOW CLEARING

Routine snow clearing takes place the day after garbage collection when snow accumulation has met set standards.

By-Law No.20-8705 states: "From November 1 to April 30 of each year

parking on streets shall be limited for routine snow clearing. During this period, no person shall park a vehicle on any portion of a street on the business day following residential garbage collection for that street until such time as the employees or contractors acting on behalf of the municipality have completed snow clearing for the said street."

Parking in violation of the By-law is subject to a fine. City crews work as fast as possible to remove snow from the streets, but parked cars can get in our way. If we have to tow some vehicles to make winter driving safe for everyone, we will, but we would rather not. So please, to avoid having your car towed, do not park on the street during snow-clearing operations.

## DRIVEWAY SNOW CLEARING

Snow being blown, shoveled, or pushed onto city streets is not permitted. All residents should adhere to City of Portage la Prairie Traffic By-Law No. 20-8705 which states: "It shall be an offense for any person to remove from any private property, public property, street, boulevard or sidewalk any snow or ice and deposit same on any street, boulevard, parking lot, public place, or sidewalk in such a manner that could negatively impact drainage, or create a hazardous condition for either vehicular or pedestrian

## SASKATCHEWAN AVE SNOW CLEARING STRATEGY

### INCREASED SERVICE LEVELS

The City of Portage la Prairie is partnering with the Province of Manitoba to double the current service level for removing built-up snow from parking lanes and snow banks on sidewalks along Saskatchewan Ave.

### PEOPLE & EQUIPMENT

We're investing in people and equipment to ensure active transportation lanes along Saskatchewan Ave, and the entire City, can be adequately cleared and available for use during the winter.

### COMMUNICATING TO BUSINESSES

We will work with businesses to communicate snow clearing expectations on property frontages. Property owners are responsible for clearing the sidewalk similar to the downtown standard.

## PRIORITY STREETS FOR SNOW CLEARING



traffic, or otherwise impede the snow removal efforts of the City or Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation.”

## **SIDEWALK SNOW CLEARING**

## **Reminder to Business Owner/ Operators**

By-Law No. 20-8705 states: "before 10:00 a.m. each day, following every fall of snow, hail or rain which shall have frozen on the sidewalk, or after a fall of snow or ice off any building, cause the same to be removed entirely off the sidewalk fronting or abutting the premises and in the event the ice or snow shall be so

frozen that removal would damage the sidewalks, every such person shall strew the sidewalk with salt, sand or other like substances."

## MAJOR SNOWFALL PARKING BAN

The Mayor may declare a citywide parking ban in the event of a major snowstorm. This will prohibit parking on any city street until the ban is lifted. Notice will be given by social media, City website, and the radio.

## **TICKET AND TOW**

If your car is parked on any street during a citywide parking ban, it will be ticketed, at a cost outlined in the

current Fees and Charges Schedule. As well, your vehicle could be towed to the nearest cleared street.

BETTER DRIVING FOR ALL

We want to react to snowfall and clear the streets quickly. With the streets clear, roads will be less congested, and drivers will be able to reach their destination easily and safely. By listening for messages and watching for the signs, you'll be ensuring trouble-free, easy winter driving for everyone.

For more information about snow clearing, please call the Operations Department at (204) 239-8346.

# 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.

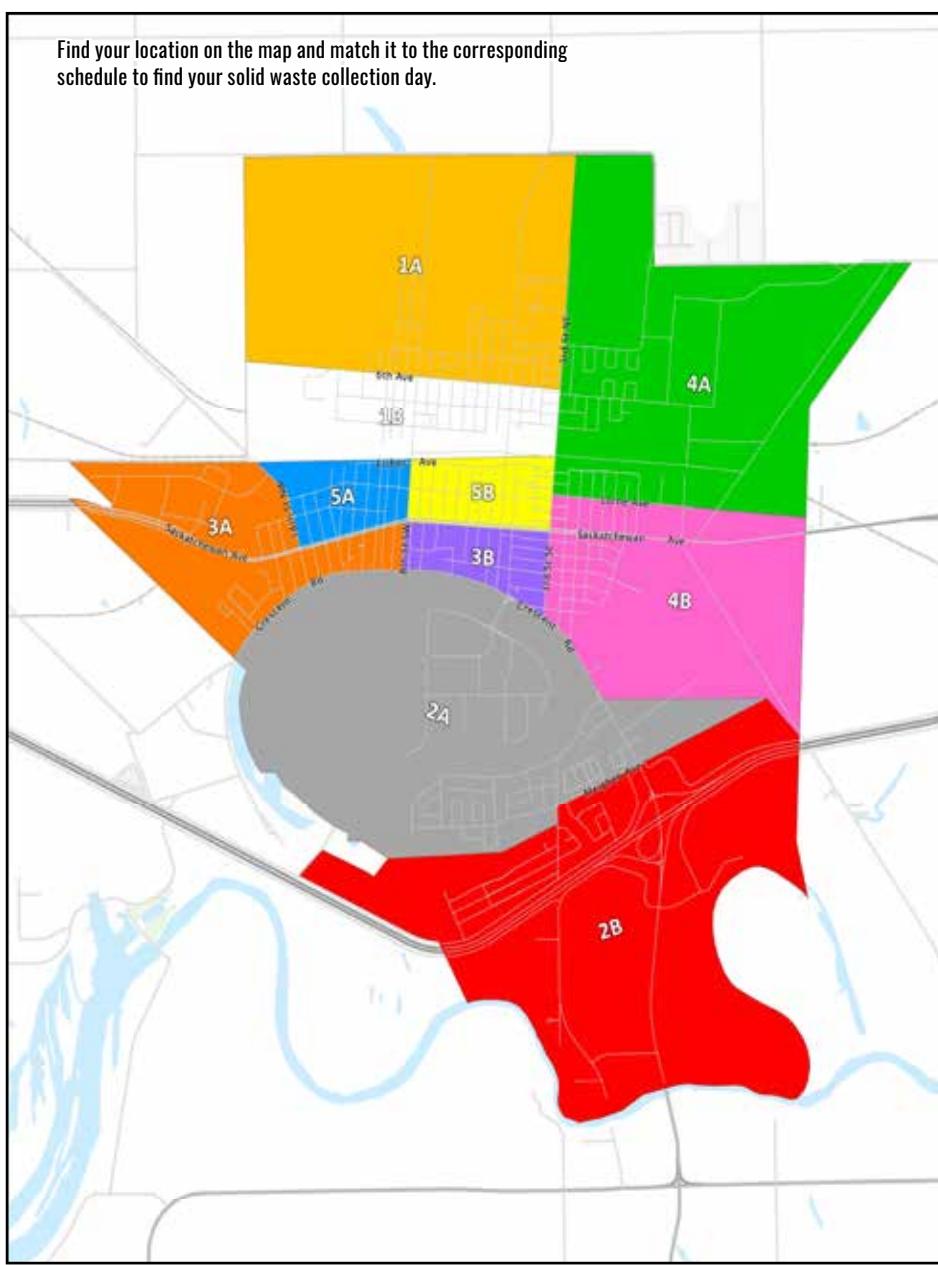
## RECYCLABLE COLLECTION

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 between January 2 - 23, 2025.



THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE  
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

DAY  
1A - 5A

**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION SCHEDULE - 2025**

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 TELEPHONE THE OPERATIONS DEPT.  
at 204-239-8346 or email [operations@city-plap.com](mailto:operations@city-plap.com)

CANARY  
PEACH  
GREY

DAY 1    ORANGE  
DAY 2    GREEN  
DAY 3    DAY 4  
          DAY 5

R - SOLID WASTE/RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION DAY

H - HOLIDAY

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	R	3	4														1
5	6	7	8	9	R	11	2	3	4	5	6	R	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	R	R	R	R	17	18	9	R	R	R	R	14	15	9	R	R	R	R	R	15
19	20	21	22	23	R	25	16	H	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	R	R	R	R	31		23	R	R	R	R	R		23	R	R	R	R	R	29
																				30
APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5							1	2	3	4	R	R	7
6	R	R	R	R	R	12	4	5	6	R	R	R	10	8	R	R	R	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	H	19	11	R	R	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	R	R	21
20	H	22	R	R	R	26	18	H	20	21	R	R	24	22	R	R	R	26	27	28
27	R	R	30				25	R	R	R	29	30	31	29	30					
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
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			H	2	3	R	5								H	R	R	R	R	6
6	R	R	R	R	11	12	3	H	R	R	R	R	2	7	R	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	R	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	R	R	R	R	20
20	R	R	R	R	25	26	17	R	R	R	R	R	23	21	R	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	H				
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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12	H	14	15	R	R	18	9	10	H	12	13	R	15	14	R	R	R	R	19	20
19	R	R	R	23	24	25	16	R	R	R	R	21	22	21	22	23	24	H	H	27
26	27	28	29	R	R		23	24	25	26	27	R	29	28	29	R	R			
							30													

THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE  
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

DAY  
1B - 5B

**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION SCHEDULE - 2025**

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 TELEPHONE THE OPERATIONS DEPT.  
at 204-239-8346 or email [operations@city-plap.com](mailto:operations@city-plap.com)



DAY 1    PURPLE DAY 4  
DAY 2    PINK DAY 5

R - SOLID WASTE/RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION DAY

H - HOLIDAY

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	2	R	4							1							1
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19	R	R	R	R	24	25	16	H	R	R	R	R	22	16	R	R	R	R	R	22
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			R	R	R	R	5					R	3	1	R	R	R	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	R	R	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	R	R	14
13	R	R	R	R	H	19	11	12	13	R	R	R	17	15	R	R	R	19	20	21
20	H	R	23	24	25	26	20	H	R	R	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	R	R	28
27	28	29	R				25	26	27	28	R	R	31	29	R					
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	R	R	4	5					1	2	7	8	R	R	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	R	12	3	H	5	6	7	8	9	14	R	16	17	18	19	20
13	R	R	R	R	18	19	10	R	R	R	R	R	16	21	22	R	R	R	R	27
20	21	22	23	24	R	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	R	16	17	18	19	20
27	R	R	R	R			24	R	R	R	R	R	30	28	R	H				
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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5	6	7	R	R	R	R	11	2	3	4	5	R	R	7	R	R	R	R	12	13
12	H	R	R	16	17	18	18	9	R	H	R	R	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	R
19	20	21	22	R	R	25	16	17	18	19	20	R	22	21	R	R	R	H	H	27
26	R	R	R	30	31		23	R	R	R	R	28	29	28	R	30	31			

# Portage Youth Hub helps address barriers

By Lisa Kopochinski



Inside part of the Youth hub with lounge area and upstairs wellness offices.



Community stakeholders announcing the Youth Hub project.

Located at 1200 Saskatchewan Ave. West at the corner of 12th Street NW, Portage Youth Hub (Tawacin On Kiksuuya, which means Learns by Heart in Dakota) was recently launched to help address barriers in mental health and addictions.

With its goal to be a place for individuals—ages 15 to 29 years old—to seek support for challenges that include addictions, mental health issues, and assistance with being connected to the correct services, Mari Kozar, Executive Director of Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation, says they have been in the planning stages of Youth Hub since 2021.

“This is when they originally wrote the application for the Public Safety Canada funding. The Family Resource Centre has been a major partner in

applying for funding and setting up the project.”

She says since that time, they have had extensive planning conversations for a youth hub with a multitude of stakeholders in our community.

“There were several additional funding applications that were submitted before we were ultimately awarded our current contracts. There has been tons of positive support from our community partners in establishing the hub, referring youth and providing expertise around public safety.”

Youth Hub has a registered social worker who is leading its wellness counsellors and coaches to develop individualized plans for each youth to work towards any goals they may need support on, including mental health and addictions.

“This includes any service navigation that may be required and additional referrals to more specialized services if needed,” says Kozar.

“There is additional programming focusing on life skills and Indigenous cultural programming. We have had youth coming in to work on art projects, homework, and Indigenous crafts with Youth Hub team members. Any youth who is in need of housing supports would be supported through the process of finding housing in our community, along with the preliminary steps of attaining ID and proof of income which are needed for renting.”

For more information, contact [youthhub@portagecrc.com](mailto:youthhub@portagecrc.com). Portage Youth Hub is also on Facebook and Instagram and can be located at [@portageyouthhub](https://www.instagram.com/portageyouthhub).

**“There has been tons of positive support from our community partners in establishing the hub.” – Mari Kozar**



## DID YOU KNOW?

# The City of Portage IT Department

The City of Portage IT Department is responsible for the information and technology services for much more than just City Hall.

Information Technology (IT) services encompass a broad range of activities and solutions designed to manage and support the technology infrastructure of organizations.

These services include technical support for hardware and software issues, network management to ensure secure and efficient communication systems, and data management for storing, organizing, and backing up critical information.

IT services also cover cybersecurity measures to protect against digital threats, software development for creating and maintaining applications, and cloud services that provide resources over the internet.

Our IT Department provides these services for the following facilities:

- City Hall
- Operations Building
- Utility Building
- Water Treatment Plant
- Water Pollution Control Facility
- Fire Hall
- City Reservoir Outbuildings
- Animal Retention Facility
- Community Safety Office

As well as for our partner organizations and contracts:

- PRRA (Splash Island, Stride Place)
- Planning District
- PRED
- RM of Portage including Oakville municipal offices
- Portage Regional Landfill
- RCMP
- Fort la Reine Museum
- Tourism - Discover Portage la Prairie
- Prairie Fusion Arts & Entertainment
- Portage la Prairie Regional Library
- Herman Prior Activity Centre
- PCRC
- BDO Arena

### CYBER SECURITY

We employ software that initiates monthly training to each staff member with access to a computer. This covers a wide range of training that most people would normally never think about, such as:

### FOUND DEVICES

Each staff member is provided with training to deal with security risks, which no longer include just a bad email. Each staff member is trained on what to do if they find a device such as a USB drive.

It's human nature to plug the drive into a computer to find out what's on it, in order to return it to its owner. This however is sometimes used as a decoy by malicious outside sources to capture information such as login credentials, install remote access

for unauthorized users, and in some cases install a virus that would cripple an organization.

### UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS

Each staff member is trained on how to spot and turn away unauthorized users from entering buildings. In today's world, some individuals try to pass as employees who have forgotten their keys or door fobs. Once in the building they can plug devices into our networks and try to infect or glean information from our protected services.

### UNEXPECTED CALLERS

Each staff member is also trained on how to identify spam/phishing callers, for example, businesses wanting to change their banking information for billing. We receive a lot of requests for the City to pay false invoices sent in by spammers, and in some instances are followed up by a phone call to press the urgency of having them paid immediately.

### PHISHING EMAILS

Each staff member is also trained to be email aware, and to look at each email to spot any inconsistencies that may indicate it is a spam or phishing email. If they are not sure about an email they receive, they know they can report it to IT to be scanned and examined to determine if it is legitimate and safe to open.



# Service requests

Service Requests allow community members to be involved with the upkeep of Portage la Prairie by submitting problems or observations to city staff. Submissions by users are submitted electronically to the appropriate department who will investigate the issue.

Whether you want to report a pothole, an animal running at large, an illegally parked vehicle or report a downed tree, the ability to report this information is only as far away as your smart phone or computer.

Simply go to <http://www.city-plap.com> and search Service Requests. Click on Submit a Service Request, then select the category your request would fall under. For example, if you want to report a pothole, select Transportation, then +Submit a New Report.

Fill in the details and in the Type of Problem field select Potholes. You have the option to mark the location on a map and upload a photo if you wish. Click on Report It at the bottom, and you're done!

Service Requests submitted through this application are not intended for emergencies and are only monitored Monday to Friday during regular working hours.

If you are in need of immediate city services, please contact the Operations Department at (204) 239-8346 during normal working hours. For after hours emergencies please contact (204) 239-8340.

**<https://www.city-plap.com/council-administration/service-requests/>**



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## LOSS OF UTILITIES

While utility providers do their very best to maintain their services, from time to time there are events that interrupt that service.

Electrical outages may be isolated to your home or may be widespread. Check with neighbours to see if their power is on. Phone 911 to report downed power lines.

Safety controls on natural gas equipment are designed to close and shut equipment off if gas flow is interrupted. The natural gas distribution system is designed to deliver gas in the event of isolated electrical outages. For information on your equipment contact the manufacturer.

## WHAT TO DO TO STAY WARM IN YOUR HOME

Note that your home will retain heat for several hours.

1. Keep windows and doors closed. Dress warmly. Stay inside.
2. Gas burning appliances must not be used indoors as they produce carbon monoxide.
3. If it is a gas outage, use portable electric heaters.
4. Use your emergency heating source to warm one room before it gets too cold.
5. Move to a location with heat.

## WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE FOR FREEZE UP

If water pipes are at risk of freezing, follow instructions below:

1. Drain water pipes to prevent freezing and splitting the pipes:
  - a) Shut off the tap at the water meter.
  - b) Open all taps in the house. Water will drain from a tap at the lowest point.
  - c) Capture water in pails.
2. Turn off and drain the hot water tank, hot tub, washing machine, and dishwasher.
3. Flush toilets and add antifreeze to the tanks and bowls. Add antifreeze to all drains.
4. City crews may shut off the water at the street and drain the line to your house. They may also require access to your house to drain the water meter.
5. Wrap the valve, inlet pipe and water meter with blankets or insulating material.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ELECTRICITY IS OFF

1. Check with your neighbours to see if they have electricity.
2. If your home is the only one without power, the problem could be in your residence.



Images courtesy of Pexels.

3. Call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376
4. If you do not know how to change a fuse or re-set a breaker, contact Manitoba Hydro or a professional electrician.
5. If it is a neighbourhood power outage, unplug all appliances to avoid damage from a power surge when the power is restored.
6. Shut off all lights except one to signal the return of power.
7. Turn on your battery powered radio that is tuned to a local station.
8. Report all downed power lines by phoning 911. Use caution – assume all power lines are energized.

### **WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ELECTRICITY IS BACK ON**

1. Wait a few minutes for the power to stabilize before plugging in appliances again.
2. Be sure the water heater is full of water before turning it on.
3. Turn off portable heaters.

### **WHAT TO DO WHEN THE NATURAL GAS IS OFF**

1. Call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376
2. Turn the thermostat down so it is not calling for heat.

### **WHAT TO DO WHEN THE NATURAL GAS IS BACK ON**

1. You may have to re-light the pilot light(s). Call Manitoba Hydro for help.
2. Be sure the water heater is full of water before turning it on.
3. Turn up the furnace thermostat and turn off portable heaters.

### **WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT CARBON MONOXIDE IN YOUR BUILDING**

1. Open all doors and windows and leave the building immediately.
2. Immediately seek medical attention for those affected by phoning 911.
3. Call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376 for an emergency inspection

# PRRA Portage Regional Recreation Authority



204-857-7772 info@prra.ca

245 Royal Road South Portage la Prairie, MB on the Island

PRRA  
Portage Regional Recreation Authority Inc.



FB: @StridePlace



IG: @stride\_place

**StridePlace.ca**



## **Viterra Men's 100th Provincial Championships 2025**

Join us for an unforgettable week of curling excitement from February 4 - 9th 2025, at Stride Place in Portage la Prairie!

Don't miss your chance to witness top teams compete for the prestigious provincial title. Whether you're a die-hard curling fan or new to the sport, this is the event for you!

Visit [StridePlace.ca](http://StridePlace.ca) for more details and to purchase your tickets. Let's make this championship unforgettable! See you on the ice!



### 2025 REGISTRATION DATES

SPRING LESSONS	MARCH 19th 2025
PRRA DAY CAMPS	APRIL 16th 2025
DELTA CAMPGROUND	MAY 1st 2025
SUMMER LESSONS	JUNE 11th 2025

### SHINDLEMAN POOL PARTIES

- \* Admission for up to 16 people \$150
- \* Use of the Shindleman Pool during Public Swim
- \* Use of the Century 21 Pool Party Room for 2 hours

### SHINDLEMAN POOL RENTALS

- \* Hourly private pool rental \* up to 65 people  
\$145/hr for local users \$208/hr for visiting users

GREAT FOR BIRTHDAY PARTIES OR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**VITERRA CHAMPIONSHIP:** February 4 - 9 2025  
Men's Provincial Curling Championship

**SPRING BREAK:** March 31 - April 4 2025  
Extra Public Swim and Public Skate Times

**CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS:** July 1 2025  
Live Entertainment and Fireworks at dusk

### PRRA MEMBERSHIPS

PRRA offers three different types of memberships



Contact the PRRA to find the right membership for you

### FACILITY - PROGRAM

#### REGULAR ICE RENTALS

- \* Youth \$134/hour Adult \$176/hour
- \* September - May

#### PRRA DAY CAMPS

- \* 5 - 12 year olds \* Weekly themes
- \* All summer long (9 weeks)

#### PUBLIC SKATING

- \* Public, Family, Senior and Tiny Tot varied Sticks n' Pucks \* October - May

#### ROTARY REPUBLIC PARK

- \* Seasonal athletic park \* May - Oct
- \* Soccer, Baseball, Football / Rugby.

#### COMMUNITY GARDENS

- \* Individual gardening plots at Republic Park \* May - October

#### DELTA CAMPGROUND

- \* Seasonal campground \* May - Oct
- \* Seasonal and daily camping

#### SPLASH ISLAND

- \* Seasonal outdoor waterpark on Island Park \* June - September

\* Schedules can change without notice, always check online



# Best of the WEST WATER TASTE TEST

The City of Portage la Prairie was thrilled to celebrate our Water Treatment Plant staff with a barbecue in honour of their recent win at the Western Canada Section of the American Water Works Association's Best of the West Water Taste Test!

Their dedication to providing our community with great-tasting, high-quality drinking water has earned them this prestigious recognition, which celebrates the hard work of utility teams across Western Canada.

Portage la Prairie triumphed over other major cities and will now represent Western Canada at the national taste test at the American Water Works Association conference in June.

Thank you to our team for your ongoing commitment to excellence — your hard work makes a difference in every drop!

An article about this was printed in our local newspaper!



Check out it at:

<https://www.thegraphicleader.com/news/local-news/portage-water-wins-prestigious-taste-test-award>

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 ensure 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 we're collaborating with partners to develop this land for the best use of the community. A utility service capacity study was completed, and a land drainage plan is in progress. The subdivision and zoning processes are underway. Roadway design to access land has started with construction to start in 2025/26.
- The second annual Developer Day was held, to showcase Portage la Prairie's potential to commercial and residential developers and encourage investment.
- Junk Yard Dogs Bike Park officially opened to the public.
- Koko Platz Recreation Club construction started with completion expected in 2025 along with a new rink.
- Investing in the Garrioch Creek trails, improving signage and rest stops. Design was approved and an RFP will go out in the spring of 2025. Construction should be completed in the summer of 2025.
- Our active transportation pathway network was extended to provide access to Westpark School and the west-end commercial district.
- Implemented a policy that incentivizes infill development and neighbourhood renewal in more established neighbourhoods, as well as a check list for applicants to improve results of public hearings.
- Completed a 3-year plan for investment in City parks and green spaces. Simplot central park to see new pathways, lighting, and bathroom facilities in 2025. McKay Park to receive \$150,000 redevelopment this summer.



## 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:**

- Re-staffed and trained the Community Safety Officer team to patrol the downtown corridor and engage with community groups. Planning to expand hours of service and increase community engagement.
- Completed a community and safety and well-being survey. Community engagement sessions have begun, and data is being analyzed for release in 2025.



## SHOWCASING OUR COMMUNITY

We believe that community beautification and tourism-focused investment contribute to our pride for a more livable community. Our goal is to share our 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.
- Invested in exterior updates to City Hall, which are almost complete.
- Worked with the Holiday Avenue Project to light up Vopni Park for the holiday season.



## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

We will build upon our accessible and diverse transportation infrastructure, ample quality of 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.
- Completed a 3-year plan for road infrastructure investment, including resurfacing, reconstruction, and annual maintenance and repair.



## 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 funding through CEDI (First Nation-Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative) to collaborate with both Long Plain and Dakota Plain First Nations to develop a regional economic action plan. Meetings have begun in this 3-year process.
- Opened a Youth Hub in partnership with PCRC, the Province of Manitoba, and the Government of Canada.

# Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill

## Portage Regional Landfill

26095 PR#227

**Site Manager: Robert Pohl**

T: 204-871-4549 | E: [rpoohl@city-plap.com](mailto:rpoohl@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, 2025, secure open loads with a tarp and straps or rope. The Landfill will be enforcing a \$250.00 penalty for all untarped loads. Tipping Fees of \$65 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.

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.
- Remove all batteries from waste. Batteries should be disposed of at Portage and District Recycling or an authorized retailer.

Construction of a Leachate Holding Pond and a Clay Burrow Pit started in 2024. Construction will continue in 2025. These are the main infrastructure improvements currently approved for the site.

- Customers must make their own arrangements to unload heavy materials.
- Secure open loads with a tarp and straps or rope. The Landfill will be enforcing a \$250.00 penalty for all untarped loads.



- 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), Ryan Espey, Colin Doyle, Roy Tufford, and Garth Asham.

## 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.
- When damaged, Lithium-Ion Batteries can instantly catch fire and explode, injuring workers and destroying equipment and facilities.
- 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.

# 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.

## 5 FAST FACTS FOR PET OWNERS

In the City of Portage la Prairie



### 1 FREE PET LICENSING

#### Pet Licenses are Required Annually

All dogs and cats over the age of six months must be licensed. Pet Licenses are available at no cost if registered between Jan 1st - March 31st each year. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required at the time of registration. A lost pet wearing a tag obtained through licensing is almost always re-united with its owner when found. The penalty for non compliance (first offence) is \$100.

### 2 Current Rabies Vaccination

Every dog or cat owner must maintain a current rabies vaccination status for their pet. Before a pet license is issued or renewed for the dog or cat, evidence of a Current Rabies Vaccination from a licensed veterinarian is required.

### VACCINATE

2



### 3 CATS ROAMING



#### Pets Must Not Run at Large

Cats (or dogs) are not permitted to run at large. When you let your cat roam, you place it at risk. Many cats are found deceased on, or adjacent to roadways in Portage la Prairie each year. Roaming cats can negatively impact your neighbors and contribute to animal overpopulation. The penalty for non compliance (first offence) is \$130.

### 4 How Many Pets Can I Have?

The City of Portage la Prairie Animal Control By-law allows for no more than four dogs, or four cats, or a combination of both, over the age of six months, regardless of the number of people who may live on the premises.

### PET LIMITS

4



### 5 SPAY & NEUTER



#### Benefits of Spay & Neuter

Spaying & neutering your pet reduces roaming and aggression as well as spraying & marking behavior, it lowers the risk of some pet cancers and helps fight animal overpopulation. It can increase your pet's lifespan up to 3-5 years! After March 31st, the cost to license a spayed or neutered dog/cat is \$25. The cost to license a non-spayed or intact dog/cat is \$60.

Investinportage.ca



**LET'S WORK TOGETHER  
TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS!**

**LET'S BEGIN!**



**EVE O'LEARY**  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**PRED meets many businesses each month, if you would like a visit from PRED connect today.**



**204 - 856 - 5000**



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



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**[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!

Community members of all ages attend activities, enjoy unique events, access the internet, work on our public computers, and borrow books!

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

Have you visited the library lately?



## 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



## SERVICES

- Books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, blood pressure monitors, radon screeners, air quality monitors & board games
- Databases: Libby, EBSCOhost, CBC Corner & Ancestry.ca
- Resources for Patrons with Print 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

**Did you know?  
You can take up to  
50 items with your  
library card?**



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



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www.portagelibrary.com

# EVENTS

# Around town



Council was thrilled to celebrate the long-awaited completion of the Saskatchewan Avenue W. improvement project!



Council enjoyed hearing Premier Kiney's State of the Province address at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.



Above: Our second annual Developer Day, held in partnership with the RM of Portage, Southport Aerospace, and PREC, was enjoyed by all.



Right: Council was pleased to attend the Public Art Committee's unveiling of "Eagle Arc" in Simplot Central Park, a stunning work of Indigenous art by artist Kevin McKenzie.



Councillors Masi and Nicholls enjoyed the Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration at the Fort la Reine Museum.



Mayor Knox and Council were pleased to proclaim Truth and Reconciliation Week and raise the Every Child Matters flag at City Hall.