2023 PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE City Guide

JULY TO DECEMBER

Saskatchewan Avenue West Roadway Improvement Project. A view to the east from 7th Street SW.

Overcoming barriers:
Adapting historical buildings to modern accessibilty standards

Portage Regional Economic Development:
Creating an environment for success

Information on current projects,
city services, recreation, and more!

Portage la Prairie
City of Possibilities

TABLE OF Contents

MESSAGES

3 Message from Mayor Sharilyn Knox

FEATURES

8 Spring/Summer 2023 Construction Update: Saskatchewan Avenue West Roadway Improvement Project

16 Overcoming Barriers: Adapting Historical Buildings to Modern Accessibility

34 AZURE: Sustainable Aviation Fuel Facility could take Flight in Portage la Prairie

CITY NEWS AND MORE

4 PCRC Works with the Community to Create Community

5 2023 Property Taxes, Alarm Permits and T.I.P.P.

6 City Facility Hours

7 City Council

12 Downtown Parking Strategy

13 RCMP Crime Prevention Tips

15 Your Fire Department

19 Portage la Prairie Regional Library

20 Mosquito Control Program FAQ

22 FoodCycler Pilot Program

23 Portage la Prairie Operations and Utility Departments

26 Annual Program to Test for Lead in Drinking Water

27 Animal Control Services

29 PRED: Creating an Environment for Success

30 Groundwater Pumping and What You Should Know

31 Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill

32 Portage Regional Recreation Authority (PRRA)

33 Outdoor Recreation

ON THE COVER

Saskatchewan Avenue West Roadway Improvement Project:
A view to the east from 7th Street SW

Portage la Prairie
City of Possibilities

Published for the
CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE
97 Saskatchewan Avenue E.
Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0L8
204-239-8309

www.city-plap.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityplap/
Twitter: Twitter@cityofportage

Published by
DEL COMMUNICATIONS INC.
Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg, MB R3L 0G5
204-254-6418
www.delcommunications.com

President and CEO
DAVID LANGSTAFF

Editor
LISA KOPOCHINSKI
431-277-6261
Lisakop@sbcglobal.net
www.LisaKCommunications.net

Production services provided by:
S.G. Bennett Marketing Services

Layout & Design
KATHLEEN CABLE

©DEL Communications Inc. – All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Publications mail agreement #40934510
Return undeliverable address to:
DEL Communications Inc.
Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg, MB R3L 0G5

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein and the reliability of the source, the publisher in no way guarantees nor warrants- the information- and is not responsible- for errors, omissions or statements made by advertisers. Opinions and recommendations made by contributors or advertisers are not necessarily those of the publisher, its directors, officers or employees.

PRINTED IN CANADA 07/2023

MESSAGE FROM Mayor Sharilyn Knox

Dear Residents of Portage la Prairie,

I want to express my deep gratitude and optimism for the future of our city. Despite the challenges we face, I am confident that Portage la Prairie has a bright and hopeful future ahead.

As we continue to invest in our local economy, support our small businesses, and create new opportunities for growth and development, we are building a city that is more resilient, more prosperous, and more inclusive than ever before. With our commitment to sustainability, innovation, and community, there is no limit to what we can achieve together.

> **"As we look towards the future, there is no doubt that Portage la Prairie is poised for even greater prosperity and growth."**

Our city is undergoing significant development, including our Saskatchewan Avenue project. This project will revitalize the heart of Portage la Prairie, making it more attractive to you, our citizens, tourists, and investors alike. The project is bringing new life to our community, which will showcase our city's unique character and charm.

Thanks to the hard work of our local entrepreneurs, new and existing industry, and the support of our community, we are seeing unprecedented levels of investment and job creation in Portage la Prairie. Whether you are starting a new business or looking to join an existing one, there are countless opportunities to build a fulfilling career and make a positive impact on our city's economy.

But it's not just about the economy. The sports, recreation, arts, and culture community in Portage la Prairie is a vibrant and vital part of our city's identity and character. We look forward to continuing to support and celebrate our sports, recreation, arts, and culture for years to come. From pickleball to pottery, whether you are a lifelong resident or a newcomer to our city, there is always something new to discover and explore in our community.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our region's residents. Whether you are volunteering your time at a local charity, supporting a local business, or simply being a good neighbour, your contributions to our community are what make Portage la Prairie such a special place to call home. I am continually inspired by your resilience, kindness, and generosity.

As we look towards the future, there is no doubt that Portage la Prairie is poised for even greater prosperity and growth. Whether investing in new infrastructure, supporting local businesses, or fostering a welcoming and inclusive community, we are all working together to create a healthy, prosperous future for ourselves and future generations.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all as we create a hopeful future for Portage la Prairie, celebrating the unique character and spirit of our city.

I am so proud to be serving as Mayor of this city. Everything we're doing couldn't be done without our forward-thinking City Council, City staff (who are, in my mind, second to none) and you, the supportive citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your mayor.

—Mayor Sharilyn Knox

PCRC works with the community to create community

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

Working together with the community of Portage la Prairie, the Portage la Prairie Revitalization Corporation empowers citizens, enhances neighbourhoods, fosters community spirit, and builds the capacity of community organizations.

This includes the Reaching Home program, Indigenous Seniors Resource program, Wawokiya (our community mobilization initiative), Local Immigration Partnership program, Small Grants program, Connecting Communities program, Indigenous Community Coordinator and Stakeholder Table, and the Communities Building Youth Futures program.

More information on these programs can be found at www.portagecrc.com.

SMALL GRANTS INTAKE:

June 1, 2023, and October 1, 2023: Up to $5,000 funded through the Government of Manitoba. More information and applications can be found at www.portagecrc.com/small-grants.

COMMUNITY ROOTS (FIRST TIME HOME BUYER) PROGRAM:

Thanks to funding received from the City of Portage la Prairie and Manitoba Housing, renters looking to transition to home ownership may qualify for up to $15,000. Find out more at www.portagecrc.com/crp or call us at 204-240-7272!

FLOCKING FLAMINGO FUNDRAISER:

Hire our team to surprise a friend or loved one with a flock of flamingos! Proceeds go towards the Reaching Home Program that supports those who need access to housing in our community. Call us at 204-240-7272 to book!

Portage la Prairie

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT
2023 property taxes, alarm permits, and T.I.P.P.

PROPERTY TAXES

2023 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, 2023.

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
- 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, 2023, before 4:30 p.m.

- After hours: a night deposit box is located on the east front door of City Hall.
- E-Transfer: to payments@city-plap.com. Instructions are available on our website.
- Credit card: online only through Pay Simply at 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.
- 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.

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 for more information.

If you currently have a permit, please ensure that all information is current by calling City Hall at 204-239-8309.

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

Pay your 2024 property taxes in 12 easy monthly installments on the 15th of each month beginning January 15, 2024. Applications should be submitted by December 15, 2023.

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

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. 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.

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

July 3, 2023 – Canada Day
August 7, 2023 – Terry Fox Day
September 4, 2023 – Labour Day
October 2, 2023 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 9, 2023 – Thanksgiving Day
November 13, 2023 – Remembrance Day
December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day
December 26, 2023 – Boxing Day
January 1, 2024 – New Years Day

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.city-plap.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cityplap/
Twitter: Twitter@cityofportage

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

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

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 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.

SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

July 10, 2023
August 14, 2023
September 11, 2023
September 25, 2023
October 10, 2023
October 23, 2023
November 14, 2023
December 11, 2023

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. If you wish to speak at a public hearing or make a presentation to Council, please pre-register by calling 204-239-8337 or by email at info@city-plap.com.

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.

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: https://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/council/invitation-to-council/

CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR SHARILYN KNOX sknox@city-plap.com

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

Chairperson: Public Safety Committee. ***Second:*** Community Services Committee. ***Director:*** Portage Regional Recreation 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

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

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

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, Portage Urban Indigenous People's Coalition, Public Art Committee.

COUNCILLOR FARON NICHOLLS fnicholls@city-plap.com

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, Board of Revision, Tax Sharing Committee, Heartland Community Futures, Fort la Reine Museum.

COUNCILLOR TERRIE PORTER tporter@city-plap.com

Chairperson: Transportation 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, Heritage Advisory Committee.

Bird's eye view to the east from 17th Street.

SPRING/SUMMER 2023 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

SASKATCHEWAN AVENUE WEST ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City of Portage la Prairie is committed to making significant improvements to revitalize Saskatchewan Ave West. This three-year project will see one of the community's largest investments in infrastructure advancements including renewed roadway, paved parking, curbs, sidewalks, protected bike lanes, enhanced urban tree canopy and soft landscape, and improved land drainage.

This year marks the biggest year of construction on the project. The City has expressed its gratitude to its community partners for their support and patience during this significant period of construction and community beautification.

In a recent statement, the City said it is important for residents to know that the Saskatchewan Avenue West Roadway Improvement Project— land drainage sewer upgrades, roadway and streetscape improvements has resumed, and that construction will continue moving from east to west.

Saskatchewan Avenue West Roadway Improvement Project. A view to the west from 16th Street.

City of Portage la Prairie Director of Operations Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin cited two big benefits this project will provide.

"The look and feel of the west end will be greatly enhanced over the existing rural type road cross section and, secondly, the accessibility for pedestrians and bicycles will be dramatically improved over the existing gravel shoulders."

Mayor Sharilyn Knox agrees and adds that when we invest in upgrading our infrastructure, it signals a commitment to the well-being of our community and can attract further investments.

"Our revitalized business district will become an attractive destination for our residents and visitors. These improvements will create a more

pleasant and inviting environment for everyone, our pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. And our new well-designed and aesthetically pleasing Saskatchewan Avenue will attract more visitors, improve safety, and promote a sense of community pride which all contribute to a vibrant and thriving community."

City Planning Economic Development Chair Preston Meier agrees and says the downtown corridor of a community speaks to its identity.

"A community is the sum of its parts, and this project is one of those parts. For residents, business owners, investors, and tourists alike, it shows pride in our city. When a community is prepared to upgrade its infrastructure and landscapes, investment will follow. This leads to more development and helps promote a thriving business community."

LONG OVERDUE

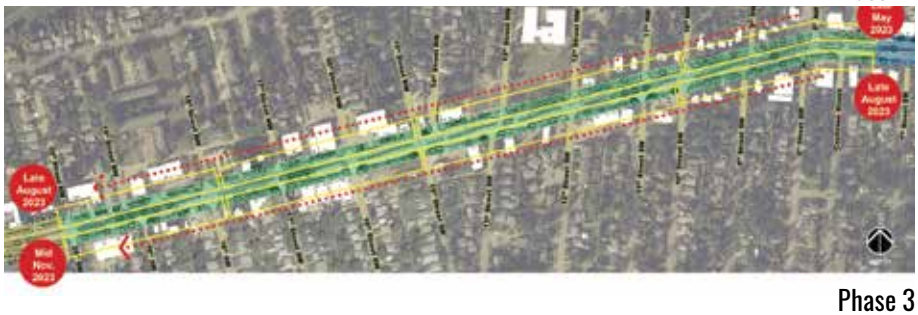
Residents know this project has been long overdue, to the tune of 40 years. Lequier-Jobin says the downtown area of Saskatchewan Ave. was improved in the 1980s to add centre medians and remove the angle parking.

Mayor Knox agrees and says based on historical records, discussions regarding this project have been ongoing for the past four decades.

"During our Council's tenure from 2018 to 2022, we formulated a strategic plan where this project became our topmost priority. There was absolute certainty that we would find a solution to bring it to fruition. We were fully aware that undertaking this endeavor would require considerable time, financial resources, and patience from our community. Nevertheless, we were equally aware of the significant positive changes it would bring to our city."

Phase 1

Phase 2



Phase 3

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATE

Construction 2023 Season Start: May 2023

Approximate Duration for 2023 Season: November 2023 (weather permitting)

Traffic Implications:

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

When planning construction, the City must ensure the active roadway leaves enough room outside 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.

THREE DISTINCT CONSTRUCTION PHASES OVER THREE YEARS

Phase One: Roadway Resurfacing: 4th Street West to 7th Street West (started 2022)

Timeline: Construction will resume on the north side of the avenue by forming the concrete traffic islands and resurfacing the asphalt roadway. Construction will then move to the south side of the avenue from 4th to 7th wrapping up Phase One by the end of June. Land drainage sewer work will be ongoing north of 7th moving westward ahead of the roadway work.

Phase One work includes:

- Roadway asphalt renewal
- Land drainage sewer updates
- New curbs, defined approaches, medians

New concrete traffic islands form the protected bike lanes on the north side of Saskatchewan Avenue.

Construction continues on the north side of Saskatchewan Avenue with the reconstruction of the asphalt roadway.

- New sidewalks, accent paving, lighting, street trees, soft landscape, benches, and planters
- New, pre-cast concrete curb-protected bike lanes on the roadway

Phase Two: Roadway Reconstruction: 7th Street West to 20th Street West

Timeline: North side under construction from end of May to late August 2023; south side under construction from late August to mid-November 2023.

While the south side of Phase One is underway, the north side of Phase Two will begin at 7th Street NW with land drainage sewer updates. This work will be moving westward and is anticipated to be taken on in three-block increments: 7th - 10th Streets NW; 11th - 14th Streets NW; 15th - 18th Streets NW; 18th - 20th Streets NW.

Once a section of land drainage sewer work is completed, roadway and concrete work will then follow. When the roadwork has been completed on the north side, the construction crew will move to the south side and travel westbound from 7th Street SW to 20th Street SW in similar three-block increments.

Phase Two work includes:

- Roadway renewal: the removal and replacement of existing asphalt and base courses
- Land drainage sewer updates
- Parking reorganization (new curbs, defined approaches, and medians)
- New sidewalks, accent paving, lighting, street trees, soft landscape, and planters with benches
- New bike lanes at sidewalk level from 8th Street NW to 18th Street NW and a new multi-use path at sidewalk level from 18th to 20th Streets NW

Phase Three: Roadway Rehabilitation: 20th Street West to Elm Street

Timeline: Estimated construction start date: 2024

Phase Three work includes:

- Roadway renewal: the removal and replacement of existing asphalt and base courses
- Land drainage sewer updates
- Parking reorganization (new curbs, defined approaches, and medians)
- New multi-use path at sidewalk level on the north side; new concrete sidewalks on the south side
- New medians with trees
- New bioswales adjacent to the roadway

EXTENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK

Roadway improvements will include the following:

1. The existing asphalt pavement will be totally removed, new drainage inlets, catch basins and connecting pipes will be installed.

a. This work includes excavating to a depth of approximately 0.914m – 1.22m (3'0"- 4'0") to place new gravel subbase and base course material.

2. Once the new gravel subbase and base course has been installed, the concrete work will begin. The concrete roadway improvements include:

a. New, defined concrete approaches to properties as indicated in the construction drawings

b. New concrete curb and gutter

c. New concrete medians

d. New concrete sidewalks and accent paving

e. New concrete raised planters with seating to be installed between the sidewalk and raised bike path at select locations between 8th to 18th Streets.

3. When the concrete work is complete, new asphalt paving will be added to the roadway.

Streetscape improvements will include the following:

- Once the concrete and asphalt work are complete the soft landscape including new street trees, shrub and perennial planting, and new sod will continue.
- Installation of new roadway lighting by Manitoba Hydro will occur during the construction process along with new pedestrian-scale lighting for the sidewalk and bike paths.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The City understands that residents and business owners have questions that need to be addressed. Here are some of the questions we received and the responses.

How will this project affect residents and businesses?

The City recognizes that undergoing major roadway and underground services construction will create short-term inconveniences, but stress that disruptions will be minimal and reasonable. Residents can expect 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.

What about 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.

What will building access be like 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 such as 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.

Will garbage and recycling collection be affected?

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

What will happen to 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.

Will emergency services continue as usual?

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

What is happening with the ongoing 2022 watermain and wastewater systems renewal, land drainage sewer and outfall upgrades?

We realize you have been experiencing construction over the past year and understand ongoing construction activities are stressful and challenging. We have attempted to minimize construction disruption by installing the mainline land drainage sewer pipe in advance of the roadway work. The work on the watermain and wastewater systems is expected to be complete soon prior to the commencement of the roadway construction.

Where can we get more information?

Contact City of Portage la Prairie Director of Operations Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin at 204-239-8387. Also visit the project page of the City's website at:

www.city-plap.com/cityplap/city-hall/projects/saskatchewan-avenue-west/

Downtown Parking Strategy

STREET PARKING

Free two-hour street parking is in effect from 4th Street NW to 5th Street E along Saskatchewan Avenue and on designated side streets.

Once your free two-hour street parking time limit has expired, your vehicle must be moved at least one city block face to avoid being ticketed. A city block face is defined as "the parking area on one side of a street bordered by an intersection at each end."

You can not return to the same city block face for a four-hour period from when you first parked there. For example, if you park on the street from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, you cannot return to that block face until after 4:00 pm, but you can move your vehicle to a different block face and start a new free two-hour parking session.

LOT PARKING

Free three-hour lot parking is in effect in the Heritage Square West, Heritage Square East, and Howie/Duke parking lots.

Once your free three-hour lot parking time limit has expired, you must move your vehicle out of the lot and cannot park again in any time limited parking lot for at least two hours, unless you purchase a parking pass. As long as five hours has transpired between the time you initially parked in the lot and when you return later in the day, you will not get a ticket.

Monthly and annual parking passes are available for purchase in person at City Hall or on the HotSpot Parking app or website. Daily parking passes are available for purchase on the day they are to be used. Visit HotSpot at https://htsp.ca/ to create your account or download the app.

Daily passes are also available for purchase from approved vendors (Herman Prior Centre and Prairie Fusion).

LOT PARKING RATES

Daily Pass $5 | Monthly Pass $25 | *Annual Pass $275

**Save when you purchase an annual pass (12 months for the price of 11).

TICKET PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parking tickets can be paid for in person at City Hall, by mail, online with your credit card or with our City's new e-Transfer option. Fines for parking violations are $50 but are reduced to $25 or $30 if paid within the 14-day early payment period, in most cases.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Time limited parking is monitored and enforced Monday through Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, holidays excluded. Evening and weekend parking remains free.

Parking tickets are not placed on your windshield and electronic parking tickets issued in the downtown area are sent in the mail.

The number of passes sold per day/month will be capped to ensure availability for parking pass holders.

Our Downtown Parking Strategy is enforced using an advanced license plate recognition system installed in our parking enforcement vehicle. If you see this vehicle patrolling, it is important to remember the following:

- The parking enforcement vehicle travels in the turning lanes.
- It makes frequent stops in turning lanes and on the side of the road.
- It drives close to parked vehicles to capture images correctly but does so at a safe speed to avoid doors opening and pedestrian traffic.

Inspector Paul Peddle, Officer in Charge, Central Plains RCMP

RCMP CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

By Lisa Kopochinski

With the policing environment changing, the challenges we face today are much different than those in the past. In today's world, we face many challenges, including:

- changing demographics
- geographical constraints
- social change
- terrorist activities
- new technology and more

Three key tools that help the RCMP deal with these issues include focusing on intelligence-led policing; using modern technology; and building strategic partnerships with different communities.

Portage la Prairie's City Guide Editor Lisa Kopochinski recently sat down with Inspector Paul Peddle, Officer in Charge, Central Plains RCMP, to find out the best ways to prevent crime. Here is what he had to say.

Has crime in Portage la Prairie increased over the last five years? If so, why?

Inspector Peddle: The crime rate in Portage la Prairie has not increased over the last five years. It has remained within a relatively consistent range. As the Officer in Charge of Central Plains RCMP, I have oversight for Portage la Prairie, Amaranth, and Treherne detachments.

The numbers below provide some insight into the total calls (by year) for service within our policing jurisdiction, as well as the City of Portage la Prairie:

CENTRAL PLAINS AREA:

2018: 15,492
2019: 16,027
2020: 13,572
2021: 14,620
2022: 13,661

CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE:

2018: 9,224
2019: 9,974
2020: 8,957
2021: 9,028
2022: 8,740

What types of crimes are prevalent?

Inspector Peddle: Given the high call volume, our police officers are exposed to a wide variety of complaints ranging from provincial statutes to more serious offences, such as murder. We continue to see an issue in some of our communities with substance abuse, specifically methamphetamine. This issue is certainly one that has a direct correlation to calls for service.

We are not just policing reactively but are engaging with the community to address issues within the Central Plains. To that end, I sit on a number of local committees whose objectives are to make the communities that we live in the safest place they can be for all of our citizens. Some of the committees I sit on include:

- Coordinated Community Crime Response Committee
- Portage Local Immigration Partnership
- Systems Leadership/Wawokiya Community Mobilization

As part of these committees, I get to work with many dedicated community partners from various organizations to strategize and implement programs that aim to make our community a safer place.

What is the best way for homeowners to secure their homes against break ins? For example, how beneficial are alarm systems and security cameras? Are dogs a good deterrent too?

Inspector Peddle: There are a variety of options available to prevent break and enters. First and foremost, the best possible technology to hold somebody accountable for criminal activity is a surveillance and alarm system. These devices have become very affordable and have proven to be extremely valuable in protecting property.

Increased lighting plays a vital role in

keeping unwanted people away from your belongings. Keeping doorways and windows visible from the roadway or neighbouring homes helps deter any would-be thief from entering the premises as they are more likely to be seen. Ultimately, the darker the area, the more attractive it becomes for thieves.

Ensuring that your property is monitored by a friend or family member, and keeping your lawn and garden maintained are also beneficial crime reduction strategies.

Finally, a dog can definitely be a deterrent to crime. The sound of a barking dog is intimidating to most people and will help prevent trespassing.

For business owners, are there certain kinds of businesses that tend to be targets of crime?

Inspector Peddle: Typically, retail businesses seem to be the main target of break and enters and theft. Each year, local businesses lose large amounts of merchandise to shoplifters. Pharmacies always seem to be at higher risk for break and enters, and these businesses have made great strides to ensure that surveillance and alarm systems are in place to discourage this behaviour.

If a home or business owner's property is vandalized, what are the best steps for them to take?

Inspector Peddle: The best advice would be for them not to touch anything, and to immediately contact the police to make them aware of the crime. If these matters are not being reported to police, it becomes very difficult to identify crime patterns and trends in our area. The reason we ask people not to disturb anything at the scene is because valuable evidence can be gathered by our investigators to help identify those responsible.

Is vehicle theft on the rise in Portage la Prairie and the surrounding area? What are the best ways to combat this?

Inspector Peddle: The best way to prevent vehicle theft is to ensure that keys are not left in the vehicle at anytime, no matter how brief of a period it may be. This is the number one cause of vehicles being stolen, and it is extremely preventable.

We also remind residents to keep their vehicles locked at all times, and to keep their valuables safely secured and out of sight. Below are the statistics related to vehicle thefts/attempted thefts per year for the City of Portage, as well as for the Central Plains RCMP region:

CENTRAL PLAINS AREA:	CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE:
2018: 136	2018: 81
2019: 181	2019: 95
2020: 111	2020: 55
2021: 111	2021: 61
2022: 183	2022: 70

10 GREAT TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

The Portage la Prairie RCMP recently completed a campaign with local news with 10 great tips that individuals can do to protect both their residential and business properties.

1. Adding a deadbolt to your door or a secondary locking mechanism is a great way to make the entry to your residence secure and harder for others to try and enter without permission.
2. A dog is a great deterrent for unwanted visitors. A "Beware of Dog" sign on your property advises others that a dog is present that could potentially harm those attempting to steal, break in, or trespass. Please remember that a dog is a lifelong commitment.
3. Installing security cameras on your property is a great deterrent to crime. If a crime were to happen, the security footage can be of great help to police to find the culprit and help lead to an arrest.
4. Keep your vehicles doors locked once parked. This also means on farming properties as they also do get targeted by others.
5. Do not leave your vehicle running while unattended. Even if the vehicle is in your driveway and you are home, many vehicles do get stolen by being left unattended on their property.
6. Keeping your windows locked when not being used makes it harder for others to try and enter. Some windows also allow the addition of a secondary lock to be added.
7. Installing an alarm system is a great way to deter potential crimes from occuring on your property. Having the sign and/or sticker of the alarm company visible on the property tells anyone attempting to break in that police will be alerted once the attempt is made.
8. Having a neat and tidy property is also a good deterrent in different ways. Examples of a neat and tidy property include a shoveled driveway/pathway in the winter, and freshly mowed lawn in the summer, vehicles in the driveway, and lights on inside and outside of the property.
9. Lighting—such as exterior motion sensing lights—is a great deterrent in many aspects. One being that it can alert you if someone sets the light off while you are home. Keeping an exterior light on is also a great deterrent as it alerts passersby that residents are in the home.
10. Do not leave belongings in your vehicle such as purses, wallets, keys, newly purchased items, etc. Many thieves will target a vehicle with belongings inside.

Your Fire Department

Our service area includes the City and RM of Portage la Prairie, Dakota Tipi First Nation, and Long Plain Urban Reserve. We cover an area of approximately 864 square miles and a population of approximately 20,000 people.

Portage Fire Department employs 16 full-time firefighters (called career firefighters) and currently has 18 paid on-call positions filled. The department holds training night twice a month for part-time staff to complete exercises and train in various scenarios they may encounter.

Our department offers the following services:

- Fire Suppression & Prevention
- Fire Investigations
- Vehicle Extrication
- Haz-Mat Operations
- Water and Ice Rescue
- Confined Space Technical Rescue
- Industrial, Business and Home Fire and Safety Inspections
- Youth Fire Stop Program
- Public Education Presentations

In 2022 we responded to 495 calls and completed 336 Fire inspections in the City, RM, and Long Plain Urban Reserve.

We handled 148 after-hours phone calls for issues related to animal control, waterworks, transportation, hydro and various alarms.

The Fire Department fixed and sold 69 bikes for the 2022 annual Burn Fund Bike Auction in May. In addition, we took in 88 bicycles from the community and the RCMP to be used for this year. Three bicycles were donated to a Ukrainian family and approximately $4,000 was raised for the Fire Fighter Burn Fund.

Many bicycles we receive are damaged, so we salvage them and use the parts to fix bikes for the following year. Who fixes the bikes? Our full time and part time firefighters volunteer their time to ensure bikes we auction are saleable!

2023 is our 44th year for the Burn Fund Bike Auction. This community event provides affordable bicycles for the community.

IT'S FIRE PIT SEASON!

Pick up a permit for your fire pit at the firehall from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

We will arrange to inspect it FREE of charge.

Fire pits within city limits must be approved by a fire inspector. Failure to obtain a fire pit permit can result in a $50 fine.

Please do not burn these prohibited materials:

- rubbish
- garden refuse, lawn clippings, leaves
- manure
- livestock or animal carcasses
- any material classified as a dangerous good (roofing materials, insulation from electrical wiring, hydrocarbons, plastics, rubber materials, creosote wood (rail ties) or any similar material.

TOURS AND EVENTS

The Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief oversees the approval of all parades within the city limits. Last year we approved 10 Community events including the Santa Clause Parade, Diwali Fireworks and five separate Indigenous-led walks for awareness and anti-racism.

The Department participated in the Santa Clause Parade where our firefighters decorated the Aerial Truck with more than 2,000 lights. We handed out treats to families while riding our quad alongside the fire truck.

Fire Safety Trailer firefighters make presentations at every school in our district for Fire Safety Week. In addition, we attend Farm Safety Days. Last year we presented to more than 1,050 adults and children.

The City was fortunate to still own a narrow piece of property to the side of the building where an access ramp could be built to the significant size and grade needed, while not causing changes to the historical frontage of the building.

Architecturally, City Hall – which was built in 1898 – is significant in that it was designed by Thomas L. Fuller, who had previously designed the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

OVERCOMING BARRIERS: **Adapting historical buildings to modern accessibility standards**

By Nathan Peto, City Manager

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

THE HISTORY OF CITY HALL

One of the few original buildings from our historic main street, the City Hall building was originally constructed in 1898 as a customs and postal building before it was converted to its current use as our Municipal Administrative Building in 1960. Over the years, it has also housed RCMP offices and jail cells, a city library, a Magistrate's Court, and Youth Court.

Architecturally, the building is significant in that it was designed by Thomas L. Fuller, who had previously designed the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. He became known for his design style for national public buildings, and City Hall was designated a heritage site by both the federal and provincial governments as being the only small urban Fuller Post Office remaining in Western Canada. The historical architecture and prominent location have led to the building being a source of municipal identity and pride. City Councils—past and present—have made key decisions to maintain and renovate the building, often at a significant cost, versus constructing a new facility due

to this connection to the community and the fear that no other community stakeholder would be capable of, or willing to maintain this historical landmark.

While historical buildings have their maintenance and operational challenges, one item that was not considered over 100 years ago was the importance of accessibility. City Hall—for all its character and historically significant architecture—is a building of a different era when it comes to access.

PHYSICAL CHALLENGES TO CHANGE

Portage la Prairie City Hall has three main entrances, all of which have at least eight steps to get to the main level. If you can surmount these steps, you are welcomed by two sets of large heavy wooden doors with limited ability to convert to a modern standard of width, or accessible automation to open. Entering the building, you have a main counter designed at a height that is challenging for those who may be in a wheelchair. As you move through the facility, the challenges for those who face mobility challenges only grows from doorway widths, bathroom

Constructing accessibility access to a 125-year-old historically significant building opens challenges, starting with the main floor access.

access, to the ability to access the second floor.

If a member of the public wishes to attend a City Council meeting or a public hearing, they would need to be able to access the second floor Council Chambers, a beautiful large room resembling a courtroom with large stately windows.

However, accessing the room means surmounting over two flights of 26 steep steps. This staircase proves challenging to climb with only minor mobility challenges, but it obviously would be impossible for someone who would require a walker or wheelchair for mobility uses.

The limitations on our building's accessibility go beyond day-to-day access from the public, but also impacts our City staff and Council. While the City has been adaptable, we would be seriously challenged to offer meaningful accommodation to a member of Council or staff who had significant challenges accessing the current building.

ADAPTING TO NEW STANDARDS

Adapting to new accessibility standards, Administration has worked diligently to find accommodation for those looking to access City Hall services in compliance with new legislation. However, City Council has known for some time that our historic building would have to be updated to a more physically accessible standard if it was to remain a building that equally serves all the public. In 1990, City Council started to contribute to an "Wheelchair Access to City Hall Reserve" to save for future efforts to improve accessibility.

Constructing accessibility access to a 125-year-old historically significant building opens challenges, starting with the main floor access. City Hall's main floor sits significantly above street level, making any type of ramp access challenging due to the limits on grade of the ramp. The introduction of mobility lifts would require the construction of an enclosed vestibule due to the

exterior staircases. Of course, either of these efforts would significantly change the historical integrity of the building's frontage.

The City was fortunate to still own a narrow piece of property to the side of the building where an access ramp could be built to the significant size and grade needed, while not causing changes to the historical frontage of the building. This side access ramp also provided an opportunity to allow for direct customer service access without significant changes to our main floor layout, while allowing for the introduction of an accessible counter space to serve those accessing the building via the ramp.

The downside of this option was the changing of the access to our basement facilities, including moving one of our stairway accesses. This change resulted in a number of adaptions to our building layout that have resulted in code upgrades to our fire alarm and electrical systems and a laundry list of costly unexpected surprises one finds when they start to renovate a 125-year-old building.

Nevertheless, the City is in the process of completing the main floor ramp access, basement renovations, and accessible counter upgrade at an expected cost of $310,000.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

This effort will complete phase one of our overall accessibility upgrades to Portage's City Hall. Phase two is the installation of a lift to access the second floor, construction of accessible bathrooms, and additional installation of accessible doors in the building. The construction of the lift systems will be more affordable than originally anticipated due to the historical legacy of our building; two historic vaults built on the main floor and second floor which sit atop one another. These two vaults, constructed primarily for use when the building served as a postal office, will be adapted to create a lift shaft that is able to access our second floor.

While funding for accessibility upgrades is often promoted, the reality of accessing these funds has been challenging. Often these grants do not consider the additional cost of adapting historical buildings to these new standards, or the adaptations which sometimes end up being more costly than the physical assets themselves. During

phase one of our accessibility upgrades to City Hall the City received minimal support from any other level of government and the lion's share of resources was contributed by local taxpayers.

The City is now moving forward with phase two of the project this fall as funding has been awarded through the Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant. We hope to complete the project by the end of the year.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Municipalities face major challenges when it comes to maintaining historically significant facilities and balancing the responsibility to be meaningfully accessible to all. While these buildings can often be symbols of community history and pride, they are significantly more challenging to bring up to modern standards.

Improving accessibility to public buildings is a laudable endeavor which benefits entire communities, but moving forward municipalities need to see more meaningful partnerships with all levels of government to achieve these new standards.

Portage la Prairie Regional Library

40 B Royal Road N., Portage la Prairie R1N 0H4 | Ph: 204-857-4271

Hello!

Have you visited the library lately? In 2022, nearly 50,000 community members of all ages participated in activities, took part in events, used computers and checked out books!

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

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 the following Statutory Holidays in 2023:
July 1st: Canada Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
December 26: Boxing Day

SUMMER / FALL 2023

45th Annual Summer Book Sale: June 20 to September 2

TD Summer Reading Club: June 23 to August 26

PotatoFest: August 11 & 12

Library Card Sign up Month: September

Canadian Library Month: October (with a special day on the 20th for Canadian Library Workers)

SERVICES

- Books, magazines, audiobooks, DVDs, eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks
- Databases: Ebscohost & Ancestry.ca
- Resources for Patrons with Perceptual Disabilities
- Free Wi-Fi access & public computers
- Photocopying & Printing
- Local History Archives
- Free Activities for Children and Adults
- Exam proctoring

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

portagelaprairielibrary @portagelaprairielibrary

www.portagelibrary.com

Mosquito Control Program FAQ

The mosquito control program is based on an environmentally mindful insect control approach which includes reducing standing water, larviciding, and fogging. The larviciding program is 100% biological, standing water areas are monitored and treated based on weather conditions. If nuisance mosquito fogging is warranted, the program will be carried out using Delta Gard 20EW.

WHEN WILL FOGGING FOR NUISANCE MOSQUITOES OCCUR?

Fogging will be initiated when the requirements of the City policy, the Adulticide Factor Analysis (AFA) guidelines, and the Provincial Pesticide Use Permit are met. Fogging will take place between the hours of 9:00 pm and 6:00 am following a 48-hour public notification period.

Factors considered include soil moisture and precipitation conditions, current and forecasted temperatures, monitoring of larval development sights, and increasing mosquito counts in the traps.

WHAT ABOUT WEST NILE VIRUS?

When Manitoba Health identifies a risk for West Nile Virus, they may issue a health order. In this case, the Province initiates fogging. For more information, see https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/wnv/index.html

WHAT WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR FOGGING TO HAPPEN?

The air temperature must be above 15 degrees Celsius, as many species are not active at temperatures lower than this.

Fogging ceases or does not occur if wind speeds are too high (12 km/h) and not conducive for effective nuisance adult mosquito control.

Fogging does not occur if there are or have been significant amounts of precipitation. However, treatment may resume a half hour to one hour after a short thunderstorm and light rainfall if there is no evidence of additional precipitation events occurring.

In the case where weather conditions are not suitable, fogging will be delayed until the next night.

HOW DO I REGISTER FOR A BUFFER ZONE?

Residents may register at the Operations Department if they wish to be excluded from fogging on their property. A no-fog zone of ninety (90) metres in diameter from the subject property will be established for residents that register their property.

WHAT SPEED DO THE VEHICLES USE TO FOG?

To apply the insecticide at safe and recommended levels the City of Portage la Prairie uses the manufacturer's guidelines for the speed of our fogging vehicles. We use the same application rate in

all areas of the city. The machine has a ground-based sensor that automatically adjusts the rate of application to the speed of the vehicle, but trucks typically travel at speeds less than 35 Km per hour when spraying.

WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC DO?

Residents can reduce standing water that may collect in their backyard, including old tires, wading pools, stagnant ponds, bird baths, pet bowls or in flowerpots.

Residents can protect themselves through the following activities:

- Using an appropriate mosquito repellent as per label directions.
- Mowing long grass will reduce resting sites for the adult mosquitoes.
- Reducing the amount of time spent outdoors between dusk and dawn.
- Wearing loose fitting clothing, light coloured, long sleeve tops and long pants when outdoors.
- Making sure that door and window screens fit tightly and are free of holes.

DOES FOGGING AFFECT OTHER INSECTS?

The current pesticides used for fogging are not target specific and predatory. Non-threatening insects will be affected. However, fogging takes place at night when many other beneficial insects are not active. For more information on DeltaGard 20EW see: https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/deltagard.pdf

DOES THE CITY FOG PATHWAYS OR BACK LANES?

No, the City's fogging equipment is not suitable for accessing pathways. In addition, spraying near waterways is not allowed as the pesticide used is toxic to fish. Most back lanes are not suitable for fogging as they are narrow, unpaved and have many tall fences that make the dispersal of the pesticide ineffective. Fogging from the street allows the best overall coverage for most properties.

Who do I contact about a tree that overhangs my property or is damaged?

If you believe it's a tree owned by the City call the Operations Department at 204-239-8346. If it is a tree that belongs to your neighbour, this is a matter between you and your neighbour. The City does not regulate the trimming of trees on private property.

It is up to property owners to come to an agreement between themselves with respect to trees overhanging property lines. If you are unable to reach an agreement with your neighbour and want to determine your legal rights, you will need to contact a lawyer.

If you have a tree in direct contact with a power line, trimming it is no longer a do-it-yourself project. Call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376 outside Winnipeg for assistance.

City of Portage la Prairie **FoodCycler™ Pilot Program**

The City of Portage la Prairie has launched an innovative food composting pilot program that will reduce the amount of organic material headed to the landfill.

In partnership with Food Cycle Science, FoodCycler™ units were made available at a subsidized cost for a limited number of households in the community.

FoodCycler™ units are countertop composting systems that reduce food waste at home. Using a specialized grinding system, it produces an odorless, nutrient-rich material that can be used as a fertilizer in plants or gardens.

The City of Portage la Prairie offered up to 50 FoodCycler™ units at a subsidized price for participating residents to use in their homes for a 12-week period. Participants have been asked to track the amount of waste they're diverting using a tracking sheet provided by the City. At the end of the 12 weeks, there will be a closing survey to share experiences and give feedback on the program. Once participants have gone through the steps of purchasing, tracking, and completing the survey, the system will be theirs to keep.

After the $100/unit municipal subsidy and additional Impact Canada subsidy, the cost to participating residents was only $170 plus tax for the FoodCycler™ FC-30 (2.5L bucket) or $320 plus tax for the FoodCycler Maestro (5L bucket).

More information on the program is available at:

www.city-plap.com/cityplap/departments/operations/solid-waste/foodcycler-pilot-program.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE ON-SITE WASTE DIVERSION SOLUTION

FoodCycler™ offers:

- 90 percent reduction in food waste volume.
- 95 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from food waste.

FoodCycler™ is:

- Energy Efficient: Less than $2 in energy costs each month.
- Odourless: Carbon filtration controls odours!
- Easy to Use: Just press Start!

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE OPERATIONS AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT:
What you need to know

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, garbage and recycling collection, sewer maintenance, wastewater treatment, maintaining parks and cemeteries, road construction and paving projects, and so much more.

They also provide technical support to other departments within the City for such things as land development and the provision of infrastructure data. The following information is important to take note of.

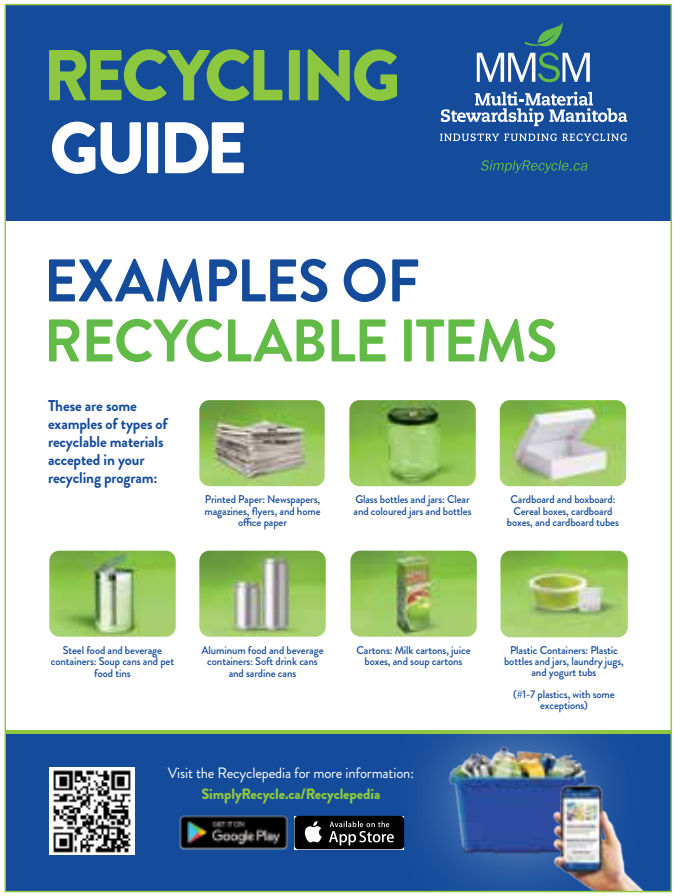
RECYCLING

The City contracts Portage & District Recycling (PDRI) for the collection of residential recycling. PDRI is also a fully operational household hazardous waste depot located at 700 Phillips Street. The items below can not be put out for recycling pick-up, but are accepted at the depot from Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- pesticides
- flammable liquids
- corrosive liquids (bleach/Drano)
- oxidizing liquids
- compressed gas (propane tanks)
- adhesives
- fire extinguishers
- toxic liquids (lidocaine chloride)

SOLID WASTE

The City of Portage la Prairie operates a five-day solid waste collection cycle. The 2023 solid waste collection schedules may be viewed on our website, obtained at City Hall, or by telephoning the Operations Department at 204-239-8346. Solid waste collection is on the front street year-round. It is advised that you put your garbage out before 7:00 a.m. on your collection day. There is a two-bag/



can limit on the amount of solid waste that will be picked up from the curb each collection day. Anything over that amount must have a Solid Waste Collection Tag affixed. These tags can be purchased from all corner stores (except 7-11), all grocery stores, MCC, City Hall, and the Operations Department. Watch for your 2024 solid waste collection schedules to be delivered in December. If you do not receive one by December 31, 2023, call the Operations Department at 204-239-8346.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

A limit of 4 containers or bags of solid waste (per household) may be put out on the first collection day following the Christmas holidays. This will be for one full collection cycle. Please watch our website for further details.

PARKS

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, or complete the online Island Park Shelter Booking form on our website.

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 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., 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 metres 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 City of Portage la Prairie 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.

CEMETERIES

The City of Portage la Prairie maintains three cemeteries – Hillside Cemetery, Hillside Memorial, and St. Mary's Cemetery. Our website has searchable maps for use. For additional information, contact the Operations Department at 204-239-8346. 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.

WATERMAIN FLUSHING

Watermain flushing occurs from late June to mid-August each year to clear mains of iron and calcium scale deposits to maintain high-quality water. This program will run for eight weeks and will take place between the night-time hours of 10:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m. To find out when flushing will take place in your area, please watch for the schedule on the City website or Portage Online calendar.

YARD WASTE

The City of Portage offers free curbside yard waste collection in the Spring and Fall each year. Yard waste is to be placed at the curb on your regular collection day no later than 7:00 a.m. There is no limitation on the number of bags that can be placed out for collection, but a weight restriction of 18 kgs or 40 pounds per bag will apply. Yard waste must be placed in clear refuse bags or compostable brown paper bags, which are available at various retail outlets. Coloured bags will not be collected.

To find out when yard waste collection occurs, please watch the schedule on the City website or Portage Online Calendar.

SNOW CLEARING

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

By-Law No.20-8705 states:

"From November 1 to April 30 in 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 bylaw is subject to a fine. Our City crews work as fast as possible to remove snow from the streets, but unfortunately, parked cars can get in our way. If we have to tow some cars to make winter driving safe for everyone, we will but would rather not. So please, to avoid having your car towed, you should 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 offence 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 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 hours 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 city-wide 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 city-wide parking ban, it will be ticketed, at a cost outlined in the current Fees and Charges Schedule. Also, 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.

STREET SWEEPING

City streets are swept an average of every three weeks, on the day following solid waste collection.

WATER TREATMENT

The Water Treatment Division has the responsibility of treating the raw water from the Assiniboine River and the operation of the McKay Reservoir and Pump Station.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The Wastewater Treatment Division's primary responsibility is the treatment of municipal and industrial wastewater. They also look after the operation and maintenance of 13 sewage pumping stations located around the City.

ANNUAL PROGRAM TO TEST FOR LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

The City of Portage la Prairie will be conducting its annual program to test for possible lead in drinking water at the taps in residential homes. We are required to sample 40 residential locations for Random Daytime lead water sampling and reporting. This is required by the Office of Drinking Water, jointly with Manitoba Public Health, for cities in Manitoba with populations over 10,000, and in addition to the City's current self-administered lead and metals testing program.

This project was first launched in 2022 when a call was put out for homeowner volunteers. The City received an overwhelming response with more than 100 homeowners interested in volunteering. Homeowners that signed up in 2022 but were not chosen, will be contacted for sampling in 2023.

Test kits are supplied by the City and City staff can assist with sampling as required. If you are interested in having your home included in the list of potential sampling locations, please call the Operations Department at 204-239-8346. Any additional questions regarding the lead monitoring program can be directed to Water Treatment Division Manager Jared Smith by email at jared.smith@city-plap.com or at 204-239-8373.

It is important to note that the amount of lead in natural water sources in Manitoba is very low and not a major contributor to the lead levels in tap water. The current National Drinking Water Guideline and the Provincial standard require lead concentration in potable water to be below 0.005 milligrams per litre. Water from the City of Portage la Prairie's Water Treatment Plant meets the lead limit guidelines.

Lead can enter drinking water from service lines connecting a home to the water main and from home plumbing fixtures through corrosion. Lead levels can increase with the amount of time that the water sits in contact with materials containing lead. To reduce corrosion and the potential for elevated lead levels in drinking water at homes that may have lead services, the City increases the pH in the water as it leaves the treatment plant. This helps to keep the water from becoming acidic and thereby reduces the corrosivity of the water.

Visit the City's website at https://www.city-plap.com/cityplap/departments/operations/water-sewer/ for more information on lead in drinking water, the City's mitigation strategy, and the lead subsidy program.

ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Animal Control Services are supplied by Sirius Protection and Security Services under contract to the City of Portage la Prairie. Both the Animal Control Officer and the Animal Retention Facility can be reached by calling 204-239-8326.

All dogs and cats over the age of six months are required to be licensed.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR ANIMAL CONTROL?

There is animal control coverage from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday to Friday with someone on call after hours and on weekends. Should an emergency occur after hours please call the Animal Control/Bylaw Enforcement line at 204-239-8326. Someone will assess the situation and determine if the Animal Control Officer will be dispatched.

WHERE CAN I GET A DOG/CAT LICENSE?

Dog/cat licenses can be applied for at City Hall, 97 Saskatchewan Avenue E or online on our website. A record of current vaccination from your vet will be required.

DO I HAVE TO BUY A DOG/CAT LICENSE?

Yes. As per the City of Portage la Prairie Animal Control By-Law, any dog or cat older than six months that is being kept within City limits must have a City-issued license.

5 FAST FACTS FOR PET OWNERS

In the City of Portage la Prairie

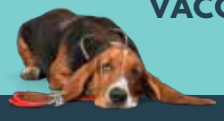
1 FREE PET LICENSING

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 $130.

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.

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.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I LOSE MY PET?

You should phone the Animal Control Officer (ACO) at 204-239-8326 and let them know what your pet looks like. Pets should be licensed and, if possible, tattooed for easy identification. Make sure your pet is wearing its license at all times. Photos of animals in the pound are posted on the City of Portage la Prairie Animal Control website at www.city-plap.com/animalcontrol after capture. Click the "canine" or "feline" tab to view pictures of impounded animals.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FOUND SOMEONE'S PET?

Call the Animal Control Office at 204-239-8326. If the animal has a pet tag, visit the city website and click on "Virtual City Hall" to access the pet owner search by pet tag function.

WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT A NEIGHBOR WHO LETS THEIR PET DO ITS BUSINESS IN MY YARD, GETS INTO THE GARBAGE, RUNS AT LARGE, OR A DOG THAT BARKS CONSTANTLY?

First step, speak with your neighbor. Respectfully, let them know how you feel and see if you can resolve the issue between yourselves. If the problem persists, report their name, description of the dog, and if possible, their home address to the Animal Control Officer at 204-239-8326.

MY PET HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED. HOW DO I GET IT BACK?

If your pet is impounded, please apply to the Animal Control Officer to reclaim your pet. When applying, pet owners must provide proof of ownership and pay all outstanding penalties, fines, or fees under the City's Animal Control By-Law that apply to their animal or for breach of this By-Law. The Animal Control Officer can be reached at 204-239-8326.

CAN I STOP BY THE POUND TO SEE IF MY PET IS THERE?

No. The pound is located on a private residence outside of City limits and is not staffed to accept walk-ins. The on-site pound keeper is contracted to provide animal care and does not handle the release or identification of animals. Only the Animal Control Officer is authorized to release or identify animals from the pound. You can contact the Animal Control Officer at 204-239-8326 to make arrangements to pick up your pet. Photos of animals in the pound are posted on the City of Portage la Prairie Animal Control website at www.city-plap.com/animalcontrol after capture. Click the "canine" or "feline" tab to view pictures of impounded animals.

HOW LONG ARE ANIMALS HELD AT THE POUND?

What happens next? Animals are held for a three-day impoundment period pursuant to the City By-law. Following the impoundment period, animals will be offered to the Portage Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) for adoption. Any healthy animals not taken by PAWS will be offered to other animal shelters in the region for adoption. Animals may also be offered for adoption directly from the City's Animal Retention Facility.

HOW MANY PETS AM I ALLOWED TO OWN IF I LIVE IN THE CITY OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE?

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 be inhabiting the premises.

PORTAGE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:
Creating an environment for success

PRED advises and makes recommendations and actions on matters that pertain to economic development which include, but are not limited to, economic development initiatives, incentives, evaluating current business climate, business attraction, retention, and expansion, community economic development, marketing opportunities, and other issues that may promote economic development.

PRED assists with providing input and expertise on ways to encourage and help businesses and individuals to invest, thrive and expand in the region of Portage la Prairie. It is our goal to support businesses in creating jobs, diversifying, and increasing the tax base, which ultimately leads to a better quality of life for all who work, reside, and visit the region.

Economic development is a multi-faceted process that focuses on creating a successful environment for success. At PRED, we concentrate on investment attraction, business retention and expansion, tourism, stakeholder, and community engagement, along with providing an Economic Development lens for our community organizations.

Economic Development cannot be done in a siloed approach. It needs to be a community effort and flexible to match the needs of the community. There are many groups and stakeholders involved in ensuring that we have a strong economy. There are many departments within both municipalities that all work closely in planning the future of the Portage la Prairie region. It is this collaborative approach that makes our community a unique and thriving region.

PRED recognizes that the success of recent investments was attributed to the solid partnership they have formed between the two municipalities. Twenty years ago, both the City of Portage la Prairie and the RM of Portage la Prairie entered into a tax-sharing agreement that would incentivize them to work together to attract new business and investment to the region. They understood the importance of regional collaboration and are currently reaping the positive impacts of that decision.

PRED's exceptional concierge service approach to economic development ensures an exclusive, customized, and seamless experience for our clients. PRED is thrilled to announce that our investment attraction services are flourishing, with a surge in inquiries on investment opportunities. Our community is experiencing a remarkable influx of investments, with significant interest from potential investors.

Moreover, PRED has organized a series of site selection tours, showcasing our community's unique potential to prospective investors. Our topmost priority is to procure precise and appealing data to incentivize new investments, work with current businesses and allow us to continue to attract and foster a prosperous investment environment.

To learn more about PRED and stay up to date with current projects happening at the PRED office, log on to Investinportage.ca.

Groundwater pumping and **what you should know**

To avoid the risk of sewer back-up into your basement and additional strain on our sewer system, it is important to ensure your sump pump discharges into your yard and is not draining into the sewer system. Any hoses leading to a drain in your house should be disconnected immediately. Please place the hose so that the water from your sump pump drains away from your house, preferably onto a grassy area or non-paved surface and is absorbed on your property.

DO NOT place the hose so that water from your sump pump drains:

- Into the floor drain in your home
- Onto neighbouring properties
- Onto streets, lanes, sidewalks, or boulevards

WHAT DOES THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GROUNDWATER PUMPING?

Many homes in the city have sump pits and pumps in the basement to control water levels around the foundation. In some homes the sump pump is tied into the sanitary sewer drain. This is against city bylaws and anyone with this setup could be subject to fines. In addition, this could have an effect on insurance coverage in the event of a sewer back up. Since this is an illegal connection the insurance company may not cover damages to your sump pump, weeping tile, or other damages that result from this connection.

When many homes pump this drainage water into the sanitary sewer it can overwhelm the system leading to sewer backups as well as having additional sewage to treat at the wastewater treatment facility. This leads to increased costs which is passed on to the residents as increases on sewer bills.

It is in everyone's best interest that each homeowner ensures that their sump pumps are draining into their yards and not into the sanitary sewer.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE A SEWER BACK UP?

Property owners can reduce the risk of sewer back ups by installing a backwater valve. This does not guarantee that one will not occur but reduces the risk substantially.

WHO SHOULD CITY RESIDENTS CONTACT IN THE CASE OF A SEWER BACK UP?

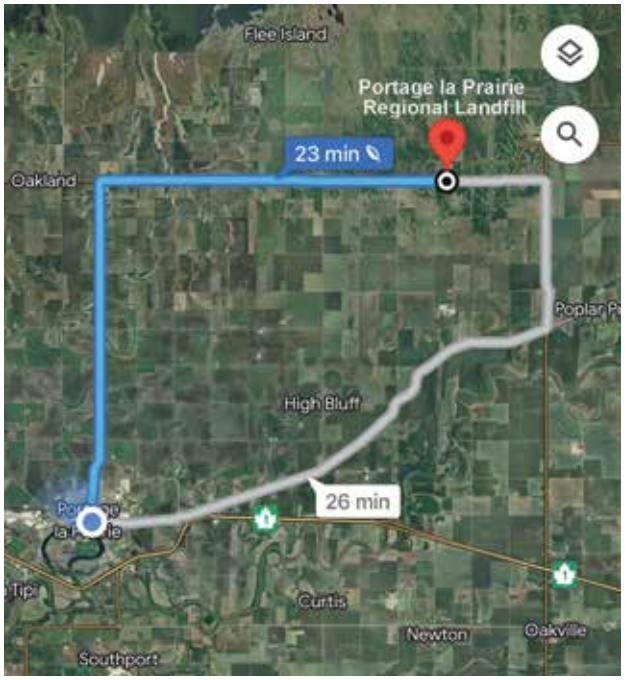
Residents should contact a plumber in the case of a backup as many backups are a result of a plugged service which is the resident's responsibility to maintain. If the problem is with the city line, the plumber should contact the city.

WHAT GUIDELINES DO SUMP PUMP INSTALLERS NEED TO CONSIDER AND ABIDE BY IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE?

Contractors installing sump pits and pumps must follow all building codes and bylaws. Sump pumps should drain to a grassy area in the yard and not into city sewers.

Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill

Portage Regional Landfill
26095 PR#227
Site Manager: Robert Pohl
Tel: 204-871-4549
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, 2023, Tipping Fees of $50.00 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 most waste deposited in the landfill.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME...

- Review the Recycling/Hazardous Waste section of this guide to see which products can be kept out of the Landfill. The site is prohibited from receiving hazardous wastes (ex. 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.
- Secure open loads with a tarp and straps or rope. The Landfill will be enforcing a $60 penalty for all untarped loads.
- The Landfill accepts cash, Debit, Visa, and Master Card.

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Landfill received 16,762 tonnes of waste on their active cells, 6,915 tonnes of cover material, and 11,968 tonnes of septic waste in 2022.
- The Landfill diverted recyclable materials including 187 tonnes of concrete, 43 tonnes of metal, and 17 tonnes of tires.
- The Landfill participated in the Clean Farms program in 2022, which diverts chemical jugs, bale wrap, twine, and grain bags.
- The Landfill kept 97 mattresses and box springs and 58 freon containing appliances out of the landfill.
- The Landfill paid $167,619.34 to the recycling program in the region.
- The Landfill received 47 tonnes of roadside clean up from the City and RM of Portage la Prairie.

Portage Regional Recreation Authority (PRRA)

PRRA OVERVIEW

The Portage Regional Recreation Authority (PRRA) manages and maintains Stride Place, Splash Island, Rotary Republic Park, Beaver Stadium, Delta Beach Campground and BDO Centre for the Community's ice season.

DID YOU KNOW? The PRRA is a non-profit organization that is partially subsidized by the City of Portage la Prairie & the RM of Portage.

PRRA CONTACT

www.StridePlace.ca
204-857-7772 info@prra.ca
245 Royal Road S.
Portage la Prairie, MB on the Island
Facebook: @StridePlace
Instagram: @stride_place
Twitter: @StridePlace

STRIDE PLACE

Stride Place houses Manitoba's largest wave pool, fitness centre, two full arenas, indoor walking track and rental spaces.

DID YOU KNOW? You can celebrate any occasion at Stride Place by renting the ice, a room, or a pool party package.

SPLASH ISLAND WATERPARK

Splash Island is a seasonal facility that is open from June until September long weekend annually, which is conveniently located across the road from Stride Place on the Island.

Splash Island features two giant water slides (195 ft. and 175 ft. high), a double-wide large kiddie slide, a "bubbler" bench, beach-like entry, children's play area, fountains, geysers and a toddler duck slide and picnic areas. It's a great way to beat the heat! For schedules and general information check online.

DID YOU KNOW? Splash Island offers daily public swims throughout the entire summer season. www.splashisland.ca

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Rotary Republic of Manitobah Park offers 70 acres of outdoor recreational facilities, it is perfect to hold any outdoor sporting event. The park features ball diamonds, football/rugby field, soccer pitches, beach volleyball courts, a batting cage, washroom facilities and a picnic shelter. Contact the PRRA to book a diamond, field, or court today!

DID YOU KNOW? PRRA maintains a beach volleyball court and batting cage that is free to use at Rotary Republic Park.

SWIMMING LESSONS

PRRA offers Lifesaving Society's swim lesson for all ages! Summer lessons run once a day Monday through Friday for two weeks during July and August. Fall lessons run once a week for ten weeks starting in October. Check our website for registration dates.

DID YOU KNOW? PRRA offers all the courses needed to become a certified lifeguard.

DAY CAMP

PRRA Day Camp is a Place for Fun, Friendship & Adventure! Children aged 5 to 12 for 9 weeks.

PRRA Day Camp Activities can include Swimming, Crafts, Outdoor Activities (weather permitting), Games, Physical Activities and Small & Large Group Activities. Summer spots may still be available contact the PRRA.

DID YOU KNOW? Water week is always the most popular week, but swimming is a huge part of every week!

ANNUAL PRRA MEMBERSHIP SALE

Annual PRRA Membership Sale will run from September 18-24th 2023 offering 20% off ALL memberships and 25% off Family memberships. Buy a membership and you can enter the "Win your Membership" draw.

DID YOU KNOW? You can Save $300 if you buy an Annual Family Membership during the sale!

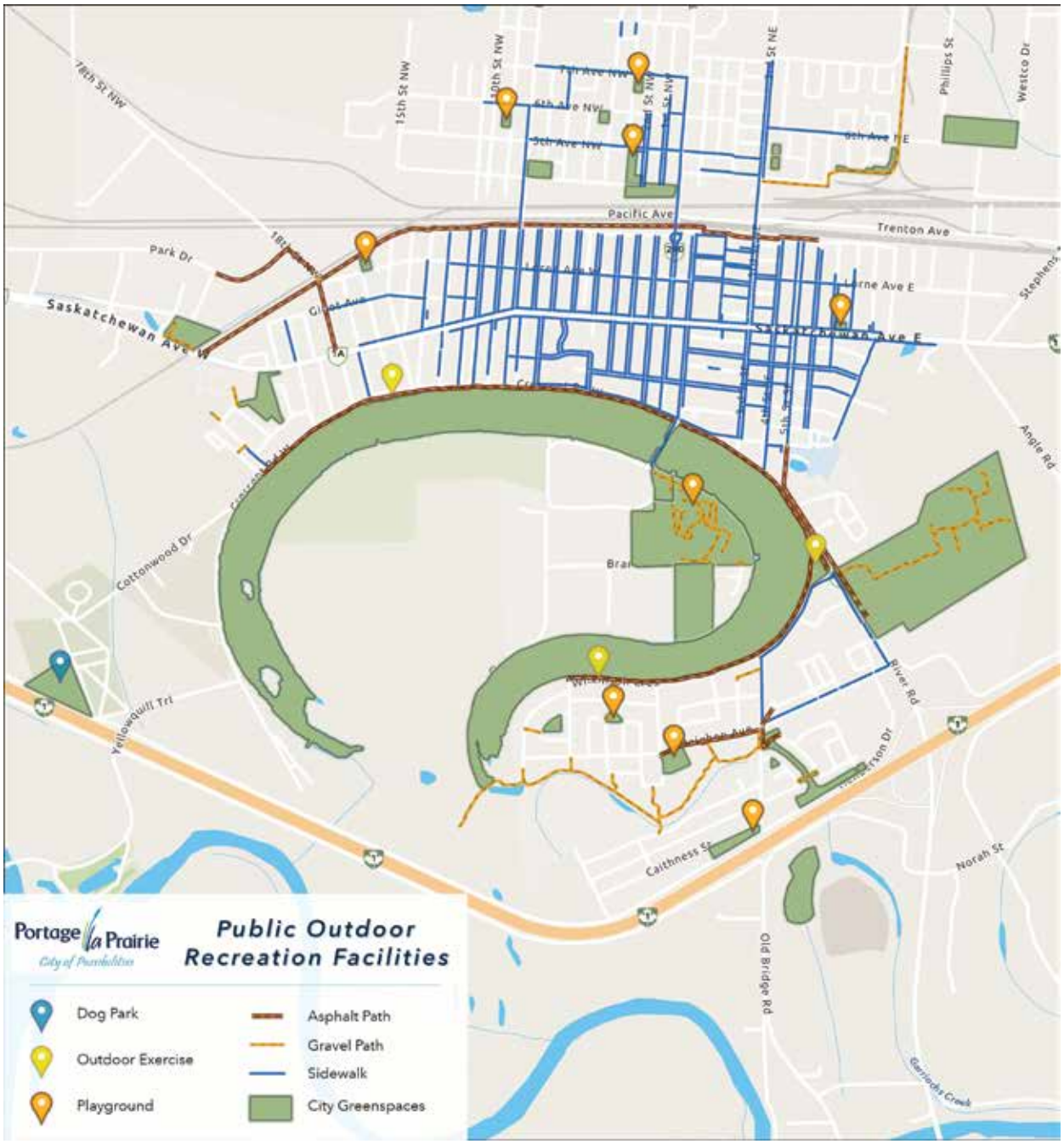
KAYAKS & CANOES

The PRRA is offering Crescent Lake Canoe & Kayak Rentals!

$20 per hour. Hourly rental includes the canoe or kayak (singe or double), paddles and life jackets. Rentals are available from June until the first part of October.

DID YOU KNOW? There is a new dock in front of Stride Place, making it very easy to access Crescent Lake.

Outdoor recreation



The City of Portage la Prairie provides and maintains a variety of public outdoor recreation facilities throughout the city, creating an environment for citizens of all ages to get outside and be active. We offer greenspace, an off-leash dog park, outdoor exercise equipment, numerous playgrounds, and a connected network of multi-use active transportation pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition to the existing 18 kilometers of multi-use and recreational pathways and over 49 km of sidewalks, the City has recently approved an extension to the existing network by adding a 565-meter-long multi-use pathway on the south side of Meighen Avenue from Mellco Drive to Garrioch Park Drive.

As well, new protected active transportation paths have been incorporated into the Saskatchewan Avenue West development, providing access to our downtown stores, restaurants, and west-end shopping district.

Sustainable aviation fuel facility could take flight in Portage la Prairie

Aviation has long been a critical component of global transportation networks, enabling people and goods to traverse vast distances in relatively short periods of time. However, the industry's heavy reliance on conventional fossil fuels has contributed to significant carbon dioxide emissions and environmental degradation.

Recognizing the urgent need for change, Azure Sustainable Fuels Corp. ('Azure') has embarked on an ambitious journey to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel ('SAF'), an eco-friendly alternative to conventional jet fuel, with a proposed facility to be located within five kilometres of Portage la Prairie.

Azure is a privately held Canadian corporation solely focused on producing SAF. Azure has strong financial backing and is led by a team with extensive experience in the renewable fuels sector.

"As the CEO of Azure Sustainable Fuels, I am proud to lead a team that is providing solutions for the aviation industry to meet its carbon reduction targets," says Doug Cole.

"Our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting a circular economy, and driving the adoption of sustainable aviation fuel is contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future for aviation. Azure is committed to providing a real solution to fly sustainably and contribute to global efforts in combating climate change."

Azure aims to provide a Canadian source of SAF to support the industry's transition towards more sustainable practices. By offering a reliable and sustainable fuel solution, Azure's intent is to help airlines reduce their carbon footprint and meet sustainability goals. SAF is made from renewable sources, including plant-based feedstocks, waste oils, and non-food crops, significantly reducing net carbon emissions compared to traditional jet fuel. Once at full capacity, the facility would produce approximately 1 billion litres of SAF per year. Azure is targeting initial SAF production by 2027.

STRATEGIC LOCATION

Portage la Prairie's strategic location offers several advantages for the establishment of an SAF production facility. Manitoba's rich agricultural sector provides access to abundant biomass resources, such as canola and soybean oil, which can be utilized in the production of SAF through proven biofuel conversion technologies.

The successful implementation of Azure's facility in Portage la Prairie hinges on collaborations among key stakeholders, including government bodies, industry leaders, key partners, and local community members.

The made in Manitoba Green Plan made Manitoba the first Canadian jurisdiction to introduce a renewable fuels mandate for diesel fuel, at 5 percent, and the provincial ethanol mandate is the highest blending requirement in the country at 8.5 percent. Additionally, the province boasts the highest blending requirement for ethanol in the country, with a remarkable mandate of 8.5 percent.

The city's proximity to major transportation hubs, and accessibility to rail transportation, allows for efficient distribution of SAF. Additionally, 99 percent of Manitoba's electricity is generated from renewable hydroelectric sources and industrial rates are among the lowest in North America; this aligns with Azure's core values of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in all phases of operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

As a certified drop-in fuel, SAF is considered an essential component in reducing emissions from the aviation industry and its reliance on traditional fossil-based jet fuel. At full nameplate capacity, the facility would provide for a reduction of approximately 2.6 million tonnes per year of carbon dioxide ("CO_2"), equivalent to the annual emissions of 556,749 passenger vehicles driven.

Manitoba's sustainable farming practices – with continued advancements – create further opportunities for increased environmental benefits. By replacing conventional aviation fuel with SAF, the aviation industry can achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change and improve air quality.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Beyond its environmental benefits, the facility will foster economic growth and job creation within the local community. The establishment of Azure's proposed facility will require skilled labor in various fields, including engineering, manufacturing, operations, and research and development.

During construction Azure will create more than 1,500 employment opportunities. Transitioning to operations will create approximately 150 long-term jobs and generate revenue for the region. In addition, the facility's overall feedstock requirements provide a secure and stable domestic market for local Canadian agricultural products, primarily canola, and soybean oils.

The successful implementation of Azure's facility in Portage la Prairie hinges on collaborations among key stakeholders, including government bodies, industry leaders, key partners, and local community members.

"The past couple of years collaborating with Azure and working collectively with the City of Portage la Prairie team has been truly remarkable," says Reeve Kameron Blight.

"With excitement, we now embark on the next phase of this project. We foresee a positive economic impact on the entire region of Portage la Prairie and Province of Manitoba. This project reflects our foundational vision to support and elevate the agricultural industry in our region, and we are excited to continue paving the way for future and endless opportunities that will set precedence in this region."

Portage la Prairie Mayor Sharilyn Knox agrees and adds, "As a region, we are encouraged by the significant economic potential that this project will have – not only for the region of Portage la Prairie – but for the entire province of Manitoba. This project signifies our unique approach and proactive mindset in attracting new industries to the region of Portage la Prairie. This milestone serves as a reminder that by uniting our resources and expertise, we can achieve extraordinary outcomes that benefit us all."

The facility serves as an opportunity for both Portage la Prairie and for Canada to be leaders in the energy transition. The facility would be a major step in providing a more sustainable future for the aviation industry in Canada and globally, along with securing a value-add domestic market for our agricultural production. By adopting SAF, airlines can significantly reduce their carbon footprint and contribute a meaningful reduction to emissions from the transportation sector.

Through collaborative efforts and ongoing innovation, Portage la Prairie is paving the way for a cleaner, more efficient, and environmentally responsible aviation sector.

azure
SUSTAINABLE FUELS CORP

On June 20, 2023 Azure Sustainable Fuels Corp. hit a significant milestone in receiving $2.9 million in funding from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Government of Manitoba.

The support from Canada and Manitoba validates our vision to create a 'Made-in-Canada' solution to reduce carbon emissions globally by utilizing local feedstocks and Canadian skillsets.

Azure has been working closely with the Economic Development Board Secretariat, Portage Regional Economic Development, the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie, and the City of Portage la Prairie since late 2021. Azure would like to acknowledge the forward-thinking leadership of these representatives in recognizing the importance of sustainable solutions for the aviation sector and establishing Manitoba as a leader in the energy transition.

Azure is excited to continue working with the Portage la Prairie region on this exciting project!

Premier Heather Stefanson

From left to right: Minister Jeff Wharton, Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade; Minister Derek Johnson, Minister of Agriculture, Premier Heather Stefanson, Mayor Sharilyn Knox, Douglas Cole, President, and CEO of Azure Sustainable Fuels; Reeve Kameron Blight.

From left to right: Darren Ongyerth, Azure VP of Business Development; Paul Bowen, Azure COO; Premier Heather Stefanson; Douglas Cole, Azure President and CEO; and Vanessa Vredenburg, Azure Director of Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations.