



# St. Clements

The place to be



WELCOME TO OUR

## Year In Review



The RM of St. Clements has much to celebrate as we look back on the past year. From public consultations for the St. Clements Activity Centre to events like the ParticipACTION Challenge and Manitoba Highland Gathering, our community remains vibrant and connected. We're proud of achievements like the Canada Culvert Shield award for the reconstruction of Ludwick Road, reflecting our commitment to infrastructure excellence. This year, we maintained a mill rate freeze, providing tax stability while investing over \$5.5 million in road projects, supporting recreation initiatives, and allocating \$6 million for regional water infrastructure. Our focus on building reserves and enhancing essential services—such as dust control, gravel roads, and emergency response—ensures we're well-prepared for future growth and challenges, all while fostering a thriving community.

### In this newsletter you will find:



Highlight major infrastructure projects, Community events and initiatives that took place throughout the year, Awards and recognition received by the RM and its residents & more.



## Construction Projects in the RM of St. Clements

The St. Clements Activity Centre at 88 Donald Road in Narol is a major community initiative offering a vibrant, inclusive space for residents of all ages. Featuring amenities like a pedestrian bridge, shade structures, tree plantings, and a naturalized retention pond that transforms into an ice rink in winter, the centre promotes environmental sustainability while catering to diverse interests and abilities.

Envisioned as a hub for outdoor concerts, yoga sessions, picnics, art displays, and workshops, the centre is designed to enrich recreational opportunities, foster community connections, and encourage healthy living in St. Clements. Joint funding from the Canadian and Manitoba governments, alongside contributions from the Rotary Club of Selkirk, helped make this project possible. The design, shaped by community feedback, reflects local needs and aspirations and showcases the resilience of the community, which kept this vision moving forward despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



This year, we continued investing in community well-being by setting aside \$200,000 in recreation reserves, along with over \$6 million for the new St. Clements Activity Centre. An additional \$300,000 has also been allocated for a new municipal boat launch, ensuring a range of recreational resources that meet diverse resident needs.



## Canada Culvert Shield award

In 2021, Ludwick Road, between Rebeck Road and Henderson Highway, underwent significant improvements, with stabilized slopes, slight lowering, re-graveling, and hydro-seeding completed by September. The RM's efforts were recognized by the Manitoba Good Roads Association (MGRA), which awarded us the prestigious Canada Culvert Shield in the Municipal Gravel Road Construction Contest in May. This award highlights our commitment to enhancing road safety and infrastructure in the community.



## Trails Master Plan: *Building a Connected Community*

In 2024, the RM of St. Clements launched its Trails Master Plan, a comprehensive strategy to enhance trails and active transportation networks throughout the municipality. This forward-looking initiative, crafted with input from residents and community stakeholders, aims to create a connected, accessible trail system that serves all ages and abilities. The plan provides a detailed vision for expanding recreational and active transportation opportunities, building on our community's unique landscapes and natural assets. Key features of the Trails Master Plan include upgrades to existing trails, new multi-use pathways, and safe, sustainable links to local destinations, schools, parks, and regional trails such as the Trans Canada Trail. Proposed routes connect communities across the RM, making it easier for residents to enjoy outdoor activities, commute by bike or foot, and explore local sites.



The plan also incorporates important design principles, ensuring trails are well-maintained, affordable, and accessible, with options for winter use, enhancing year-round connectivity and recreation.



This Trails Master Plan represents the RM's commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, offering trails that foster community connection, encourage healthy lifestyles, and support environmentally friendly transportation. As the RM looks forward to implementing this vision, residents can expect a more vibrant, accessible community for all to enjoy.

# Community Events in the RM of St. Clements

THE RM OF ST. CLEMENTS HOSTED AND PARTICIPATED IN AN ARRAY OF COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, FOSTERING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PROMOTING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES.

**Midsummer's Eve Market:** The Midsummer's Eve Market at East Selkirk Hall showcased a variety of vendors offering artisanal crafts, handmade goods, home decor, and beauty supplies. Residents enjoyed a chance to support local artisans and gather as a community.

**ParticipACTION Community Challenge:** The RM of St. Clements actively participated in the national ParticipACTION Community Challenge in June, encouraging physical activity. The community's collective effort toward a healthier lifestyle was a great success.

**Manitoba Highland Gathering:** The 56th Manitoba Highland Gathering at Legacy Park in East Selkirk brought Scottish culture to life with historical enactments, traditional heavy games, and mesmerizing Highland dances

**Summer Camps:** The RM of St. Clements hosted themed summer camps in East Selkirk, including Wonderful World Week, Animal Week, and Sports Week, providing a range of activities for children

**Walking Club:** The Grand Marais Recreation Association hosted a walking club every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, giving residents an opportunity to stay active and connect with neighbors.

**Red River Paddle Challenge:** The Red River Paddle Challenge, a 44-kilometre paddling race, welcomed participants of all levels and crafts, promoting water-based recreation in the region.





## Responding to Challenges

*WHILE THE RM OF ST. CLEMENTS CELEBRATED MANY SUCCESSES, THE YEAR ALSO BROUGHT CHALLENGES. HEAVY PRECIPITATION SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED ROAD MAINTENANCE, AND THE RM REMAINED COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES.*

### **Road Maintenance Challenges and Responses**

The June and July newsletters highlighted the difficulties of road maintenance due to excessive rainfall. The June newsletter noted a two-week delay in starting the gravel program, with frequent rain hindering grading efforts and further deteriorating road conditions. The RM prioritized road preparation to reduce delays as soon as weather improved. In July, the unusually wet weather continued to challenge roadwork, requiring careful selection of working days to avoid further damage to softened roads. This led to a later start to roadwork than usual, but the newsletter assured residents that the graveling program had progressed and caught up to previous schedules.



### **DEMONSTRATING COMMITMENT AND TRANSPARENCY**

Throughout the year, the RM of St. Clements demonstrated its commitment to open communication with residents by addressing these challenges transparently and outlining key actions:



**Prioritizing road preparation:** The RM focused on preparing roads to enable efficient work as soon as conditions allowed.

**Deploying additional crews:** Extra crews worked overtime to manage the road maintenance backlog.

**Providing regular updates:** Newsletters & our social media accounts shared progress updates with residents, including details of completed work and anticipated timelines. These actions underscored the RM's commitment to maintaining a safe and functional road network while openly addressing the challenges encountered and the steps taken to overcome them.



## Utilities Highlights

IN 2024, WE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN IMPROVING WATER, WASTEWATER, AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACROSS THE RM OF ST. CLEMENTS. THESE PROJECTS REFLECT OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING GROWTH AND BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

### **Connection of River Creek Estates to Municipal Water**

In early 2024, the RM of St. Clements and the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) completed a 12.5-km, 300mm water main linking the East Selkirk Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to Lockport. In June, River Creek Estates Condo Corporation became the first service connection, replacing private groundwater wells and addressing long-standing health concerns.

### **New Regional Lift Station in Lockport**

In August, a new sewage pumping station was commissioned in Lockport, designed to handle wastewater from the Lockport and Henderson Catchment Areas and accommodate future growth. This facility replaces holding tanks previously required due to unsuitable soil conditions, providing residents with reliable wastewater services.

### **Well Upgrades at the East Selkirk WTP**

July 2024 saw the installation of two new well pumps and pitless units at the East Selkirk WTP. These upgrades optimize groundwater flow and ensure the community's growing water needs are met. Future plans include adding wells to enhance system redundancy and maintain steady water production.

### **Distribution Pump Upgrades**

In November, two new 20HP vertical turbine pumps were added to the East Selkirk WTP. These pumps strengthen the system's capacity, particularly to support the new water main connection to Lockport.

### **Henderson Sewer Service Completion**

Remediation of 140 sewer service connections in the Henderson Catchment Area was finalized in November 2024. Areas impacted by the installations have been seeded, with vegetation expected to flourish by spring 2025.

### **Decommissioning Lockport Wastewater Plant**

The retired wastewater treatment plant near the Red River Floodway is being decommissioned. Wastewater is now directed to the East Selkirk Lagoon, offering a cost-effective and sustainable solution. Site restoration is underway to return the area to its original state.



# Advancing Communication

The RM of St. Clements is dedicated to continuous improvement in enhancing communication with residents by embracing innovative, accessible, and inclusive information delivery methods. Guided by the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan, we aim to foster transparency, engagement, and a sense of community connection.

Recognizing the diverse needs of our residents, our updated communication strategy will focus on implementing multi-modal approaches that ensure everyone has access to vital municipal information. Some key features of this strategy include:

- **AI-Generated Audio Podcasts:** Convenient and accessible updates on municipal news, services, and events, delivered in an engaging audio format.
- **Accessible Content:** Semi-annual printed newsletters delivered to residents home in addition to monthly electronic newsletters keeping residents informed of what is happening in the RM.



- **Website Redesign:** A more user-friendly website providing municipal information to enhance engagement with residents and reduce barriers in access to municipal information.

These initiatives align with the Strategic Plan's commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and proactive engagement, supporting goals such as increasing resident satisfaction, building community trust, and ensuring all voices are heard. By leveraging AI-powered tools, we are breaking down communication barriers, making it easier than ever for residents to stay connected, informed, and involved in our shared community journey. Together, we are building a more informed and inclusive RM of St. Clements.



# Investing in Roads

Over \$5.5 million was allocated to hard surface road infrastructure, including \$3.5 million to reconstruct existing roads. Notable projects include the upgrade of Park Place (\$689,063) and Bridgeview Drive (\$984,375), totaling \$1.67 million. Additionally, gravel road maintenance received a budget increase of \$58,000, bringing the total to \$1.42 million for gravel, dust control, and brushing.



## Road Maintenance and Improvement

In 2024, the RM of St. Clements undertook several major road projects to improve safety, drainage, and driving conditions across our community.

### Gravel Road Rehabilitation Projects

Our team rehabilitated McKay Ave, Pioneer Road, and Old Henderson by mulching and reclaiming shoulder material, reshaping the road surface for better drainage, applying fresh limestone, and stabilizing the base with magnesium chloride to reduce dust and wear. This approach provides cost-effective improvements, extending the life of these roads while minimizing potholes and washboarding.



### Asphalt Road Reconstructions and Conversions

To enhance driving conditions and reduce long-term costs, we repaved 1.4 km of existing asphalt and converted 950 m of gravel roads. Roads receiving full reconstruction, including Debra Ave, Park Place, and Bridgeview Drive, involved replacing road base gravel, adding 100mm of new asphalt, and reshaping driveway tie-ins and ditches for optimal drainage. Conversions on Harold Ave and George St brought needed upgrades to previously gravel surfaces.

### Annual Gravel Program

Each year, fresh gravel is spread on selected gravel roads to maintain a smooth, durable surface. In 2024, our team spread over 37,000 tonnes of gravel across more than 200 roads, enhancing drainage and durability to minimize maintenance needs.

### Slope Stabilization Projects

Following the 2022 spring flood event, slope stabilization work was carried out on four roads with provincial funding under the Disaster Financial Assistance program. These efforts included removing unstable materials, adding rock fill, regrading ditches, and installing erosion protection measures to safeguard the integrity of our road infrastructure.



### Ditching and Brushing

To improve stormwater management and reduce flood risk for residential and agricultural areas, we completed over 5 km of ditch grading and 50 km of ditch brushing, which will enhance water flow and reduce road wear.

These infrastructure projects showcase our commitment to creating safer, more durable roadways that support community well-being and resilience.



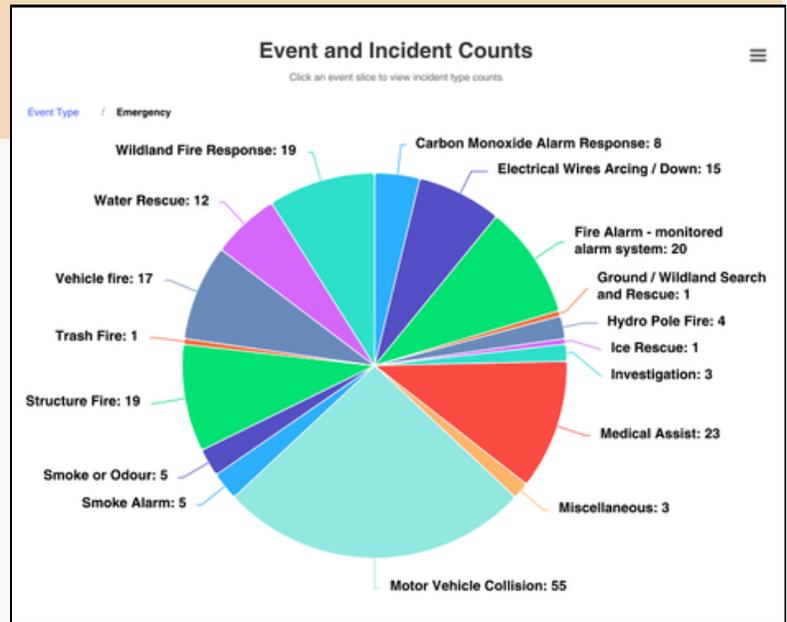
## Emergency Measures

The 2024 spring thaw was particularly challenging, with fluctuating temperatures causing nearly 200 frozen culverts compared to the typical 15, straining both residents and staff. Our team worked tirelessly to minimize flood risks and keep homes protected. For residents interested in joining our volunteer team, please contact Tyler, our Manager of Protective Services, at 204-482-3300 or [tyler@rmofstclements.com](mailto:tyler@rmofstclements.com).



## By-Law Enforcement and Animal Control

This year, we received around 350 service calls, primarily related to noise, burning, unsightly properties, and animal control. A welcome decrease in “animals at large” incidents made reunions smoother. We thank everyone who shares our lost and found animal posts on social media—your support is invaluable! For details on bylaws or Protective Services, visit our website. For specific questions, contact Tyler at [tyler@rmofstclements.com](mailto:tyler@rmofstclements.com) or 204-482-3300



## Fire Services

*IN 2024, OUR THREE FIRE HALLS RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 211 EMERGENCY CALLS ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY, WITH 61 CALLS FROM EAST BEACHES FIRE RESCUE, 75 FROM EAST SELKIRK FIRE HALL, AND 75 FROM NAROL.*

Motor Vehicle Collisions remained the top call type, followed closely by False Alarms, Structure Fires, and medical assists. Key capital purchases this year included a \$40,000 Bobcat UTV for East Selkirk Fire Hall and \$65,000 for site improvements at East Beaches Fire Hall, enhancing drainage and maintenance. We’re also excited to welcome two new Rescue Command Center Trucks for East Selkirk and East Beaches, further strengthening our emergency response capabilities.

Supporting the well-being of our first responders remains a priority, and this year we focused on mental health, offering one-on-one counseling for firefighters and their families in partnership with the fire department. We thank our firefighters for their courage and commitment to our community’s safety.



# Updates on Programs and Initiatives

THE RM OF ST. CLEMENTS HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THIS YEAR, REFLECTING OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING, AND RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT. BELOW ARE UPDATES ON SOME OF THE KEY PROGRAMS.

## **FoodCycler Program**

The FoodCycler program, designed to reduce food waste and promote sustainable practices, has been well-received by the community. These electronic devices, which break down food waste, were distributed to residents as an alternative to traditional composting, with the added benefit of not attracting vermin and being suitable for winter use. Feedback was collected through a survey to assess the program's effectiveness and gather insights for future initiatives.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency preparedness was a key focus in the RM of St. Clements, with initiatives aimed at ensuring residents are ready for emergencies. The initiative encouraged residents to understand potential local risks and equip themselves with the knowledge and resources to stay safe. The RM also emphasizes the importance of the "Connect" service, which provides residents with timely news and emergency updates.

## **Reception Centre Exercise:**

On June 12, we hosted a Reception Centre Exercise at the Access Centre, where residents participated in a simulation as evacuees to learn about the emergency evacuation process. The event allowed residents to interact with emergency response teams, ask questions, and better understand reception centre procedures. We also established a dedicated pet reception centre to ensure the safe care of animals during emergencies. Thank you to everyone who attended—your participation helps strengthen our community's preparedness and resilience for future emergencies. Stay tuned for more community preparedness events!