

The ST. ANDREWS TIMES

MARCH 2024



A LOOK BACK

at the Lockport Bridge Grand Re-Opening Event

On July 16, 2023, Mayor and Council attended a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of the re-opening of the Lockport Bridge. Mayor Sul had the honour of speaking on behalf of the RM and stood alongside many special dignitaries who also spoke and recognized this special event. It truly was a celebration having a newly upgraded bridge for improved and safer travel for all citizens.



MUNICIPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 130, 500 Railway Avenue
Clandeboye, Manitoba R0C 0P0
Ph: 204-738-2264 or
1-866-738-2264 (toll free)
Fax: 204-738-2500

Email: info@rmofstandrews.com
Website: www.rmofstandrews.com
Twitter: @RMofstandrews
FB: Rural Municipality of St. Andrews

Message from **THE MAYOR**

Firstly, I wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2024.

It is exciting to have a new Council that is working together in a positive manner, and we expect great things to happen in the upcoming year. We all remain committed that the residents are our #1 priority, and that transparency and open communication is our keys to success.

Early last year Council was fortunate to have Brent Olynyk join the municipality as our new CAO. Brent is well known for his integrity, professionalism and experience in municipal government. His impressive leadership skills have already proven valuable to the municipality by facilitating some regional partnerships and hiring of several new experienced department managers, who are taking on new projects and initiatives that will ultimately benefit all residents.

I am confident to say we will be moving forward with some exciting new projects which will continue to enhance livability in our municipality. This includes ongoing recreational programming, activities and trails, a premier soccer facility, refurbishing of an unused baseball diamond as well as investigation into zoning and potable water options that will encourage residential growth and commercial development. And, as usual, the RM Administration team continues to look at available grants and funding that can be leveraged to create opportunities and successes for the municipality.

Mayor Joy Sul

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2023 was a year full of many great accomplishments for this Council, and some of the main highlights include:

Lowered the tax mill rate from 9.98 to 9.967

Hired several new management staff which included: CAO, Deputy CAO, Planning and Economic Development Officer, Director of Infrastructure, Manager of Public Works, Recreation Manager and Director of Municipal Safety

Hired new fire chief at Matlock Fire Hall

Adopted the Recreation and Trails Master Plans to provide future direction for the Municipality's recreation needs.

Won 2 awards in the Manitoba Goods Roads Association's competition for (i) **Best maintained system of rural municipal roads** and (ii) **Most improved municipal roads**



Received \$850,000 in grant funding in 2023 from all levels of government for various projects including the St. Andrews Walking Trail, Lockport Active Transportation Path, Water Feasibility Study, Petersfield Lagoon upgrade and expansion, baseball diamond refurbishment at the airport and more

Participated in the FoodCycler Pilot Project (to divert and reduce the RM's landfill waste)

Completed numerous drainage and road renewal projects

Undergoing a review of by-law enforcement as well as the scope of the zoning by-law

Took part in a Strategic Planning session to plan for the future of St. Andrews

Emergency preparedness training for Council and staff





Creation of soccer fields on the airport recreation lands along Liss Road is underway

New baseball diamond to be constructed on the airport recreation lands

Creation of an RM Facebook Page

Expansion of the Petersfield Lagoon

New recreation programming including Pickleball

Installed 3 mobile digital speed monitor signs



These are just some of the items that are worthy of mentioning and there are many other ideas and prospects on the horizon that will benefit residents and the diverse communities throughout the municipality.

Active Transportation UPDATE

The St. Andrews Walking Trail Project started in 2018 with support of Council to start planning for the addition of trails in the community. Planning the proposed trail for PTH9 was done between 2019-2021. This would allow for future connection to West St. Paul and to Lower Fort Garry for the Trans Canada Trail connection.

Sections of this trail were built in phases starting in fall 2020, with the most recent work being completed this fall 2023. A total of 10 kms of new trail have been built so far. Grants were obtained from 2019-2022 for this portion totaling \$680,000.

Additional feeder trail work and a pedestrian crossing structure over Parks Creek are being planned for 2024-2025 construction. Working with MTI, safety upgrades are planned for pedestrian signal boxes, pedestrian signs, and painted crosswalks at PTH27, PTH44 and PR410. Grants obtained to date for this portion of trail total \$846,000. That is a total of over \$1.5 Million in grant money received for the trail system.



As future trail mapping and planning work continues in the municipality, the Council adopted RM of St. Andrews Trails Master Plan (copy available on our website) will be used for strategic direction and guidance concerning the trail system and service delivery over the next 3-20 years. We hope to partner with our municipal neighbors and others to provide a fully connected Active Transportation system for all residents to enjoy.

Petersfield Truck Haul Lagoon Expansion

The RM of St. Andrews in partnership with the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) have begun work on a shared \$3.84M project to upgrade the capacity of the Petersfield Truck Haul Lagoon to provide the area with a convenient and reliable sewage disposal facility for the St. Andrews area. The project cost breakdown includes \$1.92 M from MWSB, \$1.12M from RM Lagoon Reserve and \$800,000 from lagoon tipping fees.

The Petersfield Lagoon was originally commissioned in 1996 to service the St. Andrews area but experienced frequent closures in recent years as the facility quickly became overloaded with organics and was no longer able to handle the volumes of wastewater generated from the area.

The Lagoon expansion project commenced in Spring 2023 and is expected to be operational in early 2024. The upgraded facility will increase overall capacity by 90% and will provide the RM with greater flexibility in monitoring, managing, and treating the wastewater in a timely manner to bring water quality parameters such as nitrogen and phosphorous into compliance with regulatory requirements before releasing into the environment.

To protect Lake Winnipeg and meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements, the RM and MWSB expect that the facility will be capable of processing the influx of sewage efficiently and in a timely manner so that homeowners within the RM of St Andrews continue to have a cost-effective and environmentally sound option for their wastewater disposal.



RM of St. Andrews & AK Soccer Academy **OPEN HOUSE**

The joint Open House hosted by the RM of St. Andrews and AK Soccer Academy was a great success! On December 6th, residents, AK Soccer Academy and RM Council and Administration alike, gathered at St. Andrews Community Club for an evening of community engagement.

Informative posters were organized throughout the community club and prompted discussions on:

- Introducing AK Soccer Academy to the community and highlighting their passion, knowledge and experience in developmental and competitive soccer programming;
- Exploring the Academy's proposed development at 160 Liss Road for 2024 & 2025;
- Illustrating the Liss Road Recreational Lands and the RM's upcoming plans to rezone and subdivide 80 acres for recreational use and;
- Exploring the partnership timeline between the RM of St. Andrews and AK Soccer Academy.

RM Council actively participated in the discussions, showing their support of the partnership and the Academy's proposed development plans. Their interaction with AK Soccer Academy members highlighted a united commitment to community growth.



Concept Plan

RM Administration ensured attendees gained comprehensive insights into AK Soccer Academy's vision, the intricacies of their proposed development and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between both parties. Their efforts served as a bridge between the community and Council, fostering transparent communication channels and enhancing the overall experience for attendees.

The Open House drew a diverse crowd of residents eager to seek information on the proposed development and better understand the partnership between the RM and AK Soccer Academy. Attendees actively participated, asking insightful questions and sparking meaningful discussions throughout the night (with Council members, RM Staff and Representatives of AK Soccer Academy, including their President, Tony Kinnarath).

The event was a community triumph, fostering unity and shared enthusiasm for the future. The RM of St. Andrews and AK Soccer Academy will build on this success, using community input gathered during the event to help shape a future that benefits the Municipality as a whole.



ST. ANDREWS AIRPORT Celebrates Special Anniversaries In 2024



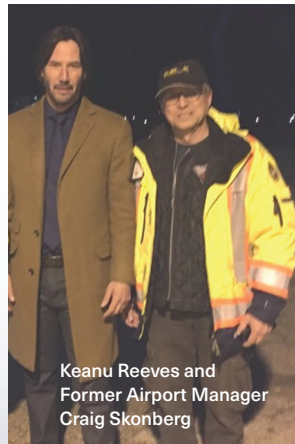
The St. Andrews Airport is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year since the day it first opened and began operation.

This airport was originally built to act as a satellite airport to help separate training flights from the growing number of commercial flights using the Winnipeg International Airport.

In 1962 construction began at the Airport to provide 2 runways and connecting taxiways and officially opened in 1964 with an airport supervisor and one equipment operator.

In 1968 there was more construction to provide 2 paved surface runways and the planning for an industrial area. Each year the airport grew adding a tower, more runways, building lots and making improvements to accommodate the ever increasing air traffic.

The first tenants to locate at the St. Andrews Airport were the Winnipeg Flying Club and Fly for Fun Inc. These were shortly followed by Point West School of Aviation and St. Andrews Airways. Some of the services now available at the airport include: flying schools, charter aircraft, aerial spraying, aircraft maintenance and repair, commercial hangar space and aircraft rentals.



Keanu Reeves and Former Airport Manager Craig Skonberg

There is also another celebration taking place in 2024 –

It has been 25 years since the R.M. of St. Andrews officially took over ownership and operation of the airport from the Federal Government on March 31, 1999.

St. Andrews Airport Inc. was formed and is a non-profit organization managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The RM is the owner of the airport and St. Andrews Airport Inc. are the managers of the airport. Airport Manager Zachary Holden oversees the airport operations.

Current Board Members include Russ Paradoski, Dave Little, Jerry Roehr, Grant Pronishen, Glen Hooper, Scott Masniuk, Deputy Mayor Ken Doornbos and Councillor Rob Mirecki.

These are dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and bring a broad array of knowledge and skills to the table and work together on new initiatives and opportunities to benefit the airport and the community.

The Airport is truly one of the RM's biggest gems which has proven to be successful in every way. This airport is a vital means of transportation to communities in northern Manitoba and in Ontario, providing both passenger and cargo movement. It is also the main base for flight training and recreational flying.

A Celebration Event is being planned this summer so stay tuned for more information and be sure to come out and learn more about the airport's history and operations.



DID YOU KNOW:

The movie "Siberia" starring Keanu Reeves was filmed at the Airport in 2017

The area upon which the airport was constructed was previously known as Schreyer's Swamp



NEW GRADER Added to Our Public Works Fleet

Pictured left to right: CAO Brent Olynyk, Councillor Laurie Hunt, Deputy Mayor Ken Doornbos, Trevor Hodnett from Brandt Tractor, Public Works Manager Trevor Antichow, Councillor Rob Mirecki, Councillor Justin Fiebelkorn and Councillor Tracy Slyker

On December 1, 2023, Trevor Hodnett from Brandt Tractor handed over the keys to the RM's new grader.

Our Public Works Manager Trevor Antichow, had the honour of accepting them on Council's behalf. This new grader will replace one of our older fleet models which will benefit the community because there will be less breakdowns with a newer piece of equipment. Equipment must be upgraded on a regular basis as the older equipment tends to require more repairs which causes interruptions in service and we want to provide the best level of service we can in road clearing and maintenance and this newer model will help in achieving that goal.

We tendered out as per our Purchasing Policy and Brandt Tractor was awarded the tender. This model is a 2024 John Deere 772G.



RM Annual **OPEN HOUSE**

Each year, usually in June, the RM hosts an Open House which hosts many different display and information booths by different organizations. This past event was held at the St. Andrews Community Club and it is a great opportunity to meet your Council members, obtain information and enjoy a free hot dog. Some Council members enjoyed their time on the grill, getting hotdogs ready for everyone to enjoy.



ST. ANDREWS NOW ON FACEBOOK!



Our communications department just expanded with the addition of a Facebook page!

Aside from Twitter, the RM website, YouTube Channel, electronic newsletters and CONNECT, we now have this great addition as well.

We want to communicate as much information as we can, and by creating this additional platform, we will be able to reach more audiences. You will be able to learn about the latest municipal news, programs, special events, emergency notices as well as other beneficial material.

Visitors to our page will have a good experience as we will not be engaging in any public comment to ensure respect on all sides and that the correct message is relayed to our audience.

Be sure to follow us and keep informed on matters that may be of benefit or impact you.

You can check out our new site at <https://www.facebook.com/rmofstandrews>

FOODCYCLER Pilot Program

The RM recently opened a second round of the FoodCycler Pilot Program for St. Andrews residents on January 3, 2024. If you are interested in participating in this household waste diversion pilot program and missed the first round, you can register on-line at <https://www.rmofstandrews.com/p/foodcycler-pilot-program>.

There are two FoodCycler™ Units available to choose from:

- FoodCycler™ FC-30 (2 L): \$150 CAD (+HST)
- FoodCycler™ ECO 5 (5 L): \$300 CAD (+HST)

Limited quantities are available and will be issued on a first-come first-served basis. The first 50 registrants will be notified and on-line payment will be required at that time.



Submit a Service REQUEST



Submit your inquiries and requests on-line with our Service Tracker System

These requests include public works issues, property tax inquiries, by-law enforcement issues, recreation activities and there are many other options to choose from. Any requests submitted will be assigned a tracking number. Requests will then go to directly to the appropriate department allowing staff to track all inquiries submitted through this on-line platform. This system will ensure that requests are dealt with in a timely manner and tracking will ensure that a request has been dealt with. Requests can be submitted through our website or our App. If using your phone to submit a service request, you must download our App first and do it through the App. A service request cannot be submitted on the phone without the App.



Register with CONNECT

CONNECT is our communication system that allows us to contact you by voice message on your land line telephone, by text or voice message on your cell phone or by email. Stay informed of all the latest news, important notices, emergency alert messages and be able to participate in surveys that may affect you. Some other common uses have been for winter storm closures, snow clearing updates, high water level emergencies, burn bans, special events and electronic newsletters. We can also send to specific geographic locations in the event of an emergency. Most of our communications is done through text and email. Phone calls are generally made based on the importance of the information.

CONNECT is an important tool when we need to get information to our residents so register on-line today so you don't miss out on information that may impact you or the area you reside in. Register on-line through our website or contact the RM Office and we can register you.