



Spring 2016

# St. Clements

The place to be

1043 Kittson Road, Box 2 Group 35 RR 1 | East Selkirk, MB, R0E 0M0 | Phone 204-482-3300, Winnipeg line 204-474-2642, toll-free 1-888-797-8725 | [www.rmofstclements.com](http://www.rmofstclements.com)

## Message from the Mayor and Council

YOUR RM COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS THAT it's more than our semi-rural lifestyle, friendly people and year-round recreation that make our municipality a great place to live. It's also local services that residents can rely on, and an RM that listens to citizens and acts on their priorities.

Spring is municipal budget season, and Council has prioritized investments in the areas that St. Clements homeowners have told us are most important.

As you'll read in this newsletter, we're again increasing spending on local road improvement and renewal. We're exploring service improvements such as of curbside garbage and recycling pickup. And, we're continuing to strengthen investments in recreation and leisure.

The RM's strategic plan sets out five core priority areas – transportation and roads; recreation and tourism; protective services; water; and the environment. These core priorities focus

on improving services and quality of life for today's families, while also ensuring our RM can meet residents' needs for generations to come. Council will continue to focus investments in each area through the remainder of our mandate.

As a Council, we also remain committed to strengthening municipal services while keeping life affordable. This year is a reassessment year for all municipalities in Manitoba. For a growing community like St. Clements, property values are increasing, and a higher assessed value of local homes translates into higher property tax bills.

Council has responded by lowering the property tax mill rate, which will help keep more money in homeowners' pockets. Assessments affect all properties differently, but the mill rate reduction will translate into a reduced tax bill for many homeowners, while for others it will mean a more modest increase than if the mill rate had not been lowered.

We've also allocated an increased portion of the taxes the RM collects to our road reserve, which means that we can reliably continue to increase funds earmarked for road improvements for years to come.

As always, we welcome your questions and feedback, whether about the RM's budget priorities or any other issue. You can connect with us on Facebook, send us an email to [info@rmofstclements.com](mailto:info@rmofstclements.com), or call us at the RM office.

Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn (204) 785-8622

### WARD 1

Councillor Glen Basarowich (204) 669-6368

Councillor Jerry Drobot (204) 224-1287

Councillor Ray Frey (204) 757-4617

### WARD 2

Councillor Dave Sutherland (204) 482-3464

Councillor Ken Thomas (204) 635-2043

Councillor Robert Belanger (204) 482-3050

## Seasonal grading and dust control

Spring road grading and dust control are an essential component of annual road maintenance. The RM maintains over 900 km of roads.

**Grading** begins when the ground has thawed and the roads are damp or dry.

**Dust control** begins when spring restrictions of allowable road weights have been lifted, usually sometime in late May. The roads are graded before applying dust control. It can take up to three weeks to apply the dust control product throughout the entire municipality.

## Stay connected to your RM

### RM news delivered right to your inbox

Keep up with the latest news that affects you by registering your email address with us. Go to the home page of our website [www.rmofstclements.com](http://www.rmofstclements.com) and click "Register with us".



## Solid waste master plan

We are moving forward on a commitment to improving waste management, including the possibility of curbside garbage/recycling/compost pickup.

The master plan study will look at the impact of proposed legislation, provincial waste reduction and recycling incentives, and best practices to improve our efficiency while lessening our impact on the environment.

We anticipate the study will be completed by the end of June. The RM will consult with the public to identify the right level of service once the report is completed.

## Strengthening investment in local roads

Road renewal and improvement continually rank as a top priority for our residents. We are listening; the RM of St. Clements has made record investments in local roads in recent years. Road work this summer will build on these investments. We are pleased to share that we are working on the following roads this year.

**Dunning Road:** We will complete the final stage of repairs for this hard surface road, from Rebeck Road to the railroad tracks.

**McKay Road:** Will undergo substantial design work in preparation for reconstruction and paving in 2017.

Ongoing paving projects for Shalom Path and Old River Road will be completed in 2016.

As well as the increased investment in hard surfacing, this budget contains a 65% increase in the gravel budget. Over 90% is used in the northern and agricultural areas of the municipality. The budget also contains funds to help identify and rebuild gravel roads that are showing signs of failure.



## Landfill and transfer station summer hours

\* Effective March 13, 2016

Questions? Contact the Landfill Office at 204-766-2388 or toll-free at 1-866-205-8914

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Libau Landfill	Closed	Closed	9 am – 5 pm	9 am – 5 pm	9 am – 5 pm	9 am – 5 pm	9 am – 5 pm
Dunning Transfer Station	9 am – 5 pm	11 am – 7 pm	Closed	Closed	11 am – 7 pm	11 am – 7 pm	9 am – 5 pm
Clark Transfer Station	9 am – 5 pm	11 am – 7 pm	Closed	Closed	11 am – 7 pm	11 am – 7 pm	9 am – 5 pm
Grand Marais Transfer Station	9 am – 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11 am – 5 pm	Closed
Gull Lake Transfer Station	Closed	11 am – 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 am – 5 pm
Please note: Gull Lake and Grand Marais Transfer Stations change to summer hours on May 1, 2016 (below)							
Grand Marais Transfer Station	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm	Closed	Closed	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm
Gull Lake Transfer Station	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm	Closed	Closed	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm	10 am – 6 pm



Join the growing number of people who 'like' us on Facebook to receive breaking news and timely information from the RM and surrounding areas.

## East Beaches Heritage Wing opening May 21

Don't miss visiting the RM's newest museum this summer featuring award-winning exhibit "Putting Food on the Table". Opening day is Saturday, May 21, 2016. East Beaches Heritage Wing is located at 36058 Hwy 12 at the Grand Marais Community Central building, Grand Marais.

## Be fire smart

### The life you save could be your own

After a long winter, spring is a time when we want to spend some time outdoors cleaning up our yards, which for some means burning, and having bonfires.

Outdoor fires in the RM of St. Clements are regulated by the RM of St. Clements By-Law No. 5-2012. This by-law encompasses all outdoor fires including fire pits and the burning of crop residue, grass, stubble, and debris.

Fires in breach of this by-law may result in a fine to the property owner or person setting the fire. If fire fighters have to extinguish the fire, the cost of this may be charged to person who started the fire.



Heading to a grass fire near Lockport in April 2015

### Grass burning myths and facts

Burning grass is a tradition, almost a rite of spring, however, the reasons for spring grass burning are largely unfounded and rather than being beneficial, grass burning is destructive and dangerous.

**Myth:** *It's safe to burn grass when there is still some snow on the ground.*

**Fact:** Within hours of snow melting, dead grass becomes flammable; especially if there have been drying winds. Grass fires burn hot and fast and spread quickly around, and over snow patches.

**Myth:** *Spring grass burning controls weeds.*

**Fact:** Weeds deposited their seeds into the soil last fall. Burning creates an ideal bare soil bed for the seeds to germinate.

**Myth:** *Burning improves the new grass crop.*

**Fact:** Burning actually reduces grass yield up to 70 per cent.

**Myth:** *Burning makes the new grass come in greener.*

**Fact:** It just appears greener due to the contrast against the bare, blackened ground. In fact the new grass will be the same color whether burning took place or not.

**Myth:** *I can burn grass without threatening any animals.*

**Fact:** Burning destroys the habitat of species you don't normally see

such as mice and voles as well as the nests and eggs of certain birds. If the fire gets out of control larger animals can be caught by the flames and many species will lose habitat crucial to their survival.

**Myth:** *Lost habitat will grow back in a few months and the wildlife will return.*

**Fact:** It may take several years to replace what was lost. Vegetation is often multilayered with higher growth protecting undergrowth. Different species depend on different layers for food or shelter. Loss of the lower layer and its occupants will impact species that prey upon those lost species.

**Myth:** *Spring burning is an easy way to get rid of last year's vegetation.*

**Fact:** Easy perhaps, but not good for the soil. Burning results in most of the old plants' nutrients going up in smoke or remaining in ash that is washed away. Burning also releases CO2 into the atmosphere and ultimately contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. Ploughing old plants under, or allowing them to decompose, allows carbon and fertilizing elements to go back into the soil.

**Myth:** *It's pretty safe to burn grass in the RM of St. Clements. We have great fire departments.*

**Fact:** Under the Wildfires Act and the RM of St. Clements By-Law 5-2012, if you light a fire, you are responsible for it. If your fire gets out of control you may be liable for the cost of fighting the fire, the destruction of other's property, and face penalties for violating burning regulations.

### Rural Municipality of St. Clements

#### Public Hearing Notice

#### Regarding the 2016 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2016 at a Public Hearing in the Council Chambers of the R.M. of St. Clements on Monday May 9, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Financial Plan as provided.

Any person who has questions, needs clarification or requires further information, either prior to or following the hearing, is encouraged to contact DJ Sigmundson, CAO at 482-3300.

Copies of the 2016 Financial Plan will be available for review after April 26, 2016 at the Municipal Office located at 1043 Kittson Road, East Selkirk or on our website at [www.rmofstclements.com](http://www.rmofstclements.com)

D.J. Sigmundson, CPA, CMA, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Green Corner

### The RM of St. Clements moving towards sustainability

It's never been easier to safely dispose of unneeded hazardous items. Whether you have an old cell phone, expired medicine, old engine oil or cans of paint, virtually any household item can be safely recycled. Simply enter your address at [greenmanitoba.ca/your-nearest-depot](http://greenmanitoba.ca/your-nearest-depot) to find a collection depot near you.

## Contact us 24/7/365

When you need us for a municipal emergency, we are available day and night at 204-482-3300