



# Your Community

The official newsletter of the R.M. of East St. Paul

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## Feels like coming home

### Condo a first for East St. Paul

Moving into a new home is exciting, but it often takes time before it becomes that familiar place, lived in and comfy like an old sweater.

That won't be the case for Lois Swistun, a former Bird's Hill resident who, along with her partner, will be moving back here, and into the new Silver Ridge Condominium under construction now at the corner of Bird's Hill Road and Agar Street.

Bird's Hill is where Lois grew up and where she and her husband lived and raised their family until moving north to Grand Pines.

"This is home," 85-year-old Lois said, referring to the community, but there's no doubt she'll fast consider the condo the same way.

"I'm very pleased that this is happening. I'm really looking forward to moving in. It's gonna be nice."

The eight-unit condo/apartment building is in the early stages of construction now, and when its frame rises above the ground, it will be the first multi-family dwelling ever built in the village.

Mayor Shelley Hart concedes there are the few apartments atop a business down the road, but this development is the first, stand-alone condo/apartment approved in the municipality.

She said though East St. Paul is known as a municipality of spacious, half-acre lots, times are changing, and so too are attitudes.

"It was something that I heard at the doors when I was campaigning two years ago, that there is a need for multi-family development," Hart said.

"Some residents want to be able to downsize and stay in East St. Paul



Left to right, Devlin, Hart and Swistun on the site of the new Silver Ridge Condominium.

and what we've done without having these kinds of options available is we've forced people to leave the community."

And while minds may have started to change, Hart and the rest of council knew that for a multi-family project to be accepted in Bird's Hill, it would have to be done the right way.

Enter Carla Devlin of Carrington Property Developments. Devlin, herself an East St. Paul resident, said from the day she "slammed on the brakes", when she saw the 'for sale' sign on the property, she knew what she wanted to do. And how she wanted to do it.

"I just always thought to myself the community really needs a multi-family project to keep seniors in their town. It's sad that they have to leave after x amount of years," Devlin says.

The property was zoned Residential, so rezoning to Multi-Family was required. Hart said though the rezoning meant a public hearing would be required, Devlin held two public meetings on her own to make sure the public understood what she wanted to do.

And, Devlin wanted to hear the community's desires too. Her original proposal was for a 10-unit building but she scaled it back to eight to allow for

two bathrooms per unit, when she discovered that's what people wanted.

She addressed parking issues and went with a two-storey building so it wouldn't impact sight lines.

Her willingness to work with the community was well received, and by the time the actual public hearing came around, there was no opposition, just support. Hart said that's impressive.

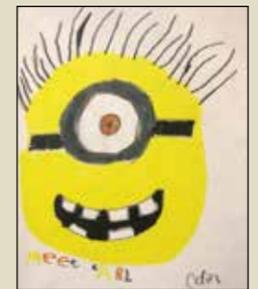
"Carla did an exceptional job of doing the work before she applied for the permit and before the public hearing... when the public hearing took place in council, it was unprecedented, there was not one person registered in opposition. That was an incredible testament to the community consultation Carla did prior to the public hearing," Hart said.

"I think it also speaks to people's shifting attitudes on condos."

Devlin said buyers usually don't commit until the building is up, but Silver Ridge is already 80 per cent full.

"It's unheard of," she said, noting all takers are long-time East St. Paul residents who've taught her plenty about the community. For her part, she's happy to learn.

"This is a community development."



### Centennial Art Display

Colin Steinberger, 7, drew this portrait of a Minion, called 'Meet Carl', and it's part of the October Centennial Art Display now visible at the Municipal Office during regular business hours, or online. Other artists on display include: Arlene Rattai and Jonina Cadoreth.



### Quilts impress

The Material Girls of the East St. Paul 55+ Club hosted the Centennial Quilt and Stitchery Show at the Arena Banquet Hall on Oct. 1 & 2.

Visitors were treated to an impressive display of quilts that club members have crafted. The Material Girls meet on Wednesdays at the 55+ and new members are always welcome.



## Farmers Market a rousing success

There's good news and bad news when it comes to the East St. Paul Farmers Market, and we'll start with the good – the successful Centennial Market will be back again next year.

The bad news, well, more sad news really, is that summer is indeed over and so too is the Market, which ran until the end of September.

Mayor Shelley Hart was enthusiastic in her praise of the Market, which ran Sundays beside the Recreation Complex from July 3 to Sept. 25.

"Are we doing this next year? You bet," Hart said.

"This is a Centennial project that will be continuing and growing in the community."

Tyne Mills, Recreation Programmer for the RM, said there was a steady

stream of customers each and every Sunday at the Market and they were treated to shopping from an average of 20-25 vendors each week.

Though attendance numbers weren't kept each week, Mills said the first Sunday attracted approximately 1,000 people.

The weather cooperated most of the summer, with just a couple rain days in September. Mills said community response to the market was fantastic, with compliments received on how well run the market was, how great it was to see a variety of vendors and that the location – a small venue surrounded by trees – was comfortable and fun.

"On behalf of the whole Farmers Market Team, I would just like to say



The 2016 East St. Paul Farmer's Market is closed for the season, but will be back in 2017.

what an honour it was having been involved in such an event. It was a privilege to meet all of the talented vendors and entrepreneurs in the community, as well as customers from not only East St. Paul but surrounding communities as well," Mills said.

"We would like to thank everyone

who assisted in the success of the Market and hope to see this type of community engagement in Spring 2017!"

To help us improve the Market for 2017, please take the time to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTRBGG6> and take a short survey.