



**CITIZENS INFORMATION**

**FIND THE BELL AND WIN A PRIZE!**

The old bell on City Hall is ringing once more! Hidden somewhere on TEN (10) random copies of this flyer is a tiny picture of a bell! If you find it in your copy, circle it and bring it to City Hall to collect a free vintage City of Portage la Prairie coffee mug!

*(Bell does not appear on online version)*

All City offices will be **CLOSED**  
Monday, October 9, 2017 for Thanksgiving Day.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
Mayor Irvine Ferris

**Councillors**  
Brent Budz  
Melissa Draycott  
Liz Driedger  
Ryan Espey  
Brent Froese  
Wayne Wall

Visit us online at  
[www.city-plap.com](http://www.city-plap.com)

[www.facebook.com/cityplap/](http://www.facebook.com/cityplap/)

Twitter  
@cityofportage

Jean-Marc Nadeau,  
City Manager

**CITY HALL**

97 Saskatchewan Ave. E.  
Portage la Prairie, MB  
R1N 0L8  
Phone: 204-239-8309  
Fax: 204-239-1532  
After-hours  
emergency:  
204-239-8340

**EMAIL**  
[info@city-plap.com](mailto:info@city-plap.com)

**OPERATIONS DEPT.**  
204-239-8346

Water On/Off  
& Billings  
204-239-8370

Tax Clerk  
204-239-8308

**OTHER CONTACTS**  
Animal Control/  
Bylaw Enforcement  
204-239-8326

Portage la Prairie  
Planning District  
204-239-8345

RCMP  
204-857-4445

**EMERGENCY**  
9-1-1

**WILL YOU BE OUR NEXT**

**YOUTH MEMBER OF COUNCIL?**

Mayor Ferris and Council are seeking nominations for the 2017/2018 Youth Member of Council position.

If you are under the age of 18 and enrolled as a full-time student, you can self-nominate. As the Youth Member of Council, you will be offered the opportunity to participate in deliberations of City issues at public Council meetings. (The Youth Member of Council may not vote on any Council resolution.) The position will begin October 2017 and finish in August of 2018.

Potential candidates are required to submit a one-page essay explaining a little about themselves and the reasons why they are interested in becoming the Youth member of Council. The nomination document shall be submitted to our Manager of Administration by Friday, September 29, 2017 at close of business. The Mayor and City Council will review the nominations and announce the successful candidate at the October 10th Council meeting.

Should you have any questions, please contact Diane Van Aert, Manager of Administration, at 204-239-8337 or via email at [dvanaert@city-plap.com](mailto:dvanaert@city-plap.com). Your application can be submitted by hand at City Hall or via email to [dvanaert@city-plap.com](mailto:dvanaert@city-plap.com)

Diane Van Aert, CMMA  
Manager of Administration  
City of Portage la Prairie

**UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**6:00 p.m. at City Hall unless otherwise stated**

Monday, September 11

Monday, September 25

Tuesday, October 10

*All are welcome.*

Meetings taking place at City Hall can be viewed **LIVE** or after the fact on our You Tube Channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2MKYDEsK\\_SRF2ByXIBcBw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2MKYDEsK_SRF2ByXIBcBw)

[UCy2MKYDEsK\\_SRF2ByXIBcBw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2MKYDEsK_SRF2ByXIBcBw)

*(or simply Google it!)*



**JOIN T.I.P.P. NOW**

Pay your property taxes in 12 easy monthly installments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month beginning

January 15, 2018. Applications should be in by December 15, 2017. Call 204-239-8308 or go to

[www.city-plap.com](http://www.city-plap.com)

**DID YOU KNOW...**



The City of Portage la Prairie conducts a Biosolids Land Application Program every spring and fall. Biosolids is the nutrient rich organic matter resulting from the treatment of domestic and industrial wastewater at our facility. Once the organic matter is treated, it can be applied as a fertilizer on to farm land. Several local farmers utilize this rich fertilizer to promote the growth of agricultural crops. The land used must meet certain guidelines within the Manitoba Environment Licence #1907. If you are interested in having biosolids applied to your agricultural land, please contact Karly at 204-239-8359 (must be a minimum of a quarter section).

This publication is available in an accessible format upon request by calling 204-239-8331.

## A LITTLE HISTORY OF OUR CITY BELL

The bell on top of Portage la Prairie's City Hall was originally part of Portage's old fire hall, which sat at the corner of Tupper Street South and Saskatchewan Avenue West, where the Bank of Montreal is today. The Portage Fire Brigade decided it needed a new bell in 1890 and, after looking around for the best deal, settled on the one that sits on City Hall today. The City spent 25 cents a pound for the 1,027-lb. unit, and the fire brigade supplemented the cost by trading in their old bell for 14 cents per pound.

The bell was specially built for Portage by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, MD., and was shipped to town and hung at the old fire hall. During the official ceremony for the bell in 1891, the bell was christened "Fred William" after Mayor Fred Newman and Alderman William Burns, who helped make the bell's acquisition possible. The bell stayed at the old fire hall until it moved to City Hall in 1961, when the City built its new fire hall on Third Street N.E., and moved City Hall to its current location on Royal Road and Saskatchewan, into what used to be the post office.

For 120 years, the bell rang throughout the day to call kids to school, to supper, or inside for bed. The bell was also the fastest way to announce an emergency in town, such as calling volunteers to a fire. The bell was also rung to celebrate the end of both world wars and to honour Portage citizens who died fighting in those wars. The bell also tolled to mark the 1939 Royal visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Portage, and rang solemnly when United States President John F. Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated.

When it was housed at the old fire hall, the bell was rung by hand, making it easier to ring for those special

occasions. After the move to City Hall, ringing it for special occasions became a lot more difficult. It worked on an automated system attached to a time clock, so basically rang itself four times a day and was no longer used to mark special occasions.

When the City decided to move the bell in 1961, there was no machine available in town that would lift something that heavy up the three floors to the top of City Hall. The bell was dismantled and hoisted up in pieces early in the morning so traffic wasn't disrupted on Saskatchewan Avenue. The roof braces of City Hall had to be reinforced to accommodate the weight of the new addition. But despite the reinforced roof, employees at City Hall could all tell you they felt the bell every time it rang. If you happened to be in a meeting on the second floor when it rang, you could feel the whole building shake and dust would float down from above.

In 2010, engineers determined that City Hall was no longer structurally sound enough to support the ringing of the bell and it was decommissioned. It has hung silent since that time. This year, thanks in part to a Canada 150 grant, City Council was able to approve an electronic striker which now has our bell ringing again while the bell itself remains stationary. Thanks to this modern technology, a new generation of children will grow up to have nostalgic memories of hearing the City Hall bell ringing in Portage la Prairie throughout their day.

*(Much of this information was taken from an article written by Shane Gibson which ran in the Central Plains Herald Leader in October, 2008)*

### YARD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM



The fall season is once again upon us and the City of Portage is offering free curbside yard waste collection. This year's program will start Monday, September 25, 2017 and run for 6 collection cycles. 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. Colored bags will not be collected.

Yard waste is defined as leaves, grass and garden waste, excluding any tree trimmings. Tree trimmings must always be bundled in four foot sections and have a waste collection tag affixed, or be taken to the Tree Disposal Site.

### HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE LANDFILL

**Summer Hours** – Effective through October 31

Tuesday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Winter Hours** – Effective November 1 to March 31

Tuesday to Saturday 8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Sundays, Mondays, and all Stat Holidays

The Portage la Prairie Regional Landfill reminds you to take the time to ensure all of your waste makes it to the Landfill where it can be properly disposed of.

1. All loads must be **tarped** and strapped so that nothing comes loose on your way to the Landfill.
2. Monitor your load at all times and stop and secure your load if necessary.
3. After unloading your waste, be sure all debris and nails are cleaned off and tail gates are closed **before** pulling away from the dumping area.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation in keeping Portage and area clean and a place we all can be proud of. The Landfill will be enforcing our \$25.00 penalty for untarped loads, so please take the time to secure your load properly.