

Ward 9 Report

Councillor Jason Mancinelli



CITY OF REGINA

Councillor - Ward 9

SPRING / SUMMER 2024

Dear Ward 9 Residents:



Jason

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I can't believe it's been seven years since I first became a councillor. Seven years ago, the hot topics were the dusty and sorry state of Pinkie Road, the opening of the Bypass at 9th Ave N (along with uncertainty about its growing pains), and the lack of pedestrian access to the brand new Plainsview/Saint Nicholas elementary schools. Some progress has been made: The Pinkie Road bridge is more than halfway complete and there is a new pathway parallel to Courtney St that may get better lighting; I'll share more on 9th Ave N later in this newsletter.

SERVICE REQUESTS

All this work is achieved with your patience and the use of service request forms available on Regina.ca or by calling 306-777-7000. Requests are also used to report missed garbage pickup, dumping/littering, broken sidewalks, potholes, etc., and they are the most effective tool to generate work or get information from City Administration. They feed the data that bring about change and repairs we all need to see as a community, so thank you for your cooperation in using the system.

Although Ward 9 is undoubtedly the best neighbourhood in Regina, I've encountered more than a few problems that have yet to be addressed. For instance, the lack of pathway connectivity bordering the creek in Edgewater, the state of our gravel alleys, the McClurg field/tennis court and the absence of a McCarthy pathway network.

There is some good news to report – the McClurg tennis court is slated for renewal in 2026 and our alleys are due for their 10-year renewal (2025-26) as well. These projects couldn't have been accomplished without the efforts of concerned residents like yourself sending service requests to the City. Service requests are the most effective way for residents to let City Administration know what matters to them. These also help the City determine what projects to invest in each year, which brings me to a call for help.

Somehow, I failed to communicate the importance of the following pathways in a way that led to proper planning - the Edgewater pathway, the 1st Ave N sidewalk in the missing Courtney connection, and the missing McCarthy Blvd pathway. They have been noted and mentioned, but City Administration has not yet shared any plans. If these are important to you, affect your child's safe route to school, or impact the general enjoyment of our neighbourhood, please submit a service request so City Administration can record and understand the need.

Committees I Represent You On

To try and fulfill my promise to better our community during my representation, I've stepped up to represent you on numerous committees over and above my elected duties to have a positive effect on these issues, and the finances to rectify them. Some of these committees include:

Audit & Finance Committee (chairperson)

This committee is made up of members of council and public at large who have been vetted with skills to assist in the auditing and review of City finances and processes. This is being done along with external and internal auditors, to bring recommendations to Council concerning the City's financial operations. I've had the privilege of being appointed chair of this committee.

Economic Development Regina (EDR)

A subsidiary of the City of Regina and directed by a board of shareholders composed of business, university, and community leaders. They analyze potential investment and market our city to the world for both monetary and community investment. They also provide advice to help prepare and optimize our chance of success when interest is shown.

Regina Downtown Business Improvement District

This committee is made up of landlords, business owners and community advocates with a stake in the success of Regina and its downtown. With the effects of COVID trashing most city centres this has been one of the busiest organizations - from assisting and spearheading programs such as the Street Team, assisting businesses and the vulnerable encountering and affected by homelessness, to the activation of Victoria Park movie nights, and Frost. Always trying to provide betterment, safety, and activation of our community's city centre.

City of Regina RM of Sherwood Joint Planning Committee (chairperson)

This term was one of the busiest to date with negotiating and assembling the land to enable the Viterra crush plant and FCL expansion.

Moose Jaw Regina Industrial Corridor

As your representative from Regina on this committee, I have engaged in cooperative planning for the surrounding urban and rural area between Regina and Moose Jaw. This committee has been one of the voices that have assisted some of the water projects in our province to help ensure generational water security. Another goal is to better plan regional land use complimenting commercial interests planned uses instead of fighting our neighbours.

Saskatchewan Assessment Management Association (SAMA)

This committee assesses the taxes throughout Saskatchewan and balances the rates between the various property types such as farm, industrial and pipeline. It constantly strives to balance the rates to make Saskatchewan an equitable place to live, where you pay your fair share, the same as your neighbours, and sometimes it even works.

The work on these committees, along with the City information provided in this newsletter, is the big picture stuff. However, first and foremost, my position as councillor is about being directly answerable to my neighbours. In the last seven years, I've communicated with literally thousands through email, phone and in person. As a part-time position, and with no administrative experience or staff, I know I've made mistakes, missed emails and the odd call. With that, I offer an apology. It is never my intent to be slight or unresponsive. Being both answerable and accountable for affecting the present and future of friends, neighbours and community has come with constraints and hard choices of time and attention.

Thank you, Ward 9 neighbours. It's an honour and privilege to be trusted to help plan for our community. I'm always humbled, and sometimes overwhelmed performing my duties, but with my goal of security, success, and happiness for all residents of our city, I am committed to listening, understanding and working to better our community.

*Sincerely,
Jason*

Electric Buses Coming

Regina Transit is greening up its fleet with 20 electric buses over the next two years. Seven will arrive in early 2025 and the remaining 13 will be here later that year. The new 40-foot battery electric buses are the first ever in the City's fleet, replacing Transit's diesel-powered buses when they come to the end of their useful life. Reducing emissions supports the City's goal of becoming a 100 per cent renewable city by 2050. The total project cost is \$52.2 million with the federal government covering 50 per cent of the infrastructure and bus costs.



New Transit Fare, Payment and Capping

Transit customers will have a new way to pay for rides this fall. Already implemented in other major cities, the new fare system is flexible, easy to use and includes using a mobile payment app, reloadable smart card or cash. A second phase will allow credit and debit cards. The new and old systems will run side by side for at least one month to allow everyone to adjust. The City has chosen this new system because the current one is outdated and no longer supported.

In addition, youth monthly passes are being lowered, and the City is introducing a fare capping system that will save regular riders money. For customers that don't ride enough in a month to make up the cost of a full pass, they will only be charged for what was used! Also, frequent riders will get free rides if they use the bus 3x a day or >31 times a month. The new fare system will also be on Paratransit.

2024 Municipal & School Board Election

Regina residents will head to the polls on Wednesday, November 13 for the 2024 Municipal/School Board Election! Citizens will have an opportunity to shape our future by electing a Mayor, Councillor and School Board Trustee(s). Information on when, where and how to vote can be found at [Regina.ca/elections](https://regina.ca/elections).

FREE transit will be provided to voters heading to the polls!

Revised Ward Boundaries

Did you know that population is distributed evenly amongst each of Regina's 10 city wards? That way every resident's vote has the same value as the next person to allow fair and equal representation from ward councillors. Ward 9 is slightly impacted with inclusion of residents living Normanview West who are currently residing in ward 8. This means those residents will likely have a different voting stations in the fall. Search [Regina.ca](https://regina.ca) for the election boundary map.



Ongoing Saga of 9th Ave N Continues

Although there is no other at-grade, 70 km/hr, single lane, single approach, unshouldered intersection anywhere in this region of Saskatchewan like 9th & Fairways, Administration has repeatedly stated its hands are tied by policy to make any safety changes until either Coopertown develops or someone dies by accident. I don't have faith in Coopertown being timely, and I sincerely believe we are on borrowed time to a major mishap. At peak times, stress and pressure caused by turns and back-ups at this intersection is considerable.

There is no worse example of patchwork planning in the city, and until it can be properly built for flow and safety, I am putting a motion forth for a three-way stop at Fairways & 9th so some poor novice driver doesn't pay the ultimate price. As a regular user of this roadway, I understand the slight inconvenience this will cause. However, I've witnessed too many close calls, to not pay attention and act.



Construction in Ward 9

In addition to the alley maintenance work and the infrastructure improvement project for our ward in 2024. Thanks in advance for your patience during these improvement projects and please remember to slow down in construction zones.

Road Renewal – Full or selected sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement, followed by paving.

- Dalgliesh Dr – Lansdowne Dr to McCarthy Blvd
- Rochdale Blvd – Devonshire Dr to Courtney St
- Sherwood Dr – Doiron Rd to Courtney St

Maintenance Pave – Road surface treatment for smoother safer roads for drivers and cyclists.

- Cole St – Dalgliesh Dr to Rowell Cres
- Lax St – Stanley Cres to Garry St
- Rowell Cres – Cole St to Cole St
- Stanley Cres – Cole St to Cole St

Traffic signals will be rehabilitated at Rochdale Blvd and Radway St.

Water Network Expansion Project included the construction of a new water pumping station, two water storage reservoirs and 8.4 km of water supply main. This project will ensure the City's water network can support population growth up to 310,000 and be expanded in the future to accommodate 500,000. Find details and related traffic impacts at [Regina.ca/waterexpansion](https://regina.ca/waterexpansion).

- Markwell Dr – Rink Ave to Rink Ave (two-year project)
- Walter Cres – Markwell Dr to Markwell Dr
- Dalgliesh Dr – Lansdowne Dr to McCarthy Blvd

Wastewater & Drainage – Cleaning/inspection of domestic sewer mains from Courtney St to McCarthy Blvd between 9th Ave and Whelan Dr.

Tree Planting

- Par Pl – Traffic Island
- Whelan Dr – McCarthy to Radway St – Centre Blvd
- Murphy Park – Dorothy St to Railway tracks

Northwest Leisure Centre playground will receive rubber safety surfacing repairs and spray pad toy upgrades.