

West Transcona gets long-awaited fire station

By Bernice Pontanilla
Staff Reporter

West Transcona is the site of the first fire station to be built by the City of Winnipeg in nearly a decade.

The new \$2.25-million West Transcona Fire Paramedic Station No. 21 will be located at 1446 Regent Ave. West at the junction with Starlight Drive across from Club Regent casino.

Transcona Coun. Russ Wyatt said the construction of this new fire hall closes a debate that has existed in his community since the time his father Reg Wyatt was councillor in the mid-1980s.

"There was a debate at one point of merging two stations into one," said Wyatt, adding this measure was very unpopular. "This means we now always have two fire halls... It will also mean better response times for the community."

Wyatt said the large number of new housing developments in West Transcona added to the growing need in the area for a new station.

Many of these developments are already up but there are hundreds more homes scheduled to be built over the next five years.

The new West Transcona station will

replace the existing station at 730 Pandora Ave. West, which is shared by the Fire Paramedics and Winnipeg Police Service.

The police will move to their new building that is planned for the St. Boniface Industrial Park area, near Dugald and Plessis roads.

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic platoon chief Murray Rougeau, who also happens to be a longtime Transcona resident, said he is looking forward to this new station that is located in the district he covers.

"It is now a reality that Transcona will have two fire stations and good protection for the city of Transcona and the East Elmwood area," said Rougeau, adding fellow Transcona residents and neighbours "assumed there would always be two stations and this solidifies that."

Along with Wyatt, Mayor Sam Katz and St. Vital Coun. Gord Steeves, chair of the City's protection and community services committee, attended the groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 16.

Katz said his commitment to fixing Winnipeg's crumbling infrastructure also includes repairing and constructing new civic buildings, such as the new fire station, to provide the necessary services to protect the community.

The last fire station built was No. 6, at



Photo by Bernice Pontanilla

Transcona Coun. Russ Wyatt and Mayor Sam Katz share a congratulatory hug after the groundbreaking ceremony of the new West Transcona Fire Paramedic Station No. 21, at the corner of Regent Avenue West and Starlight Drive.

Redwood Avenue and McGregor Street, in 1997.

Gateway Construction and Engineering was awarded the contract and has already begun its excavation work.

The City hopes to have the project completed by June.

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