

VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER

January, 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

COUNCIL NOTES

The Council of the Village of Vilna wishes to pass on their wishes to each and every one of you for a happy and prosperous 2015!!

- X-Ray Machine - A couple of things have happened since the end of October. A meeting with the Rural Health Care Review Panel struck by the Minister was held in Myrnam October 24, 2014 and Vilna was invited to present its concerns regarding the X-ray. This presentation was well received by the Panel, and from that we came with hope that we had been well heard. The political will seems in our favour. On December 17th, our 3rd teleconference was held with Council/Administration and 5 high level Alberta Health Services Directors. This was more of an update; however we did get one thing we have asked for. Since July AHS has been telling us that to replace the X-ray machine, VERY expensive construction would be required. We have been requesting an *actual* construction cost estimate be done. As we write this, AHS is doing a comprehensive construction estimate at the Health Centre. So, we are inducing progress from AHS and not letting them forget our issue!

- *The Provincial government is facing some very tough choices for the upcoming year's budget.* With a loss of revenue, due to dropping oil prices, means that the provincial budget will see *drastic cuts*. This means that grants that the Village would normally receive to operate have been cut completely and grants for capital projects tougher to come by. This means that the Village will have to do less with a lot less funding. Please be prepared for that. Taxes are NOT the only source of funding to operate the Village historically.

- Speaking of Taxes – If you owe on your property tax account, please call or come in to the office and make arrangements at the office for some form of payment.

- Utility Payments – If you owe on your utility account, please see the above related comment.

Water services will be terminated to properties where billings are overdue. Please remember that the Village is now receiving a bill every month for every drop of water that is supplied from the regional line.

Business and Dog Licenses are now due for renewal for 2015. Please ensure that they are renewed promptly.

- **WATER BILLINGS** – As of March, ATCO Electric will no longer be doing water meter readings for any municipality. They will require manual readings until purchasing a remote reading system is affordable. Many of you were not at home when the meters were read. If you wish to cut your water billing each read your meter and record readings regularly.

- If a Village operator has not read your meter by the end of each of February, April, June, August, October and December FEEL FREE to call your meter reading in to the office at 780-636-3620. Leave a message if there is no answer (be sure to leave your name, phone # and address with the reading!!).

- **Sewer Lift Station** Engineers have had a look at the Lift Station and have just today sent us a report and estimate. We hope to obtain grant funding for this project. In the meantime, the lift station is operating well with the equipment we have.

• **Carmen's "Scraps from the Dump"**

Happy New Year to All! I have been running the Transfer Station for 2 years now and picking up garbage for 1. I have worked to provide residents with reliable service, and make improvements where I can.

One of my projects is to encourage recycling. I wish we could recycle more, but to convince Council I need people to participate in the recycling we can do now. I am continually disappointed when I see recyclables in the household trash! Garbage volumes could be reduced substantially by removing recyclables from weekly trash.

Flatten **cardboard**, Rinse **tin cans**, **Household Hazardous Waste** containers (laundry soap, chemical, cleaning products etc. can be stored in a bag). I would love to recycle plastic and glass, but without co-operation from residents to show we're serious about recycling, we risk losing the recycle program we have now.

Recycle pick-up for winter is every 2nd Monday. DO NOT PUT RECYCLABLES IN GARBAGE CONTAINERS! LEAVE THEM TO THE SIDE FOR PICK-UP.

January pickup of recyclables: 12th and 26th
February 9th and 23rd
March 9th and 23rd
April 6th and 20th
May 4th and 19th.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATES IN MAKING THIS A VIABLE PROGRAM!!

Special Thanks - A special thanks to Jen Soch, who went out and got Christmas trees and put them up on Main Street for the Holidays! And then a wonderful thing happened..... We received donations of Christmas lights from a number of residents – (THANK YOU!!) so we had enough to wrap the Main Street light poles and the trees! We live in a wonderful community of kind and generous people. To all of you who contribute in your large and small ways, you are so appreciated!!

Volunteers are always needed in a number of disciplines, whether you have a couple, a few or many hours to give. If you have a special passion or interest and feel you can contribute to the wellbeing of others, please consider volunteering!! There is reward in giving!!

So much of the survival of a small community like ours is in the patronage of the businesses that we have. They provide employment and services to us, and they deserve our support! Remember, if you don't, they might not stay.....then how far would you have to go? **SHOP LOCALLY AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!!!**

Bonnie Lake Campground

The campground is a wonderful benefit to our community. People come to rest, relax, staff parties, reunions, stay and play golf, use the campground as a base for trail rides. We even had a wedding party stay this summer. And of course they come into the Village and support our businesses.

The Village is looking for a contract for operation of the Campground for the next (May 1 to October 31) and future years. If you are interested, give the office a call.

Duties include:

- Booking of Sites
- Care of the Grounds (equipment required), and Minor Repairs and Maintenance of Assets (i.e. picnic tables, small buildings, cleaning of washrooms)
- Tracking and Collection of Fees
- Firewood Orders and Distribution

A call for contracts will be advertised in the coming couple of months, BUT IF YOU ARE INTERESTED LET THE OFFICE KNOW ASAP.

❖ You will rise by lifting others. – Robert Green Ingersoll

The Vilna Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-7pm, and Saturday 12noon to 4pm.

Do you appreciate having the **Post Office** here in Vilna? We have heard that Canada Post is looking to cut services in smaller communities. Review of the need for all postal services everywhere is being conducted. Please keep an eye on cuts to services that concern you, and contact your politician of choice or Canada Post to express them.

HEALTH CENTRE NEW HOURS.

Health Centre Hours have changed as follows:

Monday (Lab & Dr. Stephan 9am-4 pm)	8am-4pm
Tuesday (Lab Only, No Doctor)	8am-2pm
Wednesday (Lab & Dr. Stephan 9am-4 pm)	8am-4pm
Thursday (Lab & Dr. Anton 9am -4pm)	8am-4pm
Friday (Closed)	

JANUARY 31ST – FIREFIGHTER'S DINE AND DANCE

FEBRUARY 14TH – VILNA COMMUNITY SUPPER AND VILNA CURLING CLUB BONSPIEL WEEKEND (Fri. to Sun.)

BOTH AT THE VILNA CULTURAL CENTRE – WATCH FOR POSTERS FOR TIMES

The next Council Meeting will be January 26th, 2015 at 6pm

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