

# VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER July 2013

*"Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time." Steven Wright*

## 2013 IS MUNICIPAL ELECTION YEAR

Municipal elections in Alberta occur every four years on the third Monday in October. Election Day is October 21, 2013. Nomination Day is September 23.

### *Are you qualified?*

To become a candidate you must be at least 18 years of age on nomination day, a Canadian citizen, and you must have been a resident of the local jurisdiction for the 6 consecutive months preceding nomination day.

### *Do you have the time?*

The demands on your time will be heavy. You will be elected for a four-year term of office and during that time you will be required to attend:

- regular and special meetings of council
- council committee meetings
- meetings of other boards and agencies to which you are appointed as council's representative
- conferences, conventions, seminars, and workshops for training and discussion
- social and other events promoting your municipality.

You will also need to spend time reading material and talking with residents, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and others. This will all be part of the necessary preparation for meetings so that you can make informed decisions. Don't forget the time you need for your personal life, work, etc.

### *Do you understand the position?*

As a member of council you will have the opportunity to significantly influence the future of your community. Your power as a member of council depends on your ability to persuade the other members of council to adopt your view. All decisions must be made at meetings, held in public, at which a quorum is present.

**As an individual member of council you will not have the power to commit your municipality to any expenditure or to direct the activities of the municipal employees.** Any promise you make as part of your election campaign that involves municipal expenditures or the activities of the employees, can only be carried out if you can convince a majority of council that it is a good idea.

*Do you understand the powers of a council?*

The Canadian Constitution delegates responsibility for municipal institutions to the provinces. Through a variety of legislation, the Alberta Legislative Assembly has delegated some of its authority to municipal councils. The legislation you will use most often is the *Municipal Government Act*.

Are you familiar with the local legislation of your municipality? Local legislation is in the form of bylaws that remain in effect until they are amended or repealed. You will not be starting with a blank slate and creating your ideal municipality from scratch. If you are running with some kind of reform in mind, you will have to become familiar with what exists, how it has been created – by bylaw, resolution or policy – and why it exists, before you will be able to start discussing your changes.

Some examples of local documents you will often refer to are the Council Procedural Bylaw, Land Use Bylaw, the bylaws establishing the positions of the Chief Administrative Officer and the designated officers, and the Policy Manual.

### *Do you know how the municipality is administered?*

As a member of council, it will be your duty to **establish** policy for your municipality. It is the job of the administration to **implement** the policy. Alberta municipalities have competent and dedicated administrators. You will need the support, advice and assistance of the CAO if you are to be an effective member of council. Their training, experience, and understanding of how and why things have developed as they have, will be an important resource for you.

### *What other information should you have?*

The best way to find out what the job is all about is to spend some time reading council agendas and minutes, and talking to current members of council. Sit in on some council meetings. Talk to the CAO to find out what other information is available. If you don't do that kind of research now, you'll have to do it after you are elected, and you probably have more time now than you will if you are elected.

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## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

An Emergency Preparedness information meeting was scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, but because 'we'll never have a disaster in Vilna', no one came. I'll bet the people in Calgary and Toronto wished they had information on preparing their "72-hour" kits. Enclosed is a flyer that will give you the information necessary to be prepared.

*"I have never been hurt by what I have  
NOT said."* Calvin Coolidge

### FIRE BAN (Community Standards Bylaw 492-12)

"Notwithstanding any provision of this or any other bylaw the Council or Fire Chief or their designate may declare a partial or complete ban on burning of any kind within the Village Limits.

"No Person shall build, ignite or allow any kind of fire contrary to a fire ban declared by the Fire Chief or their designate."

Should a Fire Ban be required, notices will be posted in the downtown area advising residents.

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### HIGHWAY 28&63 WATER COMMISSION

In the May Newsletter, we indicated that the Village should be hooked to the new water line bringing water to the region from Edmonton by November of this year.

WRONG! At the last meeting we were informed that the tie-in will be delayed because the twinning of the line from Ft. Saskatchewan to Redwater will not be completed until spring 2014. We can look forward to tying in at that time.

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### REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

*What happens to my garbage after I put it in the garbage can?*

Domestic waste gets taken to the Vilna Waste Transfer Site. All other waste can be taken to the Spedden Transfer Site, Smoky Lake Transfer Site or directly to the Evergreen Regional Landfill site. The bins at the transfer site get dumped into a truck and hauled to the Regional Landfill site at Lafond. It's then dumped in huge pits, covered but not left for dead. The pits (cells) must be monitored and maintained on a continuous basis. When the cell is full it is to be covered with a layer of clay, compacted and reclaimed using topsoil and grass. Leachate is continuously removed from the cells (fluids that leach through landfill wastes).

Even though significant efforts are made to **reduce, reuse, and recycle** as much of the waste we produce there is still a need for disposal facilities. Modern landfills have become sophisticated waste management facilities that are typically integrated with other activities such as organics management, and collection sites for household hazardous waste, tires, white goods and other recyclable materials. The Evergreen Regional Landfill is considered a Class III site that can accept solid, non-hazardous waste. Used oils can be disposed of in dedicated containers at each of the Transfer Station Sites. The product is removed from the waste stream to be recycled. Cardboard, metals, tires, electronics and garden waste are also removed from the waste stream. Other toxic waste can be disposed of at the Toxic Waste Round-ups hosted each year in the region. *All of this information is an introduction into the cost of waste management. Local garbage pits are no longer environmentally acceptable, so regional sites are set up to manage the waste*

*disposition. Your Village utility bill covers \$75.00 per tonne, plus collection and transportation costs to have waste disposed of at the regional site. The balance or deficit is incorporated into your taxes.*

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### BONNIE LAKE CAMPGROUND

Although the weather has not been overly cooperative, Bonnie Lake Campground has been quite busy. We would like to send a very special thanks to Victor Mayer for his many years of dedicated service. Allan Marsh, the new Campground Operator can be reached at 780-812-5688.

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WEBSITE Remember to visit our Website on-line at [www.vilna.ca](http://www.vilna.ca). Village information is posted regularly. Current happenings are included on our Facebook page.

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### WATER BREAKS AND ROADS

We've now had 5 water breaks this year. That's 5 times more than previous years. The repair areas are still rough, but they will be re-surfaced before the end of summer. Please travel carefully over these areas. Also, a BIG thank you to little elves Samantha and Dylan who helped deliver notices!!

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### MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

Please call the office at 780-636-3620 if you would like to set up your tax and utility payments to be automatically paid through your bank account monthly.

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### SUMMER CAME WITHOUT WARNING

When the May Newsletter went out we still had a foot of snow on the ground, now we're dealing with +30 degree temperatures. Don't you just love Alberta weather? Staying ahead of the grass and weeds is a real challenge, but Kevin is trying to keep up. We want to express a special thanks to Kevin and Lynette for their generous donation of the wonderful flower baskets along Main Street. And thank you Pat and Don for your work in preparing the Village Entrance Flower Beds.

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### SUMMER EVENTS to remember

- **July 19 - 21, 2013** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cowboy Fest  
**SEE POSTERS AROUND TOWN**
- **August 16 & 17<sup>th</sup>** Boomtown Days!!  
*Bench Show, Breakfast, Bouncy Castle, Trade Fair, Entertainment, Dance and Fireworks.*

*"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." George Bernard Shaw*