

VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER November, 2016



COUNCIL NOTES



2016 projects

Tenders closed on Monday, November 14th, 2016 for the upgrade of the Sewage Lift Station. Prices came in a bit higher than had been anticipated so the engineers are reviewing the project to meet the most urgent needs. ATCO is upgrading the power to the station, pumps will be purchased and a back-up system will be installed. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the next couple weeks.

2016 Tax Sale

The Village is totally dependent on tax revenues and grants. We stretch every grant we can to get the most effective results (without borrowing or adding local improvement levies, as most municipalities do), but the Village operates based on everyone paying their share.

Regrettably, 8 properties were on the Tax Recovery Auction list this year. Fortunately, 5 were removed prior to the sale, one of the 3 remaining was sold.

Outstanding taxes attached to these unsold properties sit as outstanding assets and limit the amount of progress the Village can make.

The Village has taken title (or holds the right to transfer title) of numerous properties and Council is open to reasonable offers.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1) 5007 – 50 Street | 6) 4812 – 49 Avenue |
| 2) 5309 – 50 Street | 7) 5032 – 51 Avenue |
| 3) 5313 – 50 Street | 8) 5036 – 51 Avenue |
| 4) 5317 – 50 Street | 9) 5035 – 51 Avenue |
| 5) 4928 – 50 Avenue | 10) 5027 – 48 Avenue |

In accordance with the Municipal Government Act, the Village is able to sell each or any of these properties if proposed projects meet the zoning criteria and are sold at a reasonable value.

VILNA LIBRARY - 780-636-2077

Programs for all ages are provided at the Library throughout the year. To name a few: Adult fun coloring day, Lego Club, Computer Classes.

The Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 7:30 pm and 12 – 4:30 on Saturdays.



**WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB OF ORGANIZING THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT
FAIR BY THE CREW LED BY MARION VINETTE & MELISSA
MCEACHERN – CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!**



INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

It's not surprising that small municipalities have difficulty surviving without cooperation and collaboration with adjacent municipalities. Over the years there have been numerous programs put in place to support inter-municipal cooperation.

- 1) Shared Street Sweeper
- 2) Regional Community Development Committee
- 3) Shared Economic Development Officer
- 4) Project Cooperation
- 5) Shared Doctor Recruitment and Retention to keep our medical facilities functional;
- 6) County lease of equipment at cost
- 7) County provision of gravel at cost
- 8) Region Municipal Emergency Preparedness
- 9) Cooperative Fire and Emergency Services
- 10) Regional Water Commission
- 11) Regional Waste Commission
- 12) County's cooperation in clearing Stony Creek to drain the sewage lagoons
- 13) The County's willingness to administer joint projects
- 14) Joint participation in grant projects where benefits can be realized regionally.



MUNICIPAL REVIEW – 2016

Several months ago a petition was circulated throughout the Village indicating concerns about the administration and governance of the Village. The petition was forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Municipal Affairs conducted an inquiry through examination of many aspects of operations, and discussions with Council, Administration and the initiators of the petition. We have received the response from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Danielle Larivee.

The Minister writes... "Although there were some concerns identified, such as a need for greater understanding of municipal procedures and an increased focus on communication with the public, these matters were not of sufficient concern to warrant an inquiry or municipal inspection."

- As an aside, we have made every effort to keep you informed, through bi-monthly newsletters (also available at www.vilna.ca) along with posting minutes, bylaws and financial statements on the website. You can attend any and all Council meetings, normally scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. except where the time is inaccessible for members of the Council, and then the change is posted at the office. You can address Council at any meeting simply by submitting a written request to Administration one week prior to any Council meeting. And of course, you can always call the office if you have questions or concerns.



*FACTS are healthier than FICTION...but
perhaps not nearly as tantalizing to some....
Unknown*



**\$\$\$\$\$ IT PAYS \$\$\$\$\$\$
TO READ YOUR WATER METER**

No one wants to be hit with an **\$800.00** water bill, but if you have a leaky toilet, or if you leave a water hose dripping in the summer time or if you've left a tap dripping.....that is exactly what can happen. Listen for the buzz of your water meter, or the drip of a tap, or the sound of a running toilet. Your utility bill consists of basic MONTHLY utility charges of:
\$20. /month water, (\$40.00/ bill)
\$15. /month sewer (\$30.00/bill)
\$25. /month garbage collection/disposal (\$50.00/bill)
TOTAL - \$120.00/bill

PLUS WATER CONSUMPTION.

The Village purchases the water from the Highway 28/63 Water Commission at a 2016 rate of \$2.108 per cubic meter (m³). You are charged for operating \$1.30/m³ (Utility Rate Bylaw 508-14) for a total of \$3.408 per m³.

Please read your water meter in the latter half of **December** and phone the Village office with the reading. **780-636-3620**. Leave the reading in a voice message if there is no answer (with your account # or address). Thank you.

New in Town?

Garbage and recycle pickup is on Wednesday - Items for pickup should be out for 9am. If you have a dog, you require a license (\$10 at the Village office.

Carbon Levy (Excerpts from the AB Government website)

The carbon levy will be included in the price of all fuels that emit greenhouse gases when combusted. These include transportation and heating fuels such as diesel, gasoline, natural gas and propane. It will not apply directly to consumer purchases of electricity.

Type of Fuel	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018
Marked fuels for agricultural purposes	Exempt	Exempt
Diesel	5.35 ¢/L	2.68 ¢/L
Gasoline	4.49 ¢/L	2.24 ¢/L
Natural Gas	1.011 \$/GJ	0.506 \$/GJ
Propane	3.08 ¢/L	1.54 ¢/L

Starting January 1, 2017, the carbon levy will be applied to fuels at a rate of \$20/tonne. One year later, the levy will increase to \$30/tonne.

How will the carbon levy affect my family?

Impacts of the carbon levy will vary, depending on a household's energy use and driving patterns. All Albertans who **take steps to reduce their emissions** – by turning down the heat when no one is home, installing smart thermostats, choosing more fuel efficient cars, using public transit, walking, biking, or taking advantage of coming energy efficiency programs – can reduce the cost of the carbon levy.

Six of 10 Alberta households will receive a rebate that covers the average cost of the carbon levy they pay.

Indirect costs of the carbon levy are estimated to range between:

- \$50 to \$70 per household in 2017
- \$70 to \$105 per household in 2018

The rebate is tied to income and not energy use, so eligible recipients have a financial incentive to reduce household emissions.

You don't need to apply for the rebate. You only need to file a 2015 tax return and meet the income criteria.

Rebate Eligibility

Potential carbon rebate recipients must:

- be Alberta residents;
 - file a 2015 tax return; and
 - meet the income requirements (see table below).
- The rebate will begin to phase out at \$47,500 in net income for single Albertans and \$95,000 for couples and families.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:
<http://www.alberta.ca/climate-carbon-pricing.aspx>

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **November 21, 2016** – 7:00 Regular Council
- **November 25, 2016** – Vilna Veselka Dance Club Perogy Supper 5-7pm @ the Cultural Centre
- Memory Christmas Tree Bulbs 3/\$2.00 on sale until Dec. 15th at businesses all around town.
- **November 23rd - CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT UP AT THE SENIORS RECREATION CENTRE AT 6PM ON NOV. 23RD (lights will stay lit 4 hours per night until Jan 19th, 2017)**
- **December 19, 2016** – Regular Council **10:00 AM**
- Christmas Break - the office is closed December 24 – January 3, 2017 inclusive.
- Last day to pay taxes before penalty January 4th, 2017

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