

# VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER September, 2014

Summer has come, and gone. When we wrote the last newsletter the gardens were just coming up. Now, they're all taken off and preserved for winter.

## COUNCIL NOTES

- **X-Ray Machine** The top issue that is being discussed these days is still the need to have Alberta Health Services replace the X-Ray machine at our Health Centre. After more letters and a couple teleconference calls, we finally have set up a meeting with Dr. Kevin Worry, who is the North Zone Medical Director, Mauro Chies, Head of Diagnostic Services and Clinical Support as well as other members of Alberta Health Services. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Location yet to be decided.

Our goal is to convince Alberta Health that driving from Vilna to St. Paul or Smoky Lake for X-Ray and Laboratory services, dodging the wide loads and heavy truck traffic along Highway #28 is a hazardous option.

- **Regional Water** Your May June water bill was a bit of a shock. According to "Murphy's Law, anything that can go wrong, will." As some of you are aware, we have had a contract for years with ATCO Electric who reads our most of our water meters for us prior to each billing. HOWEVER, there was a bit of an electrical storm about the time the meters were to be read, and out of the 120 meters, they only read 23. ATCO was able to do some of the repairs and this month we got a grand total of 70 reads. Your meters have been manually read this month. We're hoping to get a more accurate accounting of your consumptions so your bills can look a little more realistic. There is no doubt that your utility bills have gone up. Some more than others because more of your bill is based on consumption.

A review of the Charges and Costs will be made by year end if adjustments are needed, it will be done then.

It is nice to have the clear water, and it makes great coffee and tea, and no more iron stains on the laundry whites or the toilet bowl!

- **2014 Paving Project** We were able to get streets paved this summer. There is still a little edging work to do, and some crack sealing, but the whole project was done using grant funds, so when

the grant funds ran out, so did the work. For those of you who expressed concern, there will be no frontage tax charges for the work done this year.

- **Sewer Lift Station** There is no doubt that we're dealing with old infrastructure. In 2012 & 2013 we spent over \$400,000.00 (mostly grant funds) repairing the electrical and pumping system at the water plant. In 2013 & 2014 we spent \$430,000.00 (mostly grant funds) for our share of the cost of installing the regional water line. It's depressing to find out that no sooner is one utility working than another one fails. The old pumps and electronic equipment at the sewage lift station began to present difficulties in the mid-summer. We have access to about \$80,000.00 of grant funding that has now been allocated to new pumps and electronics.

- **Carmen's "Scraps from the Dump"** Residents are reminded that Recyclables are picked up on Mondays – they ARE NOT to be in bins or garbage cans. Place them beside so I can see there is material to be picked up.

### Recyclables Include:

Paper/Cardboard  
Tin Cans  
Compost Material – includes green waste  
Household cleaners includes ie.  
Bleach/Laundry Product Bottles  
Small Appliances  
Metal products - ie. Curtain rods  
Batteries  
Compact fluorescent bulbs  
Aerosol /Paint Cans

I am still seeing these materials in household waste going into garbage bins instead of being recycled! I strongly encourage residents to participate in our recycling program. It's a real shame to see these toxins and resources being thrown out!

**Special Thanks** *Our little Village is looking really dapper these days. Everyone's efforts to Pinkify the town was revered all around the County. The Village's participation in the Wild Pink Yonder Breast Cancer campaign netted more than \$2,000.00 in donations for research. Many thanks to those who donated, participated and volunteered to help out with decorating and fund-raising!!*

***The volunteers of Vilna should be congratulated for their dedication, commitment, energy, enthusiasm, devotion, perseverance, determination, and all those other positive descriptions for hard work, community mindedness and selflessness. We sure wish we had more of them!! 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!!***

**Our Ag Society** did another bang up job with the Cowboy Fest and Boomtown Days again this year. More and more people are finding out that we may be small, but we are mighty.

**The COPS volunteers** have been working hard to keep our community safe. They too entertained us this summer with their annual fund raising Bar-B-Que. Many thanks for all they do!!

**Chamber of Commerce** – The Vilna & District Chamber of Commerce has closed its doors and all funds that were remaining in their bank account (as required by law) had to be donated to another charity/non-profit. The Chamber's choice was the Vilna Library. Many thanks to the Chamber's members who worked hard on behalf of the Village and surrounding area. Very special thanks for recognizing the needs at the Library, and contributing to literacy!

**New Businesses** – Within the last couple of months, 4 new businesses have opened in Vilna – Congratulations to them and please remember to support your local businesses (because if we don't, we won't get to keep them!)

Sidestreet Café has reopened – 780-636-3320  
Lucas New and Used has opened in the Home Comfort building – drop in  
The Vilna Coin-Op Laundry has reopened with a new owner (all new equipment!)  
The Bottle Depot has re-opened with new owners –

### **Seniors Recreation Society**

Congratulations to the Senior's Recreation Society for their showing in the recent Canada 55+ Seniors Games. Also, they have begun construction of the addition to their centre which will help them expand activities and events.

### **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. You'll be pleased to know that, although there still is camping time left, the best of the season has passed and we are within budget.

**The Vilna Library** will be hosting Alberta Cultural Days on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be free entertainment, food and creativity. Plenty of individuals

in our community are extremely talented in craft, art Watch the community for posters.

Do you appreciate having the **Post Office** here in Vilna? We have recently heard that Canada Post is looking to cut services in smaller communities. Vilna Post Office is no longer open Saturdays and 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.

### **CAMPFIRES AND FIREWORKS**

*Please REMEMBER!!*

- *Recreation fires are permitted as long as you contain the fire in a structured fire pit (regulations for size and site are in the Community Standards Bylaw ... check the Village of Vilna web page [www.vilna.ca](http://www.vilna.ca)).*
- *Fireworks are not allowed within the Village without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Department. Fines will be issued.*

**The next Council Meeting** will be October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 . Regular Schedule of Council Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month will resume in November.

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It is not fair to ask others what you are not willing to do yourself.

❖ Eleanor Roosevelt