

VILLAGE OF VILNA
NEWSLETTER
September, 2012

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH." --PROVERBS

Seniors Foundation

The Smoky Lake Seniors Foundation has received funding for the construction of a new affordable supportive living facility in Smoky Lake.

2012 Municipal Census

A municipal census was conducted in the Village on June 18, 2012 resulting in a significant change from the reported 2011 federal census. The final tally as of June 18th, 2012 was **290**, 142 male and 148 female.

- 18 ages 0 - 5 years
- 28 ages 6 - 15 years
- 8 ages 16 - 20 years
- 42 ages 21 - 40 years
- 92 ages 41 - 64 years
- 69 ages 65 - 80 years and
- 33 ages 81 and older.

Highway 28/63 Water Commission

The wheels of progress sometimes turn slowly, but they are turning. It is anticipated that construction of the water line from Smoky Lake to Spedden should begin later this fall. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we could be on the regional water system by this time next year. This project is 90% grant funded through Alberta Transportation....

Water Treatment Plan Upgrade

We are in the midst of upgrades to the water treatment plant pump system. We ask your indulgence over the next few weeks as the pumping systems are replaced. You may experience some reduction in water pressure from time to time. There will be one evening (date yet to be determined) between 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. where water will be completely turned off. Notification will be hand

delivered to each household giving warning of the shut down.

Bylaw Enforcement

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.

Napoleon Bonaparte

The rain this past summer was wonderful for the gardens and yards. Unfortunately, we have a few property owners who have a different understanding of untidy and unsightly than the average resident. The reduction in the Bylaw Enforcement budget left us having to address issues through correspondence. Sometimes that's not as effective as a personal visit. Notices had to be sent, and we got about an 80% response. Unfortunately, we weren't able to contract the clean-ups on the balance because the properties are already in tax arrears, so we wouldn't be able to recuperate the costs.

We were very successful in getting pet owners to take responsibility for their pets. According to the registration there are 33 registered dogs in the Village of Vilna. Thank you to those who came in, and have registered their dogs.

We did look into hiring a bylaw enforcement officer to administer our bylaws. The cost was a bit prohibitive, \$7,500.00 annually for 4 hours per week. *Your cooperation in keeping your yards clean, your pets at home and the snow cleared from the sidewalks will be a great help and more economic.*

Seniors Snow Removal Program

We will again be offering the driveway clearing program to senior citizens. Council will be reviewing the cost at the September 17th Council meeting.

If you are interested, please contact the Village Office at 780-636-3620.

Get the facts first. You can distort them later.
Mark Twain

Tax Recovery Auction

We had 22 properties on the tax recovery list in 2011. Of the 22 properties, we were able to collect taxes from 10, put agreements in place for 8, and we had 4 properties up for auction of September 10, 2012. None of these properties sold, so collecting the approximately \$20,000.00 will be done by selling. Unfortunately, it looks like we'll have to register tax notifications on another 27 properties next year. Our financial status would look a lot better if everyone paid their taxes. **To those responsible citizens who pay on time, we sincerely thank you.**

Monthly Tax & Utility Payments

Many individuals pay their taxes and utility payments monthly through the automatic withdrawal system. This makes payment of the regular bills much simpler for most folks. In order to qualify for this *penalty exempt* option, the account must be up-to-date when the option begins. To be eligible for the penalty exemption for 2013, your account must be paid in full by December 31, 2012.

Even if you are in arrears, the automatic withdrawal option is available to you, and ex....

Please contact the office if you would like more information.

Temporary Street Closure

Council has approved a temporary closure of 49th Avenue from 49th Street to 50th Street on September 15 & 16th between the hours of 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. to accommodate a stock auction sale at Vilna Building Supplies.

Samantha

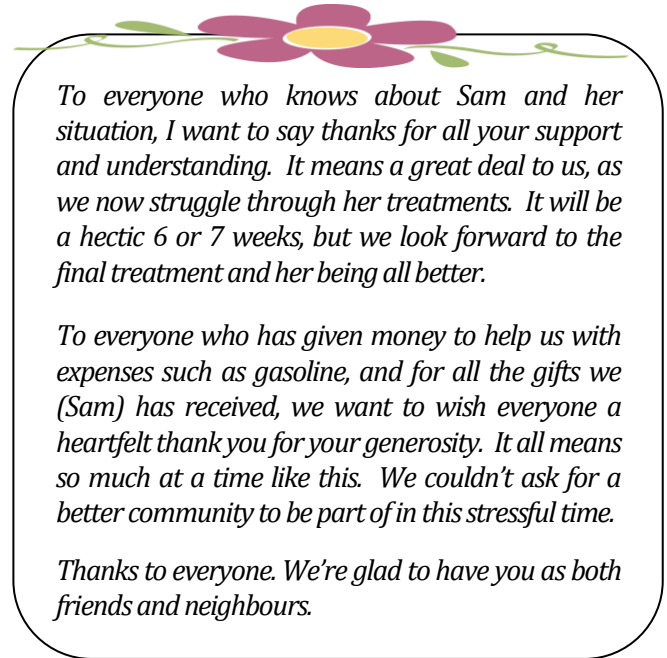
Sam came to us early in 2012 as a Work Experience Student from Vilna School. If you had dropped by the office any afternoon this year you would have met her. She stayed on as our summer student in July.

At the end of July Sam was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor, which was immediately removed. She is now beginning that long and agonizing process of six weeks of radiation therapy.

There will be a *Ride For Hope* to raise funds on September 22, for more information 780-636-2598. Pledge Form in the Village Office.

Also, an *ATB Trust Account* has been set up, donate at any ATB branch - Account IT 737-00090123700.

The following letter is from Samantha's mother...



To everyone who knows about Sam and her situation, I want to say thanks for all your support and understanding. It means a great deal to us, as we now struggle through her treatments. It will be a hectic 6 or 7 weeks, but we look forward to the final treatment and her being all better.

To everyone who has given money to help us with expenses such as gasoline, and for all the gifts we (Sam) has received, we want to wish everyone a heartfelt thank you for your generosity. It all means so much at a time like this. We couldn't ask for a better community to be part of in this stressful time.

Thanks to everyone. We're glad to have you as both friends and neighbours.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sundays

- Vilna Hope Community Church Service 10 am.
- Bingo - Seniors Drop-in Centre 7:30 pm

Mondays

Regular Council Meetings, 3rd Monday of each month.

Next meeting - September 17, 2012 (Usually at 7:00 p.m. unless scheduling requires a change, which will be posted).

Tuesdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

Thursdays - Library 3:30 - 7:30 pm

September 20, 6:00 Senior's Pot Luck Supper

Saturdays - Library 12:00 to 4:00 pm

November 10, 2012 Christmas Craft Sale

Village Office Information:

Phone: 780-636-3620

email: vilna@mcsnet.ca

Fax: 780-636-3022

Webpage: vilna.ca

Facebook: Search "Vilna, Alberta"

Twitter: @VilnaAlberta