

VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER September 2013

2013 IS MUNICIPAL ELECTION YEAR

- Are you a Canadian Citizen?
 - Have you lived in Vilna for the past 6 consecutive months?
 - Are you 18 Years of Age, or older?
 - and are not otherwise ineligible or disqualified
- **YOU CAN RUN FOR COUNCIL**

Vilna has a Council of 3 representatives. On Election Day you shall chose the three candidates you feel will best represent your municipal interests and concerns for the next 4 years. The 3 successful candidates shall elect your mayor from amongst themselves.

NOMINATION DAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

ELECTION DAY OCTOBER 21, 2013

Nominations papers are available at the Village Office.

MEDICAL CLINIC X-RAY AND BLOOD TESTING EQUIPMENT

Last fall Alberta Health decommissioned the X-Ray machine at the Vilna Health Centre. It was getting old and unsafe. We have been lobbying the Honourable Mr. Fred Horne, Minister of Health to honour the commitment made by the Minister of Health in 1999 when the hospital was closed, to ensure that the government would not take the x-ray and lab services away from Vilna. We aren't having a great deal of luck. Currently you have to go to Smoky Lake or St. Paul for x-ray services.

Can you get to St. Paul or Smoky Lake if you had to go for lab or x-ray? If you go to St. Paul (for instance) for an x-ray will you come back to Vilna to get your prescription filled? Will you stop and buy some groceries while you're in St. Paul? Will you go out for dinner while you're there? Each time this happens, it's one less customer for our local pharmacy, one less sale at our local grocery store, one less dinner at one of our local restaurants. Our local businesses **will** begin to feel the loss. Not to mention the additional cost to you to travel.

If you want to help to get the x-ray services back call your MLA, Shayne Saskiw at (780) 422-0298., or Hon. Minister Fred Horne Phone: (780) 427-3665. You can call toll free 310-0000 then the numbers above.

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle; and the other, as though everything is a miracle. Unknown

WEB PAGE

The Vilna Web Page www.vilna.ca gives you access to the minutes of the past Council meetings, many of the Village's bylaws, business listings, copies of previous newsletters, municipal documents, photos and room for comments. Check it out. The Web Site is available for your use and your benefit. If you have an event you want advertised OR comments or pictures, put it on the web site and we'll get it posted.

Current happenings are also included on our Facebook page (Vilna Alberta).

If you don't have access to the internet, or aren't sure how to use it, drop by the Vilna Library. They have computers available for public use (no charge) and if you need help learning to "surf the web", the staff will gladly help you.

Alberta HUB in conjunction with Rural Alberta Business Centre has set up an information centre in the Village Office. It is available to anyone interested in searching out business information and advice, looking for help in developing a new business, or expanding an existing one. There is help to develop your business plan or financial plan. There's free access to the internet as well.

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Your Council was busy all summer. Last year the Village of Vilna, the Town of Smoky Lake, the Village of Waskatenau and Smoky Lake County worked together on a Regional Recreation Initiative. The results of the study gave us a clear indication of what recreation facilities and services are available and what programs are needed. A Regional Community Development Committee has been formed, and an Ad Hoc Volunteer Board is being created to work on the Recreation Initiative as well as look at regional municipal development potential and strategies. We are working with Municipal Planning Services to create a Regional Municipal Development Master Plan.

The Cold Lake Oil Sands Area development is spilling over into our area. We need to be on our toes to make sure we don't let opportunities pass us by.

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws." - Plato

2013 SUMMER

The 2013 summer is quickly slipping by. We have to give the Vilna Ag. Society great kudos for the successful Cowboy Fest and the booming Boom-Town Days. Many thanks too, to all the volunteers who helped make these festivals successful.

Thanks too, to the COPS volunteers who hosted their Fun Days and who patrol the Village to help keep us safe.

School is back in, so let's be extra vigilant and keep our children safe. Remember the speed limits, and watch for the children.

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

Remember to take out **Development Permits** from the Village Office for any new construction or renovations. Contact **The Inspections Group** for all other permits such as: building, electrical, plumbing & heating, and gas at 1-866-554-5048.

They administer the Alberta Safety Codes Act on behalf of the municipalities in the area.

Most renovations to residential properties require permits, check at the Village Office.

ALL renovations to commercial or industrial properties must be permitted, and inspected.

Failure to get the proper permits could have serious ramifications. In some cases real estate sales have been lost because proper permits and inspections could not be produced.

Replacing the shingles on your house does not require a permit, but changing the roof line, changes the weight bearing capability of the structure and therefore requires permits.

Replacing your bathroom taps does not require a permit, but changing your hot water tank will, especially if the vent pipe has to be shortened or lengthened.

Replacing your windows with windows of the same size will not require a permit, but changing the window size will require a permit.

Replacing your furnace requires a gas permit.

Adding another plug-in to your kitchen will require an electrical permit.

"You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality."

- Ayn Rand

DOG BYLAW

All dogs in the Village must be licensed. Dog licenses can be obtained at the Village Office. Please keep your pets on leashes and NOT RUNNING AT LARGE. Fines will be issued and your pet may end up in the pound (at your expense).

FIREWORKS

*The Community Standards Bylaw states that you **must** have a fireworks permit before you shoot off fireworks within the Village. Consider the huge risks of using fireworks near houses, cars, children or animals. Fines can be issued. Damages, injuries or fire which result from your misuse or improper handling can also be charged to you. Permits can be obtained from the Fire Chief.*

GENERAL ITEMS

The next Council Meeting will be held at the Village office at 7pm on September 16th, 2013.

Check with the Senior's Centre for daily, weekly and monthly events.

There are actively working groups within the community which work very hard to keep our community vibrant and active. Please consider volunteering and/or supporting these groups with your talents and skills. Many hands make light work..... for the benefit of all. Support your Community, your home.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
it's about learning to dance in the rain."

- Vivian Greene