

Hello July



VILLAGE OF
VILNA
NEWSLETTER
July, 2018

COUNCIL NOTES

July is time for gardening and flowers ... that's because we paid our taxes in June and now there's no money left for anything else.

May Council Meeting

Members of the Aspenview School Board met with Council at their May meeting. They discussed a few items, one of which was the possibility of Lakeland Catholic School considering putting a Catholic School in the Smoky Lake area. This led to discussions on the provincial school funding formula. Apparently schools are funded on a "per student" basis, not taking into consideration the cost to operate a facility with 400 students costs the same as a facility with 200 students. The shortfall has to come out of the school's overall budget which often affects the number of teachers the school can afford to hire.

The **2018 Tax Rate** was set at the May meeting, resulting in your tax notices.

There are 2 major single line expenses that affect the operating budget. One is debt and the other is the cost of street lighting.

DEBT: The Village has three outstanding loans which cost \$63,160.00 per year.

	Total Debt	Annual	Final Pay
1. Water Plant	\$35,780. -	\$13,500./yr	- July/2021
2. Storm Water	\$44,577. -	\$35,400./yr	- Oct./2019
3. Roads	\$111,555.86 -	\$14,260./yr	-July/2025

The second major line expense is the street lighting. Each year, as with your own electricity bills, they keep going up. Last year street lighting cost \$63,275.00, we've estimated it to go up to \$65,000.00 in 2018.

Taxes Generated: \$352,015.00 LESS
 Requisitions: \$46,610.00
 Street Lighting: \$65,000.00
 Loan Payments: **\$63,160.00**
Funds to Operate:\$177,245.00 (\$14,770.00/mo.)

Utility Rate increase

The Village has not been recovering full costs for utilities. The past winter was an expensive one, with 3 major water line breaks and frozen sewer lines. In order to address these costs as well as ensure cost recovery for utilities, Council has chosen to apply an increase to the Utility Rates effective July 1, 2018 (which will show on your September Utility Bill).

Water conservation will help keep your bill down.

Water: Increase - \$0.60/m³
Sewer: Increase \$2.00 /month

June Council Meeting

Sewer Lift Station

Construction has finally begun. We found a newspaper from 1979 indicating that they would be constructing a new sewage lift station. So I guess it's time that the pumps and electrical were updated.

The project should be completed in about a month.

Municipal Government Act

The Province has re-written many parts of the Municipal Government Act in the past few years. It is intended to make your municipal government transparent to the ratepayers and residents.

A Public Hearing will be held July 16, 2018 for Bylaw 538-18 and public input on Policy 109-18 was due on July 10th, 2018 by 4:00pm.

1. Public Participation Policy #109-18 was passed at the June meeting.

Public input is essential to the municipal decision making process. It is advantageous to identify the levels and process of communication and citizen engagement prior to making certain levels of decisions. Additionally, it is incumbent upon the public to participate and to share ideas, concerns, requests or needs to Council.

2. Advertising Bylaw #538-18 was given 1st reading at the June meeting.

In accordance with MGA section 606.1(1), municipalities may, by bylaw, provide for one or more methods for advertising, and the methods of advertising are acceptable to Council and are likely to bring matters advertised to the attention of substantially all residents in the area.

THESE TWO ITEMS WERE ADVERTISED FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IN THE REVIEW, AS WELL AS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE VILLAGE WEBSITE (VILNA.CA)

"Life is - "Life is not about the shadow you cast on your enemies ... but the shade you provide for your friends."

- Jeff Loveness (2015)

Nancy Lee, the past chair of the Village of Vilna Library Board is in hospital, dealing with cancer. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

We think we can all give an expression of gratitude and support for the 12 Thai children and their soccer coach who were rescued from the cave after 18 days.

So many thanks to the Vilna & District Volunteer Firefighters Association for their contributions to the purchase of the main street flowers, planting and watering as well as the many contributions they make to our community!!

**"When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail."
- Abraham Maslow (1908-1970)**

AROUND THE VILLAGE

GARBAGE PICK UP

Please keep the weight of your garbage bags below 25 pounds (*the regulations say 40 pounds, but that's very heavy when you're lifting them all day*). If it feels heavy to you, imagine what it feels like to someone who has to lift every bag in town.

Garbage must be tied in garbage bags, and in garbage containers with **tight fitting** lids. Prevent critters from getting into it, also have the cans in a lidded enclosure. **If your garbage is spread around, it is your responsibility to clean it up.**

OR Take it to the Vilna Transfer Station (waste, compost, recycle) Tues. and Sat. 9 to 5pm. or to the Spedden Landfill (building materials, furniture and all of the above) Wed. and Sun. 9 to 5pm.

FIRE PITS

Remember, **only recreation fires are permitted within the Village at any and all times, except during a FIRE BAN.** The only other exception is when a special permit has been issued by the Fire Chief. You can be fined and charged with firefighting costs.

- The size of your fire pit is restricted to 32 inches maximum in diameter (82 cm);
- It must be no closer than 14.8 feet (4.5 meters) from any building, property line or combustible material;
- Keep it covered with spark arrester mesh;

Every Owner or Occupier who builds, ignites or allows a fire **MUST** ensure that:

- **Only dry or seasoned wood intended for recreational purposes is used (this means no tree or brush trimmings, grass clippings or treated wood or leaves, and absolutely no garbage);**
- A means of extinguishing the fire is kept on hand at all times
- **The flames from the fire do not exceed 1 meter** in height at any time;
- The fire is **supervised** at all times by a responsible person;
- The fire must be **extinguished completely**, leaving cold ashes.

These laws are not intended to limit your fun or summer enjoyment, but to keep people and property safe.

VILNA LIBRARY HOURS

**5431 – 50th Street (N. end Main St.)
Tues & Thurs – 3:30-7:00pm and Sat Noon
to 4:00pm – 780-636-2077**

PLEASE READ YOUR WATER METER at the end of each month and **phone the reading to the Village Office 780-636-3620 & leave a message.** *Then, you only pay for the water you use and not an inflated estimate.*
Thank you.

- ✓ When you walk your dog(s), a leash is required.
- ✓ Dogs **MUST** be kept in your yard (fence, leash, runner etc.) This is for their safety and for the safety of your neighbors and others. Fines and penalties apply.

The Senior's Recreation Centre – offers various activities to seniors all year round.

DO YOU HAVE EVENTS YOU WANT IN THE NEWSLETTER? CALL THE OFFICE 780-636-3620

New in Town?

Garbage and Recycle (cardboard, metals, compost (separated)) pickup is on **Wednesdays** - Items for pickup should be out for 8am.

If you have a dog, you require a license (\$10/year per dog at the Village office).

If you have or are starting a business you require a business license – \$10 at the Village office.

PLEASE ensure you maintain your yard (summer) and sidewalks (winter)

Vilna Transfer Station (dump) is west about a mile west on the north village boundary road #594. It accepts household garbage, cardboard, garden waste, trees/trimmings, unpainted untreated wood, some household hazardous waste containers, batteries, tires etc. **NO Building materials are permitted.**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

Village Office:

Phone: 780-636-3620, Fax: 780-636-3022
email: vilna@mcsnet.ca webpage: vilna.ca
Address: Box 10, Vilna AB T0A 3L0

OR

5135 – 50th Street

Doors are open Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-4pm

Mondays & Wednesdays, **please call ahead.**
Closed Fridays

VILNA BOOMTOWN DAYS – PARADE AND FAIR IS COMING UP AUGUST 17&18, 2018!!

BENCH SHOW ENTRIES – FRIDAY AUG. 17

PARADE AND FAIR – SATURDAY AUG. 18

BRING THE FAMILY AND HAVE A GREAT TIME. KEEP AN EAR AND EYE FOR ADVERTISING

www.vilnaagsociety.com