

# VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER

*May, 2018*

## COUNCIL NOTES

*Whew! We've made it through winter...*



..But not without some serious infrastructure issues:

- Frozen water lines,
- Frozen sewer lines
- Flooding
- Road Breakup

*HOWEVER we have survived another brutal Alberta Winter!*

### **BOUNTIFUL THANKS ARE DUE TO PEOPLE WHO HELPED OUT DURING THE APRIL 21-25, 2018**

**FLOODING.** – The Village declared a state of local emergency with the Provincial Operations Centre for overland flooding. During that time, many individuals put in long hours to feed workers, lend a hand and provide support. Especially present were the members and families of Vilna Fire Department, Smoky Lake County staff and council, Smoky Lake Fire Department, Alberta Emergency Management Agency and some Vilna residents.

*It is the efforts of really great people who make a community remarkable and we are grateful!!!*

**THANK YOU!!!!!!**

**THE VILLAGE HAS ONCE AGAIN RECEIVED AN INDIVIDUAL DONATION OF \$1000. TO PURCHASE PROMOTIONAL ITEMS!! THANK YOU TO OUR VERY GENEROUS DONOR!!**

Your Council has been reviewing old policies and bylaws, trying to make them more effective and enforceable. The two they are looking at currently are the **Traffic Bylaw:**

• Provincial Traffic Safety Act	• Signage
• Speed Limits	• Off Highway Vehicles
• Playgrounds	• Parking
• Truck routes	• Noise

### **Water and Wastewater Bylaw:**

- Provincial Regulations - Health and Environment,
- Areas of responsibility and authority,
- Services and connections and disconnections,

- Hydrants,
- Meters and meter reading,
- Private wells,
- Frozen services and frozen mains, and
- New construction and renovations.

## **AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **GARBAGE PICK UP**

**As of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Smoky Lake County has put a full fire ban in place**

**THANKS** so much to everyone for making the extra effort and put your garbage at the front of your homes during spring. It saves the alleys and makes the collection task much less onerous. At such time as we feel **ALL** of the alleys are sufficiently stable for the garbage truck we will put a notice on Facebook and try and get the message out to each of you.

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 should be in "**garbage**" bags, not grocery bags (*Grocery bags tear*).

Put your garbage bags in garbage containers with **tight fitting** lids. To prevent critters from getting into it, you should also have the cans in a lidded enclosure. If your garbage is spread around, it is your responsibility to clean it up. **It's bear season!!!**

## **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 while the fire is burning;
- **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;
- Prior to leaving the fire, the fire is **extinguished completely**, leaving only cold ashes.

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

**VILNA LIBRARY HOURS – Tues & Thurs –  
3:30-7:00pm and Sat Noon to 4:00pm**

**From May 15 to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Vilna Transfer Station (dump) will allow residents to dispose of fridges, freezers and water coolers which contain Freon – Sponsored by the Evergreen Regional Waste Management Services Commission.**

**SPRING CLEANING**

The snow is gone, but behind it our yards are left with all the winter debris.

If you have yard refuse that you need to get rid of

- Take it to the Vilna Transfer Station (waste, compost, recycle) or to the Spedden Landfill (building materials, furniture and all of the above).
- **DO NOT** dump it in the alley or on the street or on your neighbor's property.

**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.***

"Humor oils the wheels of life and helps to keep it running smoothly."  
Dorothea Koppelin

***BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR....***

1. Have a chat over the fence now and then.
2. Cut your lawn before the dandelions go to seed or the clover is in full bloom;
3. Cut the grass behind your fence and on your boulevard;
4. Keep your dog on your own property and if you're walking it, keep it on a leash;
5. Pick up after your dog;
6. Train your dog to not bark at everyone who walks by;
7. If you're not home, make sure your dog is not left outside;
8. Keep your cats at home; no one wants their garden to be your cat's litter box.

*Each Year the greater world identifies dates that are selected to remember special community people, or events. Here are just a few:*

*Through the rest of May and June*

- Victoria Day – May 21, 2018
- International Missing Children's Day – May 25
- World No Tobacco Day – May 31
- National Cancer Survivors Day – June 3
- Senior's Week – June 3 – 9
- World Environment Day – June 5
- World Day Against Child Labour – June 12
- World Blood Donor Day – June 14
- Father's Day – June 17
- Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21
- Canada Day – July 1

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ A number of infrastructure issues arose during the late months of winter when the ground froze over between 11 and 13 feet. If you feel that your water service line could freeze, it is advisable to run water during the late winter months to prevent freezing. This is the only way to prevent your line from freezing. This may cost you \$10-\$20 for extra water (if you are running water, it **must** pass through the meter – or you **must** have a Safety Codes permit and municipal permissions), but that is better than having to pay \$1200-\$2000 to thaw it out.
- ✓ Be cautious though, running too much can freeze your sewer line. Property owners are responsible for their water and sewer service lines from your building to the connection to the main supply pipe. Winters like the last one are brutal, be prepared!! Do not ever try to turn on or off your CC valve (street shut off valve). Call to have the Village foreman do it for you. If you break this underground valve, you will have to pay to repair it – and it will make a mess of your yard...

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

**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 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 MEETINGS**

**TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.**

**MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Village Office:**

Phone: 780-636-3620, Fax: 780-636-3022  
email: [vilna@mcsnet.ca](mailto:vilna@mcsnet.ca) webpage: [vilna.ca](http://vilna.ca)  
Address: Box 10, Vilna AB T0A 3L0

OR  
5135 – 50<sup>th</sup> Street

Doors are open Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-4pm  
Mondays & Wednesdays, please call ahead.  
Closed Fridays

By three methods we may learn wisdom:  
First, by reflection, which is noblest;  
second, by imitation, which is easiest; and  
third by experience, which is the bitterest.  
Confucius.