

# VILLAGE OF VILNA

## Newsletter JANUARY 2023



### COUNCIL NOTES

Another year has passed. The summer saw many celebrations, from the Vilna School Centennial in 2021, the Vilna Pool Hall Centennial in 2022, the Vilna Ag. Society being 50 years old in 2022 and the Village itself being 100 years old on June 23, 2023.

Your Council is working on a Vilna Revitalization initiative. The hi-speed internet in Vilna is starting to tweak the interest in people who can work from home, and people who just like to have good internet. We wish to thank all the businesses for struggling through the COVID nightmare.

**A VERY SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANNE AND ELLIS MCCONNELL OF D & E GROCERIES FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN VILNA.**

### WATER BREAKS

- As you can see, the Village of Vilna is 100 years old,
- Most of the infrastructure was installed in 1957 & 58. Needless to say, this winter we are suffering the results of that timeline.
- Last year the replacement of the water reservoir was our highest priority. We are patiently waiting for a grant to help with those costs. It could be that water and sewer lines might just have a bit of a higher priority.
- It's been a long time since temperatures have dropped this low for that length of time.
- Special thanks to those who had to suffer through Christmas with no water. We appreciate your patience.

### SENIORS BUS

If you recall, the Village took over the Seniors Bus a couple years ago. We were able to host a few trips but as with everything in our world, age does catch up. We were unable to pass the Alberta Transportation Inspection without spending more money than the bus was worth. We sold it and recuperated the previous repair expenses. In place of hosting a bus to assist people with transportation a new program has been introduced.  
**DRIVE HAPPINESS.**

**What is DRIVE HAPPINESS?** It is a Smoky Lake regional transportation program that focuses on helping seniors connect with volunteers to drive them to medical appointments. The Volunteers will receive a fuel reimbursement in exchange. We are looking for volunteer drivers to build our roster and help launch the program. Providing a senior with the means to manage their mobility makes for a happy passenger. You are literally driving happiness! Are you interested in helping us help the seniors in our community?

**Call Drive Happiness today to volunteer as a driver.**

**1-888-336-4503 or 1-780-424-5438**

**DRIVEHAPPINESS.CA**

**FALL CLEAN-UP WEEK** - was again very successful.  
**Special thanks to Robert Vinette and Vinette Salvage for providing the bins.**

### KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE ...



issues.

Each month there are more and different crimes around us. We have to deal with break and enters, vandalism, vehicle thefts, fuel thefts, cyber crimes, and many other issues. None of this is new, but crime is something of which we all need to be aware and watchful. Have you been asking yourself questions like: *What are the RCMP doing about this?* Or *What can we do to protect ourselves from these crimes?*

**Join members of the Smoky Lake RCMP at the Village Office at 10:00 a.m. on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to have "COFFEE WITH A COP".** Share your concerns and issues with them, and ask them those questions you really want the answers to.

**RCMP – 780-656-3550 days  
780-656-3691 AFTER HOURS  
EMERGENCIES – 911**

## AROUND THE VILLAGE

- **SUNDAY COMMUNITY SUPPER** by the Vilna Ag. Society **on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. 5:30 – 7:30.** (Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023) Catered by Carmen.
- **FIREMAN'S BALL** – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- **COFFEE WITH THE COPS** – Feb. 16, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
- Welcome to Vilna **BLACK CAT'S CAULDRON Tea & Herb House.**
- The Vilna Library and the Ag. Society are hosting an **INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM.** For those who find that walking in winter is cold and dangerous, take advantage of this offer.
- Smoky Lake County and the Library are co-hosting a free **"ADULT COMPUTER BASICS"** (Jan 7 & 21)
  - Tuesdays & Thursdays – 3:30 to 7:30
  - Saturdays – Noon – 4:00 p.m.
  - Contact: Rebekah @ 780-636-2077
    - [rharakal@vlnapubliclibrary.ab.ca](mailto:rharakal@vlnapubliclibrary.ab.ca)

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Next Regular Council Meetings 5:30 p.m.**

Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and

Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Happy New Year  
from Council and Staff**

**The Office will be closed from  
January 4<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

### MONTHLY PAYMENTS

If you are interested in making monthly payments on your taxes or utilities, contact the Village Office before the end of January to make arrangements.

**VILLAGE OFFICE**  
5135 – 50 Street  
Box 10, Vilna AB T0A 3L0  
Email: [vilna@mcsnet.ca](mailto:vilna@mcsnet.ca)  
Office: 780-636-3620  
Public Works: 780-521-7124

Smoky Lake Ukrainian Twinning Committee

Family Cultural Gala

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  
Doors open: 5:30 pm  
Smoky Lake Agricultural Complex

Smoky Lake Region and Kosiv Ukraine

We're raising funds for our Twinning Partner: Kosiv, Ukraine

**LIVE & SILENT AUCTION**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

MUSIC BY  
**ToneTraveler**  
Cultural Entertainment

**UKRAINIAN DINNER**  
CATERED BY CARMEN

**TICKET INFORMATION**

PICK UP AT:  
• PAPPY'S  
• SMOKY LAKE TOWN OFFICE,  
• VILLAGE OFFICES AT  
VILNA & WASKATENAU

ADULTS: \$40 ea  
12 & UNDER: \$15 ea.

Follow us on FB: @smokylakeregion

**CONTACT:**  
Michelle Wright 780-636-5398  
ccdo@smokylakeregion.ca

The FAMILY CULTURAL GALA is a special fund raiser to allow the Smoky Lake Region to send funds to Kosiv, Ukraine. In 2019 the Smoky Lake Region developed a relationship with the Kosiv Region and formalized the relationship by twinning with them. It was initiated to share some of the cultural and agricultural customs.

Little did we know that February 24, 2022 would see us having to help them with basic life needs. We are able to send the money directly to the Kosiv Municipal Office and they then can purchase the necessities. Because Kosiv is in the western part of the Country they have refugees coming there. Our contributions help Kosiv to provide for these refugees and emergency supplies.

**COME JOIN IN THE GALA AND MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO KOSIV.**

Tickets at Cyr's ATB.