

VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER March, 2015

*March winds and April showers bring forth May
flowers. ... English Proverb, 1886.*

COUNCIL NOTES

2015 has started out with the same economic challenges that the rest of the world seem to be facing. As we watch the Province struggling to balance its budget, it has become very apparent that part of the provincial cuts will result in a severe cut in municipal grants. A cut in provincial assistance makes balancing a municipal budget very difficult.

The January Newsletter indicated that we were waiting to see how the Provincial and Federal Budgets were going to affect us. Now we know, and your Council is working toward addressing the impact this will have on Vilna.

WATER RATE CHANGE

**Effective January 1, 2015 Highway
28/63 Water Commission has
increased our water rates from \$1.73 to
\$2.09 per cubic meter. This increase
is reflected on your water bill.**

**Cost of water - \$2.09
Village charge - \$1.30
Water Rate - \$3.39**

Working in collaboration with other municipalities helps us to provide services that would be inaccessible individually.

Several regional alliances have been formed so as to effectively use the Village's resources and share resources with and from other municipalities.

By partnering in the Evergreen Regional Waste Commission we share the cost of disposal of garbage. The County cost-shares the operation of the Waste Transfer Site.

We benefit by being able to access any library in the province through membership in the Northern Lights Library System. The Vilna Library also administers the Family and Community Support Services for the Village.

"A YEAR FROM NOW YOU MAY WISH YOU
HAD STARTED TODAY

- KAREN LAMB

Sharing in the Smoky Lake Foundation is a very beneficial way of providing accommodations and services for our aging residents.

Representation on the Northeast MuniCorr board with the Iron Horse Trail crossing through our Village enhances our commercial business.

Partnership in the Highway 28/63 Water Commission has brought us water through the regional pipeline.

Partnering with the municipalities in Smoky Lake County allows for economies in administration and operation through:

- Regional Community Development Committee,
- partnering to jointly contract construction inspection services;
- cost sharing the cost of providing fire services;
- Emergency Preparedness;
- working together to share the cost of Economic Development and an Economic Development Officer;
- Regional Community Recreation Master Plan,
- Support through the Joint Municipalities is helping us to lobby to get the X-Ray service back into our community.

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The next Council Meeting will be March 23, 2015

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Never look back unless you
are planning to go that way.

Henry David Thoreau



VILNA & DISTRICT MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Over the past years the Vilna Library has evolved from a basic book lending facility to a community service provision portal. They support many of the local programs including

- collecting for the Food Bank,
- raising funds for the Citizens on Patrol Service,
- helping with the Christmas Craft sale to help fund the Grade 12 graduation,
- hosting Cultural Days
- promotes the School Literacy Days
- works with the Outreach School to provide the "Snow Angels" program with outer wear, shovels, and scheduling.
- Hosts the Spooktacular Breakfast for the community
- Supports the Vilna X-Ray machine campaign. .

Services offered through the FCSS

- Senior Service Provider workshops providing assistance with senior grant forms and information,
- Seniors Helping Hands Initiative,
- Teach social network media & basic computer skills,
- Encourage involvement using public speaking by sharing experiences,
- Partner high school students with seniors for communication interaction,
- Coordinates RCMP Senior Safety Program.
- Providing a movie broadcast license to allow movies to be shown at the Lodge without restriction.

LIBRARY SERVICES

- 62 reading classes coordinated with the school introducing 107 students to the library,
- Summer reading program,
- "Comic Book Store" program encouraging your artist,
- Adopt a book program,
- Photocopying service,
- Providing access to NLLS Regional Library media,
- Encourages volunteerism,
- Young Children's reading corner, and
- Providing basic book and media lending service.

The Vilna Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-7pm, and Saturday 12noon to 4pm.

Carmen's "Scraps from the Dump"

Happy Easter! Spring is just around the corner. With that comes *Spring Cleaning*. It's a good time to clean out closets and corners that build up over winter. It's also a good time **to recycle**. Part of recycling is *re-using*. I try to *re-home* articles that are put out for re-cycling – especially books. There are things like clothing and furniture that would be better *re-homed* using the services of "**Lucas New and Used**" located on the corner of 50th Street and 51st Avenue. You can call Phyllis at 780-660-4341 to see if she can take the article you are trying to get rid of, including items that can be useful as material for projects or a trinket that catches the eye. As the saying goes "one mans trash is another mans treasurer." March Recycling Pick-Ups are scheduled for Mondays, March 9th and 23rd.

April recycling pick up is scheduled for Mondays April 6th & 20th.

With the melting snow comes all the garbage that was hidden under it. Residents are reminded that trash is their responsibility to clean up. Especially trash that results from people not handling their garbage properly.

Residential Garbage is picked up every **Wednesday**. Garbage should be bagged, with the bags stored in cans or containers. Please make sure the bags are tied. Abuse of the service has forced us to limit each weekly pick up to 5 bags per week, with each bag weight limited to no more than 40 pounds.

If you are a landlord, please ensure your tenants are familiar with the dates and guidelines.

Spring is a time of renewal. Let's work together to keep Vilna beautiful.

Don't think about what can happen in a month. Don't think about what can happen in a year. Just focus on the 24 hours in front of you and do what you can to get closer to where you want to be!..... Eric Thomas

HAPPY EASTER