

# VILLAGE OF VILNA NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

## 2013 Financial Information Return

Richard Jean, the Auditor for the Village, made a presentation at the last Council meeting. He presented the financial report for 2013.

Richard Jean of Joly, McCarthy, Dion, our Municipal Auditor presented the 2013 Consolidated Statement of Financial Position to Council. He reported that overall, the Village is still in a precarious financial position, however it is showing more confidence than in the previous few years.

Revenues generated were \$1,151,809.00 of which \$284,712.00 were taxes. Total expenditure were \$1,008,844, showing a gross revenue of \$142,965.00. After amortization of capital assets, in the amount of \$130,817.00, the books showed a net surplus of \$12,148.00. He also pointed out that the Net Financial Debt has been reduced from \$486,346.00 in 2012 to \$394,227.00 at the end of 2013. Total outstanding Long Term debentures and loans total \$440,758.00 in 2013 compared to \$498,133.00 in 2012, showing a decrease in debt of \$57,375.00.

There still is a significant amount of uncollected taxes. \$42,790.00 of the 2013 levy remains outstanding and \$109,485.00 from years prior to 2013 still is outstanding. This puts a substantial burden on the municipal operation. Although collection is improving, there still is an unacceptable amount of arrears.

Council was able to use the majority of the MSI Capital Grant funding to pay the Village's share of the cost of construction of the regional water line. \$436,307.00 was spent on Phases II & III of the water line. The Village was not in a position to prepay Phase I, so are required to pay annual debenture payments to the Highway 28/63 Regional Water Commission of approximately \$5,000.00 per year. *Copies of the 2013 Financial Statements are available at the Village Office.*

## X-RAY Machine

We've attended numerous meetings, Alberta Health Services, Lakeland Community Health Advisory Council, Council on Aging, and Dave Quest - the Associate Minister for Seniors, Jeff Johnson - MLA for Smoky Lake, Genia Leskiw - MLA for Bonnyville Cold Lake, and been in communication with our MLA Shane Saskiw. Still we get no formative answers. The **AGM for the Council on Aging** will be held in St. Paul at the Centennial Seniors Centre (5114 - 49 Street) on JUNE 13 at 9:00 a.m. We will be making a presentation at this forum. It has been suggested that if we have a strong delegation from our community, it will benefit our position.

TRY AND ATTEND.



**WE WILL BE TURNING ON THE REGIONAL WATER ON MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2014. BE AWARE THAT THE WATER RATES WILL BE INCREASING.**

Council will be reviewing a bylaw proposal at the next meeting.

## SPRING IS HERE

*Many communities allocate a week each spring as "Spring Clean-Up Week". We haven't dedicated a specific week, but let's all put in an effort to have the winter grime cleaned up by the end of May.*

**MAKING VILNA GREEN** ..... *whether you want to be environmentally sensitive or just want to save money, your cooperation in reducing the volumes of waste collected at the Waste Transfer Station and the Regional Landfill Site is a pro-active way to achieve these goals.*

*You can reduce garbage volumes by separating recyclables and household and hazardous wastes from the regular waste stream.*

- \* Rinse and remove labels from cans (separate);
- \* Flatten cardboard boxes, bundle with papers;
- \* Metal recycling includes small appliances, pots & pans, microwaves, etc.;
- \* Electronic recycling is limited to televisions and computers;
- \* Jugs of used oils, oil filters and fuel filters;
- \* Bag all cleaner containers, batteries, and compact fluorescent bulbs.
- \* *With a little effort we can be "green" and help reduce costs to the Village. Recyclables would be picked up once or twice each month (depending on how enthusiastic everyone is and the volumes we see). You can voice your choice by writing "YES" on the bottom of your utility bill.*

**NOTE:** Starting Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 bagged yard and grass clippings will be collected from the street in front of your house, each MONDAY. ...

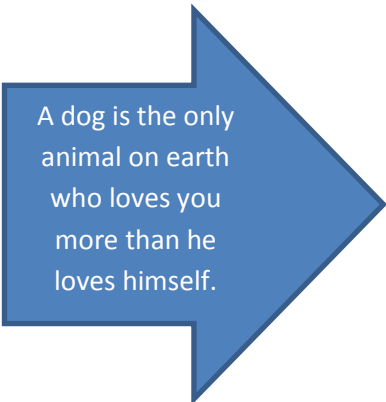
*Thank you, Carmen (Transfer Station)*

Good things come to those who wait...

**GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WORK HARD  
AND NEVER GIVE UP**

## DOGS

Have you noticed that although there still are a few dogs running at large, there are some that aren't around anymore? We have contracted a Bylaw Enforcement Officer to patrol the Village. To date three dogs have been picked up and taken to the pound. There are still a number of others that are tempting the fates. Or should I say there are dog owners who still aren't considerate enough to keep their dogs on their own property.



A dog is the only animal on earth who loves you more than he loves himself.

REMEMBER: Dog Licenses are due **NOW** .... \$10.00 per dog.

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## CAMPFIRES AND FIREWORKS

With spring comes the wonderful opportunity for bar-b-ques and wiener roasts. Let's be mindful of the safety rules.

- Fireworks are not allowed in the Village without first obtaining a permit from the Fire Department.
- Recreation fires are permitted as long as you contain the fire in a structured fire pit (regulations for size and site are in the Community Standards Bylaw ... check the Village of Vilna web page [www.vilna.ca](http://www.vilna.ca)).

## COPS (Citizens on Patrol)

We owe a great deal to the members of COPS. The RCMP have indicated that since COPS started their patrols, crime rates have decreased. They patrol Vilna as well as Bellis, Spedden, Bonnie Lake Resort as well as the various developments around Garner Lake. This year they included monitoring of the Trail Washrooms in their tour. Because of their diligence we have had far fewer issues at the washrooms.

**Thanks for your dedication.**

## SMOKY LAKE FOOD BANK

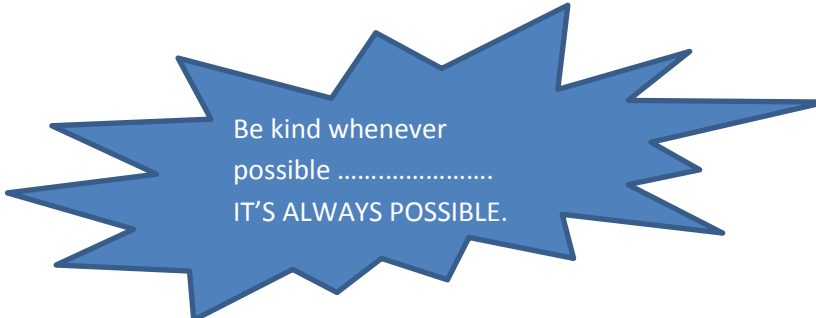
The Smoky Lake Food Bank, located at the back of the County Office in Smoky Lake (separate entrance) at 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, serves the residents of Smoky Lake County, the Town of Smoky Lake, as well as the Villages of Waskatenau and Vilna. Your contributions and donations have assisted 144 families in 2013. Thank you for your support.

If you find yourself in need of some assistance from the Food Bank they can be contacted at 780-656-3740. Just leave a message, they will get back to you in short order.

## PROMOTIONAL DONATIONS

Once again we have been gifted with an anonymous donation to assist the Village with purchasing marketing items that help to promote our community.

*Thank you, your generosity helped us to promote our community at the Fort McMurray Trade Fair.*



Be kind whenever possible .....  
IT'S ALWAYS POSSIBLE.

## GENERAL ITEMS

**The next Council Meeting** will be held at the Village office at 7pm on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Village office.

Ukrainian Dance Concert ..... May 16, 2014

Cowboy Fest ..... July 18 – 20, 2014

Boomtown Days ..... August 16 & 17, 2014

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