

VILLAGE OF VILNA



Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2019

COUNCIL NOTES

At a Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday, November 7th, 2019 CAO Loni Leslie tendered her resignation. Loni will be leaving the Village Office in December to take a position with the Smoky Lake Seniors Foundation. For the past nine years she has expertly guided the Village through an uphill battle to reduce the Village debt while maintaining infrastructure. The debt has been reduced from \$608,000.00 in 2010 to \$112,500.00 in 2019. During this time the Water Treatment Plant was upgraded, we have tied into the regional water line, upgraded the sewage lift station, repaired water and sewer lines and sustained the roads. **ALL WITHOUT BORROWING ANY FUNDS.** On behalf of Council, thank you Loni for your years of dedication and best of luck in your new endeavor.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The annual Organizational Meeting was held on October 21, 2019. Leo Chapdelaine was again chosen as Mayor, Don Romanko was appointed as Deputy Mayor and Roy Dyck as Councillor. The Regular Council Meetings will remain scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. There were no changes to the Engineer, Auditor, Planner or Subdivision Authority. The Committee and Board representatives shall remain unchanged. Some of the Boards that are represented by our Council included:

- a. Capital Regional Assessment Services Commission
- b. Evergreen Regional Waste Commission
- c. Hwy 28 / 63 Regional Water Commission (2 members)
- d. North East Muni-Corr Ltd.
- e. NE Alberta HUB
- f. Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee
- g. Public Safety/Disaster Services Committee/RCMP Advisory Committee
- h. Regional Community Development Committee
- i. Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Committee
- j. Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee
- k. Regional Fire Services Committee
- l. Smoky Lake Foundation
- m. Veterans Memorial Highway Association
- n. Northern Lights Library System Board /Vilna & District Municipal Library Board
- o. Vilna & District Fire Department (volunteer)
- p. Vilna Pool Hall Society (volunteer)
- q. Vilna & District Agricultural Society (volunteer)
- r. Vilna Cares Society - (volunteer)

Following the Organizational Meeting, Council held the Regular October Council Meeting.

The items discussed at the Council Meeting included the possibility of the Smoky Lake Regional Municipalities "twinning" with "Kosiv District of Inano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine. Alberta Municipal Affairs is requiring that municipalities within a County form Intermunicipal Committees and Boards in order to provide consistency of services and policies, some mandatory and others at the discretion of the participating. The majority of the Council meeting was spent discussing issues brought forward from these committees. They include a

- Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee,
- The Regional Community Development Committee
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework

FEDERAL ELECTION

Once again the Lakeland Electoral District has elected Shannon Stubbs to represent us in the Federal Government. Her Constituency Office is located at 5009 - 50 Street (Main Office) Two Hills AB T0B 4K0 Phone: 1 780 657-7075 or she can be reached at the office of Shannon Stubbs at Shannon.Stubbs@parl.gc.ca Phone: 1 613 992-4171 The Federal debt as of the end of October, 2019 is \$755,000,000,000.00. (\$755 Billion). The annual interest payment on this debt is \$26 Billion each year.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET 2019

We elected a Provincial Government with full understanding of the accumulated debt that is hanging over all Albertans. The reported total debt as of November 7th, 2019 is \$66,864,113,500.00 which equates to \$15,482.01 per person. We, the tax payers, are paying \$2 Billion dollars a year in interest payments (that's without paying down any of the principal).

Premier Kenney has announced a budget based on reducing the debt which will reduce the debt repayment and the accumulated interest. BUT, this can't happen without a cost. .

We pay our share of the Federal Debt through Income Tax and GST. We pay our share of the Provincial debt through Income Tax.

The Municipal debt is paid through your property taxes. The Village currently owes \$112,587.00 with annual interest payments of \$5,261.00 and annual principal payments \$24,075.00.

The Province has announced several cuts that will have a direct affect on municipalities. The Municipal Sustainable Capital grants will be reduced by approximately 15% in 2020 and 20% in 2021. We depend on this contribution in order to maintain our infrastructure. The MSI Grant is project based with a ceiling on the amount eligible.

RURAL CRIME

Council and CAO attended a Town Hall meeting with Minister of Justice, Doug Sweetzer in St.Paul at the end of October. It is no secret that Rural Crime has run rampant in Alberta and that changes to the Justice system are needed. It is recognized that our judicial system needs upgrading and enhancement. They

are hiring more prosecutors, judges and more police officers. They are proposing that victims of crime will have more rights.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF AFFECTED BY A CRIMINAL INCIDENT, PLEASE CALL THE POLICE AND MAKE A RECORD OF THE OCCURRENCE.

**RCMP - 780-656-3550 DAYS
780-656-3691 AFTER HOURS
EMERGENCIES - 911**

TAXES

This is just a friendly reminder that taxes unpaid after December 31, 2019 will be subject to a 10% penalty. Taxes can be paid at the Village Office, at Cyr's Store (ATB), or by electronic fund transfer or pre-authorized payments.

DON'T FORGET TO READ YOUR WATER METER at the end of each month and **phone the reading to the Village Office 780-636-3620 & leave a message. Thank you.**

Garbage and Recycle (cardboard, metals, compost (separated)) pickup is on **Wednesdays** - Items for pickup must be out for 8am. **GARBAGE MUST BE IN PROPER GARBAGE BAGS IN A SECURE CONTAINER!**

Vilna Transfer Station (dump) is west about a mile west on the north village boundary road #594. **Open Tuesday and Saturday 9am to 5pm.**

DOGS must be LICENSED by the Village AND on a LEASH off your property. Clean up after your pet!! FINES APPLY!!

CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY - GET READY FOR WINTER! CLEAR THE SIDEWALKS!

**VILNA FARMERS MARKETS
Special Christmas Market Nov 9th 2019
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY, November 18, 2019 and
December 16th, 2019 - 7:00 P.M.**

VILNA LIBRARY HOURS

5431 - 50th Street (N. end Main St.)

Tues & Thurs - 3:30-7pm & Sat 12pm to 4pm

Computers & Internet - 780-636-2077

We are saying Good-bye to Julie - our Library Manager and wish her and her husband all the very best in the future!!

Thank you Julie!!!

The Seniors Recreation Centre - offers many varied activities for seniors all year round.

NEW RESTAURANT IN TOWN

"COOKIES KOZY KAFE"

AT CORNER OF Highway 28 and 52nd Street

Open daily (closed Thursdays)

1-825-840-2000

HAIR SALON COMING SOON

at the Vilna Pool Hall

Opening November 18th.

Hours: Tues., Wed., Thursday 12 - 4

Monday and Friday by appointment only

Men's, Ladies and Kids cuts, Custom Colours/Tints

Gel Nails/Manicures-Pedicures -Brow Waxing

Text or call Chris at 587-590-9577

PORKY'S SIDESTREET CAFÉ

780-636-2506

Monday to Friday - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sundays - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CLOSED SATURDAY

VILNA BOTTLE DEPOT - Hours vary.

For information call 587-789-0973

Hope Mission is open every Thursday from 12:00-5:00pm

At 5035 - 52 Avenue, Vilna

Gently used clothing, household items, and some food items are available if you need them.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Thursday afternoon at Hope Mission

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Everyone Welcome

Village Office:

Phone: 780-636-3620, Fax: 780-636-3022

email: vilna@mcsnet.ca webpage: vilna.ca

Address: Box 10, Vilna AB T0A 3L0
5135 - 50th Street

Doors are open Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-4pm

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

Closed Fridays

The Village website has a lot of information you may need, such as forms, Minutes, Bylaws, event information, local news. Consider checking the home page now and then for updates and information.

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

**3 May 1915 John Mc Crae
(As published in Punch Magazine,
8 December 1915)**