

VILLAGE OF VILNA

Newsletter JULY 2020

COUNCIL MEETINGS

At the May 14th, 2020 Council meeting

- Council agreed to open Bonnie Lake Campground using the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Prioritized Capital Projects to include
 - 49th Avenue Sewer Line replacement
 - Installation of new water meters
 - Paving (patching) streets
 - *These are subject to final grant approvals*
- The temporary closing of the Health Centre Lab, and we're pleased to announce that it is scheduled to re-open on July 5th.

At the May 21st Council meeting

- Auditors presented the 2019 Financial Reports (*copies are available at the office*).
- The Victoria District Economic Development Strategy
- The installation of Fibre Optic internet cable for broadband service
- The 2020 Taxes. *Please note that due to COVID and the possible strain people are experiencing, Council has allowed for payments to be made up until July 31st, 2020 without penalty.*

At the June 18th, 2020 Council Meeting

Back Yard Hens

The spring of 2020 seems to have been taken up with COVID and rain. Neither of these are conducive to introducing new ideas. At the last meeting Council tabled the Back Yard Hens Bylaw until 2021.

- **Sgt. Chan from the Smoky Lake Detachment** met with Council to discuss policing in our community. Sgt. Tina Chan of the Smoky Lake RCMP Detachment addressed Council to discuss rural crime and the RCMP working with the community to reduce crime.
 - She encourages residents:
 - To call the detachment when they see suspicious vehicles or activities
 - Try to get descriptions and details while staying safe;
 - To talk to your neighbours when activities in the area are deemed questionable;
 - Perhaps a Neighbourhood Watch Program would be beneficial.
 - Take back our Village.

- In cases where the issues are known to be social or physiological, these issues should be reported to Family Services.
- In light of all the controversy about the RCMP and "systemic racism", Sgt. Chan wanted Council to know that they are aware of the dialogue and are making every effort to provide fair and just policing.

COVID-19 HAS NOT STOPPED THE THEIVES AND OTHER LOW LIVES.

- Do not engage with unknown persons,
- Report suspicious persons/vehicles/activities to the police as soon as possible.
- Be an active member of your community and join the Rural Crime Watch or Bellis/Vilna Citizens on Patrol programs."

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

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At the June 29th Special Council Meeting,

- Council accepted Debbie Hackman's resignation as she leaves us to take a position with Smoky Lake County. *Good Luck Debbie, we wish you the best.*

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECT ON VILNA

We have all felt the effects of the Pandemic, whether it be by not being able to share family time, or not being able to visit loved ones in hospitals or long term care, or even being extra cautious when you go to the Post Office or the Grocery Store. It has been paying off. *Functions and facilities have been forced to cancel or close.*

- **Boom Town Days Fair is cancelled for 2020**
- *Council has resolved that because it is difficult to control the touching of items, and the social distancing **Garage Sales in Vilna for the 2020 Season shall be prohibited.***
- **We wait for the Decision of Alberta Health to determine whether Schools will open in September.**
- **We still have not had word on the re-opening of the Library.**
- 13 weeks of being 2 meters away from anyone, and being diligent about washing your hands often and hand sanitizing has paid off, so far. We, in Vilna have been fortunate not to have had any cases of COVID on the community YET.

*Happiness is not about getting all you want, it's
about enjoying all you have.*

Forgive yourself for what you didn't know before you learned it. BUT If you don't let the past die then it will never let you live.

COVID-19 Updates

As the Province moves into STAGE 2 of the RE-LAUNCH we have to be even more diligent. Yes, they are allowing us to expand our "bubble", with restrictions.

Gathering restrictions

A gathering is any situation that brings people together in the same space at the same time for the same purpose. Check with your local municipality for additional restrictions in your area.

Unless otherwise identified in public health orders, the following gathering restrictions are in place:

200 people maximum for audience-type community outdoor events, such as festivals, firework displays, rodeos and sporting events, and outdoor performances

100 people maximum for other outdoor events and indoor seated/audience events, including wedding ceremonies, funeral services, movie theatres, indoor arts and culture performances and other indoor spectator events where people remain seated

50 people maximum for indoor social gatherings, including wedding and funeral receptions and birthday parties

No cap on the number of people (with public health measures in place):

- worship gatherings
- restaurant, cafes, lounges and bars
- casinos and bingo halls

More flexibility for cohort groups - small groups of people whose members do not always keep 2 metres apart:

households can increase their close interactions with other households to a maximum of 15 people
performers can have a cohort of up to 50 people (cast members or performers)

sports teams can play in region-only cohorts of up to 50 players (mini leagues)

people can be part of a sports/performing cohort and a household cohort at the same time

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, August 6th, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Village of Vilna
Box 10, Vilna, AB ToA 3L0
780-636-3620
vilna@mcsnet.ca

BYLAWS (aka Earla's Rants)

- If you put your garbage out and don't put it in a closed container, the fox and coyotes and skunks and magpies consider it an initiation to dinner.
- Another invitation to them is when you feed your pets outside, or for any other reason leave food or scraps outside. When they get invited in to town they also consider small pets as a delicacy.
- If we're going to be good neighbours we have to show respect for each other's concerns.
- Council has chosen, so far, not to spend the \$10,000.00 to hire a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, but it's going to take care and responsibility from everyone in town to eliminate that need.
- One species of wildlife that we have not had reports of in the Village are gophers. However, someone irresponsibly chose to set a leg trap within the Village and caught a cat. A caring citizen was able to catch the cat and remove the trap, but the poor cat had to have its leg amputated. *Setting leg traps where kids and cats can get hurt is inhumane.*
- *I was walking with my dog (on her leash) the other day when I bent down to pick up her poo. A driver stopped and thanked me for doing that. Are we so negligent that we don't care about our neighbours? Come on people, this should be the norm not an exception.*
- My final rant for today is the speed at which people drive through our Village. If we have to bring the RCMP in to police our driving habits, then they're not out there solving serious crimes. **BE RESPONSIBLE.**

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

COVID-19 Edition

<p>CONSIDER THE SOURCE Is there an author? Check out their credentials on relevant issues.</p>	<p>READ BEYOND Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?</p>
<p>SUPPORTING SOURCES? Click on links or check with official sources. Do they support the story?</p>	<p>DO OTHERS AGREE? Are any other sites reporting this? What sources are they citing?</p>
<p>IS IT A JOKE? If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the source to be sure.</p>	<p>CHECK YOUR BIASES Consider if your own beliefs or concerns could affect your judgement.</p>
<p>ASK THE EXPERTS Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site, official source like the WHO.</p>	<p>LOOK BEFORE YOU SHARE Don't share posts or stories that you haven't checked out first!</p>

