

# VILLAGE OF VILNA

## Newsletter

March, 2025

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Sunday  
Mar 9,  
2025 to  
Sun, Nov  
2, 2025



1. Drought Potential
2. Regional Fire
3. Contract Bylaw Enforcement
4. Community Standards Bylaw
5. Dog Ownership responsibilities
6. Unsightly Premises
7. Monthly Utility & Tax Payments
8. Clean-up bins
9. RCMP Community Meeting

1. **Drought conditions** in Alberta are expected to improve in 2025, but dry conditions could still occur.

#### **Wildfire conditions**

- Alberta's government is optimistic about wildfire conditions in 2025, which are expected to be better than 2024.

- The province received near normal precipitation in January 2025, with above normal precipitation in the southeast and north.

However, the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains and northeastern Alberta received 60% of normal precipitation.

#### Drought conditions

In February 2025, Alberta had 33 water shortage advisories for some water management areas.

Drought – Current conditions | Alberta.ca Advisories (February 20, 2025) As of February 20, there are 33 water shortage advisories in place for select water management area...

### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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

**Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and**

**Wednesday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### MUNICIPAL UPDATES

#### 2. **Regional Fire**

The Regional Councils spent the past year formalizing the **Regional Fire and Rescue Service**. The initiative is designed to assure all member of the Region that they will have fast and effective fire protection. The Vilna Volunteer Fire Fighters are unique in that they are true VOLUNTEERS. However, our number of volunteers is dwindling. We need trained volunteer firefighters to provide a continuous service and are therefore looking at the possibility of hiring paid firefighters.

One of the issues that came out of the discussions was the need to have **EVERYONE have Fire Protection Insurance on their property**. The alternative is that if the property burns the cost of the fire fighters will be the responsibility of the property owner. If that bill from the Fire Department isn't paid it will be attached to your taxes. And of course, if the tax account isn't paid we will have to sell the property in order to recuperate the funds.

#### **FIRE PROTECTION CHARGES**

A. In consideration of all circumstances surrounding an Insurable or Negligent Fire, The Village shall charge residents the following fees for fire calls:

B Property and/or Vehicle Fires:  
**\$400.00** per hour per Fire Apparatus.  
**Minimum charge is \$400.00**

#### 3. **County Peace Officer**

Last year we discussed the possibility of contracting the **County Bylaw Enforcement Officer** and it is still being discussed. The County has recently hired a new Peace Officer, he is interested. The Town of Smoky Lake and the Village of Waskatenau also want to contract the service. Now we need to negotiate with the County.

#### 4. **Community Standards Bylaw**

A Nuisance or Unsightly Condition in respect of Property means Property that shows serious disregard for general maintenance and upkeep, whether or not it is detrimental to the surrounding area, including but not limited to:

- 5.3.1. excessive accumulation of material including Building materials, appliances, household goods, boxes, tires and vehicle parts whether of apparent value or not;
- 5.3.2. loose litter, garbage, garden or lawn waste, refuse or animal feces, whether located in a storage area, collection area or elsewhere on the Property;
- 5.3.3. unkempt grass or Weeds;
- 5.3.5. production of any generally offensive odor originating from the Property;

5.6 No more than two (2) dilapidated, derelict or inoperable Motor Vehicles, whether or not insured or registered, may be allowed on any Property. Such Motor Vehicles shall be covered by a tarpaulin or placed in an approved structure in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw.

5.7. Notwithstanding Section 5.6, Motor Vehicles that may be considered dilapidated or derelict due to an incident or accident, may be stored on a Property but for no more than 14 days.

#### **FIRE PIT STANDARDS**

11.1. In this part a fire pit means an outdoor receptacle used for recreational fire that meets the following specifications:

- 11.1.1. The location is at least 4.5 meters (14.8) feet from any Building, Property line or combustible material;
- 11.1.2. The opening does not exceed 82 cm (32 inches) in width or in diameter;
- 11.1.3. The installation has enclosed sides made of non-combustible material;
- 11.1.4. It has spark arrester mesh screen cover with an opening no larger than 1.25 cm (1/2 inches);
- 11.1.5. It is not located over any underground utilities or under any above ground wires.

#### **5. Pet Ownership Bylaw**

Pet owners are reminded that your loveable creatures are your responsibility. Your neighbours might not love them as much as you and would prefer that you keep your dogs and cats on your own property and discourage them from barking.

Although the Village doesn't have a CAT Bylaw, if you are a cat owner, you do have the same responsibilities as a dog owner ... keep them on your own property. If you put a litter box outside, your cat will use this instead of the neighbour's garden. Cat's strongly dislike hot spices so if you are that neighbour and want to deter your neighbour's cat from visiting your garden, sprinkle some paprika or cinnamon around your garden.

#### **6. Unsightly Premises**

Council reviewed the unsightly Premises sections, the traffic and parking sections to ease the enforcement and encourage residents and businesses to **put pride into their properties and enhance the attractiveness of the Village.**

Some people work very hard to keep their yards in pristine condition. To these people, thank you very much. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. There are some people who manage to keep the grass cut and the trees pruned and the weeds gone. You are appreciated too. However, there are some who don't know what a lawn mower is and neither do they know how to pick up after your pets. To you, here's a friendly reminder .... **THE PROPERTY BEHIND YOUR BACK FENCE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL.**

#### **7. Taxes & Utilities**

The Village is working toward emailing utility bills. If this is something that might interest you, send us your email account to [vilna@mcsnet.ca](mailto:vilna@mcsnet.ca)

We're also encouraging rate payers to consider paying your taxes or utilities through the Pre-Authorized Payment Program. Give us a call and we'll set it up.

#### **8. Waste Disposal Bins**

Vinette Salvage will be placing waste bins behind the Village Office for the months of April & May.  
Time to clean up your yards.

#### **9. KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

Each week Sgt. Doktor posts a brief newsletter called "Mountie Minute". Check Facebook Smoky Lake Rural Crime Watch page.  
RCMP – 780-656-3550 days

780-656-3691 AFTER HOURS  
EMERGENCIES – 911



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