

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Grapevine Communication

November 2012



Council's Corner
by Ron Bobocel
Councillor and Chairperson of
Smoky Lake County's
Agricultural Service Board

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

Municipal Agricultural Services Boards (ASBs) are unique to Alberta. They were first established in 1945 by provincial legislation and to this day are governed by the *Agricultural Services Board Act*, with the purpose of providing authority at the municipal level over the issues of weed infestation, and soil erosion from wind and water. Overtime, ASB's core areas of expertise remain weed control, soil and water resource conservation, and pest management. ASBs have grown into strong advocates for their local agriculture communities, and the Agricultural Fieldmen who manage the programs are viewed as key contacts for agricultural resource information. The Agricultural Fieldman for Smoky Lake County is Kurt Holdis and the Assistant Agriculture Fieldman is Evonne Zukowski.

Each of the 70 municipal ASBs in the province belongs to one of five regions - South, Central, North East, North West and Peace. Each fall, one municipality from each region hosts a regional conference where agricultural-based discussions and resolutions are brought forward.

Members in the North East Region include Beaver County, Municipal District of Bonnyville, Lac La Biche County, Lamont County, County of Minburn, Municipal District of Provost, County of St. Paul, County of Two Hills, County of Vermillion River, and the Municipal District of Wainwright. As a member, Smoky Lake County hosted the 2012 North East Agricultural Service Board Regional Conference on November 2 in Vilna. Opening greetings were made by Smoky Lake County Reeve Dareld Cholak and, as County Host, I chaired the Conference. Topics discussed during the one day conference included "Going Green", and an update was provided on the Biodiesel Processing Plant.

Since 1967, all ASBs from across Alberta hold an annual provincial conference to discuss and take action on shared regional, provincial, national and international concerns. Examples of past resolutions include continuation of the PFRA shelterbelt program, increased funding for agricultural programs and permanent registration of 2% liquid strychnine. The next annual conference is scheduled for January 2013 in Edmonton.

Agriculture will continue to face challenges such as weed infestations, problem wildlife and others. I am confident that producers are well served by all ASBs and their staff in the North East Region at the municipal level. Given the importance of agriculture in the our region, all Agricultural Service Boards will continue to advocate with provincial and federal agencies on behalf of agriculture producers to ensure a prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry.

Scheduled Meetings

County Budget meeting: November 16, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.

Regular County Council meetings will resume on December 6, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.

Council meetings are held in the County Administration Building located at 4612 McDougall Drive in Smoky Lake. The meetings are open to the public.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held on Bylaw No. 1249-12: Municipal Development Plan, and on Bylaw No. 1250-12: Land Use Bylaw during the December 6, 2012 regularly scheduled Council meeting. The Public Hearing will be beginning at approximately 9:15 a.m.

The purpose of the bylaws is to ensure the County will be able to respond to subdivision and development proposals conducive to today's planning practises.

Input and guidance through several meetings, including an Open House, have been held since about 2008.

Copies of the Bylaws are available through the Smoky Lake County's homepage www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca



On November 11, We Remember

In lieu of
Remembrance Day on
Sunday, November 11, the
Smoky Lake County
Office and Public Works
will be CLOSED on
Monday, November 12



Canadian St. Julien
Memorial near
Ypres/ Ieper, Belgium



SNOW CLEARING OF PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS (County Policy No. 03-35-07)

The County provides snow clearing services to Smoky Lake County residents for their residential driveways under the following terms and conditions:

- **The resident buys and posts a flag at the entrance to the driveway well before County snow clearing equipment is expected.**
- Snow will be cleared along the most direct route commonly used to access the residence, including the turn-around in the yard where it is safe to do so, conditional upon a minimum of 6 inches of snow.
- Areas considered too narrow or too close to buildings or other possible hazards to the safe use of the equipment as determined by the equipment operator will not be eligible for snow clearing.
- Snow clearing on private residential driveways will take place after all county roads have been cleared with the exception of those belonging to health care and emergency workers, and people with a known life threatening health risk, excluding people having previously scheduled doctor's appointments.

Flags may be purchased at the County's Public Works Shop between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and various other locations that may be determined from time to time.

Eligible general public individuals may buy a seasonal flag entitling the purchaser to snow clearing for the full winter season. As of November 1, 2012 the cost of a flag is \$175.00.

Eligible seniors and handicapped individuals may buy a seasonal flag entitling the purchaser to snow clearing for the full winter season. As of November 1 2012, the cost of a flag is \$100.00.

All flag purchasers must sign a "Hold Harmless Agreement". Each Agreement shall clearly indicate:

- The name of the purchaser(s);
- The title of the document proving age or handicap, when required;
- The legal description for the location where snowplowing is requested; and,
- The serial number(s) of the flag(s) sold.

More information may be found on the County's website www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca (search "snowplowing"), or obtain a copy from the County Office or the Public Works Office.



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS)

FCSS offers financial assistance to qualifying groups who wish to support and strengthen —

- children/students
- families
- schools / community

Program Funding is still available for the 2012 year.
The deadline for applications is November 26, 2012.

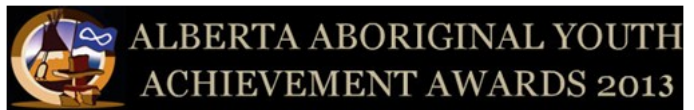
For further information on funding and qualifications, please contact Brenda Adamson, County Finance Manager, at 780-656-3730.



Smoky Lake Council proclaimed November 18 to 26, 2012 as "Restorative Justice Week"

This year's theme of "Diverse Needs; Unique Responses" recognizes that restorative justice is an approach which addresses the various needs of people impacted by crime and conflict that are created when a person has been harmed or treated unfairly.

This week is recognized throughout the world.



The Awards is an annual celebration of the many significant accomplishments of Métis, First Nations and Inuit youth between the ages of 10 to 30 from across Alberta.

The recognition received by award winners encourages excellence while creating positive new role-models for young people throughout the province. Young role-models like these are vital for young minds striving to realize the terrific personal potential each possesses.

The deadline for nominations is December 14, 2012.

Nomination information may be found at www.aayaa.ca/nominations



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENTS



Vilna Christmas Craft Sale
Saturday, November 10 from 10:00
a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the
Vilna Cultural Centre.

Free admission

Over 50 Vendor tables, and
* *Pictures with Santa*
* *Hourly Draws & Door Prizes*
* *Free cookie decorating for the kids,*
and a *Grad Bake Sale*

Vilna School and Community presents a
Family Literacy Carnival
Tuesday, November 13
3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
at the Vilna School

A fun family literacy-based night with
activities, games, 50/50 draw and prizes



**Waskatenau Christmas
(Farmer's) Market**

Sunday, November 18 from
10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the

Waskatenau Community Centre.

Over 40 tables of Christmas gift ideas,
home baking and ethnic food!

*Please bring a non-perishable food item as
a donation to the*

Smoky Lake County Food Bank



Waskatenau Town & County

Curling Bonspiel

November 23 and 24



Smoky Lake County 780-656-3730

Toll free 1-888-656-3730

www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

