

Where is Smoky Lake County?



Smoky Lake County is located 120 km northeast of Edmonton — about a one hour drive. The Town of Vegreville is to the South, the Town of St. Paul to the east, and Lac La Biche Region to the northeast.

Contacts:

Town of Smoky Lake: 780-656-3674 www.smokylake.ca

Village of Vilna: 780-636-3620 www.historicvilna.ca

Village of Waskatenau: 780-358-2208 www.waskatenau.ca



Vilna's Historic Pool Hall

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Photos taken by A. Shwetz



County Quick Facts

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www.smokylakeregion.ca

Recreation: The County has a wide range of recreational facilities and opportunities within its boundaries. Nearby recreation areas include campgrounds at the following locations: Bellis Lake, Bonnie Lake, Hanmore Lake, Island Lake, Kaduk Lake, Mons Lake, Shemeluk Lake, and Smoky Lake. Day use picnic areas are located at: Garner Lake Provincial Park, Victoria Settlement Park, Vilna Lions Club Rest Area, and Warspite.

Other points of interest include Bellis Natural Area, Historic Victoria Settlement and Trail, Iron Horse Trail, Kubasa Canyon, Métis Crossing, Pine Creek Post Office, Smoky Lake and Vilna Golf Courses, Vilna's Historic Main Street, Vilna Pool Hall (Alberta's Oldest Operating Pool Hall), World's Largest Mushroom located in Vilna, and the Waskatenau Trestle (pictured below).



Safety: The County has obtained its Certificate of Recognition which shows the County is keeping a high standard of safety in the work place by keeping up to new Occupational Health & Safety regulations.

Schools: Schools are located in Smoky Lake, Vilna and Waskatenau. The Holy Catholic School in Waskatenau offers programming for students from Kindergarten to Grade 9. H.A. Kostash School in Smoky Lake and Vilna School in Vilna offer programming from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

The Family-School Liaison Program offers an informal, confidential service to County residents. Referrals can be made by teachers, parents, peers, self, students and community agencies.

Seniors: Seniors self-contained units are available locally under the Smoky Lake Foundation. The Foundation oversees the operation of lodges and nursing homes.





Quick Facts about Smoky Lake County

- 2012 marks the County's 51st year of operation.
- The County contains a land area of 3,412.81 square km.
- The County has 76 employees, and has a *Work Alone Policy* that protects workers who work alone and a *Workplace Violence Policy* that protects workers from violence.
- The County is managed by a 5-member Council that represent 5 Divisions. Council as-a-whole meet at least once a month. Council is elected every three years. The next election is set for October 21, 2013.



Agriculture: The County manages a number of programs including the roadside spray program to keep weeds down along County roads, and issues pertaining to wildlife such as coyotes and gophers, and beaver and flood control.

By-Law Enforcement: The County's Peace Officer duties are to protect property and educate people, and to preserve and maintain the public peace. In 2011, the Peace Officer managed close to 80 issues ranging from animal control to land use issues to traffic safety issues.

Economic Base: Primary natural resources include large deposits of natural gas, extensive areas of peat, some forested areas suitable for logging, a large number of lakes and natural areas. A 50 mile stretch of the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River is virtually undeveloped.

The major economic base is agriculture. Tourism is a significant growth industry for the County, and the area is viewed as having significant potential for eco-tourism ventures.

Environment: Six Raw Water Truck Fills are available in the County with stations located at Bellis, Spedden, Smoky Lake, Vilna, Warspite and Waskatenau. Potable Water Fills are located at Spedden and Warspite.

County waste is collected locally and hauled to the Regional Waste Site located southeast of Lafond. In 2011, over 844,000 kg of waste was hauled by the County to the Regional Site.

Financial: In 2011, the County received close to \$4.5 million in grants from the following provincial programs: Municipal Sustainability Initiative, Municipal Heritage Partnership Development, Regional Partnership, Rural Connections, Broadband Program, Emergency Training Grant, Summer Student Employment, Transportation Services, Agriculture Services, Recreation Services, and Family & Community Support Services.

Taxes are due each year by October 31. A 10% penalty will be applied on November 1 to any current taxes owing.

Fire and Police Services: Residents should call 911 for emergency situations. Vilna, Smoky Lake and Waskatenau Fire Departments respond to motor vehicle collisions, fires and fire alarms, and medical assists. In 2011, the departments responded to 57 motor vehicle collisions, 50 fires, 20 fire alarms, and 24 medical assists. The RCMP Detachment in the Town of Smoky Lake is responsible for policing the County. The Rural Crime Watch program is evident in areas throughout the County.

Health Care: Paramedic and ambulance services are available locally with hospital service at the George McDougall Health Centre in Smoky Lake. Our Lady's Health Centre in Vilna houses medical clinics, and diagnostic lab and x-ray services which are available five days a week. Smoky Lake Continuing Care Centre provides services such as palliative care, nutrition counseling, and physical therapy.



Natural Gas: The County will pay a \$100 reward to anyone who reports a confirmed underground gas leak.

Planning and Development: In 2011, 133 electrical, gas, plumbing, private sewage disposal systems, and building permits were issued. Due to the volume of development applications, it may take up to 40 days to receive a permit.

Public Works: The County's Public Works ensures the County's 1,492 kilometers of roads are maintained year round.

Religious Services: Most religious denominations are represented in the County.



Population: The County encompasses the Town of Smoky Lake, Villages of Vilna and Waskatenau, Hamlets of Bellis, Edward, Spedden and Warspite, the unincorporated community of Hamlin, and Bonnie Lake Resort and Mons Lake Resort.

The County's population was 2,716 as of 2011, an increase of 16% from 2006.

The median age of the population within the County is 42.8 years. 81.2% of the population is aged 15 or over (2011 Census).

The median age for males is 43, for females is 42.6 years.

The County has 1,920 private dwellings, and a population density of 1.1 persons per square kilometer compared to the provincial population density of 5.7 persons per square kilometer.

The average listing price for a 3.4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1219 sq. ft. home in the County is \$193,600 (as at August 2012).