

BANLOC

Local Council Office: Banloc no. 405, telephone 0256/417222

Coordinates:

45°23'19" N lat.;
21°08'07" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

- 13 May 1400 - the town is mentioned in historic documents under the name "Byallak";
- XVIIth century - it seems that Banloc was one of the summer residences of the Timișoara beglerbeg;
- 1717 - the village belonged to the Ciacova district, it had 85 households, and it was called **Panlogh**;
- 1723-1725 - the village **Banlok** appears on the map of the Count of Mercy;
- 1783 - the Banloc estate was bought by count Lazar Karacsony
- 1793 - construction of the Banloc castle;
- 1836 - 31 villagers died of cholera;
- 1848 - bloody battles between the revolutionary Hungarian army and the Serbian one;
- 1894 - set up of the men's choir;
- 1915 - set up of the "**Banloc Drainage Association**";
- the Partoș village merged with the Topolea hamlet;
- 1930 - the Soca village was inhabited by 853 Serbs and only 30 Romanians;
- 1990 - many Swabians from Ofsenița emigrated, so, in time, the village became Romanian;
- 12 July 1991 - Banloc was the centre of a powerful, 5.5 magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale: 9 people were injured and 1 died;
- 2007 - the Banloc Castle is leased to the Banat Metropolitanate for 49 years;
- 2010 – completion of the construction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, began in 2002, through the efforts of father Cristian Ardelean and of the entire local community.

Total population on 1 January 2010:

- = 2,843 persons, out of which:
- male = 1,442 persons
- female = 1,401 persons



Number of households on 1 January 2009
= 1,134

Member villages: Banloc, Ofsenița (1690-1700, Obsenitza), Partoș (1333, Partas), Soca (1333, Zago).

Educational institutions: Elementary school (I-VIII) "Ing. Anghel Saligny: Banloc; Primary schools (I-IV): Ofsenița, Partoș and Soca; Kindergartens with normal hours: Ofsenița, Partoș and Soca; Kindergarten with extended hours: Banloc;

Health facilities: Local clinic: Banloc; Drug-store: Banloc; Sanitary-veterinary practice: Banloc;

Cultural institutions: Community centres: Banloc, Ofsenița, Partoș and Soca; Library: Banloc (founded in 1961);

Fitness and sports facilities: Football pitch: Banloc;

Churches, monasteries and other places of worship: Romanian Orthodox Church: Banloc (1862-1869), Ofsenița (2000) and Partoș (1753 - historical monument, comprising: the "Saints Michael and Gabriel" Church and the "New Saint Joseph of Partoș" Chapel); The Soca Ukrainian Orthodox Church (2002); The Soca Serbian Orthodox Church (1909); Partoș Monastery (1333); The Partoș Roman-Catholic Church (1894); The Banloc Baptist Church (1925); The Banloc Pentecostal Church;

Annual Church Festival: Banloc (Ascension of Jesus), Partoș (Pentecost), Soca (8 November - Saints Michael and Gabriel);

Citizens of Honour: Ioan Horia Pinteă, Marcel-Dumitru Miclău, Ioan Iedu.

THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF THE BANLOC COMMUNE

Toța Cornel	Mayor	Ostoia Ionel, LC Member	SDP
Jurchița Florin Aurel	Vice Mayor	Popescu Marin, LC Member	DLP
Balotă Mircea, LC Member	GRP	Rozsus Gheorghe, LC Member	SDP
Ban Constantin, LC Member	CP	Tifan Eugen, LC Member	SDP
Ianc Marțian, LC Member	NLP	Trifonescu Lucian, LC Member	CP
Dănilesc Daniel Liviu, LC Member	SDP	Țăran Leontin, LC Member	SDP

BANLOC

THE CASTLE OF THE
COUNT OF BEODRA

In 1783, the Banloc estate belonged to the Magyarised Armenian Lázár Karácsonyi of Beodra (today Novo Miloševo, in Vojvodina). He is the one who builds the one-storey castle in 1793. The estate owned by the Karácsonyi counts included rich hunting forests as well as agricultural land, such as the Topolea rice plantations, whose water

supply had been designed and built by Italian craftsmen. Here one could also find ponds, tobacco plantations, animal farms (in Pescuș), Lipizzan stud farms, a spirit factory and a mill located near the Banloc train station. After 1919, the Banloc Karácsonyi estate loses some of its land when a part of Banat is taken over by the Serbian-Croatian Kingdom. However, the Banloc estate (together with the castle and the park) remains one of the largest ones in Romania. In 1922, count Karácsonyi leaves the country and his estate is expropriated. Part of it is divided among the peasants returning home from the war. In 1953, the Romanian Royal House buys the remaining part of the estate back from the Karácsonyi family (166 jochs) for 22,000,000 lei. Banloc becomes a royal estate and permanent residence of Princess Elisabeth, sister of King Carol II of Romania and former queen of Greece. The castle was decorated with antiques, Rococo paintings, valuable miniature paintings, marble monuments, created by renowned Italian sculptors, a beautiful weapons collection, a caricature one, as well as an Egyptian mummy. After the abolition of monarchy (1947), some of the employees are chased away, the park statues are vandalised and the archive and the library are destroyed. The castle became the headquarters of the G.A.S., then of the Forest Range. It was used as a nursing home, an orphanage or elementary school (1983-1991). Part of the park was granted to a farm. At the end of 2007, the Banloc Local Council decided to lease it for a period of 49 years to the Banat Metropolitanate, who intends to use it for conferences and ecumenical camps.



**Coat of arms of the
Karácsonyi family**



PAN: MASTER OR FAUN?

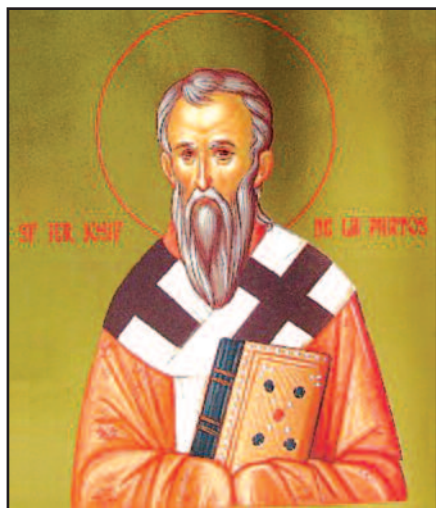
People say that name of the Banloc commune was created from two words: the name of the god “Pan” and “loc” (place), which means – “*Pan’s place*”. Then, “pan” became “ban”, having the meaning of master and Panloc became Banloc, the present name of the commune.

A bas-relief, located above one of the access doors of the castle’s basement shows the Greek god Pan (Faunus in Roman mythology), protector of flocks and shepherds, playing the syrinx (pan flute). Several statues of fauns surrounded in the past the alleys of the park; parts of them are now preserved at the Museum of Banat in Timișoara. Here you can also find other archeological valuables from Banloc, such as a beautiful rock fountain with floral motifs, made by Italian craftsmen with Carrara marble (photo).



BANLOC

THE HOLY HIERARCH OF PARTOȘ



Joseph the New from Partoș was born in 1568, in the town of Raguza Dalmației, in a family of Christian Wallachians. His baptism name was Jacob. He was orphaned as a little child, but his mother educated him well. At the age of 12 he was sent to Ohrida to study. At 15, young Jacob

became a monk. Five years later, he went to Mount Athos, where he joined the Pantocrator monastery and received the name Joseph. He became a hermit. He had the gift to do miracles, curing many diseases, especially legless people.

The devout Joseph (the Wallachian) became chaplain of the Mount Athos monks. For six years, he was abbot at the Saint Stephen monastery in Edirne. He is then appointed abbot at the Cutlumus monastery in Athos, founded by the rulers of Wallachia. After a long life of educating his spiritual sons, he retired near the Vatoped monastery. The chronicler says: "After the death of the Timișoara metropolitan, the Romanians from Banat, guided by the Holy Spirit,



chose Joseph the Wallachian as a follower, although he was 80 years old. He was well-known in all Balkan countries and celebrated as a living saint. In 1650, he was ordained bishop and appointed metropolitan of Timișoara. From this position, the good shepherd proved to be a great defendant of Orthodoxy, mentoring and guiding the Church of Banat towards Christ for three years. (...) He also performed some miracles to praise God and ease the sufferings of Christians, by holding their heads and praying for

them. He also extinguished, by means of prayer, the fire which covered the western part of Timișoara. He went out of the church holding the Sacraments in his hands and praying in tears and God immediately sent a pouring rain which extinguished the fire".

In 1653, the Holy Hierarch Joseph the New retired to the Partoș monastery, where he lived for three more years, until he died at the age of 85, in autumn 1656. He was sanctified by the Romanian Orthodox Church on 7 October 1956 and he is celebrated on 15 September.