



ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

December 2023



Provincial Presidents Message



Hello everyone, the end of another month is here. Our midterm meeting at the end of October went well with a good attendance and great ideas brought forward. There were good discussions about programs that lodges can access. Also, issues that lodges are dealing with were addressed.

I encourage lodges to put events that are happening in their lodges on the website. It is a private site and a great source of information for what is happening at the Provincial level.

November held out for some beautiful weather, and I am hoping that district deputies were able to get in some visits. I am looking forward to the lodge visits I have scheduled for December as I was unable to get man in, in November due to a wonderful trip to Germany. These visits are important for the sharing of ideas, information and wellness.

I would like to extend a thank you to first Vice President, Megan Pollard, who is always willing to step up for me when I cannot attend events and fill in when needed.

Lastly, Christmas isn't too far away and with that in mind let's continue to help the people in our community anyway we can. This year has been a difficult one for many and if we can change that for anyone we should.

Wishing all the members of this great organization a Very Merry Christmas and Best wishes for and a New Year filled with many possibilities.

Fraternally yours,

James Zimmer

James Zimmer
Provincial President



We have seen a rise in phishing emails to our members. Please disregard any emails from members asking for help and support/funds, view photos etc. The Association Executive would like to remind all of our Members and Friends that we would never ask you to;

- "please do me a quick favor for the Board while I'm tied up today."
- "Please help me set up EMT and mobile transfers for the Board"
- Do you have a moment, I have a request I need you to handle discreetly. I am going to an online Zoom meeting now, no calls so just reply to my email.
- Just thought those 2 are the ones you'd want to see (sent from the "Foundation" with a funny link)

Please do **NOT** send your confidential information or purchase **ANYTHING** on behalf of **ANY** of the Association / Grand Lodge members, chairs, or Executives without first talking to one of those Executive!



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Greetings from the Alberta Elks Foundation



Your board has had a busy first half of the year and is pleased to report on our activities thus far. We began the year working at a casino in Calgary to raise the much-needed funds to assist our lodges through grants and to supply the funding for our projects. One of our first tasks was to address the trailer for our float as it was evident that the float required an enclosed trailer to prevent the road wear that was being inflicted with the open trailer. We were able to obtain a trailer at cost as well as having the dealership take ours in trade. Our thanks to Brad Biette for negotiating the purchase and seeing it through. We have since had the trailer wrapped with our branding and logos and it looks great. I am sure that the lodges will want to include the trailer in their parades as well as Charlie and the float itself.

We addressed the changes to our bylaws and regulations at our orientation meeting in September and tackled the idea of creating a brand and updating logos for the Foundation. Sister Kelly took on the task and through a lot of effort along with a few hiccups created a package that the Board approved for implementation. The package will be presented to you in the New Year for your use. We are very excited to present this to you and have already implemented it on our float as well as our newly created Brochure. That is another project that we have addressed and again Sister Kelly stepped forward and with some assistance has created a new brochure that is to go to print soon. The brochure design and upgrade was required as our old brochure was designed more for lodge information rather than for the general public. We now have a brochure that we can use at trade fairs and other events that will inform the public about what the Foundation is and what it is doing and has done. We are sure that it will be an aid that not only informs the public but can be used as a recruiting tool for new membership.

As indicated, we have created new and updated logos for the Foundation, Tabs for Tots, Mighty Lil' Elk, and the Toy Drive as well as creating a Branding design to be used on correspondence and advertising. Please visit the website to see these exciting logos and ideas.

We have upgraded the manual which is on the website and by doing so have included a description of all our programs as well as including the applications for all the grants to the programs. We hope that this will streamline the process for lodges to access the grants and understand the areas in which they can be used.

We made some changes in the Mighty Lil' Elks bags by eliminating the Visa card thus freeing up funds so that we can increase the number of bags produced this year and enabling access to them by individual lodges for their emergency services. The orders for the contents have gone out and we look forward to having them available in the New Year. In addition, we have developed a sponsorship program to hopefully access outside funding to support and sustain the program and possibly grow it to include the major hospitals in Calgary and Edmonton (the Children's Hospital and the Stollery). We have to thank Sister Kelly again for spearheading much of this.

Finally, the Board felt that it was vital that we supply the membership with current information on all of our programs and how to access them by having an article on each program rotate through the newsletter so that each month information on one program will be presented. We plan on continuing to present these on a rotating basis so that our members can be better informed of the workings of their Foundation.

In closing we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Bill Ward

Bill Ward, Foundation Chair



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Alberta Elks Foundation Trailer



ISTAR

Thank you for your recent gift in support of the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Your Leadership and generosity drive positive change at ISTAR. It creates exceptional experiences, removes financial barriers, and allows us to truly make a difference.

Your generosity is an inspiration for us all. You give those who stutter the best chance of success and ensure that every voice matters!

Thank you, once again, for all that you do and continue to do to transform lives and provide confidence and hope for the future.

Yours sincerely,

John Voyer
Assistant Dean, Development

Mighty Lil' Elk

I just wanted to send a great big THANK YOU full of gratitude and love; my son was admitted into Medicine Hat Hospital last Sunday, and we finally got up to the pediatric unit at 115 in the morning after sitting in the ER for most of the day.

I was going to run home once he was admitted and checked in but it was so late and I was exhausted. The nurses asked if I needed anything and I replied, "a toothbrush would be great!"

She arrived with the purple bag of toiletries and essentials to get me through that first night. You have no idea how much that meant to me. I was so touched.

The items inside came in handy, and I was especially excited to see the phone charging cord and cube as my phone was almost dead.

Please know that your generosity was noticed and the thoughtfulness of the toiletry bag essentials helped me through a time when I needed it the most.

Thank you, thank you

Melissa McMillan



Personal Assistance Grant – how do we access it??

Please assure all individuals any information provided will remain confidential!!

- Grants up to \$2,000 can be applied for throughout the year. If the request exceeds \$2,000 (up to a maximum of \$5,000) will only be considered at the Annual General Meeting.
- The Lodge Charities Chair will conduct a complete investigation of the case. If a need is not seen, the application process does not proceed.
- A letter from a doctor or other medical professional giving a detailed estimate of cost, duration and confirmation of need of required assistance is required to be attached to the application.
- Can any part of the expenses be met from other sources such as medical plans or group benefits. Have they applied for funding from any other sources?
- If a supplier or professional people are involved, payment should be made directly to them. Obtain a receipt, receive confirmation of expenditures and send those copies to the Foundation Office.
- Travel and accommodation requests cannot be covered due to AGLC restrictions.
- It is advised that any requests for support from the Foundation should be submitted prior to committing any funds from your Lodge. If it is an emergency, telephone the Foundation Office.
- Please acknowledge the Alberta Elks Foundation for their contribution, whether it be publicly or to the recipient.
- Funding cheques will be made payable to the recipient and mailed to the Lodge for presentation.
- Any further questions? Contact the Foundation Office at 780-504-7605 oralbertaelksfoundation@gmail.com

People ask me what it means to be an Elk's member.

What does it mean to be an Elks member? Its knowing you can impact a child's life and ease a family's journey along the way.

Thank you to Mike & Staci Connauton for letting us be a part of the journey and Go Get 'Em Harper!!!

Thank you to the Alberta Elks Foundation for matching our lodge contribution of \$5000.00 for a grand total of \$10,000.00.

As always we are looking for new members to become a great part of our communities and help families in their time of need

Who says floats are only for sunny days? The Olds Elks Lodge proved the skeptics wrong with a dazzling display of lights and tunes at the city's Christmas Parade last week!



Coronation Elks



The Coronation Elks 360 was honored to be a part of the 2023 Coronation Pro Rodeo Parade! A thank you to the Town of Coronation and Deputy Mayor Ron Checkel for pulling our float for us and to the Rodeo Association for coordinating such a spectacular event! Thank you to everybody who came out and watched and the others who joined us, it was a wonderful time all around!!! Pictured Elk members are Brett Alderdice Annette Allen, President Matthew Peacock, and future Elk Lilly Peacock.

Heisler Elks Lodge



The Heisler Elks Lodge's Publicity Director, Mickey, presented a \$1000.00 donation to the Flagstaff Christmas Share Program.

Red Deer Elks



Donation of \$8000 to the RedDeer Hospital Foundation for NICU Jaundice Machine

The Red Deer Hospital Foundation was presented with a \$8000 cheque by Colin Tattersell and Secretary Nick Henger. The donation will be used to purchase a much-needed jaundice machine for the NICU unit.

STAVLEY ELKS / RPE



The 17th Annual PHEASANT HUNT was a great success yet again!!

A BIG THANK YOU to the landowners and sponsors! This event wouldn't happen without your continuous support! We are very great full for your contributions!

To all the volunteers cooking, selling tickets, tending the bar, hunt marshalls, Oddfellows, Royal purple, Queens ball kids, without your help this event wouldn't be possible! Thank you!!

All of us from the Stavely Elks look forward to seeing our loyal hunters! Over the years these folks feel like family! We cannot wait to see you next year for the 18th Annual Pheasant Hunt! Thank you for coming out!



Wainwright Elks Lodge



Wainwright Elk's annual fall supper went great! Thank you for showing up and supporting your local Elks. A huge thank you to all the volunteers, and a special thanks to Miss Rodeo Wainwright for volunteering tonight!

Breton Elks Lodge



A special 55 year Service Pin presentation to Brother Doug Jones. Brother Doug began his Elks' journey with the Dawson Creek Elks #289 in 1965. He transferred to Breton Elks #402 in 2006. We congratulate Brother Doug on his stalwart commitment to the Elks of Canada and the lodges to which he has belonged.

Dawson Creek Elks



On October 25, 2023 the Dawson Creek Elks #289 presented the South Peace Hospice Palliative Care Society with \$3,500 to purchase a bed for the community bed loan program. Pictured are President of the Society Fred Feddema, Elks member Pat Hunter, Society Program Coordinator Lori Knutson and Elks member Shirley Brown.

Bassano Elks Lodge



A huge thank you to the Bassano historical society for their generous donation of \$50 000! We can now begin the much needed roof repair!

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported us through this process!

Pincher Creek Elks

The Pincher Creek Elks 474 donated "Charlie the Elk" to the Pincher Creek EMS and to the Pincher Creek Hospital ER Department. They will be distributed to young children who have been involved in a traffic accident or at a time of crisis. Fire Chief Patrick Neumann and Nurse Carolyn Robbins say the small stuffed toy gives great comfort to children in need and is always very much appreciated.



Greeting from Breton Elks Lodge #402

Well hello everyone. I truly hope all of you are healthy and wise and somewhat wealthy. This fantastic weather is crowding old man winter into the back closet and I for one am enjoying the opportunity. I'm almost tempted to start planting tomatoes, Ha Ha. The rumor of the day is that the weather is going to make way for more winter like conditions and that brings up the subject of skating rink business. It has been somewhat difficult to prepare any ice for the winter activities. However, an all out effort is going to be put into action and the intent is to start taking advantage of cooler temperatures.

In other Elk news, our Provincial Brother James Zimmers will be paying us a visit at our January meeting. It is always good to be able to welcome high profile people into our lodge.

On December 2 the Village of Breton will be sponsoring an Annual Christmas Parade in an effort to kick start the festive season. Brother Bob Shave is actively cracking the marching orders in preparation for the Annual Christmas Dinner. This will be taking place December 16 th in the Breton Community Centre. The doors are scheduled to open at 4:00p.m. to make room for our honored guest from the north. Once everyone has assured Santa that all is well, we will begin serving a top of the line speciality under Brother Bob's watchful eyes at 5:15p.m. A donation box will be available for those who are feeling in the festive mood of giving. These generous donations will be turned over to Christmas Wishes and the Food Bank.

Moving forward to other business, it has been decided to install some shelving units in our sea can to accommodate our surplus inventory. In the latest update on raffle ticket sales all our books have been distributed and 50% have been sold and returned for processing. Good Luck to all who have purchased and thank you for supporting the cause.

Now for the main event of the evening Sister Bev Monet from Sherwood Park was on hand for an official visit. As our District Deputy, she brought sincere greeting and blessings from Alberta Elks. It is always great to welcome Sister Bev and husband Stan to our lodge as friends as well as representation from our senior organization. While Sister Bev was in our presence, she took the liberty of presenting Service Pins to the following members.

- Brother Dave Walker 5 years
- Sister Ann Gillis 20 years
- Brother Don Gillis 25 years
- Brother Darren Scott 30 years
- Brother Neil Durrant 35 years
- Brother Bob Shave 35 years
- Brother Bill Flesher 35 Years
- Brother Al Smith 40 Years
- Brother Doug Jones 55 years

To round out the evening Brother Neil treated us all to a delicious lunch, that he claims responsibility for, and it was certainly enjoyed by all. Thank you Rosemary.

In closing I want to wish everyone Good Happiness and Health until next time.



Hairy Hill Elks Celebrates 75 Years



Just a spectacular 75th Anniversary celebration of the Hairy Hill Elks!!

Incredible fun, food and fellowship. Wonderful to have fellow Elks members from throughout our region join our community members in recognition of this milestone.

Proud to be an active member of this incredible community focussed organization!!

Sherwoof Park Elks Celebrates 60 Years



Strathcona County is incredibly fortunate to have had your dedicated presence for the past six decades.

On this momentous occasion, we celebrate not just the passing of time, but the enduring commitment and contributions that you've made to our community. Your unwavering dedication has left an indelible mark on the hearts and lives of those you've touched.

For 60 years, you've been a shining example of what it means to be a pillar of strength, support, and unity. Your contributions have created a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

As we mark this remarkable milestone, we want you to know how truly appreciative and grateful we are for your continued presence and dedication. Strathcona County wouldn't be the same without you.

Here's to 60 incredible years, and may the future bring even more moments of joy, growth, and community spirit.

With heartfelt congratulations, thank you



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Strathmore Elks Lodge



The Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 raises funds through catering and bartending services to the communities we live in. Bro. Mike Ramsay the Strathmore Elks premier BBQ chef along with a host of helpers; loves to BBQ beef, pork and turkeys for wedding's, class reunions and other social events. Through those efforts; during the past 12 months; the Strathmore Elks have donated \$53,950 to various Food Banks and charities in the Strathmore, Wheatland County and Chestermere communities.

Bros Bill Jones and Steve Rafuse presenting a donation of \$2,500 to the Calgary Veterans Association Food Bank. During the past year, the Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 have contributed a total of \$6,000 to the Veterans Food Bank.

Brother's Skip Wolstenholme and Gus Cammer presenting donations of \$2,500 each to the Strathmore Christmas Hamper Society and the Wheatland County Food Bank. During the past year the Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 have contributed a total of \$8,000 to the Christmas Hamper and \$10,900 to the Wheatland County Food Bank.

Brother Tony Giasson presented a total donation of \$3,500 to the Chestermere Food Bank. During the past year the Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 have contributed a total of \$10,500 to the Chestermere Food Bank.

Exalted Ruler, Greg Whitely, and Brother Gerry Stasiuk presented a \$1,000 cheque to Brittney Rattray and Gerry Gulliver in support of the Carseland Busy Bee Preschool.

Brother Bill Jones presenting a cheque for \$1,000 in support of the Calgary Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Brother Gerry Stasiuk and Exalted Ruler Greg Whitely presenting Micheal Tourond with a cheque for \$1,000 in support of the Jumpstart Program; helping kids access sport and play.

Camrose Elks Lodge



Camrose Elks Lodge #70 Award for the highest achievement in each vocational area in Grade 11 Left to right.

Construction – Melchor Tiangson
 Fabrication – Nikkao Goba
 Mechanics - Cody Halback
 Cosmetology – Isabella Wolsey
 Jason Silbernagel – Exulted Ruler

Slave Lake Elks



The Slave Lake Elks #379 has made a couple donations to the following organization.

1. \$2500 to Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre for the Christmas Hampers and Santa's Anonymous Picture includes members Kim Burton, Christine Boisvert and Shannon Karyn

2. \$5000 to Lakeside Figure Skating Club: Picture includes Elks members Bob Bennett, Christine Boisvert, Shannon Karyn and Kim Burton.



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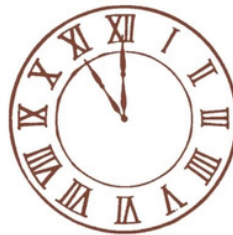
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Mannville RP Elks No.



Mannville Royal Purple Elks recognized four members with Honorary Life memberships. Their service years combined was more than 190 years! We are so grateful for their contributions to the community.

With sadness we share with you the following



"It is the hour of eleven when all Elks cease from their labours and again renew within their hearts their obligations to each other with special regard to our absent and departed Members"



*Past District Deputy
Brother Dale Kent
Halkirk Elks Lodge
December 9, 1944 ~
November 4, 2023*



*Charter Member/Life Member
PHRL Eileen Thompson
Trenville Royal Purple Elks 248
Passed away Sept 25, 2023*

