

# ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

February 2024



## Lacombe youngster is a dedicated supporter of the Tabs for Tots program

by Mark Weber

A young Lacombe resident is already proving to be quite a big-hearted local philanthropist.

As his mom Gita pointed out, Albert Jukama, 7, has a big heart for helping others.

Last year, Albert started collecting beverage can tabs to donate to Tabs for Tots, a program run by the Alberta Elks Foundation.

Since its start, the program has collected 58,266 lbs. of tabs and 123,876 lbs. of other metals which ultimately equals \$176,452.75.

The tabs are sold for scrap and the funds collected are allocated for helping local hospitals.

To date, Tabs for Tots has been able to donate \$170,722.67 worth of pediatric medical equipment to local hospitals, notes the organization's website.

The program was launched in 2000 under the direction of Nick Henger of the Red Deer Elks Lodge.

The items are typically intended for delivery rooms, nurseries, or pediatric wards.

When he heard of the program, Albert knew he wanted to help out, said Gita.

Throughout last year, Albert, who is currently in Grade 2 at Father Lacombe Catholic School, collected more than

1,000 tabs for the Tabs for Tots program.

"He was a Grade one student at Ecole J.S. McCormick School (last year) when he started collecting the tabs, and the whole school helped him with his goal," said Gita, adding that part of her son's inspiration came from having a friend who had lost a leg.

"I told him about the program, and he said that he wanted to be a part of it and that maybe (it was a way) to help his classmate and other kids.

"That's how we started with it. And then his brothers and sisters helped out, as we have five kids altogether," she added, chuckling.

"Albert also got all of his school involved! It was so cool."

He not only enlisted fellow students and teachers to donate tabs for the cause, but he also approached friends, family members, and folks in his neighbourhood.

"We then donated all of the tabs in December," said Gita.

"And now, he is starting all over again. So we will see what we will come up with through the year."

For his part, Albert was pretty shy about talking about the experience.

But he said he is super happy to

take part in it.

"I like it," he said, referring to the program. "It's for little guys."

Meanwhile, Gita said her son is always eager to help out where he can.

Last summer, he canvassed the neighbourhood on behalf of the Lacombe and District Big Brothers and Big Sisters Walk for Kids' Sake event.

"He went from house to house, and got third place for raising donations," she said.

"We are so proud of him." Those who would like to help Albert with his collection of beverage tabs can email [jukama.gita@gmail.com](mailto:jukama.gita@gmail.com).



Lacombe resident Albert Jukama presents Noelle Brown with his collection of donated pop can tabs to benefit 'Tabs for Tots' - a program run by the Alberta Elks Foundation. (Photo submitted)



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# Leslieville Elks Lodge



A special pin presentation was made to Ed Bott by Leslieville Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler Myles Wasik to honor his remarkable 65 years of service with the Elks of Canada. Thank you for your service!

# President's Visits



## Upcoming Visits

February 12	Camrose #70	7:30 p.m.
February 19	Chauvin #261	8:00 p.m.
March 4	Stettler Elks #92	7:30 p.m.
March 7	Wetaskiwin #91	8:00 p.m.

# Traveling Gavel



Crossfield to Olds travelling gavel.

# Drayton Valley Elks



Lady Donna Olson, from the Drayton Valley Elks Lodge #391, kindly donated \$500 to the Drayton Valley Food Bank on January 4, 2024.





**The Alberta Elks  
Royal Purple  
Walk for Children**

**May 11, 2024**

**Looking for a Host Lodge in  
each Zone. North, South,  
Central, South central.**

**Email Vernon Thuroo -  
vernthuroo@yahoo.ca with  
the name of the Lodge and  
contact person by  
Feb. 28, 2024.**

**ALBERTA ELKS  
FOUNDATION**

**55th ANNUAL RAFFLE**

**First Prize  
\$30,000 CASH**

**Second Prize  
\$10,000 CASH**

**Third Prize  
\$5,000 CASH**

*Tickets*  
**\$2.00 each or  
3 for \$5.00**

PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE ENABLE US TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO:

I.S.T.A.R. - Institute for Stuttering Treatment & Research  
Training, Research and Treatment of Stuttering in Children and Adults

Local Community Projects  
Support Local Minor Sports, Youth Groups, Playgrounds, etc.

Assistance to Underprivileged Children  
With Equipment to Live and Learn in Special Schools

Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children  
Supply Hearing Aids and Tests for Canadian Children

30% of all Ticket sales go directly back to the selling Lodges to invest in their communities

*Early Bird Draws* March 21, 2024  
3 prizes of \$750.00 each

**FINAL DRAW DATE JUNE 20, 2024**

All Draws to take place at the Didsbury Elks Hall, 1914 - 20th St. Didsbury, AB

**TICKETS AVAILABLE**

Local Contact  [www.elksforallberta.ca](http://www.elksforallberta.ca)

78,200 TICKETS PRINTED

# The Alberta Elks Foundation's Tabs for Tots

In 2000, Brother Nick Henger from Red Deer came up with an innovative idea for the Elks to raise money by collecting can tabs without diminishing the can's value. This program has grown considerably, now including other scrap metals that are sold for their current value at scrap yards. Some buyers even offer more than the market price to support our programs.

Many lodges have embraced this program, increasing their collection efforts each year. To date, the initiative has collected 58,266 pounds of tabs and 123,876 lbs of other metals, resulting in \$176,452.75 in revenue. Of this amount, \$170,772.67 has been used to purchase pediatric medical equipment for local hospitals. It's a remarkable achievement by our lodges.

The collection of tabs is a program that people are eager to support, one tab at a time. I encourage every lodge to support this effort and aim to increase their collection by 10% each year. Some lodges have already been successful in their collections, and there are cardboard collection bins available to assist in the process.

Additionally, all scrap metals such as clean tin foil and foil containers are welcome in our annual collections. We anticipate further increases in collections in the years to come.

Let's keep up the great work!

Brother Al Gummesen



**Upcoming Conference and Grant Deadlines: May 1st for Applications over \$2,000**

Grant applications over \$2,000 are due by May 1st. Applications of any amount have experienced a decline in recent years. Take advantage of this opportunity to get your Lodge's name out there by undertaking a project and having the Alberta Elks Foundation assist with some of the funding.

### Tabs for Tots

- Used to purchase pediatric items for hospitals that are not provided by Alberta Health Care



### General Grant

- Applications up to \$2,000 can be applied for all year
- Any application up to \$5,000 must be approved by the general membership at Conference
- The Lodge must at least match the funds being requested
- AGLC have changed their rules and Lodges can apply for funding for their building if it is used by the community as well

### Personal Assistance Grant

- The Lodge Charities Chair must conduct a complete investigation
- A letter from a medical professional must be included with the application
- Payment will be made directly to the suppliers or professional people
- Travel and accommodation requests cannot be supported as per AGLC rules
- Forward your completed application form to the Foundation Office prior to committing Lodge dollars



### Disaster Assistance Grant

- In the event a family's principal residence had a fire in your community, contact the Foundation Office via telephone
- A cheque in the amount of \$500, made out to the family, will immediately be sent to your Lodge for presentation
- Your Lodge does not have to match this amount, but it is suggested, if possible, that you contribute

### Reserve Charlie and the Alberta Elks Foundation Float for Your Next Event

Looking for a fantastic way to promote your lodge? Book the Charlie and the Alberta Elks Foundation Float! This promotional tool is available for lodges on a first-come, first-serve basis. To secure the float for your event, reach out to the Alberta Elks Foundation Secretary at [albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com).



For more information and grant forms visit our site at <http://elksfalberta.ca>

# Strathmore Elks



Gathered under the banner of compassion, the Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 thrives on making a difference. In this snapshot, a dedicated group of volunteers is captured in action, as they prepare to serve a beef and turkey Christmas meal to the staff of the Strathmore Stockyards. Through the efforts of Brothers Tony Giasson, Greg Kyriazopoulos, Bill Jones, Steve Rafuse and Mike Ramsay, (not pictured), these unsung heroes channel their culinary and catering talents to not only create delightful experiences but also managed to raise \$1,356.00 after expenses to be used to fund local community charities.

# Kimberely Elks



In this photo, Aurel Beaudin of the Kimberley Elks Lodge No. 90 presents a cheque of \$1000.00 to the Captain of the U15 Nitros team. This generous donation will aid in sending the team to the 2024 Provincial Championships, which takes place from March 17th through 24th.

**Best of luck, Nitros!**

**Lets Keep Curling!**

**Alberta Elks  
2nd Provincial Floor Curling Tournament**



**Hosted by: Vegreville Elks Lodge 143**

When: February 23 & 24, 2024      Cost: \$300 per team  
Starts – February 23 @ 7 pm      Includes Saturday  
(First Curling Draw @ 8 pm)      Lunch and Dinner  
Ends – February 24

**Where: Vegreville Senior Citizens Sunshine Club  
(4630 – 49 Street)**

**Register By: January 19, 2024**

**Maximum of 20 teams**

Minimum 12 teams required  
(2 Elk Members and 2 Non Member per team permitted)

Registration form and information available from:

**Al Kornicki**  
email: [alkornicki1402@hotmail.ca](mailto:alkornicki1402@hotmail.ca)  
Ph.780-632-9296

**George Childs**  
email: [glchilds@telus.net](mailto:glchilds@telus.net)  
Ph. 780 632 6406

Tournament will follow Alberta Floor Curling Association  
Floor Curling Game Procedures and Rules

# Mighty Lil' Elk



Don't miss out on the chance to order Mighty Lil' Elk Bags for your local hospitals! The order deadline is February 15th, so act fast and place your order now!



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## Sundre Royal Purple



Sundre Royal Purple #191 Trivia Night

On January 15, the Sundre Royal Purple #191 hosted a Trivia Night for the local community. It was a great success, and everyone who attended had a lot of fun.

## Medicine Hat Elks



Christmas dinner was held in Medicine Hat in conjunction with a visit from James Zimmer provincial president on December 7th.

James Zimmer addressing the lodge after dinner was over.

Sister Betty Bischke on the piano and Brother Bill DesBarres led those in attendance in singing a few Christmas carols

## Sherwood Park



Provided a fantastic Christmas dinner at the Strathcona Boys and Girls Club. Well done, everyone!

## Stavelly Elks



Stavelly Elks Donates \$3000 to the Stavelly Community Chest

Former Exalted Ruler Brian Nelson, Candice Gregg, and Gwen Broomfield contributed to the donation.



# Medicine Hat Elks

On December 13th members from the Medicine Hat Elks Lodge #412 presented a total of \$5500 to worthy organizations in the city.

Not pictured is photographer Brother Brian Elle - Chaplain

Top left pic, ER - Dave Carlson, Gabriela Carreon & Petra Bowman - Nuture Pregnancy Centre, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate (Charities Chair)

Top middle, ER - Dave Carlson, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate, Ed Kruger - VP Elm Street School - (hot lunch program)

Top left, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate, Melisa Mullis - Root Cellar Food Bank, ER - Dave Carlson

Bottom left, ER - Dave Carlson, Natasha Carvalho - MH Women's Shelter, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate

Bottom middle, ER - Dave Carlson, Heather Bach - MH & District Health Foundation, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate

Bottom right, ER Dave Carlson, Ron Blackmer - Principal St. Louis Street School, Loyal Knight - Dave Tate - (hot lunch program)



## Breton Elks



Another excellent meeting with the members of Breton Elks Lodge #402. Our Provincial President's official visit. The initiation of Brother Robert Mockerman.

Our National President GER Brother Don graciously accepted donations from Brother James for the FFC from the Heisler Elks \$1000 and the Wetaskiwin Elks \$500.

## Picture Butte Elks



Picture Butte Elks BPO Elks Lodge #268  
Picture Butte Elks Exalted Ruler Jason Medve and Bro Ken Johnson present a check to the Bee Hive Child Care Center in Picture Butte



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# WANTED



## Float Chairman NEEDED!

## Float Chair NEEDED

- Do you live in central Alberta?
- Do you like to tinker?
- Does your wife wish you would get a hobby?

We are seeking a volunteer who can store the Alberta Elks Foundation Float, perform minor maintenance tasks, and assist with pick-ups and drop-offs.

If you are interested in providing a home for our float and Charlie, please reach out to the Foundation Secretary via email at [albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com).



## New Member Alert



Sundre Royal Purple Lodge has introduced its newest member, Laurie Richardson, warmly welcoming her to the team.

## Breton Elks



Brother Les Nemeth was recognized for 50 years of service. Congratulations brothers.



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# National Curling Championships

The National Curling Committee would like to thank Shaunavon Elks Lodge #386 for being excellent hosts and putting together a great bonspiel that all enjoyed. The facilities and hospitality were top notch.

We the committee would like to encourage lots of people to come play next year. The National Championship will be held in Alberta in late November/Early December. We will give everyone lots of notice to plan to attend.

See you this fall!

Elks National Curling Committee



Men's Champions Barons Elks #224

L-R Trevor Turner (3rd), Avery Turner (skip), Erik Bishop (2nd) and Jared Sundquist (Lead)



Second Place Men's Stavelly #112

L-R Gordon Brown Shaunavon Elks, Rob Glimsdale (Lead), Randal Hall (Second), Kole Slaughter (Third) and Carsen Dunlop (skip)



Ladies/Mixed Combined Champions from Hodgeville Royal Purple Elks Lodge #57

L-R Emma Krauchek, McAyla Krauchek, Sandy Krauchek, Shirley Nelson



Second Place Ladies/Mixed Combined Stavelly Elks #112

L-R Wayne Anderson, Nora Fowler, Linda George, Emery Boucher and Gordon Brown Shaunavon Elks



Senior Men's Champions Grande Prairie Elks Lodge #

L-R: Henry Rose (skip), Morley Erickson (Third), Dale Burch (Second) and Jerry Johnstone (Lead)



Second Place Senior Men's Stavelly #112

L-R Gordon Moon, Gordon Brown (Shaunavon Elks), Dennis Gillespie, Tony Tkachenko



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# Okotoks Elks



2023 was a very busy year for Okotoks. We hosted a kids Christmas party in December which was co-run and sponsored by the Elks, Lions, Legion and Kinsmen for over 100 under privileged kids in the area.

BINGO at the Elks has been ongoing for over a year where the Christmas event had the largest crowd of 71. Wrestling at the Elks has also been a very active event.

Okotoks Elks contributions have benefited several groups/organizations

- Kids lunch program \$2,500
- 4H program \$750
- Okotoks and area student bursaries 3 X \$1,000.

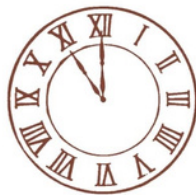
# Brooks Elks



Brooks Elks Lodge Shows Support for Harper Connauton's Medical Journey

Brad Beitte, a member of the Brooks Elks Lodge, presented the Connauton family with a generous donation to assist with their daughter's upcoming ear reconstructive surgery. Harper, who is holding the cheque in the photo, will be traveling to California with her family for the procedure. The Brooks Elks Lodge is glad to provide additional support from the funds raised during the 10th Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament held in September. This is not the first time the lodge has contributed to Harper's journey, and they are honored to continue doing so.

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"*



Brother Lee Somerville  
Vulcan Lodge #121  
November 29, 1942 -  
Dec 13, 2023



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