

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



Presidents Message

Hello everyone!!

It has been ten months since I was installed as Provincial President and it has been a very learning but rewarding experience.

At this time, it is my hope that many Lodges are on their way to a successful year and future.

The District Deputies should be wrapping up their second visits and in the planning stages of their Spring District meetings.

I and my great committee are working on a successful June Conference. We hope to see many new faces there!!

In the meantime, keep up the good work. Let's have a great couple of months to finish out the year.

Yours fraternally,
James Zimmer
Provincial President



Alberta Elks Association and
Alberta Elks Foundation

Provincial Conference

Camrose from June 6 to June 8, 2024.

Please take the time to help us plan for your visit to Camrose for the Alberta Elks Association Conference 2024 and register early. All sessions are being held at the Camrose Resort Casino (3201 - 48 Avenue).

Early Bird Deadline April 30, 2024 \$150.00

Regular Registration After May 1, 2024 \$175.00

Send registrations and fees to:
Alberta Elks Association
PO Box 445
Bentley AB T0C 0J0
Email - elks.secretary@abelks.org



elksfalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

Bow Island Elks



The Bow Island Elks donated \$6000 to the HALO Air Ambulance. HALO Air Ambulance is Southern Alberta's only dedicated Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) Program. The availability of the helicopter, strategically based in Medicine Hat, Alberta, improves the response time to critically ill and injured patients in remote and inaccessible areas and increases our capacity for delivering qualitative medical care and rescue services.

Pictured are Fire Chief Blaine O'Donnell, and Deputy Chief Bill Veilleux along with members of the Bow Island Elks #440

Kimberley Elks



Elks Br 90 Kimberley ER Aurel Beaudin is shown here with blind paralympic skier Kalle Ericsson on his right and guide Sierra Smith on his left. Kimberley Elks have sponsored him in his competitive pursuits. Kalle finished a recent competition in Kimberley against team USA where he won three gold medals. This is his first year competing with team Canada. He has won two silver medals and one bronze at Veysonna, Switzerland and a gold medal at Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy. He will be back in Europe again in March to compete in three more world cup events. His goal is to compete in the 2026 Winter Olympic/Paralympic games in Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy. Good luck Kalle!

Lac La Biche Elks



The Lac La Biche Elks hosted the FIRST Elks on Ice event for the community and are celebrating the successful event.

Thank you to the community for stepping up as sponsors and donors for the event. With the support, members gave away 100 fishing rods to the excited attendees as well as tackle boxes stuffed full by the members with anything a good angler would need. The event buzzed with excitement as participants took to the ice on such an amazing day!

Heisler Elks



Heisler Elk's Exalted Ruler, Mac Weller, is presenting a \$500 check to the Ronald McDonald House.





Elks and Royal Purple Walk for Children



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children is our National Charity. It provides all of us an opportunity to help the need and the principles on which we were founded.

In Alberta, this is our major fundraiser and allows each member an excellent opportunity to contribute through local participation and public awareness.

The date of the Walk for Children is May 11, 2024.

▶ North Zone hosts are Hythe Elks #236 with Denis Ellingboe chairing.

▶ Central Zone hosts are Sundre Elks #338 with Barkley Carrier chairing.

If other Lodges want to host a community walkathon, it would be appreciated.

It is important to get involved as a Lodge and to show your community what this fundraiser is all about.

Thank you for your support. I am looking forward to your continued participation.

Fraternally yours,

Vernon Thuroo

Deadline

Lodges –

Grant applications to the Alberta Elks Foundation are down and this is an opportune time to apply!!

Have you prepared your grant application for the Annual General Meeting in June? Deadline is May 1st .

All grants over \$2,000 must be approved by the membership.

Email them to – albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com



elksfalberta.ca



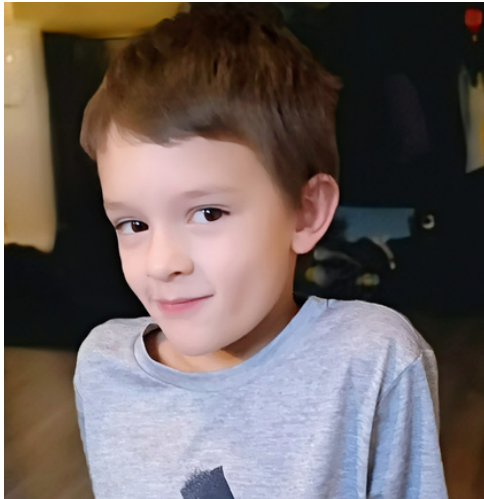
elks.secretary@abelks.org



ISTAR helps nine-year-old find his voice

Donor generosity allows young client to access the help he needs.

Shirley Wilfong-Pritchard - 06 March 2024



Nine-year-old ISTAR client Linkin. Photo supplied.

Linkin is a nine-year-old boy in Grade 3 who is confident, outgoing and happy to have conversations with family and friends. But it wasn't always this way.

When he was four, Linkin's parents Nathan Astrope and Amanda Poels noticed that he had a stutter. While living with his mom in British Columbia, he attended a speech-language program through B.C.'s Interior Health where he saw some improvement, but soon aged out when he began school. Without a consistent, specially trained therapist in stuttering at Linkin's school, by age eight his speech started to decline.

"As his speech declined, so did his relationships," says Astrope, who lives in Calgary. "He didn't speak very much. It was sometimes hard for us to understand him."

"We were concerned that if he didn't get a much better grip on his speech, at least to a point where it's not as noticeable, then kids might make fun of him for stuttering," adds Poels. "As kids get older, they start to notice these things."

Luckily, Linkin's dad discovered the Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) at the University of Alberta when his fiancée happened to stumble upon it while at the university for another matter. With the encouragement of Linkin's speech therapist at school, who recognized the program and thought

it would be perfect for him, Astrope applied to the ISTAR Client Assistance Program (ICAP) Fund to start the enrolment process.

The ICAP Fund helps many families. Individuals can make donations or volunteer for activities that raise money for the fund. Foundations also provide grants and gifts directed specifically for use in the fund.

Thanks to the Elks of Canada, who are generous donors to the ICAP Fund, this two-household family with nine children between them was able to get Linkin the help he needed in a weekly remote program with therapist Spenser Halfyard. "It has meant the world to us," says Astrope.

"Zoom has been working well for everyone," says Poels. "We can stay updated with Linkin's therapy and he can access it from anywhere."

As flexible and convenient as remote therapy has been, there were some challenges along the way. "Most of the challenges have to do with a young boy having a hard time sitting still," says Astrope, "or simply wanting to do something other than meet on a computer for speech lessons."

"Imagine trying to navigate the already challenging world of communication, and then add on the frustration of not being able to get your words out," says Halfyard. "Speech sessions for stuttering can be tough for anyone - there are very specific techniques, facing fears and pushing through discomfort."

"I'm very proud of him," says Poels. "It's not easy to commit to weekly speech therapy sessions."

It's easier for Linkin now, after working with ISTAR for about seven months. "I was scared to meet Spenser at first but I came out of my shell," says Linkin.

"He's grown to like Spenser quite a bit and they have a good working relationship," adds Poels.

"She's very mindful of the circumstances of our different households, and she's very understanding of his interests such as

Minecraft and uses that in her speech therapy sessions so it's been more enjoyable for him."

Linkin has made a lot of progress since starting the ISTAR program.

"I'm pretty good with my speech," says Linkin. "It's much smoother and now I can speak faster."

"Sometimes when he is speaking to me, I just smile at him because I remember how much of a challenge it used to be for him to get any words out at all," says Astrope. "It's incredible to see how far he has come in such a short time."

"Linkin's willingness to try new techniques, persistence in practicing, and overall work ethic continuously inspire me as his clinician," adds Halfyard.

"Since Linkin has been doing sessions with Spenser, he has become a very confident boy, happy to have conversations, and very outgoing," says Astrope. "He has really 'found' his voice and is no longer afraid to share his opinions, thoughts or ideas. Playing with his friends and family has also changed drastically since his speech has improved. So, in short, everything, EVERYTHING has changed."

"Linkin and his whole support system always showed resilience and dedication to his treatment," says Halfyard. "The real learning doesn't just happen during our sessions, but in the small moments like chatting about how the day was, playing with friends, greeting neighbours and reading bedtime stories. It's continued support and encouragement in these smaller moments that led to bigger progress in Linkin's speech therapy."

Linkin is looking forward to attending a speech therapy camp in Edmonton for four days over the spring break.



Dawson Creek Elks



The Dawson Creek Elks Lodge #289 was honored to present pins to two special members. On the left is the Recording Secretary of the Lodge Shirley Brown who received her 50 year pin and every year still fills a position very willingly. Seated is Gloria Coons who received her 70 year pin. Gloria was initially a charter member of the Rolla Royal Purple Lodge then transferred to the Dawson Creek Lodge. She became an Elks Member when the Royal Purple and the Elks joined together. Congratulations to these dedicated ladies for their years of service with our organization. We are so lucky to have them!

Thank You

The Trenville Royal Purple Elks would like to send a big thank you to the Sherwood Park Elks, Brooks Elks and Didsbury Elks for stepping up and offering us gowns for the Gowns for Grad Program after the trailer with all the gowns, racks and other things needed to put on the show. We also would like to acknowledge the CBC Radio Station in Calgary who ran a Gown and Suit drive for us that netted us gowns, suits, shoes, and jewelry.

Also acknowledge the Your Story Fitness who gave us space for the drop off for gowns and suits in Red Deer and to the Copper Cloud Events for letting us store our collection until we found a new trailer.

With all your help and donations, we were able to do our shows in Red Deer, Linden and the upcoming show in Stettler.

To date we have given away 78 Gowns and 26 suits. A big thank you to Louie and Louise Higginbottom for getting a new trailer to use for the shows.

We would like to say thank you and am proud that I can belong to the Elks And Royal Purple of Canada because of our lodge, The Trenville Royal Purple Elks #248, is able to say "The Show Will Go On".

Kimberley Elks



Kimberley Elks Br 90 have recently donated \$2000.00 to Angel Flight East Kootenay. AFEK is a fully volunteer run charity. They provide free air transportation to residents of the East Kootenay region to medical appointments in Kelowna. Shown from left to right are; Wendy Van Puymbroeck, Aurel Beaudin, Pilot Rob McInnis, Bob Walker and Duncan McGillivray. Br 90 is thrilled to support this worthwhile local charitable group!

Barrhead Elks



Wow! It looks like Brothers Les and Cal were having a Ball at Barrhead Composite High School. The members presented the Barrhead Knights Volleyball Team with a cheque for \$7000.00 on behalf of the Barrhead Elks Lodge.



Bow Island Elks



The Bow Island members donated \$2000 to the Bow Island Emergency Services.

Pictured are Fire Chief Blaine O'Donnell, and Deputy Chief Bill Veilleux along with members of the Bow Island Elks #440 Thank you for your support!!

Brooks Elks



The Brooks Elks Lodge has generously contributed once more to the High School and Junior High Rodeo, with Brother Brad Biette presenting the check.

Breton Elks



What a pleasant change we are able to enjoy after our blast from the past. Here is hoping that everyone has survived another visit from old man winter. The ice at the skating rink did well on it's own at minus 40 something. It was a little tough to keep the snow off, however due to the extreme cold. All is good now, however, and we are pushing for some happy skating for the next few weeks.

Moving forward in the world of Elkdom, preparations are on target for our Provincial conference in April. This will be held in the Breton Community Centre.

Preparations are now on the go for Family Day, February 19 th . This is once again an opportunity for the community to stop by the centre and enjoy a fabulous pancake breakfast. This will be a joint effort of the Elks and Royal Purple Elks. Admission will be by donation. All proceeds will be returned to our community by means of donations to various activities.

At the lodge meeting in January, Breton Elks welcomed our Provincial President, Jim Zimmermen, who brought greetings from Provincial Elks.

Along with the pleasure of our Provincial President we also had on hand our National President. This provided a perfect opportunity to welcome our latest member, Rob Mockerman, to our lodge. Rob is a young man who grew up in our community and has now decided to lend a helping hand to make our community a stronger place for future generations. Welcome Rob.

On this note, I would like to take a moment to emphasize our need for more help not only in maintaining our ice rink, but also for the survival of our lodge. The membership is an aging population suffering each day with bad backs and bad knees.

Until next time, take care of each other and look forward to chatting again.

.
AI



elksocalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org

2024 ELKS DART PROVINCIALS



Location: Edson Lions Club Hall
4139 3 Ave Edson, AB

Reg Date: Apr 20/24

Reg Time: 9 – 9:45 am

Start Time: 10:00 am

Reg Cost: \$20.00

Must have your 2024 Elks Membership card

Please preregister. Money can be paid at

venue: Sandra Milne 780-340-5991 or

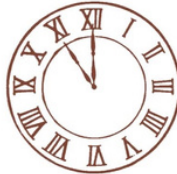
afroggie@shaw.ca

Travelling Gavel



Dave Milos handing over the gavel to
Dennis Machacek

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 Provincial
President 1989-1990**
Brother James Smith
Grande Prairie Elks
February 29, 2024



Brother Stanley (Stan)
Monette
Edmonton Elks
March 14, 2024



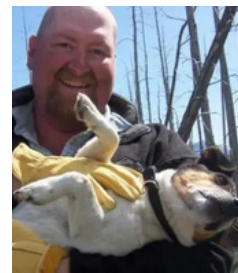
Brother Dana Fancy
Stavely Elks
July 6, 2023



Sister Violet (Vi) Jean Willison
Dawson Creek Elks
January 4, 2024



Brother Clark Schlosser
Stavely Elks
January 31, 2024



Brother Brent McRae
Stavely Elks
December 11, 2023



elksfalberta.ca



elks.secretary@abelks.org