

ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

June 2025



You matter. You make a difference. Your great work on sharing your submission to our Newsletter has had a profound and lasting impact for our organization and our lodges should be recognized. Your willingness to share both your time and your talent by volunteering and being part of Alberta Elks Association says a lot about each of you as human beings. Your willingness to give selflessly to help others speaks to both your strength and the quality of your character.

When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources – your time – to make life better for those who are in need. The fruits of your labors make a tangible impact, of course, but perhaps it is the fact that you are willing to share your time and talent to lend a helping hand and to show kindness and caring that makes the greatest difference in the lives of the individuals who are touched by your generosity.

While we know that you choose to volunteer selflessly and without expectation of being recognized or rewarded, today we wish to do just that. We want to let you know just how much your dedication is appreciated and that every member of the **AB Elks Communications Committee** is forever grateful to each of you. Whether you are a long-time volunteer or if you got involved recently, and regardless of how many hours you choose to give, it's important for you to know that what you do makes a difference.

Words cannot adequately express the gratitude that we from the “**AB Elks Communications Committee**” wish to convey. Please know that your volunteerism is recognized, appreciated, valued and cherished. We thank you for all your submissions this year and look forward to continuing to see more of your work in our Newsletter.

Committee Members,
Kelly Sanford
Barb Shain
Lynn Williams

“Let's Thrive in 2025”

Alberta Elks Association Conference
June 12 - June 14, 2025
Olds, Alberta

You're warmly invited to the Alberta Elks Association & Alberta Elks Foundation Conference in Olds, AB, from June 12–14, 2025!

Whether you're a seasoned attendee or it's been a while (or maybe your first time!)—you're always welcome and we'd love to see you there!

Haven't registered yet? No problem—there's still time! Don't miss this exciting chance to connect, learn, laugh, and celebrate everything Elks!

Brother Edward Heck



It is with great sadness that we have lost a member of our order. Brother Ed Heck

Ed received the Queen's Medal, He's been on the Foundation, involved in many different committees, District Deputy, Exalted Ruler, and a member for close to 60 years.



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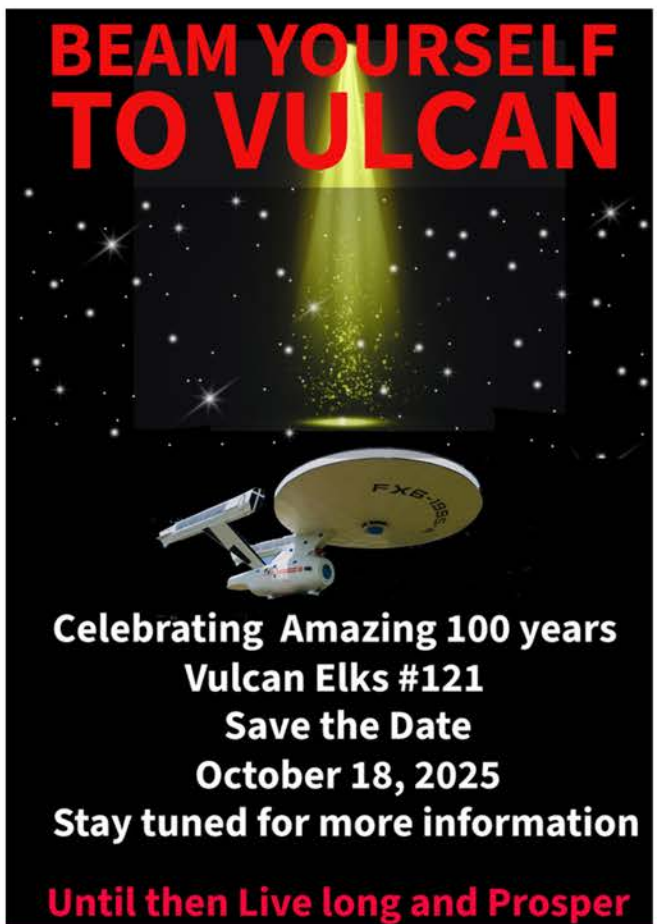
Chase the Ace
RED DEER ELKS #85

Weekly Draws!
Every Wednesday - Progressive Pot!

Doors Open at 4:30pm
Ticket Sales End at 6:00pm
Draw at 7:00pm

ELKS
Red Deer Elks/BPOE #85
6315 Horn Street, Red Deer
Visit the Website for
Rules/Information & Draw Locations:
www.Elks85.ca
LOTTERY LICENSE #731476

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facebook!



**BEAM YOURSELF
TO VULCAN**

Celebrating Amazing 100 years
Vulcan Elks #121
Save the Date
October 18, 2025
Stay tuned for more information
Until then Live long and Prosper

STAVELY ELKS LODGE 112 100th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY JULY 19th, 2025

STAVELY COMMUNITY CENTRE

5109 52 St, Stavely

BROTHERS, SISTERS AND YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER ARE INVITED TO JOIN
STAVELY ELKS LODGE #112 FOR A PRIME RIB DINNER TO
CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

COCKTAILS 5:30 PM DINNER 6:30 PM

\$25 per person

Accommodations nearby at Claresholm, Nanton, High River and Stavely

Please RSVP to PER Brian Nelson by July 5 to 403-625-0965 or
ben1052@gmail.com

E-Transfer payment to StavelyElks112@gmail.com for tickets. Please add
note "100th Anniversary" and address if you would like your tickets mailed.



Last months answers:

1. Letter "R" 2. Name, 3. Keyboard

St Albert Elks



Lodge #585 donated \$1000 to the Edmonton Make a Wish.



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Stavelly Elks



Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson proudly presented checks to the following recipients, listed from left to right:

- **Brydon Saunders:** \$2,500 for the Claesholm Transportation Society, contributing towards a new van.
- **Amy Gillespie:** \$5,000 for the Nanton School Enhancement Committee, sponsoring their fall fundraiser.
- **Lena Krahulic:** \$500 for the Nanton Children's Society, supporting their August Children's Festival.
- **Kim Cochlan:** \$3,000 for the Stavelly Pro Rodeo, designated for Boys Steer Riding & Wild Pony Race.

Okotoks Elks Lodge Supporting Lunch Program



Shannon and Brian Olson accepted \$15,000 to the Okotoks United Church to support the Okotoks School Lunch Program. This significant contribution will help ensure that children in the community have access to nutritious meals, enabling them to focus better in school and thrive in their educational environment. The lodges generosity highlights the importance of community involvement and the positive impact it can have on the lives of young people. Their donation will provide countless lunches, bringing peace of mind to families and helping to foster a caring and supportive community.

Camrose Elks



City of Camrose Police Services Chief Dean LaGrange drew the winning tickets in the fourth annual Elks Cash raffle on April 25 with Camrose exalted ruler Gerry Czapp witnessing. Doug Parks of Alliance won \$2,500, Linda Neufeld of Camrose won \$1,000 and Jenny White of Edberg won \$500 in the draw.

Okotoks Elks



Okotoks Elks have have generously donated Mighty Lil' Elk bags to the Oilfields Hospital in Diamond City.

This donation was accepted by Danelle Kilbourn and will be utilized in the Emergency and Palliative Care departments of the hospital.



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Breton Elks



Exalted Ruler Sister Ann McKellar-Gillis of Breton Elks #402 was honored with an official Breton Fez to celebrate her second year in the role of Exalted Ruler.

Didsbury Elks



A presentation was held at the Bethany Care Society in Didsbury, where a cheque for \$3,000 was presented to support the purchase of a Sabina Lift. This generous contribution was made possible by the Didsbury Elks and the Foundation, each providing half of the funds.

The individuals featured in the accompanying photo include: Margo Ward (Didsbury Elks Publicity Director), Dwayne Dowell, Bill Ward (Foundation Chair), Mary Ann Clearwaters (Bethany Care Administrator), Ron Townrow

Stavelly Elks



Pictured here is Cecilie Fleming alongside her grandchildren, Zane and Scarlett Pittman. They are proudly receiving a \$2,000 sponsorship from Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson for this year's Chinook Junior Stock Show, which took place in April.

Drayton Valley



The Drayton Valley Lodge maintains its commitment to community support by making a generous contribution to The Big West High School Rodeo. Former Exalted Ruler Arnold Olson proudly presents a cheque for \$1,000.00 to the organization.



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Stavely



This energetic crew of Stavely Elks and Royal Purple Elks just finished assembling another gazebo for the beach at Willow Creek Elks Park.

Dawson Creek



On April 16, 2025, Frank Ripley, Exalted Ruler, and other members of Dawson Creek Elks #289 presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Donna Alexander of the Dawson Creek Hospital Auxiliary. This contribution will be used to purchase a Tovertafel machine, which promotes cognitive and emotional well-being, combats apathy, and stimulates brain activity in seniors with dementia. Our local Rotary Manor will be the recipient of this vital device.



ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Elks,

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you and your lodge members to join us in celebrating a milestone event — the 75th Anniversary of the Sundre Elks Lodge #338! This celebration promises to be one that won't be forgotten anytime soon, and we would be honoured to have your presence.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025

Location: Sundre Elks Lodge, 113 1st Ave SW, Sundre, AB

Price: \$50 per person

Doors Open: 4:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

Dance: 8:30 PM (or "8-ish" — we like to keep it fun!)

Enjoy a hearty dinner catered by Dusty Trails, featuring roast beef with all the trimmings and a delicious dessert to top it off.

After dinner, dance the night away to the sounds of award-winning DJ Aaron Macphail, spinning hits from the 1950s to today!

Additional highlights include:

- 50/25/25 Draw
- Raffle tables
- Exciting door prizes

This is a special moment in our lodge's history, and we hope to share it with as many fellow Elks as possible. Let's come together for an evening of great food, music, laughter, and Elks camaraderie.

Please RSVP, we look forward to celebrating with you!

Fraternally,

Michelle Engelman/ Barkley Carrier
Event Chairs
Sundre Elks Lodge #338
e-transfer and email information: sundre338@gmail.com

Michelle (587-444-7502)
Barkley (587-897-0917)

Accommodations to be announced - Hotel and Camping

Trenville Celebrates 65 Years



The Trenville Royal Purple Elks celebrated their 65th Anniversary with notable dignitaries including Past Exalted Ruler Don Gillies and Provincial Vice Presidents. Awards for service included Lifetime Memberships for Betty Boulton, Louise Higginbottom, Lynn Williams, and Linda Ogilvie, along with various service pins for others. The celebration featured a dinner, poker games, and a plaque honoring 65 years of community service. Special thanks were given to the celebration committee, the Delburne Bistro for catering, and various volunteers. The event was well-attended with 57 guests and included door prizes and a successful 50/50 draw. Overall, it was a joyful occasion, leaving attendees eager for the next celebration.



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Who are the Leader/Leaders in your Lodge?

Seems obvious, right? Of course, it's the ER/President and the Lodge Executive. Easy one to answer, right? But wait...

Unless they are demonstrating the principles of leadership, they may not really be a "Leader." It's not the job title that makes a leader; it's the day-to-day actions of a person. Leaders aren't born; they evolve and continually work on their leadership skills. What are these principles of leadership? According to two of the most respected names in the leadership world, Kouzes and Posner, the five practices of leadership are:

1. Model the Way
2. Inspire a Shared Vision
3. Challenge the Process
4. Enable Others to Act
5. Encourage the Heart

So, no matter whether you are the ER, serve on a committee, or are a regular member, anyone and everyone is a leader. Here is how to identify the leaders in your lodge.

Who is modelling the way? Who are the ones most respected in your lodge for the way they conduct themselves in an honest, courteous manner? Who are the members that everyone looks up to? Those are your leaders.

Who inspires a shared vision? Who in your lodge looks to the future and paints a picture of the lodge that inspires everyone else? Who believes in the future of your lodge and is working with everyone else to make it a reality? Those are your leaders.

Who challenges the process? Who are the ones in your lodge that look at the way you do this and, in a courteous, supportive manner, suggest another way to look at things? Who respectfully challenges the status quo? Those are your leaders.

Who is enabling others to act? Who are the ones in your lodge making sure others have what they need to carry out their roles? Who helps and supports other members to make sure they accomplish their goals and objectives? Those are your leaders.

Who is encouraging the heart? Who are the ones in your lodge always congratulating others for a job well done? Who are the ones recognising those who have made that special effort for the Elks? Those are your leaders.

Look for your members that are demonstrating the five principles of leadership. They may be the ER, committee chair, or just a regular, everyday member. They are the true leaders in your lodge and the key to the future.

The Late Bill Blake



Trenville Walk for Children



The Trenville Royal Purple Elks #248 held a Walk For Children with about 35 participants. The youngest walker was 1-year-old Jet Hogg, and the oldest was 88-year-old Maxine Weston. Louie Higginbottom raised the most money at \$410. Kelsey and Cody Hicks traveled the furthest from Calgary. Door prizes were awarded to several participants, and Kelsey Hicks won the \$105.00 50/50 draw. Lunch included hot dogs donated by local markets, with additional contributions from community members. The lodge provided the cake, and special thanks went to volunteers and sponsors for making the event possible. The total amount raised for the Walk-A-Thon is currently unknown.

Celebrating 70 Years



The year 2025 signifies the 70th anniversary of Drayton Valley Lodge #391. To commemorate this milestone, we enjoyed a delightful lunch followed by the Patsy Cline Show.

A special thank you to District Deputy Bev Monette, Assistant District Deputy Andy Turner, and Edson Exalted Ruler Grant McCarthy for being part of our celebration.

Dawson Creek



On May 21, 2025, Dawson Creek Elks #289 generously donated \$2,000 to the South Peace Senior Citizens Association. The cheque was presented by Treasurer Fred Sumners to President Fern Hansen of the Seniors Association.

Bassano Elks



Bassano Elks was fortunate enough to receive a CFSEA grant. With this funding, they will be able to complete the exterior of their lodge, which has undergone significant renovations due to roof damage.



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Turning Beer Talk into Action

We've all experienced it—those informal, off-the-record moments after a meeting or event when the ties loosen, the laughter gets louder, and the ideas start flowing as freely as the beverages. Someone jokes about throwing a wild fundraiser. Another suggests a way to support local youth or breathe life into the lodge. For a few minutes, the room buzzes with energy and possibility. The ideas are fun, bold, even a little crazy—and they spark something real.

Then the night winds down. People head home. And by morning? Those electric ideas fade into the background, lost in the fog of “we should’ve.”

But what if we didn't let that happen? What if we started treating “beer talk” not as idle chatter, but as the birthplace of the next great Elks initiative?

It's in those relaxed moments—when we're truly ourselves—that creativity flows. Walls come down, and people start speaking from the heart. Some of the most exciting ideas are born not from agendas and motions, but from late-night conversations over pool tables, meat draws, or post-meeting pints. That energy—that openness—is where the magic begins.

Turning those sparks into real action doesn't require a revolution. It starts with one small step: writing them down. Keep a notepad at the bar or assign someone to record the fun stuff tossed around after meetings. Bring those notes to the next lodge night. Ask, “What if we tried just one of these?” Assign a small team, give it some room to breathe, and see what happens.

It might not always be perfect. It might need tweaking. But that's the beauty of it—every great idea evolves, and every attempt plants seeds for something bigger. Even a half-baked idea can turn into a fully funded community project with the right energy and effort behind it.

What matters is that we act. That we stop waiting for the perfect idea, the perfect timing, or the perfect committee structure. The Elks weren't built on hesitation—they were built on heart, hustle, and the belief that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they care enough to try.

And let's face it: the future of our lodges depends on this kind of action. If we want to grow, stay relevant, and reignite the excitement that once filled our halls, we need to capture those bursts of brilliance that happen when we're relaxed, connected, and a little more courageous than usual.

Now, here's where you come in: we want to hear from you. What has your lodge accomplished that started as a casual idea over a few wobbly pops? What went from a laugh to a legacy? Share your stories—big or small. Let's celebrate those moments of inspiration that turned into real impact.

Because the Elks aren't just about ceremonies or meetings. We're about community. We're about action. And some of our best work begins not at the podium, but at the bar—when someone says, “Wouldn't it be cool if...?”

Yes. Yes, it would. Let's make it happen.

Send your success story to abcommunications@abelks.ca, and let us shine a spotlight on your lodge's victory. Because when we share what's possible, we motivate others to turn their beer talk into bold action, too

