

# ALBERTA ELKS NEWSLETTER

December  
2025



Dear Members,

As the holiday season arrives, it brings with it a chance to pause—and also a chance to look ahead with renewed energy and hope. This past year has been one of change across our lodges. We have honoured and remembered members who will always hold a special place in our hearts, while also welcoming new faces who are helping shape the future of our Order. Change, while sometimes challenging, is also where growth begins.

Across the province, many lodges have experienced new leadership and fresh ideas. This is something to celebrate. New voices bring new perspectives, new momentum, and new possibilities. If your lodge is searching for inspiration or support, please know that you are not alone—your leadership team and the Association are ready to walk alongside you.

Looking ahead, the new year is filled with opportunity. It offers us the chance to reimagine what our lodges can be, to reconnect with our communities, and to build excitement around the work we do together. There are new ideas and initiatives on the horizon, and we are looking forward to sharing them with you in the months ahead.

It's hard to believe that my term is already halfway through—it truly feels like we're just getting started. There is so much potential ahead, and I am excited about what we can accomplish together. I will continue to visit lodges whenever possible, so if you have an upcoming event, anniversary, or special occasion, please let the Association know. We would love to be there to celebrate with you.

On behalf of the Alberta Elks Association Executive, we wish you a Merry Christmas, a joyful holiday season, and a New Year filled with hope, purpose, and possibility.

Sister Terry Read  
Provincial President  
Alberta Elks Association



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## **Season's Greetings from the Alberta Elks Foundation Chair**

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters,

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity—on behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation—to extend my heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes to each of you.

This time of year reminds us of the importance of kindness, generosity, and community—values that the Elks embody every day. Through your dedication and support, we have continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Albertans across the province.

Whether it's supporting children through our Mighty Lil Elk program, assisting families in times of need, or helping communities thrive, your efforts truly reflect the spirit of giving that defines the Elks.

As we look back on the year, I am filled with gratitude for all that we have accomplished together. Your continued commitment and belief in our mission allow us to create lasting impact and build stronger communities for generations to come.

May this Christmas season bring you peace, joy, and time spent with loved ones. I wish you all good health, happiness, and success in the year ahead.

Thank you for all that you do for the Alberta Elks Foundation and for the communities we serve.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Brother Duane Romuld  
Chair, Alberta Elks Foundation



## Celebrating Our 2025 ISTAR Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to share that we have now received the final scholarship photo, as the last recipient has completed their placement and safely returned home. With this, we are delighted to officially recognize all three 2025 ISTAR scholarship recipients.

Congratulations to:

### ***Lujia Yang***

Recipient of the Dr. Einer Boberg / Alberta Elks Foundation Memorial Graduate Award PhD Level – \$3,000

This award recognizes academic excellence and commitment at the graduate level, supporting advanced research and leadership in higher education.

### ***Tracie Pospisil***

Recipient of the Deborah Kully / Alberta Elks Foundation Scholarship- \$2,000

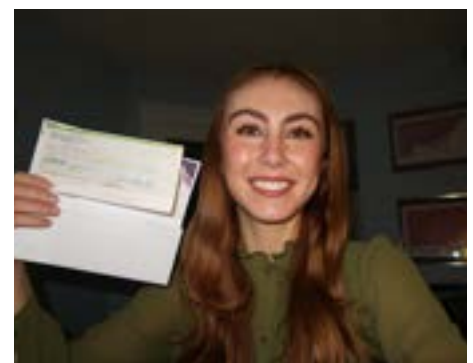
This scholarship supports students working diligently toward their educational goals and building a strong foundation for their future careers.

### ***Shanela David***

Recipient of the Deborah Kully / Alberta Elks Foundation Scholarship - \$2,000

This award reflects the Elks' ongoing commitment to investing in students who demonstrate dedication, perseverance, and a passion for learning.

We extend our sincere congratulations to each of these students and thank them for sharing their photos with us. The Alberta Elks Foundation is proud to support students as they pursue their educational goals, and we wish all three recipients continued success in their academic and professional journeys.



## Heisler Elks



Members of the Heisler Elks Lodge were proud to present a \$2,500 donation to the Diplomat Mine Museum. Pictured is Exalted Ruler Mac Weller (left) presenting the cheque to John Lundy (right), a board member of the Museum.

This contribution supports the preservation and sharing of local mining history, helping ensure the stories and artifacts of the Diplomat Mine remain accessible for future generations. The Heisler Elks are honoured to invest in projects that celebrate community heritage and keep history alive.

## Breton Elks



Breton Elks Lodge was proud to support Brayden Kreil with a \$500 sponsorship as he heads to the Junior World Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. Pictured are Brothers Bob Shave and Allan Smith presenting the cheque.

Brayden's hard work, dedication, and talent have earned him the opportunity to compete on an international stage, and the Breton Elks are pleased to help him take this next exciting step. We wish Brayden the very best of luck as he represents his sport and community!

## Upcoming Events



## We Need a New Raffle Chair!

Help make a difference with the Alberta Elks Foundation by stepping up as our New Raffle Chair!

We're looking for an energetic, community-minded volunteer to take the lead in organizing the Foundation's annual fundraising raffle. This role is perfect for someone who enjoys planning, meeting members from different lodges around Alberta, and helping raise funds that support our charitable projects across the province. It's also a great opportunity for someone who is retired and looking to stay active and connected within our community.

What you'll do:

- Coordinate raffle draw and prizes
- Arrange for printing, distribution, and collection of tickets
- Bring fresh ideas to engage members and supporters

Ideal for someone with:

- Organizational skills
- Strong attention to detail and record-keeping
- Computer proficiency including Excel spreadsheet knowledge

There is built-in mentorship for this role - the current Chair will provide coaching and guidance through every step of the annual raffle process to ensure a smooth transition and confident start.

If you love making things happen and want to help us grow, we'd love to hear from you!

We're hoping to fill this position early in the new year.

Email [albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:albertaelksfoundation@gmail.com) to learn more or volunteer today!

**Together, we can make every ticket count!**



### ★ Step Into Leadership with the Alberta Elks! ★

Are you ready to make a bigger impact?  
We're looking for passionate members who want to:

- ✓ Join the Provincial Executive
- ✓ Serve as a Committee Member
- ✓ Take on the role of District Deputy

This is your chance to grow, lead, and help shape the future of the Alberta Elks Association. Whether you bring fresh ideas, special skills, or just a willingness to learn, there's a place for you on our leadership team.

Interested? Reach out to your District Deputy or contact the Alberta Elks office to learn more about these opportunities.

Together We Can – And Together We Will!



[ElksOfAlberta.ca](https://www.facebook.com/ElksOfAlberta)



[elks.secretary@abelks.org](mailto:elks.secretary@abelks.org)



## Stavely Elks



Stavely Elks Lodge was proud to present a \$5,000 donation to the Claresholm Museum in support of their efforts to build a new storage facility for large historical artifacts. Pictured is Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson presenting the cheque, joined by Barry Gibbs (left) and Tom Carey (right) of the Museum Board.

This contribution will help ensure important pieces of local history — from large-scale artifacts to heritage displays — are safely preserved for future generations.

## St. Albert Elks



St. Albert Elks Lodge #585 was proud to present a \$1,000 donation to the Excel Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting adults living with physical and/or mental challenges.

This contribution helps advance Excel Society's important work of providing compassionate care, meaningful programming, and inclusive opportunities that enhance quality of life and strengthen community connections.

The St. Albert Elks are honoured to support organizations that make a real difference in the lives of those they serve.

## Stavely Royal Purple & Elks



Service and tradition were celebrated as Lady Shirley Hawk received her 60-Year Service Pin, presented by Honoured Royal Lady Sande Heidmiller. Members also gathered in Nanton for a Remembrance Day Service, where Sister Roseanne McNeil (Stavely Royal Purple Elks #99) and Brother Gordon Moon (Stavely Elks #112) laid wreaths in honour of those who served.

A little fun rounded out the month with a friendly membership challenge between Stavely Elks #112 and Stavely Royal Purple Elks #99. The Royal Purple claimed bragging rights — and Exalted Ruler Jordie Bronson honoured the bet in fine fashion, proving that fellowship and laughter remain at the heart of our Order.

## Brooks Elks



The Brooks Elks were proud to further their partnership with the local Air Cadets, whose dedication and teamwork made a real difference during the Elks Fundraising Ball Tournament this past September. The Cadets generously volunteered their time throughout the entire weekend, providing invaluable support and helping ensure the event's success.

In appreciation of their hard work and commitment, the Elks were pleased to present a \$3,500 donation to the Air Cadets. This contribution supports youth leadership, discipline, and community service — values that strongly align with the Elks' mission. Thank you to our local Air Cadets for their outstanding service and for being such an important part of our community. Your efforts truly made a difference!

## Dawson Creek Elks



The Dawson Creek Elks Lodge #289, along with guests, gathered on December 3, 2025 to celebrate the Christmas season with a festive dinner filled with good food, great company, and well-earned recognition.

As part of the evening, service pins were proudly presented to long-standing members in recognition of their dedication to the Order. Pictured receiving their pins are Frank Ripley (45 years), Orva Moore (60 years), Doug Becotte (45 years), Don Delainey (65 years), and Bruce Christiansen (45 years). Also recognized, though unable to attend, was Gordon Scott, who received a 10-year service pin.

The evening was filled with camaraderie, laughter, chocolates, and door prizes, making it a wonderful way to celebrate both the season and the commitment of our members. Congratulations to all those honoured, and on behalf of Dawson Creek Elks Lodge #289, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!



## Camrose Elks



The Camrose Elks Lodge was pleased to support two meaningful local initiatives this holiday season, continuing their commitment to helping those in need within the community.

Photo 1: Presenting a \$400 donation to Dakota Brown of the Camrose Kinette Club in support of their Silent Santa Toy Drive, helping ensure local children experience the joy of Christmas.

Photo 2: Presenting a \$400 donation to Randy Haugen for the Merry Christmas Fund, which provides assistance to individuals and families during the holiday season.

*Photo credit: Adan Shaikh, Camrose Booster*

## Fort Saskatchewan Elks



The Fort Saskatchewan Elks Lodge is proud to partner with Infinite Path through the Lighthouse Project, helping make mental health support more accessible for those in need.

Thanks to our members' generosity, individuals and families facing financial hardship can now access pay-what-you-can counselling sessions — because everyone deserves a safe space to heal, grow, and be supported.

Community care is at the heart of what we do. Together, we're building a stronger, more compassionate Fort Saskatchewan and surrounding communities.

## Strathmore Elks



On November 21, 2025, more than 230 guests gathered in Strathmore for the Giving Back Gala, an evening dedicated to supporting local mental health services.

Hosted in partnership with Strathmore Elks Lodge #491, Strathmore FCSS, Wheatland FCSS, the Cheadle Lions Club, and Grit Psychology, the event—along with an August golf tournament—raised over \$20,000 for mental health initiatives in Strathmore and Wheatland County.

Special thanks to Brother Sean Duthie for his leadership.





## Breton Elks



What a wonderful turnout for Breton's Community Christmas Supper! The evening was filled with great company, holiday cheer, and community spirit.

A heartfelt thank-you to Andrew and the Community Band for providing fantastic entertainment and setting the perfect festive tone for the night.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season!

## Strathmore Elks



Continuing their commitment to community care, Strathmore Elks Lodge #491 also proudly donated \$8,000 to support the Strathmore and Chestermere Food Banks, the Strathmore Christmas Hamper, and the Calgary Veterans Association Food Bank.

Pictured are Bros. Bill Jones, Steve Rafuse, Sean Duthie, Tony Giasson, and Gerry Stasiuk.



### What is Junior Elks?

**Junior Elks** is a youth-driven volunteer and leadership program supported by the Elks of Canada. It offers **opportunities to plan events, fundraise, and partner with community organizations.** Mentorship comes from Elks members to encourage growth and success. Whatever it is, the way you tell your story online can make all the difference.



**Elks of Canada**

<https://www.elks.ofcanada.ca/jr-elks>

## Sherwood Park Elks



Volunteer Strathcona extends a special thank-you to the Sherwood Park Elks for generously storing Snowbusters shovels and ice melt this past season.

This behind-the-scenes support helps ensure volunteers are ready to assist residents when winter conditions hit. You rock!

## Okotoks Elks



Wednesday Night Team Darts at Okotoks Elks #31 just wrapped up a fantastic first season! Season #1 brought together great competition, lots of laughs, and amazing fellowship.

Congratulations to Season #1 champions, Rey-Ted 26ers, and thanks to all 12 teams who took part. Even better — Season #2 starts January 7, 2026, and interest is already growing with 19 teams signed up and space for more!

If you're looking to get involved, meet fellow members, and enjoy a great night at the Lodge, we'd love to see you.

## Bow Island Elks



The Bow Island Elks were happy to provide Charlie the Elk stuffies to the Bow Island Hospital, offering comfort to children during challenging times.

These small gestures of kindness can make a big difference, and the Elks are proud to help bring a little reassurance and care to young patients when they need it most.

## Carstairs Elks



On Wednesday December 10th, 2025 the Carstairs ELK's hosted 115 people at their annual Christmas dinner. Along with brother and sister ELKs and their spouses/partners we also hosted a group of elders from Cary and Dr Chrystal Manors.

After the meal we presented donations to groups in the local area. One group missing from the pictures was the donation to STARS which will be done at a later date at their hangar.

Service pins were also presented to members for their continued support to the lodge.

